



SALLY HOGARTY

Bridget Zayner had her electric bike on display at ConnectOrinda. She drives the vehicle to BART to commute to her job in San Francisco. Her 197-pound "BART Mobile" can carry her three children and six bags of groceries. "Given the parking situation at BART, we had to think out-of-the-box," she says.

ConnectOrinda Plans to Bring Together Orinda's Two Downtowns

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Over 50 people helped kick off the launch of ConnectOrinda on Oct. 13 at the Orinda Library Plaza. The event began at 10 a.m. with welcoming speeches by Mayor Amy Worth, Vice Mayor Inga Miller and City Councilmember Eve Phillips. Café Teatro provided refreshments for the assemblage who were also shown drawings of various preliminary ideas for downtown Orinda.

ConnectOrinda is a city-led process seeking residents' ideas to identify streetscape and transportation projects that beautify,

improve travel through, and preserve the uniqueness of, downtown Orinda. Eisen/Letunic, a Berkeley company specializing in livable communities, sustainable transportation and a healthy environment, is the consulting firm for ConnectOrinda with Victoria Eisen as project manager.

"When I was growing up in Orinda, we walked to school and residents connected more easily as they drove or walked around the town," said Vice Mayor Inga Miller. "Now that we're more car-centric, we've lost some of that feeling of community. We are asking residents to help us figure out how to bring that back with a more

[SEE CONNECT page 9]

Remembering Our Veterans

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

When I was teaching English at Campolindo High School and Veteran's Day (Nov. 11) arrived, I'd ask students to find a veteran in the family, neighborhood or community and personally thank that person for serving our country as homework. Many did.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bill O'Brian.

Recently, my wife and I visited Mount Rushmore in Keystone, South Dakota, and attended the evening ceremony which included a review by a U.S. Park Service officer of the four presidents enshrined there. Concluding, he asked all current military service people and veterans to come to the stage for the lowering of the flag. I joined a group of about 50 veterans, with six of us, men and women, chosen to fold the flag to its triangular shape when lowered. Those on stage removed their hats, saluted or held hands over hearts. Emotional, all I could think of was how many thousands of military service people have served and died for our country, and we on and in front of that stage all lived because of their sacrifice.

The Park Service officer then told the audience, standing themselves, that this event would probably be the only public acknowledgment the veterans on stage would receive for their military service. We received a rousing applause, the only time I have ever been thanked in public for serving my country.

On Oct. 11, I attended the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8063 monthly dinner at their modern building on Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette at the invitation of Terry Murphy. What follows are short biographies of eight local Lamorinda veteran members of VFW Post 8063. I hope in some small way the printing of their service histories and pictures serves as a public acknowledgment of their service to our great country and encourages readers on this Veteran's Day to do what I asked students to do, or even give the veteran with whom you interact a standing ovation.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Veteran **Ed Isely** (right) salutes a fellow soldier.

ED ISELY:

Presently, Isely is the Commander of Lamorinda VFW Post 8063. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1963, receiving his commission as a 2nd Lt. having completed ROTC. He served for nearly five years in the Field Artillery, starting at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, before going to the 12th Armored Division in Germany. He returned to Ft. Irwin, California, and helped activate an artillery battalion which included three firing batteries with six guns each of 105mm howitzers. He and his unit then deployed to Vietnam. He spent nearly a year there and returned home to finish his five years of service at the Oakland Army Terminal.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marine Corps veteran, and current MOFD fire chief, **Dave Winnacker.**

DAVE WINNACKER:

Currently Winnacker is the chief of the Moraga Orinda Fire Department. Prior to starting his firefighting career in 2004, he received his commission as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1997 after completing The Basic School for all officers at Quantico, Virginia. He also completed the Infantry Officers Course, further training in tactics, weaponry and survival. He then served as a platoon and company commander, and, in 2003, left for the invasion of Iraq which took about six weeks to go from Kuwait to Baghdad.

After four months in Iraq, he returned home, was demobilized and joined the fire service. In 2011, he and his reserve

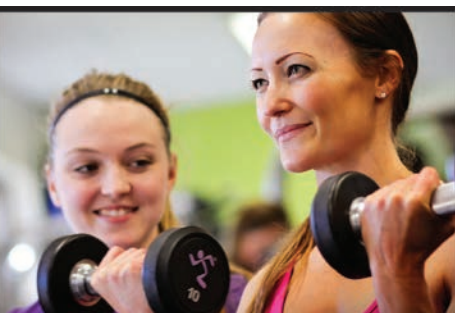
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Creative Strokes Collective Fills Gallery with Paintings

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council is proud to present the work of Linda Darsow Sutton and members of the Creative Strokes Collective (CSC) during the month of November at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library. Join them on Sunday, Nov. 4 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for their artist reception where light refreshments will be served.

Linda Darsow Sutton of Martinez, art teacher – and she insists – colleague of the Creative Strokes Collective is showing about 16 transparent watercolor and oil paintings. Her theme for the show is “Rogue and Water – The Quest to Go to The Ocean.” This refers to the intriguing combination of oil paintings and watercolors being unified by one of her favorite painting subjects – water, whether in the ocean or wherever she finds it. She is showing over 15 works evenly divided between transparent watercolors and transparent oil paintings.

Early in her career as an oil painter she spent 10 years studying with Patricia and Elizabeth Hubbell, known for their incredible precision and style. After that, she became fascinated by transparent watercolor and eventually transparent oil painting as well. This interest in the properties of light came naturally because her father was an optical engineer. She grew up studying light through a beam splitter. The Albers-based color study plan she designed for herself was so enjoyable she stretched it out as long as she could. That’s what goes on in her CSC classes. Students learn how to make color do what they want it to do in whatever they are painting.

Sutton’s eponymous *Emerald Pool*, a 22” x 30” transparent watercolor, transports you to this treasured spot in the Black Sand Basin of Yellowstone National Park. The famous natural spring has been delighting visitors for centuries because of its unusual color. It was named by geologist A.C. Peale in 1878 who described it thus: “... beautiful emerald tint with yellow-green basin and ornamental edge.” The yellow bacteria that lives in the pool tints what would normally be blue water to a sparkling emerald green. Sutton hopes that people who view her art use their imagination just for a minute to go somewhere they dream up or experience a different thought.

Some of her favorite artists are John Singer Sargent, Mort Solberg, Nita Engle, Joaquin Sorolla, Bruno Liljefors and Mark Rothko. Regarding her viewing of a Rothko painting at the Asian Art Museum she had this to say: “First he completely fills your vision field so your mind is in his control. How does he do that? One of the best parts of being alive is seeing art!” For more of Sutton’s work, go to www.lidsutton.com.

Alix Watson, organizer of the CSC show, describes it as follows: “The Creative Strokes Collective is a group of six painters whose paths joined together in Linda Sutton’s watercolor class. This show is unique for us because we are exhibiting our works with our instructor. Our show demonstrates Linda’s versatility as an instructor because the six of us paint in very different styles. She has helped develop our skills while allowing us the freedom to create art that reflects our individual personalities and styles.” The group has been painting together once a month for



Painter **Alix Watson** depicts a vibrant pool of koi in *Searching For Calming Waters*, a 39” x 33” watercolor in the gallery this month.

six years. One look at *Colin*, Watson’s 16” x 20” watercolor, and you’ll want to feed this four-legged fellow a treat.

Members of the Creative Strokes group from Walnut Creek showing watercolors include Barney Howard, Chris Kutzscher, Neanna Miles, Anne Murray and Alix Watson plus Bob Segerdell of Benicia, who is showing both watercolors and oil paintings. The collective is showing over 50 paintings of different genres. Howard is showing watercolors that make up a 12 month sports calendar. “I enjoy creating paintings that show the interaction of people in a variety of activities such as sports, card games, marchings, etc. and also like to donate my work to local organizations such as the Lindsay Wildlife Experience,” says Howard.

What keeps CSC artists painting and

drawing? Miles says, “Each photograph I select to paint presents its own problems; solving these problems so that the painting ‘works’ is always a challenge. When I am successful and feel I have captured the beauty I had intended, it is very gratifying. Pushing myself to attempt more difficult subjects definitely keeps me interested in continuing to learn.”

Kutzscher relates that she paints only what she loves to do or see: “I push myself to try new techniques and subjects. Our teacher and mentor, Linda Sutton, helps to push us in those directions but is continually teaching us new techniques and approaches to subject matter.” According to Segerdell, “I get out there and see the world through travel and time in nature, whether it is local or abroad.” Miles does just that

[SEE GALLERY page 14]

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Home is where our heart is....really!



Cindy Powell

In Orinda, home is where our heart, and tummy, like to be. On Nov. 1, **Men Make Dinner Day** encourages men to cook, to learn to cook, or make something challenging for dinner if they know how to cook. We live in a town that appreciates gourmet food, and I am lucky that the men in my life are great cooks. While you are hanging around waiting for dinner, please collect your extra coats for the **One Warm Coat drive at The Orinda Association** office. Drop off begins Nov. 1 and runs until mid-December.

Remember last March when Daylight Saving Time started? On Nov. 4, at 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time Ends: "Spring forward; Fall back" so move your clocks back one hour. Use that extra hour you get back with daylight savings time for extra productivity or activity, or just sleep in!

Nov. 6 is **Election Day**. It is every American's right and privilege to vote for our government officials. Exercise your right to vote for the candidates of your choice. In that context, The Orinda Association would

[SEE PRESIDENT page 7]

The Orinda Association

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

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

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| City Council Liaison | Inga Miller | |

Keeping People Warm This Winter



SALLY HOGARTY

Kate Wiley and Cathy Goshorn sort through donated items during last year's One Warm Coat drive.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Most of us are fortunate to have nice warm coats and other clothing to keep us comfortable through the winter months. But, that is not the case for many living in the Bay Area. To help meet the

need, The Orinda Association (OA) is participating in "One Warm Coat" for the third year.

People can donate new or gently used, clean coats, ski jackets, rain coats, etc. in all sizes at the OA office, 26 Orinda Way, in the Library Plaza. Youth coats are espe-

[SEE COATS page 9]

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Laura Abrams

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Last year The Orinda Association collected **165 coats**, donated to White Pony Express.
Our goal this year is **200+!**

Drop off at Orinda Volunteer Center
26 Orinda Way, Orinda Library Plaza
Mon. - Fri. 9:30am- 4 pm.

New Website for *The Orinda News*

After many months of work, *The Orinda News* now has a new website, www.theorindanews.com, that will allow you to download one story rather than a pdf of the entire newspaper. We will still have the pdf on The Orinda Association website at www.orindaassociation.org.

I'm sure we'll be working out the kinks on our new site for a while, but we hope you will find it more useful, especially for people searching for a particular article. Display and classified advertisers will be able to place ads for the print edition and pay for them on either The Orinda News

or The Orinda Association websites. We will offer online advertising in the near future.

A special thank you to The Orinda Association Board for its support and especially to Board Member Jeremy Conescu and Orinda resident/college student Devan Sudra for putting the site together. Our assistant editor David Dierks and I will be administrating the site as we go forward.

We hope this new website will allow you to more easily access the news you want about your local community.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Letters to the Editor...

Michael Donner for MOFD Board

I have known Michael Donner for over a decade and am continually astonished at his commitment to his community and the people around him. It is a "hands on" kind of commitment that changes lives, not the kind of service that expects to be noticed or has titles. His energy and positivity is seemingly endless.

When I met Michael, he was a coach for my son, a role he would continue for years to come. Not just any coach, a person you want your child to learn from because he went beyond baseball and taught the boys how to be gentleman. His service ranges from the voluntary mentoring of a neighborhood autistic boy, to driving for seniors, to a massive overhaul and update to the school district's emergency preparedness plan. He has raised ten's of thousands of dollars for our schools and has served for over 14 years on the board of a non-profit called Random Acts of Kindness, a title that I think says it all.

He will not offer this information, but it doesn't take much digging to discover the kind of heroic service he was known for in his 30 years of service as a firefighter. He was there for the Oakland Hills Fire, and the '91 Earthquake, and he was one of the first volunteers on a plane to New York heading toward the danger after that fateful attack 17 years ago.

But Michael's heroism here in Orinda comes in small consistent doses and it has for years. If you are lucky enough to do a project with him, sit on a nonprofit board with him, or simply need and ask for his expertise, you will never be disappointed.

He is kind, smart and reliable. People gravitate toward Michael, he will be a strong negotiator and an honest representative for us during this time of uncertainty where the real risk of fire continues to escalate.

I can tell you that Michael's message for this election, safety first, fiscal responsibility and community empowerment, are the very values that he lives his life by.

Vote for Michael Donner for Fire Board

Director District 4.

– Lara Dutto

Endorse Worth and Fay

I am enthusiastically endorsing Amy Worth and Dennis Fay in the upcoming Orinda City Council election. Amy has ably served on the Council for a number of years and Dennis is seeking a spot on the Council for the first time. I have worked with both Amy and Dennis in various capacities and know from first-hand experience that they are hardworking, thoughtful, sensible individuals with good judgment and whose only agendas will be to do what is right for Orinda. Please join me in voting for Amy and Dennis.

– Bill Judge

Support Mike Donner

I am writing in support of Mike Donner for the MOFD Board of Director seat in Division 4.

We have known Michael for 14 years and he is an incredible human being, charitable, community-oriented, and dedicated to serving Orinda. I cannot say enough about Michael and his abilities to serve on the MOFD Board of Directors.

Mike has served an entire career as a firefighter for the Oakland Fire Department. Mike has served in catastrophic events such as the Loma Prieta Earthquake, the Oakland Hills Fire, 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

In addition to all these lifetime accomplishments, Mike Donner has worked with local schools to improve preparation for disasters, is an awarded coach for youth sports, and sits on the Oakland Firefighter's Cancer Prevention Foundation.

Mike Donner is clearly the most qualified candidate with a proven background in community servitude.

Please join me in voting Mike Donner to the MOFD Division 4 board of director seat.

– Brian and Laura Millham

Mike Donner – Career Firefighter



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I am writing in support of Mike Donner for the MOFD Board of Director seat in Division 4. Mike has served an entire career as a firefighter for the Oakland Fire Department. Mike has served in catastrophic events such as the Loma Prieta Earthquake, the Oakland Hills Fire, 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

In addition to all these lifetime accomplishments, Mike Donner has worked with local schools to improve preparation for disasters, is an awarded coach for youth sports, and sits on the Oakland Firefighter's Cancer Prevention Foundation.

I personally have coached sports with him on multiple occasions and not only does he bring his hard work ethic but the spirit of competition and fairness in everything he does. We could be very lucky to have him serving our community.

Please join me in voting Mike Donner to the MOFD Division 4 board of director seat!

–Scott Mollahan

Will Insure Public Safety

We are writing in support of Michael [SEE VIADRO page 6]

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

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

MOFD / POLICE

MOFD's Memo of Understanding with Firefighters Signed by Board

By KEN HOGARTY
Staff Writer

Grace Santos, MOFD (Moraga-Orinda Fire District) secretary/clerk, indicated that as of press time the signed MOFD/Local 1230 Memo of Understanding (MOU) has not been readied for publication on the District's website. The Tentative Agreement, however, which is included in the Oct. 3 amended board packet, is located on the MOFD website: www.mofd.org/board/meetings. The approved contract presumably will be available soon.

The MOU between the District and United Professional Fire Fighters of Contra Costa County I.A.F.F. Local 1230, AFL-CIO has been approved for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

Base salary for personnel will increase three percent across the board with a two percent equity adjustment starting July 1, 2018 and 2019. A two percent across-the-board increase and one percent equity adjustment will take effect on July 1, 2020. Salary survey data had shown firefighters, engineers and captains were behind the labor market in both salary and total compensation according to the MOFD. The salary increases would move the salaries for these positions a bit closer.

Starting January 1, 2019, there will be the following increases to the monthly amounts paid for health insurance: Employee only – \$31; Employee + 1 – \$61; Employee + 2 or more – \$80. These are capped throughout

the contract term.

The new MOU continues the reduced level of retiree health benefits from the previous MOU which also implemented a reduced second tier for employees hired beginning in 2014. Retiree health care rates continue to be capped at 2019 rates throughout the contract. From the Board's perspective, this helps control the District's unfunded liability for retiree health.

The MOU provides no changes to retirement contributions. Employees in the three percent at 50 retirement formula will continue to pay the employee's share of retirement contributions and nine percent of the District/employer's share of retirement contributions throughout the contract. The MOU also adds five percent acting pay for members acting, or filing a vacancy, in a higher classification. It also implements District-paid life insurance for each employee providing for \$50,000 coverage.

The MOU maintains the existing practice of paying ambulance premium pay to members assigned to Medic 41 and Medic 45. It does, however, add language to limit the number of members who receive the premium pay to five per day in accordance with current practice. The MOU also implements a new job classification of firefighter paramedic trainee. This new job classification provides the District increased flexibility when hiring firefighter paramedics.

The fully burdened projected additional costs to the district, while easing unfunded

[SEE MEMO page 20]

Non-Union MOFD Candidates Have Homes Inspected

By KEN HOGARTY
Staff Writer

During the Oct. 10 Orinda Association/League of Woman Voters forum to question the five candidates for Division Three and Four district seats on the MOFD Board, Candidate Red Smith surfaced an ugly incident that speaks to the hot feelings permeating this election. Smith, who also referenced the "Union slate" that includes Steven Danzinger and Michael Donner (with Greg Baitx in Division 1), noted an acrimonious incident that colored the campaign, an incident that found two MOFD employees dismissed for "unauthorized political activity."

While not specifically accusing adherents of those candidates of having anything to do with the activity, Smith did say that he found it curious that it was the three "non-union candidates present whose homes were inspected" for exterior fire hazards on their properties. On Sept. 26, Candidate Lucy Talbot was issued a posted notice to

abate fire hazards on her property with a large-scale, expensive removal of trees.

