



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 33, Number 9

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Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
September 2018

November Elections Take Shape

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

With the official filing period over for local candidates, Orinda City Council, Orinda Union School District, Acalanes Unified School District and Moraga Orinda Fire District elections now have a final slate of candidates.

On the City Council, the three seats up for reelection are: Mayor Amy Worth, who has served five, four-year terms on the council beginning in 1998; Dean Orr, who has served two, four-year terms beginning in 2010; and Eve Phillips, who has served

OA Candidate Forums

Orinda City Council - Oct. 3 - 7 p.m.
MOFD - Oct. 10 - 7 p.m.
Orinda Library Auditorium

one, four-year term beginning in 2014. Worth and Phillips are running for reelection. Orr has declined.

Three additional candidates are vying for the open City Council positions: Dennis Fay, who is a member of Orinda's Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission and [SEE ELECTIONS page 20]

Changes in Downtown Orinda



SALLY HOGARTY
New owner Mo Mashboon will bring changes to 37-43 Moraga Way, including repairs and cosmetic improvements, but existing tenants Orinda Cleaners, Salon Elegante and Nu Wa Great Body will remain.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

While various groups and city committees discuss the myriad of changes possible for both sides of downtown Orinda, smaller changes are taking place behind the scenes that will subtly affect the look of downtown. One case in point is

the purchase of 37-43 Moraga Way and the Flying A service station by Mo Mashboon, president of Mash Petroleum, Inc.

Formed in 1995 to manage independent service stations, Mash Petroleum has diversified to include owning, leasing and selling office, retail and residential real estate as well as owning and operating restaurants. [SEE DOWNTOWN page 6]

Coming Soon!
Presale starts
September 10th
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lower, join for free!



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DAVID DIERKS
Attendees enjoyed the day viewing spectacular vehicles at last year's Orinda Classic Car Show.

Time to Rev Up Your Engines!

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Classic Car Show returns for its 14th weekend of cars, starting on Sept. 7 with the Rotary produced pre-show party "Dancing with the Cars," followed on Sept. 8 with the main event that will fill the streets around Orinda Motors with classic cars and exotic vehicles.

Festivities start Friday at 5:30 p.m. around the fountain at the Orinda Country Club (OCC) with the "Dancing with the Cars" fundraising event. Since this year's theme is *American Graffiti*, participants should get ready to admire lots of classic Chevys and Fords. An exhibit of classic cruisers and roadsters, including the iconic Suzanne Somers Thunderbird, is followed by dinner. A silent auction before dinner and a live auction after dinner round out the evening. Highlights of auction items include: San Francisco Bay Flight Tour and Lunch; Warriors Floor Tickets; Three Bottles of High End Tequila and Shot Glasses; two Instant Wine Cellars (24 bottles of wine); Hosted Party for 10; and Hosted Holiday Party for 20. Proceeds from the dinner benefit local charities, including The Orinda Association, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Rotary Club of Orinda, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Park and Rec Foundation and other non-profit community partners. Tickets are available at www.OrindaCarShow.com

Show.com/enjoy-dancing-with-the-cars. Over the last 13 years, the car show has raised more than \$526,000 for local charities.

The next day, Saturday, Sept. 8, the free car show will take over the streets of Orinda Village from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A wide-range of over 200 vehicles will be on display, including classics, muscle cars, exotics and motorcycles. The exciting new exhibit this year showcases classic and historically significant race cars used in competition and driven by famous race car drivers such as Bobby Rahal and Jacques Villeneuve. Race car manufacturers represented include Fer- [SEE CAR SHOW page 22]

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**The 14th Annual
Orinda Classic Car Show
Weekend**

**Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 7th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"**



American Graffiti

Our all-inclusive event kicks-off the Classic Car Show weekend and is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser. Special features include a display of cool cruisers and rad roadsters, souped up to drag the Main! Also enjoy signature cocktails, fabulous food, awesome auction items, and great music!

Space is limited so don't wait. NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.

tix: OrindaCarShow.com

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

City Council Thanks OA for Successful 4th



SORA O'DOHERTY

The Orinda City Council recognized the work of The Orinda Association in orchestrating the 4th of July parade. First row (L-R): Mayor Amy Worth, OA Vice President Joe Garvey, OA Co-President Cindy Powell, OA Secretary Carlos Baltodano, 4th of July Chair Andy Radlow; Second row (L-R): 4th of July committee member Kathy Enzernik, OA board member Diane Lautz; Third row (L-R): OA board member Chris Laszcz-Davis; Vice Mayor Inga Miller, City Councilmembers Darlene Gee and Dean Orr.

A Message From the OA President
The end is near -- nearly Autumn



Cindy Powell

The end of summer is near, and we start getting busy. Many volunteer organizations do not meet during the summer, so it's kickoff time. Here is your chance to get involved.

Labor Day on Sept. 3 is dedicated to you, the worker, in appreciation for the work you do in or outside of the home. Labor Day is also viewed as the official end of summer. Celebrate in Orinda at the Run on the Wilder Side. I am only going one mile because an event like this deserves a costume (Often a handicap when running or walking). The Orinda Park and Rec Foundation supports so many good things in our town, and this run will benefit the Orinda Community Center Park renewal. Join me and joke about my costume, which is still a secret.

Sept. 7 is the opening night of Orinda

Starlight Village Players *Good Morning, Bill* at the Outdoor Theatre in Orinda Community Center Park and also **Dancing With The Cars**, the pre-party to the Annual **Orinda Classic Car Show** on Sept. 8. This year's theme is *American Graffiti*, and some fancy cocktails and dinner on Friday will prepare you for the fancy autos on Saturday.

Sept. 9 is **California Admission Day** to celebrate when California became the 31st state in 1850.

World Gratitude Day is your opportunity to show your gratitude and appreciation for the great and small things individuals and groups do. On Sept 21, appreciate the people in your life who have done good deeds with a simple "thank you" or a card or text. I am very grateful to our members and volunteers that support The Orinda

[SEE PRESIDENT page 20]

New Orinda Association Board Member: Diane Lautz

By Lynn Kalmar
Assistant Editor

This summer The Orinda Association welcomed Diane Lautz as a new board member. Lautz and her husband Jim first moved to Orinda in 1984, along with their two young sons. Having attended UC Davis and the UCSF School of Nursing, she began her career working three mornings a week as an operating room nurse at Kaiser in Walnut Creek. Lautz continued to work part-time for the next 15 years while rais-

[SEE LAUTZ page 20]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Diane Lautz joins The Orinda Association Board.



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The Orinda Association Presents

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Orinda Library Auditorium

ORINDA CITY COUNCIL FORUM

Wednesday, October 3, 7 PM

Dennis Fay	Eve Phillips
Kathleen Jenkins	Amy Worth
Nick Kosla	

MOFD FORUM

Wednesday, October 10, 7 PM

MOFD District 3	MOFD District 4
Steve Anderson	Michael Donner
Steve Danziger	Lucy Talbot
Red Smith	



254-0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org

The Orinda Association

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

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

P.O. Box 97
26 Orinda Way (Lower Level Library)
Orinda, California 94563
Phone: 254-0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org

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Orinda Motors Presents



The 14th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 7th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"

Saturday,
September 8th, 10am-3pm
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW **Alliant** Insurance



Entries by mail are now closed. Please go to www.OrindaCarShow.com for current entry information. Join us as a spectator – Admission is FREE!

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

Cruise in a Classic!
Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive.

Enter Your Car and Buy Party Tickets Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: The Orinda Association, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Community Foundation and Seniors Around Town.

Event Schedule

Friday, September 7th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY
at the Orinda Country Club

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Mechanics Bank**.

American Graffiti

Our all-inclusive event kicks-off the Classic Car Show weekend and is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser. which produces "Dancing with the Cars." Special features include a display of cool cruisers and rad roadsters, souped up to drag the Main! Also enjoy signature cocktails, fabulous food, awesome auction items, and great music!

Buy your tickets at:
www.OrindaCarShow.com
Space is limited so don't wait.
NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Seating is limited, so don't drag your feet! Proceeds from this event benefit a variety of Orinda non-profits and projects including: the Orinda Association, the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), Orinda Parks and Rec, local arts and the Rotary Club of Orinda,

Saturday **Free Admission**
September 8th, 10am - 3pm
14TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Orinda Motors**.

- The show will be held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way
- 200 Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- This year's show will feature a Special Exhibit of classic and historically significant race cars. This rare group of cars includes racers driven in competition by Jacques Villeneuve and Bobby Rahal. Car manufacturers will include Ferrari, March, Lola, McLaren and Chevron. There will also be cars from the race teams yet to be announced!
- Shaded seating to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Taverna Pellegrini Food and Beverage Pavilion
- Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Drive of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2018 Car Show T-Shirt

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Orinda Historical Society Museum, The Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation and other local charities.

See a Special Exhibit of Outstanding Classic and Historically Significant Race Cars!



"DANCING WITH THE CARS" PARTY SPONSORS



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Mechanics Bank

Supporting Sponsor:
Clark Thompson-Village Associates,
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Chevron Corporation

Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Orinda for producing this party!

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors: 92.1 KKDV, Aetna, Alliant Insurance, Chevron, Clark Pest Control, Clark Thompson-Village Associates, Cobra Experience, Diablo Foods, Dr. Jess Santucci, FedEx Office, Finola Fellner-Real Estate, First American Title, John Muir Health, KRON 4 News, *Lamorinda Weekly*, Living Lean, Mechanics Bank, Mercedes Benz of Walnut Creek, Monument Car Parts, O&R Upholstery, *The Orinda News*, Pacific Business Centers, Rebecca Ciccio-The Grubb Co., Recuerdo Wines, Republic Services, Safeway, Sales Muscle, Taverna Pellegrini, Thompson Group Marketing

CLASSIC CAR SHOW WEEKEND PIT CREW

Dan Akol	Anthony Drewitz	Stu Kahn	Dayna and John Sayres
David Alvarado	Jill Gelster	Emily Lambert	Bob Schmaltz
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Bill Cosden	Sally Hogarty	CJ Poloka	Matt Wilson
Bill Criswell	Ken Jew	Terry Ranahan	Gary Wong
David Dierks	Sylvia Jorgensen	Mike Robinson	Rick Woodward

Letters to the Editor...

Disheartened by City Council

I was very disheartened by the July 10 City Council meeting. Even though the Council and the CIOC had agreed in previous meetings to the formation of a Task Force to discuss street maintenance in Orinda, the Council made an about-face and voted against such a discussion group. This Task Force would have been comprised of residents on both public and private streets, and its focus would have been merely to investigate possible funding for maintenance of all of Orinda's streets. The Council stated that funding a Task Force would be problematic, but private citizens would have gladly donated their time; there is no need for an outside facilitator, attorney, etc. Orinda would have been able to find citizen volunteers.

The fact that the Council refused even to permit a formal group to discuss possibilities indicates that it is completely uninterested in the plight of one-fifth of the city's residents. It suggests that one-fifth of Orinda will never receive the same benefits that the rest of the City receives. It suggests that one-fifth of the city must continue to pay in perpetuity the same taxes as the more fortunate citizens who live on publicly maintained streets; it suggests that one-fifth of Orinda must continue to pay in perpetuity for maintenance of their own streets as well as the streets of their more fortunate neighbors.

What would happen if a sinkhole or landslide affected a private street? How could a group of neighbors possibly afford repairs such as those that were required recently on Miner Road? The City was able to make those desperately needed repairs: the county and state and federal government provided substantial aid, and the remaining cost was shared by all 7,000 Orinda households because Miner Road is a public street.

I urge Orindans to see OrindaRoadFacts.info for more information on this issue.

Orindans are fair people, I have found. Most members of the City Council clearly are not.

– Kathleen Finch

Mayor Misstates Issue

In Sally Hogarty's front page article (August 2018) entitled "Issue of Private Road Maintenance Hits Roadblock," Ms. Hogarty accurately notes that costs, including "fees associated with hiring a professional facilitator," were cited by the Orinda City Council as primary reasons for not going forward with the proposed Private Road Maintenance Task Force ("Task Force"). I wish to note, as an Orinda resident who attended the CIOC meeting prior to the City Council meeting, that the concept of hiring a professional facilitator to guide meetings of the Task Force was introduced

by members of the CIOC at that meeting and not by any Orinda residents who argue for creation of the Task Force. Perhaps this was intended as a poison pill, perhaps not.

More importantly, however, Ms. Hogarty goes on to quote Mayor Worth at the City Council meeting, in voting against the Task Force, as stating that she "wishes the city budget could provide for additional services that people want, but..." I am writing to say that the Mayor misstates the issue; private road residents are not seeking additional services that they "want"; they are seeking services that they pay for (and have always paid for and have never received). Residents on Orinda's private streets (which constitute 20 percent of all Orinda streets) pay their full load in taxes for road maintenance services that they are barred from receiving.

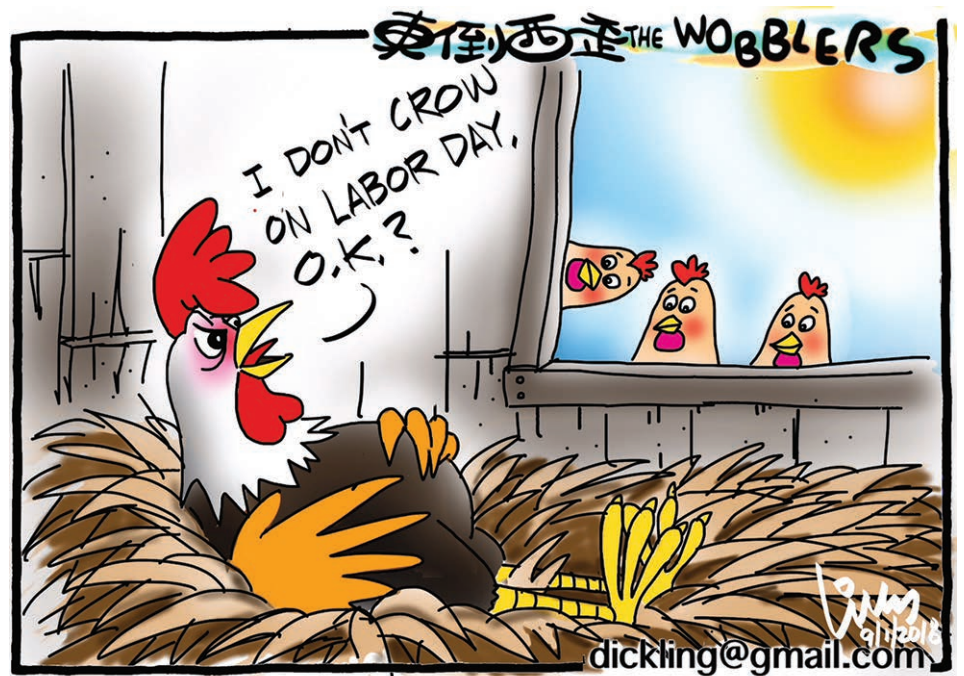
I urge all readers to take a look at OrindaRoadFacts.info for interesting and important information about this issue.

