



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 39, Number 4

www.theorindanews.com

Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
April 2024

Crime in Orinda: Measuring Perception Versus Statistics

■ Forum on Crime Prevention
Town Hall April 18

By CAMERON SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

cameronsullivan@cameronsullivan.net

In the five calendar years from 2019 through 2023, property crimes, defined as residential, commercial and auto burglaries, decreased or remained flat in Orinda, according to a presentation by Orinda Police Chief Ryan Sullivan at a Feb. 13 special meeting of Orinda's Public Safety Subcommittee Council. The meeting came in response to residents' concerns over perceived increases in crime.

"We did this annual report (on property crimes) early because of the community concerns," said City Manager David Biggs. "Normally we wouldn't do this until April or May."

One of those concerned residents is Evan Dreyer, who recently experienced a break-in at his family's home in the Knickerbocker neighborhood. The vandals raided their house, causing over \$10,000 in

damage to their property.

"These guys were smart, disciplined and they moved fast, staying in the house for less than five minutes. They were wearing gloves and masks and they didn't talk," said Dreyer. His outdoor video cameras captured images of the attempted burglary and he called the police who immediately responded.

"The police arrived less than 10 minutes after we called, but the criminals were already gone into the night," said Dreyer.

Dreyer said in the last two years, in his neighborhood, there were at least eight cases in which homes were broken into or had damage done to property during attempted crimes.

"It's obvious some neighborhoods are being targeted," said Dreyer, noting neighborhoods on private roads with less lighting.

At a March 5 city council meeting, Dreyer shared additional information on recent property crime and what he called "hot spots" where property crime is occurring, including theft, burglary, larceny and breaking and entering. He also said his

[SEE CRIME page 6]

Meet Your Neighbor



BRANDON TODD/NEW YORK LIBERTY

Miramonte alumna, Sabrina Ionescu #20 of the New York Liberty and Steph Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors made history with the first-ever NBA vs. WNBA 3-Point Challenge on Feb. 17 in Indianapolis during the NBA All-Star Weekend. Read about Ionescu in the Meet Your Neighbor feature on page 24.

OUSD Makes Students' Mental Health a Priority in Lawsuit Against Social Media

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

editor@theorindanews.com

against social media companies in efforts to address K-12 adolescents' mental health issues stemming from using the sites.

Glimme explained how and why the school district joined the lawsuit in the first place.

"We were approached by one of the law firms we work with that was representing multiple districts," said Glimme. "There is a significant amount of evidence demonstrating negative effects of social media on youth and their mental health. We have seen that amongst our own students and believe that changes should be made within social media guidelines."

Changes such as algorithms and age restrictions were two that Glimme named.

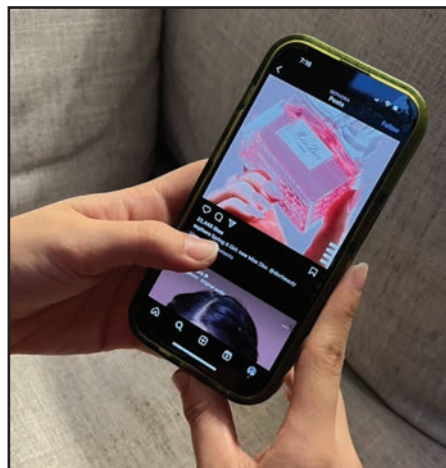
Still in its early stages, and at the time of this interview, Glimme said the lawsuit has not been filed yet; however, the law firm is in the process of doing so.

"We are doing this with other districts in California, however on our own behalf, not as a class action lawsuit," she added.

Liz Daoust, a founding member of the

[SEE OUSD page 9]

The Orinda Union School District (OUSD) recently joined forces with other California school districts in a lawsuit



ANNA RYAN

Orinda Union School District, in tandem with other California school districts, is suing social media companies for the mental health issues they cause adolescents ages K-12.

The Orinda Association Presents ...

Town Hall Forum
Thursday, April 18
5:30 - 7 p.m.
Orinda Library Auditorium

Crime Prevention in Orinda

Speakers include Police Chief Sullivan and staff, Neighborhood Watch and City Councilmembers. For a focused forum, send questions or concerns in advance to president@orindaassociation.org.

www.OrindaAssociation.org
925.254.0800

IN THIS ISSUE

Advertisers	6	Performing Arts	10
Calendar	19	Pet of the Month	22
Civics	4	Residents	1, 15, 20, 24
Cartoon	4	Schools/Students	1, 5, 7
Classifieds	18	Seasoned Shopper	23
Community	3, 4, 15, 22	Service Above Self	9
Crime/Police	1, 6	Sports	1, 16
Events	5	Schools/Students	1, 7, 19
First Friday Forum	8	Teen Corner	8
Married 50+ Years	20	Travels with the Orinda News	20
Meet Your Neighbor	1, 24	The Orinda Association	3
Obituaries	18	Visual Arts	21

Find these stories and more at www.theorindanews.com.

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
ORINDA, CA
PERMIT # 4

POSTAL CUSTOMER
*****EGRWSSEDDM*****



Mash Gas & Food

Orinda's Lowest Gas Prices
Buy Lotto & Lottery Here

	Self Service Gasoline	
	CASH	CREDIT/DEBIT
Regular Unleaded	439 ⁹ / ₁₀	449 ⁹ / ₁₀
Plus Unleaded	469 ⁹ / ₁₀	479 ⁹ / ₁₀
Premium Unleaded	479 ⁹ / ₁₀	489 ⁹ / ₁₀

22 Bryant Way - Next to Casa Orinda
Mon - Sat 5 am - 12 am; Sun 6 am-11 pm

ADVERTISEMENT



Optimum **Lamorinda** Choice for Tree Care and Vegetation Management

Serving the Greater Bay Area

WILDLAND CORPORATION

- HAZARDOUS TECHNICAL TREE REMOVAL
- PRESERVATION PLANS
- TREE MAPPING AND INVENTORY
- EXPERT PRUNNING
- BRUSH CLEARING/FUELS REDUCTION
- FIRE CODE COMPLIANCE



Before



After



 Call Today For a Free Consultation

Will Thorn (President)
Wildland Corporation

CSLB #1089268



(925) 765-8671

info@wildlandcorp.com
wildlandcorp.com

Free Chip Deliveries Available

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the Co-President
Spring Blooms New Life



KELLY SOPAK
president@orindaassociation.org

As the winter rain stops and the first blooms of spring make their shy appearance, I find myself reflecting on the natural beauty and the close-knit community that we are so fortunate to call our home.

Spring is a time of awakening and rejuvenation, not just for nature, but for us as well. The longer days and warmer weather invite us to step outside, breathe in the fresh air and reconnect with the world around us.

It's a perfect time to enjoy the outdoors, whether by tending to our gardens, taking leisurely walks through our beautiful town or participating in community clean-ups and beautification projects.

Orinda thrives on the strength of our community, and spring offers us numerous opportunities to come together, whether in celebration, service or simply in shared enjoyment of our beautiful surroundings.

I encourage everyone to embrace this season of growth and renewal. Attend our local events, support our advertisers both big and small as they transition into the new

season, and take part in the various community initiatives that help make Orinda a better place for all.

As we move forward into the spring, let us do so with a sense of hope, unity and a commitment to making Orinda a vibrant, welcoming place for all.

Enjoy the simple pleasures this season offers, from the sight of blooming flowers to the sound of children's laughter in our parks. Let these joys remind us of the beauty of Orinda and the value of our community.

If you are interested in learning more about our Orinda Association programs and volunteer opportunities, please scan the QR code. ■



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.

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents - Chris Laszcz-Davis
Kelly Sopak
Vice President - Alex Drexel
Secretary - Eloise Sotelo
Treasurer - Cindy Powell
City Council Liaison - Latika Malkani

BOARD MEMBERS

Carlos Baltodano
Barb Brawner
Jacalyn Buettner
Lisa Burlini
Kathy Cordova
Grace Paik
Bill Waterman
Kate Wiley



The Orinda Association
26 Orinda Way (Library Plaza)
P.O. Box 97
Orinda, CA 94563
Phone: 925.254.0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org

All officers and board members volunteer their time.

Orinda Community Foundation



JEFF HEYMAN

Members and supporters of the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) braved the late February chill to celebrate the 14th anniversary of the OCF's founding in a ceremony held at the Orinda Library. The Foundation, a beloved fixture in Orinda, encourages citizen engagement, builds partnerships and provides financial assistance for community activities. (L to R) Gene Gottfried, Bobbie Landers, Mayor Darlene Gee and incoming OCF President Jim Keeffe.



YOUR KEY TO REAL ESTATE SUCCESS
WITH 20+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

Rick Kaluza
Real Estate Advisor

415.265.7565
rick.kaluza@compass.com
rickkaluza.com
DRE #: 01365486



WE NEED YOUR ART!

Students
Grades K - 7
Fourth of July
(Hand Drawn Art)



Student T-shirt Design CONTEST
4th JULY 2024

3 COLORS: RED WHITE BLUE

01 Open to Lamorinda students K to 7th Grade

02 Winner receives \$100 & winning design will be the Official T-shirt for 4th of July

HOW

- ART MUST BE SUBMITTED ON A 12" x 17" PAPER USING ONLY THREE COLORS: RED, WHITE AND BLUE
- THE ART MUST BE HAND DRAWN AND DIGITAL ART WILL BE REJECTED
- MUST INCLUDE THE WORDS: ORINDA, 4TH OF JULY AND 2024

WWW.ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG/TSHIRT FOR ENTRY FORM AND CONTEST RULES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE MAY 3

WINNER ANNOUNCED MAY 12

FOOTSHIRT@ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG

Students
Grades 8 - 12
Orinda Car Show
(Digital Art)



Student T-shirt Design CONTEST
2024

01 Open to Lamorinda students 8th to 12th Grade

02 Winner receives \$100 & winning design at the said car show

HOW

- FORMAT MUST BE HIGH RESOLUTION DIGITAL VECTOR (TIF, AI, PDF, PSD)
- WWW.ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG/TSHIRT FOR ENTRY FORM AND CONTEST RULES

WWW.ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG/TSHIRT

WINNER ANNOUNCED MAY 12

WWW.ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG/TSHIRT

Deadline May 3, 2024

What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

Summer Camp Registration is Open! Weekly camps run June 3 - Aug. 7. Half day and all-day options in a wide variety of topics.

Presentation - Helping Seniors Enjoy Their Golden Years Safely and Independently at Home. April 11, 10 a.m., Community Center, Free. Registration required.

Orinda Action Day. April 20, 9-11 a.m. Meet at Library Plaza. Register and select a project at www.orindaassociation.org/events-1

Thursday Night Food Truck events with Taste of the World Market return April 11, 5-8 p.m., Community Center.

Go to www.OrindaParksandRec.org or call 925-254-2445 for questions and registration.



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445

www.OrindaParksandRec.org
OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org
28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center

STATE OF THE CITY / CARTOON

Mayor Gee's State of the City Praises Improvements and Safety

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief
editor@theorindanews.com

Mayor Darlene Gee greeted a well-attended State of the City address and luncheon on March 13 at the Orinda Community Center, hosted by the Rotary Club of Orinda and emceed by Rotary President Clay Deanhardt.

Before introducing Gee, Deanhardt noted March 8 was International Women's Day and acknowledged Orinda's all-women city council member team, stating "Saint Paul, Minnesota has been in the news lately for having an all-women city council, but Orinda did it first!"

After lunch was served by Leslie Naster, owner of Just Delicious, with her husband-and-daughter team, Gee took to the podium to talk about the city's accomplishments with a slideshow presentation.

"The city of Orinda is in very good

shape," said Gee. "It's financially better than it's ever been. Our reserves are at an all-time high. We are very fortunate that we remain one of the safest communities in the state. We are almost always classified in the top 20 communities. We continue to enjoy an incredible quality of life here."

In regard to some of Orinda's key projects, Gee said, "I am hopeful that all of you hear about wildfire prevention. And I hope all of you are doing something about it. I know that stopping my husband from cutting down things in our yard is very hard."

Gee remarked that as much we love the beauty, the vegetation and the trees that surround us, in the last five to 10 years, we've realized that all that beauty also presents some danger. "We are definitely a vulnerable location in terms of wildfire," said Gee. "We are doing everything we can. We have worked very hard to make sure that all the property that the city owns is in compliance with MOFD's requirements. We work every single day on evacuation planning and emergency preparedness."

The accomplishment Gee, a civil engineer, is most proud of is all the effort put into rehabilitating roads and drains.

"I've been so happy to see that our infrastructure has withstood all the rain this year very well," she said.

Gee called Plan Orinda a multifaceted effort of developing a precise plan for downtown.

"We have gone through a thoughtful process that involved a great deal of community input," said Gee.

She referred citizens to planorinda.com for more details.

Gee noted 25A Orinda Way has been in progress for a very long time and has been



approved by the city, but is waiting for private interests to take action. The former Bank of America building is in the process of being redeveloped. "It's a very exciting project that people are looking forward to because it is going to be a combination of new restaurants," said Gee.

She also addressed the Vista Verde Senior Housing project and the Chevron remodel – occasionally calling on City Manager David Biggs to assist in answers.

The city of Orinda was a recipient of over \$4 million from the federal govern-

ment during the period of Covid-19. "We have been able to apply that to our major drainage rehabilitation," said Gee.

Gee praised the city staff and noted Biggs will retire sometime this summer after three years of service. Planning Director Drummond Buckley retired last fall.

"I don't know how he did that," said Gee, speaking of Drummond's retirement. "Because I know he's way younger than I am!"

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's District Representative and Social Media Coordina-

[SEE GEE page 5]

NEED SOMETHING REMODELD OR FIXED?

ALGAR HOME REMODEL & REPAIR

KEVIN ALGAR HAS OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE!

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Home Remodeling
- ✓ Home Improvement
- ✓ Deck Build or Repairs
- ✓ Redwood Fences
- ✓ Electrical
- ✓ And more!

CALL TODAY TO GET A FREE ESTIMATE!

925.586.0940

READINESS IS YEAR ROUND

Get help preparing your property ahead of wildfire season! Take advantage of MOFD's free Fire Adapted Communities Ambassador Program.

Ambassadors provide guidance to local residents through a home assessment. Trained by MOFD, these volunteers identify trouble areas and places where you might not expect fires to threaten your property.

Request a complimentary home assessment from a MOFD FAC Ambassador today!

Visit CityofOrinda.org/EmergencyPreparedness

Measure R at Work



Mayor Darlene Gee shares Orinda's achievements and vulnerabilities at the annual State of the City Address on March 13, a luncheon hosted by the Rotary Club of Orinda.

GILLIAN JUDGE HOGAN

Selling your longtime home isn't easy...
But I do the hard work so that you don't have to.

"Gillian made selling our home of 41 years, and moving, seem almost effortless. Her commitment and tenacity helped us achieve the highest possible price for our property." - Glenn & Joel

GillianHogan.com 925.255.3128 Gillian@GillianHogan.com DRE #0210216

STUDENTS

Orinda Network for Education Celebrates Impact on Students

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer
drea.madison.05@gmail.com

Since its establishment in March 2020, Orinda Network for Education (ONE) has worked within the community to reinforce and enrich the public school experience.

ONE unites alumni, parents and business partners in the interest of preserving a quality educational experience for staff and students alike, an accomplishment that Vice President Alicia Keenan said sparked the idea for an annual celebration.

“ONE made it through probably three of the hardest years of a non-profit just trying to succeed,” said Keenan of the driving factor behind the initial Impacting the Student Journey celebration last year. It was a small gathering, with 50 to 60 partners in atten-

dance, Keenan said.

Since ONE’s inception happened to coincide with the first pandemic shutdown, “We didn’t have the opportunity to hold a celebration, kind of a kick-off event,” said Executive Director Emily Allen. “So last year, the board felt that it was time.”

ONE’s aim was to create an annual event that not only focused on school families, but the broader Orinda community as well, according to Allen.

The organization fosters connection and collaboration between parents’ clubs and local partners. All involved share a common goal of the enhancement of students’ educational experience through their entire academic experience.

“Which is why we thought that really should be the concentration of the event, impacting the student journey, because it’s a journey,” said Allen. “Start at TK and work



MARK DAoust

Orinda Intermediate School teacher Sarah Anderson and students from various Orinda Schools participate in a science activity. Orinda Network for Education (ONE) collaborates with the community to preserve and enhance quality educational programs and the academic experience within the public schools.