Talbot's notice was rescinded by Fire Chief Dave Winnacker the next day after a personal inspection. At the MOFD Board meeting Oct. 3, the chief indicated that he had immediately terminated the two hourly district aides responsible. Union leaders took umbrage with the suggestion that the impetus for the behavior should point at them. Talbot, for her part, termed it a malicious act.

Chief Winnacker apologized to those affected and to the community. He emphasized that he was embarrassed by this "unauthorized incident that is a violation of the public trust." He noted that he had instigated a thorough review of inspection policies and procedures and is conducting reset training for all aides who conduct this work.

With the so-called union slate on one side, candidates Lucy Talbot and Red Smith (with Nathan Bell in District 1) have touted themselves as the "slate" for an "Indepen-



POLICE BLOTTER

September 2 through October 13, 2018

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 16 incidents.
Abandoned Vehicle: 4 incidents.
Accident Injury: 2 incidents.
Accident Property: 8 incidents.
Alarm, False: 134 incidents.
Barking Dog: 3 incidents.
Battery: 2 incidents.
Burglary, Auto: 6 incidents.
Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents.
Civil Matter: 18 incidents.
County Solicitor Permit: 1 incident.
CVC Moving Violation: 164 incidents.
CVC Non-Moving Violation: 66 incidents.
Dependent Adult Abuse: 1 incident.
Dependent Child: 1 incident.
Disturbing the Peace: 3 incidents.
Fire/EMS Response Info: 1 incident.
Fireworks: 1 incident.
Found Adult: 1 incident.
Found Property: 3 incidents.
Grand Theft: 4 incidents.
Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 7 incidents.
Identity Theft: 2 incidents.
Intoxicated Subject: 1 incident.
Juvenile Disturbance: 3 incidents.
Loitering: 1 incident.
Lost Property: 1 incident.
Loud Music: 6 incidents.
Loud Noise: 5 incidents.
Loud Party: 4 incidents.
Medical Hospital: 7 incidents.
Missing Adult: 1 incident.
Motorist Assist: 2 incidents.
Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 3 incidents.
Ordinance Violation: 8 incidents.
Outside Assist: 26 incidents.
Panhandling: 2 incidents.
Parking Detail: 113 incidents.
Patrol Request: 54 incidents.
Petty Theft: 6 incidents.
Petty Theft from Vehicle: 4 incidents.
Public Assembly Check: 4 incidents.

Public Nuisance: 3 incidents.
Reckless Driving: 12 incidents.
Runaway Juvenile: 1 incident.
School Check: 26 incidents.
Security Check: 34 incidents.
Service to Citizen: 114 incidents.
Shoplift: 1 incident.
Shots Heard: 1 incident.
Suspicious Circumstances: 15 incidents.
Suspicious Person Stop: 18 incidents.
Suspicious Subject: 2 incidents.
Suspicious Vehicle: 15 incidents.
Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 16 incidents.
Tow: 5 incidents.
Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 3 incidents.
Traffic Hazard: 14 incidents.
Trespass: 3 incidents.
Unwanted Guest: 1 incident.
Vacation House Check: 75 incidents.
Vandalism: 6 incidents.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 1 incident.
Verbal Dispute: 3 incidents.
Walk Through: 8 incidents.
Welfare Check: 13 incidents.

Arrest

Drunk in Public: 3 arrests.
DUI: 1 arrest.
Forgery: 1 arrest.
Revocation of Probation: 1 arrest.
Shoplift: 3 arrests.
Warrant Arrest: 5 arrests.

BART Statistics

Burglary/Probation Violation: 1 arrest.
Outside Assist Arrest: 1 arrest.

— Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit
www.crimereports.com

dent Fire Board." The third candidate for District Three, incumbent Stephen Anderson, also views himself as an independent candidate. Though worrying that it was a bit of "political suicide" providing the deciding vote in the 3-2 approval of the MOU

with the union, Anderson claims that it was necessary to avoid "total chaos" and to take first steps to deal with health and pension liabilities while ensuring that MOFD employees are paid at a rate comparable to other Bay Area entities.



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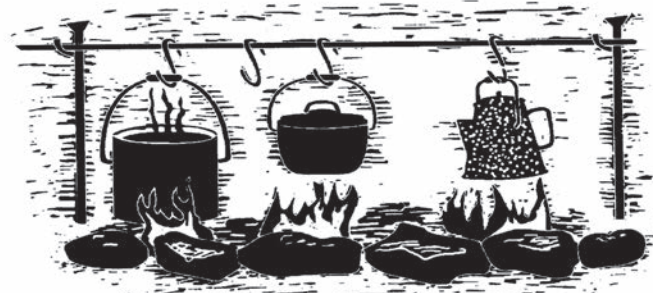
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OBITUARY

◆ VIADRO from page 4

Donner who is running for the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department Board of Directors in District 4. We can say without reservation that Michael will be a tireless director who is committed to planning for and insuring public fire safety. In these times of severe fire events, Michael brings his 30 years of experience to protect our community.

We have known Michael for over 10 years and have seen him work in numerous volunteer capacities. When we first met him, he was making sure our family had a plan for fire evacuation in our home and what we should do when we traveled. Some examples of his community involvement are: visiting kids classes and educating our youth on fire safety, managing Glorietta Elementary's Emergency Response shelter and the Great ShakeOut earthquake drills. He has also worked as a coach, and a board member of the non-profit, Random Acts, for over 14 years.

He is a committed community member, an amazing parent and a steadfast volunteer. Our community should be so lucky to have him on the Board.

– Julianne & Chris Viadro

Sometimes You Just Need A Good Guy

Truth, honesty, transparency.

Sometimes you just need a good guy who will look after our best interests. Nick Kosla, running for City Council, is just that guy. I have known Nick since high school (the magical class of 1995 that includes several current members on the Council, and other successful classmates) and have always thought highly of him and his abilities to get things done in a pragmatic and polite way. Truth, honesty, transparency, and respect for the rule of law are concepts that have defined us as a nation for the past 200 years. These qualities have always been a part of Nick's character. We need to get back to our core values; and Mr. Kosla will provide sensible leadership, bridge philosophical and political divides and enable us to continue to live up to our being recognized as the second friendliest city in America. Finding a consensus, a middle ground, on thorny issues is what he does best. Let's give him the opportunity to apply these valuable traits. Please join us in voting into office a truly capable and good guy...Nick Kosla for City Council.

– Richard Westin

Vote Lucy Talbot Best Choice for MOFD

We strongly support Lucy Talbot for MOFD because:

She cares about our community as

clearly demonstrated by her long-time and varied service and commitment to staying informed and involved in local issues and in supporting our schools and our broader community for decades.

She understands and is focused on the key challenges faced by the district such as managing unfunded pension and retirement medical liabilities; improving emergency response times; and developing comprehensive fire prevention programs.

Lucy is passionate and has the experience and ability to work in a complex environment to solve the challenges at hand.

Please join us in supporting Lucy Talbot for MOFD.

– Maureen Wilbur and Jim Cunha

Vote for Danziger

I heartily endorse Steve Danziger for Moraga-Orinda Fire District 3. I've known Steve since he was scoutmaster of my son's troop 16 years ago. Steve is genuine, honest and extremely capable with a great sense of humor. He has over 20 years of public service experience, including as an administrative manager with the Oakland Fire Department and has the knowledge and the background to hit the ground running. His goals include, but are not limited to, maintaining and enhancing fire safety, being fiscally responsible and accountable and strengthening relationships with the staff and the community. He will bring a knowledge, passion and experience that will help guide MOFD into the future. If you are in District 3, I urge you to vote for Steve Danziger on or before November 6.

– Susie Epstein

Vote for Amy Worth

Please join me in voting for Amy Worth for Orinda City Council on Nov. 6, 2018. I had the pleasure of serving with Amy on the Orinda City Council, and I know her to be smart, thoughtful, respectful and a problem-solver. From planning new playing fields and tot lots, to providing books and supplies for Orinda's fine public library, to working with our schools to support student safety, to fixing Orinda's roads and storm drains, Amy has worked tirelessly to enhance our civic life in Orinda. Amy also works for Orindans at the regional level, ensuring that we receive excellent recycling and garbage services, and that scarce State and Federal transportation dollars are allocated to meet our transportation needs. It is due to Amy's strong advocacy that the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel was built to increase our safety and ease our commutes!

Please vote for Amy Worth for Orinda City Council so that she can continue to serve our community.

– Victoria Smith

Myron Konjoyan 1931-2018



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lamorinda business owner **Myron Konjoyan**.

Myron Seamone Konjoyan passed on Sept. 13, 2018 after a short illness. Myron was born May 7, 1931 in Oakland and was raised in Glendale, CA. Nicknamed "Rocky," he was a basketball star at Hoover High School and attended Glendale College. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. After his discharge, he married Arax Tulanian in 1955, and would go on to found two successful businesses: The Rheem Patio in Moraga and later Konjoyan's Oriental Rugs in Lafayette.

Myron was an active member of the

Armenian Triple X Fraternity, in which he held leadership positions in his chapter, and he was a faithful member of St. Vartan's Apostolic Church in Oakland and a former chairman of its trustees.

He will be missed by his wife, Arax, sons Jon and David, daughter Nancy Kurkjian, daughter-in-law Pamela Madieros, son-in-law Rick Kurkjian, grandchildren, Karly and Adam Kurkjian and brother, Norman Konjoyan.

His family would like to thank his many Orinda customers for their support over the years.

Michael Donner for MOFD

I am writing in support of Michael Donner for the MOFD Board of Director seat in Division 4. I have known Michael for 15 years since my son was in kindergarten with his son. He has been involved in the community and has done everything from creating and painting Glorietta Gopher yard signs to serving pizza for our firefighters during the Ghost Ship fire and clean-up.

Michael has served his entire career as a firefighter for the Oakland Fire Department. Over the years, Michael has become very passionate about emergency preparedness in our community. Throughout his 30-plus year career he has been to many major disasters. After returning from New York for 911, Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and the Loma Prieta Earthquake he realized there was an information void in Orinda. He worked with local schools to store emergency supplies. He collaborated with FEMA professionals to speak to the

community on how to prepare for disaster.

Michael is a positive, passionate and motivated person that gets things done. He will make sound decisions and bring much needed fire experience to the board. Based on Michael's extensive experience in the fire service, his years of volunteering to prepare our community for a disaster and his dedication to the community, there is no doubt that he is the best choice for the job.

Please join me in voting Michael Donner to the MOFD Division 4 Board of Director seat!

– Amy Schioldager

It Just Takes Two!

Eve Phillips has been a breath of fresh air on the Orinda City Council and deserves re-election. Ms. Phillips listens to Orinda citizens and gets things done. There is no hidden agenda. As mayor, she expedited the successful resolution of the Miner Road

[SEE MURPHY page 8]



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HOSPICE / MORAGA ADOBE

Hospice Tree of Lights Returns

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor



DAVID DIERKS

Victoria White shares her wish list with Santa at last year's tree lighting.

Before you know it the holidays will be upon us and what better way to get started than by attending the Hospice East Bay Tree of Lights. Here's your chance to remember a loved one by purchasing a memorial light on the majestic Oak tree located in front of the Bank of America in Orinda Village and supporting Hospice of the East Bay at the same time.

The annual celebration takes place on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 4:30 p.m. in Orinda Village by Bank of America, 31 Orinda Way. Co-sponsored by Hospice and Orinda Rotary, the event includes Christmas music by Orinda school children and a visit from Santa.

All proceeds from purchasing a memorial light help fund Hospice of the East Bay's compassionate end-of-life care to terminally ill patients. For more information on purchasing a light, go to www.hospiceeastbay.org.



SALLY HOGARTY

(L-R) FJMA Board Member **Tania DeGroot**, FJMA President **Kent Long**, Branagh's Director of Custom Homes **Scott Smigielski**, FJMA Vice President **SB Master** (holding check), Moraga Mayor **Dave Trotter** (behind Master), Branagh Co-Owners **Alex Griffith** and **Matt Branagh**, **Terry Murphy** and Moraga Historical Society member **Colleen Lund**.

◆ PRESIDENT from page 3

like to thank The League of Women Voters for the great job they did at our Candidate forums last month. **Stress Awareness Day** on Nov. 7 helps identify the ever-present stress factors in our lives. Workplace stress is a large contributor, and for some the holidays really add more stress to our "days off." Take it easy and stay around town to shop and entertain family and friends.

S.T.E.A.M. Day on Nov. 8 (as in "innovate") is the day to inspire kids in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Our schools, up to the task, consistently lead state test scores.

Drop by the **Artisan Faire** at Orinda Country Club on Nov. 9 to check out local artists, enjoy food and wine tasting, and buy a few locally made holiday gifts.

USMC Day on Nov. 10 celebrates the birth of the United States Marine Corps, originally the Continental Marines, created during the Revolutionary War. **Veteran's Day** on Nov. 11 honors all members of the Armed Forces, particularly living veterans who served this country valiantly. Veterans gave their time, and risked their lives to preserve our way of life. The Orinda Association will hang American Flags this Veteran's Day, the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. Thank you!

The 20th anniversary of **World Kindness Day**, on Nov. 13, highlights the good deeds in our communities, focusing on the positive power of kindness. Orinda has a great community of volunteers, and we are thankful for their giving and kindness daily.

OWC Festival of Trees on Nov. 15

is a great Holiday tradition. The Orinda Woman's Club will again hold its fashion show and luncheon which supports many very deserving groups in our area with the funds raised at this single event. Nov. 15 is also **Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day**. For goodness sake, don't make this an annual event! I think it is a pre-turkey day prep for all your leftovers. And **Great American Smokeout Day** is also Nov. 15. The goal of this day is quite obvious: to get people to quit smoking, resulting in fewer health problems.

Nov. 17 is the **last Farmers' Market in Orinda**. Get down to the market and fill up your bags with fall vegetables and flowers.

Orinda Holiday Bazaar is Nov 17 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Community Center will be filled that day with great gift options for all ages and interests. And maybe you can buy yourself a holiday boost!

Nov. 22, **Thanksgiving Day**, is an American celebration to give thanks for the harvest of the past year. Start your day with a parade and end with a pledge to share your harvest with others.

Support local businesses with **Small Business Saturday** on Nov. 24, then take a break from gift-buying on Nov. 27, **Giving Tuesday**. Support The Orinda Association's community programs and events, and donate your unused items to charity.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce will kick off the **"SHOP ORINDA" Holiday Season** on Dec. 1 with events on both sides of town, photos with Santa, locally made gifts and special packages.

Home is in the hearts of Orinda's many kind and supportive residents. We are thankful!

Moraga Adobe Begins Purchase Phase

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

acres is \$450,000.

On Sept. 24, the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) and representatives of J&J Ranch Partners LLC met at the Moraga Adobe just above Del Rey Elementary school in south Orinda to present a check for \$25,000. The check represents the first annual deposit of a three-year purchase agreement. The total purchase price for the 1841 structure and surrounding two

The structure is located on a section of land purchased by Branagh and named J&J Ranch after Joaquin Moraga and his cousin Juan Bernal, recipients in 1835 of the Mexican land grant for the area. The Moraga family sold the adobe in the 1880s, and it deteriorated until the early 1940s when the Irvine family expanded it into a modern ranch-style house. J&J Ranch LLC purchased the adobe and surrounding 20

[SEE ADOBE page 22]



COURTESY OF ORINDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The abandoned **Joaquin Moraga Adobe**, originally built in 1841, fell into disrepair. The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe plan to renovate and restore the structure.



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LETTERS

◆ MURPHY from page 6

sinkhole disaster, solidified the city manager position, secured a downtown economic development study from National Main Street Center, oversaw City Council approval of the proposed commercial development across from the library, and championed the importance of maintaining local control over land use matters, in the face of regional government advocates in Sacramento. All too often, however, Ms. Phillips has been on the short end of 4-1 or 3-1 council votes. Please re-elect Ms Phillips and let's give her some help!

Kathleen Jenkins is a skilled contract negotiator, who has attended and participated in Orinda City Council meetings for years. Ms. Jenkins knows the issues. Ms. Jenkins knows how to get value for your buck and has the same commitment to listening to Orinda citizens, as Ms. Phillips. Do the right thing and let's get the Orinda City Council better dialed-in to Orinda citizens.

Your vote matters. Thank you

– Owen Murphy

Support for Dennis Fay

I am writing to express my strong support for Dennis Fay for Orinda's City Council. I've gotten to know Dennis as someone who listens respectfully, weighs decisions logically, and in the end just gets things done. We are extremely lucky to have people like him willing to give their time and expertise for the betterment of our city. I grew up in Orinda and am now raising my three girls in this lovely community – I put my full faith in Dennis Fay to represent us all on the City Council. Please vote for Dennis!

– Arran Schultz

Thank You, Amy Worth

We have lived in Orinda and Lafayette for 52 years, the most recent 33 years in Orinda. We are grateful for the quality of Orinda's local government. We urge our fellow Orindans to vote to reelect Amy Worth.

- Orinda has been financially well-managed and remains one of only a few California cities without an unfunded pension liability, allowing us to use all of our revenues to fund current services;

- Orinda has creatively found a mix of outside grants, county and local sales tax revenues and bond proceeds to maintain our infrastructure;

- Orinda built and secured long-term funding for our wonderful Orinda Library;

- Orinda is one of the safest cities in California, with a City Council that pays close attention to public safety and partnership

with our Fire District;

- Orinda's leaders have been dedicated to increasing the vitality of our downtown areas while preserving the semi-rural character of our residential areas;

- Orinda has accomplished these and many other priorities by being led by City Councilmembers in an open, transparent, thoughtful, collaborative way – attentive to community priorities.

Amy Worth deserves great credit and our gratitude for her years of service. We count on Amy to keep up the great work. Amy has our enthusiastic support in the November elections.

