



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 38, Number 3

www.theorindanews.com

Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
March 2023

Suspect Arrested in Felony Vandalism to Police Vehicle

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, Jan. 27, a decoy (crime deterrent) Orinda police vehicle, parked in the BevMo! lot next to First Republic Bank, was spray-painted in white with “Tyre” on all sides. An arrest was made several hours later.

Refusing *The Orinda News* access to the police report, Jimmy Lee, Director of Public Affairs with the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff (CCCOS) and spokesman for the Orinda Police Department (OPD), provided the following statement:

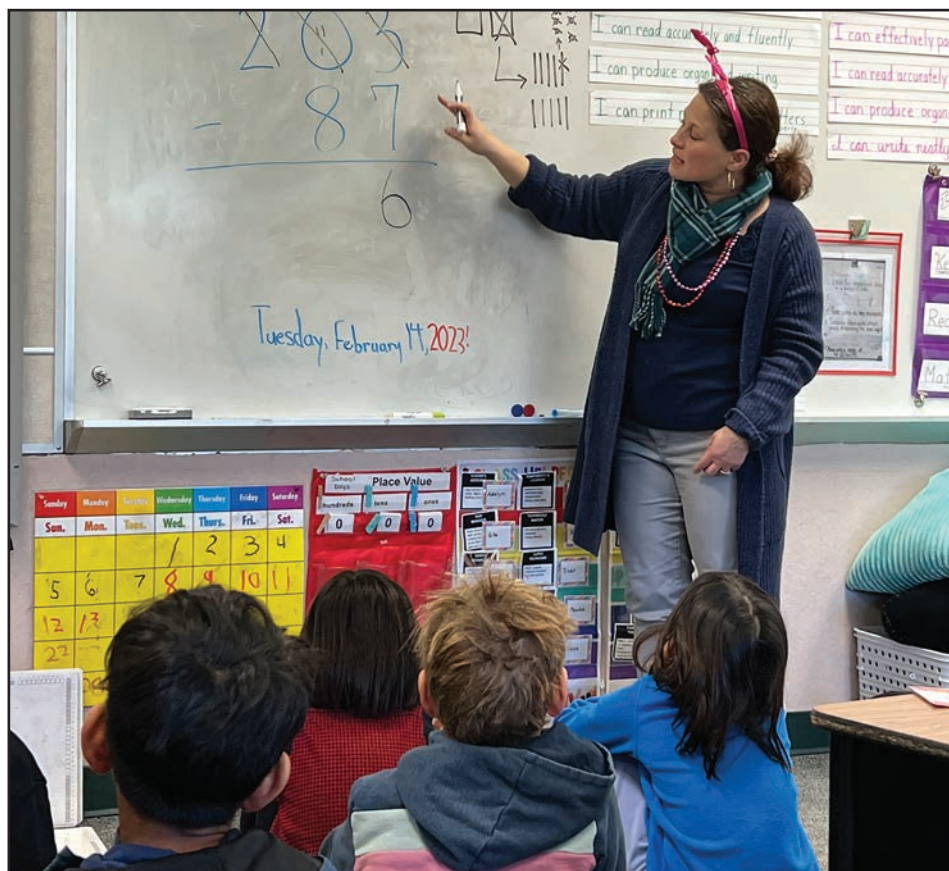
“Suspect arrested in felony vandalism incident. On Friday morning, January 27, 2023, at about 5:19 a.m., Orinda police officers were dispatched to a report of a patrol vehicle that was vandalized on Camino Pablo. A suspect was identified during the investigation and was arrested later that

morning. He is identified as 34-year-old Robert Brock. He was booked into the Martinez Detention Facility on one count of felony vandalism.”

City Manager, David Biggs, emailed the police report to *The Orinda News* Feb. 9. According to the report, officers arrived at “approximately 0523 hours and conducted an area search for the described suspect. The area search yielded no results ...”

After reviewing two surveillance camera videos, Deputy Daniel Marzilli wrote “a white Ford van owned by Brock,” pulled into the BevMo! parking lot, driving slowly “past the parked patrol vehicle...before parking south of the Camino Pablo entrance ... in front of a large tree.” Both cameras capture the subject, “wearing dark colored clothing and a dark colored hooded sweatshirt concealing his face” and “carrying a lighted object, possibly a cell phone.”

[SEE VANDALISM page 17]



KRISTINA PLACKTER

Measure Z, on a special ballot in March, is projected to provide \$2 million dollars a year for salaries in district schools that will help attract and retain teachers. Pictured is **Laurel Chee** teaching her second/third grade combination class at Wagner Elementary School.

Concerns in the Form of Floods and Mudslides



COURTESY OF CITY OF ORINDA

This drone shot of the Orinda home at 14 Cedar Lane, taken in January, shows the dramatic way the earth can give way under heavy rainfall after years of drought. **Ava** and **Lisa Jackson** started a fundraiser on Jan. 23 for homeowners **Patrick** and **Lexi Morrissey** and their two kids, to help provide short-term accommodations and cover clean-up costs. See <https://www.gofundme.com/f/MorrisseyHomeDisasterRecoveryFund>. See Fire Adapted Community News column on page 6 for more information.

Measure Z Aims to Boost School District Funding for Teachers and Programs

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

Orinda Union School District (OUSD) seeks to supplement funding for its schools through a new parcel tax. Measure Z is on the March ballot which, if approved, will cost property owners \$295 a year per parcel, for seven years. No opposition measure was filed, according to campaign chair and former OUSD Board of Trustees member Liz Daoust.

This is the only item on the ballot. According to former OUSD Board member, Jason Kaune, “We were looking at a community vote an entire cycle ago, but the pandemic put us behind our timeline. Emergency funding from the state took pressure from our budget short-term, but we felt we should act as a board before

the turnover of three new board members, given we had promised to act.

“The focus on the November ballot was on our three new members.”

Measure Z is projected to provide \$2 million dollars a year for district schools and will help attract and retain teachers and staff, support academic programs and keep class sizes small. None of the measure’s revenue could go to administrative salaries and would instead be focused on students and teachers, said Daoust.

Daoust described classroom teachers as “the most powerful force in terms of shaping [students’] academic experience.”

Most of the district’s budget supports its teachers and school employees, yet they remain among the lowest paid in the surrounding area.

[SEE OUSD page 15]

IN THIS ISSUE

News		Firewise	1, 6
Crime/Police	1, 5	First Friday Forum	13
Students/Schools	1, 7	Letters to the Editor	5
Around Town		Meet Your Neighbor	20
Art Scene	2	New Business	19
Events	2, 7, 8, 13	Orinda Association Supporters	9 - 12
Residents	1, 13, 14, 19, 20	Performing Arts	7, 8, 14
Business Buzz	19	Pet of the Month	14
Calendar & Clubs	online	Seasoned Shopper	18
Community	2, 13	The Orinda Association	3
Classifieds	16	The Reel Less Traveled	16

Find these stories and more on our website www.theorindanews.com.

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
ORINDA, CA
PERMIT # 4

POSTAL CUSTOMER
*****EGRWSSDDM*****



Mash Gas & Food

Orinda's Lowest Gas Prices
Buy Lotto & Lottery Here

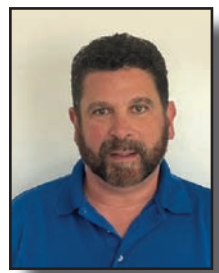
	Self Service Gasoline	
	CASH	CREDIT
Regular Unleaded	3.89 ⁹ / ₁₀	3.99 ⁹ / ₁₀
Plus Unleaded	4.19 ⁹ / ₁₀	4.29 ⁹ / ₁₀
Premium Unleaded	4.29 ⁹ / ₁₀	4.39 ⁹ / ₁₀

22 Bryant Way - Next to Casa Orinda
Mon - Sat 5 am - 12 am; Sun 6 am-11 pm

ORINDA ART SCENE / HOUSING ELEMENT

Orinda Art Scene

MARCH IN THE ART GALLERIES AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY AND WILDER



DAVID FONSECA



OLGA LARNER

This colorful and imaginative piece is by Miramonte's talented **Venustiana Chu**. It's one of many amazing and have-to-see creations from local students in the High School Visual Arts Competition (HSVAC) at the Orinda Library Gallery.

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: High School Visual Arts Competition (HSVAC)

The High School Visual Arts Competition (HSVAC) showcases artwork from many extremely talented Lamorinda students at the Orinda Library Gallery this month.

Four categories of art are displayed: two-dimensional, three-dimensional, photography and "Lamorinda Arts Alliance Digital Art." The last category is for two-dimensional artwork which is either produced or manipulated using a computer platform, then printed on paper, canvas or other material.

The competition was open to all high school students living in or attending school in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga, including all schools in the Acalanes Union High School District.

In addition to the in-person art exhibit, the contest features cash prizes, merit certifications and an online public exhibit

[SEE ART page 3]

Orinda Adopts Sixth Cycle of the Housing Element



JEFF HEYMAN

Downtown Orinda, as seen from the Orinda Grove development, a 73-lot subdivision on 11 acres with adjacent 3.1-acre city-owned sports fields. The 2023-2031 Housing Element allows the construction of 2,000 housing units in Orinda over eight years.

By TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY
Staff Writer

ing the state's housing policies.

California Mandates Statewide Plan for Increased Housing

For the 2023-2031 RHNA cycle, Orinda is obligated to a minimum of 1,359 units, 587 of which must be affordable to lower-income households. The 2014 to 2022 RHNA cycle required the city to plan for 227 units. This nearly 500% current increase is part of the state's strategy to address its acute housing crisis.

The Golden State has the "least affordable housing in the U.S.," according to HCD. More than a third of households in the state are cost-burdened, meaning they are paying over a third of their income toward housing. Stemming from a lack of supply to address this problem, the HCD's statewide plan concludes 2.5 million new homes need to be built by 2031.

[SEE HOUSING page 6]

After three draft proposals, numerous city council meetings and more than a year of planning, Orinda has approved its 2023-2031 Housing Element. It allows the construction of more than 2,000 new housing units over the next eight years – a potential 30% increase to the current housing supply.

Approved Jan. 31, the plan is meant to satisfy Orinda's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). Happening every eight years, the RHNA process determines how many units California cities and counties must plan for to meet the state's overall housing needs.

As of Feb. 20, Orinda's housing element, adopted by the city council, is pending approval from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the agency in charge of implement-

P
I
L
A
T
E
S



- *Nationally Certified, experienced teachers.
- *Innovative Classes and Private sessions
- *We work with every BODY and All ages

Visit our website for great offers.

CoreKinetics Take control of your health.

www.CoreKinetics.com




The Well Balanced Workout

925-708-3279

Please call for an appointment

50 Vashell Way, #120, Orinda, CA 94563



Real estate is a numbers game. Mine have been pretty good.

2022

25

Transactions

\$56M

Sales

13th

Year in real estate

2nd

Ranked Individual agent in Orinda

21

Years living local

If you are thinking of buying or selling in the Lamorinda area this week, this month, or this year, give me a call. I specialize in bringing buyers and sellers together to create happy moments!

925.980.3829
Shannon@ShannonConner.com
ShannonConner.com

DRE# 01885058
Villageassociates.com
925.254.0505

SHANNON
CONNER



THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From The OA President
A Big Thank You!

SALLY HOGARTY



While this month is often known for its “madness” as the men’s NCAA tournament heats up, we at The Orinda Association think of March as the time to thank our incredible sponsors and supportive businesses.

Without these dedicated individuals and institutions, the OA couldn’t sponsor the annual 4th of July parade or the popular Classic Car Show. Thanks to your support, we have published The Orinda News since 1985 – all Orinda, all the time!

Since 2002, the OA has run the Volunteer Center. That’s over 20 years helping local residents find meaningful volunteer opportunities, including our Seniors Around Town (SAT) transportation program. Combining donations with our fabulous volunteer drivers, SAT provides rides to various appointments for our senior population. There is no cost for this service.

During local political campaigns, we host public forums where voters may ask questions of the candidates. Additional public forums include vital information on such topics as fire safety.

Now in its 30th year, the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award honors a local citizen or group displaying outstanding contributions in the area of education and/or preservation of our environment.

The wonderful partnership with this community allows us to make a difference for so many residents. We are especially thankful to the businesses which advertise in this newspaper and contribute to OA programs for the betterment of all Orinda. We salute them every day, but especially March 29, National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day.

The acknowledgement of our supporters in this issue of The Orinda News is just a small token of how much we value everything you do – from monetary contributions – to contributions of your time and creativity.

We sincerely can’t thank you enough. And, by the way, Go Warriors!

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@orindaassociation.org.

♦ ART from page 2

of entries at the Lamorinda Arts Council website, www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

“We’re proud to celebrate our 20th year of showcasing the incredible talents of the young artists in our community,” said Olga Larner, Lamorinda Arts Council board member and chairperson of the HSVAC.

The reception and awards ceremony is March 16 from 7 – 8:30 p.m., at the Orinda Library Gallery where the winners will be announced.



ASH LEE
This High School Visual Arts Competition (HSVAC) submission from Orinda Academy student Ash Lee, captures the moment of a singer’s frenzied connection with his enthusiastic audience.

The exhibit runs Mar. 5 – 31. Hours are Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sundays.

Art Gallery at Wilder: Hilary Mills Lambert

From March 3 to April 1, the Art Gallery at Wilder presents the works of Hilary Mills Lambert (www.millsgallery.com), a Bay Area artist who has exhibited her beautiful paintings at the Valley Art Gallery in Walnut Creek (<https://valleyartgallery.org/artist/hillary-mills-lambert/>).

