



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
September 2020

Incumbents and Challengers Running for Local Offices Now Determined



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF ORINDA
Contra Costa County is making voting easier by installing 15 outdoor **dropboxes** where voters can deposit their ballots any time. Seen above is the dropbox located outside of Orinda City Hall.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

While national interest focuses on the presidential election, there are several local elections of interest to Orinda residents this November. The filing deadline for those elections was Aug. 7 with candidates hoping to win a seat on the Orinda City Council or the boards of the Orinda Union School District, Acalanes Union High School District or the Moraga Orinda Fire District.

Two incumbents, whose terms are up this December, have filed for re-election to the Orinda City Council: Darlene Gee and Inga Miller. Latika Malkani, a legal policy advisor and attorney with Siegel Lewitter Malkani, is challenging them for one of the two seats available.

With COVID-19 changing how children are educated, positions on local school boards take on even more importance this

[SEE ELECTIONS page 6]

Voters to Decide Fate of Sales Tax Increase, Measure R, In November

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

Voters will decide to either to increase the add-on Transactions Use Tax (TUT) to one cent or continue with the current half-cent tax. If passed by a simple majority vote in November, the increased tax becomes effective April 1, 2021, expires in 20 years and will generate approximately

\$2.4 million dollars annually.

The increased revenue is projected to address high-priority essential services, which require significant dollars and an on-going funding. Finance Director, Paul Rankin described these priorities as fire fuel reduction and emergency planning, critical drainage improvements and continued public road maintenance during the Aug. 4 City

[SEE TAX page 6]



CHARLEEN EARLEY

Owner **Susan Leech** of Orinda Village Antiques has reopened, allowing shopping by appointment-only for her loyal customers.

Local Businesses Pivot to Survive During the Coronavirus Pandemic

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Contributing Writer

When life threw them a serious, unexpected and deadly curveball, the COVID-19 global pandemic, local businesses decided to do everything in their creative powers to stay buoyant.

Some have the Internet to thank.

"We were able to stay afloat during the shutdown by ramping up our online orders and offering free delivery to Lamorinda and Rossmoor," said Pat Rudebusch, owner of Orinda Books.

Rudebusch purchased Orinda Books, an Orinda fixture since 1976, last October after working there for five years. Its third owner, she thanks her daughters for helping her during this time.

"Having my daughters helping made this all possible," she said. "I certainly didn't want to risk exposing any of our employees to COVID-19, but since both of my daughters are now at home, we were able to keep pretty tight control over what was

[SEE BUSINESS page 22]

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Joe Rubay For State Assembly, District 16



Joe with his wife Cindy and daughters Alexa and Nathalie

I have lived in Alamo for 40+ years and as a residential appraiser for 30 years, I am familiar with every neighborhood in Orinda! I want to represent you in the State Assembly.

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- ★ Our local police and their use of the latest technology
- ★ Equal Rights for All
- ★ Efforts to ensure clean water and clear air for everyone



Please visit my website www.JoeRubay.com and join the fight to take back our state.

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ORINDA CLASSIC CAR TOUR

Cars, Drones, Live Steam All Part of the First Ever Virtual Car Tour

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

The 16th annual Orinda Classic Car Show, this Covid-19 year a driving tour, hits the road Saturday, Sept. 12. Limited in-person and car gatherings forced the annual hands-on show to go virtual this year. The live stream, narrated by Steve Harwood, will be telling tales about the 100 cars in the tour from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

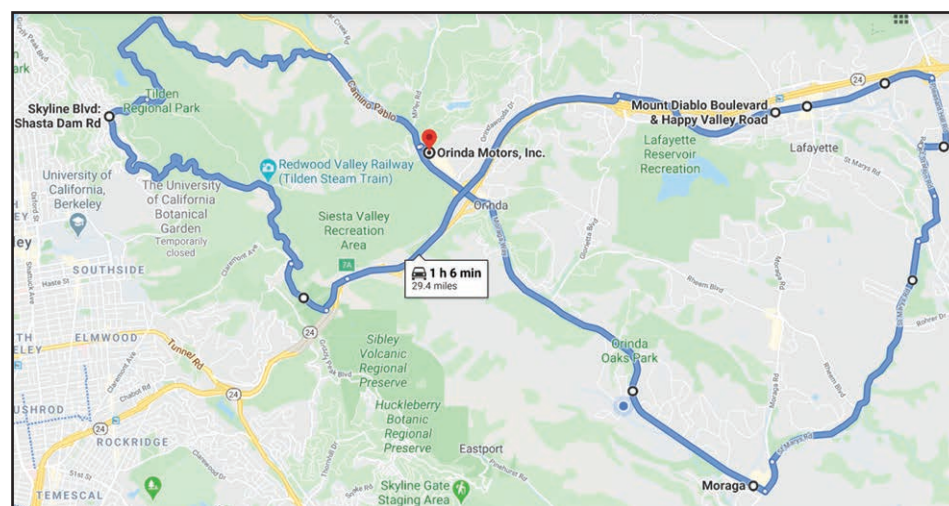
Tour drivers will depart from Orinda Way in caravans of 20 cars each, starting around 10:15 a.m. They will wend their way to Moraga, Lafayette and the Berkeley Hills before returning to Orinda. You can enjoy the live stream starting at 9:30 a.m. or view the tour along the route (See graphic route map). Real-time videos and still photographs will be incorporated into the live stream along with drone coverage as cars crest at Grizzly Peak.

The story of one of the entrants will give you a taste for more such stories if you opt to stream the Classic Car Show tour. Since her teen years, Jennifer Matthews has wanted a Karmann Ghia but always opted for practical cars. That is until last summer when she and husband Jason found her dream car in Los Gatos. Gretel, the Baja Red, fully restored 1974 Karmann Ghia, has quite a story to share.

Gretel hummed along the freeways back to Orinda, easily keeping up with traffic. So far, so good. 45 minutes later, however, flames burst through the rear engine cover. After the fire department “doused the heck out of it,” Gretel was towed to Shell Auto Care so Kathy Mitchel and her team could get her roadworthy again. The next trip was to a specialist in Berkeley for a complete restoration. As with any antique car, Jason said they expected to face some defects, basically rust and cosmetic imperfections.



Jason Matthews enjoys driving his wife Jennifer's 1974 Karmann Ghia, which was fully restored following a fire.



CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC

On Sept. 12, classic cars in caravans of 20 will drive from Orinda Way through Moraga, Lafayette and the Berkeley Hills before returning to Orinda. The Classic Car Tour can be enjoyed via a live stream or viewed at vantage points along the above route, allowing for physical distancing.

They did not expect to find six layers of multi-colored paint.

“She’s a beautiful tin can,” said Jenn, “But, with no power steering or brakes, it will be my fair-weather car.” She does, however, accentuate the positive saying, “there are a lot of more fun details and nuances.” Harwood will focus on those when he presents Gretel during the live stream tour. “We’ve ordered new license plates, “1HotFlash,” as an homage to her fire, fire power, and my middle age,” laughed Jenn, who turns 50 this month.

Touted as the primary fundraising effort benefitting The Orinda Association’s Seniors Around Town (SAT) ride program, the annual car event faces a \$15,000 dollar shortfall due to the virus enforced, new format. “With fewer than half the cars allowed to participate and no generous monetary contributions from show attendees, we are encouraging online donations to make up the difference,” said Diane Lautz, event

co-chair. “There are donation links at www.OrindaCarShow.com and www.OrindaAssociation.org.”

Since 2005, SAT has arranged no-cost rides for Orinda seniors or those who have a medical condition which limits driving capabilities. During this time of COVID-19, SAT volunteers have clocked 178.5 hours of driving, shopping, running essential errands and making reassurance calls for seniors.

To join the live stream, “Orinda Classic Car Tour,” sign in at the following zoom address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82608414133>. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged. The optimistic Harwood anticipates a world-wide audience, befitting the good work money raised from it provides for Orinda seniors.

Several car enthusiasts have shared their favorite rides in this issue. See Pages 20-21.

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at kathy@theorindanews.com.

Orinda Motors Presents



The 16th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Enter Your Car In The “Orinda Classic Car Tour” - We Will Drive Again!

The Orinda Association is pleased to announce that instead of hosting our regular Car Show, on the morning of Saturday, September 12th, we invite all car owners to enter their vehicles in this exciting “Tour” and enjoy driving along with up to 100 fellow car enthusiasts throughout the area.

Here are some updates:

- **LESS THAN 30 TOUR SLOTS REMAIN. RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW!**
- **CHECK OUT THE TOUR’S ROUTE ON OUR WEBSITE.**
- **ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW HOSTED VIDEO:** All who enter their vehicles will be featured in a special video tribute hosted by Steve Harwood going out to more than 2000 show supporters.
- **OWNERS: YOUR ENTRY FEES WILL SUPPORT GREAT LOCAL CAUSES** - the Orinda Seniors Around Town Ride and food delivery program (SAT) and three other local charities.

Register all cars and motorcycles online today!

All vintage, modern or exotic cars are welcome, plus motorcycles of any year or makes and more!

The Car Tour will be covered by a Livestream Broadcast – with video of all of the exotic and classic cars leaving the Orinda Village, in-route shots, interviews and live reports.

To view, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82608414133> from 9:30am to noon September 12.



1955 Mercedes Benz 300SL Coupe



1975 Porsche 911 Coupe

Car Tour - Here Are Lamorinda Viewing Times To See Cars (all times are approx.)

- Orinda Village Farmers Market 10:15 – 11:00am
- Lafayette Downtown 10:30 – 11:15am
- St Mary’s Fields @ Rheem Blvd 10:45 – 11:30am
- Rheem Shopping Center 10:45 – 11:30am
- Moraga Commons 10:45 – 11:30am
- Orinda Theater Square 11:00 – 11:45am

Enter Your Car Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

We thank our partners and sponsors including: Alliant Insurance, Orinda Motors, Mechanics Bank, John Muir Health, Canopy Health, Clark Pest Control, Finola Fellner, Compass Real Estate, Clark Thompson and many more.

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President Engagement and Appreciation



Carlos Baltodano

In the midst of the pandemic, we look forward to a hopeful future and opportunities to engage and appreciate our community. We thank all of the donors who gave generously to support the iconic Orinda Theatre. The GoFundMe theater campaign has raised \$110,000 of its \$165,000 goal. Thank you for supporting the operating and fixed costs of the 79-year-old theater. Derek Zemrak, proprietor and organizer of the campaign, sends a “very big heartfelt thank you” to those who donated during these trying times.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, The Orinda

OA Board Spotlight



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda resident and Berkeley City College student **Devan Sudra** has been a member of the OA board for the past two years. He recently took on the duties of secretary. Sudra is working on two degrees: electrical engineering and mechanical engineering. When not in school or working as a web design consultant/architect, he enjoys playing guitar and writing short stories.

Association will be sponsoring a new 29.4-mile classic car tour. It will feature 100 vintage cars touring through Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette and the Berkeley Hills. Cameras will be strategically located to capture the excitement and roaring moments of this unique event upholding a long Orinda tradition. [See story, page 2.] You’ll see two of my favorite vintage cars, a 1965 2D Blue Mustang and a 1955 Gold Thunderbird being announced by no other than the voice of Orinda, Steve Harwood.

The classic car show has been one of the biggest fundraising events for a number of non-profit organizations, especially for the Seniors Around Town Program (SAT). The SAT has continued to provide rides for medical appointments and grocery deliveries for our seniors. There are currently 113 active riders who need assistance. We are expecting a shortfall of \$15,000 in critical funding from this year’s virtual car tour. Therefore, we are asking our supporters to please consider donating to the SAT at oa@orindaassociation.org.

In the Nov. 3 general election, the Orinda City Council has placed a one cent sales tax (Transaction and Use Tax) ballot measure. Measure X will replace the current ½% sales tax with a 1% sales tax, effective April 1, 2021. The voter threshold for passage is 50%. The increase sales tax will double the funding to \$2.4 million per year. This estimated revenue will be in place for 20 years. The purpose of the funding is to continue mitigating the city’s deteriorating roads and collapsing storm drains. As we are aware, maintaining the city’s roads has been a priority over the years, and this will continue to minimize future costly repairs. The funds will also be used to control brush and vegetation throughout Orinda and mitigate fire risks associated with wildfires. In order to ensure that the funds are spent appropriately, a citizen oversight committee will be established along with financial audits and public review of all expenditures. All of these funds will be spent in Orinda

[SEE PRESIDENT page 12]

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)
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www.OrindaAssociation.org

The Orinda Association
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Inga Miller
Latika Malkani

MOFD Moraga Orinda Fire District #5
Craig Jorgens
Sharon Girdlestone

Send candidate questions to editor@theorindanews.com or to moderator during forum.
To view this forum on Oct 8, watch for upcoming meeting information at TheOrindaNews.com or The Orinda News October edition.

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EDITORIAL

Corrections

In the August issue of *The Orinda News*, Jatinder Kaur was incorrectly listed as the former owner of Fountainhead Montessori school in Kathy Bohanan Enzerink's article "Memory Care, Montessori School at Wilder Get Planners' Ok." Kaur was the director not the owner of the school.

Also, in the August issue, Lindsay Westin was misrepresented in the article "School Boards Develop Hybrid Plan but Classes Must Be Virtual." She was listed as express-

ing a desire for more on-campus time for students, which was incorrect.

In Melanie Light's article "MOFD Begins Fire Inspections," in the August issue, the procedure regarding the lien process for an unmitigated fire code citation was misstated. The correct procedure and policy is that following board approval, MOFD staff records the tax lien with the Contra Costa County Assessor's Office, which is then attached to the following year's tax bill.

Letters to the Editor

Time to Walk the Talk

We urge our fellow citizens to support – quietly or vocally – but persistently – revitalizing our small Orinda downtown. Our city is at last seriously starting to move on this issue – well, to walk-the-talk.

We two are 45-year residents of Orinda. So, we are hardly "Young Turks" supporting hasty change. Indeed, real change to our Downtown will be – should be – slow, careful. Realistically, improvements will come only, first, when the "plate is set" by the City Council, Planning Commission and city departments, then second, when private owners perceive that the "rules of the game" will permit them to meaningfully spend money to improve their properties – and improve our community – or to sell their properties to those who will. Most improvements that we hope for will be seen in the somewhat distant future – by our children and grandchildren.

The City Council plans to arrive at some good decisions in 2021. Is this a long way off? No, we think not. Not in the context of the city's lack of action in the past many years – decades.

The Past (tired, drowsy): In a quarter century, Orinda has had no new buildings in its commercial area. Not since Theatre Square. Only two...two!...of the other commercial buildings have been renovated since then. Stagnation? The city has a well-deserved reputation of being anti "serious" improvement.

We hope for a change. In our view, livable, active city downtowns in America are always gradually, persistently renewing themselves.

Our View of the Future: Orinda Village in particular, is too far "apart." It can and should be more "walkable." Walkability raises property values, increases commerce and – most important – enhances our sense of community. "Connect Orinda" has made some positive steps.

But we can do more: Such as – careful density changes for residential, business units. Enhancement, encouragement of mixed-use properties. In the far distant future, open up San Pablo Creek to viewing, walking, maybe dining. Such steps will help with walkability, and with community.

