



THE ORINDA NEWS

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12 Issues Annually
September 2019

PG&E Unveils Power Shut-off Plan to Council

By PAUL KILDUFF
Contributing Writer

Reeling from the aftermath of the devastating Camp Fire caused by sparks from its equipment, Pacific Gas & Electric is rolling out a set of guidelines and procedures for turning off power in areas when and where fire danger can be severe — such as in Orinda.

The guidelines are outlined in the utility's Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) program, which PG&E East Bay Public Affairs Manager Tom Guarino explained at the July 16 City Council meeting.

PSPS is a three-pronged approach. The first uses real-time camera monitoring of wildfire risks near PG&E power lines, circuit breakers, poles and other equipment from its Wildfire Safety Operations Center in San Francisco. The utility has also added 1,300 weather stations in its service area from Bakersfield to the Oregon border.

In Orinda, through efforts spearheaded-
[SEE PG&E page 11]

Orinda in Search of New Police Chief as Nagel Leaves

Staff Report

Orinda bid farewell to its police chief in August after Mark Nagel retired from the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office and took a job at Saint Mary's College.

Nagel worked 20 years with the Sheriff's Office, with the last six years as the chief of Orinda.

Nagel began work as the director of public safety at Saint Mary's, his alma mater, at the end of August.

Orinda City Manager Steve Salomon said he would be working with the sheriff's department to hire the next police chief, likely in September.

Salomon said he would be looking for someone who, like Nagel, is able to be active in the community, is a good listener



CLARK SUPRYNOWICZ

The Caldecats will close out the festival with a set list of jazz favorites from the 60s and 70s. Front row (L-R): Mark Fortier, Paul Fogel and Melne Murphy. Back row (L-R): Ted Parker, Gary Wohl, Sam Bucher and Jim Hoadley.

Holly Penfield Joins World-Class Lineup at Orinda Jazz Festival

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Jazz lovers normally would have to travel to the Monterey Jazz Festival (Sept. 27-29) or to San Francisco to hear world-

class artists. Locals, however, can stay close to home and enjoy a myriad of musical treats at Orinda's Ninth Annual Jazz Festival, thanks to Orinda musician and festival founder Carol Alban.

Local phenom Holly Penfield headlines



IAN RITCHIE

Well-known in London for her eccentric cabaret shows, singer and Orinda native Holly Penfield returns home for the Sept. 8 jazz festival.

this year's festival, which takes place Sept. 8. The Orinda native currently lives in London where she is completing her latest album, "Tree Woman." Penfield notes that she could never have made this record, several years in the making, when younger and credits her diverse life experiences with giving her the vision to make it happen now.

Penfield grew up in Orinda in a redwood house designed and built by her parents in 1961. "It was on an acre of land with seven giant oak trees that I climbed all through my childhood," she recalls. Currently rented out, the home still calls to Penfield, who hopes to return there someday.

Penfield has gone from folk singer to rock musician to jazz artist with a little bit of everything in between. Her deeply personal songs have resulted in a cult-like fan base throughout Europe. She has performed with Michael Jackson at the Britt Awards and in San Francisco with the likes of John Lee Hooker and Taj Mahal.

Known for her elaborate costumes and wigs, Penfield captivates audiences with her various personalities. "My evil twin, as I like to refer to her, is very one dimensional but she can sing jazz and cabaret quite well," laughs Penfield. "I learn a lot about my entertainer abilities and hidden desires when I put on her black wig."

Penfield says she learned the most, however, from her dad.

"My dad was truly a great singer, but he was of that generation when America was at war with Germany. When he returned from four years of fighting in Europe, he just wanted to get a good job and have his family," she says. "He had much more natural talent than me, but he didn't have that driving desire. I used to accompany

[SEE JAZZ page 8]



DAVID DIERKS

Police Chief Mark Nagel (center) receives recognition for his years of service to Orinda from City Council members (L-R) Amy Worth, Darlene Gee, Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla and Mayor Inga Miller.

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The Orinda Association

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

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

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

The Orinda Association
P.O. Box 97
Orinda, California 94563



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A Message From the OA President

‘Try To Remember the Days of September’



Carlos Baltodano

As we come back from summer vacations, we have been abruptly shaken by the news of the mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. Our heartfelt prayers and sympathies go out to the families and communities. We recognize and appreciate the efficient and quick efforts by the first responders and medical staff in both cities. We are particularly fortunate in our community to have first responders and medical staff that have been trained and are ready to assist in these kinds of emergencies.

Thanks are in order, also, to those who responded to *The Orinda News* story last month about the need for more volunteer drivers for the Seniors Around Town (SAT) program. The program is providing more than 120 rides per month to seniors. The more volunteer drivers there are, the more rides that can be provided for medical appointments and other errands. Following the article, SAT added five new volunteers to its ranks with people stepping up in true Orinda style.

The Orinda Association is able to fund this important program through fundraisers such as the 15th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show, which is taking place the weekend of Sept. 6-7. The event is one of the best fundraisers of the year that benefits many local charities and nonprofits.

As always, it will be held in the Orinda Village, next to Orinda Motors, starting

at 10 a.m. Sept. 7. The Classic Car Show began in 2005 organized by local classic car owners to provide a venue for the enjoyment of vintage vehicles while raising funds for local charities. One of the features that makes this car show unique and personal is that you get to meet the owners and talk to them about their cars.

Several years ago, the theme of the show was Route 66. We all have our favorite cars. Mine are the 1960s Corvettes. I’m particularly fond of the 1962 Corvette, an iconic vehicle. I was able to meet and talk to the owner about the vehicle, including improvements and repairs and how many times he drove it. It was a joyous experience. This is one event that is free and you can get up close and personal to learn about each vintage car.

Expect to see more than 200 cars and motorcycles. There will be two exhibits, one featuring Porches and the other highlighting station wagons dating back to the 1960s. There may also be a DeLorean.

The car show will be kicked off by a party hosted by the Orinda Rotary Club at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 6 at the Wilder Art and Garden Center, behind Ball Field #5. The theme is “Wheels that Won the West.” The production known as “Dancing with the Cars” will include drinks, music, dancing and a preview of some of the cars participating

[SEE PRESIDENT page 4]

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A.G. REALTY

Bryan Silveira Joins OA Board

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Bryan Silveira, an eight-year Orinda resident who opened a State Farm office in town a year ago, joined The Orinda Association (OA) Board of Directors on Aug. 12.

“We’re always on the lookout for good people to add to our board of directors,” says OA Board Member Cindy Powell. “Bryan brings a wealth of experience to the board not only as a local business owner but also from his travels with Farmers Insurance during his 27-plus year tenure with that organization.”

“I learned so much about various communities when dealing with Farmers’ large loss department,” Silveira explains. “I would go from one natural disaster to another helping people deal with the devastation from wildfires, floods and other catastrophes. While it was very rewarding work, I missed not getting more



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Local business owner and new OA board member
Bryan Silveira.

involved with my own community here in Orinda.”

[SEE SILVEIRA page 6]

THE Orinda ASSOCIATION Stop by our booth at The Classic Car Show, Sept. 7 at Orinda Motors

Seniors Around Town

Classic Car Show

4th of July Parade

The Orinda News

Community Forums

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The 15th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

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September 6, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"

Saturday,
September 7, 10am-3pm
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

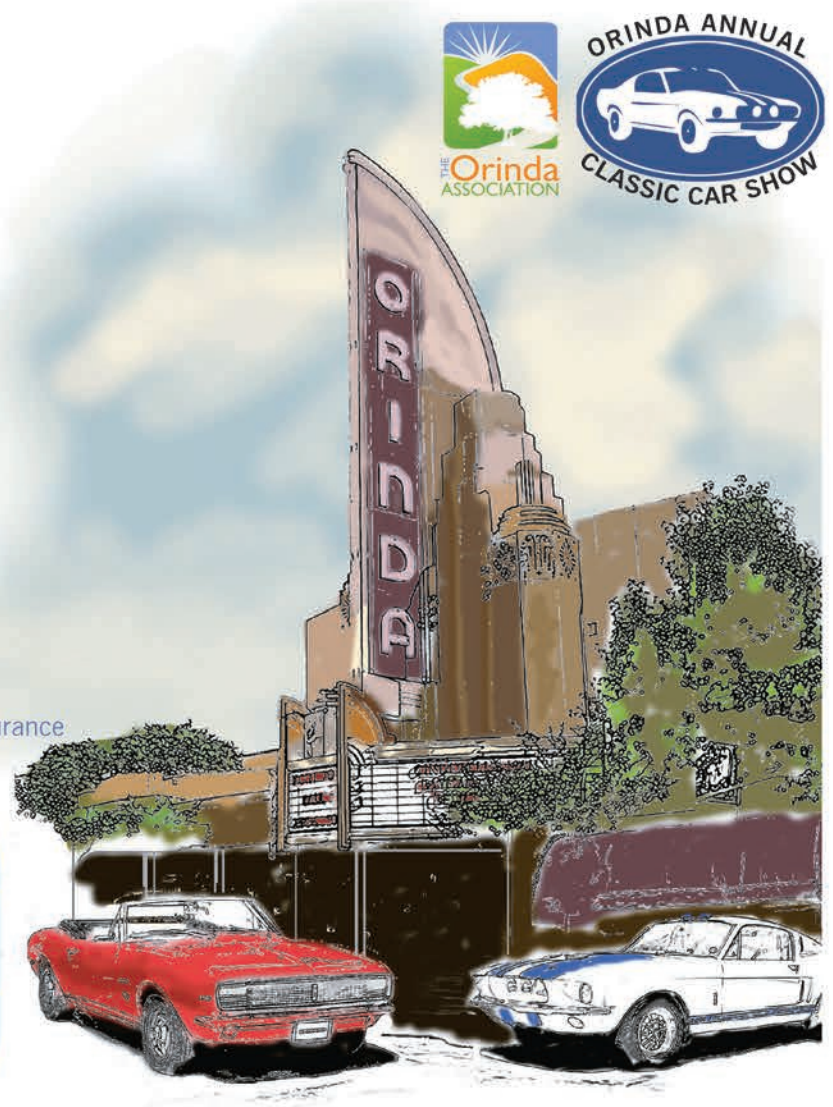
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Visit www.OrindaCarShow.com for current entry information. Join us as a spectator – Admission is FREE!

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

Cruise in a Classic!

Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive at 3pm.



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, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Community Foundation and Seniors Around Town.

Event Schedule

Friday, September 6, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY

Presenting sponsor is **Mechanics Bank**.

Wheels That Won the West

Our all-inclusive event kicks-off the Classic Car Show weekend and is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser. See a special selection of classic vehicles representing decades of car culture here in the West!

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.

Proceeds from the party benefit a variety of Orinda nonprofits and projects including: The Orinda Association, the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), Orinda Parks and Rec, local arts and the Rotary Club of Orinda, which produces "Dancing with the Cars."

Saturday **Free Admission**
September 7, 10am - 3pm

15TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Presenting sponsor for this event is **Orinda Motors**.

- The show is held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way
- 200+ classic and modern exotic cars and unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners performance at noon
- Special exhibit of Outstanding Classic and Historically Significant Porsche Cars, plus an Station Wagons!
- Food and beverages will also be available
- Shaded seating to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth
- Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Drive of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2019 Car Show T-Shirt

Car Show proceeds benefit: 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 Porsche Cars, plus an exhibit of Station Wagons!



