



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Council Takes Stand on State Housing Bills

By PAUL KILDUFF
Contributing Writer

Weighing in on proposals to build high-density housing in California, the City Council voted unanimously to support resolutions opposing three controversial state bills.

But on the heels of that May 7 vote, the California Senate Appropriation's Committee declined to take a vote on one of the bills, Senate Bill 50, thus tabling it for the rest of the year. This means the earliest the bill could be voted on would be January.

SB50 seeks to rectify the state's affordable housing crisis by allowing construction of four- and five-story apartment buildings throughout the state within a half-mile radius of what are called "transit rich" areas in higher population areas. Because Orinda has a BART station and is in a county of 600,000-plus residents, it qualifies.

The bill would also allow the remodeling of existing single-family homes that haven't been lived in for five years and are considered "substandard" into buildings of up to four units in single-family neighborhoods. Vacant lots in these areas could also have multi-unit structures built on them. The buildings would have to provide half a parking space per unit.

Larger homes could also be built in resi-
[SEE SB50 page 4]



MC John Fazel presents a plaque and champagne to Vic and Fran Smith. Married for 70 years, the avid hikers won the Longest Married Couple award. SALLY HOGARTY

Ah, to be 75 Again... Three-Quarter Century Club Holds Court

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The buzz began as soon as guests arrived at the 20th Annual Orinda Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon. As Betty Karplus, former Orinda School Board member and high school teacher put

it, "This is the place to come to visit with friends that perhaps we don't see very often anymore. It makes today truly special."

Vic Smith tapped George Jedenoff on the shoulder and queried, "Didn't we work together at Geneva Steel 50 years ago?" Yes, they had and during lunch fondly remembered work experiences of the past.

Don Reichert admitted he was happy to be coming out for lunch – "and it's free!"

Pat Gersham said she always looks forward to the outstanding speakers – and John Fazel as Master of Ceremonies.

Barbara Anderson, long-time local piano teacher, says she had to be home in time to start teaching. She has 20 students, including two great grandchildren.

Fazel, host of the event to which Orinda residents 75 years and older are invited, explained that the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, Orinda Community Church and Abio Properties, a new addition, sponsored the event.

Volunteers, he said, had as much fun as the guests because they, too, saw acquaintances and enjoyed the happy spirit of the crowd. Held at the Orinda Community Church Hall on May 15, the event this year included visitors from Lamorinda Village and Aegis Living Moraga, a senior residential community.

Realtor Tania DeGroot knew George Jedenoff and exclaimed, "After I saw your video this year of skiing in Alta (Utah) and exercising at your Orinda home, I want to
[SEE CENTURY page 11]

Everyday Orinda Lookout Kardashians, it's Graduation Party Season in Orinda

MIMI BOMMARITO



Once upon a time in Orinda, most likely while paring a mountain of strawberries for the school lunch salad bar, an innocent mother wondered aloud why there were no special commencement festivities for elementary school graduates.

Clearly a maternal freshman, this woman was immediately shut down by a wolf pack of seasoned mothers, riddled with hair loss and stress headaches from their past involvement with our local middle and high school graduation celebrations. The squelch was not done cruelly, but it was done firmly. Nobody wanted that firecracker exploding in the woods. Her enviable, collagen-induced spark was immediately snuffed.

Because, young mothers, if you want pomp, circumstance and festivities, you will get all three. One just has to be patient, calm your inner thoroughbred, and savor

that elementary reprieve. After the Orinda Intermediate School and Miramonte High School commencement addresses, our children are treated to elaborate parties that would even impress a Kardashian.

A jaw-dropping wonderland, an embarrassment of riches and an insurance policy, all rolled into a spectacular send-off. And, I feel like I can say this, because for two years in a row I co-chaired the OIS Promotions party and worked on the entertainment committee for Miramonte's Grad Nite in 2016. Guilty, if you will, of feeding the frenzy.

Creating these events is intimidating and quite a bit of pressure. Kids today are so easily bored. It takes a lot to wow them. And sometimes we ask ourselves, when we have so much already, why do we want to wow
[SEE EVERYDAY page 10]

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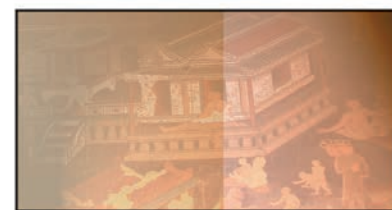
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Get Your Red, White and Blue On

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

July Fourth may seem far away as graduation takes center stage during June. But it will be here before you know it.

Now is the time to check out all your red, white and blue clothing, and if you need to add to your wardrobe, The Orinda Association (OA) will have T-shirts for sale. Purchase them the day of the parade at The Orinda Association booth in the park or call 925-254-0800 to purchase in advance.

Festivities begin with the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's pancake breakfast from 7:30 to 10 a.m. with the parade starting at 10 a.m. A complete timeline, including the flag raising ceremony, fun run and more, can be found on page 3.

For a booth in the park, where the concert and lots of fun activities take place after the parade, deadlines are almost here. Food and beverage booth applications are due June 5 with non-profit booth applications due June 19. Both applications can be found on The Orinda Association's website (www.orindaassociation.org/participate-parade).

Those wishing to be part of the "Best Hometown Parade Ever" need to have their parade application forms in by June

23. These can also be found on The Orinda Association website. With an opportunity to get creative, the parade features myriad groups, from local preschools to swim teams to marching bands to local residents displaying their classic automobiles.

One marching band that exemplifies the hometown experience is the Orinda All Volunteer Pick Up Marching Band. This group plays at the beginning and the end of the parade. Made up of musicians with at least two years of experience, the band plays a variety of Sousa and patriotic songs as well as the official songs for the United States Armed Forces.

Colleen and John McCormick, owners of Lamorinda Music in Lafayette, have organized the marching band for the past several years and have been playing in the band since 1995, often with their children. They provide the music and lyrics to hold the music while marching as well as drums and cymbals.

"We always need drummers and look forward to hearing from past members and new participants," says Colleen McCormick.

The music for the parade can be picked up in advance at Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. On July 4, per-



SALLY HOGARTY
Members of the **Orinda All Volunteer Pick Up Marching Band** play patriotic favorites at last year's Fourth of July Parade.

cussionists meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot next to 89 Davis Road in Orinda (next to the Flying A gas station). All other instruments join them at 9 a.m., and at 10 a.m. the parade begins in front of the Orinda Theatre. Musicians should wear blue pants/

shorts and a white shirt. Lamorinda Music can loan a drum to those who need one. For more information, go to www.lamorindamusic.com/parade or call Colleen at 925-385-0963. You can also email [SEE FOURTH page 3]

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Friday Forum Season Ends with Talk on the Supreme Court and Politics

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Stephen Woolpert, a professor at Saint Mary's College of California, speaks on "The Supreme Court and Politics," marking the last program of the 2019 First Friday Forum series presented by the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Woolpert specializes in the U.S. Constitution, civil rights, the Supreme Court and California politics. About his lecture he says, "It is inspired by a famous quote from the 1830s by Alexis de Tocqueville: 'Scarcely any political question arises in the United States that is not resolved, sooner or later, into a judicial question.' The controversy over the recent appointment of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court underscores its political importance. I hope to explore with the audience the nature of the court's role in our system of government."

Holding a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford University, Woolpert was dean of Liberal Arts at Saint Mary's College from 2005 to 2015. He has served as an expert



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Professor and political scientist **Stephen Woolpert** will speak at June's First Friday Forum.

source on issues surrounding civil rights, the Supreme Court and California politics, and has written op-ed pieces on a variety of topics.

As to his interest in these subjects, Woolpert explains, "I grew up in our nation's capital where my father worked in the Surgeon General's office. So my [SEE FORUM page 16]

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President
Orinda's Array of Food Shines at
Restaurant Tour**



Carlos Baltodano

On May 7, my family and I joined more than 150 people for the annual Orinda Restaurant Tour, sponsored by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

The Theatre District event, which allowed people to visit and enjoy the delicacies of 12 restaurants, started at 51 Moraga Way. While registering, one could savor food from Reem's Steaks and wines from the Lamorinda Wine Growers.

The walking tour was accompanied by the rhythmic sounds of the Latin music trio from SunJams. They played South American and Caribbean music at Vashell Way. Listening to the beat, we enjoyed pork sliders from Casa Orinda and delicious meatballs from La Piazza.

Across the street, at Cine Cuvée, we met up with Mayor Inga Miller and Derek Zemrak, proprietor of the restaurant. We enjoyed lobster stuffed endive along with grilled onion bread with olive pistachio tapenade.

The great thing about food is that it brings people together. My daughter's favorite was the Chicken Tikka Masala over rice at the new Indian restaurant, Saffron. It was a wonderful event as we listened to the Lamorinda Idol singers while sampling pizza from Picollo Napoli and delightful crab cakes from Shelby's.

We would like to extend our appreciation and congratulations to all the restaurants, both new and established, who participated in the event. It shows both Orinda residents and others from surrounding cities the wondrous choices of food available in our community. There are many places throughout the state that don't have access to healthy and delicious ingredients. We are lucky in this town to have so many different types

of restaurants that provide nutritious and healthy foods, while affordable.

If you did not get a chance to participate in the tour, when you think about going out to dine, pick a restaurant in Orinda and enjoy!

As far as enjoyment and fun, nothing beats Orinda's Fourth of July Parade and Party at the Park. This year marks the 36th year the parade has been sponsored and organized by The Orinda Association. The parade started in the early 1980s to bring a sense of community and togetherness among residents who were thinking of incorporating Orinda.

The parade has grown from year to year and it is the one event with lots of activities for both children and adults. On Independence Day come with your family and celebrate the Best Hometown Parade.

The parade, organized with the help of volunteers, receives assistance from the city's police, public works and recreation departments. It takes about 100 volunteers to pull together the event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact oa@orindaassociation.org.

