



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
Volume 36, Number 10

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Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually  
October 2021

## Melanie Light to Receive Citizen of the Year Award

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

With wildfires continuing to consume California's countryside, it is fitting that Orinda's Citizen of the Year is Melanie Light, Founder of the Orinda Firewise Council (OFC).

Light has worked tirelessly to prepare Orinda residents, their property and their homes to be safe as possible from potential [SEE LIGHT page 14]



KEN LIGHT

Melanie Light will be honored as Citizen of the Year Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Founders Auditorium of the Orinda Community Center, for her tireless work preparing Orinda residents, their property and their homes, to be safe from wildfires.

## Officer Kevin Mooney Honored



SALLY HOGARTY

On Sept. 8, residents from Orinda and Moraga lined Moraga Way to honor Moraga Police Corporal Kevin Mooney, who died Aug. 21, 2021, from COVID and related complications. Due to COVID concerns, funeral services were not open to the public, but many turned out along Moraga Way waving U.S. flags as the law enforcement procession escorted Corporal Mooney to his final resting place. Corporal Mooney served in Orinda for many years prior to his service in Moraga. He also served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps.

## COVID-19 Keeping Orinda Schools on Its Toes

By ANDREA MADISON  
Staff Writer

Amid the recent emergence of new strains of COVID-19, students and faculty returned to in-person learning at schools across Orinda in August armed with knowledge and now bolstered by a shrinking number of confirmed cases of the virus.

"We're closely monitoring every case story," said Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Superintendent Aida Glimme.

COVID-19 cases have receded since the district resumed on-campus instruction Aug. 11, as shown by the OUSD COVID-19 dashboard on the district's website. From the beginning of the school year until Sept. 3, there were 14 confirmed cases and 84 quarantines in OUSD's student population. Thirty-nine of those quarantined were under modified orders and attending in-person class with the stipulation of twice weekly testing for the virus.

As of Sept. 6, just one new confirmed student COVID-19 case and 28 student quarantines, 15 modified, were recorded, along with two positive staff cases.

Superintendent Glimme credits diligent behind-the-scenes monitoring of the situation, in addition to student willingness to don their facemasks and practice adequate social distancing, with keeping the schools' population healthy. She noted students testing positive were exposed to the virus outside of school and from family members.

OUSD's online COVID-19 dashboard, updated twice a week, states school com-

munities are notified directly of positive or close contact cases by the District Student Services Team.

How are the recommended safety protocols and guidelines affecting the learning environment in Orinda's classrooms? Fortunately, they are "not a major factor," Glimme said. "We see really active learning and engaged students."

The district has provided additional mental health support on campuses, such as increased counseling, to help lessen the effects of the additional stresses of attending school during a pandemic.

The Orinda News was unable to reach a representative at Orinda Academy for comment.

Holden High School, a private school in Orinda comprised of 35 students and 19 faculty members, has had no positive COVID-19 cases thus far into the '21-22 school year, which kicked off Aug. 25.

"We're following all of the California Department of Education protocols," said Holden High's Clinical Director and Fresh-people Advisor, Jennifer Payne.

Hand-washing and masking up indoors [SEE SCHOOLS page 14]

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PET OF THE MONTH / CAR TIME

Pet of the Month



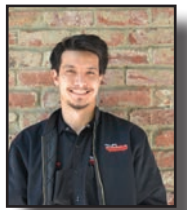
DAN YU

**Venus**, a 4-year-old female chinchilla rabbit is probably thinking, "I just ate a carrot and it was delicious!" Caretakers Dan, Jane and Harmony Yu said she is a gentle rabbit that loves to be petted, loves eating carrots, grooming her son Spot and doing "binkies" all over the place. She isn't as smart as Spot and is also smaller, but she makes up for it in her adventurous spirit!

CAR TIME

WHAT IS TO BECOME OF THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY?

XAVIER ESTRADA



California, as is the case with many other states, will ban the sale of internal combustion engines starting in 2035. To clarify, the ban is on new vehicles only. So, while internal combustion will still be around, the sale of new ones won't.

Where does the industry go from there? Many speculate electric vehicles (EV), but that avenue presently holds some downsides. The two that stand out are ensuring we would have the infrastructure necessary to make it feasible and studying ways such a switch might still cause harm to the environment.

Many places are still not equipped to charge EVs, certainly in contrast to the many fuel stations that currently exist. The downside for the environment concerns the materials that are sourced for production, along with the recycling process of batteries.

For the most part, when an EV is charging, it is still using energy from the grid (fossil fuels). That doesn't mean some of these issues can't be worked out; for ex-

ample, research about solid state batteries for vehicle efficiency and environmental friendliness might alleviate concerns.

Hydrogen is another potential solution, although it has issues as well. A big difference is the infrastructure to utilize it already exists to some extent. It would be a matter of repurposing some fuel stations that already coexist with hydrogen pumps.

Hydrogen is a natural element but requires molecule manipulation to work. It is formed by using electrolysis, the process of breaking down H2O (water) molecules. The process requires a lot of electricity, posing the same fossil fuel issue.

Renewable energy, however, can be used to separate the molecules, eliminating that need. How fast it can be done poses another question. Hydrogen has been associated more with powering electric motors, but Toyota has made a prototype vehicle to use hydrogen as a fuel for a combustion engine. They even entered it in a Fuji 24-hour race event. Regardless of the application, the by-product of hydrogen is water.

Synthetic fuels, currently being touted by Porsche as eFuel, can use existing infrastructure as well. It's selling point is that any internal combustion engine can use it and is nearly carbon neutral. It is created by using atmospheric CO2 and hydrogen to form the basis of the fuel. The complete process and logistics are a bit gray in terms of being environmentally-friendly, but its goal is to coexist with EVs.

Xavier Estrada can be reached at [service@orindaclassiccarcenter.com](mailto:service@orindaclassiccarcenter.com).

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Orinda Classic Car Show Was A Hit Thanks To Our Supporters and Sponsors

The Orinda Classic Car Show on Saturday Sept. 11, was highly successful – with over 180 vehicles registered. The show was a big hit with many happy owners, friends & family.

The "Car Show Live Zoom Broadcast" presented by Steve Harwood and Jay Ward was also a smashing success- with hundreds of viewers watching from home. You can relive the memories and check out the live zoom video on the Orinda Classic Car Show website at [www.orindacarshow.com/livestream](http://www.orindacarshow.com/livestream).

We sincerely thank all of the volunteers that made this happen, including the **National Charity League, our Car Show Master Parkers, Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill, Loard's Ice Cream, and City of Orinda Staff members.** A special thanks to our sponsors listed below, for their dedication to supporting The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town free ride program for so many deserving Orinda seniors.



**Alliant** ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW SPONSORS

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA Board

Cars2ndChance Gives a Second Chance to Others

Chris Laszcz-Davis



Lately, you've been hearing a lot about Cars2ndChance, a program conceived 15 years ago by Rotarians Mary and Dave Kemnitz, owners of D&H Enterprises Automotive Services in Concord.

Given these economic times, non-profits have taken a big hit with many of their revenue sources drying up. With non-profit services scaling back, adverse community impact has never been more pronounced, nor more dire. Services for the elderly, the under-served, the hungry, the homeless, school children, the disabled and the isolated have suffered.

The Orinda Association recently partnered with Cars2ndChance hoping to raise funds in an increasingly competitive market. Cars2ndChance is a car auction program run by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club (LSR) and the Clayton Valley Rotary Club, turning vehicle donations into funds to support ongoing charities.

Cars2ndChance and the two Rotary Clubs work with a variety of non-profits (The Orinda Association is one of them) to

acquire donated cars, motorbikes, trucks, boats and vans that are either fixed and sold or donated to auction. Non-profits (like The Orinda Association) receive the donated cars and 50% of the proceeds, while each Rotary Club receives 25%. Better yet –Cars2ndChance handles all the details of getting the vehicle and registration transferred seamlessly.

Let's talk impact – the LSR Club has garnered enough car donations to give the Food Bank \$75,000, well on its way to a \$100,000 goal. Hunger continues to be a huge issue in Contra Costa County, especially during COVID-19. The town of Paradise needed cars to replace burnt cars (not cash). So, Cars2ndChance decided to donate a cluster of cars instead.

Another case in point: the Moraga Rotary Club's Cars2ndChance efforts resulted in building a desperately needed medical facility/school in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Bringing this back locally, your dona- [SEE MESSAGE page 8]

The Orinda Association

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

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

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way (Library Plaza)  
Phone: 925.254.0800  
www.OrindaAssociation.org

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All officers and board members volunteer their time.

Thank You for Making the Classic Car Show Success!

The OA Board wishes to thank everyone who came out and supported or volunteered to help with our Orinda Classic Car Show Saturday, Sept. 11. The show was highly successful – with over 180 vehicles registered! It was a big hit with many happy car owners, friends and families. And a special thank you for our "Car Show Live Zoom Broadcast" presented by Steve Harwood and Jay Ward. It was also a smashing success - with hundreds of viewers watching from home. You can relive the memories and check out the live zoom video on the Orinda Classic Car Show website at [www.orindacarshow.com/livestream](http://www.orindacarshow.com/livestream).