Indeed, we have already two large communities downtown who can walk – Eden Housing residents and the Orinda Senior Villagers. But, in addition, newly retired and "workforce" housing (teachers, police, fire personnel) will give balance to our downtown.

The opportunity is right here. Right now. So, let's give voice to hope for careful change. Let's give voice to renewal. Let's get ready to walk... in our emerging new downtown!

– David and Sandra S. Anderson

Thumbs Up for Downtown District Momentum

In a landscape of doom and gloom for much of 2020 thus far, there is a glimmer of positivity on the horizon. The City of Orinda has been slowly plugging away at a revised Downtown Precise Plan (DPP) that will address at long last a decades old conversation about how to thoughtfully modernize Orinda's Downtown district. Much work has been done to identify "existing conditions" including current zoning, land usage and structures, and Orinda's DPP would update the city's downtown development standards and create objective design standards for multi-family residential and mixed-use projects.

This update is necessary on many levels. First, it will help Orinda attract high level development which will in turn entice an attractive mix of new businesses and increase vitality in our Downtown District. Secondly, it will allow Orinda to make decisions on how to incorporate housing into our Downtown district in a thoughtful way that is in keeping with the city's unique personality and aesthetic.

It is no longer a question of whether Orinda needs to update and change to allow for modernization and revitalization, but how we will do so on our own terms. Applause to our City Planning Department and City Council for diving in and doing the work to keep the future of Orinda's downtown in the hands of Orinda's citizens for generations to come!

– Kirsten Larsen
What's Up Downtown Orinda



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Private Roads Too Costly for City

Mr. Koorji's letter to the editor (August) expressed puzzlement and annoyance that the Orinda City Council ignored a vociferous minority who would like all private roads to be repaired at the City's expense.

Let me put the case for the 80% majority who do not live on a private road.

The most obvious reason is, of course, the huge cost of repairing one-fifth of all our roads, which probably have been subject to years of neglect. The city is

likely to suffer a drop in tax revenues this year due to Covid-19 and so is in no position to take on very costly project that mainly benefits a minority of homeowners.

If I were to spend over a million dollars for a home, I would personally check out all possible contingent liabilities. This would include such things, as who is responsible for road repairs and heaven help you if your property includes a decaying wooden bridge over a creek.

Surely anyone who buys a home does
[SEE LETTERS page 14]

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Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com. Letters to Editor for the Oct. issue are due **September 8, 2020**.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net), Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com) or Kathy Enzerink at 252-626-2109 (kathy@theorindanews.com). The deadline for the October issue is **September 8, 2020**.

AROUND TOWN

Orinda Theatre Proprietor Trying to Save Landmark

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Orinda, shining brightly in the night sky marks the Orinda Theatre. Its marquee, an East Bay landmark, has lighted the way to Orinda's Crossroads since 1941 when the theater first opened showing *Texas* with William Holden.

Closed because of the pandemic since March 16, the Orinda Theatre incurs ongoing expenses for rent, utilities, etc. to the tune of \$15,000 to \$18,000 per month. Proprietor Derek Zemrak wonders how long the theater can survive.

In an attempt to save this well-known landmark, Zemrak is asking the community to donate through a GoFundMe campaign. He says with 19,000 residents in Orinda, if each gave just \$8.28, he could reach his goal of \$165,000. Happily, many fans have

donated much more, one person, \$10,000. So, he is on his way, having more than \$109,000 donated as of Aug. 8.

Why care about a theater this much? Zemrak explained, "It's in a class by itself with its velvet seats, a huge curtain which is raised at the beginning of each showing, extensive murals from 1941, a starlight ceiling, and, of course, it's iconic marquee. It's classic Art Deco in its finest. In fact, it is listed on the National Register of Historic places in Contra Costa County.

This is not the first time Orindans have come to the rescue of the theater. When it was scheduled for demolition in 1984, a group of citizens started "Friends of the Orinda Theatre" and raised money to save the iconic structure from becoming three mini-theaters inside a five-story retail/business structure. Laura Abrams was a

member of the group. "My reason for getting involved was my love of the building, an historic site, clearly an Art Deco paradise," she said. "It would have been like destroying the history of the community. We were helped by the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association. They took us under their wing. We gained nonprofit status, and they put us in touch with the law firm, McCucheon, Doyce, Brown and Enerson, which worked *pro bono* helping our financial situation."

A lawsuit was brought by The Orinda Association (OA), which stated the approval to demolish the theater and build a mixed-use business/retail project violated the Orinda Area General Plan governing Contra Costa Planning approvals. Orinda was unincorporated at that time. On the other hand, The Friends of the Orinda Theatre's lawsuit [SEE THEATRE page 7]



SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda Theatre celebrated its 75th anniversary in December 2016 with a gala party.

OUSD Discusses Childcare for Orinda Students During the Pandemic

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Contributing Writer

In a special school board meeting held via Zoom on Aug. 3, Orinda Union School District (OUSD) board members, teachers and parents alike were given the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding childcare needs this fall during COVID-19.

A decision wasn't reached at the longer-than-usual three and a half hour Zoom meeting; however, all felt it was informative and necessary.

"I am not sure at this point whether action will be taken on the childcare issue," said Orinda Board of Trustees President Cara Hoxie via email the morning after the special meeting adjourned.

Up for public comment and discussion

was childcare for school-aged children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board members first listened to guidance from Kelly Rem, legal counsel, on potential risks involved in providing childcare through the district, parent clubs or a third-party vendor on OUSD school campuses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Safety of the students and staff is of the utmost importance, following all applicable laws through county and state," said Rem. "We want to minimize liability and exposure, and if we go with option three with a third-party vendor, it's the most legally conservative option – it's an arms-length arrangement."

Short of not operating childcare at all – which would be the ultimate conservative action – Superintendent of OUSD, Dr.

Carolyn Seaton, felt a third-party vendor would be the next best conservative option.

"It passes on the responsibilities and liabilities and gives all entities the most protection overall," said Seaton. "I know parents and even teachers who desperately need childcare."

Hoxie, among other board members, voiced overall concerns about the childcare discussion item.

"I'm not even sure why we are talking childcare when schools should be distance learning per Governor Gavin Newsom," said Hoxie.

Noting that these are unusual circumstances to start the new school year, Hoxie, among all board members, expressed worries and concerns over liabilities, responsibilities, hybrid-teaching, licensing, social

and emotional support, safety and training.

OUSD parent Alicia Keenan said Sleepy Hollow Elementary School met last week and voted not to open clubs that usually meet before or after school, to which Hoxie responded, "Everyone is all over the board with what direction to go in."

Feeling pressures from everyone involved, Hoxie and other board members think a decision needs to be made soon.

"People need to work and pay their mortgages and we need to have that balance," she said. "Families need to make decisions, and it doesn't appear that Contra Costa is going to get off this watch list any time soon. If we don't make a decision, the parents will."

Dr. Seaton noted that other school [SEE CHILDCARE page 9]


Re-Elect

Craig Jorgens


Businessman Engineer
Moraga-Orinda Fire District


Fire Safety is a Choice – Prioritize Prevention

- Endorsed by the Orinda FireWise Council representing over 1000 North Orinda homes and growing
- Initiated MOFD Chipper program in 2018 (removed 190 tons of fuel in 2020)
- Founding member of Orinda FireWise Council (OFC)
- Promoted sensors/cameras/software enabling early fire detection and evacuation
- HOA president, leading 150 acre open space fire prevention effort
- BS in Engineering/Economics, MBA



I'm Craig Jorgens and I would appreciate your vote to represent North Orinda on the MOFD Board so I can keep voting to make Orinda more FireWise.





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Paid for by Craig Jorgens MOFD Board 2020

POLICE

◆ TAX from page 1

Council meeting. He also stated there is currently no dedicated position (employee) to coordinate city emergency/disasters.

According to Rankin, priority needs with the greatest risks during the next three-to-five years are wildfire management disaster planning (\$3.5 million) and critical drainage structures (\$9 million).

“If we took all the other monies we could round up together in our piggybank, we do not have any other source of funds that would either provide enough money or an ongoing stream of money to be able to address these critical needs,” said Mayor Darlene Gee.

During public comments, Nick Waranoff said the sales tax increase is “very troubling. You are asking us to tax ourselves to provide essential services, yet at the same time you folks on the council are spending city money on non-essential services.... That is completely topsy-turvy.”

Citing harm to lower income people who shop in Orinda, Wylie Hughes said, “I strongly suggest the council reject this ballot and find another means of revenue, such as other taxes.”

“This is not a time to make 20-year commitments,” said Charles Porges, who suggested delaying the vote to 2022.

Councilman Dennis Fay had a differing view: “I think we have such a pressing need for wildfire prevention and fuel reduction that now is the time to proceed with it.... This is the most equitable way to proceed.”

Linda Landau pointed out the transaction use tax on the sale of new vehicles outside

the city, comes to Orinda. “This [tax] is a very small amount....If people can afford to go buy a new car, they can afford an extra half-cent sales tax to keep our community safe.”

Fire Chief Dave Winnacker added, “Anything which provides additional resources for fire safety has my whole support.”

Letters opposing the tax increase, specifically because it does not include road or drainage maintenance on private roads, were sent to councilmembers via email.

“We strongly oppose a sales tax imposed on all the citizens of Orinda when it does not benefit every citizen....The City Council needs to be transparent with this proposal and ensure any increase in revenues is used for everyone,” wrote Beth and Tim Eliason.

“We should be voting to make all roads city roads!” wrote Tracey Blanchard, a 44-year resident. “[We are] taxed, but not represented as a homeowner.”

Scott Fleming noted, “Adding a 1% tax would cause me to avoid downtown merchants when possible, not because of the cost but due to the inequity.”

In support of the ballot measure, Sue Severson and Bob Burt, who founded the citizens’ committee Safer Orinda, wrote, “[we are] dedicated to making our community safer from natural disasters like wildfires, floods and from pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle danger posed by deteriorating roads....Our first objective is to support the increased funding that the Essential Services ballot measure will provide.”

“We appreciate all the feedback we have received,” said Mayor Gee, prior to the council’s unanimous vote. “There is nothing fairer than the ballot box.”

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at kathy@theorindanews.com.



POLICE BLOTTER

July 1 through August 14

Calls for Service

Abandoned Vehicle: 4 incidents.
 Accident - Fatal: 1 incident.
 Accident Injury: 1 incident.
 Accident Property: 5 incidents.
 Assault: 1 incident: Bryant Way.
 Breaking & Entering: 2 incidents: Wilder Way (x2).
 Burglary, Auto: 4 incidents: Diablo View Blvd., Orinda Way (x3).
 Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident: Camino Pablo.
 Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents: Camino Pablo, Lombardy Ln., Miner Rd.
 Death - Unknown Cause: 2 incidents.
 Disturbing the Peace: 4 incidents.
 Felony, Other: 1 incident.
 Fireworks: 11 incidents: Lombardy Ln., El Toyonal, Brookwood Rd., Robert Rd., Glorietta Blvd., Estates Rd., Ivy Dr. (x3), Bates Blvd. (x2)
 Fraud: 1 incident.
 Grand Theft: 3 incidents: St. Stephens Dr., Camino Pablo (x2).
 Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 5 incidents: Tahos Rd., Camino Pablo (x3), Valley Dr.
 Identity Theft: 6 incidents.
 Loud Music: 4 incidents.
 Loud Noise: 5 incidents.
 Loud Party: 8 incidents.
 Missing Adult: 2 incidents.
 Petty Theft: 2 incidents: Orinda Way (x2).

Petty Theft - Bicycle: 1 incident: Canon Dr.
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident: Orindawoods Dr.
 Reckless Driving: 5 incidents: Moraga Way (x2), Camino Pablo, Overhill Rd., Bear Creek Rd.
 Robbery: 1 incident: Orinda Way.
 Robbery, Armed: 1 incident: Fallen Leaf
 Shoplifting: 2 incidents: Orinda Way, Moraga Way.
 Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 3 incidents.
 Trespassing: 3 incidents.
 Trespass with Vehicle: 1 incident.
 Vandalism: 1 incident.
 Vehicle Theft: 1 incident: Camino Del Pablo.
 Verbal Dispute: 6 incidents.

Arrest

DUI: 2 arrests.
 Vehicle Recovery: 1 recovery.
 Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

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

◆ ELECTIONS from page 1

coming November. The Orinda Union School District has two positions available. Incumbents Cara Hoxie and Hillary Weiner will be running for re-election. They are unopposed.

On the Acalanes Union High School District board, one position is up for election. Incumbent Kristin Braun Connelly will be running for re-election with Christopher Grove and Michael Bonino challenging her for the position.

Fire safety ranks high on most Orindans’ priority lists, and this November they will vote for a representative to District 5 on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board. Incumbent Craig Jorgens is running for re-election, and he is challenged by Orinda business owner Sharon L. Girdlestone.

For supervisors, state assembly and state senate, California uses a “Top-two Primary” format, meaning the top two candidates in last March’s primary election advanced to the November general election. District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen ran unopposed in the March primary, securing her next term.

Orinda resident and State Senator for District 7, Steve Glazer, will face Julie

Mobley in November. Orinda resident Rebecca Bauer-Kahan hopes to retain her seat as State Assembly District 16 representative over challenger Joseph Rubay. On the federal level, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier is running for re-election in the 11th Congressional District. DeSaulnier’s challenger is Nisha Sharma.


Election day is Nov. 3. Unregistered voters can register online at <https://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/register-to-vote/>. Local residents can register up to 15 days prior to election day. After that deadline, a person can obtain a conditional voter registration. All votes will be by mail this election. Mail-in ballots are sent out 29 days before election day and can be mailed back to the county or dropped off at any designated drop box. Locations include:

- Lafayette City Hall, 3675 Mt Diablo Blvd., Suite 210
- Moraga Town Hall, 329 Rheem Blvd.
- Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way
- Walnut Creek City Hall, 1666 N Main St.
- Walnut Creek – Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road

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FIREWISE

July 18: Virtual Evacuation Drill

By Melanie Light and Carol Brovelli
Contributing Writers

Early Saturday, July 18, the Orinda Police Department, the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) and the Community Warning System (CWS) held an all-Orinda virtual evacuation exercise. On the whole, it was a success, and we all learned quite a bit about how the system works and how it could work better. One positive outcome was that many people registered for CWS and now nearly half the residents are registered to receive a disaster alert.

Carol Brovelli of the Sleepy Hollow Firewise group organized a meeting to evaluate the experience with Dennis Rein, MOFD Emergency Preparedness Director, Orinda Police Chief David Cook and Heather Tiernan, Contra Costa CWS Manager. This virtual meeting, which occurred July 30, produced many highlights.

The post-evacuation survey data shows that the vast majority of respondents thought the drill was very helpful and motivated them to backup computer files, gather irreplaceable personal items, collect important documents and pack a “Go Bag.” In Firewise communities, the drill provided a catalyst for strengthening the Block Captain systems.

