



THE ORINDA NEWS

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November 2022

Orinda's City Council Candidates Respond to Issues in Public Forum



Oct. 6, (L-R) Alex Drexel, Stuart House, Brandyn Iverson, Latika Malkani, Sunil Rajaraman and Janet Riley. Riley, who was recovering from COVID-19, appeared via Zoom. The six candidates in the run for three vacant seats on the Orinda City Council answered a variety of questions in a public forum held in the Library Auditorium. JEFF HEYMAN

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 6, six candidates running for three open seats on Orinda's City Council participated in a public forum held in the Library Auditorium. The event, sponsored by the League of Women Voters

(LWV) Diablo Valley, The Orinda Association and *The Orinda News*, gave the candidates an opportunity to answer questions posed by the community and share their priorities for the city. The in-person attendance was 60 people, while 41 tuned into the forum via Zoom.

Topics discussed ranged from the Down-

town Precise Plan revitalization project to the idea of parking meters in the city. Candidates were allowed 90 seconds for their opening and closing statements and 60 seconds to answer each question, as well as two rebuttals of one minute each at their request.

The candidates – Alex Drexel, Stuart House, Brandyn Iverson, Latika Malkani,

Sunil Rajaraman and Janet Riley – were asked questions in random order.

“The City Council is responsible for establishing policy, passing ordinances, voting on appropriations and having overall authority in the city government,” forum moderator and LWV Diablo Valley's Janet Riley said. [SEE COUNCIL page 12]



A scene from *Last Film Show*, directed by Pan Nalin, is the opening night film of the California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) at the Orinda Theatre. The film festival runs Nov. 10 - 17. Owner of the Orinda Theatre, Derek Zemrak, said this is the first time they've opened CAIFF with a foreign film with subtitles. COURTESY OF CAIFF

California Independent Film Festival Returns to Orinda Theatre

By KATHY CORDOVA
Staff Writer

Venice, Cannes and Orinda. Is one of these not like the other?

It might seem that way, but in fact each is home to a world-class independent film festival.

Although the European cities might be a little more famous, Orinda's California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) enjoys some distinct advantages, and not just because it doesn't require a long flight and pricey hotel stay to enjoy extraordinary cinema.

“Our festival is quality over quantity. You will not find a bad film,” said Program Director Efi Lubliner, who also runs the monthly International Film Showcase at the Orinda Theatre.

CAIFF runs Nov. 10 - 17 at the Orinda

Theatre, located at 2 Orinda Theater Square.

“With other festivals, there's a lot of mediocrity,” said Lubliner. “They have so many venues they have to fill.”

Lubliner said he has carefully curated 24 films, including both national and global independent films. The program has something for everyone including dramas, comedies, timely documentaries and animated movies.

The opening night selection, *Last Film Show*, is India's submission to the 2023 Academy Awards. Reminiscent of *Cinema Paradiso*, the film celebrates movies with the tale of nine-year-old Samay's passion for filmmaking and the struggle to achieve his dream.

“It's the first time we've opened with a foreign film with subtitles.” [SEE CAIFF page 17]

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VOLUNTEER/MOFD AND OUSD FORUMS



JEFF HEYMAN

Orinda Mayor **Dennis Fay**, seen here at the Orinda Senior Village, is a volunteer driver for the Seniors Around Town program (SAT). This free service is provided by The Orinda Association and gives rides to seniors who can no longer drive themselves. Not only is the program rewarding for the drivers, but one senior told the Mayor the service was a "life saver."

Mayor Dennis Fay Gets to Know Orinda Seniors as Volunteer Driver

By JEFF HEYMAN
Contributing Writer

Begun August, 2005, the Seniors Around Town (SAT) program is probably the best kept secret in Orinda. At least that's what Mayor Dennis Fay thinks.

Fay learned about this vital program, which matches seniors who need to get

somewhere with volunteer drivers, only after he was elected to the Orinda City Council. Once he found out about it, he immediately volunteered to drive seniors, literally, around town.

"A lot of people don't even know it's here," said Fay. "We need more volunteers."

Run by the non-profit Orinda Association, SAT drivers provide transportation resources for Orinda seniors no longer able to drive themselves. It not only benefits seniors in need of a ride, but according to Fay, it's a fulfilling job.

"It's quite rewarding," he said. "I have met all kinds of interesting people, taking them everywhere. Everyone should do it."

Fay said that while taking seniors to doctor's appointments, hairdressers, etc., he's heard some interesting stories about Orinda.

"One person I drove has lived in Orinda for 50 years! You hear a lot of historical

[SEE MAYOR page 6]

Candidates for MOFD Speak on Issues Affecting District at Large



JEFF HEYMAN

Candidates for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) board of directors' election spoke on Oct. 13 on topics relating to the district. (L-R) **Steven Danziger**, **Vince Dell'Aquila**, **Michael Donner** and **Michael Roemer**.

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

This year's candidates for Districts 3 and 4 in the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) participated in a public forum in the Orinda Library Auditorium Thursday, Oct. 13, and answered questions about some of the biggest issues facing the district.

The event, which attracted both an in-person and virtual audience, was sponsored by the League of Women Voters Diablo Val-

ley (LWVDV) and The Orinda Association and followed by an Orinda Union School District public forum, which took place the same evening. Two MOFD candidates vied for one seat on each district – running for District 3 are Steven Danziger and Vince Dell'Aquila, and for District 4, Michael Donner and Michael Roemer.

"We are here tonight as part of our key mission to educate and inform voters," event moderator Ann Flynn, of the LWVDV, said

[SEE MOFD page 8]

OUSD Candidates Vie for School District Seats at Public Forum

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 13, the five candidates running for seats on the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) board of governors participated in a public forum

held in the Orinda Library's auditorium.

The event was sponsored by The Orinda Association, *The Orinda News*, the League of Women Voters and the Orinda Network for Education (ONE) and had both in-person and virtual attendees, who tuned

[SEE OUSD page 8]

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Edda, Eve, and Katie are the candidates we, as the outgoing OUSD Board members, endorse because they will best support our mission of being a learning community that inspires, engages, and supports all students.

– Carol Brown, Liz Daoust and Jason Kaune

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A Message From the Board
Giving Thanks and Gratitude



Kate Wiley

As we begin the holiday season, hopefully moving toward a more forgiving phase of COVID-19, giving thanks and practicing gratitude might come a little easier this year. Aaron Kinne, in an Aug. 27 article titled "What is World Gratitude Day?" stated, "Gratitude lifts us up, rejuvenates our spirit and gives us a renewed resolve to meet the unprecedented challenges we're facing today."

Couldn't we all use that?

Researchers suggest the more grateful you are, the more willing and happier you are to give to those in need. The good news is there's no shortage of ways to be altruistic. Volunteering and financial support are always needed – even in Orinda's own backyard.

Orinda is blessed to have active, local non-profits addressing the needs of all sectors of this community, including well-being, environmental, cultural and educational. Wherever someone's passion lies, there's a group with which to volunteer or support financially. The Orinda Association's Volunteer Center has a new updated resource guide; check it out.

Seniors are especially vulnerable, physi-

cally and emotionally, during the holidays, but their needs remain throughout the year. Losing the ability to drive to a doctor's appointment or grocery store leads to isolation and depression, often resulting in a feeling of being trapped in one's own home.

Consider volunteering and supporting Seniors Around Town (SAT), which is a free, safe, door-to-door transportation program for Orinda seniors. Providing just one ride a month, volunteer drivers can change a senior's quality of life while helping them regain independence and stay connected with the community.

Another way to help is to make a donation to a favorite charity. A gift to Seniors Around Town – made now through Dec. 31 – will be matched by an anonymous donor dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact of the contribution. Use the enclosed envelope, or scan the QR code to pay online. Giving locally allows each to see exactly how contributed dollars are working for good.

If gratitude is a part of your life, or if you're feeling you have space in your heart and your life to give to others, please do whatever you can. You'll find the

[SEE MESSAGE page 6]

Meet Orinda Association's Newest Board Member Lauren White

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Lauren White grew up in Orinda attending local schools that newcomers to Orinda may not be familiar with. She attended Orinda Union School (now the Orinda Community Center), followed by Pine Grove Intermediate (now a housing complex on Altarinda) and, finally, Miramonte High School.

She married and moved to Monterey County where she raised her son Charlie and enjoyed a busy life as a volunteer. Her varied experiences included guide/shift leader at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, a board member of a private road association, a board member for a senior housing development and serving on her local Architectural Review/Complaints board.

[SEE WHITE page 6]



COURTESY OF LAUREN WHITE
Raised in Orinda, **Lauren White** is The Orinda Association's newest board member.

The Orinda Association

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

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

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Election Coverage Has Proved a Challenge with Representation

While we normally do not respond in print to criticisms of our editorial decisions, we felt Steven Danziger's letter to the editor (see below) deserved some answers.

During my 29-year tenure with this newspaper, *The Orinda News* has always had a policy of not taking sides politically. We strive to give fair coverage to each candidate; however, we may have inadvertently missed the mark with our October issue.

The misspelling of Steven Danziger's name in my Page One article on public forums was not intentional, but merely a typo that, unfortunately, our editorial committee missed. I sincerely apologize for this error.

We've also been criticized for running the Orinda Citizen of the Year announcement, given this year's winner is also a candidate and Danziger's opponent.

This posed quite a conundrum for Editor-in-Chief Charleen Earley and me. We have always given ink to the winner of this important award, but we also realized we would be giving one candidate more

coverage by doing so this year.

It's not our policy, nor our business, to question how various organizations that send us award winners arrive at the choice of those winners. Given the political ramifications for this year's Citizen of the Year, however, we did ask the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) about their procedure.

We were told there had been five nominees. (In the spirit of full disclosure, I was one of them.) Four of us were eliminated for valid reasons, leaving Vince Dell' Aquila as OCF's choice for Citizen of the Year.

As to our policy on letters to the editor, we put all the letters we receive in print. We only move them online if our budget doesn't allow us enough pages to accommodate all the letters.

I hope this explanation has been helpful. I would point out that if I had been chosen Citizen of the Year, we wouldn't be having this controversy. Just kidding!

Sally Hogarty
Executive Director

Letters to the Editor

Unfair Representation in *The Orinda News*

I appreciate that you gave my election ad better placement than in the September edition, however I do believe you still treated me unfairly in the October edition.

You printed seven letters in support of my opponent before you printed the one that supported me. Unfair! Isn't there a policy that excess letters on one issue would be printed online?

The spelling of my last name was incorrect on page one. Also, my first name is Steven.

On page one, you printed an article announcing the Orinda Community Foundation's Citizen of the Year. I have no issue with his worthiness for years of volunteering as a football coach, but didn't you realize he is a candidate for MOFD (Moraga-Orinda Fire District) Board and this could be conceived as unfair.

Didn't you realize the president of the Orinda Community Foundation is also my opponent's main supporter and even had a letter of support published in this same edition?

Most of the Foundation's Board is listed on my opponent's endorsement list.

The Orinda Community Foundation should be ashamed of what I consider to be a "political dirty trick."

I believe residents of Orinda will see this for what it is – politics at it's worse! This was no coincidence.

The Orinda Community Foundation has

done incredible work in support of the community, but they have lost credibility. I would hope the actions of *The Orinda News* were not intentional, but I am not sure.

- Steven Danziger

Support Dell'Aquila for MOFD

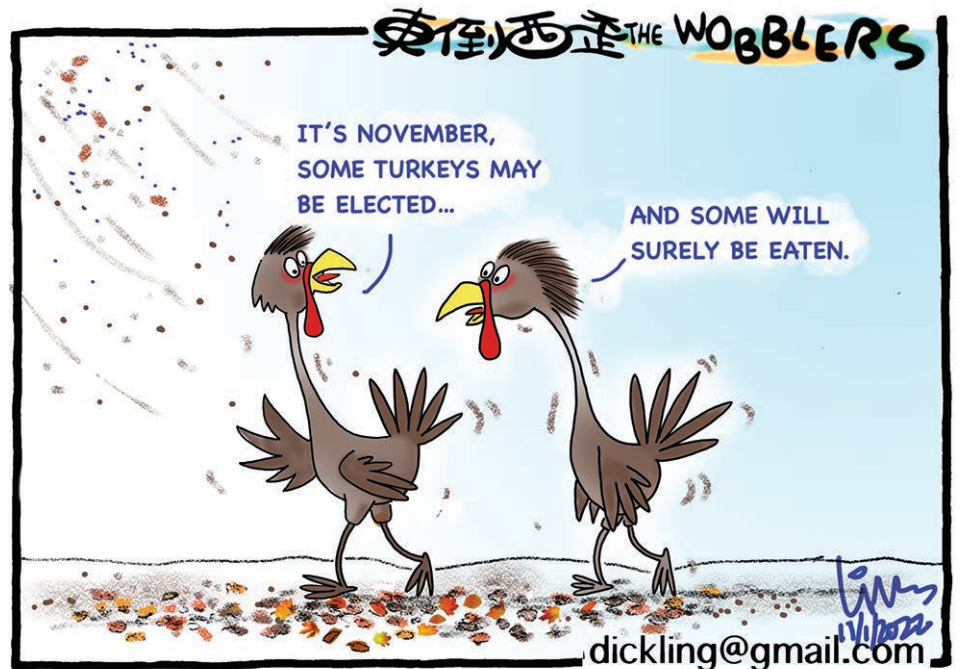
This is in support of Vince Dell' Aquila's candidacy for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors. I have known and worked in volunteer roles with Vince for over 27 years. He is capable, dedicated and altruistic as anyone could wish to have serve on the board. In Vince's broad experience as an educator, including his position as Miramonte High School athletic director, general contractor, non-profit board member and Firewise Neighborhood leader, he has successfully collaborated with a variety of stakeholders for years. Vince is uniquely qualified to prioritize and implement MOFD goals. I can't overstate how valuable he will be for the MOFD board and community.

