



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Lamorinda Citizens Upset About MOFD Board Discussion

By KRYS SHAHIN
Staff Writer

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors found itself in hot water with Lamorinda citizens when it published the agenda for a May 19 meeting with an item labeled “Consolidation with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (ConFire).”

The agenda item that caused a public uproar allotted time to discuss consolidating MOFD with ConFire. This was not labeled an action item on the agenda, but rather something for “informational purposes only.”

Consolidating would mean dissolving MOFD and merging with ConFire, which served Orinda and Moraga until they split and formed their own locally funded fire district in 1997.

MOFD was meant “to provide high quality and fire protection services tailored to local needs of the Town of Moraga and City of Orinda,” according to a staff report written by their Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg.

If dissolved, the changes would cause a decrease in response time, local control over decisions and would dismiss the locally elected MOFD Board and replace them with county officials, according to former Mayor Sue Severson.

This discussion item caused upset and confusion from citizens of both Moraga and Orinda.

“As a retired veteran firefighter from ConFire, I can assure you that giving up our invaluable local control of our great MOFD would be a huge mistake!” wrote Don Moresi, an Orinda resident, in a letter [SEE MOFD page 4]



SALLY HOGARTY

Lamorinda citizens were in an uproar of public concern when word got out that Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors allotted time to talk about gathering information for consolidating with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (ConFire) in their May 19 agenda.

Miramonte Cheer Seniors Welcomed Athletic Competition During Compressed Seasons



WENDY PATRICK

Sideline Cheer Seniors (Back row: Sydney Swinton, Mia Trani; Middle: Julia Jungbluth; Front Row: Aine Flynn, Cara Holden and Zoe Jeffrey) gave an enthusiastic welcome to all the teams during a compressed season. See story Page 8.

Brookwood Road: Where Miscommunication Meets Fire Prevention Measures

By TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY
Staff Writer

In early May, Orinda’s public works department removed trees and brush along Brookwood Road. Before, the street’s bordering freeway was obscured by a wall of foliage. Now, Sean Gerrish, a Brookwood resident, said the neighborhood has a “panoramic view of Highway 24,” and homeowners are not happy.

According to Larry Theis, Orinda’s public works director, the city decided to clear the vegetation after an inspection by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in April. The district said the property, which

the city owns, was not in compliance with its fire code because of dead trees and other combustible materials being near the road.

Theis also said Brookwood’s proximity to Highway 24 put it at an increased risk of vehicle-started fires, like the 25-acre brush fire that happened next to the highway because of an engine malfunction in 2017.

More than four million acres of California, an area bigger than Connecticut, went ablaze in 2020 according to California’s Department of Fire and Forestry, making it the state’s worst fire season to date. And 2021 may prove equally challenging, with the *Los Angeles Times* reporting that high

[SEE BROOKWOOD page 7]



TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY

A section of Brookwood Road after the city’s vegetation removal, compared to a 2019 Google Maps image.

IN THIS ISSUE

News		Car Time	6
Business	24	Community	2, 5
Crime/Police	7	Classifieds	18
Schools	5, 11, 15	Editorial	4
Around Town		Everyday Orinda	21
Club/Meetings	16	Obituary	23
Events	2, 7, 16, 17, 20	Performing Arts	7
Galleries	17	The Orinda Association	3
Residents	11, 18	Seasoned Shopper	15
Calendar	19	Sports	8, 10

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4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Fourth of July Celebrations Showcase Orinda Community Spirit

By ROWENA GONDEN
Contributing Writer

Editor's Note: All 4th of July Parade plans are subject to pending County and City regulations & approval.

Come Independence Day, Orinda residents once again will enjoy a parade in person, an important festivity the entire city seems to embrace.

"There's always been a joy about this event," said Orinda Association President and Parade Co-chair Bill Waterman of the level of participation. "The joke was always that half the town is in the parade and the other half is watching it."

COVID-19 forced the cancellation of last year's July 4 tradition for the first



SALLY HOGARTY

The popular **MJ's Brass Boppers** return to perform in the 2021 4th of July parade.

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time in the 38 years the association has organized it.

Residents' only option was to watch a video compilation of past years' celebrations posted online.

Waterman calls this year's merrymaking a "coming out party," noting that one of the challenges in planning the event is changing the mind-set of those accustomed to isolating themselves at home.

"It is safe to be outside wearing a mask, and many people have been vaccinated," he said.

The parade and accompanying activities will, however, be noticeably different.

For starters, everyone will be expected to

wear masks, which remains a state mandate when people are in crowded outdoor places.

To keep people at a safe distance from each other, there also will be no grandstands, Waterman added.

"We can't do everything we want to do," he said, noting that instead of piling into flatbed trucks, youngsters either will be in cars or walking alongside them.

Because it's unlikely the county will issue temporary food permits, there probably

won't be food booths in the park or the pancake breakfast participants in the annual two-to-five mile run typically head for upon completion of their runs, Waterman said.

For that matter, there might not be a race in the traditional sense at all.

There's still a statewide ban on endurance races. Fourth of July Run for a Reason organizer Meghan Frey is hoping to get permission for a two-mile walk that participants can accomplish anytime between

[SEE PARADE page 6]

The Orinda Association Presents

Orinda 4th of July Parade 2021

9:00 Flag Raising Ceremony

10:00 Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale

11:00 Parade Begins

12:00 Concert in the Park

Mask requirements pending
CDC guidelines for large events.

To march in the parade and/or support
its' **GoFundMe** campaign, go to either website:

www.OrindaAssociation.org • www.OrindaParade.com

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SALLY HOGARTY

The **Polly Pepper Stilt Walkers** are returning for this year's parade.

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the Board
What We Need is a Good Parade

ANDREW RADLOW



Hello parade fans. Welcome to what we hope is the “beginning of the end” of COVID-19. This pandemic has had severe health, economic and psychological effects on the well-being of just about everyone on earth.

There are endless opinions about how the pandemic has been handled and what the altered future of humankind will be. That said, Orindans can agree we need to get out of our houses and enjoy a great 4th of July parade.

People have never been better connected. Most have a cell phone, essentially a wireless connected Internet device with more computing power than the Space Shuttle. Yet, according to *Scientific American*, before the pandemic, 47% of Americans frequently experienced loneliness and/or feelings of isolation. Unsurprisingly, that figure jumped to 61% during the pandemic.

The parade is a great opportunity to connect and broaden our perspective by looking toward something we can all agree upon. The American experiment, celebrated by Independence Day, is an ever-evolving proposition, but our foundational values, as they appear in the first three lines of the Declaration of Independence, continue to ring true.

The definition of liberty, equality and

self-government, and how these values are exercised, will fuel debate among Americans forever. What doesn’t change, however, is that these values are the core of what hopefully promises a better future for all Americans.

Still wondering about whether you should participate in or attend Orinda’s 4th of July Parade?

Let’s turn to science for an answer.

A recent UK O2 study from Patrick Fagan, a degreed expert in behavioral science, discovered that attending 20 minutes of an outdoor communal event, for example, a music concert or parade, “can lead to a 21% increase in feelings of well-being.” That’s nearly three times the positive effect of dog walking. Now that is an open and shut case backed by hard science, folks!

The Parade Guy knows what’s good for you ... okay, that may be untrue. You need to get out, reconnect with the Orinda community and do it in a way that is comfortable for you.

As we all get back on our feet, this year’s parade may result in a slightly smaller event than in past years, but it remains a must-attend event (for your own good). The spirit of Orinda is still here and The Parade Guy encourages you to enjoy “*The Best Home-town Parade*” this July 4th.



KATHY ENZERINK

VFW 8063 members **Bill Lew**, **Terry Murphy** and bugler **Charlie Schretzmann** opened the 2019 festivities with the traditional flag-raising ceremony in Library Plaza.

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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
(Library Plaza)
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www.OrindaAssociation.org

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Seniors Around Town (SAT) Update



- ❖ Beginning Tuesday June 1st, SAT is resuming requests for all rides!
- ❖ SAT is looking for Volunteer Drivers
- ❖ SAT is now delivering Orinda Library books to seniors in Orinda
- ❖ Please call 925 402-4506 for more information.



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EDITORIAL

Editorial

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

With my two Pfizer shots done and done, well over a month ago, I can see the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel, but not just for me, for everyone.

As the CDC tells us now, it's okay to unmask outside in small groups, as businesses reopen, and students return to brick-and-mortar classrooms (not the ones sitting on their kitchen table called monitors). It feels as though that dark cloud called COVID-19 is dissipating and we can collectively breathe a somewhat sigh of relief.

It feels good. Almost like a rebirth, or a mega milestone.

Although we are not far removed from all the dangers we've endured over the past year and a half, and we are not out of the woods just yet with new strains out there, it still feels good to be on the other side of the hill, the part of the hill that goes down to whatever normal is, was or will be.

It's also exciting to bring you news in this issue about plans for the in-person

4th of July event. Read Andrew Radlow's message on page 3. Radlow, who chaired the 4th of July for several years, is also known as "The Parade Guy." I don't live in Orinda, but his message makes me want to attend.

It's also exciting to see local graduates featured on pages 8-10 and 12-13, another milestone – students who spent their senior year in school through online synchronous learning. They will certainly have stories to tell their grandkids one day.

Thank you to you, our loyal readers, advertisers, writers, copy editor, graphic designers and printer – who have stuck with us through this nightmare. Together we are doing our best to celebrate our community by bringing news, inspiration and education to those around us.

– Charleen Earley, Editor-in-Chief

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

◆ MOFD from page 1

to the editor in a local newspaper. "It makes no sense to drop our local control. Who is behind this attempt to rob our citizens of local control?"

The Moraga Town Council was quick to respond after receiving dozens of community complaints, adding an agenda item to their May 12 meeting which addressed acting on MOFD's choice.

After passionate public comments, the town council voted to send a letter to MOFD, which in part read, "We strongly oppose the consolidation of MOFD with ConFire and spending resources studying a process for such consolidation. Resources should continue to be spent on the delivery of high-quality fire protection, fire safety and emergency response services."

The conversation about consolidation started during a March 17 MOFD board meeting when Local 1230 Union President Vincent Wells said there were concerns about the ability to sustain financially the fire district and explained firefighters were interested in learning about the merger.

"This has always been a conversation; this is not new. Moraga-Orinda Fire District reported that there were some concerns with their finances, and it was suggested early on without really going as far as it went now to maybe look into consolidation or annexation," said Wells.

This is not the first time Moraga and Orinda citizens have expressed a dislike for the idea of consolidating. The suggestion being made now was also mentioned in 2009 and was rejected by citizens as well as some council members.

"I heard this same kind of thing from

[Wells] back in 2009 when Mr. Trotter and I represented the town . . . and it became clear in quite a short time that there was virtually no support within either Moraga or Orinda," said former Moraga Mayor Michael Metcalf. "We became a self-help community through the creation of MOFD for a very good reason; we weren't getting good enough service."

This conversation led to MOFD Director Gregory Baitx proposing the discussion item be on the May 19 agenda.

As of publication, Baitx has not responded for comment about why he wanted the item on the agenda.

"It caused quite the uproar. This item has elicited more calls, emails and calls for response from the community than anything we've ever done," said MOFD Director Steve Dazinger. "The community really loves what we do here. We provide excellent service, better than what people of Contra Costa County get."

The agenda item for May 19 meeting was for informational purposes only, according to Dazinger.

"People went off and said we want to vote to dissolve it [MOFD], but we couldn't even do that. It's a long and complex process and no one wants to go there," he said.

Board members Michael Donner, Dazinger and Baitx later requested the item be taken off the agenda for the May 19 meeting, but President Craig Jorgens left it on.

Jorgens said he wanted to leave the item on the agenda to allow upset citizens to voice their thoughts and to avoid "shutting down one of the largest public outcries in Orinda in the last 30 years."

Before the item opened for public comment, Director Baitx spoke about his



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	Page		Page
Automotive		Premier Kitchens	3
Mash Gas and Food	1	Professional Property Management	16
Orinda Motors	6	State Farm, Bryan Silveira	5
Orinda Shell Auto Care	24	State Farm, Kelly Sopak	16
Beauty and Fitness		Wildier Owners' Association	10
CoreKinetics	22	Real Estate	
Living Lean Exercise & Eating Program	23	AG Realty	
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Dr. Mary Smith DDS	23	Suzanne Toner Geoffrion	21
Educational		Shellie Kirby	16
Orinda Parks & Rec	17	Dudum Real Estate Group	
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Tree Sculpture	7	Sotheby's	
Grad Ads		Ann Newton Cane	7
Miramonte Grad Ads	12, 13	Village Associates	
OUSD Grad Ads	8, 9, 10	Shannon Conner	20
Other Grad Ads	10, 20	Dexter Honens II	5
Medical		April Matthews	18
Canopy Health	22	Murphy Team - Karen & Hilary Murphy	15
Dr. Brian Clark, Psy.D.	9	Ann Sharf	19
Medicine Shoppe	7	Clark Thompson	2
Nonprofit		Village Associates	17
ONE Orinda	13	Restaurants/Catering	
Orinda Classic Car Show	14	Baan Thai	20
The Orinda Association	2, 3, 18	Casa Orinda	19
Professional Service		Farmers' Market	15
5A Rent-A-Space	21	Siam Orchid	23
A1 Home Roofing Company	11	Zamboni's Pizza Company	2
Green Sheds	15	Retail	
Park Place Wealth Advisors	21	McCaulou's	21

intentions for requesting the item be put on the agenda.

