



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Citizen of Year and Mott Environmental Award Winners Announced

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Combining their efforts this year, the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) and the Orinda Association (OA) have selected two local residents to be honored at a gala dinner at the Orinda Country Club on March 11, beginning at 6 p.m. Janet Riley won the OCF's 2017 Citizen of the Year Award while James Phillip Wright is honored by the OA with the 2017 William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award. There will also be special recognition awards for two other local, long-time volunteers: Jim Luini and Carol Penskar.

In past years, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Orinda Rotary Club have sponsored the Citizen of the Year award. "We are happy to continue the work of the Chamber and of Rotary in honoring an Orinda citizen who has made significant contributions to a better life for all Orindans," says OCF Board Member Richard Westin.

Riley's volunteer history in Orinda spans over 28 years, with intense focus on Orinda schools, the Church of Santa Maria and the Orinda Garden Club. Riley spent 10 years working with Orinda schools, starting with the Sleepy Hollow Parents Club, moving on to Orinda Intermediate School Parents Club, and serving as president of the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO). During Riley's tenure at EFO, the organization raised nearly \$3 million.

Riley, through her links with the Santa Maria Church, worked with Catholic Char-



DAVID DIERKS
Citizen of the Year **Janet Riley** with one of the pots the Orinda Garden Club installed and cares for throughout Orinda.

ties of the East Bay (CCEB) to sponsor the relocation of a family from Burma to the United States. Challenges Riley faced as chairperson included interfacing with CCEB and County of Alameda Social Services, the Oakland School District, the Lao Family Community Services to arrange health insurance, get telephones, organize a team of volunteers to move the family (twice), drive family members to medical and dental appointments, arrange for translators to accompany family to these appointments (they speak a rare dialect) and tutor the

[SEE AWARDS page 7]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
James P. Wright's renovation and reconstruction of the Old Yellow House at 209 Orinda Way earned the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award for displaying outstanding contributions in the area of education and/or preservation of the environment.

New Senior Housing Proposal

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

A new non-profit, the Orinda Senior Housing Foundation (OSHF), is planning a senior development in conjunction with the existing Orinda Senior Village, to add 35 to 40 new living spaces.

The Orinda Senior Village (OSV) was created over 35 years ago thanks to a gift of land from the Orinda Community Church (OCC). "What the current senior village

board recognizes and has been discussing with the church is that the need for senior housing at all income levels continues to be huge," says OSV Board President Mark Roberts. "We're looking at the north part of the OCC parcel of land, the garden and the upper parking lot, as a spot for a smaller, new senior housing project. We recognize that we will be relocating the garden and will create landscaped areas that will provide similar areas for contemplation that the existing garden does." Unlike OSV, the new project will not be a Section 8 (very low income) project. "If we did anything new as part of the senior village, it would have to be Section 8, so we have created a new non-profit 501(c)3 housing entity,"

[SEE HOUSING page 18]

City Considering Parcel Tax to Maintain Library

LIBRARY END OF YEAR ENDING FUND BALANCE PROJECTIONS*
BASED ON DIFFERENT FLAT PARCEL TAX AMOUNTS

	New Tax Yr 1	New Tax Yr 2	New Tax Yr 3	New Tax Yr 4	New Tax Yr 5	New Tax Yr 6	New Tax Yr 7	New Tax Yr 8	New Tax Yr 9	New Tax Yr 10	New Tax Yr 11
TAX RATE TESTED / \$ AMT INCREASE FROM CURRENT \$39 TAX	FY 2018-19 Updated	FY 2019-20 Projected	FY 2020-21 Projected	FY 2021-22 Projected	FY 2022-23 Projected	FY 2023-24 Projected	FY 2024-25 Projected	FY 2025-26 Projected	FY 2026-27 Projected	FY 2027-28 Projected	FY 2028-29 Projected
	Projected Ending Fund Balance- June 30th (End of FY) Based On Different New Tax Amounts										
\$69 PER UNIT / Addl \$30 per yr or \$2.50 per month	57,654	79,877	90,444	88,927	74,885	47,472	6,218	(49,364)	(119,777)	(205,540)	(308,240)
\$70 PER UNIT / Addl \$31 per yr or \$2.58 per month	66,153	96,875	115,941	122,923	117,380	98,466	65,711	18,628	(43,286)	(120,550)	(214,751)
\$71 PER UNIT / Addl \$32 per yr or \$2.67 per month	73,617	111,818	138,378	152,869	154,850	143,475	118,274	78,760	24,430	(45,235)	(131,837)
\$72 PER UNIT / Addl \$33 per yr or \$2.75 per month	81,081	126,761	160,815	182,815	192,320	188,484	170,837	138,892	92,146	30,080	(48,923)
\$73 PER UNIT / Addl \$34 per yr or \$2.83 per month	88,545	141,704	183,252	212,761	229,790	233,493	223,400	199,024	159,862	105,395	33,991

By VALERIE COLBER
Staff Writer

Considered one of the jewels in Orinda's crown, the 16-year-old Orinda Library has begun to show its age. With rising maintenance and operating costs, it

needs additional funds than current revenue streams provide.

According to City Staff Report #1362, in Fiscal Year 2015/16, the actual library expenses exceeded revenue by \$29,940. The deficit was significantly offset by a contribution from the City's General Fund.

The Orinda City Council is currently looking at putting a new Library Parcel Tax on

[SEE LIBRARY page 16]

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PERFORMING ARTS

Year of the Dog Three Special Dogs for March



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cocoa and **Puffs** are Maltipoo rescue dogs. The brother and sister are 5 years old and enjoy meeting people at the Orinda Park and Sports Field. They are cared for by Carina and Patrick Hanley.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A special Happy Birthday to **Augustus** who turns 9 this month. The Golden Retriever "works" at a law firm with the two-legged members of his family. He's looking forward to March 24 when he will wear a tux and be the Best Dog at his "brother's" wedding.

Fitness Tip of the Month

Don't Give Up.... You are almost there!

Set backs are common as we try to get in great shape. We lose focus and our eating goes off track or we stop devoting time to working out, until we realize we miss it. Then we choose to return to it with greater appreciation. The path to lifelong fitness is not linear, setbacks are a normal part of the process.



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

Golden Globe Winner, Amanda McBroom at the Orinda Theatre, March 1

By Derek Zemrak
Contributing Writer

After beginning with a sold-out performance by Tony Award-winner John Lloyd Young, the Orinda Theatre continues its "Live at the Orinda Theatre Concert Series" on March 1 with Golden Globe Winner, Amanda McBroom, and her musical director and long-time collaborator, Michele Brouman.

McBroom has been called "the greatest cabaret performer of her generation, an urban poet who writes like an angel and has a voice to match" and praised for her profound lyrics and smart humor. She came to the attention of music lovers when Bette Midler's version of her song *The Rose* became the number one hit all over the world in 1979. In addition to Midler, her songs have been recorded by a wide variety of artists including Amy Poehler and Jack Black, Barry Manilow, Judy Collins, LeAnn Rimes, Harry Belafonte and many more. She and Brouman also wrote the songs for the *16 Universal Cartoon* video.

Her extensive performance credits include concerts around the world and musical theater productions in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Europe. McBroom also recently celebrated the release of *Voices*, her sixth recording on Gecko, the label she established in 1985. Her first two ground-breaking vinyl recordings, *Growing Up in Hollywood Town* and *West of OZ*, were recorded direct to disc for Sheffield Labs and made McBroom an audiophile darling.

"Amanda McBroom is a legend in the cabaret world. The definition of a true artist – her own compositions are like mini-movies, the kind that become your favorite films," stated producer Michael Williams. "And when she sings, it's as if she's painting a beautiful picture, you can see the colors in your mind and you feel the passion and the nuance in the many layers that she unfolds."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Globe Winner **Amanda McBroom** appears on March 1

Tickets for the concert are available online at www.lamorindatheatres.com or at the Orinda Theatre box-office. Ticket prices range from \$45 to \$100 (VIP). On the evening of the concert, Cine Cuvée Wine Bar will have food and drink specials before the show.

Remaining shows in the concert series include: Amanda King (*A Salute to Ella Fitzgerald: The Early Years*) on April 5. Tony Nominated Broadway star, Andrea McArdle (*Annie* and *Les Misérables*) will close the spring series on May 3. Subscriber and sponsorship packages are available.

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Car Show**



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**The Orinda
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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Lucky O'rinda



Cindy Powell

We are so lucky to live in the green hills of Orinda and are proud to keep our town green and clean. The **Orinda Library** will be closed from March 2 - 14 while fresh carpet will be placed in the entire library. Maybe hold off on the book donations for this period. Although we love your great donations, the Friends may be a bit busy. What will we do without access to the Library? Here are a few suggestions . . .

On March 7, **the State of the City luncheon**, hosted by Orinda Rotary, will feature Orinda Mayor Amy Worth. She will update us on issues facing our city and projects underway to enhance our community. Also featured will be special recognition of outstanding Rotarians, as well as our local Chamber of Commerce's Business Awards. Get your tickets at OrindaRotary.org.

On March 8, view the film *Cool Hand Luke* for **free at the Orinda Theatre**. Coincidentally, it is also **Popcorn Lovers Day**. Popcorn is a good snack when made with a light hand. Kettle Corn and flavored popcorns are a "poppin" business, but they are heavy on the sugar and fat. Go ahead, enjoy some movie popcorn and share your bucket (after you wash your hands).

March 11 is the **William Penn Mott, Jr Environmental Award** and **Orinda Citizen of the Year** award celebration. Congratulations to James Wright and Janet Riley! There will also be a special recognition for our famous volunteers, Carol Penskar and Jim Luini. The 2013 Mott

Award went to Orinda Action Day Team for their green and clean projects and the original Mott recipient in 1993, Toris Jaeger has always been a green supporter.

Also, on March 11, **Daylight Saving Time** will move an hour of sunlight to the evening hours, great for after-school activities but not so great for getting up Monday mornings.

The March Madness First Four (basketball) starts March 13 and runs through the end of the month, the best part of the season. Mathematicians in town are looking forward to March 14, **Pi Day**. I plan to celebrate by eating pie in their honor.

Clean up your act on March 15, **National Kick Butts Day** and seize control against Big Tobacco. Events are organized around the country to help raise awareness of the dangers of tobacco products, which includes vaping.

It's **Saint Patrick's Day** on March 17, a day o' celebrating Irish history and customs. On this day, everyone is a little bit Irish. Sing The Green Hills of Orinda song (to the tune of "The Green Hills of Ireland") and think green as you do your Saturday gardening. Use that green bin with pride!

The **First Day of Spring** is on the Vernal Equinox, March 20, 9:15 a.m., Orinda time. Head out and enjoy our parks with a nice walk in our green hills.

On March 31, round up your toddlers to second graders and head out to the **Rotary Spring Egg Hunt** in Community Center Park. True March Madness!

The 14th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show

Mark your calendar for Sept. 7 and 8 as Orinda's own premiere car show returns to the Village.

This year's theme is "American Graffiti," and like the film of the same name, will feature the Classic American car -- the Thunderbird.

It all begins with Dancing with the Cars at the Orinda Country Club on Friday, Sept. 7, followed by the Classic Car Show on Saturday, Sept. 8, in front of Orinda Motors and beyond! Up to 200 classic cars, trucks and motorcycles will be on display.

To enter your special vehicle, go to www.orindacarshow.com. Last year's show sold out so register early.

All proceeds from the weekend benefit local nonprofits, including the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town transportation program.



DAVID DIERKS

Ray English's 1936 Ford Three Window Coupe made an appearance at last year's Orinda Classic Car Show.

The Orinda Association

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

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

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Senior Resource Center Added to OA Office

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ernest and Lola Poll Foundation, administered by the Orinda Community Foundation, the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town (SAT) program has been able to add a Senior Resource Center to its office in the lower level of the library.

"We consistently receive calls from people out of the area who have aging parents in Orinda wanting to know not only about our SAT ride program but also about other resources available to seniors," explains SAT's Kate Wiley. "Setting up the resource center allows us easy access to a lot of information, which is also very convenient for all the people who just stop by the office looking for various senior programs."