– Bob Fisher

I support Dennis, Nick, and Amy ("DNA") for Orinda City Council

I will cast my three votes for Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla, and Amy Worth for City Council. Each candidate brings a different type of valuable experience needed to address the critical issues facing Orinda.

Dennis Fay is a retired transportation engineer with years of service on Orinda's Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) which has overseen the renewal of our public roads.

Nick Kosla is an expert in municipal zoning regulations and entitlement law and has served as chair of the Orinda's Planning Commission.

Amy Worth is respected for her many years of service on the Council and her connections and influence on regional bodies whose decisions affect Orinda.

All three candidates will listen closely to citizen views and through long residency in Orinda understand Orinda's values and the quality of life that we all want for ourselves, our children and future generations.

Please join me in voting for Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla, and Amy Worth for Orinda City Council.

– Bob Burt

Endorse Anderson for MOFD Board

Steve Anderson is a critical element of the MOFD Board where he has served the community for six years. He is smart, does his homework studying the issues, asking good questions, getting the answers and developing policy that works.

I served on the MOFD Board for 17 years and during that time worked with several different boards.

We didn't always agree but worked together to develop and deliver a very high level of service professionally delivered both in the field and at the board. In my

time with Steve on the board, he demonstrated all the best attributes, and it was a pleasure to work with him.

The current environment on the board is troubling. I am afraid the high level of service the district has provided is at risk by a board that does not look to balance budget and service. Steve's leadership is needed for the board to provide the stability, history, work ethic and direction that will best serve our community. Please join with me to support Steve Anderson for Director of Division 3 of your MOFD.

– John Wyro

Support Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

As an Orinda resident for over 30 years and an environmental scientist for almost 40, I used to take BART into the city for my commute. However, I have seen BART get more and more crowded, dirtier and less safe, as BART's infrastructure has just not kept up with the exponential growth in the East Bay. As our housing crisis increases and affordable housing gets pushed further and further from the job hub in the city, our transportation problems have gotten exponentially worse. Our local Orinda roads are getting choked and polluted, as well, due to increased traffic in the area. I have seen cars exit Highway 24, head up to East Altarinda Drive and drive through Orinda Woods, merely to avoid the highway traffic. We need to prioritize our improving public transportation options, not just for commuting, but to get people out of their cars and improve the air quality in Orinda. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan has pledged to accomplish these issues. She gets my vote.

– Dr. Booker Holton

Vote for Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

When my children were small, our Orinda pediatrician would ask me every year during their well-checks, "Do you have a gun in the house?" right before he asked whether my kids wore helmets while riding their bikes. As a mother, these were two non-negotiable issues for me. Our city wisely considered in October an innovative gun storage ordinance that increases the safety of our children and adults. We need more than new laws, however. We need gun-sense candidates in office working hard to ensure that these local and state gun control laws are carried out. Otherwise, these laws will have no teeth. Assembly candidate Rebecca Bauer-Kahan is emphatic in her pledge to support and carry out gun control laws. My kids' pediatrician would wholeheartedly approve of Orindans electing her to office on Nov. 6.

– Carol Larsen

Chris Severson a Strong Advocate for Education

As a current school board member on the Orinda Union School Board, I know that school board trustees must have the ability to listen to all viewpoints, to work together collaboratively and to always keep in mind the best interests of the students. Chris Severson embodies these qualities and deserves your vote in November for Governing Board Member of the Acalanes Union High School District.

Chris has been a strong advocate for

public education for many years. He has the benefit of experience — Chris served for four years with me on the board of the Orinda Union School District from 2010-2014. As a fellow trustee, Chris always acted with the utmost integrity, and always kept the focus on what's best for students. Chris was instrumental in helping lead the district during the financial crisis and, as a result, the district was able to weather that storm with minimal impact on students in the classroom. Moreover, as an emergency room physician, Chris knows how important health and wellness are to student success and intends to bring a focus on those issues with him to his role as trustee.

Chris will not only provide a voice for the Orinda community on the board, he will also bring balance. The high school district is composed of schools in four communities: Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette and Walnut Creek. Since Governing Board Member Susie Epstein is not seeking re-election, there will no longer be an Orinda resident on the high school board unless Chris is elected. Despite the fact that Chris lives in Orinda, he will bring a uniquely balanced perspective to this role. Chris has children who attend or have attended Miramonte, Acalanes and Campolindo high schools.

Chris is committed to maintaining and improving upon the excellent education our high schools provide. I urge you to vote for Chris Severson for Governing Board Member of the Acalanes Union High School District.

– Julie Rossiter

Vote for Jenkins and Phillips

I write to endorse Kathleen Jenkins and Eve Phillips for Orinda City Council. Here's why.

One of the most important issues facing Orinda is the future of our two downtowns. Of the five candidates running for the three seats that are at stake in this election, only Kathy and Eve have committed that any new development must be subject to the current height and density limits, and parking requirements. The other candidates have only made vague statements about preserving our village character.

Kathy and Eve have been the subject of false accusations that they are opposed to new development. Nothing could be further from the truth. Eve was the only member of the City Council to vote in favor of the conditional use permit for the two uses sought by the owner of 25A Orinda Way, across from the library. Kathy spoke out publicly in support of that project. See the minutes of the June 6, 2017 Council meeting. <https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/citycouncilmeetings/file/213807886615>

Kathy and Eve, unlike the other candidates, have not made a career of working for the bureaucracy or working as consultants to developers. They bring a breath of fresh air. Eve was the only member of the current Council to vote against the recent \$250,000 streetscape consultant contract. www.lamorindaweekly.com/larchive/issue1209IEisen-Letunic-wins-streetscape-master-plan-contract.html. Kathy has gone on record as in favor of fiscal responsibility and fewer consultants.

[SEE WARANOFF page 10]

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CAR TIME

Proper Car Care Equals Saving Money On Car Repairs



By JOHN VANEK

Motorists often talk about ways to save money on automotive repair and maintenance. The worst way to save money on your vehicle is to ignore it. Your vehicle is a machine requiring upkeep and repairs. Like other machines, it will wear down faster if not kept up. Proper maintenance and inspections will help keep small issues from turning into bigger and more expensive ones. Noticing tire wear issues before they are worn out, for example, will save much money in the long run.

It is okay to utilize an oil change facility that offers a value as long as the personnel there are properly inspecting your car. How do you know? Ask questions! It is not a good idea to bounce from shop to shop using coupons or the like. If you do so, there will be no continuity with your maintenance records. Importantly, there would also be no continuity with the relationships that you have with the repair shops.

It is not always most important about who will charge the least to work on your car; rather, it would be wise to look for the

mechanics who will support an effective maintenance campaign for your vehicle. Some automotive maintenance facilities are more thorough with their inspections than others. Some facilities can be trusted more than others. Once you find a facility you can trust, you need to surrender your trust to them.

Staying on top of the needs of your vehicle will help you keep your facility honest. Understanding your vehicle's maintenance schedule and what is coming up in the future will also help avoid the chaos that occurs when your vehicle might otherwise need immediate and unexpected repair. Your auto repair experience should be a partnership between you and your automotive service facility and mechanic. Having a good alliance will help save you money in the long run. As usual I encourage you to be a good consumer of automotive repair. I am always available for automotive consultation.

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

◆ CONNECT from page 1
pedestrian-friendly downtown."

To facilitate community involvement, the Oct. 13 event included scavenger hunts for young children and teens that were developed with input from the Orinda Teen Advisory Council. Several walking tours also took place. Landscape architect and urban planner John Gibbs, principal at WRT, an Oakland-based urban design firm, led the tour through the Village while Ryan McClain, principal at Fehr and Peers, a Walnut Creek-based transportation planning firm, led the tour of the Theatre District and around the BART station. Members of Save Orinda and the Orinda Historical Society served as volunteer docents along the way. The day ended with free ice cream, courtesy of Loard's Ice Cream, back at the Library Plaza where the winners of the scavenger hunt were announced. Surveys were available for people to fill out at the event. Surveys can also be accessed by going to <http://connectorindasurvey.fehrandpeers.net>.

The city also envisions "pop-up" temporary, experimental demonstration projects in the coming months that will let the public experience and the city evaluate some ideas suggested at the launch. The project team will distill the feedback from the launch, surveys and the pop-ups into three to five sets of projects that will be presented to the public in early 2019.

The final stage of the project involves distilling reactions to the sets of projects into a single set of recommendations for the Village, Theatre District and connections between them and the BART station. These will be presented to the public in late spring 2019.

For further information on the project, go to www.cityoforinda.org/connectorinda.

◆ COATS from page 3
cially needed.

Based in San Francisco, the "One Warm Coat Project" has been in operation since 1992. The national organization supports over 3,000 coat drives each year. In its 23-year history, the organization has worked with volunteers to host over 27,000 coat drives and has given away more than five million coats.

The Orinda Association collected over 165 coats benefiting Alameda County Social Services in its first year hosting One Warm Coat and another 165 coats last year that benefited Contra Costa County's White Pony Express Free General Store. White Pony distributes adult and children's clothing, toys and children's books to those in need and also works to prevent homelessness by connecting people with the resources they need.

"We have been very impressed with the good work that White Pony does for Contra Costa residents," says OA member and project coordinator Kate Wiley. "They are well organized, and they make sure that the coats get to the people who really need them."

According to White Pony Express founder Dr. Carol Weyland Conner, many people in Contra Costa County need both food and clothing. The organization features three programs: Food Rescue, White Pony Inn and a Free General Store.

This year the OA joins with two other local nonprofits – the Orinda Junior Women's Club and Orinda Rotary – to collect even more coats.

For more information on drop-off centers, call 925-254-0800 or go to www.orindaassociation.org. For more information on White Pony Express, go to www.whiteponyexpress.org.

Gun Safety Ordinance a Reality for Orinda Following 5-0 Council Vote



SALLY HOGARTY

Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent **Dr. John Nickerson**, Miramonte Associate Principal **Nick Carpenter**, OUSD Superintendent **Dr. Carolyn Seaton**, Mayor **Amy Worth** and Police Chief **Mark Nagel** discussed campus and gun safety at a recent Parent Education meeting at Miramonte High School.

By KEN HOGARTY and
SALLY HOGARTY
Staff Writers

The Orinda City Council, by a 5-0 vote on Tuesday, Oct. 16, approved Ordinance 18-11 that regulates storage of firearms in a residence. The new ordinance requires owners within the city's jurisdiction to store firearms in a locked container or disabled with a safety device listed on the California Department of Justice's roster of firearm safety devices when not in use or in their control. The ordinance, which was first introduced at the Council's Oct. 2 meeting, will take effect Nov. 15.

Several California cities including Oakland, San Francisco and Los Angeles along with a myriad of other smaller municipalities have passed safe storage ordinances.

Orinda City Attorney Osa Wolff, at the Oct. 2 City Council Meeting, noted that

Moraga's recently approved ordinance of Feb. 28, 2018, which the Orinda ordinance mirrors, has not been challenged legally. She also considered arguments from a 2015 U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on a lawsuit filed against San Francisco that upheld the city's ordinance. Wolff noted that to her knowledge there was no legal challenge filed when Moraga adopted its ordinance, and she intentionally mirrored Moraga's ordinance to Orinda's newly adopted ordinance. Allison Anderman, a Moraga resident and lawyer with the Giffords Law Center, said the Center would be willing to help Orinda *pro bono* if legal action was taken against it.

Under the Orinda ordinance, a violation will result in a fine of \$100, \$250 and \$500 for a first, second and third violation within a year.

The NRA-ILA (National Rifle Association – Institute for Legislative Action) website claims that the "NRA and CRPA reached out to the [Orinda] City Council to advise them of the legal pitfalls in implementing this type of ordinance." The website promulgates the view "that these types of lock storage ordinances do little to protect the community, are completely unenforceable by law enforcement, and only render [a] law-abiding citizen helpless should a criminal come knocking on their [sic] door. Even with these facts, the city is being pressured by anti-gun groups to take action regardless of whether that action is effective or not."

The vast majority of the speakers who
[SEE GUN SAFETY page 23]



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Gun locks similar to these are available through Orinda Police.



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LETTERS

◆ WARANOFF from page 8

Please vote for Kathleen Jenkins and Eve Phillips for Orinda City Council.

– Nick Waranoff

Eve and Kathleen are an Easy Choice

Like many Orindans, my wife and I attended the City Council Forum to hear positions and responses to questions from the five candidates. We thought the moderator did a good job asking a variety of questions that the audience submitted. She asked enough pertinent questions to clarify roughly two distinctive perspectives among the candidates.

As a long term resident, active in volunteering and political affairs, I am concerned with maintaining our excellent schools (presumably all candidates are), safety, quality neighborhoods and the semi-rural character of Orinda, the basis of our General Plan. For those questioning “semi-rural character,” refer to the General Plan, (<https://www.cityoforinda.org/269/General-Plan-Housing-Element-Sections-1,2,4,5>). Semi-rural character includes the idea of “organic development” – projects like the Montessori school, which would have been located in the old abandoned Phairs building site, that along with dozens of young mothers I strongly supported, and projects like Bella Oaks, which would have been across from the library. In both cases, the developers went to great measures to comply with the General Plan and Orinda’s municipal code, including height and volume requirements. The City Council at the time (except for incumbent Eve Phillips who supported Bella Oaks) killed both of these projects. Eve Phillips and Kathleen Jenkins, whom I know well, favor an “organic development” approach to improve Orinda’s downtown, and make it more vibrant.

Listening to candidates Dennis Fay and Nick Kosla, I got the opposite impression and am troubled by their perspective. Both said they viewed Orinda’s General Plan as a living document. Both seemed less concerned with preserving Orinda’s semi-rural character. Nick Kosla, thought the downtown should be more centralized. This approach reminds me of The Urban Land Institute recommendations. Those recommendations focus on “housing as the value enhancer” theme (to fund the development). As mentioned in their presentation, ULI recommended 240 new downtown condos, in six new buildings, with a six-story building height. This seriously violates our general plan and semi-rural character let alone numerous other problems. My take

away from they City Council Forum is that candidates Dennis Fay and Nick Kosla are in accord with this kind of vision for the downtown.

Of course, these are my generalizations. But for me, they are sufficiently clear that voting for Kathleen Jenkins and incumbent Eve Phillips is the best move for Orinda. Be sure to vote. It’s your city.

– Chris Kniel

Amy Worth’s Experience Will Help Orinda

In the current political environment, it is easy to feel that our elected representatives should change for the sake of change. However, some leaders only get better with time. Amy Worth of Orinda is one of those leaders.

Over and over, she has shown vision and clear decision-making capabilities as Orinda grapples with crumbling infrastructure, downtown revitalization and regional housing and transportation issues.

Her strong relationships with local, state and national leaders help Orinda on an on-going basis. When our city needs something, she knows whom to contact and they always respond. As a member of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, she is in a unique position to help drive the right balance between local and regional transportation planning interests and to help Orinda leverage regional programs.

Our community is fortunate that Amy has chosen to give her time and energy to us, rather than to the many other opportunities that she has. I look forward to voting for her for Orinda City Council and hope that others will, as well.

– Paula Reinman

Nick Kosla For Orinda City Council

I was fortunate to grow up in Orinda and return with my husband to raise our own family here. While there is so much to love about Orinda, there is much more work to be done to keep our beloved town thriving. This is why I am thrilled that Nick Kosla is running for City Council. Nick also grew up in Orinda, married his high school sweetheart, Larissa, and returned to raise their family here. Nick knows and respects Orinda’s history, but also understands that growth and improvement are necessary to secure the future of our town. As former chair of the Orinda Planning Commission, Nick has the experience needed to help revitalize downtown Orinda and bring in additional restaurants and shops. Please join me in voting for Nick for Orinda City Council on Nov. 6, 2018.

– Regina Gordon

Bauer-Kahan Gets My Vote

As an attorney, I pride myself on being able to sift through inconsistent facts and assertions; I search for hard evidence that will lead me to the truth.

I am the recipient of multiple mailers

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from Catherine Baker that severely distort the truth about her record on environmental protection. The California League of Conservation Voters carefully tallied up all of Baker’s votes and gave her a low grade on environmental issues. I am particularly repelled by Baker’s slanderous television ad implying that Bauer-Kahan has taken bribes from lobbyists. The ad is almost identical to the one she ran against her opponent in 2016. I need a candidate who share my values on environmental protection and basic human decency. Baker had demonstrated a lack of decency in her disgusting attacks on Bauer-Kahan. Democrat Rebecca Bauer-Kahan gets my vote!

– Elaine Gerstler, Esq.

Trump Cannot Let Big Business “Trump” the Environment

This is a frightening time when the Trump Administration is putting big business interests over the protection of wildlife and a clean environment, in spite of the warnings of reliable climate science. It is vital that we have someone representing our Assembly District who will fight 100 percent of the time for critical issues like (1) healthy classrooms free of chemical-based cleaners and (2) protecting people, our parks and wildlife. Catherine Baker may espouse her willingness to cross the aisle for our environment, but when I checked her record myself, it is far far less than 100 percent. Baker voted against support for local agencies to use water more efficiently (AB1668), against setting new pollution limits for big polluters exploiting “cap and trade” (AB378), against providing state funds to the low-income communities most harmed by pollution (AB523), and against mandating that all new developments undergo environmental review (AB890). I cannot support a record like that, so I will be voting for Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for a healthy future for all of our children and grandchildren.

– Susan Forman

Why We Need Local School Facilities Funding

As a parent and school board member, I wanted to share reasons to support Orinda Schools Measures E & I on the November ballot. These measures are a culmination of careful planning and respond to economic realities.

Old Schools: Most Orinda classrooms remain essentially unchanged since I attended our schools in the 1980s. We can no longer pretend that 40-60 year old facilities are charming – they are downright alarming. Lafayette, Moraga and Walnut Creek have all passed school bond measures for facilities improvements within the last five years. We haven’t asked Orinda for a K-8 school improvement measure for nearly 25 years.