"What I was looking for was information only," he said. "What I verbalized about consolidation with ConFire was not my intent. This was supposed to be an informational inquiry only. I understand that I did not verbalize my intent clearly, for that I apologize."

During the meeting, residents of Moraga and Orinda spoke during public comment to voice their concerns for the informational item.

Public comment lasted over 50 minutes and once discussion of board members

was initiated, there was a unanimous decision from MOFD to advise staff to reject the idea of bringing up this topic in the future.

"I would agree that we not spend any more resources on looking into this issue, I think it's been overwhelmingly stated by board members, the public, town council, and city council that they don't want to see any change in our services... I'm in agreement with that," said Director Michael Donner.

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FIRE SEASON PREPARATION / SUPERINTENDENT RETIRES

Want Your Powerlines Underground? Read this First

By CHRIS ANDERSON
Contributing Writer

As we enter fire season, you may be thinking of powerlines dangling over your street near swaying trees and wondering if there's anything you can do about that risk. Larry Theis, director of public works and engineering services for Orinda, speaks to the possibilities of "undergrounding wires" while also presenting possibilities and concerns about doing so, tree trimming and other contingencies.

The case for "undergrounding" powerlines, along with other above-ground wires such as TV and telephone cables, has never been greater. Along with the usual aesthetic reasons for burying wires, which obstruct views, doing so would also seemingly be the best response to fire risk and power outages. With climate change, conditions

are getting dryer and windier, causing the risks associated with above-ground powerlines to rise.

"When I started in 2013, wildfire concern was relatively low, and interest in undergrounding was primarily visual," said Theis. "But in the last four years, especially since the Santa Rosa fire, the interest has become increasingly about safety."

It is, however, incredibly expensive to bury utility lines entirely, since it requires digging up roads, trenching front yards and re-routing cable drops from household roofs to basements or garages not just for power but also for cable TV and telephone lines which share those poles.

Today, only about 10-15% of Orinda's utility lines are underground, according to Theis, and most of those are in downtown Orinda and newer developments such as Wilder. The only Orinda undergrounding

currently planned is a half-mile section of Camino Pablo between El Toyonal and Camino Sobronte, which will consume most of the city's \$2.6 million in available "credits" from PG&E for this project.

What about some easier options? First, remember it's not the big "transmission" lines on pylons that you should worry about – they tend to be well managed and PG&E monitors them closely for vegetation incursion. Instead, it's the "distribution" lines going from the substations through our streets to our houses that are more of a risk, in part because they're closer to homes and are surrounded by more vegetation.

But, before you worry too much about that tree near a wire on your block, remember not all the wires coming off the poles are powerlines; the lower ones are probably Comcast or telephone wires, which do not present a fire risk. The electrical powerlines are just the top ones on the pole, and they're the most important to remain clear of vegetation.

Although PG&E inspects some Orinda powerlines every year and has a responsibility to trim trees, even those on private property, as they threaten powerlines, crews don't get to every street annually. Some roads can go three to five years without being inspected. So, if you see a tree encroaching on a powerline (remember, just the top wire is the powerline), you can call PG&E at 800.743.5000 to report it, or email Theis at ltheis@cityoforinda.org. He'll advocate on your behalf to PG&E about the potential problem.

If you're interested in having wires underground in your neighborhood, here is a two-step process that might be helpful:

First, get involved. Talk about this with your neighbors on Nextdoor or your local email lists. This summer will likely find Orinda facing high-wind fire alerts and even power outages. It's a perfect time to think about whether your neighborhood is a good candidate to consider gaining significant safety advantages in addition to visual ones. Would enough neighbors benefit to make it worth doing? Would they be willing to help pick up the cost, even to the point of thousands of dollars per house?

Once you have some neighborhood consensus, get in touch with the City of Orinda. Although the City may not end up paying for what you would envision, it can



CHRIS ANDERSON

Power lines are only the top wires on a pole. The lower lines are typically cable, phone, and Internet and are not a fire hazard if vegetation touches them.

help you get through any process involving PG&E. It could also help you obtain the necessary paperwork, including designating an undergrounding "district." Again, email Theis, who can help you get started with such a process.

Chris Anderson can be reached at chris@3dr.com.

OUSD Superintendent Announces Retirement after Years of Service

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

After 37 years in education, Dr. Carolyn Seaton will retire this July. She announced her decision at the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Board of Trustees meeting in early May. The firm of Hazard, Young, Attea Associates has already begun a nation-wide search for her replacement.

Seaton's impressive credentials at various school districts include: 14 years as a teacher; seven years as either assistant principal or principal; nine years as execu-

tive director of education; and two years as executive director for human resources before accepting the position of OUSD Superintendent in 2016.

"Serving here [OUSD] has been the pinnacle of my career. I was so honored to be selected to be the superintendent and so proud of what we've been able to accomplish together," said Seaton. "And, by we, I mean the whole OUSD community. It doesn't happen with one person. This is an amazing district. I'm excited about what is going to come, and I'll be cheering from

[SEE SEATON page 14]



SALLY HOGARTY

OUSD Superintendent **Dr. Carolyn Seaton** announced her retirement in May after five years with the district. She and her husband are moving to Colorado to be closer to family.


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YOU SHOULD BUY TRUST, NOT PRICE

RAY KUNZ



At Orinda Motors, we hear the question about what something would cost sometimes 20 times a day. And why not, that is generally the only question most consumers think to ask.

Unfortunately, having a phone conversation about what anything costs typically leaves questions impossible to answer accurately. Without knowing more specifics (like VIN#, tire or rotor sizes, size of motor, type of transmission, type of drive, etc.) than most consumers can easily find, the repair/service facility would be guessing, and guessing isn't fair to the consumer or the facility!

Certainly, there are some things that can be priced. Things like basic alignments, oil change services and inspections fall into this category, but after that it becomes very difficult to impossible to be fair to either party.

In order to properly estimate anything other than the above-mentioned black and white services, all repair/service facilities need to see your vehicle to give you a proper estimate for repairs. There are simply too many variables to give accurate estimates over the phone! Find a facility that you trust and stick with it.

Finding a facility that you trust is the next big hurdle. What do you look for? Is it the least expensive labor rate, the least expensive parts or the length of warranties?

You should take your car to a place that would elicit good answers to the following questions: Does the business spend the time needed explaining things to you in terms you can understand? Does the busi-



STEN RADEMAKER UNSPLASH
It's impossible to give auto repair price quotes over the phone. Instead, look for a facility that makes you feel safe and secure in your decision to use them.

ness only use quality parts? Is a warranty 24-months or 24,000 miles minimum? Is there a nationwide warranty? Is access for you convenient? Are reviews good to great?

Notice nothing here was about price because price is relative in its importance; it is not (or should not be) your most important consideration. Look at the aforementioned items first, not price; you should be buying trust, not price.

Look for a facility that makes you feel safe and secure in your decision to use it. You are not buying the same thing from facility to facility!

And for those of you who may think "auto-repair" is easy, think about this for a minute: There is more computing power in most new vehicles nowadays than there was in the Saturn rocket that sent man to the moon!

Ray Kunz can be reached at service@orindamotors.com.

◆ PARADE from page 2

9 and 10:30 a.m.

"It's not a timed event so people won't be all jammed together, and the idea is to encourage them to share their experience with everyone else by taking selfies and posting them on the race's Instagram account," she said AT@july4thrunforareason.

The day's events still will start with veterans from the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #8063 with bugler Ted Parker raising the flag in a 9 a.m. ceremony at the Community Center.

Leading the parade will be Waterman and other former Orinda Association presidents in honor of the non-profit's 75th anniversary.

The action starts at 11 a.m. from the east side of the BART parking lot and will last approximately one hour, ending at Irwin Way in Orinda Village.

Floats will include community groups such as local swim clubs, the region's 4-H chapter, preschools and perhaps a student contingent from Miramonte High School. Stilt walkers also might be on the menu, said Parade Co-Chair Diane Lautz.

Gleaming antique cars promoting Orinda Association's classic car show in September will be part of the procession, and a local rancher might clip-clop along in his horse-drawn wagon.

As for the music, MJ's Brass Boppers Brass Band and Saint Gabriel's Celestial Brass Band have confirmed they will be delivering their New Orleans-style music, Waterman said.

He's also hoping for a thumbs-up from The Orinda All-Volunteer Marching Band, a group of anywhere from two to four dozen musicians who will practice their repertoire together for the first time just before the parade begins.

"They sound amazingly good," Waterman said.

Other possible entrants include stu-

dents from Orinda's Academy of Language & Music Arts, bagpipers from San Jose and the Berkeley quintet, Lewiston Jazz.

After the parade, the public in the past has streamed into Orinda Community Park, where the entertainment has included bouncy houses and even a petting zoo, "An extravaganza – quite wacko!" Lautz said.

This year will be more subdued as families settle onto the lawn within circles designating areas where groups can sit together in pods.

Nonetheless, organizers hope to have live music from around noon to 1 p.m. and are working on bringing in food trucks, which are subject to different rules than food booths.

Lautz added she plans to contact local restaurants to see if they would consider selling box lunches.

The retired hospital administrator estimates she's been spending upwards of 20 hours a week since February overseeing preparations for the big day with Waterman, and she has a 4-inch-thick binder of notes on every aspect of the event to prove it.

As she describes the voluminous number of details that require attention, Lautz mentions "parade trinity," a phrase one of the former organizers coined.

It refers to the elements of a successful event: music, decorations and content, or the variety of entries in the parade, she explained.

But 15 months after a deadly global virus upended so many people's daily lives, Waterman thinks there's a different definition of success to consider.

The main point of this year's celebration is simply to see and be seen, he said.

"That alone is a victory that we are winning over the pandemic," Waterman said.

Rowena Gonden can be reached at rowenagonden@gmail.com.



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POLICE BLOTTER

April 1 through May 16

Calls for Service

Accident Injury: 5 incidents: Camino Pablo (3), Meadow Rd., Dairy Creek Ln.
 Accident Property: 5 incidents: Tappan Ln., Camino Pablo, Overhill Way, Moraga Way, Orchard Rd.
 Armed Robbery: 1 incident: El Nido Ranch Cir.
 Burglary, Auto: 5 incidents: Moraga Way, Hidden Valley Rd., Irwin Way, Spring Ct., Brookwood Rd.
 Burglary, Commercial: 5 incidents: Moraga Way (4), Fish Ranch Rd.
 Burglary, Residential: 2 incidents: La Cuesta Rd., Watchwood Ct.
 Court Order Violation: 1 incident
 Death Non-Criminal: 3 incidents
 Driving with Suspended/Revoked License: 1 incident
 Drunk in Public: 1 incident
 Extortion: 1 incident
 Failure to Obey Officer: 3 incidents
 Found Property: 1 incident
 Forgery: 1 incident
 Grand Theft: 1 incident: Moraga Way
 Grand Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents: De Soto Ct., Orinda Way
 Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 2 incidents: Camino Del Diablo, Hillcrest Dr.
 Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident: Sunnyside Ln.
 Missing Adult: 1 incident
 Other Misdemeanor: 1 incident

Outside Assist: 2 incidents
 Petty Theft: 5 incidents
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents: Muth Dr., Bates Blvd.
 Service to Citizen: 1 incident
 Shoplift: 5 incidents: Camino Pablo (2), Camino Sobrante, Moraga Way (2)
 Tow: 3 incidents
 Vehicle Theft: 4 incidents: La Cuesta Dr., Charles Hill Cir., El Nido Ranch Rd., Fox Run

Arrest

Recovered Vehicle: 2 recoveries
 Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

The Orinda Police Department reports an increase in thefts from parked vehicles around town.

“Often times, valuables are being taken from cars that were left unlocked,” police said in a statement. “Please help us fight crime in our community by ensuring that you do not leave any valuables in your vehicle and you lock your vehicle whenever it is unattended.”

Police say if your door is locked, thieves checking car doors may simply move on.

◆ **BROOKWOOD** from page 1

temperatures and dry conditions could possibly cause early, intense summer fires throughout the state.

While acknowledging the importance of fire prevention, some Brookwood residents disapprove of how the city handled the vegetation next to their homes. Multiple people said they were not given any notice of the city’s plan for the road until it was underway, something that Theis confirmed, saying that only one Brookwood resident was notified in advance.

Freeman Levinrad and Frances Valdez, a couple living on Brookwood, said, “We definitely commend the city for taking proactive steps on fire mitigation. It just seems like this went a little too far, and it would have been better for them to notify us and have a dialogue with us before they did this amount of work.”

Acknowledging the lack of communication, Theis said that the city will provide nearby residents a “courtesy notice” in future fuel abatement activities, telling them when the projects will occur, the scope of the work being done and its projected short and long term effects. Yet, Theis said it is unlikely that inhabitants will get more than a heads up: “The city does not have much choice in terms of meeting compliance with the fire code, so I do not expect future notices will be structured to be an open solicitation for resident input.”

Besides feeling out of the loop, a group of Orindans told the City Council during public comment on May 11 that its actions on Brookwood Road, while addressing fire concerns, created new safety hazards.

Constituents, like Chris Radovich, said the trees on Brookwood provided a natural crash barrier to highway traffic, but now there is only a chain-link fence to stop cars from potentially veering into the

community.

