



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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Chinese New Year Celebrates the Year of the Dog Beginning in February

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Over three million people are expected to celebrate the 159th SF Chinese New Year Festival and Parade this month in San Francisco. Directed by the SF Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the event culminates in a grand parade on Feb. 24.

According to the event's title sponsor, Southwest Airlines, the San Francisco Chinese New Year Festival and Parade is the largest celebration of its kind in the world and the largest Asian cultural event in North America. The festival events begin on the first day of the Chinese New Year, Feb. 16.

The first SF Chinese celebrations began in 1858, when California had an influx of immigrants from China during the Gold Rush. The celebration incorporated both

American and Chinese traditions, combining elements of an American parade with a Chinese Lantern Festival.

Brian Huang, a senior at Orinda Academy, is from the Southern province of Guangxi in China. As a child, the Chinese New Year's celebrations were his favorite day of the year. His family would decorate with stick red lanterns on the ceiling, but his most vivid memories are of fireworks.

"Everybody lights fireworks outside of their house," says Huang. "The whole sky is full with fireworks. It's the prettiest thing I've ever seen. I still miss it."

When Huang celebrates this year in the Bay Area, there will be plenty of fireworks to accompany the parade – over 600,000, as group of dragon dancers, Chinese acrobats, elaborate floats, marching bands and stilt

[SEE DOG page 2]



SALLY HOGARTY

The traditional **Lion Dance**, often performed at Chinese New Year celebrations, was also performed at the opening of the Orinda Library in October 2001.

Submit Your Dog's Photo to *The Orinda News*

This is the Year of the Dog. Each month *The Orinda News* will choose one photo for that month's issue. Please send a high resolution, color photo by the 10th of each month to news@orindaassociation.org along with a brief description of the dog and the owner(s) names.

February's dog is **George**, a Terrier mix found at the Contra Costa Animal Shelter in Martinez. A certified therapy dog, George volunteers his time, along with his caregivers Marie and Bill Waterman, visiting patients at Hospice of the East Bay.



MARIE WATERMAN

Local Adjustment to Legal Marijuana

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Cannabis, marijuana, hemp, pot, dope, grass, weed, Mary Jane or whatever you want to call it, is now a legal reality in California. As of Jan. 1, 2018, cannabis takes its place among other adult indulgences and controlled substances such as alcohol and cigarettes.

Medical marijuana has been legal in California since 1996. The health benefits have been well documented, especially for cancer patients and those suffering from chronic migraines while insomniacs praise the relaxing benefits of tea brewed with marijuana that contains a negligible

amount of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol, the chemical compound in cannabis responsible for a euphoric high).

The legalization of recreational cannabis under Prop 64, however, raises a host of new challenges for authorities. For instance, the California legislature recently updated state vehicle laws prohibiting anyone driving a vehicle or as a passenger in a vehicle from consuming marijuana in any form while in the vehicle.

Cities, employers, schools, landlords, police and fire departments are busy updating their ordinances and policies as well.

In general, Prop 64 allows adults 21 and over to possess one ounce of cannabis

[SEE MARIJUANA page 14]

City Considers New Library Parcel Tax

By SALLY AND KEN HOGARTY
Staff Writers

Orinda Mayor Amy Worth, who first became involved with Orinda's Friends of the Library when her now 36-year old daughter was three, notes that "the library in Orinda started in 1915 as a box of books on the general store shelf. It was literally a simple unofficial lending library until housed in its first building in the 1950s." She adds, "We got the current library building 16 years ago," clarifying that "Orinda owns its own library building thanks to a big campaign organized by the same Friends of the Library."

But now the 16-year-old library needs additional funds to keep up maintenance and increased operating costs.

"The County funds 35 hours; we fund 25, plus the maintenance," Worth explains. "It is a really well-used service throughout the community. After school, for example, the buses stop and all these kids get off and head to the library. It also offers many programs and is a treasure for all demographic groups in Orinda." She advises, however, that "we have been looking at the budget

and need to increase the existing parcel tax to maintain hours and facilities."

Orinda's Library is open seven days a week for a total of 60 hours. Moraga's Library, by contrast, just added four hours on Sunday to bring their total hours open to

[SEE LIBRARY page 14]

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Question: Why Do We Volunteer?

By KATE WILEY
Seniors Around Town

While on vacation over the holidays, I read an article which really spoke to me. The title was, "What if a question could change your life?" Simple, clear, thought-provoking.

This led me to think of other questions, such as, Why do we volunteer, and more specifically, why do Orindans volunteer with Seniors Around Town (SAT)?

Inserted in this issue is a brochure asking you to consider volunteering for SAT. After working with volunteers in this program for the past 13 years, I have found there are four answers to that question:

1. "My elderly parents live 3000 miles away and I can't help them, so I'll help someone else's;"
2. "I'm paying it forward, I hope there's a service like this when I need it;"
3. "I'm retired and want to do a little something of value and service to others;"
4. "It's important to connect with and support our community."

Seniors Around Town provide free, door-to-door, non-emergency transportation for Orinda senior residents thanks to Orinda volunteers. Mobility represents the number one challenge for seniors in their desire to remain independent. Access to affordable, reliable and safe transportation is critical to meeting that need.

According to a study done by AARP 2012, "90 percent of seniors intend to continue living in their current homes... the main reasons to stay are comfort in their homes and to be near friends and family." Mobility issues become their greatest barrier to remaining independent.

Due to the unique challenges of Bay Area traffic with congestion, high speed freeways, single lane winding roads, bikers and pedestrians, many seniors are forced to hand over the keys sooner than their



SALLY HOGARTY

Drivers and riders **May, Antico, and Lucy** enjoyed a festive holiday luncheon this past December.

contemporaries living elsewhere. Cost and vehicle maintenance become an issue too.

Missing medical appointments because of mobility challenges is one issue. Homebound seniors also develop feelings of isolation and depression, considered as dangerous to their health as smoking cigarettes and obesity. Transportation services not only help them maintain their physical health but can go a long way toward creating valuable connections and reducing isolation.

We serve the generation known as "The Greatest Generation." They grew up during the Great Depression and probably fought in World War II. They made great self-sacrifices; they are proud, independent

citizens who don't want to be a burden to their families or society. Constantly asking family or friends for help or paying for a taxi (a true extravagance to them) is difficult.

How can we change things? Volunteer with SAT to drive a senior once, twice a month. It's more than a ride; you are supporting their independence, health and welfare. SAT fills a need at the first stage of support for seniors who are able to function independently but only if transportation is accessible and affordable.

For our seniors, it's restoring their dignity, showing respect, developing new friendships, staying connected with the

[SEE VOLUNTEER page 3]

Save the Date!

**Citizen of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. Awards Dinner
March 11**

Winners to be announced in March issue of *The Orinda News* and on OA website, www.orindaassociation.org or on our **Facebook** page.

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◆ DOG from page 1

walkers march the parade route beginning at 5:15 p.m. at 2nd and Market then following a route to Columbus Avenue. The "Grand Finale" of the parade is the famous Golden Dragon. Made in Foshan, China, and 268 feet long, it travels through the SF streets maneuvered by team of more than 100 people.

2018 is the Year of the Dog. According to the Chinese calendar, 2018 will be highly influenced by the canine energy of man's best friend. Zodiac readers predict that, guided through the energy of the pack

animal, people will see an increase in social awareness and action.

Other highlights of the 2018 Chinese New Year Events in SF include a Mini-Parade Preview (Feb. 10), Chinese Flower Fair (Feb. 10 and 11), Miss Chinatown USA Pageant (Feb. 22) and the Chinatown Street Fair (Feb. 24 and 25). For a complete schedule of events, visit: www.chineseparade.com.

And, in Orinda, the Orinda Rotary Club plans a Pan Pacific Festival in May. According to Rotary President Weylin Eng, there will be exhibits of art, musical demonstrations, dancing, food and much more.

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Remembering Peggy Fuerst

Margaret "Peggy" G. Fuerst
Fondly remembered by all of us at Seniors Around Town

A selfless and devoted volunteer for this program since its inception in 2005, Peggy was available to volunteer any afternoon, Monday-Friday and willing to drive to any location we service, in addition to offering to drive well beyond our geographic area if needed. When asked about her preference to drive a variety of riders or the same clients each time, she said, "(it) doesn't really matter - I've enjoyed meeting new people and I like to see former passengers too..." Peggy's last volunteer drive for Seniors Around Town was exactly one week prior to her passing.

In gratitude and thanks for Peggy's many years of service to our community, we send our condolences to her family.
- Kate, Marie, Cindy, Cathy and Pamela.

Orinda residents, become a part of this amazing program as a volunteer driver. The need for free, safe, reliable transportation for your neighbors, Orinda senior residents, is growing at an unprecedented rate. Last month we experienced a 65% increase in ride requests over January 2017. Call us today.

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Weather or not....



