



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 39, Number 3

www.theorindanews.com

Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
March 2024

Orinda Library Lunar New Year Celebration

It was standing room only at the Orinda Library Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 10, as the lion dancers of Tomizaki's Champions Kung Fu Institute chased away the bad spirits of last year and rang in the Year of the Dragon. The annual Lunar New Year celebration, which has become a traditional event, was hosted by the Orinda Library with the generous support of Roselyn and Weylin Eng of Orinda. At the end of the performance, much to the delight of children, parents and grandparents, the Concord-based Tomizaki's Champions, who also presented a lively kung fu demonstration, posed the lions so kids could have their pictures taken with the colorfully decorated mythical creatures. The Year of the Dragon has officially begun in Orinda. Gung Hay Fat Choy!



JEFF HEYMAN

Upcoming Oscar Party at the Orinda Theatre



JEFF HEYMAN

Revelers celebrate at last year's Oscar Party at the Orinda Theatre. This year's party will be held on March 10. See page 12 for story.

Landlines Might Become Extinct if AT&T's Proposals are Approved

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

AT&T submitted an application on March 3, 2023, with two proposals to withdraw its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation – to basically end its landline service to many California customers.

The reason ... they're antiquated and sparsely used.

A spokesperson for AT&T said, "We are focused on enhancing our network with more advanced, higher-speed technologies like fiber and wireless, which consumers are increasingly demanding over outdated copper-based services."

From the California Public Utilities [SEE AT&T page 5]



CHARLEEN EARLEY

In efforts to modernize telecommunications and due to a sparsely used and antiquated system, AT&T submitted an application with two proposals to end their obligation to provide landline services to California customers within their service areas.

IN THIS ISSUE

Advertising List	4	Orinda News Advertiser Party	4
Business Buzz	2	Performing Arts	8
Calendar	15	Pet of the Month	7
Cartoon	2	Residents	7
Classifieds	16	Seasoned Shopper	18
Community	1, 11	Service Above Self	12
Crime/Police	6	Sports	9
Events	1, 10, 12, 13, 16	Students/Schools	16
First Friday Forum	13	Teen Corner	17
Letter to the Editor	6	The Orinda Association	3
Meet Your Neighbor	19	The Reel Less Traveled	5
Obituaries	15	Visual Arts	14

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

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER
*****EGRWSSDDM*****



Mash Gas & Food

Orinda's Lowest Gas Prices
Buy Lotto & Lottery Here

	Self Service Gasoline	
	CASH	CREDIT/DEB
Regular Unleaded	3.99 ⁹ / ₁₀	4.09 ⁹ / ₁₀
Plus Unleaded	4.29 ⁹ / ₁₀	4.39 ⁹ / ₁₀
Premium Unleaded	4.39 ⁹ / ₁₀	4.49 ⁹ / ₁₀

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

CARTOON / BUSINESS BUZZ

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.

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

McDonnell  **Nursery**

shop now to receive McDonnell bucks



family owned since 1933

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

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



**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



A Cut Above: Where Luxury Meets Precision at Silver Fox Barber

By ALISON BURNS
 Staff Writer
alisonburns@gmail.com

Dave Clark, owner of the newly opened Silver Fox Barber Company in Theatre Square, has a very boring rating on Yelp ... nothing but a whole slew of five shimmering stars right across the board.

The comments are also consistently impressive, and littered with phrases like “attentive, communicative, caring, an artist, meticulous attention to detail, precision and understanding and master of his craft.”

Who knew mere men could wax so lyrical?

Clark is one of those rare birds who actually reads his reviews and responds to every single one of them.

And why not, he asks.

“When people take time out of their day to write such nice comments, which obviously help me, I want to thank them, too,” he said.

Specializing in short haircuts, the Silver Fox offers head shaves, neck trims, hot lather shaves and a traditional straight razor shave.

Despite a name that immediately conjures up visions of older, macho gentlemen like George Clooney and Harrison Ford, plenty of women of all ages, seeking the perfect “barber style,” also come through Clark’s doors. And leave highly pleased with the results.

There’s a mix of ages too – one couple,



ALISON BURNS
 Dave Clark, owner and operator of Silver Fox Barber Co., opened his latest salon in Theatre Square in Dec. 2023.

nudging 90 and married for more than 65 years, are repeat customers.

And you don’t necessarily have to be a full-grown fox to benefit from Clark’s expertise. “Silver Cub Sunday,” aimed at 4 to 10-year-olds, operates once a month, by appointment. Boys over the age of 10 are also welcome during the week.

In the barber business for almost 30 years, Clark arrived from Rockridge after his Orinda clients begged him to come

[SEE SILVER page 6]

Orinda AUTO RENTAL
ORINDA MOTORS
 63 Orinda Way
 (925) 475 - 8435

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





THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA Board
Benefits of Volunteering Locally

KATE WILEY
kate@orindaassociation.org



There's no doubt, the world is rampant right now with negativity, suffering and stress. So how can we find some respite from this chaos? There's an easy remedy that's free, doesn't require a great deal of time or specific skill set and you often see immediate results in your physical and mental well-being. The remedy is volunteering locally – and we encourage you to try it.

You know the benefits of volunteering include reductions in stress, anxiety and depression, as well as giving a sense of value and purpose and a connection to community. I believe these benefits are a result of being temporarily focused on the needs of others.

Volunteer to be part of a team organizing an event, and/or work one-on-one with seniors, all are needed

During a short drive to a doctor's appointment, Seniors Around Town volunteer drivers are reminded of the invaluable service they provide. When volunteering for a large event, months of preparation and planning pay off with new friendships and in the joyful faces of the children watching the July 4th parade or the hopeful and delighted faces of the crowds attending the Orinda Classic Car Show. There are many forms of volunteering.

What could be better than volunteering in your own community, where you can experience firsthand the results of your efforts?

Neighbors helping neighbors has always been part of the foundation of Orinda.

There are dozens of volunteer opportunities in Orinda with all levels of commitment

Maybe you thought about volunteering, but the time just wasn't right, or maybe you're new in town and don't know what the needs are in Orinda. There are dozens of opportunities in Orinda from all sectors who rely on volunteers like you.

Visit The Orinda Association website at <https://orindaassociation.org/volunteer>, scan the QR code below or call 925.254.0800.

Find something you might enjoy and start getting a few hours of relief from the pressures of daily life. Even volunteering a little bit of time has an impact on our community, and the rewards for your well-being are immeasurable. ■



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



Rotary

Club of Orinda



Mayor Darlene Gee
State of the City Message

JOIN US

Wednesday, March 13
12:15 - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch is \$25 at the door
(\$26 by credit card)



Use QR Code to Register
For State of the City

SPRING EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 30, 11a.m. SHARP
Orinda Community Center Park

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday April 20, 2024
75th Anniversary Gala

75 Years of Service in Orinda

orindarotary.org rotarycluboforinda@gmail.com

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

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.

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

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED
FOR
ORINDA SENIORS

When you see this lanyard worn around town ask the volunteer!



SENIORS
AROUND TOWN

CALL US TODAY



(925) 402-4506



Scan to volunteer

THE ORINDA NEWS THANKS ITS ADVERTISERS

The Orinda News Advertiser Appreciation Party



JEFF HEYMAN
Kirby Carpet Cleaning was recognized as The Orinda News' longest advertiser, consistently appearing in the paper since the very first issue. Pictured, (L-R) Rachel, Brandon, Dave, Michelle and Anthony Steely.



JEFF HEYMAN
The Orinda News advertisers, past and present, listened to a brief "thank you" speech by Executive Editor Kathy Cordova, who recently completed her first year at the helm of the newspaper before a drawing was held for several great prizes.



COURTESY OF RODNEY LAL
(L-R) The Orinda News Editor-in-Chief, Charleen Earley, Shiva Jafarzadeh, Art by Shiva, Executive Editor, Kathy Cordova and Rodney Lal, Prime Vintage Realty.



JEFF HEYMAN
(L-R) Christina Linezo, Village Associates, winner of a \$50 Orinda Theatre gift card, Anne Newton Cane, Sotheby's, winner of a free ad design, Owen Hido, Sotheby's and Paul Cane.



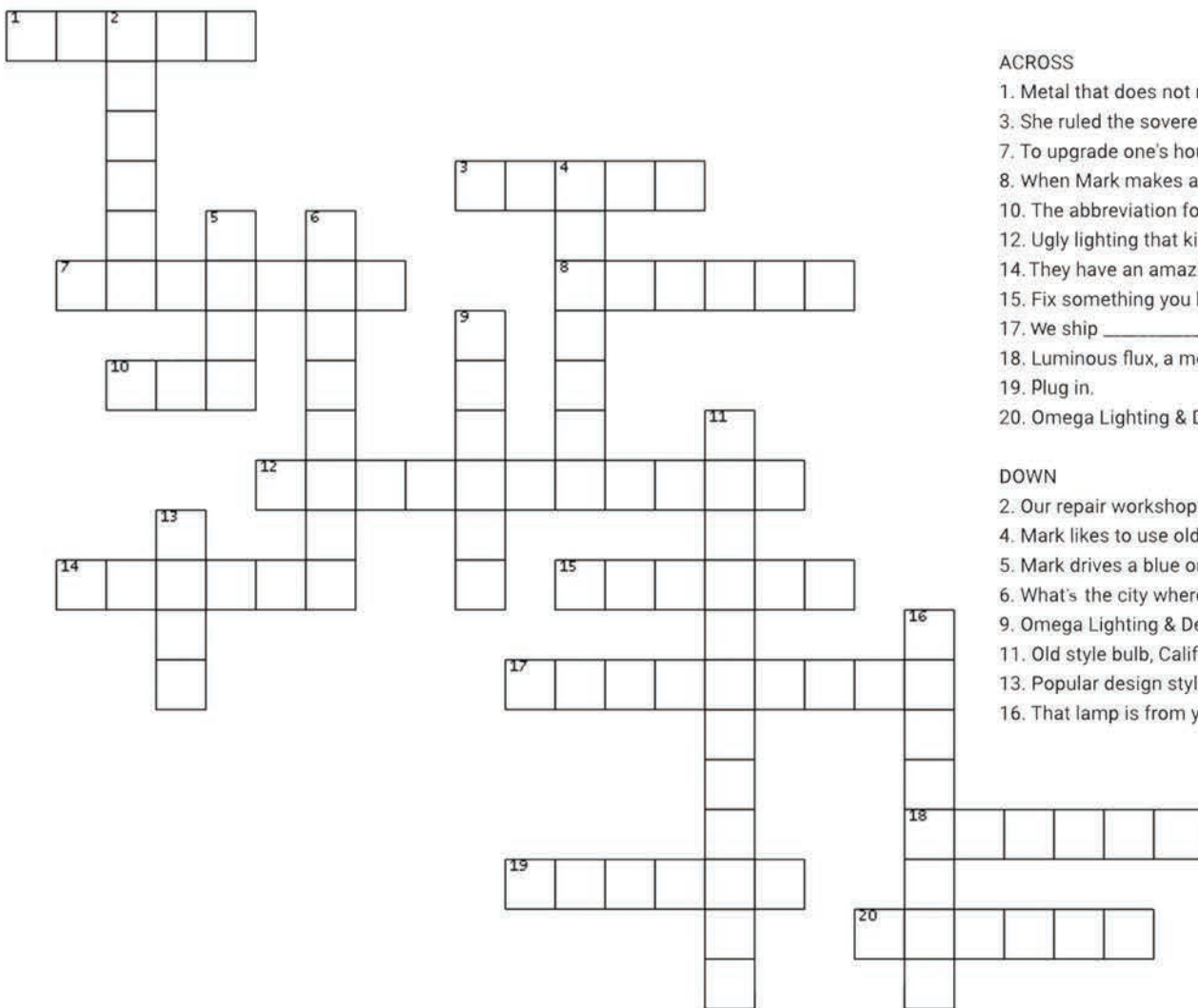
JEFF HEYMAN
(L-R) The Orinda News Ad Representative, Kathy Enzerink, Will Thorn, Wildland Corporation.

