



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Orinda Children Deliver 300 'Peace Kits' to Paradise Students Impacted by Fires

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Scented eye pillows, beaded breathing wands, friendship bracelets, small journals and hand-stuffed animals. These were some of the items Orinda school children made and took to Paradise school children displaced by last year's Camp Fire.

The fire destroyed Ponderosa Elementary School in Paradise (Butte County) with the 250 children and staff relocated to Durham

Elementary School in Durham. Not only did these children lose their homes, but they also lost one of the stabilizing influences in their lives – their school.

"The social and emotional impacts of the fires will be around for a long time to come," says Orinda Rotary Club President John Donnelly. "Rotary Clubs all across Northern California contributed generously in the immediate aftermath of the fires, providing the children with school supplies and books. We are very pleased to

[SEE PEACE page 6]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Children from Ponderosa Elementary School explore items in their Peace Kits with the help of an Orinda Union School District student.

School District Prepares to Spend \$105 Million in Bond Money, Holds Breath on State Funding

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

Orinda school officials presented a mixed report on school finances recently as they prepare to spend \$105 million in voter-approved bonds while worrying about future funding from the state.

At a presentation to the Orinda Intermediate school Parents Club last month, Superintendent Carolyn Seaton and Orinda Union School District Board Member Ja-

son Kaune offered their vision and explained the process for spending of last November's passage of two school bonds, Measures E and I.

The process is in its infancy but eight people have been appointed to the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC). Orindans can follow the committee's progress and find meeting times and places on the district website: Orindaschools.org. The next steps are to hire a program manager to help the district manage the site improvements

from the bond money, put the projects out to bid and hire an architect to draw up plans.

"We don't want to rush and we need to get input, but we need to move along quickly since construction prices are rising," Seaton says. "We are sorting out what we can and cannot afford. We hope to create more opportunities for students to work together in and outside of the classroom. There are vision drawings and architects are drawing up pictures of what these ideas can look like."

"We wanted more curriculum connected to the outdoors and wanted the buildings to reflect that," Kaune says.

The projects can be viewed on the district website (scroll down to OUSD Facilities Master Plan). As Seaton says, "There are more improvements than we can afford; we cannot afford everything."

Despite the excitement over bond money,
[SEE BOND page 14]

May 31 Event Planned to Address Wildfire Prevention, Preparation and History

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Is Lamorinda prepared for fire? Realizing the potential for a devastating fire here, Lamorinda Village is sponsoring *All About Wildfires*, an event aimed at educating and protecting local residents.

Featured speakers are Dennis Rein, emergency preparedness coordinator for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD), and Jerry Kent, retired assistant general manager of operations for the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD).

"A robust fuel crop and brush growth are

expected this spring," says Rein. "These fuel issues may contribute to another active fire season this year."

Rein said he will discuss ways MOFD is working to alleviate the possibility of a wildfire causing destruction such as has occurred in other areas of California. Topics will include external and internal fuels

[SEE WILDFIRE page 14]

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Read More Online

In addition to what is in this edition, you'll find more online on our website: www.TheOrindaNews.com. Read about David A. Hollinger, an expert on American intellectual history, who will speak on "Global Christianity and the Ecumenical-Evangelical Divide" at this month's **First Friday Forum**. Discover books recommended by **Orinda Books**. Be inspired by Orinda's **101-year-old skier**. See what Orinda girls learned recently at the **STEAM** conference, and who won **scholarships** from the AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch.

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Jane Andersen: Remembered For Positive Attitude And Gregarious Nature

Jan. 15, 1932 - March 21, 2019

Long-time Orindan Jane Andersen passed away peacefully surrounded by family on March 21 in Portland, Oregon.

Jane was born in Carrington, North Dakota, and raised in Tacoma, Washington. She graduated from Stadium High School and Washington State University. In 1955, when she was teaching second grade, Jane learned about a European summer tour organized through the University of California. While in Paris on the tour, she fell in love with the tour leader, Harry Andersen.

They were married that December and started a family in the Berkeley hills. In 1959 they moved to Orinda, where Jane and Harry raised their four children and encouraged them to experience and appreciate the world. In 2000, they retired in Carmel until



Jane Andersen was an active member of the Orinda community for over 40 years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Harry's death in 2011. Most recently, Jane was delighted to live close to three generations of family in Corvallis, Oregon.

Jane was perhaps best known for her positive attitude and gregarious nature. She accompanied Harry on many tours, and she learned Danish to converse with Harry's many relatives from his homeland. She was fond of family road trips to Colorado, Washington, Bodega Bay, and Silver Lake; in later years, she cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

When she was not in Orinda she could often be found in Carmel, Maui, Kenya, or Denmark. She was grateful for her many friends in the Bay Area and around the world, including her bridge club, P.E.O. chapter, Orinda Community Church, local swim and tennis clubs, and many friends

[SEE ANDERSEN page 17]

Luncheon Set for 3/4 Century Club Seniors

George Jedenoff and Elva Rust are the reigning "King" and "Queen" of the Three-Quarter Century Club, which celebrates Orinda seniors. The group holds its 20th Annual Luncheon May 15 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church. It will feature special guest Bernat Rosner, a Holocaust survivor speaking on the "Power of the Human Spirit." Sponsored by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and the Orinda Community Church, this event is open to all Orinda residents age 75 or older. To make a reservation, contact John Fazel at runmtns@prodigy.net or call 925-324-2017.

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Cal Shakes Celebrates 45th Season with Two 'Best' Works, Two Modern Classics

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

The stars shine over California Shakespeare Theater's majestic hills this summer as the company celebrates its 45th season at the Bruns Amphitheater. Company Artistic Director Eric Ting says he is excited about the big plans for the season's productions.

"We're bringing back two beloved plays by William Shakespeare that collectively represent the best of his works, and we're pairing them with two modern classics: one old, one very new. It's a season of glorious comedy, stark tragedy and complex humanity that grapples with the timeless question: How are we responsible to one another?" said Ting.

Opening the 2019 season is *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Tyne Rafaeli. The show runs May 22-June 9. Ting says he is thrilled to welcome Rafaeli back to the Bruns after her successful 2017 run of *Measure for Measure*.

According to Rafaeli, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* centers around four lovers who escape into the woods and find themselves entangled in a world turned upside-down. When it comes to love, what's fantasy and what's reality? Tricks abound and wires cross as they seek escape from (or surrender to) the clutches of love.

Rafaeli is a British-American director based in New York who directs classics, new plays and musicals in London and the United States. Her recent productions have

been at the Roundabout Theatre Company, Playwright's Horizons, the Geffen Playhouse, Goodspeed and Juilliard. Rafaeli is a 2016-18 Time Warner Directing Fellow at the Women's Project Theatre and received the 2014 SDC Sir John Gielgud Fellowship for Classic Direction.

Ting directs *The Good Person of Szechwan* by Bertolt Brecht, the second show of Cal Shakes' season running July 3-21. It is the first time Cal Shakes has produced a Brechtian work, which is a fable for current times exploring the lengths one must go to survive in the modern world.

Ting is introducing Cal Shakes' audiences to the visions of two new directors this season. Megan Sandberg-Zakian directs the world premiere of *House of Joy* by Madhuri Shekar, produced as part of Cal Shakes' New Classics Initiative (NCI), running Aug. 14 to Sept. 1.

The NCI seeks to engage living writers in dialogue with classical works. Shekar's work got the attention of Cal Shakes at the 2018 Bay Area Playwrights Festival and is an action-adventure romance set in a harem at the beginning of the end of the Mughal Empire.

The final show of the season, Shakespeare's *Macbeth* directed by Cal Shakes newcomer, Victor Malana Moag, runs Sept. 18 to Oct. 6. Determined to fulfill a prophecy of greatness, Macbeth's hunger for power consumes all he holds dear in a cautionary tale of unbridled ambition.

All shows are at the Bruns Amphitheater, [SEE CAL SHAKES page 14]

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From The OA President
Emergency Evacuation Forum, Classic
Car Show Coming Up**

Carlos Baltodano



November's Camp Fire is considered the deadliest wildfire in California to date. It destroyed the town of Paradise and killed 85 people. Very dry vegetation, high winds and limited evacuation routes turned this wildfire into a high-speed monster that obliterated the town in Butte County. It is estimated that 90 percent of the houses and 50 percent of the commercial buildings were destroyed. Our hearts grieve for the fallen and their families.

While investigations and lawsuits are underway, it's a good time for all of us to reflect and ask: Are we prepared? What do we do if asked to evacuate our home? Have we planned for the safety of our families? Do we have a bag of important items to take with us in an emergency or evacuation?

These questions and more will be addressed in an Emergency Evacuation Forum sponsored by The Orinda Association (OA). It takes place 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. May 23 at the Orinda Library Auditorium. The chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department, the Orinda police chief, emergency instructors and evacuation coordinators are being invited to provide information and answer questions.

When a fire occurs and there is a need to evacuate, most people freeze and have little clue what they need to pack. If you are like me, you would think about photo albums or artwork. Others would think about their pets or jewelry. How about important

papers or passports? According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, evacuations are very common in the United States. Evacuations are not only caused by fires or earthquakes; they can occur due to transportation and industrial accidents.

During every disaster, someone says, "I never thought it could happen to me." Being better prepared and knowing a few steps could help cut losses. Fire safety and prevention habits can help prevent fires from starting and limit the damage should a fire occur. The forum will include current best practices from recent evacuation exercises, "Go Bag" planning, inventory and insurance coverage steps and evacuation plan preparation.

As part of the forum, a video will be created to show this important information along with answers to questions on safety. The video is planned to be available on Contra Costa TV and the Community Emergency Response Team website.