Inhabitants also said the neighborhood is noticeably louder, which could be a problem when people walk along the road. Since there are no sidewalks on Brookwood, they said distinguishing cars on the road from those on the highway is an important safety issue.

To address these concerns, Theis said the city is exploring the possibility of building a concrete sound wall. But he also said that any project would take time, having to start as an unfunded initiative and work its way through the capital improvement process before any construction could actually begin.

Some residents, however, think the city needs to act now.

“I have a lot of unfunded projects I want to do—I just don’t have the funds for them,” said Levinrad. “A sound barrier would be a solution, but it needs to be on an actual timeline, not something where it could never happen.”

Tristan Shaughnessy can be reached at tristan.c.shaughnessy@gmail.com.

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Cal Shakes Season of Shared Light

By SALLY HOGARTY
 Executive Director

California Shakespeare Theater is sharing the Bruns Amphitheater this summer with groups throughout the Bay Area. From June to October, audiences can safely enjoy outdoor concerts, dance performances, opera and much more.

Paper Moon Presents brings the “Mea-

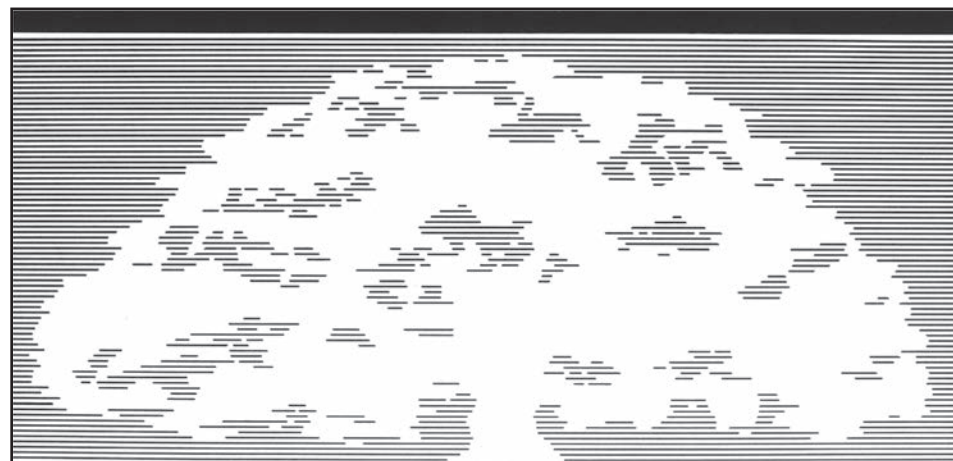
sure for Measure Concert Series” to the Bruns, featuring outdoor music and dancing with the Animal Liberation Orchestra June 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. The event also features roaming performers, craft vendors and picnic meals for sale.

Future concerts include Taj Mahal on July 2 at 7 p.m. and Rebirth Brass Band on July 3 at 7 p.m. and July 4 at 6 p.m. For more information, go to <https://www.papermoonpresents.live>.



COURTESY OF ANIMAL LIBERATION ORCHESTRA

Dan Lebowitz, David Brogan, Zach Gill and Steve Adams of the San Francisco-based rock band Animal Liberation Orchestra play Cal Shakes in June.



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SPORTS

Senior Miramonte Athletes Finally Play During Compressed Seasons

By KEN HOGARTY
Staff Writer

On May 12, Miramonte Principal Julie Parks and Athletic Director James Lathrop hosted a “Virtual Sports Fair,” focused on what hopefully will be a normal athletic calendar next school year. At the same time, they and others praised this year’s student participants, families and coaches, particularly Miramonte’s graduating seniors.

The presentation provided general information concerning athletic values, clearances and offerings and served to introduce new high school parents to Miramonte offerings, such as summer camps.

Ironically, it took place while all Miramonte teams were engaged in games, matches or meets or had just finished shortened seasons sanctioned by the State of California, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF, which governs prep sports) and local jurisdictions.

The “pause” in sports necessitated by COVID-19 proved a hot-button issue tran-

scending the world of high school athletics.

With some student-athletes transferring out-of-state to play, and parents demanding sons and daughters be allowed to participate despite health warnings, constraints on play in California added to the debate about online and hybrid learning. Meanwhile, other states played even as pandemic cases swelled.

A movement, “Let Them Play CA,” spearheaded by football coaches Justin Alumbaugh, Patrick Walsh and Ron Gladnick of De La Salle, Serra and Torrey Pines High Schools respectively, and accompanied by parental lawsuits, found sympathizers. The uproar resulted in Governor Newsom updating the state’s stance on youth and high school sports.

Football, baseball, lacrosse, soccer and softball were allowed to resume play Feb. 26, but with restrictions. Other outdoor sports with less contact had earlier been given a green light based on county COVID -19 case rates and the state’s tier-system.

By Miramonte’s mid-May online meet-



Mats’ hoopsters were overjoyed to practice inside in March (L-R): junior **Kendal Maurer**; seniors **Nikki Lynch, Daniella Resch, Jordan Allred** and **P.K. Hall**; and freshman **Willa Mapaye**.

ing, virtually all the school’s varsity teams had played or were playing a truncated season within the same four-month window. All contests and practices for all sports were compressed into one spring season. Typically, there are three seasons in which six to seven sports compete at a time.

Cross Country, Boys and Girls Golf, Boys Tennis and Swimming and Diving could participate starting Feb. 1; Girls Lacrosse, Softball and Boys Soccer resumed play in the first part of March; Track & Field, Girls Tennis and Water Polo geared back up the latter part of March; and Baseball, Girls Soccer, Boys Lacrosse, Volleyball, Cheer and Basketball after that.

Because of overlapping schedules and the fact that student athletes could practice and condition for one sport prior to competition with restrictions, the compressed schedule made it virtually impossible for athletes to play more than one sport. CIF Executive Director Ron Nocetti also noted there would be no Northern California regionals this year.

While it is hoped the 2021-22 school year will return to a normal seasonal sports schedule, Athletic Director James Lathrop put his focus on this year’s participants, especially seniors “who didn’t know until the end they’d be playing.”

Miramonte Principal Julie Parks said, “In a year of so much interruption and loss, our athletic coaches were instrumental in keeping our students connected. For many students, the camps we ran during much of the summer and fall were the only opportunity to interact outside of the home and be at Miramonte. When our athletic programs were finally able to begin, the excitement from our students and coaches was visible. I am truly grateful to our coaches and Athletic Director, James Lathrop, for their commitment to our students during this time.”

Coach Jack Schram said, “I was really glad our seniors had an opportunity to play football this year, even if only for half a season. We had 15 seniors and the majority won’t play organized football

[SEE SPORTS page 9]



Miramonte Varsity Football Seniors: Back Row: **Aidan Browne, Caleb Wilday, Jake Doran, Peter Reeves, Brian Graves, Haden Simon, Jamison Braitberg, Joe Foster**; Middle Row: **Stradley Foutch, Donald Frank, Roeniqk Straub, Matt McCombe**; Front Row: **Jayln Miller, Greg Hemming**; Missing: Russel Diep.

ORINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SPORTS

◆ SPORTS from page 8

after this year, though a number will play rugby or other sports collegiality. I was so happy they got to wear their helmets for a last time. We missed a lot this year – our Tahoe football camp, scrimmages, passing leagues, summer conditioning. Still, we got five games in.”

Another bump in the road occurred in the first game against Berkeley. The Mats had already lost the presumptive quarterback, who transferred out of state to play football during the fall. The next up starter, Russel Diep, suffered a high ankle sprain in the very first quarter, an injury that persisted through the five-game season. Senior Aidan Browne, a running back, stepped in to win that game and take the helm for the rest of the year.

“League opponents must have been surprised to see our very good running back pressed into service out-of-position,” said Coach Schram. “But typical of this year, he stepped up for the team.”

Coach Schram too stepped up during this COVID-19 year and spring semester. Also Miramonte’s boys golf coach, Schram basically had two sports to oversee at the same time. Golf started a little earlier than football due to less-restrictive pandemic controls for the non-contact sport.

Schram remarked that his golfers often had to practice at the same time at three different sites – Orinda Country Club, Moraga Country Club and Tilden Park with matches at Boundary Oaks or other locales. Schram praised his assistants in both sports who carried on in his place more than once.

Coach Jackie Pelletier and her girls’ lacrosse players completed their abbreviated season with a Diablo Athletic League title. The Mats finished 9-1 in league play and 11-2 overall. They outscored opponents 226-94 during the season.

MaxPreps ranked the Mats 18th in California and 6th among Northern California high schools. They were led by senior Emerson Bohlig, who earned a lacrosse scholarship to Northwestern. Bohlig registered 86 goals and 26 assists in 13 games.

Fellow senior Mina Jenab anchored the defense with a 46% goalie save percentage. Fellow seniors Lindsey Bliss and Sally Peterson also played their last games for Miramonte, while six juniors and nine sophomores will return next year.

Coach Pelletier, who has coached the Mats for six years, saw teams win D-2 North Coast section championships in 2015 and 2018.

Basketball, an indoors sport, started later than others. Play was in doubt until the mid-March go-ahead.

Coach Vince Wirthman’s first year as Miramonte’s girls’ basketball mentor would have been challenging enough, even without COVID-19 considerations. After coaching Miramonte’s JVs for three years, Wirthman replaced Kelly Sopak, who

moved on to Carondelet after an incredible 12-year run with the Mats.

With the uncertainty of whether high school basketball would be played at all, senior star Mia Mastrov graduated early to enroll at UC Berkeley in January, where she played seven or eight games. Another senior looking forward to a great year, Nikki Lynch, blew her knee out playing rugby just as basketball practices resumed inside.

Other seniors on the team included point guard Julia Miller, who played all four years at Miramonte, Daniella Resch and P.K. Hall, who is committed to play at Grinnell.

The other senior starter, Jordan Allred – recipient of an Idaho hoops scholarship – emerged as the team’s star. Wirthman lauded Allred’s attitude and talent, noting she scored 27 points in an early season thumping of Campolindo in which she remarkably hit nine, 3-pointers.

“And the seniors persisted and showed much heart when they could have quit, even practicing outside in the cold of winter when not allowed inside. After losing their coach and star player, they stuck together and were a joy to coach,” Wirthman said.

Midway through their schedule and after a thrilling 66-64 win over Heritage High of Brentwood, the Mats found themselves ranked in the top 10 of the Bay Area News Group’s girls’ high school basketball rank-



DAN TING

Seniors on **Miramonte Water Polo Team** uphold Tradition of Excellence.

ings, just ahead of Carondelet.

“We’d usually play 25 to 30 games,” Wirthman said, “but this season we’ll get in about 16 or 17. We’re also back in league [after playing as an independent the last couple years], so we’ll have a league title to motivate us. But the main thing is being able to play at all, especially for the seniors.”

Senior Water Polo captain Adam Ting (slated to play at UC Davis) echoed that [SEE SPORTS 2 page 10]

Miramonte Senior Commitments to Play Collegiality

In mid-May, Athletic Director James Lathrop said the following Miramonte seniors, in addition to those noted in the main story from the football, water polo, basketball and lacrosse teams highlighted, had secured collegiate athletic scholarships. Other seniors had opportunities still pending or had been encouraged to walk on to college teams:

Audrey Allen (UCLA – Cross Country); Bella Deanhart (Swathmore – Soccer); Macey Dowd (Vassar – Tennis); Ryan Edminister (Cal State Maritime – Wrestling); Alex Eversole UCLA – Crew); Olivia Eukel (Oberlin – Swimming); Madeline Giron (Louisville – Crew); Greg Hemming (Cal – Rugby); Lindsey Hemming (Pepperdine – Swimming); Amber Lee (Arizona State – Tennis); Sophie Lurie (Middlebury – Swimming); Nikki Lynch (Brown – Rugby); Mackenzie Murphy (UCSB – Water Polo); Simon Neuwirth-Stein (Willamette – Soccer); Kate Rochios (Indiana – Water Polo); Ava Schmitt (Claremont McKenna – Soccer); Caleb Waechter (UCSD – Crew); and Fiona Young (Michigan – Water Polo).

Congratulations Dylan!
Looking forward to High School - Class of 2025!

Love, Mom, Dad,
Hailey and Bradley

CONGRATULATIONS LUKE!

WE LOVE YOU!
MOM, DAD, AND CARA

Congratulations Cyrus!

We're so proud of you and wish you the best at Miramonte!

With Love,
Mom, Dad and Kimia

Congratulations, graduates Evan & Lauren Schultz!

Goodbye to the 2020-21 pandemic school year.
Hello to Miramonte High School for Evan
and 7th grade for Lauren!

I am so proud of you two.

Love,
Mom

Brian Clark, Psy.D.
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SPORTS

Miramonte Booster Club Athletic Hall of Famers

By KEN HOGARTY
Staff Writer

Additions to the 2020 Miramonte Booster Club Athletic Hall of Fame had their induction ceremony from last April postponed. The “Class of 2020,” whose official induction is slated for this fall, included Steve Harwood (Booster, Announcer, Community Member); Garth Haynes ('76 Basketball and Tennis); Brett Jackson ('06 Baseball); Bill Maze ('74 Tennis and Basketball); Megan Reid ('14 Soccer, Water Polo, Basketball and Track); Heather White ('06 Swimming) and Paul Yriberri (Coach '74-'07).