Cindy Powell

Last February we were wet!! Let's hope for moderation this year so we can get out and enjoy Orinda.

Miramonte High School's Open House on Feb. 1 is open to everyone, and a good opportunity for incoming students to explore and ask questions. Check out the beautiful theater and art center. And best of luck to the Cheer Team headed to Nationals!

Feb. 2 is **Groundhog Day**: Let's all do the snow dance and hope for the best!

On Feb. 3, **Wear Red Day** raises awareness about the number one cause of death in women, heart disease. Eat healthy, avoid smoking and walk around town as part of your exercise.

On Feb. 4, Justin Timberlake will play the **Superbowl** halftime show and Pink will perform the Star-Spangled Banner before kickoff. Feel free to dance along. I always watch the game for the entertaining commercials.

The Winter Olympics begin in South Korea on Feb. 9. Watch the pageantry of the Opening Ceremonies with the uniforms, flags and, usually, a theatrical extravaganza. Enjoy the show with a pizza because Feb. 9 is also **National Pizza Day**. Every year, four billion pizzas are sold in the U.S. That may be worth some type of award.

Feb. 14 is not only Valentine's Day, it's also **Library Lover's Day**. This day honors librarians, librarians, bookworms and the library lovers in your life. Give your sweetie a book instead of that two pound box of chocolates. (To my husband: That does not include you!)

Valentine's Day is my chance to say "I LOVE YOU OA MEMBERS" because our newspaper and programs would not continue without you!!! Thank you! Thank you!

Feb. 15, **Susan B. Anthony Day**, honors the United States' most prominent female civil rights leader. She devoted most of her life to anti-slavery and women's rights, including the right to vote. In 1920, the "Anthony Amendment" was made to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote. She was the first American woman to have her likeness on a U.S. coin.

Feb. 16 celebrates the **Chinese Year of the Earth Dog**, predicted to be a good year. President Trump was born in the Year of the Dog and he has heavy fire and earth elements.

Feb. 22 is **Orinda Community Foun-**

ation's Eight's Anniversary party. The foundation will celebrate with a large check out to all the organizations they have supported this year. Cake will also be provided! Stay and eat dinner in the plaza: remember the **Thursday Night Food Trucks** are still happening.

Feb. 24 is the **Summer Camp Fair** for kids at the Community Center. These camps are not like back when I went to camp, leather stitch and kickball. Orinda Parks and Recreation Department received an Award of Excellence for its *Choose Your Own Adventure* Summer Camp Guide from California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) Annual Awards program in 2016. Now I want to go back to camp!

Feb. 25 will highlight the **Closing Ceremonies for the 2018 Olympics**. All our best wishes to the fabulous athletes from around the world! And we all love a pageant.

Did the teens in town know it first? That **Village Inn Café** was closing last month? Cathy from Lafayette will miss the waffles and we will all miss Kurt and Kathy Bel-lows.

This month, bundle up and take a tour of the city's **Art in Public Places** four new outdoor sculptures. The distance from Mechanics Bank to the Library Plaza, via City Hall, is only 3/4 of a mile to see the public art: go for it!

◆ **VOLUNTEER** from page 2 same community that many helped shape. For you, maybe you have parents who live far away, or are newly retired and looking for a way to give back or pay forward.

Register to be a driver and find out for yourself. There's no minimum obligation of time, you determine how often, how far, and which types of rides you want do: medical appointments, errands or social activities. Call us today at 925-402-4506 to schedule an appointment, or drop by the Orinda Volunteer Center, we're open M-F 9 a.m.-4 p.m., We'd love to meet you!

Right here in Orinda, the need is great and growing. SAT experienced a 40 percent increase in ride requests last year. This is a trend that will continue to grow.

In this New Year, I challenge you to think about some of the big questions, How can we change things? Where does this lead? What's possible? What's next? What if a question could change your life?

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda;
- Promoting awareness and discussion of issues that are important to the community;
- Encouraging and recognizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character and security of Orinda.

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26 Orinda Way (Lower Level Library)
Orinda, California 94563
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www.orindaassociation.org

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Editorial ...

We at *The Orinda News* were saddened to hear that the Village Inn Café is closing after 32 years of faithful service to local residents. While it will be difficult for many of us to find a new favorite place, we wish Kurt and Kathy Bellows all the best in their

retirement and/or next endeavor. Thank you so much for providing such delicious comfort food all these years and for being a long-time advertiser in our newspaper.

– Sally Hogarty and the staff of *The Orinda News*

Letters to the Editor

What's wrong with a plan?

Change will inevitably come to downtown (and frankly, I wish it would). We can't avoid it by sticking with an outdated, boilerplate general plan from the '80s and simply shrugging our shoulders. We citizens have it within our power to affect change in a positive way by participating in a thoughtful planning process.

We must also recognize the recent shift in state policy, which is increasing pressure on transit-rich cities like ours to address the current housing shortage. We only have a few years until Orinda must certify another state-required housing element (which details where and how Orinda plans to accommodate future housing growth to meet regional targets). Meanwhile, the state is taking more aggressive steps to monitor our progress under the existing housing element and introducing bills to override local zoning restrictions near transit. The City Council will likely have to consider the possibility of encouraging more housing within our downtown. Why wait until the last minute to start this process? Or worse, why let the state do it for us without our input?

Planning is good. The City Council should not avoid or delay the process of downtown planning. Following the thorough assessments of our downtown made by Urban Land Institute and Main Street USA, city staff recommended creating a Streetscape Master Plan. After hearing the inspiring ideas of the two professional panels, this is a very timid step toward progress that doesn't address the real issues of our downtown. A streetscape plan deals in sidewalks and benches, not in the fundamental framework of what we want development in our downtown to look like. Alternatively, a downtown-specific plan could outline preferred building styles, incentivize development to utilize the creek downtown, improve the flow of parking, create community gathering spaces, draw in desired tenants, and so on. But the City Council has not started work on a downtown plan.

I want a better downtown right now so that my family and I can begin enjoying it. But the first step is for our local elected leaders to let us determine as a community what we want and then make a plan to achieve it. There are strong voices against doing anything, but I urge the City Council to listen to the rest of us who are disappointed with the state of our downtown

and who want to start with a plan as soon as possible. Let's go!

– Arran Schultz

Issue of Fairness

The public funding of street repair/maintenance for Orinda's private streets is an issue of "fundamental fairness." We are all Orindans and a large proportion of us are forced to pay taxes for street repair/maintenance services that we are barred from receiving.

There is no real-world difference between publicly and privately maintained streets in Orinda. You cannot tell them apart by looking at them. In fact, some streets have stretches that are "public" and other stretches that are "private" and they are indistinguishable. Moreover, some Orinda streets (e.g., those in Wilder, where I live) were required by the City to be "private" but are required by the City to afford public access.

One of the precepts enshrined in our law is that of equal protection. Due to an historical anomaly dating back decades, many miles of our roads have been deemed "private," and hence not subject to public repair/maintenance, but this is just an historical quirk. Orinda currently has two classes of residents, all of whom are subject to taxation: those who pay for road maintenance that they can obtain when needed (e.g., Miner Road residents) and those forced to pay for road maintenance that they are barred from obtaining when needed.

I don't believe that upon reflection the City Council would support a "two-classes of Orindans" philosophy, as this is inherently unstable and unfair. In addition, the City Attorney should look into this as a legal issue because some residents might someday want to test whether residents can legally be taxed to fund benefits which they are barred from receiving. Taxation without representation on a larger scale has proven to be a somewhat contentious issue in the past.

The Orinda City Council must consider this community-wide problem with an open mind. Others will suggest how a funding mechanism might work in support of changing this situation. I believe that this issue cannot be ignored and urge the creation of a Task Force made up of residents and other stakeholders to study the issue and make timely and specific recommendations to the City Council as to how to remedy this situation. For more information, go



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to www.OrindaRoadFacts.info.

– Bob Finch

Private Roads Grossly Unfair

It is grossly unfair to have about a quarter of Orinda residents pay for all public road maintenance without getting any support for their private road maintenance.

I had only lived in big cities prior to purchasing my Orinda home 23 years ago. When the agent told me it was a private road, my reaction was "My how quaint," not having any understanding of the implications.

My fellow private road residents have been maintaining our storm drains and our private road with our own funds for very many years. During all this time, we have been paying the same taxes and assessments as our neighbors on public roads. We

regularly clear debris from our road drains. When our street drainage gets blocked, we individually call roto-roooter and pay the bill. When the road needed re-paving, we asked all the property owners to share in the cost but only a few were willing to participate. We really wish to maintain friendly relations with our neighbors so recourse to the law is not an option. Road maintenance public funds both avoids neighbor alienation and acts as a disaster insurance policy. Should a road collapse and an expensive repair be required the cost is shared by all Orinda residents rather than falling upon the few residents of one particular private road.