Low State Funding: Recently released testing scores confirm our teaching quality is among the highest in the state. Yet changes in the state’s funding formula make our district among the lowest funded by the state. State bond funds for construction are not available to Orinda. Since the last recession, your local school board has fo-

cused on maintaining academic excellence. Now we must turn to our facilities.

Why Two Measures? We truly wish we could have offered one measure. Our new Master Facilities Plan identified nearly twice as much to accomplish than Measures E & I ask for. Working with a committee of local residents, we pared back the project list to what we think is essential for 21st Century schools. We have financed solar power and used available funds for pilot projects like efficient “green” modular buildings. Our future plans focus on remodeling, innovation and outdoor education, rather than expensive new building. We have been transparent and diligent and ask for support for both Measures E & I.

Local Funding: Measures E & I support academic instruction and upgrade campus safety and infrastructure. Every penny will be overseen by a citizens’ oversight committee and independent financial audits. Even if you don’t have school-age children, your support protects high local home values and our reputation as a community that cares deeply about education for students of all abilities. Parents, private support and other local sources account for one-third of our funding. We simply can’t have great schools without YOU.

Please, take a look at our campuses, our plan, and facts concerning scarce state funding and join your unanimous school board, teachers and local organizations supporting our 21st Century facilities vision with a Yes vote on both E & I!

– Jason Kaune

Eve Phillips Won’t Improve Downtown Orinda!

First-term city council member Eve Phillips has consistently refused to revisit the core land use rules that have left our downtown in a state of deterioration, disuse and dereliction. She was the sole vote against even starting a conversation on downtown, instead hoping that the approval of a few new businesses in our dilapidated buildings might somehow revitalize downtown. Perhaps these outlier positions are why she lists no endorsements from any current or past City Councilmembers, who otherwise endorse Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla and Amy Worth. Ms. Phillips is out of step with Orindans and won’t offer the leadership we need to bring downtown back.

– Sandi Balonick

Bauer-Kahan Operates with Integrity

I have known Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for years, as a friend, a fellow parent, and a valued member of our community. She’s a person of character with a strong moral compass. I have watched her stand up to injustice and fight for what’s right on multiple occasions. She operates with integrity, always. Simply said, she’s the kind of person I want representing me.

In this election, our values matter more than ever before. The Trump Administration has done things completely antithetical to American values, like instituting a ban on Muslims entering our country and separating children from their families at

[SEE STONE page 22]

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ELECTIONS

MOFD Forum Focuses on a Number of Hot Button Issues

By KEN HOGARTY
Staff Writer

In preparation for the Nov. 6 election, five candidates for the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors for the two division seats up for contention among Orinda voters (Divisions 3 and 4) gathered in the Orinda Library Auditorium Oct. 10 to respond to questions. The forum, sponsored by The Orinda Association and facilitated by the League of Women Voters, drew approximately 75 attendees, including a number of firefighters.

The wisdom of the just ratified Memorandum of Understanding (MOU that runs from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2021) negotiated by the board with the firefight-

issues. Fittingly, on the one-year anniversary of the Tubbs Fire in the North Bay, firestorm danger, planning and response drew much attention. Other hot-button topics included fire prevention, budgets, approaches to unfunded pension responsibilities, adequacy of water systems, adequacy of communication systems and interaction with other fire departments and utilities. League members Marian Shostrom and Kathleen Kirk helped Flynn gather and sort questions.

Although many questions came from the audience, the League itself formulated a few, including an inquiry about the identity of each candidate's three main financial supporters. Lucy Talbot and Red Smith cited family or friends while Michael Don-



ANIL COMELO

Fielding questions from community members and the League of Women voters, MOFD candidates (L-R) **Lucy Talbot, Michael Donner, Steven Michael Danziger, Red Smith** and incumbent **Stephen Anderson** had the opportunity to share their platforms at the public forum on Oct. 6.

er's union, the morale of district rank and file fire personnel as it pertains to recruitment and retention, and the backers of various candidates elicited the most fireworks during a very civil hour and a half process that found all candidates responding to the same questions posed by the moderator.

Questions, posed by the League moderator Ann Flynn, focused upon a number of

ner and Steve Danziger cited unions or firefighter associations at the top of their lists. This elicited a reference by candidate Smith to the "Union slate," which he named as Donner, Danziger and Greg Baitx, a candidate for the board from a different division. Anderson whimsically answered the question as to his top three financial

[SEE MOFD page 20]



MIMI BOMMARITO

At the forum on Oct. 3, City Council candidates (L-R) incumbent **Eve Phillips, Kathleen Jenkins, Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla,** and incumbent Mayor **Amy Worth** answered questions regarding downtown development and road maintenance, among others.

City Council Candidates State Views at OA Forum on Oct. 3

By MIMI BOMMARITO
Staff Writer

Five candidates vying for three open seats on the Orinda City Council each answered questions, fielded by the League of Women Voters, to a packed auditorium of Orinda citizens at a candidate forum on Oct. 3. The Orinda Library auditorium was filled

to capacity with voters interested in hearing each candidate verbally explain their priorities and visions for success if elected.

The candidates – incumbent Eve Phillips, Kathleen Jenkins, Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla, and incumbent and current mayor, Amy Worth – answered questions on topics ranging from Orinda's road management

[SEE COUNCIL page 15]

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Lucy Talbot

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Steve Glazer, CA Senate	MOFD Directors:
East Bay Times	Brad Barber
Amy Worth, Orinda Mayor	John Jex
	Craig Jorgens
- "Committed to holding the line on spending and paying down debt." East Bay Times Editorial
- "Lucy is deeply concerned about fire prevention, fiscal responsibility, and emergency response times. We ask our friends and neighbors to please give Lucy your vote!" Joan and Frank Mawell, Orinda
- UC Berkeley – BA
- Retired Motorola sales executive to fire districts
- Co-owner 33 year-old family business with husband Al
- 35 year Orinda resident and community volunteer
- President CHBI raising funds for UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital

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- Reduce response times using technology
- Reduce **\$70M Unfunded Pension and Medical Liability**

Moraga Orinda Fire District Board

www.LucyTalbot4MOFD.com

Paid for by Lucy Talbot for MOFD 2018

VETERANS

◆ VETERANS from page 1

unit were mobilized and sent to Africa, participating in Theater Security Cooperation along the southern edge of the Sahara Desert in various locations in Africa. His unit served as training advisors for local military units.



Arleen Thomas.

ARLEEN THOMAS:

Serving in the U.S. Navy from 1987 to 1995, Arleen's rank was Petty Officer, 3rd Class. She worked as a physical therapist at stations in Great Lakes, Orlando and Camp Pendleton. She served for three months in the Persian Gulf on the Hospital Ship USNS Comfort, and finished her service at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay.



BILL O'BRIAN

Bill Cooper.

BILL COOPER:

Living in Orinda since 1953, Cooper is a Veteran of World War II who served with the 7th Infantry Division in the South Pacific in two campaigns: Leyte and Okinawa. He was in the first wave invading Okinawa. Asked what the fighting was like, he said, "Horrible. I lost eight classmates from my class of 1943, Alameda High School."

Cooper, who helped found Boy Scout Troop 237 in 1955, was Scout Master for over 40 years. He was the Orinda Citizen of the Year in 1980. Additionally, he received the honor of Scout of the Century in 2014 from the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council.

TERRY MURPHY:

Murphy started his service in 1967 in the U. S. Army, and finished in 1969 as an E-6, Staff Sergeant in the Infantry. In Vietnam in 1968, and serving an extended tour of 14 months, his job was to go on patrols to "find the enemy, let people know where they were and provide tactical information." His unit was the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division (known as The Big Red One). His team consisted of one radioman and six shooters, all trained to do reconnaissance.

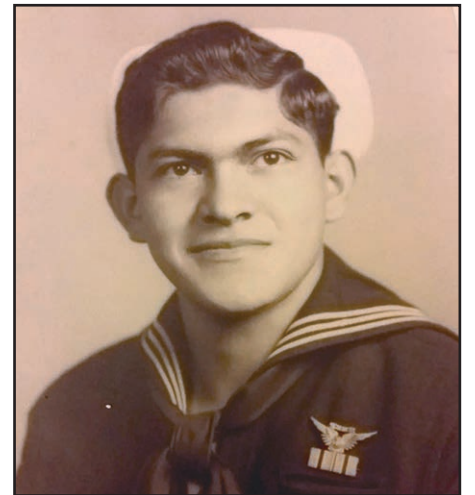
GILBERT VERDUGO:



SALLY HOGARTY

Terry Murphy.

Verdugo served during World War II in the U.S. Navy as part of the flight crew on a PBY Catalina, a seaplane of two engines that flew anti-submarine and Marine Corps support missions. He also served for two years in the Korean War as an aviation machinist and flight crew chief.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gilbert Verdugo.

MICHAEL KIRBY:

Kirby served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970. He then served an additional 20 years plus in the National Guard and Army Reserve. During his Vietnam tour, he manned a Quad Fifty, which consisted of four 50 caliber machine guns mounted on a turret on the back of a huge truck. It fired from a stationary position or while moving down the road. His unit was the 5th Battalion, 2nd Artillery.

STARRETT DINWIDDIE:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael Kirby.

An ROTC graduate from U.C. Berkeley, Dinwiddie received his commission in 1994, and went to Infantry Officers Basic training at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He earned his Airborne wings (parachute) between his sophomore and junior years of college. He went to Ft. Hood, Texas, with the 1st Cavalry Division. He then spent a year in Saudi Arabia in the Security Assistance Command helping to train Saudi troops. He served in the Iraq invasion in 2003-4, called Iraqi Freedom, as a company commander of 160 paratroopers. His unit staged in Kuwait and fought through five cities to Baghdad. He resigned his commission in 2004 to take care of his ailing father.

So, there is the story of some of your



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Starrett Dinwiddie.

fellow Lamorindans who served their country in the military. As for my story: I was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army in 1965 from ROTC upon graduating from U.C. Berkeley. I went to Ft.

[SEE VETERANS 2 page 13]

VOTE the INDEPENDENT Fire Board (MOFD) Candidates who will represent our community, not special interests.

"Voters shouldn't let union run Moraga-Orinda Fire Board"
East Bay Times and Lamorinda Sun Editorial 9/11/18

<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> Moraga Orinda Fire District Board Bell4MOFD.com </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center; color: blue;">Nathan BELL</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Division 1, South Moraga www.Bell4MOFD.com</p>	<p>To make our community safer long term</p> <p>MOFD MUST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current firefighter staff level and high-quality emergency services • Fund significant FIRE PREVENTION initiatives • Pay down \$68 Million unfunded Pension liability • Reduce response times using technology and data
<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> Moraga Orinda Fire District Board LucyTalbot4MOFD.com </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center; color: white;">Lucy Talbot</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Division 4, Central Orinda www.LucyTalbot4MOFD.com</p>	
<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> Moraga Orinda Fire District Board VoteRedSmith.com </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center; color: red;">Red Smith</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Division 3, West Orinda/Moraga www.VoteRedSmith.com</p>	

Paid for by: Lucy Talbot for MOFD 2018
Red Smith for MOFD 2018
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1,000+ endorsements by Moraga-Orinda Voters

ARTS

Tickets On Sale For Festival of Trees



SALLY HOGARTY

Models show off glamorous holiday gowns from Helen Lyall at last year's Festival of Trees.

On November 15, the Orinda Woman's Club (OWC) will host the 32nd annual Festival of Trees at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel (2600 Bishop Drive). Guests will enjoy a festive luncheon and a fashion show featuring designer clothing from Helen Lyall and emceed by Dan Ashley of Channel 7 News. The event will also include a silent auction, with a wide variety of premium items up for bid, including three beautiful quilts by Liz Piatt, a signed football by Steve Young with authenticity certificate, a round of golf at the Contra Costa Country Club, and two one-night certificates (that can be used on the same weekend) at the Hotel Griffon in San Francisco. OWC will also raffle off beautifully decorated gift baskets,

wreaths and table-top trees, and will offer up two special destination raffles with the chance to win two nights at the Claremont Hotel and Spa or two nights at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas with a \$200 dining credit.

The Orinda Woman's Club is a nonprofit organization that provides help for women and children in need and the Festival of Trees is its biggest fundraiser of the year. This year, the event will benefit the Contra Costa Crisis Center and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Contra Costa (NAMICC). For more information on the Festival of Trees, call Betty Brotherton at 925 963-6356 or to buy tickets, go to www.orindawomansclub.org/news.

— Lynn Kalmar, Assistant Editor

12th Annual Artisan Faire in Orinda

Join your friends and neighbors at the annual Artisan Faire on Friday, Nov. 9, from 4-7:30 p.m. at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, where complimentary wine tasting will also be available.

The 12th Artisan Faire will support two charities this year: the Rescue One Foundation and the Kerosene Lamp Foundation. Tickets will be available to purchase for an auction of some of the amazing artwork donated by the artists with the proceeds going to the Rescue One Foundation. Some of the proceeds from sales of the children's books written by retired Golden State Warrior, Adonal Foyle, will go to the Kerosene Lamp Foundation, which empowers youth to become healthy and well-educated leaders.

"The exciting variety of work offered by local artists makes this Faire a must see," says organizer Gail Solt. "Ceramics, glass, jewelry, paintings, fashion and biker art are just a few of the items presented. Some of your favorite artists are returning, but there are always new artists to capture your imagination."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Illustrator **Greg Chapman** will be presenting his colorful dog paintings at this year's Artisan Faire.

One of the new artists this year is Greg Chapman. "Greg is an illustrator and has done some amazing pictures of our favorite dog friends. Be one of the first to have your own dog's likeness done in this creative manner," adds Solt.

For more information, contact Solt at gailsolt@gmail.com.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

◆ VETERANS 2 from page 12

Benning, Georgia, for Infantry Officers Basic and Airborne (parachute) training before serving with the 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division in Korea. I served as platoon leader and led daylight patrols in the Demilitarized Zone and night stakeouts just below it. I was also a staff officer as the operations and training officer. I finished my last two years at Ft. Ord, California.

The Lamorinda VFW gives away free poppies but accepts donations on Veteran's

and Memorial Days at the U.S. Post Offices in Lafayette and Orinda and at Lafayette's Diablo Foods. The Post sponsors several Boy and Cub Scout troops and also supports the Poly-Trauma Center in Palo Alto, the Concord Veteran's Center, and Veteran organizations in need. During the recent Santa Rosa fire, VFW 8063 bought myriad supplies from Costco, loaded trucks and trailers, and passed the supplies out to those in the affected areas. Additionally, they gave thousands of dollars, money from poppy donations, to help area veterans.

Elect Dennis Fay Orinda City Council

- Over 20 year Orinda resident with wife Natalie & two children
- Master's Degree in Engineering from MIT
- Over 40 years experience working in the transportation field
- Current member & past chair Orinda's Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC)
- Orinda Volunteer of Year Award 2006, Infrastructure Committee

dennis4orinda.com



I will focus on:

- Completing the repair of our roads and securing long term maintenance funding
- Revitalizing Orinda's downtown – Action is needed now. We can't sit back and hope good things will happen

I am committed to:

- Open, accessible communication and a collaborative approach to problem solving.
- Preserving what makes our community outstanding while preparing for the future.
- Maintaining local land use control.
- Keeping our community safe with a commitment to crime and fire prevention.
- Fiscal responsibility and commitment to a sustainable underpinning for the City of Orinda's annual budget.

"I have known Dennis for over 20 years. He will be a great Orinda City Council member, will listen to all views and will work hard for the City."