"DANCING WITH THE CARS" PARTY SPONSORS



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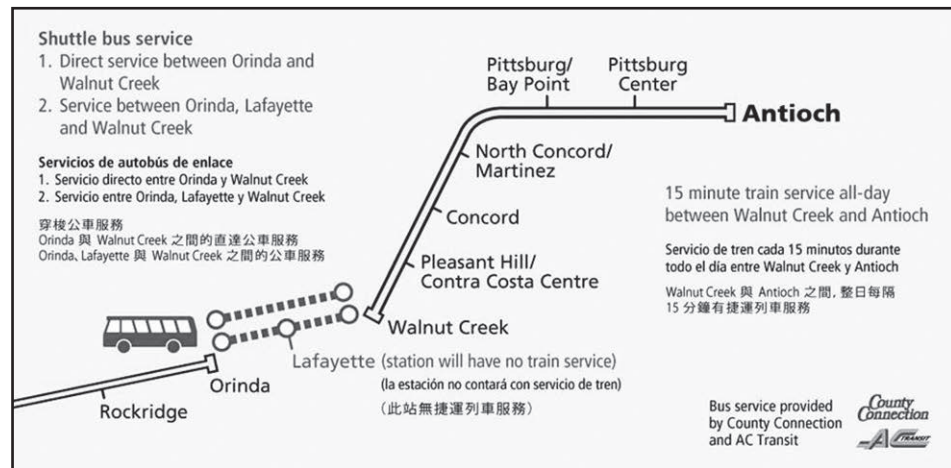
Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Orinda for producing this party!

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor: 



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Expect BART Delays, Highway 24 Lane Closures Over Next 2 Months

BART riders beware: Expect delays, closures and service changes as the system undergoes repairs and upgrades to tracks between Orinda and Walnut Creek on most weekends through October.

Closure weekends are: Aug. 31- Sept. 2 (Labor Day weekend), Sept. 14-15, Sept. 28-29, Oct. 12-13, and Oct. 26-27.

Riders should expect delays of 40 minutes or more on closure weekends. County Connection and AC Transit will provide free shuttle bus services. There will be direct service between Orinda and Walnut Creek as well as service between Orinda, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek stations.

Single-tracking on some Saturdays will mean delays of up to 30 minutes. Single-tracking is scheduled for Sept. 7, Sept. 21,

and Oct. 19.

On select weekends including single-tracking Saturdays, the two eastbound lanes on the far-left side of Highway 24 near the Lafayette Station and Oak Hill Road will be closed off to allow equipment and material to be placed near and in the tracks.

Lane closures for single-tracking Saturdays will only happen 11 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday and 11 p.m. Saturday to 9 a.m. Sunday. All lane closures will happen near the Lafayette Station at Oak Hill Road.

Nighttime work also is planned for after service closes on weeknights through at least the end of October.

Use BART's Trip Planner, call the BART Transit Information Center at 510-465-BART (2278), or get the BART app to plan a trip.

Associate Pastor Elizabeth Robinson Joins Orinda Community Church

By HILLARY HOPPOCK
 Contributing Writer

New programs and ideas are in the works as Orinda Community Church (OCC) welcomes a new associate pastor.

Migrating from Southern California, Elizabeth Robinson raised her two sons Wilson and Jonah in Berkeley where she joined the vibrant Bay Area poetry community, taught creative writing at the University of San Francisco, and received her Masters of Divinity at the Pacific School of Religion.

Most recently Robinson served at the Community United Church of Christ in Boulder, Colo., while working as the city's sole homeless navigator. She notes, "When inevitable challenges arose in working with the homeless, I found churches in Boulder more responsive overall than the city's social services department in terms of offering immediate attention and concrete help."

"That's why Orinda Community Church's long history of social justice resonated with me," she says, pointing to OCC's 1980 donation of church land for Orinda Senior Village, their support of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, and the church's 15-year commitment to provide the county-wide Winter Nights Family Shelter Program in conjunction with 17 area churches and temples.

Robinson says she and husband Randy Prunty (who worked as a librarian in Boulder) along with their 65-pound dog Brock are happy to live in the Bay Area, closer to her mother and sons.

Robinson is working with OCC Senior Pastor Jim Bergquist to develop new spaces for those who don't feel comfortable in traditional worship. "We are planning a mid-week contemplative service that includes silence, and sometimes music in collaboration with OCC Director of Music David Milnes, as well as offering a writers' group open to the community," she says.

Other plans for 2019-20 include a regular Sunday morning casual service, with table conversations, music, food and something for all ages; as well as continued work in the community focused on youth wellness.

Robinson has published 15 books of poetry, including a recently co-authored critical anthology of essays, *Quo Anima, innovation and spirituality in contemporary women's poetry*. Previously a winner of the National Poetry Series, Robinson was a 2013 finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award and received a Foundation of Contemporary Arts Grants to Artists Award.

Her sermons are peppered with poems and literary excerpts. Robinson has been known to ask the audience to recite a carol or hymn instead of singing it. "I believe we



JOHN SARSGARD

New Associate Pastor **Elizabeth Robinson** has a background in creative writing and community service.

can think openly about spirituality through art as it leads us to new ideas and away from old categories and stereotypes."

Robinson's career includes teaching creative writing at the University of Colorado and Naropa University in Boulder, as well as serving twice as a Hugo Fellow at the University of Montana and teaching a semester at the Iowa Writer's Workshop.

She joined the church this summer in time to help with the Youth Writers Camp led by Leslie O'Brien of OCC Youth and Women's Ministries. "It was wonderful to meet with the next generation of young writers in the community," she says.

Hillary Hoppcock is a freelance writer. To comment on this story, email editor@theorindanews.com.

◆ PRESIDENT from page 2

on Saturday.

There will be two shuttles running from the parking lot to the festivities.

Silent and live auctions will offer get-aways, opportunities for adventure, personal pampering and fun. Tickets for Friday evening are \$130 each or \$1,000 for a table of eight. Keep in mind that all proceeds will be donated to good causes.

One of the main sponsors is Mechanics Bank. Ally Fattore, Rotarian and branch manager/vice president of the Orinda branch, says, "At Mechanics Bank, we believe in giving back to the community. We are actually involved, not just financially but with our time, talent and energy to create healthy communities. Thank you Rotary Club of Orinda, The Orinda Association and many other sponsors for making this a signature fundraising event to benefit local charities. Congrats to the 15th Annual Orinda Dancing with the Cars and Classic Car Show."

For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com or the Orinda Rotary Club at <https://orindarotary.org/>.

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POLICE BLOTTER

June 30 through August 10, 2019

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 29 incidents.
 Abandoned Vehicle: 3 incidents.
 Accident Injury: 4 incidents.
 Accident Property: 6 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 143 incidents.
 Burglary, Auto: 10 incidents: Moraga Way, Safeway, Altarinda Rd., Orinda Community Center, Orinda Country Club (x2), Greystone Ter. and Orinda Theatre.
 Burglary, Commercial: 4 incidents: Bear Creek Rd. (x2), CVS and Safeway.
 Burglary, Residential: 6 incidents: Overhill Rd., Tappan Ln., Davis Rd., Barbara Rd., Dolores Way and Richard Ct.
 Civil Matter: 3 incidents.
 CVC Moving Violation: 52 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 88 incidents.
 Death Non-Criminal: 1 incident.
 Defraud Innkeeper: 1 incident: Camino Sobrante.
 Disturbance, Domestic: 1 incident.
 Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.
 Drunk in Public: 2 incidents.
 Exhibition of Speed: 1 incident: Bear Creek Rd.
 Fireworks: 2 incidents: Orinda Senior Village and Dalewood Dr.
 Found Property: 4 incidents.
 Grand Theft: 2 incidents: Ardith Dr. and Beverages & More.
 Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 3 incidents: Moraga Way (x2) and Camino Pablo.
 Identity Theft: 2 incidents.
 Indecent Exposure: 1 incident.
 Juvenile Disturbance: 4 incidents.
 Loud Music: 4 incidents.
 Loud Noise: 3 incidents.
 Loud Party: 4 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 2 incidents.
 Missing Adult: 1 incident.
 Missing Juvenile: 1 incident.
 Neighbor Dispute: 1 incident.
 Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 3 incidents.
 Ordinance Violation: 6 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 34 incidents.
 Panhandling: 1 incident.
 Parking Detail: 36 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 32 incidents.
 Petty Theft: 6 incidents: CVS (x2), St. Stephens Dr., Overhill Rd., Longridge Rd. and Camino Pablo.
 Reckless Driving: 14 incidents: Miramonte High School, Glorietta

Bldv., Moraga Way (x2), El Nido Ranch Rd., Los Amigos and Camino Pablo (x3).
 Security Check: 4 incidents.
 Service to Citizen: 153 incidents.
 Shoplift: 1 incident: CVS.
 Shots Heard: 1 incident: Miner Rd.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 15 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 13 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 27 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 11 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 14 incidents.
 Terrorist Threats: 2 incidents.
 Threats: 1 incident.
 Tow: 3 incidents.
 Traffic Control: 1 incident.
 Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 6 incidents: Valley Ct., Edgewood Rd., Safeway, Sleepy Hollow Ln., Southwood Dr. and Brookwood Rd.
 Traffic Hazard: 16 incidents.
 Trespass: 2 incidents: El Ribero and Orindawoods Dr.
 Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.
 Vacation House Check: 23 incidents.
 Vandalism: 9 incidents: Orinda Way (x3), Camino Sobrante, Miramonte High School, Wilder Rd., Casa Orinda and Orinda Library.
 Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 3 incidents.
 Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents: Brookwood Rd. and McCaulou's.
 Verbal Dispute: 5 incidents.
 Walk Through: 2 incidents.
 Welfare Check: 14 incidents.

Arrest

Burglary, Commercial: 1 arrest.
 Burglary, Residential: 2 arrests.
 Possession Controlled Substance: 1 arrest.
 Recovered Stolen Car: 1 recovery.
 Revocation of Probation: 3 arrests.
 Shoplift: 1 arrest.
 Unauthorized Possession: 1 arrest.
 Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.
 Warrant Arrest: 9 arrests.

BART Statistics

Revocation of Probation: 1 arrest.

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit www.crimereports.com.

Children's Health Guild Fundraiser Raises More Than \$440,000



(L-R) Children's Health Guild event chairs **Audrey Mao Michaels, Hannah Kim, President Dariana Ross** and **Tania Celante** organized the nonprofit's successful spring fundraiser benefiting UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and George Mark Children's House in San Leandro.

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
 Staff Writer

Chaired by a group of Lamorinda women, including Orinda residents Tania Celante and Audrey Mao Michaels, with Hannah Kim and CHG President Dariana Ross of Lafayette, Children's Health Guild (CHG) pulled off another successful

fundraiser.

"Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors, the event raised over \$440,000," said Wendy Rotblat, CHG public relations chair.

The May 11 evening at Roundhill Country Club in Alamo included gourmet food, live and silent auction packages,

[SEE FUNDRAISER page 12]

It's April in Lamorinda for Real Estate

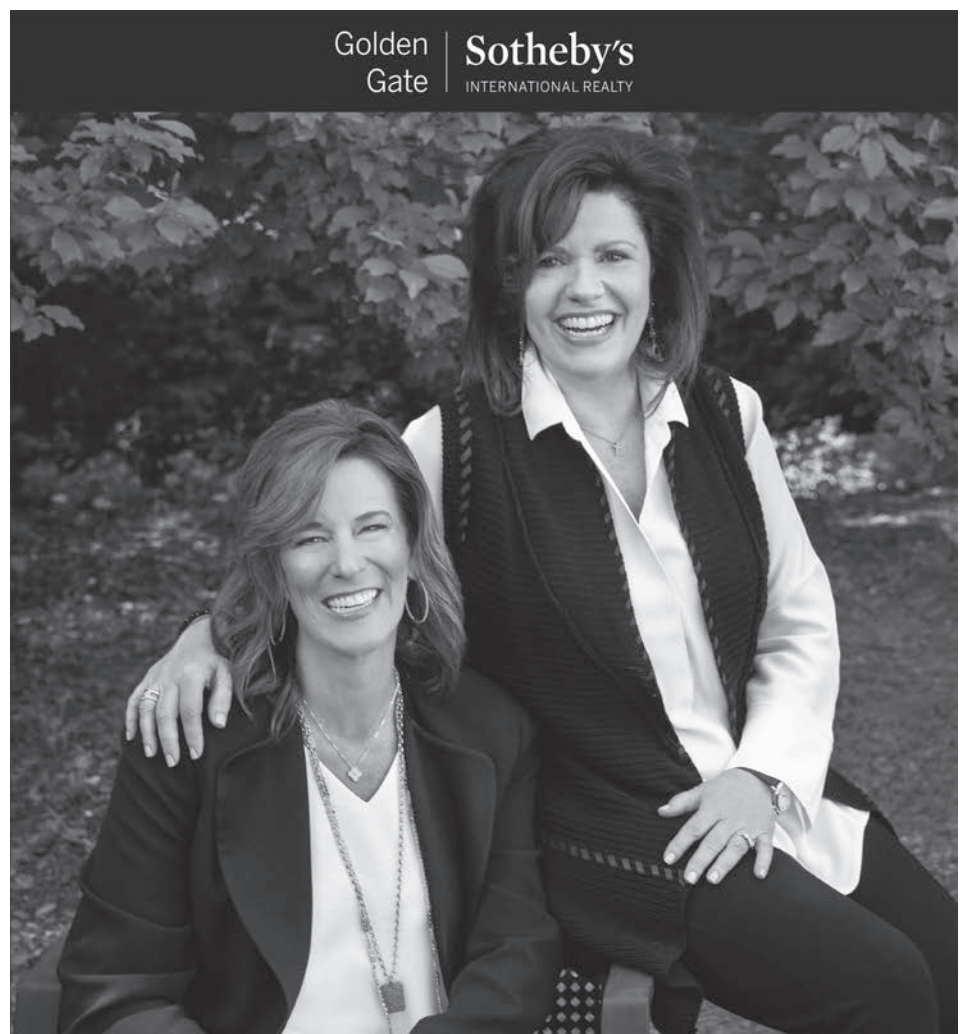
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Letters to the Editor

Building More Houses Will Make Orinda Even More at Risk of Fire

The fire chief of Contra Costa County, Lewis Broschard, has warned that, "Fully two-thirds of the county is considered to be in some form of a fire hazard severity zone." (East Bay Times, Aug. 5).