- Bill Cosden

Re-elect Steven Danziger

On Nov. 8, voters in the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) District 3 will have the opportunity to vote for a director. For me, it is no contest. I will vote to re-elect Steven Danziger.

Steven is a wonderful neighbor and friend. He has clearly demonstrated to me over the years he is a reliable and effective leader who has consistently taken actions



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to make our District as fire safe as possible.

During these challenging times for the fire service, where the Board may make decisions that will affect our life and property, we need Steven's experience and expertise.

Steven has over three decades of public service experience, including 25 years in the fire service. He has served two terms as president of the board and is the current vice president.

He has completed CERT training, is a

FAC-Ambassador, volunteers with numerous local organizations, was local Boy Scout Troop 57 Scoutmaster (where we first met) and UC Master Gardener, instructing home hardening and firescaping.

The brave men and women that serve as firefighters with MOFD endorse Steven. Join me in re-electing Steven Danziger to MOFD District 3 Director on Nov. 8!

- John Turney
[SEE LETTERS page 18]

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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. Letters to the Editor for the December issue are due Nov. 8.

For advertising rates, contact Kathy Enzerink at 252-626-2109 (kathy@theorindanews.com) or Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the December issue is November 8.

AROUND TOWN / POLICE

Around Town: Orinda News Briefs

The Vietnam War: Two Perspectives

Since the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration in 2012, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has been a committed, commemorative partner, vowing to meet the primary objective to “thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, with distinct recognition of former prisoners of war and families of those still listed as missing in action.”

The Acalanes DAR Chapter hosts “The Vietnam War: Two Perspectives,” a free presentation at the Lafayette Library Learning Center, Don Tatzin Community Hall (across the library plaza), at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 10.

Author Steven Burchik presents “Compass and a Camera, A Year in Vietnam.” While serving in Vietnam, Burchik used his camera to document the daily life of soldiers, and later published a book of the photographs.

DAR member, Leslie Pfeifer, presents “Flying Tigers and the Vietnam War.” During the Vietnam War, Pfeifer served as a flight attendant on military charter flights to and from Vietnam for Flying Tiger Line. She made more than 75 trips accompanying American soldiers into and out of Vietnam war zones. Her presentation includes a brief history of the original Flying Tigers during the Sino-Japanese War and World War II, followed by her experiences as a Vietnam War flight attendant.

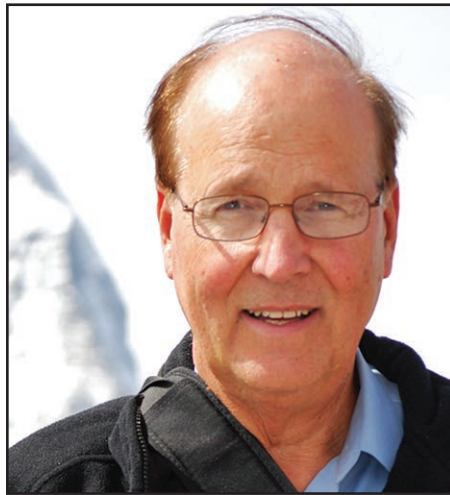
Register at www.tinyurl.com/vietnam-Nov22 or contact Bonnie Gallogly at 925.286.3805 for more information.

Orinda City Council Community Service Positions Available for 2023

The Orinda City Council holds interviews each year to fill upcoming term expirations on the city’s commissions, committees and representative seats on regional boards.

Upcoming term expirations follow: Planning Commission (two positions), Parks & Recreation Commission (two positions), Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (three positions), Historic Landmarks Committee (three positions), Art in Public Places Committee (one position), Finance Advisory Committee (two positions), Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (two positions), County Library Commission (one Orinda representative) and Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (one Orinda representative).

If interested, fill out a Statement of Interest by Jan. 13, 2023. View description of various City commissions/committees



COURTESY OF STEVEN BURCHIK
Author **Steven Burchik** presents “Compass and a Camera, A Year in Vietnam” for “The Vietnam War: Two Perspectives,” a free presentation at the Lafayette Library Learning Center at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 10.

at www.cityoforinda.org. View, print and submit your interest form to City Clerk Sheri Smith at ssmith@cityoforinda.org.

EBMUD Construction at Orinda Water Treatment Plant

The East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) begins construction this month on a major project at the Orinda Water Treatment Plant (OWTP) at 190 Camino Pablo. The plant serves 800,000 customers daily.

For almost a century, OWTP has treated pristine water from the Sierra Nevada foothills through filtration and disinfection steps. Primarily because of climate change, EBMUD said the source water quality will be affected. More severe and frequent droughts, rising temperatures, algae blooms and wildfires are the direct contributors. EBMUD therefore confirmed it’s embarking on “critical treatment process improvements to ensure clean, reliable water into the future.”

EBMUD spokesman said, “the \$325.7 million project will make reliability improvements to include a new ultraviolet disinfection (UV) facility to better treat viruses and pathogens, a new chlorine contact basin to reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts and improvements to chemical systems.”

Construction activity will take place primarily at the treatment plant with demolition of the existing maintenance buildings to make room for the future UV facility, followed by drilling piles to support facility excavation beginning early 2023.

Construction-related work hours will be Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with most activities confined to the Orinda



POLICE BLOTTER

September 16 through October 15

Calls for Service

- Assault: 1 incident
- Burglary, Auto: 2 incidents: Rio Vista, Whitehall Dr.
- Burglary, Residential: 1 incident: undisclosed
- Death - Non-Criminal: 1 incident
- Drunk in Public: 2 incidents
- Failure to Obey Officer: 2 incidents
- Fraud/Forgery: 2 incidents
- Grand Theft: 1 incident
- Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident
- Illegal Entry: 1 incident
- Interfering with Public Officer: 1 incident
- Petty Theft: 1 incident
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident: Chapparral Pl.

- Property Found: 1 incident
- Shoplifting: 2 incidents
- Terrorist Threats: 1 incident
- Tow: 1 incident
- Vandalism, Felony: 1 incident
- Vehicle Theft: 3 incidents: Sundown Dr., Chapparral Pl., Orinda Way

Arrest

- Carrying a Concealed Weapon: 1 arrest
- Drugs/Narcotics Violation: 2 arrests
- Warrant Arrest: 6 arrests

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

Water Treatment Plant site.

EBMUD and contractor, Flatiron West, Inc., will have traffic control and flaggers in place during periods of significant truck traffic. This will expedite concrete delivery and off hauls while ensuring safety of nearby residents and pedestrians

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3V1xJFa>

Direct questions to construction-east@ebmud.com.

Free Parent Enrichment Series

Members of the St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church host a free parent enrichment series from The Kindness Diaries, titled “The Gift

[SEE BRIEFS page 6]



Buying and Selling in Lamorinda Is an Exciting Process

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**Joe Rubay, Candidate
State Assembly District 16**

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CAR TIME

◆ MAYOR from page 2

family stories,” said Fay. “You really get something back talking to all these incredible people.”

SAT, which received the Orinda Mayor’s Award of Excellence in 2021, provides no cost, door-to-door transportation to all eligible senior Orinda residents.

Volunteer drivers, like Fay, make the program work by using their own vehicles to drive seniors to keep doctor appointments, do errands, go grocery shopping and enjoy social events in the Lamorinda, Berkeley and Walnut Creek areas.

Seniors Around Town drivers clocked more than 2,000 miles of rides last year. The program is open to Orinda residents, ages 25 to 75, with a clean DMV driving record and no criminal background.

SAT operates Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To avoid surprises, drivers get a week’s notice a senior needs a ride and to which destination. Volunteers also decide how often and how far they are willing or able to drive.

Fay provides about two rides a month.

He recalled driving a senior to his dialysis appointment.

“Hey, aren’t you the mayor?” the senior asked Fay.

Another day, Fay said a woman was so thankful for a ride to get her hair done and visit her husband who is in a senior care facility that she described the program as a “life saver.”

“She told me the service has allowed her to have a life again,” said Fay.

The Mayor, himself with a background in transportation, enjoys volunteering for the SAT program so much, he said he will continue to drive for SAT once he leaves office at the end of his term.

Fay encourages everyone able to get involved.

“If you at all like people, Seniors Around Town is for you,” he said.

For more information about volunteering or registering for a ride, call 925.402.4506, or visit <https://orindaassociation.org/seniors-around-town>.

Jeff Heyman can be reached at heyman.foto@gmail.com.

◆ BRIEFS from page 5

of Love” (Episode 1), Nov. 9 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Pizza, bottled water and childcare are provided, followed by a Q and A with a marriage and family therapist, after the short film. Throughout the series, Leon travels the world relying entirely on the kindness of strangers for food, shelter and gas for his vintage motorcycle. Looking for

the good in humanity, the film looks at the nature of generosity and gives glimpses into the hearts of selfless people. Random acts of kindness are repaid in unexpected gifts. St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church is located at 66 St. Stephens Dr.

Compiled by Charleen Earley, who can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

CAR TIME

Expensive versus Good Value



RAY KUNZ

How is an auto repair job determined to be expensive or a good value?

Unfortunately, many people look to the Internet to answer the “expensive” side of that question. They often look up what they think a car’s failed part is and how much it should cost. Do most people really know what has failed on their vehicles when diagnosing them?

Others might try to diagnose their car’s problem based on very old information because that’s what they remember when they used to work on cars. Such information, however, is outdated with the advent of computer technology. Today’s modern vehicle can have a dead cylinder, but the vehicle’s computer can smooth the run condition to the extent that only trained professionals could identify there is a problem and what it is.

Should inexpensive parts be used to repair an issue with a car? Doing so could leave a driver stranded. It is better to have the issue professionally diagnosed and repaired with the best quality parts available.

Certainly, some replacement parts are available through the Internet, but many professional quality parts are not.

Then the question becomes what is a reasonable mark-up for those parts?

It is important to note in most cases mark-

ups ensure the practicality of extended warranty periods. If a part subsequently fails, it is warranted by the facility working on your vehicle.

Also, keep in mind labor rates and mark-ups are based on the costs of doing business in well-run facilities. Before looking solely at price, ask the repair facility about the warranty period for its parts and service.

Expensive does not always mean good, but inexpensive generally means being stuck on the side of the road. Alternately, value for your money should mean getting a good-to-great warranty to ensure against something failing. Value also comes knowing the repair facility will be there if an issue arises.

Ultimately, the best advice is to look for a facility that makes you feel safe and secure in your decision to use it. Price should not be a sole determinant because you are not buying the same thing from one facility to another.

And for those who may think auto-repair is easy, think about this for a minute – there is more computing power in most newer vehicles nowadays than there was in the Saturn rocket that sent a man to the moon!

Ray Kunz can be reached at service@orindamotors.com.



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◆ WHITE from page 3

White moved back to Orinda with her long-time partner Steve Shea at the end of 2019 to help care for her aging father, who is now 98.

“I’m back in the home I grew up in,” White said.

She immediately got involved once again with her hometown by volunteering with the Orinda Starlight Village Players as a costumer, tech person and, basically, whatever the small non-profit needed. Looking for more ways to contribute, she volunteered with The Orinda Association’s (OA) Seniors Around Town program as a driver. It wasn’t long before members of the OA noted what a great asset she would be to the board of directors.

“I love being part of a team and am thrilled there are opportunities to support hyper-local events that I’ve enjoyed for years such as the 4th of July and Classic Car Show,” said White. “I am fortunate to

be self-employed as a residential property manager, so I have the flexibility to be part of the OA.”

Residents who attended any of the OA’s Candidates forums in October might remember White as the smiling greeter handing out face masks and question cards to audience members.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.

◆ MESSAGE from page 3

benefits of gratitude and helping others in need just might give you the resolve you need to make it joyfully through the holidays.

For more information, email seniorsaroundtownorinda@gmail.com, or visit www.orindaassociation.org.

Kate Wiley can be reached at seniorsaroundtownorinda@gmail.com




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FIRE SAFETY/CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Virtual Evacuation Exercises Conducted in Lamorinda by MOFD

By S. K. GUPTA
Contributing Writer

Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette residents participated in a virtual evacuation exercise conducted across Lamorinda, Sept. 10. Nearly 1,800 residents completed surveys in response to the drill to practice communications and procedures needed in the event of a major disaster.

The exercise started with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) sending an alert to simulate a large-scale wildland fire evacuation.

“We also used this to practice setting-up and operating a unified command with law, fire and cooperating agencies,” said Orinda Police Chief Ryan Sullivan.

Prior to the exercise, messages were sent via Nixle, newspapers, newsletters, Nextdoor and social media platforms to inform residents of the upcoming drill.

Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) Fire Chief Dave Winnacker did, however, point out, “Never wait to be ordered to evacuate. If residents feel there is danger, they should leave the area before an official notification is received.”

The extensive drill involved participants from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette police departments, Contra Costa County Community Warning System, Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, MOFD’s Communications Support Unit volunteers, Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Lamorinda Radio

Interest Group (LARIG).

After alerts were sent, residents were asked to take a survey. In addition to the surveys, CERT sent over 600 text messages with more than 100 recipients responded. LARIG fielded over 50 radio calls from Ham radio and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) volunteers.

“These drills are very important to ensure we are all prepared when the real disaster strikes,” said MOFD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein. “Our highest priority is protecting life. If residents evacuate in a wildfire, firefighters can focus on protecting property and controlling the fire.”

Orinda City Manager David Biggs said evacuation zone numbers are important.

“All residents should know their evacuation zone numbers, so after an evacuation they can track and know when they can return home,” said Biggs.

Evacuation zone numbers are available at <https://community.zonehaven.com/>.

Evacuation orders come from the Contra Costa County CWS. MOFD Fire Marshall Jeff Isaacs encourages residents to register their multiple phones and emails for alert notifications at <https://cwsalerts.com/registration>.

“Some people may need more time or some assistance to evacuate,” added Rein. “If there is time and it’s safe to do so, try to check on your neighbors before you leave. Always have a go-bag ready and evacuate at your earliest opportunity.”

[SEE EXERCISES page 10]



COURTESY OF CONTRA COSTA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Five members of the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra are Orindans. (L-R) **Barbara Hodgkinson**, oboe, **Betsy Barsamian-Teman**, violin, **Lisa Chow**, violin, **Nancy Loomba**, flute, and **Yuka Yoshie**, viola are slated to perform Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. at St. Stephen’s Church Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Dr.

Orinda Orchestra Members Perform at St. Stephen’s Church

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra kicks off the holiday season with their Dec. 4 concert under the direction of Geoffrey Gallegos at 4 p.m.

Titled “Rhapsodies and Reveries,” it features George Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* as well as a “Christmas at the Movies” medley and *Fantasia*, based on *Greensleeves*.

The concert is at the newly remodeled sanctuary at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Dr.

Gallegos, a prominent fixture in the San Francisco Bay Area music community for over 35 years, served as associate conductor

of the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, assistant conductor of the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra and conductor with the Golden Gate Opera. He began his music lessons on the trumpet at age nine.

Five members of the orchestra are from Orinda: Lisa Chow, violin; Betsy Barsamian-Teman, violin; Yuka Yoshie, viola; Nancy Loomba, flute; and Barbara Hodgkinson, oboe and English horn.

Chow started violin lessons when she was seven-years-old.

“My mother, who played the cello, wanted her children to play stringed instruments,” said Chow. “When we were kids, my sisters and I used to play carols for the

[SEE ORCHESTRA page 14]



JULIE SPARKS

Joe Grupalo from Zonehaven taught the MOFD Support Team how to be an “alerter” on their community website. With training, team members should be able to enter hazard information in a disaster, such as closed roads, trees or power lines down, or traffic hazards.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ MOFD from page 2

as the forum began. Questions directed to the candidates ranged from wildfire fuel mitigation compliance in open areas owned by entities such as the East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utilities District and CalTrans, to the relationship between the MOFD board and the local firefighter’s union.

“My legal experience in asking sharp questions and analyzing complex problems would be an asset to the board,” District 4 candidate Roemer said in his opening statement, kicking off the forum.

A retired prosecutor and active attorney, Roemer has Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training and obtained an emergency ham radio license. He also joined the MOFD Support Unit and took MOFD’s Firewise ambassador training.

With experiences serving on the board of a community bank, Roemer emphasized the financial skills he possesses would be “helpful in navigating the investment issues that must be addressed to protect our firefighters’ pensions.”

Candidate Danziger, currently MOFD District 3 director and running for re-election, was elected in 2018 and served two years as board president. He is currently vice president and a member of the audit committee and is CERT-trained Fire Adapted Community (FAC) ambassador.

“I am passionate about serving the public and making this district as safe as possible,” Danziger said. “I’m running for re-election in order to continue building upon the incredible progress this district has made in the last four years.”

Danziger continued, citing the safety of the community, as well as the district’s finances, are flourishing under the leadership of the current board and MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker.

MOFD Board President Michael Donner, elected in 2018, is a District 4 candidate

running for re-election. He spoke of his 40 years of fire experience and “a deep understanding of every aspect of the fire service, including fire prevention, apparatuses, facilities, staffing and much more” at the forum, as well as his work coaching sports, teaching fire safety and serving meals at local schools.

Donner highlighted the implementation of Firewise groups in the community as an accomplishment during his term, noting “we have gone from zero Firewise groups, to over 30 groups representing more than 2,500 households.”

Also during his term, said Donner, reserve funds have increased, from 17% to a goal of a 50% reserve fund.

MOFD District 3 candidate Dell’Aquila, who has held roles as athletic director, department chair, educator and coach for 32 years, cited his background of 19 years of fiscal experience with overseeing an athletic budget, as well as his leadership experience, as assets “necessary to meet the needs of our community in becoming fire-adapted.”

Dell’Aquila, who made clear his intentions to manage the community’s tax dollars “to keep one of the best firefighting districts in the state locally-controlled,” also emphasized the importance of home hardening, high-quality paramedic services and evacuation plans and spoke in support of “the best” fire prevention and emergency preparation programs for all stakeholders.

The four MOFD candidates shared thoughts and stances on topics such as their campaign funding, solvency of the firefighter pension fund and investment of more resources for wildfire prevention – such as the North Orinda shaded fuel break project, home hardening grants and wood chipper services for residents.

The effectiveness and improvement of MOFD’s communication with the com-

[SEE MOFD page 10]

◆ OUSD from page 2

in via Zoom.

Ann Flynn of the League of Women Voters, moderated the forum.

The five candidates – Michelle Chang, Edda Collins Coleman, Linda Delehunt, Eve M. Phillips and Katie Shogan – are vying for the three open seats on the board. Topics included transparency with the district’s budget, challenges OUSD faces with special education and gun violence in schools.

Chang spent 25 years in public education working as a teacher, founding director of an after-school program and as a founding principal at a California distinguished school. She currently continues her work in education, “supporting school principals, their communities and collaborating with every department in the school district that I work in to support our students.” She highlighted her volunteer work within Orinda

schools inside and outside the classroom and spoke of ensuring all community voices are heard to “build bridges with our community to best support our schools.” She is a parent of an OUSD student.

Delehunt talked about why she is running for school board.

“It is to assist and provide excellence to this school district and to sustain the Orinda Union School District as an exemplary district,” she said. “Excellence is difficult to achieve and preserve,” calling the excellence embedded in OUSD’s programs “well worth preserving.” A member of the Orinda community for 42 years, Delehunt has been involved with Orinda schools as a parent, a volunteer, a Girl Scout leader and a teacher. She has served on the parents’ board of Glorietta Elementary and Orinda Intermediate Schools, and the Educational Foundation of Orinda’s board.

Eve Phillips, who grew up in the Lam-

[SEE OUSD page 12]



JEFF HEYMAN

On Thursday, Oct. 13, the five candidates running for the three open seats on the Orinda Union School District’s (OUSD) school board (L-R) Michelle Chang, Linda Delehunt, Eve M. Phillips, Katie Shogan and Edda Collins Coleman, answered questions posed by the public and discussed challenges facing the district.


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“Vince Dell’Aquila has been deeply connected to our community in Orinda for many years. Vince will support fire prevention efforts by Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) to bring all of Orinda closer to wildfire sustainability and work collaboratively with our Firewise Neighborhoods. I enthusiastically endorse Coach Dell’Aquila for MOFD Board Member, division 3.”


Melanie Light, Orinda Firewise Council, Founder and Firewise Leader*

Vince DELL’AQUILA

Moraga - Orinda Fire District Board

*Titles listed for identification only.


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TEACHER HONORED/GIVING



JEFF HEYMAN

Anne Parr, who taught ceramics classes at the Orinda Community Center for nearly 50 years, stands outside the kiln room that will now bear her name. The Orinda City Council recently passed a resolution honoring Parr for her years of service and naming the room "Anne J. Parr Clay and Kiln Room."

City Council Honors Anne Parr for Decades of Teaching Ceramics

By JEFF HEYMAN Staff Writer

The Orinda City Council, at its Sept. 27 meeting, recognized longtime art teacher and Orinda resident, Anne Parr, in a resolution to name a portion of the Orinda Community Center in her honor.

Part of Classroom 10 at the Community Center, known affectionately as the "kiln room," is now named after Parr. Going forward, the room is recognized as the "Anne J. Parr Clay and Kiln Room." A plaque will be installed to honor Parr for the nearly 50 years she taught children's clay programs in Orinda and for providing "unforgettable experiences" to innumerable local students.

Councilmember Amy Worth requested the resolution honoring Parr's many years of service during a previous City Council meeting. In a report, City staff recommended naming part of Classroom 10 in the Orinda Community Center for Parr, and the Council voted unanimously to approve the recommendation.

"I am surprised and honored. It has been a privilege to teach all these years," said Parr. "I mostly feel a sense of perpetuity and longevity about this honor."

Parr added, "There are so few who stick

around teaching anymore."

She moved to the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood 58 years ago, and at age 88, she said it's been a long ride teaching.

"I've had some great kids - and parents too - over the years, and all those students produced some great art," she said.

A general education major from Sacramento, Parr attended U.C. Berkeley and found her path to teaching ceramics through volunteer work while she attended the university.

In addition to her almost 50 years teaching in Orinda, Parr taught in Lamorinda schools and held ceramics workshops. She stopped teaching in 2020.

Parr reflected on those with whom she came into contact during her many years of teaching.

[SEE PARR page 10]

Funny Side Up

NO REASON NEEDED TO GIVE TO OTHERS FROM THE HEART

Charleen Earley



"Just because" is what my late mom Sylvia would sign on the little tag of a gift bag - a gift she would give to me when it wasn't my birthday or Christmas or some other holiday.

Her reasoning was it doesn't have to be a special occasion to give someone a gift.

Don't misunderstand me. My mom loved holidays and birthdays and gift-giving in general, but she taught me there are moments in life when you don't need a reason to give someone a gift.

You are giving to someone or a charity, whether it's a gift or your time - just because.

So here it is November, the month in which the holiday "Thanksgiving" lives. Of course, most people think about being thankful for their blessings, people and family in their lives or they may think of giving to others.

My mom's theory, and now mine too, is that it doesn't have to be November or December or a birthday, wedding, graduation, retirement, etc. to give someone a gift. Giving to others can be an act one can do all-year-long - just because.

Giving to others should be just because you care; just because you want to; just because no person, no non-profit or no



CHARLEEN EARLEY

One doesn't need a birthday, holiday or special occasion to give others a gift or volunteer time, since it's perfectly okay to give a gift "just because" throughout the year, on any random day.

holiday told or asked you to.

I personally enjoy giving. It's fun. It's rewarding. It makes me feel good to see the receiver happy and joyful for my gift or time. I only give when I can afford it, monetarily or with my time. Alternately, it

[SEE FUNNY page 13]

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Mike Roemer Fire Support Volunteer Attorney Moraga-Orinda Fire District. We support Mike Roemer as the best person for the MOFD Fire Board. Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay and City Council Members Darlene Gee, Nick Kosla, Inga Miller and Amy Worth. I'm Mike Roemer and I'd appreciate your vote to represent Central Orinda on the Fire District Board. www.mikeroemer4mofd.com

PET OF THE MONTH

Pet of the Month



MIKE TUNICK

Mike Tunick said his husky, **Hambone**, enjoys chilly nights and especially near the lake at his recent trip to Tahoe. Visit him at his own Instagram page @hambonelife.

◆ MOFD from page 8

munity was also discussed, as was the idea of the district merging with joint powers authority CONFIRE.

“I am impressed with the degree of community involvement,” forum attendee Ron Wecht said after the event. Wecht, along with his wife Sue, have resided in Orinda for 29 years.

“The community seems to be well aware of the issues, based on the questions that were asked in tonight’s meeting,” Sue Wecht said after the forum wrapped up. “The attendees of tonight seemed to very well informed of the issues.”

Orinda resident of 37 years, Jean Barn-

hart was appreciative of the forum.

“I think it’s a great service to the community,” she said. “Very well organized and fair.”

Editor’s Note: Complaints were made to The Orinda News concerning audience members who may have been communicating answers to candidates during the MOFD Public Forum. While there were definite disruptions from the audience during the forum, we could not corroborate the alleged communication. To see the recorded event, go to <https://theorindanews.com/>.

Andrea Madison can be reached at drea.madison.05@gmail.com.

◆ PARR from page 9

“It’s amazing how many people I run into – old people, young people – who I have taught over the years,” she said. “It really is multigenerational.”

Among her fondest memories, Parr said it was when students who never wanted to interact with others came to class, worked long hours with other kids and discovered their own creativity.

“It was a social thing, the kids did all their work in pairs, using tools together, to make clay pieces,” she said.

“I guess I should have been a contractor, actually,” said Parr. “I’ve covered so many shelves with clay pieces over all these years.”

