

## Summer Camp Directory



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children at the Orinda Community Center summer camp enjoy a day at the "beach." Complete Summer Camp Directory starts on pg. 11.

## MOFD and Firefighters' Union Enter into Mediation

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

On March 6, the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) agreed to engage a mediator to assist with labor negotiations with the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County IAFF Local 1230.

Local 1230 requested the mediator after MOFD's January announcement that it had reached an impasse in its negotiations with Local 1230 for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is a binding contract between the district and firefighters' union. The previous MOU expired in January 2010. Since then, MOFD and IAFF Local 1230 have been in negotiations. MOFD gave a "last, best and final offer" to Local 1230 in January.

MOFD board president John Wyro said the district has striven to maintain the same level of services to local citizens, while also addressing unfunded liabilities caused by spiraling costs of health benefits, including retiree health benefits.

"The district appreciates the good work of its firefighters and continues to try to partner with Local 1230 on ways to

improve the district and its service to the citizens," said Wyro. "The district remains committed to providing high quality service to the community, financial sustainability and transparency, and maintaining a quality work force that is treated well and compensated appropriately."

Now that Local 1230 has requested mediation, the State of California becomes involved under California Assembly Bill 646 (AB 646). "The mediator tries to work with both sides to come to an agreement and see if we can find common ground," said Local 1230 president Vince Wells.

MOFD Fire Chief Stephen Healy said, "The mediation will be a confidential process and should occur within the next 30 days." Under AB 646, if the mediator is unable to settle the dispute within 30 days, Local 1230 may request the matter be submitted to a fact-finding panel.

The fact-finding panel would consist of one member selected by each party as well as a chairperson selected by the Public Employment Relations Board or by agreement of the parties. The fact-finding panel will analyze State and Federal laws, local

[SEE MOFD page 6]

## Senior Housing Takes Shape



SALLY HOGARTY

The 67-unit affordable senior housing as seen from Orinda Way. Built by Eden Housing, the two, three-story buildings will occupy approximately 71,100 sq. feet on the 1.45 acre site.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

After more than six years of negotiation and redesign, Eden Housing's senior affordable housing facility has become a reality. Rising approximately 40 feet above the street at the corner of Orinda Way and Irwin Way, the housing complex is impossible to miss – much to the chagrin of those opposed to the project.

Detractors site the loss of the semi-rural feel of downtown while others such as Save Orinda, a grass root, non-partisan group of Orinda citizens, question how the project was approved in the first place.

With land use entitlements approved by the Planning Commission on July 26, 2011, the non-profit Eden Housing LLC broke ground in January 2013. The 67-unit apartment complex, which includes an apartment for the manager, is scheduled for completion in September 2014.

The 1.45 acre site consists of two three-story buildings connected on the second and third levels via a skyway. The approximate square footage, including a garage, is 71,100. While the height averages 40 feet, the elevator/stair shaft reaches closer to 47

feet. The new facility occupies the former library space – an 8,931 square foot structure with a maximum height of 20 feet.

"The building is probably the most prominent it's going to look right now because the exterior finishes aren't done," says City of Orinda Planning Director Em-

[SEE EDEN page 8]

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# Art Ambassadors Exhibit Fills the Orinda Library Gallery in April

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Visit the Orinda Library Gallery during April to take in more than 200 pieces of student artwork from Orinda Unified School District (OUSD) art studio in grades 1-8. The Orinda Arts Council (OAC) and the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) invite students' families, friends and the public to a *Celebration of the Arts* reception and award ceremony on April 16 from 4 to 6 pm when light refreshments will be served. Choral music will be provided by OUSD music teachers Ron Pickett and Christina Martin. Dr. Joe Jaconette, OUSD Superintendent, will speak at 5 pm. Each child receives a ribbon badge and certificate commemorating their artwork. The exhibit celebrates art and music education in Orinda schools.

Local teachers spend many hours with students to prepare their work for the exhibit and deserve a big round of applause for their dedication. Thanks go to OIS Visual Arts teacher Susan Weiss; Linda Kam from Wagner Ranch School; Susan Zib from Glorietta and Sleepy Hollow schools; Hillery Paterson from Del Rey and Sleepy Hollow schools; Ted Harwood, woodwork-



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Winners of the high school competition in the Library Gallery's March exhibit were bottom row (L-R): **Saarah Slechta**, Campolindo High School, 12th grade, Photography 1st Place for *Self Portrait*; **Emily LaRoche**, Bentley School, 11th grade, Best in Show/Viewer's Choice Award for *Untitled*. Top row (L-R): **Jane Fressenden**, Miramonte High School, 12th grade, 2D 2nd Place for *Cinco De Mayo*; **Anna Fenske**, Campolindo High School, 12th grade, Photography 2nd Place for *Melancholic Dreams*; **Will Gittings**, Miramonte High School, 11th grade, 3D Hon. Mention for *Nature's Music*.

ing instructor at OIS; Leslie Millstone, computer graphics instructor at OIS; music teachers Ron Pickett and Christina Martin;

and visual arts teacher David Morrirt. The unjuried exhibit is now in its 8th year and provides the public with an overview of the

OUSD Visual Arts Program.

"As our district advances towards the implementation of Common Core standards, we will showcase projects developed in collaboration with visual arts teachers and core subject teachers," said Hillery Paterson, OUSD arts coordinator. "Look for projects developed with our pilot program 'ACT Now: Artistic Core Teaching.'"

The OAC and EFO are co-sponsoring the event. Gallery co-chairs Myrna Witt and Maggie Boscoe and co-president Susan Garell of the OAC, along with Monica Burnick and Jackie Noyes from the EFO helped create the event. Tasks included distributing publicity banners and flyers, organizing the reception and ceremony and preparing labels for artwork. As manager of the Orinda Library Art Gallery, the OAC also facilitates the scheduling and installation of the exhibit. See [www.orindaarts.org](http://www.orindaarts.org) for more info about the OAC and [www.orindaefo.org](http://www.orindaefo.org) for more information about the EFO.

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm. Closed April 20 for Easter. Call 925-254-2814 for more information.

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## Grandparents' Day at Orinda Schools



SALLY HOGARTY

(L-R) **Robert Florkowski**, **Lois Clauson** and **Elaine Florkowski** spend time with their granddaughter **Natalie Clauson** in Ms. Hess' third-grade classroom at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.

The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) offered grandparents a unique opportunity to visit their grandchildren at school and participate in their classes. On March 14, excited groups of grandparents came to Wagner Ranch Elementary and Sleepy Hollow Elementary to enjoy the morning with their grandchildren. EFO plans to alternate between the four elementary schools each year.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President  
Why Do I Volunteer?

Isela Barels



I learned about volunteering in the early 1960s from American medical volunteers called *los doctores* in Baja, California. I was six years old.

My parents, four siblings, a few aunts, cousins and several friends of the family rode my dad's cattle truck for two days on the rocky dirt roads of Central Baja to see the doctors. We arrived in a town called El Rosario and discovered we were one week early. We camped in an abandoned adobe and waited with excitement for the arrival of the American doctors.

A few days later, the sound of their small planes over the village confirmed they had arrived. Everyone started lining up outside an old building that had been turned into a clinic. The children were excited because after the clinic, the staff distributed toys and candy. I was one of the first in that line.

A gentle American doctor and his nurse, who was also a translator, took care of our family starting with my deaf sister. He assured my mom that, although I was skinny,

there was nothing wrong with me and gave me children's vitamins. They seemed very happy to be helping us.

I had never seen a volunteer before, and I was very impressed. Even though I did not know it at such an early age, my life had changed forever.

Twenty years later, I was working for a steamship line in Long Beach and became a volunteer with the Flying Samaritans. It has been a very rewarding experience. Now, living in Orinda, I take pride in volunteering with the Orinda Association as both a board member and volunteer for the OA's 4th of July celebration, Volunteer of the Year Awards and much more.

I will be a volunteer for the rest of my life. We change the world, one person at a time. Won't you join me?

*For more information on volunteer opportunities with the wide variety of nonprofits in the area, go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) and click on the volunteer page.*

OA Seasonal Flags Bloom Again

Beautiful flags adorned with spring-time flower illustrations will once again grace local flag poles thanks to an anonymous donation to the Orinda Association.

Designed by students in botanical illustrator Catherine Watters' private classes at Woodhall in Orinda and Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco, they depict botanically accurate springtime flowers. "Botanical illustration is a beautiful marriage of art and science," explains Watters. "Botanical art immortalizes the plant world. After careful observation, a plant is drawn and painted to capture in detail its graceful movement and intriguing personality. It is truly humbling to try to capture on paper what nature does so perfectly."

The colorful flags will fly during April and May before being replaced by United



States flags celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in June.

- Sally Hogarty, Editor

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.

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**Get Involved with July 4 Parade/Celebration**

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July 4 Committee members are (L-R): **Andy Radlow**, Event Co-Chair; **Chris Laszcz-Davis**, Advisory Council; **Isela Barels**, Decorations; **Cindy Powell**, Music/Treasurer; **Mimi Bommarito**, Publicity; **Bill Waterman**, Business Development; and **Steve Meagher**, Event Co-Chair/Parade Operations.

Be a part of this year's July 4 parade and celebration in the park by volunteering with the Orinda Association. For information on all the fun activities, email [4thofjuly@orindaassociation.org](mailto:4thofjuly@orindaassociation.org).

# Correction . . .



CHARLIE JARRETT

In the March issue, we inadvertently mislabeled this photo. It should have read, Founder of the Orinda Jrs. **Paula Arnold** (L) and current president **Tracy Cummings** (C) accept an award from **Jill Ray** (representing Supervisor Candace Andersen) congratulating the organization for being named the Orinda Association's Volunteer of the Year.

# Letters to the Editor

## Lack of Parking in Orinda

In some superb reporting, the lead article in *The Orinda News* (March issue) states, in one sentence, downtown Orinda's major problem: "Parking in Orinda is getting so bad that major business owners are losing customers."

Parking is bad because the Orinda City Council has ignored the pleas of residents to preserve Orinda's precious, semi-rural environment. In the last few years, the City Council has approved three major housing projects which, once completed, will only make Orinda's parking – and traffic congestion – much worse.

The Wilder Project (off Highway 24) will have 234 housing units. The Orinda Grove Plan (the Pulte development) will add another 73 units. The senior citizens' project at 2 Irwin Way (across the street from Citibank and the Safeway) will produce another 67 units. The three projects together will give Orinda an extra 385 housing units.

These housing projects are only the beginning. In July 2013, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved Plan Bay Area, a scheme to inject high-rise, high-density housing (often called stack-and-pack housing) into Orinda and elsewhere.