The City Council represents the interests of the entire community of Orinda, yet to date it has failed to deal with this

[SEE PORGES page 5]

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to Editor for the March issue are due February 8, 2018.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the March issue is February 8, 2018.

POLICE / ROADS



POLICE BLOTTER

November 26 through January 6, 2017

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 16 incidents.
 Abandoned Vehicle: 5 incidents.
 Accident Injury: 2 incidents.
 Accident Property: 14 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 140 incidents.
 Barking Dog: 4 incidents.
 Battery: 2 incidents.
 Beat Info: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Auto: 4 incidents.
 Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents.
 Civil Matter: 12 incidents.
 County Solicitor Permit: 2 incidents.
 CVC Moving Violation: 147 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 148 incidents.
 Death Non Criminal: 2 incidents.
 Dependant Adult Abuse: 1 incident.
 Disturbance, Fighting: 1 incident.
 Disturbing the Peace: 3 incidents.
 Domestic Disturbance: 1 incident.
 Fire/EMS Response Info: 1 incident.
 Found Property: 1 incident.
 Grand Theft from Building: 1 incident.
 Health & Safety Violation: 1 incident.
 Identity Theft: 6 incidents.
 Indecent Exposure: 1 incident.
 Juvenile Disturbance: 2 incidents.
 Litter: 1 incident.
 Loitering: 1 incident.
 Lost Property: 1 incident.
 Loud Music: 3 incidents.
 Loud Noise: 3 incidents.
 Loud Party: 3 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 5 incidents.
 Medical Police Needed: 1 incident.
 Missing Adult: 2 incidents.
 Motorist Assist: 6 incidents.
 Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 6 incidents.
 Ordinance Violation: 5 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 48 incidents.
 Panhandling: 2 incidents.
 Parking Detail: 142 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 44 incidents.
 Public Assembly Check: 2 incidents.
 Public Nuisance: 6 incidents.
 Reckless Driving: 13 incidents.

School Check: 18 incidents.
 Security Check: 39 incidents.
 Service to Citizen: 155 incidents.
 Shoplift: 3 incidents.
 Shots Heard: 2 incidents.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 15 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 10 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 29 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 26 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 33 incidents.
 Tow: 7 incidents.
 Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 1 incident.
 Traffic Hazard: 12 incidents.
 Traffic Stop: 2 incidents.
 Trespass: 3 incidents.
 Unwanted Guest: 2 incidents.
 Vacation House Check: 82 incidents.
 Vandalism: 6 incidents.
 Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 1 incident.
 Vehicle Theft: 3 incidents.
 Verbal Dispute: 8 incidents.
 Violation Custody Order: 1 incident.
 Walk Through: 2 incidents.
 Welfare Check: 18 incidents.

Arrest

Assault with Deadly Weapon: 1 arrest.
 Drug Sales: 1 arrest.
 Drunk in Public: 1 arrest.
 DUI Arrest: 2 arrests.
 DUI Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.
 Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing an Officer: 2 arrests.
 Revocation of Probation: 1 arrest.
 Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 2 recoveries.
 Vandalism, Felony: 1 arrest.
 Warrant Arrest: 2 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit www.crimereports.com

◆ **PORGES** from page 4

fundamental unfairness which diminishes our collective sense of community. The requirements for a road to become public exceed the specifications of many, possibly most, currently publicly maintained residential streets.

It is, of course, reasonable for the City Council to hesitate taking on the additional liability, but the cost is completely unknown. The private roads have not been surveyed to determine their current condition. The City Council could request a survey of all private roads and their storm

drains to be able to assess the repair and maintenance cost realistically. Some of these costs may be shared with the state and federal government. This survey would be done for the public good as it could determine if hazardous conditions exist, including fire hazards.

The Orinda private road residents enjoin their public road neighbors to stand in solidarity with them to rectify this inequity. This issue has been ignored for too long.

– Charles Porges

[SEE LETTERS page 12]

**Updates on Orinda's Roads
 Safety for All on Our Roads**



Mark Roberts
 Member and past chair, Orinda Traffic Safety
 Advisory Committee

Even when the days are shorter and the weather less than ideal, Orindans like to be able to enjoy a walk on our roads, day or evening. When you are a pedestrian, heed the following advice from safety experts.

If you are walking on a roadway, walk AGAINST vehicular traffic – in other words, facing the drivers of vehicles approaching you. Drivers are more likely to see and pay attention to you if they can see your face walking toward them.

Also, as a pedestrian, wear light colored and, if possible, reflective clothing, especially at or after sundown. Carrying a flashlight is a good idea. If you are walking with children, walk with them close to you. If you are walking your dog, keep your furry friend on a leash and under your control at all times.

Bicyclists should ride WITH traffic and always be aware of motorists and pedestrians. While you have the right of way over

motorists, don't ignore the laws of physics and ride cautiously and courteously. And remember that pedestrians have the right of way over you.

Motorists, remember that our city's often narrow and winding roads pose a challenge to all types of traffic. Always be on the lookout for pedestrians and bicyclists, especially after dark. Slow down and stay alert.

Finally, as the rainy season continues, this reminder to drivers: WIPERS ON? HEADLIGHTS ON! This has been the law in California for 12 years. If the rain is heavy enough for you to turn on your windshield wipers, turn on your headlights too. This will make your vehicle much more visible to oncoming drivers. Having your taillights on will make you more visible to drivers behind you too – especially important if you're driving on Highway 24 in the rain with all vehicles kicking up

[SEE ROADS page 15]



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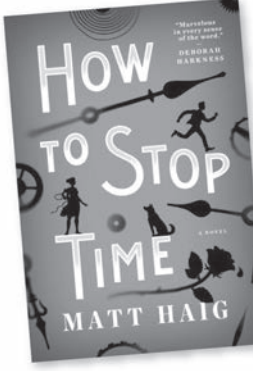

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Energy Policy Topic of Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

“Energy Policy in California and Around the World” is the topic Dr. Catherine Wolfram has chosen for the First Friday Forum (FFF) lecture on Feb. 2, at 1:30 p.m., in the sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Refreshments are served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Wolfram is the Cora Jane Flood Professor of Business Administration at the Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley. Since 2009, she has been Faculty Director of the Energy Institute at the Haas School and professor on the Economic Analysis and Policy Group at Berkeley-Haas. She works in the field of energy economics, a relatively new subfield of economics that has risen to prominence largely due to climate change. Her research interests include regulation of business, energy and environmental economics and electric-industry restructuring. She received her B.A. from Harvard and her Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Lately, Wolfram has been working on energy use in the developing world. The fact that there are still vast parts of the world where there is no commercial energy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Working in the field of energy economics, **Catherine Wolfram** will talk about her work at the February First Friday Forum.

source, interests Wolfram. She spends time studying the challenge of how to get energy sources to these households, while considering the environmental challenges that go along with connection.

“At some level, we believe that electricity is part of the modern world – connecting to the Internet, refrigerating food, etc.” says Wolfram. “But because current electricity and energy infrastructures are very fossil fuel-intensive, expanding energy services

[SEE FORUM page 14]

CAR TIME

Is It really “Cheaper To Keep Her”?



By JOHN VANEK

Of course, the title refers to your truck or SUV that you rely on every day. Sometimes I hear customer respond to a major repair estimate by saying something like: “I may as well just get a new car.” Well, if you are in the mood for a new vehicle and can afford it, then that is definitely an option. It may not, however, be the best option.

You have been driving your family hauler now for about six years. It has spent almost 120,000 miles hauling the kids to baseball, scouts to camp and taking the family on many outings. It has been the unsung hero of your family and has not really let you down to this point. It will be five more years before the youngest graduates high school, and you still really need this vehicle. Suddenly, the unthinkable happens: your transmission fails! It will cost major bucks to fix. Do you spend money fixing it or do you replace it with a new vehicle?

This common scenario comes up all the time. Details may differ, but the situation is similar. You have a car you need to use but don't want to spend money on it right now. Ultimately, replacing the vehicle is much more expensive. When considering keeping your car, it is important to be aware of the general condition. Let's break it down and look at a comparison between repairing and replacing.

Mr. and Mrs. Orinda have a 2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee that needs a transmission. The vehicle has approximately 120,000 miles on the odometer. The Orindas have maintained the car by the book, and services have been performed in a timely

fashion. The car has very little value with a blown transmission. With a good transmission, the value is restored. The real value is being able to use this car for another three to five years. The transmission job will cost about \$3,500. Yikes! A new Jeep Grand Cherokee, however, will cost about \$42,000. Double yikes! Tax alone on the new Jeep is \$2,650. Interest on payments: \$1300? Your insurance and DMV fees will go up about \$600 - \$800 per year. These additional expenses will hit you the first few years while the value of your new ride is going down.

Okay, let's go back to fixing it. Will you get all your money back if you fix it and sell it tomorrow? No, you won't, but you will get the “value” out of it if by driving it for another three to five years. The new Jeep will depreciate several thousand dollars in the first few years. After years of ownership of the new Jeep, guess what happens? The wear and tear expenses start happening all over again. You are likely to need tires, battery and general maintenance just about when it is paid off.