–Bob Finch

Lucy Talbot for MOFD Board

I support Lucy Talbot for Director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). Lucy is both a longtime effective community volunteer and an experienced, successful businesswoman. I served with Lucy in a UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland fundraising organization. Our service together gave me an opportunity to see her in action chairing this major fundraiser, and serving as both president and in her position on the board of the fundraising consortium for the hospital. I have been incredibly impressed with her leadership and financial acumen, effective communication skills, as well as her depth of empathy for those who are served. These are the exact skills the MOFD Board needs as it strives to ensure the safety of the public and the financial stability of the district.

Lucy is a Cal grad and brings a keen intellect, positivity and energy to her many endeavors. She and her husband Al have raised three sons in Orinda, and she has been an active volunteer throughout the family activities at LOPC, EFO, OBA, Glorietta, Wagner, Miramonte and her HOA which demonstrate her dedication for her community. Her business career has included 15 years as a sales exec with Motorola selling technical equipment to Fire Departments for communications. In her Orindawoods HOA committee work she helps in maintaining a firesafe landscaped setting. Lucy is observant and conscientious noting fire hazards that need resolving. Her 33-year old family business supplying industrial parts and supplies makes her share in the accountability for success and financial soundness. Lucy has excellent listening and communication skills. She is persuasive and decisive. She cares greatly about her community. Most importantly,



List of *The Orinda News* Advertisers

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Lucy will listen to everyone, work to bring us together, think creatively and be willing to take the actions required to keep MOFD financially solvent, effective and embracing technology such as finding a best manner for a community fire alert system. Please vote for Lucy Talbot for Director of MOFD.

– Lisa Jorgens

Problems with Orinda Post Office

For many years, we and our neighbors have experienced problems with multiple mis-delivered mails and vacation holds. In November 2017, we brought the issues to

the Post Office and spoke to the supervisor. His attitude was hostile and unprofessional, but he promised that he would investigate and call us back, but he never did.

When the same problems persisted, we called the office on May 7, 2018 wishing to speak to the postmaster but, unfortunately, spoke to the supervisor again. He was unprofessional, impatient, hostile and stated that we needed to bring the delivery problems to the mail carrier and then he hung up the phone. We were shocked to experience this ultimate rudeness and unprofessional

[SEE LETTERS page 19]

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Editor.....Sally Hogarty
 Assistant Editor.....David Dierks
 Assistant Editor.....Lynn Kalmar
 Copy Editor.....Ken Hogarty
 Advertising Representatives.....Jill Gelster, Elana O'Loskey
 Editorial Committee.....Kathy Enzerink, Jill Gelster, Sally Hogarty, Lynn Kalmar, Elana O'Loskey, Mark Roberts, Kate Wiley
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 Contributing Writers.....Thomas Black, Juliet Don, Annabelle Hall, Rev. Dr. Stephen Hassett, Dr. Tiffany Svahn
 Graphics.....Aspen Consulting: Jill Gelster & David Dierks
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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

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

POLICE / ROADS / CHURCH



POLICE BLOTTER

July 1 through August 11, 2018

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 10 incidents.
 Accident Injury: 1 incident.
 Accident Property: 10 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 154 incidents.
 Animal Cruelty: 1 incident.
 Barking Dog: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Auto: 12 incidents.
 Burglary, Commercial: 2 incidents.
 Civil Matter: 10 incidents.
 CVC Moving Violation: 163 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 87 incidents.
 Death Non Criminal: 1 incident.
 Disturbance - Domestic: 1 incident.
 Disturbing the Peace: 2 incidents.
 Evading Officer: 1 incident.
 Fireworks: 4 incidents.
 Forgery: 2 incidents.
 Found Property: 6 incidents.
 Hailed by Citizen: 1 incident.
 Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 6 incidents.
 Identity Theft: 8 incidents.
 Indecent Exposure: 1 incident.
 Juvenile Disturbance: 3 incidents.
 Lost Property: 3 incidents.
 Loud Music: 1 incident.
 Loud Noise: 14 incidents.
 Loud Party: 5 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 6 incidents.
 Missing Adult: 1 incident.
 Motorist Assist: 3 incidents.
 Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 3 incidents.
 Ordinance Violation: 10 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 34 incidents.
 Panhandling: 1 incident.
 Parking Detail: 143 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 37 incidents.
 Petty Theft: 6 incidents.
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 4 incidents.
 Phone Harass: 1 incident.
 Public Assembly Check: 7 incidents.
 Public Nuisance: 5 incidents.
 Reckless Driving: 15 incidents.
 Security Check: 17 incidents.

Service to Citizen: 151 incidents.
 Shots Heard: 2 incidents.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 22 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 14 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 17 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 11 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 17 incidents.
 Terrorist Threats: 1 incident.
 Tow: 14 incidents.
 Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 2 incidents.
 Traffic Hazard: 13 incidents.
 Transportation: 1 incident.
 Trespass with Vehicle: 1 incident.
 Unwanted Guest: 1 incident.
 Vacation House Check: 58 incidents.
 Vandalism: 9 incidents.
 Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents.
 Verbal Dispute: 3 incidents.
 Violation Restraining Order: 1 incident.
 Welfare Check: 19 incidents.

Arrest

Conspiracy: 1 arrest.
 Drunk in Public: 2 arrests.
 DUI: 3 arrests.
 Other Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Controlled Substance: 1 arrest.
 Recovered Stolen Car: 1 recovery.
 Revocation of Probation: 1 arrest.
 Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.
 Warrant Arrest: 4 arrests.

BART Statistics

Stolen Bicycle: 1 incident.

— Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit
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— Advertisement —

Orinda Roads - Part Two of Three

Orinda has 123 miles of roads. 93 miles of these roads are maintained by taxes we all pay; 30 miles are not.

Part One of this series, published in the August issue of *The Orinda News*, described the road network and how it became bifurcated between publicly maintained roads and those which are not. While these 30 miles of streets are euphemistically called “private” streets, in reality the only thing private about most of them is the source of funding for their maintenance. A better term for these is Orphan Streets.

Part Two of this series describes what it would cost to provide equal benefits to all of Orinda’s homeowners who are paying equal taxes.

There are four elements of cost to Orinda’s roads:

- 1) Rehabilitation
- 2) Maintenance
- 3) Disaster insurance
- 4) Liability of lawsuit

What will it cost to repair and maintain the Orphan Streets? Much less than the City will spend on its own 64 miles of residential streets which are costing \$5.8 million per year. In 2014, almost 80 percent of Orinda’s public streets (50 miles) needed major repairs. Conversely, 11 miles of the Orphan Streets are either new or managed by well-funded HOAs. Of the remaining 19 miles, up to 80 percent are in good condition requiring only standard maintenance. At the most, five miles would require rehabilitation costing less than \$5 million. This would be paid off over 20 years at a cost of \$400,000 a year. In addition, experience has shown that the lightly traveled residential streets can be well maintained for \$20,000

per mile, annually. For 30 miles of streets, that is an additional \$600,000. However, if the City pays to maintain these roads, there may be offsetting State and County funding of up to \$100,000 annually resulting in a net cost of \$900,000 year.

Thus while each Orinda household is paying over \$800 per year to maintain its 64 miles of public residential streets, the added cost to maintain all of Orinda’s residential streets including the 30 miles of Orphan Streets would be only \$130; 35 cents a day.

Less well defined are the costs related to disasters and lawsuits. It must be realized that 90 percent of the Orphan Streets are small residential cul-de-sacs with no through traffic and an average of seven homes on them. If they are well maintained, and most already are, the probability of a law suit from one of these streets is very low. The City currently maintains 27 miles of similar streets but has no records of lawsuits, if any, generated on them.

As for disasters, they too are very rare. However, if there were a slide on an Orphan Street with seven homes, costing \$1 million, that \$140,000 for each home would be onerous. However, if the City assumed the obligation, it would probably get 50-75% FEMA support and the rest would be spread across Orinda’s 7,000 households, costing about \$50 each.

That’s what being a City is all about; being there for each other.

Next month we will publish Part three of the series: How Can the City Pay to Maintain All of its Streets?

Citizens for Fair Road Funding /
www.OrindaRoadFacts.info.

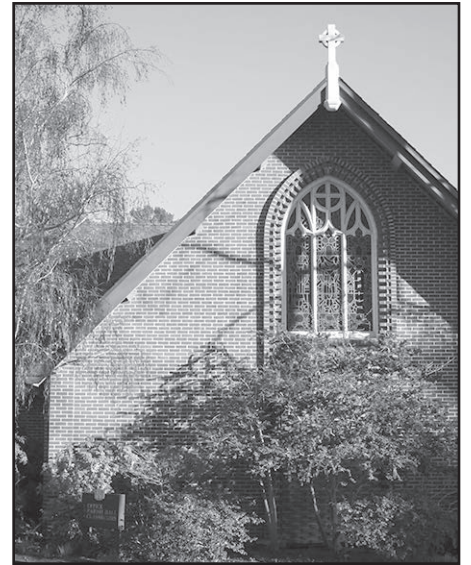
Fall Schedule at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church has Something for Everyone

By REV. DR. STEPHEN HASSETT
 Contributing Writer

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church has been serving the community in Lamorinda since 1950, when families moving to Orinda organized themselves and founded the parish. After meeting in one another’s homes, borrowing space from other nearby churches, and even sharing space with the old Scout Hut in Orinda, the founding families of St. Stephen’s laid the foundation of their new church home in 1953.

In the 65 years since then, St. Stephen’s has nurtured faith, preserved tradition, and welcomed new generations into the community of the congregation, and into the beliefs and practices that characterize the “middle way” of the Episcopal Church.

This fall, the staff and leadership of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church will offer several special events on Sundays this fall, including a service where animal companions are welcome and a celebration of the Feast of All Saints and All Souls.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church will offer several special events on Sundays this fall, including a service where animal companions are welcome and a celebration of the Feast of All Saints and All Souls.

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CAR TIME

◆ DOWNTOWN from page 1

Mashboon purchased 37-43 Moraga Way to use the upstairs as his office, retaining retail on the ground floor. Based in downtown Oakland since 2000, Mashboon recently sold his 12-story building at 3rd and Broadway and has been looking for a smaller facility. His agent David Ching of Marcus and Millichap found out about the Orinda property and suggested it to Mashboon.

“My son just moved to Orinda, and my wife and I are building a home in Wilder so this new location will be very convenient. I’ve always wanted to live in Orinda, and now I’ll have both my home and office there,” says Mashboon, who has retained local architect Rick Kattenburg to do general cosmetic changes and repairs to the 1963 building. “We need to update and replace all the windows with more energy efficient models and put up new awnings and similar things to make the building look better,” Mashboon explains.

With Orinda Cleaners a long-time tenant in the building, Mashboon also had to have an intensive environmental inspection prior to his bank loaning on the property.

Mashboon’s purchase of the Moraga Way property from the Mary Dee Karp Trust has not been without controversy. Karp passed away in November of 2014, and the property has since been handled by her estate. Tenants have complained about the management company not keeping up with repairs, but they were even more upset when they received eviction notices telling them that the building had been sold. Only two businesses, Orinda Cleaners and Salon Elegante, have leases and were not served eviction notices.

“I received four different eviction notices, each with a different date I had to be out and each with my name misspelled,” says Norm Weiss, owner of Computer Software and Hardware. “I had been in that

location for over 27 years, and it was very emotional for me to leave, especially the way it was handled.”

He and the Orinda Hair Salon, also evicted from 37 Moraga Way, both found a new home at 1 Orinda Way on the Village Side, which includes Living Lean, Yu Chinese Bistro and Lamorinda Martial Arts Studio.

“I’m very happy we found another place in Orinda,” says Morgan Weiss, who works with his father in the computer store. “My parents have lived in Orinda a very long time, and I’ve grown up here. I didn’t like looking for office space in other cities. Luckily, I happened to be taking my car to Kathy at Orinda Shell Auto Care, and she mentioned the office space at 1 Orinda Way.”

While Weiss and Orinda Hair Salon have moved to the other side of Orinda, other businesses that were in the building have moved further away. AG Realty is now at 1261 Locust Street in Walnut Creek and Sleepy Cat Books has moved to 2509 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley.

In addition to Orinda Cleaners and Salon Elegante, Nu Wa Great Body Designer will stay in the building but move to a more convenient downstairs location.

“I think there was a misunderstanding between myself and the previous owner,” says Mashboon. “I didn’t want the former tenants to move out. I wish we had had an opportunity to talk to them and work something out.”

Mashboon, whose business includes service stations throughout the Bay Area, also purchased the Flying A station at 22 Bryant Way.

“Allen Pennebaker was interested in selling. In a few more years, he would have had to replace the underground storage tanks. It’s a great location. It used to have four pumps at one time, and we’re applying for a permit to go back to four instead of the current two pumps,” Mashboon explains.

CAR TIME

How Many Repair Shops Does It Take To fix A Car?

By JOHN VANEK



In today’s competitive world, motorists look to save money on car repairs and maintenance. With the complexity of modern vehicles, consumers can find the price of repairs a bit shocking. This may lead folks on a quest to price shop a repair.

The place with the higher price is most likely the best value if the higher price is set because it uses quality parts that are more expensive and because they hire trained and experienced professionals who make top dollar in their industry.

This is what it takes to get the results you need. Saving money is a good idea, but it can get tricky due to the fact that not all repair shops are created equal. I always say it’s better to look for a good shop rather than price shopping every repair. I see some customers who bounce around from shop to shop trying to get a good deal. This will also take away the consistency of the service history on your vehicle. It is difficult to understand the maintenance and repair history when it is inconsistent.

If you take your vehicle to one quality facility, it will eliminate the confusion. It also means that there is one shop to stand behind the repair. You always know who did the work on your car. The people who set and perform the service know the history of the vehicle. They will advise you as to the required maintenance based on the needs

of the car, the factory maintenance intervals and the history which they will know. If such a shop is fair and honest, then there is no reason to bounce around.

Good maintenance can be preventative also. Some auto repair consumers use a different facility for oil changes only. This is okay if you use the same outfit every time. Oil changes may seem simple, but regardless, some oil change shops may use recycled oil or an oil viscosity that is less expensive but not what is required by the manufacturer. Poor quality oil filters are also used by bargain oil change outfits. Sometimes their inspections are not thorough. A service on a vehicle is not just a quick oil change, and having a coupon for a reduced price may be a long-term setback. You need an experienced technician to really look at a vehicle when you bring it in for service.

Recognizing problems before they affect your day-to-day car use is what you need. This results from consistent service with somebody that is fair and that you can trust. I charge motorists with the task to take responsibility for maintenance and repairs on their vehicles. How many repair shops does it take to fix a car? It only takes one, but it needs to be the right one!

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

The station is currently closed while the tanks are removed and the soil tested. The Smog Pro station, also located at 22 Bryant Way, is still accessible.

Although the service station now has a fence around it, it will come down in the not too distant future to reveal a state-of-the-art gas station for local residents.



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MEDICAL / TRAVEL

A New Breast Cancer Clinic



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Monica Eigelberger, Dr. Christine Chung and Dr. Tiffany Svahn are three physicians offering multidisciplinary care to breast cancer patients at the newly opened Women's Cancer Center of the East Bay.