Please plan to attend this very important [SEE PRESIDENT page 4]

Mark Your Calendars

Emergency Evacuation Forum: 5-6:30 p.m. May 23, Orinda Library Auditorium
Classic Car Show, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 7, Orinda Village District (near Orinda Motors)

The Orinda Association

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

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

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

The Orinda Association
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SAT Drivers Feted at Annual Luncheon



SALLY HOGARTY

Ingrid Evans and John Creech take part in the special drivers' luncheon put on by the staff of Seniors Around Town in appreciation of all the volunteers who drive clients to various appointments throughout the year. Evans has been driving with SAT for 14 years and Creech has been a driver for 10 years. Approximately 30 of the 64 active drivers attended the luncheon on April 2 catered by Genuine Goodness (21 Orinda Way). For more information on being a driver, call 925-254-0800 or email seniorsaroundtownorinda@gmail.com.

**See Me Around Town?
Ask Me!**



Call: 402-4506

May 16 is "Do Something Nice for Your Neighbor Day."

The Orinda Association Presents

**Emergency Evacuation
Preparedness in Orinda**

Orinda Library Auditorium

PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM, Thursday, May 23, 5-6:30 pm

Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness
Information Available in the Lobby at 4:30 PM
Speakers from MOPD, Orinda Police and Lamorinda CERT



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**Seniors
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**Classic
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**4th of July
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**The Orinda
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Editorial: Keeping Local News Alive

Citing the loss of newspapers – and the jobs that disappeared with them – U.S. lawmakers last month introduced a bill to help preserve local journalism.

In introducing the measure, the lawmakers pointed out that since 2004, 1,800 local papers have been closed or merged, resulting in a 45 percent decrease of reporters and editors in the industry. The Bay Area reflected the national trend, going from 1,500 journalists at its high point down to less than 300 journalists to serve roughly seven million people.

Importantly, they noted that local journalism plays a vital role in promoting good governance, accountability and community.

The Journalism Competition and Preservation Act, launched by U.S. Representatives Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Jamie Raskin (D-MD), would allow local news outlets to negotiate collectively with large online platforms, including Facebook and Google.

“Local news faces an uphill battle,” DeSaulnier said. “Papers are being bought up by hedge funds and the focus has had to shift from quality local content to profit maximization to save the news organizations we have left. In this digital world, where content is being shared for free on social media while the platform makes a

profit, it’s only fair to let news organizations share in ad revenues.”

On a much smaller scale, our little paper has the same challenges as papers around the country. We have reporters, editors, graphic and web designers and advertising representatives. We typically have a 20-page paper, and each month we print 9,000 copies which are delivered via U.S. mail as well as distributed around town.

This all costs money. Even though *The Orinda News* is a service of The Orinda Association, the newspaper is expected to pay for itself. And it does through ad revenue. Yet, it could not survive without the backing of the Association and its supporters. In fact, some supporters in the past have designated their donation specifically for the newspaper. (See who they are on pages 10-14).

We value this commitment and watch the bottom line very carefully because the Association has other important programs it funds with donations it receives. They include the Volunteer Center, Seniors Around Town and the 4th of July Parade.

So when our advertising representatives knock on your door, there’s a reason for it: To keep *The Orinda News*, your community resource, alive and independent.

– Simar Khanna, Editor
editor@TheOrindaNews.com

Letter to the Editor

Casa Compact, SB50 Housing Plans Would Destroy Orinda

Residents of Orinda are attracted to their city because of the excellent schools, the enchanting environment, the low crime rate and all of the other pleasant elements associated with suburban living.

However, two governmental plans, if enacted, will destroy the assets of Orinda.

One plan is the CASA Compact, a project concocted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The CASA Compact will mandate the construction of additional housing in Orinda, a city that is full. The CASA Compact’s recommendations include unlocking “public land for affordable housing” and the “removal of regulatory barriers to additional dwelling units.” The source of the quoted words is a March 4 press release from MTC. The estimated cost for the compact is \$1.5 billion per year.

The second plan is state Senate Bill 50 (SB50), which will require Orinda to construct even more housing. SB50 will, according to *Curbed San Francisco* (edition of March 12), a real estate publication, set “minimum requirements for low-income housing.” SB 50 is still being debated in the state legislature.

Neither the CASA Compact nor SB 50 will have any effect on civil rights, especial-

ly the federal government’s Fair Housing Act of 1968. The act bans discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of housing.

The Orinda City Council (as of April 8) has not taken a stand on the CASA Compact or SB50. In 2017 and 2018, Orinda mayors Eve Phillips and Amy Worth wrote a total of four letters to members of the state legislature. The letters argued for local control in Orinda.

Curiously, four recent surveys of California and Bay Area residents show that 50 percent or more are considering leaving the state or the Bay Area. If there is such an exodus, no new housing will be needed.

Any changes affecting Orinda’s housing must go, in a referendum, before the city’s voters.

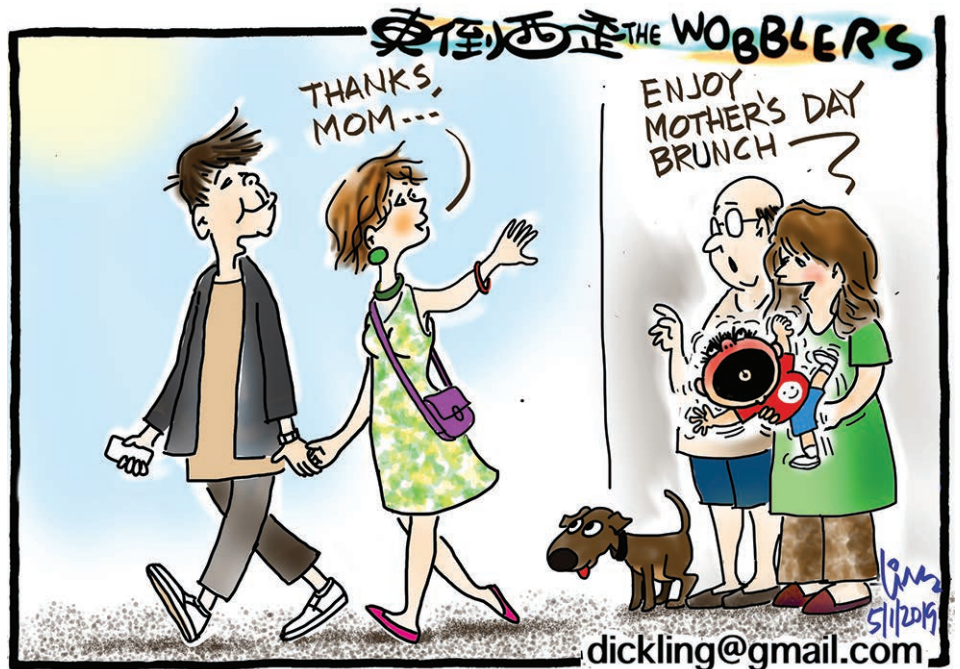
If Orinda ultimately turns into some version of Tokyo or New York City, Orinda’s residents can say that their city council was silent when the city’s assets came under attack.

–Richard Colman

◆ PRESIDENT from page 3

fire safety forum. It is open to the public.

Planning ahead to Saturday, on Sept. 7, The OA sponsors the 15th Annual Classic Car Show. Vintage cars can be viewed in the Orinda Village District in front of Orinda Motors along Orinda Way. It is a free event



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and takes place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year’s theme is Back to the Future. In addition to vintage vehicles there may be several DeLoreans to gaze at and enjoy. As part of the occasion, your hosts will be dressed in lab coats and white wigs to replicate the look of “Doc” in the *Back to the Future* movies.

If you have a vintage vehicle and would like to register the car, visit OrindaCarShow.com. This event benefits Seniors Around Town (SAT), the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), and other local organizations.

Friday, the night before the show, on Sept. 6, is the Dancing with the Cars ex-

travaganza from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., which includes a catered dinner. The Rotary Club of Orinda, which sponsors the event, will hold it at the new Art and Garden Center at Wilder. The venue is situated in the picturesque Wilder development behind Field #5. It is large enough to hold up to 190 people.

Stay tuned for more details and how to purchase tickets. As in past years, proceeds are provided to local non-profit and charitable organizations. Please put these events in your calendar as you plan for the future.

Carlos Baltodano can be reached at cbalt.lde@comcast.net.

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com. Letters to Editor for the June issue are due **May 8, 2019**.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O’Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the June issue is **May 8, 2019**.

SEASONED SHOPPER / OUTDOORS



Seasoned Shopper

Apricots, Apriums Welcome Start of Local Farmers' Market Season
BARBARA KOBSAR



The short and sweet apricot season is about to begin. California grows and harvests more than 90 percent of the nation's commercially grown apricots.

Honey sweet, full-flavored apricots depend on tree ripening more than many of the other stone fruits, but the resulting fragile fruit does not withstand the rigors of shipping. However, when harvested at the proper degree of maturity the apricots will ripen beautifully and release a sweet fragrance.

Fresh apricots destined for farmers' markets are hand-picked and each tree is picked several times as the fruit ripens. If apricots are picked too early and green, they shrink and shrivel and have very little or no flavor. Different apricot varieties possess their

own special characteristics and qualities and you're sure to find a favorite at market. Look for early Katy and Gold Kist varieties, and mid-season Royal Blenheims.

Choose smooth, fragrant, plump and slightly firm apricots with an orange-yellow to orange color. A few days at room temperature completes the ripening and the fruit yields to gentle palm pressure. If necessary, store ripe fruit, unwashed in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for a few days only.

There's another gem arriving at market, and it's one of the most flavorful early season fruits. Apriums were developed in the late 1980s by Floyd Zaiger of Zaiger Genetics in Modesto.