Talking about events that impact the whole community, we now have a venue in one of the most beautiful and idyllic areas of the city. On Sunday, June 2, the city will hold a ribbon cutting and dedication to officially open the new Art and Garden Center at Wilder. An open house is scheduled from 2 to 3 p.m., at 20 Orinda Fields Lane.

This resource, operated by the city, will be available to all residents for meetings, classes, special events and other public uses. For more information, contact the Orinda Parks and Rec Department.

◆ **FOURTH** from page 2

info@lamorindamusic.com.

For those who prefer to get up and enjoy the day with a run or walk, the Fourth of July Run for a Reason kicks off at 8 a.m. in front of the Community Center. Participants can choose a 5-mile run or a 2-mile walk. Formerly known as Haley's Run for a Reason, the event still benefits the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Foundation (SUDC). For complete information and to register, go to <https://raceroster.com/events/2019/21862/4th-of-july-run-for-reason>.

If you are an Orinda senior and would like to enjoy the parade in comfort, the OA's Seniors Around Town (SAT) program

will provide shaded seating on Orinda Way in front of the Orinda Community Center. You don't need to be a rider with the SAT program. Any Orinda senior is welcome. Please call 925-402-4506 to reserve your seat.

And, finally, the Fourth of July parade wouldn't be possible without the help of many enthusiastic volunteers who decorate the park and booths, direct parade participants, hand out bottles of water and more. To be part of this group, contact The Orinda Association at 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.

Sally Hogarty is executive editor of The Orinda News. Reach her at sally@theorindanews.com.

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.

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way
(Lower Level Library)
Phone: 254-0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org

The Orinda Association
P.O. Box 97
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ORINDA 4TH OF JULY EVENTS

Best Hometown Parade

7:30 – 10 a.m.	Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Pancake Breakfast Library Plaza at 26 Orinda Way
7:55 a.m.	Flag-raising Ceremony Orinda Veterans raise the colors of our flag in front of the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way
8 a.m.	Fun Run Choose between a 2-mile run/walk or a 5-mile run through scenic parts of Orinda and EBMUD watershed. (Details coming shortly)
8:45 a.m.	Parade Participants Arrive for Assembly Meet in BART parking lot on East Side of Camino Pablo
9 a.m.	Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale in the Library Breezeway, 26 Orinda Way, Plaza Level EFO Big Band & EFO Summer Band Volunteer big bands will entertain crowds in front of the Orinda Theatre
9:30 a.m.	Parade Line-Up Begins Parade participants travel from East BART parking lot to Wells Fargo at 80 Moraga Way
10:00 a.m.	Parade Begins Orinda Theatre District and Orinda Village District
11:30 to 1:30 p.m.	Park Activities Free Park activities at the conclusion of the parade.

- ★ Delicious Food and Beverage Booths
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- ★ Community Non-Profit Booths

2019

For more information, please visit www.OrindaParade.com or call (925) 254-0800

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Editorial

It's Up to All of Us to be Fire Safe

The summer weather is upon us with all its lovely warmth and beautiful flowers. Along with the picnics, outdoor concerts and plays comes a much less welcome summer addition – fire season.

As we've seen the past few years, horrific wildfires are now part of the California landscape. In October 2017, a series of 250 wildfires burned across our state, devastating areas of Napa and Sonoma counties.

Orinda students recently had a first-hand look at the human toll of the Camp Fire when they traveled to Butte County. The students at Orinda Intermediate School and the four elementary schools put together about 300 "Peace Kits" for students and teachers of Paradise Unified School District filled to the brim with friendship bracelets, journals and hand-stuffed animals. A group of Orinda students then delivered the kits to Chico, where Paradise students were attending school.

But wildfires could happen just as easily in Orinda. Realizing this possibility, the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) has stepped up its prevention strategies. According to MOFD Chief Dave Winkacker, dry Diablo winds could race from the watershed surrounding San Pablo and

Briones reservoirs into Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga. MOFD and Cal Fire officials say they are determined to do all they can to prevent a devastating wildfire in Lamorinda. But they can't do it alone. Local residents also must be diligent about maintaining their own properties in a fire-safe manner.

On May 23, The Orinda Association sponsored an Emergency Evacuation Forum that included a panel of experts from MOFD and the Community Emergency Response Team. A video will be available on the OA website (www.orindaassociation.org) in the near future. The Lamorinda Village held a similar event on May 31 with MOFD and East Bay Regional Park District personnel addressing wildfire prevention and preparation.

If you missed these events, you can find out important preventative steps by going to MOFD's website (www.mofd.org/fire-prevention/firewise). You can also be sure that your family and friends receive emergency notifications by enrolling for emergency notifications at nixle.us.

Don't wait until it's too late. Prepare for potential fires now. Be safe.

– Sally Hogarty, executive editor

Letters to Editor

Climate is the Crisis, Not Housing

The real crisis is climate change — not a housing shortage. For quite some time, residents living in the Bay Area have been barraged with headlines, stories and news on the "housing crisis." Climate change and its companion issues, climate engineering and methane expulsion are far more serious.

What seems to be missing is the planet, climate, environment, infrastructure, transportation systems all have real physical limitations. Climate change is not a linear

proposition. Already, much of the biosphere has been destroyed.

The insane legislation put forward by Sacramento's developer-funded politicians in SB50 (transit housing) and AB1487 (Bay Area housing) will further accelerate the climate's destruction. This legislation is oblivious to and ignores the serious ramifications of climate change.

Climate change is not tomorrow's problem. Do your own research. Get the facts. Connect the dots.

– Chris Kniel

◆ SB50 from page 1

dential neighborhoods if Orinda is defined by the state as a "jobs rich" community, said Orinda Planning Director Drummond Buckley in his report to the council on the legislation. Buckley said the standard for a jobs rich community has yet to be determined.

High fire risk areas are exempt from the bill's provisions. According to Buckley that includes neighborhoods such as Upper El Toyonal.

The other bills the council voted to oppose are AB1487 and SB330. The first would create a housing agency for the Bay Area that could impose regional taxes to fund development, among other things. The

latter, known as the Housing Crisis Act of 2019, would relax rules for building new housing and protect tenant rights, among other things.

SB50 has come under fire throughout the state for having far less stringent rules for affluent coastal cities of 50,000 or less such as Sausalito. Buckley, who once worked for the city of Sausalito, said at the meeting that such cities may have "better lobbyists" in Sacramento. Orinda has a population of 18,000 and does not have a lobbyist in Sacramento. It relies on organizations such as the League of California Cities to do its bidding at the capitol.

Before the vote several speakers got up to oppose the bills. Rusty Snow, representing



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Orinda Watch, said that under SB50 the city's population could double. "It could destroy our small-town, single-family, semi-rural environment. We need to fight to stop this," said Snow, who added that allowing multi-family homes along Orinda's winding, narrow roads would lead to parking congestion and hinder evacuations in the event of an emergency.

Twenty-year Orinda resident and former council candidate Kathleen Jenkins said the legislation had made her "depressed" because it would destroy existing neighborhoods. She added that exempting Marin and other toney coastal counties was

disgraceful.

Orinda resident Daniel de Busschere urged the council to oppose the bills because they don't take into consideration concerns of cities. "We've done everything the state has asked us to do" with regard to affordable housing, "so why ignore us? We're supposed to be a partnership but we're excluded," said de Busschere.

Before the vote, Council Member Dennis Fay said cities like Orinda are not the cause of the affordable housing problem in the state. He points the finger squarely at coun-

[SEE SB50 page 12]

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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.

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SCHOOLS

Meet This Year's OUSD Teachers of the Year

Nominated by their peers, six Orinda Educators were named as Teachers of the Year following a rigorous selection process.

The teachers are Jenny Dodd of Del Rey Elementary, Terry Schrittwieser of Glorietta Elementary, Beth Hoogerhuis of Sleepy Hollow Elementary, Liz Headley of Wagner Ranch Elementary, Eric Page of Orinda Intermediate and Ashley Appel, who teaches at two or more sites.

The teachers were nominated using a form tied to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. School leadership teams met to review all submitted nomination forms and selected the teacher who represents the school as Site Teacher of the Year.

The District Teacher of the Year Committee then interviewed each Site Teacher of the Year and observed him/her teaching a lesson. Following the interviews and lesson observations, the committee selected the one teacher to represent the district as the Teacher of the Year. This year, that teacher is Dodd of Del Rey.

"We are so proud to have Jenny Dodd representing Orinda Union School District in the Contra Costa County Office of



From L to R: **Eric Page** (OIS), Director of Curriculum **David Schrag**, **Beth Hoogerhuis** (SH), **Jenny Dodd** (DR), **Terry Schrittwieser** (GL), **Liz Headley** (WR), **Ashley Appel** (multiple sites), School Board President **Hillary Weiner**, Superintendent **Carolyn Seaton**.

Education's Teachers of the Year process. Ms. Dodd is student-centered, and she believes it is her job to help every student achieve his/her maximum potential," says Carolyn Seaton, OUSD superintendent of

schools.

Being selected as a teacher of the year, Seaton said, is a huge recognition. "It's an acknowledgement that your colleagues recognize that you're an outstanding teacher

in the classroom but also that you go above and beyond the classroom, that you are a leader in everything you do," Seaton says.

— Orinda News Staff

OUSD Employee of the Year, Michelle Brobak, Honored by State Department of Education



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michelle Brobak, secretary of Del Rey Elementary School, was selected as one of six California Classified School Employees of the Year, according to Tony Thurmond, state superintendent of public instruction. From left to right are Del Rey Principal **Kirsten Theurer**, Director of Human Resources **Brian Inglesby**, **Michelle Brobak**, Superintendent **Carolyn Seaton**, and Board President **Hillary Weiner**. Brobak was honored by the OUSD Board of Trustees as the District Classified Employee of the Year at the March 11 board meeting.