The Orinda News held its inaugural Advertiser Appreciation Party at the iconic Orinda Theatre on Feb. 5. The theme was "We're rolling out the red carpet for you."

Guests walked the red carpet and enjoyed wine, beer and sumptuous appetizers. Advertisers won fantastic prizes including gift cards to the Orinda Theatre and Casa Orinda, as well as a new ad design and a full-color advertisement in The Orinda News.

It was an enjoyable evening filled with networking and mingling, as well as advertisers knowing how appreciated they are by the community, The Orinda Association and newspaper staff.

Stay tuned for next year's Advertiser Appreciation Party and if your business serves Orinda ... let's talk!



ACROSS

- 1. Metal that does not rust. Great for bathroom fixtures.
- 3. She ruled the sovereign of Austria in 1740.
- 7. To upgrade one's house and rethink the old lighting.
- 8. When Mark makes a one of a kind light for you.
- 10. The abbreviation for 'light emitting diode'.
- 12. Ugly lighting that kinda sounds like 'flower essence'.
- 14. They have an amazing Chinese Chicken salad, and cool lights from Omega.
- 15. Fix something you love.
- 17. We ship _____.
- 18. Luminous flux, a measure of the total quantity of visible light emitted
- 19. Plug in.
- 20. Omega Lighting & Design is closed this day.

DOWN

- 2. Our repair workshop is located at 2204 San Pablo _____.
- 4. Mark likes to use old lamp parts to create space crafts.
- 5. Mark drives a blue one from 1967.
- 6. What's the city where Omega Lighting & Design has their workshop?
- 9. Omega Lighting & Design created lighting for the _____ Bore in Orinda.
- 11. Old style bulb, California dislikes.
- 13. Popular design style characterized from hints of mass production.
- 16. That lamp is from your Grandparent's house.

Answers can be found here: omegalightingdesign.com



FILM

◆ AT&T from page 1

Commission’s (CPUC) website, AT&T’s two proposals include: “Approval to be relieved of its Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligations in certain areas of California. If approved, AT&T would no longer be required to offer landline telephone service where it is currently required to offer Basic Service in those areas. Basic Service includes nine service elements such as Lifeline rates for eligible customers, free access to 9-1-1, Telephone Relay Service and directory and operator services. (A.23-03-003).”

The second proposal, “Approval to give up its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC), which is a telephone company that operates in a specific geographic area that receives financial assistance from the federal government-established Universal Service Fund to provide high quality and affordable telephone service to customers at all income levels. (A.23-03-002).”

The landlines are not dead yet and not all landlines will be.

According to the AT&T spokesperson, remote areas will still have landline use.

“We are not canceling landline service. We are requesting that the California Public Utilities Commission grant us relief from our carrier of last resort obligations in areas of California where multiple options for home telephone service exist for consumers,” he said. “We would continue to provide service to rural areas of the state where we are the only provider.”

Many Orinda residences are not considered rural areas, and Co-Founder and Director of the Seniors Around Town (SAT) free ride program, Kate Wiley, has concerns for the elderly.

“Many of our senior riders use a landline exclusively and rely on it to work, since you don’t have to charge it every night. Others were forced by family to have a mobile phone but aren’t comfortable using it,” said Wiley. “Our concern is how will elderly seniors communicate with a doctor, call a friend or call SAT?”

Wiley emphasized that no one

loves change and seniors in particular are uncomfortable, especially with technology.

“Even changing carriers is stressful. AT&T was founded as Southwestern Bell Corp., patented in 1875. Seniors grew up with ‘Ma Bell,’” said Wiley. “Landlines [which generally run over a copper network] will work even when the electricity is out. Cost may be an issue, too. We’re concerned that seniors will be targeted by ‘bad guys’ scaring them into buying something they don’t need and won’t use.”

The AT&T spokesperson said that today Californians have access to mobile wireless and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) alternatives that are at least as affordable as copper-based landline service. VoIP is a technology that enables voice calls using a broadband internet connection instead of a landline.

He added that in California, 99.7% of consumers within their service territory have at least three facilities-based alternative options for voice service.

“Californians also have several providers to choose from if they want to participate in the federally-supported Lifeline program for broadband or voice/text bundles,” he added. “A CPUC report found that about 85% of Lifeline customers in California already obtain the Lifeline benefit for wireless services. We also offer the Access program, which provides low-cost internet service for eligible households with plans up to \$30 per month and speeds up to 100Mbps where available.”

Landlines can be especially important when emergencies require 9-1-1 calls.


During the City Council Public Safety Subcommittee meeting held on Feb. 13 at Orinda City Hall, one Orinda resident raised the issue of 9-1-1 call response times. She said some residents in her neighborhood have experienced wait times of several minutes for their calls to be answered.

Orinda Police Chief Ryan Sullivan said that calls from landlines go directly to the Sheriff’s office and are answered immediately, while cell phone calls to 9-1-1 depend on cell towers to direct the calls which may go to the California Highway Patrol.

Customers are invited to participate in expressing “their comments, raise concerns and speak to a CPUC Administrative Law Judge” regarding AT&T’s two proposals.

At the CPUC’s request, AT&T will hold public forums. While most of the in-person public forums are located in Clovis, Ukiah and Indio, the two final forums held in Indio will be virtual with remote access on March 19 at 2 p.m. at <https://bit.ly/3SVPyuY> and at 6 p.m. <https://bit.ly/3OAw2C0>.


AT&T customers can watch the hearings via livestream access or participate by telephone. Comments can also be submitted by mail (CPUC Public Advisor, 505 Van



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

Disfunction and the Other Side

TOM WESTLAKE
poppinjay@earthlink.net



This month’s films center on desire, love and disillusion, so going in the order of this column’s title, we’re going to start with the Orinda Theatre’s free movie of the month.

“Mildred Pierce” should be the movie Joan Crawford is best known for. It’s a sad state of affairs that puts “Whatever Happened to Baby Jane” or “Mommie Dearest” above it, for this film is by far the

heartier meal.

As anyone who knows about Joan Crawford could tell you, ambition is something she, and in this case, the character she plays, had a plentiful supply of. Indeed, it would not be too far a stretch to posit that this film was in many ways autobiographical.

The only real difference was her ambition’s goal. In the film, it is focused on her [SEE REEL page 17]

Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102) or posted on the CPUC’s public comment portal at <https://bit.ly/4bvALP5>.

According to the notice, once the final public forum ends, the process includes the CPUC Administrative Law Judge and a Commissioner to consider proposals and evidence presented during formal processes and then issue a proposed decision.

It goes on to state that any CPUC Commissioner may sponsor an alternate decision with a different outcome.

The proposed decision – and any alternate decisions – will be discussed and voted upon by the CPUC Commissioners at a public CPUC Voting Meeting. A date has not yet been set.

Parties involved in the rulemaking include the Public Advocates Office. To find out more about the Public Advocates Office, contact 415.703.1584, email PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov or visit PublicAdvocates.cpuc.ca.gov.

While other phone carriers, such as Xfinity and Frontier, offer landline services, their pricing may differ from AT&T’s.

Wiley has been an AT&T customer her entire life and, at age 70, said her household relies on their landline.

“We maintain a landline because our – now antiquated – alarm system required a dedicated line,” she said. “And my husband works at home and still uses the big multi-line desk business phone, along with his two mobile phones.” ■

Rotary Spring Egg Hunt

The Rotary Club of Orinda’s Spring Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 30 at the Orinda Community Center Park. The hunt is open for toddlers through second graders and starts at 11 a.m. SHARP. It’s usually over by 11:02, so don’t be late! The Bunny will be out before the hunt to say, “Hi” and pose for photos. Rotary encourages families to show up at least 15 - 20 minutes before the hunt begins. Snacks and prizes are provided for children who find the eggs.

THE LINDA FRIEDMAN TEAM

Leading Lamorinda Broker since 1990

 <p>LINDA FRIEDMAN JD, Broker (925) 899-2336 linda@lindafriedman.com DRE 00521002</p>	 <p>PEGGY HARMATZ MBA, Realtor (925) 899-6321 peggy@lindafriedman.com DRE 01200791</p>
--	---

www.LindaFriedman.com

“Thanks again so much for your professionalism and also kindness. We really enjoyed working with you. We are so fortunate to have met you ... and we are so glad you’re part of our family story.”
- Maggie T.

Call about great “coming soon” Lamorinda listings!




39 Years of Experience



CLARK THOMPSON

REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925.254.8585
ct@clarkthompson.com
clarkthompson.com



License# 00903367

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



CASA ORINDA

RESTAURANT

Dinner served Wednesday through Sunday from 4 p.m.
Closed Monday & Tuesday

925.254.2981 ■ 20 Bryant Way ■ Orinda, CA 94563

EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

Not What Voters Voted For

Last September's The Orinda News' front page headline read "Measure R Funds: Are They Being Spent as Voters Intended?" It [coverage] did not answer the question, but ended with "Coming next, how Measure R funds have been spent to date."

Last month's issue reported last year's spending of Measure R funds, but the question "Are They Being Spent as Voters Intended?" was still not addressed.

We now know that they are not.

In February, 2020, 55% of residents who responded to a city survey said spending funds on wildfire prevention was extremely important. About half as many said spending money on roads and storm drains rose to the level of "extremely" important.

Last month's article reported that \$300,000 of Measure R money was spent on wildfire vegetation removal, but five times as much, \$1.7 million, was spent on roads.

Long term, from 2021 through 2026, the city plans to spend \$3 million of Measure R money on wildfire vegetation removal, but \$11 million on roads and storm drains.

However, Measure R is a "supplemental" tax, paying for services for which there are not enough funds from other sources. Including those other sources, such as state gas tax, county transportation taxes and garbage impact fees, the total budget from 2021 through 2026 for roads and storm drains is \$27 million, nine times the \$3 million to be spent on wildfire fuel removal.