We want to sincerely thank all of the volunteers and folks that made this

happen, including the National Charity League, our Car Show Master Parkers, Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill, Loard's Ice Cream and City of Orinda staff members. Our local sponsors also stepped up to support the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town free ride program, which helps so many deserving Orinda seniors.

A final thanks to our Car Show Committee: Todd Mercer, Mario Urquilla, Kate Wiley, Sally Hogarty, Hans Hiller (and everyone at Orinda Motors), Roxanne Christophe, Jackie Buettner, Vanita Louie, Horatio Jung, Gail McIntyre, Cindy Powell, Steve Harwood, Jay Ward and our co-chairs Diane Lautz and Bill Waterman!



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EDITORIAL

# Letters to the Editor

## Question the DEI Specialist Funding for OUSD

The *Orinda News* (Sept. 2021 issue) carried an article stating that the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) is "... creating a new position in the district, a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) specialist."

The article raises questions: 1. Does OUSD need a DEI specialist? 2. How is the intellectual performance of OUSD's pupils enhanced by having such a specialist? 3. How much compensation (salary plus benefits) will the DEI specialist receive?

The elimination of discrimination on the basis of race, creed and religion, must be part of OUSD's mission.

In parts of the United States, there has been a war on pupil and student talent.

In San Francisco, Lowell High School, a public school, has had a tradition of admitting students who have talent. However, for the 2021-22 school year, Lowell will be admitting students on the basis of a lottery, not talent.

Other public schools – such as Stuyvesant High School in New York City and the Boston Latin school in Massachusetts – are facing the same pressures as Lowell.

Any DEI program, in Orinda or elsewhere, must encourage the intellectual development of pupils. There must be no diminution in providing an excellent education to talented pupils.

At this time, the United States faces stiff competition – in such areas as artificial intelligence, robotics, cybernetics, quantum computing, industrial productivity, agricultural productivity and Big Data (the kind of work that Google and Apple do) – from Japan, South Korea, China, Germany, Israel and other nations.

In *The Orinda News* article, David Schrag, OUSD's Director of Curriculum and Instruction, is quoted as saying, "What we really want are well-rounded, thoughtful and empathetic human beings out in the world." There should be no objection to Mr. Schrag's words.

But, at the same time, there must be no attack on OUSD's ability to provide a quality education for talented students. Orindans must hope that having a DEI specialist will not take funds away from OUSD's obligations to serve talented pupils.

– Richard Colman

## Sad Passing of Officer Mooney

I am extremely sad to hear about the passing of one of Orinda's very best former police officers, Officer Mooney. I had not many, but very good interactions with this man over 20 years, and I understand he was a police cadet-training officer.

I, like many old-time Orinda residents, was not very enthusiastic about becoming a city. But Officer Mooney and Orinda

PD changed my mind slowly over the years with much reduced crime and a general feeling of safety, like having an older brother or uncle, keeping an eye on the community.

I think, if there is one lesson we can learn from this tragic event, it is to get your COVID-19 vaccination! And another thing, that is not as critical, but would show a touch of class and appreciation, would be a friendly wave and smile to any of our local Lamorinda police officers.

I know this is not the new kind of woke thing to do, but let's get real ... when you need a policeman, you are happy to see them. Hopefully you will never need one, but I believe their presence and professionalism is what makes Lamorinda such a nice place to live.

– J. Smith

## Diversity Training Lacking Diversity for Educators

Diversity includes viewpoint diversity. Not just people of different races sharing the same opinions. Unfortunately, viewpoint diversity is lacking at the Orinda Union School District.

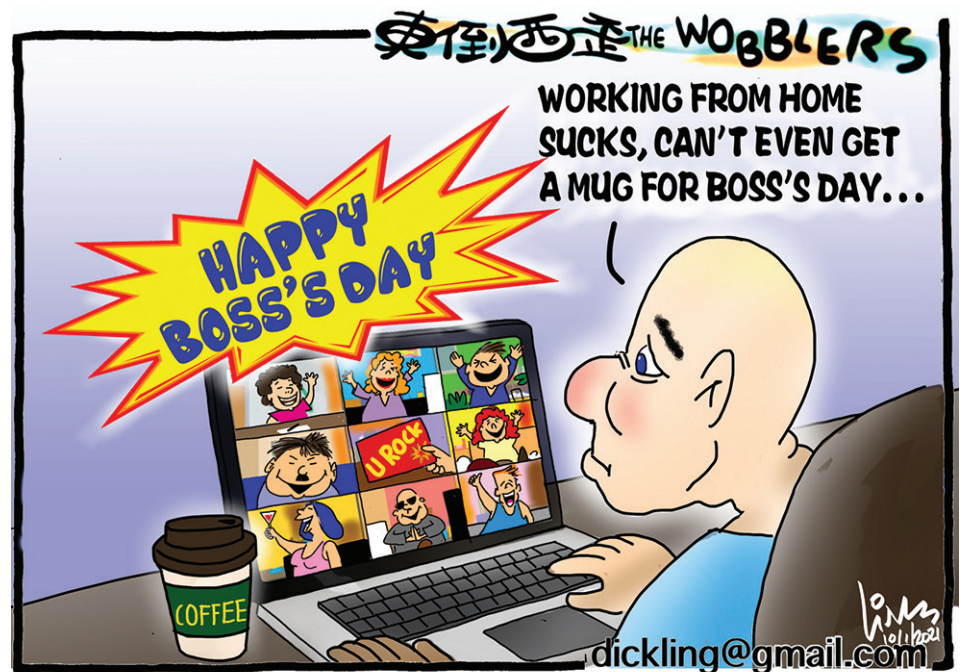
The OUSD imposes so-called "professional development" on its employees, including teachers and staff, that lacks viewpoint diversity. This is unfair, unwise, unprofessional, and illegal.

During the summer, some teachers attended a program that included a book entitled "Stamped (for kids)" whose authors include Ibram X. Kendi, author of "Stamped from the Beginning" and "How to Be an Antiracist." The program did not include the viewpoint of critics of Kendi and his methodology.

For the school opening day professional development program, the District paid \$4,000 for a 45 minute speech by speaker Nia Palmares, a founding member of Equity Parlor. One of the "offerings" of Equity Parlor is "Karen 101. Thriving in the Crosshairs of Weaponized Whiteness." The speaker's company takes a divisive approach to race relations that embodies demeaning, pejorative stereotyping. The speaker's bias is offensive to people named Karen and to their friends and relatives. If the colors were reversed, the speaker would not have been hired.

The issue isn't just whether a particular viewpoint should be presented in the guise of "professional development." A more fundamental issue is that the one-sided presentations violate common-sense fairness and the legal requirement of viewpoint diversity. Additionally, it is likely to lead to one-sided teaching.

A truly "diverse" and "inclusive" OUSD would present other viewpoints, including those of moderate Blacks such as Prof. Wilfred Reilly, Glenn Loury, Prof. John



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McWhorter, and Coleman Hughes. They have written detailed criticisms of Kendi's works and of Robin DiAngelo's work as well. Their viewpoints are readily available online. As is the curriculum of the 1776 Unites Project.

– Nick Waranoff

## Instruction Over Emotion

When we weigh inviting more woke educators into our community, 25 years is more instructive than the emotion of the day.

Educators (mostly on the ground) know that woke training does not lead to better students or healthier young people. After moving through the K-12 system, college students today report hopelessness and

depression at record levels. Twenty-five years of data would be more alarming, if not for the distracting, repeated feel-good mantras. Reading, writing and arithmetic remains the core of intellectual rigor.

Woke is a new term. "Identity education," like identity politics, is on a 25-year slow drip into minds and hearts. From the late '90s, the increase in unhealthy 22-year olds leaving traditional American education is confirmed by common sense and countless studies. Why invite an accelerated version of a framework that doesn't work?

Across the country, teachers will continue to resign or move to private schools as more object to the intense racializing and

[SEE LETTERS page 5]

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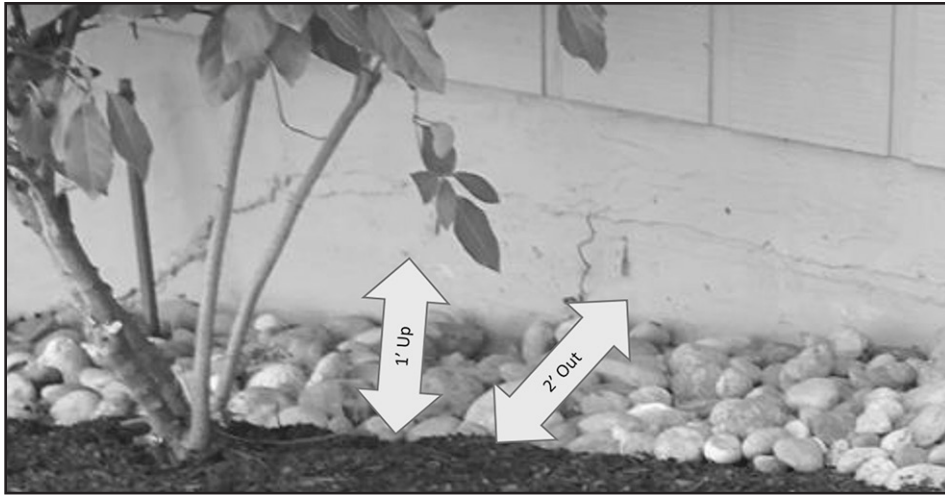
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Letters to Editor for the November issue are due Oct. 8.