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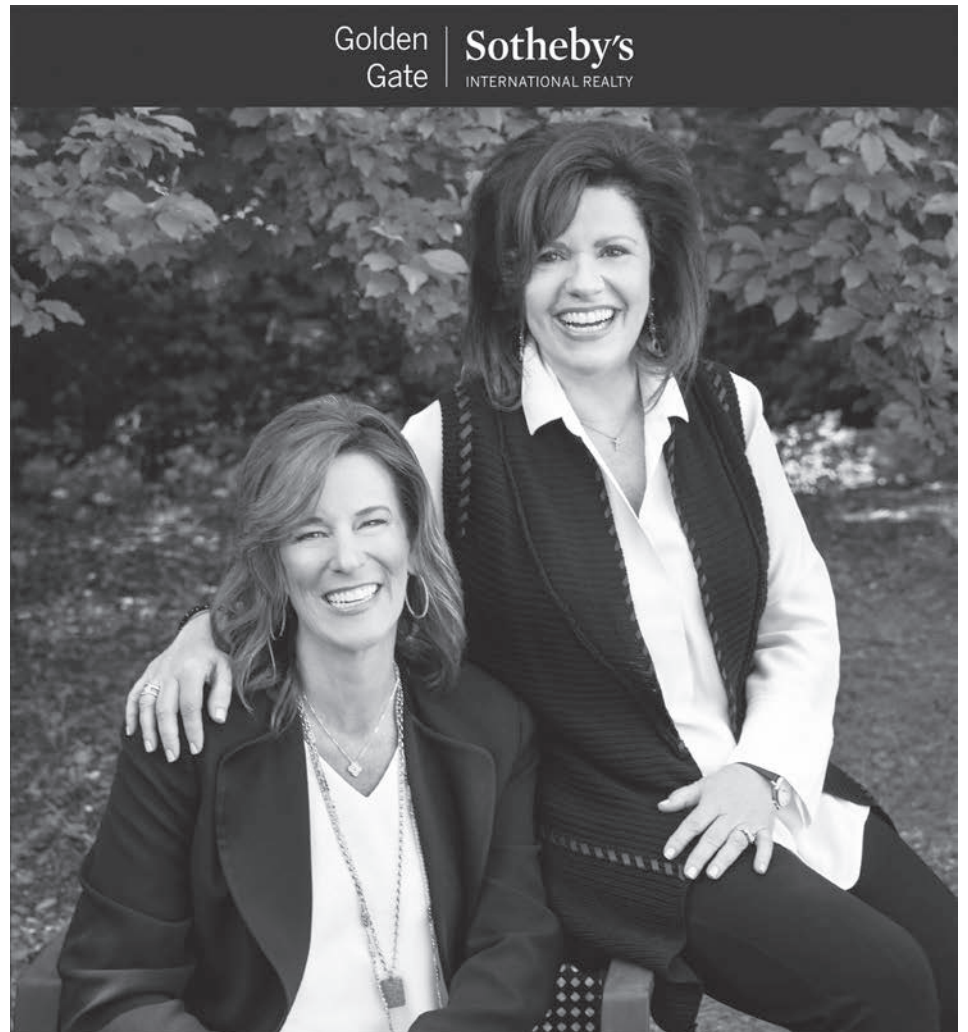
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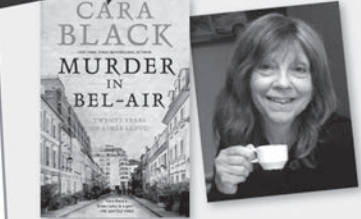
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Music Students Support Rett Foundation

The Music Students Service League of Contra Costa (MSSL) collaborated with Macy's Walnut Creek on May 4 to host their second annual fashion show in

support of the Katie Nues Foundation for Rett Syndrome. (L-R) Macy's Assistant Manager **Kendra Diedrich**, MSSL Parent Coordinator (and Orinda resident) **Minda Yu**, President of MSSL **Michelle Chen**, Katie's Clinic Founder **Jesse Nues**, **Katie Nues**, **Melissa Nues**, Katie's Clinic Director **Dr. Mary Jones**, and MSSL Vice President **Max Chen** were in attendance, raising \$5,000 to benefit the foundation. With members from a number of East Bay high schools, including Miramonte, MSSL is a student-run, nonprofit whose mission is to promote happiness through music while also providing support for those in need. The donation from MSSL will go directly toward clinical care, research projects and community education associated with Rett Syndrome, a rare genetic mutation that almost exclusively affects girls and impairs brain development. To learn more about MSSL, go to msmusic.org.

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93 Moraga Way, Orinda

Trendy to Exotic, Restaurant Tour Celebrates Local Eateries

By **SALLY HOGARTY**
Executive Editor

Beef bulgogi from Reem's Steaks, wines from the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, chicken tikka masala from Saffron Indian Restaurant & Bar, crab cakes from Shelby's, Piccolo Napoli's famous meatballs and much more greeted attendees at this year's Restaurant Tour.

In addition to most of the restaurants in Theatre Square offering a plethora of small plate items, Casa Orinda, La Piazza and Loard's Ice Cream also contributed gastronomical delights.

Held on May 7 at Theatre Square, the Chamber of Commerce sponsored-event celebrated the food available in Orinda. "We are so grateful to our wonderful restaurants and to the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association for their participation," says

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Cindy Powell. "I'd also like to thank Republic Services for donating recycling and garbage services and helping to underwrite the wine."

This year, the event included the transformation of Vashell Way (between La Piazza and Coldwell Banker) into a music venue featuring the Orinda Idol singers and the Latin beat of musicians from the SunJams Foundation.

"The music just flowed out of Vashell Way and into Theatre Square creating a wonderful ambiance for the event," says Powell, who adds the lighting created by City of Orinda's Adam Foster was charming.

Sally Haggerty is executive director of The Orinda News. She can be reached at sally@TheOrindaNews.com.



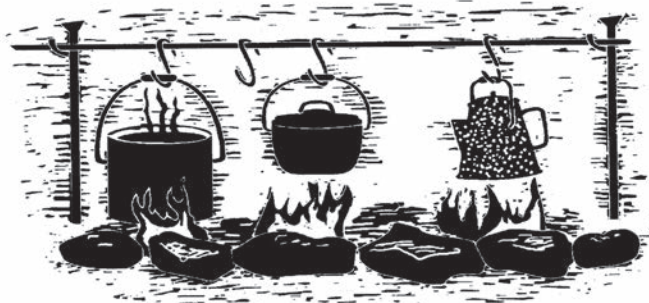
CINDY POWELL

Mayor **Inga Miller** enjoys some of the chicken tikka masala from Orinda's newest restaurant, Saffron, during the restaurant tour.



CINDY POWELL

Local residents enjoy sampling the offerings of a variety of Orinda restaurants while listening to the Orinda Idol singers and the SunJams.



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COMMUNITY

Orinda Turns Out In Full Force for Action Day and Volunteer Fair

On April 27, Orinda residents once again turned out in force to help beautify their city by cleaning up trash, pulling weeds, painting curbs and much more. In addition, local nonprofits had tables full of information as part of the Volunteer Fair.

The fair and Action Day registration took place in the Library Plaza with participants then fanning out to all parts of Orinda in their bright t-shirts to take on a wide variety of projects. Everyone returned for pizza at noon.



SALLY HOGARTY

Families pick up trash at the play structure in the Community Center Park.



SALLY HOGARTY

Miramonte High School students paint a curb at Wilder. Organized by the Miramonte Volunteer Program and the Student Leadership Council, students cleaned up the fields at Wilder before returning for more assignments at the Community Center.



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SEASONED SHOPPER / LIBRARY CALENDAR



Seasoned Shopper

Berries, Berries and More Berries Arriving Throughout the Month

BARBARA KOBSAR



The Orinda Farmers' Market joins in to celebrate National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable month in June. Stands are full of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Berries are bountiful at the Farmers' Market this month.

in-season produce waiting to fill shopper's bags and baskets. It's also the time when all kinds of berries arrive, including more strawberries which open and close the berry season.

Subtle differences distinguish members of the blackberry family, but along with their raspberry cousins their structures are similar. Numerous plump juicy "kernels" make up the shape of the berry. Blackberries are fairly firm and solid, while raspberries are hollow and fragile after harvesting.

True blackberries sport a shiny, purple black color and when mature range from one-half to one inch in length. Other hybrid blackberries like boysenberry, olallieberry and marionberry are dusty maroon in color while loganberry and tayberry are identified by a subtle red hue.

Blueberries are a market favorite, prized for their flavor, health benefits and pop-in-your-mouth convenience. Remember to check for a natural "bloom" on the blue-

berries that looks like a dusting of powder — it's your clue to freshness.

Berries arrive ripe and ready to eat. Use as soon as possible after purchasing as they deteriorate quickly. If storage is necessary, arrange a single layer of unwashed berries in a shallow pan lined with paper towels. Top with another layer of towels and refrigerate for one or two days. Wash just before serving.

Berries freeze well so you can enjoy them all year. Spread washed berries in a tray and freeze them individually before placing in freezer bags. They'll keep for 10 to 12 months. Thaw and use in yogurt or smoothies or use frozen in crisps and pies.

The Orinda market is open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. For [SEE SHOPPER page 10]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grown primarily in California, olallieberries bring a balance of sweet and tart flavors to pies, cobblers and other baked goods.

The Orinda Library in June

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 3 **Road Scholar Presentation: Learning-It's a Trip!** 1 p.m. Maxine Topper, a local Road Scholar Ambassador, will share information about inspiring learning and travel opportunities. Bring a friend along and hear about Road Scholar learning adventures in the U.S. and in 150 countries around the world.
- Maker Monday.** 2:30 p.m. Whether it's Legos, a craft, or Minecraft, something is always happening on Monday. Suitable for elementary school children.
- 4 **Toddler Stay and Play.** 10 am. Enjoy gentle play in Community Center Room 8.
- 5 **Baby Stay and Play.** 11:30 am. Enjoy gentle play in the Gallery Room.
- 6 **Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to noon. Orinda Library Sorting Room.
- ESL Conversation Group.** 1 p.m. Local volunteer ESL teachers lead group discussions with ESL learners. Free and open to all. Come talk and learn English. Study Room A. Also June 13, 20, 27.
- 8 **Summer Reading Begins.** Pick up your reading passport and blast off to your favorite literary planet. Visit the Orinda Library or go online to <http://ccclib.org/reads/summerreading/>.
- 10 **Maker Monday.** 1 - 2 p.m. Whether it's Legos, a craft, or Minecraft, something is always happening on Monday. Suitable for elementary school children. Also, June 17, 24.
- 11 **Toddler Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Stories and songs for 1 to 3 year-olds and their caregivers. Room 8 in the Community Center. Also June 18, 25.