Miramonte High School has a long, proud sports tradition with many outstanding individuals and teams. Arguably,

the best national prep girls' high school female basketball player of the last decade, Sabrina Ionescu '16, who led the Mats to a 119-9 record during her four years, followed up a stellar collegiate career at Oregon as a 1st overall draft by the New York Liberty in the 2020 WNBA draft.

The historic success of the Mats water polo program also speaks to the excellence that epitomizes Miramonte sports. On an official USA Water Polo site, in a 2016 article celebrating the school's 50th anniversary playing the sport, Jeff Moulton captured the national impact of the program:

“Led by Coach Bill Brown and then Coach James Lathrop, Miramonte has been the most successful Northern California high school water polo program.

It ranks with Newport Harbor, Long Beach Wilson and Corona Del Mar as one of the four or five best high school programs in the country during the last 50 years.

“Almost 100 Miramonte players have been named high school All Americans, 18 players have been named to one or more NCAA All American teams and 19 players have played for one or more NCAA championship teams.”

Hall of Fame inductees for 2019 included Lynne Abbes Rolley ('67 Tennis); Marilyn Davis ('82 Track and Cross Country); Kirk Everist ('85 Water Polo); Valerie Henderson ('04 Soccer); Otis McCain (Coach '62-'08); Karen Moe ('71 Swimming); Luke Sassano ('84 Soccer); and James Stockholm (Community Member).

The 2018 “class” featured Floyd Burnsed (Coach '82-'02); Roger Durant (Coach '63-'96); Deborah Flandermeyer Donlan ('89 Basketball); Jane Frederick ('68 Track and Field); Mike MacDonald (Football and Wrestling); Don Phillips (Coach '55-'88); Doug Robbins ('84 Football and Baseball); Carolyn Schuler Jones ('60 Swimming); and Jon Svendsen ('71 Water Polo, Basketball and Swimming).

The inaugural inductees in 2017 included Drew Bennett ('96 Football, Basketball and Baseball); Tom Blackwood (Coach '65-'03); Nicole Branagh ('97 Basketball, Volleyball, Track and Field); Bill Brown (Coach '66-'05); Ken Dorsey ('95 Football and Basketball); Dixon Farmer ('59 Track and Field); Pete Jensen ('67 Basketball); Heather Petri ('96 Swimming and Water Polo); and Peter Schnugg ('69 Swimming, Water Polo and Basketball).

◆ SPORTS 2 from page 9

sentiment. He said, “We were super grateful to have a season and took advantage of it by being the best team we could be.” His season ran from March 29 to May 22.

Fellow senior captains Will Hollerbach and Will Coons (scholarship in hand to UCSB) helped Ting lead an impactful group of seniors: Rigby Blair, Chris Bruen (headed to Colby for swimming), Charlie Cohen (who will play at Chapman), Jared Fineman, Griff Hallahan, Parker Hett, Ryan McAninch, Johnny Shepherd (set for Santa Clara), Spencer Tarkoff and Cooper Tunney along with eight other varsity participants and 20 more players on the JVs.

“We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to play a high school season this year. This season has been fun and rewarding because the boys did such a great job blending hard work, competitiveness and a joy for playing together,” said Coach Lathrop. “We have a really big senior class, and I could see how much they appreciated the chances they had to play together, challenge each other and support one another. Our depth allowed us to get contributions in the game on offense and defense from a variety of players throughout the season, and we have also had many players display great leadership and sacrifice for the team as well. Since pretty much every game was a rivalry game against a local team, it was rewarding seeing the competitive spirit of the team really come out, but the aspect of this team that stands out the most was the appreciation for the season and for their teammates.”

Early season highlights included a 12-6 defeat of rival Campolindo and a 12-11 nail-biter against San Ramon Valley. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the team was not able to practice with a ball for much of the off season, a fact that pointed to the resiliency of all Miramonte athletes this year.

Ken Hogarty can be reached at kenhogarty@gmail.com.

Ken Hogarty can be reached at kenhogarty@gmail.com.



McKenna Rose
Congratulations on completing your final year at Sleepy Hollow School!
We love you!
Mom, Dad, and Sofia



Sofia Rose
Congratulations on your promotion from OIS!
We love you!
Mom, Dad, and McKenna

Congratulations to the 2021 Wilder Graduates!

You have survived and thrived in an incredibly challenging year. We are so proud and we wish you all the best in your next adventures!

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Caroline Langlois

College Preparatory School
Charles Bullock

Seedlings Preschool
Keats Rafferty

Head-Royce Upper School
Karishma Bhargava

Glorietta Elementary
Abby Storer

Miramonte High
Katie Kaiser
Yahzee Mendez
Preston Nibley
Paulo Parramon-Arcos

Sleepy Hollow Elementary
Giselle Kronenberg

Wagner Ranch Elementary
Reese Aranoff
Sophie Davis
Riya Kumar
Trisha Madannavar
Lucy McLaughlin
Jackson Roosevelt
Chloe Willbur
Avah Zarrin

California Institute of the Arts
Eric Kaiser

Pomona College
Ethan Ashby

University of Colorado Boulder
Carson Cordova

Orinda Intermediate
Phoebe Busansky
Gavin Kelleher
Amelie Lo



MARK BELL

You can't keep a good Mat down! The Miramonte Matadors played their last game of the revised football season on Friday, April 16 against Campolindo at the Mats sports field.

Congratulations Melissa Wilson



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Sally and Ken Hogarty

AUTHOR / STUDENTS

Local Therapist's Latest Work Shares Advice for Happier Families

By ANIA KEENAN
Contributing Writer

The inspiration for Margie Ryerson's latest book came from her 13 years of experience writing a local column that shared a name with her newest title: "Family Focus."

According to Ryerson, *Family Focus: A Therapist's Tips for Happier Families* came together as a product of the 95-plus columns she wrote over the years, the extra time that the pandemic allotted her over the last year and a desire to help families like her own.

"I wrote my columns with my own family in mind. I wanted to help them avoid certain pitfalls," she said.

After 35 years of working as a therapist, Ryerson said one of the best pieces of advice she can give people in any sort of relationship is to avoid giving unsolicited advice.

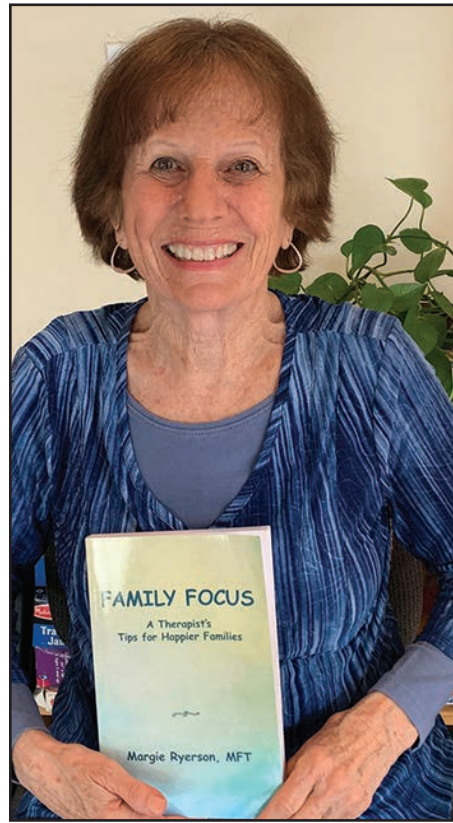
She admitted, however, over the years she has accumulated a variety of tips she wished she could give, and in a way, her latest book was a way of making sure that advice got to the people she cared about.

Ryerson, a long-time Orinda resident and practicing marriage and family therapist, has two other books in print: *Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories for Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating* and *Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship*.

Ryerson started her career specializing in eating disorder treatment at Mt. Diablo Hospital, but after nearly a decade working primarily in that specialty and in marriage counseling, Ryerson found herself searching for more.

"I really wanted to expand and have a variety of experiences," Ryerson said.

In the last 10 years of her career, Ryerson



COURTESY OF MARGIE RYERSON

Margie Ryerson, MFT, with her new book, *Family Focus: A Therapist's Tips for Happier Families*, which offers tools and support for parents, couples and grandparents. It's available at Orinda Books and Amazon.com.

gradually expanded her clientele to include people from all walks of life. She said that the key to making herself available to a larger variety of clients was mainly taking the time to become knowledgeable about a topic before taking on patients dealing with that issue.

Although she acknowledges therapy can be a very emotionally taxing profession at times, she said that she has stuck with it for so long because it is "one of the most deeply rewarding professions out there."

Ania Keenan can be reached at ania@7keenans.org.

Resilient and Resplendent Orinda Union School District Choir Performs Orinda Sing 2021



CHRISTINA HOLLING

Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Choir and Music Instructors Christina Holling and Ron Pickett co-produced a creative community-wide concert event in May, in lieu of traditional Spring Sings for parents and family. Due to restrictions on in-person group singing events, the undaunted musical duo, with the help of a vocal arrangement specialist and technicians, stepped outside the box by orchestrating a harmonious melding of individual voices from the OIS and all four elementary school ensemble choirs, adding in the voices of OUSD grads, faculty and community members.

"This was beautiful. I could hardly make it through a rehearsal without crying," said singer Leslie O'Brien, one representative of the greater Orinda community voice. The group performed the beloved Carpenters' hit, "I Won't Last a Day Without You."

Due to student privacy issues, the general public cannot view the recorded performance, but this screenshot shows the scope of this effort. Each performer sang individually, and all voices and instrumentals were electronically blended in the studio afterwards.

The video was released through the school's websites to parents and family on May 17. Arranged by Rachel Robinson, audio edited by Justin Pyne, video edited by Christina Holling and directed by Ron Pickett and Christina Holling.

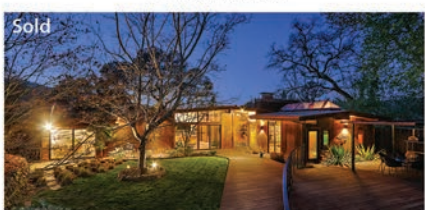
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Miramonte Class of 2021

The Miramonte Class of 2021 is, indeed, a unique and special group of Matadors. It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate this year's graduates. They have exhibited perseverance, grit, and resilience over the last year, skills I know will equip them for any number of possibilities in the future. We wish the best for all our graduates as they move on to their next steps.

– Julie Parks, Principal
Miramonte High School



Helena Bardsley
Congratulations, Helena...You did it!
We're so full of love and pride!
~Mom, Dad, Alexandra & Lola



Emerson Bohlig
We're so proud of you!
Enjoy the cold weather!
Love, Mom, Dad, Cooper & Sawyer.



Will Coons
Will - we are so proud of your hard work in the classroom and in the pool! We know you will do great things at UCSB!
Love, Mom, Dad and Max



OLIVIA EUKEL
Congratulations Olivia!
We're so proud of you.
Love, Mom & Dad



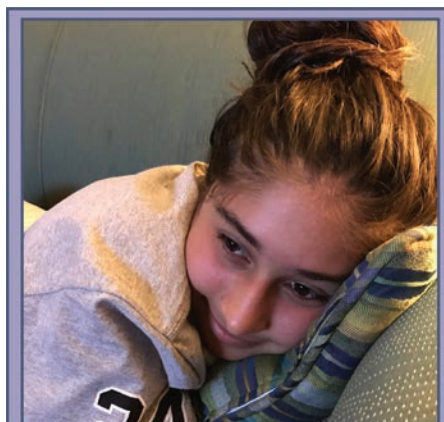
CONOR FORTUNE-THOMPSON
Congratulations Conor! We're so proud of you and your well deserved success, and wish you the best of luck on your next exciting adventure.
Love, Mom Dad and Roisin



PARKER HETT
Congratulations on your Graduation! We know you will continue to do amazing things in your future.
Love: Dad, Mom, & Lauren



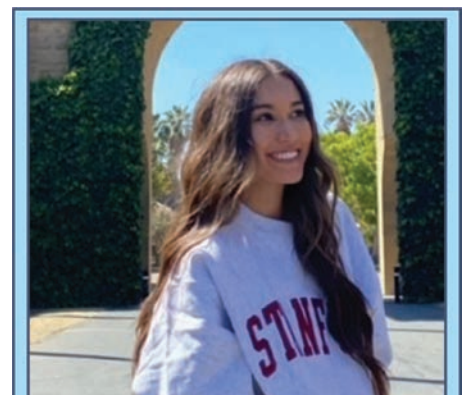
CARA HOLDEN
Congratulations Cara on all you achieved at Miramonte!
We love you! Mom, Dad, and Luke



MINA JENAB
The World (& Dodger Stadium) is all before you. We're with you always & love you oh so much. Mom, Dad, & Diego



OWEN LEWIS
We are hugely proud of you and excited to cheer you on as a Mountain Hawk!
Xo Your Parental Units & Brothers



MARLENE MONTEILH
Congratulations Marlene!! We are extremely proud of your achievements and know you have a very bright future.
Love Mom, Dad and Andrew



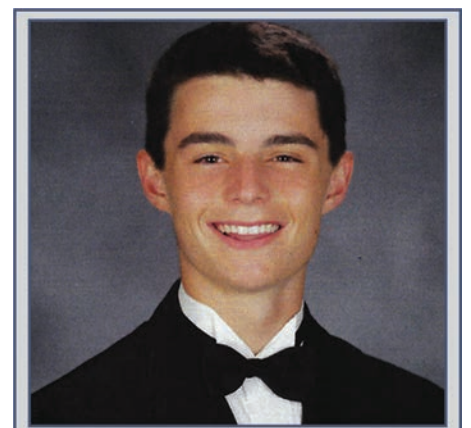
SCARLETT MOSHER
Enjoy your grand adventure! We are so proud and love you very much.
Mom, Dad, Jon-Marc, Raylan & Scoobie



CHRISTINE PEARSON
Congratulations Kiki! We are so proud of you, you'll go far. Wishing you all the best at Northeastern!
Love, Mom, Dad, Charlotte & Pepper



SALLY PETERSON
Congratulations! We can't wait to watch you spread your wings.
Love Dad, Mom, Blake and Kat.