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FIRE / POLICE

# Save Your House from a Wildfire



COURTESY MOFD

This shrub is in compliance with the fire code. It is placed two feet from the structure and there is one foot of clearance from the ground to the leaves. Note the pebbles next to the wood siding.

By MELANIE LIGHT  
Staff Writer

If we have learned anything from watching the Caldor fire march toward homes and businesses in Lake Tahoe, it is that the most dangerous part of a modern wildfire is the ember cast.

Despite all the fabulous fuel mitigation by Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) around the perimeter of Orinda, a wildfire will send embers a mile or more ahead, landing in receptive fuel beds like dead leaves piled on the roof of a home or the combustible mulches or shrubs lining the home's perimeter.

No one will be there to put out this fire because we will have evacuated. Firefighters will be on the front lines. Ember cast is exactly how most structures were destroyed this fire season.

After serving for 28 years, Gorden Graham, the Fuels Mitigation Manager for MOFD, knows the best way to beat ember cast is to harden your home. Of the 1,939 home inspections done so far in 2021, the most common violation, according to the fire code found on MOFD's website (www.mofd.org), regards the non-combustible zones required around structures: "Remove all combustible ground cover within 2-feet of a structure to include mulch and bark. Create at least a 1-foot air gap between the ground and lower portion of bushes, privets and other decorative plants within 2-feet of structures."

The fire code also requires people in the district to "maintain the roof of any structure and roof gutters free of leaves, needles or hazardous vegetation and other combustible materials." If your roof catches on fire, it is highly unlikely your home will be saved.

While many people are actively reduc-

ing the fuel around their home, MOFD is experiencing a push-back by residents who feel it is a burden to do this work. They are ignoring or unaware of the fact that the threat of a wildfire is a community issue.

The pile of leaves on your roof or the brush close to your home may well destroy your home and the homes of other Orinda residents.

Taking care of leaves and brush is much easier and less expensive to do than other fuel mitigation! You'll then realize there's a couple of other things you can do and before you know it, your home will be hardened.

Hint: make sure your home has fire resistant vents made by a company like Vulcan or Brandguard, which prevent embers from getting into the walls. UC Cooperative Extension's website (tinyurl.com/r2fxjy6r) explains this well.

Firewise proclaims that whether we like it or not, we are interdependent in our struggle to become a fire-adapted community. Do your work and talk to your neighbors; call MOFD at 925.258.4599 to find out what you can do; and join or start a Firewise group today!

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

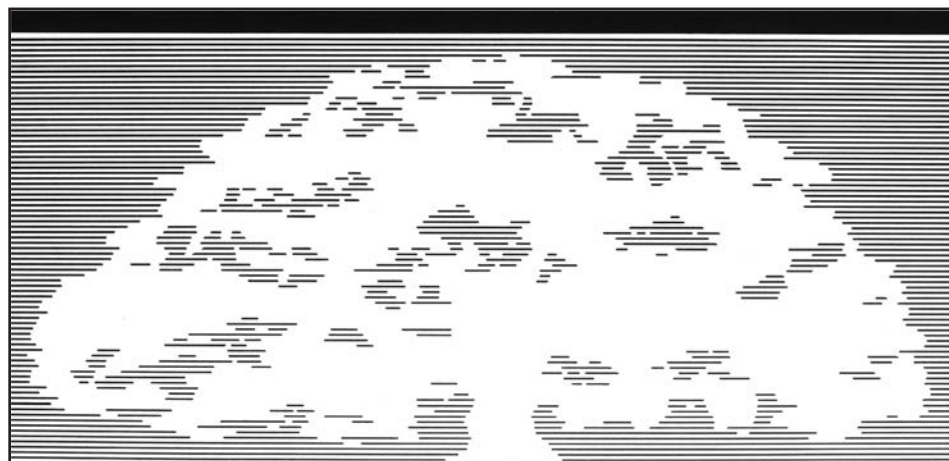
## ◆ LETTERS from page 4

sexualizing of early education.

Our Orinda teachers are saints.

We shouldn't ask them to teach obtuse platitudes found on yard signs when we know it stunts healthy growth. Serious educators develop strong minds for life's coming challenges through reading, writing and math. Our kids will thank us in 25 years.

— Greg Moore



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- Grand Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents: Camino Pablo, Davis Rd.
- Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 3 incidents: Shakespeare Theater Way, Glorietta Blvd., Camino Pablo
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident: Camino Pablo
- Petty Theft: 1 incident

- Petty Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident: Camino Pablo
- Shoplift: 3 incidents: Moraga Way (3)
- Tow: 1 incident
- Vandalism: 1 incident
- Vehicle Blocking Roadway: 1 incident
- Vehicle Theft: 3 incidents: Wildcat Canyon, Lomas Cantadas, St. Stephens Dr.
- Weapons Violation: 1 incident

### Arrest

- Possession of Narcotics: 1 arrest
- Possession of Controlled Firearm by Felon/Addict: 1 arrest
- Recovered Vehicle: 2 recoveries


— Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor



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OBITUARY / COMMUNITY

# Geophysicist and Orinda Resident, Fred Herkenhoff, Passes Away

By HERKENHOFF FAMILY  
Contributing Writers

Fred Herkenhoff, internationally renowned geophysicist and beloved father and spouse, passed away Sept. 8, 2021, surrounded by his family. Fred is survived by five sons, four grandchildren and one sister.

Over his 40+ year career, Fred held the



COURTESY OF HERKENHOFF FAMILY

Fred Herkenhoff

role of Chief Geophysicist for Chevron USA, Chevron Australia, Chevron Overseas Petroleum and CALTEX. Fred's technical leadership led to major oil and gas discoveries that affected the course of nations including the United States, Canada, Australia, West Africa, Indonesia, the Middle East and China. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Fred was appointed as a Chevron Fellow in geophysics and his impact is still evidenced by numerous influential mentees, publications, patents, and awards throughout his extensive career.

Fred was born in Stamford, CT, and grew up in Hibbing, MN, and Mountain View, CA. He graduated from Stanford with a Masters in Geophysics and was Valedictorian for his class.

Fred was an extremely active, fit guy who had a passion for sports of all kinds. He was an avid golfer, daredevil skier, very competitive runner, and (of course) a big Warriors fan.

Fred loved adventure travel which he

was able to share with his family on many occasions. He lived and/or worked in 51+ countries and visited all the continents. His adventures took him from base camp at Mt. Everest to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. He dipped into the Antarctic Ocean and ran races through the jungles of Thailand. He survived a cyclone in Tonga, riots in Columbia, flooding in Myanmar, a stampede of wildebeests in Zimbabwe and being held at knife point while on a field crew in Sumatra.

Upon retirement in 2014, he accepted several roles: docent at Mt. Diablo State

Park, visiting scientist at Lawrence Berkeley Labs, lecturer at UC Berkeley in Engineering / Geophysics, guest lecturer at Saint Mary's College, and vice president of the Bay Area Geophysical Society.

Fred was a legend whose legacy will live on. Heaven became richer and we became poorer with the loss of a true servant leader, one whose excellence and enthusiasm encouraged many others to join him in his pursuits. We were better with him and his mark on our lives will remain with us always.

We will miss you...

## Fulfillment While Working at the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

After a successful career in marketing with Macy's Inc. and Sears Holdings Co., Orinda's Kathleen Januszewski felt called to do something to help people in her community.

"I found the perfect fit," said Januszewski. "As Program Director at Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC), I have the opportunity to truly help people with memory loss and their families. I have found that I have a heart for the elderly and feel this work is a valuable service to the community. Joining LARC is a win-win."

Established in 1997, LARC is Lamorinda's premier social adult day program of active engagement for people with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., LARC participants enjoy daily activities such as games, art, sharing stories, chair exercise and therapy pet visits in addition to one hour of live musical entertainment along with much joy and laughter.

"All of us at LARC form deep friendships with other staff certainly, but especially with our participants, many of whom attend for anywhere from a few to several years. We truly form a family that grows to look forward each day to showing up for enrichment, mentally and emotionally as well. We're all here for each other," said activity leader Carolyn Bauer, who has worked at LARC for 11 years.

Bauer said this is the best job she's ever had.

"Where else can you sing and dance with such interesting people – and get paid for it," she said.

Participants at LARC have expressed

their appreciation for the program with sentiments such as this: "You welcome us each week, accept us for who we are now – individuals who are learning and accepting a new part of life. Aging is not a part of life that we have prepared for – it just happens! But in this group, we accept each other, laughing at ourselves and with each other."

Januszewski said through variety in activities, LARC's program model stimulates a participants' mind in multiple ways.

"We expect to send them home more fulfilled and enriched," she added. "Studies have shown that this kind of stimulation can extend a participant's ability to live at home by many years."

While participants are enjoying the LARC program, their caregivers have some time to tend to themselves. This revitalizes them for their busy lives as caregivers.

[SEE LARC page 8]



COURTESY OF LARC

Fred, a therapy dog, enjoys visiting Lamorinda Adult Respite Center participants, just as much as the participants enjoying visiting him.

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PERFORMING ARTS



DAVE DIERKS

Marsha Howard (standing) with (L-R) Ariella Folks, Ken Sollazzo and John Chapin starred in *The Monkey's Paw*, part of Malcolm Cowler's *Triple Tryst of Terror* production in August.