A number of concerns were discussed. CWS did not use the full set of protocols for the evacuation drill. For example, in a real emergency, the alert would have been accompanied by a wireless emergency alert (WEA) sound similar to Amber Alerts, and if CWS did not connect with a phone number, it did not try to redial, so some people were not alerted. Registrants may not have received an alert if they were incorrectly registered.

Not everyone registered with CWS received a phone call/text, or they received

them late. The cell phone towers and phone switching stations cannot process the phone numbers that CWS sends properly. This is a serious systemic issue that can undermine the timed evacuation plan: two members of the same household can receive an alert 10-15 minutes apart. Furthermore, some people thought the CWS alert was SPAM because the CWS voice used generic language and sounded robotic. CWS is working to improve this but would use very clear language in a real disaster.

The various warning apps have different ways of being useful:

1. Nixle - Pre-warning of fire danger. Text your ZIP CODE to 888777 for mobile alerts.

2. PulsePoint- Learn about fires in the area simultaneously with the Fire Department. Please note that the alerts may result in late night warnings that may be disruptive. www.pulsepoint.org/

3. CWS Alerts - Notifies you when to evacuate. You can register landlines, emails, and cell phones. The WEA sound will be used in a real evacuation, so be sure to have the sound on your phone turned up during fire season. CWS Alerts- Notifies you when to evacuate. You can register landlines, emails, and cell phones. The WEA sound will be used in a real evacuation, so be sure to have the sound on your phone turned up during fire season. PLEASE NOTE: CWS has changed their phone number from 000-000-0000 to 925-655-0195 a county registered phone number starting in September. Program the CWS number into your cell phone contacts so that the alerts are not identified as ‘SPAM’ and make CWS a “Favorite” so that the alert sounds at night. For more information and the new phone number, access the “how to” at www.cococws.us where you can sign in

[SEE FIREWISE page 12]

High Winds Spark Orinda Fire



MARY CARRILLO

On Aug. 16, the high winds and a crashing tree woke up Mary Carrillo and her husband at their home on Manzanita Dr. They ran to the window in time to see a bluish flash. While they called 911 and their neighbors, they watched the fire spread. The Moraga-Orinda Fire Department arrived a few minutes later. "This is what our fire department does routinely. We are so grateful," said Mary. On Aug. 20, Mary's Acalanes Chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution presented the firemen who responded with a certificate of appreciation and a gift certificate for a well-deserved dinner.

◆ THEATRE from page 5

argued the demolition order did not follow Sequa law. The Orinda Theatre had also been unanimously approved for a listing in the State Register and the National Register of Historic Places which gave it special consideration. The State Supreme Court held for a stay of demolition and The Friends and the OA were successful on appeal. The battle took nine years but saved the theater and led to it being refurbished by a preservation architect to its original beauty.

“Of course, I’m behind Derek’s GoFundMe campaign,” said Abrams. “Again, we need to save this building – a work of art, a community treasure.”

Orindans Marty and Rich Lewis echo Abrams’ sentiments. “It is our icon. Not only has it brought us the best Hollywood and foreign movies, it brings the community together every second Thursday with a free classic movie. The large theater is packed with people. What fun to see so

many of our neighbors. And then a perfect time to eat dinner out and support our restaurants. Also, it beats fighting traffic to go elsewhere. We love to attend movies there.”

Live concerts and other events take place from time to time.

“We have a plan for reopening when the time is right,” said Zemrak. “The safety of our staff is of paramount concern – and of our patrons. We’ll have disposable seat covers and hand sanitizer. We’ll have to figure out how we can acceptably socially distance and still make a profit. If limited to just 100 seats, we wouldn’t cover our cost. So that’s not a viable option. We ask the public to please help us during this difficult time. As our marquee reads, ‘We are the finest when we take care of each other. See you soon.’”

To donate to the theater’s GoFundMe account, go to www.gofundme.com/f/orinda-theatre.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbie-dodson@comcast.net.



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The Spiffy Chick vs. The
Elephant In The Room

MIMI BOMMARITO



Yes, we have an elephant problem. First the good news, or the bad?

Seeing as how we've become pretty adept at handling disappointment, I'll extract the bad news first, much like the calcified sandwich remnants recently removed from your kid's backpack from March 13. A lunch we all would have especially savored, had we known it would be our last "normal" one for who knows how long.

Despite the long list of superlatives describing our community, I recently learned Orinda schools are not immune from disturbing acts of racial aggression. My sense is that many readers will be as surprised to hear this as I. My shock, which is precisely part of the bigger white privilege conundrum, had me feeling like a giant Pollyanna pushover, a sensation strangely reminiscent of my OIS Bulldog Kennel orientation with small but mighty (General) Linda Judkins. Anyone else remember her eye-opening Patton-esque speeches before hordes of hungry students descended? I equated volunteering at the Kennel with catching up on gossip and spying on my daughters, under the guise of absentmindedly schlepping bagels and pricey flavored water to a bunch of squirrely middle-schoolers. Instead, I learned miniature con artists could flush out a newbie parent right away. We stayed on high alert, quizzed them about their date of birth at the pickup windows and tried not to relinquish any free orange chicken. To clarify, this memory had nothing to do with race, just my naivety.

Naturally, we prefer to see our children and our community in the best possible light, but that can lead to unpleasant incidents being ignored. Racism lurks everywhere, even right here in Lamorinda. In

the words of Emmanuel Acho, creator of the popular You Tube series *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*, "In America, we've got to do a better job of discussing. You can't address a problem you don't even know exists."

None of this is easy to hear, but the good news is breaking through the clouds like a ray of sunshine at a frigid Saturday morning swim meet. Orindans are dedicated to action. From local bookstores to church and civic groups, to our high school students, their parents and Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) faculty and district officials, groups have been working all summer to bring this beast out into the open. I recently sat down, six feet apart, from former Educational Foundation - Orinda President Ellen Zapalac. Because of the recent creation of the One Orinda consolidated fundraising initiative, this dedicated community leader has traded her E, F and O for an M, E, D, I, P and G: the Miramonte Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Parents Group.

I know, I've just thrown the alphabet at you. But before COVID Distractibility Syndrome kicks in, and you start wishing this was a crossword puzzle instead, stay with me. This group isn't fluff, like one of those clubs we joined in high school that met maybe twice a year, for that bonus photo in the yearbook and to pad the ol' transcript. Like me, joining the French Club solely to enjoy hot Southern Maid glazed donuts, our improvised version of French patisserie. Clearly, we have evolved from the '80s — the ED&I students held a rally August 4 at the AUHSD offices to demand 1) re-instatement of the Inter-District Transfer Policy, 2) an accountability policy from the school district to issue consequences

[SEE EVERYDAY page 16]

New Committee Urges School District to Address Racism, Diversity

By CHELSEA PELCHAT
Correspondent

Citing racism in Orinda schools, a group of students and alumni have formed a committee to advocate for diversity and perspectives representing people of color.

This summer, two Miramonte High School alumni, Ava Killbourn and Carly Johnson, founded the Committee for Multicultural Educational Reform in the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD). It now consists of 10 students and alumni of district schools who meet at least once a week via Zoom conferences.

All committee members say they have either seen or experienced racism, which has inspired them to take an active role in changing the environment.

"My motive for participating in this group was to be an advocate for change. I want to be the person who prevents incidents like mine from reoccurring so younger kids don't have to go through the majority of what I had been through," said committee member Ava Moran.

Moran said school administration turns a blind eye to many racial issues in the interest of preserving its reputation.

In the editorial "Not White Like You" published in the school newspaper, *Mirador*, Moran writes about an incident where her fourth-grade teacher accused her of cheating when she turned in an assignment with improved handwriting. As humiliating and horrifying as the incident was, she never received an apology. Thus, as an incoming senior, she said she hopes to help create an environment that is accepting of all people, regardless of race.

Killbourn said the founders originally were focused on the idea of reinstating interdistrict transfers but expanded their goals to include reforming the humanities curricula, addressing intersectional issues and making staff and students accountable.

"We believe it is imperative now more

than ever to not only preach diversity and inclusion, but act accordingly," said Johnson.

The committee has met with AUHSD Superintendent John Nickerson, Miramonte Principal Julie Parks, various teachers across the district, Lamorinda parents' groups and various students across the district.

During a June 30 Zoom meeting with the committee, Nickerson expressed optimism for providing a more progressive curricula, as well as increasing accountability for racial incidents among students and staff.

"We need to make progress attracting teachers of color. I'm sure some of you probably have only had white teachers, and we need our teachers to better reflect our student population," Nickerson said. "I know it's absolutely inadequate but we went from 10% to 14% in the last year. We need to get to at least 35% teachers of color, and so we have a long way to go."

Committee members say material being taught in classrooms exhibits a lack of multiculturalism and glamorizes white perspectives. Social science curricula are overwhelmingly Eurocentric with emphasis placed on the innovation and historical contributions of white figures; they are severely lacking in representation of achievements by people of color, they say.

For example, the freshman world history and geography curriculum favors Western contributions over those of other major civilizations which existed during the same eras. The U.S. history courses taken by juniors fail to cover post-Jim Crow racism appropriately, committee members say, and as a result, students are taught a white-washed version of history that does not fully reflect the varying perspectives involved in the narrative.

The committee also is pushing for a more diverse English curriculum as most of the mandatory literature pieces as of the 2018-2019 school year were written by white authors. Of the 17 core texts taught by the Miramonte English department, only one was by a non-white author.

However, the committee commends English departments across the district for their rapid changes to incorporate more texts by non-white authors for the coming year.

A school official who wished to remain anonymous noted the district is adhering to the California State Framework and Standards in crafting the curricula, although they are open to making changes

[SEE DIVERSITY page 18]

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SCHOOLS

Orinda Homes Convert To Classrooms With Distance Learning

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Contributing Writer

The bell rings, parking lots jammed with parents dropping students off, the sound of kids' voices filling the hallways, lockers opening and shutting, teachers straightening desks before their rooms fill with warm bodies – all of which did not happen Aug. 13, amid the continual global pandemic.

Instead, all sounds were found within the four walls of Orinda homes. This is known as the new normal with distance learning this fall, the '20-'21 school year.

"My kids are very disappointed that they won't be returning to the classroom this fall. They miss their friends and teachers," said Janey McWhorter, mom with husband Michael of CJ, seventh grader at Orinda Intermediate School; Ross, fourth grader at Sleepy Hollow Elementary; and Cameron, second grader at Sleepy Hollow.

With three sons in different grades, distance learning, which began when COVID-19 hit in March, took on new challenges for the McWhorter's.

"We definitely were not prepared for distance learning when we were thrust into it this past spring. We had one family computer and a nine-year-old cracked iPad," said McWhorter. "My children were working in separate areas, one at the dining table, one in my home office and one at the breakfast table, which was not conducive for family meals. It was difficult to keep everyone focused in these settings."

In preparation for distance learning this fall, McWhorter took her children back-to-school shopping for school supplies, including buying a large dry-erase board to help with scheduling.

In addition to parenting, running a household and working full-time, many Orinda parents have now added a new teacher-type role of setting up classrooms in their homes.

"I have now ensured that each of my children has their dedicated work space," McWhorter added. "My oldest will continue to work in the home office, but I set up a small craft table for my middle son in the living room, and we pulled out my husband's childhood student desk, which was collecting dust in the garage, for my youngest son."

She said she set up each "classroom" this way so that each child would be responsible for his own workspace, materials and organization, and be in a quiet environment favorable to learning.

Beyond study areas, scheduling is yet another hurdle.

"The challenge for me is managing three different schedules, Zoom class call times and providing support for each of them. It truly feels like a juggling act," said McWhorter.

Fortunately, help is on the way for parents with upcoming parent education sessions through the Orinda Union School District.

In OUSD's Aug. 10 regular school board meeting, Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Seaton talked about ways to help parents



CHARLEEN EARLEY

Orinda parents Michael and Janey McWhorter said their three sons, **Ross** (9), **CJ** (12) and **Cameron** (7), will miss their friends and teachers this fall during distance learning.

in this new learning environment.

"We are planning to offer several education sessions that focus on helping parents navigate distance learning successfully with their students," she said. "Sessions will target how to help students with distance learning in early elementary, upper elementary and middle school grades."

She said sessions will cover how to support students with special needs in a

distance-learning environment, address students' social and emotional needs during distance learning, help parents address their own social and emotional health, and more.

Not just kids, but parents now have a learning curve in these unprecedented times.

"I am trying to network with other families, but with three kids' school schedules

[SEE MCWHORTER page 12]

◆ CHILDCARE from page 5

districts, such as Walnut Creek and San Ramon, are using outside vendors for childcare during distance learning.

"I sense that if the provider is following county health guidance, that we would not have the rug pulled out from under us, but only if there were a significant spike in COVID cases," she said.

Board Member Jason Kuane suggested the need to have everything spelled out, a written policy and written guidelines, in moving forward with childcare.

With initial opposition to childcare, Board Member Carol Brown expressed hesitancy.

"If we can't have school, we shouldn't have something that looks like school," said Brown, noting that this is still a discussion item, and not an actionable item.

"Our schools are closed for a very good

reason," she said. "I'm not comfortable with childcare on our campus. I feel lives are a little more important than that."

Having raised five children, Brown added that she also has huge empathy for parents.

School Board Member Hillary Weiner said, "I'm for it, for those who really need childcare. We could call it 'crisis childcare.'"

Many parents voiced their concerns as well, stating that they are working parents in need of childcare and in need of safe and effective environments for their children.

Ultimately, five board members, initially indicated support for a third-party vendor.

All are in agreement that the childcare issue is crucial for the community. A decision will be made after further meetings, policies and actionable items are set and voted upon.

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



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SCOUTS / STUDENTS

Orinda Girls Jump Onboard as Scouts Open Door to Females



ANGELICA STEINMEIER

Members of **Scouts BSA**, both boys and girls, enjoyed a day at Rock City Park at Mount Diablo prior to COVID-19 restrictions.

By **BOBBIE DODSON**
Staff Writer

Girls, would you like to be an Eagle Scout? Now you can. Scouts BSA, formerly Boy Scouts of America, has girls' troops, including one in Orinda with 13 members.

Angelica Steinmeier, a leader of this troop, said her ninth-grade son, William, is in a boys' troop, and his sister, 12-year-old Aimee, has always wanted to do everything he did, especially the more rugged outdoor activities.

"I especially like the camping trips, but also the wide variety of badges," said Aimee. "Those I've earned so far are ca-

noeing, first aid, public health, medicine, swimming, environmental and physical fitness. My brother is a Life Scout, working on his Eagle award. I want to catch up to him."

Co-leader Christina Loughran has an experience similar to Steinmeier's.

"Our son was in Scouts and did a lot of camping but formerly Caitlin couldn't go along so it split up our family. Now boys and girls troops are linked," she said, referring to Troop 303 with a G for girls or a B for boys after it — 303G and 303B.

Both meet at the same place, the same night so parents just have one trip for both kids. At the meetings, part of the time both

[SEE SCOUTS page 13]

STUDENT OPINIONS

Students Object to AUHSD Transfer Policy

Henry Hill



As a result of a 2018 change in the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) transfer policy, a group of current and former AUHSD students have formed the Acalanes Union Coalition for Transfer Students (AUCTS). The organization hopes to convince the district to reverse its policy, which substantially lowers the amount of inter district transfer students. To that end, AUCTS held a rally Aug. 4 outside of the AUHSD offices in Lafayette where speakers called for change.