By Tiffany Svahn, MD
Contributing Writer

When a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, her life is turned upside down. Suddenly, she is consumed with the process of making appointments, getting more testing, making decisions, consulting with a variety of specialists on different days – all at different locations. She may even seek second and third opinions. This process is overwhelming and exhausting and can take weeks to months. For these reasons, our team developed a program to make the process easier for breast cancer patients.

Diablo Valley Oncology and West Coast Surgical Associates have opened the Women's Cancer Center of the East Bay, located in our new Multidisciplinary Cancer Clinic in Pleasant Hill. This new program focuses on breast cancer patients and brings together physician expertise

from breast surgery, medical oncology and radiation oncology.

Similar to multidisciplinary tumor boards at academic centers, our board certified, highly trained and experienced physicians offer a multidisciplinary team approach to diagnosis and treatment planning. The benefit of multidisciplinary care is that patients receive multiple medical opinions from a group of specialists, helping them feel confident they have explored all of their options. Research shows that a multidisciplinary approach leads to better outcomes with improved quality of life and improved survival rates.

In a single appointment, patients meet with a breast surgeon, medical oncologist, radiation oncologist, nurse navigator and patient care coordinator. After the physicians have examined each patient, they come together to discuss the best treatment options. By the end of the appointment, each patient receives a comprehensive treatment plan and a list of the next steps.

Dr. Svahn is a medical oncologist and breast cancer specialist with Diablo Valley Oncology and Hematology Medical Group in Pleasant Hill and San Ramon. The Orinda resident can be reached at 925-677-5041.

Local Restaurateurs Visit Orinda's Sister City



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maria and Peter Eberle, owners of local restaurant Piccolo Napoli, recently visited Tabor, Orinda's Sister City in the Czech Republic. The Eberles stopped in Tabor on the way to visit their daughter Hailey who studied in Prague this past summer.

BOOKS

EFO President Launches First Orinda All Ages Read-A-Thon

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Kara Dille, president of the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), and Nancy Ross Madnick, president of Friends of the Orinda Library, cordially invite the public to join their first ever community-wide Orinda All Ages Read-A-Thon which runs from Saturday, Oct. 6 through Friday,

Oct. 12. The interactive program is inspired by the national "Read for the Record" program designed to celebrate the power of reading and stimulate literacy in both children and adults.

EFO Event Vice-Chair Meggin Hollister explains that Read-A-Thon logs will be used to record how much time participants spend reading and sponsor forms will record donations given in support of the readers. Students at Orinda's elementary schools will receive Read-A-Thon logs in their Friday Folders on Oct. 5, and Hollister asks that interested student readers at Orinda Intermediate School and Miramonte High School pick up Read-A-Thon logs at their school libraries. Logs and sponsor forms will also be available at the Orinda Library, the Friends of the Orinda Library bookstore (26 Orinda Way) or online at www.99pledges.com/fund/readorinda for readers of all ages.

Participants can return their completed logs and sponsor forms to the school libraries, the Orinda Library or the Friends Bookstore. All logs and forms must be turned in by the October 15 deadline so volunteers can determine the prizewinners in time for the Awards Ceremony later

that week. Online sponsor donations will already have been recorded. Prizes will be awarded by age group for the greatest number of total minutes spent reading and the greatest number of total funds raised by sponsors. Check the event website, www.99pledges.com/fund/readorinda for all details, including a list of the exciting prizes.

The goal of the Orinda All Ages Read-a-thon is to encourage reading and to raise at least \$100 per reader. Donations will

help to close the funding gap in Orinda's award-winning public schools, support the Orinda Public Library through Friends of the Library (www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org) and maintain Orinda's school libraries. EFO is a volunteer-led, non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial support for quality educational and enrichment programs for every student in Orinda's public schools. Learn more about them at www.orindaefo.org or call 925-322-0336 to get in touch.

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Between the Lines Back to School

Susan Reckers, Orinda Books



The start of the school year brings mixed emotions, often within the same person the same day. The transition from carefree summer to the new schedule causes much excitement and anxiety. Reading books about others dealing with these transitions can help children adapt more quickly and successfully. It's not too late to get the benefit of back-to-school themed books since teachers report that most children continue adjusting to this annual change all the way into October.

Young kids love the silliness of *Froggy Goes to School* by Jonathan London. For those who experience separation anxiety, *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn is an Orinda Books bestseller. Chester Raccoon holds mom's kiss in his hand to help him through the day. *Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney combines humor and sensitivity as it reassures little ones that missing someone is totally normal.

Kids starting early elementary school grades love the Judy Moody series. Many of these stories occur in the classroom. Boys and girls alike will delight in reading about Judy navigating the world of school and parents. Judy Moody fans are invited to meet the author, Megan McDonald, at a tea party at Orinda Books on Monday, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. She'll be reading from her newest book, *Judy Moody and the Right Royal Tea Party*. Call 254-7606 to save a spot.

For those in 4th-6th grade, my new absolute favorite is *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina. Merci is a feisty protagonist entering 6th grade. She is out of her comfort zone attending a private school many miles from her Cuban-American fam-

ily home in South Florida. Merci, endearing and authentic, owns her missteps with friendships in a refreshing way.

Two longstanding favorites that offer a different perspective on school anxiety are *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper, and *Because of Mr Terrupt* by Rob Buyea. Both fall in the sub-category of what I call "compassion building," which has become very popular since the wild success of *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. The narrator of *Out of Mind* is physically disabled due to cerebral palsy and is almost invisible to her mainstream classmates. Until she isn't. *Because of Mr Terrupt* offers multiple student perspectives on an accident involving a beloved teacher. Children and adults alike, be warned: you'll want tissues handy for both of these books.

Despite having started many school years, high schoolers still can face trepidation in August/September. Reading *Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi may help. This memoir about an undocumented immigrant starting high school in the U.S. is funny and poignant and likely to put concerns in perspective. *Darius The Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram highlights the social anxiety many kids feel among so many high performing classmates. Darius feels as if he is constantly letting down his parents, and he struggles with meaningful friendships. While dealing with the serious topic of depression, the book is also very funny at times, particularly for Star Trek fans.

Kids aren't the only ones who alternate between shuddering with fear and jumping for joy at the start of another school year.

[SEE BOOKS page 17]

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LIBRARY GALLERY

Shimmering Art on Silk, African Wildlife, Story Characters and Paintings

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council is proud to present Story Characters by Francesca Borgatta, silk painted fine and wearable art by Natasha Foucault, mixed media paintings by Lara Horoupian and African wildlife photographs by Shirley Sanderson during the month of September in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Join the four on Sunday, Sept. 9 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for their artist reception where light bites will be served.

Three of the exhibiting artists are hosting demonstrations about their work during the artist reception. Learn how to make your own story character from colorful found objects in Borgatta's interactive workshop; how Foucault creates silk art using Foucard silk dyes; or stop by Sanderson's "show and tell" about the special camera she uses to take photos of African wildlife from off-road vehicles, helicopters and small planes.

Borgatta of Oakland is showing over 25 works ranging from small ceramic animal and fantasy figures, tiny landscapes, and open box dioramas to larger expressive characters she creates from found objects.



SHIRLEY SANDERSON
Shirley Sanderson's 12" x 18" photograph *Acrobatic Elephant, Namibia* showcases a dominant bull elephant known to local guides as "Charlie."

Everything in her exhibit relates to the theme of story characters. Sometimes she works in a series such as mermaids in conjunction with Poseidon, magicians or the Magus and the god Thor. Often she is led to her subject matter by a dream before noticing a found object in nature such as a stone or piece of wood in a particular color to bring to reality her story character.

Borgatta, active in East Bay Depot For Creative Reuse for 20 years, delights in reusing materials such as textiles, rusted metal, cardboard scrap or styrofoam. She combines them with found objects from nature including rocks, leaves and shells. Look for *Some Saints in Meditation* to see Borgatta's use of found materials. To learn more about East Bay Depot For Creative Reuse in Oakland, go to www.creativereuse.org. See more of Borgatta's work at www.puppetfigures.com.

Foucault, originally from Russia, divides her time between her home in San Francisco and her Silk & Stone Gallery in Half Moon Bay. "Silk is created by living creatures; it shimmers, moves, changes with different light. Colors are more vibrant and can only be laid down once," explains Foucault about her embrace of it. She is showing half and half, fine art and wearable art. Traveling to search for subject matter, then photographing it to paint keeps her busy.

When you look at *Cortona Window*, a 24" x 36" silk dye painting on silk, be careful not to miss the surprise as you peer through the crystalline wine glass. Her hand painted 20" x 80" *Red Kandinsky* silk scarf does indeed flutter about the wearer. Foucault's website is full of a diverse amount of silk art. You can also learn about her two DVDs on silk painting and her book, *Silk Diary, An Artist's Journey from Moscow to Mendocino* at www.natashasilk.com.

Lara Horoupian, who was born in Beirut, Lebanon, has lived in Orinda for over 15 years. She runs Laratelier, a popular youth art school, out of her studio. Travel inspires her; she just returned from the Middle East and did three paintings in one week. She credits her first art teacher in Beirut with helping her discover her artistic center at age 16. She has been an active artist ever since, including graduating with honors from university with an art degree. Being with the children she teaches is an unending source of creative inspiration.

Horoupian is showing about 20 works, all mixed media including acrylics, liquid ink and lots of Japanese origami papers. *LILLI*, her 20" x 20" mixed media, pulls you into a dreamlike reverie of a deeply feminine nature. She describes her theme for the show as "always beginning with female energy, leaning towards the Earth and nature." When she first arrived on the local art scene, her work was more cubist, but she's found that the natural environment in Orinda has influenced her imagery. Learn more about her work at www.larahoroupian.carbonmade.com.

Sanderson of Kentfield has been photographing African wildlife for some time. She and her husband travel to remote parts of the planet in order to do so. Every safari they go on is different; they rely heavily on local guides to get to remote sights. The 26 framed photographs she is showing fall under the theme, *Under the African Skies*. Most are of animals in the wild.

Look for *Acrobatic Elephant, Namibia*, a 12" x 18" photograph of a dominant bull elephant near the Hoanib River and the Skeleton Coast in Namibia. Sanderson relates that "The guides called him 'Charlie.' He could stand on his hind legs to get the leaves highest on the trees. Every time we



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Natasha Foucault's *Zebra*, a 24" x 36" silk dye painting on silk, is part of the Story Characters exhibit in the Gallery this month.

saw him I felt he was showing off for us, as if he were saying, 'I bet you've never seen another elephant who can do this!'"

[SEE GALLERY page 11]



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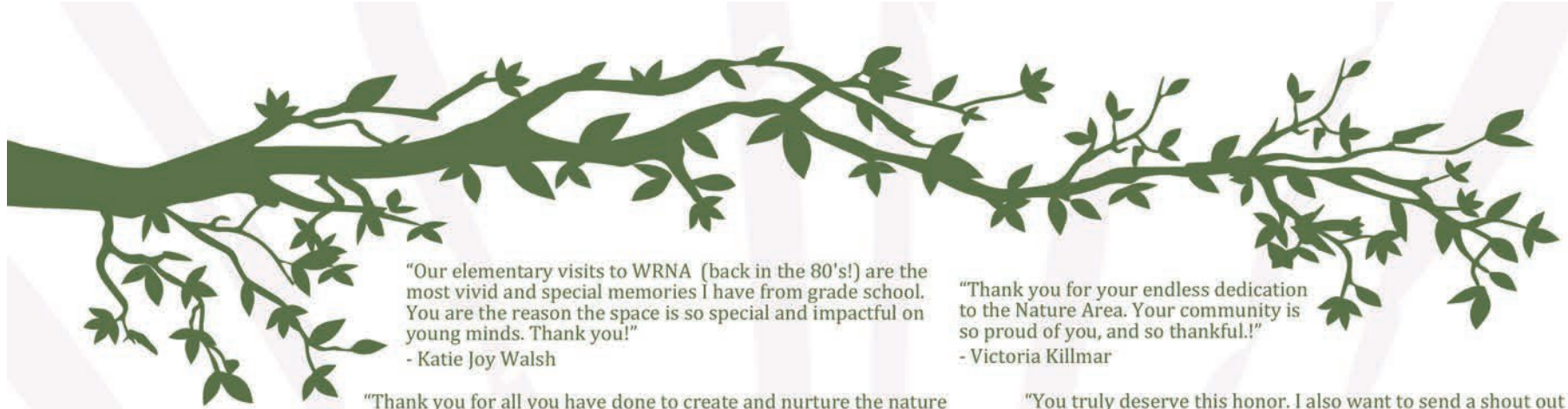
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- Victoria Killmar

"Thank you for all you have done to create and nurture the nature area! I have wonderful memories from the 80s (!) and I'm so thankful to you for enabling and advocating for those experiences".
- Kersti Peter

"You truly deserve this honor. I also want to send a shout out to Sue Graf and Marty DeJonge who also made the Nature Area amazing and special!"
- Erik Andersen

"We have wonderful memories of doing field trips with you at Wagner Ranch. We're so lucky to have someone as passionate as you help take care of the nature area. Thank you!!"
- The Sherman Family

"You are such a passionate, inspiring human. Thank you for all your years of teaching us."
- Bria Moran

"Thank you for making such a positive difference in my life. The times I spent with you at Wagner Ranch (30 years ago now!) are some of my fondest memories of my youth and I will never forget them."
- Katherine Klabau

"Thank you, Toris, for all that you gave us. I am so happy to continue to support you and your cause for future generations."
- Lynne Morrish Drake

"I loved Native American Camp and Pioneer Days back in the '80s. Thank you so much, Fire Woman!"
- Josh Coates



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HONORING GUARDIAN OF WAGNER RANCH NATURE AREA

Educator Toris Jaegar Has Influenced Generations of Orindans

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Orinda Vice Mayor Inga Miller was an elementary school student when she first met Toris Jaegar sitting beneath the heritage Oak Tree at Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA). She listened intently as Jaegar, with a large bird perched on her shoulder, spoke of seeing a fox, wolves, and mountain lion: “She was willing to let us see the world, locked behind a tall gate to which only she had the keys.”

Miller will join fellow Orindans on Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Community Center for the Toris Jaegar Honorary Dinner celebrating Jaegar’s work at WRNA and raising funds for its association, a group dedicated to stewardship and educational programs.

For 40 years, Jaegar has been teaching Orinda schoolchildren who visit WRNA how to use plants for soap, identify spearmint and bay leaves, recognize berries and poison oak – in short, great outdoor skills. Jaegar also taught a young Miller about Native American culture’s painstaking process of making acorn meal by grinding the nut, removing the shell and leaching out poisonous toxins with boiling water.

“What she was really teaching us was how to respect our environment and each other. I certainly have carried those lessons through my life and expect a lot of my fellow classmates have, too,” Miller lauds before adding, “This celebration of Toris’ 40 years of service highlights all that she has done for generations of Orindans.”

Long time Orinda resident Dr. Peter Sheaff’s father Joseph was Orinda Unified School District’s first superintendent and established the outdoor education programs when OUSD purchased the land WRNA showcases. “If my Dad would have been alive, he would have really liked her,” She-

aff notes. He describes Jaegar as a “very determined person who is hard working and dedicated. Everyone who comes through her ‘classroom’ is exposed to history. She has influenced a lot of young people.”