- Baby Storytime.** 11:30 a.m. Lapsit storytime for newborns & pre-walkers (0 to roughly 18 months) and their caregivers. Early literacy advice. Families with older siblings please attend Toddler Storytime. No registration required. In Gallery Room. Also, June 12, 18, 19, 25, and 26.
- Paws to Read.** 3:30. Children in grades 1-5 can practice reading skills with a friendly dog. To sign up for a session please call or visit the library. Also June 18, 25. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- Orinda Writers' Group.** 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from a supportive group. Group Study Room A. Also June 25.
- 15 **Bubblesmith,** 3 p.m. Bubbles, bubbles, everywhere! Sterling Johnson returns to make his floating works of art. Maybe you'll get to be inside a bubble yourself. Start your summer reading adventure at ccclib.org/summer. This free 45-minute show is brought by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 21 **Mystery Book Club.** 3 p.m. This month's selection is *Celine* by Peter Heller. Library Study Room A.
- 22 **Galaxy Glitter Paint Pour.** 1 p.m. Celebrate a space-themed summer reading program by creating swirls of color on wood in this experimental, fluid acrylic painting class. Registration is required. Ages 16 and up only. No exceptions.
- 27 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners.** 7 p.m. Grown-up stories that are intriguing, humorous, thoughtful and entertaining. Features a local storyteller with an open mic opportunity following.

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



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What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

- June 10 - Youth Summer Camps Begin - Register Today!**
- June 11 - Free Concert in the Park, Grateful Bluegrass Boys, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
- June 18 - Free Concert in the Park, Jet Blacq, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
- June 20 - Free Movie in the Park, Mary Poppins Returns, begins at dusk**
- June 25 - Free Concert in the Park, West Grand Blvd., 6:30-8:30 p.m.**



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445
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OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org
28 Orinda Way - Orinda Community Center
Administrative Office Hours - Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

VISUAL ARTS

Library Gallery: Sparkling Ceramics, Photography and Paintings Both Lyrical and Legal

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents the works of ceramicist Andrea Ciak, photographer Jennifer Dzendzel and paintings by Carla W. Gelbaum and Michelene Insalaco this month at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Artist **Michelene Insalaco** promotes a message of peace in *Square Words #4*, a 12" x 12" acrylic on wood panel.

Ciak, who lives and works in Oakland, is showing a mix of 50 ceramic, glass and encaustic works. Encaustics are pigmented wax paintings. Her ceramic pieces are wheel-thrown, burnished and then naked raku, saggar or horsehair fired. She says color, pattern, texture, visual depth and tactile as well as visual experience are important factors of her work.

Works of *pâte de verre* glass are accomplished with a kiln casting method that literally means "paste of glass." Frit granules are mixed with a binder such as gum arabic then applied to the inner surface of a negative mold such as plaster. Frit glass is finely porous glass through which gas or liquid may pass. When fired it retains

the consistency of sand. *Untitled III*, a 3.125" x 4.5" *pâte de verre* glass vessel, sparkles like a streak of setting sun on ocean waves.

Regarding advice to those new to learning ceramics she says, "Persistence. A mundane answer but you can't expect to be inspired every day. You have to go to work doing what you love. When you work at what you love at least you will be fulfilled."

Ciak says that people are often told things like, "In our family we are scientists," or, "We are all lawyers." She wants people to know you can pursue things you love that other people in your family don't do. Learn more about her work at <http://smokeandclay.com>.

Dzendzel of Orinda says she has always been interested in photography. She remembers playing with different cameras as a kid and getting film developed. She got her first SLR film camera in high school and learned dark room in high school. To document her children's growth, she learned about digital equipment. What



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Untitled III by **Andrea Ciak** is an example of *Pâte de verre*, a kiln casting method that literally means "paste of glass."

was once a hobby became a portrait and lifestyle photography business for families and small businesses.

The 20-plus photographs in the show are all landscape and nature-themed images with some creative portraits mixed in. She finds ways to connect vintage lenses to digital equipment and makes double exposures to push the boundaries of her learning.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jennifer Dzendzel highlights nature's symmetry in her 16" x 20" photograph, *Tropic*.

Photographers who inspire her include Dortehea Lange, Ansel Adams and Annie Leibovitz, who helped define the *Rolling Stone* raw portrait work. She says she finds Franz Lanting's *National Geographic* wildlife photographs captivating.

Golden State, a 16" x 20" photographic print on aluminum, recalls the end of a summer day on the California hills without a care in the world. See more of her work at www.jendzen.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Moonlight Sonata 5, a 30" x 40" acrylic on canvas, exemplifies the colorful optimism of artist **Carla W. Gelbaum's** Visual Sonata series.

Gelbaum of Moraga paints from her imagination using universal themes and a vibrant, bold color palette. She counts [SEE GALLERY page 11]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jennifer Drendzel's *Golden State* is a photographic print on aluminum metal.

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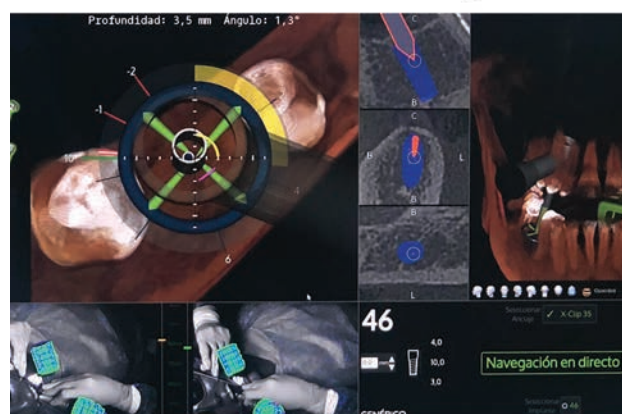



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PERFORMING ARTS

Summer of Music, Dancing, Theater in Store at Bruns

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

The air is filled with the perfume of blossoms at the Bruns Amphitheater just in time for a summer of world-class entertainment.

On June 22 Cal Shakes premieres Echoes, a new concert series featuring Thao Nguyen & the Get Down Stay Down and Sudan Archives. Nguyen is a Bay Area-based singer/songwriter whose music is colored with country and blues. Sudan Archives fuses folk and electronic music that draws inspiration from Sudanese fiddlers. The band's music blends elements of R&B and experimental electronic music.

Echoes patrons can take part in pre-show music, an after party featuring DJ Lady-Ryan, a beer garden, music and dancing and food trucks under the Orinda moonlight. The event is 5:30 p.m. to 11:15 p.m.

Cal Shakes opened its 45th year with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by

British-American Tyne Rafaeli, running through June 16.

Next up, Artistic Director Eric Ting directs Tony Kushner's much anticipated adaptation of *The Good Person of Szechwan* by Bertolt Brecht, the theater's first production of this playwright's work. The play is a fable for modern times exploring the lengths to which one must go to keep clean in a dirty world. The show runs July 3-21.

Ting welcomes two new directors to the 2019 season. Megan Sandberg-Zakian directs the world premiere of *House of Joy* by Madhuri Shekar, produced as part of Cal Shakes' New Classics Initiative, running Aug. 14 – Sept. 1.

Director Victor Malana Moag will then take the helm of Cal Shakes' final show of the season, Shakespeare's classic *Macbeth*, playing Sept. 18 – Oct. 6.

All shows are at the Bruns Amphitheater at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda (just off Highway 24). Complimen-



PARADIGM TALENT AGENCY

Singer/songwriter **Thao Nguyen** and her band, The Get Down Stay Down, kick off Cal Shakes' Echoes concert series on June 22.

tary shuttle from Orinda BART begins 1.5 hours before the opening act.

Tickets for the Echoes concert series begin at \$35. Single ticket prices to the plays vary from \$39-\$63, based on each performance. Season packages for the four-play season begin at \$132.

For information or to charge tickets by phone call the Cal Shakes box office at 510-548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.

Kathryn G. McCarty is a staff writer. She can be reached at kathryn@kgmccarty.com.

◆ EVERYDAY from page 1

them even further? Why, when relatives have traveled to attend the commencement ceremony, are the youth whisked off to an all-nighter instead of enjoying a pleasant dinner with family and friends?

Middle school is tricky. Nobody wants kids getting left out. In the long run, it's easier to throw one giant, phenomenal party where everyone is included rather than let the inevitable develop: numerous smaller, competing parties. I'm not implying these private parties would be planned with malicious intent. I have a small house,

and quite frankly even if it were bigger, no one wants 200 amped-up eighth graders disturbing your neighbors and feeding cupcakes to your dog. I, too, have insisted on capping the number of guests. But kids get left out that way, and no one wants that on what should be a happy and collectively memorable group celebration.

High school Grad Nite presents another set of challenges: do whatever it takes to lure delirious teenagers into a controlled environment and keep them off the streets.

Fortunately with middle schoolers, we can still get away with a 10 p.m. wrap-up. High school, not so much. Their event

usually wraps at 2 a.m., and even after our best attempts to thoroughly exhaust them, the chaperones are stumbling around like the Walking Dead while the graduates are clamoring for the dreaded after-party.

In order for both of these parties to succeed, the kids need to be excited. Anticipation must be palpable. Planners literally need buy-in, as students commit in advance by purchasing a ticket, which funds the event.