## Stories by Starlight Sets Halloween Mood with Cowler's Adaptation

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) complete their 2021 season with Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of Sheridan Le Fanu's *Carmilla* as the final production in the "Stories by Starlight" series, Oct. 1-3.

"It's a favorite of mine," said Cowler. "It's a great story that predates Bram Stoker's *Dracula* by 26 years."

Cowler is known for producing gothic horror at OrSVP. "As a young guy in England, my favorite movies were the Hammer Horror series, with Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing," said Cowler. "When I was at University in London, a group of us would ride the underground many an evening, visiting London suburbs that were showing double features of Hammer films. I guess I'm still hooked." Cowler's first introduction to *Carmilla* was the Hammer Horror adaptation, *The Vampire Lovers*.

"When I adapt a book, I import the novel into my scripting software and then start to cut, paste and modify the text to create a stage play," said Cowler. "Using this technique guarantees that 90% of the script is the actual words of the author."

*Carmilla* will be done as minimalist performance for OrSVP. No sets will be used, and scripts are openly used by the cast although actors will be fully costumed and moving around on the stage.

"It will be a combination of staged readings and simple blocking and props, using music and sound effects to create the required spooky/mysterious/dramatic environment," said Cowler.

Those who saw Cowler's previous "Stories by Starlight" production, *Triple Tryst of Terror* in August, will be familiar with how

Cowler stages plays to make the production come alive.

"*Carmilla* was a bit different to adapt because it is to be performed as a staged reading without a set," said Cowler. "Le Fanu's story was actually recounted throughout by the protagonist. I retained her as the narrator in my adaptation, which allows her to recount some of the more complex (and gruesome) scenes that would be difficult to stage in a reading."

As the show opens, Laura and her father live a quiet life in their isolated castle in Styria (southern Austria). Into this lonely

[SEE STARLIGHT page 8]

## 11th Annual Orinda Jazz Festival Returns Oct. 2, Live Performance

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Instrumentalist and vocalist Carol Alban brings her own talents and those of a bevy of world-class musicians to the 11th Annual Orinda Jazz Festival, which was sidelined last year due to COVID-19. This year's event takes place Oct. 2 from 2 - 4 p.m. in the Orinda Community Church's Garden Courtyard at 10 Irwin Way. The event celebrates Octoberfest as well as the return of live music.

"I'm so happy to be able to produce the Jazz Festival this year. I think we all could use hearing wonderful live music again," said Alban.

As in past years, Alban not only brings top musicians to Orinda, but she also uses the festival to help those in need. While admission has always been free, donations from past festivals have benefited the Contra Costa Crisis Center, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and victims of wildfires. This year's recipient is the Winter Nights Family Shelter program.

Alban has lined up a plethora of talented musicians for the concert, including vocalist Eve Marie Shahoian, whose current show *Take Me to the World* at the popular New York cabaret Don't Tell Mama won her rave reviews. Titled after Sondheim's

song of the same name, Shahoian's show appropriately celebrates survival, finding gratitude in challenging circumstances and being passionate about the things that matter most. Shahoian will perform the show in the Bay Area before returning for another New York run. The Oakland native began her career as a child prodigy performing as a soloist on *The Tonight Show*.

Called "one of the most eloquently expressive cellists in the Bay Area," Joseph Hebert will also perform at the Jazz Festival. The Grammy Award-winner has toured Japan, Africa and Europe as well as the United States, sharing the stage and recording studio with such artists as Carlos Santana, Stevie Wonder, Placido Domingo,

[SEE JAZZ page 13]



COURTESY OF CAROL ALBAN

Producer Carol Alban will also perform at this year's Orinda Jazz Festival, which celebrates Octoberfest as well as the return to live music.

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◆ MESSAGE from page 3

tions to The Orinda Association (and its partner, Cars2ndChance) helps fund Seniors Around Town (SAT), which provides free transportation to appointments for Orinda Seniors, the Fourth of July Parade, Public Forums, the Orinda Volunteer Center, the Orinda Classic Car Show and *The Orinda News* – all in need of donations to sustain the quality of their efforts.

Given that the two Rotary Clubs are also involved, your donations have an impact indirectly in nearby communities and their initiatives – HOME Team (in home repair services for seniors); Interfaith Housing; Monument Crisis Center; Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano; Family Harvest Farm; a Cancer Clinic in

Mexico; batting cages for Little League, Clayton Valley Charter High School and an Ebola Orphanage in Africa, to name a few.

A recent vehicle donation was made to The Orinda Association by local resident and retired teacher Shirley White in remembrance of Paula Dausman (1927-1994) who lived in Orinda and was an elementary school principal in Lafayette. My own family donated three cars, one of which made its way to a Paradise victim and his family.

For more information on the program, call 925.254.0800 or go to <https://orindaassociation.org> and click on "Donate Your Vehicle."

Remember, it's not the dollars we raise, but the lives we change. Join us and be part of that change. Donate your old, tired vehicles and help us continue to serve the communities we are blessed to raise our families in!

Chris Laszcz-Davis can be reached at [chrisld@eq-organization.com](mailto:chrisld@eq-organization.com).

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**Seasoned Shopper**  
Fall Season in Full Swing

BARBARA KOBSAR



Walking by stands bursting with peppers, apples, pomegranates, persimmons, squash and shelling beans confirms fall season at Orinda's Farmers' Market is in full swing. Meal choices shift from salads to soups and customers are ready to tempt their palates with something new.

If something sweet is on your mind, be sure to stop by Patty Cake's Cookies. Kelsey and Shaun Barbella are new to the market scene but experts in gourmet cookie creations. Chocolate Chip, S'mores and Birthday Cake cookies top the list, and the Double Stuffed Vegan cookies are a proven favorite. The delicious sugar cookies are shaped and decorated like butterflies and hard to pass up! There's more to check out on Instagram at [pattycakecookies](https://www.instagram.com/pattycakecookies).

Peppers are also back on the scene with something sweet to offer along with their spicy hot counterparts. Bell peppers are best known of the sweet peppers. Harvest begins when the peppers are green and continues as they ripen and mature and turn to amazing hues of red, yellow or purple. Other sweet peppers include Gypsy peppers, Hungarian wax and pimientos.

Hot chili peppers add the kick to salsas and stir fries and the pick-me-up to scrambled eggs, sandwiches, soups and stews. The "heat" of the hot chili peppers is concentrated in the interior ribs or veins near the seed heart – the seeds themselves



BARBARA KOBSAR  
**Shaun and Kelsey Barbella**, owners of Patty Cake's Cookies, are new to the market scene, but experts in gourmet cookie creations.

taste hot only because they are close to the veins. This group of peppers range from the relatively mild Anaheim and Poblano to spicy hot Jalapeno, Serrano and Habanero.

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

Barbara Kobsar can be reached at [Barbara@cotkitchen.com](mailto:Barbara@cotkitchen.com).

◆ LARC from page 6

LARC was closed for 15 months due to the pandemic. It reopened in June for two days per week and has plans to move back to a five-day program in two rooms serving up to 25 people.

"The opportunity for meaningful work is right here in Orinda. The hours are terrific. The feeling you get after a day's work at LARC is more than fulfilling," said Bauer.

"To expand our program days, we need to hire additional staff and engage regular volunteers who have a genuine love for the elderly," added Januszewski.

If you are interested in a position at LARC, please call Kathleen Januszewski at 925.254.3465 or email her at [KJ4LARC@outlook.com](mailto:KJ4LARC@outlook.com).

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at [bobbiedodson109@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiedodson109@gmail.com).

◆ STARLIGHT from page 7

existence comes the mysterious house guest, Carmilla. Slowly, Laura comes under Carmilla's spell while an outbreak of wasting deaths afflict peasants in the countryside. Soon Laura falls ill. Will they manage to work out the cause of her illness, or will Laura be the latest victim of the vampire Carmilla?

In the past, OrSVP provided blankets and jackets to attendees who forgot to bring their own. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, OrSVP will not be doing so this year. Due to COVID surges, OrSVP is also requiring all audience members, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks.

For more information, contact [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org) or visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org).

David Dierks can be reached at [david.dierks@theorindanews.com](mailto:david.dierks@theorindanews.com).

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DIVERSITY

# Can Asian Americans Be Alpha Males?

By S.K. GUPTA  
Contributing Writer

“You will never be a vice president in this corporation,” asserted “Jack,” my boss. One of the few corporate officers in our company, he had stature in our large corporation of 140,000 employees. When Jack spoke, everyone listened. The year was 1999, and we were having one of those “what do you want to be when you grow up” conversations. I had worked with him for over a year. After I got over the shock of his assertion, I gathered my courage and asked him, “Why not?” and he bluntly told me: “You are not an Alpha male.”

I was a Senior Director at corporate headquarters. I was visible, effective and a recognized successful change agent. So, I was taken aback by his message. After a few days, I asked him, “If I am not an Alpha Male, what am I?” He thought about it and said, “You are a highly competent Beta Male.”

The terms Alpha and Beta Male were not in my lexicon. So, I went looking. My search yielded no results. The books on Alpha Male were still to be written. At that time, our company leadership was dominated by white males.