Apriums are a hybrid made up of 75 percent apricot and 25 percent plum. They look like a small deep rose-hued apricot is juicier and slightly firmer with a little longer shelf life. They're best enjoyed fresh out of hand and to add a burst of flavor in salads, appetizers, sauces, desserts, jams and ice cream.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

The Orinda market is open Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. For more information visit www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

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



SALLY HOGARTY

Visitors at the Orinda Farmers' Market enjoy a craft project on Opening Day. The market is open from now until November, Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park.



SALLY HOGARTY

Checking out the Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve trail are (L-R) Orinda Parks and Rec Commissioner **CZ Czerner**, Moraga Parks and Rec Director **Breyana Brandt**, event sponsor Coldwell Banker Managing Broker **Jeff Gillett** and Lafayette's Parks and Rec Director **Jonathan Katayanagi**.

Trail Challenge About to Begin

By SALLY HOGARTY
 Executive Editor

Trails have been groomed, maps printed and T-shirts are ready to go. Now Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda parks and recreation directors hope to see lots of new people taking advantage of local trails during the Trail Challenge.

The challenge begins May 4 with representatives from the Lamorinda parks and rec departments at various trail heads from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. handing out T-shirts and maps to participants on opening day.

A self-guided program, the free event allows participants to complete the challenge by one of two ways: Go the Distance or Complete the Objectives. Go the Distance participants track the distance they hike on Lamorinda trails and submit a log showing a completed total of 26.2 miles. Those choosing the objective approach must complete five of eight objectives listed in the guide. Objectives include identifying

native wildflowers, pitching in to clean up trash along trails, hiking to a creek or just having a picnic. A limited number of 2019 commemorative pins will be awarded to those completing the challenge.

Participants can track their progress and their location by downloading the free AllTrails app on their smartphones. For those needing help in identifying various plants and trees, download the Plantsnap app (\$3.99).

To be part of the kick-off May 4 and receive a Trail Challenge T-shirt, go to the following trail heads: Orinda Open Space Preserve, 1100 Donald Drive, Orinda (just above Orinda Oaks Park); Moraga Commons Park, 1425 St. Mary's Rd., in Moraga and the Lafayette Reservoir, 3849 Mt. Diablo Blvd., in Lafayette.

Those not attending the May 4 festivities can pick up T-shirts, maps and guide books at all three cities' parks and rec departments: Lafayette: 500 St. Mary's

[SEE TRAILS page 15]

Volunteers Needed as Orinda Gets Ready for Fourth of July Events

By SALLY HOGARTY
 Executive Editor

Early one morning in the winter of 1984, Dick Heggie, Bill Gross and Bobbie Landers were sitting in The Orinda Association's cramped office behind the Community Center trying to think of a way to get local residents excited about Orinda becoming a city. They collectively decided on throwing a 4th of July parade residents would never forget. Not only did Orinda become a city the following year, but the parade has continued to this day.

Now, the annual 4th of July parade brings thousands of residents from Orinda and surrounding Bay Area communities together to celebrate America's independence.

[SEE FOURTH page 8]




SALLY HOGARTY

Young attendees show their patriotic spirit at last year's 4th of July parade.



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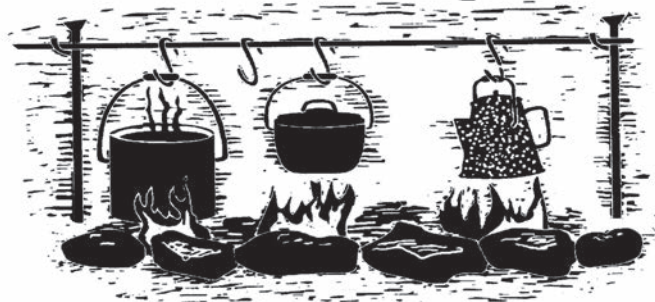
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CAR TIME

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Saving Money on Car Repairs

By JOHN VANEK



You may have noticed that the cost to repair cars has reached significant levels. Modern automobiles are highly engineered and are much more complex than ever before. They require special equipment, training and knowledge to successfully repair or maintain.

Auto repair is an unwanted expense and can hurt your budget every time something happens. It is natural to try to find ways to keep the costs down. Some car owners are desperate to find affordable repair options. Shopping for the best price for diagnosis does not always get the best results. You should be shopping for a facility you can trust and that has the skills to properly diagnose the problem the first time.

Car owners can get frustrated when it comes to finding out what is wrong with their vehicle. There is anxiety as soon as a car develops a problem. How much will it cost is the burning question. Remember that repairing a problem on a car usually is

a two-part process.

First we diagnose the problem, then we fix it. There is usually a fee associated with the proper diagnosis. What alternative diagnosis and repair options are available? Thanks to the Internet, there is a vast amount of information available online. Information in the wrong hands, however, is not always a good thing.

The average owner/driver will normally not have enough automotive experience or knowledge to confirm the findings. Using the Internet for diagnosis is risky. Professional auto repair technicians have years of training and experience to reach a point of confidence on today's modern vehicles.

Journeyman automotive technicians earn a significant living but are underpaid compared to other skilled professionals. Nonetheless, it is hard to compare a professional diagnosis to an Internet guess. It would be considered lucky to properly diagnose any problem without actually checking out the car first.

Many owners are looking for the "silver bullet" to solve their car problem. You can save money if it works out, but what if it doesn't? You basically pay twice, plus the diagnosis time required to properly solve the actual problem. When a customer requests a specific repair to solve a problem based on Internet information, it usually does not work out. It could, but it is risky. There is no silver bullet. There is the skilled process or there is luck. You really need to actually perform the diagnosis on the vehicle to confirm the required repair.

Buying parts online will potentially offer savings because no repair shop can compete with an online warehouse that does not have the same overhead and often ships parts directly from the manufacturer, skipping

the local warehouse process.

The normal process has the repair shop ordering and installing the parts. They are responsible for ordering the correct parts and they stand behind those parts for a responsible amount of time. They are also responsible for selecting a grade of part that offers the quality and longevity of the original equipment.

There are options when it comes to ordering parts. Sub-standard parts manufactured overseas usually do not offer the equivalent quality and longevity but do cost less. What if the part ordered online is incorrect or defective? Now you still have a broken car that needs the right part. You have no recourse with the installer. They still need to be paid. A sub-standard radiator, for

instance, that leaks after only three years is not a good value. A quality shop will not sell you one of those but they sure seem attractive online.

The key to saving money is to use a good repair facility and trust them. What is your time and energy worth? It is a better value to have your vehicle repaired in a swift manner knowing it is fixed right and the technicians did their best to give you a quality repair for the best price possible. As usual, I recommend keeping on top of car maintenance and repairs in order to beat the unexpected car repair demon.

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SALLY HOGARTY

Glorietta students work together to assemble Peace Kits for distribution to students in Paradise.

◆ PEACE from page 1

join with Paradise Rotary and the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) to help the children heal emotionally as well."

To that end, students, teachers and board members from OUSD, accompanied by members from the Rotary clubs of Orinda and Paradise, who sponsored the project, and members of the nonprofit Mindful Littles caravanned to Butte County to deliver 300 "peace kits" on April 9. Children at all of the Orinda Schools assembled the kits as a community service project under the direction of Tanuka Gordon of Mindful Littles.

"I participated in both the making and distribution of the OrindaCares peace kits with our OUSD students," says parent and OUSD Board President Hillary Weiner. "The kits were filled not just with mindfulness tools, but also handwritten heartfelt notes from OUSD students. It was inspiring to watch our OUSD 5th and 8th graders show the Ponderosa Elementary students how to use the tools in the kits, like the rainbow beads and the gratitude journals. I was also quite moved to see the Ponderosa students read the OUSD students' notes."

In addition to the peace kits, Mindful Littles staff, volunteers and OUSD students led 30 to 40-minute training sessions on relaxation exercises, breath control, how different parts of the brain control instinctive

versus thoughtful reactions to experiences and on attitudes of mindfulness and gratitude. Students were asked to discuss and write down in a journal people and things in their lives for which they are grateful.

"It was really a moving experience to visit the students and staff from Ponderosa Elementary school. Despite being displaced from their own school site, you could feel the strong sense of school identity and the power of their community," adds Weiner. "They expressed so much gratitude for the first responders, their teachers and just for having a safe place to go to school."

Proponents of the program hope the children will continue using the methods they learned to help them better manage their stress responses and to move forward as their families and the town of Paradise continue to rebuild.

"I want our OUSD students to know that when bad things happen, good people step up to help," says Superintendent of Schools Carolyn Seaton. "We are so grateful to the Rotary Clubs of Orinda and Paradise for funding this impactful project and Tanuka Gordon and her Mindful Littles team for their vision, persistence and passion that brought the Peace Kits for Ponderosa to fruition."

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

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Cheri Etheredge poses with the lifelike mannequin used for teaching nursing students in Contra Costa College's simulation lab.

Orinda Resident Named Contra Costa Community College Teacher of the Year

By LYNN KALMAR
Assistant Editor

Dr. Cheri Etheredge, an Orinda resident for nearly 30 years, was named Teacher of the Year for the Contra Costa Community College District for her work as a nursing instructor.

Etheredge spent 28 years teaching pediatric nursing before moving to a new position when Contra Costa College received a grant to buy a high-fidelity mannequin and open a simulation lab in 2009.

After receiving additional training in simulation techniques, Etheredge established the lab at Contra Costa College and has been teaching students through hands-on exercises. She recently participated in the program facility's redesign and remodel, which now consists of two simulation rooms and a 10-bed, fully-equipped skills lab.

Using a computer to control the simula-

tion mannequin's vital signs, breath sounds, heart sounds and more, Etheredge is able to guide her students through emergent events that can occur in a hospital setting, but without the risk a student mistake might pose to a real patient.