This is not what voters thought they were

voting for.

For details see www.saferorinda.info/how-r-dollars-are-being-used.

- Steve Cohn

Rescue 1 Foundation Board Seat Opening

Rescue 1 Foundation has a seat open for a board member, beginning in April. Letters of interest must be received by March 20. Board members meet once a month to discuss finances and community outreach.

The Rescue 1 Foundation is a non-profit organization governed by an 11-member board of directors. Members receive and administer donations in order to enhance public safety by providing advanced medical and safety equipment, supplies and educational services for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD).

Interested community members residing in the MOFD service area are eligible to apply by submitting a letter of interest to the Nominating Committee. For more information about the Rescue 1 Foundation, visit rescue1foundation.org.

Mail letters to:
 Maridel Moulton
 Nominating Committee Chair
 Rescue 1 Foundation
 c/o Moraga-Orinda Fire District
 1280 Moraga Way
 Moraga, CA 94556

◆ SILVER from page 2

through the tunnel. So he took a good look around town and finally settled on the perfect spot in Theatre Square to establish Orinda's latest go-to destination for premium grooming services.

Naturally, his clientele followed.

As well as the Bay Area crowd, Dave's loyal customers still make the pilgrimage from as far away as Truckee, San Francisco, Sacramento, El Dorado Hills and San José.

"It's all about the service," he said. "You can get a haircut anywhere, but we're about the service."

But it's not just the consistent high quality that appeals to his clients – one gets the feeling that there's a little therapy involved, too.

One customer said that he looks forward to his conversations with Clark, as much as the haircuts, while another said, "Dave is talkative when you want to be, but not too talkative if you just want to chill."

They all agree that they genuinely enjoy catching up with their favorite barber every few months. Dave's carefully chosen team members, Rachele and EJ, are just as skilled.

As one customer on Yelp put it, "this is Dave's shop and he is ultra-selective who gets to cut hair at his shop."

Take it from another Yelp review by

Alexander P., who was so pleased at finding someone who finally understood his hair, he immediately emailed him with the words, "Thanks, Dave, for making me look handsome."

You, too, can look handsome. Dave has generously offered readers a discount of \$10 on their next visit to the Silver Fox. Just mention this article as you relax in your barber's chair and settle into a great experience.

The Silver Fox Barber Co. is located at 2 Theatre Square, Suite 110, and is wheelchair accessible. Reservations (highly advised) should be made at daveismybarber.com or call 844.423.8022, although you may like to try a walk-in. ■

Rotary Presents the State of the City

Mayor Darlene Gee will give the State of the City public address on Wednesday, Mar. 13, noon - 1:30 p.m. at the Founders Auditorium in the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Open to the public, the luncheon is \$25 per person at the door (\$1 fee if paying by credit card). Advanced RSVP notice required; email rotarycluboforinda@gmail.com. For more information, visit orindarotary.org.

List of The Orinda News Advertisers

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



POLICE BLOTTER

January 16 through February 15

Calls for Service

Accident, Property Damage: 1:
 Sobrante Rd.
 Assault, Deadly Weapon: 1: Oak Rd.
 Assault, Simple: 1
 Battery, Misdemeanor: 2
 Burglary, Commercial: 1:
 Moraga Way
 Burglary from Motor Vehicle: 1:
 Brookside Rd.
 Burglary, Residential: 2:
 undisclosed, Loma Vista Dr.
 Civil Problem: 1
 Death, Non-Criminal: 2
 Death, Suicide: 1
 Disorderly Conduct: 1
 Drunk in Public: 1
 Failure to Obey Traffic Officer: 2
 Fraud: 1
 Grand Theft: 3
 Grand Theft from Building: 1

Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 4:
 Sleepy Hollow Ln., Orinda Way,
 Brookwood Rd., Ivy Way
 Identity Theft: 3
 Outside Assist: 2
 Property Found: 2
 Property Lost: 1
 Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1
 Robbery, Armed: 1: Moraga Way
 Shoplifting: 7
 Tow: 2
 Trespassing: 1
 Vandalism: 5
 Vehicle Theft: 2: Martha Rd.,
 Bates Rd.

Arrests

Warrant Arrest: 2

- Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

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, Charley Matthews,
 Amy Moellering, Elana O'Loskey, Tom Westlake
 Contributing Writer.....Adelie Reiner, Kate Wiley
 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 March 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 **April** issue is **March 8.**

CANINE RESIDENTS



COURTESY OF JENNIFER ROBB

Great Dane Gold Champion Black Griffon of Danjen showing off his bond with owner Jennifer Robb at the 147th Westminster Dog Show. Among the many awards they've won is Gold in the Owner-Handled category.

Local Dog Travels America While Winning Hearts and Accolades

By AMY MOELLERING
Staff Writer
ajmoellering@gmail.com

One of the most frequently asked questions Jennifer Robb hears about Griffon, her champion Great Dane, is “Do you have a saddle for him?” The questions continue from there as this majestic breed, the size of a small horse, never fails to turn heads and provoke conversations.

“There’s a joke that I never get to eat my meals while they’re hot because I only eat at places that allow dogs, and Griffon always attracts attention,” Robb notes. This recognition extends nationally and internationally, Griffon having won Best in Breed twice at the largest American Kennel Club

(AKC) dog show in America, as well as Great Dane finalist at the Westminster dog show, and AKC Grand Champion Silver.

Robb has lived in Orinda since 1997 with her husband Daniele, son Stefano and their cats and dogs. Typically, they adopt their pets from shelters, but six years ago Robb began researching extra-large breeds and decided on a Great Dane.

“These are gentle dogs. People think big means independent, but that’s not true ... they were bred to go boar hunting and take care of family. This trait makes Griffon like a LEGO piece attached to my thigh.”

Showing Griffon wasn’t on Robb’s radar until he was over two years old and she decided to enter a nearby practice show. He won Best of Breed, so months later she

Pet of the Month

CARLIE MAGILL

“Doozy is my sister Erin Magill’s dog who frequently vacations with us in Orinda. Doozy is helping pick-up his human cousin James from kindergarten at Wagner Ranch,” said Carlie Magill.

entered him in an official AKC event in Anderson, where he won third in the working dog group. Robb was packing up her car to leave when an organizer chased her down because Griffon had also won Best of Breed and they needed to return to the ring for the award.

“That was it. I was hooked,” she said.

“I always thought dog shows were for crazy people. They are, but it’s awesome

insanity if you’re with the right people. This world is stressful, competitive, humbling and terrific fun,” she added.

Robb estimates they road trip to AKC and International shows about 65% of weekends, covering 35 different states. It’s true that the shows are about dogs, but when Robb reflects on the big takeaways she said, “It’s the people we meet across America.

[SEE GRIFFON page 13]

Karen & Hillary Murphy

www.MurphyTeamRE.com

COMING SOON

Absolutely Adorable in Orinda
Updated 3 bed, 2 bath Charmer. Call Hillary for Info.

SOLD OVER ASKING

12 Eastwood Drive, Orinda
Sold in One Week!



Hillary Murphy (415)309-5061 | hillary@MurphyTeamRE.com | DRE#01967218
Karen Murphy (925)788-6322 | karen.villageassociates@gmail.com | DRE# 00699318



LIVE AT THE ORINDA!

We want your feedback on garbage, recycling and organics services.

Scan to share your opinion.



RecycleSmart.org/survey



What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

Spring Break Camps – Register now! April 1-5. Half day and all-day options.

Summer Camp Registration Opens March 4!

Senior Trip - Wine Tasting/Lunch & Bocce - Livermore Wine Country Thursday, 3/14, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., \$88 per person. Reg. required.

We're Hiring Summer Camp Counselors! Go to CalOpps.org.

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

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



Concert Series Brings Top-notch Talent to the Orinda Theatre

By SALLY HOGARTY
Staff Writer
sallyhogarty@gmail.com

Live at the Orinda! celebrates the month of March and the beginning of spring with two concerts. One features an award-winning star and the other an up-and-coming Canadian sensation.

Liz Callaway brings her expressive mezzo-soprano tones to the complicated harmonies and haunting melodies of Stephen Sondheim on March 3.

A Tony and Grammy nominee and Emmy Award-winning actress, singer and recording artist, Callaway has amassed a prodigious array of credits during her career. She counts such shows as “Baby,” “Cats,” “Miss Saigon,” “The Three Musketeers” and “The Look of Love” among her many theatrical credits.

In addition, she has provided the singing voices of leading characters in such animated shows as “The Swan Princess,” “The Return of Jafar” and “Aladdin and the King of Thieves.”

Her career as a concert and recording artist includes the award-winning album “Sibling Revelry” (created with sister Ann Hampton Callaway), as well as performances with the legendary Johnny Mathis, Paul Williams, Burt Bacharach, Dionne Warwick and Stevie Wonder.

In her Orinda show, Callaway celebrates the achievements of Sondheim with selections from her 2024 Grammy Award-



BILL WESTMORELAND

Liz Callaway will sing the haunting melodies of Stephen Sondheim when she appears on March 3 at Live at the Orinda!

nominated album “To Steve with Love.” “Sondheim was such an important part of my career and my life,” said Callaway. “I will forever be grateful to him for taking a chance on me when I was 19.”

That chance involved Sondheim casting the teenager in his musical “Merrily We Roll Along,” her first show on Broadway.

“I’m going to tell a story about ‘Merrily’ in my show, but I don’t want to give it away before then,” Callaway said.

In addition to Sondheim melodies and stories about the revered composer, Callaway will sing songs from her many shows and animated movies such as “Baby” and “Anastasia.”

Joining Callaway at the Orinda Theatre will be her long-time New York musical director Alex Rybeck and favorite San Francisco musicians Daniel Fabricant on bass and David Rokeach on drums.

“I’m so looking forward to returning to Orinda. I had such a wonderful time singing with my sister, Ann Hampton Callaway, here some years ago,” she said.

Young Canadian singing sensation David Marino performs on March 24 with a guest appearance by Ava Nicole Frances, who appeared at Live at the Orinda! last May.

Marino began performing at the tender age of six. He grew up listening to Frank Sinatra, a favorite of his father, and even requested a fedora for Christmas one year. The young singer soon discovered other great standard singers such as Tony

[SEE MARINO page 13]



COURTESY OF DAVID MARINO

Twenty-five-year-old singing sensation, David Marino keeps a busy schedule with concerts in his native Montreal, New York and California. He appears at Live at the Orinda! on March 24.

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

SPORTS



GAME ON

Welcome Nick Safir, Miramonte's New Varsity Football Coach

MARK BELL
mark@omegalightingdesign.com



Former Head Coach Jack Schram will undoubtedly be a hard act to follow, having just walked through the door with yet another North Coast Section championship trophy.

Not small shoes to fill. However, as of Jan. 31, Nicholas Safir, former assistant head coach at Moreau Catholic High School, was selected as the right man to fill that void. Safir was the unanimous choice of the selection panel, and he has a track record of success that just might draw even more star players into the beloved football program.