So, by assessing those men, I guess I did know what an Alpha Male was. A macho guy. Take no prisoners. In-your-face. Loud. Gung-ho. Pushy. I saw examples of this at a training session from two peers who were in each other’s faces all day long and yet drinking buddies in the evening. When I asked them about it, they laughed and responded, “We are from New Jersey!”

Jack told me that he had never seen me pick a fight in public with anyone. Why would I do a rude thing like that? Doing so could make someone “lose face.” It finally dawned on me that my good manners and behavior were now being perceived as weaknesses and not as strengths.

Growing up in India, we were taught to be deferential and respectful. Very similar to values in Japan and other Asian countries, reverence to age as well as organizational hierarchy was considered good manners.

I approached a friend of mine in Human Resources and shared my conversation with Jack. A seasoned coach, Cynthia challenged me to verbalize my discomfort. After some healthy discussions, I was convinced that I wanted to be an Alpha male, or at least be seen as one. So, she said, “Let’s go work on it.” Her plan was to identify the gaps between an Alpha Male and a highly competent Beta Male and then work on closing them.

With the help of an external psycholo-



**S. K. Gupta** is a former senior executive of a Fortune 50 corporation. He enjoys researching and writing about not-so-obvious things in life.

gist’s assessments and Cynthia’s tough love coaching, I learned a few new skills and identified the three cultural behaviors I had to change.

**Rule #1: The only person in-charge of my career is me: *Speak up.***

We were taught in our native countries in Asia to work hard, work smart, and if it is meant to be, it will be. It is kismet, karma, fate. But not in the U.S.A. Here, we need to learn that you have to drive your own career. You need to find your next assignment/promotion or training. I learned to speak up.

**Rule #2: The best way to make sure that you don’t get something is by not asking for it: *So, Ask.***

Asians, however, don’t typically like to ask – we prefer to be asked. Even if we were starving, we’d have to decline any offer of food at least twice before we could – hesitatingly – say yes, the third time. In Asian countries, the person making an offer knowing you are going to decline it twice asks you the third time. What happens in the U.S.? How many times have we even been asked twice?

**Rule #3: Pull is stronger than push, but no one pulls people not pushing themselves: *Raise Your Hand.***

We were taught in Asia that being pushy is rude. In contrast, in this country, we recognize and reward the Alpha Male.

An HR leader told me that Asian Americans don’t want to be leaders since they were not knocking down his door to get promoted. We can’t wait to be pulled up – we need to push ourselves to get there.

Many Asian Americans can be categorized as highly competent Beta Males/Females. We just need to identify the cultural gaps that may be holding us back from

## Flash Night at Orinda Books, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Diablo Writers’ Workshop will host a reading by eight Lamorinda area writers at Orinda Books on Saturday, Oct. 23 starting at 6:30 p.m. The evening will highlight flash – short works of fiction, non-fiction and more. The reading is in-person at Orinda Books with a limited size audience to keep things safe and will be fully accessible via Zoom for all. For more information and registration, visit [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com).

achieving our full potential in the U.S.

Asian Americans have often told me, “I want to be true to myself and not become someone I am not.”

There are, however, skills that one can learn without giving up one’s values. Just like corporations have development programs for leadership skills, there are skills for personal and cultural development, soft skills that can help us close the gaps. Speak, Ask and Raise Your Hand.

Jack’s blunt and honest feedback changed my career’s trajectory, and I will forever be grateful to him. Less than two years after his feedback, I became a vice president. In another couple of years, I was running an 1,800-employee organization across seven states, with an annual budget of over \$700 million.

My journey to becoming a successful senior executive required me to understand the difference in the cultural norms between my native country and my new home. I didn’t become a macho, gung-ho, in-your-face guy, but I delivered results and exceeded expectations. Most importantly, I learned to identify and close the perception gaps.

Can Asian Americans be Alpha Males? Resoundingly yes. The definition of Alpha Males has evolved over the past two decades, and a Harvard Business Review article defines them as “highly intelligent, confident and successful.”

So, what are your gaps and what are the three rules that will close them for you?

*S. K. Gupta can be reached at [sk.gupta.us@gmail.com](mailto:sk.gupta.us@gmail.com).*



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VISUAL ARTS

# Art Gallery at Wilder opens “Day Dreams” to the Public on Oct. 3

By ELANA O’LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view a solo in-person show and virtual exhibit of 10 paintings by featured artist Carol Jenkins during October. Meet the artist at a reception in her honor on Sunday, Oct. 3 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. This is the only time the Wilder Gallery will be open to the public. All COVID-19 precautions will be observed for everyone’s safety. View her virtual exhibit entitled “Day Dreams” through images at [www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries).

Jenkins has been a professional artist for 15 years.

“My fascination with paint grew slowly. I longed to learn a visual language, to be creative without words. So, I started to take

painting workshops, one after the other,” said Jenkins. “I joined critique groups and rented a studio. It was a steep learning curve – it still is, but I was driven to learn. Very quickly I realized that I wanted to paint what I loved: the colors, the movement and the textures of wild terrain. Some of my favorite artists are abstract painters: Richard Diebenkorn, Joan Mitchell and Wolf Kahn.”

Jenkins divides her time between Mt. Shasta and Berkeley, with studios in both places. As far as process, she begins with spontaneous mark-making, then laying bold shapes, followed by layers of acrylic or oil paint that she draws into and scrapes away. Once an interesting line or color pulls the painting in a direction she wants to follow, she builds the layers more deliberately into a composition.

David Pagel, art critic for the *Los Angeles Times*, awarded her second place and



COURTESY CAROL JENKINS

Carol Jenkins’ 20” x 26” mixed media on canvas entitled *Pink Moment I* is an example of her desire to use a visual language to portray the colors and movement she experiences on hikes in the wild terrain she loves.

a cash prize this year in the West Coast Biennial at Turtle Bay. Visit her work at [www.caroljenkinsart.com](http://www.caroljenkinsart.com).

The Art Gallery at Wilder is located at the Wilder Art and Garden Center, 20 Orinda Fields Way, Orinda. The exhibit is in-person during the reception date, but virtual the rest

of the month due to COVID-19 restrictions. Arrange a viewing by appointment with Curators Denise Nomura and Aniston Breslin at [wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org).

Elana O’Loskey can be reached at [business.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:business.orinda@gmail.com).

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# Paintings, Playful Tapestries and a Public Art Retrospective, Oct. 2

By ELANA O’LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents paintings by Loralee Chapleau, tapestries by Aiko Kobayashi Gray and a photographic retrospective of John Toki’s public art career at the in-person and virtual Art Gallery at the Orinda Library during October.

To view their work online, visit [www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries). Meet the artists at a reception in their honor outdoors on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 3 to 5 p.m., where light refreshments will be served.

At 3:30 p.m. Oct. 2, John Toki will host a 30-minute presentation about the historic value of public art, its educational value for young students, engaging in the process of making art for public viewing and the intrinsic value of art in society. All COVID-19 restrictions will be observed.

Chapleau has dabbled in acrylics on and off since high school in the 1980s.

“I began painting with oils in 2009,” she said. “My drawing background is expressive, dating back to Professor Luis Gutierrez at San Jose City College in the early 1990s. Whenever I get a creative block or am trying to begin a new piece, I hear his voice in my head saying, ‘Draw with your left!’ That voice is louder than ever lately.”

She is aware of how many famous mas-



COURTESY JOHN TOKI

John Toki’s 10’4” tall stoneware and porcelain clay sculpture, *Sakura 2019*, was completed over four years and weighs 3600 lbs.

ters evolved from being figurative painters toward abstractionists over time.

“There’s Turner, Matisse and most famously Picasso. Rothko is definitely influencing the work on my easel,” said Chapleau. “I’m experimenting with reducing the landscape to bands of color and playing

[SEE GALLERY page 12]

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT / FUNDRAISER

# Exchange Student Program Brings Tabor Into the Mosher Family Home

By ANIA KEENAN  
Staff Writer

The Mosher family knew they had found someone special in Denisa Dvorakova, and that was before they realized they had the same kind of bird – budgies.

Dvorakova, 18, an exchange student from Tabor, Czech Republic, connected with the Mosher Family through the Orinda Sister City program.

Dvorakova said she had been “dreaming” about coming to the United States since she first heard about exchange student programs her freshman year of high school.

After her application, including an essay detailing why she wanted to participate in the program, was accepted, Dvorakova was filled with excitement finally to be

living out the adventures she had only read about in blogs and heard about from other students.

Unfortunately, her plans to arrive in the U.S. during the fall of 2020 were derailed by COVID-19, pushing her trip back a year.

There was a silver lining.

The Mosher’s mother Jennifer explained her family had a year to correspond with Dvorakova over phone and email so that when she finally arrived Aug. 1, she “felt like a member of the family.”

After watching her brother experience international study and her family hosting two students from Turkey and Sweden on separate occasions, Mosher said her family was excited to get to know Dvorakova, and to forge close friendships as they had with their previous guests.

While in Orinda, Dvorakova is attend-



COURTESY JENNIFER MOSHER

(L-R) Denisa Dvorakova, with host family Scarlett Mosher, Jon Marc Mosher and (mom) Jennifer Mosher pose for a selfie in front of the Golden Gate Bridge.

ing Miramonte High School. She said the biggest difference she noticed between her school – Central School of Engineering and Construction – and Miramonte is the structure of the classes.