The goal of Plan Bay Area is to make people move into Manhattan-style apartments and to induce drivers to get rid of their cars. Curiously, the chairperson of MTC, Amy Worth, is also a member of the Orinda City Council. Does Ms. Worth have a conflict of interest?

Over many years, people have moved to Orinda to send their children to excellent schools, have nice homes with gardens and

lawns, and enjoy the views of the nearby hills. However, the City Council, apparently in league with commercial real estate developers, wants more development and less environmental preservation.

The answer to Orinda's lack of parking is to place a moratorium on new construction in Orinda. If there is no moratorium, Orindans must have an opportunity to vote on placing a 35-height limit on all new buildings constructed. The City Council has not allowed residents to vote on real estate development projects.

Two groups, Orinda Watch and Save Orinda, want to preserve Orinda's unique environment. Orindans alarmed over the destruction of their city should contact these groups.

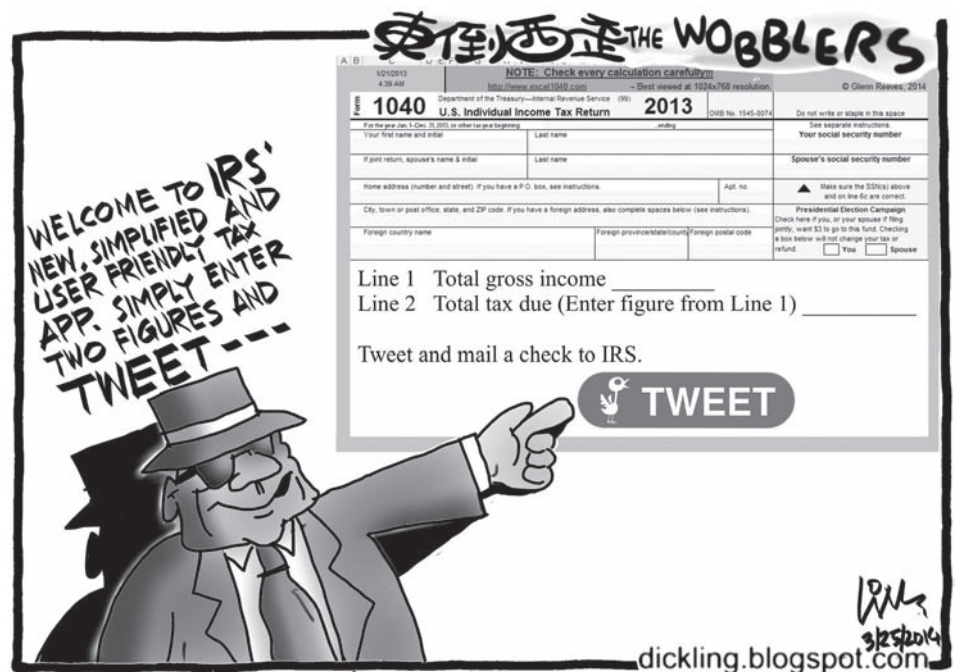
–Richard S. Colman

## Don't Turn Bates Boulevard Into a Parking Lot!

As a resident of the Bates Blvd./Muth Drive/Warford Terrace neighborhood, I was disappointed to read "Parking in Orinda Goes Downhill!" (March 2014) did not include the perspective of anyone in my neighborhood, the proposed location for the merchant's employee parking program.

As a residential neighborhood, we do not want to be the City of Orinda's parking lot because there is inadequate parking in the Theatre Square area and at BART. Currently, commuters park on the unrestricted section of lower Bates Blvd. We have also seen an increase in cars parked along lower Muth Drive as a result of higher rates in the Theatre Square parking garage. I walk to and from BART daily so I see the impact of the higher rates first hand.

Contrary to the article, commuters are



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not taking away parking from customers. Commuters can't park in the business district's surface spaces because of the time restrictions. In the late afternoon/nights and on weekends when there are no commuters, parking is still scarce in the Theatre Square area yet no one parks in the unrestricted area on Bates Blvd.

The article failed to mention that the

proposed parking program would have merchants and residents paying \$480 per permit on an annual basis! Most cities, including Berkeley, charge residents a nominal fee that is significantly less than what merchants are charged.

The article also did not mention that in order to implement the proposed parking [SEE LETTERS page 20]

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to the Editor for the May issue are due April 5, 2014.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the May issue is April 5, 2014.

POLICE / EBMUD



# POLICE BLOTTER

January & February 2013

**Battery:** 2 incidents on Orinda Way and Tara Rd.

**Burglary:** 2 incidents at Brookside Rd. and Lombardy Way.

**Burglary, Auto:** 7 incidents at Tahos Rd., Wilder Blvd/Hwy. 24 (2), Dalewood Dr., Wanda Lane, Bates Blvd. and El Toyonal.

**Burglary, Commerical:** 4 incidents at Davis Rd. (2), Wilder/Hwy. 24 and Camino Sobrante.

**Burglary, Residential:** 3 incidents on Tahos Rd., Dalewood Dr. and Tarabrook Dr.

**Credit Card Fraud:** 2 incidents at Moraga Way and Greenwood Ct.

**Grand Theft:** 5 incidents at Via Corte, Orinda Way, Camino Sobrante/Mira Loma, Loma Vista and Stanton Ave.

**Hit & Run Misdemeanor:** 1 incident at Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.

**Identity Theft:** 5 incidents at Sundown Terrace, Orinda Way, Miner Rd, Sundown Terrace and Stanton Ave.

**Petty Theft:** 9 incidents on Diablo View Dr., Camino Pablo, Davis Rd., Loma Vista Dr., Oakridge Lane, Greenwood Ct., Tahos Rd., Sundown Terrace and Orinda Way.

**Robbery:** 1 incident at Camino Sobrante.

**Stolen Vehicle:** 3 incidents at Amber Valley Dr., Spring Rd. and Tahos Rd.

**Trespass:** 1 incident at Miner Rd.

**Vandalism:** 9 incidents at Wilder Blvd/Hwy. 24 (2), Orinda Way (4), Mossbridge Lane, and La Cresta Rd. (2).

**Arrests**

**Driving Under Influence (DUI) – Misd:** 7 arrests at Hwy. 24/St. Stephens (3), Hwy. 24/Wilder Blvd., Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Wilder Fields and Hwy. 24/Acalanes Rd.

**Possession of Marijuana:** 1 incident at Miramonte High School.

**Probation Violation:** 6 arrests at Moraga Way (4), Hwy. 24/Fish Ranch Rd. and Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way.

**Stolen Vehilce Recovery:** 3 recoveries at Amber Valley Dr./Dalewood and Wilder Rd.

**Under Influence of Controlled Substance:** 2 incidents at Theatre Square and Camino Pablo.

**Warrant Arrests:** 8 arrests on Moraga Way, Bryant Way/Moraga Way, Rheem Blvd, Hall Dr., Camino Pablo and Hwy. 24/Camino Pablo.

**Orinda BART Station**

**Identity Theft:** 4 incidents.

**Petty Theft:** 1 incident.

**Stolen Vehilce:** 1 incident.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

# EBMUD Asks Customers to Cut Usage By 10 Percent

By Maggie Sharpe  
Contributing Writer

Despite recent heavy rainfall, reservoirs remain at 63 percent of normal capacity for this time of year. To cope with the shortage, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Board of Directors on Feb. 11 issued a request to users to voluntarily cut back 10 percent on usage. EBMUD has approximately 1.3 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Nora Harlow, Orinda resident and Community Affairs Representative for EBMUD and Katy Foulkes, who represents Piedmont and areas of Oakland on EBMUD’s Board of Directors, made a presentation on the topic to the Orinda City Council on March 18.

Andrea Pook, senior public information representative for the water district, said that the Bay Area had more rain in February than in the previous seven months.

“On Jan. 1, we had 4.5 inches of rain – that was really scary – now (March 5), we’ve had 18.5 inches of rainfall,” said Pook. “Reservoirs are about 63 percent full.”

Pook says that, since most of our water comes from winter snow melt, the district won’t know until April what the long-term water supply situation will be. The amount of snow and rain in the Mokelumne River watershed, where the Bay Area gets its water, was 49 percent of normal in early March. The watershed is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, about 90 miles east of Orinda.

“By April, we will be able to project how much our reservoirs will be filled from



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The Mokelumne River watershed supplies water to the Bay Area.

snow runoff and if consumer conservation efforts are enough to avert further measures, such as using alternative water supplies and water transfers,” said Pook. “Staff are working hard to get those in place in case we need them.”

During dry years only, EBMUD can utilize up to 100 million gallons of water per day from the Freeport Regional Water Facility. EBMUD and its partner, Sacramento County Water Agency, completed the facility in 2011 with water from the Sacramento River.

“EBMUD also is working with the Placer County Water Agency on a potential water transfer, which includes the benefit of water releases in the lower American River that provides a boost to migrating fish,” according to the district’s website.

Pook reports that EBMUD customers use about 17 percent less water today than they did five years ago. The water district offers conservation incentives such as rebates for installation of high-efficiency toilets and clothes washers and improvements to landscape and irrigation systems.

“Forty percent of our water usage is for outside so there is room for conservation,”

[SEE EBMUD page 20]

## Additional Police Activity During January & February

- The detectives continue to work to prevent burglaries, and they packaged several cases to present to the District Attorney’s office.
- Orinda Officer Dustin Gregory has been re-assigned to the Orinda Traffic position where he will focus on traffic calming, accidents, burglary suppression and school resource duties.
- Recently, an Orinda citizen was contacted by a person claiming to be Chief of Police, Scott Haggard. The phone number (via caller ID) was an accurate Orinda Police Department phone number, and the person claiming to be the Police Chief attempted to scam the citizen out of money by claiming that the Orinda citizen had a warrant and that they would be arrested unless money was wired to an address out of the area. The Orinda Police Department does not contact citizens requesting payment of warrants. Please report contact with such requests to the Orinda Police Department immediately at 925-254-6820.

[SEE POLICE page 6]

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ORINDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

## Steve Glazer Opens Campaign Headquarters



DAVID DIERKS

Supporters for Steve Glazer for Assembly came out in force to open Glazer's campaign headquarters on March 16. Supporters included Moraga Mayor Ken Chew, Walnut Creek Mayor Kristina Lawson, Orinda Mayor Sue Severson, Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin, and Orinda Councilmembers Dean Orr and Amy Worth. During the festivities, supporters were encouraged to volunteer to help in the campaign process. For more information, visit [www.Glazer4Assembly.com](http://www.Glazer4Assembly.com).