◆ GEE from page 4

tor, Kaylee DeLand, was in attendance and Gee nodded to the Congressman’s help in securing federal grant funds for Lamorinda traffic signal synchronization across all three communities. She said, “That will help with daily traffic operations as well as the ability to coordinate traffic better should there be an emergency.”

Lightly treading over potential pickleball versus tennis courts controversy, Gee said they are also working on a possible dog park.

“One of the best memories I have so far is receiving letters from fourth graders from Del Ray and the number one thing on their list was ... a dog park,” said Gee.

She’s also happy the city council is work-

ing on a master plan for biking and pedestrian facilities that includes connecting the Wilder Community to the downtown.

Other accomplishments Gee touted were the close relationships forged between the city and its school districts and a tighter connection and partnership with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD).

At the close of her address, Gee said, “There is lots of good news in the city of Orinda.”

She added, “I want to thank Rotary. You are a powerful, wonderful organization. We’re so appreciative of the partnership and we’re so appreciative of all of you. We are an incredible powerhouse of volunteers here in Orinda. Thank you for everything you do for our community and making this a great place to live.” ■

your way up until you graduate.”

The streamlining and strengthening of fundraising efforts from parents’ clubs and the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) was a strong motivation behind the formation of ONE.

“So there’s only one ask of parents, one ask of the community to support, and that’s been really successful,” Allen added.

Funds raised for ONE are used to address the gap between state school funding and the actual cost of maintaining small class sizes, libraries and their staff, electives, technology, student guidance and wellness centers and more.

As outlined on ONE’s website, Orinda schools receive some of the lowest levels of per-student funding in California, due to the state’s funding formula. Despite this, the six Orinda schools are among the highest-performing schools in the region and state.

While parcel taxes go toward the recruitment and retention of quality TK through

eighth grade teachers, and bond revenue is directed toward facility upgrades and maintenance, funds raised through ONE are focused on the advancement of the academic experience of students.

“Our goal this year is to raise \$5 million for all six schools,” said Allen, emphasizing that the Orinda community has a long-standing tradition of supporting local schools.

ONE is always looking to increase its partnerships with local businesses, said Keenan, and is hoping for an increased turnout at this year’s event.

The Impacting the Student Journey benefit takes place on Friday, April 12, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Wilder Art & Garden Center. Dinner will be provided in the form of two Taste of the World Food Trucks of varying cuisines. Each registration will include two drink tickets, valid for wine and beer. Nonalcoholic beverages will be

[SEE ONE page 19]

Enchanting Country Club Estate



50 La Campana - Orinda

4 Beds • 3 Baths • 2,687 Sq. Ft.

This Unique Orinda Country Club Estate property has been owned and cherished by the same family for 50 years. This Tudor inspired residence sits perfectly sited on approximately half an acre of gently leveled and tiered play space and formal garden areas graced by mature Oaks and Redwoods. There are steps and paths throughout the property which includes three formal rose gardens and a large flat lawn area. The home features original wood detailing showcased in the stunning living room with library shelving and a lovely reconstructed wood burning fireplace. The residence faces South and West and is filled with natural light and fabulous views of the Orinda Hills. There are two large decks, and a patio to enjoy the views and the garden spaces. The rooms are generously sized and the living spaces have a natural flow throughout the home. A beautiful home and an equally amazing property.

\$2,595,000 | www.50LaCampana.com



Laura Abrams

laura@lauraabrams.com | DRE # 01272382

510.697.3225

I am honored to be a part of the Real Trends-America's Best Real Estate Agents. This places me in the top 1.5% of the 1.6 million realtors in the United States. Thank you to my valued clients and supportive sphere for propelling me to this milestone.

5 Moraga Way, Orinda CA.
www.lauraabrams.com

You are welcome to follow me on Instagram @Lauraabrams_



Celebrating 25 Years With Coldwell Banker Orinda
A Trusted Partnership Local Expertise
with Global Connections



*Affiliated real estate agents are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2023 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logo are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. CalRE #01908304

CRIME

◆ CRIME from page 1

neighborhood is rallying to prevent crime and working with Orinda Police to form a Neighborhood Watch group.

Additional Crime and Arrest Statistics

In addition to property crimes, Sullivan cited 24 vehicle thefts in 2023, slightly higher than the 17 reported in 2019, but less than a spike of 32 in 2021.

No statistics were provided for “crimes against persons,” which include robbery, battery, strong-arm robbery, sexual assault and homicide, but Sullivan said incidences of those crimes remain flat at about five to seven per year. One exception to that figure was the 2019 Halloween Airbnb incident involving several homicides.

None of this data includes crime at the Orinda BART station, which falls under BART Police jurisdiction.

Although crime is down or flat, arrests have increased from 111 in 2019; 76 in 2020; 66 in 2021; 164 in 2022 and 151 in 2023. Sullivan explained, “The majority of our arrests are warrant arrests.”

A warrant arrest is one in which city police identify and arrest an individual for whom a jurisdiction other than Orinda has a warrant. Sullivan said that typically those arrested on warrants are not Orinda residents, nor are their warrants tied to crime in Orinda.

“One of the things that’s helped with solving crime is license plate reading cameras,” said Sullivan, who noted that the city owns several stationary and mobile ALPR cameras, as do several private businesses and residents. He said the city is looking to

purchase more cameras for better coverage.

Crime Prevention Town Hall - April 18

At the February meeting, Sullivan said the Orinda Police Department continues to stress crime prevention and is increasing its proactive policing efforts.

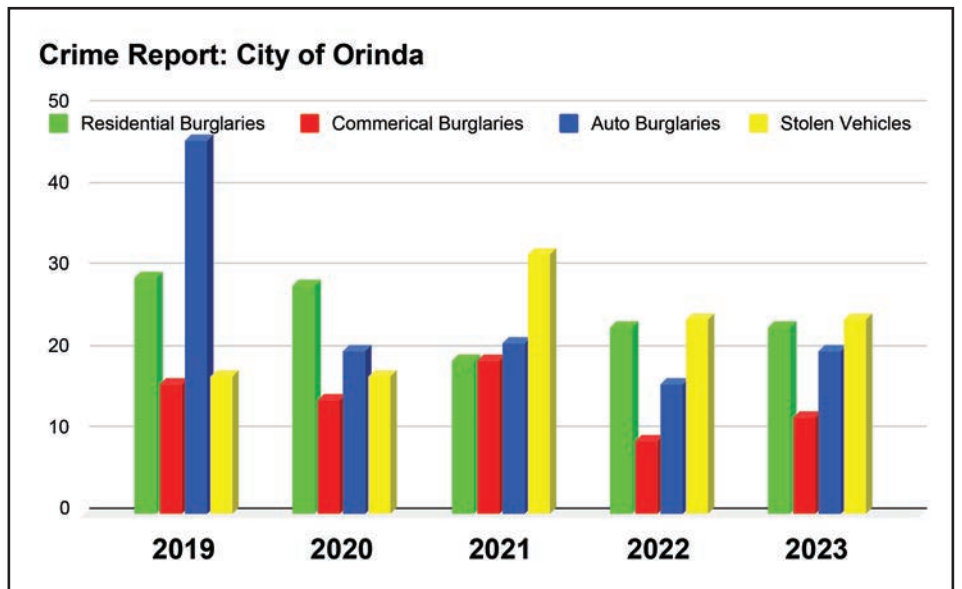
“We’re showing a more public presence in an effort to deter criminal activity, being more active with the public and being more visible. [Proactive policing] helps to deter and prevent crimes, while responding to calls for service as well,” said Sullivan.

Members of The Orinda Association’s board of directors met with Sullivan and Biggs on March 7 to discuss holding town hall forums with the participation of the city.

“Given that the topic of crime is a function of the police-community partnership efforts, we agreed that it might be smart to start with a town forum on crime prevention,” said Chris Laszcz-Davis, co-president of The Orinda Association.

“This might well be the first in a series of efforts through 2024,” added Laszcz-Davis, noting other possible topics may include “how to keep your child safe, guns, school issues and sending your kids off to college.”

The first town hall meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. The panel of speakers will include the police chief, members of his staff or city staff, Neighborhood Watch representatives and a member of the city council. The Orinda Association will gather questions from the public in advance. Meetings will be recorded for



Statistics provided by Orinda Police Department.

CAMERON SULLIVAN

those unable to attend.


Sullivan and Biggs suggested that coordinating with already-established Firewise communities might be a way of smoothly developing more Neighborhood Watch groups.

While Dreyer remains concerned about the pace of the city’s purchase and installation of more ALPR cameras, he said, “The police have been great. We feel their presence. It’s been really reassuring.

“As a community we need to err on the side of doing too much – not too little.

We need to be proactive when it comes to protecting our families. It’s obvious that criminals are going places where they didn’t historically, and we can’t accept the status quo. We need to take resounding action to ensure that Orinda is too risky for criminals to operate in and we aren’t looking back wishing we did more.”

Neighborhoods interested in forming Neighborhood Watch groups can contact Orinda Police Officer Johnson at 925.254.6820 for assistance. ■



POLICE BLOTTER

February 16 through March 16

<p>Calls for Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accident, Property Damage: 1: Stein Way Adult Missing: 1 Battery, Misdemeanor: 1 Burglary, Auto: 2: El Toyonal, Underhill Rd. Burglary, Commercial: 1: Brookwood Rd. Burglary, Residential: 1: Van Tassel Ln. Civil Problem: 1 Death, Non-Criminal: 3 Disorderly Conduct: 1 Drunk in Public: 1 Grand Theft: 3 Indecent Exposure: 1 Medical Hospital: 1 Outside Assist: 1 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1: Oak Rd. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Lost: 1 Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1 Shoplifting: 3 Stolen Vehicle: 2 Tow: 2 Trespassing: 1 Vandalism: 1 Vandalism, Felony: 2 Vehicle Theft: 2 <p>Arrests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying a Loaded Firearm: 1 Drugs, Possession of Paraphernalia: 1 Property, Receiving Stolen: 1 Warrant Arrest: 8 <p style="text-align: right;">– Compiled by David Dierks Assistant Editor</p>
---	--

List of The Orinda News Advertisers

	Page		Page
Automotive		Law Offices of Victoria Robinson Smith	11
Mash Gas and Food	1	Ray Robinson Attorney	8
Orinda Motors	20	State Farm, Bryan Silveira	22
Orinda Shell Auto Care	11	State Farm, Kelly Sopak	12
Community		Real Estate	
Orinda Parks & Rec	3	Coldwell Banker	
Fitness		Laura Abrams	5
Corekinetics	14	Suzanne Toner Geoffrion	16
Living Lean	22	Shellie Kirby	22
Financial Services		Compass	
Park Place Wealth Advisors	22	Rick Kaluza	3
Garden/Landscaping		Clear Creek Tahoe	
Brush Pros	10	Christopher Appling	15
City of Orinda	4	The Grubb Company	
Garden Nest	14	Rebecca Ciccio	11
Ken’s Redwood Fencing	21	Sotheby’s	
Ken’s Rototilling	23	Barb Brawner	8
McDonnell Nursery	23	Ann Newton Cane	17
Tree Sculpture	7	Village Associates	
Wildland Corporation	2	Shannon Conner	14
Medical and Dental		Linda Friedman Team	19
Dr. Brian Clark, Psy. D.	16	Gillian Judge Hogan	4
Dr. Mary Smith DDS	20	Christina Linezo	20
Medicine Shoppe	7	Murphy Team - Karen & Hilary Murphy	21
Village Hypnotherapy & Coaching	24	Ann Sharf	19
Non-profit		Alexis Thompson	12
Court Appointed Special Advocates	16	Clark Thompson	18
The Orinda Association	3, 13	Restaurants/Catering	
Rotary Club of Orinda	9, 11	Baan Thai	18
Professional Service		Casa Orinda	19
5A Rent-A-Space	13	Farmers’ Market	23
Algar Home Remodel & Repair	4	Siam Orchid	7
Alice Home Care	23	Zamboni’s Pizza Company	8
Green Sheds	14	Retail	
Kirby Carpet Cleaning	7	McCaulou’s	23

The Orinda News prints 9,000 copies and is published 12 times a year by The Orinda Association. The office is located at 26 Orinda Way (lower level of the Library). All rights reserved. The publication is sent out by direct mail (Permit #4, Orinda Post Office), distributed to key locations throughout the city and online at www.theorindanews.com.

Executive Editor.....Kathy Cordova
 Editor-in-Chief.....Charleen Earley
 Assistant Editor.....David Dierks
 Copy Editor.....Kathy Finch
 Advertising Representatives.... Carson Cordova, Kathy Enzerink, Jill Gelster
 Staff Writers Mark Bell, Alison Burns, Clay Deanhardt, Sally Hogarty, Barbara Kobsar, Andrea Madison,
 Amy Moellering, Elana O’Loskey, Anny Ryan, Cameron Sullivan
 Contributing Writers Kelly Sopak, Emily Wong
 Graphics/Layout..... Aspen Consulting: David Dierks, Jill Gelster
 Photographer.....Jeff Heyman
 Printing.....Folger Graphics

The Orinda News

A Publication of
The Orinda Association
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 97
Orinda, California 94563
Telephone: 925.254.0800

www.theorindanews.com

Follow us @theorindanews



The OA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Opinions of The Orinda News are expressed on the editorial page. Views of writers and letters to the editor are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Orinda Association or of The Orinda News. Advertisements appearing in The Orinda News are not to be construed as endorsements by The Orinda Association or The Orinda News.

Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 250 words. They must include the writer’s first and last name, signature and telephone number. Send letters to: Editor, The Orinda News, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com. **The next deadline to receive Letters to the Editor is April 8.**

For advertising rates, contact Carson Cordova at 650.646.1357 (carson@theorindanews.com), Kathy Enzerink at 252.626.2109 (kathy@theorindanews.com) or Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the **May** issue is **April 8.**

STUDENTS

Grade Culture's Harmful Impact on Teenage Mental Health

By ANNA RYAN
Staff Writer

rannabelle@gmail.com

At Miramonte High School, students take an average of 7.38 Honors or AP-weighted courses throughout their high school career. Academic pressure at Miramonte has steadily increased as more seniors are accepted into Ivy League schools each year. Grade culture – the unrealistic standard to excel academically – has morphed the once magical high school experience into a minefield of exams and scores.

Many students have bought into this grade culture, selling their souls to colleges and devoting themselves only to what looks best on college applications rather than what their hearts truly desire.

While grade culture may be the motivational push some need to focus on academics, for most it only reduces students' mental health as they enter the seemingly never-ending typhoon of comparison and self-interpreted failure.

"The work from AP and Honors classes piles on top of each other, making it difficult to manage my time and not feel overwhelmed with work," said one anonymous respondent.

"Grade culture at Miramonte makes you unable to cut the line between school and your personal life," said junior Ryan Loughran.

"[With AP and Honors courses], there's more pressure to perform and more work that sometimes feels unmanageable," said another.

Despite how rigorous classes inflict mental health issues, students continue filling their course selections with them. Grade culture has conjured the idea that a noteworthy transcript is worth sacrificing students' mental health. However, students may fail to realize their GPA is simply not

worth the sacrifices they make. "It's not just the transcript, it's not just the grades themselves [that colleges look at]," said Miramonte's College and Career Counselor Stephanie Brady. "That's the piece of it people don't always understand."

Another common misconception among the Miramonte community is that being admitted to prestigious colleges requires grand actions like founding a non-profit organization or devoting the entirety of your spare time to community service.