The Senior Resource Center, which used a portion of the Poll Grant, includes infor-



KATE WILEY

Orinda Senior Village resident **Eartha Newsong** looks for information in the OA's new Senior Resource Center.

mation on Orinda Rotary, Hospice, AARP, at-home care services, residential senior facilities and much more.

The center is open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, call 925-254-0800.

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Editorial ...

A big thank you to all of you who sent in photos of your dogs. I wish I could have put them all in this issue. Hopefully, I'll be able to include them in future issues. If you want your dog's photo considered, email a high resolution photo to news@orindaassociation.org.

Congratulations to our Citizen of the Year Janet Riley and William Penn Mott Jr.

Environmental Award Winner James Philip Wright. For reservations to the awards dinner on March 11, call 925-254-0800 or go online to www.orindaassociation.org/citizenoftheyear.

Finally, a very Happy Saint Patrick's Day to all of you with Irish blood running in your veins, even if it's just on March 17!

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Letters to the Editor ...

No Valid Studies

In the recent article on the *Local Adjustment to Legal Marijuana* it stated that the "health benefits have been well documented..." I am not sure that is factual. There are few, if any, scientifically valid studies that substantiate that statement. Unfortunately, currently it is against the law to perform such necessary studies. I believe there are indeed valid medicinal uses; however, attesting to specific benefits based on anecdotal evidence and potentially biased opinions does not help dealing with the challenges facing us.

– Richard Shoop, MD

Library Tax and Building is Nonsense

I read your article about raising taxes for the library. It was of little interest to me because the "information" presented was all opinion, mostly from Amy Worth. Information missing was:

1. How many people actually use the library over a specified period of time?
2. What does it cost to run the library?
3. How will the added money wanted add to the "value" of the library?

This necessary information is obviously essential to make an informed opinion on this issue. Its omission from your article is clearly an intent to conceal the information.

This is the 21st Century. Using a large and expensive building to house paper books is nonsense!

The same information housed as .txt files and other formats on a small hard drive is far cheaper. It is also better since such data bases are typically searchable by title, subject, author, and many other criteria.

Computers, tablets and ebooks are getting cheaper and better every year. Yes, I advocate creative destruction! Lets phase out the library and use the building for something more useful. Paper book libraries are obsolete!

– Henry R. Pinney

Orinda Cabaret Scores

"Is this Orinda or is this Vegas!?" Such was uttered by the exiting crowd of the sold-out, inaugural show in the First Thursday Cabaret Series at the Orinda Theatre on Feb 1. Big-time, professional, live, musical entertainment came to downtown Orinda in the person of Tony Award-winning (*Jersey*

Boys) John Lloyd Young, in a dazzling 80-minute show. If Mr. Young's rendition of *Unchained Melody* did not stir your soul, then you are simply not human. And the acoustics of Orinda Theatre proved to be spot-on.

Have you been longing for a more vibrant downtown Orinda? Well, take a look here.

Orinda doesn't need more Urban Planners, just unleash the Party Planners! Bravo and thank you to Derek Zemrak, Tish and Steve Harwood and others, for making this happen.

In 2017, the Orinda City Council hired National Main Street Center (NMSC) consultants to make recommendations for restoring economic vibrancy to Orinda's downtown. Those recommendations centered on leveraging Orinda's experience and know-how in executing special events, not on constructing high density, residential structures. Food Truck Thursdays, and now, the First Thursday Cabaret Series at the Orinda Theatre, are noteworthy steps in that strategy. No other operating venue, located between the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek and the Fox/Paramount Theatres in Oakland, could have pulled this off.

So get the baby sitter lined up now for the first Thursday evening in March, April and May. Three more shows are scheduled in this initial cabaret series. Interested? Get your tickets now, before they sell out, like the first show. And no, I have no direct financial interest in this matter, just civic pride. Well done, Orinda!

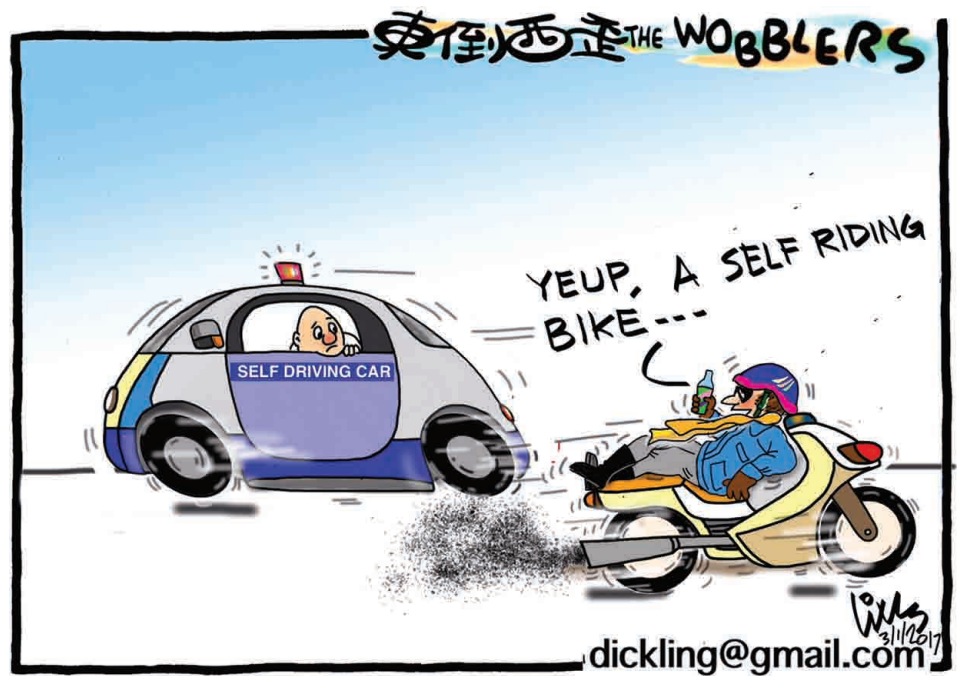
– Owen Murphy

Parkland, Florida Shooting

If you're a teacher like me, the day of the shooting in Parkland, FL, was hard for you. Each time I hear about another school shooting, it gets harder.

First, it's hard because I'm a teacher. No child should be killed – or be afraid of being killed – while at school. School is a place for learning, socializing and growing. It should not be a place of danger. As a teacher, I worry that if a shooter should assault my students, I might not be able to protect them. If I survived, how could I live with that knowledge?

Second, it's hard because I'm a parent. It hurts when I try to imagine how devastating it would be to lose my child in a school shooting. To know that your child has died



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far too young, to know that his or her last moments were full of terror and pain – and to know that you were unable to protect or comfort your child in his or her final moments. I can't imagine how I would ever recover from such a loss. To live with that grief seems unbearable.

And third, it's hard because I'm a citizen of a country whose leaders seem to have abandoned their responsibility to pass laws that will keep children safe. Instead, they treat school shootings as unavoidable dangers, like a tornado or an earthquake – a force of nature that can't be prevented.

But these shootings can be prevented. Lawmakers could pass laws to enact common sense gun laws, like the Gun Violence Restraining Order that our state legislators here in California had the good sense to

pass a few years ago. However, our GVRO law only works if people know about it, including law enforcement and the courts. I encourage people to visit speakforsafety.org to learn more about this law that can help save lives and prevent shootings like the tragedy in Parkland, FL.

It's simply unacceptable that we have allowed guns to terrorize children at school – not to mention people worshipping in religious services, or gathering at concerts, nightclubs, movie theaters or shopping malls. It's got to stop – before the next shooting.

Write to your representatives. Make them hear your voice. Tell them we want the killing of our children to stop. Please.

– Alison Waterman

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

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

VETERANS / POLICE

Creating Valentines for Veterans



MAYA VASUDEVAN

Mindful Littles practice yoga, led by Travis and his "little" Gabriella at the Contra Costa Day School in Lafayette.

By Sally Hogarty
Editor

On Feb. 11, Mindful Littles partnered with Veteran's PATH to put together peace kits and valentines for veterans. The day also included learning about the importance of our veterans and practicing yoga with Travis, a veteran, and his very own "little," Gabriella. He and Gabriella led a group of "biggs" and "littles" in yoga movement while narrating a story created by Gabrielle.

Veteran's Path is committed to helping veterans find meaning, purpose and healing through mindfulness and outdoor experiences. An Orinda-based nonprofit, Mindful Littles hopes to inspire children and parents to be more mindful and compassionate through meaningful service projects, educational workshops and everyday parenting



MAYA VASUDEVAN

This "little" creates a Valentine for a veteran.

resources. For more information, go to www.mindfullittles.org.

Orinda Library Will be Closed from March 2 through 14

By Sally Hogarty
Editor

Due to the installation of new carpeting in the Orinda Library, the library will be closed for 13 days beginning on March 2. It will reopen on March 15.

"We want to give our patrons the best possible experience and replacing the carpet is going to improve an already beautiful facility, said County Librarian Melinda Cervantes. "We appreciate our continuing partnership with the City of Orinda."

The installation will also impact the May Room on the Plaza Level as many items from the library will be stored there during the installation.

If your group regularly meets in the May Room, you should have already been reassigned to another room. If not, contact the Park and Recreation Department at 925-254-2445.

The downstairs book drop will be open during the closure, but holds will not be available for pickup. Users needing library services during the closure can visit the Lafayette or Moraga libraries or any other Contra Costa County Library.

Meetings and programs scheduled in the Library Auditorium and Garden Room will not be affected.

For more information, contact Senior Community Library Manager Sierra Campagna at scampagna@ccclib.org or 925- 254-2184.



POLICE BLOTTER

December 31, 2017 through February 10, 2018

Calls for Service

- 911 Hangup: 7 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Accident Injury: 5 incidents.
- Accident Property: 18 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 108 incidents.
- Barking Dog: 4 incidents.
- Burglary, Commercial: 3 incidents.
- Civil Matter: 11 incidents.
- County Solicitor Permit: 2 incidents.
- Court: 3 incidents.
- CVC Moving Violation: 143 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 80 incidents.
- Death Non Criminal: 2 incidents.
- Disturbing the Peace: 4 incidents.
- Domestic Disturbance: 1 incident.
- Fire/EMS Response Info: 2 incidents.
- Found Property: 1 incident.
- Fraud, Credit Card: 1 incident.
- Fraud, False Pretenses: 2 incidents.
- Grand Theft: 4 incidents.
- Grand Theft from Building: 1 incident.
- Harassment: 1 incident.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 3 incidents.
- Identity Theft: 3 incidents.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 4 incidents.
- Loitering: 1 incident.
- Lost Property: 1 incident.
- Loud Noise: 2 incidents.
- Loud Party: 2 incidents.
- Medical Hospital: 8 incidents.
- Medical Police Needed: 1 incident.
- Motorist Assist: 4 incidents.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 9 incidents.
- Ordinance Violation: 13 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 33 incidents.
- Panhandling: 1 incident.
- Parking Detail: 168 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 45 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 3 incidents.
- Phone, Harass: 1 incident.
- Public Assembly Check: 3 incidents.
- Public Nuisance: 6 incidents.

- Reckless Driving: 13 incidents.
- Run Away Juvenile: 1 incident.
- School Check: 12 incidents.
- Security Check: 48 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 155 incidents.
- Shoplift: 2 incidents.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 12 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 14 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 21 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 17 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 12 incidents.
- Tow: 6 incidents.
- Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 2 incidents.
- Traffic Hazard: 5 incidents.
- Trespass: 3 incidents.
- Trespass with Vehicle: 2 incidents.
- Vacation House Check: 50 incidents.
- Vandalism: 4 incidents.
- Vehicle Theft: 6 incidents.
- Verbal Dispute: 5 incidents.
- Violation Custody Order: 3 incidents.
- Welfare Check: 20 incidents.