The Orinda School District is the first in the nation to create a “Schoolyard Habitat” site certified by the National Wildlife Federation. Jaegar serves as a full-time naturalist on the 28-acre preserve, the first in the nation to have all of its school sites certified as Schoolyard Habitats by the nonprofit National Wildlife Federation. According to Jaegar, Wagner Ranch is one of the last open spaces of Orinda.

Jaegar said the master plan she and others have spent decades developing includes biodiversity gardens, a vegetable garden, a native garden and a greenhouse for propagating. The raised planting beds, irrigation systems, pond and gardens are all created by volunteers, grants and donations. “I’m very proud of that,” she exclaims. “It’s a very community and a community facility.”

Jaegar adds, “In the past it’s been viewed as surplus property. I think we’re in a mode right now where the school board and the superintendent see this as a valuable environmental education resource. It’s taken almost 40 years to get to that. According to Jaegar, OUSD Superintendent Caroline Seaton wants to bring back Nature Club, the after-school program that brings students to the preserve. Seaton is the 10th school superintendent Jaegar has worked under since 1978.

Before she began at WRNA, Jaegar spent 12 years teaching K-8 in a traditional class setting. She recalls, “When I started teaching, things were very different. What used to frustrate me so much was everything was taught separately. There was no connection between the different subjects.”

One day she was mesmerized by a hawk in flight outside her classroom window and

enthuses, “We’re lucky enough to have this beautiful space to show local art to inspire the community. I especially like how children going to the library get to see how art can empower their lives.” To sum it up, Sanderson affirms, “Art enriches us by taking us out of our normal daily concerns and allowing us to see and experience things differently. It forces us to slow down and think about what we are seeing and what the artist wanted to communicate to us.”

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 Sept. 2 and 3 for Labor Day. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On September 29, guests will toast **Toris Jaegar** at an honorary dinner celebrating her 40 years educating Orinda’s school children at Wagner Ranch Nature Area.

lost her place in the lesson, leading her to realize she needed something more than being in the claustrophobic walls that confined her. She left at the end of the school year. “I thought I was going to get out of teaching,” she admits. Fate, however, had it that she met a fellow volunteer at Wagner Ranch who told her about a Master’s program for credentialed teachers who wanted to work outdoors. “Being at the Nature Area has given me so many gifts,” Jaegar summarizes. “Being with over 10,000 students, numerous teachers and parents has been incredible.”

Jaegar sees Scout groups at the heart of WRNA. Among the 60 Eagle and Girl Scout projects, scouts have made duck and quail boxes, signage for the various areas, as well as an ADA compliant foot bridge. Currently, scouts are working on restoring the Sue Graf Pond.

Jaegar pointed out to visitors several 50-foot tall trees planted by students: “Look at that Big Leaf Maple. It started as one gallon. A young boy named Rob who

planted it asked me to take care of his tree, and when he visits, it’s his first stop on the ranch. Jaegar recalls 4th grader Taryn Lausch promising to build a replica of a Miwok dwelling. In the girl’s senior year, she returned to build the structure. Each year she returns to continue her work, and also has since served on the WRNA board.

Currently, three young people serve on the board: Sara and Madi Lehman and Jack Anthenian. “It’s really important to have young people involved with Wagner,” Jaegar opines before asking, “What happens when my generation either leaves or retires if there’s no one to take up the charge?” Her response is disquieting: “It’s sold.” Jaegar claims the ultimate goal she’s held since the late 1970s has been to get the land in a trust which could be managed by the Friends of the Wagner Ranch, John Muir Heritage Society or another nonprofit that would run it for the community and schools.

In looking back over the years, Jaegar wryly reveals, “You know some people

[SEE TORIS page 17]

◆ GALLERY from page 9

She hopes people who see her wildlife photographs perceive how beautiful the animals are in the wild and want to preserve them and their environment for future generations. Learn more about Sanderson’s work at www.wanderingeye.net. If you would like to learn more about preserving endangered African wildlife, visit www.wildernesstrust.com. Because Sanderson admires the work done at Wilderness Trust, she has pledged all proceeds from her exhibit to the nonprofit organization.

As to the value of art to the community, Borgatta says, “Art, especially making art together in a community and celebrating, develops a new kind of cultural feeling.” Foucault says, “Art is basically a breath of fresh air, of beauty, in our life.” Horopian



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Fitness Tip of the Month

- Aging is not about how many years you have lived but more about how you have lived your life.
 - If you feel like you wished you had lived a bit healthier, its not too late to reverse the effects.
 - There are things you can do to be younger no matter how many years you have been alive.
 - And no...you don't have to take any drugs.
 - You can increase your BMR (the calories you burn per unit time), by increasing your muscle mass and maintaining it with workouts and diet. You will look younger and stronger, be more energetic and fit so that you can continue to ramp up your ability to do cardio and burn even more calories.
- The earlier you start working on this the more strength you will have to do it!

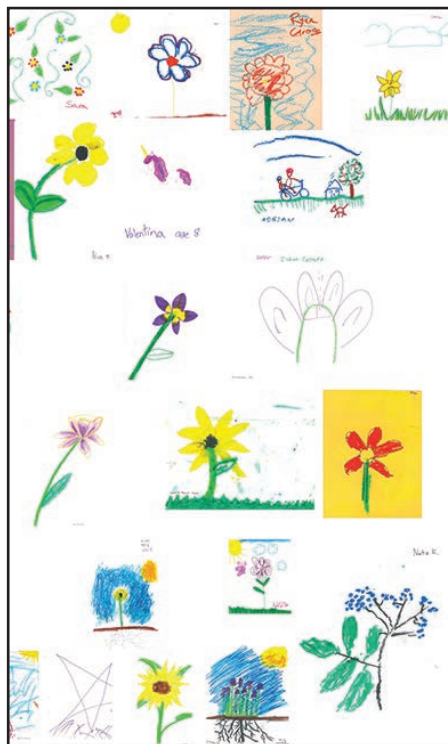


For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or www.livingleanprogram.com.

Artwork Blossoms on Orinda Bridge

On the 4th of July, children walking by the Orinda Community Center were invited to draw inspiration from photos of a local garden and to sketch their own favorite flowers for inclusion on posters used to decorate the city's bridges. The project was organized by Orinda resident Chet Martine with the goal of brightening downtown and engaging young people in that process. Twenty-one sketches were completed and compiled into a poster that is currently on display on a bridge that starts at Orinda Way and leads to the BART station. Volunteers pitched in to clean and paint the inner wall of the bridge, transforming it into an outdoor art gallery.

Since that first poster went up, students of Susan McAllister's art classes at Camp Orinda have contributed to this open-air exhibit with additional floral posters. As the project continues to grow, the next goal is to add photographs to the mix, including photo prints of the hanging baskets and plantings the Junior Garden Club of Orinda maintains throughout town, as well as photos of the Orinda Garden Club's flower pots on Moraga Way. Martine is hoping to collect additional sketches and other works of botanical art to create a more pleasant experience for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the bridge. Artists of all ages can



CHET MARTINE

Twenty-one works of art were combined to create the first poster adorning the pedestrian bridge between Orinda Way and the BART station.

email a photo of their floral drawings to orgchet16@gmail.com.

— Lynn Kalmar, Assistant Editor

Searching for a Cure for Crohn's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Propel a Cure's **Annabelle Hall** (left) and **Dina Fiatarone** manned a table at Orinda's 4th of July celebration, offering a fun craft for kids while raising money for Crohn's disease research.

By ANNABELLE HALL
Contributing Writer

Cures for the great ills of the world have often started with small contributions to research by many, many people. The cure for polio, for example, was funded by the March of Dimes. With that noble example in mind, Propel a Cure is building a fund for research, seeking a cure for Crohn's Disease. Orinda, a wonderfully family-oriented community, is at the very core of this effort, supporting everything from participating in a gala to donating to the fund while encouraging children to make symbolic pinwheels.

My personal journey in the search for a cure started in July of 2014 when my son was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. It is a debilitating, terribly painful, chronic condition with sometimes life-threatening complications. The disease currently afflicts 1.2 million Americans and 2.3 million Europeans, but the numbers are growing world-wide.

More than 48,750 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with Crohn's disease every

year. It typically strikes at the cusp of adulthood, between the ages of 15 and 30, often derailing school and careers. Younger and younger children are being diagnosed. Unfortunately, there is no cure. While there are drugs that are effective for some people, they can also cause serious, sometimes fatal, side-effects. The drugs do not work for everyone, and they may also stop working. Radical surgery occurs in 80 percent of patients.

Since the time of my son's diagnosis, I have been actively raising funds for research leading to a cure. I started out small, making simple bracelets to sell and later organized a "Fun Dog Show." Happily, at this event, I met Orinda's Dina Fiatarone and Christine Pitt, whose children also have Crohn's. Together we organized a highly successful gala where 100 percent of the proceeds went directly to research. Afterwards, we decided that in our quest for a cure it would be best to create our own nonprofit, with no overhead costs so that we could carry on raising funds and be certain that 100 percent of the money goes

[SEE CURE page 22]

OMPA "Minis" Dive in at Meadow



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 48th annual Mini Meet, hosted by Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, took place on Sunday, July 15. Eight-year-old **Katelyn Lu** (shown above) and over 550 other swimmers ages 4 to 8 from the nine clubs that make up the Orinda Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) competed in this year's "Hollywood" themed event. Evelyn and Miles Gaffney from Miramonte broke the 25-yard breaststroke records for their age groups, and Jack Deal from Orinda Park Pool broke the 25-yard freestyle record for 7-year-old boys. Orinda Country Club took first place for the second year in a row, followed by Moraga Valley Pool and Orinda Park Pool.

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STUDENTS

Miramonte Student Delivers Winning Speech at Boys State

By Lynn Kalmar
Assistant Editor

On June 22, Miramonte student Liam Dowd delivered a speech at the closing ceremonies of California Boys State to a crowd of 1300 attendees, including members of the California State Assembly, the State Supreme Court and many veterans. Dowd was selected to speak after winning the Boys State Oratorical Contest, beating out hundreds of competing delegates, an accomplishment he credits in part to his involvement in Miramonte's public speaking program. He received a standing ovation for his speech on how the Second Amendment might be interpreted differently in the 21st century compared to the 18th century, a topic assigned to all contest participants.

California Boys State is an educational program for U.S. high school students



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Liam Dowd attended California Boys State on June 16-23 as a delegate of Miramonte High School.

run by the American Legion that allows students to become part of a simulation of

local, county and state government. Individual high schools select top students as delegates to attend the annual week-long program in Sacramento and participate in activities such as legislative sessions, court proceedings and law-enforcement presentations. The American Legion runs a similar program for young women called Girls State.

While attending the session, delegates run for office, and in addition to winning the Oratorical Contest, Dowd was elected police chief of his "city" and passed the Boys State version of a bar exam to become a registered Boys State attorney. After his week in Sacramento, Dowd says he returned home with a greater appreciation for democracy and the hard work required to sustain it, crediting the American Legion for that deeper understanding. He states that "the intellect, passion and character of my fellow Boys State delegates left me feeling very optimistic about the future of our country" and that he's committed to pursuing a career that involves service to others.

Naval Academy Graduate



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
On May 25, Miramonte graduate **McLain Lavis** received his B.S. degree in history and a commission as a U.S. Navy Ensign from the prestigious Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He will be attending flight school in Pensacola, FL in September. Mac is the son of Jennifer and Bill Lavis in Orinda. His brother and sister-in-law, Lieutenants Will and Casey Lavis, are also graduates of the Naval Academy.

Chevron's Fuel Your School Program Returns to Help Local Schools

By JULIET DON
Contributing Writer

This October, community members in Orinda – and throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties – have a unique opportunity to help generate up to \$1 million to support public education in the area.

Local K-12 public schools can benefit from Fuel Your School, a collaboration between Chevron and DonorsChoose.org, an online charity, to help fund eligible classroom project requests submitted by teachers who don't have the necessary resources for their students.

"Every day, public school teachers take on one of the most important responsibilities – to captivate young minds and help inspire a lifelong passion for learning and innovation," said Dale Walsh, president of Chevron Americas Products. "Chevron's Fuel Your School program provides the classroom resources teachers need to help students succeed in school and aspire to be future engineers and scientists."

New this year, the Fuel Your School project submission period for teachers begins on Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. PDT. This later submission period benefits teachers in two ways: 1) giving teachers more time to settle in to the new school year and identify what materials they need most; and, 2) closing the gap between when a teacher must submit a project, and how quickly the project is funded and delivered.

Orinda residents have an important role too. From Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, when you fill up with eight or more gallons at a participating Chevron or Texaco station, Chevron will donate \$1, up to \$1 million, to help fund eligible classroom projects

for public schools in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Chevron's Fuel Your School will designate every Wednesday for project funding and host weekly funding celebrations through social media and local market events throughout October.

Through the Fuel Your School program, Chevron wants to thank and support K-12 public school teachers for inspiring young minds and promoting a strong future workforce by helping to fund eligible classroom projects, including projects for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) that prepare students who may be interested in these types of advanced technical jobs. While Chevron encourages STEM-related projects, Fuel Your School is also available for all eligible general education projects.

To date, the program has generated more than \$60,000 for local public schools in Orinda alone, helping to fund more than 67 classroom projects at six schools and benefiting over 3,424 local students. Since its inception in 2010, Chevron's Fuel Your School program has donated more than \$43 million to help fund 48,033 classroom projects at one in six U.S. schools. In Alameda and Contra Costa counties, in particular, Chevron's Fuel Your School program has helped fund 8,380 classroom projects at 633 schools to date.

In total, up to \$6 million is available through Chevron's 2018 Fuel Your School program for public schools in 17 U.S. markets. The Fuel Your School program is part of Chevron's overall support for education, which has totaled over \$400 million worldwide since 2013.

Visit www.FuelYourSchool.com for more information and to track the progress of funded projects at local public schools this October.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 3 All Schools Closed for Labor Day.
- 4 Holden High School, classes begin.
- 5 Holden High School, 6:30 p.m. Parents Pot Luck and Orientation.
- 5 Acalanes Union High School District 7 p.m. governing board meeting.
- 5 Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Sophomore Parent Meeting.
- 6 Glorietta and Del Rey Schools Back to School Night (minimum day).
- 6 Orinda Academy, collage night for Seniors.
- 14 Glorietta, Del Rey and Orinda Intermediate School minimum day.
- 17 Orinda Unified School District 6 p.m. board meeting.
- 26 Miramonte High School, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Parents Club Meeting.
- 27 Orinda Academy, 6:30 Back to School Night.

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

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(Photo: Orinda Ballet Academy, 2016 "Sleeping Beauty" spring production, Courtesy of Jorge Alejandro Gomez)

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Orinda Couple Take Off on Two-Year Trek Around the World

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

In January, 2018, Ksenija and Mirek Olmer began the journey of a lifetime taking off on a two-year trek around the world. It had already been an adventure-some life even before that.

Born in Slovenia and Czechoslovakia respectively, the two met in a small Iraqi town at the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Since that first meeting, the two have traveled the world together, often with three young daughters in tow. They moved to Orinda over 20 years ago, where their daughters, Tisa, Lana and Naya, attended school and graduated from Miramonte High School.