ANN MURPHY

The Matadors football program has a new leader, Head Coach Nicholas Safir, and he's eager to get started. Safir accepted the job offer on Jan. 31.

From the little I know about him so far, I'd say the selection committee got it right. He's hungry, sharp and seems ready to storm the castle walls of our rivals. I also sense his charisma and love of the game will have a long-reaching ripple effect into the community.

The parents and players who have met him thus far have given him the double thumbs up.

Principal Ben Campopiano said, "His experience as a teacher and coach, his vision for our program, his coaching values

and his dynamic personality make him a great fit for Miramonte."

I asked Miramonte's Athletic Director Sean Hennessy what he liked most about Safir's interview. He replied, "His willingness to be part of the school community as a whole and his detailed off-season plan that should be repeatable season after season."

I'm sure we'll all learn more about that plan as the year progresses. I know Safir is already watching game films and refining his insights.

Via email, Safir offered up these words to pass on to the community: "I am incredibly excited to be leading a program as rich in tradition as Miramonte High School. Coaching at a school of this caliber is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I cannot wait for us to finally get on the field in the fall!"


Amen to that. Is it September yet? I know there's still a small elephant named Why lingering in the room. Why are we making a head-coaching change now? Here's my two cents.

From where I sit in the bleachers, it seems Miramonte school officials were feeling pressure to compete with the rapidly growing program at Acalanes, now the state champs, and sliding divisions behind crosstown rivals at Campolindo. Mix in some highly competitive parents looking at a shrinking roster and you've got a formula for high winds.

Winds of change. Can those winds blow in a better tomorrow? Even though Miramonte was in a pretty good place?

Yes. I believe so. So let's all be the wind at Coach Safir's back. We should be very excited about what he brings to the field. Experience, as well as the drive to make things even better. He's got a great group of young players who are only going to improve with his leadership. A run at a state championship is highly possible.

Go get 'em Coach Safir. You're our man. Miramonte is lucky to have you. ■



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



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

Connection Before Correction

Are you curious to find out how?



Schedule your Complimentary Call with Patricia Camras, the Positive Parenting Coach.




Take the first step towards becoming the kind of parent or grandparent you know you can be.



calendly.com/patticamras Let's talk! 925-899-9282

www.ThePositiveParentingCoach.com

Sleek Architectural Masterpiece

40 Valley View Road, Orinda
4 BEDS | 4.5 BATHS | 6,195 SQFT | 1.43 ACRES

Offered for \$10,500,000
40VALLEYVIEWROAD.COM

This modern Swatt-Miers home – impeccably designed and appointed – commands what may be the best view in all of Orinda. Descend a private drive into a gated enclave and enjoy the serenity that puts the cares of the world far away.



Local Expert & Orinda Resident
Ann Newton Cane
415.999.0253
a.newtoncane@ggsir.com
AnnNewtonCane.com
Lic. #02084093

Golden Gate
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated.

SUCCESSFUL LOCAL WOMEN LEADERS

Female Leaders Speak About What They Might Have Done Differently



COURTESY OF SELETZKY, PASHA, WHITE AND BUETTNER (L-R) Leta McCollough Seletzky, Saira Pasha, Katharine White and Jacalyn Buettner, along with Pat Rudebusch and Dr. Jamie Textor (not pictured), discuss their challenges, opportunities and the things they might have done differently, as they present their learnings to the next generation.

By ALISON BURNS
Staff Writer
alisonburns@gmail.com

How would you feel if someone were to ask you to stand before a roomful of women, look back on your career and confess what you might have done differently?

On March 19, six carefully selected female leaders will answer that very question at a General Session of the American Association of University Women, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch (AAUW-OML).

In recruiting the six panelists, AAUW Program Chair and The Orinda Association Co-President Chris Laszcz-Davis chose effective, successful women leaders of all ages – including scientists, engineers, those in legal work and the liberal arts.

“Furthermore,” she said, “the recent political decisions in the United States place extra responsibility on all of us to advocate properly and affirmatively.”

Panel member Pat Rudebusch, co-owner of Orinda Books, was voted Citizen of the Year in 2012 for her volunteer work on behalf of Orinda schools. Prior to moving to California, she was the director of major gifts for PBS, where she worked with public television stations across the country to build endowments.

Rudebusch’s advice to the coming generation of young women is “to be purposeful in your choices – both professionally and in volunteering. When we’re in school, it’s all too easy to think about the future through a narrow lens, which can lead to giving up on your dreams.”

Leta McCollough Seletzky, a National Endowment for the Arts 2022 Creative Writing Fellow and the author of several books including “The Kneeling Man: My Father’s Life as a Black Spy Who Witnessed the Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.” is a litigator-turned-essayist and

memoirist.

“If I could share any words with my younger self, I’d say, “Trust the timing of your life. Many of the things that mean most to me – relationships and personal development – came about in ways I never anticipated and couldn’t have planned. If you focus on purpose and intention, the rest will flow,” she said.

Dr. Jamie Textor, diplomate of the College of Veterinary Surgeons, is a former owner and surgeon for the Diablo Equine Veterinary Service. Currently a board member at the Oakland Strokes Rowing Club and past president of the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, Textor is much in demand as a speaker at global conferences.

Katharine White, Esq., a managing attorney in a litigation support team at a top San Francisco law firm, provides procedural guidance for the firm’s litigation and trial department, as well as strategic guidance to optimize client outcomes and supplies. “I’m so excited to be a part of this wonderful event and am really looking forward to the discussion on such an important topic,” she said.

Saira Pasha, associate director of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs at AT&T, is responsible for several key functions within the organization. She was granted an AT&T Connection Award in 2023 for her significant contributions toward advancing critical California telecommunication policies.

Dr. Jacalyn Buettner, a familiar face from “Good Morning America” and “World News Tonight,” established Union Square Chiropractic over 35 years ago. She also travels with the Flying Doctors of America. A 30-year resident of Orinda, Buettner continues to support her community by serving on the Board of The Orinda Association.

“If I could offer advice to my younger self and to the upcoming generation of

[SEE AAUW page 11]

LOCAL BOOK AUTHOR

Former Copy Editor of The Orinda News Pens Coming-of-Age Novel

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

When Ken Hogarty began working on “Recruiting Blue Chip Prospects” over 30 years ago, he was completing his doctoral dissertation and getting his work published in educational circles.

Hogarty’s career as teacher, counselor and principal for his alma mater Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco kept him busy. He also taught English and education classes at Holy Names College and the University of San Francisco, simultaneously raising his daughter.

Hogarty knew what he wanted to do when retirement came along.

“When I stepped down as a principal,” he said, “I had a little bit more time to write.”

For Hogarty, the publication of one of his short stories, also written three decades prior, in a widely circulated Irish magazine was “an impetus” for returning to his writing. Another was a reference by the historian of the Major Baseball League to his master’s thesis stating how baseball is the evolution of the American frontier experience. This led to Hogarty’s reworking of the piece, which was published in “Sport Literate” and received a semi-finalist designation by “Cobalt” for best baseball

writing of 2021.

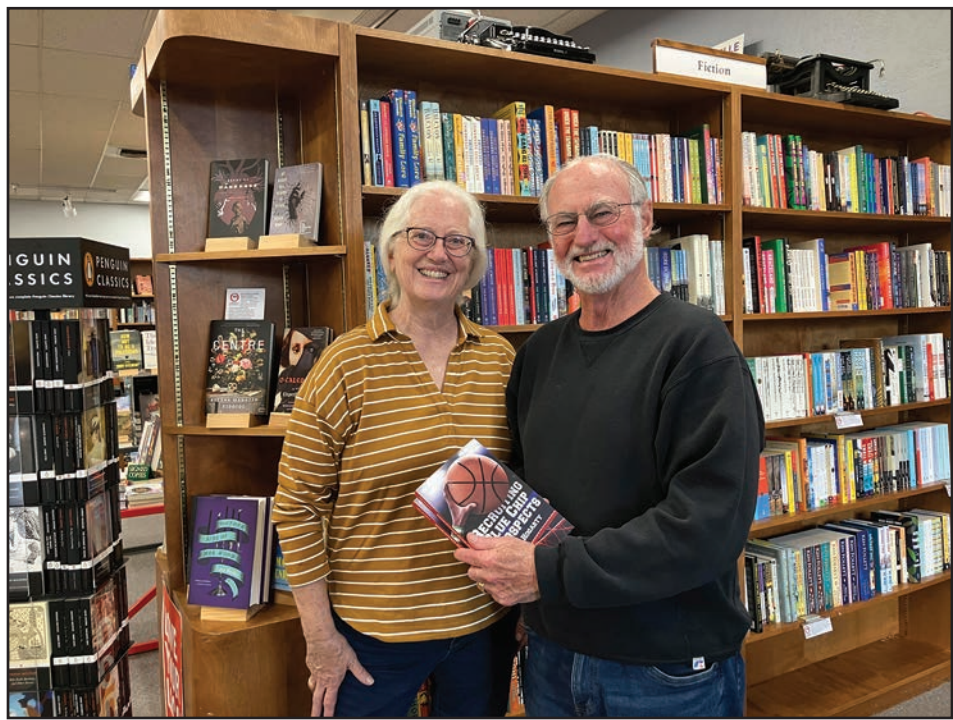
“Recruiting Blue Chip Prospects,” set in 1991 Sacramento, features a third-person narration through Patrick Kiernan, a high school senior at the Catholic LaSalle High School. Kiernan is an aspiring journalist covering blue chip basketball prospect and fellow student T.R. Ward.

The novel is a coming-of-age story for Kiernan and Ward as they navigate betrayal, relationships, victory and personal growth. The story is as much about Kiernan’s prospective future as it is about the college basketball recruitment process facing Ward. “The very title, it’s not ‘recruiting blue chip prospect,’ it’s ‘prospects,’” said Hogarty.

Upon suggestion from his editor, Hogarty researched music and styles from the era for context. He turned to his resource of school yearbooks, rather than television or movie representations, to determine what high school students wore back then.

“It might have been good to turn it into something more contemporary,” Hogarty said. “But I didn’t want to do that, because that wasn’t the story that I had in mind. For instance, if there had been a cell phone at the end of the novel, the story would not have worked.”

The contemporary trend in college sports recruitment, money over morals, is examined in the book. Although it was



(L-R) Orinda Books owner Pat Rudebusch and local author Ken Hogarty during a Nov. 2023 book signing event for Hogarty’s sports fiction book, “Recruiting Blue Chip Prospects.”

set in a different time and place, “I think it does anticipate what is going on today,” said Hogarty.

Hogarty acknowledged that Orinda has ties to basketball through WNBA player and Miramonte High School graduate Sabrina Ionescu, and Warriors guard Steph Curry, who lived in Orinda from 2013 to 2016.

“Over the years, Miramonte had a number of people who’ve done pretty well in sports,” he said. “Also, several professional athletes have called Orinda home.”