The fire chief issued his warning at a July 23 meeting of Contra Costa County Supervisors.

The chief added that the 2019 fire season will be as dangerous as the past two years have been.

Orinda has much terrain that could easily be destroyed by a wildfire. To prepare Orindans for a wildfire event, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District on Jan. 6 sponsored a fire evacuation drill for the north Orinda area.

The danger of an Orinda wildfire is such that any governmental entity (local, regional or state) must immediately impose a moratorium on any new development or construction in Orinda.

For the past several years the state has been pressuring local communities to construct extra housing. Additional housing will place the lives of Orindans in jeopardy. In addition, regional governmental agencies such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have been pushing Orinda and other local communities to build more housing.

MTC and ABAG are responsible for transportation and land-use planning in the nine-county Bay Area.

Orindans and residents of other local communities that could be affected by wildfires must demand that the lives and safety of residents take priority over any need for the construction of additional housing.

—Richard S. Colman

Build an Arcade to Keep Kids Entertained, Out of Trouble

We should have an arcade in Orinda. The reason I think that Orinda should have an arcade is so kids can have fun at the arcade and not be up to mischief.

Also people can have birthdays there. You can take the money that the arcade earns and use it to make roads better or for whatever the city needs.

—Ryan Aars

Help Protect 'Storybook House'

My two sisters and I were born and raised in Orinda at our family home at 100 Moraga Way, built in 1929 by our father, Edgar Ingram. The home has been dubbed "The Storybook House" by locals. Our family sold the property in 1980 however, "You can leave a house and move on ... but some part of you stays there." This is so

true.

This beloved landmark property earned its nickname due to its charming architecture and lovely setting in a dell circled by San Pablo Creek and framed by mature oak trees. The home contains priceless, salvaged components from the Charles Crocker Mansion of Nob Hill in San Francisco that was damaged in the 1906 earthquake.

The property is under threat by major changes since Orinda's adoption of new accessory dwelling unit (ADU) rules. New owners propose to build an incompatible ADU with a 27-foot, 2-story structure containing a 4-car garage with a 1,200 square foot dwelling above and a metal roof – in front of the unique historic home.

This plan necessitates removal of mature, protected oak trees, crowding of three structures onto the land, and an 18-foot hillside driveway with huge retaining walls. To qualify to build the ADU, the charming 1940s guest cottage on the property must be gutted so that it's no longer considered a dwelling.

Unbelievably, Orinda's ADU rules allow this type of insensitive development. This property represents the poster child for why the rules need refinement to protect historic and culturally important properties. What would stop an ADU from being built in front of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe?

By state mandate, ADUs must have minimal impact and no major infrastructure requirements. This proposal defies that requirement and creates negative impacts on the neighborhood. It is also inconsistent with Orinda's goals, which are: "The preservation, protection, enhancement and use of sites, buildings, structures, monument, trees, works of art..."

Protecting the Storybook House and other objects having a special historical or architectural value is a public necessity and required in the interest and general welfare of the people of Orinda.

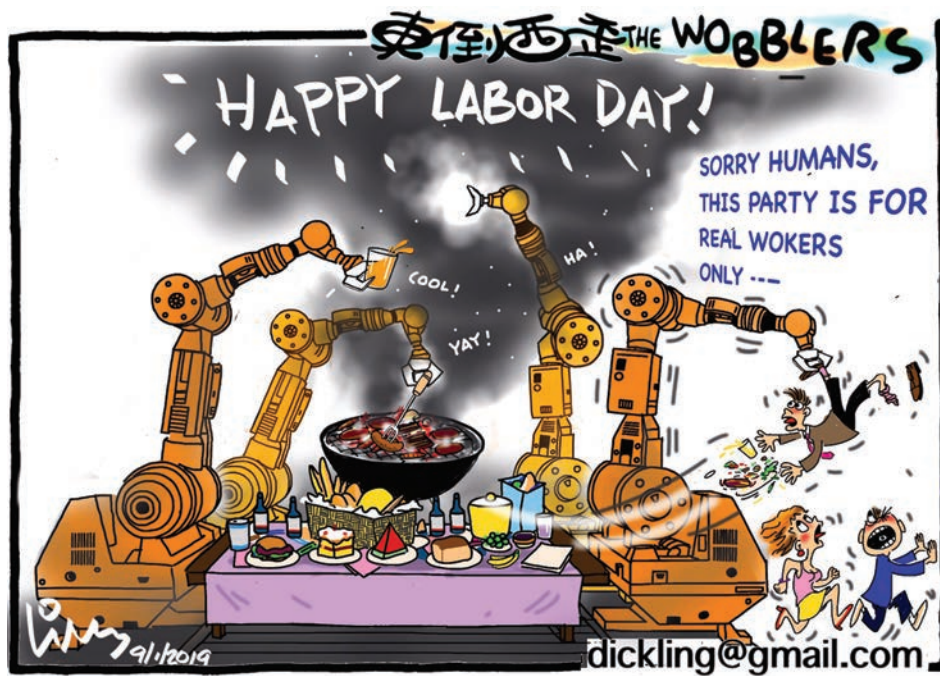
We are asking that the proposed ADU be denied by the city and the ADU rules be refined to include special considerations respecting the cultural and historical heritage of Orinda.

To see how you can help, please contact friends, family and neighbors of 100 Moraga Way by emailing n8rlvr2009@gmail.com.

— Irene Ingram Smith

◆ SILVEIRA from page 2

Silveira left his position with Farmers and started his own business. "It was fortuitous that Cindy Powell as the Orinda Chamber of Commerce's executive director



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set up the ribbon-cutting for my State Farm office. She's also on the OA Board and got me interested in all the valuable work the OA does for Orinda."

Since opening his office on Orinda Way, Silveira has sponsored numerous local programs, including Miramonte Football, the OA's July Fourth celebration and the Orinda Classic Car Show. Now, as an OA board member, he says he hopes to become more actively involved as a volunteer.

"My family has really enjoyed the Fourth of July parade each year, and I look forward to being more involved with the prepara-

tions to make it happen next year," says Silveira. "I've also always loved cars and, given the business I'm in, volunteering with the car show is a perfect fit."

Silveira lives with his wife, Julie, a former college and professional tennis player who still plays every day, his son Henry, a fifth-grader at Glorietta Elementary School and his daughter Maddie, a sixth-grader at Orinda Intermediate School. To reach Silveira, call 925-317-3804 or email bryan@silveirainsurance.com.

Reach Sally Hogarty at sally@theorindanews.com.

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Send letters to: Editor, The Orinda News, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com.

Letters to Editor for the October issue are due Sept. 8, 2019.

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

EVENTS

Classic Car Show Just Around the Corner



DAVID DIERKS

Enthusiasts and those just curious admire the impressive array of classic and new cars at last year's show.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

The first week of September promises big things, especially for sports and car aficionados. Labor Day falls on Sept. 2 with its myriad sporting contests and is followed on Sept. 5 with a Packer/Bears matchup in the first NFL game that isn't preseason. Since football enthusiasts disdain pre-season contests, Thursday's game, which includes former Cal Bears' quarterback Aaron Rogers quarterbacking for Green Bay, should be a red-letter day. But the big event takes place as the weekend draws near.

Orinda's 15th Annual Classic Car Show kicks off with its pre-show party on Sept. 6 followed by the car show on Sept. 7. There's nothing pre-season, however, to Friday night's "Dancing with the Cars." Sponsored by Mechanics Banks with further support from Clark Thompson-Village Associates, the event starts at 5:30 p.m. at the new Art and Garden Center in Wilder Ranch.

Produced by the Rotary Club of Orinda, the Friday night gala features a display of distinctive cars to represent westward travel and the evening's theme "Wheels That Won

the West."

Orinda Rotary Club member and auction chairperson Melissa Roeder adds, "The decor has car elements and colors, and some of the auction items will be car and travel-related." Roeder also notes the evening will feature "signature cocktails, fabulous food, awesome auction items and great music and a gorgeous banquet following cocktails and hors d'oeuvres."

To help work off all the delicious food, Rotary has planned a mix of live music with a jazz band and a DJ with a "wicked" play list, Roeder says. While past themes have intimated specific attire for some guests, Roeder suggests casual cocktail attire or, in keeping with the car theme and westward progress, something that suggests "travel in style."

The auction will feature many items including: dinner at the firehouse, dinner for eight with a master caterer, a golf spree in Lamorinda, a Chinese banquet for 10, a Bollywood dinner for 10, date night for six months, a salon and spa package, and gourmet wines and desserts. Roeder promises an auctioneer "with a sly sense of humor."

Proceeds from "Dancing with the Cars" [SEE CAR SHOW page 19]

On the Calendar in September

- 1 **Teachers Have Class**, call for artists who are teachers in Lamorinda schools to register for Nov. 1 exhibit. See article p. 17.
Cal Shakes, Madhuri Shekar's *House of Joy*, Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Runs through Sept. 8. Box Office 510-548-9666. For more info., go to www.calshakes.org.
 - 5 **City of Orinda**, 9:45 a.m. Livermore Wineries, Tastings and Lunch Fee: \$95. 925-254-2445, seniors@cityoforinda.org, cityoforinda.org.
Friends of the Orinda Library, 10 a.m. Book sale. Orinda Library Sorting Room.
Orinda Books, 10 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for kids of all ages. Also, Sept. 12, 19 and 26.*
Orinda Books, 11:30 a.m. Literary Luncheon featuring Amanda Haas introducing her new cookbook, *The Vibrant Life: Eat Well, Be Well*. Luncheon will feature a delicious recipe from Amanda's book. Luncheon \$20 includes \$5 off on price of book.*
 - 6 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925-431-8361. Also, Sept. 13, 20, and 27. See article p. 9.
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 this page.
International Film Showcase, 7 p.m. the German feature, *Balloon*, through Sept. 12 at the Orinda Theatre. It is a thriller based on a true story of two families who try crossing from East Germany to West Germany in a homemade hot air balloon. Showtimes will be available by Sept. 3 at: www.orindatheatre.com. See article p. 18.
Orinda Starlight Village Players, 8:30 p.m. Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of Wilkie
- Collins' *The Woman in White*. Runs through Sept. 28, Friday and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., with a Sunday matinee Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. and a Thursday performance Sept. 26 at 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way. For tickets call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org. See article p. 17.
- 7 **Orinda Classic Car Show**, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. See article this page.
Art Gallery at Wilder, 2:30 p.m. meet photographer Alfredo Coyotl at his artist reception and enjoy light refreshments, 20 Orinda Fields Lane. See article p. 10.
 - 8 **City of Orinda**, Extended Trips with Premier World Discovery – Colorado Rockies, Rails & Western National Parks. Highlights of trip include 3 train experiences and 5 National Park visits. 2 nights in Durango and 3 nights in Colorado Springs. To request flyers call 925-253-4216.
Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 2:30 p.m. Meet sister artists Mei-Yu Lo and Mei-Rung Huang at their reception. 26 Orinda Way. See article p. 10.
Orindan Gregory Taboloff 3 p.m. performs his *Piano Concerto No. 1, The Mystic* and Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 3* with the Taboloff Philharmonic, David Ramadanoff conductor at the Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave., S.F. See www.gregorytaboloff.com.
Orinda Jazz Festival, 4 p.m. Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. Free admission. carolalban@aol.com. See article p. 1.
 - 9 **Orinda Books**, 11 a.m. The Poetry Circle will meet and discuss *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman. They meet monthly at Orinda Books and welcome anyone interested in poetry.*
Orinda Books, 3 p.m. The Second Wednesday [SEE CALENDAR page 12]



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MUSIC

◆ JAZZ from page 1

him on ukulele at my residency at The Savoy in London, and he would get standing ovations. We traveled all over Europe, and he would always sing at my gigs and blow people away.”