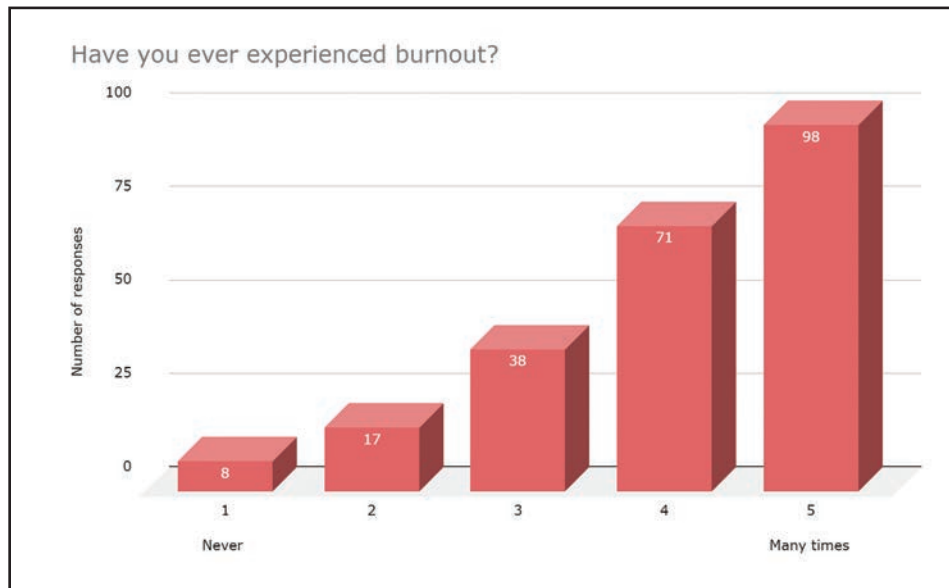
"A lot of high school students get involved in volunteer opportunities or other extracurriculars solely to bolster their college application," said Strickler.

These extracurriculars appear noteworthy until every single applicant has the same resume, and college admission officers begin to see through the "perfect student" facade. Instead of focusing on loading

themselves with extracurriculars that look "good" on college applications, counselors recommend students should partake in activities they truly enjoy.

Some students are beginning to realize the high school experience shouldn't revolve around exam scores and final transcripts. It shouldn't revolve around college admissions, either. It's about finding yourself, creating memories and pursuing your passions.

"We believe it's all about getting [into college], when ultimately, it's a stepping stone into life," said Brady. ■



ANNA RYAN

Data from 2024 Student Burnout Survey conducted by Miramonte juniors Ava Moga, Zoe Schmitt and Emma Wong.

"Grade culture at Miramonte makes you unable to cut the line between school and your personal life," said junior Ryan Loughran.

A student burnout survey conducted by Miramonte juniors Ava Moga, Zoe Schmitt and Emma Wong reveals the severity of academic pressure students face. Out of 232 Miramonte respondents, 96.5% answered that they had experienced burnout at some point in their high school career. These students associate burnout with feelings of "anxiety," "mental fatigue" and "giving up."

"Students are more focused on obtaining a good grade than actually learning the content or finding a deeper understanding," said Miramonte sophomore Annie Strickler.

One way to combat the mentally draining nature of grade culture is for stu-




Authentic Cuisine of Thailand

- Family Owned
- 3 Generations of Thai cooking experience
- All sauces made fresh
- Full Bar


Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11-2
Dinner: Mon.-Sun. 4:30-9:00

23 F Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-1975




100% Pure PharmacySM

Hop on into The Medicine Shoppe[®] for all your health needs!



Naomi Yuen, Pharm D.
Pet Medicine Available

Next to Hollyhock and McCaulou's
282 Orinda Village Sq. • 254-1211
<http://orindamedicinешoppe.com>




Achieving the Real Estate Goals of clients, friends and family in your neighborhood since 1989.

Native & lifelong resident of Orinda.

DEDICATION □ TRUST □ INTEGRITY □ RESULTS

DEXTER HONENS II
Real Estate Broker
Cell: (510) 918-8911
Email: dex@dexrealtor.com
www.dexrealtor.com



DRE # 01029372



TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977

(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com

SERVING LAMORINDA SINCE 1979



Area Rug Cleaning Specialist

Area Rug Free Pick Up & Delivery

(925) 254-2866

www.kirbycarpetcleaning.com

Services include

- Carpets
- Tile & Grout
- Upholstery
- Outdoor Cushions

FIRST FRIDAY FORUM / TEEN CORNER

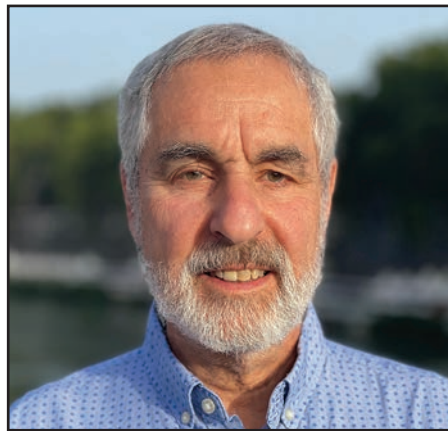
Untangling Alzheimer's: Science Grows Close to Effective Therapies

By ALISON BURNS
Staff Writer
alisonjburns@gmail.com

In 1907, when German psychiatrist and neuropathologist Alois Alzheimer published his trailblazing research paper describing an “unusual disease of the cerebral cortex,” it was still a relatively rare affliction.

Now, 117 years later, Alzheimer's disease, the most common cause of dementia, has become so prevalent that an estimated 6.7 million Americans over the age of 65 are currently living with this debilitating neurodegenerative condition.

In this month's First Friday Forum speaker series, sponsored by the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), Dr. William Jagust, professor of Public Health and Neuroscience at UC Berkeley, will discuss the distinction between dementia and Alzheimer's, the development of the disease and the challenges in finding ef-



ROBYN JAGUST

Professor William Jagust, MD, Professor of public health and neuroscience at UC Berkeley, discusses the development of Alzheimer's in the aging brain and the challenges in developing effective treatments.

fective treatments.

Jagust's talk on April 5, entitled “Untangling Alzheimer's,” references the neurofibrillary tangles that result from the damaged protein – tau – that causes neurons to wither and die in the aging brain.

A true pioneer in his field, Jagust came to study Alzheimer's almost by default: After completing his medical training in neurology, he was keen to research how people recover from strokes, but his superior told him, in no uncertain terms, that he must first investigate dementia.

It was the best decision he ever made. Calling himself “an extremely fortunate fellow,” Jagust said, “I think in your career you're lucky if you hit the zeitgeist once.” “And I hit it twice,” he added.

Although he calls it pure luck that he was involved in dementia research when Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanning was “hot” and again when Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) made large strides, he admits that you have to “pay attention, realize what's happening around you and take advantage of luck.”

In the early days of Alzheimer research, funding was always a problem.

Although the budget allocated by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was gradually rising, it was still only about one-tenth

of the amount given to cancer research. But beginning in 2015, Jagust said, there was “a really remarkable transition,” when the budget rose six-fold in about seven years to the point where it is now around \$3.5 billion per year.

“It's changed the Alzheimer's disease field enormously,” he said.

“I'm an optimist,” Jagust told dementia researchers Dr. Michael Schöll and Dr. Ross Paterson in a 2022 interview, “and I do really believe we're very close to a point where we're going to have effective therapies.”

With so many breakthroughs on the horizon, the two doctors asked whether we should all be signing up for brain scans once we turn 50.

“Heck no,” laughed Jagust. “Get some exercise, eat well, get plenty of sleep and don't drink too much.”

The First Friday Forum takes place at 1:30 p.m. on April 5 in the sanctuary of LOPC at 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Contact lopc.org/first-friday-forum/ to sign up for in-person attendance, register to stream via Zoom or to enjoy previous presentations. ■

TEEN CORNER

TO TEST OR NOT TO TEST?
A STUDENT'S OPINION

EMMA WONG
emma.wong25@auhsdschools.org

It's 7:30 a.m. The clock is ticking – and so are pencils as they tap on wooden desks. A cramped classroom holds dozens of students, some of whom have driven hours to take the exam facing them.

Behold, a scene nearly every high school upperclassman knows all too well – standardized test day.

Yet a question comes begging to mind: As college admissions evolve, how heavily should students prioritize standardized testing – or should they be testing at all?

As a junior at Miramonte High School, I struggled to answer this question. I am lucky enough to have taken the SAT only once before feeling satisfied with my score, and I acknowledge the benefits gained from my experience.

Indeed, standardized tests can combat transcript discrepancies, especially if a student received a low grade in a class but demonstrated elevated proficiency in that portion of the SAT or ACT.

College counselors, including Jack Tien, head of C2 Education, a company offering test prep, GPA management, and college

counseling to high school students, cite benefits extending beyond applications.

“Research has indicated that standardized test scores predict college grades, graduation rates and post-college success,” said Tien.

But arguments against standardized testing highlight flaws in equitably measuring academic profiles.

“The SAT and ACT contain questions dissimilar to those on a regular test,” said Miramonte senior Ashley Dong.

Students usually improve scores via hyper-specific preparation, impractical for those lacking monetary resources or working a job.

Additionally, standardized testing expects all students to perform under a uniform time limit. “Intelligence shouldn't be timed – it might take someone longer than another to obtain the same correct answer,” said junior Grace Wood.

Most concerning is that pursuit of a “perfect score” can presage a vicious cycle of tutoring and testing. Some students have tested up to four or five times, in hopes of attaining a super score.

“Studying for the SAT diverted my time and energy away from school academics and summer program applications,” said senior Mika Strickler.

Amid the pandemic, many colleges suspended test requirements.

“Students couldn't even sit for tests because the world was shut down, so colleges were essentially forced to put this requirement on hold,” said Miramonte College and Career Director Stephanie Brady.

Since then, the UC's and Cal State colleges have gone completely test-blind.

But recent data reflects a trend among some prestigious universities to return to

[SEE TEEN page 19]

Zamboni's

PIZZA COMPANY

1 Camino Sobrante
(925) 254-2800

We're right across the street from
Orinda Safeway!

Proudly serving both
Thin Crust and Deep Dish pizzas,
Calzones and fresh salads

Pizza by the slice available at
Lunch (11 am - 4 pm)

LOCAL DELIVERY ALWAYS
AVAILABLE (\$2.50 Charge)

Open Daily 11am - 9:00pm

BARB BRAWNER HOMES

COMING SOON IN MORAGA

Single Level Home
Prime Cul-De-Sac Location | Large Lot
4 Bed | 2 Full Baths | 2,547 Sq Ft

MCC Townhouse
Large Level Yard | Designer Kitchen
3 Bed | 2.5 Baths | 2,238 Sq Ft

Top Producer
EAST BAY • CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Barb Brawner JD
925.212.7672
Barb@BarbBrawner.com
BarbBrawnerHomes.com
DRE# 01922264

Golden Gate | **Sotheby's**
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.

Teen Tunes Spotify Playlist

rayrobinson.attorney

PROBATE ATTORNEY

- Probate/Trust Administration
- Wills/Trusts
- Conservatorships
- Financial Elder Abuse
- Inheritance Disputes

www.rayrobinson.attorney
925-255-1640
ray@rayrobinson.attorney

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

75 Years... and Counting

CLAY DEANHARDT
claydeanhardtrotary@gmail.com

Service above Self for the Rotary Club of Orinda began on March 18, 1949, when the club's first 21 members received their official charter.

As we celebrate our 75 years of service, we reflect on Rotary's significant role in Orinda's development from a small town of ranchers and summer homes to the thriving, vibrant place we live in today.

The first mayor of Orinda? Rotarian Dick Heggie. He served twice. Joyce Hawkins, still an Orinda Rotarian and community leader, served three times! They are two of the most delightful people I have had the privilege to meet, and I met them because I became a Rotarian.

The gazebo in the Orinda Community Park? Donated and built by our Rotary club.

Orinda's longest-running public event? More than 70 years of Rotary's Frank Isola Field Day – connecting generations of Orindans who competed as kids and come back to cheer their children on years later. We will be running the field day again at Miramonte Stadium on May 18, so save the date!

And the best two minutes in Orinda every year is our Spring Egg Hunt, probably the second longest running public event in Orinda at 60+ years, which we now do in partnership with Orinda Parks & Rec.

Everywhere you look in Orinda, you will see Rotary contributions from over the years: the gazebos, frog pond and landscaping at the Friends of Orinda Nature Area; just last year - new landscaping at Orinda Oaks Park and new trees in the Commu-

nity Center Park; the development of the Community Center kitchen, the Founders Auditorium sound system and its high definition projector; the scoreboard at the Wilder fields ... etc. etc. etc.

And our service doesn't stop at the edges of Orinda or even the United States border.

For nearly 30 years we have brought kids from the Oakland Boys and Girls Club to the San Pablo reservoir every year to fish, drive a pontoon boat and get outdoors. We serve Meals on Wheels weekly in Lafayette, volunteer monthly at the Food Bank, tutor children in Oakland and Richmond and help support transitional housing, veterans' events and a wide variety of other causes and events across the Bay Area.

Internationally we have installed solar panels to power an eye clinic in Zambia, where we also added to a library and continue to supply books; supported an orphanage in India with visits, equipment and a school bus; donated fire trucks and ambulances to small towns in Mexico; helped bring clean water to a town in Guatemala; and brought the first electric lights to a Haitian town via solar-powered street lights.

And those are just our more recent projects.

Over the years, Orinda Rotarians have helped distribute polio vaccines, assisted clinics providing free reconstructive surgery and contributed close to \$2 million to projects that save lives around the world.

It's an impressive, yet far from complete, list.

[SEE SERVICE page 19]

◆ OUSD from page 1

OUSD Wellness Committee in 2022, a parent of three daughters in the district and a school board member (2018 to 2022), said both research and anecdotal evidence have shown social media has a number of negative impacts on adolescents.

"It affects peer and social interactions, self-esteem, focus and overall mental health," said Daoust, who was also a former middle school teacher and administrator.

Daoust added, "Social media can give additional platforms for exclusion and bullying, and it is challenging for teens to navigate all the increased pressures surrounding social media usage. Furthermore, behaviors and incidents that start over social media at home often extend into life at school, which causes additional work and intervention from school staff."

The 15-member Wellness Committee is comprised of OUSD staff, parents and board members, "and has been working on ideas to support our community as they navigate the increasingly challenging landscape of social media usage in our students," said Daoust.

She said increased parent education has been their focus, so parents can be better equipped to understand the world their kids are experiencing with their phones and devices.

Still in the planning stages, part of that parent education, she said, will include in-person and recorded Zoom events addressing social media.

"We have also examined our school policies to see where changes can be made to better address the challenges presented by social media," said Daoust, who is not part of the lawsuit. The Wellness Committee is also not a part of the lawsuit.

Glimme, who said they don't allow cell phone [use] in the classrooms, has witnessed over the past few years an increase in mental health challenges among their

district's students.

"We have seen increased cyberbullying, signs of depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation," said Glimme. "This is measured by the California Healthy Kids Survey. In the past couple of years we have increased our spending on mental health support, opened wellness centers and hired counselors at each school site."

YouTube.com, a defendant in the lawsuit, is a social media site where users upload video content. It has a community guidelines section with policies addressing harassment and cyberbullying.

Within those guidelines, it states, "We don't allow content that targets someone with prolonged insults or slurs based on their physical traits or protected group status, like age, disability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or race. We also don't allow other harmful behaviors, like threats or doxxing. Keep in mind that we take a stricter approach on content that targets minors."

Doxxing is the act of publicly providing personally identifiable information about an individual or organization, usually via the internet and without their consent.

YouTube (owned by Google, LLC) encourages users to report content that violates their guidelines.

Glimme hopes that strength in numbers within this lawsuit will bring about change.

"We hope that with many districts being involved, there will be changes in practices by the social media companies," she said. "Children are especially susceptible to harmful behaviors that are promoted by many social media algorithms, and we would hope to see changes implemented by social media platforms."

If the school districts win the lawsuit, Glimme said the financial gain will help the youth.

"Should there be compensation," she said, "it would be for mental health support for our students." ■

Rotary
Club of Orinda



To Orinda

- 1 Orinda Park Gazebo (and isn't it lovely?)
- 3 shelters, the greenhouse, and a pond in the Nature Area
- 13 planted trees and a new park bench in 2023
- 15 years of free Opera in the Park
- 20+ years hosting Orinda's State of the City Message
- 60+ Spring Egg Hunts (the best two minutes in Orinda!)
- 70 annual Field Days serving thousands of Orinda students and generations of Orindans
- 1000s of Meals on Wheels deliveries
- \$100,000 + in Miramonte scholarships
- And MORE!

Celebrating
75 Years of Service

And The World

- Ending Polio everywhere
- Support for tutoring, food, veterans, and unhoused families in the East Bay
- Immediate disaster relief, including the Paradise and Maui fires, tsunamis, and earthquakes
- Bringing solar-powered electric light to Haiti
- Installing solar panels to power a Zambian hospital
- Books + funding for libraries and schools in Africa
- Providing emergency vehicles to Tala, Mexico
- Supporting women's healthcare globally
- And MORE!