## Alcohol Awareness Month Sheds Light on Underage Drinking

By MAGGIE SHARPE  
Contributing Writer

April is national Alcohol Awareness Month and the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition (LAPC) is doing its best to highlight the dangers of drinking – in particular, underage drinking.

The coalition was formed four years ago under the auspices of the Pleasant Hill-based Center for Human Development (CHD), which has offered services for at-risk youth, individuals, families and communities in the Bay Area since 1972. It is funded by Contra Costa County Health Services.

"We saw the need for our services in Lamorinda, based on statistics from the California Healthy Children Survey," said Orinda resident Jaime Rich, environmental prevention program director for CHD. Rich has a son who is a junior at Miramonte High School (MHS) and a daughter who graduated two years ago. She is also chair of the Healthy Choice Committee at MHS.

The 2011-12 Healthy Children Survey of drinking patterns in Acalanes Union High School District revealed that 15 percent of students in 9th grade had four or more drinks in their lifetime; that number rose to 44 percent by 11th grade. The survey also revealed that 9 percent of 9th-graders had used marijuana four or more times; by 11th grade, 34 percent of students responded

they had used marijuana at least four times.

LAPC has a number of plans for April to draw attention to underage drinking, which Rich says is the primary drug of choice for local teenagers. "We are going to ask Orinda City Council to sign a resolution declaring April to be Alcohol Awareness Month," said Rich. "We have also invited a local attorney to speak at our April 9 meeting at Orinda City Hall. She will talk about the laws and consequences governing providing alcohol to minors in the home."

LAPC meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month from 10 to 11:30 am at Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Community Room, and are open to the public.

Rich says the coalition will bring its Recognition and Remind Program to alcohol outlets in Lafayette in April to either "recognize" those stores that abide by the law in checking IDs and not selling to minors, or provide a "soft reminder" to stores that are not checking the ID of a potentially underage customer. "We're trying to find and stall the access points for alcohol, whether it's parents hosting parties that allow alcohol, older siblings or friends supplying alcohol or stores that aren't checking IDs of minors," said Rich.

She said another "access point" is Safeway, where there is a lot of theft of alcohol. "As a deterrent, we asked Safeway to put up

signs in the alcohol aisle, telling customers that the aisle is under 24-hour surveillance," said Rich.

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel said the the number of teenage alcohol-related incidents at parties dropped in 2013. "In 2013, four teenagers were contacted by police at alcohol-related parties; in 2011, 31 teens were contacted by police," said Nagel. "The numbers have gone down, so that's good."

He attributes the improvement to education efforts about alcohol and its deleterious effect on a person's health. "Education is a big part of it," said Nagel. "People, including teens, are more concerned about their health and fitness."

He says the California Highway Patrol brings its "Every 15 Minutes" presentation to local schools and that Orinda Police Department (OPD) always responds when asked to speak or take part in alcohol-related events and presentations.

Nagel says the results of drinking, whether adult or minor, are far-reaching. "Adults are responsible and liable for their children who are drinking," said Nagel. "DUI arrests are expensive. Primarily it's a danger to the driver, the passengers and people on the street when a drunk driver gets behind the wheel."

Nagel said that in early March, OPD responded to a call about a 52-year-old deceased man. "The cause of death was not suspicious, but upon investigation, we learned he'd been a heavy drinker for 10 years or more," said Nagel. "Long-term alcoholics do a lot of damage to their bodies that results in high blood pressure, cirrhosis and depression – word is out about these

### ◆ POLICE from page 5

• The Orinda Police Department has received several calls regarding solicitors who claimed to be working for a non-profit organization attempting to sell magazines. The City of Orinda Municipal code requires door-to-door solicitors who are not associated with a non-profit organization to register with the police department. Their backgrounds are reviewed prior to issuing a permit. A few homeowners allowed the solicitors into their homes. Instead, contact the Orinda Police immediately at 925-254-6820.

### ◆ MOFD from page 1

regulations and ordinances, the interest and welfare of the public, the financial ability of the public agency and the overall compensation of the employees, as well as doing a comparison of the wages, hours and conditions of employment with other employees at comparable public agencies.

If the panel cannot settle the dispute within 30 days, or longer if the parties agree to an extension, the panel can recommend terms of settlement. After mediation and fact-finding is exhausted, the results and recommendations of the fact-finding panel must be made public. If MOFD rejects the terms of settlement, a public hearing regarding the impasse will be held. At that time, MOFD will be able to impose its "last, best, and final offer" but will not be able to implement a new MOU. Local 1230 will retain the right to meet and confer each year prior to the annual budget about matters within its scope of representation, whether these matters are covered by the imposed terms or not.

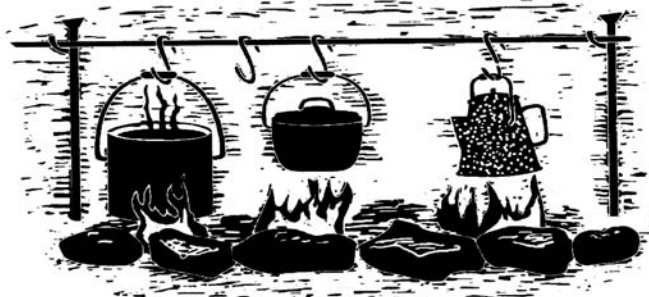
For more information, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) and [www.contracostafirefighters.org](http://www.contracostafirefighters.org).

health risks so I'm hoping the number of alcohol-related incidents will continue to drop."

Rich and Chief Nagel recently decided to set up an anonymous "party" tip line. "LAPC will monitor the tip line," said Rich. "We will alert police if we hear there is going to be an unsupervised party that might involve alcohol, so that police can drive by and check what's going on."

She says nobody wants to be known as a snitch. "The anonymous tip line will make it safer to make the phone call that could save a life," says Rich. "We will publish the telephone number as soon as it's set up."

For more information or to sign up for the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition newsletter, visit [www.chd-prevention.org](http://www.chd-prevention.org) or contact Jaime Rich at [jaime@chd-prevention.org](mailto:jaime@chd-prevention.org) or 925-687-8844, ext. 227.



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CAR TIME

CAR TIME

Invest In Your Current Vehicle or Buy A New One?



by JOHN VANEK

You have been driving your family hauler for six years now. It has logged almost 120,000 miles hauling the kids to baseball, scouts to camp and family outings. It has been the unsung hero of your family and has never let you down. It will be five more years before the youngest graduates high school and you still really need this vehicle.

Suddenly, the unthinkable happens. Your transmission fails. It will cost major bucks to fix. Do you spend money fixing it or do you replace it with a new vehicle? This is a question that comes up all the time. You have a car you need to use but don't want to spend money on it. However, replacing the vehicle is much more expensive.

Let's look at a comparison between repairing and replacing. Mr. and Mrs. Orinda have a 2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee that needs a transmission. The vehicle has 95,000 miles on the odometer. They have maintained the car by the book and the 90K service was performed. The car has little value with a blown transmission, but with a good transmission the value is restored. The real value is being able to use the car for another three to five years. The transmission job will cost about \$3,500. Yikes!

However, a new Jeep Grand Cherokee will cost \$42,000. Double yikes! Tax alone on the new Jeep is \$2,650. Interest on payments: \$1,300? Your insurance and DMV fees go up about \$700 per year. These expenses will hit you during the first few years while the value of your new ride goes down.

Okay, let's go back to fixing it. Will you get your money back if you fix it and sell it

tomorrow? No, but you will get the "value" out of it by driving it for another few years. The new Jeep will depreciate several thousand dollars over the first few years, and eventually, the wear-and-tear expenses start all over again. You are likely to need tires, battery and general maintenance about the time the vehicle is paid off. The vicious cycle continues, and we are all stuck in the middle of it.

Your vehicle may never require such a large job as a transmission but spending \$1,500 or \$2,500 is significant for most of us. It is enough to make you consider buying new. The bottom line is that you will need to invest in keeping your older vehicle or invest in replacing it. Do your research: could you even afford a new vehicle right now? Consult with your trusty car care provider on the condition of your existing car. Be a good consumer of auto repair. I am always available for consultation.

Adult Respite Center Celebrates Remodel



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE JARRETT

Lucille Madsen (L), a 100-year-old LARC "Pioneer" program participant and Poll Foundation Trustees Jane Andersen and her son Erik Andersen.

The newly remodeled Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) located in the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church on Moraga Road was dedicated and celebrated on March 16 by LARC program participants, supporters, volunteers, church members and trustees of the Ernest and Lola Poll Trust, which recently made a significant financial donation to the center.

Following World War II, Austrian refugees Ernest and Lola Poll moved to the United States and opened Village Cleaners at 101 Orinda Way in Orinda. They fell in love with their newly adopted community where their post-war life and business flourished. They vowed to give back to Orinda and especially the senior residents of the community that they loved so much. To show their appreciation, they set up a trust that upon their death was designed to benefit the community where they had lived since 1949. The LARC organization provides activities for adults with Alzheimer's or Related Dementia needs. For more information on the services provided call 925-254-3465 or go to [www.larc@holyshepherd.org](http://www.larc@holyshepherd.org).

– Charlie Jarrett, Staff Writer

WomenSing Hosts Inaugural Festival

WomenSing will host "Treble Voices Now" on April 11 -12 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

The festival will explore contemporary classical music that is specifically written for upper-voiced choirs. WomenSing will be joined by the Advanced Performing Chorus of the Contra Costa Children's Chorus and both Bella Voce and the Women's Ensemble from Acalanes High School.

The public is invited to a workshop on April 11 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm as well as a concert on April 12 at 3 pm. for more information, go to [www.womensing.org](http://www.womensing.org).



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FILM / LOCAL RESIDENTS

◆ EDEN from page 1

manuel Ursu. "You get the stark look of light-colored plywood and, on top of that, you don't have the leaves on the trees to soften the building." Ursu also notes that the building furthest from Orinda Way is technically four stories with the first story (a basement) stepped back into the hillside.

According to Ursu, the City of Orinda adopted a Senior Overlay District for the project that allows housing density at 38 units per acre rather than the standard 10 units per acre listed for non-age restricted areas of Orinda. "The Orinda Senior Village was designated as a Senior Overlay District, section 17.4.33 of the General Plan, and it made sense to have this senior facility, located adjacent to the existing Orinda Senior Village, also so designated," says Ursu.

The City of Orinda arrived at the 38 units per acre figure by looking at traffic generated by non-age restricted multi-family units at 10 units per acre and determining how many senior units would generate the same number of trips. "It worked out that 38 senior units per acre generated the same amount of trips that the 10 units per acre multi-family dwellings generated," explains Ursu.

State law mandates development of affordable housing, and compliance with state housing laws allows the City of Orinda to receive over \$300,000 in road maintenance funds annually through Measure J.