If word on the street is these parties are "lame" then the attrition rate climbs, so every year, we parents try to put on the best dog-and-pony show we can. The OIS party is held in the multi-purpose room but for insurance reasons, holding Miramonte's Grad Nite on campus was discontinued around 2014. Held at various locations throughout the Bay Area since then (the venues are always kept secret until the students actually arrive) the high school grads are bussed to and from their event.

We bring in all their favorite foods, and the best DJs and music we can find; we craft slideshows, create stunning, transformative decorations; assign parents to oversee carnival games and dress as fortune tellers; we hire chair masseuses and photographers; we rent segways, bungee machines, giant inflatables, mechanical bulls, roborunners, video games, and cotton candy machines.

It seems insane but there is a method to the madness. It's rather like scheming to

outsmart the enemy in a war against their teenage default mode of indifference and ennui, but somehow we manage to amaze some very tough critics, and that victory feels euphoric.

Parents breathe a huge sigh of relief when we awaken the next morning, sleep-deprived, yet poised at the starting gate of an entirely new chapter. Proud of our graduate and grateful in the knowledge that our kids safely, happily and unforgettably marked a milestone, Orinda style.

◆ SHOPPER from page 8

more information go to www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

Berry Oatmeal Smoothie

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1 cup low fat plain Greek yogurt
2 tablespoons brown sugar
Cinnamon to taste
One quarter cup milk (1 or 2 per cent)
Blend all ingredients in a blender until smooth. Makes 4 servings.

Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jams and jellies at the Jam Stand at the Saturday Orinda market and the Sunday Walnut Creek market. She is also president of Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market (CCCFM) Association Board of Directors.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ CENTURY from page 1

come over and train with you.”

Jedenoff, who will be 102 July 5, skied for five days at a ski resort in Alta this year. As the oldest man present at the luncheon, Jedenoff was crowned king. Ruth Jaffe, named queen, topped Jedenoff as she will be 104 on July 21.

“It’s a delight to get out today and meet new people. I do think doing this helps us to live longer,” says Jaffe, adding that she is very social.

Fran and Vic Smith filled out the Royal Court, as their 70th wedding anniversary



SALLY HOGARTY

Turning 104 in July, **Ruth Jaffe** took oldest woman honors at the annual luncheon honoring the seniors in Orinda.

is nearing.

With a talk entitled “The Power of the Human Spirit,” featured speaker Bernat (Bernie) Rosner related his experiences as a Holocaust survivor. As a youngster, Rosner spent more than a year in concentration camps, lost his entire family and landed in an Italian refugee camp at the age of 13. Rosner went on to graduate from Cornell University and Harvard Law School. He spent 35 years in the legal department of Safeway, and the last 10 as the company’s chief legal officer.

Rosner says he tells his story as an



SALLY HOGARTY

George Jedenoff once again was crowned King as the oldest man at the luncheon. He turns 102 on July 5. He still goes on an annual ski trip to Alta, Utah each February.

obligation to his three children who grew up in Orinda; a debt to the family he lost plus the millions who were murdered in the Holocaust; and because it’s an important story to tell.

Indeed, the power of the human spirit was

on full display at the luncheon as everyone seemed to be looking ahead to adding another year to their age or years married.

Bobbie Dodson is a staff writer. She can be reached at bobbiedodson@comcast.net.



SALLY HOGARTY

Bernat “Bernie” Rosner shared his experiences at Auschwitz during World War II. The then 12-year-old was the only member of his family to survive the gas chambers.

◆ GALLERY from page 9

Joan Brown’s visual memories, Henri Rousseau’s tales of exotic jungles and wild animals, David Hockney’s vibrant portraits and Marc Chagall’s poetic and lyrical dream world as influences.

She is showing a dozen acrylic paintings from her theme, Visual Sonatas, which encompass her recollections and dreams. These contemporary paintings are about love for family, people and the natural world. She says they are a humanistic and optimistic response to the cynical world we face today using harmonious rhythms of lines, colors and shapes to create a visual sonata.

Her *Moonlight Sonata 5*, a 30” x 40” acrylic on canvas, is bursting with blossoms and portraits backed by swirling blue sky. To view other works see <http://cwgelbaum.com/carlawgelbaum.html>.

Insalaco, of Orinda, grew up with a mother who taught her how to paint, sew, and make stained glass and other fun projects. Her dad, an avid lover of

modern art, filled their home with beautiful posters and books of works by Miró, Calder, Warhol and others, she says.

“My mother instilled in me a love of creating art and working with my hands,” she says. She continued with art courses in high school and college but ultimately chose a career in law, which she enjoys. But as art is her first love she continues to work in different mediums including painting, stained glass and pottery.

Half of the 11 pieces she is showing consist of horizontal lines in paint, paper with phrases, silver leaf and tape. The other half are square panels containing phrases that have a square number of letters. The words in both pieces relate to our constitutional rights and the violence that jeopardizes our freedoms and our peace. *Constitutional Lines #1*, an 11” x 14-1/4” acrylic on canvas, has a quote from the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

To keep her work fresh she visits galleries and museums such as San Francisco

MOMA whenever she can. When traveling she seeks out modern and contemporary art. Favorites include the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Musée de Picasso in Spain. Visit www.Sucherman-Insalaco.com to learn more.

“Art is a way for people to communicate at a deeper level and share thoughts, ideas and emotions which are invaluable because this helps create a community,” says Insalaco.

“The arts are vital for individuals, society and the world,” says Gelbaum, “It has been

said that art is for our soul what food is for our body.”

An artist reception takes place 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 2. Light refreshments will be served. The gallery is at 26 Orinda Way and open 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. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

Elana O’Loskey is a staff writer. Email her at business.orinda@gmail.com.



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FUNDRAISER

Party Planning Gets Underway for 15th Annual Classic Car Show

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The 15th annual Orinda Classic Car Show, coming Sept. 7, is working on its pre-show party, *Dancing with the Cars*, happening on Sept. 6.

The party, produced by Rotary Club of Orinda “kicks off the Car Show and is Orinda’s largest community-wide fundraiser, benefitting our seniors, our schools, the arts and more,” says Rotarian Barbara Bontemps.

The theme this year is “Wheels that Won the West.” The all-inclusive party starts at 5:30 p.m. and features silent and live auctions, a deluxe dinner menu, liberal libations, exclusive car displays, music

and dancing.

The venue for the party is moving to Orinda’s Art and Garden Center at Wilder. “We’ve had successful events at Orinda Country Club but we felt it would be appropriate to have it at the Art and Garden Center, the City of Orinda’s newest event center. It’s the perfect venue to inaugurate the center,” says Rotarian and event organizer Ken Jew. “We have committees that will be developing the bid items, obtaining sponsors, planning the party event (including decorations), and selling tickets.”

“The money we raise funds many events such as Opera in the Park, the Teacher of the Year event, and most recently, the annual Orinda Field Day,” says



DAVID DIERKS

Guests arrive at the Orinda Country Club for last year’s *Dancing with the Cars*, raising funds for local nonprofits and celebrating the next day’s Classic Car Show.



DAVID DIERKS

Attendees at last year’s *Dancing with the Cars* enjoyed viewing the spectacular vehicles on display.

Jew.

Tickets, available at <https://contacc/2Q24t4U>, are \$130 per person or a table of 8 is \$1,000.

Proceeds from the dinner also benefit local charities, including Educational Foundation of Orinda, The Orinda Association, Orinda Parks and Rec., Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and other nonprofit community partners.

“We are excited to be partnering with so many of our community organizations because we all bring something unique to the table for the benefit of the community. I guess you could say that *Dancing with the Cars* and the Car Show are your one-stop shopping way to support the entire community,” says Bontemps.

The pre-show party is sponsored by Mechanics Bank and Park Place Wealth Advisors, Inc.

For more information, visit www.orindaacarshow.com.

dacarshow.com.

David Dierks is an assistant editor. He can be reached at david.dierks@theorindanews.com.

◆ SB50 from page 4

ties such as San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara that produce “way more jobs than housing. Those three counties want us to pay for their bad behavior.” Fay proposes that any company creating jobs should have to also pay for the housing required for the influx of new workers.

After the vote, Fay, a transportation engineer who has had to deal with his fair share of legislation over the course of a 40-year career, said that he’d never seen such a poorly drafted bill as SB50. “It’s litigation waiting to happen. It’s going to be a mess.”

Paul Kilduff is a freelance writer based in the East Bay. To comment on this story, email editor@TheOrindaNews.com.

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The 15th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

**Friday Night Pre-Party,
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These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Community Foundation, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Orinda Arts Council and Seniors Around Town.

CALENDAR

On the Calendar in June

1 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925-431-8361. See article p. 8.
SEED, 2 p.m. Spectacular Special Needs Party. Lamorinda All-Access Playground at Moraga Commons and on the grassy area beside it, weather permitting. Be sure to bring picnic blankets to sit on. Info at

3460 Lana Lane, Lafayette. info@mindfullittles.org. <https://mindfullittles.org>.
Mindful Littles, 11:30 a.m. Summertime celebration with special friends at Las Trampas. Get ready to have fun with enriching games, meaningful activities, and creative art projects. Get to meet and know friends with special needs. Participate in kindness games and art projects. Light refreshments.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The **Grateful Bluegrass Boys** perform June 11 at the Concert-In-The-Park

seedlaf@seedlafayette.org.

Cal Shakes, presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Bruns Amphitheater, through June 9. 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Box Office 510-548-9666. For more info., go to www.calshakes.org.

Orinda Starlight Village Players, 8:30 p.m. present Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*. Runs through June 29, Fridays and Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; June 23, 4 p.m.; June 27, 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way. For tickets call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org.

2 **Mindful Littles**, 10:30 a.m. Bake for children in need, in partnership with Las Trampas. Learn about Las Trampas, diversity, and the importance of giving back. Participate in fun compassion and mindfulness activities. \$40 per family. Las Trampas,

\$20 per family Las Trampas, 3460 Lana Lane, Lafayette. info@mindfullittles.org. <https://mindfullittles.org>.