Your vehicle may never require such a significant job as a transmission, but there may be other repairs lurking. Spending \$1,500 - \$2,500 is significant enough for most of us, but it could pay off and save you money in the long run. Nobody can predict what may fail in the future. The bottom line is that you will need to invest in keeping your older vehicle reliable or invest in replacing it. Do your research. Could you even afford a new vehicle right now?

[SEE CAR TIME page 12]

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VISUAL ARTS

The Art of the Print and Magpie Multimedia Art

By: ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council is proud to present *The Art of the Print*, vintage prints from members of The Printmakers Society of California curated by Lois Reynolds Mead and multimedia artwork from Magpie artists Priscilla Birge, Barbara Hazard, Joanna Katz, Diane Rusnak and Sarah Whitecotton. You can view the artwork at the Orinda Library Art Gallery during the month of February and join the artists on Sunday, Feb. 4 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at their artist reception where light refreshments will be served.

Lois Reynolds Mead of Orinda grew up in Southern California learning about printmaking from her father, Chang Reynolds. An active artist and lithographer, he was the last president of the Printmakers Society of California, which thrived from about 1922 to 1964. During that time, the organization had exhibits and yearly gifted their members with a print. Because of her father's involvement, Lois ended up with a collection of these prints dating from 1932 to 1964; about 25 are in the show. While art lovers may be familiar with digital printing, Mead hopes the exhibit will educate people about the fine art form of traditional printmaking.

For this exhibit, Mead will provide historical information about the artists who created the prints as well as educational information about the different printmaking processes used: lithography, drypoint, etching, mezzotint and aquatint. Look for Mildred Bryant Brooks' 7" x 9" etching and drypoint print, *Memories* and Leslie Thompson's 13" x 11" color aquatint print, *October in the Midwest*.

To further illustrate the printmaking process, Mead has enlisted the help of printmaker Moose Wesler of San Leandro. [SEE LIBRARY page 15]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sarah Whitecotton's *Flowers*, a mixed media collage will be in the February art exhibit.

Laratelier Art School for Children



ELANA O'LOSKEY

(L-R) Top row: Art instructor **Lara Horoupian** and students **Pateel, Chloe, Lauren, Claire** and **Palig**; (kneeling) **Ava** and **Sophia** show off their paintbrushes and artwork at the Dec. 9 end-of-semester art show.

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Tucked away off a main road in Orinda is artist and art instructor Lara Horoupian's gem of an art school for children dubbed "Laratelier." Horoupian attended art school in her native Beirut and graduated in 2001 with honors from the Lebanese University of Fine Art. In 2002, she moved to the U.S. and has continued showing

work in New York, Oakland, San Francisco and Providence. She began teaching art to children at her Laratelier art studio four years ago.

On a chilly Dec. 9 morning, Laratelier was filled with excitement as her students, their families and friends attended an end-of-semester art show. Horoupian's passion for art and art history is evident in the way she structures her classes. Each

[SEE LARATELIER page 12]

Fitness Tip of the Month

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OBITUARIES

Long Time Public Servant Gregory Wheatland Remembered

Gregory L. Wheatland, who passed away on Dec. 17, was honored at a Jan. 13 memorial service held at the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Former Mayor **Gregg Wheatland**.

Orinda Community Center. He was 67. At the service, friends and colleagues remembered him for his long service to the City of Orinda as a member of the City Council for 12 years, including two years as mayor.

“Gregg was the quintessential public servant in that he had no ‘agenda’ other than doing what was right for Orinda,” said former Mayor Bill Judge. “He took his job seriously but with an engaging laugh and twinkle in his eye. He clearly ranks among the best Orinda City Councilmembers.”

Fellow former City Councilmember Laura Abrams couldn’t agree more. “Gregg was a dear friend to me, especially when times were tough,” she says. “He was compassionate and loyal. And what a brilliant mind.”

Compassionate is a word used often when speaking about Gregg. “He was such an articulate, intelligent and compassionate individual,” says Joyce Hawkins, who

served with him on the City Council for 12 years. “He used these talents well in serving the City of Orinda. His love for Orinda, his concern for the environment and his legal expertise were evident in all of his deliberations. Gregg’s thoughtful analysis of the issues helped guide council members in making decisions that have stood the test of time.”

Born in Stockton and raised on the Peninsula, Gregg lived most of his life in Orinda. He graduated from UC Santa Cruz, where he met his wife Shirley, and went on to law school at UC Davis King Hall. Gregg practiced energy law for over 40 years. He was an avid photographer and a staunch protector of the environment, including spending time in college working in

Alaska’s Wrangell Mountains to help make the area a National Park.

Gregg loved to travel with his family to Southeast Asia, Alaska, and many other places in the world, and he used his travel planning skills to help innumerable friends and family members with their own adventures. He was incredibly compassionate and generous with his time and skills to help friends, loved ones, and non-profit groups with difficult challenges, such as attaining U.S. citizenship and missions to bring aid to those in need in Thailand and Vietnam.

Gregg is survived by his wife Shirley, daughter Tara, sister Karen, brothers Rand and Glenn, sister-in-law Lauren, aunt Patty, brother-in-law John, and dear friend Cam.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Local Architect Changed the Face of Several Cities

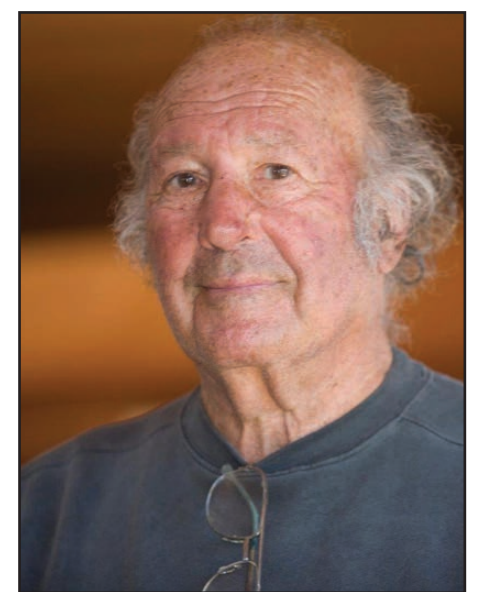
Michael Kaplan, noted architect and longtime Orinda resident, passed away at his home at 36 Via Floreado in Orinda on Sept. 23.

Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1926, he grew up in Leonia, New Jersey, attending Leonia high school where he lettered in football, basketball, baseball and tennis. During World War II, he served in the Navy Air Corps.

After the war, Michael enrolled in Stevens Institute of Technology on the G.I. Bill, graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering. He went to work for Aerocrete Corporation, a manufacturer of a chemical additive that was used to make lightweight concrete used in the construction of the UN Building. This kindled his interest in architecture. He soon enrolled in the Columbia School of Architecture.

Michael took a leave of absence from Columbia to go work for a contractor and architect team that was building a Strategic Air Command base in Tripoli. A year later, he purchased an MG and a Leica camera and proceeded to travel with an architecture colleague over 25,000 miles through 20 countries in North Africa the Middle East and Europe, ending in London six months later.

He returned to night school at Columbia while working days for a variety of firms. By then, he had met his wife, Nancy, whom he married in 1956. They spent a year in Kyoto, Japan, where he became deeply enamored of Japanese art and architecture. Upon their return to the U.S., they settled in San Francisco and Michael joined the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Architect **Michael Kaplan**.

firm of John Carl Warnecke and, subsequently, Callister and Payne. He received his master’s degree in city planning at UC Berkeley in 1964.

Michael began his planning career with the Oakland Redevelopment Agency. One year out of graduate school, he became Chief Planner for the Agency. His legacy there includes the Central District Redevelopment Plan and later the Victorian Row Project. Michael left the Oakland Agency in 1985 to join the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, where he played a key role in the redevelopment of Rincon Point and South Beach, which involved the

[SEE KAPLAN & FRANKLIN
OBITUARY page 11]

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What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

- Feb. 10 - Summer Camps Guide mailed
- Feb. 15 - Lunch'n Learn: How to Avoid Senior Scams for Ages 50 and over
- Feb. 19 - City Offices are Closed
- Feb. 22 - Senior Trip: Anheuser-Busch/Jelly Belly Factory Tour
- Feb. 23 - Registration Closes for Orinda Youth Baseball/Softball
- Feb. 24 - Annual Summer Camp Fair. 10 am - 1 pm at the Orinda Community Center

Winter/Spring 2018 Class Registration is Going On Now!

Help choose the movies for this summer's **Movies in the Park** program. Please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/Orindamovies2018 to vote! Voting concludes on February 19.

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

No Tears for Lucky Lafayette Family

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Eighteen months and countless volunteer hours later, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary once again proved its motto to be true: They do build things!