You can help! Our service and projects have been funded primarily by Orinda Rotarians for 75 years. Donate today to the Rotary Club of Orinda Endowment Fund to make a difference in Orinda and beyond. Rotarians volunteer, with no overhead, so donations directly fund projects and service.

The Rotary Club of Orinda Endowment Fund is a 501(c)(3) charity. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



Use the QR code to donate today!

LIVE AT THE ORINDA!

Natalie Douglas Celebrates Roberta Flack in a Special Tribute Show

By SALLY HOGARTY
Staff Writer
sallyhogarty@gmail.com

Multiple award-winning cabaret and jazz artist, Natalie Douglas, returns to Live at the Orinda! on April 21 at 5 p.m. with a special tribute to the music of Roberta Flack.

A Grammy Award-winning legend, Flack was diagnosed in 2022 with ALS (often called Lou Gehrig's disease) and no longer performs. She does, however, continue to oversee the Roberta Flack Foundation, which supports aspiring creatives and other causes important to her.

"Roberta's gifts in the vocal arena are astounding – her pacing, her tone, her phrasing. But she started out at Howard University (when she was only 16) as a classical pianist. One of her teachers overheard her singing and suggested she concentrate on her vocals," said Douglas.

"When putting together a show, I dig deep into the performer to learn not just what everyone already knows, but to share lesser-known stories that are illuminating as to who the person is," said Douglas.

One of those stories involves a song now synonymous with Flack – "The First Time Ever I Saw His Face."

"She had put it on one of her albums, but it wasn't going anywhere. Then Clint Eastwood heard it on the radio and loved it. He asked if he could license it for his film 'Play Misty for Me' and offered \$1,000 for the rights, because that was all the money he had left in his budget. He was told he could have it for a thousand pennies because they didn't think the song was going anywhere. He obtained the rights, put it

in his movie and the song exploded with popularity."

Although Douglas will be celebrating the music and life of Roberta Flack, the audience will have the pleasure of enjoying her own powerful and expressive vocals. Vocals that allow Douglas to easily transition from a smoky contralto to a rich soprano in such a smooth and natural way – that, according to Live at the Orinda! producer Michael Williams – they can "sometimes take you by surprise."

"Natalie's tribute shows have become legendary as you not only learn things about the artist to whom she's paying tribute, you learn things about Natalie through her stories and the way she interprets the material," said Williams. "She creates an intimacy with her audience that makes you feel like she's your best friend, and you can't wait to hear what she has to say next."

Douglas believes cabaret allows artists to share with the audience something about themselves, or if it's a tribute show, something about the humanity of the people they are celebrating.

"In cabaret, there's a dialogue between the singer and the audience. I think that's what we really crave when we go to a live performance. When someone is singing about heartbreak on stage, and we feel it as an audience, something special happens that is healing for us as a global community," said Douglas.

Before putting together a tribute show, Douglas does a great deal of research, which speaks of her love of learning. The singer graduated from high school at 16 and earned a Magna Cum Laude Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology, theater and women's studies from University of



JEREMY RYAN

Award-winning singer, Natalie Douglas, brings her considerable vocal and acting talents to Live at the Orinda! on April 21 in a special tribute to the fabled Roberta Flack. Douglas will not only sing some of Flack's most memorable songs, but she will also share lesser-known stories about the Grammy Award legend.

Southern California. At the tender age of 19, she began graduate school at University of California, Los Angeles, where she obtained a master's degree in psychology and theater.

"I love doing the research. Although it can be daunting trying to condense all the information into an approximately 70-minute show," said Douglas. "Of the 21 tribute shows I've done so far, only Roberta Flack and Dolly Parton received consistent praise from the people I contacted. They all had stories about how kind they were. Both women have taken their fame, their money, their power and used it to help future generations."

The same thing could be said about Douglas. A respected educator, she has worked with singers of all ages in both the United States and Europe and continues to present diversity workshops and master classes in public and private schools.

A few years ago, Douglas did some research on her own family. Adopted as a baby, she joined Ancestry.com to research her birth parents and discovered her biological father, Rev. Arnold Townsend.

A pillar of the African American community in San Francisco, Townsend was delighted to meet the daughter he never knew existed. Townsend had no idea his high school girlfriend was pregnant when he left for college. He and Douglas, however, have been making up for lost time with lots of late-night texts and visits back and forth. He will attend her April 21 concert in Orinda.

In addition to celebrating Roberta Flack, Douglas will also perform songs from her new album "Back to the Gardens," which was released late February and includes two of Flack's songs.

"The album primarily contains songs
[SEE DOUGLAS page 22]

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR HUNDREDS OF FIVE STAR REVIEWS!!!



GOT BRUSH OR POISON OAK?

CALL BY APRIL 30 TO SAVE \$250*

Spring is a great time to clear poison oak, juniper & brush!
PROTECT YOUR YARD TODAY



formerly Oakland Hills Brush Clearing

BRUSH PROS
FIRE SAFETY SPECIALISTS

Call us today for a free consultation and price quote
*Min. \$1,800 job size.

CALL (510) 990-9603



THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

Huge Thank You to The Orinda Association Supporters and Friends

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| James and Kristine Abrams | Martin Bloes | Elizabeth Chooi |
| Laura Abrams | Gun Bolin | Anil & Hamida Chopra |
| American Flag Sponsors | Paula Bond-Shapiro | Pat C. L. Chow |
| Andy & Carole Amstutz | Jack Bookbinder | Ann Cinderey |
| Laura Andersen | Severin & Margaret Borenstein | City of Orinda |
| Becky Anderson | Graue - Bose Family | Clayton Valley Concord Sunrise Rotary |
| David & Sandra Anderson | Steve & Marcia Boyd | Mary Clemency |
| John David Anderson | Nawn Boyer | Linda & Lenny Cohen |
| Nan Andrews | Barb Brawner | Anil, Linda & Ari Comelo |
| Anonymous | Michael Chinn & Mari Breazeale | Stephen Controulis |
| Michael Arkelian | Bill Brobeck | Kathy & Jeff Cordova |
| Christine Armer | Dan & Jeanne Brown | Bill Cosden |
| Mary Arnerich-King | Bryan Silveira State Farm | Peter & Judy Coy |
| Artdeshine | John & Kelley Buestad | Larry & Nancy Crevin |
| TC & Marianne Aude | Jacalyn Buettner | RL & DA Cummings |
| Donnelley Austria | Buddy Burke | Yvonne Curran |
| T. Wesley Ayers | | Richard & Susan Curry |
| Jonathon & Shelley Bagg | | |



LISA BURLINI
Director of Seniors Around Town and longtime Orinda resident, Kate Wiley, co-created, with the City of Orinda, the Seniors Around Town Program, now in its 19th year of continuous operation.



LISA BURLINI
Children rolled up in their decorated scooters to pose in front of the Orinda Community Center with the patriotic balloon wreath last year at the annual 4th of July parade.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jeff & Ruth Bailey | Burke & Landers Families | Lisa Cvecko |
| Jeffrey Balaguras | Lisa Burlini | Joffa & Ellen Dale |
| Kathleen Balamuth | Robert & Karen Burt | D'Anna Family |
| Carlos & Josie Baltodano | Katherine Byrne | Daniel Danzig |
| Corinda Barbour | David & Susan Calkins | Nancy & Victoria Debenham |
| Jim Barnett | Patti Camras | Sandra Debusschere |
| Kathy & Reg Barrett | Canopy Health | Vince & Kathie Dell'Aquila |
| Sharon Bartlett | Barbara Carrigg | Patricia DeMichele |
| Margaret Beck | Jacqueline Carroll | Gary & Carolyn Depolo |
| Bonnie Bell | Daniel & Sylvia Carter | Ken & Donna Derr |
| Richard & Michelle Bellows | Casa Orinda | Peter & Patricia Dinkelspiel |
| Benefit Marketing | Steve Catton & Maureen Sheehy | Bobbie & Fred Dodson |
| Margaret Bentson | Peyton Chang | Kay Dubnoff |
| Laurence W. Berger | Lillian Chantalat | Dunham Family |
| Diane & Denis Bianchi | Christopher Chapman | [SEE SUPPORTERS page 12] |
| David Biggs | Chevron | |
| Robert & Martha Bilbrey | Beverly Chickering | |

Law Offices of
VICTORIA ROBINSON SMITH

Spring is a good time to deal with your real estate and contract needs. Please let me know how I can help.

**Real Estate Contracts
Easements, Loans,
Leases
Title & Escrow**

vrslaw@pacbell.net
Tel: (925) 253-1844
www.orindarealestateattorney.com

The **GRUBB Co.**
REALTORS

Lafayette | Orinda | Moraga
Berkeley | Oakland | Piedmont

Rebecca Ciccio
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE MATTERS

☎ 917.482.6780
CalDRE#01891757
GRUBBCO.COM

Rotary Club of Orinda

Be our Guest for Lunch and a Great Speaker
Wednesdays, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
Orinda Community Center

75 Years of Service in Orinda

orindarotary.org rotarycluboforinda@gmail.com

Friendly Reliable Service

Serving Orinda since 1999

ORINDA SHELL AUTO CARE

Kathy Mitchell
Owner

WE SERVICE

- AIR CONDITIONING
- ELECTRICAL REPAIR
- WARRANTY REPAIR
- WHEEL ALIGNMENTS
- SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE
- BRAKES AND SUSPENSION

info@orindashellautocare.com
www.orindashellautocare.com
9 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

ASE CERTIFIED

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

◆ SUPPORTERS from page 11

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Laurie Dunn | Tre & Jim Frane | David Graeven |
| Mary Jane Duthie | Helen & Robert Frank | Marjory Graue |
| Sean Eddy | Jonathan & Deborah Frank | S.K. Gupta |
| Barbara Edwards | Kathy Frenklach | Marisa & Jorge Gutierrez |
| David & Lynne Ehlers | Glenn & Suzanne Friedman | Ruth Haines |
| Joyanne Elkinton Walker | Andrew Gail | Donald & Nancy Hall |
| Patricia Ellsworth | Gary & Elaine Gallaher | Jack Hallahan |
| Albert Engel | William & Bonnie Gallogly | Norm Hamilton |
| Lisa & Peter Engstrom | Susan Garell | Susan Hamilton |
| Environmental Quality Organization, LLC | Dennis & Darlene Gee | Henry Hammon |
| Kathleen Enzerink | Jill Gelster | Jud & Judy Hammon |
| Ingrid Evans | Joan Getsinger | Steve & Tish Harwood |
| Dennis & Natalie Fay | John Gilmore | Laurie & Dennis Heath |
| Finola Fellner | Raife Giovinazzo | Robert & Arlene Hegarty |
| Kathy & John Fernbacher | Karen Gleason | Bea Heggie |
| Alfred & Janet Ferreira | Patricia Gleason | Gayl Hirschfeld |
| Gus & Sugar Filice | | Robert Hodas |
| | | Sally & Ken Hogarty |

★ Thank You to Our 4th of July Volunteers ★

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Michelle and Julian Arrigotti | Steve Harwood | Andy and Nicole Radlow |
| Mia Balonick | Summer Jones | Jiya Rao |
| Jeff and Derek Bond | Jessica and Mitch Kelly | Blake and Kevin Redford |
| Boys Team Charity | David and Grayson Keenan | Will Richardson |
| Jackie Buettner | Christina Kerr | Luke, Libby and Sam Sagara |
| Lisa Burlini | LARIG Members | Kelly Sopak |
| Scott Butler | Chris Laszcz-Davis | Eloise Sotelo |
| CERT Members | Mifay Liu | Trish, Henry and Josie Ward |
| Liza Chooi | Gail McIntyre | Bill and Marie Waterman |
| Bill Cosden | Abigail Meyers | Jill and Casey Yung |
| Alex Drexel | Ryan Mitra | |
| Mark Estis | National Charity League | |
| Meghan Frey | Duncan and Julie Oliver | |
| | Cindy Powell | |

And to Starbucks for donating the coffee that kept the team working hard.

*All our gratitude
Sally Hogarty and Carson Cordova, Co-Chairs*



LISA BURLINI

The Meadow Swim and Tennis Club float was one of many representing Lamorinda youth organizations in last year's 4th of July parade.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathleen Finch | Alan & Renee Goldhammer | Julia Hollister |
| Marjorie Fine | David Goldsmith | Meggin Hollister |
| Bob & Ellie Fisher | Audrey Gordon | Robin K.S. Holmes |
| Charles Fisher | Simon & Paula Goren | David & Hillary Hoppock |
| Joe & Virgie Fitzpatrick | Cathy & Jeff Goshorn | Marcia & Charles Horne |
| Gary & Susan Forman | Eugene Gottfried | Keith & Susan Horrocks |
| Robert & Janet Formanek | Arlene & Alan Gould | Jacquelyn & Bruce Horwitz |
| Jeri & Herb Foster | Anne Goulding | Harry & June Howe |
| Gary & Barbara Fouts | | |

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cara Hoxie | John & JoAnne Kaminski | James & Kristin Lamble |
| William Hudson | Paul Kane | James & Linda Landau |
| Scott & Lisa Hulse | Robert & Marjorie Kaplan | Mari & Walter Landauer |
| Dave & Trudi Hummel | Ellen Kapoor | Roberta Landers |
| Brandyn Iverson | Jason & Kristin Kaune | Chris Laszcz-Davis |
| Keith & Susan Jacobsen | Don & Melinda Kavanagh | Kim Laughton |
| Lucille Jacobus | James Keefe & Lorna Lee | Diane Lautz |
| Irene Jewell | David & Margo Kelly | Andy & Lisa LaVelle |
| Glenn & Deborah Johansen | Jan Kerr | Jeanne Laye |
| Dwight Johnson | Michael & Elizabeth Kersten | Wen-Shee Lee |
| Elizabeth Johnson | Jeff & Cecily Kingston | Barry Levin & Jan Hale-Levin |



LISA BURLINI

Scouts carry The Orinda Association 4th of July Parade banner acknowledging major parade sponsors: The Pease Family, Mechanics Bank, Village Realtors, Chevron and the Harwood Family.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Kenneth & Jane Johnson | Karen Kistler | Steven & Carolyn Levy |
| Rod & Sandy Jones | Juanita Kizor | Lauren Lewis |
| Daniel Judge & Christina Cordoza | Kathy Klein | Marty & Rich Lewis |
| Bill & Joey Judge | Chuck & Joanne Kovely, Jr. | Sarah Liron |
| Ben & Barbara Kacyra | Craig & Anna Lisa Kronman | Scott Litchfield |
| Ernest & Phoebe Kahl | Raymond Kunz | Beverly & Ronald Loos |
| Lynn Kalmar | | Susan Lucier |
| | | [SEE SUPPORTERS page 13] |

ALEXIS THOMPSON
REALTOR®

Energetic and expert representation for more than 15 years

Offering a tailored approach for every buyer and seller

Call me to discuss the best strategy for achieving your real estate goals!

510.816.0706
Athompson@villageassociates.com
www.AlexisThompsonRE.com
DRE# 01849227

Village ASSOCIATES

Combine and get in on the surprise.

Kelly Sopak, Agent
Insurance Lic#: 0D03981
1 Northwood Drive Suite 1
Orinda, CA 94563
Bus: 925-253-7700
Cell: 925-726-4444
Mon-Thurs 9:00am to 5:00pm
Fridays 9:00am to 4:30pm
Evenings & Weekends by Appt

Here's the deal, our Home and Auto rates are already great. But when you combine with State Farm®, you can save even more. Call me to discover your surprisingly great rates on Home and Auto today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.

State Farm

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
State Farm Florida Insurance Company
Winter Haven, FL
2001863

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

Thank You to Our Car Show Volunteers

Carlos Baltodano
Boys Team Charity,
Orinda Chapter –
24 volunteers
Bill Brobeck
Jackie Buettner
Lisa Burlini
Liza Chooi
Bill Criswell
David Dierks
Xavier Estrada
Jill Gelster * Co-Chair
Cathy Goshorn
Jeff Goshorn

Jeff Heyman
Hans Hiller
Erica Holt
Chris Laszcz-Davis
Master Parkers-
12 volunteers
Todd Mercer
Julie Mercer
Miramonte Auto Club –
13 volunteers
National Charity League,
Acalanes Chapter –
10 volunteers
Cindy Powell



Jon Powell
Pam Schroeder
Kelly Sopak
Eloise Sotelo
Mario Urquilla
Jay Ward
Bill Waterman * Chairman
Marie Waterman
Kate Wiley



LISA BURLINI

Last year's 19th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show drew hundreds of attendees who enjoyed more than 200 classic cars, music, food and special exhibits. This year's event is Saturday, Sept. 7. For more information, visit orindacarshow.com.