Her subject material is varied, ranging widely from animals, city views, natural landforms, figures, portraits, still life and whimsical figures among others.

“I have found that my paintings flow from my love of my subjects; whether still life, garden, figure, or landscape,” she wrote on her website.

The Wilder Art and Garden Center is located at 20 Orinda Fields Lane. To schedule a viewing, contact Curator Ani Breslin at anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu. For more information, call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

David Fonseca can be reached at davef52@gmail.com.



The Orinda Association

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

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

<p>OFFICERS</p> <p>President - Sally Hogarty Vice President - Kelly Sopak Secretary - Eloise Sotelo Treasurer - Cindy Powell City Council Liaison - Latika Malkani</p>	<p>BOARD MEMBERS</p> <p>Carlos Baltodano Barb Brawner Jacalyn Buettner Chris Laszcz-Davis Diane Lautz Marianne Moser Grace Paik Bill Waterman Lauren White Kate Wiley</p>
---	--

The Orinda Association
26 Orinda Way (Library Plaza)
P.O. Box 97
Orinda, CA 94563
Phone: 925.254.0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org

All officers and board members volunteer their time.

THE LINDA FRIEDMAN TEAM
Leading Lamorinda Broker since 1990

Just Listed!
Stunning Orinda Estate
\$4,250,000

<p>LINDA FRIEDMAN JD, Broker 925-899-2336 linda@lindafriedman.com DRE 00521002</p>	<p>PEGGY HARMATZ MBA, Realtor 925-899-6321 peggy@lindafriedman.com DRE 01200791</p>
--	---

www.LindaFriedman.com

Serving Orinda since 1946

 36,294 hours Volunteer Center <small>Open to serve community 21 Year Anniversary</small>	 39 years July 4th Parade	 38 years The Orinda News <hr/> 8,734 Households Served 5,294 Total Pages
 18 years Seniors Around Town		
1,208 Free Rides/year	974 Volunteer Hours/year	14,830 Total Miles/year
 19 years Orinda Classic Car Show Partner	 43 Community Forums	 19 years Leadership Team <small>The Orinda Association Average Tenure</small>

Donate

Volunteer

We can't do this without YOU!

ADVERTISEMENT

Vote YES on Z: GREAT TEACHERS, GREAT ORINDA SCHOOLS



Student achievement in Orinda schools ranks in the top 1% in California. However, out of over 1,000 school districts in California, Orinda Union School District consistently ranks in the bottom ten in per student funding. Orinda teachers are among the lowest paid in our area and Orinda increasingly loses qualified and experienced teachers to San Ramon and other school districts that offer more competitive compensation.

Measure Z will keep great teachers in Orinda classrooms and protect quality education for Orinda students.

Yes on Z will:

- Attract and retain qualified and experienced teachers
- Support quality academic programs in science, technology, engineering, reading, writing, arts and music
- Keep class sizes small

Mandatory Accountability and Local Control

- All funds must stay local and cannot be taken away by the State
- An independent citizens' oversight committee and annual audits ensure funds are spent as promised
- By law, no funds can be used for administrator salaries
- Measure Z automatically expires in seven years and cannot be renewed without voter approval
- Senior citizens are eligible for an exemption

WE ALL AGREE: VOTE YES ON Z!

Organizations

Orinda Educators' Association
Orinda Network for Education (ONE)
Del Rey Parents' Club
Glorietta Parents' Club
Miramonte Parents' Club
Orinda Intermediate School Parents' Club
Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club
Wagner Ranch Parents' Club
AUHSD Governing Board
Christina Linezo Real Estate

Elected Officials

Steve Glazer, CA State Senator & Former Mayor of Orinda
Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, CA State Assemblymember
Don Perata, Former CA State Senate President Pro Tem
Sarah Butler, Member, Contra Costa County Board of Education & Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Inga Miller, Mayor of Orinda
Darlene Gee, Vice Mayor of Orinda
Brandyn Iverson, Council Member, Orinda
Latika Malkani, Council Member, Orinda
Janet Riley, Council Member, Orinda
Laura Abrams, Former Mayor of Orinda
Dennis Fay, Former Mayor of Orinda
Joyce Hawkins, Former Mayor of Orinda
Bill Judge, Former Mayor of Orinda
Tom McCormick, Former Mayor of Orinda
Sue Severson, Former Mayor of Orinda & Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Victoria Smith, Former Mayor of Orinda
Amy Worth, Former Mayor of Orinda
Nick Kosla, Former Council Member, Orinda
Hillary Weiner, President, OUSD Board of Trustees
Cara Hoxie, Vice President, OUSD Board of Trustees
Edda Collins Coleman, Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Eve Phillips, Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Katie Shogan, Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Carol Brown, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Liz Daoust, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Nancy Kaible, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Jason Kaune, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Linda Landau, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Julie Rossiter, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Pat Rudebusch, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Riki Sorenson, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees
Clark Wallace, Former Member, OUSD Board of Trustees & Orinda Citizen of the Year 1969
Christopher Severson, Member, AUHSD Governing Board
Vanessa Crews, Former Member, AUHSD Governing Board
Susie Epstein, Former Member, AUHSD Governing Board
Alex Evans, Former Chair, Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Community Leaders

Scott M. Adams
Belinda Adams-Walker
Rahul Aggarwal
Joanna Allen
Andy & Carole Amstutz
Andrew Anagnost
Sandy & Dave Anderson
Sarah Anderson
Ashley Appel
Kristin Avicoli
DeEtte Baise
Deepa Bangalore
Scott & Stephanie Barmmer
Sandy Barnett
A.R. Bassa
Todd & Amy Berryhill
Renee Bertenthal
Patrice Bilello
Allison Bingham
Diane Bode
Wendy & Herman Bond
Sean Brennan
Olivia Brown
Annie Burgess
Dianna Burns
Robert Burt
Natalie Lacuesta Byrum
Catherine Campbell
Elisa Carpenter
Mindy Carrington
Amanda Catanesi
Patricia Cetrone
Molly Chapman
Shoshana Chazan
Laurel Chee
Sara Cherry
Gretchen Chevalier
Anil K. Chopra
Gene & Lisa Chow
Tim Christianson
Todd & Nina Clark
Kate Clarke
Shannon & Jon Conner
Niall Conway
Jill M. Cooper
Bill Cosden
Vanessa & Jesse Crews
Lindsay & Zach Crittendon
Cathy Cutler & Abe Mintz

Karolyn Cutler
Erica Damianakes
Steven Danziger
Mark Daoust
Susheel Daswani
Clay Deanhardt
Vince Dell'Aquila
Lorraine DeMello
Emily Desai
Jennifer Dodd
Alicia Doyle
Carolyn Druger
Corrine Dugan
Lauren Dunlap
Diane Dwyer & Tim Sharp
Akiva Elias
Nancy English
Emily Estrada
Katie & Mike Fagundes
Natalie Fay
Christopher & Stephanie Gade
Dennis Gee
Gary Geng
Xin Geng
Gayle & Steve Goldman
Kathryn Golueke
Tanuka Gordon
Wesley Gosnell
M'Liss Greenlee
Jess Greer
Chunyan Gu
Rahul Gupta
Kitty Guptill
Cherise Gutierrez
Lowell Haky
Alex Hall
Julia Hall
Jud Hammon
Lori Hardy
Steve & Tish Harwood
Chris & Lisa Haskell
Pete & Helen Hasselman
Liz Headley
Charles & Eva Heath
Matt Helder
Stephanie Helder
Jodi L. Helffenstein
Duke & Jill Herrero
Kristin Hilty
Vickie Hilty

Kendra Hoffman
Christina Holling
Stuart House
Stacy Howard
Shelley & Bob Hubner
Jill Hughes
Mark Hurst
Landon Hyles
Marc Jacuzzi
Nathan Jaskowiak
Elisabeth Jewell
Jane Ji
Debra Jockisch
Debbie & Glenn Johansen
Elaina Jones
Joey Judge
Michelle Kalafatis
Mark & Jennifer Kamal
Alicia Keenan
Ron Keller
Jennifer Kelly
Mukesh Khali
Joan Kiekhaefer
Julia King
Suzy Kisch
Paul & Maria Barrie Kivel
Anthony Koester
Larissa Kosla
Meredith Kreis
Stephanie Kreutzer
Anny Lackey
Tabitha Langman
Craig Larsen
Ashley Lee
Yasaman & Young Lee
Jan & Barry Levin
Melanie Light

Hana Lindberg
Christina Linezo
Dr. Nicola Longmuir
Lisa Lyon
Jessica MacDiarmid
Carlie Magill
The Mains Family
Srilakshmi Makkena
Myla Manese
Rodney Mangus
Shasta Matvey
& Matt Talmadge
Patricia McAteer
Christina Flores McCormick
Jen McKenzie
Michelle Meyers
Hadley Mickel
Adam Miller
Glenn Millstone
Leslie Millstone
George Minowada
& Paradi Mirmirani
Abe Mintz
Jennifer Morgan
Kelly Morgan
Anne & Jeff Nash
Jennifer & Petar Nedyalkov
Heather O'Brien
Dayle Okamitsu
Katy O'Neill
Maureen O'Neil
Jessica Ortiz
Ali O'Sullivan
Eric Page
Katherine Palmer-Collins
Caedmon Patalano
Norman & Janet Pease
Roger Pettey
Nancy & Ned Pike
Catherine & Andrew Pines

Wayne Phillips
Jennifer Plumley
Terry Pollack
Julia Prinzi
Will Prinzi
Shawna Puljiz
Jyotsna Puranik
Gary Rafferty
Kelly Rafferty
Stefanie Randelman
Betsy & Dana Ream
Barbara & David Reeves
Kacy & David Richardson
Pam Rhodes
& Robert Andrews
Janet Robinson
Davina Roche
Jacob Roden-Lowe
Nita Roethe
Brian Rogers
Taylor Rosa
Dylan Rosenberg
Juliane Rossiter
Lisa Rudolph
Gabriel Sable
Sarah Sable
Amy Sabol
Marshall Sachs
Stephanie Sado
Abby Sanchez
Elizabeth Sarica
Joel Schaffer
Terry Schrittwieser
Tracee Schultz
Natalie Schutzman
Lisa & Steve Sernett
Charles Shannon
Howard & Joyce Shao
Joel Sheiman
Kathy & Dave Simon

Kristen Slawson
John Smith
Wick Smith
Andy Sorenson
Nathaniel Sponsler
Vy Spoto
Caitlin Stahle
Keara Starnes
Amy Stefanitis
Karleen Stern
Michelle Strieler
Heather Swedeen
Jack Sweitzer
Jennifer & Eric Tejada
Bridgette Thomas
Heather Tiraschi
Kristan Torres
Kelly Trestrail
Michelle Troclair
Kelsey Tu
Mark & Marcie Tuttle
Ted & Lida Urban
Karen Ursino
Haavar Valeur
Natalie Valeur
Alison Waterman
Susan B. Wecht
Dana Wentworth
Janai West
Richard Westin
Richard Winefield
Deanna Wood
Tom Worth
Shauna Yeager
Ellen Zapalac
& Tony Foster

*Partial list.
Titles for identification purposes only.*

There are usually two sides to every argument, but check your ballot book... **There is no argument against Measure Z.**

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Z WAS SUBMITTED



By March 7, Vote Yes on Z: KEEP GREAT TEACHERS IN ORINDA SCHOOLS



www.YesonZ4OrindaSchools.org /YesonZ4OrindaSchools @YesonZ4OrindaSchools

Ad paid for by Orinda Community for Excellent Schools Yes on Z, FPPC# 1410598.

EDITORIAL / POLICE

Letters to the Editor

Yes on Measure Z - Here's Why

As a fiscal conservative, I am not the first in line to support more taxes or funding measures. However, I will vote yes on Measure Z because strong Orinda schools are the foundation of a strong Orinda community. Without funding from Measure Z, our local schools will suffer.

Here is why. Our District consistently ranks in the bottom several statewide in per-student state funding from Sacramento. When I was elected to the school board eight years ago, during the last recession, our community and parents were funding even more of our budget as a percentage of the whole. Parent club dues have risen while community parcel taxes have not.

During my time on the OUSD Board of Trustees and as a graduate of OIS and Miramonte, I witnessed the value of investments the Orinda community has historically made in our schools and students.

Orinda recently generously stepped up to fund bonds for our building restoration, again because the state would not. Additional community support is the only option we have to maintain top quality academic programs.

Measure Z is an investment in our students and our community. Homeowners, businesses and seniors will feel the benefits of keeping Orinda a desirable place to move to. It will help us retain and attract the next generation of high-quality educators. Local students will reap the benefits for the rest of their lives.

Find your ballot today and join me in voting yes on Measure Z by March 7.
— Jason Kaune

Special Ballots Not So Special

I understand why organizations trying to pass parcel taxes, which require a 2/3 majority, put them on "special" ballots. Hopefully people who support that tax will vote, while those who do not, will just not bother to respond.

I just received my ballot for the Orinda School District's Measure Z, the only item on the March 7 ballot, 15 pages of material, the envelope it came in and an envelope to send it back. Call it 17 printed pages.

Multiply that times Orinda's 15,000 voters and you get 255,000 pages of printed material, which is 3,000 pounds of paper.

Add in postage to mail out 15,000 ballots, in addition to all the ballots mailed back.

And then the cost to run the special election.

What a waste! The OUSD Board should be reprimanded for this action. What a great lesson in irresponsible environmental actions for our kids.

Maybe people should oppose the parcel tax just to teach the Board the lesson that while it might be politically "clever" to game the system, a moral organization would open the question to all of Orinda at a regular election and honor the dictate of an honest majority (another lesson for the kids).