- Mark DeSaulnier, U.S. Congressman

Community leaders and citizens endorse Dennis Fay for Orinda City Council:

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Mark Desaulnier, U.S. Congressman | Member | Julie Atkinson | Mary Eggersten | Kristi Haigh | Charles Levine | Carol Penskar | Richard Stanaro |
| Steve Glazer, California State Senator | Riki Sorenson, Former OUSD Board Member | Jill Baker | Tom Eggersten | Art Haigh | Annette Linney | Mark Penskar | Eleanor Sylvester |
| Dean Orr, Orinda City Councilmember | Member | Cindy Barber | Ethan Elkind | Trish Harwood | Mike Linney | Maureen Perata | George Talbot |
| Darlene Gee, Orinda City Councilmember | Pamela West, Former OUSD Board Member | Sandy Barnett | Jessica Elkind | Helen Hasselman | Peter Locke | Glen Petersen | Lucyanne Talbot |
| Bill Judge, Former Orinda Mayor | Member | Lauren Bennett | Ingrid Evans | Peter Hasselman | Kevin Loscotoff | Nicole Portet | William Talbot |
| Sue Severson, Former Orinda Mayor | Linda Landau, Former OUSD Board Member and 2010 Orinda Citizen of the Year | Steve Bennett | Adam Fecadu | Arianne Hatton | Trudi Loscotoff | Olivier Portet | Kathleen Thompson |
| Victoria Smith, Former Orinda Mayor | Member | Larry Bigman | Jill Fernald Levine | Robert Hatton | Bill Maimone | Jim Quirk | Tom Trowbridge |
| Brad Barber, MOFD President | Don Perata, Former President pro tempore, California Senate | Elizabeth Bilotti | Kevin Fick | Pete Heckler | Janet Maimone | Yoni Mayeri | Lynn Trowbridge |
| Craig Jorgens, MOFD Board Member | Janet Pease, Orinda Citizen of the Year 1993 | Steve Burrows | Marcia Fick | Gayl Hirschfeld | David M. Mayeri | Peggy Quirk | Clark Wallace |
| John Jex, MOFD Board member | Steve Harwood, Orinda Citizen of the Year 1999 | Bob Burt | Kathleen Finch | Harlan Hirschfeld | Bette Michelotti | Elizabeth Reynolds | Bill Waterman |
| Alex Evans, Former MOFD Board Member | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Karen Burt | Robert Finch | Shelley Hubner | Matt Miller | Terry Riggins | Sheila Wendt |
| Robert Hubner, Orinda CIOC Chairman | Dick Burkhalter, Orinda Volunteer of the Year 2014 | David Calkins | Bob Fisher | Sue Hurrell | Rachel Miller | Colleen Ritter | Bob West |
| Jud Hammon, Orinda CIOC Member | Greg Haet, Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Commission and Founder of Bike Orinda | David Calkins | Ellie Fisher | Michelle Insalaco | Eile Murphy | Pete Ritter | Steve Whitgob |
| William Hurrell, Orinda CIOC Member | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Carol Chung | Dennis Fitzpatrick | Sharon Iversen | Claire Roberts | Clare Roberts | Laura Lee Wittenberg |
| Richard Nelson, Orinda CIOC Member | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Steve Cohn | Peggy Fitzpatrick | Elisabeth Jewel | Mark Roberts | Mark Roberts | Tim Woodbury |
| Terry J. Murphy, Orinda CIOC Member, Orinda Volunteer of the Year 2009 | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Barbara Conley | Mark Fuhrman | Leslie Johnson | Pam Severson | Pam Severson | Marinda Wu |
| Lee Bigman, Former Orinda Planning Commissioner | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Bill Cosden | Yvonne Fuhrman | Barbara Jones | Ralph Severson | Ralph Severson | Norm Wu |
| Michele Jacobson, Former Orinda Planning Commissioner | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Keiko Cresante | Glen Gagon | Urrea Jones | Claire Smith | Claire Smith | John Zentner |
| Chris Severson, Former OUSD Board President | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Rose Anne Critchfield | Kellyn Gagon | Lisa Jorgens | Doug Smith | Doug Smith | Meg Zentner |
| Nancy Kaible, Former OUSD Board Member | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Ellen Dale | Dennis Gee | Rachel Kane | Gregory Smith | Gregory Smith | |
| | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Joffa Dale | Brett Gilbert | Bergen Kenny | Wick Smith | Wick Smith | |
| | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Weifeng Dong | Nikki Gilbert | Carolyne Knoll | Ann Sorenson | Ann Sorenson | |
| | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Ali Dong | Eugene Gottfried | Jim Landau | Lee Sorenson | Lee Sorenson | |
| | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | T. Eric Drasin | M'Liss Greenlee | Craig Larsen | Andy Sorenson | Andy Sorenson | |
| | Greg Haet, Orinda Citizen of the Year, 2012 | Mark Atherton | Katharine Guptill | Kirsten Larsen | Cynthia Stanaro | Cynthia Stanaro | |

Titles for identification only. Partial list of endorsers.

SCHOOLS



ASHLEY GOVAN

Assemblywoman **Catharine Baker** presents **Toris Jaeger** with a Joint Resolution by the State of California in honor of her work as an educator at Wagner Ranch Nature Area.

Community Honors Educator Toris Jaeger

On Saturday, Sept. 29, more than 125 guests gathered at the Orinda Community Center for a formal dinner to honor Toris Jaeger for her service and dedication as a teacher and naturalist at Wagner Ranch Nature Area. For 40 years, Jaeger has educated Orinda's schoolchildren on everything from identifying berries and bay leaves to making acorn meal according to Native American traditions. Over 10,000 students have visited the 18-acre nature preserve during her tenure, learning valuable lessons that could only be taught in an outdoor classroom.

The dinner was attended by Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, Mayor Amy Worth, OUSD Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Seaton, as well as many of the parents, volunteers and teachers who have worked with Jaeger over the years. Mayor Worth declared Sept. 30, 2018 as "Toris Jaeger Day" in Orinda, and the beloved educator

was presented with a Joint Resolution by the State of California and a proclamation by the City of Orinda. Alex Filippenko, professor of astrophysics at UC Berkeley, delivered the keynote address entitled "A Life of Science Inspired by a Love of the Outdoors."

With every seat taken, the sold-out event was a success both as a celebration of Jaeger's incredible work over the course of her career and as a fundraiser for Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The evening was generously sponsored by Village Associates Real Estate and Computers & Structures, Inc., and more than \$40,000 was raised in Jaeger's honor to support outdoor education programs that benefit Orinda's students. Visit www.fwrna.org to make a donation to Wagner Ranch Nature Area and to watch "TORIS," a tribute film honoring Jaeger for her life's work.

— Lynn Kalmar, Assistant Editor

Scores for Orinda Schools Among Highest in the State

By LYNN KALMAR
Assistant Editor

Last month, the California Department of Education released the results of the 2018 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) online tests in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, with Orinda schools scoring well above the state average. In the Orinda Union School District (OUSD), comprised of the four elementary schools and one intermediate school, students in grades three through eight complete the annual CAASPP testing. This year, 88 percent of those students met or exceeded standards in ELA, and 85 percent met that same benchmark in mathematics, an overall improvement on the 2017 results.

"These scores are a direct result of dedicated and knowledgeable teachers, staff, and administrators, the unwavering parent and community support of Orinda's public schools, and students who come to school engaged and ready to learn," remarked Dr. Carolyn Seaton, OUSD superintendent of schools.

This is the fourth year of CAASPP online testing for California's public school students, and while OUSD performs well year to year, district administrators say they continue to strive for greater student growth and achievement. David Schrag, director of curriculum and instruction, noted, "We are consistently impressed by the collective work of our students, staff, and parents that merited these results. We also are aware of students who have not yet reached our achievement goals, and we are redoubling our efforts to support these students in realizing their academic potential." Dr. Seaton

added, "We will not rest on our laurels. We will continue to analyze our CAASPP data and other indicators to identify ways to improve teaching and learning across the district."

Schrag presented an overview of Orinda's CAASPP results to the OUSD Board of Trustees at their regular meeting on Oct. 8. Comparative CAASPP results by school or district as published by EdSource can be found at <http://caaspp.edsources.org/>. OUSD's 2018 CAASPP scores place the district second in ELA and seventh in mathematics for all California school districts with 500 or more students enrolled.

◆ GALLERY from page 2

because two of her works are in faraway lands - *Cinque Terre*, 26" x 20" and *Poppy Field Near Spello, Italy*, 30" x 22," both of which are watercolors.

As to the value of art to our community Sutton says, "I think art is a valuable vehicle for kind communication and kind communication is an invitation to soften into something new." Kutzscher's view is simple: "We want them to see and enjoy. No rules or requirements." Murray is more reflective: "All people need art in their lives to give a sense of the connectivity between what is seen and what can be imagined."

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours - Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Nov. 11 and 12 for Veteran's Day, closes at 6 p.m. on Nov. 21 and will be closed all day Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

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Partial list.
Titles for identification purposes only.

SCHOOLS/CHILDREN

Mindful Littles and Teens Help Las Trampas Students with Art Projects



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cheryl Havitatos of Orinda's Mindful Littles and a Carondelet High School student work on a craft project with an adult student at Las Trampas.

By **SALLY HOGARTY**
Editor

Orinda's Mindful Littles are busier than ever as the holidays approach. On Oct. 10, several adults from the group, including founder and Executive Director Tanuka Gordon, hosted girls from the wellness program at Concord's Carondelet High School at a special arts and crafts event at Las Trampas School. The Lafayette school has been providing services to people with developmental disabilities and their fami-

lies since 1958.

The day started with a combined yoga/ mindfulness practice before breaking into various small groups to make the arts and crafts. The beaded bracelets, lavender sachets and painted pots, will be sold at the First Annual Peace and Kindness Carnival on Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Orinda Community Park, 28 Orinda Way. The carnival will include games and crafts, a live band, food trucks, a bouncy house and a chance to meet local veterans. Proceeds will benefit Mindful Littles activities.

◆ COUNCIL from page 11

and repair, downtown development and revitalization to zoning, land usage issues and fiscal responsibility, among many others.

The event was moderated by Martha Goralka, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, who solicited and organized questions from local residents. Each candidate was given an equally limited amount of time to personally address issues of concern and establish rapport and connection with audience members.

"Orinda is very fortunate to have these highly qualified candidates eager to serve on our City Council," said Cindy Powell, president of The Orinda Association, sponsor of the event. "Although this will be a hotly-contested election, the atmosphere at the forum was cordial and respectful."

Phillips has served as a council member since her election in 2014, serving a term as mayor in 2017. She plans to continue to apply her council and extensive technology project managerial experience to upcoming decisions facing our city. More information can be found on her website, www.evefororinda.com.

Jenkins plans to draw from her 35-year professional career as a contract manager,

which consisted of negotiating and awarding multi-million-dollar contracts with universities, federal agencies and private corporations. More information can be found on her website, www.votejkenkins.com.

Fay is a current member and past chair of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission and is eager to continue to apply his professional knowledge as a retired transportation engineer to the roads issues. More information can be found on his website, www.dennis4orinda.com.

Kosla is an experienced community planner and hopes to apply his knowledge to benefit downtown development. Married and the father of two school-aged daughters, he is a past chair of the Orinda Planning Commission. More information can be found on his website, www.koslaforcouncil.org.

Amy Worth, who earned the moniker "Fourth Bore Mayor," has been elected to consecutive terms on the Orinda City Council since 1998. In December 2017, she was elected to her fourth term as mayor. More information can be found on her website, www.AmyWorthforOrinda.com.

Registered voters can mark their ballots for three of the five candidates. The general election will take place on Nov. 6.



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SCHOOL CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1 **Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, No school. Teacher In Service Day.
Wagner Ranch Elementary School. No school. Teacher In Service Day.
- 2 **Glorietta Elementary School**, 9 a.m. The First Thanksgiving! Fifth graders prepare and enjoy a full Thanksgiving Feast!
- 5 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. Sports Booster's meeting
- 7 **Acalanes Union High School District** 7 p.m. governing board meeting. Also, Nov. 28.
- 8 **Miramonte High School**, 12:30 p.m. Therapy Dogs on Quad
Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. The Miramonte Players take on two of Shakespeare's most problematic plays: *Taming of the Shrew* and *Merchant of Venice*. Shakespeare's relevance rings particularly loud as he reveals the treatment of marginalized characters in his society. There will be a talk-back with members of the cast and creative team after the Friday night performance. Both plays will run all three nights and tickets are available on the Miramonte web store. Through Nov. 10.
- 12 **All Schools** Closed for Veteran's Day
- 14 **Miramonte High School**, 9:30 a.m. Parents Club Meeting.
Holden High School, Board of Trustees meeting.
- 19 **All Schools**, closed for Thanksgiving through Nov. 23.
- 27 **Del Rey Elementary School**, 3-5 p.m. *Aladdin Jr.* Also Nov. 29, 3:30 p.m.
- 28 **Del Rey Elementary School**, 9 a.m. Bedford Gallery Field Trip. Also, Nov. 29.

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

Begun in 2016 by Gordon, Mindful Littles empowers children and families to engage in mindful compassionate action through service learning experiences, creative yoga, mindfulness programs and parenting resources.


The Mindful Littles also have a Halloween Celebration planned for the students at Las Trampas on Oct. 28. Buddy Pairs from Best Buddies International, an organization that creates opportunities for [SEE LITTLES page 19]



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RE-ELECT
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Moraga - Orinda Fire District

I bring six years of MOFD Board experience. With a new Board in December, I will be the most experienced Board member. All other Board members will have zero to two years of experience. I have an organizational memory of "what works" and "what doesn't work" within the MOFD framework and extensive experience working within the legal requirements of a California Special District. No conflicts of interest. Endorsed by all former Board Members over the last five years.



EXPERIENCE COUNTS
Without increased tax measures during my tenure, viable and realistic financial measures have been instituted including accurate accounting, clearly documented unfunded liabilities, and a pension stabilization fund to pay down all unfunded liabilities. As a Director, I have worked closely with our firefighters and emergency personnel to maintain the high quality and critical services our community expects. I provide the fiscal prudence, attention to detail, and cooperative leadership that enables a vigorous and time-sensitive MOFD response to our community's needs for fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services.

RESULTS COUNT

- MOFD has the highest ISO rating in its history – gold standard rating for a Fire District
- Implemented award-winning accounting and financial reporting procedures
- Identified and reduced the total unfunded liabilities within GASB 68 & 75 policies
- Established pension stabilization funds scheduled to pay off all unfunded liabilities

[Learn more about Steve at
www.andersonmofd.com](http://www.andersonmofd.com)

Paid for by Steve Anderson, FPPC# applied 9-18-2018

Fitness Tip of the Month

Be Consistent in Following One Eating Plan and Monitor Your Results in 3 Weeks

What's worse than a bad eating plan is a good eating plan that you are not sticking to.

Eat on plan consistently for 3 weeks and measure the change to see if your eating plan worked.



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



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Orinda Artist Featured in Moraga's "Holiday Magic in Porcelain and Paint"



School Street, Moraga, a 12" x 12" oil painting by Orinda artist **Maria SantoStefano**, is now on display at the Moraga Art Gallery.

By GEORGE EHRENHAFT
Contributing Writer

In the spirit of the season, the Moraga Art Gallery presents "Holiday Magic in Porcelain and Paint," a colorful new show featuring the works of two of Lamorinda's most celebrated artists: Lafayette's Donna Arganbright and Orinda's Maria SantoStefano.

Arganbright, the president of Lamorinda Arts Alliance and a long-time gallery member, creates beautifully-crafted, functional pottery: ceramic mugs, bowls, pitchers, and trays that flow with soft lines and burst with luscious blues, greens, and reds. Meant to be touched, taken home, and used every

day, her collection also includes "attitude figures" – vases disguised as posturing human figures, hands on hips, and clothed in fresh, bright-hued glazes.

Guest artist SantoStefano specializes in dazzling oil paintings — water and landscapes that capture the addictive beauty of the local scene as well as other Northern California places. Having studied with a veritable "Who's Who" of East Bay plein air artists, including Ann Marie and Pamela Glover, Theresa Onoda, Suzanne D'Arcy and John Finger, SantoStefano acknowledges their influence on her choice of colors, her distinctive brush strokes and the appealing dimensionality of shapes on

[SEE PORCELAIN page 22]

VOTE RED SMITH

Moraga Orinda Fire District Board

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Paid for by Red Smith for Moraga Orinda Fire District 2018, FPPC pending

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PERFORMING ARTS / SCHOOLS

Susie Falk's Final Bow at Cal Shakes

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

When the final curtain falls for Managing Director Susie Falk this season, she will, as always, bow out gracefully following her 14-year tenure at California Shakespeare Theater. On the stage, the energetic powerhouse has led thousands of Cal Shakes attendees each year to appreciate the hundreds of community contributors while always ending with a signature riff, a thank you, with the help of the audience, for Peet's Coffee.

Falk grew up with ties to the Cal Shakes

thrilled about getting to perform on the same stage Jim Carpenter and Michael McShane performed on, even if I was cast in a non-speaking part." Falk still lives in Berkeley with her husband, lighting designer York Kennedy, and their daughter Pippa.

Falk began her Cal Shakes career with a four-year stint as the company's marketing director. In 2009, she was promoted to managing director, a position charged with overseeing all marketing, sales, and public relations efforts for the theater while also tasking her with taking charge of the box office and the front of house operations. A leader on the team responsible for the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cal Shakes Managing Director **Susie Falk**, pictured with Artistic Director **Eric Ting**, will step down from her position at the end of the 2018 season.

theater community. As a teenager, the Berkeley native studied at Cal Shakes (then called Berkeley Shakespeare Festival), then performing at John Hinkel Park in *Comedy of Errors*.

Falk reminisces, "I remember being

company's successful rebranding, she participated in the effort that resulted in an increase of ticket revenue by 24 percent.

Falk notes that her work at Cal Shakes has taught her to find her authentic style and

[SEE FALK page 22]



MARY RANZAL

A group of third graders get their hands dirty in one of Sleepy Hollow Elementary's newly restored planter boxes.

School Gardens Grow with Help From Anonymous Donor

By LYNN KALMAR
Assistant editor

For the past several years, an anonymous donor has sent contributions to the Orinda garden clubs to facilitate and support community garden projects. The Orinda Valley Garden Club wishes to publicly acknowledge these donations, and as a show of thanks, explain how this year's contribution has benefitted the community. Orinda's four elementary schools were the primary beneficiaries, each receiving a portion of the gift to be directed toward their

individual on-campus gardens.

At Del Rey Elementary, Principal Kirsten Theurer said that, under the care of their garden coordinator, the added funds will be used to repair planter beds, as well as purchase more soil for the beds and bark for weed control. She expressed her appreciation for the unexpected donation, saying, "A big thank you to our anonymous donor for supporting school gardens! Our garden is a beautiful spot on campus, and well utilized by students as they engage with the environment."

[SEE GARDENS page 22]



NICK KOSLA

for

COUNCIL

"Nick is well qualified, and will be a positive force on the City Council."

— Steve Harwood, Citizen of the Year



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PAID FOR by NICK KOSLA for ORINDA CITY COUNCIL 2018, FPCC#: 1411040

* Partial List of over 300 supporters

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OLIVE FESTIVAL

Highlights of the Ninth Orinda Olive Festival at Nature Area

By KATHARINE BARRETT
Contributing Writer

On October 14, over 500 families gathered to celebrate the Wagner Ranch Nature Area and its historic olive grove planted in the 1800s. The weather was perfect, and the Orinda Ukulele Band lured visitors into the grove with lively tunes. The Academy of Language and Music Arts (A.L.M.A.) once again provided inspiring music and songs from their students



WADE BARRETT
The Contra Costa Avian Society brought a number of friendly parrots to the event.

throughout the festival.

The opportunities to sample California's superb extra virgin olive oils (EVOO), were the best ever this year, with five local vendors sharing their expertise and award-winning products. Nate Bradley from Amphora Nueva in Lafayette returned for the fifth year providing visitors with a wonderful variety of EVOO and balsamic vinegars. Gina Sans from Calvirgin was back for a third year with her signature varieties of EVOO and balsamic vinegars. Calolea, from Choctaw Trail, Loma Rica, shared its award-winning products. First-time vendors included: Grumpy Goats from Capay Valley and Scopus from Glen Ellen. The Chef's Demonstration Tent featured Brad McCullough's olive tapenade and olive pesto creations. Audience members received complementary Lindsay "Naturals" olives to take home.