The family trips to Europe, which often included service experiences where they helped others in undeveloped countries, continued during school vacations. Still, those previous trips couldn't begin to compete with the Olmer's current odyssey. With all three daughters grown and independent and Ksenija and Mirek retired, the intrepid couple decided to rent out their Orinda home and spend at least a year traveling the world.

"We have always loved to travel. Since

we first met 35 years ago in Iraq, we visited over 100 countries," says Ksenija. As a bridge designer, Mirek traveled extensively for work, often taking the children and Ksenija along for world-wide adventures.

"Last year, Mirek had an extensive back surgery and a difficult recovery. That was the impetus for him to finally retire," Ksenija explains. "Now, instead of short trips limited by school vacations, we are free to travel."

The Olmers started their current trip in New Zealand and Australia and then rented a small house in Bali. They explored such unusual islands as Sumba and Timor Leste. They ended that part of their journey with a short foray into Thailand.

According to Ksenija, every day has brought something new and exciting: "We stayed with sheep farmers in New Zealand, took a short scenic flight over Wine Glass Bay in Tasmania, attended a funeral ceremony in a traditional village on Sumba and celebrated the Nyepi-Balinese New Year." Despite these unique opportunities, she says, "It is the people that make our travels so special – connecting with people; making new friends; learning about their life and traditions. Through that, we realize we are all the same, wanting peace and for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Globetrotters **Mirek and Ksenija Olmer** began their two-year journey around the world in January, with the Raja Ampat Islands in West Papua as one of the early stops on their trip.

our kids to be happy and safe."

When they first set out, Ksenija and Mirek thought it might be challenging to spend 24 hours a day together, every day. "But so far, sharing so many new impressions and experiences and inspirations has really enriched our relationship," Ksenija explains. "We are lucky our interests are aligned, and we support each other's passions – my husband's for finding special diving spots and mine for finding (and buying) special weavings and carvings."

During this past summer, the Olmers were based in Prague while driving the backroads of Europe. Their itinerary included tasting great Belgian beers in Trapist monasteries, learning about the inner workings of windmills, and, as always, connecting with people. "We just spent a week in the Dutch countryside awaiting the home birth of our friend's new baby girl. How lucky can you be to hold a newborn baby in your arms?" Ksenija asks. "Next, we plan to do a long trip through western

Europe all the way to the southern tip of Portugal. In the fall, we'll venture into Caucasus, Egypt, Lebanon and Israel. If any Orindans are traveling our way, let us know and we will meet up for coffee. If you happen to be in Prague, we will take you to our favorite beer pub!"

You can follow Ksenija and Mirek on their travels on Instagram @crazyparentstravel and on their Wordpress blog www.crazyparentstravel.com.

Ksenija gives a context to what following the adventure might entail online: "We have been having a lot of fun writing our travel blog. About once a week, we post a new entry with lots of photos. It is not your typical blog with recommendations where to eat and what to see. It's more musings about life and cultures and people, sometimes humorous and sometimes poetic. We have about 140 people following us and getting their thoughtful comments always makes us happy and enriches our travel experiences yet again."



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Heating Up in a Good Way

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Orinda Jazz Festival will be serving up hot jazz and swinging tunes as the eighth annual concert takes place Sept. 9 from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, in Orinda.

Under the leadership of Orinda resident and musician Carol Alban, the event has raised money for a variety of worthy causes. This year proceeds will benefit victims of the recent fires that have scorched so many wooded acres and burned a large number of homes and businesses in Northern California.

The many luminaries performing include vocalist Jenna Mammina, who has a very personal interest in this benefit concert for fire victims. Mammina, who lives part-time in Lakeport with her family, found herself helping evacuate her sister and her family as well as her mother and father who had

[SEE JAZZ page 20]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Vocalist **Jenna Mammina** is one of many celebrated performers taking the stage at the Orinda Jazz Festival on September 9. The concert will benefit victims of the recent Northern California fires.

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For years I've been enjoying sparkling San Pellegrinos. I automatically assumed San Pellegrino was named after the place but I never knew "pellegrino" translates to "pilgrim." Adding to my lack of knowledge, I was also completely unaware that modern day pilgrims are everywhere. And they look just like you and me – active, adventuresome, and recreating a thriving expeditionary travel option that has been in existence since the single-digit centuries. And here I thought they were nothing more than a Thanksgiving tchotchke.

Somewhere along the line, perhaps in history class, I learned to associate the word "pilgrimage" with deprivation, suffering, discomfort, atonement, seriousness; something ancient, or perhaps – after reading *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed – something one did when in desperate need of healing or intervention.

Perhaps back in the Middle Ages these pilgrim trails were brutal and punishing. But introduce modern conveniences, the evolution of the travel industry, and, most importantly, much better footwear, and today's pilgrimage takes on a whole new twist. A modern day pilgrimage is imbued with pastoral, rustic scenery, cultural immersion, daily exercise, guilt-free meal indulgences – a result of the aforementioned daily exercise, time and space for solitude, pondering and soul searching, and an overall feeling of accomplishment once the final destination has been reached.

Enter Orindan Doreen Wagner, who is quick to prove, while there may have been a few blisters or sore muscles, there is no *grim* in *pilgrim* these days. Wagner, who taught Spanish at Miramonte High School for 25 years, recently organized and led a second "field trip" to Spain for her adult Spanish class. Their group of 18 Lamorindans, including Orinda Mayor Amy Worth, hiked the last 104 kilometers of Spain's Camino de Santiago this past May.

Pilgrims have been traveling this well-worn spiritual path westward across northern Spain on the Camino de Santiago, translated "The Way of St. James," to pay tribute to the shrine of the apostle St. James the Great. Legend claims that after St. James was martyred by beheading in Jerusalem, his remains were eventually transported back to Spain by boat and buried in the

Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia in northwest Spain. The legend also states that en route to Spain, a storm caused the ship carrying St. James' body to wreck, and his remains were washed overboard. Later, however, the martyr's body washed ashore, undamaged and covered in scalloped seashells. The scalloped shell has been a symbol of this particular pilgrimage ever since.

The pilgrimages were reported to have commenced as soon as word spread that the saint's remains were buried in Galicia, around 812 AD. The Camino was a very significant and well-known Christian pilgrimage during the Middle Ages. Today's pilgrims do not always walk for religious reasons; the reasons are as varied as the nationalities and personalities along the route. Wagner believes a congenial attitude prevails among the travelers, as they all share a common, yet highly personal and introspective, experience.

Since retiring from teaching high school Spanish several years ago, Wagner has enjoyed teaching Spanish to a small group of adults: Margaret Stewart, Beth Reynolds and Amy Worth. The group initially decided they needed to practice their Spanish skills in real time. They embarked upon a "field trip" to southern Spain. Their first trip was such a success they put a second trip into place right away, this time choosing to walk the last 104 km on the Camino de Santiago. The journey is validated by stamps along the way on a document called a "credencial." Pilgrims receive certificates of completion at the end of the journey, known as a "compostela."

"The stamps are beautiful and make lovely keepsakes," Wagner said. "And they do check them at the end, to make sure you actually walked the required number of miles."

At the end of the journey, pilgrims can attend one of two daily Masses in the Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia, the official end of the Camino. During most, but not all Masses, a giant, smoking urn full of incense (known as a *botafumeiro*) is swung through the cathedral. And we are not talking an altar boy swinging a little canister of incense. Weighing around 176 pounds, or the weight of a grown man, the *botafumeiro*, swinging around, more



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spanish teacher Doreen Wagner and her students take a respite from trekking to capture the beauty of Spain's rustic countryside. L-R: **Beth Reynolds, Margaret Stewart, Doreen Wagner and Amy Worth.**

closely resembles an enormous wrecking ball. It takes a team of eight red-robed *tiraboleiros* to engage the process. The urn is hoisted high in the air, on a pulley system, and swings the length of the cathedral, almost touching the ceiling. "They began this tradition in the Middle Ages," Wagner explains, "because the pilgrims smelled so bad after their journey."

Fortunately, lack of soap, water and creature comforts is no longer a problem in the 21st century. Wagner and her group remained well-rested, well-groomed and well-fed throughout their trek.

Spouses, friends and family members joined the initial four women, making the 18-member group quite substantial. Smaller numbers might be able to take advantage of plentiful lodging sites along the route, but with 18 travelers, Wagner felt it was best to engage the services of a Spanish travel

agent, who connected her with a service called Marly Camino (marlycamino.com). This tour service would meet the group at a pre-determined point at the end of every day and transport them to a "Casa Rurales" where they would have drinks, dinner and spend a comfortable night. Then, the next morning, after a delicious breakfast at the Casa, the Lamorinda pilgrims would be transported back to the exact spot where they were picked up the day before, to continue their journey.

With Marly Camino, the travelers did not have to carry heavy backpacks with them on the journey. Representatives often met them along that day's particular route with snacks, waters, rain ponchos or anything else they might need. Wagner would highly recommend their services.

The group hiked approximately 10.5 [SEE CAMINO page 22]

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F: (925) 334-7017
E: theatervieworinda@gmail.com
W: www.theaterviewvetclinic.com

What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

Sept. 1 – Fall Session for Recreation Classes Begins
Sept. 3 – Run On The Wilder Side – 5K & 1 mile – Register now at OPRFoundation.org
Sept. 10 – Loving Touch Parent & Child class begins; 0-12 mos. 9:30-11am; 5 weeks; \$135
Sept. 12 – Loving Song Parent & Child class begins; 0-6 mos. 9:30-11am; 4 weeks; \$100
Sept. 12 – Wisdom Workshop: US Potomac Presentation by Marti Butchell; 10:30am, OCC
Sept. 14 – Senior Trip: Santa Cruz Follies - "A Shout Out to Memorable Singers and Songs" \$46/person; Must Register by September 1
Sept. 18 – Wisdom Workshop: Beginning Genealogy: Part 2; 10:30 a.m.
Sept. 27 – Senior Trip: All That's New in San Francisco Trip; \$127/person

Orinda Youth Sports (OYS) Winter Basketball Registration Underway – Sign up today! - Play begins in January

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



Cal Shakes' Popular Play *black odyssey* Returns

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Back by popular demand, California Shakespeare Company announced a limited engagement run of Marcus Gardley's *black odyssey* at the Bruns Amphitheatre Sept. 25 – Oct. 7. Last year's production broke all previous single ticket sales box office records for the company.

Obie Award winner Eric Ting directs Oakland-native playwright Marcus Gardley's reimagining of Homer's Greek masterpiece, a mash up of the classic myth and African-American folklore. According to Ting, the majority of Gardley's plays have some kind of historical source material. "They're either grounded in historical events or its grounded in some kind of classic narrative."

Ting is impressed with Gardley's ability to make a story like *The Odyssey* relevant to today's audiences. Gardley crafted his show by weaving the text of the original script into it according to Ting: "I think he did a really great job finding and making it so we were all connected to what was going on. There was a lot of audience demand for us to bring the show back."

Gardley's play follows the story of Ulysses Lincoln, a Gulf War veteran struggling to find his way home to his wife, Nella and his son, Malachi. Gardley, identified by the *New Yorker* as "the heir to Garcia Lorca, Pirandello and Tennessee Williams," sets the Homeric epic in Oakland, Gardley's hometown.

Ulysses' journey is manipulated by a host of gods who control the hero's fate, including the dignified Deus scheming Paw Sidin and radiant Aunt Tina who force Ulysses to confront his ancestral past so he can embrace his unsettled present. The critically acclaimed production, peppered with music and humor, played to sold-out houses and standing ovations during its



Aldo Billingslea and **Margo Hall** starred as deities in last year's production of *black odyssey*. The audience favorite returns to Cal Shakes in September.

run last year. *black odyssey* is a fable about confronting the burdens of one's past before being truly able to find "home."

This adaptation of one of Western civilization's earliest epics is vividly theatrical. Ting boasts that the production features vocal compositions by Linda Tillery and Molly Holm, who "have crafted an incredible a cappella landscape that digs deep into 200 years of African American culture." He adds that Tillery and Holm bring "a truly unique vocal resonance to this rich, multi-faceted meditation on the restoration of home."

Audience enrichment events held in association with the play will include Grove Talks, held 45 minutes prior to curtain.

black odyssey runs Sept. 25 – Oct. 7 at Bruns Memorial Amphitheatre, 100 Cali-
[SEE ODYSSEY page 23]

Marty Nemko's **Odd Man Out** Fundraiser for Orinda Starlight Village Players

WHEN: One show only: Friday, Oct 5, 2018, 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheatre, 29 Orinda Way.

Marty Nemko's solo show is coming to Orinda as a fundraiser for the Orinda Starlight Village Players.

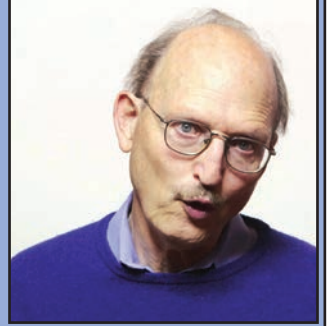
Ever feel like you didn't quite fit in? KGO, KALW and *S.F. Chronicle* career expert Marty Nemko definitely hasn't. He tells all with stories and piano-playing.

"In *Odd Man Out*, Nemko has knocked it out of the park." *Napa Register*.

Tickets are \$20 for regular and \$10 for seniors or



children. For more information, go to www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org.



Bay Area Actor Returns to Orinda Starlight Village Players

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) finish out their 35th season with a production of P.G. Wodehouse's *Good Morning, Bill* running Sept. 7 through 29. Wodehouse, best known as the author of the Jeeves and Wooster stories, wrote over 40 plays, 70 novels and 27 short story collections. *Good Morning, Bill* premiered in 1927 in London and now comes to Orinda with director Edwin Peabody at the helm. Peabody is looking forward to returning to OrSVP. He was last seen on the OrSVP stage in 2009 as the lead in *Cyrano*.

Peabody has worked with numerous local theater companies, including Butterfield 8, Onstage and Act Now! "This will be the first play I've directed in an outdoor amphitheater," says Peabody, "as well as it being the first time I've played a large part in a show I'm directing." Peabody is playing the character others call Bill, spend-

ing a holiday in Sussex where he meets the attractive Lottie (played by Monica Bonnington). Lottie has a fit of hysterics and Dr. Sally Smith is called in (played by Siobhan O'Brien). Bill instantly falls for Sally, but she remains professional and aloof so Bill returns home to pine away for his lost love. Bill's uncle (played by OrSVP Artistic Director Geotty Chapple), assumes that Bill misses Lottie and numerous complications arise when the two women meet late at night with Bill. The cast is rounded out with OrSVP regulars Ken Sollazzo and Susan Chapple.

Peabody, excited to work on the show, looks forward to "seeing the audience respond to the comedy. I especially like the silliness in the interactions between characters." The hardest struggle with the play is "keeping the setting 1927 and ensuring that there is an understanding of the 'attitude' of that era," says Peabody.

Performances of *Good Morning, Bill* run Sept. 7 through 29, Friday and Saturday
[SEE STARLIGHT page 22]



(L-R) Director **Eddie Peabody**, **Geotty Chapple** and **Monica Bonnington** in Rehearsal for *Good Morning, Bill*.