The enterprising volunteers have been using their woodworking talents for years first building a canoe and then a kayak and, most recently, a custom-designed teardrop trailer.

“We realized that we really enjoy building things and that’s what sets us apart from other Rotary groups,” explains member John Fazel.

The group, which now sports the logo “We Build Stuff!” on their website and in brochures, raffled off the artisan teardrop trailer in December. The Evans family of Lafayette was the lucky winner. David and Catherine, along with their sons Owen (12) and Grady (9) plan to take the trailer when they go to their cabin near Mt. Lassen.

“The boys have claimed the teardrop as their home,” says Fazel. “They even slept

there over the holidays when the family had out-of-town guests.”

According to Rotarian Tom Black, “hundreds and hundreds” of volunteer hours went into building the teardrop, named Tear Drop Inn by Pittsburg’s Juliette Moore in a naming contest.

Master woodworker/designer Gary Fulcher donated his Lafayette workshop for the build. “We started out having up to 15 volunteers working on the project, but that was pure chaos,” Fulcher explains. “We finally settled into teams of two-three volunteers coming several times a week.”

The finished teardrop features nicely contrasting Sepeli and ash woods, a kitchen in the back and a cozy interior sleeping area with a five-inch memory foam bed.

The kitchen includes a granite countertop with under-mount sink, a pull-out cook top, ice chest and charger ports for electronic devices.

“The entire trailer is designed on the concept of threes: three pull out drawers and three storage areas in the kitchen and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Evans family: (L-R) Owen (12), David and Grady (9) won the Rotary’s hand-crafted teardrop trailer. Not pictured is mom Catherine.

three storage areas inside. We also built the inside on post and beam construction,” says Fulcher. “We had to bend the wood roof over it, very time intensive, but also very strong.”

Fulcher notes that other unique features include LED lighting, its own battery and USB ports both inside and out.

“Our motto is to have fun and do good,” says Fazel. “Lots of our members, both men and women, worked on this and we had great camaraderie plus we generated revenue for good causes.”

Raffle sales from the teardrop trailer came to \$40,000. The profits will go to such

local projects as: the HOME Team, which every 60 days performs minor repairs to homes of the elderly who live in Lamorinda and vicinity; Orinda Moraga Lafayette Chapter of the American Association of University Women’s Tech Trek (STEM) program; the Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano Counties; LN4 Prosthetic Hand and Las Trampas School, which provides services to people with developmental disabilities, among others.

In keeping with Rotary’s pervasive theme of “Service Above Self,” the group also helps out at local events, including handing [SEE TEARDROP page 15]

Festival of Trees Provides Hope for Challenged Youth

By ELANA O’LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Event co-chairs Suzanne Murillo and Janet Nelson welcomed 406 attendees to the 31st annual Orinda Woman’s Club (OWC) Festival of Trees fundraiser at the San Ramon Marriott on Nov. 16. After they announced 32 raffle winners who won themed holiday trees, wreaths and baskets, lunch was served. With great aplomb, Adeline McClatchie took over the helm as master of ceremonies for Dan Ashley, who was unable to attend. She introduced beneficiary recipients from Pillars of Hope and Berkeley Hope Scholars explaining that both have “hope” in their names because that is what they work hard to provide for the challenged youth they serve.

Debra Brown, founder and CEO of Pillars of Hope, said, “People need to be aware that human trafficking affects us all and is already in our neighborhoods. Please call the national hotline (888-373-7888) if you see anything out of the ordinary. Watch for young girls looking improperly dressed,

staring down at the ground, or who have tattoos showing dollar signs and numbers; this indicates they have been bought. Be especially aware in shopping malls - that’s where teenage girls who are involved in trafficking are sent to recruit younger children. We provide housing and restoration for these girls. They are easy to love; they will melt your heart.”

Deborah Lowe Martinez, director of Berkeley Hope Scholars said, “We are filled with gratitude to the Orinda Woman’s Club for supporting us. Their gift will enable us to provide direct services to these deserving young scholars. Foster youth graduate from college at the rate of one to three percent; we are changing this result.”

Helen Lyall, of Helen Lyall Clothes For Women at Riverfront in downtown Napa, opened the fashion show by announcing 10 percent of all sales from post-event purchases would be donated to Napa fire victims. To everyone’s delight and applause, professional models on the runway were joined by many OWC members. There were

[SEE TREES page 12]

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Rheem Theatre Closes Its Doors

By TOM WESTLAKE
Staff Writer

It was not the sort of evening usually associated with going out: Clear but cold; a strong storm on the way. Nonetheless, on Jan. 7, my wife and I left the comforts of home, got in the car and ventured forth to see the 7:15 p.m. showing of *The Greatest Showman*, starring Hugh Jackman. Now, whereas I admire Mr. Jackman quite a bit and love musicals even more, that was not the reason we suffered the winter weather. You see, it was to be the last known showing of this particular movie at this particular theater and after the lights went up and the audience left, The Rheem Theatre would be closing its doors for the foreseeable future, perhaps for good.

I first found out about this through the theater's Facebook page and, apparently, this news had already become common knowledge because when we arrived, the lobby was full of people, most of whom

were in line at the concession stand. You could feel it in the air – a sort of sad resignation that, after all this time, and despite the Herculean efforts of Derek Zemrak and Leonard Pirkle, and their tireless and dedicated crew, the simple fact that it had become “no longer financially feasible to operate the theater” was going to be, in a few short hours, an inescapable reality. Nevertheless, everyone was there, ultimately, to see a movie, and that's exactly what we did.

And for that hour and a half, we did escape, some into the world of young idealistic vocalists (*Pitch Perfect 3*), others into a dark, waterlogged romantic fairy tale (*The Shape of Water*), and others, like us, immersed in a musical, somewhat anachronistic story about the origins of the Greatest Show on Earth.

But then the credits rolled, the lights came up and the audience started filing out. I went downstairs, and the lobby was nearly as crowded as it was when we arrived. Fit-



SALLY HOGARTY


The Rheem Theatre now displays a "Closed" sign along with information for prospective tenants.

tingly, it looked as if all three movies ended at about the same time. Nobody seemed all that anxious to leave. Vincent Townsend, long time veteran of both the Orinda and the Rheem, was there, and he actually sounded fairly hopeful about the Rheem's future but admitted that “a wealthy benefactor” would still be a very desirable thing. What little good news there was emerged in the revelation that many of the programs that were the exclusive purview of the Rheem will be moving over to the Orinda. Also,

for now, the building, seats, projectors and memorabilia will remain where they are. Derek Zemrak still holds out hope that some sort of agreement can be worked out and the theater will be able to open again, but until then...

It was now 9:10 p.m., and the number of people in the lobby was thinning out. I walked back out into the cold winter air and snapped a few pictures (The large statue of Po from the *Kung Fu Panda* films pre-

[SEE RHEEM page 12]




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ALL EVENTS AT ORINDA NOW



Tom Westlake

Host to conventions, film festivals, special programs and the Moraga Movers, the Rheem Theatre, a Lamorinda institution, has gone dark, leaving the area just that much poorer. The good news is that some of its programs will move to the Orinda Theatre, and I will do everything I can to keep you informed about them, but for right now, all I can be certain about is the International Film Showcase and the free movie night, both of which will be happening at about the same time this month.

Starting with the International Film Showcase, the iconic Orinda Theatre will celebrate the return of producers Efi Lubliner and JoAlice Canterbury with *The Nile Hilton Incident*. Set in Cairo (but filmed in Casablanca and Morocco) and using the 2011 Egyptian Revolution as a backdrop, the film thrusts the audience into a murder investigation while also focusing upon the beleaguered detective tasked with solving

it. This is no easy feat considering that he is hampered at every turn by just about everybody, including the very police force for which he works. To say there's corruption in the ranks would be understating it, and it is that very same depiction of corruption that made actually filming – and showing – it in Egypt impossible. With that in mind though, the very fact that this thrilling film got made at all should be something to applaud. We lucky few in the Lamorinda area are fortunate, indeed, that we have the opportunity to see it. It will be at the Orinda Theatre for one week only (Feb. 2 – 8, 7 p.m.). For further enticement, information and previews, be sure to check out www.internationalshowcase.org.

On a much-needed lighter note, we have *When Harry Met Sally*. Ever since Woody Allen released *Annie Hall* in 1977, the relationship comedy/drama has been an elusive

[SEE REEL page 12]



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OBITUARIES / SCHOOL CALENDAR

Robert C. Franklin, July 15, 1923 – December 27, 2017

A long-time Orinda resident, Bob Franklin was a man deeply devoted to his family. Even at 6, when the Depression



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Long-time Orinda resident **Bob Franklin**.

hit, he sold newspapers to help support his mother, brother, aunt, uncle and cousins.

In spite of having a weak leg caused by a childhood disease, Bob often bicycled with his friends into the Oakland Hills from Alameda and later became an all-state champion pole-vaulter.