Arrest

- Defrauding an Innkeeper: 1 arrest.
- Drunk in Public: 1 arrest.
- DUI Arrest: 2 arrests.
- Probation Violation Arrest: 1 arrest.
- Resisting, Delaying, or Obstructing an Officer: 1 arrest.
- Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 2 recoveries.
- Shoplifting: 1 arrest.
- Warrant Arrest: 5 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit www.crimereports.com

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CAR TIME

Technology: Making Your Vehicle More Expensive to Repair



By JOHN VANEK

Over the years, technological advancements have made modern vehicles easier to operate while offering more entertainment features and added safety. Technology also has eliminated some maintenance items that reduce some costs of operation. We have spark plugs that last one hundred thousand miles and even transmissions that require no maintenance at all. I am not sure if that last one is a good idea or not. Technology can be a great thing. What saves you on maintenance, however, may cost you more in the long run.

Technology has been improving automobiles since their invention. New vehicles come with high tech features that improve your driving experience but cost more to fix later. The technology allows us to have brighter lights and tires that can be driven on a flat. You may have noticed that newer vehicles have really bright lights. Some utilize LED type bulbs that are not replaceable. They are supposed to last longer, but they do still fail. It is a big surprise for a Prius owner to have to fork out over \$400 to replace the complete tail light when it looks like just a bad bulb. You could be a Lexus owner and pay over \$1,200 for a head lamp to fix your headlight bulb. Now, these new style headlights work better than ever, and there is a value that includes safety and reduced accidents. We can chalk it up to the new normal.

Some of these features offer items we can live without but may not want to. Run flat tires allow manufactures to eliminate putting a spare tire in the car. The "run flats"

are not meant to be used like normal. They can get you to the tire shop where you can get a needed replacement. They are not repairable and they run \$300 to \$500 each. It is something to think about when looking at buying a new car. Most technology-based options will indeed cost more to repair when they fail. This includes electronic options like Bluetooth and navigation systems. Power operated sliding doors and hatch doors are handy but expensive to fix when they fail. Most new vehicles have optional packages that include many features as a bundle. This will also affect the original purchase price of the vehicle. Some vehicles require high-tech design for new ultra-efficient engines. It is more expensive. These are all things to understand before you purchase a new vehicle.

We now have vehicles that can park themselves, stop themselves and even drive themselves! Vehicles have doors that open automatically. Neat and scary at the same time. I am afraid that getting used to a car that stops by itself will make you forget when you are driving your other vehicle that does not stop for you automatically. Perhaps a conversation for another day. Safety versus lazy?

The point now is to be a good consumer of automobiles when looking to purchase a new vehicle. Do your research and understand the features included and the ramifications of the technology used, including the type of oil required. Understand the options available and the style of lights that

[SEE CAR TIME page 8]

Want to Host an Exchange Student?



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(front row) **Cara Hoxie**, exchange student **Marek Fenci**, **Tim Hoxie**; (back row) **Ben**, **Teddy**, **Philip Hoxie**.

By JOSEPH KNOX
Contributing Writer

It's time to select the next Orinda family to host a high school exchange student from Orinda's Sister City, Tabor, in the Czech Republic. Maybe this year, it will be you! Our next exchange student is Marie Ruzickova, who arrives in August 2018 and stays until approximately the first week of February 2019.

First, a little background. In 1997, the cities of Orinda and Tabor, in the Czech Republic, honored the legacy conceived and initiated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, by becoming "Sister Cities." The Sister City program encourages international friendship, communication and

understanding between cultures. And since its establishment, the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation, along with Orinda Lions Club and Orinda Rotary Club, has sent educators to Tabor to teach English, has sponsored fellowships for physicians from Tabor, and has sponsored a Czech visiting student at Miramonte High School each fall semester for the past 16 years.

If you are interested in hosting Marie Rozickova, the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation is considering candidate families. Learn more at www.orindatabor-sistercity.org, and email Bobbie Landers at bobbielanders@yahoo.com to express interest in hosting Rozickova. She will arrive in early August and depart in early

[SEE CZECH page 8]



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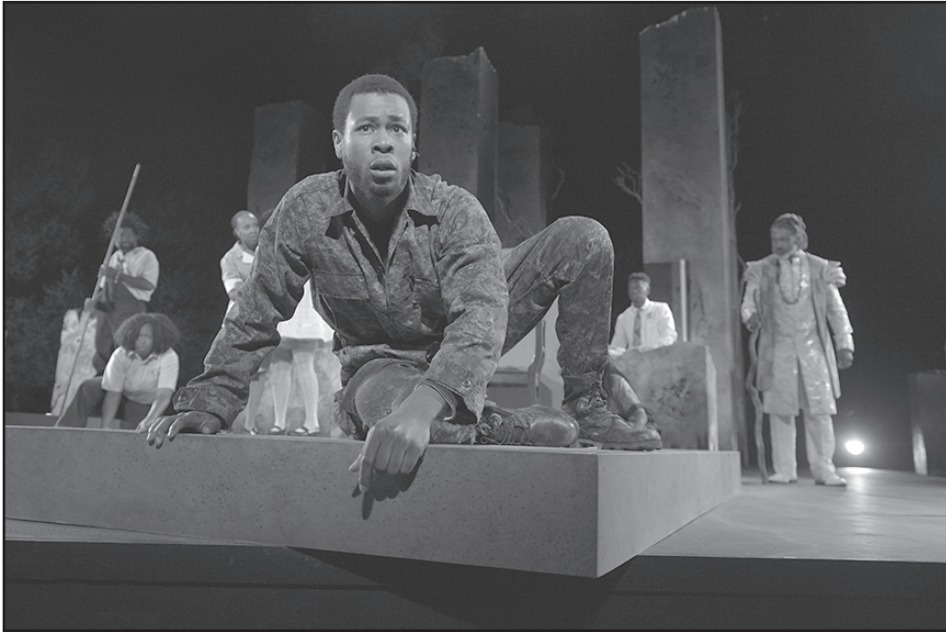
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PERFORMING ARTS



KEVIN BERNE

J. Alphonse Nicholson in last season's production of *black odyssey* at California Shakespeare Theater.

◆ AWARDS from page 1

family. Having settled the Burmese family, Riley is mentoring the next chairperson who is working with a family of 10 from Afghanistan.

Currently, Riley is focused on a huge event for the Orinda Garden Club as co-chair of the Annual Meeting Flower Show in San Francisco taking place in April as part of the Garden Club of America's National Meeting. The Orinda Garden Club is in charge of the welcome event and is running the flower show at the meeting. The flower show will take over the atrium of the Hyatt Regency, San Francisco, and display over 400 entries during the meeting. The meeting is open to the public on Apr. 28 and 29.

Wright receives the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award for his work on restoring and renovating The Old Yellow House at 209 Orinda Way. The Old Yellow House, originally built in 1890, had been vacant since 1966 until Wright purchased the property in 2012 from Ezra Nelson. The Nelson family bought the property in 1918 and Ezra's son, David, still lives next door. Wright chose the property to showcase his skills developing geo-solar passive houses. "My plan was to renovate and rebuild, maintaining the original appearance while showing how a historical dwelling could become super energy efficient," says Wright. The home is now sustainably finished and occupied by Wright.

"Passive House is a movement in construction which essentially reduces the energy consumption of the building up to 90 percent. In a Passive House, we keep the dwelling in an isolated thermal envelope and abandon the basement or crawlspace," Wright explains. He sealed the basement, created a geo-cavity and installed two energy recovery ventilators for the fresh air ventilation system: "There's one for the whole home ventilation and the other is for the geo-cavity. The geo-cavity basically takes the fresh air that is coming

in, like today's hot fresh air, and sends it through a heat exchanger, so the stale air going out becomes the temperature of the fresh air going in. It never cross contaminates." Wright's heating/ventilation systems uses under 50 watts of power an hour.

The addition of solar cells in the attic, tied to skylights for natural light on the upper floors, also helps with energy conservation. Wright addresses this with passion: "The orientation of the roof is beautiful for natural solar, so I get natural light inside, as well as creating electricity. Along with the geo-cavity encapsulation of the basement, these two renewable energy sources will allow me to 'Net Zero' the house. Meaning, annually, it's energy consumption will net zero. In the summer, I'm generating a lot of electricity; in the winter, I'm using what I banked in the summer." Wright received the Green Building Award from Sustainable Contra Costa and a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives in 2015 for outstanding leadership commitment to sustainable practices and serving as a role model to others to build healthy, sustainable communities.

Wright is currently working with the City of Orinda to get the Old Yellow House designated as a museum and cultural center. "The Old Yellow House as a learning center will promote sustainable stewardship of the Earth and its people by revealing and enhancing our social connections in heritage, education, health and artistic expression," says Wright.

Wright is also planning a 100-year anniversary party for the Nelson family. The party will be in the fall, near the Equinox, and the public will be invited. St. Mark's United Methodist Church has agreed to provide parking, and a shuttle will run from the church to the Old Yellow House.

For more information about and tickets to the March 11 awards dinner, visit www.orindaassociation.org/citizenoftheyear.

Cal Shakes Guiding Stars Fundraiser on March 10

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

California Shakespeare Theater will honor Oakland-born playwright Marcus Gardley with its Guiding Star Award for his play, *black odyssey*, at a gala event on March 10 at the Claremont Club and Spa in Berkeley.

The lyrical and spiritual work played to sold-out houses at Cal Shakes last summer.

Cal Shakes Artistic Director Eric Ting says, "Marcus' ability to tell powerful stories in fresh ways helps us to learn more about ourselves and each other and inspires us in our pursuit of artistic excellence and social impact."

Luminary Awards to individuals and organizations who exemplify the Theater's four core pillars of Make, Learn, Engage

and Support will also be presented to: actor Jim Carpenter, whose performances have moved audiences and inspired the next generation of actors; educator/actor Tristan Cunningham for her work as a dedicated teaching artist working with youth at Cal Shakes and beyond; artist/investigator Tatiana Chaterji, who has led Cal Shakes' residency in the Federal Correctional Institute at Dublin; and to business partner John Muir Health for their steadfast support and recognition that art is critical to healthy communities.

The evening begins with a cocktail reception, raffles and games, followed by dinner, an awards presentation, a live auction with auctioneer Greg Quiroga and dancing to live music.

Guiding Star tickets begin at \$350. Call 510-899-4907 or email events@calshakes.org to purchase.

Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest Extends Entries to Include Neighboring Towns

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) hosts its Third Annual ShortDocs Film Fest at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on April 15 at 3 p.m. Originally scheduled for Feb. 11, this documentary film festival provides local filmmakers an opportunity to create new work as well as showcase it at a community screening.

Originally open only to anyone five years of age or older who lives, works or attends school in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga, this year's festival extends eligibility to include Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Martinez and Concord. Film submissions, which are due March 18, will be judged in one of four categories: elementary school, middle school, high school and adult. One student made film will also be selected as an Audience Favorite.

"We had expected there to be enough novice and intermediate filmmakers in Lamorinda to sustain the festival annually, but we have learned that even the most successful filmmakers do not necessarily enter every year," says LAC Managing Director and Festival Producer Meredith Friedman. "That, combined with an unusually hard cold and flu season this year, we just didn't see the submissions roll in by the deadline. By postponing this year's festival for two



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jack Nixon, winner of the 2016 Best Short Documentary by an Elementary School Student and 2017 Best Short Documentary Film by a Middle School Student with ShortDocs Judge Julie Rubio.

months and expanding the geographical area of eligibility, we hope to bring this year's festival to a whole new level."

The community screening on April 15 will feature selected films and accompanying award presentations. To learn more about the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest competition and to enter go to <http://www.lamorindaarts.org/shortdocs>.