While Ward’s recruitment is obvious, journalist Kiernan’s recruitment to his dream job is part of the hook of “Recruiting Blue Chip Prospects,” said Hogarty. “Everybody’s being recruited, if nothing else, for differing versions of the truth.”

A preview of the novel is available at kenhogarty.net.

Hogarty will be giving a reading of “Recruiting Blue Chip Prospects” March 2 at 1:30 p.m. at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square. The book is currently available for purchase through Amazon, Goodreads, Barnes & Noble and at Orinda Books. Contra Costa Library is also planning to add some copies to its collection. ■

◆ AAUW from page 10

young women, it would be this – embrace your uniqueness, trust your voice and cherish the support of family,” she said. “Every challenge is an opportunity for growth and every setback is a chance to redefine success on your own terms.”

“Women Leaders – Life/Career Learnings: What We Valued Most and What We Might Have Changed – A Retrospective View” takes place at the Orinda Community Church from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 19. For more information, contact oa@orindaassociation.org. ■

KEN'S

REDWOOD FENCING
925.938.9836

Custom Quality Fencing
Good Neighbor Fence
Deer Fencing
Picket/Split Rail
Arbors and Trellises
Retaining Walls
Insurance/Storm Repairs

Licensed, Bonded & Insured.
CA #667491

Beautifully Remodeled and Ready



139 Glorietta Blvd. - Orinda

3 Beds • 2.5 Baths • 1,738 Sq. Ft.

New listing remodeled and ready for the new owners this one shines inside and out! Amazing location for access to public transportation to BART, Orinda Intermediate School and Miramonte High School. Very close to Glorietta Elementary School as well. Super charming with a great separation of space. The bedrooms and two bathrooms are all on the second level, including the primary suite with a walk in closet. The first floor features the common area rooms which flow nicely with the dining room opening into the kitchen. The living room is flooded with natural light. The family room and dining room both have sliding doors to the outside deck to enjoy the tranquil rear yard and lovely creek-side setting. The attached two car garage opens conveniently into the family room just a few steps from the kitchen. Owned and loved by the same family for 47 years. This home lives so comfortably. A must see!

\$1,475,000 | www.139Glorietta.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

COMING SOON
Orinda
Country Club Estate

You are welcome to follow me on
Instagram @Lauraabrams_

COLDWELL BANKER

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 #01909304.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF / ORINDA THEATRE OSCAR PARTY

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Orinda's Volunteer Government



CLAY DEANHARDT
claydeanhardtrotary@gmail.com

Imagine willingly putting yourself through a public election – with all its attendant costs, exposure and risk – just so you can ... volunteer.

That is service above self. And that is exactly what the members of the Orinda City Council do every four years.

Orinda has an amazing professional staff of city administrators and public

safety officers who keep our city running every day. But the work of governing the city is done by volunteer Orinda citizens through the city council and at least eight different city commissions and boards.

Hundreds of our friends and neighbors have given thousands of hours of time to serve on councils, boards and commissions without ever being paid a dime. It's a real commitment to civic duty and to our home.

In anticipation of the upcoming State of City message that the Rotary Club of Orinda will host on March 13, I reached out to our mayor, Darlene Gee, and vice-mayor, Latika Malkani, to find out what compelled them to serve in this way, and what that service requires of them.

Gee has been an Orinda city councilmember since 2012 and Malkani is serving her first term. They told me that serving on the council takes an average of 10 hours a week over the course of a year, which they must balance, of course, with their day jobs. When a councilmember takes her turn as mayor, a rotating position, Gee estimates that number rises to more than 15 hours a week.

What compels someone to make that sacrifice of time and energy?

Both leaders have long connections to Orinda and histories of community volunteering that predate their council runs, but both also had specific interests that brought

[SEE SERVICE page 19]

Oscar Watch Party Brings a Little Bit of Hollywood to Orinda



JEFF HEYMAN

Don your finest attire and walk the red carpet at the Orinda Theatre's Academy Awards party on March 10.

By KATHY CORDOVA
Executive Editor

cordova@theorindanews.com

And the winner is...
All Orinda cinephiles who love a good party.

Never fear if your invitation to the Vanity Fair party got lost in the mail. Walk the red carpet, have your photo taken at the step-and-repeat, sip champagne and nibble on savory treats while viewing the Academy Awards on the big screen at the Orinda Theatre.

Legendary film critic Jan Wahl and Orinda Theatre owner Derek Zemrak are hosting their annual event beginning at 3 p.m. March 10 in the 180-seat theater. While people watching at home endure

commercial breaks, Zemrak and Wahl will entertain party attendees with their extensive knowledge of film history, trivia questions and commentary on everything from Best Picture picks to what the stars are wearing.

A \$60 general admission ticket includes a glass of beer, wine or champagne and heavy appetizers. This year the theater is also offering \$100 VIP tickets with premium reserved seating and unlimited libations served to those seats.

According to Zemrak, the food is sourced from local restaurants to support Orinda businesses.

Door prizes include movie tickets, wine baskets and gift certificates from Orinda establishments. Attendees will fill in sample

[SEE OSCARS page 17]

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS
Lafayette | Orinda | Moraga
Berkeley | Oakland | Piedmont

Rebecca Ciccio
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE MATTERS
917.482.6780
CalDRE#01891757
GRUBBCO.COM

Lamorinda's Optimum Choice for Tree Care and Vegetation Management

- Free Consultations
- Hazardous Technical Tree Removal
- Preservation Plans
- Tree Mapping and Inventory
- Expert Pruning
- Brush Clearing/Fuels Reduction
- Weed Cutting
- Fire Code Compliance

Free Chip Deliveries Available
Call Today For a Free Consultation

Will Thorn • Wildland Corporation • (510) 306-6285 • CSLB #1089268
will@wildlandcorp.com • wildlandcorp.com

FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Speaker Series: When Work Becomes Religion in Silicon Valley

By ALISON BURNS
Staff Writer
alisonjburns@gmail.com

The Lafayette-Presbyterian's popular First Friday Forum Speaker Series continues this month with a presentation by Carolyn Chen, professor of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley. Chen is also co-director of the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion and executive director of the Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative.

Chen spent more than five years in Silicon Valley, gaining unprecedented access to the "best and brightest" of the tech world while conducting a wealth of in-depth interviews in her quest to discover how the workplace is replacing religion.

The result is her 2022 book, "Work Pray Code: When Work Becomes Religion in Silicon Valley," a penetrating account of how tech companies are blurring the lines between work and religion and transforming the very nature of spiritual experience in modern life.

"Work," said Chen, "has become a spiritual practice that inspires religious fervor" because work is where today's employees, particularly in the tech industry, "go to find their souls."

With so many relatively young people flocking to Silicon Valley, thousands of miles from the rites and rituals that once supported them, traditional family worship is jettisoned: gone are the days of attending synagogue, temple or church with neighbors and relatives. And today's tech companies, quick to recognize the need for the comfort of religion within an intense work culture, have been only too happy to fill the void.

During her extensive research Chen came across executive coaches, with job titles like Chief Spiritual Officer and Chief Mindfulness Officer, who were hired as "spiritual advisers" to senior leaders and employees. She even met with the founder of a start-up who called himself Head Pastor because "management," as he explained, "is a lot like a ministry." This businessman apparently quotes the Buddha more than he does Andrew Carnegie.

In fact, Buddha is big in Silicon Valley: Salesforce brought in 30 monks to chant and teach at their 2017 and 2018 conferences.

Not that Silicon Valley's desire to "nurture souls" is an entirely altruistic move.



ELLA SOPHIE

Sponsored by the Lamorinda-Orinda Presbyterian Church, the First Friday Forum speaker series presents Professor Carolyn Chen on Mar. 1, when she asks what happens when work takes over the traditional institutions that shape our souls.

Chen soon discovered that offering pastoral and spiritual care was a way to make employees more productive and companies more profitable.

But at what cost to society?

Chen answers this question as she guides her audience through the compelling story of what can happen when work takes over the traditional institutions that shape our souls.

The First Friday Forum takes place at 1:30 p.m. on March 1 in the Sanctuary of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church at 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Contact lopc.org/first-friday-forum/ to sign up for in-person attendance, register to stream on Zoom or to enjoy previous presentations.

◆ MARINO from page 8

Bennett, Sammy Davis, Jr., Rosemary Clooney and Ella Fitzgerald.

"The standards are so simply written. There are no big belt notes to hide behind," said Marino. "It's all about the lyrics and the story and you just need to tell it."

Under the mentorship of famous French artist and songwriter Pierre Lapointe, Marino went on to the finals of Canada's hit TV show "The Voice" and has been busy with concerts in his native Montreal and New York ever since.

For his Orinda show, the busy 25-year-old just wants to introduce himself to Bay Area residents.

"This is my first time on the West Coast, and I want to share who I am rather than

have a particular theme," Marino said. "I love to sing in multiple languages, and since my grandparents are Italian immigrants, I'll definitely be singing something in Italian and, of course, French."

Marino will also sing a duet with Frances. "She's lovely. Such a sweetheart and so talented. I don't meet a lot of young people who are also into this kind of music. Eva and I just instantly connected," said Marino.

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. ■

◆ GRIFFON from page 7

I walk into a place with this tender and quiet dog and the most hardened-looking person will become childlike and curious. It's incredible."

Griffon also loves the people connection. Recently, at the American Kennel Club Show in Philadelphia, hundreds of families came to meet the breeds. A woman and her non-verbal paraplegic daughter were among the many who came to see Griffon.

Focusing on the daughter, he put his head on her lap and, overjoyed, she leaned into him. Griffon then curled up around the base of her wheelchair.

"It was as if he was saying 'this is my girl,'" said Robb. "She was queen of the moment."

Robb is aware that Griffon may be fright-

ening for some people, so she stays alert in reading reactions. One of her favorite memories is when her instincts were off. They were in Orinda Village and an elderly Asian woman came toward them with a walker. Robb crossed the street to avoid her, but the woman kept coming. Griffon gently placed his head on the woman's shoulder and she "burst out giggling like a three-year-old."

Griffon has had an impressive career in four years, and he still isn't done, with upcoming shows in Missouri and North Carolina. As a six-year-old, he's one of the oldest in his breed and will compete in the veteran division.

Is it time for a protégé, another Great Dane puppy?

Robb laughed, "If only I can convince my husband!" ■

It's a New Year of optimism and possibilities!

2024 is a target year for buyers and sellers to get to where they are going...soon. Interest rates appear to be trending down and positivity is in the air!



#1 performing agent in the Coldwell Banker Orinda office and top 1% of Coldwell Banker nationwide. Let my proven success and years of experience help you get there!



melanie@melaniesnow.com | melaniesnow.com | 925.360.0344 cell | CAL BRE #00878893

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

VISUAL ARTS

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: Students Rock the Art at VAC

The 21st year of the Lamorinda Arts Council's (LAC) High School Visual Arts Competition (VAC) features artwork from students living in or attending school in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga, including all schools in the Acalanes Union High School District.