— Steve Cohn

Support for Trash Can 'Poop' Codes and Stickers

Dear Ms. Bommarito,
I loved your dog poop column and I wholly support your idea for trash can codes.

I did a quick Internet search for poop-friendly trash can stickers and there were

List of *The Orinda News* Advertisers

	Page		Page
Automotive		Real Estate	
Mash Gas and Food	1	AG Realty	
Orinda Motors	15	Alexander and Katia Gailas	6
Orinda Shell Auto Care	8	Coldwell Banker	
Community		Laura Abrams	9
Orinda Parks & Rec	17	Suzanne Toner Geoffrion	18
Fitness		Shellie Kirby	17
Corekinetics	2	Melanie Snow	17
Financial and Insurance Services		Compass	
Park Place Wealth Advisors	9	Mandy Kilpatrick	18
Wells Fargo Wealth Advisors	10	The Grubb Company	
Garden/Landscaping		Rebecca Ciccio	20
Ken's Brush Removal & Tree Trimming	19	Sotheby's	
Ken's Redwood Fencing	17	Ann Newton Cane	7
McDonnell Nursery	18	Jennie Swan	8
Tree Sculpture	6	Village Associates	
Wildland Corporation	20	Shannon Conner	2
Medical and Dental		Linda Friedman Team	3
Dr. Brian Clark, Psy. D.	7	Christina Linezo	11
Dr. Mary Smith DDS	11	Murphy Team - Karen & Hilary Murphy	19
Hospice East Bay	12	Ann Sharf	16
Medicine Shoppe	15	Clark Thompson	6
Non-profit		Restaurants/Catering	
Boys Team Charity	14	Baan Thai	6
Cantare	11	Baja Cali	12
Orinda Association	3	Casa Orinda	16
Political		Europa	10
Measure Z	4	Farmers' Market	18
Professional Service		Fourth Bore	14
5A Rent-A-Space	8	Siam Orchid	16
Green Sheds	10	Zamboni's Pizza Company	13
Jeff Heyman Photography	16	Retail	
Kirby Carpet Cleaning	16	McCaulou's	17
Ray Robinson Attorney	10	Morrison's Jewelers	13
State Farm, Bryan Silveira	12	Wanted	
State Farm, Kelly Sopak	7	Daniel David Sneakers	12

oodles of "no pet poop" stickers, and yet I found only one poop-friendly sticker for \$10. You and I might buy that sticker, but I doubt if most people would. It would be wonderful if Republic Services (RS) adopted your idea of red, yellow and green code stickers.

When I walk my yellow lab, I invariably have one, often two and occasionally three blue bags dangling from my hand. Homeowners will tell me how handsome my lab is from their front yard and engage me in conversation, yet to date, no one has ever said, "Feel free to put your bags in our trash can sitting on the street waiting for RS pick-up." I don't get it!

— Diane Johnson

Support for Measure Z

The urgent need to keep great teachers in Orinda schools is real. I have experienced the problem firsthand. Last year my seventh-grade student at OIS had three different math teachers in one semester because teachers left to work in other school districts. This was very disruptive to learning and I've heard countless similar stories from other Orinda parents.

There is nothing more important to a student's education than having a quality teacher in the classroom. Voting yes on Measure Z by March 7 will help attract and retain great teachers in Orinda to support quality academic programs in math, science, reading, writing and more.

Our neighboring school districts like Lafayette, Moraga and Piedmont have passed similar measures and we need Measure Z so our students don't fall behind.

The generations of Orinda parents, who came before us, built an outstanding school district that is the envy of communities throughout the Bay Area and California. Orinda's reputation for world-class public education is the primary reason my family moved here and I hear the same story from both recent arrivals to Orinda, as well as longtime residents.

Let's continue Orinda's tradition of supporting quality education and vote yes on Z by March 7.


— Charles Heath

Best Use of Taxpayers' Money?

I wonder why our local officials do what they do. Approaching them to find out isn't easy. I expect that some of my neighbors do have access, and I sincerely wish they'd share what they know – indeed, technology lets us pool our knowledge and efforts more than ever.

Someone decided it was a good idea to park an OPD patrol vehicle in the BevMo! lot for weeks at a time. It became an easy target for vandalizing, as I discovered the early morning of Jan. 27 when I witnessed some local officials hurriedly assessing the damage, tow truck on hand to whisk away the carnage swiftly. I posted my report on

[SEE LETTERS page 6]



POLICE BLOTTER

January 16 through February 15

<p>Calls for Service</p> <p>Burglary, Auto: 1 incident: Bates Rd.</p> <p>Burglary, Commercial: 2 incidents: Orinda Way (x2)</p> <p>Burglary, Residential: 6 incidents: Miner Rd., Hillcrest Dr., Overhill Rd., Southwood Dr., Northwood Ct., Bel Air Dr.</p> <p>Carjacking: 1 incident</p> <p>CVC Evading Police: 1 incident</p> <p>Death Investigation: 1 incident</p> <p>Failure to Obey Officer: 1 incident</p> <p>Fraud/Forgery: 3 incidents</p> <p>Grand Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident: San Pablo Dam Rd.</p> <p>Hospitalization: 1 incident</p> <p>Malicious Telephone Calls: 1 incident</p> <p>Outside Assist: 1 incident</p>	<p>Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident: Orinda Way</p> <p>Property Found: 1 incident</p> <p>Property Lost: 1 incident</p> <p>Shoplifting: 2 incidents</p> <p>Tow: 2 incidents</p> <p>Vandalism: 3 incidents</p> <p>Vehicle Theft: 1 incident: Camino Pablo</p> <p>Arrests</p> <p>DUI Misdemeanor: 2 arrests</p> <p>Receiving Stolen Goods: 2 arrests</p> <p>Vandalism, Felony: 1 arrest</p> <p>Warrant Arrest: 1 arrest</p>
--	---

— Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

The Orinda News prints 9,000 copies and is published 12 times a year by The Orinda Association. The office is located at 26 Orinda Way (lower level of the Library). All rights reserved. The publication is sent out by direct mail (Permit #4, Orinda Post Office), distributed to key locations throughout the city and online at www.theorindanews.com.

Executive Editor.....Kathy Cordova
 Editor-in-Chief.....Charleen Earley
 Assistant Editors.....David Dierks, Kathy Bohanan Enzerink
 Copy Editor.....Kathy Enzerink
 Editorial Committee.....Jill Gelster, Cindy Powell
 Advertising Representatives.....Carson Cordova, Kathy Enzerink, Jill Gelster
 Staff Writers.....Bobbie Dodson, David Fonseca, Sally Hogarty, Barbara Kobsar, Melanie Light, Andrea Madison, Tristan Shaughnessy, Tom Westlake

Contributing Writers.....Stella Kim
 Graphics/Layout.....Aspen Consulting: David Dierks, Jill Gelster
 Photographer.....Jeff Heyman
 Printing.....Folger Graphics

The Orinda News

A Publication of
The Orinda Association
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 97
Orinda, California 94563
Telephone: 925.254.0800

www.theorindanews.com



The OA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Opinions of *The Orinda News* are expressed on the editorial page. Views of writers and letters to the editor are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Orinda Association or of *The Orinda News*. Advertisements appearing in *The Orinda News* are not to be construed as endorsements by The Orinda Association or *The Orinda News*.

Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 250 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number. Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com. Letters to the Editor for the April issue are due **March 8**.

For advertising rates, contact Carson Cordova at 650.646.1357 (carsoncordova2@gmail.com), Kathy Enzerink at 252.626.2109 (kathy@theorindanews.com) or Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the April issue is **March 8**.

FIREWISE

**FIRE ADAPTED
COMMUNITY NEWS**
FIRES, FLOODS AND DROUGHT –
OH MY!



MELANIE LIGHT

California is a special place – as much for its beauty, diverse and dynamic economy and outdoor lifestyle – as it is for disasters.

We, who choose to live here, have become accustomed to preparing for disaster. For many years, we dutifully maintained our earthquake kits. Now we must add wildfire prevention along with the possibility of floods and mudslides.

After living with a perma-drought for years, it seems we got a break this winter when the nine atmospheric rivers crashed through the state. This particular good news brings new dangers and concerns in the form of floods and mudslides.

California has “young” mountains, which are still moving and covered in loose rocks and soil. When the ground is dry, it can’t really absorb water. Instead, water runs off the hardened soil, picking up soil and debris as it goes.

We also know excess water can cause the earth on hillsides to buckle and slide, as happened to two Orinda homes this winter.

The rain will cause vegetation to grow fast and thick this spring, which then turns to dry fuel in the wildfire season. This encourages residents to clear the new growth and debris. However, if homeowners are too zealous in clearing their property of

[SEE FIREWISE page 8]

◆ HOUSING from page 2

A Goal of More Equitable Housing

The plan prioritizes fair housing, acknowledging past practices such as redlining – which barred people of color from buying homes in certain communities by denying mortgages – have created racially and economically segregated communities. As a result, HCD exhorts local jurisdictions to develop housing elements which tackle inclusion head on, a directive reflected in Orinda’s housing plan.

With an annual median household income of greater than \$200,000 and more than 70% of residents identifying as white as of 2019, Orinda’s planning document describes the town as a “racially concentrated area of influence” – a reality stemming from the community’s history of discriminatory policies.

Orinda’s housing element states, “While the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 made government-sponsored redlining and racially restrictive covenants illegal, Orinda’s racial/ethnic demographics over the latter half of the 20th century is reflective of the impact of exclusionary practices.”

With this history in mind, Orinda’s higher housing obligation during this RHNA cycle can be seen not only as helping address California’s lack of housing, but also making the city more diverse.

“By creating more opportunities for housing that provide different price options, that increases the pool of people who can afford Orinda and who can make Orinda a choice,” said Mayor Inga Miller.

The units proposed in the housing element are located across the city. Some locations are already in line with local zoning rules and others require additional planning before construction can begin. Two areas collectively contain over 600 of the city’s 2000-plus unit proposals: downtown and the Caltrans Gateway, an unused tract of land owned by California’s transportation department, Caltrans.

The Caltrans Location and Downtown Precise Plan

Orinda has been in communication with Caltrans about incorporating the latter into the city to develop 200 lower-income housing units. Its distance from other parts of town and proximity to Highway 24 caused some community members to question the site’s viability. To address these concerns, the city said it will explore improving pedestrian walkways and bike trails and offering shuttle services to and from the Caltrans area.

The Downtown Precise Plan, the city’s detailed outline for renovating its cultural center, was approved alongside the city’s housing element on Jan. 31. Beyond proposing policies to bring in new businesses, the plan outlines zoning changes to allow more densely populated housing.

These new zoning rules, allowing more residential development, have yet to be

adopted. According to a 2021 study commissioned by the planning department, they could increase the economic performance of downtown business through increased foot traffic.

Reflecting on the merits of Orinda’s housing element at the city council meeting, Vice Mayor Darlene Gee said, “The work we have done is an incredible, good-faith effort to balance enormous amounts of needs, wants and hopes for the community. Is it perfect? Absolutely not, but you cannot let perfect get in the way of very good – and this is very good.”

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

◆ LETTERS from page 5

the Civiqa app’s public forum, a service I co-developed for collaboration among local officials and civic participants. (We are game to run a free pilot with the City of Orinda!)

As a local asset, the patrol vehicle’s repair or replacement ultimately comes out of Orinda taxpayers’ pockets (although I would hope there’s insurance offset). Even before the incident, questions came to mind: Was it there to deter an illegal right turn? If it was there to deter crime (irony aside), who decided the Orinda public should subsidize private loss prevention?

Unless someone comes forward to explain – hopefully someone will – we Orindans are left to guess at the motivations of our public decision-makers.

–Arshad Ahmed

Yes on Measure Z

An essential part of what makes Orinda such a special place is the high-quality local schools that so consistently rank in the top 1% in California. There is nothing more important that we can do to protect our future quality of life and property values than ensuring our local schools remain strong.

That is why I am voting yes on Measure Z.

Orinda competes for educators with other communities that offer higher salaries. Measure Z will assist our Orinda Union School District to retain great teachers in Orinda classrooms.

The benefits of Measure Z are not limited to students and residents with school-age children. We all benefit from protecting high-quality schools that attract families to our community who share the priority we put on education.

Measure Z includes fiscal accountability provisions to ensure all funds stay in Orinda for our local elementary schools and intermediate school only. All funds will benefit local students and no Measure Z funds can be used for administrator salaries or benefits.

Please join me and all four of my colleagues on the City Council by voting yes on Measure Z by March 7.

–Mayor Inga Miller



Masterfully connecting exceptional people with compelling properties.



Over 25 years of experience
www.AGrealty1.com
925-254-7600

Alexander Gailas
DRE # 01356574
C-925-788-0229

Katia Gailas
DRE # 02033175
C-925-788-6646



Baan Thai RESTAURANT
Eat Healthy, Live Healthy
ORGANIC SALADS MADE FRESH DAILY. MANY VEGETARIAN OPTIONS.
WE COOK FROM FAMILY RECIPES.
CATERING & GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE

You are welcome to Dine-In or
Take your food To-Go with Curb Side Pick Up.
We are here for you!

Lunch: Mon. - Sun. 11.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.
Dinner: Mon. - Sun. 4.30 - 9.00 p.m.
99 Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-0989




TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE
Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!
Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977
(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com

38 Years of Experience
No individual broker has **SOLD** more homes.



CLARK THOMPSON
REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925.254.8585 Cell: 925.998.7898
ct@clarkthompson.com
clarkthompson.com




License# 00903367
It's Village. Of Course.