According to Penfield, her father had such a great spirit that at the age of 98 he sang to his doctors and nurses at John Muir. “We did two shows a day as word spread throughout the hospital that my dad was defying all the rules about what he could and couldn’t do,” she says.

Although Penfield is still putting together her playlist for the Orinda Jazz Festival, she plans on doing a bit of jazz and a little bit of her original music, “hopefully, with a lot of heart,” she adds.

Eve Marie Shahoian joins Penfield at the festival. A child vocal prodigy with a mature set of pipes at an early age, Shahoian performed two operatic arias on the Johnny Carson Show by the age of 9. She has gone on to play a wide variety of music and venues and developed as a songwriter as well as vocalist. She covers obscure jazz, classic Otis Redding, a little Gershwin and much more.

Others bringing their talents to the festival include vocalist Kay Kostopoulos, guitarist Pato Milo, accordionist Patricia Henning, Ed Ivey’s North Beach Brass

Band, harpist Jack Pantaleo, flutist/vocalist Carol Alban and others including a special Grammy Award-winning surprise guest.

The jazz band Caldecats will close out the festival. The group plays jazz from the ‘60s and ‘70s composed by such greats as Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Herbie Hancock, Dizzy Gillespie and others.

Comprised of three musicians from Contra Costa County, three from Alameda County, and one from the Peninsula, half the group finds itself going through the Caldecott Tunnel whenever they play – hence the name.

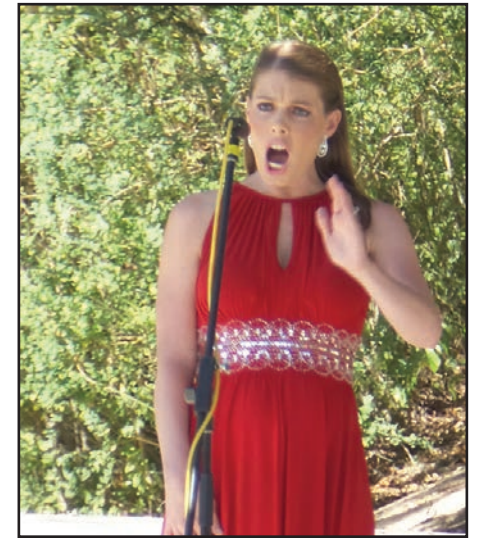
The relatively new group consists of long-time musicians with a plethora of top-notch experience between them, including trumpeter Ted Parker and pianist Gary Wohl from Orinda, bassist Jim Hoadley, guitarist Marco Fortier, jazz alto sax player Paul Fogel, drummer Rich Reffner and guitarist, singer, songwriter Melne Murphy.

The festival takes place 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Courtyard of the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. Although admission is free, donations benefiting the Contra Costa Crisis Center are encouraged. For more information, email Alban at carolalban@aol.com.

Reach Sally Hogarty at sally@theorindanews.com.

Free Concert Brings Opera and Musical Theater to Orinda Park

More than 200 people came out to the Orinda Community Center Park on July 28 to enjoy Opera in the Park, a co-production of Orinda Rotary and Solo Opera. The concert was a mix of opera and musical theater favorites and was well-received by the audience watching from open seating on the park’s lawn. The Rotary credits Jennifer Weiss and the Orinda Parks and Recreation staff with making the arrangements needed to ensure a smooth and successful event. Sylvia Amorino, Solo Opera artistic director, says, “It was a lovely concert and the audience seemed to really enjoy the event. We had so many compliments afterwards, especially from children and families this time. It was wonderful to see our mission of fostering a new generation of opera lovers coming to life.”



RODNEY LAI
Mezzo soprano **Leandra Ramm** performs in the park’s gazebo before an appreciative audience.



SOLO OPERA
Solo Opera Artistic Director **Sylvia Amorino** (far left) with performers (L-R) **Sylvie Jensen, Leandra Ramm, Liisa Dávila, Diane Squires**, accompanist **Chun Mei Wilson, William O’Neill, Stephen Cannon, Bradley Kynard** and **Chester Pidduck**.





RODNEY LAI
Rotary Club of Orinda members (L-R) **Rodney Lal, Ken Jew, Weylin Eng, Sylvia Hua** and **Sue Farmer**.

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AROUND TOWN



Seasoned Shopper
Pretty Pomegranates Arrive Ready to Eat



BARBARA KOBSAR

Pomegranates are popular for many reasons – beautiful bright red flowers in the spring turn to striking red fruits in the fall, health benefits and fabulous flavors. California is the leading commercial producer of pomegranates in the United States and your farmers’ market is featuring the local harvest this month.

Pomegranates arrive ripe and ready to eat so you won’t have to wait. Choose those that are heavy (the juiciest) for their size with taut, bruise free skins. Any signs of cracking just indicates the fruit is completely ripe and beginning to burst with flavor.

Only the shiny red kernels under the leathery skin are edible. The kernels are encased in a spongy white pith and each one is full of sweet tart juice and one small woody seed. Once the kernels are loosened, they are eaten fresh, used as a garnish on entrees, salads and desserts or juiced and strained to make jellies and sorbets. Drop a few pomegranate seeds into a glass of champagne or sparkling cider for a special effect or try finishing avocado toast or bruschetta with a sprinkling of pomegranate seeds.

What is the easiest way to separate the kernels from the pith? Use a sharp knife to cut a thin piece off the crown of the pomegranate. Slit the skin from top to bottom in three or four places and pull the fruit open using both hands. Immerse the sections in a bowl of cool water and soak for about 5 minutes. Then hold the fruit under the water and separate the seeds from the membrane. The seeds sink to the bottom and the pith



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pomegranates are in season and bursting with flavor at the Orinda Farmers’ Market.

floats to the top to be discarded.

Pomegranates destined for jelly making or juice may be cut in half crosswise and gently squeezed on a juicer. Wear old clothing for this method since any undirected juice is almost indelible.

Pomegranates store at room temperature for two or three weeks. Place some in a pretty bowl and use them for decoration. Refrigeration extends their shelf life for up to two months.

Wild Rice Pilaf with Pomegranate Seeds

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- One quarter cup finely chopped onion
- 1 cup wild rice, rinsed
- 3 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- One quarter cup pine nuts
- Seeds from one large pomegranate
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest
- 2-3 tablespoons chopped flat leaf parsley

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and sauté. Add wild rice and stir. Add broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer until the rice is tender and most of the liquid is absorbed, about 45 minutes. If rice is cooked and there’s too much liquid remaining you can strain the rice.

While rice is cooking, toast pine nuts in a small, dry skillet over medium low heat. Stir constantly until light golden and fragrant, two to three minutes. Cool.

Mix pomegranate seeds, lemon zest, parsley and toasted pine nuts into the pilaf. Serve hot.

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

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

Sip Sip Hooray at the Art of Mixology

Eighteen professional and amateur bartenders will create craft cocktails in a competition that sets the stage for the Lamorinda Arts Council’s largest fundraiser of the year.

At the sixth annual Art of Mixology, bartenders will compete for Mixologist of the Year, Audience Favorite, Top Amateur, and the most creative Art of Table Staging. Winners receive cash prizes and awards. The audience and distinguished cocktail experts sample and vote for their favorites.

With an anticipated 300 guests, the competition brings the community together for a different kind of art-filled experience. Justin Cole, board member and chairperson of the event, rolls out a syncopated sound track to keep things moving.

The event takes place 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 12 at 2 Theatre Square. Tickets are \$55 advance, \$65 at the door. Must be 21 to attend. Go to www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology/ for tickets and information.



ELANA O’LOSKEY
Winners of the sold-out 2018 Art of Mixology competition at Orinda Theatre Square show off their awards and certificates.



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Intriguing Vessels, Recontextualized Paintings, Storytelling With Photos

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The work of nonstop sisters-in-art Mei-Yu Lo and Mei-Rung Huang — Lo's diverse paintings on the walls and Huang's ceramics in glass cabinets — will be shown at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library in September while the Art Gallery at Wilder features Oakland photographer Alfredo Coyotl.

Lo of El Cerrito teaches adult watercolor and acrylic painting classes at the El Cerrito Community Center when she is not doing her own work. She is showing two groups of paintings in this show. The first group is a dozen acrylics on canvas ranging in size from 18" x 36" to 48" x 30" — most are landscapes.

"I use credit cards, sticks and rags to push paint into abstract forms resembling rock surfaces, mountains and vegetation. To avoid the boredom of tedious brush strokes I also do a lot of spraying, sanding and scraping," says Lo.

When you view *Journey II*, a 48" x 30" acrylic, well, you decide: Is it an abstract or landscape painting? One thing is for sure, what comes to mind when looking at the paintings is a sense of peacefulness, harmony and the beauty the natural world can hold at times.

The second group includes 20 16" x 20" recontextualized ladies that are mostly giclée prints on archival paper done in col-



ALFREDO COYOTL
Oakland's Tribune Tower takes center stage in Alfredo Coyotl's *Radio Silence*, part of his photography exhibit at the Art Gallery at Wilder.

laboration with her husband Wayne Wright. Recontextualized is a big word encompassing a lot of possibilities in the world of art. Here, Lo uses the term because they took all the ladies from their earlier paintings

and painted them into completely different surroundings. *Lost and Found I* and *II* portray ladies with a story we want to explore.

The colors, shapes, moods and attitudes of the ladies function differently when conflated in their new environment. She says that like all portraits, they are about how you would think and feel if you were either that lady in that painting in that place; or if you encountered her in new surroundings. Lo tries to communicate fashions, styles, attitudes, emotions and moods in her paintings. She says they aren't working if words and facts are necessary. See what she's up to at www.mei-yu.com.

Huang, of Orinda, like her sister was raised in an artistic family with parents who loved to paint. She became interested in art at a young age. As an adult she studied painting with different masters to learn a variety of different Asian brush painting styles. After coming to the United States she discovered Western painting and ceramics and ever since has developed passions for both.

In this show she focuses on ceramics by filling the glass cabinets with 50 pieces such as teapots and cups, vessels, bowls and containers. She says she is directly influenced by her Chinese background because her work depicts Asian figures directly or incorporates Asian shapes into her more geometric works. Like many creative people, she never repeats a ceramic work in the exact same way. A practitioner of Tai Chi, Huang borrows the meditative tradition of breathing properly, adopting the correct posture and focusing the mind, and then applies all that to creating a form in clay.

Keep in mind the balance, fluidity and grace of traditional Chinese art when viewing Huang's ceramics. It is easy to see the connection when you view the 7" x 5" *Blue Seashell Teapot* while the grace of the two *Triangle Teapots* sings a different tune. But both prove Huang is adept at conveying that the beauty and emotion of all living things can shine through the clay. There is tremendous vitality and diversity in both her forms and choice of glazes. To view more of Huang's work go to www.meirung.com.