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SEASONED SHOPPER



Seasoned Shopper

Time for Tomatos

BARBARA KOBSAR



September has been the month to promote eating fruits and vegetables through the five-a day campaign since the early 1990s. Five fruits and vegetables a day, though, was never really enough, and this had led to a new focus called *September is Fruits & Veggies – More Matters Month*. It encourages eating more fruits and vegetables every day as part of a healthy diet. Recommendations include making sure half your plate is filled with fruits and vegetables at each meal, trying something new or trying a new recipe and educating yourself and your children.

The Produce for Better Health Foundation informs us that more than 90 per cent of both adults and children do not eat the amount of fruits and vegetables recommended by the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Fortunately, Orinda has a wonderful weekly farmers' market where shoppers go to find the freshest in-season produce. The market will still be brimming with summer specials like strawberries, tomatoes, melons and stone fruits while welcoming pears, apples, grapes and peppers to the fall line-up.

Tomatoes arrived a few weeks late to the market this season due to weather conditions. Stands are now filled with tomatoes appearing in an array of sizes, shapes and colors. Any tomato left on the vine to ripen is a guarantee of optimum flavor. Degree of acidity, sugar and water content, and the texture of the tomato skin and flesh also affect the flavor.

Here's your tomato guide:

Slicers are usually nice and round or somewhat flattened. Beefsteaks are a favorite. (Any tomato could be a slicing tomato).

Sauce or paste tomatoes are just that - grown for the sturdy, meaty texture necessary for making the best sauces. Red or yellow plum tomatoes, Romas or San Marzanos work nicely.

Grape tomatoes are a favorite with growers and shoppers. Growers like the hearty skin and high yield per plant and customers love the extra sweetness and convenient size.

Hybrid tomatoes combine two or more distinctly different types of tomatoes for the sole purpose of developing a tomato (the hybrid) that is resistant to common tomato diseases or tolerant of adverse growing conditions. Favorites here include Big Boy and Sun Gold cherry tomatoes.

Heirloom tomatoes are the old varieties handed down in a family for two or more generations and "breeds true" - the offspring is the same as the parent and the seeds can be saved. Here come the Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Red Stripey, Black Russian and Mortgage Lifter!

Green tomatoes are any variety harvested and sold before their color begins to change except for some heirloom varieties such as Green Zebra that remain green when ripe.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

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

◆ TORIS from page 11

would look at me and ask 'why did she donate her life to this place?' In the scheme of things, it's only 16 acres. When you look at the world, even just California, this parcel's just a little blink. But it's *our* blink. It's special. There are so many lessons here." Jaeger pauses a moment on her walk to fix a rope that has become untied. "We never get finished. I'm the kind of person that's not going to retire," she intones. "We have trees here that are 400 years old." She points to a fallen Black Oak tree and examines its enormous trunk and ponders, "This is the only part of the tree that's alive. That one branch. How is it going to survive? It has to have roots."

The deep roots Toris Jaeger has planted in her 40 years at WRNA will certainly continue to survive and thrive for the future generations.

◆ CHURCH from page 5

Stephen's has created a calendar of events that combines social activity, spiritual learning and cultural practice. We're calling the program Feasts and Festivals. Each month this fall we are marking one Sunday to celebrate in this way.

On Sept. 9, we'll celebrate the life of this community and its many fruitful ministries. A ceremony of blessings begins the day, honoring those members of the congregation whose contributions make us what we are. In this way, we also remember and celebrate the life of our patron saint, Stephen, whose dedication to loving service and witness to faith remain an example for us today. Following the worship, we're throwing ourselves a big party with a barbecue, games and fun for all ages, and fellowship on our patio.

On Oct. 7, we honor the life of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the whole Bay Area. "Most loved, least imitated" of all the saints, he is remembered for his love of animals and of the whole of sacred Creation. On this occasion, we honor Francis by welcoming people to bring their pets and animal companions to church for a special blessing. Worshipping outside in our charming patio garden, our service includes reflections on the teachings of Francis, and the joy of including all our animal companions in a sacred blessing.

On Nov. 4, the Church celebrates the Feast of All Saints and All Souls. This may be one of the best kept secrets, providing as it does a sacred way for us to remember and honor all the people in our lives who

have gone before us. On this feast day, we create occasions for joyful grief and celebration of those we love but see no longer. Events which surround the feast include a requiem concert by our choir, special worship services including the sacrament of Holy Baptism, and a community celebration that connects us to our ancestors and those beloved whose lives are with God.

The Advent and Christmas season bring their own joys, including making Advent wreaths for home altars, a candlelit evening service of Lessons and Carols, an all-ages Christmas Pageant, and traditional Nativity services on both Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.

There's so many ways to connect to the Church's rich traditions of love and celebration, loss and new life, faith and belonging. We are very much looking forward to seeing these Feasts and Festivals develop, and trust that they will draw people closer to one another, to the world we live in and to the living God we worship.

To find out more about St. Stephen's, go to www.ststephensorinda.org.

◆ BOOKS from page 8

Be honest: Which were you - the parent on the schoolyard wiping away tears, or the one racing to your car to start the freedom timer? While there are many great non-fiction books to help you support your student, I suggest one of the funniest books I've ever read: *Where'd You Go Bernadette?* by Maria Semple. If you've not read it yet, I promise you'll laugh out loud.

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Orinda Starlight Village Players

Present

P.G.WODEHOUSE'S



GOOD MORNING, BILL

Produced by permission of The Agency
Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. September 7 through 29
Sunday September 23, 4 p.m.
Thursday September 27, 8 p.m.
At the Outdoor Amphitheater, Orinda Community Center Park
26 Orinda Way (Across from Rite Aid). Two blocks from BART.

Regular admission \$20, Discount admission \$10

Mailing Address: Orinda Starlight Village Players,
4946 Santa Rita Rd., Richmond, CA 94803

www.orsvp.org

Tickets at Box Office or call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org

Starlight Dinner Theater Offer

Bring a receipt from an Orinda restaurant to the theater and get two regular theater tickets for the price of one. (Restaurant receipt must be from the same night as the performance. One discount per party.)

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ON THE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **City of Orinda.** Senior Trips - registration for September trips open. Visit www.cityoforinda.org or call 254-2445.
Orinda Farmers Market. 9 a.m., Orinda Way, Orinda. Also, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29. See article page 17.
California Shakespeare Theater. 7 p.m. presents *The War of the Roses*, through Sept. 15. Additional information and online ticketing are available at www.calshakes.org.
- 6 **Orinda Books,** 10 - 11 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for 2-4 year-olds and their grown-ups. Also, Sept. 13, 20 and 27. *
Orinda Books, 11:30 a.m. Our Literary luncheon series features Chris Feliciano Arnold who will introduce *The Third Bank of the River: Power and Survival in the 21st Century Amazon*. \$12: Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation.*
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, Sept. 13, 20 and 27.
- 7 **Rotary Club of Orinda,** 5:30 p.m., Dancing with the Cars. For tickets go to www.orindacarshow.com/enjoy-dancing-with-the-cars. See article page 21.
Orinda Starlight Village Players, 8 p.m. present P.G. Wodehouse's *Good Morning, Bill*, Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. For tickets, visit info@orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225. Also, Fridays and Saturdays 8:30 p.m. through September 29. See article page 16.
- 8 **Orinda Classic Car Show.** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. weekend See article page 1.
- 9 **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,** celebrates the life of this community and its many fruitful ministries. For more information go to www.ststephenorinda.org. See Article page 5.
Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments and meet Francesca Borgatta, Natasha Foucault, Lara Horoupan and Shirley Sanderson at their artist reception, 26 Orinda Way, 925-254-2184. See article page 9.
Orinda Jazz Festival, 1 - 3 p.m. This year proceeds will benefit victims of various fires that have scorched acres and burned homes and businesses in California. Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. See article page 14.
- 10 **Orinda Books,** 10:30 a.m. Poetry Circle reads and discusses *Extra Hidden Life Among the Days* by Brenda Hillman. All interested are invited to attend.*
- 12 **City of Orinda,** 10:30 a.m. Wisdom Workshops - Please register in advance. Marti Butchell from the Potomac Association shares information and history of the USS Potomac Ship and Museum. The senior trip on October 11 is a boat cruise on the USS Potomac. Registration for this trip begins Aug. 3. Orinda Community Center, Room 7.
Orinda Books, 2 p.m. The Second Wednesday Book Group will read and discuss *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue. They meet monthly at Orinda Books and welcome new members.
- 13 **Orinda Books,** 11:30 a.m. Luncheon and book discussion with Michelle Smith, author of *Whole Smith's Good Food Cookbook*. The luncheon is \$20 which includes \$5 off on the price of the cookbook. Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation. Luncheon will feature recipes from Michelle's cookbook.*
- 14 **City of Orinda,** 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Senior Trips - Santa Cruz Follies. Must register by Sept 1. Fees: \$46. "A Shout Out to Memorable Singers and Songs" will be performed by a cast of senior performers. Lunch will be on your own in downtown Santa Cruz before the 1 p.m. performance. Visit www.cityoforinda.org or call 254-2445.
Mindful Littles, 4 p.m - 5:30 p.m. Workshop: Exploring Awe and Wonder. \$30. Kids will experience creative projects, interactive group discussions and storytelling, practice playful yoga and mindfulness as they discover awe and wonder in their everyday lives. Open to kids: age K-5th grade. Register at Atma Yoga Studio: <https://www.atma.studio/>
- 15 **Pacific Chamber Orchestra,** 7:30 p.m. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Tickets are available at PacificChamberOrchestra.org. See article this page.
- 16 **City of Orinda,** Extended Trips with Premier World Discovery - Cape Cod & the Islands, Nantucket Island Visit, Nantucket Whaling Museum, Boston City Tour, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth Rock, Hyannis, Martha's Vineyard Tour, Newport's Ocean Drive, Breakers Mansion Tour, Heritage Plantation, New England Lobster Dinner, Faneuil Hall Marketplace. Visit www.cityoforinda.org or call 254-2445.
- 17 **Orinda Books,** 4 p.m. Join us at a Judy Moody Tea Party. Meet author Megan McDonald and celebrate her new book, *Judy Moody & the Right Royal Tea Party*.*
- 18 **City of Orinda,** 10:30 a.m. Beginning Genealogy - Part 2. Presenter: Linda Harms Okazaki presents a workshop on genealogy. This is a follow-up to Introduction to Genealogy offered earlier this year. This class is designed for beginners. Orinda Community Center, Room 8
The World Affairs Book Group, 3 p.m. will discuss *VIKING ECONOMICS: How The Scandinavians Got It Right - And How We Can, Too*, by George Lakey. The discussion will be lead by Kate Pope at Orinda Books.*
- 19 **Orinda Books,** 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Educator Happy Hour - Teachers are invited to learn how to order easily online, learn about book discounts, new releases and help with author visits.*
Orinda Books, 6 p.m. Scott Edward Cole will discuss his new book *Fallout: The Shocking True Story of Suffering, Corporate Greed & a Young Lawyer's Fight for Justice*.*
- 25 **Orinda Books,** 11:30 a.m. Enjoy a literary luncheon with R.O. Kwon and learn more about her celebrated new novel, *The Incendiaries*. \$12 - call 925-254-7606 for reservations.*
- 27 **City of Orinda,** 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Senior Trips - All that's New in San Francisco - Tour by Craig Smith. Must register by Sept. 7. Fees: \$127. Join Craig Smith, on this San Francisco tour to get the "scoop" on the new sights of the city. A hosted lunch at Delancey Street Restaurant included. Visit www.cityoforinda.org or call 254-2445.
Orinda Books, 11:30 a.m. A Literary Luncheon with Kim Malcolm who will discuss her book, so relevant today, *A Country Within: A Journey of Love & Hope within the Refugee Crisis in Greece*. \$12- call 925-254-7606 for reservations.*
- 25 **California Shakespeare Theater,** 7:30 p.m. presents *black odyssey* through Oct. 7. Additional information and online ticketing are available at www.calshakes.org. See article page 16.
- 29 **Toris Jaeger Honorary Dinner,** 6 p.m. Celebrates Jaeger's work at WRNA and raising funds for its Association, a group dedicated to stewardship and educational programs. Tickets are \$150. Mail check payable to FWRNA, P.O. Box 821, Orinda, CA 94563. Purchase tickets or donate online: www.fwrna.org/tickets. Questions/Sponsorship: Contact Miriam Storch at (510) 220-5310 or info@fwrna.org. See article page 11.

Pacific Chamber Perform Sept. 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl, presents "Mozart: The Grandeur" with Mozart's "Jupiter" symphony and his "Haffner" serenade with Igor Veligan as violin soloist. Performances will be held in the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m., and in the Bankhead Theater in Livermore on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 3 p.m. "You'll enjoy how Mozart simultaneously pours forth beautiful music entwined with the complexities of human emotions," says Kohl. Tickets are available at PacificChamberOrchestra.org and, additionally for Livermore, at the Bankhead Box office, 2400 First Street in Livermore or call 925-373-6800.

* **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.cclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 4 **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 September 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26.
Baby Storytime. 11:30 a.m. For infants through prewalkers (18 months) and their caregivers. Also September 11, 18, 25.
Orinda Writers' Group. 6:30 - 8:00 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 Sept. 18.
- 6 **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 September 13, 20, 27.
- 5 **Paws to Read.** 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Would your child like to practice reading to a friendly dog? "Paws to Read" for children grades K-5. Call or visit the library to reserve a space. Also Sept. 12, 19, 26.
- 6 **Preschool Drive In.** 3 - 4 p.m., movie at 3:30. Help celebrate the upcoming Classic Car Show by decorating a box to become a cool car and then enjoy a short movie in your vehicle. Suitable for toddler and preschoolers and generously sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 10 **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 September 17, 24.
- 13 **Hidden Meanings in Chinese Art:** An Asian Art Museum Docent Lecture. 11 a.m. - noon. Uncover some of the fascinating and fun meanings and messages hidden in Chinese art. Once you learn them you'll be able to identify them in many other contexts.
- 15 **Free Full Mock SAT Diagnostic Exam.** 10 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. From the Princeton Review. Registration required. Please sign up online or call 925-254-2184.
- 19 **Taking Control of Your Finances in 8 Steps.** 6 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. The Financial Planning Association of the East Bay brings its most popular free workshop "to the Orinda Library. This is an educational program where attendees learn the basics of taking control of their finances and can get questions answered. There is absolutely no selling during this event.
- 21 **Mystery Book Club.** 3 - 4:30 p.m. Join us as we uncover and discuss the new mystery book of the month.
- 27 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners.** 7 - 9 p.m. Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month.