Jeff Heyman can be reached at heyman.foto@gmail.com.

◆ EXERCISES from page 7

Jimmy Lee, of the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff’s Public Information Office, was pleased with the number of alerts deployed.

“During the evacuation drill in Lamorinda, some 40,000 alerts were sent by the Community Warning System (CWS),” said Lee. “CWS is a state-of-the-art, all-hazard warning system that uses multiple platforms to alert the community of situations where there is imminent threat to health, safety and lives. Drills provide CWS – which works closely with public safety agencies – an opportunity to evaluate the system and find ways to improve notifications and service delivery.”

S.K. Gupta can be reached at sk.gupta.us@gmail.com.

Douglas Heine’s Full Circle

Douglas Heine’s *Full Circle*, an inspiring, full-metal sculpture, has joined the public art collection at the Orinda Library. Heine (left) installed the piece Sept. 13, with a little help from his son, Mike Heine (center) and Rich Thompson, Chair of the City’s Art in Public Places Committee. Heine is a Vallejo-born sculptor who developed his art in a Berkeley studio shared with the Mexican sculptor Jorge Duron. After retiring from the art and astrophysics departments at U.C. Berkeley, Heine focused full-time on his art. A day of introspection on how many times his life has gone full circle, prompted Heine to make the *Full Circle* sculpture. He has public art installations at Solano College, St. Hilary’s in Tiburon and the Embarcadero BART station.



JEFF HEYMAN

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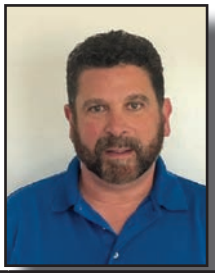
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ORINDA ART SCENE

Orinda Art Scene

NOVEMBER IN THE ART GALLERIES AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY AND WILDER



DAVID FONSECA

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: Oil Paintings, Photography, Woodturning and Hats

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents paintings by Nicole Reader, photography by Farzeen Taban, woodturning by David Fleisig and hats by Denise Goodman in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library during November.

Learn more about the artists, Saturday, Nov. 5 from 3 – 5 p.m., where light refreshments will be served.

East Bay artist, Reader, has 12 paintings on display at the library, with the theme of ‘Looking Out, Looking In.’

“I use acrylic paints on canvas to make realistic, figurative art,” said Reader. “I base my paintings on photographic references, but I re-envision photos rather than just copying them. Without sentimentality, I paint figures and settings that capture an authentic memory, a passing emotion or a fleeting moment in time. In my paintings I walk a balance: I pin down precise and specific realistic details, but I also incorporate the magic of mood and atmosphere.”

The exhibit shows acrylic paintings of contemplative people turning their eyes

elsewhere. The figures in the paintings are focused on their own environment – internal or external, rather than acknowledging the viewer’s gaze. Some are perched on literal overlooks with dramatic landscapes opening before them; others barely look off the edge of the canvas, their vision turned inward.

“Even when they’re in action – as they walk, sing, row or listen to a story – the people here appear introspective, lost in their own thoughts and emotions,” she explained.

For more about Reader and her work, visit www.nicolereader.com.

Taban’s exhibit, “On the Road,” showcases his travels around the U.S. and Canada.

“I was born to a family of art lovers,” he said. “Every form of art was revered. In this nurturing environment, I was taught to appreciate the beauty we encounter every day and to share this with others. In my youth, I discovered photography as a hobby. It seemed an ideal method for capturing the beauty of the world.”

Taban added, “Appreciating the beauty of life, giving and receiving love is not accidental. It is something that hopefully we learn early on in our lives and we must practice each day.”

View his photos at www.farzeen.com.

Fleisig, of Berkeley, returns for another woodturning exhibition.

“I’ve been thinking about this one differently,” he said. “You typically start out doing a vase or something like that with a single piece. And it’s usually ‘round and brown,’ but then I started getting interested in starting with a single piece of wood and constructing something using many pieces of wood. Then I started incorporating color into my pieces, along with texture and carving too. I also started incorporating epoxy

into some pieces. Sometimes I incorporate all of them.”

“Woodturning is more than just ‘round and brown,’” he explained about expanding the definition of his craft by following a path in a trajectory moving in a different direction from traditional woodturning by incorporating more colors, textures and approaches.

“When I retired, I picked up woodworking. I built a deck, then tables and chairs and about 10-12 years ago, I got turned on to woodturning. I find it endlessly interesting and challenging,” he said.

He’s a volunteer woodturning teacher at Campolindo High School, where six students study woodturning with him. Three of his former students won first, second and third prizes in woodturning at the California State Fair.

“There’s little limit to what kids can learn and do if they have a mind to, and I enjoy the results and process a lot,” he said.

Alameda hat-maker Goodman brings her fun-filled approach with hat-making to the library this month.

“A hat is the most enjoyable part of the outfit, the icing on the cake,” she said. “Hats invoke a feeling of what is to come. Hats give a glance into a personality and convey playfulness, decorum and fashion. Hats are just fun!”

Goodman, who has always loved wearing hats, is an active member of the Red Hat Society (RHS). To learn more about RHS, visit www.redhatsociety.com.

Art Gallery at Wilder: Celebrating 40 over 40

Juleen Lapporte, an award-winning



JULEEN LAPPORTE

Dany Knowing is one of 13 portraits taken by award-winning portrait photographer **Juleen Lapporte**, to be displayed at The Art Gallery at Wilder. Lapporte’s virtual exhibit, titled “Celebrating 40 Over 40,” runs through Jan. 6. Knowing said through her vulnerability, she found herself embracing the inner strength and pure confidence of knowing herself more fully at age 56, than ever before.

portrait photographer based in Lafayette, is showing “Celebrating 40 Over 40” at The Art Gallery at Wilder, celebrating women over 40 and 13 of their stories.

“What I’m discovering, now that I’m a little bit older and more one-on-one with women, is that I’m falling in love with having the opportunity to work one-on-one,” she said.

[SEE WILDER page 15]



DAVID FLEISIG

David Fleisig began woodturning, making conventional bowls, platters and other items. Over time he started incorporating colors, different wood types, textures and epoxy inlays. This laminated multi-wood vessel is part of this month’s exhibit at the Orinda Library gallery.

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Lamorinda Democratic Club
Democratic Party of Contra Costa County*

VOTE BY NOVEMBER 8

👉 latika4orinda.com

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Paid for by Malkani for City Council 2022
FPPC# 1454487

CONTINUATIONS

◆ COUNCIL from page 1

Hoy reminded the attendees at the event's opening.

"It's not a matter of taking charge, it's a matter of making the best decisions you can, and I think I would bring that as a particular skill," Iverson responded to the first question regarding what leadership and managerial skills she would bring to the City Council position. Iverson served on the City's planning commission for six-plus years and has participated in downtown unification plan ConnectOrinda.

Fellow candidate Rajaraman cited his experience as an entrepreneur, saying that "building from scratch to something that exists and is a living, breathing entity" is something unique he brings to the council. "Learning from others is something that I do very well, and that's something I plan on doing as a City Council Member, with whoever ends up being elected."

"I've been an executive for quite some time," candidate and technology executive Drexel responded to the first question.

"I've led large organizations, international organizations, through change and restructuring," adding that a leader needs to manage change and, to do that must "be an active listener."

Malkani cited her work with the City's Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (SSTOC), as well as her six years of experience serving on the board of Planned Parenthood Miramonte, for teaching her the "nitty gritty" of oversight and budgeting. "But what it really taught me the value of is strategic planning and long-term strategic planning," Malkani said.

"I've worked for government at the local, state and national levels," said House in response to the first question of the evening, citing his service on the boards of many non-profit organizations across different states, as well as his previous leadership in roles in a city art council and as assistant director of community affairs and staff training with the Michigan Credit Union League, among his experiences.

Riley spoke of her work with area school parents' clubs and the Educational Foundation of Orinda, as well as her service on the boards of the Orinda Garden Club and USDA NorCal and her social justice work at a local church. "The key to everything I do is to listen and involve everyone's opinions and get buy-in and consensus," she said, joining the panel via Zoom due to being in quarantine.

In addition to sharing skills that would help them in their service on the City Council, the six candidates were also asked to share their thoughts on a variety of Orinda-related topics, such as how to revitalize the downtown area and fill vacant business spaces, how to balance state housing mandates while retaining Orinda's rural character and the exclusion of private streets from the city's road maintenance program, with residents on private streets still paying the same property taxes as residents on public streets.

Moraga Way's heavy congestion before and after school, during commute hours and utility work, while simultaneously

acting as Orinda's primary exit route in an emergency was identified as a real problem during the forum. A potential ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, the support of making Juneteenth a city holiday for employees and keeping the city free of graffiti, litter and dumping were also questions posed to the candidates. Inquiries about handling gun violence in the city and the enhancement, funding and securing of schools rounded out the collection of topics.

"I feel very fortunate that we have so many excellent candidates running for our City Council," Orinda resident of 50 years, Linda Luini, said after the forum. "I regret I can only cast votes for three of them."

Bob Burt, an Orinda resident for 36 years, echoed Luini's thoughts. "The main thing that comes across is the outstanding qualities of all six," he said after the event. "Orinda's in good shape with all three of [those elected]."

Andrea Madison can be reached at drea.madison.05@gmail.com.

◆ OUSD from page 8

Orinda area and attended Miramonte High School, currently works at Google as a product executive on a healthcare software team and was elected to the Orinda City Council in 2014. "I was alerted to some of the challenges that currently exist in our schools – educational, financial mental health – by some of our community members," Phillips said, saying that her "experience in driving community transparency through that role on the board would be helpful, after such a tumultuous pandemic period." Phillips also served as mayor of Orinda in 2017 and is the parent of an OUSD student.

Former California public school teacher and administrator, Katie Shogan empha-

sized it is "critically important to maintain and strengthen our public schools, so that they continue to provide an excellent and comprehensive education for all students." An OUSD parent, Shogan has previously served on the boards of both a public school district and a private international school. She spoke of her "insight in the district's unique needs" resulting from her extensive volunteering in and for Orinda schools. Shogan stands for sustaining the "broad range" of education-enhancing programs within area schools and the providing of a safe and inclusive learning environment, as well as the recruitment, retention, and support of teachers.

Edda Collins Coleman spoke of her collaborative work with the current school board and administration, as well as her

previous role as a public communication professor and over 20 years of experience in policy and communications, which she said will help her "build consensus and partnerships." Coleman highlighted "the refining and enhancing [of] our already robust academic excellence, broadening of mental health programs and enhancing the budget to ensure it remains fiscally sound" as important aspects of the district. Coleman's roles as a teacher, student and community leader are experiences she believes gives her a unique ability to appreciate the contributions of those in the school community.


The effectiveness of OUSD's communication with stakeholders, the district's greatest strengths and challenges and the finding and retaining talented teachers

were topics discussed at the forum. Candidates were also quizzed about the different allocation of funds for better student outcomes and the reopening of schools post-pandemic.

"I think [public forums] are useful because by having all the candidates respond to the same questions, it provides a springboard for ideas," said Malkani after the event wrapped up.

"I would encourage our community to do their homework and learn the differences between the candidates," OUSD Superintendent Aida Glimme said after the forum, acknowledging citizens' role in the election. "It's a very important vote."

Andrea Madison can be reached at drea.madison.05@gmail.com.



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- ✓ Former Teacher
- ✓ School & Community Volunteer

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Paid for by Mary Kateri Shogan for Orinda School Board 2022, FPPC ID#1454063



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VISUAL ARTS

Retired Wagner Ranch Art Teacher Linda Kam Still Creating Beauty



JEFF HEYMAN

Orinda artist **Linda Kam** always had a fond appreciation for the arts, which was encouraged by her father, an accomplished artist and cartoonist. In her home studio, Kam sits at her late father's art table from the 1940s. She said it gives her great pleasure to create her art on the same table he used for painting and drawing his cartoons.

By **DAVID FONSECA**
Contributing Writer

Last month, Orinda artist Linda Kam exhibited her beautiful botanical watercolors and Chinese brush paintings at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library.

"I always had a fond appreciation for the arts, which was encouraged by my father, an accomplished artist and cartoonist," she said. She is grateful to have inherited her late father's art table from the 1940s. "It brings me great pleasure to work on the same table my dad utilized for painting and drawing his cartoons many years ago."

Kam was the art teacher at Wagner Ranch Elementary School for 17 years where she introduced a variety of art mediums to her students. The clay fish that were part of the "School of Whimsical Ceramic Fish" project created by her fifth-grade students were often on display at the Orinda Library.

"Teaching art in Orinda was a most rewarding and gratifying time because I felt a genuine sense of accomplishment. Furthermore, it made me feel like I was part of the Wagner community of students, staff and families," she said.

Kam explained her artistic journey.

"After retirement, I developed an interest in botanical watercolor painting under the instruction of Catherine Watters," she

said. "Botanical art has helped me examine plant life with a better understanding and greater interest. Each plant I paint has its own peculiarities that I attempt to capture in my artwork."