He served in the Army during World War II in France and Germany, writing a large stack of letters home to his mother Louise and his brother David, who was paralyzed.

As a chaplain's assistant, one of his jobs was to write letters home to families whose sons had been killed, which made a very deep impression on him. He also organized German POWs into a swing band that played with him at USO dances. One of these soldiers taught him how to recognize the progression of chords that allowed him to learn songs just by listening to them.

When Bob returned to Alameda, he attended UC Berkeley. He was later introduced to a beautiful young woman named Marie Scott. They were married in 1950, the beginning of a life-long love. Their first home as newlyweds was in a little apartment in Orinda. They later moved to Alameda, had four children, and returned to Orinda where he spent the next 50 years. He remained close to friends who were in his wedding party for the rest of his life.

Bob was a top salesman for Capel-Klang, a distributor of garden supplies. His own gardens looked like they belonged in *Sunset Magazine*.

As a piano player, Bob was also very well known. People would come from around the world to the Gold Dust Saloon in San Francisco where he played in a Dixieland band. He also performed at Lefty O'Doul's and the finest hotels in San Francisco. One of his fondest memories was his friendship with Turk Murphy. He often played at Turk's club, Earthquake McGoon's. Bob

continued to professionally play big band, Dixieland and Honky Tonk piano in the Walnut Creek and Danville areas through his 80s.

Bob was never a religious man, but toward the end of his life developed a personal faith which gave him a great deal of peace.

He was very devoted to his wife, Marie, who passed away in 2004, as well as his children, Virginia (Ginni) Kennedy and her husband John of Portland, Donna LoBue and her husband Joe of Fairfield, Robert (Bobby) of Orinda, and Rhonda Stolle of El Dorado Hills. He had 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In his last conversation with his children, Rhonda asked, "Daddy, are you warm enough? Are you okay?" He said, "Yes. Are you okay?" With tears, Rhonda smiled. Barely able to speak, one of the last things he said was, "If my children are warm and happy, then I am warm and happy still."

Bob was a genuine man and will be dearly missed.

◆ KAPLAN from page 8

transformation of an underutilized waterfront industrial area into a new residential community of more than 3,000 mixed income housing units. The transformation of these two declining neighborhoods led to the construction of the SF Giants ballpark and the Gap Headquarters. Michael retired from 33 years of public service in 1997.

A long-time resident of Orinda, Michael's retirement allowed him to spend more time with his four children and a growing number of grandchildren and to take extended trips with Nancy to western and eastern Europe, the British Isles, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii.

Never completely retired, Michael maintained his architectural practice, working on both new and remodel residential projects. In Orinda, he served on the Steering Committee of OrindaVision and spoke from time to time before the City Council urging the renewal of its downtown and noting the significant role intown living must play in the revitalization process.

Michael is survived by his wife, Nancy, four children and seven grandchildren.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Open House.
- 2 **Orinda Academy**, half day for students.
Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 8:30 a.m. Parent Club meeting.
Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Shakespeare Showcase.
- 5 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Sport Booster meeting. 7 p.m.
Orinda Unified School District, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Registration for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year, will be held at each of the elementary schools through Feb. 8. For more information, go to: www.orindaschools.org.
- 7 **Holden High School**, half day.
Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Governing Board meeting, AUHSD Community Room, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Also, Feb. 21.
- 8 **Miramonte High School**, 1 p.m. Therapy Dogs during lunch on quad.
- 10 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, 5:30 p.m. Wagner Warriors Night.
- 12 **Orinda Unified School District**, 6 p.m. Board Meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda.
Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Mindfulness Meet Up.
- 13 **Holden High School**, 11 a.m. Orinda Women's Club Talent Show.
- 16 No school at **Del Rey Elementary School**, **Holden High School**, and **Wagner Ranch Elementary School**.
- 19 **All Schools Closed**.
Orinda Academy, President's Week – school closed through 2/23.
- 21 **Miramonte High School**, 9:30 a.m. Parents Club meeting.
Holden High School, 6 p.m. Board of Trustee Meeting.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net

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Lafayette Open Houses
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(925) 284-4321

Open houses are for adults only, and start at 6:30 p.m.

Walnut Creek Open House
Jan. 22nd, Feb. 12th
55 Eckley Lane
(925) 934-1507

CONTINUATIONS

◆ LETTERS from page 5

Orinda Could Face Unrestricted Housing

A bill in the state legislature, Senate Bill 827, will, if enacted, forever change the look of Orinda.

Senate Bill 827 (SB 827) will prevent Orinda from regulating housing construction within one-half mile of a train station or within one-quarter mile of a frequently used bus route.

The bill will prevent Orinda from regulating the height, size, number of apartments and parking possibilities within the designated zones.

The bill will also establish a minimum building height of 45 to 85 feet, making

high-rise, high-density housing possible. Doesn't Orinda have enough problems with potentially overcrowded schools, traffic congestion and a lack of parking?

The author of the bill is state Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco).

Orindans concerned about the state government's usurping local regulation should contact their state Assemblywoman Catharine Baker (R-San Ramon) and their state Senator Steve Glazer (D-Orinda).

Orindans should also contact members of the Orinda City Council: Amy Worth (now mayor); Inga Miller (now vice mayor); Eve Phillips; Dean Orr and Darlene Gee.

When Eve Phillips was mayor, she, on Aug. 18, 2017, sent a letter to members of the state legislature. Phillips wrote: "The City of Orinda is opposed to SB 35 (Senate Bill 35), which would pre-empt local discretionary land use authority . . ." Phillips' letter was supported by all other members of the council. Phillips was mayor from December 2016 to December 2017.

When asked if Worth supported or opposed SB 827, she, on Jan. 8, 2018, replied: "When the City of Orinda plans to take action on legislation, staff will post that in our agenda." This reply is vague.

By now, the members of the Orinda City Council should know if they support or oppose local control.

Orindans should not have to wait for City Councilmembers to make up their minds about local control. Loss of local control will mean that Orinda will become a colony of Sacramento. Furthermore, any large-scale changes to Orinda will be irreversible, forever changing the appearance of the city.

— Richard S. Colman

Thank You to Orinda Garden Club

We would like to publicly thank the Orinda Garden Club for arranging the special

sold out showing of *Toxic Puzzle: Hunt for the Hidden Killer* and guest Dr. Paul Alan Cox. For anyone who missed the award winning documentary about the search for cures for Alzheimer's, ALS and Parkinson's, known as the brain tangle diseases, please checkout the website toxicpuzzle.com. Charitable donations to further this research may be directed to the 501 (c)(3) nonprofit Institute of Ethnomedicine at brainchemistrylabs.org.

We have known Dr. Cox for many years and are very excited about the wonderful progress he is making.

— Sue Severson

◆ TREES from page 9

smiles all around as the upbeat playlist synopated throughout the Marriott banquet room and stately models strutted up and down the catwalk in jaw-dropping outfits.

Myrna Witt, OWC president, closed the event by thanking all who graciously volunteered their time to make sure that once again, the event ran smoothly, was fun for all and honored the contributions of Pillars of Hope and Berkeley Hope Scholars. All proceeds from the event benefit Pillars of Hope, Berkeley Hope Scholars and the Orinda Woman's Club Community Service Committee.

◆ LARATELIER from page 7

semester she focuses on a different aspect of art and art history. Paintings, drawings and sculpture displayed at the show were created during the fall semester. The focus was learning about artists from Barcelona including Antoni Gaudí, Joan Miró and Salvador Dali. The upcoming spring 2018 semester begins with a field trip to the Teotihuacan: City of Water, City of Fire exhibit at the de Young museum in San Francisco. She has never repeated a topic as many of her students enroll in ongoing classes, including summer art camps.

The core of Horoupian's teaching method is twofold. First, she reduces all the elements of the drawing to be as simple as possible. Second, she takes her cues from

◆ RHEEM from page 10

dominates in most of them), but, despite the discomfort, I could not help but look back at the flashing, inviting neon lights, thinking that this might be the last time I see them.

I then thought of the usual manner in which I close out my film column and could not wholly dismiss the irony: Though I have found an insurmountable amount of magic, sitting in darkened auditoriums, watching countless stories, made from light and movement, I see little in the way of any sort of magic in the darkness that now threatens to consume the Rheem. We have the Orinda Theatre, of course, and for that we should be grateful (though they've had to ask for public assistance in order to keep their neon signs burning brightly), but given the Rheem's history, its once removed connection to one of the most famous movies ever made (*Citizen Kane*) and the effort that has gone into keeping it running as long as it has, whatever magic that dwelt within its walls is, for the time being, gone.

◆ CAR TIME from page 6

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John Vanek can be reached at john@orindamotors.com.

the student helping them identify what's not working. This humane way of teaching always leaves the dignity of the student on the page.