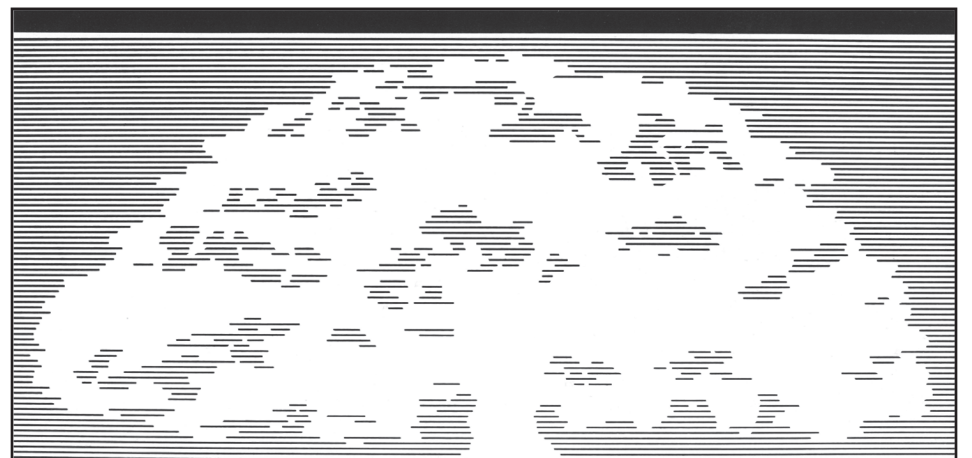
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Lamorinda's Real Estate Market
2018 Year to Date

MAUREEN WILBUR



Since the Federal Tax Law changes, there has been lots of commentary on its effects on the California Real Estate Market. Here are the facts, year to date, for our local Lamorinda market. The data collected is from the Contra Costa Association of Realtors. I collected the data for *single family homes* only on Feb. 9, 2018.

Lafayette has 24 active properties for sale, 13 pending and seven sold properties. The average sales price was \$1,099,143 and the median sales price was \$1,160,000 with the average days on the market or **DOM** for active listings 30 days, for pending listings 19 and for sold listings eight days.

Moraga has 11 active properties for sale, eight pending and eight sold properties. The average sales price was \$1,421,813 and the median sales price was \$1,239,000 with the **DOM** for active listings 21 days, pending listings four days, and for sold listings, 22 days.

Orinda has 25 active properties for sale, 10 pending and seven sold properties. The

average sales price was \$1,575,768 and the median sales price was \$1,229,000 with an average **DOM** for actives 33 days, for pending listings 66 days, and for sold listings 78 days.

With a total of 60 active single-family homes on the market in the Lamorinda market to date, the inventory is still low. Interest rates have risen slightly but remain low. In this writer's opinion, Lamorinda home buyers are looking for a place to call home with safe, clean communities and great schools. Tax deductibility is the last consideration for most home buyers when purchasing a home to live and raise a family in or as a way to fulfill their "American Dream." According to tax experts, many home owners were unable to deduct their property taxes over the past years due to the Federal Alternative Minimum Tax or AMT.

Look for the column mid-year with Lamorinda sales data.

You can reach Maureen Wilbur at www.MaureenWilbur.com.

◆ CZECH from page 6

February. Rozickova was selected after a rigorous competition based on essays and English competency.

The host family will provide a bedroom, meals and transportation to Miramonte High School. The student, typically a junior or senior, enrolls in a full class schedule just like other students, and also usually participates in Miramonte clubs or sports.

The experience of some past Orinda host families might suggest the value of the experience for your family:

The Hoxie Family

Hosting a student from the Czech Republic is a fantastic experience. We have had a wonderful time watching Ted, our youngest, and Marek, our host student, bond. Ted calls Marek "his brother from another mother." Marek has been with us for six months. He has been a part of our family, participating in pretty much everything we've done since August. He has been (mostly with us, but also with others in town) to LA (Disneyland), Lake Tahoe, and other great places. Ted and Marek talk about getting together in Europe, perhaps as early as this summer. And we would like

to visit Prague and Tabor and see where Marek grew up. Having Marek with us in the meantime has been a joy. He has been a fourth son to us.

The Knox Family

We hosted Karel Balough who was a senior at Miramonte, while our son Will was a junior. Karel, a talented soccer player, and Will both have played varsity soccer for Miramonte. Since Will's older brother was at college, it was really great seeing Will and Karel playing soccer like brothers. All of us, including Will's grandmother, have since visited Tabor, and Karel's family. When Will graduated Miramonte, he went to visit Karel in Tabor, and they then traveled to Spain together. Hosting Karel's first Thanksgiving was so special for Karel that we flew him out the following year to spend Thanksgiving with us again after he had returned to Tabor. We keep in touch all the time, and he really has become like a member of our family.

The Thompson Family

We mulled over the request for a host family for a Sister City student for six months. Our youngest child had just left for

AAUW Ashley Holmer Speaker for March

Ashley Holmer will speak at the American Association of University Women (AAUW) meeting on March 20, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 21 Irwin Way, in Orinda.

Holmer founded the Red Sweater Project, a non-profit organization that collaborates with developing communities in rural Tanzania to create affordable, accessible and innovative opportunities for secondary education where it currently does not exist for the majority of children. The organization has become a model for other international development programs, seeking to create partnerships that honor tradition and local leadership, encourage sustainability, and recognize education as a crucial step in interrupting the cycle of generational poverty.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ashley Holmer.

For more information, go to www.ornl-ca.aauw.net or email Marty Schimbor at mgschimbor@comcast.net.

Walk for Awareness

Over 64,000 Americans lost their lives in 2016 from drug overdoses, and the majority of them were linked to prescribed painkillers and synthetic opioids such as heroin and fentanyl. Help local prevention coalitions by participating in the 4th annual "Dose of Awareness" 5K Walk/Health Expo, a family friendly event with free Health Expo.

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college. Since we weren't quite ready to be "empty-nesters," and we thought it would be a great opportunity to change someone's life, we applied to host a student. Since then we have hosted another student, the brother of our first student, and tried to be involved in the lives of some of the other students. Little did we know how dramatically our lives and the lives of our children would be changed. We made new friends in the Czech community. We saw our country and community through new eyes. We had wonderful discussions about the world. We now have a Czech family that we visit and who visit us. The Sister City program truly has an impact on the host family that you do not realize until you start your "host family" commitments. These relationships last a lifetime. Thank you to Bobbie Landers for starting this life-altering program!

The Faulkner Family

For the Fall of 2016, we were the host family for the Orinda Sister City program, and we hosted Adam Krauss, a really good experience on a number of levels. Adam is an amazing young man who has already been able to accomplish a lot in his life,

and it was our pleasure to show him a slice of America while learning more about his life and where he comes from. We bought a Gold Eagle pass from the park service and used it many times over going from great places like the Grand Canyon and Yosemite, to smaller local places such as King's Canyon and Ano Nuevo, enjoying re-seeing amazing places we had not visited for a long time. In addition, we took him to cities and towns up and down the West Coast, meeting our extended family and sharing holidays. Beyond that, the Orinda Sister Cities program is a vibrant local community that we continue to engage with and enjoy. We hope to visit the Czech Republic soon to see Adam's home town first-hand.

Who's next? Your family?

◆ CAR TIME from page 6

are used. Also, understand that overall, new vehicles will have improved features that will cost more to own and repair. I am always available for automotive consultation.

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



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[SEE OA page 10]



SALLY HOGARTY

Two young **parade attendees** can't wait for the next float and the potential candy that might be tossed their way.

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 Jud & Judy Hammon
 Robert & June Haring
 Peter & Grace Hartdegen
 Christie & John Hastings
 Widgie Hastings
 Joe & June Haughin
 Stephen & Tish Harwood
 Robert & Arlene Hegarty
 Bea Heggie
 Holly & Gerry Henkel
 Chip & Carolyn Herman
 Stephen & Jackie Herrin
 Harold & Diane Hill
 William & Louise Hinkamp
 Gayl Hirschfeld
 Robert Hodas
 Jeff & Alison Holland
 David & Hillary Hoppock
 Stuart House
 Cara Hoxie
 Roger Hoyer
 William & Margaret Hughes
 Susan Hurl



Attendees at a past OA awards banquet at the Orinda Country Club.

SALLY HOGARTY

Susan Hurrell, CPA
 Grant & Susanne Inman
 Glenn & Joel Jackson
 Richard James
 Arthur P. Jensen
 Philip Jensen
 Irene Jewell
John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health Network

Jeff & Cecily Kingston
 Karen Kistler
 Frank Klobas
 Chuck & Joanne Kovely, Jr.
Lafayette Tree & Landscape
 Rodney Lal
 Ernest Lam
Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club
Lamorinda Weekly
 Mari & Walter Landauer
Land Home Financial
 Chris Laszcz-Davis
 Biensien Lee
 James Lee
 Jim & Michelle Leetham
 Chris & Marie Legallet
 Jon & Michelle Lehman
 Phil and Barbara Leitner
 Cynthia & Ben Leslie-Bole
 Boaz Levanda
 Steven E. Levy
 Marty & Rich Lewis
 Stuart Linn
 Lois Lippincott
 Peter & Tina Locke
 Beverly & Ronald Loos
 Joan Lucas
 Jenchyn Luh
 James & Linda Luini
 Bud & Mary Lyons
 Janine & Ken Lyons
 Cinda & Tomas MacKinnon
 Seth & Nancy Madnick
 Ruth & Ivan Majdrakoff
 Peter Mankin
 Stephanie & Douglass Mann
 William & Joyce Mann
 Pamela & Jeff Manning
 Richard & Gloria Marchick
 Keith Marks
 Mary & Bob Marshall
 Fritz & Alma Mast
 Sari-Lois & Mattal-Neft
 Willy Mautner
 Frank & Joan Maxwell
 Beverly & James McCall

Joyce McCaulou
 Charles S. & Joye Lee McCoy
 Bradford & Jennifer McCullough
 Joshua & Laura McDowell
 Pam & David McDowell
 Karen & Patrick McGeer
 John & Sandra McGonigle
 Bruce & Janette McGurk
 Gail McIntyre
 Sharlyn McIntyre
 Peirce McKee
 L.V. & H.M. McKendell
 Christopher & Barbara McLain
 Adele Mendelsohn
Mechanics Bank Orinda
Mercedes Benz of Walnut Creek
 Michael Merchant
 Alan & Kathleen Metheny
 Patricia Meyer

Find your passion!
 Visit local non-profits at the fair in April

Mark A. & Kathleen B. Jones
 Rod & Sandy Jones
 Bill & Joey Judge
 Dan & Christina Judge
 Ben & Barbara Kacyra
 John & Jodi Kaelle
 Ernest & Phoebe Kahl
 Carol Kaiser
 Patricia Kale
 Lynn Kalmar
 John & Jo Anne Kaminski
 Robert & Marjorie Kaplan
 Ursula Kaprielian
 Elizabeth Karplus
 Neil & Jane Katsura
 Jason & Kristin Kaune
 Carole L. Keller
 David & Margo Kelly
 Rosaleen Kelly
Kenmar Properties
 Janice Kerr
 Michael & Elizabeth Kersten
 Lois & Timothy Killen

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 Inga Miller
 Nancy & Stephen Miller
 Patricia Mills

[SEE SUPPORTERS page 11]

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◆ OA from page 10

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Donald Monaco
William & Ann Moon
Jody Morrison
Kirby & Margaret Moulton
Charles & Susan Muenchow
Peter & Elizabeth Muller
Terry Murphy & Ellen Hoffnagel
Vicki Nakamura
Jeff & Anne Nash
Dorothea Nathan
Robert Neumann
Eileen & Michael Nevitt
David Newacheck
Jim & Judi Nishimine
Helen Noorthoek
Paul D. Nordine
Gary Nye & Ann O'Connell

Orinda Village Antiques
Orinda Woman's Club
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Mati & Silvia Otasmaa
Ernestine Ottino
Tom & Sandra Ouziel
Lois Owens
PBC Oakland Inc.
Steve & Pat Paddock
Carolyn & Richard Palmer
Daniel Palmerlee
Paul & Sheri Palubicki
Victor & Anne Parachini
Anne Parr
Lou & Sharon Parrague
Ron & Martha Parriott
Richard Pauletich
Arthur & Susan Paull
Judith Peak
Anita Pearson

Lynn & Paul Randelman
Anne Randolph
Bob Ray
Caroline Read
Raim & Lily Regelson
Louis Reginato
Rudolph Reich
Michael Reidenbach
Republic Services of Contra Costa County
Barbara & Al Resnick
Robert & Carol Riddell
Marjorie Rieger
Linda Rigolfi
Ed & Teresa Ritelli, Jr.
Pete & Lewis Ritter
Mary Kate Rittmann
Mark & Claire Roberts
Michael T. Robinson
William Robinson