“It is very different,” said Dvorakova, “We have a group of around 30 that we are together with for all four years, as opposed to switching classes every period.”

Dvorakova said she’s grateful for the kindness of her classmates and is looking forward to learning more about American culture. She currently enjoys playing on the Miramonte tennis team.

After water skiing her second day in the states, Dvorakova said she can’t wait to explore more of the Bay Area.

“I can’t believe it’s already been a month,” she said, “I want to do everything.”

Sadly, anticipating the end of Dvorakova’s program in January 2022 after a great year, both Mosher and Dvorakova expressed their desire to continue their friendship long distance.

Mosher detailed the family’s plans to attend annual medieval festivals in Tabor – as

a part of the Orinda Sister City delegation – as a way to enrich their understanding of Dvorakova’s hometown while also providing a chance to see Dvorakova again.

Ania Keenan can be reached at [ania@7keenans.org](mailto:ania@7keenans.org).

# Woman’s Club Benefit Luncheon Nov. 18 at Festival of Trees Event



SALLY HOGARTY

Attending the Nov. 2019, pre-pandemic Festival of Trees at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon are, L-R: Sandra Landberg of Walnut Creek, Sheila Casazza of Santa Rosa with friends Patti Camras of Orinda and Candy Kattenburg, formerly of Orinda. The Nov. 18 luncheon and fashion show is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

The 35th Annual Festival of Trees Luncheon and Fashion Show, an Orinda Woman’s Club annual major fundraising event, will take place Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel.

Seating is limited and early reservations are encouraged, according to Club President Kelly Davis.

Major beneficiaries from this event are the Assistance League Diablo Valley (ALDV) and Operation School Bell Common Threads. The ALDV is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, which puts caring and commitment into action through philanthropic programs in Contra Costa County.

The School Bell program supplies \$100 in new clothing to homeless children in three county wide school districts.

The Orinda Woman’s Club also supports local non-profit organizations, which aid

former foster children and women rejoining the workforce and provide educational grants to graduating Miramonte High School students.

Breaking from the traditional and more formal runway-style fashion show, this year’s festivities will have models touring the ballroom among guests in the Tea Room style of modeling.

“This way, our guests can more closely appreciate the latest fashions on live models,” said club member and model Patti Camras.

Trending winter and holiday attire will be provided by Chico’s, Harper Green and Mahsa.

“We’re excited about showcasing casual fashions in a friendly atmosphere,” said Suzanne Murillo, chair of the fundraising committee.

Local models include Marianne Aude, Jenifer Balducci, Patti Camras, Sue Farmer, Chris Linezo, Karen Norris, Cindy Powell,

[SEE FESTIVAL page 13]

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CALENDAR

# On the Calendar in October

**Orinda Library** is open to the public. Masks are required by the County. All events are currently online only. They can be viewed at: <https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events>. Open hours are Mon. through Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sun. 26 Orinda Way, Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

**Christian Science Church** Prayer Garden open to all for Quiet Meditation. Pray, read, meditate. All are welcome anytime during daylight hours. 24 Orinda Way.

1 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** - Lamorinda Arts Council October in-person and virtual exhibit includes tapestries by textile artist Aiko Kobayashi Gray, paintings by Loralee Chapleau and a photographic retrospective of John Toki's public art projects including scale models. At 3:30 p.m. Oct. 2, Toki hosts a slideshow of various public art projects with Q&A from the audience. Meet these talented artists at an outdoor reception in their honor Oct. 2 from 3 to 5 p.m. (light refreshments will be served). All COVID-19 precautions observed. See article p. 10.

**Art Gallery at Wilder Art** - Lamorinda Arts Council features abstract mixed media paintings by Carol Jenkins during October. Meet the artist at an outdoor reception Oct 3 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Wilder Art & Garden Center. All COVID-19 precautions observed. See article p. 10.

**Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents *Carmilla*, written by Sheridan Le Fanu, 8:30 p.m. Also Oct. 2 at 8:30 p.m. and Oct. 3 at 4 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. For reservations, call 925.528.9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org). See article p. 7.

2 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30. See article p. 8.

**Eight Women Artists** show through Oct. 27, Piedmont Art Center, 801 Magnolia Ave. Sat. and Sun. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Orinda artist Michelle Lewis.

**Orinda Jazz Festival** featuring Carol Alban, Eve Marie Shahoian, Joseph Hebert and many more. 2 to 4 p.m. Orinda Community Church's Garden Courtyard at 10 Irwin Way See article p. 7.

5 **Orinda Books Pat's Book Club** meets to discuss *Migrations* by Charlotte McConaghy. 11 a.m. All are welcome. The book is available at Orinda Books. To attend, phone 925.254.7606 or email [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com) for Zoom link.

**Walk and Talk with Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan** and East Bay Regional Parks District at Lafayette Reservoir. 3 p.m. Details at [www.a16.asmdc.org](http://www.a16.asmdc.org).

12 **Wildfire Prevention and Planning Workshop** with Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan at 1 p.m. via Zoom Link. Details at [www.a16.asmdc.org](http://www.a16.asmdc.org).

15 **International Film Showcase** presents the Maltese feature *Luzzu* at the Orinda Theatre through Oct. 21. For tickets go to: [www.OrindaMovies.com](http://www.OrindaMovies.com). See article p. 13.

16 **Art of Mixology** returns Live to Theatre Square. Sponsored by Lamorinda Arts Council and Tahoe Blue Vodka. Enjoy shot-glass size tastes of luscious craft cocktails from East Bay professional and amateur bartenders, bites from five local restaurants, live awards show, music and lots of fun. Must be 21 to participate; all COVID-19 precautions observed. Learn more at [www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology).

**Chiller Diller Theatre** presents *Theatre of Blood* starring Vincent Price and Diana Riggs 9:30 p.m. Orinda Theatre. See article p. 13.

17 **East Bay Children's Theater** presents [SEE CALENDAR page 15]

◆ GALLERY from page 10

with shapes a lot lately, reminiscent of the works of Nicolas de Stael. I've admired his work for years, and his influence is really starting to show itself in recent work."

But Chapleau counts many years of friendship and painting with prominent Bay Area plein air painter Jerrold Turner of the Outsiders as a longtime influence.

"Among the many lessons he taught is reminding me to embrace imagination and have fun," she said.

The push and pull of light and dark is a recurring theme in her work: "Viewers too are important because they are participating in a journey. They bring their own memories, emotions and thoughts to their viewing experience. That's one of the things I really love about art."

Visit <https://bit.ly/3iekDaT> to see examples of her work.

Aiko Kobayashi Gray was born in Japan where she studied oil painting. Next, she traveled the world and lived in Europe and Central America to widen her artistic experience. She encountered a wide variety of textiles in her travels and began her career as a textile artist in the 1970s. Over time she learned to speak Spanish, English and Japanese. She has worked out of her Walnut Creek studio since 1998.

It turned out that weaving was more satisfying for her than painting.

"When I was painting, I felt the work was never really finished – I could change it at any time with the stroke of my brush. But with weaving, there is an end point. My work is finished and I move on to the next one," she said.

Because she chooses to weave with natural cotton, linen fiber, wool and silk, hand-dyeing some of her fabric is possible.

The 10 large tapestries she is exhibiting fall within her theme, "The Experience of the Journey." Her unique style is about weaving her tapestries while recalling

memories and reflections of certain travels – such as the desert winds from Andalusia or riotous colors from Guatemala. You will experience playful images of children and images of animals closer to home upon viewing her pieces.

Gray has shown her work in Japan, Spain and the SF Bay area. Visit [www.aikokobayashi.com](http://www.aikokobayashi.com).

Artist Toki's career as a public artist runs from 1982 to the present. Besides displaying photos of his many projects, he will also share six models from ongoing projects.

An educator for over 25 years, Toki retired as a faculty member from the California College of the Arts in 2007. Throughout his career he has conducted workshops and lectured widely, including stops at Kent State University, University of California - Berkeley, Otis Art Institute, San Francisco Art Institute and colleges and institutions in Canada, Holland, Taiwan and Turkey. In 2014, Toki spoke at the DeYoung Museum. View his video on "Sakura" public art sculpture at <https://youtu.be/UJ-0Bt7NtFw>.

His Richmond studio hosted students from Del Rey Elementary School in 2016 for a Maker's Project, resulting in a welded steel sculpture, "Wild Thing." Learn more about this project at his PowerPoint presentation. Visit [www.johntoki.com](http://www.johntoki.com) to learn more about his artistic contributions in the SF Bay area and beyond.

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council go to [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org). This exhibit runs Oct. 1 through 31 during normal library hours in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sun. Call 925.254.2184 for more information about the Orinda Library or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org). Email curators at [gallery@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:gallery@lamorindaarts.org).

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TOM WESTLAKE

The Orinda Theater's International Film Showcase (IFS) features the 2021 Maltese film *Luzzu*. The IFS frequently features films that have a great deal of realistic social relevance, epitomized by works of Vittorio De Sica (*Bicycle Thieves*) and others from the neorealism school of film.

Showing in detail the life and travails of being a fisherman, the main character of *Luzzu* is, in real life, just that. A *Luzzu* is a traditional fishing boat from the Maltese Islands. As challenging as that profession is for the protagonist, circumstances are not helped by poor yields and, worse yet, predatory competitors who force our lead to make some very difficult ethical choices while providing for a new baby. It will premiere at the Orinda Theatre, Oct. 15.