STUDENTS



STELLA KIM

The cast of Wagner Ranch's production of *The Lion King JR.* at rehearsal. The musical runs March 24-25 with four shows performed by a cast of 50 actors and technical crew.

The Lion King JR. Takes the Stage At Wagner Ranch Elementary

By STELLA KIM
Contributing Writer

This March, Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda will bring Disney's musical *The Lion King JR.* to the live stage. The timeless *Lion King* experience will be performed by fourth and fifth grade students. The play will run from March 24 - 25 with a total of four shows performed by a cast of over 50 actors and technical crew.

The Lion King JR. is a stage adaptation of the Academy Award-winning 1994 Disney film *The Lion King*, one of the longest running shows on Broadway. This 60-minute musical designed for children's theaters features many hits including *Circle of Life*, *Hakuna Matata*, and the award-winning *Can You Feel The Love Tonight* written by Elton John. "Memorable moments are guaranteed with solo performances. The harmonic voices in our ensemble will enhance the drama of the story," said the Executive Director of the play, Justine Cole.

The musical follows the lion, Simba, on his epic, coming-of-age journey from frisky cub to leader of the Pridelands. Tailored to an audience of all ages, this funny and touching expedition through a

jungle inhabited by a diverse cast of characters including Simba's father (Mufasa), the villainous uncle (Scar), the courageous lioness (Nala), the hilarious friends (Timon and Pumba), the inspirational Mandril (Rafiki), the savage trio of Hyenas (Shenzi, Banzai, Ed) and other colorful personalities.

"The story is a reminder to live life to the fullest with love and integrity. By the end of the show, the audience will rediscover the message that life continues to go on, no matter what," added Cole. "After the last six months of the process, the production is well underway and our young performers have been working very hard. We emphasize that each role is an important piece of the puzzle."

Since the very first audition, the excitement has grown and spread fast within the school. "It's amazing to see how much energy and hard work the kids are putting into the play," said the Principal, Dr. Shirley Clem. "This is such an incredible opportunity for our kids to shine in the arts and to stretch themselves individually. We hope our community can share and experience this special performance together."

[SEE LION KING page 12]



Brian Clark, Psy.D.
licensed clinical psychologist
PSY 25198

ADOLESCENTS · ADULTS · FAMILIES

specializing in:
Achievement Pressure
AD/HD
Parenting Support
Anxiety
School Stress
Depression

954 Risa Road · Lafayette
(925) 385-8050
www.brianclarkpsyd.com



- Succulents •Perennials •Pollinators •Natives/Drought Tolerant
- Vegetable Plants including 20+ Tomato Varieties
- Ask the Plant Expert •Firewise Landscaping •Garden Marketplace

April 15th 9am - 1pm Orinda Library Plaza

www.orindagc.org



With Support From
Ann Newton Cane

Top Producer
415.999.0253

a.newtoncane@ggsir.com

Golden Gate

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated. Lic.#02084093



Combine and get in on the surprise.

Kelly Sopak, Agent
Insurance Lic#: 0D03981
1 Northwood Drive Suite 1
Orinda, CA 94563
Bus: 925-253-7700
Cell: 925-726-4444
Mon-Thurs 9:00am to 5:00pm
Fridays 9:00am to 4:30pm
Evenings & Weekends by Appt

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
State Farm Florida Insurance Company
Winter Haven, FL
2001863

Here's the deal, our Home and Auto rates are already great. But when you combine with State Farm®, you can save even more. Call me to discover your surprisingly great rates on Home and Auto today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.



PERFORMING ARTS

Two Blockbuster Stars Headline Live At the Orinda! in March

By SALLY HOGARTY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Theatre's popular Live At the Orinda! concert series introduces its own brand of March Madness with two award-winning Broadway performers. David Burnham of *Wicked* and *Light in the Piazza* fame headlines March 5.



KEN SAWYER

Broadway star **David Burnham** has performed enviable roles during his prolific career. He will share songs from many of these as well as insider stories in *Mostly Broadway* at Live at the Orinda! March 5.

Karen Mason, whose prolific career includes such hits as *Mamma Mia!*, *Hairspray* and *Sunset Boulevard*, performs March 26.

Burnham's *Mostly Broadway* show is composed of songs from many of the hits he's appeared in, tunes from the *Great American Songbook* and lots of stories, including how he won his first professional role.

"I was still in college and went to New York and decided to crash a Broadway audition," said the Los Angeles native. "I showed up with my long surfer hair, wearing a tank top and flip flops. I really didn't know what I was doing." The audition he crashed was *Ragtime*.

Although Burnham wasn't right for any roles in that show, he was allowed to sing and he choose a song from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. His selection, not to mention his powerful tenor, proved fortuitous.

The producers of *Ragtime* were also involved in the Canadian production of

Joseph, starring Donny Osmond. After five years in the role, Osmond was leaving the show and auditions for his replacement were underway. Before he knew it, Burnham was at the callbacks for the role in New York and then on a flight to Toronto to sing for the director – sti

ll in his flip flops and tank top.

"Little did I know that while I was auditioning at Toronto's beautiful Elgin Theatre that the composer, Andrew Lloyd Weber, was on the telephone listening to my audition," Burnham said. "After I sang, the director offered me the part and said I had a costume fitting right away and a photo shoot in a half hour. Then I was on a plane back to L.A. That night as I went to bed, I started wondering if it had all really happened."

I've been blessed in my career to be able to create new roles. It's like putting together a puzzle," he said.

Karen Mason can't wait to bring her show *Kander and Ebb and All That Jazz* to Orinda March 26.

"The Orinda Theatre is such a sweet space and the audiences are smart and willing to go on any ride you want to take them on," said Mason. "It's the music I grew up with and always wanted to sing. I knew I was never going to play an ingénue and *Kander and Ebb's* music is made for a belter like me."

[SEE ORINDA! page 16]



GENE REEVES

With a dynamite voice and commanding stage presence, **Karen Mason** took Broadway by storm. A 13-time MAC Award winner, which honors cabaret, comedy and jazz performers, Mason brings her *Kander and Ebb and All That Jazz* show to Live at the Orinda! March 26.

Buying and Selling in Lamorinda Is an Exciting Process!

You need a real estate agent that not only provides the confidence of experience and proven results but also a sensitivity to the process, listening to and addressing client needs every step of the way.

Call today to schedule your Free Market Evaluation



Jennie Swan
925-858-2856
j.swan@ggsir.com
LIC# 00991109

Golden Gate | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY
Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated.

◆ FIREWISE from page 6

trees and other vegetation that helps keep the earth stable, a season of heavy rain, like the one we had, will undermine the earth. It feels like a no-win situation.

Clearing all properties remains a good idea. If Orinda has a wildfire, subsequent rains could undermine the earth on the hills much more easily. In addition to losing vegetation, which helps absorb water and slow flooding, the top layer of ash and burnt topsoil is water repellent. Similar to pavement, lesser amounts of rainfall can produce flash floods or cause downhill slides. These can be very fast and unpredictable.

The goal is to tread a middle path, using the recommended guidelines to eliminate ladder fuels, limb up and so on.

Information about this is at the Moraga Orinda Fire District's website and at the City of Orinda video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eS59W-Xnd5g.

The right tools to protect Orinda homes and lives are available and it doesn't take much to make our homes more resilient. Now is a good time to remove the trees and limbs knocked down by the recent storms. Take advantage of the free volunteer assessment and chipper programs and find out if you are eligible for the City's Fire Fuels Reduction matching grant program.

After the work is done, go out and enjoy this beautiful state, feeling more in tune and on top of its rhythms and wild beauty!

Melanie Light can be reached at info@melanielight.com.



Orinda Shell Auto Care

- Complete Auto Care -
- Scheduled Maintenance - Smog -
- Air Conditioning - Electrical Repairs -
- Brakes and Suspension - Warranty Repair - Wheel Alignments -
- Free Shuttle Service
- Walking Distance from BART

Celebrating Over 19 Years in Business
Thank You Orinda!



925 254-1486 • fax 925 254-3427
9 Orinda Way
e-mail orindashell@sbcglobal.net



FIND YOUR POT OF GOLD AT 5A WITH

50% OFF

FOR 3 MONTHS ON SELECT UNITS
OFFER ENDS 3.31.23

WE SELL BOXES & PACKING SUPPLIES

Hours of operation
Mon-Sat 7am -6pm
Sundays 9am-4pm

RENT-SPACE
Store It Yourself & Save

455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F
(925) 643-2060
www.5Aspace.com

RHEEM SHOPPING CENTER

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

Huge Thank You to The Orinda Association Supporters and Friends

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| James & Kristine Abrams | Naury Birnbaum | Steve and Bonnie Cassriel |
| Laura Abrams | Beverly Blaisdell | Daniel Castaneda |
| Moises Aceves | Larry Blodgett | Steve Catton & Maureen Sheehy |
| Todd & Linda Adler | Martin Bloes | CCCC Farmers Market |
| Advanced Therapy Center | Carol Bohanan | Nelson Chang |
| Joshua Alexander | Gun Bolin | Lillian Chantalat |
| Alliant Insurance Services | Paula Bond-Shapiro | Christopher Chapman |
| Laura Allen | Kim Bonnar White | Chevron |
| Tony Allen | Severin & Margaret Borenstein | Beverly Chickering |
| Bob Altbaier | William Borsari | Joel Chiu |
| Andy & Carole Amstutz | Damian Bortolotti | Anil & Hamida Chopra |
| Laura Andersen | Mario Botello | Andy Chui |
| Becky Anderson | Steve & Marcia Boyd | Jerry Clancy |
| David & Sandra Anderson | Barb Brawner | Anil, Linda & Ari Comelo |
| John David Anderson | Michael Chinn & Mari Breazeale | Clark Pest Control |
| Nan Andrews | Louise Breber | Stephen Clarke |
| Anonymous | Thomas & Margaret Brennan | Ronald Clendenen |
| Michael Arkelian | John Britton | Cara Cline |
| Christine Armer | Bill Brobeck | John & Ann Cinderey |
| TC & Marianne Aude | Phil Brooks | Linda & Lenny Cohen |
| Donnelley Austria | Alan Brown | Paul Colombatto |
| Jonathon & Shelley Bagg | Dan & Jeanne Brown | Anil, Linda & Ari Comelo |
| Jeff & Ruth Bailey | John & Kelley Buestad | Barbara Conley |
| Jeffrey Balaguras | Jacalyn Buettner | Stephen Controulis |
| Kathleen Balamuth | Eric Buffington | CoreKinetics |
| Jenifer Balducci | Jennifer Bui | Kathy Cordova |
| Carlos & Josie Baltodano | Brendan Buller | Bill Cosden |
| Corinda Barbour | Buddy Burke | Jimbob & Heidi Cox |
| Jim Barnett | Lisa Burlini | Peter & Judy Coy |
| Mick Barraco | Karin & Eric Burns | Larry & Nancy Crevin |
| Katharine Barrett | Robert & Karen Burt | Stacy Crinks |
| Eric Barrientos | Scott & Sheila Butler | Marina Cronk |
| Margaret Beck | Mike & Lee Callaham | RL & DA Cummings |
| Adam Beckett | J.Bruce Campbell | Terrell Cunningham |
| Annie Belinn | Patti Camras | Richard & Susan Curry |
| Bonnie Bell | Canopy Health | Joffa & Ellen Dale |
| Walter & Barbara Bell | Barbara Carrigg | Steve Danziger |
| Richard & Michelle Bellows | Jacqueline Carroll | Susan D'Arcangelo |
| Benevity | Daniel & Sylvia Carter | Frank & Rhonda Darling |
| Laurence W. Berger | Casa Orinda | Daniel David |
| Denis & Diane Bianchi | Vincent Casey | Neal Dawson |
| David Biggs | | Clay Deanhardt & Sandra Milan |
| Robert & Martha Bilbrey | | |
| Biomed General | | |



SALLY HOGARTY

TOPS, The Orinda Preschool, once again marched proudly in the 2022 4th of July parade. Parents, children and faculty have long been a favorite entry in the parade.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Nancy & Victoria Debenham | Gary & Carolyn Depolo | Kay Dubnoff |
| Sandra Debusschere | Ken & Donna Derr | Scott Dunlap |
| Vince & Kathie Dell'Aquila | Paul DeVivo | Laurie Dunn |
| Larry Deloreface | Kara Dille | Mary Jane Duthie |
| Larry Del Santo | Peter & Patricia Dinkelspiel | Sean Eddy |
| Ann Denny | Paul Dolan | Barbara Edwards |
| | Alex Drexel | David & Lynne Ehlers |

[SEE SUPPORTERS page 10]

Park Place



WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.

A Registered Investment Advisor

Retirement & Income Planning • Estate Planning • Charitable Planning • Educational Funding
401K Rollover Specialists

18 Orinda Way, Orinda • 925-254-7766

Registered Principals with and securities offered through Securities America, Inc.
Member FINRA, SIPC. Park Place Wealth Advisors Inc. and Securities America are separate entities.

Mid-Century Contemporary



New Listing ~ 16 Evergreen Drive, ORINDA
5 Beds • 3 Full Baths • 2,430 Sq. Ft.

This beautiful architecturally designed Mid-Century Contemporary residence is close to town and BART and is located in the Glorietta neighborhood. Very spacious interior design with an open floor plan that flows to decks and patio areas. Lovely quiet and peaceful setting with wooded and distant hillside views. The upstairs in the home features four bedrooms and two bathrooms with a remodeled kitchen, formal and informal dining areas and a stunning living room with large windows framing the views. The lower story has two private exterior entrances as well as an interior access down a short flight and is an ideal in-law unit with kitchen/ dining area, bedroom, bathroom and living room with sliding doors to the outside. There is custom lighting and large windows that create a very inviting bonus space for the home. This is a delightful and very special property.