In the summer of 2018, the AUHSD Governing Board, responsible for Miramonte, Acalanes, Campolindo and Las Lomas High Schools, changed the policy for incoming students transferring from outside of the district. Transfer students already at these schools were not affected, but the only new interdistrict transfers allowed needed to have a parent working for the AUHSD or one of the other K-8 partner districts.

"My understanding is that the reason for the policy change, which decreased the number of transfer students, was done primarily because the state stopped funding interdistrict transfer students to the AUHSD due to a complicated change in our local property taxes," said AUHSD board member Chris Severson, who was not a member of the board at the time of the change.

AUCTS members feel the benefits of having interdistrict transfers outweighs the financial considerations. "The cost of accepting a set number of transfer students per year into some of our under-enrolled schools in AUHSD is a minimal cost in

comparison to the long-term community and financial benefits," Emily Skilling, former AUHSD transfer and member of AUCTS said.

At the Aug. 5 AUHSD board meeting via Zoom, students expressed their opinions to the board, ultimately convincing them to include the transfer policy on the agenda for the Sept. 16 board meeting.

AUCTS also addressed the board during its discussions about updating and strengthening its racial equity policy.

"They (AUCTS) have suggested that the board does not wish to truly pursue racial equity unless we increase interdistrict transfer students. The reality is that a large majority of AUHSD students are white, a large majority of interdistrict transfer students are white, and the percent of minority students in the district is not meaningfully changed by even pre-2018 levels of interdistrict transfer students," Board Member Severson said.

AUCTS members Morganstein and Lakhota wrote a 36-page report refuting AUHSD arguments for the transfer policy change. In the report, they assert interdistrict transfers do make a racial difference writing that 58% of students of color at Miramonte are interdistrict transfers and that in 2017-2018 (the last year before the restrictions on transfers), 52.9% of interdistrict transfers were students of color. Additionally, the report includes a poll of 362 students from AUHSD schools. Of the students surveyed, 80.1% said they dis-

[SEE TRANSFER page 12]

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SCHOOLS

School Gardens Provide Education and Outdoor Opportunities

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Susan DiStefano and her husband Tony established the Sleepy Hollow Garden Learning Center at her children's school, Sleepy Hollow School (SHS), 20 years ago. Although there have been ups and downs, the project has continued. Back working there with a dedicated team of volunteers headed by Dana Wentworth, Susan noted the garden is flourishing.

"Currently there are seven families who volunteer. They are assigned a week to care for the garden and are delighted with the produce which is theirs to take home. A



SUSAN DISTEFANO

The garden at **Del Rey Elementary School** sports beautiful lush plants thanks to the volunteer gardeners.

member of the team works with one grade level to engage teachers, students and parent volunteers. They also coordinate times, curriculum, garden activity, fruit and veggie tasting and maintenance," DiStefano explained. "Although vegetables primarily make up the garden, DiStefano has added some flowers to attract butterflies.

DiStefano began at SHS with a bird and butterfly garden. For this, she received the William Penn Mott award given annually to honor the citizen or group which has displayed outstanding contributions in the preservation of our environment. "It's been a life-long commitment," DiStefano said. Her grandmother was a passionate gardener, something DiStefano carries on while still using her grandmother's watering can. She attended the Merritt Horticultural program to learn about propagation, plant nutrition and landscape design. Now, she gardens every day and propagates some 600 to 700 plants each year in her greenhouse with organic seeds she gets from Petaluma. She freely shares those with the school gardens.

Wentworth is also a long-time volunteer. She remembered going to school at Sleepy Hollow, graduating in 1985 and wishing she had the opportunity for an outside classroom. Now, students do. "When my daughter began at SHS," Wentworth said, "I noticed the garden was not being used to its fullest potential. I started reviving it in a Kindergarten class, and the program grew from there with the help of many parents and the strong support of the principal, Patsy Templeton. The Parents' Club provided the financial backing necessary.

"In my opinion, the Learning Garden is an essential resource for students to explore and expand their learning environment. It also serves as a landscape for teachers to



SUSAN DISTEFANO

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School garden was a buzz with activity as student and parent volunteers keep the gardens in top shape. With the pandemic, volunteers are scheduled in shifts at the elementary school gardens and Orinda Intermediate School.

develop project-based learning curriculum outside of the traditional four walls, said Wentworth. "Students are not only learning about Environmental Science, teachers are applying math, art and critical thinking to their learning garden lesson plans."

One of the unexpected benefits of the garden, according to volunteers, is it encourages students to take the opportunity to try new fruits and vegetables which initially might be outside of their comfort zone. "We find they are so proud of what they grow and excited to taste tomatoes, kale and chard right off the plant. They also

want to dig in the dirt, turn the soil, explore for worms and bugs," Wentworth enthused.

Peter Krimmel and his family are other enthusiastic volunteers. He said, "I gardened in my parents' home since I was 12, and then my own. With my children at SHS, I volunteered in various capacities and then noticed the garden was looking a little sad. I discussed this with another dad, Jesse Shurter, who also loves gardening. We reached out to the principal and several other folks, including Dana Wentworth, who were interested in getting a good gar-

[SEE GARDENS page 23]

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SEASONED SHOPPER

◆ TRANSFER from page 10

agreed with the transfer policy change, and only 7.7% of students said they agreed with it.

“If I couldn’t transfer to Miramonte, I would be going to a high school much closer to my house but located in a community with a bigger influence of drugs and violence. Being a transfer student allows me to escape from that route and better myself and my education,” Miramonte senior and transfer student Adrien Argast said.

Henry Hill is a senior at Miramonte High School. Reach him at editor@theorindanews.com. Student Opinions is an occasional column giving voice to student concerns.

◆ MCWHORTER from page 9

to manage, I need to first better understand what the fall learning schedule will look like in my house,” said McWhorter. “After one to two weeks of distance learning, I hopefully will have better insight into what additional resources I may need to tap into to support my children academically and socially.”

Her advice to other parents going through the same challenges is to prepare by buying school supplies to help kids get in the back-to-school mind-set and to set-up a quiet and efficient study space for them to learn.

“This is challenging for all families, but we need to remain positive for ourselves and our kids,” she added. “We will get through this.”

◆ PRESIDENT from page 3

to improve our safety and quality of life. Please take the time to read the measure at the city website (<http://cityoforinda.org/383/Election-Information>) and don’t forget to vote in November.

In the early part of October, The OA Board has agreed to host both City Council and MOFD forums on the same evening. For the City Council race, there will be three candidates for the available two seats. Besides the incumbents, Mayor Darlene Gee and Councilmember Inga Miller, the third candidate is Latika Malkani. All three candidates have qualified before the filing deadline. For MOFD, there are two candidates for the District 5 seat, Sharon L. Girdlestone and incumbent Craig Jorgens. We are still working on a virtual format, which will encourage public participation. We will keep you posted on this very exciting and important event!

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Seasoned Shopper
Time for Tomatoes

BARBARA KOBSAR



As fall approaches the market remains full of many summer delights, including strawberries and stone fruits. Now it’s time for fresh-picked pears, melons, grapes, squash and vine-ripened tomatoes to offer the unrivaled flavors that shoppers have come to expect. Peppers and cucumbers are in abundance and ready to add to your favorite salad or sandwich.

Ponce Farm from Delhi in Merced county brings late variety plums and pluots to extend the stone fruit season through Sept. Pluots are approximately 75% plum and 25% apricot. The taste is a little sweeter and less acidic than a plum. You might find some plumcots (50% plum and 50% apricot) at the market – look for varieties such as King Kong, Jubilee or Harvest Gold.

Plums and pluots come in many different colors and varieties. This month look for Emerald Beau plums and Flavor Treat pluots. Choose those which are firm and plump and have a slight give at the stem when pressed gently with your thumb. If the fruit needs a few days at home to ripen, just pop it in a paper bag at room temperature and check it daily. Once ripe, store in the refrigerator for up to four days.

Apples are another specialty at the Ponce Farm stand. Virtually all apples are suited for eating out of hand, with flavors from sweet to spicy tart – just choose the one that suits your taste. They should be smooth, brightly colored for their variety and free of soft spots or punctures.

Gala apples are mildly sweet with a distinctive crunch and a favorite for a snack. The spicy sweet flavor of Fuji apples makes it an excellent candidate for adding to salads. If pie making is on your list of things to do, then choose apples from the Granny Smith bin – they hold their shape when baked.

Apples ripen 10 times faster at room temperature than in the fridge. Choose your favorite variety and store in a plastic bag, away from strong odors, in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

Enjoy and stay well.

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm on Orinda Way. More information is available at www.cccfm.org, facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket and [Instagram@OrindaFarmersMarket](https://instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) or call the market hotline (925) 431-8361.

Fresh Plum Salsa

The perfect snack with chips or use as an accompaniment to tacos and grilled pork:

Four to five plums or pluots, pitted and diced



BARBARA KOBSAR
Apples are a specialty at the Ponce Farm stand. Here **Adan Neri** and his nephew **Gabriel Ponce** show off another specialty – pluots!

One small red bell pepper or one large tomato, diced

- One half-cup diced onion
- One jalapeno or one poblano chile pepper, seeded and finely chopped
- Two tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- One teaspoon minced garlic
- Two tablespoons lime juice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Mix all ingredients together in a medium size bowl. Cover and refrigerate for one to two hours for flavors to meld.
- Makes two to three cups.

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

◆ FIREWISE from page 7

using your registration email. Register at cwsalerts.com/registration. The key to a timely evacuation is being aware of Red Flag Warning Days. Police Chief Cook is going to investigate using Nixle to alert people to fire danger. NextDoor is not the most reliable source for fire updates. Grab your Go-Bag, lock your doors, close your windows and shades, place an “EVACUATED” sign on your door and leave in one car.

It is equally important to create a defensible space around your home and clear vegetation from the roads (three feet back and 15 feet high) so that emergency vehicles can get in to fight fires.

Interested in creating or joining a Firewise Group in Orinda? Contact Joyce Arnon, jarnon@aol.com.



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STUDENTS

◆ SCOUTS from page 10

troops are together, but they also spend time separately — the same with outings. For many families with several children this really works well, makes life easier — and more fun.

“One of the things that impresses me is how in Scouts BSA the older Scouts learn great leadership skills as they mentor younger boys and girls,” said Clinton Yap. “My daughter, Ava, definitely likes the more active out-of-doors opportunities, which she feels she has now in Troop 303G. I serve as the advancement chair in my daughter’s troop so see firsthand the wide diversity of merit badges they pursue.”

Ava said camp last summer with boys and girls was the most fun she’s had in this new troop.

“I liked having girls and boys making friends and doing hikes together. While there, I earned badges in basket making and archery. Recently our girls’ troop hiked the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail of five miles. It was the first time we’d been together since the pandemic era began, so it was wonderful to be with those friends again. Wearing masks all the way caused breathing to be harder, but we made it.”

Orindan Bruce McGurk, Briones District chair, said girls could join Cubs in early 2018 and then in February 2019 Scouts BSA. Quickly, area girls’ troops formed. Orinda has one girls’ troop and Lafayette has three, but so far there are none in Moraga.

Each troop has an experienced adult Scout volunteer, a Unit Commissioner (UC), to assist adult leaders. The Briones District includes Lamorinda, Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill.

“I have also served as a Merit Badge Counselor for girls as well as a lot of boys,” said McGurk. “Working on the Camping MB, one of the girls did very well. Often she knew the material better than the guys.”

The parents enjoy the scouting experiences too. Steinmeier recalls, “One of the best experiences in Scouts BSA was a shoreline clean-up project which Troop

303G did at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline. With eight Scouts, we picked up over 20 big plastic bags of debris. Most of the trash was at the water’s edge and would have ended up in the ocean. Reclaiming the beautiful shoreline by removing old shoes, jackets, plastic bottles, lighters and the like was a joyous experience for all of us, even though we were all exhausted at the end of the day. The Scouts could see and feel the impact our work had on the environment.”

Yap said his best experience was spending six days at the summer Scout camp with his daughter and the other boys and girls.

“I saw her gain confidence and independence in a safe environment where I am, but not helicoptering around her. This happened because of the experiences the amazing Scout camp staff provided,” he said.

Loughran remembers a back-packing trip of more than 10 miles near San Jose, a Tilden Park campout and an urban campout when the girls’ troop met at St. Stephens Church, hiked to see a movie at the Orinda Theatre and then hiked back.

Another special trip was with the boys’ troop to Indian Rock in Berkeley. “Our activities are limited now, but many Scouts find they have more time to work on badges,” she said.

The girls’ troop had three outings planned in August. The first was China Camp in San Rafael doing waterfront camping as a special request from the girls. The second was a one-nighter at Portola Redwood State Park in Santa Cruz. The final was a river rafting trip at the end of August. The second and third events were potentially open to boys depending on the number of signups which needed to be limited to maintain social distancing.

Troop 303 typically has one recruitment event a year, with the date yet to be announced. For more information, girls may email angelicasteinmeier@gmail.com, and boys may contact Jeremy Steinmeier at j_steinmeier@hotmail.com.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbie-dodson@comcast.net.

Soccer Club Offers Free Clinics

In an effort to support the Lamorinda community during these difficult and uncertain times, Lamorinda Soccer Club is offering a free Player Developmental Clinic for children ages 5-7.

Sessions will be held one day per week for 1.5 hours by professional coaches. The clinics are appropriate for children wanting to develop their current soccer skills or those who just want to spend some time outdoors to learn a new sport.

Go to <https://lamorindasc.com/recreational> to learn more about the recreational program.

The clinics run from the end of August through November at Wilder Field. To register, go to <https://lsc94563001.sportssignup.com/site/> and then click on the U6-U8 free Player Developmental League tab to confirm your registration. Email reclleague@lamorindasc.com for additional information.



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Winners of the Annual Lamorinda Idol Announced Via Webinar

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Even COVID-19 could not keep Lamorinda’s artistic youth from sharing their talents in the Lamorinda Arts Council’s annual singing contest. With spirit, talent and ingenuity, 51 soloists and 18 groups navigated the world of Zoom and camera recordings to vie for the coveted award.

Winners, who were selected by an equal combination of votes from judges and public, were announced on Aug. 16 via a Zoom webinar, which was attended by over 130 people. The evening’s host, Steve Harwood, also noted 3,799 members of the public, some from around the world, voted in the contest.

The Lamorinda Idol winners for 2020 are:

Kindergarten – Second Grade Soloists Award: Miranda Klein

Third - Fifth Grade Soloists Award: Palig Horopian

Sixth – Eighth Grade Soloists Award: Natalie Schroeder

Ninth – Twelfth Grade Soloists Award:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The **Elkind Sisters** received the Kindergarten – Fifth Grade Groups Award.