The affordable housing development was financed in part from the California Tax Credit Allocation Eden Housing received as

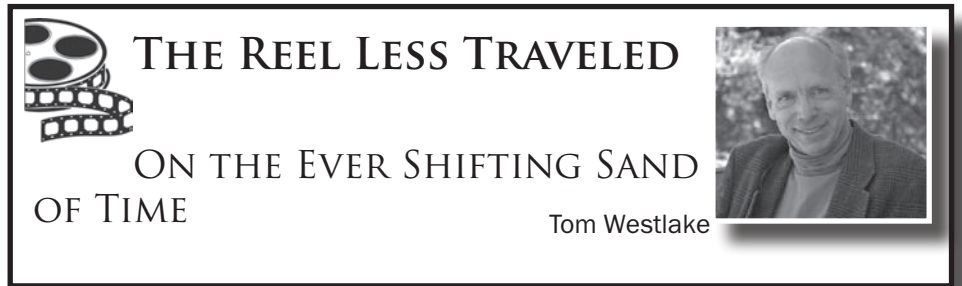
well as funds from the Wilder Gateway Valley development. The development agreement with Wilder included a stipulation that the developer pay the City of Orinda \$2.5 million for construction of affordable senior housing.

While the senior housing project has generated the most controversy over changing the low height profile of Orinda Village, another project along Orinda Way may also bring about disagreement. Chase Bank hopes to build a new branch in the vacant lot across from the current Orinda Library.

To date, Planning Commissioners have not felt the various designs submitted are appropriate for the site, which calls for primarily retail businesses in ground floor buildings. Chase had proposed approximately 1,200 square feet of retail and 1,400-1,500 square feet for banking on the first floor with bank offices on the second floor. At the Planning Commission's March 11 meeting, they felt it would be most beneficial to the community to have a public workshop. The workshop was held on March 26 at 6 pm (after the newspaper deadline).

"The site Chase wants to use was a gas station, and the lot has been undergoing cleanup for the past 20 years," says Ursu. "There are still some contaminants on the site, but they are at very low levels. We are waiting for the Water Board to issue a no further action necessary notice. Nothing can happen until then."

More information on all building development in Orinda can be obtained by going to [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).



**THE REEL LESS TRAVELED**  
ON THE EVER SHIFTING SAND OF TIME  
Tom Westlake

Nothing major to report on the big screen this month, but check out the three websites where information on local cinema can be found: [www.Lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.Lamorindatheatres.com), [www.CAIFF.org](http://www.CAIFF.org) and <http://internationalshowcase.org>.

The International Showcase originally planned to show *This Life* around mid-March but postponed because it could not find free cinema time until the first week of April. Not only is this film a harrowing retelling of a true story that took place in Denmark during the "Five Cursed Years" of Nazi occupation, it reminds us to be vigilant against something like this happening again. The film will screen for a week at the Orinda Theatre starting April 4 at 7 pm.

The *Long Voyage Home* will be shown on April 16 at 1 pm at the Rheem Theatre,

sponsored by Moraga Movers. Though the film "stars" John Wayne, he's not the real star per se – that honor might go to Thomas Mitchell or Barry Fitzgerald. The real luminary is Eugene O'Neill whose one-act plays were adapted into a loose-weave narrative, telling the stories of men making their way home on the S.S. Glencairn during WWII. It's comparable to Hitchcock's *Lifeboat*, both for its claustrophobic setting and its cinematographer Gregg Toland – who also worked on *Citizen Kane*. Many regard this as the finest film John Ford ever directed. See if you agree.

Also upcoming is the "Film Classics Showcase" so keep an eye on those websites mentioned above for more details.

And remember, stay in the dark for that is where the reel magic lies.

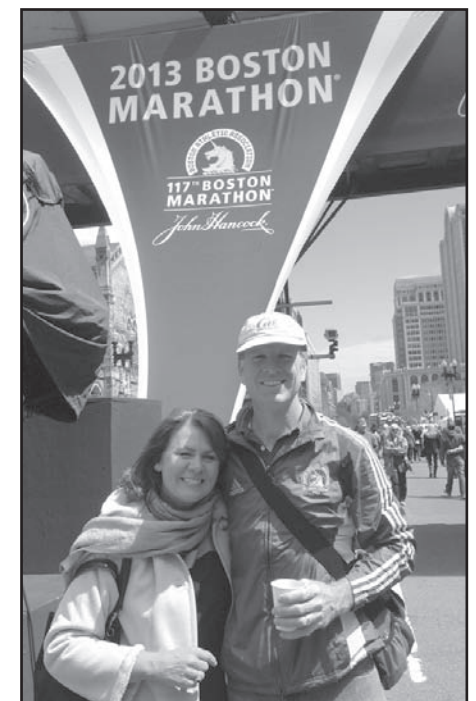
## Orinda Residents are "Boston Strong"

Orinda resident Tim O'Brien ran the Boston Marathon for the first time last year when the unthinkable happened – two bombings that left three people dead and 264 injured. Tim was heading to the finish line to meet his wife Leslie when the first bomb went off.

"I changed my plans and started the long walk toward a sanctuary I knew how to find, the Boston office of Sandler O'Neill," he says. Tim works in the firm's San Francisco office. Leslie was waiting at the finish with other folks from Lamorinda. Cell phone systems were overloaded and it took the couple 45 minutes to connect.

"On race day, I experienced first-hand what Boston is all about," Tim says. "People along the route went out of their way to help me succeed. "Later, they stepped in to take care of me. I felt like an honored guest while there -- someone who had stumbled into and found the heart of Boston."

Tim, who ran cross country at Miramonte High School, plans to run the Boston Marathon again on April 21. This time, he's fundraising for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), one of the hospitals that treated the marathon trauma victims. Tim asks Lamorindans to support this organization. His goal is to raise \$7,500, and he will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Leslie and Tim O'Brien at last year's Boston Marathon.

match the first \$2,500 donated.

For more information and to donate, go to <http://www.crowdrise.com/bidmc2014bostonmarathon/fundraiser/timbrien2>.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor




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SCHOOLS / EASTER ACTIVITIES

# Measure A Renewal on May 6 Mail-in Ballot

By Bill O'Brian  
Staff Writer

Residents of the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD), which includes Miramonte High School in Orinda, Campolinda in Moraga, Las Lomas in Walnut Creek and Acalanes in Lafayette, will vote via mail on whether to renew the current Measure A parcel tax, which expires in June, 2015.

The tax, which was passed by the necessary two-thirds majority in 2010, levies a \$112 per parcel tax on each household with exemptions for seniors over the age of 65 who live in the parcel they own.

Renewal of Measure A would preserve the nearly \$4 million generated annually for local education funding, while not increasing taxes.

AUHSD states that Measure A money is needed to maintain the high quality of education in local high schools. The money generated by the parcel tax represents eight percent of the district's budget or the equivalent of about 40 teaching positions.

If Measure A does not pass, core programs such as English, math, science, social studies, visual and performing arts and foreign language will be impacted, according to AUHSD. Some teaching positions would also be eliminated,

According to AUHSD, state funding is insufficient and unstable. Since 2007, the state has reduced funding to public education by 22 percent, and it is not projected to increase to 2007 levels in the near future.

In addition to revenue from Measure A and Proposition 30 (approved by California voters in 2012), AUHSD relies on support from local education foundations, parent organizations and booster clubs, which contributed more than \$2 million in the current school year for district-wide school programs.

Proponents of Measure A, such as the grassroots "Yes, For Acalanes High Schools" group, claim people who do not have children in the schools also benefit from the measure since quality schools make the area attractive to families and increase overall home values.

Measure A expenditures are monitored by the Parcel Tax Citizens' Independent Oversight Committee and funds cannot be spent on administrator salaries or be siphoned off by the state.

Measure A is on the May 6 mail-in only ballot. Ballots will be mailed the week of April 7 and the last day to register to vote is April 21.

For more information, visit the AUHSD website at [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us).

# 2014 Poul Anderson Writing Contest

The Friends of the Orinda Library is currently accepting entries for the annual Poul Anderson Writing Contest.

Open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda, the contest features Science Fiction, Essay/Memoir, Poetry and Short Story categories. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is Friday, April 18, at noon.

A panel of Orinda writers and residents will judge the entries. This year's judges include authors Ginger Wadsworth and

Sally Small as well as Janet Boreta and Marian Nielsen of Orinda Books.

Named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident, the contest awards up to four winners \$250 each at the close of this school year. The Friends of the Orinda Library underwrites the awards.

Entries should be submitted to individual school representatives. For additional information go to: [www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org](http://www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org) or email [contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com](mailto:contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com).

# Lots of Fun on Easter Weekend



SALLY HOGARTY

Youngsters search for treasures during a previous egg hunt.

The annual Spring Egg Hunt takes place on Saturday, April 19, at 11 am at the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orinda, the lawn is divided into egg hunts for the various age groups, ensuring age-appropriate challenges. Be sure and be there by 11 am to take part in the hunt! And, don't forget your camera! For more information, call the Orinda Community Center at 925-254-2445.

Theatre Square promises lots of fun activities for youngsters on April 19 from 2-5 pm. The free event includes a rock climbing wall, bouncy house, petting zoo and pony rides. Face painting, a photo booth and live performances by Miramonte High School's a cappella groups will add to the day's fun. For more information on the Easter weekend festivities, go to [www.orindatheatresquare.com](http://www.orindatheatresquare.com).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A young participant from last year's Theatre Square Fun Day enjoys a pony ride.

# Lamorinda Rugby Beats Saints

The Lamorinda Rugby Football Club high school program hosted the Montreal Saints in early March for some international camaraderie and competition.

Lamorinda bested their new friends on Monday night, March 3, after tiring them out with parties and tours over the weekend! All became friends before the final sendoff. Rugby... a worldwide sport... follow the club at [www.lamorugby.com](http://www.lamorugby.com).

# Make Room for Books in your Easter Basket!

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## Move of the Month

### Stiff Legged Deadlift



Start with knees straight and weights held in each hand. Lower dumbbells to top or sides of feet by bending hips. Bend waist as weights approach feet.



Lift dumbbells by extending hips and waist until standing upright. Pull shoulders back slightly if rounded. Repeat.

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or [www.thelivingleanprogram.com](http://www.thelivingleanprogram.com).

## Everyday Changes

APRIL SHOWERS BRINGS FLOWERS AND STRIPES AND PLAIDS AND SPARKLES AND MOONS...

Bonnie Waters



April showers will soon give way to May flowers and sandal season. Let your toes and fingers unleash your inner artist as you choose from a palette of colorful to classy options in nail colors and nail art.