Steve Salomon
Kay & Matt Sander
Katherine Sanders
Jess Santucci, DDS
Laura & Luke Sawczuk
Robert & Caroline Schmalz
William & Nathalie Schmicker
Greg & Wendy Waggener Schmidt
Steven & Ana Maria Schnier
Harvey & Kathleen Schochet
Dieter & Sue Scholz
Gary Schroeder
Andrew Schwartz
Ralph Schwarz
Steve & Sandy Sciamanna
Rolland & Isabel Sears
Deborah Sedberry
Carol Sendorff
Steve & Lisa Sernett
Ralph & Sue Severson
Ronald Shallat
David Shapiro & Sharon Wheatley
Carolyn Sheaff
Dennis & Nicole Sidlauskas
Sarah & Lawrence Siegel
Shauna & Mark Simmonds
Singelstad Construction Inc.
Ellis Sjoberg
Maryann Skitarelic
Joseph & Sally Small
Lurelia Smiley
Smiley Nail Spa
Deborah Smith

Joan Smith
Winifred Smith
Jeffrey Smyly
Lionel & Ann Sorenson
Catherine Soso
Jeffrey & Michele Spitulnik
Steve & Margene Stahle

Check out the possibilities at the Orinda Volunteer Fair on April 21

Steven & Sally Stanten
Arthur & Carole Strand
Greg & Patricia Straughn
David & Jean Sullivan
Lupita Sutton
Svensson Auto Body
Garth Swenson
Anna & Skip Tague
Karen & Mitchell Tarkoff
Nat & Susan Taylor
RH & KC Thompson
Barbara Tittle
Tradeline Inc.
Tom & Lynn Trowbridge
Nancy & Donald Turtle
Ted & Lida Urban
Caroline Utz & Jen Villafane

Milton & Barbara Vail
Joseph Vanderliet
Alan & Jen Varela
Village Associates
Jeffrey Violet
Jacqueline Voigt
Ware Designs
Brian & Anita Waters
Bill & Marie Waterman
Lennie & Howard Weiser
Greta Westeson
Steve & Meredith Westfall
Richard Westin
Mark & Zaroda Whatley
Donna White
Shirley White
Margaret Whitfield
Pam Whitman
Jack Wickware
Kate & Rich Wiley
Lee Ann Williams
Howard & Virginia Williamson
Margarita Wilmot
Don Wilson
Peter & Amelia Wilson
Raymond & Dorothy Wilson
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Bob & Myrna Witt
Tom & Carole Wolfman
Gary Wong
Tom & Amy Worth
Gary & Vicky Yancy
Peter & Kay Yanev
Joe Zablocki
Carol Lu Zischke



SALLY HOGARTY

Participants in the 2015 Volunteer Fair, which takes place in April each year.

Nye
Annette O'Connor
Mark & Lori Oczkus
Orinda Academy
Orinda Chamber of Commerce
Orinda Classic Car Show
Orinda Community Foundation
Orinda Motors, Inc.
Orinda Optometry Group
Orinda Park & Recreation Foundation
Orinda Shell Auto Care
Orinda Starlight Village Players

Cynthia & Thomas Pearson
Pease Family Fund
Michael & Virginia Peiser
Carol Penskar
Charlie Petri
Bill & Mary Phelon
Eve Phillips
Len Phillips
Tom & Liz Piatt
Edward D. Pike
Cindy & Jonathon Powell
J.M. Pressler
Edward Quinnan
Stephanie Quinnild
James H. & Margaret C. Quirk

Gail Roche & Harlan Van Wye
Rockridge Builders
Richard Rogan
Steve Rosenzweig
Jack & Barbara Ross
Mike & Virginia Ross
Rotary Club of Orinda
Jean & Larry Rowe
Sonya Ruehl
Marilyn Runo
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Jim & Jane Ryan
Michael & Carol Sabarese
Bruce & Lynne Royer
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VISUAL ARTS



ELANA O'LOSKEY

At the **2017 Visual Arts Competition** awards ceremony, over 200 teens, their friends, families and teachers applauded as award winners' names were announced. High school students who live in or attend public or private schools in Lamorinda claimed \$3K in prizes and received award certificates. All submitted artwork was displayed at the gallery for a month.

Gallery: 15th Annual High School Visual Arts Competition

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) features 2D, 3D, photography and digital design artwork by high school students who live in or attend public or private schools in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga. The competition is also open to all students who attend the Acalanes Union High School District schools including Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Miramonte High Schools, regardless of residence. The Visual Arts Competition (VAC) features \$3,000 in cash awards and merit citations. All artwork is on display through March 26 at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library.

The public is invited to attend the reception at the gallery on March 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. The awards ceremony and announcement of winners begins at 7:45 p.m. Students may submit entries for 2D and 3D artwork as well as for photography and digital design. This would include: 2D – paintings, drawings, printmaking, mixed media and collage; 3D – sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, construction; photography – black and white, color, film, digital; and digital designs – work produced solely on a computer platform which may contain photo images.

The LAC awards cash prizes in each category as follows: First Place \$300, Second Place \$200, Third Place \$100, Honorable Mention \$25, and Best in Show \$300. Judging is done by professional artists whose criteria are creativity and originality; content; and degree of expertise in the

chosen medium. Approximately 200 entries are expected from high school students in public, private and home high schools. Lamorinda art teachers who assisted high school students in preparing their entries have earned a big round of applause. At the reception, you can meet the students, their families, teachers and friends while enjoying the colorful and imaginative work on display.

For over 65 years, LAC has been igniting and sustaining artistic expression and appreciation for all ages throughout Lamorinda and especially supporting and advocating for arts in the schools. An event of this scope necessitates liberal amounts of volunteer work. VAC chair Denise Nomura expresses gratitude to fellow LAC members Lawrence Kohl, president, and many other volunteers. Thanks are also due to Todd Trimble, director of Orinda Parks and Recreation, who coordinates gallery events with Maggie Boscoe, gallery curator. Co-sponsors of the event include Lafayette Partners in Education; Moraga Education Foundation; the Educational Foundation of Orinda and Ted Urban. Thanks to all for pulling together as a community to support Lamorinda youth. See www.lamorindaarts.org for more information.


You can visit the gallery during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed from March 2 to 14 for carpet installation. This does not affect access to the gallery. Call 925-254-2814 for more information or visit www.ccclib.org.

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The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) is looking to hire its first-ever Executive Director. The core proven competencies and experiences we seek in applicants are the following:

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- Financial and/or business management with similar revenue streams, including budgeting and oversight, nonprofit compliance and reporting.
- Demonstrated capacity to build alliances and sustain collaborative relationships with community members from diverse cultural, economic and political perspectives.
- Senior management experience in a comparably focused educational and/or fundraising organization. Ideally having built an organization in size, scope and impact.
- Experience working and partnering with a highly-engaged community-based Board of Directors.

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OIS Students Get a Taste of High School



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Feb. 1, 8th grade Orinda Intermediate Students received an Orinda police escort as they walked to Miramonte High School for a special orientation. Greeted by Miramonte students, the future incoming freshman had tours and visited classes.



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STUDENTS

Lots of Drama at Miramonte

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Miramonte High School Drama Department takes on the angst-filled *Heathers*, *The Musical*.

The musical follows Veronica, a beautiful teenage misfit who hustles her way into the most powerful and ruthless clique at Westerberg High. Before she gets too comfortable atop the high school food chain, Veronica falls for the dangerously handsome new kid, J.D., and finds herself kicked out of the clique. According to J.D., a little pay back is in order.

The story line should interest high school students and parents as they navigate the often-difficult teenage years.

While the original musical contained a plethora of rough language and R-rated sex scenes, Miramonte will present the high school version, which keeps the storyline intact but removes the more provocative dialogue and stage directions. The show still manages, however, to focus on the important issues of bullying and teenage depression.

Heathers runs March 9, 10 and 16 at 7 p.m. and March 17 at 4 p.m. Tickets are available online at www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte.



Cate Combi, Elise Ziem, Charlotte Guillory, Lauren McCulloch, Maddy Chavez, Ashley Holbrook and Holly Brown signed national letters of intent to play soccer in college.

Lamorinda Women Take Part In National Collegiate Signing Day

In February, seven members of Lamorinda's U.S. Soccer Development Academy signed National Letters of Intent to play soccer at universities around the nation. Their commitments on National Signing Day add to the Lamorinda Soccer Club's strong record of producing high level

players who go on to achieve success at elite levels.

The players, who achieved high academic honors as well as proficiency on the soccer pitch, include Cate Combi (Chapman University), Elise Ziem (UC Santa Barbara), Charlotte Guillory (Cali-

fornia State University at Long Beach), Lauren McCulloch (UC Santa Barbara), Maddy Chavez (UC Irvine), Ashley Holbrook (University of the Redlands) and Holly Brown (Sonoma State University).

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

Third Annual STEM Opens Doors for Girls on March 17, 2018

Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) STEM Conference at Saint Mary's College

By HEIDI MEYER
Contributing Writer

The third annual AAUW EYH STEM Conference for middle school age girls will take place March 17 at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. The conference creates educational opportunities for girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) [AAUW-OML] is passionate about STEM [Science/Technology/Engineering/Math] subjects and the powerful, positive impact that they can have on middle school girls and their futures. In 2015, AAUW-OML established this one-day STEM conference where girls experience interactive workshops introduced by women working in these fields. In organizing the program, AAUW-OML formed important partnerships with the School of Science at Saint Mary's College and Expanding Your Horizons (EYH).

This powerful day-long conference introduces middle school girls to many

experiences to promote the study and pursuit of STEM learning. It will feature a presentation by a highly successful STEM professional talking about her background, career path and expertise. Eve Phillips, Google Group Product Manager and Orinda City Council Member, will kick off the conference with an inspirational talk.

Students will also benefit from participating in three hands-on STEM-based workshops led by professionals who serve as role models. Individual workshops will run the gamut as students learn about FBI crime scene technology, building bridges, exploring the inside of computers, creating optical art and understanding the physics of air and space flight among other choices.

Participating students will also learn about a plethora of careers in STEM-related fields while interacting on a beautiful college campus. High school girls, many alumnae of the conference, will also be a resource and inspiration since they will have been trained to serve as ambassadors.

Parents are invited to join a morning workshop featuring a keynote speaker, and a panel discussion, including a high school student from Campolindo High School, a Tech Trek graduate now attend-

ing UC Berkeley, a nutritionist and a psychologist. The theme of the presentation is "Negotiating the Maze: How to Guide Your Daughter through Choosing Her Academic Electives in High School and College." A campus tour and refreshments will also be included.

There are many, many volunteers who make this conference possible. They include volunteers from the AAUW-OML branch, alumna from Tech Trek and Sister-to-Sister programs, and local high school girls who will provide direct assistance in the workshops. AAUW-OML is very proud of its special "Ambassador" program for high school girls who have the opportunity to take on leadership roles in putting on the conference. Girls from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte High Schools help

plan the conference and train volunteers, as well as monitor and troubleshoot all activities on the day of the conference.

The conference is limited to 200 girls in grades six through eight on a first come, first served basis. The day runs from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Since the goal of the founders is to make this conference accessible to everyone, only a small \$25 registration fee will be charged. Scholarships are also available. You can also register online at www.expandingyourhorizons.org/conferences/AAUWSAINTMARYS. AAUW-OML is thankful to their donors who make this program affordable for all girls. They include Saint Mary's College, Chevron, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, and many individuals in the Lamorinda community.



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The Orinda Union School District seeks applicants to serve on its Parcel Tax Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. Currently there is a two-year term vacancy. The committee meets twice annually during normal business hours. The primary objective and purpose of this committee is to ensure that the parcel tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purpose and to report annually to the Board of Trustees and the public regarding the expenditure of such funds.

If interested, please submit an application to:
Orinda Union School District
Attn: Debbie Jamieson
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or by fax to (925) 254-5261.