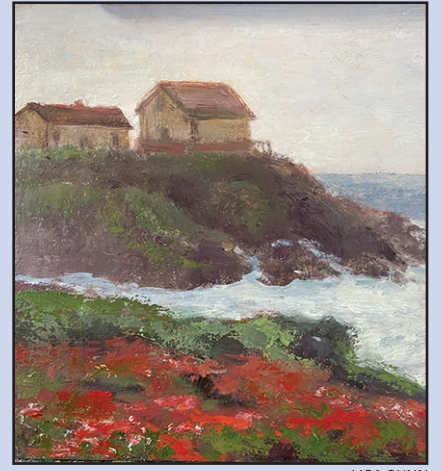
As a member of the Northern California Society of Botanical Artists, Kam has exhibited her art at a variety of venues, including juried shows at the Alcatraz Florilegium and Mt. Tamalpais Florilegium exhibitions. Her "Flowering Quince" was just selected to be displayed at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden Florilegium later this year.

"More recently, I have started learning Chinese brush painting and calligraphy from my instructor, Pauline Tsui," said Kam. "Pauline trained in the Lingnan style of brush painting, a progressive form of Chinese painting incorporating color and impressionism. She has taught me to ap-

[SEE KAM page 14]

Lisa Gunn Showing at Orinda Books

Pilar Point oil painting 12" x 12" by artist **Lisa Gunn**, a 36-year Orinda resident. Her work is showcased at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, throughout November and includes mostly landscapes and still life. "I was struck by the moodiness of the grey day, the crashing surf and the color of the succulents," said Gunn. "I started out as a plein air painter many years ago, but have been doing abstracts lately, which are in the Paul Mahder gallery, where I am represented, located in Healdsburg, Ca."



LISA GUNN

◆ FUNNY from page 9

makes me sad when someone doesn't want to accept my gift – because there was "no reason" for it, or because they felt it was too expensive.

I remember a time when a musician in our church, Victory Temple in Oakland, gave me his 12-string guitar – just because! He had several other guitars he played during worship service. There was no reason for the gift; he just wanted me to have it. I refused the gift, because I felt it was too extravagant and there was no reason for him to give me the guitar. It made him sad.

Months later, he unexpectedly died. A young man too, I think in his late 40s. To this day, I regret I turned down his 'just because' gift to me. Of course, his death had

nothing to do with my refusal to accept his gift, but I still remember how sad it made him feel when I declined.

Giving, in my humble opinion, is a joy and satisfaction more for the giver than the receiver. To this day, I feel that I "stole" this man's joy in giving me his guitar.

So, I challenge you – and hopefully you like challenges like I do – to go out and buy a special gift (it doesn't have to be expensive -- could simply be a card) or offer your time and help with something and give it to someone with a little note that says, "Just because."

Not only will it brighten the recipient's day, but it will also brighten yours even more. Don't even think twice about it – do it today – just because!

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

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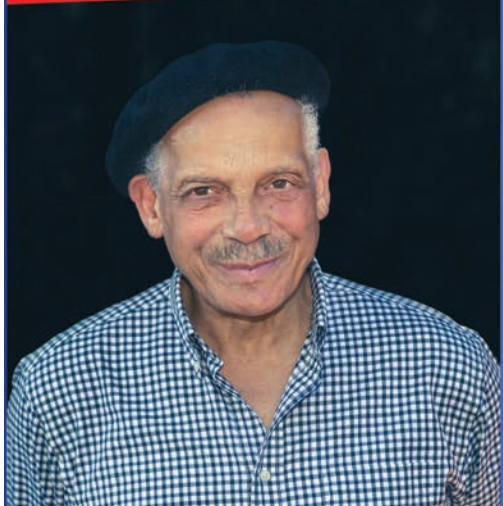
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- Traffic Safety and Traffic Calming measures (currently Vice-Chair of the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee).

ENDORSED BY: Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay, all members of the Orinda Union School Board, Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, the Lamorinda Democratic Club, the Orinda Education Association, Evolve California, and numerous community and civic leaders of both political parties

VOTE NOV. 8

StuartHouse4OrindaCityCouncil2022.org

CONTEST/ORINDA ART

Gingerbread House Contest

Sponsored by Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation, a Gingerbread House contest takes place this holiday season for the first time. Entries accepted at the Orinda Community Center on Dec. 1 at 5:30 p.m. Entries will be displayed for the public Dec. 2-3. Judging and winners announced in each category on Dec. 3. All entries must be completely edible. Prize categories are by age: 0 – 5 years, 6 – 10, 11 – 13, 14 – 18, and adults over 18 years. First prize in each category is \$100. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3yM6ny0>.



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Installation of Pam Toki's *Shift*



JEFF HEYMAN

Pam Stefl Toki unveils *Shift* at the Orinda Library.

Oakland-based monoprint artist, Pam Stefl Toki, unveiled her work *Shift* at the Orinda Library Sept. 13. *Shift* will be on display on the steps leading to the library for a year. The work refers to humanity's shift into raised awareness and to the new reality that Toki feels all of us are experiencing.

The metal-backed art print came about

through a revision of a clay monoprint completed in 2009. The print's photographed image segued into the current metal artwork with intention to be displayed in an outdoor public space. The surreal central image of Toki's print reflects a movement, morphing into another phase of life and the potential for greater consciousness.

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◆ KAM from page 13

precipitate not only the elegance of this style of painting, but also the beauty of Chinese calligraphy."

She said, in the process, she's also gained a better understanding of Asian culture.

"I am especially fond of my two Peony paintings on display. This is because one was created using Chinese brush painting technique, while the other was painted using the botanical art painting style," said Kam.

Kam's botanical art portfolio is comprised of watercolors, ranging from edible fruits and colorful flowers to succulents and seedpods and now, Chinese brush painting.

Learn more about Kam and her artwork at <https://artzlinda.wixsite.com/mysite/home-page>.

Dave Fonseca can be reached at davef52@gmail.com.

◆ ORCHESTRA from page 7

family at Christmas. I'm happy there is a group that still allows me to play."

Hodgkinson said she's enjoyed playing in chamber groups and orchestras throughout her life.

"The Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra is enjoyable for me both socially and musically," she said. "Geoffrey Gallegos is a wonderful conductor who has a great rapport with the musicians and the audience. The orchestra members are fun, interesting people as well as accomplished musicians. It's a joy to make music with them, and I appreciate everyone who comes to hear us perform."

Gallegos added, "The impetus for this program is to offer a Pops-oriented program with a holiday bent that features beautiful and 'rhapsodic' music. It will highlight soloists Lisa Canter in the *Vivaldi Bassoon Concerto* and Paul Schrage rendering the *Rhapsody in Blue*."

Gallegos noted that the original version was written expressly for Paul Whiteman's smaller jazz orchestra in 1924, but with a

more jazzy orchestration reflecting the jazz age. The program also includes music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Claude Debussy and Franz List.

The Chamber Orchestra is comprised of volunteer musicians ranging in age from teenagers to seniors. Their involvement demonstrates their commitment to lifelong learning and growth and a desire to offer entertainment and enrichment to their communities.

Formed in the late 1970s, the orchestra has established a robust presence in the county, continuing the tradition of providing affordable, high-caliber performances. They have performed at the El Campanil Theatre in Antioch and at special events for Rossmoor residents. A favorite is a sing-along of Handel's "Messiah" at various locations in the county.

Purchase tickets at www.ContraCostaChamberOrchestra.org. Adults are \$20, seniors, \$15 and students \$7, or purchase at the door.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbiedodson109@gmail.com.



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BOOKS

Author Debbie Chinn’s Memoir Uncovers Stories of Immigration



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Orinda book author **Debbie Chinn** completed her first book, *Dancing in Their Light: A Daughter’s Unfinished Memoir*, after 10 years of research. Her book is about her family’s immigration from China, their cultural acclimation and Polynesian nightclub they ran in New York.

By **ADDISSYN HOUSE**
Contributing Writer

After nearly 10 years of research, the pandemic provided the reflection Debbie Chinn needed to finish her first book, *Dancing in Their Light: A Daughter’s Unfinished Memoir*.

Chinn, the former managing director for Orinda’s California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes), self-published in March through Strange Fate Publishing. She was compelled by pandemic-driven anti-Asian hate to tell the story of her own family.

Chinn writes about her family’s immigration from China and subsequent assimilation to the U.S. as well as the Polynesian nightclub they ran in New York. These stories unlocked her father’s memories about the restaurant, family photos from the ‘60s and ‘70s, stories from customers who remember exactly what they ate and trials of identity in a predominantly white town.

“I wanted to capture some stories [of my elders]. In this era of writing and texting,

we don’t really hear the human voice, so capturing that on a recorder was important,” Chinn said about the origins of her book.

Chinn calls herself an accidental author, who had no intentions of writing a book.

In an act of independence, Chinn moved from Long Island, NY to California to ensure she couldn’t go home on a whim.

“I just decided that if I couldn’t make it, I’d come back in two years, but that I would try to establish a home. And I did,” said Chinn.

A theater major at the University of Southern California, she began working in the industry straight out of college. In addition to managing Cal Shakes from 2001 to 2008, Chinn also helped rebuild the theater in partnership with Artistic Director

[SEE CHINN page 16]

◆ WILDER from page 11

Laporte feels older women need to give themselves permission to challenge themselves.

“I think that women, in particular as we get little bit older, don’t take the time to do this sort of thing for ourselves – where we have an opportunity to be pampered, an opportunity to be introspective and maybe an opportunity to do something outside of our comfort zone to push us a little bit,” she said.

Laporte said that during her photo sessions women open up to her, talking about their self-discoveries brought on by aging.

“There are difficulties, but this is really a fabulous age for women,” she said. “We’re able to let go of a lot of our insecurities and a lot of the things pulling us in different directions, and then we find ourselves really

coming into our own.”

Laporte noted the diverse range of women coming to her, from women with high-powered jobs to those who stayed home to raise their family and everything in between.

“I love to celebrate all those types of women,” she said. “Let’s transform the representation of women over 40, showcasing their authenticity, audacity and beauty.”

Find out more at www.studiojule.com.

The Wilder Art and Garden Center is located at 20 Orinda Fields Lane. The virtual exhibit runs Nov. 5 through Jan. 6. To schedule a viewing by appointment, contact Curator Ani Breslin at anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu. For more information, call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

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ORINDA ART

Artify Orinda Beautifies Drab Utility Boxes Around the City



Artist **Tim Hancock** sits behind a utility box he painted as part of the Artify Orinda project. It is at the driveway exit to the Community Center. To view more pictures of other painted boxes, visit artify@lamorindaarts.org.



Artist **Fiona M. Hughes** stands next to the utility box she painted for the Artify Orinda project. It is located at the cross streets Orinda Way and Santa Maia Way, across from the Shell gas station. To see the painted utility boxes and big belly cans or to donate to the project, visit artify@lamorindaarts.org.

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◆ CHINN from page 15

Jonathan Moscone during that time. Working at Cal Shakes directly impacted the way she thought about her memoir. “I remembered the lesson that I learned from Shakespeare, which is all of Shakespeare’s greatest life lessons are found in his life works,” said Chinn. “And I thought, well, how can I be Shakespearean about my story [so] that [it can] be more universal?” The story then unfolded with the help of her editor, Ginna BB Gordon, from Lucky Valley Press, and *Dancing in Their Light* went from a research project about Chinese immigrants and the Chinn family restaurant, to a memoir brought to life by personal anecdotes. “The power of the arts – as I’ve learned in my career – can center and heal, can lift [community], and that’s what I tried to thread in the book,” she said. While at Cal Shakes, Chinn spent May through September in Orinda and says,

“Orinda has been my spiritual home.” She has fond memories of ice cream from Loard’s and dinner at Casa Orinda over the years, as well as a close relationship with Pat Rudebusch, owner of Orinda Books where Chinn had an event in September. Though her only scheduled book event was in Orinda, Chinn hopes to be invited to more talks and maybe some book clubs. Chinn currently works at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, where she continues to pursue storytelling and theatre, and though she doesn’t know what her next book will be, she’s leaning towards fiction. “It’s important to remember that the contribution of immigrants to this country is profoundly rich,” said Chinn. “Hopefully, that will inspire people to write about their stories.” Visit Chinn at www.debbiechinn.com. *Addissyn House can be reached at addissyn.house@gmail.com.*

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THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

WE INTERRUPT THIS COLUMN...



TOM WESTLAKE

Anyone who reads this column regularly knows the drill. I usually start out with an introductory paragraph and then go right into writing about the “extra-curricular” films playing at the Orinda Theatre.

But this time I’m going to break with tradition a bit, because this month sees the return of the California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF). Having been absent from the Lamorinda community for nearly three years, it’s back and better than ever.

Overseen by Orinda Theatre owner, CAIFF Founder and President Derek Zemrak and Efi Lubliner, director of programming and co-head of the International Film Showcase (IFS), this event has everything a film festival needs: celebrities, premier film debuts, the Iron Filmmaker series and much, much more.

I could go on, but I refer you to Kathy Cordova’s article on page one, which goes into greater detail.

I would like to mention a notable emphasis on comedy this year and, specifically, I’d like to call your attention to a free screening of Danny Kaye’s *The Court Jester* (1955).

Not only is it the finest showcase for Kaye’s enormous comedic talent, but also it’s every bit as lavish as the kind of movies it’s making fun of, up to and includes a stellar cast.