The Friends of the Nature Area hosted the "All about Olives" table in the grove so visitors could enjoy eating Kalamata olives and Bell Carter Lindsay's Naturals' line of olives. Once again, the Pit Spit Challenge was very popular as a source of delicious olives whose pits were then used to hit



WADE BARRETT
Dr. James Fiatarone and A.L.M.A. students (L-R) Annika Spah, Charlie Richtenburg, Bobby Silverman and Owen Bige entertained attendees.

targets. Diablo Foods generously provided gift card prizes and a variety of deli olives for contestants to nibble and reveal the pits for use in target practice! There were also opportunities for visitors to win or bid on olive products in the raffle and silent auction. Embracing the theme of olives and peace, children and adults wore leafy olive crowns, which they crafted from fresh boughs. It was a grand day for promoting

the Nature Area trails to the old homestead, site of the blacksmith's shop, and olive grove. The Orinda Historical Society, staffed by Terry Murphy, Kay Norman and Betty Karplus, showcased the artifacts that children have unearthed from the Wagner Ranch ruins. Architect James Wright shared the history and eco-friendly architecture of the Old Yellow House he restored and shares as an educational gem.



WADE BARRETT
A favorite activity at the Olive Festival is always discovering the various fish, insects and turtles that live in and around the Ann Morton Pond.

olives and healthful olive oils!

The Contra Costa Avian Society dazzled children and adults with their variety of friendly parrots. The gorgeous birds traveled on shoulders around the festival. Other popular activities included: Nature Tattoos by Coyote Brush Studio, Decorating Tiles, Friends of the Orinda Creeks, and exploring the pond. Retired professor John Helms guided parties of children and adults along

Jim Strickler wowed youngsters with popular Science and Art activities. Children were rewarded at Steve Gentry's Honey Bee station with honey sticks for having their Olive Passports stamped at the activity stations. Children were fascinated by Steve's demonstration hive, where the workers and queen go about their business unaware of the children's wide eyes. Pro-

[SEE FESTIVAL page 19]

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PRESCHOOLS / CONGO

Lamorinda Preschool Fair Pulls it All Together for Parents

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Lamorinda Moms (LM) 21st annual preschool fair Thursday, Nov. 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Oakwood Athletic Club Gym is expected to buzz with excitement as littles and their parents meet area preschool personnel face to face. This nonprofit organization has sponsored the event, free to the public, each year since 1998 to help parents choose just the right preschool.

Parents who want to talk about teaching philosophies, child-to-teacher ratios and pricing will get answers to their questions from preschool teachers and directors from more than 30 schools. A comprehensive booklet is provided for each family to take home; it will also be available as a PDF on the Lamorinda Moms website, www.lamorindamoms.org, after Nov. 13.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Education, "Children who attend high-quality

preschool programs are less likely to utilize special education services or be retained in their grade, and are more likely to graduate from high school, go on to college, and succeed in their careers than those who have not attended high-quality preschool programs." (Center for Public Education 2008, quoted in A Matter of Equity, U.S. Dept. of Education, 2015.)

LM suggests the following basic information questions:

Is the preschool accredited?

When did the preschool last go through the accreditation process?

How is the preschool organized (one room, multiple rooms, centers)?

Does the preschool have lunch bunch, drop off or reduced participation programs?

What is the process for dropping off and picking up a child?

What is the admission policy?

When are admission decisions made?

Is toilet training required?

What happens if my child has separation anxiety?

How does the preschool resolve conflicts between children?

LM suggests the following curriculum questions:

What is the preschool's philosophy?

Describe the preschool's typical daily schedule.

Is the preschool's program more structured or more open play?

What is the curriculum for a given month?

What does the outdoor play yard look like?

Is there an outside curriculum?

Are there any field trips?

Is there a focus upon specific areas of development?

Local sponsors of the event who offer supplemental programs for preschool children such as East Bay Music Together,

Gymboree, the Tutu School of Walnut Creek and others will also be present. Attendees will be able to take a chance on a raffle ticket to benefit The Mosaic Project, a nonprofit organization whose mission is uniting children of diverse backgrounds by providing community building skills.

LM is a social and support group for moms with children age six and younger within the greater Lamorinda area and strives to help members enrich their lives through cultivating new friendships, personal and professional growth and community involvement. Since its inception in 1995, Lamorinda Moms has evolved to become one of the largest parenting organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In addition to a variety of age, neighborhood and interest based play groups, LM hosts events for its members throughout the year as well as events open to the greater community, including non-members, such as the preschool fair. Linda Lathrop, co-chair of the preschool fair event, encourages moms to ask questions about the event via email at preschoolfair@lamorindamoms.org. The event is held at the Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., in Lafayette.

Orindans Katie Thomson and Kendall Glynn met through LM and, although their children are older, they are still obsessed with baby food. That's because they are partners in Square Baby, a business they launched in August. Their Square Meal System™ provides 100 percent of a baby's daily recommended servings of fruit, veggies, proteins and grains with customized meal plans delivered right to your door. Boring is not on the menu; you'll find healthy fats like avocado oil and coconut milk as well as sprouted grains, lentils and Salba chia. Protein sources include salmon, egg and bone broth – rarely found in existing baby foods. Everything is made fresh in small batches in a local commercial-certified organic kitchen. Visit them at 2 Orinda Theatre Square #112 or online at www.squarebaby.com.

LOPC Celebrates the Congo in November

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

"Celebrate the Congo" will take place Nov. 4 from 12 to 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, with Congolese food, music, dance, cultural talk and fashion show. Lunch is \$7 and can be paid at the door or by calling Jim Fulford at 925-254-5419.

"It will be a joyous occasion," says Herb Long, Congo mission team chair at LOPC. "There will also be an opportunity to learn about conditions in the Congo today as the humanitarian conditions in the Democratic Republic remain in crisis. The Congolese people, however, have a vibrant, multi-faceted culture that we want to share with the community."

Mboyo Therese Okitukunda, the featured speaker, was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She came to the United States after completing two years at the University of Kinshasa. She earned her teaching credential at Foothill and Modesto community colleges and became an associate teacher at Early Head Start. Her passion for education and learn-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mboyo Therese Okitukunda, a teacher who grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is the featured speaker at the Nov. 4 event.

ing led her to pursue a degree in nursing in 2014. She is a wife and mother of six children. Topics of discussion include historical background, tribes and languages, and contributions to world civilization.

A fashion show will be presented by

Esther Nkunku, an American born designer who traces her roots from the DRC. After completing her studies in the Congo, Nkunku returned to America to pursue further studies in fashion design at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. In 2006, she launched her clothing design business producing a combination of traditional African and western styles. She is skilled in experimental fabric-manipulation, such as pleating, appliqué, layering and gathering.

Featured dancer, Byb Chanel Bibene, is a dance educator, choreographer and performer, working in theater and contemporary dance and has performed around the world. He received an MFA in Dance Creative Practice from Saint Mary's College. He founded the Mbongui Square Festival that gathers artists from the Bay Area and across the world. In addition, he is the author of numerous poems and short works.

"It seems most of us did not learn much about Africa in school, an important area on the world stage. This afternoon's presentations will provide an excellent opportunity to learn about one of its countries, the DCR," Long says.

◆ LITTLES from page 15

people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, will also join in the fun, which will include wearing favorite Halloween costumes, games, art projects and refreshments.

For more information on Orinda's Mindful Littles and its activities, go to www.mindfullittles.org.

◆ FESTIVAL from page 18

Professor Dan Phillips delighted youngsters with hands-on chemistry activities, and children used magnifiers to compare garden insects and plants at the Ask a Master Gardener station, which provided fascinating information about the practices and art of gardening.

At 2 p.m., naturalist Toris Jaeger announced this year's Nature Area Champions. Mary McCauley, of McCauley's Olive Grove in Brentwood, was honored for her role in the first Olive Festival in 2010 and for continuing to provide olive oil tastings for seven years. Local educator Ann Alton was honored for her Native American storytelling and the years of organizing summer camps for local Native American children. The following Eagle Scouts were thanked for their projects to improve wildlife habitat and wheel chair access in the Nature Area: Kendall Law - crushed granite entrance way to the garden; Daniel Lucas - two crushed granite walks by raised beds in garden; Alex Meckes - crushed granite pathway to the new bridge; and Kobi Martin - relining and restoring the Sue Graf Pond.

Contra Costa County's only Olive Festival, which is conducted by the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (FWRNA), raised funds to support the outdoor environmental education programs for children and youth. Educational activities at the site, which is owned by the Orinda Union School District, provide a tangible link to the history of olive culture in California.

More than 150 volunteers and presenters joined forces, including: teens and youth from Scout programs, Others First at Orinda Intermediate School; Miramonte High School; A.L.M.A.; National Charity League; Boys Team Charity; Troop 237 and many community volunteers. For more details about the Friends, visit the website www.fwrna.org.

The FWRNA thanks the following generous sponsors: Bell Carter - Lindsay Olives, Mechanics Bank of Orinda, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Orinda Optometry Group, Diablo Foods, Orinda True Value, and olive vendors - Amphora Lafayette, Calivirgin of Lodi, Calolea of Loma Rica, Scopus of Glen Ellen, and Grumpy Goats of Capay.

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1 **Moraga Art Gallery**, noon, Holiday Magic in Porcelain and Paint, featuring the pottery of Donna Arganbright and the paintings of Maria SantoStefano. Through Jan. 5, 2019. At 522 Center Street, Moraga, 925-376-5407. See article p. 16.
Taste of the World Market, 5 p.m. Weekly food truck event features a different mix of trucks and entertainment. To see which food trucks will be present, visit www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style. Also, Nov. 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- 2 **International Film Showcase**, 7 p.m. film present the Danish film, *The Guilty* at the Orinda Theatre through Nov. 8 and at the Rheem Theatre from Nov. 9 - 15. A policeman on leave waiting for a trial is put on emergency call duty (similar to 911). A call comes in that will keep you on the edge of your seat! Showtimes will be available five days before opening at: www.lamorindatheatres.com.
- 3 **Saint Mary's College**, 10 a.m., Financial Success: 5 Steps Women Can Take to Ensure Financial Fitness, Delphine Lounge at the Saint Mary's College with Michelle Perry Higgins. Contact Courtney Bennett, cab35@stmarys-ca.edu.
Orinda Books, 2 p.m. presents Oliver James, author and illustrator of *The Birds of Berkeley*. See article p. 24.*
- 4 **Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church**, Noon. "Celebrate the Congo" with Congolese food, music, dance, cultural talk and fashion show. Lunch is \$7 and can be paid at the door or by calling Jim Fulford at 925-254-5419. See article p. 19.
Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 2:30 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments and meet the six artists who make up the Creative Strokes Collective and their teacher Linda Sutton, 26 Orinda Way, 925-254-2184. See article page 2.
Mindful Littles, 3 p.m. Mindful Meals for the Homeless, Partnering with some local chefs for our Cookin' for a Cause program. We are helping Operation Dignity. For more information and to register, please visit us at: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDEwMjA=.
- 8 **City of Orinda**, 10:30 a.m. How to Tell Your Own Story Workshop with Nishant Batsha. We will go over some of the best practices for getting your story from idea to page. Orinda Community Center, Room 5.
Film Classics Showcase, 6:30 p.m. showing *Deliverance* at the Orinda Theater.
Lamorinda Moms, 6:30 p.m. Preschool Fair at the Oakwood Athletic Club Gym. See article p. 19.
Orinda Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Maureen McGovern Concert. Tickets are \$55-75 and can be purchased at lamorindatheatres.com.
- 9 **Artisan Faire**, 4 p.m. Supports Rescue One Foundation and Kerosene Lamp Foundation, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. See article p. 13.
- 10 **Mindful Littles**, 10:30 a.m. Kindness Book Club at the Orinda Library free for all families in the community. Read a book on a special kindness theme or do a fun creative art project. For more information and to register, please visit us at: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDMwMDQ=.
- 12 **Mindful Littles**, 10 a.m. 1st Annual Peace & Kindness Carnival. An endless array of fun, games and time with veterans to come celebrate Peace & Kindness on this special day! For more information and to register, please visit us at: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDMwMDg=.
Orinda Books, 10:30 a.m. The Poetry Circle will meet to read and discuss the work of Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey. They meet monthly and welcome anyone interested in poetry.*
- 14 **City of Orinda**, 9:30 a.m. Castello di Amorosa Tour and Wine Tasting Senior Day Trip. Hacienda de las Flores (2100 Donald Drive, Moraga); fees: \$65. Enjoy a guided tour and private tasting of premium wines at the authentically-built, 13th century inspired Tuscan castle. Lunch will follow the tour at the Oxbow Public Market.
- 15 **Orinda Woman's Club (OWC)**, 10 a.m., Festival of Trees. For more information call Betty Brotherton at 925 963-6356 or go to www.orindawomansclub.org. See article p. 13.
Saint Mary's College Guild's Thanksgiving Luncheon, 11 a.m. in the Soda Center, Saint Mary's College. A traditional Thanksgiving meal with turkey, stuffing and all the fixings will be available. Reservations should be sent to Carmen Hughes, 26 Inverleith Terrace, Moraga, CA 94556. For more information, call Carmen at (925) 376-7365
Orinda Books, 6:30 p.m. Michael Ross will introduce his latest collection, *Ross's Personal Discoveries*, a carefully collated collection of 106 favorite literary quotes from the over 1500 well-read books on his shelves.*
- 27 **Women of Spirit Gathering**, 7 p.m. Women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women of diverse faith traditions. Inspiring speakers, discussion at table groups. We are not affiliated with any religious institution, and are open to all. For more information, see www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3776 Via Granada, Moraga.
- 30 **Children's Health Guild 2018 Holiday Boutique & Luncheon** at the Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco. Proceeds benefit UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital & George Mark Children's House. For more info/tickets visit <https://chguild.ejoinme.org/2018HolidayLuncheon>.
- * **Orinda Books** is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. The Library will be closed on Nov. 12 and 22.

- 1 **Computer Help**. 1 - 2 p.m. or 2 - 3 p.m. Receive help on computer matters from a knowledgeable volunteer. Registration required. Focus on beginning users. Please sign up online for a one-hour session or call 925-254-2184. Also November 8, 15, 29.
ESL Conversation Group. 1- 2:30 p.m. Local volunteer ESL teachers lead group discussions with ESL learners. Free and open to all. Come talk and learn English with us! Also November 8, 15, 29.
- 5 **Maker Mondays**. 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the Gallery Room. Whether it is crafts, Legos, or Minecraft, there's always something creative going on for kids during Maker Monday! Also November 19, 26.
- 6 **Toddler Storytime**. 10 and 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes for 1 1/2 year olds to 3 year-olds and their caregivers. No registration, but please do not attend more than one Toddler Lapsit a week. Also November 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28.
Baby Storytime. 11:30 a.m. For infants through prewalkers (18 months) and their caregivers. Also November 13, 20, 27.

Lamorinda Big Band at OCC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Lamorinda Big Band featuring (L-R) **Michael Henning**, **Leslie Darwin O'Brien**, **Terry Miller** and (not pictured) Brian Nova debuts Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. Come to dance or just to listen. Tickets \$20 at the door. The performance benefits Terry's Kids, a nonprofit that provides music education to underserved communities.

- 8 **Timeless Traditions: Expressions of the Divine and Human in Indian Art an Asian Art Museum Docent Lecture** 11 a.m. - noon. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 10 **Kindness Book Club**. 10:30 a.m. - noon. Read a book, practice heart-centered movements and do a fun creative art project with Mindful Littles. For families with kids ages 4-11.
Homemade Holidays. 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Join collage artist Valerie Adinolfi to make hand-made holiday crafts including gift tags and gift bags. All materials provided. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Registration required.
- 13 **Orinda Writers' Group**. 6:30 - 8 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group. Also November 27.
- 16 **Mystery Book Club**. 3 - 4:30 p.m. Join us as we uncover and discuss the new mystery book of the month.
- 19 **Cat Castles!** (Maker Monday Special). 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Make a fun cardboard spot for your feline friend or other small pet. Supplies provided. Families welcome. Generously supported by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 29 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**. Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month. 7 - 9 p.m.

CLUB MEETINGS

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)** General meetings third Tues., <http://oml-ca.aauw.net> or email Marty Schimbor at mgschimbor@comcast.net. 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.
- 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 our beautiful space. Contact Gaby for more details: gcmzee@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. Nov. 15, 11:30 a.m. at the Orinda Country Club. Please join us to hear a guest speaker discussing a current political topic. For more information www.facebook.com/Lamorinda-Republican-Women-Federated-136134033113066 or www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org. Luncheon & Speaker \$36.00 Speaker Only \$15.00; Speaker Only Student Discount price \$5. Contact Elsie Euing at ejeuing@comcast.net or 925-254-8614.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 328 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Nov. 2: Rotary member Steve Ware hosts an Alumni Reunion; Nov. 9: Rotary District Governor Jon Dwyer annual visit; Nov. 16: Club President Chris Laszcz-Davis with Dianne Wilson; Nov. 30: Club member exposé.
- 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. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way. All levels are welcome! Also Tuesday and Friday 6 p.m. \$5 donation. For more details, contact gcmzee@gmail.com
- Montelindo Garden Club** Third Friday, 9:30 a.m., September through May. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Nov. 16 at 9:30 a.m. Presentation: Saving the Monarch Butterfly with Victoria "Tora" Roche the former Park Supervisor for the City of Oakland. www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- 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.