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or by email from djamieson@orinda.k12.ca.us

Application Deadline:
Friday, March 23, 2018, by Noon



MAT'S TALK

Miramonte At the Wheel

Chelsea Pelchat



It's a typical afternoon as I'm driving home from school when, all of a sudden, the line of cars in front of me seem to brake in unison. As the vehicles inch forward at a steady five m.p.h., I begin to see pieces of what once used to be a shiny, brand new, convertible Mercedes scattered along the side of Moraga Way. The wailing police sirens become louder from the distance, as the two high school drivers stand waiting next to their crumpled cars, still in disbelief of what just happened. "I feel like I've seen a crash here every single day this week," my friend remarks as we drive past the scene.

Needless to say, Miramonte's after-school traffic appears to confirm the stereotype of reckless teenage driving, as students rush to their jobs and sports practices, often distracted by their phones and paying little attention to what's happening on the road around them. Although a few dents and scratches are normal for beginner drivers, the recent spike in car accidents undoubtedly begs the need to address this issue. One might draw a correlation to sleep deprivation and stress, with second semester bringing on the challenge of balancing school work with intensive test prep and summer

program applications. As a result, students tend to prioritize ambition over health, with disastrous effects surfacing immediately upon taking the wheel. Yet with the new block schedule directing its structure on alleviating stress, it's clear that the school is working hard to eliminate this factor.

Others may conclude that accidents are mainly due to distractions caused by cell phone usage: "I know I'm not supposed to, but sometimes I use my phone to change the music selection or look at a text because it seems pretty harmless but in reality, it really only takes a split second for it to go all wrong," my friend admitted the other day.

In spite of it all, it's easy to blame a student's lack of experience and attention each time we see a young driver on the Lamorinda roads; but, while we all have reason to fear the stream of cars that spill in and out of our community's high school, we must also remember that driving is an experience that gives teenagers an opportunity to mature and grow as they enter their adult years.

Chelsea Pelchat is a junior at Miramonte High School.

Orinda Troop 237 Helps Santa Rosa Rise from the Ashes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
(L-R) Back row: **Max Coons, Jackson Painter, Campbell Hoskins, Marcus O'Neill**; Front row: Scouts from Santa Rosa Troop 707.

In the wake of the devastating North Bay fires, Orinda Troop 237 Boy Scouts, Max Coons, Campbell Hoskins, Marcus O'Neill and Jackson Painter, wondered how they could help. A call to the Santa Rosa Boy Scouts of America council revealed a Santa Rosa Troop that had lost all its scouting supplies. Santa Rosa Troop 707 stored its supplies in the homes of its Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairman. Sadly, all three homes – plus 20 percent of their troop families' homes – were lost in the fires.

"Because the supplies were held in private homes, insurance is only covering a small portion. So we decided to help replace the Scouting supplies they lost," explains Max Coons. The Orinda boys organized a donation drive within Troop 237 and the outer community. The troop

ended up delivering a large truck full of camping gear to Santa Rosa that will first be offered to the individual families who lost their homes, then everything left will be used toward troop supplies.

Plus, over a 10-day period, the families of current and alumni Scouts from Troop 237 contributed \$4,200 in cash and gift cards for the Santa Rosa troop.

Troop 237 is thankful to Orinda Troop 303 and Lafayette Troop 200 who immediately pitched in with generous support. In all, nearly \$7,000 plus supplies were donated to Troop 707 and its families. Troop 707 expressed their gratitude, "These Scouts made it their mission to reach out and help us soon after the fires struck. We are proud to be part of an organization that is so ready to help their fellow Scouts in need."

SCHOOL CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 **Del Rey Elementary School**, Spring registration opens.
- 5 **Miramonte Boosters Club**, 6 p.m. meeting.
Holden High School, 6 p.m. Information Session. This evening event includes a short presentation, tour and ample opportunity to ask questions of the staff and students.
Del Rey Elementary School, minimum day. Also March 6.
- 7 **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m., Governing Board Meeting, AUHSD Community Room, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Also March 21.
- 9 **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. *Heathers the Musical*. Also March 10, 16 and 17 at 4 p.m. See article p. 13.
- 10 **Miramonte High School**, 7 a.m. SAT testing.
Holden High School, 7 p.m. Fundraiser for Foreign Cinema.
- 12 **Miramonte High School and Del Rey Elementary School**, no school.
- 14 **Miramonte High School**, 6:30 p.m. Career Night.
- 16 **Orinda Intermediate School**, 9 a.m., Parents Club Meeting.
- 21 **Miramonte High School**, 9:30 a.m. Parents Club meeting.
- 23 **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Performers for Progress. Also March 24.
- 27 **Miramonte High School**, 3:30 p.m. Naviance Parent Workshop. Also March 28 and 29 at 6:30 p.m.
- 28 **Orinda Unified School District**, 6 p.m., board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda.
- 30 **Orinda Academy**, School closed.

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

2018 Poul Anderson Writing Contest Launches in Orinda

The Friends of the Orinda Library announce the commencement of 2018's Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda.

Entry Categories are Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is Friday, April 20, at noon.

Entries are evaluated by a panel of local judges who are involved professionally in reading, writing or publishing. Up to four winners will each be awarded \$500 prizes at the close of this school year, underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library.

The contest is named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident, who was a true friend to the community for 40 years.

Entries should be submitted to individual school representatives or at the Orinda Library. For additional information go to www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org or email contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.org.

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BOOKS / WRITERS

Between the Lines Sweet Memories of Mystery Novels

Maria Roden, Orinda Books



My mum always read mysteries. I remember at the age of six, arriving home from school and finding her reading in the sitting room with two great piles towering on either side of the armchair. They were large hardbacks, covered in yellowing, brittle plastic that she would get not from the local library, but from Clayton's, the local sweet shop on the corner of the high street. The shop was small and dark, and smelled of tobacco and vanilla and polish. It's a fish and chips shop now, but back in the '60s it sold boiled sweets, toffee and chocolate, together with cigarettes, cigars and tobacco. And, all along the left-hand wall were beautiful tall wooden bookshelves that housed the lending library.

The counter was straight ahead, and all I was interested in were the rows and rows of tall glass jars full of lemon bon-bons, strawberry sherbets, chocolate eclairs and gobstoppers. Each time we visited, Mr. Clayton took a jar down off the shelf, unscrewed the lid and tipped a few sweets into the palm of my hand. My mum would buy her weekly supply of Henry Winterman cigars and silently and slowly browse the shelves. Mr. Clayton, with his shiny bald head and neatly trimmed salt-and-pepper mustache, often watched her from behind the counter, but one day when my mum was on her own, she said he came out into the shop, grabbed her shoulders and pulled her close for a kiss. She said she didn't want to go in alone again and insisted I come into the shop with her on all future visits.

I don't remember what titles she read, but whenever I'm ordering books in the British Library Crime Classics series (reprints of classic British mysteries from the '30s, '40s and '50s published by the Poisoned Pen Press) I imagine that these must have been amongst them. When I go back home now to visit my mum, the piles of books have gone. She says since my dad died she can't concentrate to read any more. But her love of mysteries still survives through our TV viewing of *Agatha Christie's Poirot*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Miss Marple*, and adaptations of Ruth Rendell's stories.

Mysteries are huge sellers at Orinda Books. I think their popularity has a lot to do with their series format. As readers we love going back to the same place, visiting with the same characters, sharing the familiar minutiae and unexpected developments of these characters' lives but, at the same time, having a new crime to solve. Venice is the setting for Donna Leon's mysteries; Charles Todd's are set during the 1920s

in London's Scotland Yard; Tana French centers hers on The Dublin Murder Squad, Cara Black in Paris, and most popular of all at the store, Louise Penny's Quebec based mysteries, are set in the village of Three Pines.

Penny's protagonist, Chief Superintendent of the Surete de Quebec, Armand Gamache, unlike most other fictional chief inspectors or detectives, has no addiction, no troubled past, no drink problem or axe to grind. He is, according to Penny, a fictionalized version of her own husband. Readers love him! If you haven't discovered this series yet, you're in for a treat. Penny's latest in the series, *Glass Houses* will be out in paperback in early May. And they love her over the pond too! Early last month, Louise Penny was touring in the UK with another Orinda Books favorite mystery author, Ann Cleeves, whose *Vera* and *Shetland* series starring Detective Chief Inspector Vera Stanhope and Inspector Jimmy Perez respectively, have both been adapted into hugely popular TV shows in the UK. Rumor has it they are planning a couple of joint events in the U.S. too.

Our best-selling mystery of all time (our figures only go back to when Danny and I bought the store in 2014) is by Derek B Miller, titled *Norwegian by Night*. Miller has a brand new book coming out this April, titled *American Day*. It will star the same detective Sigrid featured in *Norwegian by Night*. Scandinavian mysteries/thrillers have an atmosphere all of their own. Stieg Larsson, Jo Nesbo, Jussi Adler Olsen, Henning Mankell and Arnaldur Indridason are some of our most popular-selling authors in that genre.

Later this year, there will be an author's name I did not expect to see in the mystery section. Former President Bill Clinton is teaming up with James Patterson for a thriller entitled *The President is Missing*. Watch out for that one on our shelves in June!

When I ask my mum about Mr. Clayton and the kiss and her not wanting to go and borrow books from his store any more, she says she can't remember anything about it. I can't help thinking he would make an interesting character in the sub-plot of some mystery one day...

Orinda Books will be hosting four local mystery authors on April 21 at 3 p.m.: Janet Dawson, Wendy Hornsby, Simon Wood and Glenda Carroll all have new books out this spring. See our website www.orindabooks.com for more information.

The Orinda Community Foundation Grants for 2017



This year's grants totaled \$55,280 including a generous grant from the Ernest and Lola Poll Foundation that is administered by the Orinda Community Foundation.

Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe for J.M. Adobe Restoration

- Lamorinda Village for Senior Support Programs
- Lamorinda Adult Respite Ctr. (Poll Trust) for Senior Care & Improvements
- Lamorinda Area Radio Group for System upgrades
- Lamorinda Arts Council for Lamorinda Idol
- Orinda Association for Fourth of July Parade & Celebration
- Orinda Garden Club for Downtown Beautification
- Orinda Community Foundation for Action Day of Community Service
- Orinda Junior Garden Club for Downtown Hanging Baskets
- Orinda Junior Women's Club for Youth Ink Writing Contest
- Orinda Parks and Rec. for Teen Movies and Concerts in the Park
- Monteverde Seniors (Poll Trust) for Senior Transportation Support
- Moraga Parks and Rec. for All Access Kids Playground
- Seniors Around Town (Poll Trust) for Senior Rides Program

Homegrown Writers Workshop

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Andrea A. Firth and Janine de Boisblanc describe the Diablo Writers' Workshop as "Lamorinda homegrown." Co-owners Firth and de Boisblanc met in graduate school at St. Mary's College, where they both received MFAs in Creative Writing. Discovering a shared passion for writing and teaching, they decided to create the workshop.

"Janine and I bring fun, quality writing classes for adults of all ages to the East Bay, here — east of the tunnel," said Firth.

"Our goal is to inspire writers, beginners and those with some experience, to find their voices and to take the stories from their lives and put them on the page. We



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Janine de Boisblanc has a passion for writing and teaching.

keep our classes small to allow room for expression and lots of individual attention, and we are open to writers working in fiction and nonfiction." Firth said that the unique workshop approach provides a supportive environment for writers to share work and receive useful feedback.

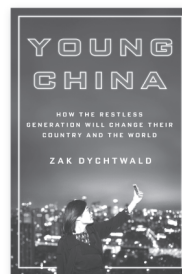
Firth said many students sign up for the four to six week sessions because they've always wanted to write but don't know how to get started or keep going. "It's great to see them take to the process and come to recognize themselves as writers." Both teachers said they find inspiration in their students' writing.

"What's most exciting is when students [SEE WRITERS page 18]



Andrea Firth is one of the co-owners of the writers workshop.

TWO ENLIGHTENING AUTHOR EVENTS IN MARCH



THURSDAY
MARCH 1st
6:30 PM

Zak Dychtwald

Young China: How the Restless Generation Will Change Their Country and the World
ST. MARTIN'S \$25.99

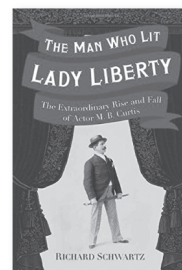
Miramonte grad Dychtwald, who was 20 when he first visited China, offers a fascinating portrait of the generation that will define what it means to be Chinese in the modern world.