Basil Rathbone is featured as the villain along with Angela Lansbury and Glynis Johns (of *Mary Poppins* fame) as well. Kaye’s movie is made all the more enticing since there will be a free screening. The Festival itself will run Nov. 10 through 17. For more information, visit www.caiff.org or www.orindamovies.com.

Now back to our regularly scheduled column.

Aside from the festival, I’m pleased to announce that Lubliner and his stalwart partner in crime, Jo Alice Canterbury, are not letting the International Film Showcase stand idle. If anything, they’re upping their game by presenting a film reported to be the most expensive film Hungary has ever produced. *Bet On Revenge* is the title given to it in this country, but the Hungarian title is *Kincsem*, which, translated, means “my precious” or “my treasure.”

The “precious treasure” is a particularly singular film about a real-life racehorse

that, it is said, never lost a race. Enter one Erno Blaskovich (Ervin Nagy), a ne’er-do-well libertine and recent victim of the 1848 Hungarian Revolution. Seeing the racehorse as a means of improving his fortune, the horse instead becomes for him an agent of redemption.

Though certain liberties were taken in portraying the historical events, the film overall is the most adult, invigorating film the IFS has ever shown (The trailer alone is definitely not for the prudish). It screens Nov. 11. Visit www.internationalfilmshowcase.org for more information.

So, as they say in the film biz, that’s a wrap. Until we meet again in January, remember to always veer towards those wonderful images made of sound and light – something that’s easy to do if you go to the festival – for that’s where the reel magic lies.

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

◆ CAIFF from page 1

foreign film with subtitles,” said Derek Zemrak, founder and president of the festival and owner of the Orinda Theatre. “Sometimes people are discouraged by subtitles, but they shouldn’t be. This film is so beautifully shot, you don’t even need to read them. That’s what motion pictures are all about, telling the story with moving pictures.”

“It’s so charming, touching and wonderful,” said Lubliner of the movie: “People are going to fall in love with this film. They are going to leave the theater with a big smile on their face.”

Opening night also features a party with a reception in the theater’s lobby and outdoor tent, accompanied by cocktails and appetizers prepared by Orinda’s Saffron Indian Restaurant & Bar.

Viewers are invited to sing along with the classic musical romantic comedy *Grease*. Director Randal Kleiser and actor Barry Pearl, who played one of the T-birds, will offer commentary and answer audience questions.

Kleiser will also be presented with the festival’s Golden Slate award, given each year for excellence in directing. Other directing credits of his include *The Boy in the Plastic Bubble*, *The Blue Lagoon* and *Honey, I Blew Up the Kids*.

Two free family movies run Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 12-13 at 10 a.m. Saturday’s showing is *Cats Don’t Dance*, with veteran

Disney animator Dave Woodman joining via Zoom. Sunday’s pick, *The Court’s Jester*, is a classic comedy starring Danny Kaye, which will appeal to children and adults alike.

A Man of Integrity, the Cannes Award-winning drama about injustice and corruption in Iran, will also run. The film’s director, Mohammad Rasoulof, is currently serving a prison sentence for his social media protest against police violence.

The closing night film, *Bet on Revenge*, is an adventure film about one man’s struggles and redemption after the 1848 Hungarian Revolution. Director, Gábor Herendi, presently under house arrest in Hungary, joins the festival via Zoom.

Several other directors from around the world will make Zoom appearances, giving audience members an opportunity to pose questions to them.

Sidelined by COVID-19 concerns, this is the first Orinda film festival since August 2019. While other festivals transitioned to streaming during the pandemic, CAIFF Board members decided against that route.

“We believe film festivals are about people getting together to experience films and talk about them,” said Zemrak. “Everyone is really happy to be back.”

Visit www.caiff.org for more information.

Kathy Cordova can be reached at khcordova@gmail.com.

2022 Year to Date | Laura Abrams

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9 La Noria, Orinda
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Sold at \$2,940,000 • 2BeinVenida.com



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CLASSIFIEDS

◆ LETTERS from page 4

Dell'Aquila for MOFD Board

Vince Dell' Aquila has my vote and hopefully yours. Vince is capable, thoughtful and kind. He listens to the folks around him and works hard to achieve their common goals. He, as a member of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board, will utilize his work experience and skills in communications, solid budget planning and management to work with community members, MOFD Board Members and MOFD firefighters to provide the type of fire protection and emergency medical services our community taxpayers deserve. Numerous neighbors and community

leaders endorse Vince, whom he has collaborated on committees and boards with for over the 34 years since he first moved to Orinda.

Vince is a member of the Orinda Community Foundation's Board of Directors and has served as his neighborhood Firewise representative. His goal is to provide our fire department with the facilities, technology, community preparation programs (such as Firewise) and well-trained firefighters and paramedics needed to respond effectively to emergencies. Vince Dell' Aquila is a good, capable and decent person who deserves our vote.

- Richard Westin

Re-elect Steve Danziger

I am proud to endorse Steve Danziger for Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board. He has done an incredible job for the District. During his four years on the board, MOFD has increased its Annual Fund Balance by 44% and has paid off the Pension Obligation Bond.

He is hard working, community-minded and demonstrates unwavering integrity. Steve brings 20 years experience as the administrative manager for the Oakland Fire Department. He gives his time to multiple community groups such as Orinda Parks and Rec, Art in Public Places, Friends of Orinda Library, Orinda Creeks and Orinda Nature Area. As a UC Master Gardener, Steve teaches gardening and composting and home hardening instruction in multiple communities.

While improving MOFD's financial stability, Steve also pushed for reasonable compensation for district employees. We need our firefighters to be long-term employees invested in our community. Many fire departments are hiring firefighters away

from other departments. Not maintaining competitive compensation would turn MOFD into a temp agency. Steve continues to lead the effort to keep firefighters for a career; not spend thousands of dollars to train them just to have them leave to departments with better compensation.

Steve is a proponent of increasing our ambulance service, reducing wait times for ambulances and reducing the incidence of fire engines unavailable for other emergencies.

MOFD Director is not a place for an experimental foray into government service. Steve Danziger is a great Director.

Re-elect Steve Danziger to Moraga-Orinda Fire Board District 3.
- Robert Lipp

Roemer and Dell'Aquila Running as Independents - Not Against Each Other

With all those election signs bidding for our attention as we drive the roads of Orinda, it's easy to forget a crucial difference between the Orinda-Moraga Fire District (MOFD) election and other elections also underway, for example for Orinda City Council.

The difference: MOFD candidates run in districts. Unlike candidates for Orinda City Council, where all candidates compete against all other candidates, an MOFD candidate runs only against candidates running in that district.

For example, I see election signs for Mike Roemer and for Vince Dell' Aquila, but they are not running against one another. Roemer is campaigning to be a director from MOFD District 4 and Dell' Aquila (just named as Orinda's Citizen of the Year!) from District 4 - districts largely in Orinda.

Both Roemer and Dell' Aquila have separate opponents. Prior to 2018, MOFD elections had been fairly low-key. Then, a big change took place. Three candidates were backed heavily by the MOFD firefighters' union with cash (\$30,000 in total campaign donations) and manpower (pamphlet distributions, sign placement).

With the power of surprise, the union-backed candidates won. Two of those winning in 2018 are running again - against

Dell' Aquila and Roemer.

Roemer and Dell' Aquila are running as independent candidates - not anti-union, but independent - and not against each other.

- David Anderson

Re-Elect Danziger for MOFD

We endorse Director Steven Danziger for re-election to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board. We have known Steven and his family for over 30 years and know of his commitment to the fire service and desire to make our District as fire safe as possible.

Steven is a two-term board president, MOFD ambassador and CERT volunteer. He had a long career in government, including 20 years as administrative services manager with the Oakland Fire Department. Steven is presently chair of the Orinda Parks and Recreation Commission and volunteers with numerous other local organizations.

The last four years were extremely challenging for all essential workers and Steven has been a strong voice to ensure our firefighters have the resources, training and support they need.

During his time on the Board, the District increased fire prevention programming and passed a stringent fire code, which is now a model code for the rest of the state. His priorities include enhancing fire prevention programs, breaking ground on the new Fire Station 41 in Moraga and restoring funds to staff an ambulance in Orinda.

As director, Steven has proven he has the government and fire experience, leadership skills, volunteer history and understanding of the community to be an effective leader and advocate for fire safety in the District. Much has been accomplished, but there's more to do.


Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and the Moraga-Orinda Firefighters Association endorse Steven. Please vote to re-elect Director Steven Danziger to the MOFD Board.

- Mark Dulberg

Roemer and Dell'Aquila for MOFD

No one should be surprised when election season brings out selective, faulty or even totally incorrect recall. Donner and Danziger have both stated recently, in print, that their number one priority is fire safety. How quickly they forget!

[SEE LETTERS page 20]




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Orinda Volunteer drivers needed for one ride per month. Call SAT at 925.402.4506 to set up an appointment.

Unwanted Eye Glasses are collected for Lions Club at The Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

CALENDAR

On the Calendar in November

- Orinda Library** is open to the public. Story-times are on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.. Open hours are Mon. through Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 6 Orinda Way, Call 925.254.2184 or visit <http://ccclib.org>.
- The International Film Showcase** presents *Bet on Revenge* from Hungary in November. A drama in which a man who lost everything gets a chance to gain everything back: revenge, love and fame through a horse. Dates and showtimes at www.OrindaMovies.com.
- 3 **Orinda Books Pat's Book Club** will read and discuss *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. 11 a.m. Email info@orindabooks.com for reservations.
- Saint Mary's College** presents *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, by Bertolt Brecht, Guest director Domenique Lozano Location: 8 p.m. Also, Nov. 4, 6 p.m. Nov. 5, 2 p.m., Nov. 5, 8 p.m.. Nov. 6, 2 p.m. LeFevre Theatre, 1928 St. Marys Road, Moraga, CA 94575, www.stmarys-ca.edu/Caucasian-Chalk-Circle.
- 5 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also Nov. 12, 19 and 26. See article p. 21.
- Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** artist reception 3 - 5 p.m. See article p. 11.
- Wildier Art and Garden Center** virtual exhibit runs through Jan. 6. See article p. 11.
- 6 **Mindful Littles** presents Peace & Kindness Carnival 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Orinda Community Park \$20 www.mindfullittles.org/carnival.
- Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Historical Societies** present Building the Caldecott Tunnel, 2 p.m. Garden Room, Orinda Community Center.
- 9 **Free Parent Enrichment Series** presented by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 5 - 6:30 p.m. See News Briefs p. 5.
- Miramonte High School** LatinX/Indigenous People Heritage Festival 5-9 p.m. at Miramonte High School.
- 10 **California Independent Film Festival** (CAIFF) Orinda Theatre. www.caiff.org. See article p.1.
- The Vietnam War: Two Perspectives.** 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Lafayette Library Learning Center, Don Tatsin Community Hall (across the Library Plaza) Free to the public. See News Briefs p. 5.
- 16 **Orinda Park and Rec** Senior Day trip: Temptations Musical 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Barcode: 6273. *Ain't Too Proud - The Life And Times Of The Temptations* Broadway musical. Includes hosted brunch, Round trip motor coach transportation and admission to show (balcony seating). All trips meet at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. Fees \$82.
- Orinda Books**, Tyler Bridges discusses his new book, *Five Laterals & a Trombone*, which documents the wildest finish in a college football game: the Big Game between Cal and Stanford in 1982. 4:30 p.m.
- 17 **Miramonte High School** Performers for Progress 7-9 p.m. at Miramonte Theater
- 26 **Pacific Chamber Orchestra** presents *Glorious - Handel's Messiah*. Conductor Lawrence Kohl, the PCO Chorus and Soloists- Halleluyah! 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Tickets at <https://pacificchamberorchestra.org/tickets>. Adults \$48, students \$20.

Club Meetings in November

Some clubs are meeting in person, while others still offer Zoom meetings. Use contact for more information.

American Association of University Women-Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML) An AAUW Fund Fellowship/Grant recipient will speak at the AAUW-Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette Branch general meeting Nov. 15, 9:30-11 a.m. at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. AAUW provides fellowships and grants for post-graduate academic work and community projects. Visit <https://oml-ca.aauw.net> for more information.

Community Gentle Yoga, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmozee@gmail.com.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Kent Long for Zoom link at kentlong@moragaadobe.org. www.moragaadobe.org.

Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday. 3 p.m., 925.408.1840. www.orindacreeks.org.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m. 925.687.8844, ext. 227. <https://bit.ly/3egD3EZ>.

Lamorinda Meditation Community. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:25 a.m. All levels and philosophies welcome. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmozee@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday. For more information, visit www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Meets weekly over 7 a.m. breakfast at the Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Guests always welcome, no reservations needed. www.lamorindasunrise.org, lamorinda_sunrise@gmail.com. Meetings: Nov. 4 - Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club Alumni Club; Nov. 11 Jim

Blair, JD, Diablo Valley College Dean, "Mission of the Community College;" Nov. 18, Inventor Jim Marggraff, "Workings of TGIC: Nintendo Wii for Books;"

Montelindo Garden Club. Nov. 18 meeting at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, features Michael Uhler from the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, speaking on the newly-completed Alpine Crevice Garden. Michael is responsible for the Sierra section of this garden, a haven for California endangered plants. Montelindo Garden Club membership is open to all and interested people are welcome to visit montelindogarden.com/meetings.html for meeting and club details. 349 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Free.