Nursing students rotate through the lab each semester, gaining experience with pediatric, maternity, and medical-surgical scenarios. After each simulation, Etheredge leads a discussion reviewing what the students did well and how they could improve. As the students approach graduation, they have the opportunity to participate in a simulation competition that puts their skills to the test.

Nominated by CCC Academic Senate President Beth Goehring and CCC Journalism Chair Paul DeBolt, Etheredge was included on a list of nominees for Teacher of the Year in March and was then selected as the winner by a faculty vote. The Teacher

[SEE TEACHER page 13]

On the Calendar in May

- Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Chef Charlie Cooks Sicilian. \$35 includes \$5 off on the price of any cookbook in the store on the day of the event. 925-254-7606 for reservation.
- Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for kids of all ages. Also May 11, 18 and 25.*
Rechic, 11 a.m. a special Mother's Day Sip 'n Shop event with Jenny Hill from Beautycounter pop-up in Rechic, 101 Orinda Way, Orinda. www.rechic101.com; 925-317-3735
- Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. Dianne Hales will introduce her new book, *La Passione: How Italy Seduced the World*.*
- Orinda Chamber of Commerce**, 4 p.m. ribbon cutting at Anytime Fitness, 2 Theatre Square #148.
- Live At The Orinda**, 7:30 p.m. the Bay Area

- concert debut of Broadway and East End star Brent Barrett go to lamorindatheatres.com for tickets. See article p. 20.
- Friends of Hospice**, Orinda Book Review 9:30 a.m. *Beneath the Scarlet Sky*. Author Mark Sullivan will bring slides and refreshments. Reservations available for \$50 per person. Please make check out to Friends of Hospice, Orinda. Mail to Diane Hill, 41 Charles Hill Rd. Orinda, CA 94563. Funds go to Hospice of the East Bay.
- Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. Gerry Wallace—Spring Ceramics exhibition and sale.
- First Friday Forum**, 1:30 p.m. Dr. David A. Hollinger presents "Global Christianity and the Ecumenical-Evangelical Divide," in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian

[SEE CALENDAR page 13]

City Council Passes Resolution on 5G Small Cell Facilities

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

An appreciative audience applauded the Orinda City Council last month when it unanimously adopted a resolution regulating the aesthetics of small wireless facilities and other infrastructure necessary for 5G technology.

The technology, made mandatory by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), has raised controversy across the United States as residents show concern for possible health risks associated with the higher radio frequency radiation. A number of law suits have been filed but, while the courts decide, the deployment of 5G will continue.

This next generation of mobile data relies on a bandwidth with a relatively short range but that provides an exponential jump in data speeds (up to 10 gigabytes per second). Referred to as "small cells," the 5G antennae services hundreds of feet compared to the traditional microcell sites now used which cover square miles. Due to the limited coverage, more small cells are necessary, putting them in close proximity to homes, businesses and schools.

In January, the FCC started its "shot clock" giving local entities until April 15 to pass resolutions/ordinances regarding the aesthetics of the small wireless facilities and other infrastructure deployments in the public rights-of-way.

"Unfortunately, we are not allowed by law to say no to this technology," said Vice Mayor Darlene Gee. "But it's important that we take action with this resolution to give us what protection we can."

More than 30 people spoke at the April 9 City Council meeting with the vast majority opposed to the new technology being installed in Orinda. Not only were residents concerned about the health risks, they also

noted the possible lowering of home values. Jennifer Kamae added, "If property values and taxes go down, then cities will get a smaller percentage of property tax revenue."

A few speakers said they welcomed the technology. One of them was Dante Williams from Horizon Wireless who said, "There is a silent majority out there who want this technology. People now have an expectation for service, and 5G will ensure they get it and allow police and fire personnel to quickly pull up the latest data they need to do their jobs."

Since its Feb. 19 meeting, the City Council, city staff and Telecom Law Firm, which specializes in telecommunications infrastructure and land use, have been looking at what control the city can exert and crafting that into a resolution before the FCC deadline. The result, Resolution 16-19, aims to protect Orinda's visual character while complying with the FCC Order.

"The resolution is meant as an interim
[SEE 5G page 13]

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Entries Being Accepted for Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest for All Ages

Registration is open for Lamorinda ShortDocs, a short documentary film competition held by the Lamorinda Arts Council, and this year hosted in conjunction with the California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF).

Entries of short documentary films, six minutes or less, will be accepted through June 16. Now in its fourth year, the competition will accept G-rated submissions from anyone 5 years of age or older who lives, works or attends school in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga and includes Walnut Creek students in the Acalanes Union School District. Film submissions will be judged in one of four categories: elementary school, middle school, high school and adult. The audience votes for an Audience Favorite Student Film.

The competition culminates in a red-carpet screening event held at the Orinda Theatre Aug. 25 at 11 a.m., featuring selected films and an awards presenta-

tion. This is the first year the Lamorinda Arts Council and CAIFF have worked together on the competition and organizers at both organizations say they are excited about what the partnership will bring.

Derek Zemrak, founder and president of CAIFF, says "I worked on the ShortDocs festival as a judge last year, and decided that it seemed like a good fit for CAIFF to act as host to these talented local residents, who range from amateurs to experienced filmmakers."

Filmmakers are encouraged to register for the festival at <https://lamorindaarts.org/for-Filmmakers>. After registration, completed films can be submitted to Film Freeway at <https://filmfreeway.com/LamorindaShortDocsFilmFest>. To learn more about Lamorinda ShortDocs go to <https://lamorindaarts.org/shortdocs>.

—Lynn Kalmar, Assistant Editor

Don't Be Late for This Very Important Date



ORINDA BALLET ACADEMY PRESENTS *Alice in Wonderland* at the Library Auditorium May 17-19. Dancers (L-R): Genevieve Leach, Sofia Paraskakis, Gemma Leach, Raina Patterson, Elsa Cooke, and Bailey Brothers; (center) Claire Mercer. www.orindaballetacademy.com.

◆ **FOURTH** from page 5
dence. Known as the "Best Hometown Parade," the event features a plethora of entries from professional musical groups to local school children to farm animals and, of course, the All-Volunteer Orinda Pick-Up Marching Band.

The day begins with Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's pancake breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Library Plaza. The flag raising ceremony is 7:45 a.m. in front of the Community Center with the July Run for A Reason at 8 a.m. The Friends of the Orinda Library book sale starts at 9 a.m. and the parade at 10 a.m. followed by activities and entertainment in the Community Center Park. This year, The Orinda Association (OA) has partnered with the city, which will organize the many park activities.

"Bringing all the moving parts together requires a group of dedicated volunteers," says 4th of July Co-Chair Bill Waterman. "We have lots of fun and many of the same people return year after year, often several generations of the same family, to help make the parade successful."

According to Waterman and his Co-Chair Diane Lautz, volunteers are needed for a variety of opportunities including setting up the parade route with decorations and parade route cones, helping the various parade entries line-up, handing out bottles of water and much more. To find out more about how to volunteer, go to www.orindaparade.com or contact the OA office at 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.

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

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AROUND TOWN

Library Gallery: Two Women Who Play with Fire, Paintings and Woodwork

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents themed work from Two Women Who Play With Fire – ceramicist Kate Chenok and woodturner Kim Wolfe; painters Bill Carmel and Arno Kober; and woodworker Ellis Sjöberg this month.

Fire takes center stage when Chenok uses a technique called saggar firing which is the method of creating confined atmospheres



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kate Chenok makes ceramic art meant for everyday use, including Nesting Stoneware Bowls on display in the Library Gallery.

within a container or saggar. Originally, saggars were used to protect the finish from debris flying around the firing chamber from the wood or coal fuel source. About 200 years ago, potters decided to reverse this and use the saggar to hold materials near the pieces to dramatically change the finish.

Stoneware Vase I, a saggar fired stoneware piece, shows how exotic clouds of different colors emerge from such a process. Chenok has been passionate about making ceramics since 1980 and works out of her home studio. Throwing pots on the wheel and hand building pieces from slabs of clay, she creates functional pieces for everyday use. Firing them in interesting ways makes them unique. She says, "Making pottery exercises a part of my mind where I can take risks and create new things out of materials that come from the earth. I can experiment without a lot of fear of failure." For more of Chenok's work

[SEE GALLERY page 16]



SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda Garden Club's plantings of *Narcissus* 'Golden Dawn and Earlicheer' bring springtime to the median bordering Camino Pablo.

April Showers Bring May Flowers to Orinda Median and Garden Tour

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

In 1557, Thomas Tusser wrote, "Sweet April showers / Do spring May flower," and it's still true.

The Orinda Garden Club (OGC), never afraid to dig in and get to work, has created a four-seasons triangle filled with sun-thirsty, drought-tolerant plants visible to drivers waiting for traffic to move on or off Camino Pablo to Highway 24.

Currently glorious yellow and white blossoms of *Narcissus* species, 'Golden Dawn' and 'Earlicheer' peek out from deep

green leaves. Most people enjoy springtime daffodils but did you know they are not just a pretty face? They deter moles, gophers and rabbits. Even better, they thrive on our existing climate preferring no summer water and proliferate, well, like rabbits.

Completing this carefully planted triangular median was no mean feat as it is owned by Cal Trans and came with some tough provisos. According to OGC President Cathleen Sodos and Past President Margie Murphy, Cal Trans informed them that since no irrigation was possible the plantings had to be chosen with great care

[SEE GARDEN page 17]

The Orinda Library in May

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. The library is closed May 12 for Mother's Day and May 26-27 for Memorial Day.

- Baby Storytime.** 11:30 a.m. Songs and stories and other early literacy activities for infants to 18 months (pre-walkers) and their caregivers only. Families with older children are welcome to attend Toddler Storytime. Library Gallery Room. Playtime afterwards. Also May 8, 15.
- Dealer Days,** 10 a.m. Friends of the Orinda Library book sale. Orinda Library Sorting

Room.