◆ SUPPORTERS from page 12

Jenchyn Luh
Linda Luini
Janine & Ken Lyons
Cinda & Thomas
MacKinnon
Steven & Mary Beth
MacLennan
Bruce Macler
Janet & Vincent Maiorana
Ruth Majdrakoff
Malkani-Cardozo Family
Diane & Paul Maltzer

Elaine & Scott Manley
Richard & Gloria
Marchick
Mary & Bob Marshall
Mash Petroleum
Mo Mashhoon
Alma Mast
Sari-Lois Mattal-Neft
Willy & Susan Mautner
Bruce & Vera Maytum
Beverly & James McCall
Jeanne McCormick

Bradford & Jennifer
McCullough
Karen & Patrick McGeer
John & Sandra McGonigle
Bruce McGurk & Janette
Cushman
Gail McIntyre
Peirce McKee
Shirley McPheeters
Robert & Virginia
Meadowcroft
Mechanics Bank Orinda

Richard & Mary Meier
Mercedes Benz of Walnut
Creek
Michael & Kathy
Merchant
Cathy Merrill
Peter & Aliza Metzner
Kimberly Meyers-Wirtz
Helene Meyronet
Mark Miller
Carolyn Mills
Jody Morrison
Carolyn Mueller
John Munday
Hannah Murphy
Terry Murphy & Ellen
Hoffnagel
Jim & Patty Murray
Anne & Jeff Nash
Sivakumar Natarajan
Carol Nelson
Eileen & Michael Nevitt

Eartha Newsong
Ann Newton Cane
Royce & Marjorie
Nicolaisen
Jim & Judi Nishimine
Helen Noorthoek
Ann & Gary Nye
Orinda Books
Orinda Classic Car Show
Banner Sponsors
Orinda Community
Foundation
Orinda Motors
Orinda Optometry Group
Orinda Park & Rec
Foundation
Orinda Shell Auto Care
Orinda Village Antiques
Orinda Woman's Club
Elizabeth O'Shea
Kazue Osugi
Mati & Silvia Otsmaa

Semik & Laurie
Oungoulian
Steve Paddock
Vanessa Padon
Paul & Sheri Palubicki
Anne Parr
Ron & Martha Parriott
Bernice & Pat Patterson
Arthur & Susan Paull
Julia Paulsen
Ina & Philip Pavey
Judith A. Peak
Janet & Norm Pease
Heather Pehanick
Michael & Virginia Peiser
Allen & Terry Pennebaker
Cyrle H. Perry
Nancy Peterson
Bill & Mary Phelon
Edward D. Pike
Mary Alice Pinkham
[SEE SUPPORTERS page 14]



LISA BURLINI

Miramonte Automotive Club volunteers enjoying pizza after helping decorate the Orinda Classic Car Show staging area on Sept. 8. Back row (L-R) Dominic Sorenson, Santi Velasquez, Brody Schraith, Cyrus Jowharchi and Caleb Elkind, middle (L-R) Tyler Akel, Rishi Haldar, Aidan Rascher and Eli Leal-Schuman, front row (L-R) Connor Rudolph, Miika Strickler, Sammy Ishikawa and Carter Camp.

AAAAA RENT-SPACE
Store It Yourself & Save

25% OFF

FOR 3 MONTHS ON SELECTED UNITS
GOOD 4/1/24 - 4/30/24

WE SELL BOXES & PACKING SUPPLIES

Hours of operation
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm office
Mon-Sat 7am-6pm yard
Sunday Yard only 10am-4pm

455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F
(925) 643-2060
www.5Aspace.com

congratulations!

CLASS OF 2024

MIRAMONTE HIGH SCHOOL, OIS,
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

GRAD AD

THE ORINDA NEWS

CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE
WITH A PERSONALIZED AD!
SPECIAL RATES

www.orindaassociation.org/gradad

Due by
April 10

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

◆ SUPPORTERS from page 13

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cindy & Jonathan Powell | Sonya Ruehl | Bella Shirin |
| Greg Powell | James & Jane Ryan | John Siamas |
| Paige Powell | Margaret Ryerson | Dennis & Nicole Sidlauskas |
| Allan & Kit Prager | Bruce Saldinger & Lynne Royer | Sarah & Lawrence Siegel |
| Kristina Prager | Don Sanguinetti | Bryan Silveira - State Farm |
| J.M. Pressler | Lenny Sass | Ron Simi |
| Peter Read | Barbara Schafer | Shauna & Mark Simmonds |
| David & Nan Reed | Robert & Caroline Schmalz | Sharon Simpson |
| Maggi Reeves | Greg Schmidt & Wendy Waggener | Singlestad Construction, Inc. |
| Republic Services of Contra Costa | Harvey & Kathleen Schochet | Nancy Siu |
| Barbara & Al Resnick | Pam & Gary Schroeder | Ellis Sjoberg |
| Robert & Carol Riddell | Ian Scott | Maryann Skitarelic |
| Janet & Ben Riley | Lisa & Steven Sernett | Daniel Slaven |
| Ed & Teresa Ritelli | Ralph & Sue Severson | Janet Sloan |
| Mary Kate Rittmann | Kate Shallan | Candia Smith |
| Penny Rix | David Shapiro & Sharon Wheatley | Deborah Smith |
| Michael and Charlene Robinson | Stuart & Ann Sharf | Florence Sonia |
| James & Nita Roethe | Carolyn Sheaff | Kelly Sopak |
| Richard Rogan | Bryon & Andie Sheets | Bruce & Catherine Sorenson |
| Lorrae Rominger | | Lionel & Ann Sorenson |
| Rotary Club of Orinda | | |
| Pat Rudebusch | | |

SAT Volunteer Drivers 2024

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Dave Anderson | Dennis Fay | Chris Laszcz-Davis |
| Mary Arnerich-King | Brian Fowler | Diane Lautz |
| Betsy Baus | Cate Furco | Angie Leong |
| Gun Bolin | Rob Garner | Linda Martin |
| Barb Brawner | Dianne Gilbert | Gail McIntyre |
| Kelley Buestad | Cathy Goshorn | Pam McKulla |
| Karen Burt | M'Liss Greenlee | Don Monaco |
| Lib Ann Capelli | Trupti Haldar | Dave Morrow |
| Molly Cheung | Laurie Hall | Junko Nagatani |
| Steve Corbitt | Susan Hamilton | Vanessa Padon |
| Kathy Cordova | Lary Hanshaw | Maggie Reeves |
| Lisa Cvecko | Tish Harwood | Lenny Sass |
| Keith Davidge | Lauren Hofmayer | Russ Salmon |
| Mary DeLuna | Keith Horrocks | Joel Schaffer |
| Laurie Dunn | Cara Hoxie | Pamela Schroeder |
| Jill Ellis | Juanita Kizor | Gretchen Scott |
| Jim Ellis | Ali Kozell | |



- | |
|----------------|
| Lisa Sernett |
| Dan Slaven |
| Patty Stanten |
| Erik Swanson |
| Lauren Trailer |
| Helen Tyrrell |
| Bill Waterman |
| Marie Waterman |
| Greta Westeson |
| Kate Wiley |
| Molly Wilson |
| Jay Wingo |
| Charlie Wingo |

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Eloise Sotelo & Marke Estis | RH & KC Thompson | Judy White |
| E M Spanos | Tammy Thompson | Marjorie White |
| Steve & Margene Stahle | Tom Trowbridge | Shirley White |
| Steven & Sally Stanten | Nancy & Donald Turtle | William White |
| State Farm - Kelly Sopak | Ted & Lida Urban | Jack Wickware |
| Lucia Steger | Caroline Utz | Kate & Rich Wiley |
| Christine Stoneberg | Bekki Gilbert-Van Voorhis | Randy & Maile Williams |
| Arthur & Carole Strand | Christine & Robert Veale | Amelia Wilson |
| Fran & David Strykowski | Village Associates - Ignacio Vega | Raymond & Dorothy Wilson |
| Suzanne Stuart | William & Joanna Wagner | Cheryl & Jay Wingo |

PILATES



*Nationally Certified, experienced teachers.
*Innovative Classes and Private sessions
*We work with every BODY and All ages


Visit our website for great offers.

CoreKinetics Take control of your health.
www.CoreKinetics.com



The Well Balanced Workout

925-708-3279
Please call for an appointment
50 Vashell Way, #120, Orinda, CA 94563



The best time to buy or sell?

Frankly, today.

New inventory is coming! I have a few homes coming to market soon. So if you are thinking of buying or selling in the Lamorinda area this year, give me a call. I specialize in bringing buyers and sellers together to create happy moments!



925.980.3829
Shannon@ShannonConner.com
ShannonConner.com
DRE# 01885058

SHANNON CONNER

gardennest



- Spring Perennials
- Herb & Vegetable starts
- Seeds & Gardening Tools
- Fresh Flower Bar
- Indoor Plants & Pottery
- Meditation Mondays from 6-7 pm
- Leather and Beaded Jewelry Workshops



New Hours Mon-Fri: 10-5:30
Sat: 9-5:30 & Sun: 10-3

105 Orinda Way, Orinda 925-546-0118

Follow us on Instagram @gardensteshop



Seniors Around Town (SAT) provides reliable, no-cost, door-to-door transportation to doctors' and other appointments for Orinda seniors. The program is powered by volunteer drivers who are also Orinda residents.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| David & Jean Sullivan | Robert & Gerrie Walker | Patricia Winther |
| Susan F. Hurrell CPA | Jeff & Kira Wampler | Shuet Wong & Susanna Hung Tse |
| Erik Swanson | William & Marie Waterman | Tom & Amy Worth |
| Hugh & Sharon Tama | Krista Weber | Gary & Vicky Yancey |
| Darlene & Willie Tamayo | Chase Wellsfry | Jeanette Yavor |
| Nat & Susan Taylor | Greta Westeson | Molly Young |
| Janet Thibault | Mark Whatley & Danuta Zaroda | Joe Zablocki |
| Clark Thompson- Village Associates | Donna White | Jane & Mark Zuercher |
| Nancy Thompson | | |

Back Yard Office or Guest House



- Studio/Gym
- Site-Built with Deck
- No Permit Required
- Ready in 3 Weeks!



www.GreenSheds.net 925-872-3187

COMMUNITY

Straddling Two Cultures: Spring Equinox with Norouz Celebration

By ALISON BURNS
Staff Writer
alisonjburns@gmail.com

One would think that with so much world news constantly accosting our senses over the course of 24 hours, we'd all have a better understanding of other cultures.

Sadly, however, the occasional "good news" items are always outweighed by the bad – which is the news we always remember.

Minoo Akbarian, Banafsheh Rafii, Tandis Sayadi and Farigol Bineshpour are four Bay Area Persian women who are a little weary of being asked, as soon as they reveal their nationality, if they escaped from their home country.

"When people hear we're from Iran they always have certain assumptions," said Akbarian. She admits some are partly true, "and there are other things about our culture that are misrepresented."

But for those of us living 7,000 miles away, one thing we know about this part of the world is that since the revolutionary Ayatollah Khomeini became Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979, women's rights have been severely and relentlessly restricted.

For example, any woman running afoul of Iran's morality police by refusing to wear the hijab (a veil or headscarf worn by Muslim women) risks imprisonment or worse.

The difference in freedoms for women is an important reason these four Iranian moms wanted to create a connection between the two cultures they straddle. And the best way to achieve this, they decided, was to showcase their own rich traditions via Iran's two major festivals, both of which are non-religious and more than 3,000 years old.

Commemorating the Spring Equinox, Norouz marks the renewal of nature and promotes peace and solidarity.

At the other end of the year, Yalda celebrates the winter solstice. Like most family holidays across the world, the occasion consists of special foods, stories, jokes, music, dancing and wish-making.

Last month, the four friends launched their first celebratory event – the Norouz Bazaar – and chose the Wilder Art and Garden Center as their venue. It was a huge undertaking and they were all a little nervous about whether it would succeed.

The venture attracted 28 vendors – mostly from the Bay Area, but others from as far away as Los Angeles, Missouri and Canada – selling games, clothes, jewelry, ceramics, textiles, homemade pastries and candies, all under a cloudless sky. There was also plenty of fun for younger visitors.

A scattering of tables held the seven traditional Norouz items that can be found in just about every Iranian home at this time of year: each an individual symbol of beauty, patience, love, affluence, good health, growth and sunrise.

Vendor Pari Chehrehssa, who recently moved from Canada to Lafayette, eagerly embraced the opportunity to have a table with her sister Parisa Vaaleh and friend Mali Tafsiri.

"Joining this event not only allowed me to celebrate Norouz with fellow Iranians from my homeland, but also provided a platform to forge new friendships," Chehrehssa said. "The event proved to be a remarkable success as I connected with numerous local artists, made new friends and successfully showcased and sold my hand-painted silk Swarovski-embellished crystals and tiny painting necklaces."

Although the majority of visitors to the



CHARLEEN EARLEY

Celebrating the ancient Persian festival of Norouz at the bustling Wilder Art and Garden Center on March 10. (L-R) Mali Tafsiri and sisters Parisa Vaaleh and Pari Chehrehssa were among the 28 stall holders showcasing their exquisite handmade wares.

Norouz Bazaar were Iranian, Rafii was pleased to see Westerners also enjoying this exotic festival.

"I would love this community to know that we are not what they see on the news," said Rafii. "One of our missions is to empower our kids about their culture and

not be embarrassed by what is happening around the world."

"We are not our government," added Akbarian.

Rafii agreed. "We can be elegant," she said. "We can be classy and we can organize beautiful events." ■

CLEAR CREEK TAHOE OFFERS A PRIVATE, MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLE COMMUNITY, WITH AN EXTENSIVE ARRAY OF PREMIER AMENITIES, ALL WHILE PROVIDING THE BENEFITS OF NEVADA RESIDENCY.



NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED COORE AND CRENSHAW DESIGNED GOLF COURSE



AWARD WINNING CLUBHOUSE AND WELLNESS CENTER



SUMMIT CAMP - FAMILY CAMPUS



TWIN PINES LAKE HOUSE - PRIVATE BEACH AND LAKE TAHOE ACCESS



CLEAR CREEK
TAHOE

SELECT RESIDENTIAL AND MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A VISIT, PLEASE CONTACT:

Christopher Appling, PGA | Director of Membership | Realtor® NV S.0193820 | Chase International

775.392.4360 | cappling@clearcreektahoe.com



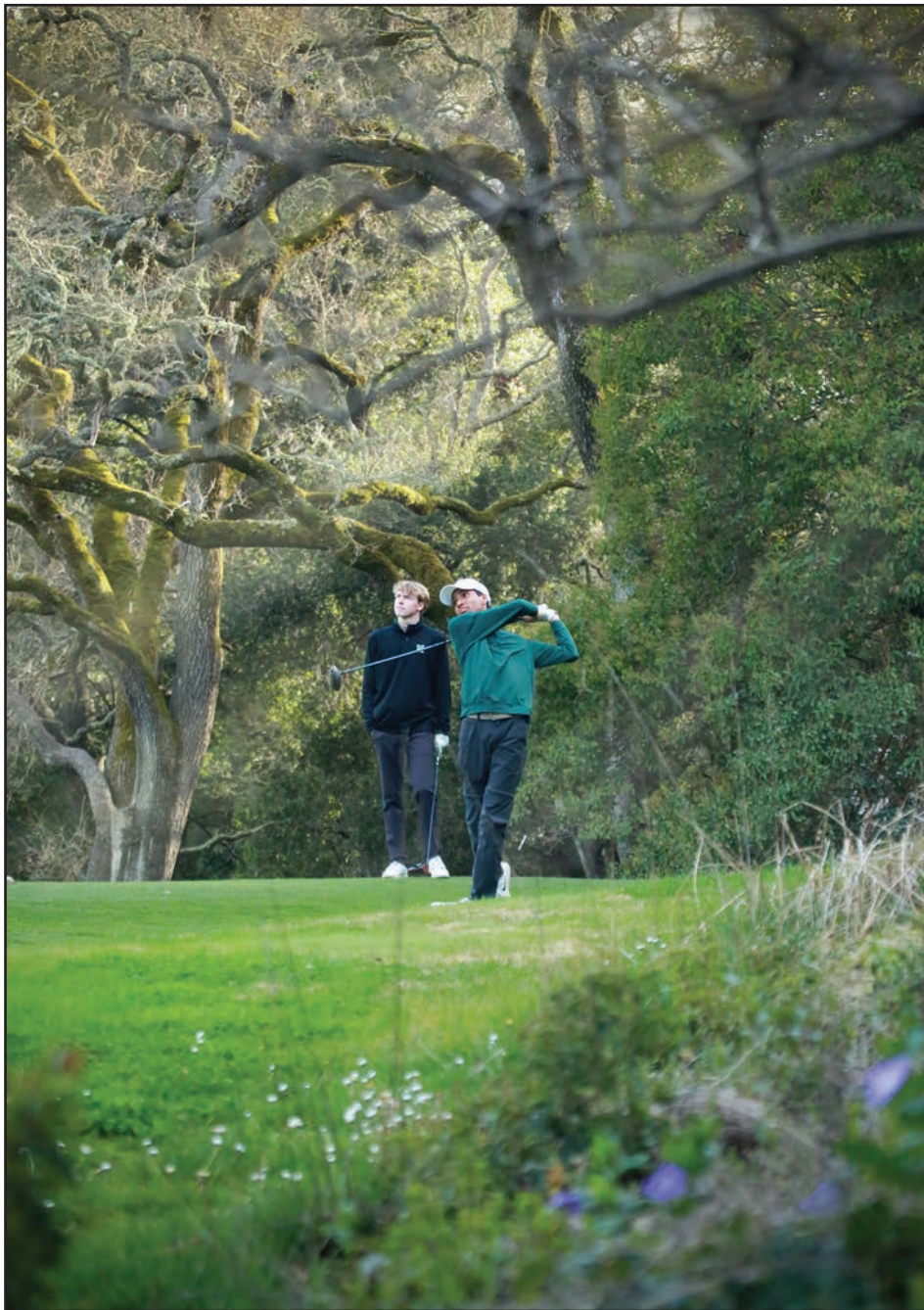
MHS '98

4 GENERATIONS IN ORINDA



powered by dot.

SPORTS



MARK BELL

Shhhwaaaa-Tink! Miramonte High School junior Raul Dial (R) and senior John Dunne (L) tee off from a picturesque hole #5 at the historic Orinda Country Club. In this late afternoon match against Head-Royce School on March 26, Dial shot 37 - the lowest score of the day.

GAME ON
 Miramonte Boys Golf and
 the Orinda Country Club

MARK BELL
 mark@omegalightingdesign.com



There are not many 100-year-old country clubs that would trust their prized golf course to a band of high school boys. Heck, there aren't many 100-year-old country clubs. But the Orinda Country Club, (known as the OCC to most folks) is the exception, and a long-time supporter of the Matadors golf program. Never charging the high school a fee – ever.

Recently I started asking questions about the talent of the Miramonte boys' golf team for 2024, and within everyone's answer seemed to be an appreciation for the Orinda Country Club where the Matadors practice and compete.

"To be able to learn on a course of this level and beauty is a dream come true, right?" said one parent who had come out to watch the action at the cusp of sunset in early March. It's by far the oldest course the team plays on, and its beauty is almost a distraction.

It feels like there's heritage and tradition in every blade of grass here.

As most locals know, it's an 18-hole course nestled in a hillside of old growth oaks and stunning views, providing challenging play, a variety of hole styles and picturesque fairways. It has a par 70, a slope rating of 132 and wildlife onlookers at almost every hole.

Great practice for our Miramonte team, which looks to be a strong one.

Whittled down from the 60+ students who initially signed up for tryouts, the handful that made the team are outstanding. I watched seniors like John Dunne, Bowen Sande and Dylan Tung master some pretty dicey holes. One being the eighth. On the down slope surrounded by your choice of unfriendly sand traps. It's what the boys playing it called "hairy." And it's only a par 3. Overshoot the green and your ball has a substantial downhill adventure.

Knowing these unique course challenges makes our "home field" game strong.

[SEE SPORTS page 22]

Miramonte Girls Soccer Wins NCS



MARK BELL

The biggest hidden gem in the gold mine of great players that helped lead Miramonte to their North Coast Section double overtime victory on Feb.23, has to be goalie Talia Kardon, a freshman. Beginning the play-off game against #2 ranked Cardinal Newman, confidently standing in front of the net behind team score leaders like Chayse Yu, Katrina White and Inara Inesi, Kardon was ultimately the deciding factor in the epic overtime victory. Called up from the Junior Varsity squad, she read the last two shots right and saved the team in the final penalty kick phase of overtime in the Division 3 match up. The Matadors finished #1 thanks to #00.



Brian Clark, Psy.D.
 licensed clinical psychologist
 PSY 25198

ADOLESCENTS · ADULTS · FAMILIES

specializing in:
 Achievement Pressure
 AD/HD
 Parenting Support
 Anxiety
 School Stress
 Depression

954 Risa Road · Lafayette
 (925) 385-8050
 www.brianclarkpsyd.com

**Empower Change
 as a CASA Volunteer**



Are you ready to make a lasting impact in the life of youth in foster care? Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. Your presence will provide stability and ensure the child's voice is heard when it matters most.

Change a child's story as a CASA Volunteer!

JOIN US →

cccocasa.org

volunteer@cccocasa.org
 925.256.7284 ext. 7

Time to buy or sell? Let me help you.

See what my clients say at www.myagentsuzanne.com

*Clients Are
 Always First*

Suzanne Toner Geoffrion
 925-699-4832 mobile/text
 CalBRE# 01878803
 International President's Circle
 Top 100 Sales Coldwell Banker SF Bay Area

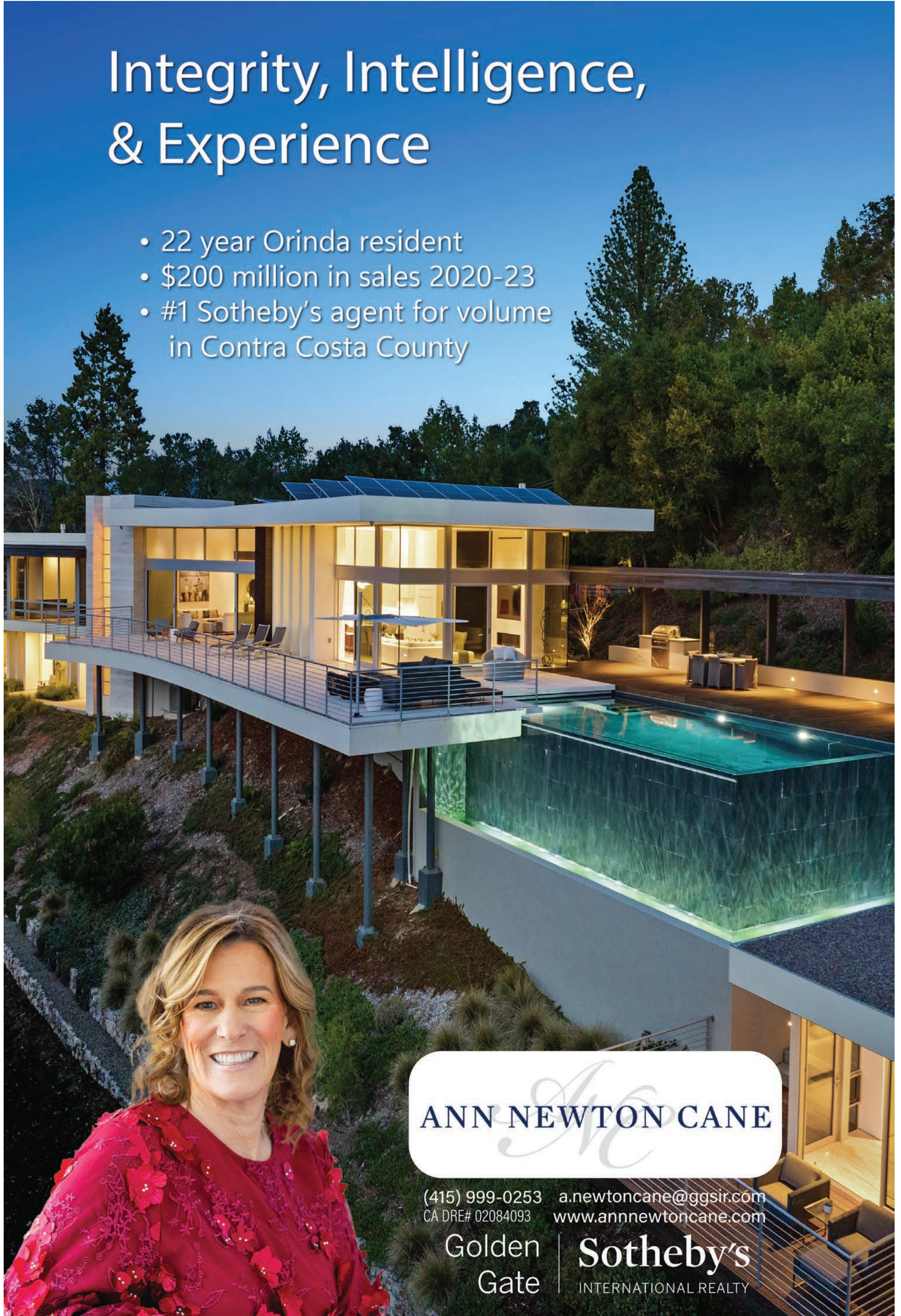


©2024 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

ADVERTISEMENT

Integrity, Intelligence, & Experience

- 22 year Orinda resident
- \$200 million in sales 2020-23
- #1 Sotheby's agent for volume in Contra Costa County



ANN
ANN-NEWTON CANE

(415) 999-0253 a.newtoncane@ggsir.com
CA DRE# 02084093 www.annnewtoncane.com

Golden Gate

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

OBITUARIES / CLASSIFIEDS

Deborah Stephenson Reed



Her family is deeply saddened to share that Deborah Stephenson Reed, of Orinda, passed away at home on Feb. 27 at age 54, due to complications of metastatic breast cancer.

Born to Robert K. and Nancy J. Stephenson on Sept. 14, 1969, Deb grew up in Davis, CA, and graduated from St. Francis Catholic High School in Sacramento. She graduated from Simmons College with a bachelor's degree in American studies.

Deb and Mitch Reed met on the first day of ninth grade. Mitch was madly in love with her from the second he saw her beautiful smile and the incredible energy and humor that drew everyone to her. Once they began dating, they were together for the next 40 years. They married in June 1991, and were overjoyed to welcome the first of their wonderful daughters, Hannah

Jane, in 1992. The family moved in 1996 to Northern California, Deb's true home. Elizabeth Virginia joined the family in 1998. The family recently expanded further with the birth of grandchildren Oliver Joseph and Lilly Wolf Olson to Hannah and her husband Dr. Kyle Olson.

Deb packed more into her 54 years than most people could in 100. All who knew her will remember her as a force of nature. Deb would drop everything to solve any problem that a friend or family member had. She worked tirelessly as a social worker, volunteer and consultant, contributing her empathy and creativity to countless non-profit organizations. She pursued each of her interests with unbridled enthusiasm: composting, gardening, landscape and interior design and doggy hikes.

The years after her initial diagnosis in 2005 allowed Deb to raise her daughters, plan an amazing wedding for Hannah, know Ellie's wonderful partner Riga, and fill her grandchildren's lives with Gomma's joy and craziness. She was a ringleader and entertainer, hosting epic parties with costume contests, talent shows and even a live piñata (a.k.a. Mitch). Even after her disease returned, Mitch and Deb continued to travel the world. Her family is grateful for that time, but the world will never be the same without her.

Deb is survived by her parents Robert ("Kim") Stephenson and Nancy Stephenson, husband Mitch Reed, daughters Hannah (Kyle Olson) and Ellie (Riga Moettus), grandchildren Oliver and Lilly Olson, and siblings Bob Stephenson (Michiko Jameson), Jennifer Jones (Rich), and John Stephenson (Nathalie Jans), and a large extended family. Her faithful doggy companion Nacho never left her side.

Her family would like to recognize family friend Elle Stephens and Dr. Mark Moasser, Deb's partners in fighting cancer for 20 years.

Deb loved flowers, but requested that those who wish to honor her make charitable contributions to organizations that are dear to them. ■



The Passing of a Beloved Orinda Couple: Joe and June Haughin

By SALLY HOGARTY
Staff Writer
sallyhogarty@gmail.com

Jovial smiles and cultured English accents greeted all who encountered Joe and June Haughin. Married for 70 years, the long-time Orinda residents passed away within five months of each other. Both were 93 years of age.

Joe was born in Manchester, England, and June in Darlington. Joe was serving in the Royal Air Force in a medical office when he met a young nurse named June and fell in love. The two were married in 1950 and moved to York, England, and began their family.

In 1956, they moved with other family members to Oakland, CA, where Joe worked for The Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters. In 1960, they moved back to York for a year before returning to California and settling in Orinda.

Joe and June shared a life-long commitment to each other and to The Salvation Army, where both were active in music groups.

"My dad's whole life was his church and all his activities. He was a bandsman and sang with the choir. He just loved it," said daughter Heather Brigman.

"Mom joined The Salvation Army when she was 13 years old, after being fascinated by the Darlington Citadel Band. She soon joined the choir and continued singing with different Salvation Army groups for 70 years. It was nice growing up with such a supportive, family-oriented organization," added Brigman.

Brigman, who was born in York, recalls how much Joe loved Cadillacs, but would only buy a model that allowed him to carry his tuba in the trunk or backseat.

"He played tuba in The Salvation Army band. He would take it with him when looking for a new car, and if it didn't fit, then he wouldn't buy that model," said Brigman.

Brigman and her husband Ralph are also

involved with The Salvation Army, coordinating Christmas kettles and running the food pantry – jobs her parents did as well.

She remembers how both of her parents loved talking to people and building up their confidence. June, who had been shy, became a greeter at The Salvation Army, welcoming people as they entered the church.

"The impact on the lives of those she touched will be treasured forever," said Brigman. Dad also had a quiet way of encouraging people regardless of their age, background, problems or needs. They knew they could talk to Joe, and it was safe."

In addition to The Salvation Army, Joe was an Allstate insurance agent for 38 years with his daughter working with him for 11 years and her husband joining them for five years.

"Dad loved meeting people and loved his job, so he stayed on well past retirement age," said Brigman.

Joe was also on The Orinda Association's board of directors for many years, and he and June loved going to Oakland A's games. The two looked forward to their wedding anniversary every year when they would receive an official letter from Queen Elizabeth congratulating them on their anniversary.

Joe and June are survived by their children Heather and Roger, Joe's brother Colin and sister Dorothy, six grandsons and eight great-grandchildren.

"We have a ninth great-grand on the way. Dad knew about that and was so happy about it," said Brigman.

"We are so grateful to The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program. They drove my dad to so many appointments when he finally stopped driving his Cadillac. But he never lost his love for cars. I took him to the Classic Car Show in Orinda a few months before he passed, and he so enjoyed walking around seeing the cars and talking to the owners." ■

The Orinda News
classified ads

Your ad in The Orinda News reaches 9,000 households and businesses in Orinda!

2024
Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline
May	April 8
June	May 8

Ad rates are \$5 per line
\$10 minimum

Form available at:
<https://bit.ly/3NUq7oP>

Enclose your check payable to *The Orinda Association* and mail to *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563 or go online to www.theorindanews.org. We reserve the right to reject any ad. Classified ads must be prepaid. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Ads can also be paid at <https://bit.ly/3NUq7oP>.

...classified ads

Household Services
Home improvements & remodels, electrical, redwood fences, painting, deck repair, gutter guards, and everything else. Call Kevin 925-586-0940

Wanted
Donate Your Vehicle to The Orinda Association. Very easy! Call 925.326.5868.
Volunteer Drivers Needed for Seniors Around Town program in Orinda. Call 925.402.4506 for more info.
Unwanted Eye Glasses are collected for Lions Club at The Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

39 Years of Experience

CLARKTHOMPSON

REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925.254.8585
ct@clarkthompson.com
clarkthompson.com

License# 00903367

Village ASSOCIATES

No individual broker has **SOLD** more homes.