The Orinda Association. First Monday 7 p.m., Zoom meeting. 925.254.0800 or www.orindaassociation.org.

[SEE CLUBS page 21]

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ LETTERS from page 18

Over their first terms, both have voted against the chipper program, against funding the North Orinda firebreak and have reduced funding for the home hardening program by \$250,000. This, and other public safety matters, exposes the true priorities of the incumbents, which is not fire prevention and community safety, but is doing the bidding of the Sacramento-based Fireman's Union.

Further proof of their misguided loyalties: reading the minutes of the March 17, 2021 (Moraga-Orinda Fire District) MOFD meeting, union leader Vince Wells proposed MOFD be merged into ConFire, shows Director Danziger in support of the merger idea. His protests of being misquoted do not match the official minutes.

Finally, public records show that 100% of the funding for the Danziger and Donner campaigns comes from International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1230 PAC. Mike Roemer or Vince Dell'Aquila has not accepted special interest funding.

Please vote Roemer and Dell'Aquila to return control of MOFD to Orinda and Moraga-interested directors who firmly support and prioritize our local need for fire prevention and safety.

- Glen S. Gagon

Support for Michael Donner

I am writing in support to re-elect Michael Donner for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Director in Division 4. After a 31-year career as an Oakland Firefighter, Michael continues to serve his community with his extensive knowledge on fire prevention as the current president of the MOFD Board.

His accomplishments as a board member include the support of North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break, hiring a full-time fuel mitigation staff and providing fiscal stability with major increases to the MOFD budget reserves.

During the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm, I was a reporter for KTVU and remember vividly the devastation that occurred. The fire was fueled by dry and neglected underbrush and untended dead brush/trees throughout the hills.

Now that I am a real estate agent, I appreciate the strict fire code enforcement MOFD has enacted. The fire prevention efforts that Michael Donner and the shared vision with Fire Chief Winnacker, will not only keep us safer from fire, but also allow all of us to continue to have options for affordable fire insurance.

Michael has been an active member of the community. He has served on the emergency preparedness committee within the Orinda schools and continues to support his fellow Oakland firefighters by serving on the Oakland Firefighter Cancer Prevention Foundation. I could not recommend a better person for the position. Please join me in voting for Michael Donner for MOFD Board.

- Diane Dwyer

Katie Shogan for OUSD Board

As an outgoing Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Board member, who is very familiar with the current needs and

direction of our district, I encourage everyone to vote for Katie Shogan for the OUSD Board.

With a background in teaching, education policy and leadership, Katie has a deep knowledge of schools and how they function most effectively and will bring that expertise to OUSD.

She has been a classroom teacher and a school administrator and has also previously served the boards of both a public school district as well as an international school.

Furthermore, she understands the specific needs of our community, given her numerous volunteer roles within our schools as well as ONE Orinda.

As the parent of three elementary and middle school-aged children, she has devoted countless hours to giving back to our schools over the years and was instrumental in the transition from EFO (Educational Foundation of Orinda) to ONE Orinda.

Katie is an insightful, steady and experienced leader. She exemplifies integrity, collaboration and dedication and we would be lucky to have her advocate for students and our community going forward.

She would work effectively with our current Board members, as well as district administration and other constituent groups. Katie understands kids, she understands schools and she understands Orinda.

We need Katie on the Board to keep our schools moving forward in the right direction, toward our district's mission of a learning community that inspires, engages and supports all students.

- Liz Daoust

Support for Collins Coleman, Phillips and Shogan for OUSD

I hope you will join me in voting for Edda Collins Coleman, Eve Phillips and Katie Shogan for the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Board of Trustees. Each of these candidates has exceptional backgrounds, demonstrated community commitment and has a clear understanding of how important our school district is to Orindans.

Their goals and priorities for OUSD will support continued academic excellence while recognizing the additional elements needed for our students and families to thrive in a healthy environment.

Each of these candidates have children attending OUSD and are willing to extend their care, talents and time beyond their own families to help ensure all the students within OUSD have the experiences and opportunities that will matter for a lifetime.

Like many in the community, my husband and I moved to Orinda for the excellent schools and raised our two sons here.

Their positive experiences are something we want to see continued. I am confident Edda, Eve and Katie will be exceptional leaders for OUSD that will continue to enhance the caliber of our schools.

- Darlene K. Gee

Katie Shogan for OUSD Board

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Katie as she took on increasing roles of responsibility on our elementary school board. She simultaneously became a founding member of ONE Orinda, which is a critically important organization that supports our schools.

In both of these volunteer roles, Katie brought her wealth of knowledge regarding education, as well as her impressive leadership and personal skills.

Katie is exceptional at getting things done, cutting to the heart of the matter and engaging with others with respect and diplomacy, but also with a bias for action. Her past experience as a school board member and a California public school teacher and administrator gives her incredible depth of knowledge about the challenges our schools are facing.

Between her professional experience and what she has learned about our schools in her current roles, she is extremely qualified and would be an important addition to our school board.

Please join me in voting for Katie Shogan for one of the three open seats on the Orinda Union School District Board.

- Sara Cherry

Chen, Kendzierski and Severson for AUHSD Governing Board

As a mom, grandmother and city councilwoman, I have seen and worked with our school up close and personally. It is without hesitation and with great enthusiasm I endorse Jennifer Chen, Nancy Kendzierski and Chris Severson for the AUHSD governing board. These three candidates will preserve and improve that which brought so many of us here and educated our children so well.

The Acalanes Union High School District's (AUHSD) excellent high schools are the foundation of our community. For generations, Miramonte High School has provided our students with superb education, outstanding extra-curricular activities and enrichment programs.

Chris and Nancy's prudent leadership and knowledge of complex educational issues have enabled the district to maintain its excellence, even amid the tremendous challenges faced in the last several years. Jennifer's deep familiarity with our schools, her commitment to all students and sharp

[SEE LETTERS page 21]



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- Children's Fall Break Camps Nov. 21-23 and Winter Break Camps Dec. 19-21
- Gingerbread House Contest and Holiday Tree Lighting Event - Dec. 5, 5pm, Community Center and Park.
- Senior Trips: Dec. 10, Great Dickens Christmas Fair Cow Palace San Francisco; \$75 per person

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

Please Continue to Stay Safe by Following All Health Recommendations



ORINDA PARKS & REC

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Seasoned Shopper
Let's Get to the Root of Things

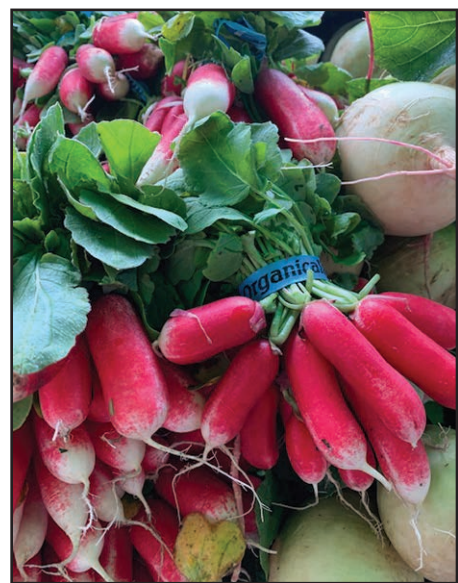
BARBARA KOBSAR



As cooler weather sets in, root vegetables rule the vegetable stands at the Orinda Farmers' Market. They find their way into the upcoming holiday season by showing up in appetizers, salads, soups, stews and pies.

As the name implies, root vegetables grow underground, but really have nothing to hide.

Carrots, beets, rutabaga, parsnip and radish are true roots (taproots). Sweet potatoes and potatoes are actually tuberous roots while fennel, onions are bulbs and ginger and turmeric are rhizomes. They all flourish in light, loose, well-drained soil, where they



BARBARA KOBSAR

Roots rule at the Orinda Farmers' Market with radishes, carrots, potatoes and more.

absorb nutrients and water to feed the plant.

Because California is the leading producer of carrots for the nation, a local, freshly harvested bunch is never far away. Carrots may be orange, scarlet or white and range from long and narrow to stubby and almost round. Pick out a nice-looking bunch with bright green leafy tops. Once you get them home, twist off the tops for the compost pile (or save them to chop up for soups and omelets).

All varieties of carrots may be harvested and eaten at the very young stage, but specific varieties that mature when small, such as Lady Finger and Short and Sweet, offer even more of a real sweet carrot taste.

Parsnips closely resemble their cousin carrots, but their subtle sweet and nutty taste comes through better after cooking. With so many other vegetables to choose from, parsnips struggle for attention it seems. I find them tasty and delicious in soups and stews or as a side dish served with a little butter and chopped fresh tarragon.

In the last few months of the year, I look for my favorite three varieties of beets. An Italian heirloom call Chioggia is candy cane red on the outside with alternating red and white rings inside. Little Ball (a true baby beet) and mild flavored golden beets round out my top three.

Baking rather than boiling beets helps to retain flavor and juices. Wash and trim tops leaving about an inch attached to the

and deserves your vote for re-election to the Governing Board Member of the Acalanes Union High School District.

Chris has been a strong advocate for public education for years. With his years of experience, not only has Chris served as trustee of the high school district these past four years, he served with me on the board of the Orinda Union School District from 2010-2014. As a fellow trustee, Chris always acted with the utmost integrity and always kept the focus on what is best for students.

Chris will provide a voice for the Orinda community on the board. The high school district is composed of schools in four communities: Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette and Walnut Creek. He's the only current

[SEE LETTERS page 22]

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analytical skills, will make her a productive and valuable member of the AUHSD Board.

For strong leaders who can be trusted, now and well into the future, vote for Chen, Kendzierski and Severson.

- Amy Worth

Re-elect Chris Severson

As a former Orinda school board member, I know in these tumultuous times it's more important to remember qualities that make a good trustee: ability to listen to all viewpoints, work together collaboratively and always keep in mind the best interests of the students.

Chris Severson embodies these qualities

◆ CLUBS from page 19

Orinda Chamber of Commerce Third Wednesday of the month, 4 - 5 p.m. -Board Meeting. Contact Roy Hodgkinson for Zoom link at president@orindachamber.org.

Orinda Garden Club. P.O. Box 34, Orinda, www.orindagc.org, 925.257.0668.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, Ian at 925.254.1465 or www.orindahiking.org.

Orinda Historical Society. Call 925.254.1353 or email information@orindahistory.org, <http://orindahistory.org> for times and location of meetings and appointments.

Orinda Junior Women's Club. Second Tuesday, 7 p.m. Contact membership@orinda-juniors.org for location of meeting. Work together to improve community and build new friendships.

Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925.254.5211. <https://orindalodge.org>.

Orinda Rotary. Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at the Founders' Auditorium, 28 Orinda Way, Guests are welcome to join Rotarians. Contact Rodney Lal, president, email: RodneyLal@yahoo.com or call 925.366.8077.

Orinda Satellite Rotary Club. Second Wednesday. Call Sylvia at 510.224.8548.

Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting via Zoom. For more information, 925.254.8260.

Orinda Teen Advisory Council. For information, email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org.

Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Garden Room of Orinda Library. Email Jean Barnhart jeanr.barnhart@gmail.com for more information.

Road Runners. Meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papillion, 67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, Wednesday, Gepettos, 87 Orinda Way, Thursday, SiSI, 910 Country. Club Drive, Moraga and Friday, Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem. Contact John Fazel at runmnts@prodigy.net.

Sons in Retirement (SIR). Lamorinda Branch 174, second Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. For info, call Tyler at 925.963.5741 or Bill at 925.963.0442 or www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

Send club listings to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net.

beet to prevent the color from "bleeding." Place small to medium sized beets in an ovenproof dish, drizzle with olive oil, cover and bake at 375 degrees for about an hour, or until tender. Cool slightly before slipping off the skins and trimming the stem and roots.

Beet greens never go to waste in my kitchen. Add washed greens to pasta at the end of cooking time. They turn the pasta

pink and they make a tasty and nutritious addition to the dish.

No root story is complete without sweet potatoes. Sweet potatoes are divided into two groups. One is moist and sweet and the other dry, mealy and a little less sweet. Moist varieties characteristically have a deep orange flesh and are generally the preferred varieties (These are mistakenly [SEE SHOPPER page 24]

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ LETTERS from page 21

trustee from Orinda and is the only school board candidate from our city as well. Despite the fact Chris lives in Orinda, he also brings a uniquely balanced perspective to this role – his children attended Miramonte, Acalanes, and Campolindo high schools.

Chris is committed to maintaining and improving upon the excellent education our high schools provide. I urge you to vote for Chris Severson for Governing Board Member of the Acalanes Union High School District.

- Julie Rossiter

Trump Appointee Running for Lamorinda High Schools Board

The Republican Party recently began a national campaign to take over local school boards as part of efforts to control state and local elected bodies. We are seeing the effect locally with a slate of three candidates, running as a bloc, for the Acalanes Union High School District Board, which oversees Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Miramonte High Schools.

The Wall Street Journal (Dec. 7, 2016) reported that current Lafayette resident Mark Woolway was appointed by Trump to his transition team for the Treasury Department. Woolway was an associate of Peter Thiel at PayPal, and *The Guardian* on Feb. 10, 2017, attributed Woolway's appoint-

ment to his close association with Thiel.