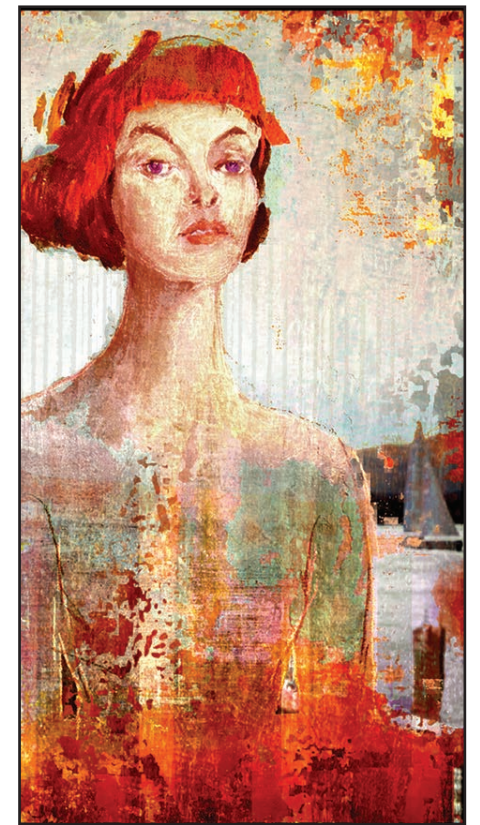
Meet the artists at their reception 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 8. Light refreshments will be served.

The gallery is at 26 Orinda Way and open 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 Sept. 1-2 for Labor Day. Call 925-254-2184 for more information

or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

Art Gallery at Wilder: "Endless" Photography by Alfredo Coyotl

Coyotl became interested in photography in high school when he discovered film photography and eventually used his iPhone camera in creative ways. He studied photojournalism in college where he learned film fundamentals, digital photography and the importance of documenting stories through photographs. "I am also shaped and inspired by my Mexican heritage and indigenous roots. It's helped mold my photography to what it is today," he says.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In *Lost and Found II*, a 16" x 20" giclée on archival paper, artists Mei-Yu Lo and Wayne Wright paint a subject from an earlier work within a vivid new context.

He specializes in portraits, fashion, community and corporate events, landscape and street photography. For Coyotl, telling stories, sharing ideas and unique perspectives are all possible without words through the power of a photograph. Especially meaningful to him is that the story, context or meaning of a photograph is left to each viewer's interpretation. Two of his favorite photographers are Todd Hido and Fan Ho (1931 – 2016). He finds inspiration in this Hido quote: "I photograph like a documentarian, but I print like a painter."

"Endless" is the theme for this, his first [SEE GALLERIES page 11]

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What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

- Sept. 1 – Fall Session for Recreation Classes Begin
- Sept. 3 – Intro to Pickleball: Learn to Play! 9-10:30 am; 4 weeks; \$88
- Sept. 3 – Humenology 101: Learn to Thrive at Any Age 9-11 am; 6 weeks; \$197
- Sept. 5 – Senior Trip: Livermore Wineries Tastings and Lunch: \$95/person
- Sept. 10 – Presentation: Cuba Travel: FREE
- Sept. 10 – Landscape and Portrait Painting from Photographs 6:30-9 pm; 7 weeks; \$110
- Sept. 18 – Wisdom Workshop: Registration is Easy as 1, 2, 3: FREE
- Sept. 19 – Senior Trip: Mt. Herman Red Canopy – Zip Line Tour: \$126/person
- Sept. 25 – Wisdom Workshop: Lamorinda Village: How we Help Seniors: FREE

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 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

CONTINUATIONS

◆ GALLERIES from page 10

solo show. On display is a collection of photographs including portraits, cityscapes from San Francisco and New York City, landscapes and cars. A vast, peaceful sense of spaciousness permeates many of his photographs. To see more of his work go to www.coyotlucuatlacuatl.com.

Meet him at his artist reception 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 7. Light refreshments will be served.

All exhibits are presented by the Lamorinda Arts Council.

As the Wilder Art and Garden Center at 20 Orinda Fields Lane is a new building, the Art Gallery is open to the public only when classes or events are scheduled. For now that is the first Saturday of every month for an artist reception from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Wednesday and Friday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., or by appointment with Lamorinda Arts Council co-curator Denise Nomura at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org. Learn more about the council at www.lamorindaarts.org.

Moving forward, more regular hours will be scheduled. The Orinda Parks and Recreation Dept. is seeking bookings of classes and meetings. Contact them at OrindaParksandRec@cityoforinda.org, visit them at 28 Orinda Way or call 925-254-2445.

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

◆ PG&E from page 1

ed by Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) Chief Dave Winnacker, there are now two sets of 100 fire sensors set up around the district that measure temperature and humidity in fire-prone areas. If the mini-cereal box sized sensors show the temperature is rising and humidity is low, perfect conditions for a fire exist.

The second aspect of the program involves increasing the distance between vegetation near power lines to 12 feet from four feet, and other measures.

Guarino brought along a map that shows Orinda is surrounded by high fire threat areas and said PG&E gets many calls from local residents concerned about the risk. "You can't sugar coat it," Guarino says of the fire threat.

Under PSPS, the utility is going to pay for removing dead or dying trees at a cost of \$500 to \$2,000 per tree. In the past, if a tree needed to be removed the city or homeowner had to pay.

The third prong of PSPS involves replacing fire prone wooden power poles with metal ones and covering power lines.

If power does have to be shut off – something that Orinda's never experienced – PG&E is working on plans to provide it to those who rely on oxygen tanks to breathe and others highly dependent on electricity by relocating them to facilities with back-up generators.

The Orinda Community Center, at 26 Orinda Way, will serve as a Community Resource Center in the event of a PSPS. It will be available to the public to charge devices and speak to city or PG&E staff. City Hall will be closed to the public during a PSPS.

Any way you slice it though, cutting off the juice will create hardships. Food in non-running refrigerators will spoil, traffic lights won't blink and forget about bingeing on Netflix as wifi will also be kaput. And once electricity is shut off it can take three to five days to get it up and running again, according to Guarino.

Winnacker says Orinda residents can dramatically reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires by creating a defensible space around their homes. He points out that Orinda residents are required to cut grass and weeds to less than 3 feet; trim trees so there's a minimum of 5 feet of separation between ground fuels and the lowest limbs; and maintain roadside vegetation so it doesn't encroach or overhang roads and driveways.

Eric Rein, MOFD's emergency preparedness coordinator, says even though Orinda has never had a wildfire, the increasing size of blazes in recent years statewide is troubling. "We keep breaking these very uncomfortable records. No place is immune from the ravages of mega-fires," says Rein who echoes Winnacker's warning about cutting back dead or dry vegetation near homes.

"We need to be paying attention to managing the wildland fuels," says Rein. "If it's there to burn, nature's going to burn it. It doesn't care who planted it."

But despite PG&E's and MOFD's best intentions, some Orinda residents don't think the fire department is spending

How to Prepare

Update your PG&E account information and sign up for alerts at www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts.

Sign up for Orinda Police Nixle Alerts at <https://local.nixle.com/>.

Sign up for notifications from the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff's Community Warning System at <https://cwsalerts.com/registration/>.

Visit www.cityoforinda.org for updated information.

enough in Orinda to prevent wildfires. Orindan Steve Cohn says MOFD should spend up to \$300 for each of Orinda's 7000 homes to clear fire-prone vegetation at a cost of \$2 million.

He asserts funds are not available for this because Orindans are picking up the slack for Moragans who don't pay enough in parcel taxes to pay for stepped-up fire mitigation in Orinda where the threat is greater.

Currently Moraga, with a lower tax base, pays six cents per parcel to support the two-city fire department but could pay a maximum rate of 30 cents, something the MOFD board would have to vote for. If they did, Cohn says the additional \$2 million needed for fire prevention efforts in Orinda could be raised.

"The Orinda council and the MOFD board are providing the residents of Moraga with bargain rates for emergency services, putting Orinda citizens at risk," says Cohn.

To learn more about what to do in case of a power shut-off, go to <http://bit.ly/2YT16UW>.

Paul Kilduff is a freelance writer. He can be reached at pkilduff350@gmail.com.


The Orinda Library in September

The Orinda Library and all Contra Costa County libraries will be closed on Sept. 1 and Sept. 2 for Labor day.

- 3 **Baby Storytime.** 11:30 a.m. Early literacy songs, rhymes and stories for infants to walkers (approx. 18 months) and their caregivers. Also Sept. 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25.
- Orinda Writers' Group.** 6:30 p.m. Meet with a group of beginning writers and get feedback on two pages of writing (any genre) in Study Room A. Also Sept. 17.
- 4 **Toddler Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs, and movement for 1 to 3 year olds and their caregivers in Community Center Room 6. Also Sept. 11, 18, and 25.
- 5 **Computer help.** 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Receive computer help from a knowledgeable volunteer. Registration required. Focus is for beginning users. Also Sept. 12, 19, and 26.
- ESL Conversation Group.** 1 p.m. Local volunteer ESL teachers lead group discussions with ESL learners. Free and open to all. Come, talk and learn English with us. Study Room A. Also Sept. 12, 19, and 26.
- 9 **Maker Monday.** 1 p.m. Whether it's Legos,

- a craft, or Minecraft, something is always happening on Monday. Suitable for elementary school children. Also Sept. 16, 23, and 30.
- 20 **Mystery Book Club.** 3 p.m. Join to discuss *Closed Casket* by Sophie Hannah. Study Room A.
- 25 **Roots & Romance: Mexican Songbook Reimagined.** 6:30 p.m. Arwen & Jorge (Cascada de Flores) explore the hidden corners of Mexican and Latino musical traditions.
- 26 **Challenge Island.** 1:30 p.m. Fun, hands-on collaboration in this STEAM-oriented program. Kids work together to solve problems and build solutions. Suitable for ages 6-10. Please register.
- 26 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners.** 7 p.m. Geared for grown-ups, features a local storyteller with an open mic afterwards.

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



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EVENTS

Live at the Orinda Returns with Phantom Star Lisa Vroman

By LYNN KALMAR
Assistant Editor

The Live at the Orinda concert series returns Sept. 22 with a performance by Broadway star and opera singer Lisa Vroman.

After making her Broadway debut in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love*, Vroman returned to the famed composer's repertoire playing the role of Christine Daaé in his *Phantom of the Opera*.

She performed the part for several years in New York and Los Angeles, before going on to a record-breaking six-year run in San Francisco for which she won a Theatre Critics' Circle Award. Vroman is also known for her work in *Les Misérables* and played both Fantine and Cosette, making her one of the few actresses to take on both roles.

Vroman made her New York City Opera debut in *The Most Happy Fella*, starring as Rosabella opposite Paul Sorvino in the title role. She has continued to perform in opera houses all over the country, playing Charlotte in *A Little Night Music* at Michigan Opera Theatre, Lili Vanessi



MICHAEL BLANK

With her impressive vocal range, **Lisa Vroman** has won over audiences in opera houses and theaters throughout the United States.

in *Kiss Me Kate* at the Glimmerglass Festival and *Rosalinda* in *Die Fledermaus* [SEE VROMAN page 18]

◆ CALENDAR from page 7

day Book Group will read and discuss *Two Among the Righteous Few* by Marty Brounstein.*

12 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: Carolyn Jung will introduce two East Bay chefs featured in her new cookbook, *East Bay Cooks: Signature Recipes from the Best Restaurants, Bars, & Bakeries*. Paul Canales of Duende and Amod Chopra of Vik's Chaat will prepare their specialties. Reservations: \$40 (includes a signed copy of Carolyn Jung's *East Bay Cooks*). Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation.

Orinda Theatre, 7 p.m. Classic Film Showcase (Free Movie Night) presents *Please Don't Eat the Daisies*, lamorindatheatre.com. See article p. 18.