CONTINUATIONS

◆ **STONE** from page 10

our border. Only one candidate running for Assembly has stood up to Trump time after time—and that's Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. When the Administration announced the Muslim ban, Rebecca rushed to SFO to coordinate legal services for those impacted. As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Rebecca recognizes the obligation she has to provide refugees and immigrants the same opportunities for the American Dream that her grandparents had. I know Rebecca will continue to fight the Administration's anti-immigrant policies, including ensuring state resources aren't used to enforce these policies or to divide children from their parents.

We need an Assembly member with integrity who will fight for what's right every time. I'm voting for Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for Assembly, and I hope my fellow Orindans will join me.

— Tamara Ireland Stone

◆ **Support Danziger**

We are writing to support Steven Michael Danziger for Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors in District 3.

We have known Steven for 20 years and he has always been a passionate community volunteer and dedicated public servant.

He is presently an Orinda Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Art in Public Places Committee Member and UC Master Gardener, who often is at the Moraga Farmer's Market talking with people about plants and gardening. In past years, Steven was Scoutmaster of Troop 57, Den Leader of Pack 52, OBA Coach, OYA Basketball and Soccer Coach and VP of the Miramonte Swim Club.

Steven is the only candidate in District 3 who has any fire service or governmental experience. Steven has over three decades of public service experience including 20 years as an Administrative Services Manager with the Oakland Fire Department. In that capacity, he was responsible for personnel, payroll, Workers' Compensation management, employee health programs, managing the automated staffing system, budgeting, recruitment, testing and more. Besides the fire department, he worked in the Oakland finance and city manager's office.

Steven also worked for the National Park Service and had the dream job of Yosemite Park Archeologist for several years. He has a Master's in Public Administration and is a Certified Public Sector HR Manager.

We believe that Steven's experience, leadership, responsiveness and passion for public service will benefit a Board that is mostly made up of people from the private

business world. Steven knows the Fire Service and has told us how proud and honored he is to be endorsed and supported by the local firefighters. Steven has been endorsed by over 20 current or retired Bay Area Fire Chiefs!

We know Steven and feel confident he will work hard in the best interests of the community. Steven's long history of public service and volunteering sets him apart from the other candidates and we have great confidence in recommending him. We are proud of our friend and ask you to vote for him because he will help make our community safer. Please vote for Steven Michael Danziger on Nov. 6, 2018. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

— Kelly and Greg Fernbacher

◆ **FALK** from page 17

voice as a leader. Because of its unpredictability, Falk claims outdoor theatre is "not for the faint of heart." She intimates, "The added factors of rain, heat, and smoke from wild fires as well as disruptions from wild life making impromptu stage debuts can be challenging. Yet, those moments — like when it starts to rain during *King Lear* or a cow moos loudly and an actor manages to incorporate it into her or his next line — these are moments I'll never forget."

Falk, who refused to play it safe in theatre, notes that some of Cal Shakes biggest successes during her tenure (including *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* and *black odyssey*) felt like the company's biggest risks. She enthuses, "When the right piece of theater lands at the right place and the right time, there's no place I'd rather be."

The company's current General Manager Tirzah Tyler, an eight-year veteran of Cal Shakes, will step into Falk's role as the company's interim managing director, partnering with Artistic Director Eric Ting to lead the company into and during the 2019 Cal Shakes season.

For now, Falk is happy taking a new place on the other side of the spotlight by joining the audience for the upcoming season which will include William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *MacBeth* as well as *The Good Person of Szechwan* by Bertolt Brecht and *The House of Joy* by Madhuri Shekar.

Falk concludes by pointing to the future she's helped envision: "Having worked with Artistic Director Eric Ting for three years now, I can say I'm incredibly excited to see how the theater will continue to re-define itself under his direction, and how the audience will continue to grow and evolve."

CALENDAR from page 21

- 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 at 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. Nov. 7, Salute to Veterans; Nov. 14 Miramonte Public Speaking Annual 4-Way Test Competition. Hear the talented students in Miramonte's Public Speaking Program compete for the annual 4-Way Test prize! Nov. 21 No Meeting (Thanksgiving Holiday); Nov. 28, Contra Costa County Search and Rescue — Seeking the Lost, Saving Lives. Learn about Contra Costa's everyday heroes in the Search and Rescue unit.
- 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.

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.** First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Visit www.mofd.org/board/meetings; meeting location will be posted on the agenda.
- Planning Commission.** Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

◆ **PORCELAIN** from page 16

her canvases.

Among several other guest artists, the eminent jeweler Jyotsa Chawler is making an encore appearance with samples adapted from treasures of regal jewelry and artifacts made by Jyotsa's family in centuries past.

The gallery's show, which also includes work by its 14-member artists, runs through Jan. 5. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center, at 522 Center Street, Moraga.

November hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 12 — 5 p.m. Extended December hours are from 10 a.m. — 6 p.m. daily through Dec. 24. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call 925-376-5407.

◆ **ADOBE** from page 7

acres in 2008.

J&J Ranch agreed to build around Joaquin Moraga's adobe home and to let FJMA purchase the site. After extensive restoration, much of which will be paid by J&J Ranch, FJMA plans to open a museum and learning center focused on the Rancho days of early California, including furnishings and demonstrations of daily life. Historic displays will tell the stories of families like the Moraga family while the edifice will also host rotating exhibits.

J&J Ranch is a 13-home subdivision currently under construction with sweeping views and lots ranging in size from .62 to 3.39 acres. The final map for the subdivision was approved by the City of Orinda in April of this year.

For more information on the restoration of the Moraga Adobe, go to www.moragaadobe.org.

◆ **GARDENS** from page 17

The contribution was a welcome surprise at Glorietta Elementary as well, particularly to Suzanne Havens Beckman, the Parents' Club vice president of community relations. Reacting to the gift, she stated, "We so appreciated the donation from the Garden Club. Glorietta was able to use the funds to tackle several things that needed to be done in our garden: replace soil in our grade-level raised planters; have our weather station repaired and repainted; and replace a few plants in our habitat border that had died."

At Wagner Ranch Elementary, school representatives expressed their thanks for the kind donation, and outlined a list of projects that could benefit from the increased funding. The list includes new garden beds with fresh soil, a display case near the garden entrance, a garden arch at the gate to the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, and additional native plants and mulch.

While at Sleepy Hollow Elementary, the anonymous gift provided financial support to a garden upgrade that was already underway. Parents' Club President Dana Chiappone explains "The donation came in at the perfect time as Orinda Boy Scout JP Nelson completed his Eagle Scout project of reconstructing and re-plumbing a large portion of the outdoor garden classroom. The planter boxes are now ready for our eager young gardeners."

The remaining funds were used by the Orinda Garden Club to spruce up planters in the downtown area on Orinda Action Day. The garden clubs, elementary schools and community at large all owe a debt of gratitude to the unnamed donor who has given so generously.

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Two Orinda Physicians Make a Difference for Indigenous Mayan Indians

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Dr. Donna Di Cenzo, an obstetrician/gynecologist, has been doing international humanitarian work for over 10 years. Six years ago, she discovered Hospital de la Familia (HDLF) in Guatemala where fellow Orinda resident Dr. Andy Sorenson, an ophthalmologist, has been volunteering for many years.

"I'm passionate about volunteering at the Hospital de la Familia because I am inspired by how doing small things for people who literally have nothing can make such a big difference in their lives," says DiCenzo. "It is rewarding to use skills from my medical training for such good causes. In America, we have so much and take so



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A nurse works with a young patient at the Hospital de la Familia in Guatemala.

much for granted whereas the people we serve in Nueva Progreso, an area with a largely indigenous Mayan Indian population, live such impoverished lives."

Sorenson adds, "This Western region of Guatemala is the poorest region in Latin America with the highest rates of malnutrition."

The two doctors have seen many unbelievable cases such as children as old as 15 who were unable to get cleft palate surgery until the hospital recently provided it. "That's a long time of not being able to eat properly and most likely being ostracized from their community," says DiCenzo. "They are reticent to go out of their house or attend school because of the disfigurement. Having the surgery is life changing."

Sorenson tells about just one day in surgery at this hospital where 20 people recovered their sight when their cataracts were removed.

Established 40 years ago as a small, dispensing pharmacy, the HDLF is now a year-round medical facility offering general medical, surgery, pediatric, obstetrical and dental services. The hospital treated over 13,000 patients last year with its staff of 69 full-time employees, including four doctors, 12 nurses, three to four nurse/nun instructors and a contingent of Guatemalan medical and dental students. In addition, surgery is provided by volunteer U.S. teams four to six times a year.

"We have seen such an increase in the quality of life and economic improvement as the hospital and its programs have increased. Most people still live in shacks with dirt floors," DiCenzo explains. "They cook over open flames in their one room homes which leads to pulmonary disease

many on the Council and in the audience when he emphasized that "the goal is to educate people on gun safety." To that end, Police Chief Mark Nagel and Salomon are putting together a public safety campaign. Mayor Amy Worth and Chief Nagel got a head start on the campaign by speaking at the Miramonte Parents Education Night on Oct. 22 to answer questions and cover gun safety topics.

"Public safety is our highest priority," said Mayor Worth at the Oct. 22 meeting. "Our Safe Storage Ordinance really began when several young mothers met with me, Chief Nagel and our city manager. They brought thoughtful, well researched ideas on gun safety, because they were concerned about their children's safety. Actually, I've received more email on this subject than other things that come before the City Council."

According to Chief Nagel, the Orinda Police Department offers programs to assist the community in practicing safe gun ownership, including free gun locks/cables that can prevent a gun from operating while under lock and key. A picture and explanation of the gun lock is available on the Orinda Police Department web page, www.cityoforinda.org/388/Gun-Safety. The department will also conduct home safety audits for residents to look at installed gun safes and the various methods homeowners use to store guns. "I prefer safes to gun locks so that the guns are out of sight, but you have to be sure that the safe is secured to a surface," said Chief Nagel. The chief also noted that gun safes can be unlocked in seconds if needed." To schedule a home safety audit, call the Orinda Police at 925-254-6820 or email mnagel@cityoforinda.org.

◆ GUN SAFETY from page 9

appeared before the City Council at both the Oct. 2 and Oct. 16 meetings disagreed with this sentiment. Besides the opinion of elected officials themselves, Orindans in attendance spoke both to the emotional and practical. At the Oct. 2 meeting, Stacy Crinks, the Parent Ed chair at Miramonte High School, said, "It took about 15 years for all states to pass seatbelt laws because people said seatbelts would restrict personal freedom and it would be unenforceable, but today the CDC indicates that 15,000 lives are saved every year from seatbelts and car seats."

Shannon Pedroni, in voicing support of the safe storage ordinance, proclaimed that "if one death or accident is prevented due to the ordinance, it will have been worth it." She added, "Over 75 percent of guns used in suicide attempts and unintentional injuries of teens were stored in their residence or [that of] a friend. The risk increases in homes where guns are kept loaded and/or unlocked."

A few speakers at the City Council meeting did voice reservations. Daniel De Busschere claimed that "anybody who owns them [firearms] knows they must handle them safely and keep them stored." He did not believe enough research had been done about liability and financial risk (e.g., for legal costs) the city might face in adopting such an ordinance. Chris Kniel echoed these notions, declaring that the city was inviting "enormous legal exposure." Characterizing himself as a certified firearms instructor, Kniel opined that he's "disappointed that the organized movements have descended on Orinda."

City Manager Steve Salomon echoed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Donna Di Cenzo and another volunteer hold two young patients ready to be discharged from Hospital de la Familia's nutrition center.

such as emphysema and cancer later in life." A recent trip in August included one of the physicians showing the populace how to build stoves that vent outside the home to help prevent some of these problems.

Sanitation is also a big problem. According to DiCenzo people still burn their garbage or dump it on the side of the road or in big open-air dumps. Many of the population also dig a hole outside their houses for use as a toilet. When it fills, they cover it and pick another place to dig a hole. "There is much to do in the area of education for a more healthy lifestyle," adds DiCenzo.

Along with medical services, other programs offered by the hospital include a Nutrition Center, with nutrition therapy for infants and toddlers. Dr. DiCenzo tells about a case where a baby was admitted in May but was determined too frail to be operated on. The Guatemalan doctor admitted the baby to the Nutrition Center. In July, after gaining weight, the infant received cleft palate surgery. "Now, she is better able to eat and grow and have a much better life," DiCenzo says.

Sorenson adds the most exciting part of the hospital's growth for him has been the hiring of two full-time Guatemalan ophthalmologists. When he and Dr. Robert Lee first traveled to Guatemala in 1973, regional health centers might perform 100 cataract surgeries per year. In 2017, HDLF's Eye Clinic performed over 1500 surgeries to restore vision and cared for the vision of another 7,000 patients.

The hospital also provides: a rehabilitation for children with parasitic diseases and malnutrition; teaches parents ways to improve food preparation and nutrition; a Dental Clinic; Nurse Training Classes; and Sewing Classes for women and girls. In addition, the hospital established an elementary school (grades 1-8) with an enrollment of about 150 children. The school offers

free education, books and uniforms as well as a nutritious mid-day meal.


DiCenzo notes that her team is always looking for volunteers to go to Hospital de La Familia. The next trip is planned for Nov. 2 through 9. The Hospital de La Familia website (www.hospitaldelafamilia.com) lists the needs and what is required to volunteer. Each volunteer pays a "donation fee" which covers round trip airfare, ground transportation, dormitory style lodging at the hospital and three meals a day. Since scrubs are worn most of the day and are provided, volunteers are asked to bring only a carry-on suitcase so that their luggage allowance can be used for a duffel bag full of supplies. Donation fees vary according to medical specialty.

Sorenson says "Since its inception, HDLF has been the recipient of thousands of volunteers over the decades: nurses, surgeons, technicians and translators who donate their skills and time to create life-changing improvements in the lives of indigent Guatemalans."

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BOOKS

Between the Lines Something's Cooking

Pat Rudebusch



There's something about the cooler temperatures and shorter days of autumn that sends our thoughts to the kitchen. Before heading to the kitchen, check out some of this season's newest cookbooks.

Two of the most highly anticipated cookbooks – *Simple*, by Yotam Ottolenghi and Ina Garten's *Cook Like a Pro* – have just been released. Both follow the tradition of the authors' previous volumes by presenting beautifully photographed, delicious, and easy-to-follow recipes. In *Simple*, Ottolenghi's seventh cookbook, the London-based chef focuses on recipes that can be pulled together in 30 minutes without sacrificing the innovative, middle-eastern flavors for which he's known. Garten (a.k.a. Barefoot Contessa) has a legion of fans who propelled her 10 previous books to the best-seller list. In *Cook Like a Pro*, Garten shares the professional tips she's picked up over the years to make cooking and entertaining

low-stress affairs.

If comfort food is what you're after, look no further than *Home Cooking* by Kate McDermott. Satisfying, no-fuss meals that can be made with ingredients found in most home kitchens take center stage in this collection. Think Sunday roast chicken suppers, hearty soups and stews, and vegetable shepherd's pie. Most of these recipes can be doubled and frozen for later use, making it easier than ever for busy people to serve home-cooked meals.

Most people don't associate swimsuit models with food, so it may come as a surprise that Chrissy Teigen has just released her second cookbook, *Cravings: Hungry for More*. Here, Teigen shares family-friendly recipes such as Cool Ranch Taco Salad and Simple Skillet Broken Lasagna. Personally, I was hooked as soon as I flipped through the pages and landed on a

[SEE LINES page 25]

Former Orinda Resident and Author Shares Her Work at Wagner Ranch



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Author and Wagner Ranch Elementary alumna **Lily Williams** with Principal **Jim Manheimer** at her recent school visit.

Lily Williams, 26, a former Wagner Ranch Elementary School student, recently made a very special guest appearance at her alma mater. The author, illustrator and storyteller, who seeks to inspire change through education, did a presentation about her work at Wagner Ranch's library, where she emphasized the importance of learning about the environment.

Williams two published books, *If Sharks Disappeared* and *If Polar Bears Disappeared*, which have been extensively fact

checked, warn about the dangers and challenges that global warming presents.

"Lily's message is a positive one about how each of us can make a difference to protect our environment for a healthy future and planet," says Wagner Ranch Librarian Barbara Weikert.

You can learn more about William's work at lilywilliamsart.com. Her two books are available for purchase at Orinda Books.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

The Birds of Berkeley Coming to Orinda Books in November

By PAT RUDEBUSCH
Contributing Writer

Birding becomes hyperlocal this month when Orinda Books hosts Oliver James, author and illustrator of *The Birds of Berkeley*. Born and raised in Berkeley, James has been fascinated by birds since the age of five. Since then, he has participated in national birding tournaments, worked as a birding guide and taken part in ornithological research from Alaska to Peru.

The Birds of Berkeley depicts 25 of the most common birds that can be seen in Berkeley, each beautifully illustrated by James. Unlike traditional field guides, this slim volume is packed with personality, both through the illustrations and accompanying prose.

Oliver James will present a short talk on identifying and appreciating our avian neighbors at Orinda Books on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 2 pm. To see samples of his illustrations, visit www.oliver-james.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Author, illustrator and avid birder **Oliver James**.

Orinda Writer's Latest Book



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda writer **Sally Bolger** (2nd from right) poses with fellow children's book authors (L-R) **Vanessa Hua**, **Colleen Weeks** and **Mitali Perkins** at a recent EFO Read-a-thon event.

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) stole Sally Bolger's heart when she was a child. The Orinda writer calls her first visit to Drake's Beach while a student at Wagner Ranch Elementary school "magic."

Bolger's recently published book, *Fun in the Mud: A Wetlands Tale*, is a slyly educational fairy tale about the web of life in coastal wetlands. The book is inspired by her adult experiences serving on the board of the PRNS Association where she was a manager for the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project which celebrated its 10-year anniversary in November.

The Association is credited with helping the restoration of the wetlands between Lagunitas Creek and Tomales Bay. Projects that provide 10 years of scientific data to substantiate the impact are rare. By sharing the story of the wetlands, she hopes to encourage similar projects.