City of Orinda, 2 p.m. The Art & Garden Center at Wilder Dedication. Open House; Ribbon-cutting ceremony (at 3 p.m.) Art & Garden Center at Wilder, 20 Orinda Fields Lane. RSVP to: ssmith@cityoforinda.org; 925-253-4221.

Orinda Library Art Gallery, 2:30 p.m., artist reception featuring work by Andrea Ciak, Jennifer Dzendzel, Carla W. Gelbaum and Michelene Insalaco. See article p. 9.

3 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. A luncheon for Cara Black who will introduce her new mystery, *Murder in Bel-Air*. \$20 includes \$5 off on the cost of the book. Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation.

6 **Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for kids of all ages. Also, June 13, 20 and 27.*

Orinda Chamber of Commerce, 4 p.m. Chamber mixer with Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-254-3909; Orindachamber.org.

7 **First Friday Forum**, 1:30 p.m. Stephen Woolpert presents "The Supreme Court" [SEE CALENDAR page 14]



STEVE EHRHARDT

Ribbon cutting for the new Art & Garden Center is at 3 p.m. on June 2.

Day for the Dogs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Orinda Park and Rec Foundation sponsors the **Doggone Fun Fest** June 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Community Park, 28 Orinda Way. There will be a doggy parade, canine demonstrations and a raffle. Prizes will be offered for best costume and best tricks. Demonstrations will be conducted in canine agility and obedience and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's department will provide a demonstration with the K-9 unit. Bring your favorite canine buddy. The event is free. For more information call Carolyn Mills at 925-254-5292.

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◆ CALENDAR from page 13

- and Politics,” in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article p. 2.
- 10 **Orinda Books**, 10:30 a.m. The Poetry Circle discusses *Faithful and Virtuous Night* by Louise Gluck. They welcome anyone interested in poetry.*
- 11 **Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 6:30 p.m. Concerts-In-The-Park presents Grateful Bluegrass Boys, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 12 **Lamorinda Movers**, 4 p.m. *My Favorite Brunette*, Rheem Theatre, lamorindatheatres.com. See article p. 15.
- 13 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Luncheon with Richard Langs introducing *Tilden Regional Park: A History* – the story of the beautiful open space right outside of Orinda’s back door. \$12 – call 925-254-7606 to make your

- reservation.*
- Orinda Theater**, 7 p.m. Free Movie Night presents *The Long, Long Trailer* lamorindatheatres.com. See article p. 15.
- 14 **International Film Showcase** presents *On Borrowed Time*. One week engagement then moves to the Rheem Theatre May 17 for a week. www.internationalshowcase.org. See article p. 15.
- 17 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Literary Luncheon for Kate Quinn, author of *The Huntress* and *The Alice Network*. \$25 – includes luncheon and a copy of either of Kate Quinn’s books. Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation.*
- 18 **Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 6:30 p.m. Concerts-In-The-Park presents Jet Blacq, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 20 **Orinda Books**, 11 a.m. Maria’s Book Group will read and discuss *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Johnson.
- Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 6:30 p.m. Movie-In-The-Park presents *Mary Poppins Returns*, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 22 **Cal Shakes**, 7 p.m. present Echoes, Thao & [SEE CALENDAR page 19]




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Ben Riley Ranked By Chambers Among Top 12 Trademark, Copyright & Trade Secret Litigators in California

In their 2019 rankings of lawyers around the world, *Chambers* identified Ben Riley as one of the 12 top litigators in California in the category of Intellectual Property Litigation: Trademark, Copyright & Trade Secrets.

For 30 years, the London-based firm of 200 researchers have conducted thousands of interviews to identify the top lawyers and law firms in the world. *Chambers* requires that any applicant submit a detailed questionnaire about their practice and cases, and list 20 client and colleague references. Then they conduct telephone and email interviews with each of the references.


From these interviews, *Chambers* published the following comments regarding Mr. Riley: “Benjamin Riley is ‘very organized, writes beautifully and is great in front of judges,’ report sources, further noting: ‘He’s very bright, quick to grasp technical and legal issues, and he’s very efficient.’ He is an experienced practitioner skilled in handling a broad range of contentious IP matters. He is particularly highlighted for his expertise in trade secret disputes.”

The full ranking may be found at:
https://chambers.com/profile/individual/480117?publicationTypeld=5

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Fitness Tip of the Month



As we age we lose muscle mass which causes our metabolism to slow down. The way to become fit as we age is to increase our metabolism and to continue to rev it. We need to gain muscle and lose fat. We can do this by eating often, small amounts and the right foods and working out effectively and with periodic variation in what we are doing. Shifts in metabolism cannot be measured with a scale.

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness at 925-360-7051 or www.livingleanprogram.com.



POLICE BLOTTER
April 1 through May 31, 2019

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 17 incidents.
Abandoned Vehicle: 4 incidents.
Accident Injury: 2 incidents.
Accident Property: 13 incidents.
Alarm, False: 132 incidents.
Assault with Deadly Weapon: 1 incident.
Barking Dog: 2 incidents.
Burglary, Auto: 3 incidents.
Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident.
Civil Matter: 11 incidents.
CVC Moving Violation: 68 incidents.
CVC Non-Moving Violation: 83 incidents.
Death Non-Criminal: 1 incident.
Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.
Drunk in Public: 1 incident.
Found Property: 1 incident.
Fraud False Pretenses: 1 incident.
Grand Theft: 3 incidents.
Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 4 incidents.
Identity Theft: 4 incidents.
Juvenile Disturbance: 1 incident.
Lost Property: 3 incidents.
Loud Music: 1 incident.
Loud Noise: 6 incidents.
Loud Party: 1 incident.
Medical Hospital: 5 incidents.
Motorist Assist: 4 incidents.
Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 2 incidents.
Ordinance Violation: 3 incidents.
Outside Assist: 19 incidents.
Parking Detail: 43 incidents.
Patrol Request: 23 incidents.
Petty Theft: 3 incidents.
Public Assembly Check: 5 incidents.
Reckless Driving: 12 incidents.
Robbery: 1 incident.
School Check: 5 incidents.
Security Check: 7 incidents.
Service to Citizen: 139 incidents.
Shoplift: 3 incidents.

Shots Heard: 2 incidents.
Suspicious Circumstances: 13 incidents.
Suspicious Person Stop: 16 incidents.
Suspicious Subject: 10 incidents.
Suspicious Vehicle: 8 incidents.
Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 11 incidents.
Threats: 1 incident.
Tow: 7 incidents.
Traffic Control: 1 incident.
Traffic Collision - No Details: 1 incident.
Traffic Hazard: 4 incidents.
Unwanted Guest: 1 incident.
Vacation House Check: 33 incidents.
Vandalism: 8 incidents.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 2 incidents.
Verbal Dispute: 3 incidents.
Walk Through: 3 incidents.
Welfare Check: 10 incidents.

Arrest

Drunk in Public: 1 arrest.
DUI Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.
Identity Theft: 1 arrest.
Impersonation: 1 arrest.
Possession Dangerous Drugs: 1 arrest.
Possession Drugs for Sale: 1 arrest.
Possession Stolen Property: 1 arrest.
Shoplift: 1 arrest.
Vandalism: 1 arrest.
Warrant Arrest: 5 arrests.

BART Statistics

Warrant Arrest: 1 arrest.

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit
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FILM



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

LUCY AND DESI, BOB AND DOROTHY
TAKE TO LOCAL SCREENS THIS MONTH

Tom Westlake



June finds us, once again, with all three of our favorite cinematic contributors firing on all cylinders. The Lamorinda Movers, The Classic Film Showcase and the International Film Showcase are all out in force with one intention and that is to keep us entertained.

Before I go any further though, I'd like to take the opportunity to mention several resources that I usually bury somewhere in the middle of this column. I do this mainly because the schedules of both the Orinda Theatre and the Rheem Theatre are fluid, to say the least, and I wouldn't want you to miss any of the new or non-cinema events that both venues have to offer.

The main resource would be www.lam-orindatheatres.com. Through this site you will be provided with an overview of just about everything both theaters are playing or will be playing. Clicking on the "Events" tab will yield even more news. Also, be sure to check out www.internationalshowcase.org for the very best in foreign films. And now, with that out of the way, let's learn about what we'll be watching this month.

The Lamorinda Movers start us off with *My Favorite Brunette* starring Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour. Right off the bat, after seeing those two names, one might safely assume this is (a.) a "Road" picture and (b.) a comedy. Now what would you say if I told you that it also features Peter Lorre and Lon Chaney? That would change things a bit, wouldn't it?

In truth, *Brunette* is a comedy made

about mid-career, but this one is more a solo outing for Hope as he fantasizes about and then becomes a private detective. (His real job is as a child photographer, and a shy one at that.) One of the earmarks of Hope's shtick is his sarcastic fecklessness and it comes into play here as he's thrust into one silly, potentially dangerous situation after another with Lamour being the lure and sometimes instigator. Watch for some famous cameos. It will be showing at the Rheem June 12 at 4 p.m.

Next on the agenda is another beloved comedy icon, or more accurately, a legendary comedy duo. Already very well established on the small screen, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz made the leap to the big one with *The Long, Long Trailer*. Though many might dismiss this film as nothing more than an extended episode of their well-known and long lived TV show *I Love Lucy*, there is far more to it than that.

For one, it expands very far from the safety and size of the (sometimes) single location soundstage. (There's even acknowledgement in the credits of how grateful the filmmakers were to the National Park Services for granting permission to film in Yosemite.)

For another, *Trailer* was directed by none other than Vincente Minnelli. This is not to say that there is not plenty of the familiar here. There is. Ball is still the determinedly headstrong but just as much of a scattershot redhead we all know and love and Arnaz is just as flummoxed (but loving) as usual. Now it's just on a larger canvas. Happily, the laughs will also be of a greater measure if you make your way to the Orinda Theatre on June 13 at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Along those same lines, we have an-



COURTESY OF METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER
The Long, Long Trailer is June's free movie in Orinda.

other film that deals with traveling but the travelers this time are not a newly married couple but four elderly gentlemen who have resigned themselves (mostly) to their diminishing lot in life until...