Orinda resident Josephine Sabolboro's tween daughter Ava is a student at Laratelier. Sabolboro says, "For Ava, Lara's art class allows Ava's creativity to flourish, nourishing her soulful expression, and giving her permission to explore her imagination without any boundaries." Students at Laratelier range in age from eight to 15 years. As for Ava, she says, "Art can turn anything impossible to possible, as long as you believe it can truly happen." For more information about Laratelier's children's art classes, visit her website at <https://laraboroupian.carbonmade.com>.

◆ REEL from page 10

genre to bring successfully to the screen. Much of this has to do with the simple fact that relationships in general are rife with complications, compromises and more than their fair share of pitfalls, both intentional and purposeful. Woody Allen made such portrayals look easy, but much of that had to do with his own natural born comic ability. In this film, there were three powerhouses — Nora Ephron, writer; Rob Reiner, director; and Billy Crystal, male lead — all teaming together to, almost analytically, define

every aspect of just what a relationship is. No firm conclusion is reached, of course, but that's part of the fun. Meg Ryan and Carrie Fisher come along for the ride and, naturally, I have to tease you by telling you to look out for the deli scene — no mention of this film would be complete without it. Of equal importance, seeing this film will cost you nothing. Just be at the Orinda Theatre on Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m., ask to see Harry, and walk right in. For more info and updates, visit www.lamorindatheatres.com.

Stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.



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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Orinda Books**, 11 a.m., Maria's Book Club discusses *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- Orinda Theatre Concert Series**, 7:30 p.m., performer John Lloyd Young, tickets \$50 to \$100 for VIP seats, available at the Orinda Theatre box office or online at www.lamorindatheatres.com. See article page 15.
- 2 **International Film Showcase**, 7 p.m., *The Nile Hilton Incident*, Orinda Theatre. For further information and previews, www.internationalshowcase.org. See article page 10.
- First Friday Forum**, 1 p.m., Dr. Catherine Wolfram will discuss "Energy Policy in California and Around the World" Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article pg. 6.
- 3 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m., Vanda Krefft, author of *The Man Who Made the Movies* in conversation with Michael Troyan, author of *Twentieth Century Fox*, 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 4 **Orinda Library Art Gallery**, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., artist reception with light refreshments. View multimedia artwork from Magpie and vintage prints from Printmakers Society of California. See article p. 9.
- 6 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m., Chef Charlie Cooks Mardi Gras 2018! Join Chef Charlie of Epicurean Exchange for a healthful presentation of true Southern cooking. Limited seating, \$35 per person. To register, call 925-254-7606, 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com.
- 8 **Saint Mary's College Guild**, 9:30 a.m., Game Day and Luncheon/Bridge and Bunco, St. Mary's College Soda Center, Wine and buffet luncheon served at noon. \$36 per person, make checks payable to St. Mary's College Guild. Proceeds benefit students seeking financial aid scholarships. Call Shirley Holloway at 925-376-6588. Mail to: Dolores Mc Gonigle (925) 376-4339, 828 Crossbrook Ct., Moraga, CA 94556.
- Orinda Theatre Free Movie Night**, 6:30 p.m., *When Harry Met Sally*, for more info and updates, please go to www.lamorindatheatres.com. See article page 10.
- 12 **Orinda Books**, 11 a.m., Poetry Circle starts with special guest Matthew Zapruder, 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 14 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m., Literary Luncheon – Matt Haig presents *How to Stop Time*, \$12, for reservation, call 925-254-7606.
- 18 **Orinda Books**, 1 p.m., Authors Robert McNally (*The Modoc War*) and Greg Sarris (*How a Mountain Was Made*) in conversation about their books, 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 19 **Orinda Books**, 7 p.m., Mira T. Lee in conversation with Mark Lukach discusses her debut novel *Everything Here is Beautiful*, 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.cclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. The library will be closed on Feb. 19.

- 1 **ESL Conversation Circle**, 1 to 3 p.m. For adults, practice and improve English conversation skills in a small, informal group, Registration not required. Also Feb. 8, 15 and 22.
- Kindergarten Countdown**, 1 to 2 p.m. For parents of children starting kindergarten in the fall of 2018, a series of six workshops to help your children get ready for kindergarten. Also, Feb. 15.
- 2 **Teen Coloring Club**, 4 p.m. Join the Orinda Library TAG to de-stress, relax and have fun. The library provides age appropriate coloring books and colored pencils; you provide the inspiration and creativity. Free and open to all. Also Feb. 16 and 23.
- 5 **Mindful Aging: Brain Chargers**, 10:30 a.m. Join us for an hour of brain stimulating activities - Elder Paws (reading aloud to a dog, solving puzzles and coloring). Space is limited. Open to adults 55 years or older. Sign up for a session by telephone or in person at the Orinda Library. Also, Feb. 12.
- Maker Monday**, 2:30 p.m. Whether it's Legos, Minecraft, crafts or coding, fun is always happening on Mondays. Also, Feb. 12 and 26.
- 6 **Yoga Storytime**, 10 -10:30 a.m. Gentle stretching event with songs and reading, emphasizing movement and breathing, for kids of all ages and their caregivers.
- Orinda Library Writers Group**, 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment. Also, Feb. 20.
- 9 **Orinda Library TAG Meeting**, 4 p.m., Monthly meeting of the Orinda Library Teen Advisory Group.
- 16 **Mystery Book Club**, 3-4:30 p.m. Join the Orinda Mystery Book Club to uncover and discuss the new mystery book of the month. Meetings every third Friday of the month. This month's selection is *Murder on the Last Frontier* by Cathy Pegau.
- 20 **Megumi**, 10:30 a.m. A storytelling event celebrating diversity for kids of all ages.
- Humanities West Fireside Chat**, 6:30 p.m. Join George Hammond of Humanities West for a fireside chat exploring the history, culture and legends of Archaic Greece. More information about Humanities West and other events at www.humanitieswest.net.
- 22 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**, 7:30 p.m. Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month. The program will take place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library.

CLUB MEETINGS

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)**. General meetings third Tues., http://oml-ca.aauw.net or email Marty Schimbor at mgschimbor@comcast.net.
- Diablo Star Chapter #214**. Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.

Author Shares Experiences in Japan with Local Garden Club

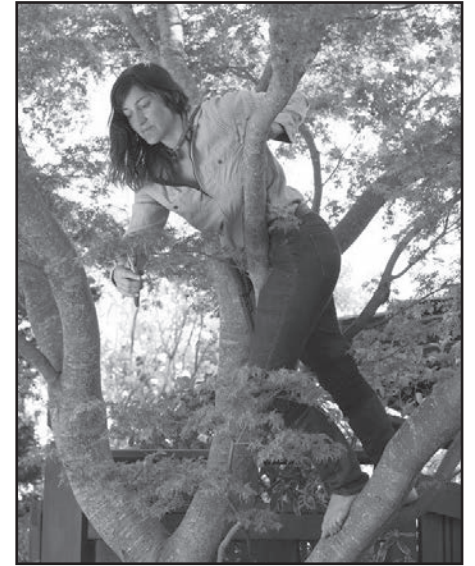
Bay Area-based gardener and author Leslie Buck will share her challenging experiences in Japan where she learned the art of Japanese pruning at the Feb. 16 meeting of the Montelindo Garden Club.

The only woman, not to mention American, at a renowned Japanese gardening firm, Buck describes her experiences as "harrowing, but, ultimately, rewarding" in her book *Cutting Back: My Apprenticeship in the Gardens of Kyoto*.

The adventuresome author will be at the Montelindo Garden Club on Feb. 16 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Dr., in Orinda. Refreshments begin at 9 a.m. followed by a 9:30 a.m. meeting and Buck's presentation at 10:30 a.m.

For more information on the club or the Feb. 16 presentation, go to www.montelindogarden.com.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



MAYA BLUM PHOTOGRAPHY

Leslie Buck shows her hands-on style for trimming a tree. Buck will speak at the Montelindo Garden Club on Feb. 16.

- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or 925-283-8288.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 a.m., Sept. through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, www.montelindogarden.com. Feb. 16 a free presentation by Leslie Buck, a Bay Area based gardener and author. See article above. 925-284-8193.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Garden Club**, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668 or go to www.eventbrite.com.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM**. First Thursday every month, except holidays, at 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. Family Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org. 2/7: Annual intercity meeting of the Fab-5-Clubs in Rossmoor. The speaker will be Prof. Richard Allen from Cal, discussing a brand new public Earthquake Early Warning System for the U.S. West Coast to be rolled out in 2018.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or www.orindawomansclub.org.

CITY/FIRE/MEETING SCHEDULE

- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Visit www.mofd.org/board/meetings; meeting location will be posted on the agenda.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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PERFORMING ARTS

◆ GALLERY from page 7

Moose, a visual arts teacher at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga, also teaches a printmaking class at the Center for Community Arts in Walnut Creek. She will demonstrate how to print linocuts at the artist reception. Both women hope viewers appreciate the beauty of prints made by some of America's early printmakers.