\$1,695,000 • 16Evergreen.com

JUST SOLD | 308 Rheem Blvd, Moraga | \$1,650,000



Laura Abrams

laura@lauraabrams.com | DRE # 01272382

510.697.3225

Recognized as one of America's 2022 Best Real Estate Professionals by Real Trends and Tom Ferry.

Ranked among the top 1% of 1.4 million real estate professionals in the United States!

5 Moraga Way, Orinda CA.
www.lauraabrams.com

 You are welcome to follow me on Instagram @Lauraabrams_

 **COLDWELL BANKER**

*Celebrating 23 Years With Coldwell Banker Orinda
A Trusted Partnership Local Expertise
with Global Connections*

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

◆ SUPPORTERS from page 9

Albert Engel
 Barbara Engel
 Peter & Lisa Engstrom
 Jim & Jill Ellis
 Peter & Sue Elkind
 Joyanne Elkinton Walker
 Patricia Ellsworth
 Barat Ershadi
 Brian Evans
 Ingrid Evans
 Dennis Fay
 Glenn Feldman
 Finola Fellner
 Kathy & John Fernbacher
 Patrick Ferrari
 Alfred & Janet Ferreira
 Kevin Fick
 Gus & Sugar Filice

Kathleen Finch
 Marjorie Fine
 First Republic Bank
 Bob & Ellie Fisher
 Charles Fisher
 Joe & Virgie Fitzpatrick
 John Flanagan
 Harry & Barbara
 Fledderman
 William Fletcher
 Janice Fong
 Gary & Susan Forman
 Robert & Janet Formanek
 Jeri & Herb Foster
 Gary & Barbara Fouts
 Tre & Jim Frane
 Peter Frazier
 Kathy Frenklach

Glenn & Suzanne
 Friedman
 Aida Funk
 Stephen Furtado
 Gary & Elaine Gallaheer
 William & Bonnie
 Gallogly
 Susan Garell
 Manu Garg
 Joseph Garvey
 Dennis & Darlene Gee
 John Gegner
 Jill Gelster
 Suzanne Geoffrion
 Robert & Pat Gerdsen
 Jacobson Gillin
 John Gilmore
 PT Gilmore
 Raife Giovinazzo
 A.N. & E.R. Glazer



The 2022 Classic Car Show was a hit with car enthusiasts and families alike. This young family had eyes on the electric kids' car raffled off at The Orinda Association booth.

LISA BERLINI

Back Yard Office or Guest House



- Studio/Gym
- Site-Built with Deck
- No Permit Required
- Ready in 3 Weeks!

GREEN SHEDS
Thoughtfully Recycled

www.GreenSheds.net 925-872-3187



PROBATE ATTORNEY

- Probate/Trust Administration
- Wills/Trusts
- Conservatorships
- Financial Elder Abuse
- Inheritance Disputes

www.rayrobinson.attorney
925-255-1640
ray@rayrobinson.attorney



WELLS FARGO Advisors

A second opinion can help quiet the second guessing

Help leave investment doubt behind. Talk with a financial advisor who can demystify the complexities of investing and help you feel more confident with your investment plan.

Dean Akazawa, CFP®, APMA®
 Managing Director - Investment Officer
 Senior PIM Portfolio Manager
 2 Theatre Square, Suite 210
 Orinda, CA 94563
 Direct: (925) 253-4313
dean.akazawa@wellsfargoadvisors.com
<https://home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/dean.akazawa>
 CA Insurance # 0687690

Investment and Insurance Products:

NOT FDIC Insured	NO Bank Guarantee	MAY Lose Value
------------------	-------------------	----------------

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.
 © 2020 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. CAR-1122-03443

Steve Glazer & Melba Muscarolas Karen Gleason Patricia Gleason Mihail Gokham Alan Goldhammer Ann Goulding Richard Gonzales Audrey Gordon Simon & Paula Goren Cathy & Jeff Goshorn Eugene Gottfried Arlene & Alan Gould Joe & Margaret Govednik David Graeven Marjory Graue Paul Griessel S.K. Gupta Marisa & Jorge Gutierrez Diane Haist Ron Hait Kirk Haley Donald & Nancy Hall Pam & Alan Hall Jack Hallahan Susan Hamilton Robert Hammer Jud & Judy Hammon George Hansen Christopher Harnett Peter Hartdegen Steve & Tish Harwood Pete & Helen Hasselman Roshan Haugh Laurie & Dennis Heath Robert & Arlene Hegarty Bea Heggie Eric Hesse David Hicks Suzan McAuliffe Hill Bill & Louise Hinkamp Gayl Hirschfeld	Robert Hodas Sally Hogarty Paul Hohnsbeen Meggin Hollister Robin K.S. Holmes Henry Hopkins Chris Hornbeck Marcia & Charles Horne Jacquelyn & Bruce Horwitz Harry & June Howe Cara Hoxie William & Patricia Hudson Dave & Trudi Hummel Donald Hunt Grant & Suanne Inman Joel & Glenn Jackson Keith & Susan Jacobsen Lucille Jacobus Sarah Jenson Dwight Johnson Elizabeth Johnson Kenneth & Jane Johnson Leslie Johnson Rod & Sandy Jones Bill & Joey Judge Ben & Barbara Kacyra John & Jodi Kaelle Ernest & Phoebe Kahl Lynn Kalmar John & JoAnne Kaminski Robert & Marjorie Kaplan Ellen Kapoor Jason & Kristin Kaune Don & Melinda Kavanagh Sally Kay James & Lorna Keefe Julia Keevey Eric Kelleher David & Margo Kelly Kenmar Properties Donald & Diana Kennedy	Robert Kennedy Peter Keown Bruce Kimmis Jeff & Cecily Kingston James Kirchberg Susan & Schuricht Kishi Karen Kistler Juanita Kizor Kathy Klein Kosla Family Chuck & Joanne Kovely, Jr. John Kresich Craig & Anna Lisa Kronman Raymond Kunz Art Laforteza James & Kristin Lamble James & Linda Landau Mari & Walter Landauer Kendall Langan Ross Larnar Chris Laszcz-Davis Diane Lautz Jeanne Laye Ryan LeBlanc Christopher Lee Wen-Shee Lee Jon & Michelle Lehman Barry & Jan Hale Levin Cynthia & Benjamin Leslie-Bole Steven & Carolyn Levy Marty & Rich Lewis William & Iris Libby Patricia Liddle Allison Lindquist Darien Lindsay Christina Linezo Stuart Linn Sarah Liron
---	---	--

[SEE SUPPORTERS page 11]



St. Patrick's Day Spectacular

1001 Pounds of Corned Beef in Orinda!!!

Celebrating Our 25 Year Anniversary

64 Moraga Way • Orinda (Close to Orinda Theatre) • 254-7202

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

◆ SUPPORTERS from page 10

Scott Litchfield
Livermore Auto Mall
Vicki Liviakis
Dustin Lompa
Beverly & Ronald Loos
LOPC
Vanita Louie
Rosabelle & Tom Lowe
Jenchyn Luh
Linda Luini
Lynch Creek Farm LLC
Janine & Ken Lyons
Cinda & Thomas Mac
Kinnon
Bruce Macler
Krista Mahlberg
Janet & Vincent Maiorana
Ruth Majdrakoff
Amin Majlessi
Tyler Major
Latika Malkani
Diane & Paul Maltzer
Peter Mankin
Rodney & Suzanne
Mangus
Paul Marchant
Richard & Gloria
Marchick
George & Judy Marquis
Mo Mashhoon
Alma Mast
Sari-Lois Mattal-Neft
Willy & Susan Mautner
Frank & Francis May
Bruce & Vera Maytum
Greg Mazmanian
Beverly & James McCall
David & Joyce Mc Caulou
Steve McClure
Bradford & Jennifer
McCullough
Joshua & Laura MCDowell
Karen & Patrick McGeer
Eleanor McGinley
John & Sandra McGonigle
Bruce McGurk & Janette
Cushman
Gail McIntyre
Mike McJilton
Peirce McKee
Ted McKinney
Dena McManis
Duane McMullen
Shirley McPheeters
Robert & Virginia
Meadowcroft
Mechanics Bank Orinda
Patricia Menchini
Mercedes Benz of Walnut
Creek
Todd Mercer
Michael & Kathy
Merchant

Cathy Merrill
Richard Mestrich
Peter & Aliza Metzner
Kimberly Meyers-Wirtz
Laura Millham
Constance & James Miller
David Miller
Mark Miller
Carolyn Mills
Edward Mitchell
Mark Monti
Douglas Morrison
Jody Morrison
Judy & Michael Morrison
Meredith Moss
Carolyn Mueller
Elizabeth Muller
Margie Murphy
Terry Murphy & Ellen
Hoffnagel
Fiore Murray
Jim & Patty Murray
Vicki Nakamura
Anne & Jeff Nash
Carol Nelson
Tom & Janet Nelson
Eileen & Michael Nevitt
Eartha Newsong
Ann Newton Cane
Royce & Marjorie
Nicolaisen
Jim & Judi Nishimine
Dan & Joanne Nissim
Casey Noel
Helen Noorthoek
Allen Norleen
Ann & Gary Nye
Daniel Oberlin
William Oldham
Orinda Books
Orinda Community
Foundation
Orinda Lodge #122
Orinda Motors
Orinda Optometry Group
Orinda Park & Rec
Foundation
Orinda Village Antiques
Orinda Woman's Club
Primo Orpilla
David Orsi
Elizabeth O'Shea
Osterweis Capital
Management
Kazue Osugi
Mati & Silvia Otsmaa
Semik & Laurie
Oungoulian
Steve Paddock
Vanessa Padon
Paul & Sheri Palubicki
Anne Parr
Ron & Martha Parriott

Arthur & Susan Paull
Julia Paulsen
Dana Peak
Judith A. Peak
Janet & Norm Pease
Steve Pedone
Heather Pehanick
Michael & Virginia Peiser
Robert Perkins
Cyrle H. Perry
Art Peterson
Bill & Mary Phelon
Donna Pickhall
John Pierce
Edward D. Pike
Andrew & Catherine Pines
Mary Alice Pinkham
Steven Poitras
May Poon
Porsche Walnut Creek
Cindy & Jonathan Powell
Dean Powell
Greg Powell
Paige Powell
Grant and Aleona Power
Allan Prager
Kit & Allan Prager
J.M. Pressler
Phillip Ramirez
James Ramsey
Waleed Rashid
Peter Read
David & Nan Reed
Adam & Margaret Reeves
Republic Services of
Contra Costa
Rescue One Foundation
Barbara & Al Resnick
Nigel Rhodes
Josh Richman
Robert & Carol Riddell
Doug Ridey
Chris Riley
Janet & Ben Riley
Ed & Teresa Ritelli
Mary Kate Rittmann
Penny Rix
Sandra Roadcap
Michael and Charlene
Robinson
Kevin Roebuck
James & Nita Roethe
Richard Rogan
Lorrae Rominger
Nancy Ross-Madnick
Sonya Ruehl
Ruben Ruiz
Robert Russell
James & Jane Ryan
Margaret Ryerson
Bruce Saldinger & Lynne
Royer
San Francisco Assoc. of
Realtors

[SEE SUPPORTERS page 12]



CINDY POWELL

The Orinda Association held public forums giving local residents an opportunity to question candidates. Shown here are City Council candidates (L-R) Alex Drexel, Stuart House, Brandyn Iverson, Latika Malkani, Sunil Raja and Janet Riley (attending via Zoom).

Client Centered. Results Focused. Experience the Difference.

Christina Linezo
REALTOR®
415.425.3085
Christina@christinalinezo.com
ChristinaLinezo.com

Orinda Network Education PLATINUM SPONSOR
Village ASSOCIATES
CHRISTINA LINEZO REALTOR

DRE 01964989

Cantare
IMAGINE
2022-2023 Season

Ernest Bloch's SACRED SERVICE
Director: David Morales
Chorale with orchestra

Simon Barrad
Baritone Soloist

Introductory Remarks by **Roslyn Barak**, Cantor Emerita of Congregation Emanu-El, S.F.

Sun. March 19, 2023 | 4pm
Scottish Rite Center
1547 Lakeside Dr, Oakland, CA

General Admission: \$40 | Senior: \$35 | Student: \$10
Generously supported by the Knell Charitable Trust

This 20th century masterwork depicts the full Jewish Sabbath service, with emphasis on the universal themes of the text. Cantare's Chamber Ensemble also presents Whitacre's *Five Hebrew Love Songs*.

For tickets: cantareconvivo.org | 510.836.0789 | 501c3 non-profit organization

YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING

MARY H. SMITH, D.D.S.
A Professional Corporation
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Proudly serving the Lamorinda Community for over 26 years.
We always welcome new patients.
Our office delivers the highest quality and service.
Consults are always complimentary.