In addition to the in-person art exhibit, which runs Mar. 4 - Apr. 6, the contest features cash prizes, merit certifications and an online public exhibit on the LAC website, LamorindaArts.org/online-galleries/.

The reception in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, begins at 7 p.m. on March 14; the juried awards ceremony runs from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Library Auditorium, where the winners will be announced. For information visit lamorindaarts.org/vac or call 925.359.4490.

The juried show consists of four categories: two-dimensional art, three-dimensional art, photography and digital art. The competition is judged by industry professionals or experts in each medium. Many thanks to Lamorinda Arts Alliance

for sponsoring the digital art category and Bentley School, also a generous sponsor.

LAC Board Member Olga Lerner, also chair of the event, said, "With art programs often receiving less support in our schools, it is a pleasure to offer this amazing, rare opportunity for our student artists to showcase their talents and have a chance to exhibit their work in a professional gallery."

Lerner expects 250 entries representing 10 schools in and around Lamorinda.

Ali Kozoll, LAC executive director, said, "Celebrating and recognizing young artists encourages their creativity and vision and brings our community together."

The images in the Lamorinda Arts Alliance digital art category are diverse. From fantasy to figurative, hi-tech to portraits, winter snow to desert sands – the students have truly explored the genre.

Visit the Gallery to view student artwork from Mar. 2 to Apr. 6 at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Mon. – Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; closed Sundays and Wed. Mar. 20. For more information, call 925.254.2184 or visit <http://ccclib.org/>. View artwork online at <https://lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/>. For questions, call 925.359.9940 or email galleries@LamorindaArts.org.

Art Gallery at Wilder: Grand Reopening Sunday March 3 Featuring Artist Shiva Jafarzadeh

The Lamorinda Arts Council announces the Grand Reopening of the Art Gallery at Wilder on Sunday, March 3, at a reception from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, including the bespoke "Wilder Rose" cocktail and mocktail.

Orinda Vice Mayor Latika Malkani will officially open the Art Gallery at Wilder for public viewing Mon. - Fri. from 3 to 5

p.m. LAC Board Member and Curator Bill Carmel will introduce featured artist Shiva Jafarzadeh and her themed artwork, "Paintings and Drawings of Romance, Womanhood, Motherhood & Feminine Poems."

Jafarzadeh was born in Tehran, Iran, and grew up in a multi-cultural family. As a child she experienced the brutal war between Iran and Iraq, which lasted eight years and left over five million dead. Her first drawings were done in bomb shelters, as her father was in the military. A strong human rights activist, she eventually escaped Iran through Syria and made her way to the United States. She is a single mom who lived in Orinda for many years and currently resides in Lafayette.

Her path to healing trauma and being able to experience motherhood led her to write memoirs and several children's books. In her pursuit of art, she attained a bachelor's degree in art history from Tehran University Academy of Art, a liberal arts associate degree from Diablo Valley College and a master of fine arts (illustration) from California College of the Arts. Follow her work at artbyshiva.com.

Artwork on display includes "Blue Ballerina," a 52" x 24" oil painting on canvas portraying the enchanted Odette, Queen of the Swans, transformed from a swan into a ballerina only for one night in Tchai-



COURTESY OF SHIVA JAFARZADEH

Shiva Jafarzadeh's 48" x 36" oil painting "Wet Kiss" with glue and ink depicts a romance poem translated onto canvas, thus: "Oh! The hope. The dream and the trust I built around your wet kiss. You will never know how much I anticipated it."

kovsky's iconic ballet, "Swan Lake." "Knitting Love" is a 17" x 20" ink and marker drawing excerpted from her book, "The Orange Blossom" (available on Amazon).

Jafarzadeh's grandmother knew the secret of enfolding her love in beautiful scarves she knit and gifted to her granddaughters. "Traveling to my grandparents' orange farm in the mountains from Tehran to Sari every Nowruz, which is the first day of spring, is a memory filled with so much love it reaches to the other side of the globe," said Jafarzadeh. One of her grandmother's favorite themes was orange blossoms.

Visit the Art Gallery at Wilder Mon. – Fri. from 3 – 5 p.m. For more information visit LamorindaArts.org/galleries-2, email info@LamorindaArts.org or call 925.359.9940. Be sure and download the PDF with directions if you plan to visit. ■



COURTESY OF JOSEPH PAK


"Captured Youth!" by the then 11th grader Joseph Pak was voted Best in Show at the 2023 Visual Arts Competition.



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



Rotary

Club of Orinda

Celebrating

75 Years of Service


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!

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.



Use the QR code to donate today!

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.

OBITUARIES / CALENDAR

Lucy Ann Hupp Williams 1939 – 2024

It is with great sadness that the Orinda Historical Society (OHS) announces the passing of one of their much-loved former presidents, Lucy Ann Hupp Williams.

Lucy died on Jan. 9, age 84, after a long illness. Born on March 28, 1939, she spent her first eight years in Downers Grove, IL, but by the time she turned eight, it was obvious that the Midwest winters were too harsh for this frail child. When her doctors ordered the family to relocate to warmer climes, they decided there was no better place to restore one's health than Orinda.

Sadly, in 1953, Lucy fell victim to the polio epidemic that was sweeping the country, and instead of throwing herself into her freshman year of Acalanes High School, she found herself confined to an iron lung. But her indomitable spirit prevailed, and once released from the hospital Lucy directed her rehabilitation to riding her beloved horse, Don Quixote, all over Orinda.

She attended UC Berkeley and, at the age of 20, married Rolfe "Buz" Williams, whom she had met at the Dramateurs (Town Hall Theatre Company of Lafayette). They moved to Foster City in 1969, where they raised their children, Ray, Kathy and Mike.

Lucy later worked at Stanford University for 19 years, but tragedy struck again when, in 1989, she was hit by a truck and forced to retire. Thus began a second career in volunteerism. In 2003 she was inducted into the San Mateo High School Hall of Fame and, in 2009, the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Meanwhile in Orinda, Lucy took over as President of the Orinda Historical Society, where she remained from 2004 to 2015. During her time there, she worked tirelessly to promote the Society and bring



TERESA LONG

Former Orinda Historical Society (OHS) President (2004-2015), Lucy Ann Hupp Williams, put OHS on the map when she pulled in \$50,000 worth of gifts and grants to enable the Society to move into their dedicated museum next to The Orinda Association office.

in a constant variety of speakers for OHS holiday dinners and events.

In 2008, Lucy was named Volunteer of the Year after setting up the Orinda History Museum with \$50,000 in grants, gifts and endowments. In June 2011, she was awarded the Individual Merit Award from the Conference of California Historical Societies, and shortly before retirement, Lucy was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by Orinda City Council for her outstanding contribution to OHS.

A Memorial and Celebration of Life is on May 18 in San Mateo. The family also plans to arrange a small celebration at the Orinda Community Church Garden Wall later this year, when Lucy will be laid to rest alongside her parents.

The Orinda Historical Society owes Lucy a great debt of gratitude for all her hard work and passion. ■

On the Calendar in March

- First Friday Forum** presents Carolyn Chen, UC Berkeley professor of ethnic studies "Work Pray Code: When Work Becomes Religion in Silicon Valley." 1:30 p.m. Simultaneously livestreamed and in-person at LOPC. See article p. 13.
Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary presents Leta McCollough Seletsky, author of "The Kneeling Man: My Father's Life as a Black Spy (Undercover Cop) Who Witnessed the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr." 7 a.m. Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. lamorindasunrise.org or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com.
 - 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 March 9, 16, 23 and 30. See article p. 18.
Orinda Books presents Ken Hogarty reading his book "Recruiting Blue Chip Prospects" 1:30 p.m. See article p. 11.
 - Live at the Orinda!** presents Liz Callaway performing Stephen Sondheim and more. Call 925.254.9060 or go to orindamovies.com/events/. See article p. 8.
 - Rotary Club of Orinda** 21st Annual Crab Feed drive-thru at Casa Orinda. For more information, visit orindarotaryfundraiser.com.
 - Orinda Library** presents Toddler Storytimes. Stories, songs and rhymes for 1 to 3-year-olds and their caregivers. 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in the Garden Room. Also on March 13 and 27.
Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Good Character Awards, honoring Lamorinda's middle school students. 5:30 p.m. at Campolindo High School, at 300 Moraga Rd, Moraga. See article p. 16.
Rotary Club of Orinda presents Darin Hughes, Assistant Planner and Business
- Development for the City of Orinda, to share the current state of business development in Orinda. 12:15 p.m. Community Center, Founders Auditorium.
- Orinda Books** Pat's Book Group will read and discuss "Crying in H Mart" by Michelle Zauner, 11 a.m.
 - Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** presents "Alke Link: Bridging Healthcare Gaps With Mobile Drug Inventory Management in Africa." 7 a.m. Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. lamorindasunrise.org or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com.
International Film Showcase screens "Io Capitano," an Italian Oscar finalist film at the Orinda Theatre through March 14. Visit orindamovies.com for showtimes.
Miramonte High School presents "Footloose!" MHS Theater 7 p.m. Also, March 9, 15 at 7 p.m. and March 16 at 4 p.m. Tickets at showtix4u.com/event-details/80916.
 - Deeyar Norous Bazaar Spring Equinox** Kid-friendly event with music performances, Persian food and sweets, apparel, jewelry and accessories, pottery, bags and shoes. Orinda Art and Garden Center in Wilder at 11 a.m.
 - Rotary Club of Orinda** hosts Mayor Darlene Gee for annual State of the City luncheon and address at the Orinda Community Center Founder's Auditorium. Please RSVP at rotarycluboforinda@gmail.com or orindarotary.com.
 - Orinda Parks and Rec Senior Trip** to Livermore Wine Country, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$88 per person. [SEE CALENDAR page 16]

Bill Wagner: July 1, 1948 – November 17, 2023

After a seven-month courageous battle against cancer, we are saddened to announce the passing of a devoted husband, father and grandfather on Nov. 17, 2023. Bill Wagner never complained as he endured chemo and several complications throughout the summer and into the fall.

Bill attended Skyline High School and California State University, Hayward, where he received his MBA. He worked



Bill Wagner, July 1, 1948 – November 17, 2023

in the food ingredient business for over 40 years and received several awards for his outstanding work as a salesman.

He and his wife Doreen Wagner had their first date at the five-year high school reunion and married in 1974. They almost made it to their 50th wedding anniversary. Bill was devoted to their two sons throughout their childhood, accompanying them on road trips, coaching and Boy Scout adventures.

He carried that tradition on with the care that he gave to his six grandchildren as their Papa. He was always there to help, no matter what the time of day. If only we all could live by his example. Bill and Doreen traveled extensively, loved to hike

together and were blessed with a wonderful marriage and family.

He is survived by his wife Doreen, son Phil Wagner and wife Mary June Wagner, son Ryan Wagner and wife Lindsay Wagner and grandchildren June, Mason, Jake, Grace, Kate and Tyler.