PETER REEVES
Congratulations! We are so proud of you! Can't wait to see what's in store for your future. Much love, Mom and Dad.

Miramonte Class of 2021



MADDY REYNOLDS

Congratulations on your admission to Tulane University! Enjoy your semester in Italy! Love, Mom & Dad



EMMA, SAMUEL & ZACHARY SAFAHI

Congratulations to our Triplets on your High School graduation! MHS class of 2021!

May the road ahead be long, happy and full of adventure and opportunities! Cheers & love, from your very proud family.



SARAH SVAHN

Congratulations, Sarah! You are ready to take on the world! We are so proud of you, and can't wait to see how the next chapter of your life unfolds! Love, Mom, Dad, Annika, and Sadie



LUCY WILSON

Congratulations Lucy we're so proud of you. Bryn Mawr College bound! Love Mom, Dad & Zoe.



JACK WISK

Wherever your adventures take you in life, we'll always have your back. We're so proud of you! Love, Your Family

Miramonte Students Perform on Cal Shakes Stage

By **SALLY HOGARTY**
Executive Editor

The Bruns Memorial Amphitheater will be alive with the sounds of Heather Cousins Advanced Drama Class as they perform four shows written by students around the theme "The Masks We Wear."

The students perform June 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. Each play is approximately 30 minutes and integrates the use of masks in the action. For tickets to "The Masks We Wear," go to www.calshakes.org. Audience sizes will be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.



SALLY HOGARTY

Co-writers/directors **Aya Banaja** (on screen) and **Mina Jenab** (R) direct their cast in *Honeybee*, one of four short plays to be performed June 2-3 at Cal Shakes Bruns Amphitheater.

The above advertisements were purchased by the families of graduating seniors and do not represent the complete graduating class of Miramonte High School 2021.

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FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Immigration Reform is Topic for Online First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Is a comprehensive immigration policy attainable in the United States? First Friday Forum (FFF) speaker, Irene Bloemraad, will discuss this and other issues in her talk, *Immigration Reform: Possible or Pipedream*. It takes place June 4, 10 a.m., a webinar presentation for which registration is required at lopc.org/first-friday-forum.

Dr. Bloemraad said, "U.S. immigration policy is a kaleidoscope of many parts, from border control to refugee resettlement, temporary visas to naturalization. I'll talk about the broad framework of US immigration law and some of the fine points of recent controversy."

An immigrant herself, she first lived in Canada before settling in the United States. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard and her M.A. from McGill in Montreal. Bloemraad is a Professor of Sociology at U.C. Berkeley, the founding Director of the Berkeley Interdisciplinary Immigration Initiative and co-director of the Boundaries, Membership and Belonging program at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

Bloemraad said she studies how immigrants become incorporated into political communities and the consequences of their presence on politics and understanding of membership.

"My research stands at the intersection of immigration studies and political sociology," she said. "It suggests that our immigration policy must focus not just on border control and entry, but also on integration and settlement policies."

She continued, "I have developed immigration classes at the graduate and undergraduate levels, and I run an informal immigration workshop for those research-



COURTESY OF IRENE BLOEMRAAD
An immigrant herself, Irene Bloemraad will talk about the broad framework of U.S. immigration law and some of the fine points of recent controversy at the online First Friday Forum on June 4, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

ing immigrant-related topics." She was awarded the American Cultures Innovation in Teaching prize in 2013, and in 2012 brought an honor to the campus by receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award in Social Studies.

Working on immigration issues is a priority of the new administration. This makes it important to learn more about the issues, problems and consequences of actions taken. Caroline Giers, FFF team member, said, "We are fortunate to have a speaker who has studied the various aspects of immigration so extensively. I'm sure we will be helped in gaining a better understanding of the complexity of the issues surrounding the topic of immigration. Be sure to register."

This is the last of the 2021 FFF lecture series. Speakers are already lined up for the 2022 programs, which will begin in January.

Bobbie Dodson can be contacted at bobbiedodson@comcast.net.

◆ SEATON from page 5

the sidelines."

The "sidelines" will be in Colorado where Seaton and her husband David are moving to be near their son and other family members.

"In her almost 40 years in public education, Carolyn has impacted countless students, teachers, staff and parents, and we in Orinda have been incredibly lucky to have her as the center of our District for the last five years," said OUSD Board of Trustees President Liz Daoust. "She has been a transformative leader, and she has pushed OUSD forward in immeasurable ways."

Seaton said she is proud of so many things the district has accomplished with the passage of Measures E and I at the top of the list. The money from these measures is helping upgrade school facilities long in need of renovation. She pointed to the formation of the Orinda Network for Education (ONE) as another important accomplishment and applauds the perseverance of the various parents' clubs to make it a reality. She also noted the pride she feels driving around town and seeing the "Everyone Belongs Here" signs.

"The signs are a joint effort between OUSD and the City of Orinda," Seaton said. "We have a lot more work to do, but I really want every educator, staff member, parent and particularly the children to feel welcomed, connected and celebrated."

Seaton acknowledges that this year of COVID-19 has been the most challenging, but also rewarding.

"As educators, we truly had to take everything that we do and reimagine it. Remote education wasn't something most public-school districts had delved into before," she said. "The fact school districts and boards of trustees were put in a position to make decisions involving public health consequences was really unfortunate. Prior to this, we thought the public safety power

shutoffs were stressful, but, in retrospect, that was just a drop in the bucket compared to what we've been dealing with."

Seaton also applauded her colleagues and board of trustees for their important work including fellow superintendents in Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Moraga and the Acalanes Union High School District.

"We've met and talked and Zoomed countless times, sharing ideas and just brainstorming. We started calling ourselves the Walamorinda Superintendents," she quipped.

"Dr. Seaton's can-do spirit and her stellar communication skills have been essential while our schools have faced arguably the greatest challenge in modern education with the COVID-19 pandemic," said Director of Curriculum and Instruction David Schrag. "She has helped to lead significant transformational change in our practices and improved nearly every facet of our schools. Dr. Seaton has done this with grace, finesse and a work ethic that is simply unmatched. She has also modeled for all of us how to continue to learn."

Seaton characterizes her leaving as bittersweet.

"We've all gotten more connected during this pandemic, and I've been so fortunate to work with such a remarkable board and witness their fortitude, resilience and collective determination to rise to what was required in each moment," she said. "They are all volunteers and I've grown quite fond of them. I also can't say enough about our leadership team – directors and site leaders. They are an intelligent, dedicated group of educators. It has been such an honor to work here these past five years."

OUSD is looking for community input as it searches for a new superintendent. To fill out a survey, go to www.orindaschools.org/inputneeded.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.



The 17th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Returns in September – Enter Your Car Now!

The Orinda Association is bringing back the Car Show and there will be lots of fun activities this year including:

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- **OWNERS: YOUR ENTRY FEES WILL SUPPORT GREAT LOCAL CAUSES** - the Orinda Seniors Around Town Ride and food delivery program (SAT) and other OA programs.
- **Special exhibit** of several vintage emergency response vehicles.
- **Other great details to follow!**
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SEASONED SHOPPER / STUDENTS

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Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Month
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June, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month, also provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of our farming community. Disruptions in our food supply over the past year bring a renewed respect to the people who grow our food to fill our shopping bags comfortably.

Peak season is here! For the next few months farmers' markets offer the largest selection of local fresh fruits and vegetables, along with baked goods, hot foods, crepes, smoothies, tamales, jams and honey.

Blueberries are a June favorite. We are rewarded after a long winter wait with baskets and buckets of luscious blueberries.

Blueberries carry deep roots in our country's history. Cultivation of large blueberries began in the early 1900s after wild blueberries were used year-round in many forms (fresh, dried and crushed) in Colonial times.

Look at the blossom end (calyx) of a

blueberry. It forms a 5-pointed star. Folklore has it that tribal elders told the story of how the great spirit sent "star berries" to ease children's hunger during a famine.

Blueberry varieties differ only slightly in size and flavor. Fresh-picked is always best for optimum crunch, texture and sweet flavor. Always look for plump, firm blueberries with a light grayish "bloom."

Beans are another welcome sight at markets and enjoy a long season. Snap beans and other edible pod beans such as purple wax beans, scarlet runner beans and yard-long beans are first to arrive on the scene. They are eaten in their entirety, pod and all. Kentucky Wonder and Blue Lake beans are preferred for their rich flavor and haricots verts for their delicate texture.

Fava beans are a type of fresh shell bean. They are harvested when the seeds are full-sized but not yet dry. All fresh shell beans can be used interchangeably with some

[SEE SHOPPER page 18]

Orinda Juniors Youth Ink Winners

By ERIKA ROSENBERG
 Contributing Writer

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC) announced the winners of "Youth Ink 2021," the annual creative writing contest open to all middle school students who live in or attend school in Orinda.

Emma Wong's "Symphony in 2020" won first prize of \$250. Audrey Kosla ("The Box") and Laurel Reader-Taatjes ("Star-gazer: A Tribute to My Far Away Family") won the second and third prizes of \$125 and \$75 respectively.

This year's prompt was *Hope*, though entrants could also select their own theme.



COURTESY OF EMMA WONG

Emma Wong.

Roach ("Our Resilient Nation"); Hana Shukairy ("Burning Question"); and Jila Sponzilli ("Flight for Hope").

The OJWC thanked all entrants and their Youth Ink volunteer judges, Alina Dyndikova, Imran Ali Malik, Maya Shweiky, Marcy Stoeven and Kathryn Turner as well as community sponsors Friends of the Orinda Library, the Orinda Community Foundation, The Intuitive Writing Project and the Lamorinda Arts Council.

Erika Rosenberg can be reached at Editor@theorindanews.com.



COURTESY OF LAUREL READER-TAATJES

Laurel Reader-Taatjes.

The OJWC acknowledged honorable mention entries, who received gift certificates to Orinda Books: Reese Akel ("Days, Upon Days, Upon Days"); Rory Gaarder-Wang ("The Mystery Machine"); Penelope Claire Gall ("If We Don't Act Soon"); Josslyn Grover ("Seed of Hope"); EJ Ho ("Dr. Andrew Blunk and the Yeti Discovery"); Alexa Jardine ("Mia's Christmas Hope"); Nura Mohiuddin ("The Key"); Amanda



COURTESY OF AUDREY KOSLA

Audrey Kosla.



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BARBARA KOBSAR

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CLUBS / ARTISTS

Club Meetings in June

While some clubs are not meeting during shelter-in-place, most offer Zoom meetings. Use contact info below for more information.

American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAU2W-OML). For information, visit oml-ca.aauw.net.

Community Gentle Yoga, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmoozee@gmail.com.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Kent Long for Zoom link at kentlong@moragaadobe.org. For more info., www.moragaadobe.org.

Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m. 925.408.1840. www.orindacreeks.org. info@orindacreeks.org.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m. 925.687.8844, ext. 227. <https://bit.ly/3egD3EZ>.

Lamorinda Meditation Community. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:25 a.m., through Zoom. All levels and philosophies welcome. Contact Gaby for more details: gcmoozee@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday. For more information, go to: lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. All weekly meetings currently conducted via Zoom video conferencing, 7 - 8:15 a.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205>.

Regular meetings will resume at the Lafayette Park Hotel when conditions permit. www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Meetings: June 4: Budd MacKenzie, Trust in Education; June 11: Dr. Emma Chapman, Era of the First Stars; June 18: Claudia Kalb, Spark - How Does Genius Strike?; June 25: Chuck Yeager, Member Magazine.

Orinda Association. First Monday, 7 p.m., Zoom meeting. 925.254.0800 or www.orindaassociation.org.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce. June 2, 4 p.m. - Executive Committee Meeting; June 9 - Membership Committee Meeting; Meetings via zoom. For more information and zoom link, contact president@orindachamber.org.

Orinda Garden Club, PO Box 34, Orinda, www.orindagc.org, 925.257.0668.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, Ian at 925.254.1465 or www.orindahiking.org.

Orinda Historical Society. Call 925.254.1353 for times and location of meetings and appointments.

Orinda Junior Women's Club. Second Tuesday, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org, Sept-June.

Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. For information, call 925.254.5211.

Orinda Rotary. Virtual meeting Wednesday, 12:15 p.m., For information email cmroeder@comcast.net or go to www.orindarotary.org for zoom link.

Orinda Satellite Rotary Club. Second Wednesday. Call Sylvia at 510.224.8548.

[SEE CLUBS page 19]



COURTESY DR EMMA CHAPMAN

Join **Dr. Emma Chapman** as she discusses her new book *First Light, Switching on Stars at the Dawn of Time*, an examination of the first billion years of our universe at the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Zoom meeting June 11.