14 **Pacific Chamber Orchestra**, 7:30 p.m. performing *The Monumental – Beethoven Symphony #9*, with the combined Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir/Pacific Chamber Orchestra choirs. Conductor Lawrence Koh and Brett Strader Chorus Master. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church 24 Knox, Lafayette, Tickets are available at www.PacificChamberOrchestra.org.

15 **Mindful Littles**, 12:30 p.m. Diaper Bundling with Sweet Beginnings, 1252 Pine

St., Martinez CA 94553; Sweet Beginnings Family Resource Center provides support for families in need with clean diapers, wipes, clothing, formula, living basics, education and open adoption facilitation. info@mindfullittles.org or <https://mindfullittles.org>.

17 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. World Affairs Book Group will discuss *The Control Of Nature* by John McPhee. Group meets bimonthly.*

18 **Cal Shakes**, William Shakespear's *MacBeth*, Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Box Office 510-548-9666. For more info., go to www.calshakes.org. Runs through Oct. 13.

19 **City of Orinda**, 9 a.m. Mt. Herman Red Canopy – Zip Line Tour. Fee: \$126. 925-254-2445, seniors@cityoforinda.org, cityoforinda.org.

21 **Orinda Idol and Lafayette Art, Wine and Music Festival**, 10 a.m. downtown Lafayette. Free. Stroll among booths with art, crafts, wine, microbrews, music including the Lamorinda Idol finalists performing, food vendors and trucks; visit Kids Zone. See www.lafayettefestival.com.

Mindful Littles, 7 p.m. Peace, Love, and Liberations, 111 Minna San Francisco, \$80. Join us on the International Day of Peace for a special fundraiser benefiting Mindful Littles To register or to donate, go to <https://> [SEE CALENDAR page 19]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above with husband **Blake Wellan** (center) and son **Elijah**, local filmmaker **Julio Rubio**'s short film *Kahleo* has been selected for the 17th Oakland International Film Festival. Kahleo O' Kalani, the third rapper to ever be admitted to Berklee College of Music, sets out to escape the frigid Boston winter and meet up with friends and family in the south Pacific to do what he does best, make music. *Kahleo* screens Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. at Holy Names University. For tickets, visit <https://www.oiff.org/tc-events/holy-names-kahleo-631-red-watch-354-free-trip-to-egypt-13917/>.

◆ FUNDRAISER from page 5

and inspiring speakers. The event was underwritten by corporate sponsors so all donations went directly to deliver medical care to children and their families at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland (CHO), including emergency and ongoing treatment.

George Mark Children's House (GMCH) in San Leandro, also a CHG beneficiary, is distinguished as the first free-standing pediatric palliative care center for children in the United States.

CHO President Dr. Michael Anderson spoke about innovative pediatric medical breakthroughs while Santa Clara County Sheriff's Sergeant Reginald Cooks related his family's experience at George Mark

House. He and his wife, Kristalle, turned to GMCH for help with their son Jabari.

"A hospital isn't a place for a baby. The staff is caring but it's cold and sterile," said Kristalle Cooks. "Jabari had a beautiful smile. His light was dimmed at the hospital. George Mark was the exact opposite for us."

Live auction items such as a 10-day African safari and 7-night stay in Punta Mita, Mexico, added excitement to the bids. Pop Rocks, the San Francisco dance band, finished off the evening, which went late into the night.

To learn more about CHG, go to www.childrenshealthguild.org.

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

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PEOPLE

Spotted in Prague: Globe-Trotting Olmers on Their Second Year of Travel

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

While many negatives have been attached to social media, it also serves a wonderful purpose: Connecting friends.

I experienced this beneficial aspect this summer while on a whirlwind concert tour with my church choir. I had just finished posting photos of our concert in Prague on Facebook and Instagram when I received a message from Orinda resident Ksenija Olmer.

She asked if we were still in Prague. I answered in the affirmative and found out she and her husband, Mirak, also were in Prague. We met for lunch the next day before my husband and I boarded a bus for Vienna, the destination of our next concert.

What a treat to run into old friends so far away from home. Of course, I knew the Olmers were traveling the world on what began as a one-year jaunt, now two, but what were the odds that we'd be in the same place at the same time? Luckily for us, they were pretty good!

I decided to take the opportunity to ask these intrepid travelers a few questions.

How long have you been traveling?

We are in the second half of our second year of travels. We did come home for Christmas and spent a month with our daughters in San Francisco, as our Orinda house has been rented out by a wonderful

Australian family.

How many countries have you visited?

We stopped counting after we reached 100. It is great to visit totally new countries, but it is also nice to revisit countries and see different parts or how they have changed. For example, this time instead of major attractions like Tokyo and Kyoto, we took trains from the very north to the very south of Japan, and now have a very different understanding of Japanese life and culture as a whole. We just returned from a six-week driving trip through the Balkans, and, wow, were we surprised how much has changed since we were there in our youth.

How do you choose where to go next?

Our bucket list is ever growing. We find inspiration everywhere – talking to fellow travelers about their favorite places, reading blogs, Instagram photos or even tour agency offers. We are not really ticking off countries or cities or best beaches but rather a bucket list of experiences. This year, we swam with whale sharks in Western Australia, tracked orangutans in Sumatra, attended tribal festivals in North East India and chased Sakura blossoms (flowering cherry blossoms) in Japan. We are planning a horseback riding adventure in the Caucasus and a month living like a local in Istanbul.

The only place we weren't very excited about visiting was the Republic of Moldova. The roads were pretty bad and the renegade Transdnister Republic soldiers were pushing across the border in places where they shouldn't have been.

What is your favorite time of year in Europe and do you have a "home" base?

The weather in Europe is most reliable in the summer. But the weather pattern is changing with many more hot spells and record highs. Lots of countries are not prepared for it and lack air conditioning. We both have family in Europe and two grandchildren in Prague that we love to visit. So, we make Prague our summer base, and we either fly or drive out on adventures.

What have you learned on your travels?

That one should travel as much as possible when young! We are working against time, rickety knees and bad backs. People often plan to travel when they retire, but then procrastinate until it is too late, and their health doesn't allow it. Comfortable travel isn't that expensive if you inter-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

L-R: Sally Hogarty, Ksenija Olmer, Mirak Olmer and Ken Hogarty at a coffee shop off the Old Town Square in Prague, Austria.

change cheaper countries with more expensive destinations. Asia for example (except for Japan and Korea) is very affordable with really high standards. You can actually see fantastic medieval castles in Romania for a fraction of the cost of those in France. You can travel light, one small rollie each. iPhones make great pictures; no need to drag big cameras around.

And lastly, if you make an effort and show interest in connecting with people despite language limitations, you will see

the world is a much better place than we are led to believe.

Often people will ask, "But is it safe where you are going?" I just look at them and say, "Have you seen the news from the U.S. lately?!"

Follow the Olmers' adventures at <https://crazyparentstravel.com> and Instagram #crazyparentstravel.

Reach Sally Hogarty at sally@theorindanews.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ksenija and Mirak Olmer had fun trying on native costumes at the Busó Folk Museum in Mohács, Hungary, earlier this year.

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School Events in September

- 2 All schools closed for Labor Day.
- 4 **Del Rey**, 8:30 a.m. TB testing.
Orinda Academy, school photo day.
Miramonte High School, 6 p.m. freshman parent meeting.
Holden High School, 6:30 p.m. parent potluck and orientation.
Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. senior parent meeting.
- 6 **Sleepy Hollow**, deadline for after school enrichment classes sign up.
- 7 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. MHS parent social - Fourth Bore.
- 9 **Miramonte High School**, 6 p.m. booster's meeting.
Holden High School, 6:30 p.m. parent support group.
Orinda Union School District, 6 p.m. board meeting.
- 10 **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. financial aid presentation.
- 11 **Orinda Intermediate School** parent ed: navigating social/emotional challenges of middle school.
- Orinda Academy**, college night.
- 12 **Del Rey**, kid power day.
- 18 **Miramonte High School**, 9:30 a.m. parent's club meeting.
- 19 **Sleepy Hollow**, 3:15 p.m. school site council meeting.
- 20 **Miramonte High School**, club day.
Sleepy Hollow, 9 a.m. parents club meeting.
- 21 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School** family night at the A's game.
- 23 **Holden High School**, board of trustees work day.
Del Rey, conference week through Sept. 27 (minimum days).
- 25 **Holden High School**, 9 a.m. field trip - Cal Shakes.
- 26 **Orinda Academy**, back to school night.
- 27 **Orinda Academy**, field trip - Cal Shakes.

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

◆ CHIEF from page 1

Our ability to solve crimes increased substantially," said Nagel. More recently, the acquisition of a drone has given the police the ability to assess a situation and respond to it more quickly.

Mayor Inga Miller praised Nagel, saying that he has been an asset to the community and that his tenure in Orinda will be a tough act to follow.

"He is always quick with a smile and takes the time to listen," Miller said. "Those are attributes that are often contrary to people's preconceived notions about police, and residents voice appreciation for his disarming demeanor and the time he takes to listen and solve problems."

OUSD Installs Water Tanks, Gets \$10K in Fire Prevention Effort



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
(L-R) Keenan Account Executive **Kyle McKibbin**, OUSD Director of Facilities **Stuart House**, OUSD Board President **Hillary Weiner** and OUSD Superintendent **Dr. Carolyn Seaton**.

Orinda Union School District (OUSD) officials accepted a big check last month in recognition of their efforts to be prepared in the event of a wildfire. A representative of the East Bay Schools Insurance Group presented the \$10,000 check to the Board of Trustees on Aug. 12 as a result of the district purchasing and installing two 10,000 gallon water storage tanks.

One of the tanks is at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School and the other is at Wagner Ranch Elementary School. OUSD paid nearly \$70,000 to purchase and install the tanks "I am proud of OUSD's collaboration with MOFD (Moraga-Orinda Fire District) that has resulted in implementation of a variety of innovative strategies to prevent and defend against wildfires near our schools," says OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton.



LYNN KALMAR
Sleepy Hollow Elementary School's 10,000 gallon tank gives firefighters an immediate water source in case of wildfire.

Eagle Scout Project Brings Playground Shade to St. Mark's Preschool

Christian Gee, a Miramonte High School freshman and member of Boy Scout Troop 57, recently completed his Eagle Scout project at St. Mark's Nursery School. As a prospective Eagle Scout and St. Mark's alumni, Christian worked in collaboration with St. Mark's Director Claire Peterson to design a portable play structure with a built-in sunshade.

"St. Mark's Nursery School has enjoyed a long relationship with local Boy Scout troops and has been the recipient of many Eagle Scout projects in addition to Christian's," Peterson says. "This wonderful open-ended structure will provide St. Mark's students with endless opportunities to participate in dramatic play — sell ice



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Christian Gee and his portable play structure

cream, make mud pies, put on concerts and practice being all kinds of community helpers — fire fighters and more!"

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Amanda Haas will be celebrating the publication of *The Vibrant Life: Eat Well, Be Well*. Lunch will feature a delicious recipe from her book.

Reservations: \$20 (includes \$5 off on the price of *The Vibrant Life*, \$27.95)

Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation for either or both of these Thursday events!

THURSDAY, SEPT. 12 - 11:30 AM

Carolyn Jung will introduce two East Bay chefs featured in her book *East Bay Cooks: Signature Recipes from the Best Restaurants, Bars, and Bakeries*. **PAUL CANALES** of *Duende* (Oakland) and **AMOD CHOPRA** of *Vik's Chaat* (Berkeley) will offer generous samplings from their restaurants.

Reservations: \$40 (includes a signed copy of *East Bay Cooks*, \$32.99)



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MIMI BOMMARITO

Sweet September, I'm glad you're back. If you're reading this and your house is so quiet you can hear the cat snoring, it means either the legions of leaf-blowers have taken a blessed break or the kids are back in school.

For parents of littles, all the household animals, human and otherwise, are sighing deeply, basking in the knowledge that the boisterous youngsters are now someone else's responsibility for one-third of every weekday, including lunch.

But for parents of newly-minted high school graduates, those sighs are a little less "Aaahhhh" and a little more "HmMMM." The quiet is a trifle too somber. Life is suddenly a little too reminiscent of those sappy Subaru commercials where the adult kids are always driving away from home, waving goodbye to the aging parents and the ancient family dog who can barely wag it's tail. The parents and the dog are easily on the downhill slide, but by golly, that Subaru will last forever!