Come visit our brand new state of the art office.
1 Bates Blvd. Suite 210, Orinda, 925.254.0824

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

◆ SUPPORTERS from page 11

Don Sanguinetti
 John & Laurie Sargent
 Kurt Savnik
 Laura Sawczuk & Luke Ellis
 Barbara Schafer
 Robert & Caroline Schmalz
 Greg Schmidt & Wendy Waggener
 Steven & Ana Maria Schnier
 Harvey & Kathleen Schochet
 Tony Schoemehl
 Duane Schroeder
 Pam & Gary Schroeder
 Wendel Schumacher-Milburn
 Joan Schwalbe
 Ian Scott
 Michael Scott
 Stephanie Seitz
 Home Seraj
 Lisa Sernett
 Ralph & Sue Severson
 Lindsay Shadrick
 Brad Shafer
 Kate Shallan
 Grace Shandalov
 David Shapiro & Sharon Wheatley

Stuart & Ann Sharf
 Jennifer Shaw
 Carolyn Sheaff
 Barbara & Richard Shoop
 Dennis & Nicole Sidlauskas
 Sarah & Lawrence Siegel
 Nancy Siu
 Bryan Silveira
 Shauna & Mark Simmonds
 Sharon Simpson
 W. Robert Sinclair
 Praveen Singh
 Dan & Michelle Sinnreich
 Nancy Siu
 Ellis Sjoberg
 Maryann Skitarelic
 Daniel Slaven
 Joseph & Sally Small
 Arthur Smith
 Candia Smith
 Clark & Genevieve Smith
 Deborah Smith
 Gerriann Smith
 Steve Sobel
 Mark & Maria Solit
 Beverley & Kelly Sopak
 Catherine & Bruce Sorenson
 Lionel & Ann Sorenson
 William Spiller
 Steve & Margene Stahle

Lucia Steger
 Tim Stephenson
 Justen Stepka
 Roger & Suzanne Stuart
 Christine Stoneberg
 Arthur & Carole Strand
 Greg & Patricia Straughn
 Fran & David Strykowski
 Tom & Carol Sueoka
 David & Jean Sullivan
 Robert Sundberg
 Susan F. Hurrell CPA
 Stan Sutton
 Dave Svoboda
 John Swain
 Carolyn Taaning
 Russell Taft
 Hugh & Sharon Tama
 Darlene & Willie Tamayo
 Ashley & Christine Taylor
 Nat & Susan Taylor
 Joseph Tenenbaum
 Jerry Teverbaugh
 Paul & Diane Thomas
 Clark Thompson
 RH & KC Thompson
 Tammy Thompson
 Bruce Trenery
 Tom Trowbridge
 Nancy & Donald Turtle
 Suzanne Tze
 Ted & Lida Urban
 Caroline Utz
 Lynn Uzzo & John Eddy



Kate Wiley, from The Orinda Association, drives **Eartha Newsong** to her appointment through the volunteer-run Seniors Around Town program.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rafael Velez | Chase Wellsfry | Cheryl & Jay Wingo |
| Robert Vella | Emma Welsh | Winter Nights Family Shelter |
| Daniel Vetter | Melanie West | Tom & Amy Worth |
| Larry Veverka | Greta Westeson | Gary & Vicky Yancey |
| Village Associates - Ignacio Vega | Richard Westin | Peter & Kay Yanev |
| Edward Vogt | Mark Whatley & Danuta Zaroda | Jessica Yau |
| William & Joanna Wagner | Donna White | Jeanette Yavor |
| Robert & Gerrie Walker | Katie White | Ed Yee |
| Jeff & Kira Wampler | Marjorie White | James Yee |
| David Warren | Shirley White | Johnny Fish Yee |
| John Waterbury | Timothy White | Kathy & Ken Young |
| William & Marie Waterman | Pam Whitman | Joe Zablocki |
| Big Wayne | Jack Wickware | Charles & Rhonda Zaskorn |
| Andrew Weber | Kate & Rich Wiley | Glen Zamanian |
| Krista Weber | Travis Wiley | Joe Zolinas |
| Robert Weikert | Rick Williams | Jane & Mark Zuercher |
| Michael Weldon | Amelia Wilson | |
| Buzz Weldy | Raymond & Dorothy Wilson | |

Baja Cali
TAQUERIA & GRILL
Great Mexican Food!
 (925) 258-9987 · 23 ORINDA WAY STE H, ORINDA, CA

OLD SNEAKERS
 Looking for old sneaks, high tops, Nike and others that you have kept all these years but just are not going to wear. Just send me a picture of what you have and the size and I will get right back to you.
 Email: oldsneakernut@gmail.com

◆ LION KING from page 7

Tickets are available online at www.showtix4u.com/events/wagnerranch or at the door of Wagner Ranch multipurpose room before the shows. This year *The Lion King JR.* at Wagner Ranch will be directed and produced by Joy in Motion (www.joymotiondance.org).

Stella Kim can be reached at stella.mhkim@gmail.com.

**Right coverage.
 Right price.
 Right here in town.**

Bryan A Silveira, Agent
 Insurance Lic#: 0M13551
 23 Orinda Way
 Orinda, CA 94563
 Bus: 925-317-3804

Here's the deal. The right insurance should help you feel confident and comfortable. I'm the right good neighbor for that. Call me today.

Like a good neighbor,
 State Farm is there.®

State Farm
 Bloomington, IL
 2001290

Anxious?
 Uncertain?
 Overwhelmed?

HospiceEastBay.org
 You're not alone.

FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Professor Emeritus Steve Woolpert Talks About What Polarizes Democracy

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Steve Woolpert, Professor Emeritus at Saint Mary's College, speaks March 3 at 10 a.m., at the First Friday Forum "Healing a House Divided: Toxic Polarization Endangers Democracy." The forum is at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, located at 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, in the fellowship hall, with possible viewing via Zoom. Register at www.lopc.org.

Woolpert will engage the audience in an exploration of the rise in negative partisanship, the erosion of democratic norms and the increasing support for political violence in this country.

stereotype one another and harder for them to share resources and power. In a recent survey of registered voters, 87% of respondents worried that the United States is becoming less of a democracy. In this talk I will explore not only how we got here, but more importantly, what we can do together to improve the health of our democracy."

Woolpert grew up in Washington, D.C. and studied history at Grinnell College. After receiving his Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University in 1975, he joined the staff at the University of Maryland before moving to Saint Mary's
[SEE FORUM page 15]



COURTESY OF STEVE WOOLPERT

Professor Emeritus **Steve Woolpert** speaks March 3 at 10 a.m. at the First Friday Forum, held at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. His topic is titled, "Healing a House Divided: Toxic Polarization Endangers Our Democracy."

He will present his plans to launch a Center for Engaged Democracy at Saint Mary's College. According to Woolpert, the Center will be dedicated to strengthening the foundational principles of American democracy by fostering respectful, authentic dialogue across partisan differences; promoting non-biased civic habits and competencies; building on Saint Mary's College's record of excellence in student voting and making common cause with outside organizations which contribute to the health of America's democratic republic.

Woolpert said, "America's democratic institutions do not operate in a vacuum. They are nourished by deeply rooted democratic beliefs and practices. Recently, however, significant numbers of Americans have come to endorse values that jeopardize our democratic republic."

Deepening partisan animosity has made it easier for Americans to demonize and

Saving Newts

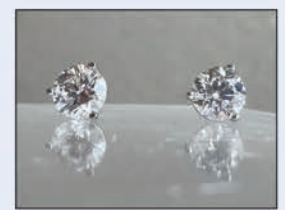
Ella Jung rescues a newt during the recent rains. California newts are indigenous to this area and come out during rainy nights. Mornings after a rain, many dead ones have been smashed by cars and are found on Orinda roads. Ella and her brother, **Cameron Jung** and mom, **Sonja Ure**, have been plucking newts from wet roads and saving them for the past six years. While they are not endangered, they are a California Special Concern species. Warning: The newts have a neurotoxin in their skins that is hundreds of times more toxic than cyanide and can be very dangerous if exposed to open wounds.



SONJA URE



Diamond Earring GIVEAWAY
2.02 cts Diamond Stud Earrings
Radiant white diamonds F/SI2
3 prong, martini setting, 18kt WG
(\$19,000 retail value)



3 ways to enter:

1. Every \$500 spent in our store = 1 ticket
2. Come to a 3rd Thursday event = 3 tickets
3. Purchase tickets on our website 1/\$100

with all proceeds going to @Norsledrescue, our local Husky Rescue

Raffle runs the length of our 100th year. Drawing will be held on Dec 21st 2023, at our 3rd Thursday holiday event.



100 Years
Four Generations
Love you can see, since 1923

Celebrate our Centennial with us!

3rd Thursday – Saturday,
every month of 2023

Find our plans at:
Morrison'sJewelers.com
or
Scan this QR code



Featured Designer
33% off retail – 3 days ONLY



925-253-9227 • 35 Moraga Way, Orinda • Morrison'sJewelers.com • @Morrison'sJewelry

Zamboni's

PIZZA COMPANY

1 Camino Sobrante, Suite 4
We're right across from
Orinda Safeway!

Thin Crust & Deep Dish Pizza

Delicious pizza, calzones, salads
and drinks. Eat in or order out,
we're open everyday.

Remember we always offer
FREE local delivery! (\$20 min)

Open Everyday

11am – 9:00pm

PERFORMING ARTS / PET OF THE MONTH

Orinda Starlight Village Players Announces New Season and Auditions



DAVID DIERKS

Patrick Atkinson and Venee Call-Ferrer starred in last year's production of Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero*.

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) 2023 season returns this summer. The community theater's productions start with Agatha Christie's murder-mystery *The Secret of Chimneys* in June, continues

with Ray Cooney's farce *It Runs in the Family* in July and concludes in September with Malcolm Cowler's musical adaptation of *Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio*. Production dates are listed at www.orsvp.org.

The actor audition process is an open call on dates in March and April, listed below, for the three productions. Anyone interested in performing with OrSVP is encouraged to attend.

In *The Secret of Chimneys*, Anthony, a drifter, agrees to deliver a package to an English country estate for a friend. Little does he suspect this simple errand will place him in the center of a murderous international conspiracy, where someone is determined to prevent the monarchy being restored in Herzoslovakia, a fictional country in Eastern Europe. Exiled royalty, an elusive criminal and the combined forces of the French Sûreté and Scotland Yard are involved.

Directed by Laura Martin-Chapin, auditions are March 18, 11 a.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater and March 21, 7 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center, Room 3. British accents

for all roles are desirable. Two roles need French accents.

Suzanne Lorraine and Jill Gelster are co-directing Ray Cooney's *It Runs in the Family*. Set in a hospital in the 1980s, Dr. Moritmore is nearing the pinnacle of his career and is hoping for a knighthood once his Ponsonby lecture is successfully delivered. He is interrupted by misunderstandings and subterfuge involving a potential paternity suit, an ex-wife, punkish son, elaborate lies and farcical antics.

Auditions are April 1 at 2 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater and April 4 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center, Room 3.

For the final production, *Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio*, director Malcolm Cowler is

looking for 20-30 actors and/or singers, ages 3-90 of all genders and ethnicity. Many of the parts are not gender-specific, and range from leads to ensemble roles. *Pinocchio* must have excellent acting and singing skills and can be played by any gender.

Auditions for *Carlo Colodi's Pinocchio* are April 22 at 2 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater and April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center, Room 3.

Presenting live theater in Orinda for 40 years, this all-volunteer group is always looking for people working behind the scenes to learn about theater production as stage managers, prop makers, set painters, stagehands and sound and light operators

[SEE STARLIGHT page 19]

Pet of the Month



TAMMY BOGETTI

Dog **Pepper** with **Wilder Ehrhorn**. "Pepper is 6-years-old and she loves hiking, swimming, bubbles and playing fetch," said mom **Tammy Bogetti**. "She also loves dog parks and all dogs she meets."

boys team charity
ORINDA LEAGUE

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER MEETING ON
March 1, 2023

Submit a "Prospective Member Application" through our website from **March 6 - March 13, 2023**

For more information, contact: Grace Kan at Gracie.Kan@gmail.com or visit <https://btcorinda.chapterweb.net/>



925-254-1183

Located in the heart of Orinda Theatre Square

www.thefourthbore.com

“You asked, we listened.

Spring Fresh Salads & New Menu Items



The Fourth Bore Tap Room & Grill

SPRING MENU

fresh, local, healthy

CONTINUATIONS

◆ OUSD from page 1

Why Orinda Schools Get So Little State Funding

School districts and charter schools within California are subject to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), enacted in 2013-14. It replaced the previous 40-year-old K-12 finance system, as explained by the California Department of Education.

The new formula is designed to offer greater flexibility for usage of funding.

“To ensure transparency and accountability, LCFF requires school districts to engage with families, teachers, students and community members to develop goals and actions for using state funds to improve student outcomes,” said Janet Weeks, director of communications for the California State Board of Education.

The LCFF system consists of uniform base grants to schools, which are calculated on grade spans of students, such as kindergarten through grade three and grades nine through 12. These are then multiplied by units of average daily attendance.

Included in LCFF are grade-span adjustments in funding. They are based on class enrollment, supplemental grants offered to targeted disadvantaged students and concentration grants for school districts or charters with more than 55% of pupils qualifying as the targeted population.

Targeted disadvantaged students are defined as unduplicated English learners, students who meet income requirements to receive free or reduced-price meals, foster youth or any combination of these.

Allowances for small schools which are geographically isolated and which replace base grants and add-on funding concerning home-to-school transportation and targeted instructional improvement block grants, are also included in the LCFF entitlement.

Funding is also available for local educational agencies that would have, based

on what the department of education calls certain assumptions, received more under the previous finance system. Additional state aid, based on amounts received by schools in 2012-13, is another part of the LCFF formula.

Most of OUSD’s school funding comes from the state LCFF formula. Given its low percentage of unduplicated targeted students, this translates to a per-student funding rate which puts OUSD in the bottom 10 out of 1,021 school districts in California.

“We’re actually one of the lowest funded districts in the state,” said Daoust. “Measure Z is really designed for our teachers and to keep great teachers in Orinda.”