On Borrowed Time is what you would call one of those high concept or "what if" movies. The "what if" in this case deals with one of the four coming into quite a substantial amount of money. Many reading thus far might already think they know where this is going and, judging by the previews, you might be right. But that does not make the message of this film (You're only as old as you allow yourself to be.)

any less relevant.

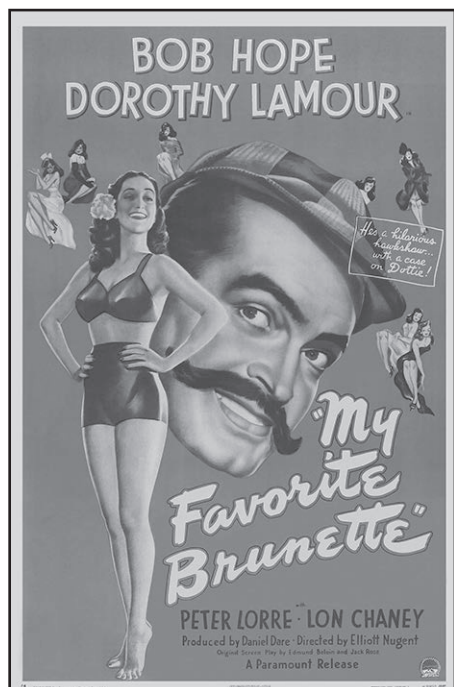
It's also illuminating to see how other parts of the world deal with an ever-increasing aging population and because this film takes place in Dubai, one also gets to see that magnificent city. It will start its two-week run at the Rheem on June 14 and will move to the Orinda Theatre the week after. Keep checking the aforementioned websites for times and tickets.

Meanwhile, July awaits with fireworks inside and out so stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

Tom Westlake is a staff writer. Reach him at poppinjay@earthlink.net.




COURTESY OF TANWEER FILMS
On Borrowed Time opens June 14.



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES
My Favorite Brunette is the Lamorinda Movers Classic Movie at the Rheem June 12, 4 p.m.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Jurors Needed for Christie's *Witness For the Prosecution* in the Park

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) return for their 36th season at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, opening the season with Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*, running weekends throughout June. In this production the audience sits in as the jury during the trial.

"I love directing Agatha Christie shows as there's always twists and turns and dead bodies in a beautiful English country home filled with beautiful people. Not this one!" says Director Suzan Lorraine.

The play focuses on the courtroom trial of Leonard Vole, who stands accused of murdering a rich widow and naming him as her sole heir. "There's very little physical action in a British courtroom, it's all talk, talk, talk," says Lorraine. "There are plenty of twists and turns, but the dialogue and characterizations are so well written (and acted by this cast) that the understated physicality provides an atmosphere of suspense."

The courtroom setting provides many challenges, Lorraine says. "I've directed all kinds of shows – drama, spoofs, mysteries, comedies – but never a British courtroom drama. In other plays, characters move around a lot."

Despite the limitations of the setting, Lorraine says she is looking forward to the performances. "We have to work a bit harder to keep the level of thrill, curiosity and suspense at a high level. I think the audience will appreciate the story and the effort this cast is putting into making it an



The cast from last year's production of Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web* (L-R): Simon Patton, Tom Westlake, Amy Cook, Claire Stevenson, Terry Gooden, Malcolm Cowler and Danny Martin. CHARLIE JARRETT

exciting experience they'll talk about long after seeing the show."

Performances run May 31 to June 29, Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m., with one Sunday performance on June 23 at 4 p.m. and one Thursday performance on June 27 at 8 p.m.

OrSVP is completely volunteer-run. Anyone who is interested in any aspect of theater and would like to help may contact the group at www.orsvp.org or 925-528-9225.

On clear nights, OrSVP sets up telescopes so the audience can get a closer look at some of the nearby celestial objects. The moon, of course, often gets a center stage, but whenever Saturn is visible you can get a nice view of her rings.

"The venue at Orinda is my all-time favorite and the people I get to work with are worth the cold nights and hot days," says Lorraine. "This is a magical setting and when the lights go down, the stars – on stage and in the sky – come out."

David Dierks is an assistant editor. He can be reached at david.dierks@theorindanews.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Witness for the Prosecution director Suzan Lorraine.

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WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION
by
Agatha Christie

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Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. May 31 through June 29
Sunday, June 23, 4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 27, 8:00 p.m.
At the Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park
26 Orinda Way (Across from Rite Aid), Two blocks from BART.

Regular admission \$20, Discount admission \$10
Season Tickets: \$50 regular, \$25 senior tickets
(All 3 shows - *Witness for the Prosecution* by Agatha Christie, John Bishop's *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* and Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of *Wilkie Collins' The Woman in White*)

Mailing Address: Orinda Starlight Village Players,
4946 Santa Rita Rd., Richmond, CA 94803
www.orsvp.org
Tickets at Box Office or call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org

Starlight Dinner Theater Offer
Bring a receipt from an Orinda restaurant to the theater and get two regular theater tickets for the price of one. (Restaurant receipt must be from the same night as the performance. One discount per party.)

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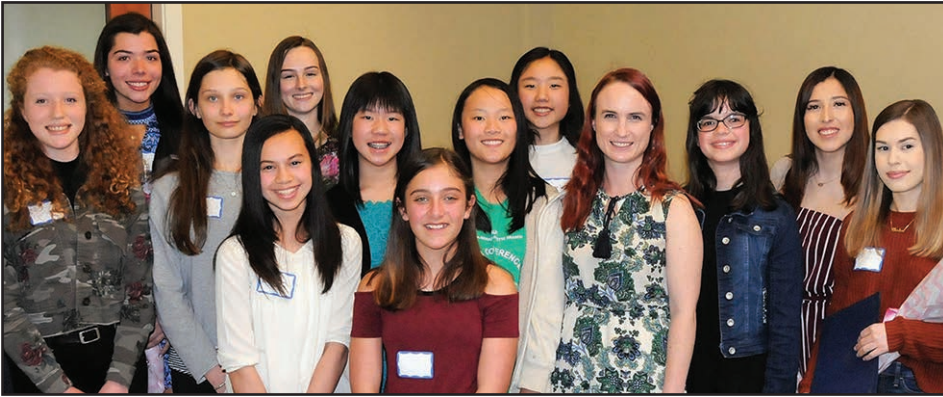
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12 Lamorinda Young Women Receive Scholarships from Local AAUW



SANDY FOX-SOHNER

AAUW Scholarship winners: (back row, L-R) **Eden Hall, Jennifer Giron, Madeleine Termondt, Madeleine Martin, Nicole Hui, Michelle Shen, Genie Lee, Dr. Claire Dorman**, keynote speaker **Angela Kohr, Samantha Nieves, Alondra Mendoza**, (front row) **Bella Stratford, Zoe Seaman**.

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of the American Association of University Women presented 12 Lamorinda women with Tech Trek camp scholarships, college scholarships, and scholarships to the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Seven young women won scholarships to attend Tech Trek Camp Hopper at Stanford University in July. They are Zoe Seaman and Michelle Shen from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, Nicole Hui and Angela Kohr from Orinda Intermediate School, and Eden Hall, Bella Stratford, and Madeleine Termondt from Stanley Middle School.

Tech Trek scholarship winners impressed attendees at an April 14 Awards Ceremony with presentations describing their love of science and math and their future goals. The

girls were chosen after a rigorous process of being nominated by their teachers, completing an application, and being interviewed by a team of three AAUW-OML members.

In addition, three graduating seniors won scholarships for demonstrating academic excellence and community service. The senior girls were chosen after completing an application which included an essay and letters of recommendation, followed by an interview with members of the scholarship committee.

Scholarships of \$2,000 each were awarded to Jennifer Giron from Miramonte, Madeleine Martin from Acalanes, and Genie Lee from Campolindo.

The awardees contributed to their school community by participating as editor of the school magazine; creating THINK TWICE, a program on the danger of drunk and dis-

tracted driving; and playing first flute in the symphony and pep bands. Locally they served in 4-H, Toys for Tots, Xenaphon Therapeutic Riding, and the Contra Costa County Libraries in Moraga and Orinda.

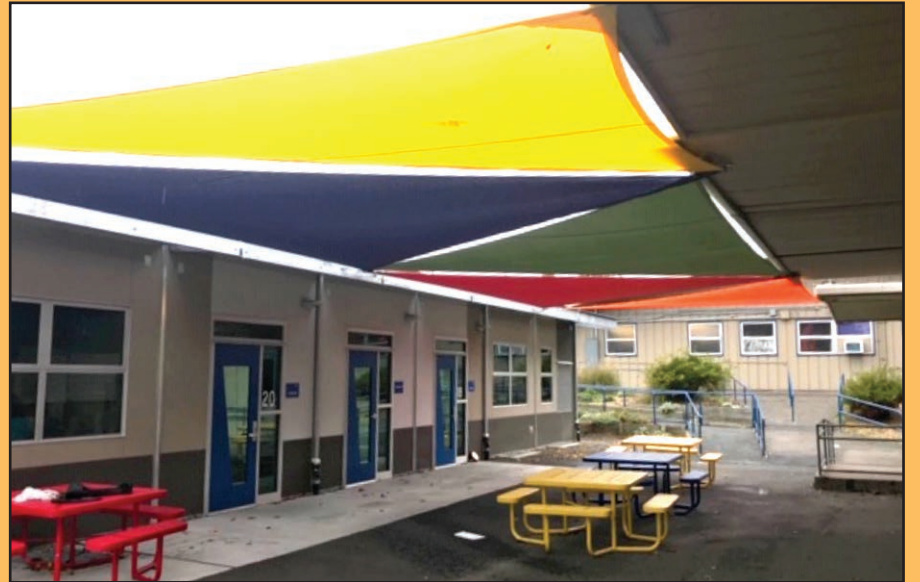
Alondra Mendoza and Samantha Nieves from Saint Mary's College were awarded \$1,200 scholarships to the NCCWSL conference at the University of Maryland, College Park. This four-day conference focuses on today's most pressing issues and developing the attendees' leadership

skills. Young women learn how to create a meaningful impact on campus and how to mobilize their communities. They will also receive training on how to optimize opportunities for personal and professional success after graduation.