What is it about having grown children that tugs at our heartstrings? The older the kid, the more the soundtrack to the parent's life loses the headbangery of Led Zeppelin and adopts the melancholy of "Fiddler on the Roof." *Sunrise, sunset, swiftly flow the days...* I could update the lyrics and make them a little less heart-wrenching, waxing poetically about surviving high school — as a parent this time — attacking ACT's, SAT's, AP's and GPA's, with many an OMG, WTH, and LOL.

Many a verse could be written about 21st Century Orinda parents coping with Senioritis, chaperone duty avoidance techniques, and organizing so many junior varsity pasta feeds we began to feel like Italian matriarchs. We worked hard. Harder than our parents ever thought about working for us. True, the kids worked hardest of all, but it was definitely a team effort.

My daughter received a solid, well-rounded education at Miramonte, and now she was headed off to college. Not because she knew exactly what she wanted to be when she "grew up." Actually, she didn't have a clue about that. In this case, she was headed off to college because that's just what most kids do around here.

Almost every single one of the 244 kids in her graduating class at Miramonte went

on to college, a statement shrouded in both awe and angst, material for a future column. She would run with her wolf pack.

I was thrilled! I was proud! I was relieved! So why then was I one Annie Lennox song away from an ugly cry in the shoe aisles of TJ Maxx? I say this as a devout Maxxista, but you know they play those old hits from the 80s and 90s on their in-house sound system very deliberately.

The goal is to remind us of our feel-good glory days, when we looked stunning in anything. When we feel that adrenaline surge from revisiting our magical youth, marketers assume it makes us want to purchase. But be wary of trodding down this path, discount department store gurus. When hormonally-charged mothers are realizing what it really means to have their baby birds stretch their downy little wings for the first time, it is often a tidal wave that cannot be quelled with a non-fat latte.

If emotions were pizzas, mine would have been a *Sweep the Kitchen*. I never expected to feel so many powerful extremes simultaneously. She's in college now. I had gotten *exactly* what I wanted, thanks to all the Tom Clements classes, all the piano lessons, all the forced enthusiasm for Bobby Glasser's sixth-grade Core projects at OIS.

Many remember. They were endless and required such a continuous stream of adolescent creativity that visitors to my home wondered if we were running some sort of pathetic Etsy crafting business out of the dining room. But I was grateful. Not so much for the constant mess or the frequent and grueling slogs out to Michael's, but for the expansion of her developing brain.

I should be happy, I thought to myself, and of course I was happy. Sort of. It makes no sense to be sad, when you've gotten everything you set out to get. Would I want her lying around on the living room sofa, using the "b-word" (boredom) that drove me up a wall? No way.

The problem was another b-word: her bedroom. It was just so... so *clean*. For the first time in my adult life the sight of pristine, freshly mowed carpet was depressing. How would I have known?

As soon as we moved her into the dorm, I returned home and busied myself for days straight, ferociously deep cleaning

[SEE EVERYDAY page 16]

Miramonte Latin Students Seize the Day at Classical Convention



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Miramonte's Latin Club show their spirit, with a silly twist, at the National Junior Classical Convention in July.

This summer Miramonte Latin teacher Matt Davis and 12 of his students attended the 66th annual National Junior Classical League (NJCL) convention at North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D.

Established in 1936 and made up of more than 33,000 middle and high school students, the league promotes the study of Latin and Greek "to impart an understanding of the debt of our own culture to classical antiquity."

The convention took place over July 26-31 and included more than 1,100 students from 30 states and provinces in the United States, Canada and Australia. Students competed in academic, artistic and athletic events revolving around Latin, Greek, and the ancient world. Attendees also attended

[SEE LATIN page 16]

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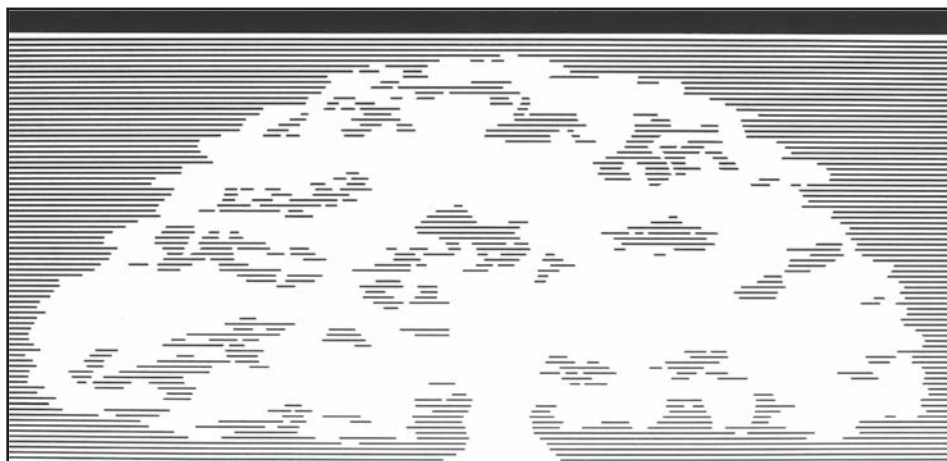
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CAR TIME / PERFORMING ARTS

CAR TIME

Dash Warning Lights Can be a Pain

By JOHN VANEK



There you are driving along minding your own business when a red light pops on your dash alerting you of some kind of situation. Ugh! Why is my car acting out?

Your vehicle is a machine that is very complex and components will fail. Nails will end up in your tires. Antifreeze will leak from your vehicle. All of these things could happen if you own your car long enough.

Vehicles have been this way since they were invented. The level of technology has increased into crazy levels of complexity. That includes warning lights on your dash. Thanks to technology we are alerted to these failures. We should not ignore these signs.

I compare car failures to medical issues. We are like cars. The older we get the more medical issues we have. They occur without warning. It will force us to change our plans or cancel appointments just like when your vehicle fails. We have to take steps to cure our medical issues. Testing will be done, follow up appointments will be made, etc. The body of course is a higher priority than your car, however you must take these car issues seriously. Just like with health issues, we must take the time to deal with them to expect reliability.

Why is there a check engine light? This is the government stepping in. The Feds charge automotive manufactures to make a system that alerts you when an emissions related component fails. Most computer controlled components are emissions related. What does that mean? It means that it affects the pollutants that come out of the tailpipe.

There is a long list of events that will cause a check engine light. These events can be as simple as a loose gas cap to a failed transmission and a ton of stuff in between. I have even seen a check engine light on due to dirty engine oil.

Folks, these new cars are complex. They have computer controlled everything. Many mechanical parts are computer controlled components. When oil changes are neglected it will cause some of these parts to make the computer think it's failing — all because of dirty, sludgy oil. What it really needs is an oil change. So the customer pays for diagnosis and an oil change.

Sometimes these check engine lights can be avoided. It comes down to good maintenance, awareness of factory required maintenance and having a good relationship with a top-notch facility.

What about other warning lights? The TPMS (tire pressure monitor system) light is another pain. However, it can alert you of a puncture in your tire before it becomes flat. It will also alert you to low tire pressure for maintenance. This is another government idea to force people to keep proper air in your tires. Low air in the tires causes poor fuel mileage and dangerous handling.

When your washer is low a light may come on and that is normal. If your low coolant light comes on that will normally mean that you have a leak in your cooling system and you should have it checked right away.

The red light that looks like a genie means you are dangerously low on oil and you should stop driving. The red light that says "BATT" OR "CHARGING" means that you have a problem with your battery charging and your battery may potentially go dead.

If a light message comes up that you don't understand just pull out your owner's manual and look it up. The point is to not ignore it but to act on it right away. The reliability of your vehicle and the safety of your family are at risk.

John Vanek is the manager of Orinda Motors, Inc. He can be reached at john@orindamotors.com.

Gothic Novel *The Woman in White* Takes to Starlight Stage This Month

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) bring their third production of their 36th season to the stage starting Sept. 6 with Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White*.

"After adapting musical versions of two children's novels (*Pinocchio* and *Wizard Of Oz*), I wanted to return again to a gothic novel, and what better than *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins, regarded by many as the first real mystery and detective novel ever written," says Cowler. "The book is 600 pages long and one of my biggest challenges to date to adapt into a two hour show. It took me about a year to complete."

Set in England in 1859, the show starts as Frederick Fairlie (played by Artistic Director Geotty Chapple), a wealthy hypochondriac, hires virtuous Walter Hartright (played by OrSVP newcomer Jeff Kimmich) to tutor his beautiful niece and heiress, Laura (played by Claire Stevenson), and courageous half sister, Marian Halcombe (played by Beth Donovan).

Although Hartright and Laura fall in love, she honors her late father's wish that she marry Sir Percival Glyde (played by Remington Stone), a villain who plans to steal her inheritance. Glyde is assisted by the sinister Count Fosco (played by Ken



JILL GELSTER
Malcolm Cowler directing at Orinda Starlight Village Players

Sollazzo), a cultured Italian who became the archetype of subsequent villains in crime novels. Their plot is threatened by Anne Catherick, a mysterious fugitive from a mental asylum who dresses in white, resembles Laura, and knows Glyde's secret.

"My adaptation is very close to the novel. At least 70 percent of the dialogue is actual dialogue from the book," says Cowler. "I'm hoping that seeing the show will encourage people to read the book, which contains so much more detail than the two-hour adaptation. People will be surprised how engrossing and readable Wilkie Collins' novel is, having been written in the 19th Century."

[SEE STARLIGHT page 18]



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COMPASS

Call for Teacher Artists

The Lamorinda Arts Council is accepting entries for a November exhibit that puts the spotlight on local teachers and is aptly entitled "Teachers Have Class." Teachers qualify if they are artists and current or retired K-12 teachers in the Lafayette, Moraga or Orinda school district, Acalanes Union High School District or teach in a school that has participated in the High School Visual Arts Competition and/or the Lafayette, Moraga or Orinda Art Ambassadors exhibit at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library. The work will be exhibited in the entire gallery in November. Contact Maggie Boscoe at gallery@lamorindaarts.org by Oct. 1 to register and receive submission guidelines. For more information, go to <http://lamorindaarts.org/gallery>.



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Present

WILKIE COLLINS'
THE WOMAN IN WHITE

Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 6 through 28
Sunday, Sept. 22, 4:00 p.m.,
Thursday, Sept. 26, 8:00 p.m.

At the Outdoor Amphitheater,
Orinda Community Center Park

26 Orinda Way (Across from Rite Aid).
Two blocks from BART.

Regular admission \$20, Discout 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.)

Fitness Tip of the Month

There is no point in indulging in amazing food if you are going to feel guilty about it afterward. Be organized so you can eat very healthy everyday. You will always be fit and you will never feel guilty when you indulge.



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

◆ STARLIGHT from page 17

Cowler plans to again use the entire amphitheater in this production. "I really liked the way we were able to use not only the stage, but also the audience and park environment to bring my earlier adaptation of *Dracula* to the audience in a uniquely intimate way and *The Woman in White* offers me the chance to do it again," says Cowler.

Cowler has directed at OrSVP for a number of years, performing on the stage with OrSVP since 1995 and has been involved in more than 35 productions.

Performances of *The Woman in White* run Sept. 6-28, Friday and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., with a Sunday matinee Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. and a Thursday performance Sept. 26 at 8 p.m.

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

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

◆ VROMAN from page 12

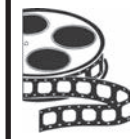
at the New Jersey Opera, among many others.

She sang the role of Johanna alongside Patti Lupone and George Hearn in the San Francisco Symphony's Emmy Award winning *Sweeney Todd in Concert* and is a popular guest artist with renowned orchestras nationwide, including the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall.

The Sept. 22 concert is at 5 p.m. Information and tickets are available at www.lamorindatheatres.com or by calling 925-254-9065.