"The recovery of the wetlands is astonishing: The wetlands and the species are returning more quickly and in greater numbers than any of us had dared to hope. It is a story of environmental success that needs to be shared in these times that seem so bereft of any positive news or optimism," Bolger says.

During restoration, the group considered how to create habitat for the endangered species and the interconnected habitats necessary to build and maintain an ecosystem. They needed to address such things as ascertaining the depth of ponds for the California Red Legged Frog, maintaining brackish water for Coho Salmon and figuring out how to help plants withstand high tides and standing water.

The book originated from Bolger's fascination with the intricate tapestry of life in the wetlands. "The natural world is filled with magic," rhapsodizes Bolger who stresses that parents and children alike will be intrigued by *Fun in the Mud*. Hoping that the book "opens the door to wonder," Bolger specifies that she hopes "it inspires kids and parents to take a minute and notice the natural world around them, and wonder 'why?'"

Bolger explains the book (included on the Children's Book Council's "October: Hot Off the Press" reading list) mixes facts with "just a dusting of fantasy." She invites readers to explore all the nooks and crannies — and animals who live in them — of the muddy, magical world of the wetlands.

Bolger is a "Greenhorn," who has travelled the world tending to conservatory efforts and writing about experiences. Encounters include monitoring dolphin populations off Costa Rica; studying the health of the coral reefs off southwest Madagascar; supporting the Cabo Pulmo marine protected area in Baja California; and helping Amazon tribes defend their territories and cultures from destruction.

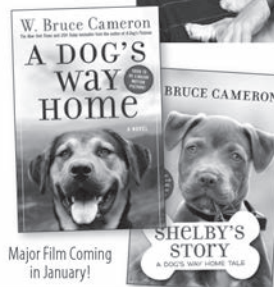
Published by Cameron & Company in Petaluma, Bolger's book is the result of a 10-year writing project she finished during a writing residency Mesa Refuge in Point Reyes. She describes the book release provided by the company as a "dream come true." Bolger credits her illustrator Regina Shklovsky and the company's editors and designers for the success the book has had reaching young readers and inspiring them.

"The more we learn, the more we appreciate the magic of this beautiful planet we call home," she wistfully concludes.

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Local National Charity Leagues Join Forces



LAURA DILLARD

The **Acalanes Area** and **Lamorinda Chapters** of the **National Charity League** joined together on Oct. 14 for the first combined event.

By **LAURA DILLARD**
and **CHERYL BJORNSON**
Contributing Writers

Sunday, Oct. 14, was a historic day for the two local chapters of National Charity League. On that day, the very first joint meeting bringing together 200 young women of the Acalanes Area and Lamorinda Chapters of National Charity League (NCL) took place. NCL is an organization of mothers and their daughters in 7th to 12th grade that focuses on community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. The daughters are referred to as Ticktockers.

For this special event, the Senior Ticktockers chose to focus on teens in foster care and teen mental health. They hosted two young female speakers. The first speaker was Sydney Somerville, the founder of FreeStyle, a branch of the

local philanthropy Grateful Gatherings. FreeStyle gathers new and gently used clothes for teen girls in foster care and then creates pop-up boutiques where teen girls in foster care can shop for as many items as they would like. The NCL Ticktockers organized a successful clothing drive for FreeStyle. At the Ticktock Day event, they sorted the clothes to help prepare for the next FreeStyle boutique opening. The experience of choosing new clothes at the boutique can be life changing. Somerville shared a story of a young woman who was excited to go to school again because of the confidence and joy these new outfits gave her. The second speaker was Lauren Cook, author of *The Sunny Side Up* and *Name Your Story*. Cook is a marriage and family therapist who is passionate about destigmatizing mental health concerns and adopting healthy approaches to lifelong psychological wellness. Cook asked many questions of the Ticktockers, and brave

7th-grader Emmie Cimperman kicked off what became a lively and meaningful discussion among the entire group. The Ticktockers learned that more than 25 percent of women experience mental health conditions and that seeking and offering help is a sign of strength which needs to be encouraged. The Acalanes Area and Lamorinda NCL Chapters look forward to more joint events in the future.

For information on the organization, go to www.nationalcharityleague.org.

Peases Celebrate Joint 80th Birthday



JILL GELSTER

Norm and Janet Pease.

Norm and Janet Pease celebrated their joint 80th birthday with a lavish party at the Blackhawk Museum. Partygoers were treated to live entertainment and full access to the museum for the evening. The theme, *Around the World in 80 Years*, featured selected photos from the Pease's international travels, as well as a retrospective video collection of photos of Norm and Janet growing up. Organized by Barbara Bontemps, the evening included Polynesian dancers, Chinese Lion dancers, a belly dancer, Irish step dancing, and a traditional Mexican rendition of Happy Birthday.

◆ **LINES** from page 24

chapter titled "Potatoes & Their Friends."

The people of Stowel Lake Farm in British Columbia have built a community of like-minded individuals who have lived and worked together on the farm since the early 2000s. Stowel Lake Farm also hosts a retreat center renowned for its farm-to-table organic cuisine. *Seven Seasons* on Stowel Lake Farm is a compilation of both the stories and recipes from this vibrant community and, perhaps, just the escape we need in our increasingly polarized times.

Recent trends in cookbooks highlight the culture and history of place along with recipes. *Bottom of the Pot*, by Naz Deravian, is a perfect example of how by sharing food traditions we can learn about other cultures. Deravian is a Persian American

who, as a young child, fled her homeland with her family in 1980. In *Bottom of the Pot*, she rekindles the culinary memories of her childhood and presents them to a wider audience looking to learn about and enjoy the rich food traditions of Iran. Similarly, *Porto*, by Gabriella Opaz and Sonia Andresson Nolasco, pays homage to the stories and culinary traditions of Portugal's historic Bolhao Market.

Food can bridge cultural divides and reflect what a society values most. *The Best American Food Writing 2018*, edited by Ruth Reichel, does just that with a collection of food-related essays that shine light on our history, politics, and entertainment. Before watching the Warriors take to the court, you may want to read the essay, "The NBA's Secret Sandwich Addiction." Then grab a PB&J and enjoy the game.

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Nov. 12 - City Offices Closed for Veteran's Day

Nov 14 - Castello di Amorosa Tour and Wine Tasting Day Trip, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., \$65

Nov. 17 - Orinda Holiday Bazaar, over 55 exhibitors; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Orinda Community Center; Free

Nov. 19-21 - Wide Variety of Thanksgiving Break Camps for Children - Art, Sports, Science, Dance, Theater, and more!

Nov. 22 & 23 - City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving.

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ORINDA

PARKS & REC

MIXOLOGY

Fun Times at Art of Mixology

On October 13, the Lamorinda Arts Council held its fifth annual Art of Mixology event, a craft cocktail competition featuring both amateur and professional bartenders pouring their signature drinks in hopes of being named “Mixologist of the Year.”

An excited crowd moved through Theatre

Square, tasting unique beverages such as Blackberry Basil Margarita and Mai Mai Mai, and sampling small bites from local restaurants.

Proceeds from the event benefitted the many arts programs sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC). Founded in 1950 as the Orinda Arts Council, the Lamorinda Arts Council is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been igniting and sustaining artistic expression and appreciation in the visual, performing and literary arts for people of all ages for over 65 years. Notable programs include Lamorinda Idol, the High School Visual Arts Competition, Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest, curation of the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, and Art of Mixology. LAC has also been designated by the cities of Lafayette and Orinda to manage and support the activities of the Poet Laureate Program. Visit www.lamorindaarts.org for more information.

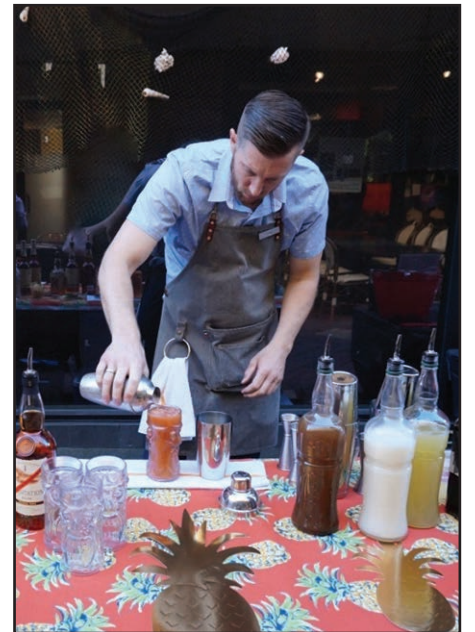
For a complete list of winners, go to <https://lamorindaarts.org/bartenders>.

CHG's 2018 Holiday Boutique & Luncheon

Children's Health Guild invites you to mark the date and plan to attend the Children's Health Guild 2018 Holiday Boutique & Luncheon on Nov. 30 at the Ritz-Carlton, 600 Stockton Street, in San Francisco. All proceeds will benefit UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital & George Mark Children's House. For more info and to purchase tickets, go to www.chguild.ejoinme.org/2018HolidayLuncheon.



DIANE ATHANASIOU
Arthur Valderrama (L) from Barranco Kitchen and event organizer **Justin Cole** (R).



DIANE ATHANASIOU
Ryan Wehrenberg from Park Bistro and Bar won the Audience Favorite award.



DIANE ATHANASIOU
Eric Gonzalez, self-employed at TiniTime, won the “Art of Staging Award” for his Agua De Sandía.



DIANE ATHANASIOU
A Flash Mob showed up to entertain participants at the beginning of the Mixology fundraiser.

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Fall Harvest



BARBARA KOBSAR

Season 22 will come to a close on Saturday, Nov. 17, the last Saturday before Thanksgiving and the perfect time to gather salad greens, beans, mushrooms, chards, celery, peppers, grapes and fresh flowers at the local farmers' market. Tables will be full of fresh produce, baked goods, honey and preserves, eggs, nuts and dried fruits -- everything you need for the upcoming holidays! This will include persimmons, a November favorite.

Customers can pick up bags of persimmons for eating fresh or making their favorite pudding or cake. Both the acorn-shaped hachiya and the tomato-shaped fuyu boast a beautiful rich, orange color inside and out, but their textures are distinctly different. When ripe, Hachiyas are pudding-like and fuyus are crisp like an apple.

Hachiyas are generally picked and sold firm. Choose those that are bruise-free and plump and allow five to 10 days if necessary to fully ripen at room temperature. Even a slightly under ripe hachiya contains enough tannin to pucker your mouth. To speed up this process, place the hachiyas in a paper bag with a ripe banana or apple (they emit ethylene gas to speed ripening). Prepare hachiyas by slicing off the top to scoop out and enjoy the jelly-like flesh or use in puddings, cakes, cookies and candies.

Choose firm fuyus with smooth skin and a fresh, green calyx. These are non-

stringent and edible immediately after harvest. Fuyus require a rinsing before eating. Slice crosswise to use as a garnish or in salads and pies.

Ripe hachiyas store in the refrigerator for two or three days; fuyus keep for two to three weeks. Both varieties may be frozen for eight to 10 months in freezer bags.

The Orinda market closes for the season on Sat., Nov. 17. Look for the 2019 market season to open in early April.

THANK YOU to the community, City, volunteers, local businesses and other non-profits who have supported and contributed to the market this season.

You're invited to visit many of your favorite growers and vendors from the Orinda market at the year-round Sunday market in Walnut Creek. For more information visit the website at www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at (925) 431-8361.

PERSIMMON CREAM PIE

This recipe for persimmon cream pie is much like a traditional pumpkin pie.

- 1 1/2 cups persimmon pulp (I use the pulp from hachiya persimmons, but if using fuyus be sure to freeze the fruit first to soften the pulp).
- 2 eggs
- One half teaspoon cinnamon
- One quarter teaspoon each sugar and salt
- 1 and 2/3 cups evaporated milk or light cream
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 - 8 inch unbaked pie crust

Beat eggs, add cinnamon, sugar and salt. Mix well. Add milk, persimmon pulp and lemon juice. Pour mixture into unbaked pie shell. Place in 425 degree oven for 20 minutes, turn temperature down to 350 and continue cooking for another 20 minutes or until filling is set.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Persimmons bring fall flavor to the Farmers' Market.

Orinda's Farmers' Market closes Nov. 17.
It will open again in early April, 2019.

The Old Yellow House – 100 Year Celebration of Sustainable Technology



COLIN LEIPMAN

Open house at the renovated Old Yellow House on Moraga Way, Orinda, on Nov. 17.

Owner and architect James Phillip Wright is hosting a community open house at his home, The Old Yellow House, 209 Moraga Way, in Orinda, on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Here's an opportunity to enjoy another piece of Orinda's history and art and to learn about how "Nature's" way of living has returned and is becoming the cutting edge of environmentally conscious technology.

Join in celebrating this 1918 home of the Charles Nelson family where sustainable living features have been preserved throughout the land. These survival systems have now been married with a Geo/Solar

Biomimicry design, which Wright integrated into the home when he purchased and renovated the property. This iconic building preserves historical treasures, while blending the old and the new to become a "Museum of Sustainability."

Free house tours are scheduled at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Parking is not available at the house, but attendees can park at nearby Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way, and take the shuttle provided. Register for your free shuttle ticket at <https://yellowhouse100yearcelebration.eventbrite.com>.

◆ **BUZZ** from page 28

Norm enjoys family time with his wife Karen, a preschool teacher, and their extended family. He is also a devoted poker player. He and his fellow fraternity buddies have played a weekly poker game every Thursday night for 50 years. "We call the player who has only been in the game 25 years 'the new guy,'" quips Norm. He had a car in the Orinda Car Show and supports the Educational Foundation of Orinda and Friends of the Orinda Library. Morgan Weiss, his wife Anna and daughter Shira also live in Orinda. "Shira loves visiting parks so we spend a lot of family time outdoors exploring different parks in the area," says Morgan.

To explain how they prefer to do business Norm says, "We like to do things personally; we don't want texts about problems.



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Visit Norm and Morgan at One Orinda Way, Suite 4 (next to Living Lean) Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or give them a call at 925-253-1978 to discuss your computer questions.



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Cindy Powell Named Executive Director of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Last month the Orinda Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors welcomed Cindy Powell as their new executive director. Powell replaces Sophie Braccini, who now works at UC Berkeley. No stranger to Orinda organizations, Powell is just finishing up her third year as co-president of The Orinda Association (OA) and will remain on that board in 2019.

Roy Hodgkinson, outgoing chamber president says, "Cindy has been a member of the Chamber through The Orinda Association, with whom we share an office. After she spent two months providing interim executive director support, the board was delighted to name her as our executive director." Hodgkinson's three-year presidency is ending soon, but he will

remain on the board not only to enable a smooth transition for the new co-presidents but also to continue many of his outreach activities. One such activity is SCORE, which provides free, unlimited counseling and resources for start-up business and improvement of existing businesses.

Powell's diverse volunteer experiences include time in all of her children's schools; coaching baseball and soccer; being a "dresser" (and sometimes model) at the Orinda Woman's Club's annual Festival of Trees; and answering the phone three mornings a week for Seniors Around Town. In 2016, she was honored by the Orinda Juniors with a 25-year pin.

This year her entry in the Lamorinda Arts Council's Art of Mixology craft cocktail fundraiser was based on her famous mandarin marmalade. In some circles, she is known for pickling vegetables, earning the moniker "the Green Bean Queen." Somehow, she also manages to play tennis for



ELANA O'LOSKEY
Cindy Powell, Orinda Chamber of Commerce's new executive director, and Roy Hodgkinson, outgoing Chamber president, are working together to promote a healthy business community in Orinda.



ELANA O'LOSKEY
Norm and Morgan Weiss of Computer Software & Hardware invite customers to visit them at their new location, One Orinda Way, Suite 4.

the Orinda Country Club. In the last three years as OA co-president, she established liaisons with many local groups including Rotary, Mayor's meeting, Planning Dept., Parks & Rec. and Lafayette and Moraga Chambers of Commerce.

The Orinda Chamber's calendar of events during the year is prodigious, but Powell is up to the challenge. All of her abilities are now directed at providing vitality to the chamber through activities promoting intra-business opportunities in Lamorinda. Be sure to attend the themed monthly mixers she is scheduling. Her leadership combines business acumen, wit and the ability to anticipate local trends. This is sure to nurture the heart of our business community to be healthy and strong.

Keep abreast of Chamber news, including monthly mixers, at www.orindachamber.org. To contact Powell, email execdir@orindachamber.org or call 925-254-3909 to make an appointment to visit her at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce offices, 26 Orinda Way, across from Café Teatro in the Orinda Library Plaza.

Norm and Morgan Weiss of Computer Software and Hardware Have Moved to One Orinda Way

Norm Weiss has been fixing computers in Orinda for 30 years. He operated out of 43

Moraga Way for 27 of those years. Norm has a degree in physics and economics from UC Berkeley but says it's his life credential as an elementary school teacher that allows him to explain technology situations so that people can understand them. His son Morgan, who joined the family business four years ago, has a degree in architecture from Arizona State. It's the years of experience that brings customers back, according to Norm, who has relied on repeat business from satisfied customers and word of mouth to grow his business.

He chose Orinda because he wanted to live and work in the same town so he could be there for Morgan as he was growing up. Now Morgan handles house calls for Computer Software and Hardware (CSH) among other duties. Customers come from a variety of backgrounds including people who work at UC Berkeley and St. Mary's College. The following protocol is suggested before calling CSH for help:

Identify your operating system – is it Windows or Mac?

What version of Windows or Mac are you operating under?

What exactly were you doing when the problem occurred? Were you on a website? What button did you press?

Try turning your computer, laptop or tablet all the way off. Wait five minutes and turn it on again.

If that doesn't work, give us a call. If a house call is needed we travel to Oakland, Walnut Creek, Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga.

[SEE BUZZ page 27]


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