As sophomores at Saint Mary's College, Mendoza and Nieves have participated in the Gael Sisterhood, the Center for Women and Gender Equity, and the High Potential Student Advisory Board.

— Lynda Leonard, contributing writer

Colorful Sails Bring Shade to Del Rey Students



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Del Rey Elementary celebrated its newly installed shade structure at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 25 with Superintendent Carolyn Seaton and members of the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees in attendance. The colorful panels stretch between two buildings, providing much-needed shade to a learning area that lies between the school's science room, makers' space, STEAM room and art room, and adjacent to the fifth grade Gen7 modular classrooms. Last year, Del Rey received an \$8,000 grant from the American Academy of Dermatology as part of the organization's program to provide shade structures to public schools and nonprofits throughout the country.



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School Events in June

- Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, 4 and 7:30 p.m. *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure*, Book by Kevin Del Aguila; Original Music and Lyrics by George Noriega & Joel Someillan; Producers: Bay Area Children's Theater and Wagner Ranch Parents' Club. Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo. Tickets also at the door.
- Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Drama Night Awards.
- Orinda Union School District**, 6 p.m. Board Meeting. Also June 10.
- Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Sports Booster meeting.
- Acalanes Union High School District**, 7 p.m. Governing Board meeting. Also June 26.
- Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Governing Board meeting. Also June 26.
- Orinda Intermediate School** Promotion Ceremony (minimum day release 1:05 p.m.)
- Miramonte High School**, 5:30 p.m. Graduation.
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, last day of school.
- Del Rey Elementary School**, last day of school.
- Holden High School**, 5 p.m. Graduation.
- Wagner Ranch Elementary School** last day of school.
- Glorietta Elementary School**, last day of school.
- Holden High School**, noon - 4:30 p.m. Summer Pro Tools Recording Camp through June 28. Learn the basics of Pro Tools, the industry standard. Learn to record, create, sample, and mix your own instrumental or voice recording. Perfect for use in film, music, and video game audio recording. \$670. <https://holdenhigh.org/holden-events/summer-recording-camp>.

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

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Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) Presents:



Saturday morning, August 17, 2019
Miramonte High School in Orinda, CA

Register online today: NorCalKidsTri.org

BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ CALENDAR from page 14

the Get Down Stay Down, Sudan Archives with Star Amerasu. Doors open 5:30 p.m. with food trucks, beer garden, and art installation. After Party 10:15 p.m. with DJ LadyRyan Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Box Office at 510-548-9666. For more info., go to www.calshakes.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

West Grand Boulevard plays June 25 at the Concerts-In-The-Park.

23 **Orinda Park and Rec Foundation**, 1 p.m. Doggone Fun Fest, Community Park, 28 Orinda Way. See article p. 13.

Lamorinda Idol, 3 p.m. Lafayette Plaza performance for Finalists and Runners-up.

25 **Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 6:30 p.m. Concerts-In-The-Park presents West Grand Boulevard, Orinda Community Center Park.

26 **Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. The Random Readers will read and discuss *Where The Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.*

27 **Assemblmember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan**, 6 p.m. hosts a free Lamorinda Fire Prevention and Preparedness Workshop. Campolindo HS multi-purpose room, 300 Moraga Rd., Moraga. RSVP: asmdc.org/cf-events.

* *Orinda Books* is at 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

Historic Landmarks Committee. Fourth Tuesday, 3 – 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room 22 Orinda Way, Orinda. For agenda www.mofd.org/board/meetings.

Planning Commission. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

◆ BUZZ from page 20

company in case property values go down. The money provided up-front requires no interest and no payments so it makes home ownership much more affordable. It also allows buyers to bypass the expense of PMI — private mortgage insurance.

McGill says that many young people are daunted by real estate costs. He insists that if you have a plan, and stick to it, you can beat the way things are set up. You may have to live a bit away from your ideal location to get your foot in the real estate market to build equity. That equity can translate to the ability to buy where you want to live long term, five to 10 years down the road. Patience is required, but he says it works. His motto is: “There is no better investment in the land than real estate.”

A Miramonte grad who grew up in Moraga, McGill played football, ran track and was in high school musicals. At UC Berkeley he studied business and was always interested in real estate and being able to help people plan for their future, he says. He places real estate at the center of those plans because he believes it is the best way to build capital through equity build up.

He and his wife, Susan, an eighth-grade core teacher at Orinda Intermediate School, have three children. Paige, Ryan and Drew are 21, 19 and 17 and all went to Campolindo. Jim McGill volunteers with Moraga Valley Youth Group – senior high – and is known for leading a team on yearly home building trips to Tijuana, Mexico for the past 15 years.

When not working, McGill is closing in on visiting every national park in the



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Loan consultant, and Miramonte alumnus, **Jim McGill** recently joined Land Home Financial in Orinda's Theatre Square.

country with just five to go. He's also visited 25 national parks from countries as diverse as Cuba, Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania.

Land Home is sponsoring a float in the Orinda Fourth of July parade as well as a banner in town and contributes to other community activities throughout the year.

Stop by to meet McGill at Land Home Financial, 2 Theatre Square, #146, Orinda, email him at jim.mcgill@lhfs.com or give him a call at 925-297-7132. His website is <https://mortgage.lhfs.com/jimmcgill>.

To send items for consideration, email O'Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com

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Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O'Loskey



Eng Family Optometry Honored

The City of Oakland celebrated five family-owned legacy businesses at a reception in City Hall on May 6 during National Small Business Week. These businesses are described as having persevered and their owners being leaders in their industry and contributing positively to the community.

Among them was Lake Merritt Optometry, which has been in business more than 50 years and has ties to Orinda. It was founded by Dr. Raymond L. Eng, O.D. in 1934. He was the first Chinese American to be elected to a major city office because he served on the Oakland City Council for 16 years. His son, Dr. Weylin G. Eng, O.D., recalls, "My dad told us always to give back to the community."

Weylin Eng graduated from UC Berkeley in 1965 and joined his father's practice in 1967. In 1985 he founded Orinda Optometry Group (Orinda Optometry), the same year Orinda became a city. In 1987 Weylin took a full-time faculty position at UC Berkeley School of Optometry where he was director of the clinics.

Weylin Eng's daughter, Dr. Kristine Eng, O.D., and her business partner at Orinda Optometry, Dr. Kelly Shintani, O.D., both graduated from UC Berkeley; the former in 1998, the latter in 2000. Shintani joined the practice when Kristine Eng had her first child. In addition to the two doctors there are six employees who are certified by the American Board of Opticianry.

Lake Merritt Optometry is still in the

family as it was owned by Weylin's niece, Dr. Colleen Tashiro. When Tashiro retired, Dr. Serine Ngin, O.D., her niece, took over that office. The Eng family has been in the Bay Area so long they have three-plus generations of patients.

When people asked Weylin why he worked so hard he replied, "I had four daughters to send to college!"

Weylin Eng and his family have lived in Orinda for 45 years and are active members of the community. Whether it is Weylin's Orinda Rotary activities, One Warm Coat project, Miramonte High School speaking night, Meals on Wheels, or Kristine Eng's recent Orinda Action Day at Sleepy Hollow, giving back seems to come easily. It's plain to see that the founding father's practice to 'always give back' is in full force today.

The practice has a large inventory of eyewear and contact lenses. Often they receive soft release contact lenses from companies before anyone else and are a beta-site for contact lenses for FDA use projects. Their recently remodeled showroom is bright and modern.

Both Shintani and Kristine Eng are certified to treat glaucoma, infections and pink and red eye. They can prescribe eye drops for allergies and inflammations. About 80 percent of their practice is eye exams, fitting eyewear and contacts; 20 percent is medical optometry.

Their state-of-the-art equipment includes an optical coherence tomographer or OCT which makes it unnecessary to anesthetize



ELANA O'LOSKEY

From L-R: **Dr. Kristine Eng, Dr. Weylin Eng** (retired) and **Dr. Kelly Shintani** show off the latest selection of sunglasses at their optometry practice on Orinda Way.

the eyes to measure pressure on the eyeball. This is an important factor in testing for glaucoma. The doctors are active members of the Alameda, Contra Costa Counties Optometric Society. Each has served as president of the group beginning with Raymond in 1947, Weylin in 1977, Kristine in 2001 and Shintani in 2004.

The Orinda Optometry Group is at 20 Orinda Way, Orinda. Call 925-253-1320 or go to <https://orindaoptometrygroup.com> for hours and more information.

Jim McGill Joins Land Home Financial

Jim McGill recently joined Land Home Financial (Land Home) as a loan consultant. The idea of living and working in the same community, he says, is special to him. He has been in the industry for 29 years with his first 18 years at World Savings. A multi-year President's Club member, McGill has closed more than 3,000 loans in his career.

McGill says he joined Land Home because the mix they offer has a lot of creative solutions to fit the needs of most any type of prospective or current home owner. They

offer different kinds of loans on single-family homes, condos, townhomes, manufactured homes and land with construction to permanent financing.

One example is an equity share program which gives the homeowner 17.5 percent of their equity — so it's not a reverse mortgage. At the end of 30 years, the homeowner or heirs pay back the money the homeowner was given from the home, plus share in the equity increase going forward from the date of the disbursement, but not prior to that.

For instance, if someone owns a \$2 million home they are given 17.5 percent of that. They receive \$350,000 which they can save to pay for taxes and insurance if they don't have a loan on it. Or they can pay off a loan so they have no housing expense for the rest of their life.

Down payment assistance programs allow people to get into homes for as little as 1 percent down. Land Home also offers equity share programs where clients can get into homes with less expense and less money. Risks can be shared by an investment

[SEE BUZZ page 19]



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