Tour Local Artists' Work Spaces in their Homes and Backyard Studios



AVA SKIDGEL

Orinda artist **Allison Skidgel** in her outdoor artist studio, will be one of many artists opening their homes for the free East Bay Open Studio artist's personal home tour June 12-13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists participating in this two-day event are listed at www.eastbayopenstudios.com.

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

We've all been holed up for over a year with shelter-in-place protocols, but now that tiers are changing colors in our favor, so are the colors of East Bay Open Studio (EBOS) - where artists are opening their homes - allowing people to tour their personal art spaces.

A bi-annual event, with the first one (east of the Caldecott Tunnel) slated for June 12-13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., artists throughout Contra Costa and Alameda counties will showcase exactly where they create their masterpieces.

The second tour runs Nov. 13-14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Artists will showcase their art studios outside or inside their homes or in alternative exhibition or virtual spaces.

Artist Allison Skidgel said her Orinda home studio is outside on her patio in warmer months and downstairs inside her home in cooler, wetter months.

"My patio will be open for guests with the artwork on display," said Skidgel, an elementary teacher in Richmond. "My easel and paints will be set up as usual, and guests can see where I create."

She said many artists serve refreshments, some give live demonstrations and some have live music.

EBOS, formerly organized by Pro Arts, a non-profit based in Oakland, started 40 years ago. It's now produced by Studio Productions, led by artist and artist advocate Mark Gebhardt.

Skidgel said the studios and exhibition spaces are free, self-guided tours throughout the East Bay in over 12 cities.

"The EBOS website is the go-to place for learning about studio locations and other information," she said. "In the past, the agency put together beautiful booklets, but this year, almost all materials are virtual."

Skidgel does mixed media, where she said the process always remains the same.

"I go to my sketchbook I always keep with me to draw things that catch my eye. After I choose a drawing, I get it on the canvas with charcoal and begin the fun of mixing colors and putting brush to the image," she said.

She added, "I always honor the original lines and shapes from the sketch, though with paint applied, they may take on a very different look and feeling. I will keep some of my drawings out for guests to see!"

Word of advice - bring your checkbook. Some artists will have their artwork and gift items for sale.

Skidgel hopes everyone will attend both EBOS tours.

"If you are like me, you enjoy looking at all kinds of creative expression and thinking and talking about it," she said. "How much better to do it in someone's own creative space where the artwork is made?"

For more information and locations, visit www.eastbayopenstudios.com, Allison Skidgel's studio can be found online at www.hopefulnaturestudio.com.

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

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VISUAL ART

Library Gallery: Reframing Aging, Peaceful Watercolors and Raku

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view the June exhibit in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library on all four wood walls near the entrance to the Orinda Library and in the adjacent three-shelf glass case. All required COVID-19 restrictions are observed in the Gallery for your health and safety. The exhibit runs from June 1 to 30 and can also be seen online at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

Karen Hildebrand of Pleasant Hill has been a ceramic/pottery enthusiast for many years. She collected pottery from around the world and took a couple of classes at the Concord Ceramic studio in 1980. Work and life intervened until 2010 when she began classes at the Walnut Creek Civic Arts Ce-

ramic Studio. In the last 11 years, she has gained experience and skills in making high fire pieces as well as alternative firings, including Pit Fires, Raku and Sagger fires.

Now fully retired, she is as passionate about ceramics as she was about her 40 year career as a Pediatric Occupational Therapist. With no commute to take up her time, she is more connected to her nearby communities via her ceramic pursuits. She donates a percentage of proceeds from her ceramic sales to support local and national charities.

You'll find nature themes in her work since she often uses botanicals taken from her garden for surface treatments. The 40 pieces she is showing include high fire functional pieces as well as decorative vessels. Follow her on Instagram, @kehilde.

Wendy Liang of Piedmont graduated just

last month from the California Collage of the Arts with an MFA. Her exhibit of watercolors is entitled "The Peaceful Life." She says watercolor is her favorite medium because its transparent and fluid qualities give her freedom to create the mood and atmosphere she desires. The importance of living in the moment, as well as through memories and nostalgia, is very important to her as an artist.

In contrast to her exhibit theme, her graduate presentation is entitled "2020 – The Year of Crises and Trauma." It was selected for the Dean's Spotlight and can be seen at <https://2021.ccamfa.art/students/wendy-liang>. Keep up with Liang at her personal website, www.wendyliang.com, which is filled with watercolors anyone who admires the medium will enjoy.

[SEE GALLERY page 20]



COURTESY OF KAREN HILDEBRAND

Karen Hildebrand uses botanicals straight out of her garden to create surface designs in her ceramics such as found on this 9" x 6" vessel, Hand Thrown Pit Fire.

Wilder Gallery: Déjà Vu on the Wall – Paintings of Faraway Lands

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view a virtual solo exhibit of Janell Lumley's oil paintings from June 1-30 in the Art Gallery at Wilder. All Wilder art exhibits are virtual until COVID-19 restric-

tions change. Learn more about Lumley's theme, "Déjà Vu on the Wall – Paintings of Faraway Lands" at www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/.

Lumley, of Walnut Creek, says, "I was the child who always wanted to draw or read rather than run and play." Life intervened, but she returned to creating

once her family was raised. She began by taking oil painting classes a dozen years ago and is delighted that she still loves the experience of painting in a group. "I think the friendships I have developed in class are the best reward I get from painting and the main reason I will continue," said Lumley.

Prior to COVID-19 Lumley and her husband traveled extensively, always with copious picture taking. As she derives most of her subjects from photographs from their travels, keeping her work fresh is a built-in bonus. She considers painting an experiment rather than a science and like many artists is always working to learn and improve.

She says she paints for the fun of it, and that it is okay to like a painting without analyzing it or getting the artist's mean-

ing. Analyzing and taking herself or her painting too seriously is not her style. *Déjà vu* is the feeling that one has lived through the present situation before. Lumley invites you to view her paintings at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/ to see if you travel to any faraway places.

The Art Gallery at Wilder is virtual because it is closed due to COVID-19 restrictions; this is expected to change. Contact Curators Denise Nomura and Aniston Breslin at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org for up-to-date information on reopening or with any questions. To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, visit www.lamorindaarts.org.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.



COURTESY OF JANELLE LUMLEY

Janell Lumley's theme for her virtual solo exhibit at the Art Gallery at Wilder, "Déjà Vu on the Wall," expresses her desire to stay light-hearted about her paintings. All are inspired by the many travels she and her husband enjoy. She says the paintings allow her to revisit faraway places. When you view *On the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond*, a 24" x 36" oil painting, you can almost hear whispers of water lapping against the shore of this freshwater lake.

What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

Now Accepting Summer Camp Registration for all Sessions: Session I (June 7 - 18), Session II (June 21 - July 2), Session III (July 6 - 16), Session IV (July 19 - 30) and Session V (Aug. 2 - 6).

New Adult Summer Enrichment Classes Underway and Enrolling Now

Drop-in Pickleball on Tuesdays and Fridays at 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Orinda Community Park Tennis Court 1. No Registration Required – Bring Your Own Paddle and Ball

Accepting Picnic Area Rentals Under Existing Health Guidelines

Please Continue to Stay Safe by Following Guidelines.

Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
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CLASSIFIEDS / CULTURE

◆ SHOPPER from page 15

adjustments in cooking time. Keep a look out for more shell beans to arrive later in the season – cranberry beans, edamame and lima beans.

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. More information is available at www.cccfm.org, [facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) and [Instagram at OrindaFarmersMarket](https://www.instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) or call the market hotline 925.431.8361.

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

Barbara Kobsar can be reached at Barbara@cotkitchen.com.

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Orinda Resident Proud to be an Asian American

By S.K. GUPTA
Contributing Writer

“You are not an Asian. Indians are not Asian,” said my company’s Vice-President of Diversity in 1999. For him, and many others then, Asians were from China, Japan, Korea and South East Asia. South Asians didn’t fit the image of the now politically incorrect description of “Orientals.” I, of course, printed out the entire Department of Labor’s “41 CFR Part 60–2.” highlighted the definition of an “Asian” and dropped it on his desk!

My journey from being an Indian to becoming an Asian American started in 1980. When we first landed in the U.S., it was for a brief vacation. I was sailing on a merchant ship as a chief engineer, and my bride and our one-year-old daughter were with me. We decided to visit the East Coast of the U.S. for a couple of months. Once there, a professor/advisor at the University of Michigan convinced me to stay and join the University to pursue further studies. Long story, but after a couple of trips to Ottawa, Canada, I converted my tourist visa to a student visa and re-started school.

Back then, there were not many students from India in Ann Arbor. In our department at the Engineering College, there was little diversity – one woman and maybe a dozen international students. During my 10 months at Ann Arbor, we met many local families. I was often introduced and referred to as an “East Indian.” Many times, folks – especially ladies – would say “I love your sing-song accent.” As I often joke, back then, Indians were still a novelty in the U.S.

After graduation, I joined a company in Washington D.C., which sponsored me. Fortunately, we got “Green Cards” in just seven months. Working in Washington D.C.

and later in Washington State, we started hearing ourselves being referred to as Indian Americans. We also learned the difference between an American Indian and an Indian American. A few years later, we were sworn in as U.S. citizens.

Once I became a citizen, I just wanted to be an American. I didn’t want any accompanying adjectives -- not East Asian, not Indian American and, not South Asian. Just good old plain American.

But that, I soon discovered, was wishful thinking. It dawned on me that you are not who you think you are, but rather who others see you as. In my late 30s, I discovered that I was classified as a “minority.” Having grown up in a homogeneous India, this was a new and strangely uncomfortable label.

America is often referred to as a melting pot. If that were true, we would all be seen as equal and not need any adjectives to describe each other. Different races constituted the United States population from the day the first settlers came over. The first U.S. Census of 1790 collected information by:

- Free White Males of 16 years and upward
- Free White Males under 16 years
- Free White Females
- All other free persons
- Slaves

Indigenous or Indian Americans were not included in the Decennial Census until 1860, seven decades after the first collection of census data.

What the U.S. of A. has really become is better described as a stir-fry dish, in which every ingredient retains its form and taste and yet collectively is better – or can be – than its parts.

There are so many different labels used in the U.S. that any newcomer to this country is likely to be overwhelmed. Just think about it. This is quite unique to a few countries. People in China are all Chinese. Russians are all referred to as Russians. Similarly, there are Ugandans, Spanish, Brazilians, Chileans, Swedes, etc. No adjectives.

It is the countries with major immigration where people are counted by race or geographic backgrounds: the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand. This ensured that I was labeled as an Indian American for decades.

The awakening of my Asian American

The Return for SOUTH CAROLINA having been made since the foregoing Schedule was originally printed, the whole Enumeration is here given complete, except for the N. Western Territory, of which no Return has yet been published.

DISTRICTS	Free white Males of 16 years and upwards, including heads of families	Free white Males under 16 years	Free white Females, including heads of families	All other free persons	Slaves	Total
Vermont	22435	22328	40505	555	16	85539
N. Hampshire	36086	34851	70160	690	158	141885
Maine	24384	24748	46870	531	NONE	96540
Massachusetts	95453	87286	190582	5461	NONE	375989
Rhode Island	16010	15799	32052	1407	948	68825
Connecticut	60523	54403	117448	2808	2764	237946
New York	83700	78122	153220	4654	21324	340120
New Jersey	45251	41416	83287	2762	11423	184339
Pennsylvania	110788	106948	208361	6537	3737	434373
Delaware	11783	12143	22384	3899	8827	59994
Maryland	55915	51339	101395	8043	10366	119728
Virginia	110936	116133	215046	12866	29267	377610
Kentucky	15154	17057	28022	114	12430	73677
N. Carolina	69988	77506	140710	4075	100573	303751
S. Carolina	35576	37722	66880	1801	107094	249973
Georgia	3103	14044	25739	398	29264	35544
Total number of inhabitants of the United States exclusive of N. Western and N. Territory.	807094	791800	1541263	59150	64220	3893655
S. W. Territory	6271	10277	15365	361	347	35691
N. Ditto						

COURTESY U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
The first United States Census in 1790.

identity happened around 2003. I had transferred back to our facility in California after over six years in Maryland and Colorado. I had left here as a junior executive and returned as a senior one. Many of my previous colleagues and friends were still around. When they would see me, they would say “Congratulations, one of us made it,” or words to that effect. Initially, I honestly didn’t get what they meant by “one of us made it.”

They were of different Asian heritages: Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Indian etc.

So, I sat down with my colleague and friend, the V.P. of Human Resources to seek to understand. Dave F. was blunt. “Have you looked around yourself?” he asked. “You are the only Vice-President of Asian descent in this entire division of roughly 20,000 employees.” He told me that whether I liked it or not, I was a role model for all Asian American employees.

With every role there are responsibilities. Dave helped me understand that although 13% of the local employee population at that time was of Asian heritage, less than 5% were in management, and this included the supervisory positions. This was an eye opener for me.

For decades, I was focused on my personal career. Work hard, work smart, leverage opportunities and progress. Now, I was seeing myself as a member of a population to which I had not realized I belonged.

I hosted a meeting of all on-site Asian American supervisors and managers. No non-Asians were allowed. Planned for an hour, it lasted for over two. For the first time, many shared their experiences with racial prejudices. Denied opportunities. And, yes, lack of role models. There

[SEE AMERICAN page 22]

...classified ads

Rentals

Room for Rent \$1050. Nice home near Miramonte H.S. Female preferred. 917-749-9273.