Computer Help. 1 p.m. Receive help on computer matters from a knowledgeable volunteer. Registration required. Focus on beginning users. One hour appointments available. Also May 9, 16, 23, 30.

ESL Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Local volunteer ESL teachers lead group discussions with ESL learners. Study Room A. Also May 9, 16, 23, 30.

- Maker Monday.** 2:30 p.m. Whether it's Legos, Minecraft or crafts, something is always happening on Mondays. Geared for

[SEE LIBRARY page 14]

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 Members of The Orinda Association man a table at the annual Volunteer Fair held in April.

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 Frank & Rhonda Darling
 Nancy Debenham
 Gerald & DeeAnn Del Rio
 Craig & Mary Dennis
 Gary & Carolyn Depolo
 Ken & Donna Derr
 Edward & Carol Dewey
Diablo Foods
 Kara Dille
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 Rajiv & Rashmi Dixit
 Mary Dodge
 Bobbie & Fred Dodson
Don Jose's Restaurant
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 Jeanne Dowell
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 [SEE MEMBERSHIP page 11]

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◆ MEMBERSHIP from page 10

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Janine & Ken Lyons
Cinda & Tomas MacKinnon
Bruce Macler
Seth & Nancy Madnick
[SEE MEMBERSHIP page 12]



SALLY HOGARTY

Seniors Around Town staff member **Cathy Goshorn** shares a laugh with a young volunteer at the ride service's holiday luncheon.

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Bonnie & William Gallogly
Chris Garoutte
Philip & Lynn Garrett
Joseph & Linda Garvey
Darlene & Dennis Gee
Robert & Pat Gerdson
Joan Getsinger
Steven Giacomi & Linda Cyrog
Pete Giers
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Karen Derr Gilbert
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A.N. & E.R. Glazer

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Robert & Jean Haaf
Shirley Haag
Warren Hagstrom
George Hall
Nancy Hall
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Harriet Hamlin
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Widgie Hastings
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Stephen & Tish Harwood

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Stuart House
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Cara Hoxie
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William Hudson
William & Margaret Hughes
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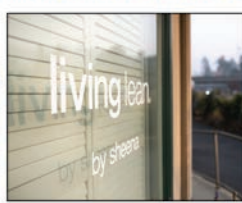

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Laura Abrams

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MIMI BOMMARITO
 City Council candidates field questions at The Orinda Association's forum in October, moderated by **Martha Goralka** of the League of Women Voters.

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 Gary Nye & Ann O'Connell Nye
 Annette O'Connor
 Mark & Lori Oczkus
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Orinda Classic Car Show
Orinda Community Foundation
Orinda Motors, Inc.
Orinda Optometry Group
Orinda Park & Recreation Foundation
Orinda Shell Auto Care
Orinda Starlight Village Players
Orinda Village Antiques
Orinda Woman's Club
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 J.M. Pressler
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 Edward Quinnan
 Stephanie Quinnild
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 Anne Randolph
 Bob Ray
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 Rudolph Reich
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 Pete Ritter & Colleen Lewis
 Mary Kate Rittmann
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 James & Nita Roethe
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 Elva Rust
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 Kay & Matt Sander
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 Barbara Schafer
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 [SEE MEMBERSHIP page 13]

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What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

May 4 - Moraga – Orinda Fire District Open House, Station 45 (33 Orinda Way) from 10 a.m. -1 p.m.
May 4 - Orinda Rotary Club's 69th Annual Field Day, Miramonte High School
May 8 - Self Defense: Aiki Jujitsu class begins; ages 13 and up; Session Code: 2149
May 9 - Wisdom Workshop: Sit Right, Stand Tall; 10:30 a.m.- noon; FREE
May 15 - The A, B, C & D's of Medicare; 10:30 a.m.-noon; FREE
May 21 - Senior Trip: Ill Fiorello Olive Oil, Tour and Lunch Trip
May 27 - Memorial Day – City Offices Closed
May 30 - Registration closes for Adult Softball League

Register Now for Children's Summer Camps!

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

CONTINUATIONS

◆ **CALENDAR** from page 7

- Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article online at www.theorindanews.com.
- 4 **Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 8 a.m. Trail Challenge. See article p. 5.
- Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925-431-8361. Also May 11, 18 and 25.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**, 10 a.m. Annual spring open house at station 45 in Orinda. 33 Orinda Way. See box p. 16.
- Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. Heidi Eliason will celebrate the publication of her new memoir, *Confessions of a Middle-Aged Runaway*, designed to make readers consider making a transformative journey of their own.*
- Filmmaking Basics**, 4 p.m. For entrants in ShortDocs Film Fest, at St. Mary's College, free. Registration at lamorindaarts.org/filmmakers. See article p. 8.
- 5 **Girls Crushing It**, 2 p.m. Spring Pop-

◆ **TEACHER** from page 7

of the Year award rotates between the three colleges in the Contra Costa Community College District: Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos and Contra Costa College.

"Cheri has touched the lives of thousands of our nursing students for close to four decades with her engaging attitude, high standards, tireless efforts, creative approaches, selfless spirit and admirable patience," says DeBolt.

While excited to receive the award, Etheredge said she is even happier for the recognition it brings to CCC's program. "This is an honor for me but I am really glad that it shines a light on a nursing department that produces new nurses who are knowledgeable and well trained," she says.

Etheredge will be honored at an awards dinner in September, as well as at Oakland A's and San Francisco Giants' baseball games in May.

Lynn Kalmar can be reached at assistanteditor@theorindanews.com

Up Shop, Orinda Art & Garden Center at Wilder. For more information and registration details visit GirlsCrushingIt.org. See article p. 15.

Orinda Library Art Gallery, 2:30 p.m., Two Women Who Play with Fire, Paintings and Woodworking. See article p. 9.

ADAPT Lamorinda, 7 p.m. An evening to discuss how parents, schools and law enforcement partner to reduce underage substance use and keep kids safe. Lafayette Library.

7 **Orinda Chamber of Commerce**, 5:30 Sunset Restaurant Stroll. Enjoy light bites at restaurants in and near Theatre Square. Tickets \$40 at www.orindachamber.org. See article p. 19.

8 **Lamorinda Movers**, 4 p.m. *Laurel and Hardy - The Flying Duces*, Rheem Theatre, lamorindatheatres.com.

9 **Orinda Garden Club** 10 a.m. Tour of Five Local Gardens. Tickets \$50 at orindage.org, [SEE CALENDAR page 19]

◆ **5G** from page 7

measure to protect the city's authority," says Planning Director Drummond Buckley. "It will allow the city to modify and adapt the policy in response to rapidly changing law and technology related to small cells."

Resolution 16-19 ranks preferences for locations and support structures for small cell facilities with downtown commercial or office districts on principal arterial roads as most preferred and residential districts and school route roads as one of the least preferred. Design standards include the exterior finish be in flat, nonreflective hues with lights shielded so illumination effects are directed downwards and confined within the public rights-of-way. Noise, trees, landscaping and overall height are also addressed.

To read the staff report and Resolution 16-19, go to www.cityoforinda.org.

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

◆ **MEMBERSHIP** from page 12

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FILM

◆ CAL SHAKES from page 2

100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Single ticket prices vary from \$39-\$63 based on the performance. Discounts are available for seniors, youth and full-time K-12 educators. Prices for season packages start at \$132. For information or to purchase tickets by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666. For more information, go to www.calshakes.org.

Reach Kathy G. McCarty at kathryn@kgmccarty.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Acclaimed director **Tyne Rafaeli** returns to Cal Shakes to helm Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, on stage May 22 – June 9.

◆ WILDFIRE from page 1

mitigation projects, wildfire preplanning, evacuation planning and community outreach and education."

Rein also will give an update on a project that is being considered by Cal Fire, the North Orinda Fuel Break. If approved, the project would allow work to begin on approximately 14 miles of shaded fuel break from the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) near the top of Eagle's Nest Trail down Wildcat Canyon Road to Bear Creek Road and along the Lafayette Ridge to Pleasant Hill Road. Shaded fuel breaks are designed to reduce the risk of wildfires entering communities by removing understory and ground fuels.

Having experience as a fire fighter and 30 years overseeing the park district fire-related vegetation management effort, Kent also has served as historian. He plans to bring people up to date on fires in the Orinda area, and their effects.

"In the East Bay Hills, wildland fire has been an important part of the environment since the last Ice Age. More recently, urban development in the 19th and 20th centuries created an urban interface zone where fire could easily spread from wildland areas into cities," Kent says.

Adds MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker, "Modern firefighting efforts over the last century have saved lives and homes but eliminated the region's natural fire cycle,


leaving behind a thicket of nonnative trees and brush. A fire driven by dry Diablo winds could race from the watershed surrounding San Pablo and Briones reservoirs into Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga – and beyond. Large portions of MOFD's jurisdiction lie within recognized high and very high Wildfire Hazard Severity Zones. Realizing this fact, MOFD is committed to a sustained, multidisciplinary effort to protect our communities."

Lamorinda Village Membership Director Andy Amstutz said the event is being held in response to concern following the loss of lives and homes in Santa Rosa and Paradise (Butte County). Because many Orindans no longer drive there is a special need for evacuation planning, a topic that also will be discussed along with a Community Warning System, he said.

"One of our values is that community members feel safe in their own homes as they age. This includes paying attention to the risk of wildfires," Amstutz says. "All residents need to know how to prepare and what to do if/when a real wildfire threatens our community. This is why our Village is sponsoring this event."


The event takes place May 31 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached bobbiedodson@comcast.net.