Orinda Parents, Community Raise Funds to Support Local Schools

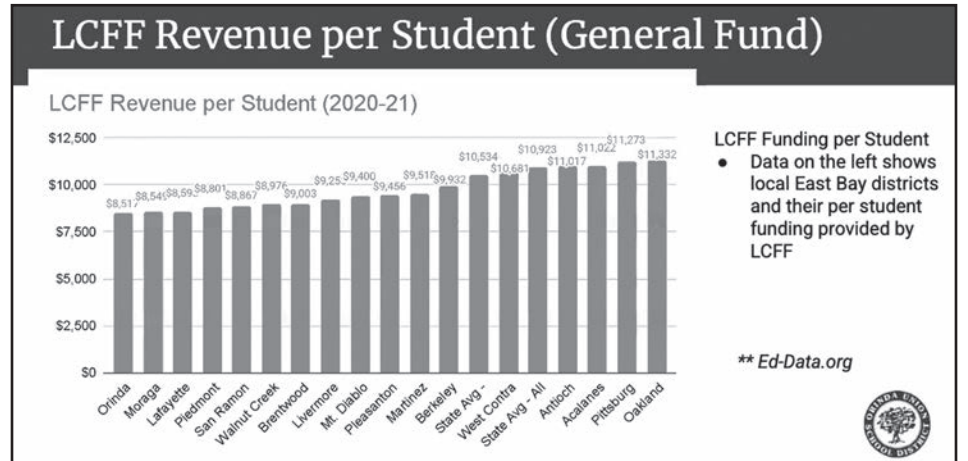
Orinda Network for Education (ONE), which aims to unite Orinda’s stakeholders for the sake of quality educational programs and staff, raises approximately \$5 million each year from parent and community donations, according to OUSD.

ONE’s board of directors voted unanimously in support of Measure Z, said President Brian Rogers, and believes the new tax is necessary to help attract the very best teachers to the district, as well as retain the outstanding teachers OUSD currently has.

“ONE realizes this puts an extra financial burden on property owners in Orinda,” said Rogers. “But we believe everyone should look at Measure Z as an investment in the Orinda community that has numerous benefits for our students, teachers and community.”

Aside from teachers and school programs, “Great schools make Orinda attractive to young families,” said Charles Heath, an OUSD parent and Orinda homeowner. “This creates demand for our homes, which keeps property values strong,” said Heath.

Measure Z cannot be renewed without voter-approval and offers exemptions to



COURTESY OF ORINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
When compared to other local school districts in the area, Orinda Union School District (OUSD) ranks the lowest in terms of per student funding provided by the state, with their funding also ranking consistently in the bottom 10 of all districts in California. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) uses various criteria to determine how much state assistance each school district receives.

homeowners 65 and over, as well as to low-income homeowners with disabilities who qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Forms for Measure Z exemptions can be found on the OUSD website, on the Parcel Tax Measure Z webpage.

While there are grumblings on local social media outlets about the timing and cost of the special ballot and accountability for monies spent, no posters who were

contacted by *The Orinda News* responded with opinions opposing or questioning the measure.

The Contra Costa Taxpayers Association also did not respond to requests for a comment about the measure.

Andrea Madison can be reached at drea.madison.05@gmail.com.

◆ FORUM from page 13

College in 1981. His 47-year teaching career specialized in the courts, constitution and environmental politics.

He was honored as a Saint Mary’s College Professor of the Year and served 12 years as the Dean of Liberal Arts. He has published numerous articles in academic journals and provides political commentary for Bay Area print and broadcast media. Woolpert was named a distinguished alumnus of the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C. last year.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbiedodson109@gmail.com.

The Medicine Shoppe
100% Pure PharmacySM
The “Luck of the Irish” is not always with us, so when you need a little help with your health, visit **The Medicine Shoppe**.
Happy St. Patrick’s Day
Naomi Yuen, Pharm D.
Offering FREE Deliveries
Pet Medicine Available
282 Orinda Village Sq. • 254-1211
<http://orindamedicineshoppe.com>

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR CENTER
Mechanical & Electrical Restoration of 1960 - 1975 American Vehicles

ORINDA MOTORS
63 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA
(925) 475-8435

Orinda AUTO RENTAL
We Also Offer Rental Cars!

Your Local Family Owned Foreign & Domestic Certified Auto Repair Shop!

QR Code: SCAN ME

ASE CERTIFIED
GREEN BUSINESS
Environmental Values at Work

FILM / CLASSIFIEDS

◆ ORINDA! from page 8

Mason will share stories from her impressive career, which includes shows such as *Sunset Boulevard* (Norma Desmond), *Hairspray* (Velma von Tussel), *Wonderland* (The Queen of Hearts) and originating the role of Tanya in *Abba's Mamma Mia!*

She remembers the short rehearsal period she had to take over the role of Mezeppa (one of the strippers from *Gypsy*) in Jerome Robbins' *Forbidden Broadway*.

"I only had two weeks to learn the part and how to play the trumpet," recalled Mason. "Every night I'd go home after rehearsal and put the trumpet bell on the side of the couch and try and get any sound out I could. My neighbors can attest to my poor trumpet playing!"

The Live At the Orinda! concert series often sells out, so purchase tickets early by going to www.orindamovies.com.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sallyhogarty@gmail.com.




Authentic Cuisine of Thailand

- Family Owned
- 3 Generations of Thai cooking experience
- All sauces made fresh
- Full Bar

Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11-2
Dinner: Mon.-Sun. 4:30-9:00

23 F Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-1975

Outcasts Revisited Media LLC




Jeff Heyman

Photography
Communications
Media

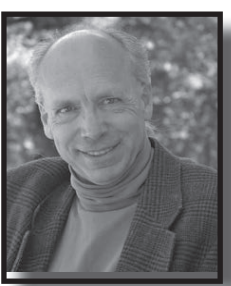
CALL ME!
510.499.1420

www.OutcastsRevisitedMedia.com



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

WORLDS SEEN AND UNSEEN



TOM WESTLAKE

March brings us a triple threat, so let's dispense with the usual introductory paragraph and get right to it.

The International Film Showcase takes us to an earthly country and culture we know precious little about, and toward that end, *Cairo Conspiracy*, which also goes by the title of *Walad Min Al Janna (Boy from Heaven)*, does much to educate.

Indeed, education plays a very large part in this film as it follows the progress of a boy who has the good fortune of being able to attend the local univer-

sity in Egypt. This particular school has a very clear divide between government and religion with the twain never meeting. The main character finds himself haplessly right in the middle of this conflict.

The film is similarly filled with controversy as its director, Tarik Saleh, has been exiled from his home country of Egypt, where his previous film was banned.

Check www.internationalshowcase.org for times and previews.

Universities are not all doom and gloom however, as the Orinda Theatre proves with a free showing of *Animal House* on March 16. It is one of the early movies to showcase the talents of the popular cast from the fledgling *Saturday Night Live*. In this case, the late John Belushi throws himself into the role of worst-student-ever. Filled with chaos and rebellion, *Animal House* was an instant hit, much to the chagrin of parents who didn't want their kids to know how they spent their own college days.

[SEE REEL page 18]

Orinda News classified ads

Your ad in The Orinda News reaches 9,000 households and businesses in Orinda!

2023 Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline
April	March 8
May	April 8

Ad rates are \$5 per line
\$10 minimum

Form available at:
<https://bit.ly/3NUq7oP>

Enclose your check payable to *The Orinda Association* and mail to *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563 or go online to www.theorindanews.org. We reserve the right to reject any ad. Classified ads must be prepaid. *Your cancelled check is your receipt. Ads can also be paid at <https://bit.ly/3NUq7oP>.*

...classified ads

- Wanted**
- Donate Your Vehicle** to The Orinda Association. Very easy! Call 925.326.5868.
 - Looking for old sneakers**, high tops, Nike and others that you have kept all these years but just are not going to wear. Just send me a picture of what you have and the size and I will get right back to you. Email: oldsneakernut@gmail.com.
 - I buy Danish Modern & 1950's Modern furniture**, fine art, sterling silver, & estate jewelry. Will buy 1 item or entire estate! Call Rick at 510.219.9644. Courteous house calls. Rick Hudson Estate Liquidation, LLC.
 - Volunteer drivers needed** for Seniors Around Town program in Orinda. Call 925.402.4506 for more info.
 - Unwanted Eye Glasses** are collected for Lions Club at The Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.



Ann Sharf
Top producer, Strong Negotiator, Proven Results

Proven results for over 31 years!

Whether buying or selling let me help you navigate successfully through this ever changing and competitive market!



(925)253-2525
ann@annsharf.com
www.annsharf.com

CalBRE# 01156966

93 Moraga Way, Orinda



CASA ORINDA RESTAURANT

We are Fully Open!

Thank you Orinda for all of your ongoing support!



925.254.2981 ■ 20 Bryant Way ■ Orinda, CA 94563



Area Rug Cleaning Specialist

Area Rug Free Pick Up & Delivery

(925) 254-2866

www.kirbycarpetcleaning.com

Services include

- Carpets
- Tile & Grout
- Upholstery
- Outdoor Cushions

CONTINUATIONS

◆ VANDALISM from page 1

The subject, who emerged “from the area of the driver side door of the parked white Ford van,” is seen walking around the parked patrol vehicle as the “windows change from a dark color to a lighter white color. The subject spends approximately two minutes around the patrol vehicle before exiting out of view.”

Responding officers arrived about two minutes later. No other vehicles or subjects are visible in the videos.

Brock’s wife, Jessica, contacted *The Orinda News* via email.

“When Robert was arrested, he said he would go to the news,” she wrote. “Once he was out and we were settled, I figured since it happened in Orinda, then we’d start there.”

The couple live in a white Ford van, which Brock parks in the BevMo! lot when he is on the job as a manager/supervisor at Orinda Hardware.

According to Brock, he was questioned by a rotation of five police officers in the parking lot for nearly two hours.

“The whole time I told them I didn’t do it and that they got the wrong guy. I didn’t see the news, so that was the first time I had ever heard that name before – I didn’t even know who Tyre was,” said Brock. “I was embarrassed and humiliated in front of my coworkers and friends.”

With purchase receipts and GPS vehicle tracking, Brock said he has evidence to prove his whereabouts, which he claimed contradicts the police report. He provided a receipt from McDonald’s in Lafayette, dated Jan. 27 at 5:01 a.m.

“They [Orinda Police officers] simply assumed it was me,” said Brock. “Just because I happen to work in the same parking lot. The footage does not line-up to what happened. Nor, what I *actually* did that morning. I have two apps with GPS backing

up my movements.”

Marzilli conducted “an initial search of the van and located no items appearing to be associated with the vandalism.” Further searches included “various trash cans and dumpster in the immediate area of the parking lot,” looking for discarded paint cans or clothing. The search “yielded no results within the dumpsters or trash cans.” A pair of gloves was collected and booked as evidence.

“Based on the surveillance footage from the front cameras on the BevMo! building, I reasonably believed the driver of the Ford van to be the suspect who defaced the parked patrol vehicle. Further, the suspect in the video wore a dark colored hooded sweatshirt similar to the sweatshirt Brock was wearing,” wrote Marzilli.

The Orinda News has been denied access to the video surveillance footage.

“The Office of the Sheriff is not providing any digital photos, copies of evidence, or police reports to you. They are investigative records and are exempt under the Public Records Act. In an earlier email, you stated your code of ethics is to ‘do not harm.’ Please understand that to provide ongoing comment (beyond our initial statement) or evidence could harm the investigation. There is still work to be done and we prefer not to have this played out in the media,” wrote Lee via email.

Upon request, Mayor Inga Miller provided the following statement, “Based on the facts given to us from when it happened, which was right away, we as a city, feel we are the victims in this case and we do not want to prosecute [Robert Brock].”

Prosecution, if any, is handled by the County District Attorney’s Office.

As of press time, this remains an active criminal case and Brock’s clothes, laptop and cell phone, which were taken from his van, have not been returned to him. His



CHARLEEN EARLEY

Robert Brock, a True Value Orinda Hardware manager, seen here with wife **Jessica Brock**, was arrested on Jan. 27 for a felony crime of defacing an Orinda decoy (crime deterrent) vehicle with white paint in the BevMo! parking lot. The couple lives in a van with their cat named **Grey** as temporary housing, due to an eviction in 2019.

arraignment hearing and discovery (show of evidence) was scheduled for Feb. 21 at the courthouse in Martinez.

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



KEN'S
REDWOOD
FENCING
925.938.9836

Custom Quality Fencing
Good Neighbor Fence
Deer Fencing
Picket/Split Rail
Arbors and Trellises
Retaining Walls
Insurance/Storm Repairs

Licensed, Bonded
& Insured.
CA #667491

McCaulou's
and
Hollyhock
always
FREE Gift Wrap!
on items **15.00**
or more.
Orinda Village Square



ARSHAD AHMED

On the heels of nationwide protests for the brutal beatings and death of **Tyre Nichols** in Memphis, TN, an Orinda Police decoy (crime deterrent) vehicle was vandalized with white spray paint with the word ‘Tyre’ written on all sides of the unit during the early morning of Jan. 27 in the BevMo! parking lot in Orinda. A suspect, 34-year-old **Robert Brock**, was arrested the same day for felony vandalism.

Shellie Abbes Kirby

Lifelong Lamorinda experience you can trust. Utilize Shellie’s unique East Bay knowledge, personal attention, guidance and professionalism.

**Proven Results - Experience
Personal Service**



Office: 925-253-6321
Cell: 925-872-4257
email: shellie@shelliekirby.com

COLDWELL BANKER

What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

Registration for Spring Break Camps and Spring youth and adult classes begins on March 2 at 9 a.m.