Nail art as we know it is relatively new, although it dates back to 3000 B.C. The women of ancient cultures in China, the Indus Valley and Egypt used various concoctions to decorate their fingers and toes. The drying time in those days was extremely lengthy and necessitated sitting still for hours.

### Spring Nail Trend 1: Shellac and Vinyl Lux Polish Systems

We have all ruined our polish due to a lack of patience. Thankfully, there have been many recent breakthroughs in polish technology. Nail dings are now a thing of the past. In 2010, CND introduced Shellac, a new genre in professional nail services offering up to 14-day flawless wear, superior color, mirror shine and zero dry time. Now for professional manicures and home nail care, CND has launched Vinyl Lux, the quick-drying, long-lasting polish that cures naturally. With Vinyl Lux's enhanced durability and so many fun, fashionable and funky colors, we can change our polish when we want to, not because we have to!

### Spring Nail Trend 2: Sheer Colors

Matte nail looks still rule, however a sheer, high-gloss nail trend is blooming for spring. Not sure if a polish is truly

sheer? "If you can see the bristles through the polish in the bottle, you'll know the polish is sheer," said Changes' nail expert Amber Porras.

### Spring Nail Trend 3: Modern French Manicures

French mani-pedis are forever popular, however this spring pink and white and horizontal lines really are a thing of the past. Nail artists ramp up the sheer nail trend by adding a diagonal sliver of color on the tips. Variations of the French manicure include milky cream or stark white lacquered digits with bold tips or minimalist art. With a plethora of fun colors, the French combinations are endless.

### Spring Nail Trend 4: A Floating Half-Moon

Hailing back to the Roaring Twenties, half-moon manicures are nothing new, but trendy white-and-nude half-moons are. The sheer base gives the illusion that the nail art moon is floating on the nail.

### Spring Nail Trend 5: Stripes, Plaids and Graphic Art

There's no doubt that some of the most popular nail trends on the fashion runways for spring 2014 were stripes, plaids and graphic art. Perhaps you aren't ready for something as bold as a pattern on the complete nail or every digit. If you are into DIY, striping is one as of the easiest nail arts to do. Use a simple stripe technique to create

[SEE EVERYDAY page 20]

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**"My bodyfat was 29% and it is now 9%!"**

I have been a runner for years, but it was not until I became a Living Lean client that I fully embraced the concept of cross training. I have now integrated spinning, TRX and weight training into my weekly exercise program. Living Leans' supportive trainers, nutritional guidance and workout classes are a powerful and effective formula. Not only has my body fat gone from 29% to 9.7%, I am a stronger runner, hiker and cyclist.

—Sandy Hinck

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**Open House**  
**April 12th**  
**1:00-3:00 pm**

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- MVP Marlins Swim Team
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Visit [moragavalleypool.org](http://moragavalleypool.org) or email: [membership@moragavalleypool.org](mailto:membership@moragavalleypool.org)

**Swim Team Registration Begins March 15<sup>th</sup>**




CAMPS

## Summer Camp Guide From Adventure to Zoo

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Whether you already know what camp is right for your child/children or have no idea where to start, we hope this guide will assist you in narrowing down the list of possibilities. Now's the time to choose a summer camp for kids in grades K-12. Whatever your child's focus, you're bound to find it here. Review what's offered online and sign up early, as many sessions are small in number and spots fill up fast. Give your kids, and you, a break this summer!

### GENERAL CAMPS

Orinda Parks & Recreation  
28 Orinda Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-2445  
www.cityoforinda.org

The Orinda Parks & Rec sponsored camps were voted "Best of Lamorinda Camps for Kids" in 2011 by the Lamorinda Mom's Club. Questions? Call or go online for more information. Hours: M-F 8:30 am-5 pm. Many more camps online.

**Camp Orinda** (Ages 6-10.5) Camp includes games, arts and crafts, hiking, skits, sports, presentations, special fun days, and field trips to places such as Waterworld, Exploratorium and more! One week, two week, full and extended-day camps are offered. June 16-August 8. Cost \$177-\$483.

**Orinda OK (Orinda Kids) Camp** (Ages 3.5-5.5) Crafts, music, sports, art, traffic town, fire department visit and exploring are all part of the fun. Each camp has a different, fun, theme. Week-long, half-day and extended day camps are offered. June 16-August 15. Cost \$125-\$143.

**Orinda Summer Enrichment Program Rainforest Adventure!** Join us as we take a "Run Through the Jungle" to study one of the world's most interesting and yet least understood places. Program includes skill and appreciation development in the visual and performing arts, geography, music, dance, and study of animals, geology, woodworking, and much more. Taught by some of the finest OUSD teachers for K, 1, 2-3, and 4-5 grade programs. June 23- July 18, 9 am-noon at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. Cost \$490-\$530.

**Babysitting Camp** (Ages 10-15) Learn skills needed to be a trusted and responsible babysitter. Camp covers child development, safety, bedtime strategies and ways to make babysitting fun. M-Th, June 23-26 10 am-noon. Cost \$80-\$92.

**Chinese Summer Immersion-Mandarin** (Ages 4-7, 7-9) Inspires student to learn Chinese and to introduce Chinese culture in a fun and encouraging environment. Week-long, 1.75 hr. program. June 16-20, August 4-8. Cost \$165-\$190.

**Computer & Multi-Media Camps** (age 7+) offered throughout the summer. Filmmaking, Video Game Design offered.

**Cooking Camps** (Ages 4-7, 7-14) Asian Wok & Roll Cooking Camp, M-Th, June 17-20 or June 24-27. Cost \$120-138. Italian Cooking, M-Tu, August 19-20. 10 am-1 pm or 1 pm-5 pm. Cost \$172-\$198.

**Engineering, Erector, Lego, and Science Camps** (Ages 3.5-15) Camps include: AWESome Engineering, Crazy Chemistry, Engineering and Construction with Erector Sets, Engineering FUNDamentals (Lego), and more. Week-long, half-day camps offered throughout the summer, June 9-August 15. Cost \$225-\$259.

**Musical Theater Camps** (Ages 4-14) Participants of all abilities invited to be a part of polished mini productions of some of your favorite plays and movies. Each play last about 40 minutes and includes 4-6 songs. Camps run 9 am-noon or 12:30-3:30 Mon-Fri each week. Cost \$175-\$288.

**Orinda Nature Camp** (Ages 5-8) Participants experience the environment and outdoor habitats through exploring nature, art and educational projects, short hikes, and guest presentations. Camp explores the Wagner Ranch Nature Area each day. Week-long half and/or full day camps, August 11-5. Cost \$150-\$173.

**Spanish Camp** (Ages 3-12) Week-long, half day camps. June 23-27, July 14-18, August 4-8. Cost \$165-\$190.

**Summer ouTEENS** (Ages 11-14) Each week is filled with three amazing trips, a day of team building, outdoor games and fun projects; the other day includes camp games, an outdoor BBQ, and water play. Trips such as Sky High Sports, AT&T Park, Great America, Waterworld, City Beach Rock Climbing, Oakland A's game, Six Flags and Scandia Fun Center are included.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of **Oakland Strokes Summer Rowing Camp** gain training in rowing technique and teamwork.

M-F, July 7-August 1 from 9 am-3pm. Cost \$350-\$402.

**Camp Galileo and Galileo Summer Quest**  
38 Bay Area locations

**10 East Bay camps**  
1-800-854-3684

www.galileo-camps.com

Camp Galileo utilizes award winning curriculum designed by Stanford grad

[SEE CAMPS page 12]



*Laura Abrams*

laura@lauraabrams.com  
www.lauraabrams.com  
510-697-3225  
CALBRE#01272382




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Buyers are out in full force and we are seeing multiple offers on many properties.

This is an excellent time to sell.

*Please call for a market update.*



Easter Sunday

April 20

- 6:00 a.m.
- 8:00 a.m.
- 9:30 a.m.
- 11:00 a.m.

Celebration for Kids

PreK-4th grade, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

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## Oakland Strokes Summer Rowing Camps

Rowing Camps for Boys and Girls Ages 12 - 17

Learn to Row Crew!

Our summer program is designed to provide an enjoyable but very real introduction to the great sport of rowing. We use these introductory camps as a recruiting program for all of our rowing teams. They provide excellent training for beginning rowers in rowing technique, teamwork, physical fitness and endurance. Within a week rowers will gain enough experience to compete in their very first race, an exciting experience for all! Classes now available on the San Pablo Reservoir or Oakland Estuary.

One Week Introductory Sessions (8:30 - 11:30am)

**Tidewater Boating Center**

June 16th - 20th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 7th - 11th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
August 4th - 8th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

**San Pablo Reservoir**

June 23rd - 27th	(Intermediate* 11am - 2pm)
July 14th - 18th	(Intermediate* 11am - 2pm)
August 18th - 22nd	(Intermediate* 11am - 2pm)

\*Intermediate sessions available to athletes who have completed a prior one week introductory session or our middle school program

Ideal for students entering 9th or 10th grade!

Learn More & Sign Up!

www.oaklandstrokes.org



CAMPS

◆ CAMPS from page 11

Pamela Briskman and her team. Young campers are encouraged to brainstorm, create and think like innovators by choosing one of four themes for the week-long sessions in three age groups: Nebulas, pre-K–5th grade; Stars, entering 1st and 2nd grade; and Supernovas, entering 3rd through 5th grade. Themes include **Adventures Down Under** (Art and Science of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea); **Galileo Road Trip** (Art and Engineering Along Route 66); **The Incredible Human Body** (Art and Science of Being Human) and **Leonardo's Apprentice** (Inventions and Art of the Renaissance). Nine East Bay locations, dates vary so check online or call.

For older kids, **Galileo Summer Quest** (entering grades 5-8) campers dive into one or more of 18 majors from five amazing themes during the week long sessions. Choices include: **Arts Academy** (illuminated art studio, digital photography and filmmaking, and fashion design); **Builders and Makers** (Inventor's Workshop, Go-Kart Builders; Go-Karts

Extreme); **Culinary Arts** (Chefology: International Eats or Decadent Desserts); and **High Technology** (Music Producers, Intro to Video Game Design, Video Game Design Advanced, Website Design). **New camps:** 3D Design and Printing, DIY Screen Printing, Cool Chemistry and Minecraft Universe. Four East Bay locations, dates vary so check online or call.

**SF Play Therapy (Orinda location)**  
**3510 18th Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94110**  
**415-420-9459**  
**sfplaytherapy@gmail.com**  
**www.sfplaytherapy.com**

Extended therapeutic play group, three hours per day, three days per week. Maximum of six children in group with Karen Wolfe, MA, LMFT, as lead facilitator and two skilled professionals assisting. Orinda Community Center Park sessions are held June 16 - July 2 on M-W-F (except July 4th) and July 14 - July 25 M-W-F.

**VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CAMPS**

**Academy of Language & Music Arts (ALMA)**  
**Dr. James Fiatarone, Director**  
**99 Brookwood Road**  
**Orinda, CA 94563**  
**925-254-5056 or 925-254-5053**  
**www.alma-leap.com**

This camp offers a create-your-own program featuring private lessons in music, including guitar, piano, voice, strings, wind instruments, and percussion; also, private and small group lessons in foreign languages (Italian, French, Spanish, Greek, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese and Chinese, etc.) and English as a second language. Special summer group classes include Guitar Ensemble, Rock Guitar Combo, Band Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Theory and Musicianship (all instruments), Strings Ensemble,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Lindsay Wildlife Museum** provides experiences with live animals, arts and crafts and science experiments.

Percussion/Drum Clinic (two levels), and Vocal Ensemble/ALMA Glee Club. New classes include: "Acting up at ALMA" (Theater, Acting and Presentation skills), and Music Technology Class (Basic Studio Recording Techniques, creating/recording songs).

**California Shakespeare Theater**  
**701 Heinz Ave.**  
**Berkeley, CA 94710**  
**510-548-3422 (Learning Director Beverly Sotelo)**  
**bsotelo@calshakes.org**  
**www.summershakespearecamp.org**

California Shakespeare Theater is celebrating its 40th year of artistic achievements. Their Summer Shakespeare Conservatory offers five-, three-, and two-week sessions for drama students in grades 3–12 (ages 8-18). Students take classes in various skills (movement, improv, stage combat, etc.) and rehearse an abridged Shakespeare play for a culminating performance on the last day. Campers receive free tickets to the Cal Shakes Main Stage season. Payment plans available; **scholarships only available if you apply by April 28**--see website for details or call 510-809-3293 for info.

**Five-Week Conservatory** The most intensive of the Conservatory offerings, 9 am-3 pm, June 23-July 26 at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. Cost \$1,425. Performances Fri. and Sat. July 25 and 26.

**Two-Week Conservatory** Offered at Orinda Intermediate School. 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda, from 9 am-3 pm, July 28-August 8. Cost \$600 Performances Friday August 8.

**Three-Week Conservatory** Offered at Oakland School for the Arts, 530 18th Street, Oakland, from 9 am-3:30 pm, July 7-25. Cost \$850. Performances Friday July 25.

**Two-Week Conservatory** Offered at

Zion Lutheran School, 5201 Park Blvd. in Piedmont from 9 am-3 pm, July 28-August 8. Cost \$600. Performances Fri. August 8

**Orinda Parks & Recreation**  
**28 Orinda Way**  
**Orinda, CA 94563**  
**925-254-2445**  
**www.cityoforinda.org**

**Art Camps** (Ages 5-7 and 7-10) Enjoy drawing, painting, and creating art projects. Weekly half-day art camps offered with different mediums and themes. Morning and afternoon programs. Camps offered throughout the summer. Cost \$125-\$144.

**Dance Camps.** (Ages 3-12) Both traditional dance camps (jazz, hip hop, ballet, and tap) and fantasy dance camps (ballerina, princesses, fairies, tutu, unicorns, etc.) offered throughout the summer. Weekly half-day camps. Cost \$180-\$207.

**Filmmaking Camps** (Ages 7-13) Students learn to scout, act, film, strategize, create characters, backgrounds, and do voice-overs. Camps include Green Screen Animation, Superhero Filmmaking, Lego Flix, and Animation. Morning and afternoon programs. July 28-August 1. Cost \$200-\$230.

**Musical Theater – Orinda Little Theater** (Ages 4-8) M-F productions offered throughout the summer and include *Aladdin*, *Annie*, *Aristocats*, *Cinderella*, *Frog Princess*, *Little Mermaid*, *Mary Poppins*, *Snow-White*, *Sound of Music*, and *Tangled*. Call for specific dates. Cost \$225-259.

**Musical Theater** (Ages 4-14) M-F productions offered throughout the summer include: *Aladdin*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Mary Poppins*, *Music Man*, *West Side Story* and *Willy Wonka*. Call for specific dates and times. Cost \$225-\$402.

**Kids on Camera TV/Film Acting School and Day Camp**  
**415-440-4400**  
**info@kids-on-camera.com**  
**www.kids-on-camera.com**

Lights, camera, action and fun for ages 3-7 and 8-13. Weeklong day camps in SF, Piedmont and Marin; year round programs in SF and Marin for ages 4-18. Students build social skills, expand their creativity and improve listening and speech. Video feedback makes learning fun. 33rd year. Success stories include speech tournament winners; Lafayette's Krista Fettke, co-star of the Pixar film, *Play By Play*; Bridget Mendler, Star of the Disney series, *Good Luck Charlie*; John Morris, the voice of Andy in *Toy Story*.

**TV Scripts, Physical Comedy, Audition Skills and Improv** (Ages 6-9) [SEE CAMPS 1 page 13]

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 April 23 from 7-9 pm

**(925) 254-7553**

**www.OrindaAcademy.org**  
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CAMPS

◆ CAMPS 1 from page 12

and 10-13) June 30 - July 3, 9:30 am-3 pm. Extended Care available 7:30 am-6 pm Camps conclude with a review and live improvisation at Piedmont Veteran's Memorial Building. Enroll online at [www.ci.piedmont.ca.us](http://www.ci.piedmont.ca.us) or call 510-420-3070. Cost \$390-\$410.

**Town Hall Theatre Company (THTC)**  
3535 School Street  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-283-6673  
[joel.roster@townhalltheatre.com](mailto:joel.roster@townhalltheatre.com)  
[www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com)

Town Hall Education at THTC has a vast and exciting variety of training classes and performance-based production classes for ages 4-18 this summer. Check website for times, cost and productions.

**Youth Theatre Company's Summer Theatre**  
Shadelands Art Center  
111 N. Wiget Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
925-943-5846  
[www.YouthTheatreCompany.org](http://www.YouthTheatreCompany.org)

Summer Theatre (ages 5-14) allows kids to work together to produce Disney's *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* The program runs for three weeks, June 16-July 3, and students rehearse the musical while they learn to sing, dance and act. Part of the Stepping Stone Program of the Youth Theatre Company, Summer Theatre is perfect for the budding actor. **Mini Kids** (ages 5-7) rehearse from 2:30-4 pm, while the **Kids Theatre** and **Theatre Jr.** (ages 7-14) students rehearse from 1 pm-4 pm M-F. Performances take place on July 2 and 3 at 4:30 and 7 pm. Tuition includes cast T-shirt. Cost \$319 (ages 5-6) and \$503 (ages 7-14). For scholarship questions call 925-943-5846.

**SCHOOL-RELATED CAMPS**

**Fountainhead Montessori School**  
30 Santa Maria Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-820-1343  
[www.fms.org](http://www.fms.org)

A Montessori-based summer school, 9 am-noon with aftercare available from 7 am-6 pm Age range 2 years to kindergarten.

**Holy Shepherd Preschool**  
433 Moraga Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-3429  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)

Kids will enjoy summertime activities in a small class environment; songs, games,



DAVE HANNEY

Youth Theatre Company's Summer Theatre produces a full scale musical for ages 5-14.

cooking, arts and crafts, and water play; various dates throughout summer. Tues. and Thur. 9 am-12 pm; M-W-F 9 am-12 pm; Mon. thru Fri. 9 am-12 pm; extended care available to 2 pm at \$8/hour for all three options.

**Orinda Academy (OA)**  
19 Altarinda Road  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-7553 or 915-478-4504  
[www.orindaacademy.org](http://www.orindaacademy.org)

Open House for interested families on April 23, from 7-9 pm The OA offers fully accredited academic classes for high school students which meet state requirements and are U.C. approved. Two three-week Summer School sessions are offered: June 23-July 15 and July 17-August 8, from 9 am-1 pm with a student/teacher ratio of 9:1. Books are included in tuition. Two academic courses are being offered this summer. Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; and U.S. History, Civics. Fees for a one semester course (5 credits) are \$800 and \$1,500 for a two semester courses (10 credits).

**The Saklan School**  
1678 School Street  
Moraga, CA 94556  
925-376-7900  
[www.saklan.org](http://www.saklan.org)

Summer at Saklan is your passport to the world! Mornings are spent on The Saklan School campus with culture and language enrichment programs in German, Mandarin, French, Japanese, Spanish and Italian. Afternoons are filled with summer fun, including field trips, recreational swimming, swim lessons, sports, cooperative games and craft projects. Three-week sessions from June 9 through August 8, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, with

extended care from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm. Ages 3-11. Van transportation is available. Visit website for more information or to register.

**SPORTS-RELATED CAMPS**

**Orinda Parks & Recreation**  
28 Orinda Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-2445

[www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org)

A variety of half and full-day camps

offered for beginning to advanced levels (ages 4-15 unless otherwise stated). Call or go online for more information, many more sports camps are available.

**Basketball Camp** (Ages 5-10) M-F, July 21-25 from 12:30 pm-3 pm. Cost \$159-\$183.

**Flag Football Camp** (Ages 6-12) M-F, July 7-11, 9 am-noon. Cost \$169-\$186.

**Gymnastics & More Camp** (Ages 5-8) M-F, June 16-20, July 21-25 or August 18-22, 1 pm-4 pm. Cost \$190-\$218.

**Lacrosse Camp** (Ages 6-12) M-F, June 23-27, 9 am-noon. Cost \$169-\$194.

**Multi-Sport Camps** (Ages 4-7) M-F, half- and full-day camps offered. June 16-20, August 4-8, August 18-22, 9 am-noon. Cost \$169-\$194. Coaches are knowledgeable and highly trained for this age group.

**World Cup Soccer** (Ages 5-13) M-F, Half, 9 am-noon, Full 9 am-3pm and Extended 8 am-5:30 pm; day camps available Call or check website for dates.

**Tennis Camp** (Ages 4-6 and 6 to 12) [SEE CAMPS 2 page 14]

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[lamorindatutoring.com](http://lamorindatutoring.com)

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CA Credential: #060096281

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DRE# 01268536

CAMPS

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Week-long tennis clinics offered throughout the summer. M–Th, 9:30 am–10:45 am and 11 am–12:15 pm. Cost \$100–\$115.

**Tennis Camp – Skyhawks** (Ages 7–12). Week-long tennis clinics offered throughout the summer. M–Th, 9:30 am–10:45 am and 11 am–12:15 pm Cost \$219–\$309.