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

MAY MOVIE LINEUP OFFERS SURPRISING RANGE OF OPTIONS



Tom Westlake

Though May is supposed to be one of the lighter months of the year, the cinematic choices available will prove to be (with one exception) anything but. This is not to say that one should dread or avoid what is to follow. Fine art, even art that challenges is always a good thing, even uplifting. But be warned: Two of the three offerings this month will not have you leaving the theatre with a song in your heart or a dance in your step. What these films will do, however, is to assure you that they are still making good, perhaps great movies nowadays.

First the news: There's another chapter in the saga of the Rheem. The owners of the "neon palace" announced on twitter on April 12 that the building has been sold. What this means remains unclear. What we

◆ BOND from page 1

school officials say they are concerned about future state funding. Kaune explained that previously schools were given money and told how to spend it in certain categories. Under a new formula called Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), in addition to a basic funding amount, schools are awarded more money based on three demographic factors: low income, English learners and/or foster youth.

Thus, Orinda schools receive much less than the average California school, and consequently, are even more dependent upon parent financial support, officials say. The average California school receives \$12,334 per student, per year from the state. Orinda schools without parent support receive \$8,676. With local support, Orinda schools receive \$12,695. By comparison, New York receives \$23,712. "Even with our community giving so much we are barely above the average school in funding," says Seaton.

The current district 2018-19 budget projection with total funding of nearly \$34 million has no deficit. However, the 2019-20 projection shows deficit spending of almost \$330,000, and the 2020-21 budget projection has more than \$400,000 in deficit spending.

"The budget now is a much better picture than a year ago, but we need a new funding infrastructure to not go below where we are," Kaune says. "We are preparing, but the storm is coming."

To watch a Q&A video about Orinda school funding, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y5qqtwo3>.

Reach Bill O'Brian at obrianob@yahoo.com.

do know is that Derek Zemrak and the MCF will continue to run the theatre without, at least for now, any significant changes. What this should mean for all of you is that continued patronage should be a priority. This is a landmark and its absence would severely diminish the community.

Now about that exception, the Lamorinda Movers (formally the Moraga Movers) present, as part of their Classic Movies series, a fairly timely film, especially if you were lucky enough to catch *Stan and Ollie* when it was playing here. *The Flying Deuces* is one of the duo's later comedies and like most films of that type, the plot matters only insofar as it can be used to highlight the particular talents of the star (or in this case, stars).

That great balm of spurned lovers everywhere, the French Foreign Legion is at the center of this one and it's Oliver Hardy who has enlisted until such time as he's forgotten. It should come as a surprise to no one that comedic hijinks ensue. Like the Marx brothers, though, there's also an inserted, but no less welcome, musical interlude included. (Remember, movies were still a fairly new medium then and vaudeville was

[SEE REEL page 17]

◆ LIBRARY from page 9

- ages 7 - 11. Also May 13, 20.
- 7 **Toddler Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Stories and songs for 1 to 3 year-olds and their caregivers. Room 8 in the Community Center. Also May 14.
- 11 **Sudden Oak Death Blitz: Citizen Scientists Needed,** 10 a.m. Community members can participate in the fight against SOD, the destructive and exotic disease that is decimating several oak species. Learn how to collect samples and document finding.
- 14 - **Orinda Writers' Group.** 6:30 p.m. Meet with a group of beginning writers. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback. Group Study Room A. Also May 28.
- 17 **Mystery Book Club.** 3 p.m. Special event: Local author Terry Shames will discuss her series featuring Samuel Craddock. Community Room 8.
- 23 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners.** 7 p.m. Grown-up stories that are intriguing, humorous, thoughtful and entertaining. Features a local storyteller with an open mic opportunity following.
- 24 **Teen Movie Matinee.** 3:45 p.m. Just for teens!

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SATURDAY, MAY 18 - 11:30 AM

Daniel Mason

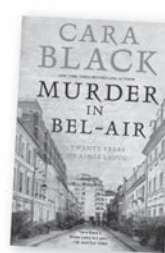




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—Anthony Doerr, *All the Light We Cannot See*

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Cara Black

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AROUND TOWN

100 Girl Entrepreneurs Plan to Set Up Shop at Wilder May 5

After a highly successful showcase and sale in December, Girls Crushing It is hosting its Spring Pop-Up Shop Sunday, May 5, at the Orinda Art & Garden Center at Wilder. The nonprofit recently partnered with Berkeley Executive Coaching Institute (BECI) and the “girlpreneurs” received expert business advice at a workshop March 24 in preparation for the event. Mehmet Sevinç, director of business development at BECI and assistant lecturer at UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business, taught participants how to use effective communication techniques with customers, while Maria Barak, director of accounting in strategic partnerships at Sunrun, helped the girls to develop financial literacy in support of their products.

Girls Crushing It has seen a 40 percent increase in participation since its December event resulting in nearly 100 girl-owned businesses that will have items for sale



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Girls Crushing It participant **Avah Zarrin** displays her line of handbags at the nonprofit’s pop-up shop in December.

at the one-day store, including designs created by participants at local fashion studio SewNow. The event is 2 - 5 p.m., 101 Wilder Road, and is open to the public. Food trucks will be on site. For more information and registration details visit GirlsCrushingIt.org.

Fitness Tip of the Month

The fitness process is ongoing and transformational physically and spiritually. In the beginning it has less to do with what exercise you are doing and more to do with your commitment. Commitment is often more difficult than the exercise itself.

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



May 16 Event on Vashell Way Aims to Bring ConnectOrinda Projects to Life

By **SALLY HOGARTY**
Executive Director

For months, city staff, Fehr and Peers Transportation Consultants and Orinda residents have been considering a variety of projects that will beautify Orinda’s streetscape, improve travel through the downtown area and, hopefully, connect the two sides of Orinda in a pedestrian-friendly manner.

The project resulting from that vision, entitled ConnectOrinda, moves to its celebration phase May 16 with an event at the intersection of Vashell Way and Moraga Way from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The alley-way between Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and La Piazza restaurant on Moraga Way makes for an interesting choice of venues given that turning the location into a dining/pedestrian space is one of the proposed projects.

ConnectOrinda launched in October with residents providing hundreds of suggestions which were used to develop 19 potential projects presented at a Jan. 29 workshop/City Council meeting. The Orinda community submitted more than 1,000 project-specific votes/likes and more than 1,000 comments on these proposals, which were used to distill and reconstitute the projects into eight projects discussed at the City Council’s March 5 meeting. Following that meeting, the design team also began a set of downtown guidelines that can be applied throughout downtown.

At the May 16 celebration, participants will be able to view and comment on seven of the projects the staff and the project consultant have developed further. One of those, the proposed pedestrian alley at Vashell Way, will also be “experienced” as it is the site of the celebration. One project, changes in traffic patterns on Camino Pablo between Santa Maria and Brookwood, has been tabled pending a detailed traffic study.

The public may provide more feedback at the May 16 event. The feedback will be

used to transform the design guidelines and projects into a plan document the City Council will consider adopting in the fall. To view more on ConnectOrinda, go to www.cityoforinda.org.

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

◆ TRAILS from page 5

Road, 925-284-2232; Moraga Hacienda de las Flores: 21200 Donald Dr., 925-888-7045; Orinda Community Center: 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2445 as well as at Coldwell Banker, 5 Moraga Way, in Orinda, 925-253-4676. Guides and trail maps can also be downloaded at www.lovelafayette.org/trails, www.moragarec.com or www.cityoforinda.org.

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

Everyday Orinda

Mothering in Orinda: Not Always a Bed of Roses, But Wouldn’t Trade It

MIMI BOMMARITO



There once was an old expression, “Too bad kids don’t come with instructions,” an affectionately-disguised warning conjuring the same unease as, “Your captain has just turned on the ‘Fasten Seat Belts’ sign.” Proffered with a peck and a chuckle at the most inopportune times, in-laws loved to say it when they swooped into the maternity suite as you’re struggling to burp your screeching newborn. And, it was mostly true, back in the days before social media.

I often wonder what it’s like for new moms today. Would I be in a funk after I saw the posts about how little Timmy is already walking, Alex babbles bilingually and Abigail gives young Mozart a run for his money? I envision the ads for child rearing books popping up like weeds on my Facebook feed. Especially after Alexa detects a distinct pattern of mommy juice pouring sounds every evening at dusk. Or slightly before.

It’s not easy being Mom. And it’s sure not easy being an Orinda Mom. Make no mistake, we wouldn’t trade it for anything. I’m just saying ... not easy.

I’ll never forget a conversation with Karen Murphy from Village Associates Real Estate as we scouted homes together in late 2006.

“You’ve done an excellent job highlighting all the positives about Orinda,” I said. “You raised your family here so clearly

you enjoy it. But tell me honestly, what’s the down side?”

“Hmmm...” Karen hesitated, wanting to choose her words thoughtfully. “Orinda can get rather ... intense.”

“Intense?” I repeated. “What does that mean?”

“Oh, you’ll see,” Karen winked mischievously. “But don’t worry, I can tell. You’re going to be just fine.”

I hoped that was a compliment.

Ironically, Jerry Reed summed it up in “East Bound and Down,” the theme song from the 1977 blockbuster, *Smokey and the Bandit*, “We’ve got a long way to go, and a short time to get there.” Describing both The Road of Life and my daily carpooling circuit.

Mother’s Day is intense no matter where you live. With its aura of maternal rapture, this holiday, eerily similar to New Year’s Eve, makes me nervous. What if I don’t feel properly adored? What if I don’t even feel marginally appreciated? What if no one even remembers? I prepare for an entire day spent hugging the dog and pouting. The ads that really need to start showing up on my phone are the ones for frivolous and pricey Mother’s Day presents I could end up purchasing for myself, in a melodramatic fit of pity.

Initially, Mother’s Day was like an annual review. When my kids were little, I

[SEE EVERYDAY page 18]

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MEETINGS

Club Meetings in May

American Association of University Women (AAUW). General meetings third Tues., <http://oml-ca.aauw.net> or email Marty Schimbor at mgschimbor@comcast.net. Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way.