Services

Rain Gutter Cleaning. Roof Cleaning. Overhanging branches trimmed. Charles (h) 925-254-5533 or (c) 925-528-9385.

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Enclose your check payable to *The Orinda Association* and mail to *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563. We reserve the right to reject any ad. Classified ads must be prepaid. *Your cancelled check is your receipt.* Ads can also be paid at bit.ly/3bZsoio.

CALENDAR

On the Calendar in June

Orinda Library Online events. Daily storytimes and events can be viewed at: [https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:\(5e2b7849df59234500450f71\)](https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:(5e2b7849df59234500450f71)). Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, is open to the public for Grab and Go service. Masks and social distancing are required. More information can be viewed at <https://ccclib.org/grab-and-go/>: Open hours are Mon. through Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sun. Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

Christian Science Church Prayer Garden open to all for Quiet Meditation. Everyone seeking a better sense of peace will find a welcoming haven in an outdoor setting. Pray, read, meditate. Books and periodicals with a spiritual perspective on current issues are free to all. You are welcome anytime during daylight hours. 24 Orinda Way.

1 **Art Gallery at Wilder**, Virtual exhibit by artist Janell Lumley entitled "Deja Vu on the Wall" who excels at painting portraits of people that take you all over the world. See article p. 17.

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, Partial reopening of the gallery allows the public to view three exhibitors. Photographs by Nancy Rubin with text by Cynthia Overbeck Bix exploring "Reclaiming Aging," watercolors by Wendy Liang with the theme "The Peaceful Life" and 40 ceramic pieces by Karen Hildebrand. See article p. 17.

Orinda Library Summer Reading begins. Sign up at ccclib.org, or visit the library for your reading record. All ages are welcome, and this year's theme is "Reading Colors Your World." Every finisher gets a book.

Lamorinda Idol - Finalists announced online at www.lamorindaarts.org/idol-2/. Finalist videos are due July 31. Ques-

tions? Email idol@lamorindaarts.org or call 925.359.9940.

2 **Miramonte Drama Class** presents "The Masks We Wear" at Cal Shakes Bruns Amphitheater through June 3. For tickets go to www.calshakes.org. Audience size is limited.

Orinda Books Pat's Book Club will meet via ZOOM to discuss *Nives* by Sachs Raspini. 4 p.m. All are welcome. The book is available at Orinda Books. To attend, phone 925.254.7606 or email info@orindabooks.com giving your email address. You will receive a link to the event.

4 **First Friday Forum** webinar presentation with Dr. Irene Bloemraad, founding Director of the Berkeley Interdisciplinary Immigration Initiative, presents *Immigration Reform: Possible or Pipedream* at 10 a.m. via Zoom. To register, go to lopc.org/first-friday-forum and click on the registration link. See article p. 14.



COURTESY OF ANIMAL LIBERATION ORCHESTRA
Animal Liberation Orchestra takes part in the Measure for Measure Concert Series at the Bruns featuring outdoor music and dancing.

Cal Shakes presents Animal Liberation Orchestra (ALO), 7 p. m. Adult ticket: \$57.50. Go to www.calshakes.org.

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. Also June 12, 19, and 26. See article p. 15.

Orinda Library Friends of Orinda Library, 3 p.m., Zoom talk by Renee Dreyfus, Curator in Charge of Ancient Art and Interpretation, on her exhibition "Last Supper in Pompeii: From the Table to the Grave." <https://bit.ly/2QSHFt5>. Visit our schedule of events for registration information: <https://bit.ly/2OPI6or>.

12 **East Bay Open Studio (EBOS)** East-of-tunnel (Region 2) tour, For more information and locations, visit www.eastbayopenstudios.com, Allison Skidgel's studio can be found online at www.hopefulnaturestudio.com. See

article p. 16.

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.

Historic Landmarks Committee. Fourth Tuesday, 3-5 p.m. Call 925.788.7323, www.cityoforinda.org

Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m. For agenda, go to www.mofd.org/transparency/resources/board-agendas-minutes.

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

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

◆ CLUBS from page 16

Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting via Zoom. For more information, 925.254.8260.

Orinda Woman's Club. Currently meeting virtually Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Email Jean Barnhart at jean.barnhart@gmail.com or go to www.orindawomansclub.org.

Road Runners. Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepettos 87 Orinda

Way, Orinda), Thursday (SiSI, 910 Country Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem). For more information, contact John Fazel, runmnts@prodigy.net.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) Lamorinda Branch 174 hosts, via Zoom, a speaker and discussion on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. For info, call Tyler at 925.963.5741 or Bill at 925.963.0442 or go to www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

Send club listings to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspensconsult.net.



SALLY HOGARTY

Miramonte students rehearse "The Masks We Wear," a drama class presentation at Cal Shakes Bruns Amphitheater in June.

**ORINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT****Volunteers needed for Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**

*** 2 Community At-Large Member positions open ***

The Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) will:

- Inform the public about expenditures of bond proceeds from recently passed Measures E & I.
- Review expenditures to ensure bond proceeds are spent for authorized purposes.
- Provide an annual report to the Board of Trustees at a public meeting.

CBOC Member Terms and Meeting Information

Terms of service are two years, and no CBOC member may serve more than three consecutive terms. CBOC meetings must occur at least once per year and will not exceed quarterly.

More Information

For more information or to request an application, contact Kathy Schwarz at kschwarz@orinda.k12.ca.us or by phone at (925) 258-6200.

Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. on June 15, 2021.



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FITNESS TIP / VISUAL ARTS

Support World Oceans Day June 8



Artist **Sydney Chaney-Thomas**, pictured above, loves painting the ocean and sailboats. Her 36" x 36" oil painting *Lighthouse and Sailboat* was featured in the Library Gallery in May. She invites people to join her in supporting World Oceans Day on June 8, a day for humanity to celebrate the ocean. The annual event is sponsored by the United Nations and other worldwide environmental organizations. The date kicks off a week of virtual events with the theme, "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods." Learn more at www.unworldoceansday.org/. To learn more about Chaney's artwork, visit www.sydneychaneythomasartwork.wordpress.com/

Fitness Tip of the Month



The Law of Inertia

A body in motion will stay in motion

This is great news until our workouts and eating stop giving us results. Then we need to apply a new force.

Introducing new forces periodically, at each plateau point, in diet and exercise, is the key to reaching your full fitness potential.

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness at 925.360.7051 or www.thelivingleanprogram.com.

◆ GALLERY from page 17

There are also many extraordinarily rendered graphite and colored pencil portraits.

"Reframing Aging" came about when Nancy Rubin and Cynthia Overbeck Bix were discussing how attitudes toward older people often did not include terms such as "vital, creative and joyful." To challenge these attitudes, they interviewed some amazing men and women ranging in age from 70 to 96. Rubin handled the photos and Overbeck did the writing.

Former UC Berkeley Vice Chancellor Russ Ellis is featured in the exhibit as is Jeanne Bamberger, Sue Bender, Troy Duster, Lisa Esherick, Pat Sakai, Peter Sussman and Steve Toby. Ready to reframe your attitude about aging? The Council invites you to stop by the gallery to find out what it's all about.

For more information about "Reframing Aging," email Rubin at

nancyrubin17@gmail.com. Rubin and Overbeck are two of over 300 volunteers who are part of Ashby Village. The organization is a vibrant nonprofit that connects members with each other and with the resources they need to stay active, independent and fulfilled. Find out more at www.ashbyvillage.org.

Visit the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours, Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., closed Sun. Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>. For more information about the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, contact Curator Maggie Boscoe via email, gallery@lamorindaarts.org, call 925.359.9940 or visit www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits/. To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council go to www.lamorindaarts.org.

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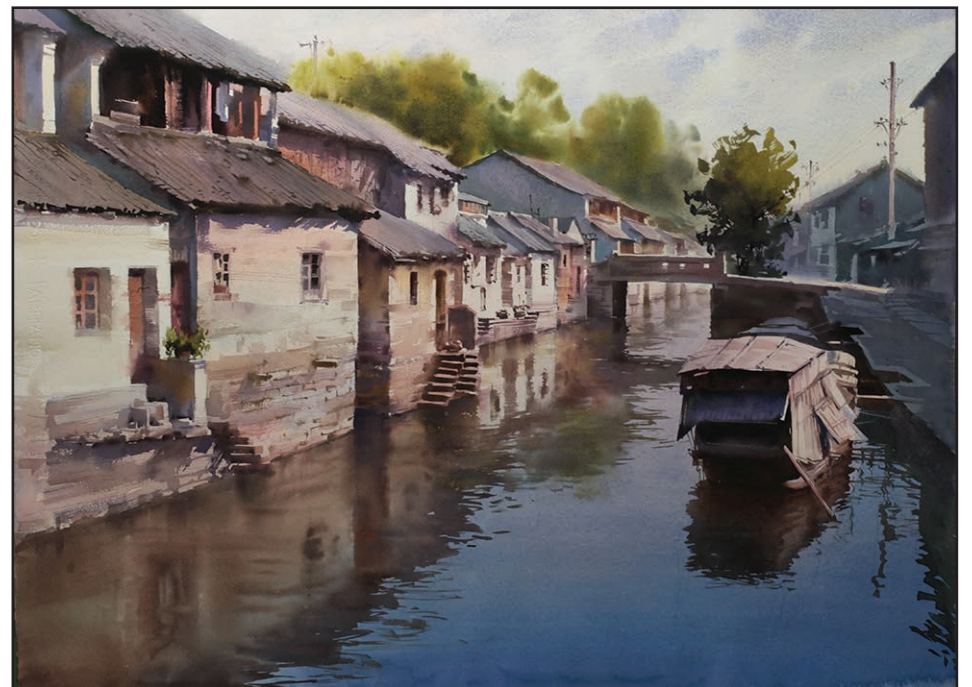


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COURTESY WENDY LIANG

Congratulations to **Wendy Liang** of Piedmont, who graduated with an MFA from California College of the Arts last month. Her skill at rendering the placid waters in a tranquil canal exemplifies her theme, "The Peaceful Life." View *Hometown*, her 22" x 30" watercolor in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library and online through June 30.



Congratulations, Class of 2021



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REMEMBERING CHRIS LANG

MIMI BOMMARITO



Back in 1978, my favorite babysitting clients gave me a \$10 gift certificate to Sooto Records for my fourteenth birthday. With Mom at the wheel, I immediately rushed out to purchase Billy Joel's hit "The Stranger."

A teenaged girl with the musical taste of a 40-year-old accountant, I loved that snappy B side hit "Only the Good Die Young," belting out the lyrics. Clueless, I'm singing about a Catholic girl's virginity. That's the attraction of a good song — one shapes the lyrics to fit your purpose. And honestly, examining the concept of 'only the good die young' was rather unsettling, being only in eighth grade, and considering my behavior quite good indeed.

Fast forward a few years and the nuances of the song became clear. "C'mon, Virginia. Don't make me wait." In other words, don't be good, or you'll die young. Cryptic message. I chose to focus on the catchy melody.

Oddly enough, in the wake of one of the most heartbreaking losses our city has recently witnessed — the swift and unexpected passing of Chris Lang, a beloved husband and father of two — the true meaning of this phrase becomes inescapable.

Our friend and neighbor Chris Lang was only 55-years-old when he suffered a sudden fatal incident, his faithful dog Hazel by his side. While a child might consider that "old," most adults tend to think of those double nickels as a wee bit past adolescence. Undoubtedly Chris Lang, physically fit and a far cry from sedentary, did too.

When "the good ones" like Chris Lang leave us, no matter their actual age, we feel the departure can't be real. Too much sand remained in his hourglass. Who rewrote the script without our permission or even a heads up?

Even as we struggle through a global pandemic, we still cling to the notion we're in charge. Then something like this happens. Wait. What? The server grabs the plate, but we're not done eating.

The community feels it's inner-toddler passionately screeching "just five more minutes!" as the parent insists it's time to leave the playground. Any good playdate is just getting started once it's time to wrap.

A child's playground circles my thoughts back to Chris Lang as a parent. One of my first meetings with Chris and his wife and

soulmate Kirsten involved a kindergarten birthday party he organized for their daughter Julia, now a freshman at Santa Clara University.

Chris and Kirsten designed an Indy 500 obstacle course with Big Wheels trikes for Julia's miniature guests at Rancho Laguna Park. As a seasoned mother, I had seen my share of children's birthday parties, but this one was by far one of the most clever and appealing, equally to both genders.

"Chris loved creating gamesmanship," his close friend Sean Hogan shared. "If we were playing Ping-Pong, he'd insist all players switch their paddle hand and play left-handed." Hogan described how Chris channeled his love of friendly competition into co-founding a phenomenally successful cornhole tournament for dads, one of the most profitable and beloved fundraising events in the history of the Glorietta School auction, easily generating \$7,000 to \$8,000 annually.

Hogan attributed the enduring success of this tournament to Chris' decree that each cornhole team be randomly selected and comprised of fathers who did not know one another beforehand. A true community-builder, "Chris wanted new friendships to form," Hogan recalled.

An enthusiastic and devoted father, Chris delighted in supporting the endeavors of his son Spencer and daughter Julia, both of whom were active in numerous extracurriculars at Glorietta, OIS and Miramonte. He was a board member of the Miramonte Boosters Club, a CYO and Miramonte Men's JV Basketball coach, a Meadow Swim and Tennis Club member for many years, and a passionate Cubs fan, among countless other activities and interests — enlarging his wide circle of friends accumulated in both his social and professional life as co-owner of a property and casualty insurance firm.