Baan Thai RESTAURANT
Eat Healthy, Live Healthy
ORGANIC SALADS MADE FRESH DAILY. MANY VEGETARIAN OPTIONS.
WE COOK FROM FAMILY RECIPES.
CATERING & GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE

You are welcome to Dine-In or
Take your food To-Go with Curb Side Pick Up.
We are here for you!

Lunch: Mon. - Sun. 11.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.
Dinner: Mon. - Sun. 4.30 - 9.00 p.m.
99 Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-0989

CALENDAR

On the Calendar in April

- 1 **Lamorinda Idol** - Audition registration through April 30 to students in K-12 grades who either attend school or reside in Lamorinda. Singers may enter as soloists or in groups. Visit LamorindaArts.org/idol-2/ for more information or to register.
- 5 **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** presents "Rotary Big Picture" 7 a.m. Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. lamorindasunrise.org or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com.
First Friday Forum presents William Jagust, professor of public health and neuroscience "Untangling Alzheimer's" 1:30 p.m. Simultaneously livestreamed and in-person at LOPC. See article p. 8.
- 6 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Center Park. Visit cccfm.org or 925.431.8361. Also April 13, 20 and 27. See article p. 23.
Lamorinda Arts Council's Art Embraces Poetry - A call for Poets to Celebrate National Poetry Month. Poets are invited to read their work. Poetry lovers are invited to attend at Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette; LamorindaArts.org/art-embraces-words.
Orinda Theatre presents "Psychotriox Film Festival" 8:30 p.m.
- 7 **Art Gallery at Wilder** presents "Artistic License - A Couple of Artists Married to Art," Lance Jackson and Barbara Lind of Orinda, 2:30 p.m. Wilder is open Mon. - Fri. 3-5 p.m. Visit LamorindaArts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/ for details. See article p. 21.
- 8 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** "17th Arts Ambassadors Youthful Art Lightens the Heart," through April 26, Orinda student art from grades K-12. Reception April 25, 4:30 p.m. with OIS Jazz Band and instrumental performance in the Auditorium at 5 p.m. Visit LamorindaArts.org/current-exhibits-library-gallery/ or call 925.359.9940. See article p. 21.
- 10 **Orinda Parks and Rec Senior Trip** to the Giant's Game, 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Reg. required. 925.254.2445. Visit orindaparksandrec.org or contact orindaparksandrec@cityoforinda.org.
- 11 **Taste of the World** food trucks Orinda Community Center parking lot, 5 - 8 p.m. Also April 18 and 25.
- 12 **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** presents "Rotary Idea Save: Jacky Kwok and Tech Ease! Making Tech Easy for Seniors." 7 a.m. Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. lamorindasunrise.org or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. See article p. 5.
ONE Orinda fundraiser "Impacting the Student Journey," Tickets \$75. Visit oneorinda.org/journey, 6:30 p.m. Wilder Art & Garden Center. See article p. 5.
- 13 **Orinda Theatre** presents "Nightmare in Blood," 11 a.m.
Holden High School Spring Fundraising Event, 4:30 p.m. Highlands Country Club, Oakland.
- 16 **Miramonte High School** boys baseball home game vs. Las Lomas. 3:30 p.m.
Miramonte High School Stunt Games/Cheer vs. College Park. 5:30 p.m. at Miramonte High School.
- 19 **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** presents AAUW-OML: STEM Ambassadors: Changing the World. Saint Mary's College Moraga. ca.aauw.net/stem-conference.
Miramonte High School boys lacrosse home game vs. Berkeley, 7 p.m.
- 20 **Orinda Books**, in celebration of California Native Plants month, Helen Popper, author of "California Native Gardening," Free event, register at bit.ly/3ICdGgx.
- 21 **Live at the Orinda!** presents Natalie Douglas with a special tribute to the music of Roberta Flack. Call 925.254.9060 or go to orindamovies.com/events/. See article p. 10.
- 24 **Orinda Books** Pat's Book Group will read and discuss "Between Two Kingdoms" by Suleika Jaouad, 11 a.m.
Lamorinda Arts Council's Mocktails & Cocktails, 4 p.m. at Tutu's, 35 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. No Host Bar. Just show up. For questions 925.359.9940.
- 25 **ONE Orinda** presents Arts Ambassador Reception 4:30 p.m. Orinda Library Gallery.
- 26 **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** presents "Changing the World of Misfit Jewelry: Steve Ware." 7 a.m. Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. lamorindasunrise.org or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com.



COURTESY PACIFIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Livia Sohn performs with Pacific Chamber Orchestra April 27 at LOPC.

- Miramonte High School** boys lacrosse home game vs. Acalanes, 7 p.m.
- 27 **Chromatica** presents a world premiere choral and instrumental concert music by Christopher Tin with lyrics by Charles Anthony Silvestri. 7 p.m., Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. Tickets and more information at chromaticachorale.org.
Pacific Chamber Orchestra presents Bruch and Mendelssohn, Lawrence Kohl, Music Director, 7:30 p.m. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Tickets at PacificChamberOrchestra.org.
- 30 **Miramonte High School** boys baseball home game vs. Alhambra, 3:30 p.m.

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

◆ TEEN from page 8

mandatory tests. This fall, Yale will again require standardized test scores.

So, the debate continues – should students feel obligated to test?

Ultimately, standardized testing reflects only one facet of an expansive academic record. Obsessing over an enumerated score can ignore other aspects of an application, including GPA and extracurriculars, and (more broadly) corrode mental health.

Individual preference should always trump peer pressure.

This fall, I'll be clicking that Submit Test Score button – not because it measures my academic or personal worth, but simply because I believe it benefits my application.

"Think about what you do with your time," said Brady. "Get curious. Pursue your interests. Help your community. This is your story – not about how you took the SAT, but about what you're inputting into the world." ■

◆ ONE from page 5

complimentary.

Tickets are \$75 and may be purchased at oneorinda.org/journey or at the door, pending availability. Discounted admissions are available for teachers or OUSD/AUHSD district employees.

"I think the people in Orinda are very interested in creating a good community, a good school system ... in every aspect," said Keenan. "I do see people with really the best intentions in mind." ■

◆ SERVICE from page 9

But the greatest thing about Rotary and Service above Self is its ability to change lives. It changed mine. I've made some of my best friends through Rotary and, through service, become connected to this community in ways I did not understand to be possible.

It changed my daughter's life in high school when she volunteered at that eye clinic and an orphanage in Zambia. And the things Rotarians do collectively through Rotary International change lives – save lives – every day.

That's 75 years of Service above Self here in Orinda and around the world. ■

2024 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Annual Contest

Hosted by Friends of the Orinda Library, the contest is open to students who live in or attend high school in Orinda. Categories are Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, Poetry and Short Story. Deadline is April 12. Up to four winners will be awarded \$500 prizes in May. Entry forms: friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/writingcontest or email to contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.org.

THE LINDA FRIEDMAN TEAM
Leading Lamorinda Broker since 1990

 LINDA FRIEDMAN JD, Broker (925) 899-2336 linda@lindafriedman.com DRE 00521002	 PEGGY HARMATZ MBA, Realtor (925) 899-6321 peggy@lindafriedman.com DRE 01200791
<p>www.LindaFriedman.com</p> <p><i>"Charlie and I are so, so grateful for the amazing time and talent you have put into helping us sell our beloved family home. As you said in the first meeting, you would be with us every step of the way... above all, you are magical with your wonderful "selling" skills—we are quite overwhelmed by your exceptional results on our behalf!"</i> – Barbara T</p> <p>Call about great "coming soon" Lamorinda listings!</p>	


CASA ORINDA
 RESTAURANT
 Dinner served Wednesday through Sunday from 4 p.m.
 Closed Monday & Tuesday
 925.254.2981 ■ 20 Bryant Way ■ Orinda, CA 94563


Ann Sharf
Top Producer. Strong Negotiator.
Proven Results for 33 years!
 Whether buying or selling, let me help you navigate successfully through this ever-changing and competitive market!




925.200.0222 | ann@annsharf.com
www.annsharf.com
 DRE# 01156966

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO / MARRIED 50+ YEARS

Oh, The Places You'll Go!



ALEX ARANOFF

(L-R) Greyson Aranoff, Zara Zarrin and Zoya Zarrin enjoying the Tahoe snow with a copy of The Orinda News.

The Andersons: Respecting Each Other's Differences for 51 Years



JEFF HEYMAN

In the home they've rebuilt and raised their family, Sandy and Dave Anderson reminisce about their 51 years of marriage and what's it been like to live in Orinda since 1975.

By AMY MOELLERING
Staff Writer
ajmoellering@gmail.com

Two high school teachers meet in the early 1970s, build a home in the Orinda hills and 51 years later have two kids, four grandchildren and the wisdom to recognize that a long partnership takes recognizing and respecting one another's differences.

Dave Anderson was a young history teacher at Ygnacio Valley High School when a colleague asked him to fill in at the last minute on an interview committee to hire a new social studies teacher. Sandy, who attended the University of Michigan and San Jose State, got the job. Within six months, Dave scored a date with her, inviting her to the play "The House of Blue Leaves" at San Francisco's Geary Theater.

The courtship progressed with a homemade dinner at Sandy's where she invited another male colleague.

"That was just to make it look like she wasn't asking me out," said Dave, who can still recall the menu, "Grandma Rose's meatloaf, mashed potatoes and green beans."

Two months later, Dave proposed to Sandy. Six months after that, they married on June 17, 1973.

"We probably moved too fast," laughed Sandy. "I'm not sure we knew each other all that well."

Although they came from different family backgrounds, they quickly experienced working together, due to Dave's diabetes.

"This disease is challenging and has often been stressful, but it's required us to be a team," said Dave.

Dave grew up in an unincorporated part of Walnut Creek, part of a Presbyterian, middle-class family. Sandy is a practicing reformed Jew from a well-to-do family in Oklahoma.

"We're such different personalities," said Sandy. "Although we're both outgoing, my interests are in social justice, which often required me to travel. Dave's interests are more confined."

After seven years of teaching, Dave went to law school and created a career with PG&E. Sandy continued teaching for 12 more years at Northgate High School and then worked for the district in administration before switching to curriculum development for McGraw Hill.

As Peter and Robin, their two children, progressed through Orinda schools, Sandy was the first woman on the board for Orinda baseball. She then became the first woman president of the athletic boosters at Miramonte High School and continues to stay active with mahjong, mentoring and leading projects for Temple Isaiah in Lafayette.

"Honestly, she can herd cats," said Dave.

Dave's the treasurer for their Homeowners Association and the leader of Coffee Grinders, a men's group that began 20 years ago and meets daily at Orinda coffee shops.

He's outdoorsy, loves camping and skiing – she, not so much.

"For our wedding, he bought us a tent and sleeping bags," said Sandy. "We tried camping near Tucson and it poured!"

Despite their differences, the two discovered that they were a good parenting team.

"No matter how busy we get, we always had dinner together," said Sandy. "We both grew up that way and it's how we raised

[SEE ANDERSONS page 23]

YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING

MARY H. SMITH, D.D.S.
A Professional Corporation
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry



Proudly serving the Lamorinda Community for over 29 years.
We always welcome new patients.
Our office delivers the highest quality and service.
Consults are always complimentary.
Same day appointments available.

Come visit our state of the art office.
1 Bates Blvd. #210, Orinda, 925.254.0824



Orinda AUTO RENTAL

ORINDA MOTORS
63 Orinda Way
(925) 475 - 8435

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR CENTER

Foreign and Domestic Certified Auto Repair Shop!
&
Auto Rental and Classic American Car Repairs!

ASE CERTIFIED
Village ASSOCIATES

SCAN ME

Client Centered. Results Focused.
Experience the Difference.



Christina Linezo
REALTOR®
415.425.3085
Christina@christinalinezo.com
www.ChristinaLinezo.com

ONE PLATINUM PARTNER
Christina Linezo REAL ESTATE
Village ASSOCIATES

DRE 01964989

ORINDA ART SCENE

Orinda Art Scene: Art Gallery at the Orinda Library and Wilder

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer
business.orinda@gmail.com

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: 17th Arts Ambassadors – Youthful Art Lightens the Heart

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) presents artwork from students in grades one through eight of the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) April 8 – 26 in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Participating elementary schools include Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow and Wagner Ranch. Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) is also participating.

Meet the students, their families, friends and art educators at a reception on April 25 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Orinda Network for Education (ONE) is hosting a snack table where students can pick up their Arts Ambassadors ribbons. Enjoy the OIS Jazz Band on the terrace and at 5 p.m., a fourth- and fifth-grade instrumental ensemble performance in the Library Auditorium.

Janet Robinson, a Sleepy Hollow art educator and event organizer, thanks OUSD art educators Bee Adams-Walker, Tim Christianson and Sean Ferguson for heading up the student art collections; Executive Director Emily Allen of ONE and Executive Director Ali Kozoll and Board Member Lois Reynolds Mead of the LAC, who have been instrumental in organizing and funding the exhibit and event.

Allen expressed gratitude for the integral role art educators, school families, local businesses, Lamorinda Arts Council and community members play in keeping the schools' art programming meaningful and vital to students.

"Once you see the joy on the faces of

young Arts Ambassadors, there is no doubt of the positive influence art education has on students," said Allen. "Join us as we celebrate these achievements together."

Visit the Gallery to view student artwork April 8 – 26 at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and closed Sundays. Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit cclib.org. For exhibit information, email gallery@lamorindaarts.org, visit lamorindaArts.org/ or call 925.359.4490.

Art Gallery at Wilder: Artistic License - Married to Art

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to meet espoused artists Lance Jackson and Barbara Lind of Orinda in the Art Gallery at Wilder on Sunday, April 7, at a reception in their honor from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., where light refreshments will be served. Jackson draws inspiration from traditional news media, echoing his career in media illustration and digital design.

His acrylic painting "Five Ents" pulls us into J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy world of Middle-earth where "Ents" closely resemble trees. They look like giant sentient beings which appeared in "The Lord of the Rings" as ancient shepherds of the forest and allies of the free peoples of Middle-earth during the War of the Ring. Today we call them environmental activists as these Ents attended a 2018 Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco.

Barbara Lind has touched many art forms in her creative life: drawing with pencil, charcoal, pastels, ink; painting with watercolors and oils; and calligraphy for the immediacy of that art form.



COURTESY OF LANCE JACKSON

Lance Jackson's acrylic painting "Five Ents" pulls us into J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy world of Middle-earth where "Ents" closely resemble trees. They are giant sentient beings which appeared in "The Lord of the Rings" as ancient shepherds of the forest and allies of the free peoples of Middle-earth during the War of the Ring. Today we might call them environmentalists.

"The silver lining in the pandemic for me was the wealth of artistic resources online. I took Zoom classes with great teachers and artists and was exposed to many different painting styles," said Lind.

Look for her "Calla Lily" watercolor, a welcome harbinger of local gardens in spring.

Lind just started painting plants and works exclusively from photos.

"I do life drawing at the Orinda Community Center and watercolor classes from Leslie Wilson through the Walnut Creek Recreation Center," she said. "I've taken some classes at proko.com to learn more about anatomy to improve my eye."

Her current artistic influences are Stephen Zhang and Brenda Swenson, plus Charles Reid in the field of watercolors.

Visit the Art Gallery at Wilder, 20

Orinda Fields Way, Orinda, Monday – Friday from 3 - 5 p.m. For more information visit LamorindaArts.org/galleries-2, email info@LamorindaArts.org or call 925.359.9940. Be sure to download the PDF with directions if you plan to visit. ■

KEN'S

REDWOOD FENCING
925.938.9836

Custom Quality Fencing
Good Neighbor Fence
Deer Fencing Licensed, Bonded
Picket/Split Rail & Insured.
Arbors and Trellises CA #667491
Retaining Walls
Insurance/Storm Repairs

Karen & Hillary Murphy

www.MurphyTeamRE.com

Just Listed!

241 Camino Pablo, Orinda

Absolutely Adorable, 3 bed, 2 bath, 1,160 sqft

www.241CaminoPablo.com

Hillary Murphy (415)309-5061 | hillary@MurphyTeamRE.com | DRE#01967218

Karen Murphy (925)788-6322 | karen.villageassociates@gmail.com | DRE# 00699318

GIVING BACK / PET OF THE MONTH

◆ SPORTS from page 16

Head Coach Jack Schram told me he's really looking forward to the season ahead with this particular team and can't wait to host Campo back on our home turf at the OCC with this low-scoring crew.