Diablo Star Chapter #214, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.

Lamorinda Drum Circle 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday May 6. Enjoy learning to drum in a fun small-group environment. Drums are provided. Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Meet at this time and place on the first Monday of each month. Suggested donation \$10-\$20.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.

Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 510-919-4765.

Guided Meditation. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. Focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m., Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.

Lamorinda Meditation Community. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdom's Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga. All levels and philosophies welcome. \$5 donation for the use of space. Contact Gaby for more details: gcmoze@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday every month. For more information go to www.facebook.com/Lamorinda-Republican-Women-Federated-136134033113066 or www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org. Contact Elsie Euing at eeuing@comcast.net or 925-254-8614. May 16 meeting with Ben Glickstein, community affairs representative for EB-MUD, on water recycling and wastewater treatment. And Alice Towey, civil engineer who oversees EB-MUD's participation in regional projects.

Lamorinda Sirs for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-8617.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 328 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. May 3: Putnam Clubhouse Presentation by Tamara Hunter, executive director; May 10, Julian Guthrie, NYT bestselling author of Alpha Girls; May 17, Davide Asnaghi, Superhand: a 21st-Century Electronic Artificial Hand; May 24, Peter Friedman, Peruvian Fighter Plane!; May 31, Jon Fazel: Member Story.

Lamorinda Toastmasters. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.

Meditative Gentle Yoga. Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way. All levels welcome. Also Tuesday and Friday 6 p.m. \$5 donation. For more details, contact gcmoze@gmail.com.

Montelindo Garden Club does not have a public meeting in May. They will resume in mid-September. www.montelindogarden.com.

Orinda Association. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce, board meeting 3rd Wednesday of the month. For more info. contact Cindy Powell, Executive Director; 925-254-3909; Orindachamber.org.

Orinda Garden Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, www.orindagc.org.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.

Orinda Historical Society. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.

Orinda Job's Daughters. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

Orinda Junior Women's Club Community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.

Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. First Thursday every month, except holidays. Family dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting 8 p.m., at 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.

Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org.

Orinda Satellite Rotary Club. Second Wed. of month. Call Sylvia at 510-224-8548.

Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting. For more information 925-254-8260.

Orinda Teen Advisory Council. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.

Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or www.orindawomansclub.org.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. lunch. Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School Street, Moraga. A social organization of retired and semi-retired men who enjoy our leisure time with friends and activities. For info., call Tyler at 925-963-5741, www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

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

OCF Seeking Board Member

Orinda Community Foundation has a board position open. Those interested contact orindafoundation@gmail.com.

◆ REEL from page 14

still fresh in the memories of many filmgoers of the time.) Of course the standard L & H slapstick is ever present, including a riotous flight in an airplane. It all ends well, though. Would you expect anything else? It will be showing at the Rheem at 4 p.m. May 8.

Following on the heels of this light-hearted comedy is probably its polar opposite, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, an adaptation of the Tennessee Williams play. This, like many other films (I'm looking at you, *Triples of Belleville*.) is near indescribable and if you don't believe me, just go to imdb.com and read their synopsis.

Like many of Williams works, this is one of those steamy Southern dramas with more than a little weirdness thrown in. (Think David Lynch but with a drawl.) Starring Paul Newman, Elizabeth Taylor and Burl Ives as Big Daddy, this is a skewed slice of life in an extremely unhappy family but with the talent on display, it's also endlessly fascinating. It is scheduled to show at the Orinda Theatre at 7 p.m. May 9 but check first on www.lamorindatheatre.com. Admission is free.

Starting May 10 the International Film Showcase brings something unprecedented and wonderful: A movie of epic proportions. *Never Look Away* is a film whose primary focus is on art and its place during that most tumultuous time in German history. More than that, it centers on one artist and the manner in which his art transforms/evolves due to those events.

Spanning from the 1930s to the 1960s,

◆ GARDEN from page 9

for drought tolerance. Water trucks will be used while the plants are becoming established over the hot summer months. After the first season they will need little supplemental water.

Garden Club member Shari Bashin-Sullivan and her husband, Richard, conceived the plan and Enchanting Planting, Inc. installed the plantings. All this was made possible because of the foresight of Louse Diracles and Marlene Hallenberger, co-chairs of the 2017 "Tea in the Garden" tour. They ensured that some of the tour proceeds went to this project.

This year's tour – "Spring Garden Stroll" – takes place May 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features five gardens. Tickets are \$50. For details, go to <https://orindagc.org/tour/>. To learn more about the Orinda Garden Club go to <https://orindagc.org/>.

Reach Elana O'Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com.

we follow a man – whose life is loosely based on the life of Gerhard Richter – from a traumatic event and an equally troubled romance that, in many ways, defined him to his country's early turn towards democracy. If this sounds like a lot to absorb, you're probably right. That is why it's only fair to warn you that this movie is a little over three hours long.

Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, whose previous work, *The Lives of Others* won international acclaim, has seemingly crafted another masterpiece that, along with cinematographer Caleb Deschanel, ensures that the time will just fly by. It will have a two-week long run here, first at the Orinda then for the following week at the Rheem. Go to www.internationalshowcase.org for times and previews.

Until next time, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

Reach Tom Westlake at poppinjay@earthlink.net.

◆ ANDERSEN from page 2

made through travel. Her family will remember her as the last one off the dance floor at any wedding or event.

Jane preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Vesta Stevens; her husband Harry; her brother Edward Jr.; and her sister Geraldine Wakeman. She is survived by her children Steven (Yuqin), Karen (Andy), Niels (Heidi), and Erik; her stepson Per (Karin); 13 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Orinda Historical Society (P.O. Box 82, Orinda CA 94563); to the Orinda Parks & Recreation Foundation (28 Orinda Way, Orinda CA 94563); or to the P.E.O. Foundation (3700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines IA 50312).



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SCHOOLS

◆ EVERYDAY from page 15

never orchestrated it. That would have been like planning my own surprise party. I was curious. Will they be affectionate and dotting? Or oblivious to my selfless sacrifices?

I learned they can be a little of both. But I also learned, it's not malicious. As they grew older, I grew smarter. Mother's Day became my mandate for the family to dine at fondue restaurants, visit museums or take all-day hikes, basically any activity that would typically register an adamant veto.

Orinda is all about family. And that's one of the many reasons why we love it. But we stay so busy parenting, we don't even remember what it was like not to be so busy parenting. Which is oddly helpful. It keeps us spinning our hamster wheel with intensity. It explains why we feel melancholy when our kids graduate, and we're legitimately dumbfounded at how it all went by so fast.

They'll always love and need us, but they refuse to reveal this. On good days, we call this "independence." On bad days, we call it "emotional cruelty." We spend our days shamelessly attempting to re-insert ourselves into their lives in any way they will

allow it, much like we did with that love interest in high school who clearly wasn't all that into us.

We wonder why we traveled extensively with them as youngsters, encouraged them to try unusual foods and not to balk at unfamiliar experiences. Oh wait, now I remember why. Only after moving to Orinda was I intimidated by an innocent fourth grader who had traveled to more foreign countries than I had. And this was before all the comparison quagmires of social media today.

Years later, I stand in the airport, fretfully hugging my daughter goodbye as she embarks on a journey five months and nine time zones away. I catch myself wishing, just for a moment, I'd raised her to be a little more fearful, a little more cautious, a little more homebodied. Maybe then she'd come running back and toddler-tackle my kneecaps, the way she would in Safeway if she sensed "stranger danger," when it was really just an elderly neighbor saying hello.

Maybe we don't need the intensity. Or maybe we thrive on it. The point is, you can love yourself and your family while proudly serving as the low water mark for acceptable Lamorinda parenting. Trust me.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Coming to Glorietta



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Glorietta Elementary School presents its spring musical, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr.* May 17 at 4 and 7 p.m. and May 18 at 3 and 7 p.m. Based on the award-winning Broadway musical and beloved film, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr.* is a fantastical adventure with an out-of-this-world car that flies through the air and sails the sea, driven by eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts, with his children Jeremy and Jemima along for the ride. The production is directed by music teacher Ron Pickett, with the assistance of parent producer Susan Jordan. There are two student casts, comprised of approximately 80 students, along with 12 students participating in the student tech crew. Tickets (reserved seating) are available at www.showtix4u.com. Tickets may also be available at the door prior to the show.