The day after the Chiller Diller Theatre continues its tradition of showing movies of questionable merit, but this month's selection raises the bar considerably. When *Theatre of Blood* was released in 1973, Vincent Price was undergoing a revival of sorts, having starred in two notable horror films the two years previous. Both *The Abominable Dr. Phibes* and its sequel *Dr. Phibes Rises Again* were unique insofar as they were notable for their heightened production quality and outright surrealism.

Regretfully, the story arc those two movies told had come to an end, making the idea of another sequel unlikely. This did not mean the world was done with Mr. Price, nor the desire for horror films like the *Phibes* films. All three films have revenge as their primary theme while featuring imaginative ways to dispatch their characters. Here, Mr. Price plays a frustrated Shakespearian actor who had never been treated kindly by the critics, and he spends the film making sure his displeasure is known.

Donning a variety of disguises and characters, he picks off these critics one by one, aided by his daughter, played by the legendary Diana Rigg, herself no stranger to oddball roles from the British TV series *The Avengers* to her more recent turn on *Game of Thrones*. This is a film well worth staying up past your bedtime for. It will be screening at the Orinda Theatre, Oct. 16 at 9:30 p.m.

And lastly, we have a truly special event  
[SEE REEL page 15]

...classified ads

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◆ FESTIVAL from page 11

Donna Schupert and Victoria Smith.

"It's fun knowing our friends and neighbors are the super models this year," added Murillo.

Keeping with tradition, dozens of decorated and themed table-top Christmas trees will be raffled to lucky ticket purchasers, and fabulous silent auction items will be awarded to the highest bidder.

Previous year tabletop items featured money trees, teddy bear trees, snowflake trees, sports and team logo trees along with wine and food baskets, memorabilia and so many more.

"Some of the auction items include a one-week stay in a beautiful house in Vermont, a Ralph Lauren reversible tote, a Dooney & Bourke handbag, restaurant gift certificates and jewelry from Ireland," said Davis.

Murillo is focusing on the bright side of this year's event.

"Let's all stay healthy, think positive and look forward to this in-person gathering featuring a new, fun, casual fashion show - while following all COVID-19 guidelines in effect for Contra Costa County," said Murillo.

Dan Ashley, co-anchor at Channel 7 News, returns as Master of Ceremonies. To register online, visit <https://bit.ly/2Z5VMPF> or RSVP to Janet Nelson at 925.451.0559 or Charlene Antal at 925.376.3323. Reservations are \$95 per person, and general parking is included. Any sized donations are welcome.

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com).

◆ JAZZ from page 7

Ray Charles and Marilyn Horne.

Other musicians bringing their prodigious talents to the festival include bassist and award-winning filmmaker Daniel Lucca Parenti and his son, award-winning actor and drummer, Luca Mitchell Parenti as well as Paul McKnight, Darryl Rowe, Ted Parker, Mike Williams, Jim Freeman, Susan Miller, Nancy Tyler and a special surprise guest performer.

In addition to the music, food, beverages and a pop-up art gallery will also be available.

For more information, email Alban at [carolalban@aol.com](mailto:carolalban@aol.com).

Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ LIGHT from page 1

destruction by wildfires.

Orindans will gather to applaud Light and others at the Citizen of the Year banquet. It will be held in the Founders Auditorium of the Orinda Community Center Oct. 24 at 6 p.m.

The 2021 Citizen of the Year offers an example fire fighters would like more people to follow. Fire Chief Wannacker sounded the alarm two years ago when he explained that research showed there was a very real threat of wildfire to Orinda. He urged residents to form Firewise neighborhoods and reduce the fuel load on our properties.

Motivated by his talk, Light stepped up immediately to host a community-wide get-together. The Orinda Firewise Council was formed. Inspired by Light's leadership, Orinda has moved from one Firewise community to 26, which includes hundreds

of homes.

One of her nominating letters stated, "Melanie maintains our Firewise Council website and chairs our monthly meetings. She is a member of the Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee and was a devoted campaigner for the successful passage of Measure R. She does all this, and more, unselfishly volunteering her time to make our City and its residents safer in the event of a wildfire."

Sue Severson, of the Orinda Community Foundation (which hosts the event) explained that there will be additional honorees at the banquet: "We are celebrating three Citizens of the Year because Covid delayed presenting the awards for the 2019 and 2020 winners, Peter Hasselman and Tom Trowbridge."

Although 2020 is a year some would like to forget, it is important to remember Tom Trowbridge, chosen as Citizen of the Year for 2020. His contributions to the city are many, but he's primarily recognized as a founder of Orinda Vision, along with 2019 awardee Peter Hasselman. Its mission is to define and implement a rational vision for the future of Orinda's downtown.

The City Council and Planning Department has hired consultants and is on track to complete a Downtown Precise Plan in 2022. Trowbridge and Hasselman have devoted their time and talent all these years to making that happen. Trowbridge also served as president of the Orinda Country Club and as head of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Foundation.

Severson added, "This year we also decided to create a special category called 'Orinda Everyday Heroes' to recognize the extraordinary service of COVID-19 healthcare workers. Dr. Christopher Severson and Diane Acevedo, RN, Orinda residents, are representing the many doctors and nurses of our area who provided outstanding care to those suffering from COVID-19."

Of his recognition, Dr. Severson, an ER


physician, said, "I was chief of the department which involved the planning of how we at Kaiser Walnut Creek would handle this crisis. High priority was keeping the staff safe and providing optimal care for patients. This spring, our ER staff helped with vaccination clinics. The vaccines have made a tremendous difference because the vast majority of patients needing hospitalization and ventilators have been unvaccinated."

To make a reservation for the Oct. 24 event, which will honor these outstanding Orindans, go to the Orinda Community Foundation website (<https://orinda2010.wixsite.com/ocfwebsite>) and click on Citizen of the Year.

*Bobbie Dodson can be reached at [bobbiedodson109@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiedodson109@gmail.com).*

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◆ SCHOOLS from page 1

and outdoors, except when eating, has helped to keep the students and faculty of the private school healthy. COVID-19 tests are conducted at the school every Monday, and the faculty has a procedure flowchart to follow in the event of positive cases.

John Nickerson, Superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD), remarked that the safety protocols the district is employing have been effective thus far into the school year.

The district contact-traces potential cases thoroughly, and families participate in a community testing program to help prevent the spread of the virus in the school environment. Rapid testing on campus is another useful tactic in the effort to keep students and staff healthy.

"We knew going into this year, we would have cases," Nickerson said.

With classes commencing on Aug. 10, 15 positive COVID-19 cases among staff and students were recorded the following week but have since continued a downward trend.

No cases were reported for the week of Sept. 6.

"It has been going really well, definitely a downtick in the last few weeks," Superintendent Nickerson said, adding, "The kids have been great, [with] zero pushback on inside masking."

AUHSD has responded to students' mental health needs with wellness centers that offer social and emotional support. Nickerson acknowledged the uncertainty and loss associated with the pandemic and its effects upon the students, but also commented upon students' resilience.

"[It's] not so much the stress of attending school in this [COVID-protocol] environment, but more about what has happened in the last eighteen months."

According to CDC.gov (<https://bit.ly/3u7fAxt>), COVID-19 cases have nationally passed the 40-million mark recently, pushed upward by the highly con-

tagious Delta virus variant. Contra Costa County has a higher rate of residents who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine—84.6 percent, compared to a rate of 73.4 percent in the rest of the country, as reported by Contra Costa Health Services.

The California Department of Public Health provides specific safety measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in the K-12 in-person school-learning environment. Facemasks and optimized ventilation indoors play a significant role in infection prevention in California's schools.

Orinda's Dr. Lloyd Takao, M.D., F.A.A.P., with 40 years in the pediatrics field, acknowledged that in-person learning in schools will inevitably lead to more potential exposure for schoolchildren, but also notes that COVID-19 cases have been fewer than initially expected with the commencement of the school year.

"This whole year, we're going to see more cases," Dr. Takao said. Still, "It's been better than I thought. I think it's because most of the parents are smart and basing their opinion on science and not what they read on Facebook."

Dr. Takao said school districts across Bay Area counties differ in their procedures and protocol when it comes to handling positive virus cases and quarantining potential exposures. He added that sending a positive case and the resulting exposures home for two weeks, and testing the quarantined exposures twice a week makes a difference.

During those two weeks, students sent home can keep up with their studies virtually and be sent back into the classroom when they test negative for COVID-19.

"I think [in-person instruction is] worth the risk," added Dr. Takao. "Things are better and I'm proud of the parents for being conscientious."

*Andrea Madison can be reached at [drea.madison.05@gmail.com](mailto:drea.madison.05@gmail.com).*

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HOSTESS WITH THE LEASTEST

MIMI BOMMARITO



I recently wandered way out of my comfort zone, inviting two total strangers to our house for dinner.

I envy the confident hostess, like my dear departed Auntie Theo. Tiny and unflappable, she cheerfully produced countless Rockwellian feasts that required eatin' pants and wobbly card tables to accommodate everyone.