I know Miramonte would like to offer up a substantial thank you to the OCC board and the golfing members of the club. Their patience and support have been the driving force behind Miramonte's ability to utilize their historic facilities. Their support of junior golf has not gone unnoticed and it is truly appreciated.

That includes you, Shim LaGoy. In your

time as a past Miramonte head coach and as the PGA Pro at the OCC you've made a substantial, positive impact in our team's history.

And an extra hat tip also should go out to the current OCC staff PGA Golf Pro Kyle Thornburg, one of the nicest guys you could meet and a vital piece of the machinery propelling the Mats' success story forward.

Happy 100 years, OCC. You folks make me realize why so many past Miramonte players have returned to raise their families here in your hillside community. Continuing the beautiful cycle of golf ... um, I mean, life. ■

◆ DOUGLAS from page 10

that influenced me growing up, songs that I love, that helped form who I am. It also includes 'You'll Never Know,' the first song I ever learned from my mom when I was four years old," Douglas said.

Live at the Orinda! is a concert series featuring world-class performers from around the globe in specially curated musical evenings at the iconic Orinda Theatre. Performances begin at 5 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre, 4 Orinda Theatre Square.

For tickets, call 925.254.9060 or go to orindamovies.com. ■

Orinda Woman's Club Delivers Support to Trinity Center in Walnut Creek



BETTY ANN BUHL

The Orinda Woman's Club (OWC) enjoyed another fun and fabulous Festival of Trees fashion show/ luncheon fundraiser on Nov. 17, 2023, where over 300 guests helped to raise a total of \$52,880. The Trinity Center in Walnut Creek, the event's major beneficiary, received \$27,880. Presenting the check (L-R) are Kelly Davis (OWC) to Pam McGrath and Leticia Wiesner from Trinity with Adeline McClatchie (OWC). Trinity Center provides essential safety net services and a pathway forward for vulnerable neighbors, advocating for those seeking housing, financial stability and wellness. The \$25,000 remainder of the proceeds will be distributed to local charities and as educational grants to former foster youth pursuing education beyond high school. For more information about the Orinda Woman's Club, visit orindawomansclub.org or email the OWC membership team, Debby Eiben at denrnp@aol.com or Diane Lutz at LadyLutz@gmail.com.

Park Place 
WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.
 A Registered Investment Advisor
 Retirement & Income Planning • Estate Planning • Charitable Planning • Educational Funding
 401K Rollover Specialists
 18 Orinda Way, Orinda • 925-254-7766
 Registered Principals with and securities offered through Securities America, Inc.
 Member FINRA, SIPC. Park Place Wealth Advisors Inc. and Securities America are separate entities.

Shellie Abbes Kirby
 Lifelong Lamorinda experience you can trust. Utilize Shellie's unique East Bay knowledge, personal attention, guidance and professionalism.
Proven Results - Experience Personal Service
 Office: 925-253-6321
 Cell: 925-872-4257
 email: shellie@shelliekirby.com

COLDWELL BANKER


Right coverage. Right price. Right here in town.
 Bryan A Silveira, Agent
 Insurance Lic#: 0M13551
 23 Orinda Way
 Orinda, CA 94563
 Bus: 925-317-3804
 Here's the deal. The right insurance should help you feel confident and comfortable. I'm the right good neighbor for that. Call me today.
 Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

 State Farm
 Bloomington, IL
 2001290

Pet of the Month

 KRISTINE COLALILLO
 "This is Charlie, a 4 1/2-year-old mini golden doodle from New York. This is one of our favorite pictures of him, because it was taken right after an Easter egg hunt his canine best friends (Benny and Jet) held for the neighborhood dogs. He was very excited to join the fun since he saw his human little brother enjoying a nice Easter egg hunt earlier in the day. Charlie is loving, joyful and enjoys spending time outdoors with his family, friends and his many beloved balls. He also really enjoys sprawling out on mom and dad's bed. If you see him around town, feel free to say hello! Charlie loves to love," said Kristine Colalillo.

Living Lean 
 Founder Sheena Lakhotia 
 BY SHEENA
Get Into the Best Shape of Your Life ...


- Customized Eating Plans
- Personal Training
- Body Fat Analysis
- Boxing & Spin Classes
- Consultation & Goal Setting
- Ages 10-100 Welcome!

 The Living Lean Program increases your metabolism so you lose weight, and helps you integrate new habits for lifelong health.
Call today for a complimentary consultation ...
925.360.7051
www.livingleanprogram.com
sheena@livingleanprogram.com
 The Living Lean Program
 1 Orinda Way #3, Orinda

SEASONED SHOPPER



Seasoned Shopper

Never Enough Berries

BARBARA KOB SAR
barbara@cotkitchen.com



Thanks to some innovative greenhouse-like tunnels on Medina Family Farm in Watsonville, we can enjoy a longer berry season at the Orinda Farmers' Market. In the past, the local berry season typically began in May or June and ended with the start of the fall's rainy season.

Protecting the berries from the rain as they ripen ensures a steady production of luscious strawberries, blackberries and raspberries.

Strawberries continue to be a big draw for Farmers' Market customers. I can't help noticing the number of kids strolling the market with their parents and a juicy red strawberry in hand to munch on. Baskets and flats of delicious berries make their way home for smoothies, pies, jams, crisps, salads, vinaigrettes and muffins.

Size does not necessarily determine the quality of strawberries, and is a matter of preference. Many large California strawberry varieties still maintain the juiciness and firmness once only found in the smaller berries.

Select plump, dry, firm red strawberries with fresh green caps. I find strawberry flavor fluctuates weekly due to weather

conditions, so stock up on the days they are at perfection.

Strawberries freeze well. Simply rinse, hull, drain and place in a single layer on a baking sheet and freeze. When frozen, transfer to freezer bags to store for up to six months. When thawed, these berries are perfect for making smoothies, sauces, ice cream toppings or cobblers.

Subtle differences distinguish separate members of the blackberry family, but along with their raspberry cousins, their structures are similar. Numerous plump, juicy "kernels" make up the shape of the berry – blackberries are fairly firm and dense, while raspberries are hollow and fragile after harvesting. If you love crunchy seeds, choose a basket or two of raspberries – they are one of the seediest.

True blackberries sport a shiny, purple-black color and range from one-half to one inch in length. Other hybrid blackberries, like olallieberry and boysenberry, are more dusty maroon in color. The vast majority of raspberries sold commercially are red in color. White or golden raspberries are available on a very limited basis, are sweet and mild, and usually demand a higher price.

Berries are picked ripe and ready to eat. Refrigerate as soon as possible after purchase. If storage is necessary, arrange a single layer of unwashed berries in a container lined with paper towels. Top with another layer of towels, cover and refrigerate for one or two days.

Prepare berries by washing under gently running water just before serving. Hull strawberries after washing to prevent water from getting inside the berry. Drain on paper towels.

The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. More information is available at cccfm.org, [facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) and [Instagram @OrindaFarmersMarket](https://www.instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) or call the market's hotline at 925.322.6228.



JEFF HEYMAN

Ramon Torres from Medina Family Farm greets his customers with a smile and fresh picked, pesticide-free berries at the Orinda Farmers' Market.

Mixed Berry Crisp

You can use fresh or frozen berries for this dessert.

- 5 cups berries (strawberries, blackberries and raspberries)
- ¼ cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons minute tapioca or cornstarch
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup cold butter, diced

Grease an 8" x 8" baking dish. Place berries, sugar and tapioca into the dish and mix gently.

In a medium bowl, combine flour, oats, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Add butter and use a pastry blender or two knives to blend until the mixture looks like coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over the berry mixture. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes until the top is lightly brown and bubbly.

Serve warm or cold with ice cream or frozen yogurt. ■

◆ ANDERSONS from page 20

our family."

In Judaism there is a term, "tikkun olam," which means repairing the world – something they both believe in whether it's providing a home for a relative who needs a place to live, or Dave's support of Sandy's social outreach projects.

"I think our basic values, similar work ethic and outlook on life, have united us," said Dave.

That and 49 years in a home they've enjoyed remodeling. Nestled in the Orinda hills and trees, they've been united in expanding it to suit their interests since they bought it in 1975.

"Our house is a reflection of the best of our relationship," said Sandy. ■



Ken's Rototilling

- 4 W/D Tractors
- Hillside Weed Cutting
- Mowing • Discing • Rototilling
- Brush Removal Abatement To Fire Dept Regulations

Free estimates! 925-938-9836
license, bonded & insured. CA#667491
www.kensrototilling.com

McCaulou's

and

Hollyhock

always

FREE Gift Wrap!

on items 15.00 or more.

Orinda Village Square

YOUR

Orinda

SATURDAY

Farmers' Market

22 Orinda Way,
in front of Community Park



OPEN YEAR ROUND

9am-1pm



Contra Costa Certified
Farmers' Markets
www.cccfm.org f i @
EBT Welcome

McDonnell Nursery

shop now to receive McDonnell bucks



family owned since 1933

Flowers - Trees - Succulents - Pottery & Fountains
Benches - Garden Decor - House Plants
Gifts - Garden Consultations

www.mcdonnellnursery.com
196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Wed. - Sun.



Providing compassionate and reliable in-home care for seniors.

- ✓ Companionship
- ✓ Memory Care
- ✓ Respite Care
- ✓ Personal Care
- ✓ Home Support
- ✓ Hospice Support

Call us for a FREE Care Consult



Alice HomeCare

(510) 924-8529
info@alicehomecare.com
alicehomecare.com

HELPING HANDS. CARING HEARTS.

Licensed, Bonded and Insured
HCA ID: 014700029

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Miramonte Alumna, Sabrina Ionescu Continues to Make Basketball History

By KATHY CORDOVA
Executive Editor
cordova@theorindanews.com

The most famous of our Miramonte alumni athletes doesn't play in the NFL, NBA or MLB. This basketball player set several all-time records, including leading scorer, leader in assists and leader in steals.

SHE is Sabrina Ionescu, a superstar point guard for the New York Liberty team in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA).

Ionescu, who achieved the single-season WNBA record in 2023 with 128 3-pointers, made history again by challenging Steph Curry – who has the most 3-pointers in NBA history – to a one-on-one 3-point match. The first-ever NBA vs. WNBA 3-Point Challenge was held on Feb. 17 in Indianapolis during the NBA All-Star Weekend.

Ionescu, throwing from the NBA line, tallied a score of 26 in 70 seconds – as much as any male player had scored in the preceding Starry 3-Point Contest and exceeding most industry and audience expectations. Curry's score of 29 gave him a narrow victory.

With her record-breaking season and historical 3-point challenge, Ionescu continues to build the legacy she began on the basketball courts of Miramonte.

How did your time on Miramonte's basketball team prepare you to play professionally?

Coaching and competition. Miramonte definitely played a big part in my development. From day one I was coached and held to a high standard of accountability by coach (Kelly) Sopak. We were

fortunate enough to play in some of the most competitive events while at Miramonte, traveling to places like Arizona and Hawaii to play the best competition possible.

How did your family support you?

Family is a huge part of my journey today and has been since the day I picked up a basketball. I have two brothers (older brother Andrei lives in Orinda) and twin brother Eddy (lives in Lafayette) whom I grew up playing against. Eddy and I played at Miramonte and Oregon at the same time and still play against each other today! My mom and dad still attend nearly every game, just like they did at Miramonte.

How did this free throw challenge with Steph Curry come about?

I have had a relationship with Steph since my days in Oregon. After the WNBA 3-point contest, we began a dialogue and began throwing around ideas and it took off from there. I saw this as a great opportunity to grow the game of basketball.

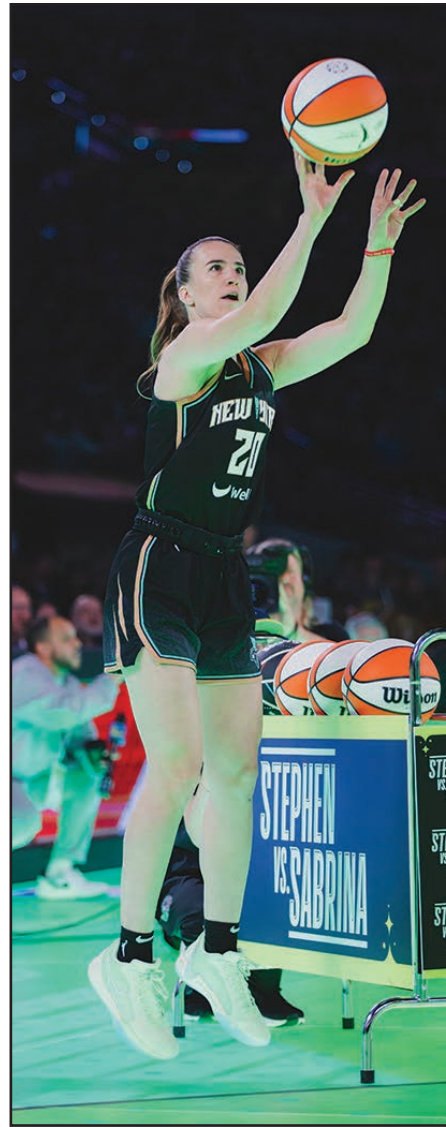
What was it like to compete in this first of its kind 3-point contest between a top WNBA player and a top NBA player?

It was amazing. I was able to have my entire family come out and watch. It is an experience that I will never forget.

How do you want to inspire girls and women in athletics or other fields?

I want girls to be strong and confident and continue to believe in themselves.

Do you think the huge pay disparity between the WNBA and the NBA will ever change? (National Public Radio reports



BRANDON TODD/NEW YORK LIBERTY
Miramonte alumna, Sabrina Ionescu impressed the crowd with a score of 26 in her 3-Point Contest with Golden State Warrior Steph Curry during the NBA All-Star Weekend in Indianapolis on Feb. 17.

the average NBA salary is about \$5.4 million compared to about \$120,600 in the WNBA).

Yes, it will change with more investment

that is made in the WNBA. We have seen a lot more interest in the WNBA in terms of sponsors and viewership in the last few years. We have a great game and some incredibly talented women in this league and it is an honor to be a part of it.

Tell us about your signature shoe with Nike.

It has been surreal and so much fun to design. It took a couple years to get the shoe to market but I could not be more proud. The Sabrina 1 is the first unisex basketball shoe and that was really important to me when designing this shoe. I wanted everyone to be able to enjoy the shoe – from boys and girls in rec leagues, to men and women in the pros. The best part is all the feedback has been positive and the shoe is doing very well. Stay tuned for the next release. (To see the shoes, go to nike.com/t/sabrina-1-team-basketball-shoes-bVkr71.)

We understand you got engaged last year. Tell us about your fiancé and wedding plans?

Yes, it has been very exciting and as people know, it's a lot of work planning for a wedding. My fiancé is also a professional athlete and our schedules can be difficult to align, but that has only added to the excitement. We are both really enjoying the planning stage and are looking forward to March when we can celebrate our special day with family and close friends.

What's your best advice to aspiring athletes?

Have fun. You don't have to be a professional basketball player to follow your passion. Find your passion and continue to work hard to be the best you can be. ■

Village Hypnotherapy & Coaching

in Orinda helps adults and teens reduce anxiety & fears so they can feel confident & perform better in life, their careers and sports...



Jason Akel, CCHT

*"I use modern, proven techniques learned from the world's best that work even when everything else people have tried didn't. I love the **WOW moment** when they realize the movies get it all wrong."*

Read more reviews & book a free consultation:

villagehypnotherapy.com

or text/call 925.255.5157. No insurance. HSA/FSA accepted.

All reviews Google Yelp

5.0 ★★★★★

James Butler

★★★★★

Jason was the best coach/therapist I have ever had. He is a shining light in the darkest of rooms. His technique is unique and comfortable at the same time. I can't recommend him highly enough. You...

[Read more](#)

Dana Swain

★★★★★

Jason is a skilled, insightful, and compassionate hypnotherapist. He helped me release some early life patterns that psychological talk therapy, somatic work, and years of meditation didn't...

[Read more](#)

Michael Vulcanich

★★★★★

I'm a professional triathlete and I sought out work with Jason after my sports psychologist and I identified the need for work on the subconscious level. My wife also encouraged me to look for a...

[Read more](#)