School Events in May

- 1 **Orinda Unified School District** Teacher of the Year Dinner, 6 p.m.
 - Acalanes Union High School District**, 7 p.m. Governing Board Mtg. Also May 15.
 - 1 **Miramonte High School**, 5:30 p.m. Fall Sports Night.
 - Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Governing Board Meeting. Also May 15.
 - 2 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Senior Parent Group Meeting/Social.
 - 3 **Miramonte High School**, Time TBA Sophomore Parent Group Social.
 - 4 **Miramonte High School**, Time TBA Junior Parent Group Social.
 - 6 **Miramonte High School**, Staff Appreciation Week.
 - Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Sports Booster Meeting.
 - 9 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School**, 1 p.m. tickets on sale for *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure*, Bay Area Children's Theater and Wagner Ranch Parents' Club. Performances May 31 and June 1, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo. (Ticket sales end May 30 at 11 p.m.) Tickets also at the door.
 - 11 **Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, Rotary Field Day.
 - 13 **Orinda Union School District**, 6 p.m. Board Meeting.
 - 14 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Sophomore Mom Social.
 - 15 **Miramonte High School**, 9:30 a.m. Parents Club Meeting.
 - Del Rey Elementary School**, Pioneer Days. Also May 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 24, 30 and 31.
 - 16 **Holden High School**, last day of classes. **Wagner Ranch** Open House.
 - 17 **Holden High School**, last day of school. **Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, 7 p.m. Parents' Club General Meeting.
 - Glorietta School**, Annual Musical *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Also May 18.
 - Miramonte High School**, Spring Fling Dance.
 - 18 **Miramonte High School**, 5 p.m. *Musical Theater Broadway Showcase*
 - 20 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Latin Banquet.
 - 21 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Public Speaking Banquet.
 - 22 **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Pops Concert. Also May 23.
 - 23 **Glorietta School**. Book Swap and Open House.
 - 25 **Miramonte High School**, Senior Ball.
 - 27 **All Schools**, No School. Memorial Day.
 - 28 **Miramonte High School**, 6:30 p.m. Senior Awards.
 - 30 **Orinda Intermediate School** Open House. **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Spring Band Concert.
 - 31 **Miramonte High School**, 10 a.m. Senior Lunch - Top Dog and Good Bye Rally.
- Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ CALENDAR from page 13

- or Orinda Books, McDonnell Nursery and Orchard Nursery. Space is limited.
- Orinda Theater**, 7 p.m. Free Movie Night presents *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, lamorinda-theatres.com.
- 10 **International Film Showcase** presents *Never Look Away*. One week engagement then moves to the Rheem Theatre May 17 for a week. www.internationalshowcase.org.
- 11 **Traffic Safety Advisory Committee** Bicycle Safety Education Program for children. www.cityoforinda.org.
- Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. Marjorie Lasky, Elise Dirlam Ching, B. Lynn Goodwin, Pam McNeilly, and Rita Delgado will discuss and sign copies of *You're Doing What? Older Women's Tales of Achievement and Adventure*.*
- 13 **Orinda Books**, 10:30 a.m. The Poetry Circle will discuss *When I Go, Selected French Poems of Rainer Maria Rilke* translated by Susanne Petermann, who will join the group for the meeting.*
- 15 **Three-Quarter Century Club** 11:30 a.m. 20th annual luncheon, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. For those 75 years and older. Special guest speaker Bernat Rosner. Contact John Fazel, runmtns@prodigy.net, 925-324-2017.
- 16 **ConnectOrinda**, 6:30 p.m. celebration phase held at the intersection of Vashell Way and Moraga Way. To view more on ConnectOrinda, go to www.cityoforinda.org. See article p. 15.
- Orinda Books**, 7 p.m. Francie Low presents *Alive and Fixable*, her first essay collection.*
- 18 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Literary Luncheon for Daniel Mason who will discuss his bestseller, *The Winter Soldier*. \$20 includes \$5 off the price of the book. Call 925-254-7606 for reservation.*
- Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. Jean Minton will introduce her book, *All the Sweeter*, which offers resources to help understand the foster-to-adopt process.*
- Pacific Chamber Orchestra**, 7:30 p.m. "Beethoven – The Heroic" Concerts. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church 24 Knox, Lafayette. Tickets online at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org.
- 19 **Mindful Littles**, 11 a.m. Care For Therapy Horses. Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center, 60 Don Gabriel Way. Register at: www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDg-2MjE = \$10 per person. Ages 7-11. Parents/guardians are required with children. info@mindfullittles.org

- 21 **Orinda Parks and Rec.**, 9:30 a.m. II Fiorello Olive Oil Tour and Lunch, Barcode: 1505; Activity Level: 2 Fees \$85
- Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. A Literary Luncheon with Rosa Del Duca introducing *Breaking Cadence: One Woman's War against the War*; \$12. Call 925-254-7606 for reservation.
- World Affairs Book Group** 3 p.m. will discuss *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*, by Daniel Ellsberg. Discussion led by Rob Strong.
- 22 **Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. The Random Readers will discuss *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See. They meet monthly.*
- Cal Shakes**, present *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Bruns Amphitheater, through June 9, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.
- 23 **The Orinda Association**, 5 p.m. Emergency Evacuation Forum, Orinda Library Auditorium. See article p. 3.
- 29 **Lamorinda Arts Council**, 5 p.m. 2nd Annual "Arts Affair," Orinda Library Auditorium. An extravaganza that showcases a variety of art programs that the Lamorinda Arts Council and their Arts Partners bring to the community. Visit www.lamorindaarts.org
- 31 **Lamorinda Village**, 1:30 p.m. is sponsoring *All About Wildfires*. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article p. 1.
- Women of Spirit Gathering**, 7 p.m. Women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with others of diverse faith. Inspiring speakers, discussion groups; www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda.
- Orinda Starlight Village Players**, 8:30 p.m. Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*, Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way, through June

29. For tickets call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org.

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

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Third Wednesday of the month (May 15), 7 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room 22 Orinda Way, Orinda. For agenda www.mofd.org/board/meetings.

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

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

◆ BUZZ from page 20

Chamber of Commerce Sunset Restaurant Stroll

Where can you go for a glass of wine, a book of tickets entitling you to creative light bites, tunes playing in the background, get a caricature of yourself from artist Big Al, and washable tattoos painted by a local artist? It's got to be the Orinda Chamber of Commerce's Sunset Restaurant Stroll. It takes place Tuesday, May 7, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person.

Within Theatre Square, restaurant partners include Saffron Indian Restaurant and Bar, Shelby's Restaurant, Piccolo Napoli, Fourth Bore Taproom and Grill, Cine Cuvée and Republic of Cake. Also participating

are nearby Loard's Ice Cream, and on Moraga Way, Taverna Pellegrini, Reem's Steaks, La Piazza and Casa Orinda.

Organizers have asked the city to close off Vashell Way for the event. Stay tuned for developments on this request.

Participating restaurants are displaying event logos. Look for high-top tables scattered around the event; a map will be presented to ticket holders at the registration tables at 51 Moraga Way. Each diner will receive their choice of a glass of white or red wine to begin the stroll.

Thanks go to Republic Services for providing recycling and other services and to the many volunteers who make the event happen. For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.orindachamber.org.

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



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Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



Anytime Fitness Orinda Grand Opening

If you’ve walked through Theatre Square between fall of 2018 and now, you may have noticed evidence of a major remodel going on – an extra layer of noise from equipment, panels of sheet rock being delivered and the like. Done. All Over. As of May 1, Anytime Fitness Orinda’s (AFO) double doors are open to welcome new members.

The Chamber of Commerce will do a ribbon cutting as part of its monthly mixer Thursday, May 2, 4 p.m. There will be live music and light refreshments. At 6 p.m., you have a chance to win two tickets to see Brent Barrett live in concert the same evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre. (See story this page.)

“Everyone in Orinda has been so welcoming — we are so excited about opening here,” says Jami Edgell, Anytime Fitness general manager. A whole host of Group X class instructors and personal trainers will be on hand to answer questions. Presale discounted pricing is available onsite.

Classes offered with memberships include yoga, Zumba and mat Pilates. Members receive their own key to enter 24/7. “You can’t beat 24-hour access,” says Levi Mueset, member experience manager. “It will help bring activity to

the Square during normally slow times. I think it’ll be a mutually beneficial relationship.”

Amenities at AFO include state-of-the-art cardio equipment with personal screens, punching bag, free weights, selectorized machines, functional training area and group X studio for classes. Small group personal training is available. Sessions include balance and mobility, circuit training and introductory weight training courses. AFO focuses on stability, strength and stamina.

“We will be around for quite a while,” says Brett Livingstone, a principal owner. “Our lease agreement with extensions allows us to operate for 20-plus years.” Edgell says AFO will provide volunteers for the Orinda Chamber’s Sunset Restaurant Stroll on May 7 and Lamorinda Arts Council’s Art of Mixology on Oct. 12. Both events are held at their doorstep in Theatre Square.

Fitness staff are onsite Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2 Theatre Square, #148. Call 925-542-0342, email orindaanytime@gmail.com, or go to www.anytimefitness.com/gyms/4625/orinda-ca-94563 for more information.

[SEE BUZZ page 19]



ELANA O’LOSKEY

General Manager **Jami Edgell** and Member Experience Manager **Levi Mueset** are ready to go at newly opened Anytime Fitness in Theatre Square.

Live at the Orinda Caps Off Season With Broadway’s Brent Barrett

By LYNN KALMAR
Assistant Editor

Star of Broadway and London’s West End, Brent Barrett is set to perform Thursday, May 2, at the Orinda Theatre, closing out this year’s Live at the Orinda concert series.

First making his Broadway debut as Tony in the 1980 revival of *West Side Story*, Barrett later received an Olivier Award nomination (the British Tony Awards) for his starring role in the London premiere of the Tony award-winning revival of *Kiss Me Kate*.

Taking part in yet another popular revival, Barrett shared the stage with Reba McEntire playing Frank Butler against McEntire’s Annie Oakley in the 2001 Broadway production of *Annie Get Your Gun*. Barrett’s credits also include repeated returns to the role of Billy Flynn in *Chicago*, a part he’s played in both Broadway and Los Angeles productions, and for which he won the LA Drama Critics Award.

More recently, Barrett has been touring as part of The Four Phantoms, a group of four acclaimed vocalists who have all performed the starring role in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *The Phantom of the Opera*, a role that Barrett performed for two years to sold-out houses in Las Vegas. He’s also a founding member and producer of The Broadway Tenors, another touring group that performs favorites from *South Pacif-*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brent Barrett’s award-winning turn in the London production of *Kiss Me Kate* was featured on PBS’s *Great Performances*.

ic, Les Miserables, Jersey Boys and more.

After taking the stage all over the United States and Europe, Barret will be making his Bay Area debut with his showcase at the Orinda Theatre, closing out a season that has brought a series of Broadway stars, from Rita Moreno to the Callaway sisters, to the stage at Theatre Square.

The concert is 7:30 p.m. Information and tickets are available at www.lamorindatheatre.com or by calling 925-254-9065.

Reach Lynn Kalmar at assistanteditor@theorindanews.com.

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