A memorial service was held on Jan. 20 at Moraga Valley Church. The family is building a memorial garden at the church as a place for remembering those who have died. Donations may be made in Bill's honor to the MVPC Memorial Garden, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga, CA 94556. ■

McCaulou's
and
Hollyhock
always
FREE Gift Wrap!
on items 15.00 or more.
Orinda Village Square

In-Home Personal Training
For Individuals with Parkinson's

Nancy Henderson
Pilates Instructor & Personal Trainer

Phone: (925) 548-0445
Email: sersuave2003@yahoo.com

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

Area Rug Cleaning Specialist

Area Rug Free Pick Up & Delivery

(925) 254-2866
www.kirbycarpetcleaning.com

Services include

- Carpets
- Tile & Grout
- Upholstery
- Outdoor Cushions

HONORING STUDENTS / CLASSIFIEDS

◆ CALENDAR from page 15

- Reg. required. 925.254.2445. Visit orindaparksandrec.org or contact orindaparksandrec@cityoforinda.org. See ad p. 8.
- Orinda Library Art Gallery** student artists reception and juried awards ceremony, 7 p.m. See article p. 14.
- 15 **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** presents "Kevin Wilk: Everest Experience." 7 a.m. Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. lamorindasunrise.org. or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com.
- Orinda Library** presents Dentist Storytime. Dr. Helen will share stories and activities about good oral health. For ages 3 to 5, but younger can attend with caregivers. 10:30 a.m.
- Montelindo Garden Club** presents Jill Appenzeller, on "Fear of Flowers," (arranging flowers). Lafayette Library Community Hall. Free. montelindogarden.com/2024-meetings.html.
- 16 **American Association of University Women (AAUW)-OML STEM Conference.** For registration and information go to bit.ly/3SIDCeO.

- 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for 6th to 8th grade girls. Saint Mary's College.
- Springing Forward** with Marty Nemko. Free hour-long concert at 11 a.m. Library patio by or in Cafe Teatro (weather permitting).
- Orinda Books** presents Grace K. Shim, author of "Not Your Average Jo" in conversation with Mitali Perkins, 2 p.m.
- 19 **Miramonte High School** Spring Spirit Week through March 22.
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)-OML** "Women Leaders – Life/Career Learnings: What We Valued Most and What We Might Have Changed – A Retrospective View." Orinda Community Church, 9:30 a.m. oa@orindaassociation.org. See article p. 10.
- 20 **Rotary Club of Orinda** special meeting to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the chartering of the club. 12:15 p.m. Community Center, Founders Auditorium.
- 21 **Orinda Theatre Free Movie Night** presents "Mildred Pierce," 6:30 p.m.
- Orinda Intermediate School** Choir Pop Concert 6 p.m. OIS Multi Purpose Room.
- 22 **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** presents "Insight Housing: Alex and Thomas Peeks," 7 a.m. Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. lamorindasunrise.org. or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com.
- 27 **Rotary Club of Orinda** presents Tony

DeMartile on the "Ecology of Thrift." 12:15 p.m. Community Center, Founders Auditorium.

Orinda Schools Music Festival. All levels of Orinda Schools will come together for a night of music. 7 p.m. at Miramonte High School.

30 **Rotary Club of Orinda** Spring Egg Hunt. The hunt begins at 11 a.m. sharp. The bunny will be there, so arrive early.

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

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary to Host 2024 Good Character Awards

By CHARLEY MATTHEWS
Staff Writer

charley.matthews2008@gmail.com

The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club will present its second annual Sunrise Rotary Good Character Awards, honoring Lamorinda's middle school students. The event is slated for March 6 at 5:30 p.m. at Campolindo High School, at 300 Moraga Rd, Moraga.

Out of 26 nominations, nine students were chosen – Nyla Brustein, Tyson Flournoy and Bre Redding from Orinda Intermediate School, Aryansh (Ary) Deepak, Robert (Bobby) Ruhl and Quinn Sousa from Stanley Middle School and Sadie Ginestro, Heidi Vanhouten and Elliot Wong from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.

The award recognizes students based on nominations from teachers, administrators and counselors for their ability to reflect the essential Rotary principles of truthfulness, kindness, fairness and service to others. Examples are helping younger students succeed in their studies, standing up to bullies and helping others in the community

through volunteering.

Recipients, their friends, family, teachers and administrators will attend the reception and dinner along with the mayors and school superintendents of all three Lamorinda cities. The students will also be honored with certificates of recognition and cash awards from the Rotary Club.

Youth Services Director for the Rotary Club and Coordinator of the event, Robert Marino, believes these awards are important. "They honor students who will make a positive difference in our world and send a message to other young people about the importance of the values our schools and community seek to foster," he said.

The award came to fruition as a result of the Rotary Club analyzing data surrounding middle school students' mental health and well-being. They found middle schoolers are suffering from the same kind of anxiety and lack of support as high school students.

While schools often have awards for academics, athletics and the performing arts, the Rotary Club knew there could be more attention paid to acknowledging students who exhibit good character.

Marino said, "Strong character building is one of the best defenses against anxiety, loneliness and the significant pressures of middle schools."

With the help of teachers and administrators in identifying the best ways to make a positive impact to promote wellness and resilience, the award was successfully piloted last year at Joaquin Moraga.

"I can tell you without hesitation that what I am looking forward to most is the pride and joy of the recipients, their teachers and their friends, as well as to see the look of pure love and pride in the faces of the recipients' families," said Marino.

For more information about Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, visit lamorindasunrise.org and RSVP for the event on their Eventbrite page. ■

The Medicine Shoppe
100% Pure PharmacySM
The "Luck of the Irish" is not always with us, so when you need a little help with your health, visit The Medicine Shoppe®.
Happy St. Patrick's Day
Naomi Yuen, Pharm D.
Deliveries available for \$10.
282 Orinda Village Sq. • 254-1211
<http://orindamedicineshoppe.com>
Next to Hollyhock and McCaulou's

East Bay Tree Service
Tree removal, stump removal,
Juniper removal to meet
fire regulations.
925-377-TREE (8733)
Serving Lamorinda for over 30 years.

The Orinda News
classified ads

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

2024

Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline
April	March 8
May	April 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

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.

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
93 Moraga Way, Suite 103

TREE SCULPTURE
COMPLETE TREE CARE
Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!
Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977
(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com

 **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



TEEN CORNER

TEEN CORNER

Navigating the Impact of Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom

ADELIE REINER
adeliejala@gmail.com



Although it's not always apparent at first glance, Artificial Intelligence (AI) exists all around us. From the moment of waking up and using facial recognition to unlock smartphones, to conversing with smart home devices, AI has seamlessly revolutionized society.

AI refers to the field that combines computer science with robust data sets to simulate human intelligence. However, due to its ability to mimic human intelligence, AI is transforming the educational landscape with both benefits and concerns.

Chat GPT, an AI-driven chatbot, allows users to refine and guide a conversation or final product toward any level of detail, such as a desired length, format, style or language.

Much like the advent of any new technology, the development of AI has brought trepidation. Due to its expansive capabilities, Chat GPT has raised concerns about academic integrity, with some school districts going as far as banning AI and Chat GPT entirely.

While some subjects do not pose the peril

of academic dishonesty from AI, English classes emerge as a high-risk subject to students abusing AI.

"I remember last year my teacher caught a student using Chat GPT to write his entire homework essay using Chat GPT," said Logan Gunn, senior at Miramonte High School.

Services such as Turnitin, an AI detection tool with a false-positive rate of 1%, can detect plagiarism in these situations. However, when put into the grand scheme, a 1% false-positive rate for detecting AI is significant and can have detrimental effects, which is why some colleges, such as Vanderbilt University, have stopped using Turnitin entirely.

Furthermore, many educators worry that AI will undermine the traditional education system. Miramonte High School's AP Language and Composition teacher, Linda Hora, sees some benefits to AI for students, but she believes it generally harms them by hindering genuine learning.

"AI provides outlines, supporting evidence and a thesis for writers – basically the complete product. AI produces a product. Writing is a process. Students must learn the process on their own before they use the tools to make it easier," said Hora. "AI creates passive learning – mindless mimicry; people only learn when their minds are actively engaged."

However, using AI as a tool for subjects besides English may prove more effective. Remarkably, AI has almost no topical limitations.

◆ REEL from page 5

daughter Veda, played with a similar ferociousness by Ann Blyth – while in real life, her ambition was more inwardly focused. In many ways Mildred shares some of the same traits as Nora Desmond from "Sunset Blvd," though with vastly different reasons and results.

Another aspect of this film's staying power was its director. To film buffs like me, the name Michael Curtiz is often only synonymous with "Casablanca," but a quick rundown of his other films easily shows that he was a director of high quality, going all the way back to the age of silent films.

Anyway you look at it, this month's free movie is not one to be missed. It will screen at the Orinda Theatre on March 21. Please check with orindamovies.com for further details.

The International Film Showcase (IFS) is next with this month's entry, "Io Capitano." This sometimes fanciful, occasionally idealistic, often grueling film deals with a hot topic that everyone seems to be talking

about these days, namely immigration.

Unlike other films on the subject, it approaches the topic from a slightly different angle.

True, our two central characters decide to leave their home (in this case, Senegal) to seek something better, but their dreams are a little more naïve. Suffice to say, things do not go as planned and we are thrust into a nightmare of smuggling, separation and hardship.

Many who have read to this point may decide to give this film a pass, but I think it important to remind everyone that IFS founders Jo Alice Canterbury and Efi Lubliner have judged this film to be of vital import and therefore not to be dismissed, especially now.

The film puts a human angle on the issue, making you really care about these two young men and the perils they face. By portraying immigration in a straightforward way, it might serve to open your eyes to this very real problem. Go to internationalshowcase.org for the trailer and to orindamovies.com for showtimes.

So, until we meet again, remember to always veer toward those wonderful images made of sound and light, for that's where the reel magic lies. ■

◆ OSCARS from page 12

ballots with their guesses of Oscar winners and the person who gets the most categories correct will win a full-year movie pass.

Tickets are available on the Orinda Theatre website, orindamovies.com or the new Orinda Theatre app. Go to the app, click on "upcoming" and select Oscar Party.

Zemrak is looking forward to the annual event.

"Come and enjoy a little bit of Hollywood in Orinda," he said. ■

Teen Tunes Spotify Playlist



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



CLEAR CREEK
TAHOE



SUMMIT CAMP - FAMILY CAMPUS



TWIN PINES LAKE HOUSE - PRIVATE BEACH AND LAKE TAHOE ACCESS

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.

SEASONED SHOPPER



Seasoned Shopper

The Allum Family

BARBARA KOBSAR
barbara@cotkitchen.com



There are always a few alliums in my fridge. They are a diverse group including chives, dry or regular onions, shallots and garlic, along with leeks, scallions and green onions.