Lleyton Allen
Kindergarten – Fifth Grade Groups Award: The Elkind Sisters – Maya and Sadie

Sixth – Eighth Grade Groups Award: Mina and Svea – Mina Lim and Svea Peterson

Ninth – Twelfth Grade Groups Award: Sabs and Lyss – Sabrina Hernandez and Alysa Vassallo

Audience Award: Svea Peterson

As one of the judges, I must compliment these young people who showed such confidence and ease – not to mention talent – while performing in front of a camera. This was a particularly daunting challenge for the groups, many of whom were forced to perform via Zoom, harmonizing together while being physically apart. Thank you all for making my job all the more enjoyable and difficult!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Svea Peterson won the Audience Award.

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



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VISUAL ARTS

Local Orindans Hope to Beautify Orinda One Panel at a Time

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Staying creative during COVID-19's forced shelter-at-home, Pete Hassleman and Tom Trowbridge have created a series of three 8' x 4' panels to give people an idea of their ultimate goal – an 8' x 90' *Trompe L'oeil* (realistic mural) under the BART/freeway walkway on Camino Pablo.

"Many cities are using a *Trompe L'oeil* to beautify various spaces," said Hassleman, who painted the demonstration panels. "They're not abstract pieces of art but rather they depict something realistically."

The award-winning architect hopes to celebrate Orinda landmarks, history and citizens while also beautifying the sidewalk above the freeway that connects Theatre Square to Bart and to the Village side of Orinda.

"I want to promote downtown's future with high impact art that would at long last remedy a despised "tunnel," Hassleman said.

Hassleman envisions his panels as a demonstration concept not a final design. "The final design would be executed by real artists," he said.

He and Trowbridge have been showing the panels to City Councilmembers Inga Miller and Nick Kosla, members of the Downtown Planning Subcommittee, as well as the Lamorinda Arts Council and the Historical Landmarks Committee. "We wanted to get their reaction to the idea and gauge enthusiasm for the project," said Trowbridge, who hopes to raise money for the project through donations.

In order to bring their idea to fruition, Hassleman and Trowbridge need the approval of Cal Trans, who owns the walkway. "We just want to get the concept down now, and then we'll take it to Cal Trans," Trowbridge said.

"This is wholly a volunteer project by OrindaVision," said Hassleman. "To date, we don't have any formal endorsement. It's strictly citizens' suggestions to help get something going in the downtown area."

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



SALLY HOGARTY

Tom Trowbridge (L) and Peter Hassleman (R) with their model panels for the *Trompe L'oeil* they hope will be approved for the walkway under the freeway that connects Theatre Square to BART and the Village side of Orinda.

◆ LETTERS from page 4

an exhaustive due diligence before making an offer. There are a number of required disclosures that the seller and your Realtor are required to inform a buyer. Private road ownership is probably not one of them. My experience in buying a home last year in another East Bay city was that both Realtors and the seller failed to disclose the ownership of the road. Of course, most Realtors are reluctant to disclose any negative features that might kill a sale; a perfectly logical financial decision. My own research discovered that the road was indeed city owned. I would have not purchased the home unless the other prudent neighbors had set up a viable fund to cover such unavoidable future costs.

Most of my driving in Orinda is on the main arteries and seldom on a private road although I admit I don't know this for a fact. I imagine most of my 80% cohorts do much the same.

Thus, when those who bought on a private road would have known, or should have known, that the prestige of living on a private road comes with a cost.

I would not support such a bail out and I am sure the huge majority would agree.

– John Benzie

Not Time to Raise Sales Tax

There is a time and a place to raise tax revenue for community needs. Orinda

needs public works and appropriate funding, but the present proposals by the City Council are in no way sufficiently well designed. The proposed 20-year one cent sales tax must be rejected so that the community can take the time to reach agreement on how to adequately address the specific needs of Orinda.

Our biggest issues are fire prevention, drainage and road repair. The tax proposal as set forth by the council is open-ended pending for 20 years. It has no honest provision to adequately provide improvements in fire protection, no reasonable provisions for critical drainage repair, and no road repair options for the 20% of Orinda's residents on privately maintained roads, who are denied the opportunity to join the Orinda road public system.

As a community, we have the need to join together in our mutual needs to support public works. There is no question that in time, Orinda's citizens can forge an effective plan that will benefit all of us both adequately and fairly. So, I appeal to all voters to turn down this tax as proposed and start over.

– Bill Abriel

Downtown Orinda: Five Points for Consideration

The latest three meetings of the City Council's Downtown Subcommittee responsible for oversight of development of the Downtown Precise Plan have provided thoughtful guidance for updating Orinda's aging downtown and its Master Plan from 1987. Proposed changes to zoning, circulation (including traffic), and adherence to state mandates for housing are being

carefully considered. Props to our staff and council whose work bodes well for the implementation of long-needed updates.

Following are five points of opinion, taken from various voices at the meetings, that I support and hope to elevate to the public for further discussion, renderings/modeling, and review:

(1) Re-examine Zoning Codes. Enforce Type I (restaurant and retail) zoning on primary streets: Moraga Way, Orinda Way from 25A to the Country Club bridge, and Camino Sobrante. Prioritize our downtown's best access, visibility and traffic-count areas to ensure retail and restaurant success. City consultants should render/model those corridors specifically, for public review.


(2) Allow housing in the Downtown Office (DO) District with emphasis on parcels along the north side of Altarinda Road (near the Masonic Center, for reference). Allow mixed-use housing in the Downtown Commercial (DC) District only where larger or assembled parcels, along with building height set-backs and topography changes, mitigate the appearance of housing height/mass.

(3) Prioritize redevelopment at the two "bookends" of our downtown: the Country Club block at the north end of the Village, and the CVS/ BevMo/Wells Fargo block at the south end of the Theater District. Each of these sites has sufficient acreage to support mixed-use housing and accommodate parking on site. Each has a locational advantage as an entry point to our downtown and to be a showpiece of the City.

(4) Leverage the city's in-lieu fees from 25A in a public/private partnership for a

[SEE LETTERS page 18]

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VISUAL ARTS

Virtual Galleries: Persistent Creations of Paintings and Pastels

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council (Council) has reconfigured all its art exhibits to be virtual until COVID-19 restrictions change. Artists scheduled to display artwork in the virtual gallery at the Orinda Library for the month of September include Dalia Alekna, Linda Kam, Felicia Morris and Jane Raymond. Learn more about them and the program at www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits. A new feature offered by the Council is the ability to purchase exhibiting artists' artwork online during their scheduled exhibit month. To see artwork for sale by the September exhibitors, visit the Online Galleries and Artist Videos page, www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.

Dalia Alekna of Walnut Creek is showing etchings, monoprints and pastels. Her lifelong love of art in many mediums came from her mother, who studied art in Lithuania and won a national prize there as the best female artist. Alekna notes how ubiquitous pigments are in the art world; the same pigments are used to make pastels,

oil, acrylic and watercolor paint. Pastels are made from pigments mixed with gum Arabic and have a higher pigment concentration than any other artistic medium. The result creates rich, luminous colors. *Mendocino Water*, a 26" x 20" pastel, holds a quiet beauty, while the glowing, many hued blues tame the lapping of the surf at the shore.

Working in more than one medium at a time helps to keep her artwork fresh; once in a while, she takes workshops just to try something new. "I work alone in my studio like many artists, which can get lonely. That's why I'm involved in three galleries – Moraga Art Gallery, Valley Art Gallery and Blackhawk Gallery. Being with other artists and seeing their work helps me keep ideas flowing," Alekna remarks. A longtime hiker, she loves nature and landscapes and often can be found in the foothills of Mt. Diablo. She enthuses that she feels as if she lives in paradise when on one of these walks. See more of her work at <https://valleyartgallery.org/artist/dalia-alekna-2/>.

Linda Kam of Orinda also developed a fascination with art at an early age. Her



DALIA ALEKNA

Dalia Alekna's *Mendocino Water*, a 26" x 20" (framed) pastel will be part of the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library's virtual exhibit during September.

father was a professional artist and talented cartoonist. He guided her into the world of art, and she has lived in that world ever since. After a 17-year career teaching art at Wagner Ranch, she now has time to devote to her personal passion – botanical art. Her theme, "A Diverse Collage of Botanical Watercolor Paintings," consists of 20 watercolors. The delicacy of *Red Impression*, a 20" x 24" watercolor of three tulips, belies the deep radiance of the red pigments on its petals.

Kam takes classes from Catherine Waters who is teaching her new techniques which take time to master through trial and error. "Since sheltering in place, I have had plenty of time to think and plan what subjects to paint next," Kam explains. When a viewer tells her it appears they can pick the flower or fruit right off the paper, she says she has achieved her goal, making her happy. To view a video of her virtual exhibit go to www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries or see what she is up to at www.artzlinda.wixsite.com/mysite.

Felicia Morris of Orinda says creating beauty through the visual arts has been a passion throughout most of her life: "As time has gone on, my focus became inspirations from paintings and symbols shown to me while sleeping. These gifts of the spirit can encourage self-awareness while giving expression to nature's beauty." Her 16" x 20" acrylic painting, *Mary in Orinda*, portrays a peaceful mantle of blossoms and flowers that Mary spreads in the Orinda hills. She quotes Meher Baba as one of her inspirations: "Art is one of the sources through which the soul expresses itself and inspires others."

Recently, she has been creating smaller works which sometimes include playful drawings. For instance, she painted three small signs to encourage herself and others. One said, "Be brave, be happy." She affirms that she loves giving such gifts during these hard times because they make it easier to keep going on, even in small ways, because they can uplift people's spirits.

[SEE WILDER page 20]

Wilder HOA Files Appeal for Memory Care Facility

CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC

The Wilder Home Owners Association filed an appeal for the proposed 38-bed Countryhouse Memory Care facility at 1 Wilder Road. The proposed care facility is owned by Agemark, a family-owned senior living provider with offices in Orinda.

The appeal hearing takes place Tuesday, Sept. 29, at the Orinda City Council Zoom meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. and is open to the public. To attend the Zoom webinar, which allows public comment, go to <http://cityoforinda.org/319/City-Council-Agendas>.

In an earlier poll, 95% of Wilder households were against locating a care facility within the community. The Planning Commission unanimously approved the project July 14.

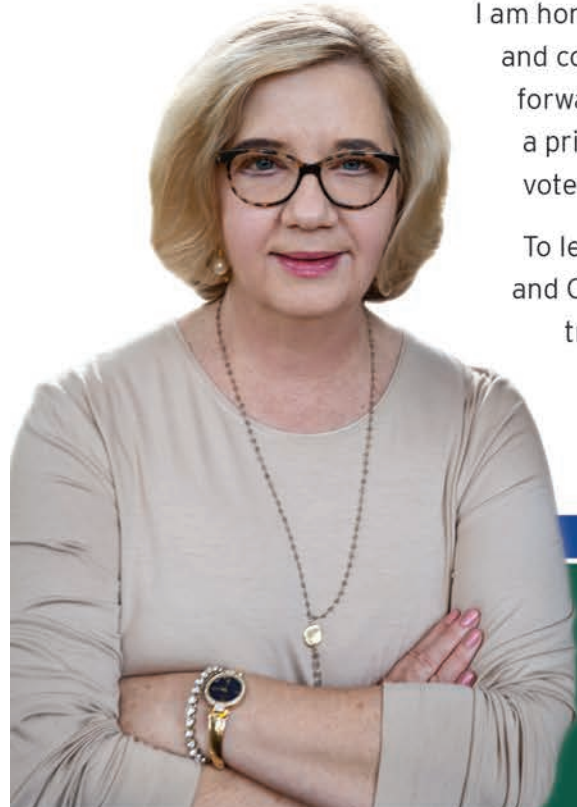
Re-Elect Darlene Gee to the Orinda City Council

As the current Mayor of Orinda, I have worked hard this year to lead our City during the dual challenges of COVID-19 and the national unrest associated with social injustice and inequality. I am proud of Orinda's response to both these issues, as well as the key agenda we have furthered this year toward fire prevention, infrastructure rehabilitation, downtown planning, and public safety.

My husband, Dennis, and I have lived in Orinda for more than 30 years and enjoyed raising our two sons in a community with such great schools and family focus. We love living here and I have always actively contributed my time and expertise to Orinda's schools, charities, and volunteer government.

I am honored to be in my fifth year serving on the Orinda City Council and continue to have great energy toward moving our community forward while preserving our exceptional quality of living. It has been a privilege to use my experience serving Orinda and I ask for your vote this November 3rd.

To learn more about my professional background, accomplishments and City service, and goals for the coming years, and to see a list of the trusted leaders and community voices who support my campaign, please visit my website at darlenegeeforcouncil.com.



 **OTE DARLENE GEE**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Darlene Gee for City Council 2020, FPPC 1428111

SENIORS / FITNESS

Seniors Receive Emergency Essentials from Lamorinda Village, Volunteers

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

Lamorinda Village, a support system which helps people age in their homes, arranged for National Charity League volunteer mothers and daughters to stuff 350 emergency/evacuation “go-bags” for seniors living independently in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga. Thanks to a Lamorinda Village member’s family grant, funds were made available to purchase N95 masks, flashlights, batteries, sunglasses, cotton gloves, first aid kits, bottles of water and protein bars. During the assembly-line stuffing operation, it was explained cotton is preferable to synthetics in the case of fire as latex gloves and high-performance exercise fabrics are highly flammable.

Kathryn Ishizu, operations manager

at Lamorinda Village, and her daughter Kaylin are members of the NCL Acalanes Chapter, which took charge of delivering the emergency bags last month. “It has been great to do something meaningful with Kaylin both during a critical time in her development and also during this critical time in all our lives,” said Ishizu.

“I was really touched by the tremendous response from our community to help our older adults who are suffering the most from this pandemic,” said Ishizu. “Lamorinda Village grew from an organization of about 70 volunteers to more than 270, providing well over 1,500 services to seniors during this Shelter in Place period.”

Visit www.LamorindaVillage.org for additional information about the organization.

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at kathy@theorindanews.com



KATHY ENZERINK

Lamorinda Village operations manager, Kathryn Ishizu (center) with daughter Kaylin (L) and friend Sofia Obnial (R) stuff duffel bags with essential evacuation necessities for distribution to local area senior residents who are living independently.

Fitness Tip of the Month

Weight & Muscle

Ever notice its easier to lose a bunch of weight the first time you try but more difficult the second time?

Or you lose 10 lbs but then you can't lose anymore?

Often times most of what we lose when we reduce our calorie intake and increase our exercise...is muscle. Since muscle is denser than fat, it weighs more. We see this big drop in the scale. We celebrate. What we don't realize is we have effectively reduced our metabolism, which will make it impossible to lose fat/weight.

As time goes on, we realize we are gaining weight again and, unlike before, we can't lose it. This is a very common situation.

99% of the clients I have helped have experienced this. My advice is...throw your scale away and focus on eating and workouts that will replenish and maximize your metabolism.

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



◆ EVERYDAY from page 8

to students who have been perpetrators of racism and 3) provide a more diverse curriculum.