Woolway is part of a three-person AUHSD slate, which includes Renee Nowac and Gabe Ledeen. Ledeen is no lightweight in libertarian circles either; the Federalist Society, the group responsible for Trump's Supreme Court selections, published a very laudatory report on Ledeen on Nov. 18, 2021.

None of them have children attending any of the Lamorinda high schools. So what is their motivation? These candidates talk about "transparency" and "critical thinking" in our schools, as if they are being impaired. They make no mention of the extraordinary academic standing of the high schools overseen by the board.

We urge you to reject this takeover attempt and to vote for incumbents Nancy Kendzierski and Chris Severson and candidate Jennifer Chen for the Acalanes Union High School District Board.

- Jim Landau

Keep Toxic National Politics Out of Our School Boards

Make America Great Again (MAGA) partisans are attempting to invade and politicize our schools. Last year, a handful of Trump conspiracy theorists protested on the CA24 overpass after the 2020 election, bringing unwanted statewide attention to our otherwise friendly and politically moderate community.

Recently, I learned that these same rabble-raising elements are trying to turn our award-winning schools into a culture war battleground. Lisa Disbrow, one of the organizers of the CA-24 overpass conspiracy-mongering and avowed anti-vaxxer, is running for Contra Costa Board of Education District 2, which includes Lamorinda.

Renee Nowac, Mark Woolway and Gabe Ledeen are running for our own Acalanes Union school board. Woolway was on Trump's 2016 transition team, while his running mates have been linked to problematic social media 'likes' and even direct family connections to confessed felon and Q-Anon sympathizer Mike Flynn.

Since these accusations went public, numerous friends of the candidates have vouched for the candidates' talent, work ethic and values. They may indeed be very fine people.

Given MAGAs' history of infiltrating local elections, however, can we trust their intentions without an unambiguous disavowal of the MAGA agenda?

If not, we can look forward to board debates on banning books and "wokeness," directing attention away from improving our children's education.

Our top schools are the bedrock of our communities and the foundation of our property values. We cannot afford to sacrifice them at the altar of the right-wing culture war.

- Michael Greene

are waking up to these unreasonable, dictatorial, housing mandates.

For example, in the latest so-called housing element (mandate), the nine County Bay Area is supposed to approve 441,000 new homes for residents of all income levels, which is more than double the amount for the current year cycle.

A sensible question is – where are the economic and fiscal studies to justify these numbers? Are there reports on the implications of these mandates? Were these numbers approved by the various elected City Councils? Can utility demands, electric, water and sewage be reasonably and economically achieved with these mandated requirements? The answers are obvious.

Local control belongs with the local communities and locally elected officials. It never should have been ceded or taken over by the bureaucrats in Sacramento. The Sacramento bureaucrats are not qualified. It needs to be fixed.

- Chris Kniel

Vote Yes on 31

I am writing to ensure every Californian votes yes on 31, in order to stop the sale of candy-flavored products Big Tobacco uses to push nicotine.

California recently enacted a bipartisan law, Senate Bill (SB) 793, to protect children from getting hooked on candy-flavored e-cigarettes, sweet cigars and minty-menthol cigarettes.

But Big Tobacco has put forth a referendum to strike down SB 793 in the form of Proposition 31. A yes vote on Prop 31 will uphold SB 793. Before the mail-in ballots go out on Oct. 10, it is imperative everyone in California is aware of Big Tobacco's push to overturn SB 793.

Big Tobacco deliberately targets kids and specifically hones in on our vulnerable communities with candy flavors like gummy bear, cotton candy and minty menthol. Their goal is to turn young people into lifelong customers.

Today, four out of five kids who use tobacco, started with a flavored product. Nationwide, over two million middle and high school students use e-cigarettes.

Big Tobacco argues if Prop 31 passes, black markets will be created, tax dollar revenues will be lost and smokers will automatically choose regular tobacco products. All of this is false. We all know the enormous cost of tobacco-related cancers and chronic illnesses on our system.

It is confusing to be voting yes on a tobacco proposition. Confusion is what Big Tobacco is trying to accomplish. Vote yes on 31 to protect our kids from a lifelong addiction.

- Tina Tankka

Elect the Best Local Candidates

After careful consideration of all candidates for local offices, I urge you to vote for the following highly qualified candidates to best serve our community. Orinda City Council: Janet Riley, Brandy Iverson and Alex Drexel. Moraga-Orinda Fire District: Mike Roemer and Vince Dell' Aquila. Orinda Union School District: Katie Shogan, Eve Phillips and Edda Collins Coleman. Acalanes Union High School District: Chris Severson, Nancy Kendzierski and Jennifer Chen.

- Sue Severson

So-called Housing Element Should be Questioned

It is understandable and not surprising why 14 of the 15 Bay Area cities have not had their "so-called housing elements" approved by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Somehow this agency made up of unelected bureaucrats, with heavy financial support from the housing industry, has appointed themselves the masters of local control. While this loss of local control has been years in the making, communities throughout the Bay Area, including Orinda,

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STUDENTS

Jarret Zundel Studies Mandarin in Taiwan with Scholarship Program



BRADY LIAO

Jarret Zundel (right) with his new friend Marilyn Shi, a study abroad classmate, spent a Saturday night at a famous mall in Hsinchu, called Big City. Zundel, a junior at Miramonte High School, studied Mandarin this summer through the National Securities Language Initiative Youth Scholarship program.

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Orinda resident Jarret Zundel says the six weeks he studied abroad this summer were the craziest, most memorable and most magical in his life.

“I arrived sweating in Taiwan with suitcases and in complete awe of this new world,” said Zundel, a junior at Miramonte High School. “I left having made friends, mentors and the feeling that I had gained a new home.”

Zundel was selected in the National Securities Language Initiative Youth (NSLI-Y) Scholarship program. One of 44 United States students selected under the umbrella of the Mandarin Language, Zundel was placed in Taiwan. The American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) administers the program. Field trips and independent exploration educates the stu-

dents about the history and culture of the targeted country.

“The NSLI-Y acceptance rate is 18%,” said Zundel. “Along with a high school senior girl from Oakland, I represented the San Francisco Bay Area in this nation-wide program.”

Zundel added, “NSLI-Y is a program of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) which promotes the study of Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Persian (Tajiki), Russian and Turkish.”

He said the Chinese classes he took were rigorous.

“We had quizzes daily and a test every Friday,” said Zundel. “Since my class had only one other student, I formed a very close connection with my teacher. I was happy to get up and go to class every day. We talked about everything from seri-

[SEE ZUNDEL page 24]

Mats Hand Broncos Their First Loss



MARK BELL

Miramonte High School Senior **Bennett Destino** #22, running back for the Miramonte Matadors, alludes would be Bronco tacklers. The Mats handed the Northgate Broncos their first loss of the season Friday night, Oct. 7 with a final high score of 43-35. Follow To the team’s schedule to the playoffs here: <https://www.maxpreps.com/ca/orinda/miramonte-matadors/football/schedule/>.



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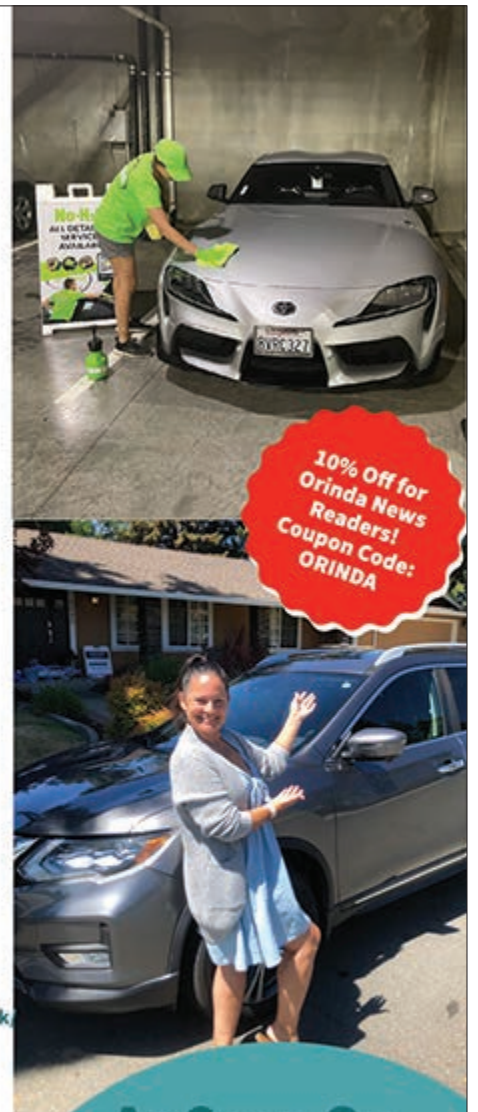


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THOUGHTS ON HOW ORINDANS MAY GIVE

DAVID BORN, CFA, CFP



Mr. Rogers famously passed on the advice of his mother to “look for the helpers. You will always find people helping.”

Philanthropic helpers are not necessarily the wealthiest people since helpers can give time as well as money to help a cause. But how does one become inspired to be philanthropic?

Philanthropic inspiration can come from anywhere. But for those actively searching for inspiration, a good place to start is having a strong understanding of what is most important to you. Having a cause that you care about might inspire you to enjoy hours of volunteering or wading through grant requests.

When Orindan Sharon Simpson’s late husband Barclay Simpson’s business took off, she decided the couple needed to give back.

“We thought, what are our areas of interest? We decided “museums and art,” because we had a gallery and kept on reading studies that children exposed to the arts do better in math and science,” she said.

From that humble start, for three decades the Simpsons have focused on supporting underserved children with a focus on education.

After identifying a meaningful cause, it makes sense to identify the most effective way to have an impact. For most, it involves getting behind a high impact organization already working on the issue one wants to support.

For the Simpsons, that meant becom-

ing inspired backers of “Girls Inc.” when they saw effective results for the group’s mission, a mission they cared about. The organization helps 5,000 to 7,000 girls per year. “Girls Inc.” describes itself as a non-profit that “inspires all girls to be strong, smart and bold” through evidence-based programming.

Once one identifies an organization to support, the last step is deciding how to support it.

An able-bodied retiree may have time and ability to volunteer. Those helping financially might give or save more through the tax benefits of giving appreciated assets through a Donor Advised Fund or foundation, or directly from a retirement account via Qualified Charitable Distributions.

Some of us simply don’t have the resources to give, but there’s substantial evidence that it’s worth exploring if we can. Helping others has been demonstrated to make humans happier than more obviously self-interested pursuits.

The Dali Lama captured this notion in his saying: “If you want to help others, practice compassion. If you want to help yourself, practice compassion.”

Simpson shares advice on the joys of philanthropy.

“You get back so much more than you give,” she said. “I have a smile on my face from saying that right now. It’s really true.”

David Born can be reached at dborn@pfmpartner.com.

◆ ZUDEL from page 23

ous issues, like China’s aging population and immigration to the best restaurants in the city.”

Zundel said he loved the Chinese classes but felt it was important to experience Taiwan outside of the classroom.

“In Hsinchu, you can go to the Big City Mall, which was the most modern, elaborate shopping center I’d ever seen,” he said. “I also went to the City God Temple.”

He suggested it was rewarding to use the newly acquired language skills to meet people from the host country at shops, on the street and at his host school.

“I made some lasting friendships with high school and university students. They took me to fancy restaurants, beaches, shopping malls and a lot of places only natives know about,” said Zundel. “Language really is the key to forming friendships abroad.”

Zundel believes studying abroad, while in high school particularly, makes one an independent person.

“You have to advocate for yourself in

a foreign language, a foreign culture,” he said. “You have to learn to use public transit, manage your spending, plan out your time, plan where you are going to eat dinner, keep your dorm clean and do your laundry. You really do grow up fast.”

For students interested in applying to the NSLI-Y program, visit <https://www.nsliforyouth.org>. The application deadline is Nov. 3. All applicants must be U.S. citizens, currently enrolled in high school, 15-18 years old at the start of the program, have a minimum 2.5 GPA and meet other criteria defined in the application.

The program seeks applicants who represent the diversity of the United States. Students of all racial, ethnic, religious, gender identities, sexual orientations, disabilities and socio-economic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

“Having completed this intensive program, I hope to share my experiences with the community and encourage more high school students to apply,” said Zundel.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbiedodso109@gmail.com.

◆ SHOPPER from page 21

referred to as yams, but true yams are not related to sweet potatoes and indigenous to Asia, while sweet potatoes are native to and grown in North and South America.)

To make a delicious roasted root vegetable dish, pick-up a bunch of carrots, two turnips, a parsnip, an onion, two potatoes and fresh ginger. Prepare vegetables and cut into ¾ to 1” pieces. Spread on a large baking sheet. Whisk together 4 tablespoons olive oil, 1 tablespoon grated ginger and salt and pepper to taste. Pour over vegetables and toss until evenly coated. Place in a 400-degree oven and roast about 30 minutes (stir halfway through), until

vegetables are golden brown and cooked through.

It’s Harvest Fest time! Saturday, Oct. 29. Bring the family in costume for more fun at the pumpkin patch. Enjoy a little trick-or-treating at the market stands and look for a few new fun activities for the kids.

The Orinda Farmers’ Market is open every Saturday, 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.

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