Chris Lang led the type of life befitting a tribute, not just an obituary. All of us, one day, will likely have an obituary, a synopsis of our life and accomplishments published online or in the newspaper, alongside a flattering portrait that may or may not accurately portray how we looked in our last few years. In this high-achieving community we call home, it's easy to fall into the trap of focusing only on items pertaining to an obituary: awards accumulated, pres-



KIRSTEN GRAY LANG

Orindan **Chris Lang**, who passed away on Sunday, May 2, enjoyed wearing his favorite Boston College hoodie, from his son Spencer's alma mater.

tigious schools and affiliations, impressive lineage.

And believe me when I say, any time I throw out observations such as this, it's not in judgement, rather a pot-kettle moment where I have first noticed the tendency in myself.

This is not to say that Chris didn't have worthy accolades. He knocked it out of the park in every aspect of his person. But here's the secret sauce: Chris lived the kind of life that merits spontaneous tribute, verbal 21-gun salutes,

humble word-statues built with the respect and devotion of family and friends left behind.

His life created such a positive presence in this community that his memory will be conjured every single time a good thing happens — the crack of a bat, the swish of the net, Springsteen softly playing on a Monday afternoon, the rhythmic churning of the waves at Seascapes, the chipper hop of a blissfully re-homed shelter dog, men laughing together over beer and left-handed ping-pong fails — Chris Lang will shine on.

Perhaps by leaving us too soon, Chris' unique wisdom can become a beacon. Life is naturally full of competition, but can't we at least make it fun — a source of fellowship instead of angst? Chris Lang carved us a trail; now all we need to do is follow.

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at Editor@theorindanews.com.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ AMERICAN from page 18

was emotion and a few tears. For the first time in their career, they had a safe environment to voice their frustrations. I was both sad and mad listening to the stories.

When our corporation's chairman and

CEO decided to form a Chairman's Diversity Council, the membership was well thought out. Women, African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans were included as Council members. The three Asian American members, however, were further subdivided by Filipino, Chinese and Indian. We were still not seen as one. The three of us soon concluded that we needed to speak with one voice as Asian Americans. My personal belief moved from not understanding the strength and value of all Asians being seen as one, to now driving for them all to be seen as one.

A very senior executive told me that since Asian Americans are not homogeneous, the corporation can't do much to assist them. My response: "Our languages may be different, but our cultural norms are the same."

Around that time, the H.R. Department had done a massive employee survey across the Corporation. One conclusion was that the Asian American employees were the happiest in our Corporation.

We challenged that conclusion. We pointed out that based on the survey questions, the conclusion should be that we were the least likely to grumble and complain. There was a lack of understanding of the Asian cultural value of acceptance/kismet/fate.

We bought a hundred copies of Jane Hyun's first book, *Breaking The Bamboo Ceiling*, for the leadership team and

asked everyone to read the first three chapters to better understand the Asian culture.

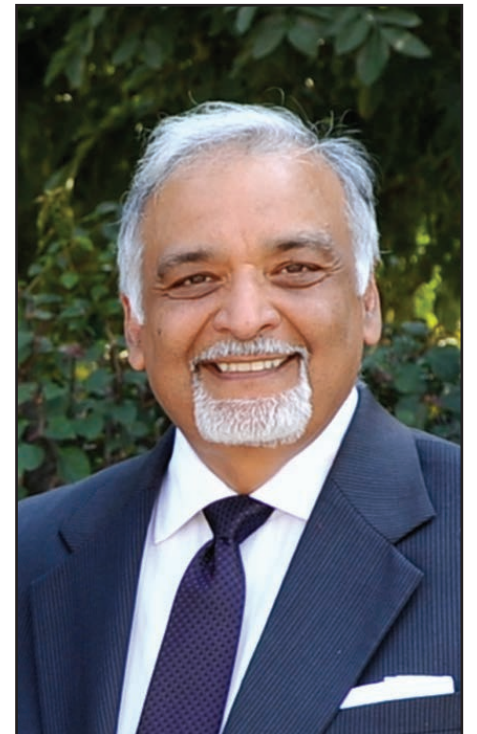
Sometimes lack of news is news. In 2008, when the Presidential election results were reported, there were details of how Whites, Hispanics, Blacks and Women voted. Not one word recounted how Asian Americans voted. We were still not united, so there was no news regarding how we had voted.

Collectively we, the Asian Americans, are just 6.5% of the U.S. population -- small numbers, even though we are growing rapidly. The largest group, people of Chinese heritage, is barely over 1%.

This leads me to remember an old story from the epic *Mahabharata*: There were five brothers called *Pandavas*, who constantly competed with one another. One day their guru gave them each a wooden stick to break. They all broke their sticks easily. He then took five sticks and tied them together and then none of them could break the bunch. Strength in numbers.

Often from adversity comes awakening and strength. Murders in Atlanta and Indianapolis have united the Asian American community. We collectively need to fight to stop the A.A.P.I. hate. Hopefully, responding to this adversity will finally bring diverse but similar communities closer. There is definitively strength in numbers. The more we unite as Asian Americans, the more our voices will be heard.

It has been a long journey, but when an unknown Asian American recognizes



COURTESY OF S.K. GUPTA
S. K. Gupta, an Orinda resident, is a former senior executive of a Fortune 50 company. He enjoys researching and writing about the not-so-obvious things in life.

you on BART and quotes back to you what you said at a conference 5 or 6 years ago, you know that the journey was worth taking.

From an Indian to an East Indian, to an Indian American, to a South Asian, and now -- proud to be an Asian American!

S.K. Gupta can be reached at sk.gupta.us@gmail.com.

OBITUARY

Beloved Long-Time Orinda Resident Ernestine Ottino Dies at 99

By KATHY ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

Remembered for her quick, engaging smile and compassionate spirit, Ernestine “Ernie” Ottino died April 15. She was predeceased by her husband Sergio “Serge” of 60 years in 2004, and their only child Rita Kohler in 2005.

Longtime Orinda residents, Serge and Ernie owned and operated Ottino’s Delicatessen for 40 years, first in Berkeley, then Orinda (now Europa). Always behind the scenes, Ernie cooked in the back kitchen, often delivering full trays of food “wearing her white apron splattered with spaghetti sauce,” according to Traci Miller, who worked at the Orinda deli as a teenager.

After a decades-long hiatus, Miller

was reacquainted with Ernie through The Orinda Association’s Seniors Around Town transportation and shopping programs.

“She loved peanut butter, Eggo waffles with maple syrup and always had three apples and three bananas on her grocery list. Oh, and beef hot dogs,” said Miller.

Tish Gleason, a friend of Kohler’s and the Ottino family for many years said, “She was always fun to be around and told such great stories. I loved hearing about her and Serge’s years of dedicated involvement with the West Berkeley Lions Club.”

Cousin Gloria Verner remembers Ernie as “the sweetest individual who always had a smile. If you dropped in to see her, she always had earrings (clip) and lipstick on.”



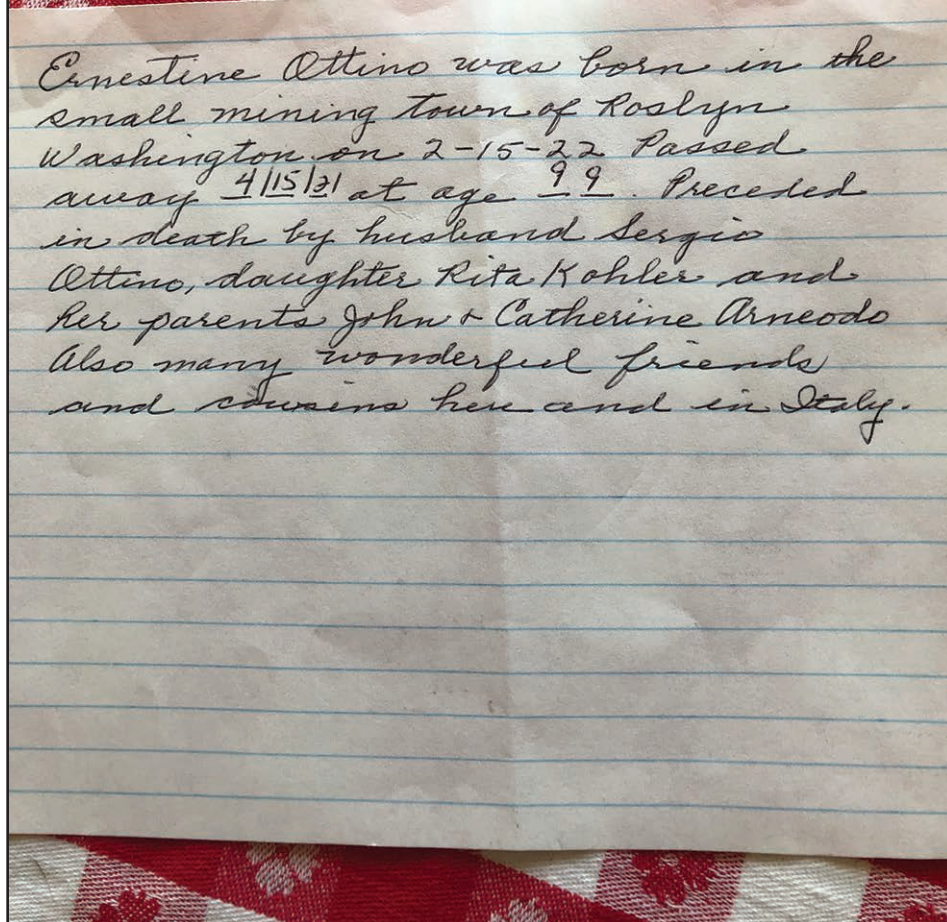
COURTESY OF ERNESTINE OTTINO
Ernestine Ottino 1922-2021 Longtime Orinda resident known for her ever-present smile and clip-on earrings died April 15.

A Mass and internment were held May 18 at St. Joseph Cemetery in San Pablo, followed by a reception at the Ottino home.

Kathy Enzerink met Ernestine Ottino as a volunteer driver with the Senior Around Town transportation program and later with VESP (Volunteer Emergency Support Program). Ernie loved a good Martini, so Kathy made sure she

had a tiny bottle of Tanqueray and a box of her favorite See’s chocolates for her birthdays.

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at kathy@theorindanews.com.



COURTESY OF ERNESTINE OTTINO

Highly organized and efficient, Ernestine wrote her own obituary, not leaving the task to others.



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ELANA O'LOSKEY



Rick Hudson's Estate Furniture Store
 You may know about Rick Hudson's Estate Liquidation location at 123 Village Square in Orinda. It's an offshoot of his family-run business which was established in the 1960s in Oakland. He boasted he still has a 12-minute commute from the Oakland hills, one of the reasons he opened in Orinda four years ago. His new Estate Furniture Store is in response to COVID-19 restrictions to ensure safety protocols. It's located at 152 Village Square, behind Safeway on the West side next to Tina Nails.
 Hudson has over 29 years experience as an estate liquidator. He said he prides himself on being well-known as both honest and flexible throughout the Bay Area. He purchases the contents of an entire estate, and, with the help of his staff, leaves the home empty and broom swept. Local real estate personnel and folks

who are downsizing comprise his main customers.
 COVID-19 threw a monkey wrench into Hudson's estate liquidation business. Pre-pandemic, multi-estate liquidation events took place in the original Orinda showroom with up to 1,000 people attending over a two-day period. There was always a long line to get in and another one to pay for purchases. Crowds gathered inside and out – a scenario too dangerous to continue when COVID-19 hit.
 Hudson decided to take over the end cap space at 152 Village Square. He and his staff cleaned the place up and added new lighting. "I installed a high-powered ventilation system that replaces all the air in the building every 15 minutes," said Hudson. Instead of hosting a sales event every two to three months, now they are open three days every week. Staff and customers enjoy a safer, clean environment because all COVID-19 safety protocols are observed.

With the store's moniker "Estate Furniture Store," you will, of course, find furniture as well as antiques, porcelain, glass and housewares at the new location. You will not find jewelry, silver, coins or small items of high value; those items will be included in multi estate liquidation sales at Hudson's 123 Village Square location once COVID-19 is not an issue.
 Stop by the Estate Furniture Store at 152 Village Square. Hours are Thurs., Fri.



DAVID DIERKS

Owner **Rick Hudson** (3rd from left) and staff members (L-R) **Gavin, Jan** and **Matt** in front of their new Estate Furniture Store located at 152 Village Square in Orinda. A powerful ventilation unit replaces the air every 15 minutes as well as new lighting ensures a safe experience for staff and customers alike. They are open every Thurs., Fri. and Sat. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed on holidays and holiday weekends. All COVID-19 precautions are observed.
 and Sat. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed on holidays and holiday weekends. Follow on Instagram (@EstateFurnitureStore) for the latest info. Contact Hudson by phone at 925.219.9644 and via email at EstateFurnitureStore@gmail.com or visit the website, <https://bit.ly/3hw7Wby>.
 Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.

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4th of July Business Decorating Contest



ORINDA NEWS STAFF

Business is back in Orinda and so is the Fourth of July business decorating contest. Business owners are encouraged to decorate their store fronts as part of the contest. Help make Orinda look festive as we all look forward to an in-person Independence Day celebration! For more information, contact The Orinda Association, 925.254.0800 or oa@orindaassociation.org.

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