Magpie came into being when five women of similar age came together 12 years ago looking for places to show as a group. As magpies are adventurous, assertive birds that collect things, just as these five artists collect things for their art, the name stuck. Priscilla Birge, Barbara Hazard and Joanna Katz are from Berkeley, Diane Rusnak is from San Pablo and Sarah Whitecotton is from Albany. Visit www.magpie7arts.com for more about the group. Together, they are showing about 80 works. Rusnak, known for her work inspired by night dreams, is showing one piece in the exhibit.

Priscilla Birge creates nature-inspired abstract mixed media works on paper in which everything has a relationship to a photographic image or process. Her small scale mixed media series, *Studies*, ranges in mood from understated to energetic. Other work includes abstracted sky/sea landscapes. Her tools are a camera, a computer, an inkjet printer and oil pastels as portrayed in *Sketches #3*, a 16" x 30" mixed media piece.

Barbara Hazard has worked in a number of different painting genres in the past 50 years but always returns to the lives of plants. She says, "The grace of structure, intricate angles and curves, shifts of color are wonderful to paint." On a symbolic level, she believes each plant simultaneously contains the whole cycle of life and death – tender new growth, ripe maturity and the grays and purples of dying leaves. The slender buds of *Brugmansia* promise a pleasing aroma in her *Angel Trumpet #4*, a 36" x 36" acrylic on canvas.

Joanna Katz is showing water media paintings and a digital series of bird nests.

She uses watercolor, gouache and acrylic media to create paintings. In the digital bird nest series, she scrambles images of twigs and leaves that birds pick up to create a nest along with the human litter you might see on a trail walk. This juxtaposition highlights how people's carelessness interrupts nature. The symbolic level of life and death

portrayed in nature, such as the beauty of new green shoots growing through the mulch of dead leaves, intrigues her. When you view *Textures from Unnamed Places*, a 29" x 22" mixed media painting, many layers of work are evident.

Sarah Whitecotton creates figurative paintings that are narrative in scope. Inspiration comes from the Fauves, especially Matisse as well as the German abstract expressionist Max Beckmann, Mexican muralist Rufino Tamayo and California figurative painters. Genres she explores include *plein air* watercolor, acrylics, encaustics, collage and mixed media including found objects. Look for *Flowers*, a 28" x 20" mixed media collage.

As to the value of art in the community, Mead says, "The arts are important because they make connections. They cross lines and extend awareness and experience." Similarly, Katz says, "Different types of art attract different people; this creates community."

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Feb. 19. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

◆ ROADS from page 5

rooster tails of water behind them. Daytime running lights aren't enough because they turn on only your headlights at reduced power and not your taillights.

Do your part this winter – and year-round – to keep Orinda roads safe for all!

◆ TEARDROP from page 9

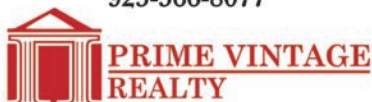
out 750 cups of hot chocolate and marshmallows at Lafayette's "It's a Wonderful Life" celebration in December.

Made up of Rotarians from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette, the club meets Friday mornings at 7 a.m. at Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette. For more information, call 925-283-8288 or go to www.lamorindasunrise.com.



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New Concert Series at Orinda Theatre

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

What's that old saying? "When one door closes, another opens." Such could be said of our two local movie theaters.

As the venerable Rheem Theatre closes its doors (hopefully not forever), the Orinda Theatre announces a new concert series in its medium-size theater space.

John Lloyd Young, who originated the role of Frankie Valli in Broadway's Tony Award-winning *Jersey Boys*, opens the new series, entitled "Live at the Orinda Theatre." As Valli, Young made history when he won the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Theatre World awards as a leading actor.

"To see this quality of international talent here in the East Bay is as much of a treasure as is the historic Orinda Theatre," says Derek Zemrak, owner of the Orinda Theatre.

The performance takes place on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 7:30 p.m. with tickets ranging from \$50 to \$100 VIP seats. The VIP tickets secure seating in the first three rows and include a meet and greet with Young after the show at Cine Cuvée plus a *Jersey Boys* Blu-Ray.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tony Award-winner **John Lloyd Young** appears in concert at Orinda Theatre on Feb. 1.

Produced by Zemrak Pirkle Productions, LLC and Michael Williams, the "Live at the Orinda Theatre" concert series continues with Amanda McBroom (*The Rose*) on Mar. 1, Amanda King's salute to Ella Fitzgerald on April 5 and Tony Nominated Broadway star Andrea McArdle (*Annie* and *Les Miserables*) on May 3.

"There's nothing like live music in front of you and getting to experience renowned artists of this caliber in the beautiful and historic Orinda Theatre," says Williams. "It will make for some very special and memorable evenings."

Tickets for the concert series are available at the Orinda Theatre box office and online at www.lamorindatheatre.com.



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Clark Thompson

As a real estate broker specializing in residential properties and based in Orinda for the past 34 years, Clark Thompson shares a wealth of knowledge about the Lamorinda market with clients. A co-founder and continuing partner of Village Associates, located at 93 Moraga Way, Suite 103, Thompson collaborates with 33 active agents in his office delivering



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“We have a cohesive real estate community here in Orinda. We all get along and like each other, and I am fortunate to be able to practice traditional real estate in a friendly town where people want to live,” says Thompson. “This community sells itself. The natural beauty, excellent public schools and best weather throughout the year all combine to make Orinda extremely desirable. It is unique in that way,” he adds.

Despite the new federal tax laws that took effect last month, Thompson remains optimistic about the Lamorinda residential housing market because of all its attributes. “Many of us are waiting to see how the new tax provisions will ultimately effect home sales, but I feel home ownership in our area remains a good investment,” says Thompson.

With the current trend of baby boomers downsizing and transitioning into retirement, along with young families moving into Lamorinda, the Generation X and Millennials will have more properties to view, according to Thompson.

An Orinda resident since 1982 and having reared two daughters here, Thompson has seen a lot of comings and goings in the village: “I continue to enjoy what I do after all these years in a truly great community.” Thompson enjoys keeping fit by walking and hiking in the great outdoors and spends as much time as possible painting abstract works. “I have moved from acrylics to oils and experiment in a lot of different ways. I like to surprise myself,” he says with a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third generation **Rick Hudson** continues the family business in Estate Sales.

smile.

For more information about Clark Thompson, visit his website at www.ClarkThompson.com or call him at 254-8585. You may also email him at CT@ClarkThompson.com.

Rick Hudson’s Estate Sales and Liquidations

Originally established in the 1960s by his grandfather, this third generation family owned business has been managed by Rick Hudson for the past 25 years. Located at 128 Village Square - on the lower level behind McCaulou’s Department Store and Safeway – Hudson offers a complete estate liquidation service for clients and hosts scheduled two-day sales approximately every six weeks.

“What sets me apart is that I offer an end solution for estate liquidation. I work with individuals who want to maintain privacy around their family home. With Orinda and surrounding communities being too hilly to host sales on the estate site, I transport saleable contents to my showroom where I subsequently conduct scheduled sale days,” explains Hudson. For clients who prefer an on-site liquidation sale, Hudson can accommodate.

The firm specializes in the liquidation of antiques, Mid-Century Modern and Danish furniture and objects, fine art, jewelry, coin collections, sterling silver, books, musical instruments, tools and equipment and special collections. For example, a recent on-site estate sale involved Fiore’s music store that had been in business in Oakland since 1933. Prospective customers interested in receiving a showroom list and attending a showroom sale should email Rick at RickHudson123@yahoo.com and indicate they wish to be added to the showroom email list.

Among the services offered here at competitive rates are Fair Market Value appraisals for estate tax purposes. Hudson’s does not write divorce or insurance appraisals and interested individuals should contact Rick Hudson for more information.

Estate “Clear Out” services are available. This includes removal of debris and a “broom sweep” of the residence in preparation for the real estate market. If an estate does not have enough value to take on consignment, or if for some reason it is not possible to host a sale on site, Hudson’s will purchase the entire contents of the estate.

An avid outdoorsman, Rick Hudson enjoys trout fishing, camping and hiking in the East Bay hills. “I love the Orinda community and our location in Village Square. We have great convenient parking for our customers, and I enjoy doing all my shopping and banking within walking distance of our store,” says Hudson.

For more information about the next estate sale, visit the website at www.RickHudsonEstateSalesandLiquidation.com. You may reach Rick Hudson by email at RickHudson123@yahoo.com or call 510-219-9644.

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Beneficiary Applications

The Orinda Woman’s Club is accepting applications for major beneficiaries of its 2018 Festival of Trees fund raising event through **Feb. 12**.

Applicant organizations must assist women, youth and/or families in need in Contra Costa or Alameda counties.

For complete guidelines and application forms, contact Kathleen Kerr-Schochet at kkersch@gmail.com.

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