Richard Schwartz

The Man Who Lit Lady Liberty: The Extraordinary Rise & Fall of Actor M.B. Curtis
HEYDAY BOOKS \$29.95

A fascinating biography resurrects from obscurity a 19th c. immigrant actor, the first to step forward with private funds to light the new State of Liberty.



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1 PM

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 **Orinda Books**, 10 a.m., Story time with Cathy G. A lively hour of books and fun for 2-4 year-olds and their grown-ups. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- Orinda Chamber Mixer**, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.. Chevron is holding a mixer to meet the community. 11 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-254-3909.
- Orinda Books**, 6:30 p.m.. Miramonte High School grad and local resident Zak Dychtwald introduces his book *Young China: How the Restless Generation will Change their Country and The World*. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- Orinda Theatre Concert Series**, 7:30 p.m., performer Amanda McBroom and Michele Brouman, Orinda Theatre. www.lamorindatheatres.com. See article p. 2.
- East Bay International Jewish Film Festival** featuring *Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me*, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Theatre, www.eastbayjewishfilm.org.
- 2 **First Friday Forum**, 1 p.m., Dr. Sarah Anzia will discuss "The Politics of Public Pensions" Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article pg. this page.
- 5 **Senator Steve Glazer and Assemblymember Catharine Baker** will hold a Joint Legislative Town Hall, 6:30 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. RSVP to 925-258-1176 or online at www.sen.ca.gov/1565/townhall.
- 7 **Library Art Gallery**, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Visual Arts Competition reception and awards ceremony for Lamorinda high school student artists. Light refreshments served. See article p. 12.
- 10 **Barb & Holly's 8th Annual Clothes Swap**, 10 a.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 Sainte Stephens Dr. Orinda, 925-788-7589. See article p. 16.
- St. Mary's College Guild**, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Auction, St. Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, Corned beef dinner, Irish step dancers, Irish band and great auction items. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. Tickets are \$50. Send checks payable to SMC Guild to Shirley Bohuslav, 782 Augusta Dr., Moraga, 94556. Call 925-284-7750.
- Cal Shakes**, 6 p.m., Guiding Star and Luminary Awards to honor Playwright Marcus Gardley and four luminaries: James Carpenter, Tristan Cunningham, Tatiana Chaterji, and John Muir Health. Claremont Club & Spa, Berkeley. 510-899-4907s. See article p. 7.
- 13 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m., Chef Charles Vollmar of Epicurean Exchange takes us to Paris with his luncheon/cooking demonstration. Limited seating, \$35 includes luncheon and 10 percent off any cookbook in store. Register at 925-254-7606 or email info@orindabooks.com.
- 17 **McDonnell Nursery**, 10 a.m., Sustainable Gardening and Low-Water Plants workshop. 196 Moraga Way, Orinda, 925-254-3713 for reservations.
- Orinda Books**, 3 p.m., Jill Kolongowski presents her debut book *Life Lessons Harry Potter Taught Me*. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 18 **Lamorinda Arts Council Third Annual ShortDocs Film Fest** deadline for submissions. See www.lamorindaarts.org to enter or for info and resources; article on p. 7.
- Orinda Books**, 1 p.m., Richard Schwartz will discuss his biography, *The Man Who Lit Lady Liberty*, M.B. Curtis – a fascinating and illuminating true story. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 20 **World Affairs Book Group** 3 p.m. will discuss *Thank You For Being Late: An Optimist's Guide To Thriving in the Age of Accelerations*, by Thomas L. Friedman. The discussion will be lead by Joe Patti. 276 Village Square, Orinda, 925-254-7606.
- 25 **Dose of Awareness 5K Walk/Health Expo**, 1 - 3:30 p.m. Heather Farm Park, 301 N. San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek, See article p. 8.
- Orinda Books**, 2 p.m., Middle School Book Club moderated by Susan Reckers will read and discuss *The Secret Hum of a Daisy* by Tracy Holczer. All middle schoolers are invited to purchase the book (10% discount), and join the discussion. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 31 **Easter Egg Hunt**, 11 a.m., Orinda Community Center Park. Sponsored by Orinda Rotary. 925-254-2445.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.cclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. The library will be closed on March 2 -14 for carpet replacement.

- 1 **ESL Conversation Circle**, 1 to 3 p.m. For adults, practice and improve English conversation skills in a small, informal group, Registration not required. Also March 15, 22 and 29.
- 16 **Mystery Book Club**, 3-4:30 p.m. Join the Orinda Mystery Book Club to uncover and discuss the new mystery book of the month. Meetings every third Friday of the month. This month's selection is *Magnie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz.
- Orinda Library TAG Meeting**, 4 p.m., Monthly meeting of the Orinda Library Teen Advisory Group.
- 20 **Orinda Library Writers Group**, 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment to motivate, critique and inspire one another. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group.
- 22 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**, 7:30 p.m., Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month. Garden Room.
- 23 **Teen Coloring Club**, 4 p.m. Join the Orinda Library TAG to de-stress, relax and have fun. The library provides age appropriate coloring books and colored pencils; you provide the inspiration and creativity. Free and open to all. Also March 30.

CLUB MEETINGS

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

Public Pensions in Forum Spotlight

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

“The Politics of Public Pensions” will be the subject of Dr. Sarah Anzia’s presentation at the First Friday Forum Lecture Series on March 2, 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Dr. Anzia states, “In the last several years, Californians have heard a lot about the State’s public pension problems. Those problems aren’t confined to California. The same issues are affecting state and local governments throughout the country.”

Anzia then asks a couple pertinent follow-up questions: “What exactly are the problems associated with public employee pensions? How and why did these problems come about and what are the likely consequences for state and local governments, for government employees, and for the citizens of California?”

She continues, “This talk will focus on the ‘politics’ behind the nation’s pension problems. Specifically, it will zero in on the politics behind how public pensions benefits have been expanded, the political considerations of those who are charged with fully funding those benefits, and the political factors that shape how local government across the country responds to their rising pension costs.”

Sarah Anzia is a political scientist who studies American politics with a focus on state and local government, elections, in-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Sarah Anzia is First Friday Forums’s March speaker.

terest groups, political parties and public policy. Her book, *Timing and Turnout: How Off-Cycle Elections Favor Organized Groups*, examines how the timing of elections can be manipulated to affect both voter turnout and the composition of the electorate, which, in turn, affects election outcomes and public policy. She also studies the role of government employees and public-sector unions in elections and policy making in the U.S. In addition, she has written about the politics of public pensions, women in politics, the historical development of electoral institutions and the power of political party leaders in state [SEE FORUM page 18]

- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or 925-283-8288.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 a.m., Sept. through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, www.montelindogarden.com. March 16 a free presentation “Big Ideas for Designing Your Small Back Yard” with Susan Morrison, a nationally-recognized landscape designer and author of *Less Is More in the Garden*. The presentation focuses on creating unique small-space gardens. 925-284-8193.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Garden Club**, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668 or going to www.eventbrite.com.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM**. First Thursday every month, except holidays, at 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center, Orinda. Family Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org. March 7 - “State of the City” luncheon featuring Mayor Amy Worth, who will provide an update on all of the latest projects and issues facing Orinda. Service awards will also be presented to outstanding Rotarians and Chamber of Commerce members. March 24 - Outing on the USS Hornet, including a presentation by Admiral Mike Baker (USN Ret) on the ever-growing threat of North Korea to our national security. March 28 Jesse Avelar presents “Building a Bridge in Patagonia.” Hear the adventurous story of Jesse Avelar, who traveled to the tip of South America to build a bridge across some of the most treacherous terrain in the world.
- Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or www.orindawomansclub.org.

CITY/FIRE/MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

SEASONED SHOPPER

◆ HOUSING from page 1

adds Roberts.

OSHF is run by the same board as OSV, and the project is planned for different income levels than OSV -- not very low, but low to moderate. The goal is that current Orinda residents may be able to qualify. "I'm aware of a large number of Orinda residents who've been real contributors to the community but, because of mobility or similar issues, they've had to move out of town because they can't find housing that's suitable for their needs," says Roberts. "I'm really committed to this because I want to see our community create opportunities for long-term residents to stay here and remain a part of our community rather than having to move out."

OSHF has a land use attorney and an engineering group that has done a preliminary study. The proposed project of 35 to 40 units is much smaller than the current OSV which is a 150-unit complex. Roberts says, "We are starting discussions with the city, and we're also interested in talking with neighbors, especially those on Watchwood, the first street up in Orindawoods. We had a meeting with them a couple of weeks ago."

Other neighbors that OSHF wants to connect with are on La Plaza, which is immediately north of the church property.



The proposed site of a new senior housing project near the Orinda Community Church.

Roberts says, "To facilitate those discussions with the city and with neighbors, we've hired John Wyro, a long-term Orinda resident. He has decades of experience in the field and is the 2016 Orinda Citizen of the Year." OSHF wants to be aware of neighbors' concerns. "We want to address the concerns, which are primarily aesthetic for the residents of Watchwood since they would be looking down on the property," notes Roberts.

A major hurdle that needs to be overcome before the project can begin is repartitioning the church property. Roberts explains, "Right now what the church has is one big parcel, and we will need to partition that and re-zone the upper parcel for

Residential Multi-family, and get a Senior Housing Overlay, which indicates a parcel has been specifically designated for senior housing." Both OSV and Monteverde currently have Senior Housing Overlays. OSHF is working with OCC to determine the best way to deal with the land to make the parcel available for development.

OCC would prefer not to sell the land and is looking at a long-term lease. "That provides two benefits: a reliable income-stream for the church, which they need and would very much appreciate, and we wouldn't have to buy the land," says Roberts. "We've run the basic numbers, and we feel that we can easily pay the lease payments from the monthly income. Like the OSV, these units would be all rental units on one-year leases." At the end of 2016, OSV refinanced the existing facility to lower the interest rate by over two-percent and pulled out in excess of \$14 million. "We have the funds available for the project," says Roberts. "We'd rather use as much of or all those funds for the actual construction rather than buying the land. Obviously, the land is many orders of magnitude more valuable than it was 40 years ago."

Meetings with Orinda Planning Director Drummond Buckley resulted in many helpful suggestions. "We've had some discussions with Drummond about our hous-

ing element and some of the new things that came out of Sacramento in terms of encouraging cities to look at multi-family projects, especially in areas that are close to commercial areas and transit," says Roberts. "Another reason this makes so much sense is that it's right next to the two existing senior housing complexes in town and just up the street from a fire station."

The response from OCC members has been overwhelmingly positive. "They really are in favor of this idea because they feel it does help fulfill their mission, similar to what they did 40 years ago when they created OSV," says Roberts. "Everything right now tells us that this makes a lot of sense. It's an opportunity that we want to



Seasoned Shopper

Farmers' Market Returns

BARBARA KOB SAR



Time to bring out the shopping bags! The Orinda Farmers' Market opens Saturday, March 31, for a fresh new season, an opening that coincides with the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Community Center-Park. Stroll through the market and enjoy picking out in-season fruits and vegetables and a selection of artisan foods.

Highlights of spring include strawberries and asparagus and an array of tender greens. Arugula is also a favorite with its peppery bite to kick up a plate of milder salad greens or to use in pasta sauces.

Cilantro is available year-round, but the early months of the year are the best time to savor the flavor of this love-it-or-hate-it herb. Similar looking but much more aromatic than its look-alike cousin parsley, cilantro is prized in the cuisines of Mexico, China, India and Thailand. Burritos and salsas aren't the same without their cilantro!

Now is the time to scout the market for bunches of fresh pea shoots. Their soft leaves, curly tendrils and watery stems offer all the fabulous flavor of spring peas. Pea

shoots are versatile as well. Try them raw in salads and sandwiches, in a stir fry with a little olive oil and minced garlic or tossed into soups and cooked pasta.