Green onions and scallions share the most similarities. They are simply the immature shoots of onions, the only visible difference being the base at the end of long, straight greens. Green onions show the beginning of a bulb formation, while true

scallions (from a particular variety of white onion) are harvested before the bulb forms. Aficionados contend that although the two are interchangeable in recipes, scallions are sweeter and milder in flavor.

Leeks are the largest of the group. Because they are milder than most other alliums, I use them to add their sweet, oniony flavor to soups, stews, pastas and side dishes. The thick shank of the leek grows mainly under the surface of the soil.

Shanks vary in size from three-quarters of an inch to two inches in diameter and 10 to 18 inches long. During the slow growing period of four to five months, the multi-layered shoots of each leek push upward, gathering grit and dirt between the tightly rolled, flat leaves. This calls for some thorough cleaning and prep work.

Chives are one of my favorite alliums to use in companion planting in the garden or to add a zesty garnish to cheeses, soups, meats and salads. Chives have a sulfur-based oil contributing to the flavors I enjoy. Those same oils also help repel many insects in the garden, while the purple flower heads attract bees. I plant a few near my rose bushes, apple trees and between the rows of carrots, lettuce, tomatoes and peas.

Fresh and storage onions are types of dry onions. The local fresh or sweet onion harvest starts in March and includes red, yellow and white varieties. Their lack of pyruvate (the chemical that causes eye-tearing) makes them sweet and mild, but a high water and sugar content limits their storage capabilities. Storage onions grow during the summer and harvest begins in the fall. They are yellow, white or red-skinned, are stronger tasting, thicker skinned, less watery and better keepers than sweet onions.

Shallots grow in bulbs like onions, but cluster together like garlic. Once the shallot skin is removed, they break into cloves

like a head of garlic. These cloves are flat on one side, curved on the other and have onion-type layers when sliced. These are my go-to for so many dishes since they do not overpower other flavors.

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 www.cccfm.org, facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket and Instagram @OrindaFarmersMarket or call the market hotline at 925.322.6228.

Cast Iron Frittata

- 8 large eggs
- ¼ cup milk
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ cup grated cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon each olive oil and butter
- ¼ cup red onion finely chopped
- 1 leek, trimmed, rinsed well and thinly sliced
- 6 spears asparagus, washed, trimmed and cut into ½ inch pieces

Whisk eggs, milk, salt, pepper and cheese. Heat oil and butter in a 9-inch cast iron pan over medium heat. Add onion and leeks and sauté 3 to 4 minutes. Add asparagus and cook for 2 more minutes. Add and stir in egg mixture. Cover, reduce heat and cook for 4 minutes. Uncover skillet and place in 350 degree oven for 10 to 12 minutes or until center is set. ■

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 EBT Welcome

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

ONE GOLD PARTNER COMPASS RICK KALUZA & TEAM



JEFF HEYMAN
Effie Eliahu sells free range and pasture-raised eggs from Stueve Family Farms in Oakdale, ready to whisk up with market onions, leeks and asparagus for a fabulous frittata.

AAAAA RENT SPACE Store It Yourself & Save

Spring Cleaning Sale 50% OFF

FOR 3 MONTHS ON SELECTED UNITS GOOD 3/1/24 - 3/31/24

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



Empower Change as a CASA Volunteer

CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates FOR CHILDREN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Filmmaker Dave Mullins' "War is Over!" is Nominated for an Oscar

■ The Animated Short is based on the Song by John Lennon and Yoko Ono

By KATHY CORDOVA
Executive Editor
cordova@theorindanews.com



JEFF HEYMAN

Filmmaker Dave Mullins premiered his Oscar-nominated animated short, "War is Over!" at the Orinda Theatre. This is the Pixar veteran's second Academy Award nomination.

Lamorinda filmmaker Dave Mullins spent 20 years making movie magic at Pixar, animating films like "Finding Nemo," "The Incredibles" and "Monsters, Inc." But his most thrilling story to date may be his own race against the clock – how he and Orinda Theatre owner, Derek Zemrak, hustled to make the deadline for his latest film to qualify for the 2024 Academy Awards.

How do you know Derek?

When I made my last short film, "Lou" [in 2017], we did a screening at the Orinda Theatre. I met Derek and we hit it off. He's a lover of cinema and just a really great guy, so we kept in touch. My team and I owe Derek special thanks because of how he helped us on "War is Over!," which was amazing.

Tell us about it.

It's absolutely a bananas story! We had finished the film in October and we wanted to qualify for the 2024 Oscars. There are very strict rules around showing your film in a festival or having it in a theater run that's accessible to the public by a certain [SEE MULLINS page 20]

◆ SERVICE from page 12

them to the council.

Gee is a civil engineer with a career in transportation infrastructure, who spent five years on a civil infrastructure oversight committee before deciding to continue that work on the council.

Similarly, Malkani had served on a sales tax oversight committee and wanted to see that through. With Orinda's evolving demographics, Malkani also felt strongly about the need for more diversity and representation on the council.

Being in a public position isn't always fun. As Malkani noted, it opens you up to criticism and to being held accountable for your decisions. But service can benefit the servant as much or more than the recipient, and both women stressed how much they enjoy giving back to the community and working to make Orinda a nicer place for all of us.

Gee and Malkani encourage people interested in civic service to start by getting involved in one of Orinda's com-

missions or committees, stressing how important it is to understand how Orinda works and the issues that affect our community.

Opportunities open every year, and though the window for applications in 2024 closed in January, you can check your Orinda Outlook weekly, particularly late in the year, to see when the window opens again.

The Rotary Club of Orinda has a long, deep connection with the city and its leaders, and we have brought the mayor's annual State of the City address to the community for decades.

This year we invite the public to join us at the Founders Auditorium in the Orinda Community Center between noon and 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, for Mayor Gee's address. Lunch is \$25 per person at the door (\$1 more if paid by credit card). To ensure we have enough seating and food, we ask that you let us know you will come in advance by emailing us at rotarycluboforinda@gmail.com. For more information, please visit our website at orindarotary.org. ■



rayrobinson.attorney

PROBATE ATTORNEY

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

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



GILLIAN JUDGE HOGAN



8 Hidden Lane, Sleepy Hollow, Orinda
Price available upon request.



925.255.3128 call/text
GillianHogan.com
Gillian@GillianHogan.com
DRE #0210216



Mid Winter... and hopping busy!
It's NEVER a bad time to sell in Orinda.



Spring into your Garden

- Fresh Flower Bar
- Pollinator & Edible Garden Classes
- Spring Wreaths Workshop
- Easter Centerpiece Workshop
- Seeds & Gardening Tools
- Indoor/Outdoor Plants & Pottery



Follow us on Instagram
@gardennestshop for updates!



gardennest

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

105 Orinda Way, Orinda 925-546-0118

READINESS IS YEAR ROUND

Got fire fuels? Orinda's free Chipper is here to help.

After you have:

1. **Trimmed** branches and brush.
2. **Stacked** fire fuels adjacent to the roadway.

YOU'RE READY TO CHIP!

Sign up and we'll do the rest!
Visit Reserve.ChipperDay.com/Orinda



Visit CityofOrinda.org/EmergencyPreparedness





Measure R
at Work

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR CONTINUED

◆ MULLINS from page 19

date, so we were tracking that.

One Thursday night, my producer and business partner called me and said we had been looking at the wrong dates. “Oh my God, Dave, we screwed up,” he said. “We have to start a seven-day run at a theater by tonight.”

It was seven o’clock at night. First, I massively panicked. Then I knew what to do. I called Derek and he was in the middle of a soccer game. I told him I had a movie emergency and explained the situation. Our film had to start showing in the theater that night.

Derek said, “I’m on it. I got you.”

We both raced to the theater. He got the film into their system and printed tickets. I grabbed five people who were in the lobby and said, “Hey, do you want to see a film? I have an 11-minute movie and we need an audience.”

I asked them for a quarter and I made receipts on the back of a popcorn bag. Two hours after I got the call from my producer we started our theatrical run. It was insanity!

How did this project come together?

The project was Sean Lennon’s idea and is based on John Lennon and Yoko Ono’s song, “Happy Xmas (War is Over).” Sean produced an album for a friend of mine from Pixar and he asked him if he knew any directors. My friend connected us and we decided to meet.

Within an hour and a half, we had a working story. I went off that night and wrote the 10-page script and showed it to Sean the next day, and he said, “We’re making it.”

How did you come up with the story?

Sean started explaining to me the idea behind the song. He told me you think it’s a Christmas song, but it’s really a song about war, race and culture. The song was



COURTESY OF DAVE MULLINS

Set in an alternate WWI reality where a senseless war rages on, two soldiers on opposite sides of the conflict play a joyful game of chess. A heroic carrier pigeon delivers the soldiers’ chess moves over the battlefield as the fighting escalates. Neither soldier knows his opponent as the game and the war builds to its climatic final move. Whoever wins the game, one thing is for certain: there are no winners in war. For more info and to see a trailer, go to warisover.com.

written during the Vietnam War and it’s a protest song. Sadly, here we are 50 years later and it is just as relevant now as when it was written.

We thought about how you get two groups who are so certain that the other is evil to connect and realize they’re actually a lot closer than they thought. If people could put away their paradigms and their walls, whether political, geographical or cultural, and talk, nine times out of 10, they would realize they’re all good people who might just look at things a little differently.

The film is about the possibility of opposing forces finding a common ground to overcome their differences. We use chess as the metaphor for war and the pawns of war are the soldiers. We tell the story of a chess game being played via carrier pigeon by soldiers on opposite sides.

You worked for Pixar for 20 years during the time when Steve Jobs was at the helm. What was that like?

It was a dream. I applied for five or six years before I got hired at Pixar.

We were like this pirate ship up against the corporate monsters, and every day it felt like that. It was a very Steve Jobs thing. Everybody was there because they loved films.

I’ll tell you a funny story. When Jobs announced in 2005 that he was selling Pixar to Disney I knew what was going to happen. Pixar was this little company that could take risks and, while Disney would give a lot of support to the films, it was a bigger company and the choices would get safer.

That night I got so mad I punched a hole in the wall because the Pixar I knew was gone. (They had a bar in the animation offices, so that might have had something to do with it.)

The next day I was so embarrassed. I walked in the room with a kit to patch up the wall.

One of my friends got there before me and put a frame around it. He said we had to remember this moment because of how

passionate I was about Pixar and holding onto what it was. It’s still there today.

What’s your best advice for someone starting out in the movie/animation business?

Talent only gets you so far. Perseverance is a much more important quality. Work on your craft. Surround yourself with really smart people who are good at their craft.

Don’t get discouraged when people say no to you. You’re going to hear no’s and you’ll have all sorts of obstacles, but just keep going.

I always tell my kids: do what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life. I’ve always done what I loved and it never felt like work. I’m very lucky.

How can people see the film?

For a short time, starting in mid-February, there will be a theatrical release of all the nominated short films. ■

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 ★★★★★

J 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

D 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