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.
- 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 - 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 - 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Republican Women Federated.** Third Thursday every month. Special 9/27 meeting with Assemblywoman Catharine Baker. 11:30 a.m., Orinda Country Club. The assemblywoman will speak on changing dynamics of the Golden State's politics. Contact Edith Hite at 925-937-7112 to make a reservation For more information. go to www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org or <https://www.facebook.com/Lamorinda-Republican-Women-Federated-136134033113066>.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural

CLASSIFIEDS

◆ LETTERS from page 4

attitude from a government employee. Finally, on May 22, 2018, we spoke to the postmaster. She didn't seem to know about any of the problems we had been complaining about. We had to go over all the issues with her, and, at the end, we requested a formal response and an apology from the supervisor. She said she would apologize on behalf of the supervisor. Although the mail situation may have improved slightly, and we have only received a couple of mis-delivered mails, a week ago, a neighbor asked us to check on her mail while she was away because she was having problems with the post office. We have never discussed our problems with her, yet she was having similar issues. Evidently, ours is not an isolated incident. Feeling frustrated, we dug out the response from USPS eCustomerCare National to our initial complaint. Interestingly, the response, dated Dec. 12, 2017, was from the same postmaster we spoke with who wrote: "After we review and investigate the information you have provided, we will contact you and work with you until the case is resolved." Huh?

– Dick Ling

Los Vaqueros: Big Dam Waste

Critical dam physics fact: water pressure per-square-inch (PSI) pushing against a dam is primarily determined by water-depth at the dam. Pressure increases by piling additional water directly above the water underneath. A wall of water six inches thick covering the entire dam face exerts the same pressure on the dam as a lake stretching 10-miles in back of the dam, as long as water-depth at the dam is equal. Raising dam height not anticipated in the original design risks structural failure.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir (LV), owned by the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) was completed in 1998 to hold 100,000 acre-feet (a/f) of water. The dam was 190-foot high: Project cost: \$450,000,000 (or \$2.4Million/foot of dam height).

Just 14 years later, in 2012, CCWD raised the dam to 224-feet to store another

60,000 a/f. Cost: \$150,000,000 (\$4.4Million per added foot).

CCWD now plans to add 55 feet more, making the dam 279 feet high and to hold an additional 115,000 a/f. Cost estimate (2017): \$800,000,000. Revised estimate (2018): \$914,000,000 (\$16.6 Million for each added foot). Remarkable example of "long-range" government planning acumen!

This height-raising is the step too far. The dam must be almost completely rebuilt. 150,000 a/f of water, now in the reservoir, enough for 750,000 people for a year, will be drained. LV will remain empty until 2027. That water could, if sold at CCWD present rates, bring in \$350,000,000.

There is no need for this "upgrade." The solution is in plain sight, 10-miles away.

In 2004, a levee from one Delta farm, Jones Tract (upper/lower), breached. 160,000 a/f filled the Tract in three-days. The State foolishly dumped that water (worth \$300,000,000), and spent another \$100,000,000 to rebuild the levee.

Jones, as have all Delta island-farms that started at river-level 165 years ago, has been sinking one to three inches a year. Its peat soil blows away with farming. Jones could, relatively easily, become a privately-managed reservoir holding 650,000 acre-feet of water; enough for yearly needs of 3,250,000 Californians. LV presently can store 160,000 a/f.

Fifteen to 18 other island-farms are on government "Do Not Repair" if breached. Using these magnificent in-ground farm sculptures as reservoirs could provide water needs for 20,000,000 people. And water-independence for California, to boot.

We can save billions by scrubbing wasteful dam projects, e.g., Sites, Temperance Flats, Pacheco Pass.

Can all of this happen? No. Dams have powerful constituencies. Novel idea purveyors don't. Our area political folk understand that.

– Joe Moran

Dennis Fay for Orinda City Council

Dennis Fay has announced his intention to run for a seat on the Orinda City Council in the November election. Orinda is fortunate indeed to have a candidate for Council with Dennis' background and experience. He has served Orinda as chair

CALENDAR from page 18

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. Sept. 7: Common Hope, Executive Director, Shari Blindt. Fighting poverty with diplomas in Guatemala. Sept. 14: Annett Balter of COVIA - helping people thrive. Sept. 21: Young Women of STEM.
Lamorinda Toastmasters. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org.
Montelindo Garden Club Third Friday, 9:30 a.m., September through May. New Location: The Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Presentation: Designing with Palms. Speaker: Jason Dawees - author of the book Designing with Palms. 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.
Orinda Job's Daughters. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
Orinda Junior Women's Club Community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. First Thursday every month, except holidays, at 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center, Orinda. Family Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.
Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org. Our theme for the month is "Bay Area/No. California (Ancient) History." Sept. 5 - Ashley Poust, UC Berkeley Paleontology Museum, "Uncovering The Past: Calveras Dam Fossil Discoveries." Sept. 7 - (DWTC Event). Sept. 12 - Leslie Ward, Lamorinda Winegrowers. Sept. 19 - Jim Allen, St. Mary's College, "The Buried Ships of SF." Sept. 26 - Frank Dean, CEO Yosemite Conservancy, "Restoring The Mariposa Grove."
Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
Orinda Teen Advisory Council. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or www.orindawomansclub.org.

CITY/FIRE/MEETING SCHEDULE
City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityforinda.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.cityforinda.org.

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

...classified ads

- For Sale
Buttons Galore - modern to antique. Metals - plastics - rhinestones - etc. Call Lynne at 925-254-8746.
Help Wanted
Get first look at incoming library book donations. Sort books with Friends on Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - noon. Call OA Volunteer Center 254-0800.
Household Service
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Professional Services
Spousal Grief Support Group in Orinda Contact: Elizabeth Rae Walker, MFT 31203 at 510-325-6060.
Services
Gutter Cleaning Roof Blowing
Charles 925-254-5533
Yard trimming. Summer clean up & mowing. Overhanging branches removed. Charles (h) 925-254-5533 or (c) 925-528-9385.
Wanted
I buy 1950's Furniture. Danish modern, Herman Miller, Knoll wanted. 1 item or entire estate! Call Rick at 510-219-9644. Courteous house calls.
The Senior Bridge Group is looking for players! Games take place on Thursday afternoons in the Community Center. Call Gretchen Dabel for details at 925-254-5532.
Unwanted Eye Glasses are collected for Lions Club at the Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

of the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) and was instrumental in developing the recommendations for the City's ongoing road improvement program. Dennis is a long time Orinda resident with a distinguished professional career in transportation management, most recently as executive director of what is now the Alameda County Transportation Commission. He embodies the spirit of volunteerism by Orinda citizens with professional expertise they are willing to share for the betterment of our community.
– Tom Trowbridge

2018 Publication Schedule Orinda News classified ads ...
Issue: October 2018, November 2018; Deadline: September 8, 2018, October 8, 2018
Your ad in The Orinda News reaches 9,000 households and businesses in Orinda!
There are 32 spaces per line. Count each letter, punctuation mark, and space between words.
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Write your ad in the boxes below with one letter, space or punctuation mark in each box. Cost is \$5 per line: \$10 minimum.
Enclose your check payable to The Orinda Association and mail to Orinda News, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563. We reserve the right to reject any ad. Classified ads must be prepaid. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

CONTINUATIONS

◆ ELECTIONS from page 1

has more than 40 years work experience in the transportation field; Nick Kosla, former chair of the Planning Commission; and Kathleen Jenkins, contract negotiator and project manager.

The Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Board of Trustees also has three seats slated for election in November. Current members up for reelection are: Julie Rossiter, who has served two, four-year terms beginning in 2010; Jason Kaune, who has served one, four-year term beginning in 2014; and Carol Brown, who has served one, four-year term beginning in 2014. Kaune and Brown are running for reelection. Rossiter has declined.

Only one resident has filed to run for OUSD Board of Trustees: educator Elizabeth Daoust. Since there are three candidates and only three positions, there will not be an election for the OUSD Board of Trustees.

Three, however remains the magic number for the Acalanes Union School District.

Four candidates are vying for the positions: business consultant Paul Derksen; incumbents Bob Hockett and Nancy Kendzierski; and former OUSD Board of Trustees member Chris Severson, an emergency medicine physician.

For the Moraga Orinda Fire District, candidates will be competing for positions in District 1 (voted on by Moraga residents), District 3 and District 4. In District 1, incumbent Kathleen Famulener declined to run leaving fireman Gregory Baitx and businessman Nathan Bell to battle for her position. In District 3, which comprises parts of Moraga and Orinda, there are three candidates for one position: incumbent Steve Anderson; retired fire administrator Steve Danziger; and technology executive Red Smith. In District 4, which only includes Orinda, retired Oakland firefighter Michael Donner and community volunteer Lucy Talbot vie for one position.

Election day is Nov. 6 with the registration deadline Oct. 22. The last day to request a vote by mail ballot is Oct. 30. For more information, go to www.cocovote.us.

◆ PRESIDENT from page 2

Association's programs.

Sept. 22 is the **Autumn or Fall Equinox**, the beginning of fall. In Orinda it begins at 6:54 p.m., the point where there are exactly 12 hours of daylight and darkness at the equator. Celebrate with a fall or harvest festival, or a few pagan rituals. The pear and apple festivals are always great!

One-Hit Wonder Day on Sept. 25 was established way back in 1990 to pay tribute to those who have had their five minutes (or less) of fame and subsequently vanished. Some songs like "Macarena," "Achy Breaky Heart" and "Mambo #5" will never go away. Can you name a few

more of this ilk?

Sept. 28 is **National Good Neighbor Day**. Being a good neighbor is an important part of the social fiber that makes this country great. We have wonderful neighbors in Orinda because we work to be good neighbors.

Sept. 29 is the **Toris Jaeger Honorary Dinner**. Toris was the first recipient of the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental award in 1993, and she has touched the lives of more than 10,000 Orinda children through the Wagner Ranch Nature Area's unique educational programs. Attend this dinner in her honor or donate your time and treasure to WRNA. We are all so grateful to Toris for the 40 years she has given to Orinda: what a great neighbor!

◆ LAUTZ from page 2

ing her children, and then in 1992 took a full-time position as the operating room manager. She went on to work in several other positions at Kaiser, including director of surgical services and director of nursing practice. After returning to school at age 55 to get her Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration, she took on a new role as Kaiser Walnut Creek's assistant medical group administrator.

In 2016, Lautz retired from the healthcare field and started her own professional organizing business. She is a member of the National Organization of Professional

Organizers (NAPO) and specializes in downsizing and consolidation. In her free time, Lautz enjoys participating in various clubs and groups with friends, including the Junior Garden Club of Orinda, and in past years, the Union League of the East Bay. She calls herself an "avid walker and a so-so gardener." After retiring from Kaiser two years ago, Lautz wanted to become more active in the community and began driving for The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program. When asked to join the OA board, Lautz happily accepted, and says "I'm excited to be joining the board and look forward to being part of their many worthwhile endeavors."

◆ JAZZ from page 14

been visiting from Michigan. "My parents had flown out to see us when my dad had a heart attack on the plane and he had to stay with us while he recuperated," she explains. "Then the fire happened on Friday, July 27, and we were evacuated on Saturday to Oakland."

Jenna and her family were lucky and had homes to return to but many of her friends lost everything. "So many people I know had nothing to return to including my best friend Machiko. She is also a singer and hopes to appear with me at the Sept. 9 concert."

Mamma has 11 CDs, many online recordings and has performed with such greats as Bobby McFerrin, Rickie Lee Jones, Al Jarreau and Rosemary Clooney. She also teaches yoga to seniors and works with dementia and Parkinson's disease patients. At the Orinda Jazz Festival she plans to perform several original pieces plus some unique jazz ballads.

Not to be outdone, internationally renowned violinist and composer, Mads Tolling is a two-time Grammy Award-winner

and his recordings have received rave reviews in *Downbeat Magazine*, *Washington Post* and *The San Francisco Chronicle* among others.


Also performing at the benefit concert is legendary saxophonist Jules Broussard, best known for his work with Carlos Santana and Alice Coltrane as well as for playing two saxophones at the same time! Performers at the star-studded event also include: vocalists Shana Dinha and Ikemba Alverson; pianist Ben Flint, vocalist/harmonica sensation Brian Byrnes, Brazilian duo Chico Coelho and Dave Ridnell, bassist Terry Miller, drummer Michael Henning, flutist Nancy Tyler, guitarist James Freeman, accordionist Patricia Henning, Captain Didgee, cellist Joseph Hebert and more. Alban, who plays flute, piano, guitar and ukulele, will also perform.

The concert takes place at the Orinda Community Church's garden courtyard. There is no admission fee but donations for fire victims will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call or text Alban at 510-542-7517.



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ROTARY CLUB

Rotary Clubs Serve Lamorinda Well

By THOMAS BLACK
Contributing Writer

Ask anyone to name the first service organization that comes to mind, and chances are the answer is “Rotary.” Rotary boasts 35,000 affiliated clubs in more than 200 countries. Its 1.2 million world-wide members donate some 16 million hours of volunteer service annually, fulfilling its guiding credo, “Service Above Self.”

Hereabouts, Rotary is alive and well. There are five clubs in Lamorinda, including Orinda Rotary, established in 1949 which today numbers 64 members. The oldest is the Lafayette club (1946); the newest is Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary (1987). The others are Moraga (1967) and Rossmoor (1965). The “Fab 5,” as they call themselves, represent a composite general population of roughly 80,000, or one club for every 16,000 residents.

All clubs operate under the umbrella of Rotary International (RI), headquartered in Evanston, Illinois, outside Chicago, where Rotary was founded in 1905. Its stated mission to “promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, support education, save mothers and children, and grow local economies” is furthered with approximately 90 cents of every dollar donated going to support manifold programs.

In the past century, RI has invested \$3 billion in numerous life-changing, sustainable projects. Perhaps best known is the campaign begun in 1979 to eradicate polio worldwide. A funding partnership with the

Gates Foundation has yielded a multiplier effect. Because each Rotary dollar is augmented with two from Gates, polio has been wiped out in all but three countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria – down from 125 three decades ago. To date, RI has contributed more than \$1.3 billion to PolioPlus, as the campaign is known. Some 2.5 billion children have been immunized in 122 countries. (Out-of-pocket cost for a single immunization shot is 60 cents.)

Rotary Club of Orinda has become synonymous with a pair of fundraising events, the beer booth at the Independence Day Parade and the “Dancing With The Cars” gala. The annual event will be held on Friday, Sep. 7, at the Orinda Country Club. The immensely popular classic car show follows on Saturday. Proceeds benefit local schools, Meals On Wheels for housebound seniors, the arts, the Orinda Community Center, and Orinda Parks and Recreation programs. Additionally, the Orinda Rotary sponsored the Pan Asian Arts Festival over Memorial Day weekend, Opera in the Park, and the annual Tom Fitch Fishing Day Outing for the Oakland Boys and Girls Club.

Like all Rotary clubs, the local organization participates annually in Polio Plus. Other international programs over the years have included contributions to cosmetic oral surgery abroad, funding of a school-community library in rural Jamaica, and helping to purchase a new fire engine in Valle de Guadalupe, Mexico.

The club meets over lunch on Wednes-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Moraga Rotary is partnering with the FC Seattle soccer club to build and supply an orphanage in Sierra Leone for children who lost both parents in the 2014 Ebola crisis.

days at the Orinda Community Center. The President is John Donnelly III. More information: www.orindarotary.org.

Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise is unique among the Fab 5 in meeting for breakfast – Fridays at 7 a.m. at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. It also is unique in that recent fundraisers have involved “building stuff,” as the website declares. Said stuff consists thus far of two canoes and one tear-drop trailer, each handmade from scratch in the woodshop of a club member. Each has been raffled off – very successfully -- to a welcoming general public. Combined, they have netted about \$70,000 to support multiple community service projects, including permanent housing for families in transition. They are now lovingly restoring a 1961 VW Beetle to raffle. It will be shown at multiple public venues before the winning ticket is drawn. the President is Chris Laszcz-Davis. More information: www.lamorindasunrise.org.

Rotary Club of Moraga can rightly brag about the grandest accomplishment of any of the Fab 5, namely construction of the All-Access Playground at Moraga Commons. To fund it, the club raised the astonishing sum of \$340,000. In commemoration of the club’s 50th anniversary, the playground was christened earlier this year.

Other programs include paying for kids’ editions of *Time* and *National Geographic*

to 3rd through 5th graders, providing a full scholarship to one Saint Mary’s College student and two partial college scholarships to graduating Campolindo seniors.

To also finance numerous service programs, multiple fundraisers are held [SEE ROTARY page 22]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Now in its fifth year, **Tribute to the Troops** is hosted by the Rotary Club of Lafayette in support of active military, reserves, veterans and Gold Star Families.

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ROTARY

◆ ROTARY from page 21

annually. Principal among them is Night at the Races in March. The club meets at the Moraga Country Club the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays at noon and the 2nd Tuesday for dinner. President is Ronald Mucovich. www.moragarotary.com.

Rotary Club of Lafayette is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Concert at the Lafayette Reservoir on a stage whose construction it funded several years ago to aid local school performing-arts programs. Two other signature events are Tribute to the Troops, likewise held at the Reservoir, to honor military veterans, and the Easter Bunny Scramble for kids and adults at Lafayette Square Park. The club also supports Interfaith housing, the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels and cleanup and weed abatement under the Highway 24

overpasses in town. President is Matthew Pease. More information: www.rotarylafayette.org.

Rotary Club of Rossmoor hosts its main fundraiser gala in October. In each of the past three years the event has netted some \$40,000, all of it earmarked to support local Alzheimer's and Parkinson's organizations. Another ongoing program is the annual cleanup of Walnut Creek. In conjunction with RI, which provided a supporting three-year, \$65,000 grant, the club is anticipating ribbon cutting for a facility in Sintaro, Ethiopia, designed to provide women a variety of basic services. Club members meet for lunch on Wednesdays at the Rossmoor Hillside Clubhouse and participate in numerous other community-enhancing activities. President is John King. More information: www.rossmoor.rotary5160.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary will raffle off this beautifully restored **1961 VW Beetle**, with tickets on sale at Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, Sept. 15-16. The car was restored in the shop of Lamorinda Sunrise member **Hays Englehart**, shown here with **Joy Alaidarous** of Rossmoor.

◆ CURE from page 12

to promising research. Thus, Propel a Cure was born (a non-profit, tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization): <https://propelacure.org>.

Knowing how popular swimming is in Orinda, Dina Fiatarone and I decided that a Swim-a-thon in June would be a perfect way to launch Propel a Cure and raise funds. Orinda Park Pool agreed, and on June 21 we had our first event. A shout-out and thank you to the swim team is apt since the team dedicated its workout that day to our cause and raised over \$1,600!

On July 4, Propel a Cure was at the Orinda Community Park as the community celebrated Independence Day to spread the word and encourage little ones to make propellers (pinwheels!). Happily, parents and others generously donated to our cause.

Before that on Saturday, May 19, a day dedicated to fighting this ailment interna-

tionally, I had the honor to speak about Crohn's disease at the season finale of the Gold Coast Players in Lafayette. One composer whose music they played that evening, Lili Boulanger, had died from the disease.

Full of energy, our organization is already planning a repeat of our Mardi Gras-themed gala that featured wonderful food and great music. It will be held on February 23, 2019, at the Santa Maria Church Hall in Orinda. Stay tuned for more information.

In addition, there is a conference at the Lawrence Hall of Science, Sept. 21 and 22 sponsored by the Human Para Foundation which will cover the latest research regarding pathogenic bacteria and certain immune-mediated diseases like Crohn's, MS, T1D and more. For information, go to <https://humanpara.org/berkeley-conference-home>.

Some of you are likely touched by this disease, battling it yourself or having a

struggling loved one fighting it. Because of its nature, it is a lonely disease, and those who are ill are reluctant to share that they have it. We refuse, however, to believe that a cure is not possible. Therefore, we will continue to spread the word, seek support

and fund promising research. We are small, but highly motivated. Any input would be truly appreciated. If you would like to join us, we would love to have your help, just email propelacure@gmail.com or call 925-528-9559.

◆ CAR SHOW from page 1

rari, March, Lola and McLaren. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see these amazing vehicles.

Those who make a \$10 donation will be able to ride in an exhibited car during the "Drive" at the close of the show. Proceeds for this popular attraction benefit the Seniors Around Town program with donations being tax-deductible. Seniors Around Town is provided by The Orinda Association and connects Orinda seniors who are no longer able to drive with volunteer drivers who provide rides to doctor's appointments, errands and social events in nearby areas. Seniors Around Town now provides

over 1100 free rides a year to Orinda seniors.

In addition to the cars, there will be shaded seating to enjoy refreshments at the Taverna Pellegrini Food and Beverage Pavilion and Loard's Ice Cream Booth. The Lamorinda Idol winners will perform at noon. Parking during the show is available at the Orinda Community Church (10 Irwin Way), Vintage Court Office Center (25 Orinda Way) and the Pine Grove Business Center (4 Orinda Way). Founded by Chip Herman and presented by Orinda Motors, the Orinda Classic Car Show is not to be missed. For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com.

◆ CAMINO from page 15

miles per day over about eight days. The beauty of a pilgrimage is how, as Wagner describes, it's the opposite of a race or a marathon. The joy is in the journey.

"Although the scenery is mostly rural and agricultural, there are little towns, cafes and shops along the route, so you are never out of reach of anything you might need," Wagner continued. Ancient, picturesque churches dot the landscape, along with all sorts of interesting art and sculpture according to Wagner: "There are lots of places to stop and take photos, take a peaceful rest, grab a coffee, or just savor the moment."

A few charming customs Wagner mentioned were pilgrims symbolically leaving their old, worn out shoes at the various mile markers, and always acknowledging fellow travelers with the greeting "Buen Camino."

The group traveled at the end of May when the weather is still rather "Oregonish," with fog in the morning.

Wagner would definitely recommend this expedition to anyone seeking an opportunity to slowly soak up the rural and rustic beauty of a region firsthand, as opposed to a whirlwind tour, or staring out the window of a bus, train or car.

A pilgrimage is quite a metaphor for life, when you really stop and think about it: remarkably long distances are covered, self-powered, one step at a time. The process prevails. After my visit with Doreen Wagner, I understand why this phenomenon has withstood the test of time.

◆ STARLIGHT from page 16

nights at 8:30 p.m., with a Sunday matinee on Sept. 23 at 4 p.m. and one Thursday performance on Sept. 27 at 8 p.m.

OrSVP is volunteer run and no one at the theatre is paid. Anyone who is interested in any aspect of theatre and would like to help is encouraged to contact the group at www.orsvp.org or 925-528-9225.

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CHAMBER / BUSINESS

Chamber Bids Farewell to Executive Director Sophie Braccini



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Former Executive Director **Sophie Braccini**, seen here with President **Roy Hodgkinson**, incoming President **Ally Fattore** and Interim Executive Director **Cindy Powell**.

By **SALLY HOGARTY**
Editor

For the past two and one-half years, Sophie Braccini has been at the helm of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. In addition to tending to the Chamber's day-to-day business, Braccini organized a number of programs to benefit the local business community including a Trivia Bee, Orinda Restaurant Tour, Orinda Business Awards and monthly mixers hosted at different local businesses. But her favorite event was one she initiated in April, the Lamorinda Non-Profit Forum.

"I thought the Non-Profit Forum was one of the most interesting," Braccini says. "It was great to have large companies coming together with smaller ones and helping each other. I thought it really served the community as people shared and leveraged resources."

Braccini's last day was Aug. 8. She began a new position at U.C. Berkeley Aug. 20 where she is the executive assistant to the dean of the School of Public Health.

Chamber Board Member Juliet Don echoed other board members when she said, "We will certainly miss her." Serving as interim executive director is Cindy Powell.

◆ **ODYSSEY** from page 16

fornia Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Tuesdays through Thursdays, shows begin at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, shows start at 8 p.m.; Sunday performances commence at 4 p.m. There will be a matinee on Saturday Oct. 6, at 2 p.m. Grounds open two hours before curtain. Free shuttle service runs from the Orinda BART station beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain and free onsite parking is available. For more information or to charge tickets (\$20-\$92) by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666. Additional information and online ticketing are available at www.calshakes.org.

◆ **BUZZ** from page 24

up in October. When not working, she enjoys traveling, reading and volunteering, most recently at the Friends Bookstore and the EFO (Educational Foundation of Orinda).

Dille & Koo LLP, CPAs is located at 25 Orinda Way, Suite 300, Orinda, 925-283-6195, and can be found online at www.dillekoo.com.



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Fri-Sat 'til 10:00 pm
2 Theatre Square, #144 Orinda
(925) 253-1225



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

L-R: Dr. Mark F. Swimmer, Dr. Blake A. Swimmer and Dr. Alan J. Swimmer

Third Generation Dentist Joins Lafayette Practice

Lifelong Orinda resident Dr. Blake A. Swimmer has joined the Lafayette practice of his father, Dr. Mark F. Swimmer, after graduating from the University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in June. Before getting his undergraduate degree at the University of Oregon, Blake attended Sleepy Hollow Elementary and Orinda Intermediate School, and earned his diploma at Miramonte High School in 2011.

Dr. Mark F. Swimmer, also an Orinda resident, has been practicing dentistry for

30 years in Lafayette, after joining his father, Dr. Alan J. Swimmer in 1988. Alan worked with his son for 12 years before his retirement in 2000, after practicing dentistry for 37 years. The family tradition extends to Blake's mother, Dr. Kristi Doberenz, who is also an alumna of the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry and who recently retired from her own general dentistry practice in Orinda. Mark says, "Having Blake join my practice is a dream come true for the entire family."

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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



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

Square Baby Opens in Orinda Theatre Square

On August 30, co-founders Katie Thomson, MS, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Chief Executive Officer; and Kendall Glynn, MS, Certified Genetic Counselor and Chief Operating Officer; plus Kirsten Forsberg, VP of Communications; and Kevin Thomson, Chief Creative Officer, launched Square Baby’s brick and mortar location in Theatre Square. All the principals in Square Baby are parents of young children.

Glynn says, “We are thrilled about the opening of our store and are grateful for the support we have received with the launch of Square Baby. We have loved participating in the Orinda community as moms and volunteers and are excited to add business owners to the list.” Since July 10 they’ve been fulfilling online orders as the only baby food that delivers 100 percent of a baby’s daily recommended servings of fruit, vegetables, proteins and grains. They deliver by mail to California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho and Utah.

When Thomson realized all she could find for her new baby was fruit-heavy, sugar-laden foods masquerading as balanced meals, she got fed up. A Registered Dietitian with a Masters in Nutrition Sci-

ence, she knew the first year of a baby’s life is critical for his or her health. Also, a balanced diet is intrinsically tied to how baby brains and bodies grow. She knew she could do better.

It’s taken Thomson eight years to develop Square Baby (SB); but she didn’t do it alone. The first step in creating her team occurred when she met Glynn through Lamorinda Moms. Both volunteered at Glorietta Elementary School and together they designed a number of programs involving nutritional food and wellness. When Glynn showed up with three spreadsheets for one program, Thomson thought, “This is my kind of gal.” She asked her to be her business partner. The other talented team members were drawn from personal connections because of their shared vision.

How does it work? Based on your baby’s age, dietary restrictions (if any) and preferences, SB customizes a 100 percent daily nutrition plan. Their Square Meal System™ allows a choice between the customized meal plan designed by their Registered Dietitian and Pediatrician or you can pick and choose each meal. They deliver freshly made purees directly to your doorstep every two weeks – or you can buy from their store. Just open, stir and serve - mashing, blending or chopping is not required.

Boring is not on the menu. You’ll find healthy fats like avocado oil, sprouted grains, lentils and Salba chia. Protein sources include salmon, egg and bone broth – rarely found in existing baby foods.



Kendall Glynn and Katie Thomson, co-founders of Square Baby, opened their brick and mortar store at 2 Theatre Square on Aug. 30.

Everything is made fresh in small batches in a local commercial certified organic kitchen. The company has certification for its baby food products from both the FDA and California Certified Organic Farmers of Santa Cruz.

Co-founders Thomson and Glynn live with their families in Orinda and love raising their young children in Orinda’s tight-knit, supportive community. They are excited to engage with and be a resource for local families. In closing, Thomson says, “We believe balanced meals go with a balanced life. We’ve made it easy to offer 100 percent daily nutrition for your baby.”

Square Baby is located at 2 Theatre Square #112, Orinda and is open Mon. - Sat. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment. Explore the options online at www.squarebaby.com or call 415-273-9756.

Kara Dille of Dille & Koo LLP and SCP Investment LP

Kara Dille and her partner Willis Koo recently founded Dille & Koo LLP Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), a multi-family office in Orinda. She and Koo met while auditing asset management firms at Ernst and Young more than 15 years ago in San Francisco. They loved working together and always wanted their own CPA firm. In 2016, they opened their concierge CPA office in Orinda where they represent a few ultra-high net worth families. To keep their client’s world organized they liaise



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CPA Kara Dille is the co-founder of Dille & Koo, LLP, as well as the new EFO president

with service providers so that work is done correctly. They simplify, structure and manage family offices by securing privacy, wealth and family lifestyle over multiple generations.

To accomplish this, Dille and Koo provide investment integrity, framework, transparency and reporting. They promote a philosophy of operational ease for day-to-day management and strive to inspire and educate the next generation. This is in addition to handling tax audits and complex estate transactions which need support and documentation, accounting and valuation.

Dille is also co-founder, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Compliance Officer of SCP Investment, LP, an SEC registered investment advisory firm, and the Chief Financial Officer of the Perkins Fund. Previously, she worked for 12 years as the CFO then CCO and COO for Apex Capital, a hedge fund, and CFO for Apex Capital’s family office. An active certified Public Accountant in California, she has a Masters of Accountancy.

Prior to joining Apex, Dille worked as a supervising senior auditor in Ernst & Young’s West Coast hedge fund practice where she was responsible for auditing a wide range of domestic and offshore alternative asset investment funds. Koo received a B.S. in Business Administration from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley and is also an active Certified Public Accountant in California. Koo is the Chief Financial Officer at SCP Investment, LP.

Dille and her husband have lived in Orinda for more than 10 years and between them have four children enrolled in Orinda schools in grades six through ten. “I remember volunteering to hang children’s drawings in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library when my children were very young; I’ll never forget how delighted all the kids were when they saw their art displayed,” says Dille.

Recently Dille became president of the Educational Foundation of Orinda; see article on page 8 about her plans for an Orinda All Ages Read-A-Thon coming


[SEE BUZZ page 23]

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