Edible pod peas are all on top of the what's-in-season list at the market. There are two types of edible pod peas. One is the snow pea, Chinese pea, or sugar pea -- all referring to a flat, tender three to four inch pod with tiny flat peas inside.

The other type of edible pod pea is the sugar snap pea -- a cross between green peas and snow peas. It combines the best qualities of each with the crisp, tender juicy pod and plump, round, buttery tasting peas. The flavor improves with a quick two to three minutes of cooking, whether boiling, sautéing, steaming or stir frying.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park and Rite Aid. For more information, visit the website at www.cccfm.org where you can also sign up for market specials sent right to your phone: Market Hotline 925-431-8361.

◆ WRITERS from page 15

engage with their writing on an emotional level. Whether they're writing nonfiction or fiction, it's inspiring to witness their voices emerge as they write from a place of authenticity and become stronger storytellers," said de Boisblanc.

The classes are held at a writing studio in Moraga and at Orinda Books. The instructors credit the store's owner Maria Roden (a fellow St. Mary's grad) with being a great supporter of the workshop. "We are fortunate to have such a wonderful independent bookstore available to us and our students," said Firth. "There's good synergy between our businesses."

take advantage of."

"We're hoping that the neighbors on Watchwood and all Orinda residents will recognize that this will be a great benefit not only to the seniors who move into the facility but also to the community in general," remarks Roberts. "We're just starting here. We've got a lot of work to do with the city and with neighbors. We're confident this is the right thing to do and the right time to do it."

In addition to running the workshop, Firth is a journalist and essayist. De Boisblanc is writing a memoir, works as a bookseller at Orinda Books and teaches three writing classes.

Because she must balance her other jobs, Firth sometimes finds it difficult to find uninterrupted time to write, so she carries a notebook to capture ideas to use later.

"I try to take my own advice and write in the pauses of the day -- sometimes a sentence or two a day can generate plenty of work," said de Boisblanc.

The pair are quite busy as they prepare to celebrate the first anniversary of the workshop. Still, each of them makes the time to write.

For more information, contact www.diablowriters.org.

◆ FORUM from page 17

legislatures. Her work has been published in the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, the *Journal of Politics*, the *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, and *Studies in American Political Development*. She has a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University and an M.P.P. from the Harris School at the University of Chicago.

The lecture will be preceded by refreshments served in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. For further information call 925-283-8722.

Rechic

Rechic is now under new ownership—and we're taking spring consignments! Visit us at 101 Orinda Way. rechic101.com

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ANIMALS/TALENT SHOW

Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales

Something About Snakes



Jennifer Conroy

This month marks the celebration of St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland, and the Pied Piper of Snakes. Did he or did he not drive snakes out of Ireland? Well, apparently there never were any actual snakes in Ireland to begin with. Snakes simply never made the journey there in the first place—at least not in St. Pat’s time.

The concept of casting out snakes probably evolved from concepts of evil that identified the snake as a real troublemaker for Adam and Eve. Today, of course, there are undoubtedly pet snakes living happily, we hope, with their Irish human companions.

Alas, snakes remain sorely misunderstood and while no short commentary may change minds, a few facts might soften views of snakes. How many times have we heard, “Snakes are slimy?” Let’s put that to rest immediately. Snakes are not slimy. In fact, they are quite dry to the touch. When running a finger along a snake’s body, one can feel the slight ridges of the scales, but I guarantee your finger will come away dry and not “slimed.” And though snakes can swim, once they are out of the water, they dry off in short order.

Another snake scare is the belief that they are always ready to lunge and attack. The truth is that snakes would like nothing better than to avoid you. Many snakes have natural camouflage that enables them to blend with the environment. While they do not have outer ears, sounds do reach their inner ears through vibrations felt on their skin and through their muscles. They also have teeth – typically a set of four top and bottom – and certain venomous snakes also have fangs through which venom can be injected.

Here in the Bay Area, rattlesnakes are quite common, as is the harmless gopher-snake, and those two are often confused because of their similar markings. It is certainly possible for hikers to encounter

one or the other of these snakes even though the snake will try to avoid human contact. The quickest way to differentiate between the two is that the rattler will have a rattle at the end of its tail and will clearly demonstrate it if provoked. The king snake has no such “accessory.”

Snakes can live for many years, both in the wild and in captivity if properly housed and cared for, with some species living up to 25 years or more. Anyone considering a snake as a companion animal should do extensive research that includes plans for long-term care. Habitat requirements include heat and safe enclosures and attention to specific feeding habits. Admittedly, a snake companion is not for everyone, but snakes are clean and, yes, many are friendly.

Years ago the San Francisco Zoo had a large boa named Julius Squeezers who was very sweet and loved nothing better than literally curling up with a nice warm human. She was quite large and one can only imagine the length of her shed skin when she molted, something that snakes do as they outgrow their skin and also as a way to remove any parasites.

When reflecting on snakes consider their role in medical and mythological symbolism. The rod of Asclepius depicts one snake around a staff representing the Greek demigod of medicine. It is the symbol used by the American Medical Association today. Ancient Greeks believed snakes were sacred and viewed their shedding of skin as renewal.

Whatever your view of snakes, they are creatures that have endured throughout the ages, leaving their marks on our human history.

OWC Talent Show and Awards



SALLY HOGARTY

On Feb. 13, the Orinda Woman’s Club (OWC) presented checks to Pillars of Hope, which combats human trafficking, and Berkeley Hope Scholars, which provides support services so that foster youth can attend and graduate from college. In addition to the awards, the OWC event included a talent show featuring students from Holden High School and from Leslie Noel’s Peter Pan Foundation. Shown above are (L) Holden High School student **Kayla Kitchens** who dramatized the poem “Why Poetry is Better than People,” and from the Peter Pan Foundation high school student **Jordyn Foley**, who belted out her rendition of “Skyscraper.”

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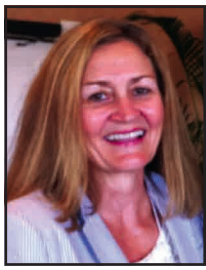
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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



To send items for consideration, email Hotz at v.hotz@att.net.

Rechic 101 Reopens Under New Management

Longtime Orinda resident Maureen Brown purchased the unique women's clothing consignment and gift shop, Rechic 101, located at 101 Orinda Way, adjacent to Baan Thai Restaurant and Penny Lane Hair Salon. Offering reasonably priced, gently-used, trendy, in-season brand clothing, shoes, accessories and jewelry, Brown also stocks an assortment of gift items for birthdays, graduations, holidays, thank you and hostess gifts.

"We believe clothing can be fun, well made and affordable all at the same time. To that end, we work to offer special pieces



Maureen Brown is the new owner of Rechic 101, a consignment boutique featuring women's clothing.

that add to our customers' personal style and are committed to keeping merchandise fresh so our customers find something new to enjoy each time they visit," says Brown. This boutique has a youthful, energetic vibe featuring women's clothing for the high school set and older.

"Our consignors are our partners. We offer 40 percent of the sales price for items that sell for under \$50 and 50 percent for items that sell for more than \$50. Our consignment partners may call to schedule an appointment or drop by during business hours," adds Brown.

With spring on the horizon, Rechic 101 is taking spring merchandise on consignment at this time. You will want to check out the special occasion section that is devoted to prom and senior ball dresses.

Gift merchandise offerings feature personal items such as jewelry, bath and body, journals and stationery. Home and garden décor items including candles, kitchenware, plants, pots and terrariums are available here. Rechic 101 offers customers complimentary giftwrap, so you leave the boutique with your gifts ready to be given.

As a locally owned small business, Rechic 101 plans to partner with other local businesses to offer creative events to the community such as knitting and flower arranging classes. Drop by soon and check in with Brown to get more details on upcoming store events.

Brown and her husband Tris moved to Orinda in 1999. The couple has two



Sisters Linda Hofmeister and Susan Rossi established their gourmet chocolate company, Hofssi Chocolates in 2014.

children. Son Nolan is a freshman at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and their daughter, Hannah, is a junior at Miramonte High School. As a sole proprietor, Brown has a busy schedule, squeezing in her yoga practice and walks with the family dog Charlie whenever possible. She is a co-founder of the Intuitive Writing Project and a member of the Board of Directors.

Rechic 101 is open Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 925-317-3735.

Divinely Distinctive Hofssi Chocolates

Your local handmade gourmet chocolate company, Hofssi Chocolates, brings the freshest delectable chocolates right to your door. This dynamic sister team of Susan Rossi and Linda Hofmeister founded their small business in Moraga in 2014. Their chocolates are also available at local businesses including Orinda Books and in Lafayette at Diablo Foods and Clocks, Etc., as well as Across the Way in Moraga.

"We obtained a Cottage Food license from Contra Costa County with a mission to create gourmet chocolates. Our chocolate tastes more vibrant because it is so supremely fresh. Flavors diminish over time, including nut flavors," says Hofmeister. Both Rossi and Hofmeister are Certified Chocolatiers, receiving their official certification from Ecole Chocolate, a prestigious teaching institution in San Francisco focusing on gourmet chocolate production.

"We are not doing what you would call exotic, but more traditional flavors, that include Chocolate Covered Almonds, Mint Meltaways, Peanut Butter Cups, Almond Toffee, Cardamom Ginger Cashews and Dark Chocolate Hazelnut Squares," she adds. "Coffee Bar is a 70 percent dark chocolate with a touch of ground coffee bean. We use only locally sourced organic Guittard and El Rey chocolate, which is a Fair Trade chocolate from Venezuela."

Initially Hofmeister wanted to focus on caramels. The team soon branched out, adding several more exquisite treats to their repertoire. "Our motto is 'Conscientious Consumption.' To that end we are dedicated to sourcing as many organic, local and sustainable ingredients as practicable, as well as using as much sustainable and compostable packaging as possible," explains Rossi.

While you may run into a Hofssi Chocolates "Pop-Up" stand when making your rounds, they also provide catering services and specialize in corporate gifts and events. These fresh, delectable chocolates are made even more tantalizing by the attractive packaging in shiny blue and silver foil, rendering them elegant and tasty hostess gifts. Check the website, www.Hofssi.com, for event and corporate gift details.

Rossi and Hofmeister grew up in Mountain View and both live in Moraga with their families. Hofmeister's husband, Andrew, is the Chief Executive Officer of a medical technology company and Rossi's husband, John, is an emergency room physician at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Walnut Creek. Each has three children. "Our teenage daughters invented the name of our company by combining our surnames, along with integrating two blue birds of happiness into the logo," points out Rossi.

Mark your calendar to attend the March 17 community festival, LaGAELrinda Day at Saint Mary's College. The festival runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and you will find a mouth-watering selection of Hofssi Chocolates.

Contact them directly to be added to their event notification list and for more information about specialty made-to-order chocolates at hofssichocolates@gmail.com You may visit their Facebook page and view videos featuring how they make their delicious gourmet chocolates at www.Facebook://Hofssi Chocolates. For more information, visit the website at www.HOFSSI.com or call Susan Rossi at 925-997-2997.



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda

Holy Week & Easter

Sunday, March 25	Palm Sunday: 8am and 10am
Wednesday, March 28	Tenebrae Service: 7pm
Thursday, March 29	Maundy Thursday: 6pm (supper/service)
Friday, March 30	Good Friday: Noon and 7pm
Saturday, March 31	The Great Vigil of Easter: 7pm (A festive reception follows)
Sunday, April 1	Easter Sunday: 7am, 9am and 11am

www.ststephensorinda.org

254-3770

What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

- March 9 – Orinda Youth Spring Soccer Registration Opens
 - March 14 – Senior Trip (50+): Bouquets to the Arts – De Young Museum
 - March 15 – Lunch N Learn: CPR Anytime Class for Ages 50 and over
 - March 16 – Deadline to register for Adult 5 on 5 Basketball League
 - March 20 – First Day of Spring! Sign Up for Spring Break Camps (April 2-6) NOW!
 - March 28 – Wisdom Workshop: What is Tinnitus and What Can Be Done About It?
 - March 31 - Spring Egg Hunt, 11am, Orinda Community Center Park for toddlers to 2nd grade
- Make your 2018 Picnic Area Reservations Now!**



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