**Volleyball Camp** – Skyhawks (Ages 7–12) M–F, August 4–8, 9 am–noon. Cost \$169–\$194.

**Oakland Strokes (OS)**  
4675 Tidewater Avenue (at High Street)  
Oakland, CA 94601  
510-434-1755  
oaklandstrokes@gmail.com  
www.oaklandstrokes.org

OS is now looking for middle school students to participate in **Springtime Rowing Camps** at San Pablo Reservoir or their Tidewater Boathouse in Oakland. Learn how to row and what real teamwork is all about - OS is a 13 time national champion! Middle school rowing is an opportunity to learn a new lifetime sport. If some of the traditional sports

haven't clicked, and you are looking for an alternative, rowing might be the right fit. Don't worry about being a novice. Every day you will have some fun, some fitness training, and some rowing. Also, **Summer Rowing Camps** are one week sessions designed to provide an enjoyable but very real introduction to the great sport of rowing. The camps provide training in rowing techniques, fitness, teamwork and endurance. Within a week, participants will gain enough skill to row their first race. Camps now being held on San Pablo Reservoir as well as the Oakland Estuary. **Beginner Sessions 1-5** run from June 10 to September 8; participants must be 12-17 years old. Check website for more details and register online; limited scholarships available.

**Saint Mary's Athletic Camps**  
**Saint Mary's College**  
1928 Saint Mary's Road  
Moraga, CA 94575  
925-631-4386  
smccamps@stmmarys-ca.edu  
Click on "summer camps" at www.smegaels.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Sherman Swim School** offers swimming and diving lessons in a warm, protected environment.

This marks the 46th year that Saint Mary's College will be offering 30+ outstanding Athletic Summer Camps to children and teens between the ages of 6–18. Overnight, Day, Half-Day, Team and Specialty Camps include All Sports, Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball. Athletes can expect to participate in daily competitions, conditioning, skill development and other activities. Resident campers wake up at 7:30 am, lights out at 10:30 pm; day campers (ages 8–14) drop-off is 8:45 am, departing at 4:00 pm; half-day campers drop-off time 8:45 am, departing at 12 pm (also afternoon drop-off at 12:45 pm, departing at 4 pm). The camps run from June 8 through August 7. Cost is \$160 to \$498; limited scholarships available. Many options available as far as extended care, meals, etc. See website for more details.

**Sherman Swim School**  
1075 Carol Lane (off Mt. Diablo Blvd.)  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-283-2100  
www.shermanswim.com

Celebrating 53 years, Sherman Swim School offers year-round swimming and diving lessons in a warm, protected environment. Our instructors love children and have received extensive in-water training. Private lessons coupled with patient, encouraging teachers and extremely comfortable water (90°–94°) creates an ideal learning environment for swimmers of all ages. Our goal is to build a strong foundation for a safe and happy swimmer. The school is open year-round with **Summer Sessions** (each running three weeks long) from June 16–Sept. 5, between 10 am–7 pm, Mon.–Fri., for ages 9 months to adult. Private swim lessons range from 15 minutes to 30 minutes; small group

diving lessons are 30 minutes long. Summer Sessions are usually set up for two or three days per week. Check online for entire schedule and registration forms.

**Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club**  
1 Sunnyside Lane  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-1126  
email: shstc@comcast.net  
www.SleepyHollowLegends.net

Private recreational facility; inquire regarding membership. Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club is dedicated to providing excellent recreational opportunities in an environment that fosters legendary pride and spirit. The **Swim Team** is for kids ages 4–18; the **Mini Legends** swim program is designed for kids ages 4–6; and the **Learn to Swim** program is for kids ages 3.5 and up. Tennis clinics, private lessons and tennis team are available to kids of all ages. Younger members also enjoy spending fun in the sun at **Legendland**, a supervised drop-off day camp.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CAMPS**

**Aspen Network Team Camp**  
15 Vallecito Lane  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-262-3135  
info@aspennetwork.net  
www.aspennetwork.net

Spectrum disorder youth are welcome to enjoy a mountain summer retreat in the Lake Tahoe area. A two week opportunity (July 6–23) to try a light back packing experience, river rafting, campfires, and many educational opportunities to improve social skills while having fun. Pick-up/drop-off at Tahoe Airport available for an extra fee. Ages 15–25 welcome.

**Lindsay Wildlife Museum**  
1931 First Avenue  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
925-627-2926 or 925-627-2913  
www.wildlife-museum.org/education/kids

Enjoy new adventures with live animals, science experiments and arts and crafts projects. Camper to counselor ratio is 3:1 in the camps for ages 4–9. The camp uses Lindsay Wildlife Museum's large community room, two private classrooms and adjacent Larkey Park. Camp shirt, snacks and drinks are included for all camps. Register online; view or download 24 page Museum Guide for detailed information. Below is a sampling of summer camps offered.

**Counselor positions** for 12- to 17-year-olds for all camps (July 7–August 1).  
[SEE CAMPS 3 page 16]

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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

## OIS Bulldogs bring us Disney's *Peter Pan Jr.*



JEANETTE LIPP

*Peter Pan Jr.* includes **Lindsey Wallace** (center) as Tinkerbell and the Fairies (L-R) **Sarah Miller, Anika Grimsrud, Samantha Mein, Tess Hornbeck, and Sarina Chang.**

By JEANETTE LIPP  
Contributing Writer

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater presents the musical, Disney's *Peter Pan Jr.*, from May 1 through 3. Based on the Disney film and J.M. Barrie's enchanting play, *Peter Pan, Jr.* is a modern version of the timeless tale about a boy who wouldn't grow up.

Wendy Darling loves to tell stories to her brothers, Michael and John. However, when her father announces she must move out of the nursery, Peter Pan comes to visit the children and whisks them away to Never Land. Their adventure introduces them to the Lost Boys, Mermaids, Indians and the infamous pirate, Captain Hook.

The score includes new arrangements of classic Disney songs such as "Following the Leader," "You Can Fly," "The Second Star to the Right" and "Yo Ho, A Pirate's

Life for Me."

The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre as part of its Youth Education Program.

There are two student casts, comprised of approximately 60 students along with a student tech crew. The production is funded through parent contributions, the school's Parents Club, Orinda Arts Council and donor contributions.

*Peter Pan Jr.* takes place at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, on Thursday, May 1, at 4:30 and 7:30 pm; Friday, May 2, at 4:30 and 7:30 pm; and Saturday, May 3, at 3 and 7 pm. Tickets for the Thursday performances (no reserved seats) are \$6 (adult) and \$3 (student). The Friday and Saturday performances (all reserved seating) are \$10 premier and \$8 standard. To purchase tickets in advance, go to [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets will also be available at the door 30 minutes prior to show.

## Glorietta Elementary Team Advances to State



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R:) **Bradley Wu, Nicholas Kim, Sarah Inouye, Stephanie Wu, Sullivan Jordan, Caroline Kim, Leah Sopak** and coach **Michael Kim.**

The Orinda Rotary Odyssey of the Mind team has advanced to the State Tournament by taking second place at regionals on March 2. The State competition will take place on April 5 in Brentwood, CA. This will be the teams third year competing at State. Last year, the team won State and advanced to the World tournament.

## TEDx Lamorinda

x = independently organized TED event

IDEAS WORTH SPREADING

TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience.

**When:** April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 @ 7pm

**Where:** Orinda Library Auditorium, 22 Orinda Way

**What it's about :** Heath & Education

Tickets available: please email [tedxlamorinda@gmail.com](mailto:tedxlamorinda@gmail.com)



JULEEN LAPPORTE

The Lamorinda Chapter of the National Charity League presented the class of 2014 at the Claremont Hotel recently. Top row standing (L-R): **Claire Marvin, Julia Nishioki, Lauren Petite, Olivia Bisel, Hannah Friel, Kyra Ruegg, Margaret Odell, Mica Zimmerman, Abigail Brzezinski, Grace Moran, Allison Nichols, Gabrielle Cirelli** and **Makenzie Huguet.** Middle Row (L-R): **Hannah Durant, Katie Adams, Allison Miller, Sierra Ryder, Jenna Schmitz, Samantha Garcia** and **Caroline Colwell.** Front Row (L-R): **Jennifer Leserman, Colleen Burke, Mallory Faldt, Helena Valvur, Clare Varellas** and **Bailey Moran.**



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CAMPS

◆ CAMPS 3 from page 14

Mandatory training sessions for counselors on June 28 from 2-5 pm or July 6 from 2-5 pm. Full details available at website. Cost \$75 for members, \$95 for non-members.

**CC-350: Only Owls 1 Day Workshop** (ages 4-6) June 20, 9:30 am-11:30 am. Owls are our silent neighborhood caretakers, coming out at night to work and play. Meet a live owl and explore what makes them so special. Cost \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.

**Camp-702: Bug-Bonanza** (ages 4-6) July 7-11, 9 am-11:30 am. They are creepy! They are crawly! Explore the world underneath your feet. Discover the unique characteristics of insects and spiders. Cost \$135 for members, \$160 for non-members.

**Camp-706: Animal Adaptations** (ages 6-9) July 14-18, 1 pm-4:30 pm. Enter the world of weird and wonderful animals. Discover the differences between animals by learning what makes each one special, able to protect its family and find food, water and shelter. Cost \$185 for members, \$220 for non-members.

**Camp-710: Amazing Animal Bodies** (ages 9-12) July 21-25, 1 pm-4:30 pm. Do all animals have backbones? How does a frog breathe? Join us for a week of hands-on activities, games, songs and crafts that will explore amazing animal body systems



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Participants at **Roughing It Summer Camp** enjoy outings with horses.

and how they compare to our own. Cost \$185 for members, \$220 for non-members.

**Roughing It Day Camp**  
P.O. Box 1266  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-283-3795  
www.roughingit.com

Celebrating their 42nd summer as Lamorinda's Home Town Camp. An all-outdoor day camp located at the Lafayette Reservoir for ages 4 to 16. Skill based instruction for all ages and abilities in

horseback riding, swimming, fishing, canoeing, boating, sports, nature, outdoor living skills, crafts, teen programs and more! Longer sessions are designed for social growth, skill development, friendship and fun for every camper. Programs include: Day Camp (4 & 8 week sessions), Specialty English and Western Horse Camps for beginning to advanced riders; Little Raccoons, an introductory program for pre-K to 1st grade campers; and Outdoor Explorers, 1 week outdoor adventures for 1st to 6th graders. New activities and expanded programs provide something different every year. Free transportation from home and central pick-up locations. Free extended care. Sessions run June 24 – August 23; post Session programs run August 19-August 23. Extensive website filled with information on the many programs available. Register online.