More good news: the Miramonte ED&I has a true tour de force at the helm, Amy Berryhill, co-owner of Spiffy Chicks, a successful home re-organizational firm. With her home visits temporarily sidetracked due to pandemic safety precautions, Berryhill is channeling her enthusiastic organizational vision into coordinating awareness efforts that will hopefully oust this elephant from our living room. She, who can miraculously transform a train wreck of a room into an enviable model of spaciousness and efficiency, is applying those same skills to the darker recesses of our collective community closet. And, because this is California, I should add that no elephants will be harmed during the removal process.

Even if we weren't simultaneously scrambling to revamp our entire educational delivery method because of a world-wide pandemic, just by itself a thoughtful and effective response to the Black Lives Matter issue is enormously complicated. No one is completely sure how to initially proceed, but it totally helps to have insightful faculty members who have been paying close attention to this issue for years. Even more good news: Miramonte educator Steve Poling, who has lived in the Lamorinda community and taught at Miramonte for over 20 years, will be closely involved with these efforts.

Zapalac explained one of the first initiatives for the ED&I group was to host a virtual book discussion group on August 25. The group read *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. Orinda

Books partnered with the ED&I group and donated 20% of book sales to Dr. Kendi's Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University. “Steve Poling, who teaches a very popular ‘Deconstructing Race’ class at Miramonte, generously stepped up to lead the discussions,” Zapalac added.

“My role in this community book group is to help encourage and facilitate ‘courageous conversation’ about race,” Poling said. “With the help of many parents and teachers, I hope to sustain honest and illuminating conversations. I believe that how we talk, and more importantly, listen, to each other about race, racism and whiteness is just as important as which books we read,” he added. In a rare collaborative — rather than competitive — spirit, Miramonte and Campolindo high schools will co-host this virtual Racial Awareness Book Club led by Poling on a regular basis.

Uncharted territory. But this group has worked all summer to establish a presence, so that meaningful dialogue and change can follow. Not only does the ED&I group operate hand in hand with Principal Julie Parks and the Miramonte administration, it has the full attention and support of the Acalanes Union High School District.

The ED&I group has a calendar of virtual events scheduled into winter. For additional information, visit Miramonte Equity on the Miramonte Parents’ Club website, and follow the group on Instagram (@mhsparentsdiversitygroup), or email them at EDI@mhspc.org.

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

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by Sheena

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OBITUARIES



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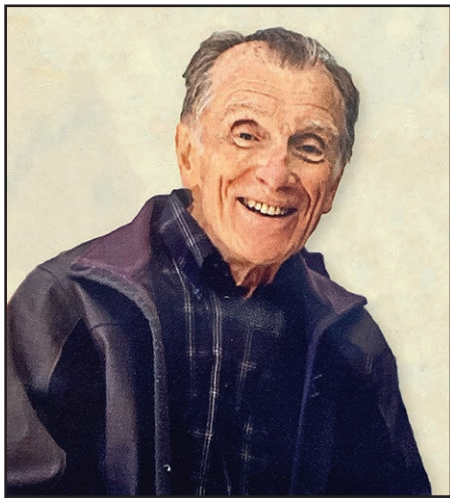
Carol Penskar (2nd from left) at the 2018 celebration where she received the Orinda Association's Volunteer award. She's shown here with her husband **Mark**, daughter **Becky** and son-in-law **Michael Gherini**.

Jim Luini – The Passing of a True Gentle Man

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

On Aug. 3, Jim Luini, a gentle, kind soul, passed away at the age of 85 from a non-COVID-19 related illness.

He and his wife Linda moved to Orinda in 1972. Linda recalls meeting Jim when he was working on his Master's Degree in electrical engineering at UC Berkeley. "I guess I interrupted his master's thesis since he received his BSEE in 1957 but didn't complete his MSEE until 1964!"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jim Luini passed away Aug. 3 as gently and quietly as he lived.

Linda and Jim raised their two sons, Jeff and Jon, in Orinda while Jim worked as a supervising control system engineer in the Dynamic Analysis Section of PG&E. During his tenure with PG&E, Jim pioneered the advancement and implementation of digital computer methods to large ac/dc power system stability. He also co-authored 13 papers and served as an industry advisor on numerous research projects.

Retiring from PG&E in the late 1990s, Jim immediately involved himself with his local community. A member of The Orinda Association Board since 1998, Jim served as treasurer for many years and as co-president with Kate Wiley in 2007 and

2008. In March 2018, The OA recognized him for his many years of volunteer service to the Orinda community at a gala dinner at the Orinda Country Club.

Among Jim's many passions was the San Pablo Creek that runs through Orinda. A long-time member of Friends of Orinda Creeks and a past president, he not only educated people about the creek, he spent countless hours cleaning out debris and bringing teams of students and scouts to help remove invasive plants like English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry and to replant with native species.

Retirement also allowed Jim to indulge his intellectual curiosity by going back to school and auditing classes at UCB, especially those in the political sciences. He also loved opera, the symphony, traveling the world, skiing, hiking the mountains around their Serene Lakes cabin and, of course, attending Cal football games.

Jim contributed unwavering support to the people and projects he loved. I feel lucky to have benefited from that support with Jim sharing his years of experience and knowledge as I transitioned from assistant editor to editor of *The Orinda News*. It was always such a pleasure to have him drop by the office with a smile on his face and an ability to make me laugh regardless of the pressures I might be under. We will all miss him so much.

But as his wife Linda so aptly said, "I am comforted knowing Jim has moved on, leaving his walker behind!"

Jim is survived by his wife Linda, sons Jeff and Jon, nieces Kimberly and Heather, four grandchildren and two grandnieces. Memorial donations may be sent to Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (lamorindarespite.org), 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA. 94563), Friends of Orinda Creeks (orindacreeks.org), P.O.Box 883, Orinda, CA 94563), and The Orinda Association (orindaassociation.org).

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

Carol Penskar – A Life Well Lived

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Carol Stewart Penskar, a long time Orinda resident, passed away due to complications of Parkinson's disease on June 25. She was 68.

Giving back to her community was very important to Carol. She was a founding member and treasurer of the Orinda Community Foundation and spent years on Orinda's Finance Advisory Committee. The Orinda Association named her 2017 Volunteer of the Year along with Jim Luini.

"Carol was a good friend and invaluable community volunteer," said former Orinda Mayor Sue Severson. "She was always willing to step up and help where needed. I enjoyed working with her over the years in many ways including the founding of the Orinda Community Foundation." Severson noted Carol's support also included Orinda's schools, fixing Orinda roads and generously sharing her financial expertise.

"Beyond her love of family was her passion for tennis," Severson added. "Carol will be greatly missed but her legacy of cheerful service and the causes she cham-

pioned will go on forever."

Carol and her husband Mark Howard Penskar moved from Michigan to the Bay Area in the late-'70s. She earned her MBA at UC Berkeley in 1979, graduating as her MBA class valedictorian and going on to become a Vice President at Bank of America. To gain flexibility and more time with her growing family, Carol left the banking industry and became a self-employed financial consultant.

When not working, Carol enjoyed racquetball, windsurfing, tennis, music, volunteering, traveling, and, later in her life, playing bridge. She became a Bridge Life Master in 2014.

Carol is survived by her husband Mark, brother Jim (Karen) Stewart, sister Connie Stewart (Jeff Lawrence), and her two children, Becky (Michael) Gherini and David Penskar.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, donations can be made to: Orinda Community Foundation, <https://orinda2010.wixsite.com/ocfwebsite>, or OCF, PO Box 21, Orinda, CA 94563.

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

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OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org
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CLASSIFIED

◆ **LETTERS** from page 14

2-3 level public parking garage, located in a central area to benefit the entirety of small retailers in the Village.

(5) Consider relinquishing the street of Avenida de Orinda, instead using it as a public space to improve upon the properties around it and for the community. Activate the current dead-end street into a walkable public plaza or ingress/egress to connect two vibrant commercial blocks.

Each of these points of view is worthy of consideration in our discussion as the downtown planning process moves forward.

– Marianne Moser

Craig Jorgens Best For MOFD Board

I am writing to support Craig Jorgens for the Moraga Orinda Fire Board (MOFD) representing North Orinda.

Al and I have known Craig and his wife Lisa for over 15 years. He has been innovative in bringing Firewise ideas to MOFD, and Craig has consistently voted for changes that are in the best interests of the citizens of Orinda and to make Orinda Firewise and prevent catastrophic fires.

Craig has used his finance and engineering background to enhance the financial stability of MOFD and implement high tech equipment and software to enhance MOFD's fire detection and evacuation preparedness capabilities.

He was instrumental in hiring our terrific new Fire Chief, Dave Winnacker, and over 2 years ago, Craig initiated MOFD's chipper program.

Craig is a founding member of the Orinda Firewise Council which now represents nearly 1400 Orinda homes and has successfully lobbied to increase funding for fire prevention in the budgets for both the City of Orinda and MOFD. The Orinda Firewise Council is endorsing Craig and Moraga's John Jex in this election; they were the only two of five board members who voted to extend the chipper program for this summer.

I know that Craig will continue to provide new and creative ideas to address MOFD's ongoing financial and operational challenges. Craig supports having MOFD focus more on fire prevention while still providing state-of-the-art fire and emergency medical services through the utilization of advanced technology to leverage MOFD's physical assets and highly trained personnel. He has also voted to prudently reserve funds to supplement the ongoing pension and medical benefit shortfalls left by prior administrations.

It is important to note that Craig is independent and not taking outside money or outside special interest assistance. He is committed to purely represent the best interests of Orinda's residents.

Please join Al and me in voting for Craig Jorgens for the MOFD Board representing North Orinda.

– Lucy Talbot

Re-Elect Craig Jorgens To MOFD; Darlene Gee And Inga Miller To City Council

Orinda is fortunate to have great people representing us for a better community. Craig, Darlene and Inga are all strong supporters of wildfire prevention safety, improving our infrastructure and maintaining the beauty of our small town. Craig, Darlene and Inga all deserve your vote this November. Join me in re-electing Craig Jorgens to the Moraga Orinda Fire District

Board; Darlene Gee and Inga Miller to the Orinda City Council. A YES vote for the Orinda Essential Services Measure (extension of the local sales tax) will secure a Safer Orinda for all to enjoy.

– Sue Severson

Factchecking Last Issue's Letter

While I am sympathetic to the broader issue of the tax burden on private road residents, Kathleen Finch's letter to the editor in the August issue contained several misleading and false statements about the proposed sales tax for the November ballot.

Although it is correct that the proposed tax would raise approximately \$2.4 million, this is not in addition to the existing sales tax, since what is proposed is to replace the existing .5% tax with the new 1% tax. Thus, there is not "\$35 million 'to be determined'" as she stated. Half of that money will still be used for what the original sales tax was intended to address.

Although it is true that "a general sales tax does not require the city to dedicate

revenues to any specific use," a more honest way to state it would be to tell readers that it doesn't allow the city to state that it would dedicate such revenues in the ballot measure. Nonetheless, Mayor Gee has stated in writing to the Orinda Firewise Council that the intent is to front load those revenues to fire-risk mitigation efforts.

Ms. Finch closes the article by suggesting that the best way to address our catastrophic risk of fire in Orinda is with a \$100 parcel tax for a "few years." The reason a sales tax was proposed, and not a parcel tax – as Ms. Finch well knows – is that it only requires a majority vote, instead of the two-thirds approval required for a parcel tax, a much more daunting proposition.

We need to address Orinda's high fire risk right now. Let's separate the issue of public vs. private roads, which cannot and should not be addressed via this issue. Also, remember that much of the abatement/fuels mitigation will take place on city-owned land, which will equally benefit both public and private roads residents.

– Hatti Hamlin

◆ **DIVERSITY** from page 8

that would highlight the multicultural perspectives.

Still, some raise the question of how strictly the district is bound to the Eurocentric California standards. Given the chance, would the district act with more leniency to afford students an education with more non-Western angles? Perhaps the curriculum is a reflection of the district's predominately white demographics, and the area's contentment with it, some argue.

In addition to curricula, the committee is pushing for a change in student culture. Its first proposal highlights the need for seminars on race, class and discrimination.

"If we can start to have discussions about what racism looks like in our community and how to address it, we can start to curb these incidents that speak to an underlying culture of discrimination," said co-founder Johnson.

In regards history, the committee strongly urges a week-long unit be dedicated to learning about post-Jim Crow racism. This would tackle relevant issues such as the War on Drugs in the 1970s, mass incarceration, and police brutality.

In its second proposal, the committee offers ideas on how to eliminate distortion of historical events. This includes referring to Japanese-American internment camps as concentration camps to accurately reflect the brutality demonstrated, and discussing of indigenous culture past the time of pre-colonial America. These changes are intended to enhance the quality of education offered and acknowledge the degree of oppression minorities have suffered as well as their contributions throughout history, committee members said.

Another issue critical to incorporating diversity in the student body lies in the reinstatement of interdistrict transfers. A few years ago, the AUHSD governing board cut the number of interdistrict transfers down to 50 students per year, and last year banned transfer students altogether, citing lack of funding from the state.

This move, committee members say, further restricts the range of socioeconomic and racial backgrounds in the district. "Because our schools have failed to provide a curriculum that is inclusive of all cultures and perspectives, interdistrict transfers are an important voice in class discussions, giving students a different viewpoint than the one that is usually taught," said Moran.

Chelsea Pelchat can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

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David D. Earle

FILM / CALENDAR



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

UNPOPULAR OPINION



Tom Westlake

In my never ending attempts to keep this column lively, or at the very least, interesting, my main challenge is the never ending and seemingly unchanging news. All of our local theatres are still closed and many of the ancillary programs to keep them afloat have met with their own challenges. Brave ideas are brought to the fore. Some of them fail but others succeed, and it is those successes that I wish to emphasize here. So right off the bat I want to mention www.facebook.com/orindatheatre.

This is a never-ending source of news where the Orinda Theatre is concerned. It will keep you informed about all the streaming events, guest speakers and other cinema related events. Another success that I feel compelled to mention is every one of you. I have written about Derek Zemrak's tireless call for funding, and I am glad to report that you have heeded the call. They now find themselves well on the way to achieving their monetary goal, and I would shake all of your hands in gratitude if I could. As it is, the best I can do is to entreat you to keep it going. Go to Cine Cuvée. Take advantage of the Friday popcorn and wine offers and maybe even stop by to pick up a rare piece of Hollywood history. It's all for the good.

But let's not forget some of the other options available to you. Never letting something like current events slow them down, the always searching duo, JoAlice Canterbury and Efi Lubliner, continue to bring you the very best in foreign cinema, now streaming in the comfort of your own home. Just go to internationalshowcase.org for their schedule.

And next, I wanted to introduce something I was recently made aware of. It's all very well and good to seek out the best of what today's talented film makers have to offer, but if you've ever wondered how they got started, you may want to check out lamorindaarts.org/supershorts/ for a possible answer. One of the more interesting aspects of the California Independent Film Festival is the Iron Film Maker challenge where aspiring writers, directors and actors had 24-hours to write, shoot and complete a short film. Now, with the festival on tem-

porary hold, The Lamorinda Arts Council's Supershorts contest provides a source for emerging artists to show you what they've got. True, these are really short little vignettes (two minutes, tops), but sometimes that's all you need. Check it out.