Live at the Orinda continues with jazz vocalist Nicolas King taking the stage Oct. 13, followed by the show-stopping team of Faith Price (Tony award winner) and Jason Graae (L.A. Drama Critics' Circle award winner) on Nov. 10. The season continues until May 2020. Subscriptions can be purchased at www.caiff.org/live-at-orinda-concert-series.

Reach Lynn Kalmar at assistanteditor@theorindanews.com.



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED BALLOON FROM GERMANY, DORIS DAY AND, OH YES, THE RHEEM



Tom Westlake

I've called it embattled, endangered, troubled, threatened and even closed. What I've never been able to call the Rheem Theatre, however, is settled and/or safe. It's always been on the precipice – and such is it again.

Derek Zemrak and crew have performed miracles and done hero's work to keep this building open and functional but even heroes fail occasionally and, what is more, sometimes heroes need to know when enough is enough.

It's been sold again and thus far I've only heard rumors about what the new owners plan for it. But I whole-heartedly believe that no small amount of attention should be paid to the Rheem's historical importance, specifically when it comes to its association with William Randolph Hearst.

History, in general, is seldom strictly a cause-and-effect thing. There are numerous side roads, footnotes and digressions that, when put together, make for a more compelling and interesting whole. The Rheem is one such footnote.

The theater was built, as I understand it, as a result of a long-standing friendly rivalry between Hearst and Donald Rheem. A long time cinephile, I am kind of thrilled to be living so close to it, not only because of the aforementioned but also because of the "Citizen Kane" connection. (It would be a bitterly ironic thing if that movie ever played there.) With that said, I urge the new owners to find out more and find a way to preserve the Rheem. One should never put a price on history, nor should it ever be destroyed — for any price.

Now back to what's playing this month. In the International Film Showcase, Germany brings this month's entry, simply called *Balloon*. This is primarily a movie about escape. Taking place in 1979, this is a story about two families who attempt to leave their present, oppressive situation in a most unusual way.

Whereas most would try to drive or, like the Von Trapp family, walk out, the main

characters of this story use the titular hot air balloon. I won't be giving too much away by telling you that their first attempt is met with catastrophic failure. It's what happens after when the real suspense takes place.

The film is a stirring example of the old saying "If at first you don't succeed..."

Though based on a true story, there's enough cinematic flourishes and additions that not only make this an edge-of-your-seat adventure but a wholly satisfying movie-going experience. For more details, go to www.internationalshowcase.org. It will be having a one-week run at the Orinda Theatre starting 7 p.m. Sept. 6.

The next feature may come out of left field but is strictly a middle-of-the-road affair. (What a clever turn of phrase.) *Please Don't Eat the Daisies* is a movie that many people might not even know exists.

You may have a vague recollection of the TV sitcom of the same name that lasted two seasons but this is the movie the TV series was based on. Starring the unlikely pairing of Doris Day and David Niven, this is a mild, sweet little comedy that is sure to offend no one and please those who are sick and tired of the bombast that defines so much of modern cinema today.

Day and Niven star as the heads of the Mackay family: He a theatre critic and she a playwright and mother to four obstreperous children. Together they move out of the noisy city into a large ramshackle house in the suburbs. What follows is a combination fish-out-of-water scenario and domestic drama, albeit a light one. Of course, Day graces us with a musical number or two.

Being that this is the standard Classic Film Showcase, you get to see the movie for free. It screens 7 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Orinda.

Check www.orindamovies.com for updates. As always, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

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



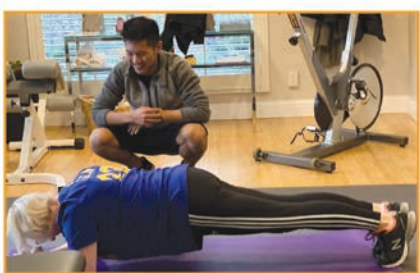
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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **BUZZ** from page 20

chicken with gravy and mashed potatoes, vegetables and freshly made biscuits served with Orinda resident Steve's Bees honey. They are busiest in the winter, lightest in the summer. For dinners they average 1,300 to 1,500 meals per week, about 250 to 300 on a weekend. Regulars return for fresh fish and seafood delivered daily, prime rib to order, house-made desserts and of course, the full bar.

Regarding drinks, it'll take a while to



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Chef Lino Rios and **Asst. Manager C. Rose** introduce their new Mexican Monday dinner menu. All selections are made from Rios' family recipes with fresh ingredients daily.

work through the wine menus but it is a worthy cause. There are two printed menus which makes it easy to order by the glass or by the bottle. Contemplate the 38 choices on the bottle and glass menu and 18 on the by-the-glass menu. So far the spirits poured by the bartenders and cocktails they serve do not disappoint.

The Goyak family has owned Casa Orinda since 1978; John Goyak is the present owner. The history of this, the oldest continually running restaurant in Contra Costa County, is on their website.

Casa Orinda is at 20 Bryant Way. Call them at 925-254-2981 or go to <http://casa-orinda.net>. Open for dinner daily beginning at 4 p.m.: Mon. – Sat. 4 to 10 p.m., Sunday 4 to 9 p.m. The bar is open Mon. – Thurs. 4 to 11 p.m., on Fri. – Sat. from 4 p.m. to midnight, and on Sunday from 4 to 9 p.m.

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



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◆ **CALENDAR** from page 12

- www.flipcause.com/secure/event_step2/NjEyMDY=/54592; info@mindfullittles.org; <https://mindfullittles.org/>
- 22 **Live at Orinda**, 5 p.m. Performance by Broadway star and opera singer Lisa Vroman. Info. and tickets at www.lamorinda-theatres.com or 925-254-9065. See article p. 12.
- 25 **Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. The Random Readers will read and discuss *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.*
- 26 **Orinda Books**, 11 a. m. Maria's Book Group will read and discuss *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* by Alexandra Fuller.*
- 31 **Orinda Woman's Club** deadline to RSVP for Festival of Trees Benefit fashion show and luncheon which takes place Nov. 21 at the San Ramon Marriot. Tickets are \$95. Call Betty Brotherton 925- 963-6356 or go to <http://bit.ly/2OPzOLh>.

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.

Historic Landmarks Committee. Fourth Tuesday, 3 – 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, 26 Orinda Way. Call 925-788-7323.

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

Planning Commission. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.

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

◆ **CAR SHOW** from page 7

will benefit many Rotary programs including: Tom Fitch Fishing day for inter-city kids; Free Opera in the Park; drivers for Meals on Wheels; scholarships for Miramonte students; 4-Way speech contest; Rotary Field Day for Lamorinda elementary students; the annual Spring Egg Hunt; holiday stockings for families in need in Contra Costa County; State of the City luncheon; Orinda Union School District Teacher of the Year awards luncheon; Oakland Boys and Girls Club scholarship; and Rotary's international project of power sustainability for an eye clinic in Zambia.

Roeder emphasizes that because space is limited for this popular event, people should buy tickets in advance online at www.OrindaCarShow.com.

Then, on Sept. 7 the main event rolls into town with the 15th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show taking place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way. The free event includes a special exhibit of classic and historically significant Porsche cars, plus an exhibit of station wagons.

"We'll also have a wide range of classic cars and new cars from Mercedes Walnut Creek and Tesla," says event co-chair Bill Waterman. He and his committee — Diane Lautz (co-chair), Orinda Motor's Allan Pennebaker and John Vanek, Mike Robinson, Bill Criswell, David Alvarado and The Orinda Association's Kate Wiley — have been hard at work lining up the 200-plus cars that will be exhibited.

The family-friendly event includes refreshments from Taverna Pellegrini and Loard's Ice Cream as well as entertainment by the Lamorinda Idol singers.

As always, the day will culminate with the popular drive around Orinda where fans can ride in the car of their choice for a small donation.

Proceeds from the car show go to the Educational Foundation of Orinda, The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town transportation program, Orinda Parks and Rec, local arts and the Orinda Historical Society.

For more information, go to www.orindacarshow.com.

Reach Sally Hogarty at sally@theorindanews.com.

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Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



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When it’s time to see a man about a dog, Pete Ritter is your guy. Since 2005 he has worked with Lamorinda residents who need someone reliable and experienced to take care of their pet and/or home while they’re away.

Tired of playing cat and mouse in the corporate world, Ritter decided to leave the dog-eat-dog workplace. Originally from Canada, Ritter and his wife, Colleen, had already lived in several U.S. cities and in 2000 settled in Orinda.

They say they are delighted that Lamorinda turned out to be the perfect home for Animal House (AH). An animal lover since childhood, Ritter often cared for his neighbors’ pets and homes when they were out of town. Making the transition to AH was like water off a duck’s back.

His pet services include feedings, walks, administering medication, yard/litterbox cleanup, transportation to local veterinarian or groomer, filling bird feeders and keeping birdbaths filled. Since Ritter opened AH he’s been to every vet and emergency animal clinic in the area; no wild goose chases for him. That’s because he offers to take his clients’ pets for emergency vet or clinic visits when necessary.

Ritter likes to visit a potential pet sitting client for a meet and greet. Once he’s acquainted with a dog and they are out on a walk, he never carries his cell phone so that he can focus on the dog and their time together. “It disturbs the dogs, too,” he says.

For home care he will take out the garbage, bring in mail/papers/packages, check the premises, rotate lighting, adjust window coverings, care for and water plants and handle the alarm system. He also offers emergency visits to clients’ homes. AH is fully bonded and insured. Testimonials on the company website report he returns calls, text messages and emails promptly. Ritter encourages potential clients to review his website and ask for references.

Ritter says everyone asks him which are his favorite pets to take care of but he plays no favorites – he’s happy as a lark caring for all of them. The short list of pets he has cared for includes dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, laying hens, lizards, fish and gerbils.

Contact Ritter at 925-368-8978, email him at pete@ahpetcare.com or go to www.animalhousepetsandhomecare.com.

Casa Orinda Debuts Mexican Mondays

When Head Chef Lino Rios of Casa Orinda was asked to create a menu for



ELANA O’LOSKEY

Golden retriever **Harley** and golden retriever/border collie mix **Bo** have it made in the shade during their morning walk with **Pete Ritter** of Animal House Pet and Home Care.

Mexican Mondays, the flavors and aromas of the meals he says he enjoyed with his family in Oaxaca came to mind. His mother, Tecla Ramirez, insisted every ingredient was fresh daily, every dish made from scratch.

Now Orindans can enjoy authentic dishes such as ceviche made with fresh halibut and petrale sole; capon in house-made mole sauce; chiles rellenos made with chicken, carnitas or vegetarian; crab, chicken or steak fajitas; huevos rancheros; tortas, and carnitas enchiladas.

Rios’ signature red salsa begins with fire roasting tomatoes, chilis de arbol and jalapenos. He then adds roasted garlic, cilantro and lime juice; it’s served with house-made corn chips. The heat is just right and the flavor lingers. His vegetarian chiles rellenos begin with roasted pasilla chilis (seeds and skin removed) which are then filled with celery, onions, garlic, potatoes, green beans, cilantro and mozzarella. Sometimes he makes them with chicken or beef with a little cumin. His sauces are flavorful and complement each dish. A \$5 margarita completes the meal.

Before donning the traditional tall white chef’s toque, Rios spent almost two decades

learning everything about producing Casa Orinda’s 52 dinner items, 14 side dishes and seven daily specials. He’s done his homework. Rios, his wife Claudia Zermeno and sons Ivan and Julian live in El Sobrante where they tend a big garden.

Casa Orinda’s supportive 40 member team, like Rios, tends to stay the course. Jairo Gomez is the one remaining staff member who began working with one of the original Snow brothers in the 1960s.

General Manager Claudia Tata and Assistant Manager C. Rose have decades of experience in the restaurant business. Tata’s was at the Wine Train in Napa and Rose’s was at Chez Panisse, plus her own restaurant. Together they work to keep the vibe welcoming but efficient. Rose says that Casa Orinda is the “Cheers” of Orinda because “the atmosphere here is convivial, women dine alone or have a cocktail at the bar, everyone is friendly and who they are, no social strata here. We welcome children and offer great food at full value – our portions are generous.”

Tata says in 2018 they served 24,000 dishes of their signature dinner: fried [SEE BUZZ page 19]

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