Meanwhile, in my gypped corner of the hospitality gene pool, I can't even guesstimate the correct amount of food to purchase for a family of five, causing my husband to nickname our fridge The Rotten Food Museum. And I constantly defend myself from the fear mongering of my daughters, as they remind one another: "Check that date. Remember, Mom will always try to serve you expired food." In addition to fully training them for a fallback career of Health Inspector, I've raised them to have each other's backs.

As much as I fantasize about flinging my front door open wide, guests relishing my immaculate housekeeping, trending décor and gourmet meals, my trifecta of timidity shakes me from my daydream. Perhaps the after effects of 2020 caused me to lose my head a little.

After striking up a delightful email conversation with Orinda newcomer Thomas Brown, who, with partner Kevin Hsu, made an exodus from San Francisco after lockdown, I found myself desiring to welcome personally these two particular souls to our suburban community. I spontaneously invited them to dinner, knowing full well the only dish I can confidently prepare is lasagna. Kevin and Thomas, who have traveled the world, most recently to Iceland, deserved more than a post-surgical caserole. The anxieties commenced.

"I promise I'm not a stalker," I wrote to Thomas, in case he was leery of my sudden dinner invitation. Thomas was actually the party to reach out first, via *The Orinda News*, complimenting me on my column and desiring additional information on the Orinda History Tour. I didn't want to make him regret his actions. I hoped that my presence in the local newspaper vouched for my credibility as a potential new friend and a non-serial killer.

I explained how I wished to provide the same warm Orinda welcome that had once been extended to me. In 2007, there existed

a friendly, grassroots organization known as the Orinda Newcomers Club. A helpful and outgoing mother of four, Cristi Chow, was the unofficial leader. The group met monthly in different homes for coffee – all very casual – a pleasant opportunity to meet new neighbors.

To the best of my knowledge, this group no longer meets. Perhaps various forms of social media have replaced it. Too bad. It made so many of us immediately feel right at home.

The night of the dinner, Auntie Theo smiled down on me, while newcomers and old-timers enjoyed a marvelous evening together. My husband, who loves to cook, prepared a savory coq au vin. The house was scoured, fresh flowers planted, the patios blown free of the smallest spec, even the dogs were shampooed. The anxieties surrounding entertaining can be highly motivating to the insecure: our house had never looked spiffier, hopefully convincing our guests we live in a state of domestic perfection Every. Single. Day.

I'm okay with my kids second-guessing the integrity of the food placed before them, but never my guests – until you get to know me well, and from then on – I am ordering pizza. Welcome to Orinda, Thomas and Kevin.

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

◆ CALENDAR from page 12

- Once Upon A Timestep*, 2 p.m. Orinda Theatre. For tickets go to [orindamovies.com](http://orindamovies.com) or [ebctonline.org](http://ebctonline.org). See article p. 13.
- 23 **Orinda Academy** Open House, 10 a.m. to noon on campus at 19 Altarinda Rd, Orinda.
- 24 **Orinda Community Foundation** Orinda Citizen of the year event. 6 p.m. Founders Auditorium. See article p. 1.
- 30 **Art Embraces Words** - Come in costume as your favorite literary or artists character. Hosted by the Lamorinda Arts Council, writers read excerpts interspersed with artists displaying artwork. Prizes awarded for best costumes. Outdoor event and reception. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/2VNjUFv>. All COVID-19 precautions observed.

*Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at [calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:calendar@aspenconsult.net).*

◆ REEL from page 13

brought to you by the East Bay Children's Theatre (EBCT). It should be news to no one that the venues, places and companies that depend on live social, personal interactions have become almost irrevocably threatened. Gone, or at the very best curtailed, are the days when one could comfortably sit in a room with others and enjoy a concert, sporting event, movie or a live theatrical show. Only of late has innovation, borne from desperation and financial realities, come to the fore, which brings us to *Once Upon A Timestep*.

Simply put, this is a filmic recording of some of the best that the EBCT has to offer. Song and dance numbers, written by composer/lyricist Ron Lytle, from some of their past shows have been given immortal celluloid life and will, after its premier, "go on the road" to be shown to

school children who may not have the opportunity to see this deep well of talent in person.

Afterwards, the audience will have the opportunity to interact safely with many of the performers from the film. Costumes are encouraged. This is definitely the event of the month, good for the whole family, and will help the East Bay Children's Theater to boot. It takes place at the Orinda Theatre, Oct. 17, starting at 2 p.m. Due to event's anticipated popularity, I'd encourage you to purchase tickets as soon as possible. For more info, please go to [orindamovies.com](http://orindamovies.com) or [ebctonline.org](http://ebctonline.org).

I encourage you, as always, to find yourself drawn to those wonderful images made of sound and light for that's where the reel magic lies.

*Tom Westlake can be reached at [popinjay@earthlink.net](mailto:popinjay@earthlink.net).*

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## Wishing Everyone Fall Breeze and Autumn Leaves

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G	P	C	A	R	V	E	O	R	P
R	O	P	A	T	O	W	L	E	O
U	S	V	L	R	M	D	U	B	B
G	N	A	Q	E	E	S	S	O	R
C	I	D	E	R	S	C	O	T	A
I	K	N	W	T	I	S	R	C	Z
C	P	R	K	S	P	D	V	O	J
O	M	W	A	U	T	U	M	N	W
F	U	Y	K	O	O	P	S	Y	C
N	P	U	M	L	E	A	V	E	S

Have fun finding the fall words!

APPLES	HARVEST	SCARECROW
AUTUMN	LEAVES	SPOOKY
BOO	OCTOBER	TREATS
CARVE	OWL	
CIDER	PUMPKINS	



## Wilder Residents

BUSINESS

# OA Board Member Chris Laszcz-Davis Wins Lifetime Achievement Award

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Chris Laszcz-Davis, an Orinda Association Board Member for 10 years, has received many awards during her distinguished career, but none more gratifying than her latest achievement.

The 42-year Orinda resident recently received the American Board of Industrial Hygiene's Lynn C. O'Donnell Lifetime Achievement Award. This is the highest honor given by the Board for Global EHS Credentialing to those making exemplary contributions to the practice of occupational and environmental hygiene over a lifetime of work. Global EHS (environ-

ment, health and safety) sets the standards of proficiency and ethics for EHS professionals.

Laszcz-Davis, who along with her husband raised two children in Orinda, volunteers her time for the OA Board, Lamorinda Presents, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and AAUW's STEM leadership initiatives. She also steps up as a driver for Seniors Around Town besides having more than 35-years of experience in environmental affairs, occupational health and safety, operational integrity, risk management and product stewardship globally – in government, industry and management consulting.

Her many current activities also include

serving as co-chair of the International Occupational Hygiene Training Association Board and as a board member of the California Occupational Health and Safety Standards Board. Laszcz-Davis also lectures and speaks frequently on emerging issues and leadership, has chaired and presented at numerous OEHS conferences in the United States and globally, and has co-authored and/or edited numerous articles and chapters.

Recognized internationally for her occupational and environmental expertise, Laszcz-Davis was also recognized closer to home by State Senator Steve Glazer in a 2017 California Senate Resolution, recognizing her lifetime of "remarkable success in every avenue of her endeavors, inspiring others in her professional achievements and strong support of the community."



COURTESY OF CHRIS LASZCZ-DAVIS  
Long-time Orinda resident **Chris Laszcz-Davis** recently received a lifetime achievement award for her contributions to occupational and environmental hygiene over a lifetime of work.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).

## Fitness Tip of the Month

*The Solution for Lifelong Fitness .... Depends On Who's Life It Is*

*The formula for fitness must account for our genetic predisposition, our lifestyle from childhood to the present, all of our fitness experiences up to the present day, and our vision for our health in the future. The Solution has to be individualized.*



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## FINANCIAL NEWS

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Financial headlines have been abuzz with talk of inflation this year as prices increased at their fastest clip in three decades. This has led to an important question about whether prices will keep rising at a fast pace.

At issue is the recent pace of about a 5% increase versus an average of about 2.4% over the last 30 years. So 2% vs. 5%, it begs the question: why care?

Small differences in rate can lead to huge differences over the years, thanks to the wonder of compounding.

Think of it this way. An American who paid \$1,000 for rent, gas, food, and everything else in 2000 could today, buy the same lifestyle for \$1,590. If the average rate was 5% over that time, the cost would be \$2,785.

That big difference is why a lot of economics professors are wringing their hands over whether higher inflation will end up being transitory or persistent.

Arguments for transitory inflation include a one-time rebound effect and lifted constraints on temporarily snarled supply chains. Both of these impacts can be seen in the limited supply and red-hot prices for cars.

Arguments for persistent inflation center around empowered labor. Labor prices show up in inflation by being both cost embedded in what we buy and an increase to demand through the higher wages paid to workers. It's a potential inflation double-whammy.

The last three decades have been fantastic for inflation and horrible for labor – it took 30 years for real (after-inflation) median household income to increase by 11% from 1989. Over the same period, the real return on the S&P500 was 966.35%.

Inflation risk can be tricky for investors as inflation normally results in higher interest rates which can batter the prices of nearly all assets. One of the few places to hide from short term spikes in interest rates is cash, confoundingly the asset most at risk from long-term inflation.

If given the choice, many investors may still choose a bumpier investment journey than another three decades of stagnant real wages for their countrymen. If only we could choose.

David Born can be reached at [dborn@pfmpartner.com](mailto:dborn@pfmpartner.com).

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