So, now we come to the more free form section of this column. For the last month or so, when "reel" news was hard to come by, I have substituted this for recommendations of movies that you might enjoy. This month will be no exception, but I will be adding an observation, namely about critical reception, which also explains the title of this column.

It doesn't happen all that often but every once in a while a movie will be released to horrible reviews that I don't agree with. Now, in the interest of full disclosure, I am probably a far more liberal "critic" of film than most. If a film holds true to a narrative line, has performances that are not actors reading cue cards and has imagery that is decipherable, then there's a more than even chance I'll, at the very least, give credit where it's due. If, like me, you visit Rotten Tomatoes (www.rottentomatoes.com) from time to time, you may occasionally come across a movie that gets a single digit rating. I would argue that such low ratings are unjustified. (Using the above criterion, I feel that the lowest score a movie should deserve, on average, is 20%.)

One such movie is *The Lone Ranger*, the latest one that came out in 2013 with Armie Hammer and Johnny Depp. The reviews were so bad on this one I couldn't even find it on Rotten Tomatoes and had to go to Metacritic (www.metacritic.com) for their rating, which stands at 37. This low score is totally unjustified, and I'll gladly tell you why you should give this film a chance. Not only is it a rousing adventure and not only is it a film made by most of the same team that made the first three Pirates of the Caribbean films, but it also possesses a very pronounced social conscience that I believe needs attention, especially nowadays. It does not sugar coat our history, but it does make it as palatable as something like this can be with truly

[SEE REEL page 21]

On the Calendar in September

Orinda Library Online events. Daily storytimes and events can be viewed at: [https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:\(5e2b7849df59234500450f71\)](https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:(5e2b7849df59234500450f71)).

- Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** Virtual Exhibit features the artwork of Dalia Alekna, Linda Kam, Felicia Morris and Jane Raymond. View photographs and videos at <http://www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/>. See article p. 15.
- Art Gallery at Wilder** Virtual Exhibit features the artwork of Orinda artist and art educator Lara Horoupien. View photographs and videos at <http://www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/>. See article p. 15.



COURTESY OF LARA HOROUPIAN
Artist **Lara B. Horoupien** in her studio. Horoupien's works will be displayed at the Wilder Gallery through September.

- Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925-431-8361. Also Sept. 12, 19 and 26. See article p. 12.
- Anytime Fitness** socially distanced outdoor workout. Membership not required. All ages and fitness levels. Free. Bring your own mat, towel, and water. 9 a.m. 2 Orinda Theatre Square #148. Limited to 10 attendees who must sign up in advance at bit.ly/AForind.

aoutdoorworkouts. Also, Sept. 13, 20 and 27.

- Lamorinda Art's Council's 2020 Art of Mixology** Cocktail Kits, available for preorder with shipping or pick up at Orinda Theatre Square from Oct. 1. Mix along with finalist and see who wins the 2020 Mixologist of the Year on Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. during a live webinar. Do a virtual cocktail party with your friends and try each of the 5 Mixology Kits. All ingredients included (except the spirits) to make a delicious cocktail at home. More information at <https://LamorindaArts.org/Mixology>.
- Virtual Book Club at Orinda Books** featuring Nancy Jooyoun Kim, author of *The Last Story of Mina Lee* in conversation with Vanessa Hua, author of *River of Stars*. To attend the online event, buy the book in store, online, by phone (925-254-7606) or purchase on Eventbrite. After purchase you will receive a link to the event.
- Orinda Classic Car Tour**. Zoom meeting including live commentary with video feed from multiple locations on the Tour route and much more. 9:30 a.m. Zoom link at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82608414133>. No registration required to view. See article p. 2.
- Art Embraces Words Live Webinar**, 2 p.m. Emerging writers read from their work surrounded by visual artwork from local [SEE CALENDAR page 20]

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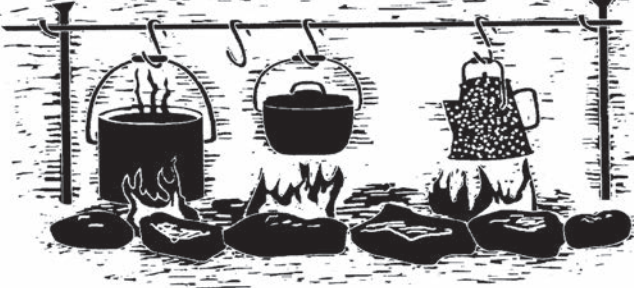
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FUNDRAISING

◆ WILDER from page 15

Jane Raymond of Orinda also spoke to what she sees as the function of art: "Life is in flux, always evolving. Art holds things still for a while." You'll find Raymond seeking beauty in the real world via subject, balance and harmony while composing her oil paintings. Another lifetime artist, Raymond, who has Masters' degrees in Biology and Architecture, claims that both inform what she sees and does in her creation process.

For a time, she sponsored a dressage-trained horse and then studied, trained and taught dressage for many years. "Dressage is a subtle art, seeking harmony balance between horse and rider," she maintains. Now, she works in life drawing, using charcoal to quickly capture form, gesture and likeness. She then works in oils or watercolors, rarely in acrylic or graphite. Working on portraits in a group with models is part of her lifelong fascination with portraiture. One look at *Dennis Hernandez, Cucina Paradiso*, a 16" x 20" oil on canvas depicting the chef at her favorite restaurant in Petaluma, shows that she has reached her goal of harmony in proportions – no mean feat.

Photographs of artwork from each artist are featured at the Council's virtual gallery, which also includes videos of their exhibit at <https://lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/>. To learn more about the Council go to www.lamorindaarts.org. Presently, access to the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library is not allowed. Front door service, however, for library transactions is available at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed on Sunday. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

Virtual Art Gallery at Wilder: Creativity During Quarantine? Yes!

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to learn more about Orinda artist Lara B. Horoupian's paintings at her virtual exhibit during September in the Art Gallery at Wilder at <https://lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/>. "I produced 27 paintings during quarantine, sometimes working five to six hours daily in my studio," the artist noted. "I worked through bursts of feelings like passion, fear, mortality and hope," Horoupian added. At one point, Horoupian ran out of paint and remembered pigments from Peru that her husband had given her as a gift 15 years earlier. She had saved them for a special occasion. They were used to create paintings in this exhibit, a special occasion, indeed!

The centerpiece of her show is a 36" x 48" mixed media work entitled *Transformation*. She and her 13-year old daughter Pateel worked on it together to make it more dimensional. Pateel explained, "If you stand in front of it, you want to jump right into the painting." *Transformation*, which certainly invites examination, will reward you for spending time appreciating it. Listen to a music video featuring Debussy's Clair de Lune while viewing this painting at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.

If you do, here and there you will notice bats, flying free spirits, some painted in light yellow and gold with bits of laced origami papers surrounding them. Contrary to the views of most, Horoupian sees bats as a beautiful species that bring pollination and good things for nature if people just leave them alone. Horoupian maintained that shimmers of gold and yellow in her series of paintings are reminders to turn on the light of hope in her quarantine paintings.

Horoupian runs Laratelier, a popular youth art school, out of her studio. She said being around the children she teaches is an unending source of creative inspiration. To see more of her work visit her website, www.laraboroupian.carbonmade.com. All proceeds from the sale of her art in this show will be donated to rescue efforts for people affected by the recent tragic explosion in Beirut. Her father has a store there which was damaged. It is where grew up.

To learn more about the Council's virtual Art Gallery at Wilder with photographs of Horoupian's work, go to www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/. To view Horoupian's video preview of her exhibit, visit www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries. The brick and mortar Art Gallery at Wilder is closed due to COVID-19 restrictions; thus, the need for this virtual Gallery. Contact wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org with any questions.

Orinda Woman's Club Virtual FUNdraising Events in September



SALLY HOGARTY

Realtor **Patti Camras** modeling at a previous Festival of Trees fashion show. Mask added by Robert Murillo.

By SUZANNE MURILLO
Contributing Writer

What could be better than gathering with friends on a pleasant fall day, bidding on amazing silent auction items, buying raffle tickets for great prizes, and enjoying a fabulous luncheon and inspiring fashion show – all for a \$95 donation? That great experience is what the Orinda Woman's Club has been presenting for the past 33 years – its annual fundraising event, The Festival of Trees.

For the first time, The Orinda Woman's Club will not be holding the indoor festival. In the age of COVID-19, they do not want to jeopardize the safety of their supporters. Instead, they will be "FUNdraising" online and virtual. Not to be deterred from supporting their 2020 major beneficiaries, they are finding other ways to raise funds.

Last month, instead of sending invitations to the Festival of Trees, Orinda Woman's Club members invited their guests to join socially distanced "FUNdraiser" by sending a check with their RSVP or by making a donation by credit card on their website, www.orindawomansclub.org.

Starting Sept. 7, the club will also begin offering an on-line auction (items sold to the highest bidder) and marketplace (set price items) accessed via their website. Holiday trees, wreaths and baskets of goodies will be available, along with items ranging from poster art and professional outdoor photo sessions to antique Mahjong sets, gift cards to local restaurants and stores, designer handbags, wine baskets, handmade quilts, homemade cookies and desserts, and much, much more. Items will be mailed, or larger items will be delivered within 30 miles of Orinda.

Proceeds go to (1) Trinity Center, which helps people who are homeless or living in poverty by providing a day shelter which meets their crucial needs for food, clothing, cleanliness, security, support, communi-

cation and healthcare; (2)Diablo Valley College Student Transition and Academic Retention Team (START), which is a Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI), supports a program designed to increase access, retention and graduation rates for current or former foster youth at DVC; and (3) The Orinda Woman's Club Community Service Committee, which donates funds to nonprofit groups locally, nationally and internationally and awards education grants to improve the lives of women, families and those aging out of the foster care system.

The Orinda Woman's Club will accept donations through November 18. It hopes to present checks to beneficiaries soon thereafter. Fully tax deductible donations in any amount are appreciated and can be sent to Orinda Woman's Club, P.O. Box 533, Orinda, CA 94563. Donations may be made online at www.orindawomansclub.org. The Orinda Woman's Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

◆ CALENDAR from page 19

artists; free. Sign up or get info at www.lamorindaarts.org.

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

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

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MAXSON FAMILY FAVORITE CAR



Mark, Mary, Brian and Jack-Maxson

This photo was taken Christmas 1995. We sure had fun touring the Sierras and entering this beauty in the first Orinda Classic Car Show. It even caught the eye of the Pebble Beach Car Show.

1924 Hudson Super Six Sedan

ROTARY

Rotary Volunteers Help Others

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the harsh financial impact it has had on working families, the Rotary Club of

Celebrating 50 Years of Service with Orinda Rotary

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

It's hard to imagine a Rotary Club of Orinda meeting without Peirce McGee in attendance. The 91-year-old joined the club in 1970. "I was told it would be good for my business," he said. "Given the number of hours I've spent on Rotary projects over the years, I probably could have found a more efficient way to grow my investment advisor business. But, I haven't really been a part of Rotary for what it could give me. The club's philosophy is about how to help others and that's what's kept me involved all these years." McKee is especially fond

Orinda has committed itself during 2020-2021 to projects aimed at helping individuals and institutions adversely affected by job loss, business closures and lack of resources to fight the disease.

In this vein, the club recently supplied hundreds of personal protective gear (PPE, including gowns and masks) to Alta Bates Medical Center and also initiated a monthly program of volunteering at the Food Bank of Contra Costa Solano County. During its first outing at the Food Bank on Friday, July 31, eight members worked two hours packing onions, pears, apples and potatoes into food packages for those in need. Members wore masks, the Food Bank provided gloves, and all maintained social distancing during the two-hour packing session.

Orinda Rotary welcomes volunteers who wish to join them in helping out during these challenging times. Contact Club President Ken Jew at jewfam@gmail.com for more information.

— Barbara Bontemps,
Contributing Writer



RODNEY LAL

Rotary members (L-R) **Melissa Roeder, Weylin Eng** and **Peter Liu** sort food at the Food Bank of Contra Costa Solano County. The group has initiated a monthly volunteer program at the food bank.



SALLY HOGARTY

Peirce and his wife **Jo Ann McKee** outside their Orinda Woods home. Peirce just celebrated his 50th year with the Rotary Club of Orinda.

of Rotary's Field Day, where the club hosts intercity youth to a day of fishing at San Pablo Reservoir.

McKee moved to Orinda in 1965 and has seen the city and Orinda Rotary change dramatically over the years. "Rotary certainly changed when we included women as members in 1987. Our leadership is shared equally by men and women now, and all for the better. I do miss the trips to Reno we used to make on the train to meet with the Reno Rotary Club, but it just got too expensive." McKee, who was named Citizen of the Year in 1989, just retired in 2016 and still keeps active in Rotary. "Now that our meetings are on Zoom, it's easier for more members to attend," he added.

◆ REEL from page 19

impressive production values and, if you know where to look, plenty of references to past Western classics. Indeed, I can't think of a film that covers as many bases as this one does. It is, in equal measure, wistful, respectful, exciting, heart-breaking, funny and thoughtful, with just a touch of surrealism. It also takes its time and does not rush through things, making it all the better to absorb some of the important messages. I would like to think that, if you surrender to it and really watch it, you might wonder, like I did, just why it got as many scathing reviews as it did.

I leave you now until next month. Hopefully, I'll have more "reel" news then, and I certainly will have more recommendations. In the meantime, always go towards those wonderful flickering images made of light, for that's where the reel magic lies.



TRIPLE NICKEL RACING



Triple Nickel Racing, 1st place winners of the 2017 NORRA Mexican 1000 in the Vintage Production Sedan class, is the racing team of The Mobile Mechanic Diagnostics and Repair. Three friends got together each with a similar dream of building a car to race in the Baja. A 1964 Ford Galaxie, three motor heads, a little pocket change and twelve months to the next Mexican 1000. They kept the body, the bumpers, the stock frame, some factory chrome and tossed the rest. They began designing, cutting, welding, and re-designing. The suspension is a complete one off with Fox, King, Deaver, and a lot of steel. At 5500 lbs with 14 inches of travel, the car can clear a case of Tecate. Under the hood sits a 427 Dart stroker. Quicktime bellhousing, McLeod twin disc, and a big spline top loader back up the 427.



RENÉ AGUIRRE, TEAM OWNER, DRIVER
THE MOBILE MECHANIC DIAGNOSTICS & REPAIR
René was a motor head from the time he could walk. During his teen years, he modified and wrecked his share of American muscle cars – street, drag, and road racing. René took a break from four wheels in the mid-nineties to take on motorcycle racing with AFM. He consistently finished in the top ten in the 600 Production and 600 Super Bike series. René continued to be competitive in the Formula 40, 750 Superbike, and Open Superbike classes. Not getting enough of motorcycle racing on the road courses, he got into dirt bikes. He competed in many enduro and dual sport events. After many broken bones, he has jumped back into the four-wheel arena. When he is not working on the Galaxia de la Baja, he owns and operates The Mechanic Mobile Diagnostics, a foreign and domestic auto diagnostics and mobile repair shop in Niles, CA



BUZZ WELDY, ECO- ELECTRICAL
PREMIER SPONSOR, DRIVER
Buzz Weldy is a driver and premier sponsor for Galaxia de la Baja. Buzz began racing motocross on several different motorcycles up to the 250CC class at nine years old. He moved into the auto racing world in his teens with a BOSS 302 and a Cup Transam Mustang. From the mid-70s, he raced Formula V's and Fords with his brother. Buzz stays involved in the racing world through the Miller High Performance Driving School. Professionally, Buzz is a career veteran in the utility industry. In the late 1990s, Buzz partnered with Mike Lynch to develop technologies for the utility industry to reduce wildlife impacts around utilities. The pair developed Bird Guard, an outage protective product for overhead electrical systems and substations. These patented products are designed and intended to protect against inadvertent contact by wildlife using environmentally approved materials which can withstand extreme weather circumstances.