Make Your Spring Picnic Area and Facility Reservations Now.

Orinda Parks and Rec seeking Instructors for Youth and Adult Classes. If interested, contact us at email below.

Senior Trip: All That's New in San Francisco! Tour with Craig Smith. March 7. \$70.

Registration for Summer Camps and Program begins on March 30 at 9 a.m.

Go to www.orindaparksandrec.org or call 925-254-2445 for questions and registration.



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445
www.OrindaParksandRec.org
OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org
28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center

YOU DESERVE THE BEST REAL ESTATE SERVICE - I'M HERE TO PROVIDE IT

MELANIE SNOW



Orinda
CalRE#: 00878893



International Society of Excellence
Awarded to Fewer Than 1% of Coldwell Banker® Agents Worldwide



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

SEASONED SHOPPER

◆ REEL from page 16

Going back in time a bit, the Chiller Diller Theatre presents a different sort of threat. During the 50s and 60s, we were living through a Cold War of fear and paranoia. *War of the Worlds* (1953) fanned those fears.

Instead of the atom bomb or the looming threat of communism, *War* gives the anomalous fear of invasion, not from any earthly country, but from Martians. Following in the footsteps of the famous radio broadcast – and keeping in mind we didn't know half as much about the red planet as we do now – the fear felt by the audiences must have been palpable indeed. Add the brilliant special effects by the famous George Pal and you have a clas-

sic. It screens March 18. Be sure to check www.orindamovies.com for show times.

Lastly, there's the 16mm weird, bizarre madness of the Psychotronix Film Festival. This is a presentation of shorts, TV commercials, cartoons, educational films and trailers. Seeing this will conjure memories from some of a certain era who were subjected to them as children and still managed to lead mostly normal and stable lives. It shows March 25.

And that's it. As always, I urge you to go toward those wonderful images made of sound and light, for that's where the reel magic lies.

Tom Westlake can be reached at poppinjay@earthlink.net.



Seasoned Shopper

Going Green at the Orinda Farmers' Market



BARBARA KOBSAR

Spring greens offer shoppers an array of possibilities, from making salads to creating vegetable cups and rolls. For inspiration, look for bunches from spinach to spicy-tasting dandelion greens.

There are different varieties of spinach with savoyed (crinkled) or smooth leaves. All may be eaten raw in salads and smoothies, cooked in soups or in the classic spinach and artichoke dip.

Bok choy goes by many other names, including Chinese white cabbage, Chinese chard cabbage and Pac choi, but all refer to a non-heading member of the cabbage family with crunchy, thick white stalks and dark, green leaves. Look for the mild baby bok choy early in the season.

Kale, a nutrient-rich vegetable, has been around since Roman times and is deserving of the title, Super Food. The leaves of both curly and flat leaf varieties are hearty with a nutty, earthy flavor and fibrous stems which are perfect in stir fries or diced into soups. National Kale Day was established in 2013.

Kale chips are easy to make and delicious. Swish kale leaves in a sink of cold water. Remove and dry on paper towels. Pull leaves from stems and cut into small pieces using kitchen shears. Place pieces in a bowl, drizzle with olive oil and massage in with your fingers. Sprinkle with herbs, garlic or onion salt, curry or cumin. Spread kale evenly on a baking sheet. Bake at 325 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes, until the leaves shrink and are crisp around the edges.

The best dandelion greens arrive in early spring when the leaves are soft. Their bitterness is easily mellowed by cooking or wilting.

Cast iron cooking is a favorite of mine. All types of greens, with eggs nestled in the mixture, make a quick and delicious meal. Blanch 4 cups chopped kale, spinach and dandelion greens in a pot of boiling salted water for 1 to 2 minutes. Drain well. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a 10-inch cast iron pan over medium heat. Add vegetables and cook until wilted, then create 4 shallow nests in the greens and crack an egg into each one. Season with salt and pepper and top each with 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan or feta cheese. Cook uncovered until the whites of the eggs are set, or about 5 minutes.

Note: There are plenty of eggs at the Orinda Farmers' Market. Visit Stueve Organic Farms, a multi-generation family farm from the Central Valley. The distinctive bright yolk color and superior taste and texture are results of the hens grazing on fresh pasture.

The Orinda Farmers' market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. For more information visit www.cccf.org facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket and Instagram @OrindaFarmersMarket or call the market hotline at 925.322.6228.

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

Time to buy or sell? Let me help you.

See what my clients say at www.myagentsuzanne.com

Clients Are Always First

Suzanne Toner Geoffrion
925-699-4832 mobile/text
CalBRE# 01878803
International President's Circle
Top 100 Sales Coldwell Banker SF Bay Area




©2023 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.



Shop for winter gift giving, now extended to include Artisan Vendors

Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Markets
www.cccfm.org

Orinda

SATURDAY

Farmers' Market

22 Orinda Way, in front of Community Park

OPEN YEAR ROUND

9am-1pm

EBT Welcome



Effie Eliahu sells hand-collected, grade AA, free-range eggs at the Orinda Farmers' Market.

MK

THE MANDY KILPATRICK TEAM



Partner with confidence.

36+ collective years in real estate and **\$68M** in sales for 2022. That's true expertise, delivering results for YOU!

BUYING OR SELLING?
MAKE THE MOVE WITH MANDY



CONTACT:

✉ MANDY@MANDYKILPATRICK.COM

☎ 415-297-8441

🌐 WWW.MANDYKILPATRICK.COM

COMPASS

McDonnell Nursery

shop now to receive McDonnell bucks



family owned since 1933

Flowers - Trees - Succulents - Pottery & Fountains
Garden Decor - House Plants
Gifts

www.mcdonnellnursery.com

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Wed. - Sun.

BUSINESS BUZZ

Family-Owned Company Keeps Businesses, Homes and Environment Clean

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

Orinda residents Rami and Kathryn Richards were starting a new phase in their lives in 2021 as their three kids were more active with sports, school and friends. The tech industry was becoming a grind for Rami, so the family decided to pivot and start their own business.

That's when they bought a franchise called ecomaids.

"We wanted opportunities that put us on a path towards independence, spending more time together, connecting to our own community and less time commuting – as an employer and a service provider," said Rami. "We evaluated a myriad of business opportunities, seeking a project that aligned with our values. We kept coming back to service, the environment, sustainability, community-building and social responsibility."

Kathryn, whose parents still live in the home she grew up in, graduated from Miramonte High School. She worked in the mental health sector for more than 25 years as a licensed clinical social worker and transitioned to a therapist in a clinic before opening her private practice.

Rami spent more than 10 years in the financial services industry. From there he moved into tech-digital media, holding sales and sales leadership roles at Pandora, Pinterest and AdTech ventures for another decade.

When they opened ecomaids, which is bonded, licensed and insured, they did the work themselves. "I knew as entrepreneurs, we had to be ready to roll up our sleeves and get the job done," said Rami. "If we reflect honestly – we hadn't worked a physically challenging job in decades and there was

something renewing about having to sweat for a living, believe it or not."

They reaped unexpected benefits from cleaning homes. "We shed a few pounds, we got to know our clients personally and really put our stamp on things so they could feel comfortable with our company ethos and authenticity," he said. "We learned to appreciate the difficult, physical nature of the job and gain an appreciation of what our employees would be going through, which makes us far more empathetic employers."

The cleaning products used by ecomaids are free of harmful, toxic chemicals and are certified by EPA Safer Choice and Green Seal.

"As we evaluated businesses, we wanted to minimize our environmental footprint as much as possible," said Rami. "We're not perfect – we still drive gas cars since a fleet of electric vehicles and required infrastructure are too costly to be sustainable in this stage – but it was important for us to help our clients reduce the number of toxins in their own households and create safer environments for pets, kids and plants."

Rami added, "It's also much safer for industry workers who get overexposed to harsh cleaning chemicals every day. We have countless stories of clients reaching out convinced their pets could have been sickened by commonly used cleaning products. It's quite rewarding to deliver the peace of mind that comes with a freshly cleaned home, but even more so, knowing the products we use are safer."

Understanding that not all homes are created equal and expectations of cleaning services vary, Rami said, "We dust all horizontal surfaces, vacuum, mop, polish and tidy. We clean showers and tubs, disinfect sinks and toilets; scour grout and



COURTESY OF RAMI RICHARDS

Rami and Kathryn Richards with their children, (L-R) Soren, Archie and Nash and Rocco, the family pet, alongside their first "ecomobile." This view, from Grizzly Peak, overlooks the vista and communities where the couple are raising their three kids.

counters and clean stove tops and cabinet faces."

The first home cleaning visit typically takes more time to establish a baseline, with maintenance cleanings scheduled on a recurring basis.

The 13 employees are thoroughly vetted, background-checked and protected by insurance. They are COVID-19 vaccinated, wear masks and follow safety protocols.

"We provide competitive living wages and benefits to our employees," said Kathryn.

Another unforeseen benefit are the funny moments. "Hearing teams argue about who's going to handle the spider or wondering why the vacuum isn't working and completely disassembling it to troubleshoot – only to find it's not plugged in," said Rami.

For more information about ecomaids, visit www.ecomaids.com/eastbay-ca/, email em46@ecomaids.com or call 925.765.7145.

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

◆ STARLIGHT from page 14

or box office staffing/management. No experience is necessary. Stop by during any audition calls listed above.

For more information and for those interested in any aspect of theater who would like to help, contact www.orsvp.org or 925.528.9225.

"This is a great place to get your feet wet in community theater, so come play with us in the park," said Lorraine.

David Dierks can be reached at david@theorindanews.com.

Brush Removal
&
Tree Trimming
to satisfy Moraga-Orinda Fire District's regulations

Free estimates!
925-938-9836
licensed, bonded & insured.
CA #667491

www.kensrototilling.com



Karen & Hillary Murphy
www.MurphyTeamRE.com

The Murphy Team: 35 Years Selling Orinda

\$100M+ in Recent Transactions

Downsizing Experts

2 Top Agents, 1 Seamless Team

50/50 Buyer/Seller Representation

Stand-Out Staging for Every Listing

ONE Orinda Platinum Donor



Hillary Murphy (415)309-5061 | hillary@MurphyTeamRE.com
Karen Murphy (925)788-6322 | karen.villageassociates@gmail.com

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

A Conversation with Erik Preminger, Son of Burlesque Star Gypsy Rose Lee

By KATHY CORDOVA
Executive Editor

You have such a famous Hollywood history. How did you end up in Orinda and what do you like about living here?

I've lived in Orinda for 20 years, but my wife Linda has lived here for 50 years, so she is the one who brought me here. There is nothing not to like. The weather is great, as are the surroundings and the old trees. Even before I lived in Orinda I would drive through and think this is a beautiful, quiet piece of paradise on earth.

What was it like growing up as the child of the famous "striptease artist" Gypsy Rose Lee?

There were two sides to it as there always are to any adventure - and it was definitely an adventure. We traveled six to nine months of the year all over the country and internationally. I had been around the world twice before I was 13 years old.

She put me to work when I was six years old. I did everything from being her dresser to her photographer. She made me a part of her life and gave me a role to play. Part of me loved it, and part of me wished I could read comic books all day.

Your mom raised you as a single mother way ahead of her time?

Yes, my mother was married three times, all very brief. The love of her life was Mike Todd (who she never married). When he suddenly married Elizabeth Taylor, my mom decided to have a child. Although she was married to her second husband at the time, she absolutely conceived in her mind that I was her child and hers alone.

She was a strong personality and was very independent. She and she alone designed what my upbringing would be. Through her example, she gave me great respect for women.

At 17 years old you found out the man named on your birth certificate wasn't your biological father; but instead was Otto Preminger, the famous director?

Yes, and my mom insisted we keep the secret as long as she was alive. I went to work for Otto after my discharge from the Army. About a year after my mother died, Otto and I were walking down 5th Avenue in New York City when he was stopped on the street by a man who turned to me and said, "...and this must be your son." We went through with the by now standard dance, "Oh, no, this is my assistant Erik Kirkland." After the man left,



COURTESY OF ERIK PREMINGER

Erik Preminger sometimes worked as a photographer for his famous mother, **Gypsy Rose Lee**. See additional photos online.

Otto said, "There's no longer any reason to keep our relationship secret. I'd like to adopt you and formally make you my son." I agreed.

You've led quite an interesting life. Beyond your globe-trotting childhood, you've worked in film and television production, wrote a memoir and composed and performed a one-man show about your mother. What was your favorite job?

That's tough. I guess I'd give the edge to my job at KGO-TV working on AM San Francisco/Good Morning Bay area as a producer and entertainment reporter in the late 80's and early 90's.

What's your favorite memory of your mother?

I guess one of the most moving moments came while she was dying. She asked me how it was with me and Otto. When I told her it was going well she said, "I'm glad. That's why I chose him, you know. I could have had a child by Mike (Todd) anytime, but Mike had a mean streak that I didn't want my child to inherit. But Otto had it all. He was smart, successful, and sweet, in spite of his reputation. All qualities I wanted my child to inherit."

Kathy Cordova can be reached at cordova@theorindanews.com.

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

Lafayette | Orinda | Moraga
Berkeley | Oakland | Piedmont



Rebecca Ciccio
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE MATTERS

☎ 917.482.6780
CalDRE#01891757
GRUBBCO.COM



BEFORE

Tractor Mowing
Weed Cutting
Brush Clearing
Chipping
Fire Breaks
Fire Department
Compliance



AFTER



Will Thorn • Wildland Corporation • (510) 306-6285 • CSLB #1089268

will@wildlandcorp.com • wildlandcorp.com