◆ BUSINESS from page 1

happening at the store without worrying about the health risk to others.”

David and Christine Berryhill, owners of Morrison’s Jewelers, reopened on May 5, but not without extreme measures in place: amended operating hours, up-to-date information on their website and private shopping by appointment on Thursdays for shoppers who are at-risk.

Creativity during the pandemic also includes social media for the Berryhills.

“We do giveaways frequently on our Instagram account, @MorrisonJewelry,” said Chris. “We just did a three-item giveaway for Mother’s Day in May to appreciate our local Lamorinda moms for the even more difficult jobs they have. We now have a shop online and we are active on social media.”

Orinda Village Antiques owner, Susan Leech, is coping day-to-day and has reopened, offering shopping by appointment only for her loyal customers.

“The public enjoys visiting my store, as you would visit an art gallery,” said Leech, an England-born, interior designer, who loves using her knowledge and experience to assist her clients in beautifully furnishing their homes.

Heliana (Helen) Bentkowski, owner of Sanvitalia Home & Garden store, located in Theatre Square, reopened on June 16, offering her customers complimentary gloves in her store.

She has her customers to thank for keeping her doors open.

“Thanks to our loyal customers, we have been busy,” said Bentkowski, who opened her store filled with unique blends of plants and décor in Nov. 2015. “We couldn’t survive without a strong community support.”

Another business owner, taking full

advantage of the World Wide Web, is Maureen Brown, owner of reCHIC, a high-end consignment store, who has updated her hours and service since the pandemic hit.

“We have made a long-term strategic shift to selling online through a new website that was built in April and May and launched in June,” she said. “The website offers the same ‘secondhand shopping as a first class experience’ as the store always has.”

To their website, they’ve added aesthetically pleasing photography, organized navigation, and refined search options to easily find the brands, sizes and colors that works for their shoppers.

Through her website, customers can choose curbside pick-up, local delivery and nationwide shipping as well.

Grateful that her landlord has given her a generous rent-break, Brown, who loves her brick and mortar store, is open for private shopping.

“Sometimes customers will pre-shop the website, create a wish list of their favorite items, email it to us, and then come into the store to try everything on,” Brown added. “Their wish list items will be waiting for them in a dressing room.”

At the end of another pandemic day, learning to pivot seems to be the solution.

“I think that pivoting the business has stirred a lot of new creativity for me,” said Brown. “I’m motivated to move in the direction where I see opportunity. It’s a lot like starting over, but I try to not get ahead of myself by doing too much too fast or worrying prematurely. Each day I try to just take the next right steps to evolve the business and serve the community.”

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



CHARLEEN EARLEY

(L-R) Lorena Souto, Helen Bentkowski (owner) and Joana Muriel of Sanvitalia Home & Garden are thankful to take care of their customers during the pandemic, with many safety precautions in place, including complimentary gloves.

Club Meetings in September

While most clubs are not meeting during shelter-in-place, others offer Zoom meetings. Use contact info to find out.

American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML). General meeting the third Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., via Zoom, see <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>. Sept. 15, Five-Star Program Recognition, senior leader from AAUW National will speak.

Diablo Star Chapter #214. Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Lodge, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.

Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 510-919-4765.

Guided Meditation. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m., Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.

Lamorinda Drum Circle from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy learning to drum in a small-group environment. Drums are provided. Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Suggested donation \$10-\$20.

Lamorinda Meditation Community. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdoms Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga. All levels and philosophies welcome. \$5 donation for the use of space. Contact Gaby for more details: gmozee@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Movers. www.lamorindamovers.org or call Vicki Nakamura 925-708-1915.

No meetings in September.

Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting information.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday. For more information, search Facebook for Lamorinda Republican Women Federated or go to www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org. Contact Elsie Euing at ejeuing@comcast.net or 925-254-8617.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Until further notice, all weekly meetings will be conducted via Zoom video conferencing. 7 – 8:15 a.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205>.

We will resume our regular meetings at the Lafayette Park Hotel when conditions permit. www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Meetings: Sept. 4: Roberto Alvarez, The BIG Rotary Picture; Sept. 11: Ali Guarneros Luna, NASA Project Manager; Sept. 18: Club Assembly; Sept. 25: Chris Laszcz-Davis, Member Magazine.

Lamorinda Toastmasters. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. <http://lamorinda.toastmasters-clubs.org>.

Orinda Association. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Plaza level, May Room, 925-254-0800.


Orinda Garden Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, www.orindagc.org.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.

Orinda Historical Society. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings. Open to public on Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

Orinda Job’s Daughters. First and third [SEE CLUBS page 23]

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BUSINESS BUZZ



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Casa Orinda Manager Claudia Tata is pleased to announce outdoor dining Wed. through Sun. from 4 – 8 p.m. in a marquee they have set up in their parking lot; to-go orders are also available.

◆ BUZZ from page 24

measures, including social distancing, masks for everyone, hand sanitizer and constant cleaning of surfaces. When you sign up for a Thursday appointment, expect red carpet treatment since you'll have the entire store to yourself.

For many, sheltering in place has meant get-togethers are rare. Instead, the Berryhills ask that you consider lasting gifts of jewelry to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings, etc. You will find pieces from the following designers: Anna Beck, Anzie, Assael, Coast, Eichhorn, Italian Gold, Kathy Kamel, Kim Kollins, Monica Rich Kosann, Luvente, Manjusha, Victorinox and Toby Pomeroy.

MJ has a long history of supporting community schools, nonprofits, and all kinds of philanthropic efforts. Because they are committed to contributing towards those in need during COVID-19, they invite you to join them in contributing to their Contra Costa /Solano County Virtual Food Drive account at <https://give.foodbankccs.org/fundraiser/2795612>.

Stop by Morrison's Jewelers at 35 Moraga Way, Orinda, Tues. – Wed. 10 a.m. –

5:30 p.m.; Thurs., appointments for custom designed jewelry and private shopping only, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; closed Sun. and Mon. Reach them at 925-253-9227, by email at david@morrisonjewelers.com, visit www.morrisonjewelers.com, or follow them on Instagram at @MorrisonJewelers.

◆ Casa Orinda Offers Outdoor Dining and Curbside To Go

Casa Orinda Manager Claudia Tata is pleased to announce that the venerable Orinda dining establishment will feature outdoor dining and curbside-to-go orders Wednesdays through Sundays from 4 – 8 p.m. "We've set up a marquee in our parking lot with a limited number of tables," Tata explained. This means no reservations at this time; but this policy may change." Cocktails, beer and wine can be ordered with dinner (ages 21 and over). Look for details and updates about Casa's expanded curbside-to-go and outdoor menu at www.casaorinda.net, or call 925-254-2981 for more information.

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

◆ CLUBS from page 22

Mondays, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. First Thursday, except holidays. Family dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.

Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org.

Orinda Satellite Rotary Club. Second Wednesday. Call Sylvia at 510-224-8548.

Orinda/Tábor (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 – First Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org with questions.

Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.. Email Jean Barnhart at jeanr.barnhart@gmail.com or go to www.orinda-womansclub.org.

Road Runners. Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepettos 87 Orinda Way, Orinda), Thursday (SiSI, 910 Country Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem). For more information contact John Fazel, runmnts@prodigy.net.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. lunch. Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St., Moraga. A social organization of retired and semi-retired men who enjoy leisure time with friends and activities. For info., call Tyler at 925-963-5741, www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

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

◆ GARDENS from page 11

den program up and running."

Krimmel continues, "During the last several summers, Jesse and I spent significant time overhauling the beds, irrigation and greenhouse, and I regularly assist during the school year as one of our grade-level garden managers. I love helping the kids get their hands dirty and seeing the joy they get from working a real garden. They love the change from being in a classroom to being outdoors. They also like to see plants in the garden, such as broccoli, arugula and kale that they normally only see as finished produce. They also learn some new skills they might not have exposure to at home. Last year, working with fifth graders, it was amazing to see how many of them were using a hammer and nails for the first time.

"It's also great for them to see plants grow from seed to harvest and witness the entire plant lifecycle. For example, the first time they harvest potatoes from dirt is a near magical experience for them, almost as if they are mining gold."

These volunteers, and others, are hoping to get community members involved at the school. DiStefano suggested, "Retired people volunteer at hospitals, libraries and animal shelters; why not volunteer at a local school garden? Since in so many families both parents are working, community volunteers are badly needed to step up and help the younger generation. Each school needs a leader, and a viable team to energize the program and keep it going."

There are gardens at all the schools in various stages of commitment. Del Rey School is forming a team with five families working there now. Also, DiStefano has given Debra Jockish at Orinda Intermediate School some plants with the hope more people will step up and volunteer there.

DiStefano noted, "Sebastian Broekman, the gardener for the Orinda Union School District, deserves commendation for the help he gives." She also lauded Brian Gates, owner of the Expert Tree Company, who recently sent two fellows with chain saws, chippers, and anything he thought we needed to fulfill our mission. She exclaimed, "They spent the entire day working in the bird and butterfly garden, all for free."

"In the time of the pandemic, students will be learning online this fall semester. We're hoping that teachers will encourage the kids to go into the garden and carry out assignments. I think that parents will be looking for things to do outside with their kids," DiStefano observed. She added that during this time "the garden committees will continue to have volunteers work on a schedule so the gardens won't be neglected. This will also assure that they're ready when students go back to school, whenever that is. Each school in the Orinda district has a garden; all are looking for volunteers."

If you happen to be by the SHS garden and see a lady digging while wearing pearls, that's Susan DiStefano. Her mother gave them to her, and she said, "I'm never without my jewelry when I garden. My belief is one should go through life with style, no matter what and even in the garden." She added, "Or look for my license plate which reads, GDNDIVA. I hope to hear from members of the community who will step up and help the younger generation with this endeavor. We are all in this together as a community."

To volunteer or for further information contact gardendivasvd@gmail.com. If you are unable to volunteer, DiStefano says you can donate through Oneorinda.org. Specify your contribution is for school gardens.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbie-dodson@comcast.net.

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Celebrating 60 Years



High school sweethearts Marianne Barnes and Thomas Christian Aude were married September 3, 1960.

Marianne, a graduate of the University of San Francisco and an Orinda Volunteer of the Year served as first woman president of the Orinda Association and as co-leader of the campaign that made Orinda a city.

Tommy, a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines established an international specialty engineering company that for some years maintained headquarters in Orinda.

Lamorinda residents since 1969, the Audes make their home in a lovingly restored 1925 Orinda Spanish, and sailing the world aboard *Il Audeacious*, presently berthed in London.



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Elana O’Loskey



Natural Life Foods Name Change to Arrive Nutrition

Twelve years ago, Alex Goldstein, who had another location in Pleasant Hill, opened Natural Life Foods in Orinda. There was a similar store in Lafayette, but none in Orinda. Recently, Goldstein changed the name of his Orinda location to Arrive Nutrition (Arrive), consistent with the four locations he now owns: Hayward, Pleasant Hill, Pleasanton and Orinda. Goldstein is upgrading the IT setup in the four stores so that each location can share inventory and stay in touch virtually, the only change besides the name Orinda customers might notice. Otherwise, each location looks the

same and has the same staff. For example, Mike Boxer, manager of the Orinda location, has been in place for seven years.

Boxer delineated Arrive’s appeal: “Because we have a staff that’s knowledgeable about nutrition for athletes, we provide a lot of sports immunity information for them.” He noted that people in the area love sports, such as water polo, basketball, soccer, baseball and more. An important type of information Arrive provides is about nutraceuticals, which can help customers deal with recovery before and after meets, workouts, games and matches. The store’s goal is to inform customers so they can make their own unique recovery decisions.



(L-R) Arrive Nutrition Manager **Mike Boxer** and staff member **Jacob Morris** invite locals to call them for whatever nutritional item they need and take advantage of their COVID-19 social distancing services. After a customer pays by phone, their purchase will be disinfected, bagged and made available for pick up outside in their parking lot.



(L-R) **Denise Tellez**, sales and design; **David Berryhill**, owner; **Christine Berryhill**, sales, marketing and design; and **Nick Tutino**, goldsmith have got their “PPE” on and are ready to serve you at Morrison’s Jewelers. Their COVID-19 preparedness is over the top so safety first for everyone. Make an appointment on Thursday for custom designed jewelry and private shopping only – the store will be all yours.

Orinda staff member Jacob Miller clarified, “Every workout is a little different as far as endurance and muscles.”

“Nutraceutical” may be a new term for some, but it has been important in the world of integrative supplements for three decades. Webster’s Dictionary calls it “a foodstuff (such as a fortified food or dietary supplement) that provides health benefits in addition to its basic nutritional value.” Goldstein elaborated that he takes vetting the products he carries very seriously: “Because there is little or no FDA regulation of nutraceuticals, my job is to make sure that what the manufacturer claims is in the bottle is true.” He added, “After 30 years in integrative supplements and nutraceuticals, I keep a close watch on the brands with the highest quality ingredients.”

According to Boxer, the biggest segment of Arrive’s clientele is made up of people who are choosing integrative supplements to deal with existing health conditions. A number of integrative supplements come from doctor-related companies. Some mix vitamin and herbal components. Arrive will special order what people need if it’s not carried in stock and will also match Internet prices.

Arrive is set up for curbside pickup to make it easy for customers during COVID-19 protocols. Call to place your order; pay over the phone; and your order will be

disinfected, bagged and ready for you to pick up outside the store. A staff member will place it outside when you arrive. Visit Arrive Nutrition at 21F Orinda Way, next to Genuine Goodness, or give their helpful personnel a call at 925-254-0130. Arrive’s new website is www.arrivenutritioncenter.com. Hours are Mon. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., closed Sunday.

Morrison’s Jewelers – Love You Can See Since 1923

You can find a local jeweler with a network of world class-partners and an in-house goldsmith right here in downtown Orinda. David Berryhill, fourth generation owner of Morrison’s Jewelers (MJ), works with his wife Christine Berryhill, who is in charge of sales, marketing and design; Denise Tellez, who takes care of sales and design; and goldsmith Nick Tutino, who works precious metals into bespoke designs. Together they have 90 years of design, store selection and jewelry making experience.

For those being extra careful about leaving home during quarantine, MJ has created Thursday appointments for custom designed jewelry and shopping only, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Give MJ a call at 925-253-9227 to set up an appointment. Morrison’s maintains extreme sanitation

[SEE BUZZ page 23]



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