**Zoo Camp**  
Oakland Zoo  
9777 Golf Links Rd.  
Oakland, CA 94605 (off Highway 580)  
510-632-9523 x280 (Zoo Camp hotline)  
info@oaklandzoo.org  
www.oaklandzoo.org

The Oakland Zoo takes great pride in creating age-appropriate options for campers age four through high school. Camp sessions are one week long and run from mid-June to mid-August. Campers register for each one-week session separately, but programs are designed so kids can participate for up to three weeks without repeating activities. Campers learn about nature and animals through games and songs, creating-and-making, discovery hikes, and science activities plus plenty of up-close time learning about their more than 660 native and exotic animals. Full summer camp schedule, registration, and need-based scholarship applications on the website. Extended care available. Open daily 10 am-4 pm; no camps on July 4th.

**First-Fifth Grades Together: Nature Play Camp** 9 am-4 pm. What can you find under a rock in the creek? Kids will build forts, look for bugs and come nose to nose with nature. Grade 1-5 campers play together. Sessions: June 16-20, June 23-27, June 30-July 3, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-August 1, August 4-8, August 11-15. Cost \$291 for members, \$311 for non-members.

**PreK and Kindergarten: Busy Beasts** 9 am-noon. A Week: Slither, slide, creep, crawl, waddle, and walk around to discover who in the zoo runs, rambles, climbs, swims, and romps! Sessions: June 16-20, June 30-July 3, July 14-18, July

28- August 1, August 11-15. B Week: Have you ever met a bat who thinks she's a bird? Story books are filled with kooky characters based on amazing animals - get to know some of them for real. Sessions: June 23-27, July 7-11, July 21-25, August 4-8. Cost \$196 for members, \$216 for non-members.

**First Grade: Furry Friends:** 9 am-4 pm A Week: What makes a bird a bird? Or an ant an ant? Sessions June 16-20, June 30-July 3, July 14-18, July 28-August 1, August 11-15. B Week: Who keeps you safe? Animals help care for their families in all kinds of ways. Sessions: June 24-28, July 8-12, July 22-26, August 5-9. Cost \$291 for members, \$311 for non-members.

**Second and Third Grade: Animal Adventures:** 9 am-4 pm. A Week: Ever wonder how giraffes talk to each other? Animals communicate with each other using sound, visual signals, scent and so much more. Sessions: June 16-20, June 30-July 3, July 14-18, July 28-August 1, August 11-15. B Week: Ever been on "safari"? Do you know any other Swahili words? Do you know which zoo animals are from Africa and which aren't? Sessions: June 23-27, July 7-11, July 21-25, August 4-8. Cost \$291 for members, \$311 for non-members.

**Fourth and Fifth Grades: Eco-Explorers** 9 am - 4 pm. A Week: Do all bats use echolocation? Do snakes really unhinge their jaws? Uncover the facts vs. the fiction. Sessions: June 16-20, June 30-July 3, July 14-18, July 28-August 1, August 11-15. B Week: How did the zebra get its stripes? Around the globe, across cultures and oceans, animals play a meaningful role in our mythology and our lives. Sessions: June 23-27, July 7-11, July 21-25, August 4-8. Cost \$291 for members, \$311 for non-members.

**Grades 6-8 Wild Survivor:** 9 am-4 pm. Learn important survival skills in the woods (receive your own emergency survival kit). Sessions June 16-20, June 23-27, June 30-July 3, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-August 1, August 4-8, August 11-15. Cost \$316 for members, \$336 for non-members.

**High School: Grades 9-12 Teen Assistants (T.A.)** 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Love animals and kids? Come to camp as a Teen Assistant and spend three weeks playing with kids, helping to lead activities and earn community service hours. Sessions: June 16-20, June 23-27, June 30-July 3, July 7-11, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-August 1, August 4-8, August 11-15. Turn in application by May 1 (download on website). Cost: \$60 for members, \$80 for non-members.



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## SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

## Performers for Progress



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The non-profit, student-run organization, Performers for Progress, once again presents an evening of entertainment at Miramonte High School. This year, the group is collaborating with the three other schools in the district (Campolindo, Las Lomas and Acalanes) to host a variety of performances from each school, including Miramonte's jazz band. It all takes place April 25 and April 26 at 7 pm with proceeds from the show donated to charity. The event is sponsored by Semifreddi's, Republic of Cake, and Orinda Florist, to name a few.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

## April

- 7 **Miramonte High School Boosters Club**, library, 750 Moraga Way, 6 p.m. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte).
- 15 **Miramonte High School Parent Education** focuses on *Girls in Engineering*, cafeteria, 750 Moraga Way, 7 pm. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte).
- 14 **Orinda Union School District (OUSD)** board meeting, 25 Orinda Way, Suite 200, 6 pm. Visit <http://www.orindaschools.org/board/>.
- 16 **Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD)** governing board meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 pm. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us).  
**Miramonte High School** students celebrate Earth Week with lectures, a black-out day, performing and visual art pieces related to the environment, and a talk-back on April 16, 3:15 pm, entitled *Our Future: Greening Miramonte and Beyond*. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte).
- 19 **Del Rey Elementary School** Family Day at the Oakland A's vs. Houston Astros, 1:05 pm, featuring Josh Donaldson Diorama Bobblehead Give-a-way. Visit <http://delrey.orindaschools.org>.
- 22 **Del Rey Elementary School** presents the musical *"The Little Mermaid"* through April 26, 25 El Camino Moraga. <http://delrey.orindaschools.org>.
- 25 **Performers for Progress**, a student-run theatre group, hosts a night of entertainment at Miramonte High School, including music by the school jazz band and performances by other local schools, 750 Moraga Way, 7 pm. Also April 26, 7 p.m. All ticket and concession sales benefit charity. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte).

## May

- 1 **Orinda Intermediate School Bulldog Theater** presents the musical, Disney's *Peter Pan, Jr.*, through May 3. Visit [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com) for show times and tickets. Tickets also available at the door. [www.ois.orindaschools.org](http://www.ois.orindaschools.org).

## Registration for Lamorinda Idol Starts April 1

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga students from kindergarten through high school are warming up their vocal chords in preparation for a chance to perform in the ninth annual Lamorinda Idol competition.

Registration is open April 1 through 30, with auditions by grade division from May 15 to 17. Performances by finalists will be held at the Orinda Theatre on Sunday, Sept. 7.

Miramonte junior Maritza Grillo is one of those who will register for the 2014 auditions to be held at Orinda Intermediate School. "I have been performing in Idol since it started in 2006," said Grillo. "It has been an immense part of my life for all these years. The most amazing part of Idol is its incredible ability to grow and showcase the amazing talent of this area."

Grillo believes that Idol changes performers' lives. "People who participate find inner confidence and self-awareness that you can watch develop through the process," she said.

Lamorinda residents Esther Becker, Catherine Coletta and Jackie Welch, the show's publicity co-chairs, agree.

Becker's daughter Elizabeth has participated in several Idol performances. "We are so lucky to have such a thing right here in Orinda," said Becker, who was inspired to volunteer because of the positive nature of the event. "Instead of feeling competitive, it seemed incredibly supportive and warm."

Welch, whose daughter performed last year, agrees. Since performers and staff are so supportive, "the entire process is a learning experience which develops confidence

and strengthens their sense of self," she says. "Students benefit from auditioning in Idol because it gives them an opportunity to prepare a song, overcome their anxiety, perform for knowledgeable judges and get feedback on their performance."

Performers may enter as soloists or in groups (with at least one Lamorinda performer in the group). There is no fee to participate, however families of participants are asked to contribute \$10, which is collected at the auditions.

*"It has been an immense part of my life for all these years. The most amazing part of Idol is its incredible ability to grow and showcase the amazing talent of this area," says Miramonte junior Maritza Grillo.*

Lamorinda Idol finalists and runners-up take part in performance workshops, a summer pool and karaoke party, as well as performances in the Orinda Community Park, Lafayette and Orinda Theatre Square. Winners will perform at the Orinda Car Show, the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival and the Orinda Arts Council's Holiday Luncheon.

Performing in Idol is not about personal accolades, but the production of a show that allows local young talent to shine. "Being able to be a part of something bigger really drives people to pursue this program," said Grillo.

For information and registration, visit <http://orindaarts.org>.



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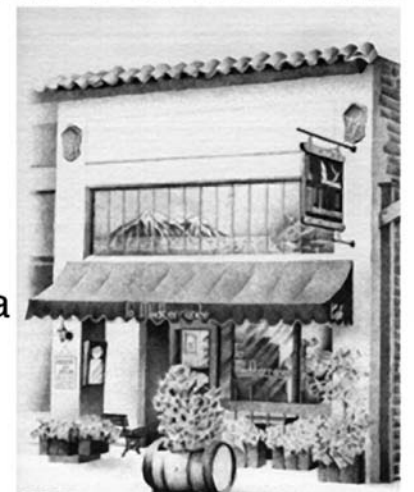
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## Accidental Philanthropist Peace Begins When the Hungry are Fed

Ksenija Olmer



A cup of tea, a fresh batch of banana bread and a card greet me in the Orinda kitchen of Margaret Govednik. The card says: "Peace Begins When the Hungry are Fed." It is a quote attributed to Dorothy Day, a Catholic social activist that Govednik considers her mentor.

After pouring a strong cup of black tea, this slight, elegant woman, who is passionate about the fight against hunger in our neighboring communities, explains, "We each have our passions in the degree that we deal with our spirituality, and it is that passion that drives us."

Govednik's passion comes from an early example set by her parents when she was a child in the South. Her parents were not people who would boast about their good deeds, they simply lived their values.

"As a child you watch what your parents are doing. As children we never had any



KSENIJA OLMER

Margaret Govednik has led efforts at several local nonprofits to help feed the hungry in neighboring communities.

lectures, but my parents were very social justice minded, long before it was a buzzword. My father was not a religious man, but he was very justice oriented, attuned to the dignity of the human person."

For the last 12 years, Govednik has led the efforts of Santa Maria Catholic Church Social Justice Committee's monthly food collection and distribution. It handles more than 100 pounds of staples and canned food donations each month. Volunteers regularly contribute warm meals and, at Christmas, put together boxes that feed a family of four. Their reach is in the outlying communities through Saint Peter Martyr Church in Pittsburg, Martinez Shelter Food Pantry and Saint Mary's center in Oakland that feeds seniors and street people.

The seminal moment in Govednik's commitment came when she was dropping off some canned food with a friend at the Food Bank. The man helping them unload the car thanked them: "We really appreciate your donation. I remember the days when I sorted through garbage to find food." They realized this was an experience they knew nothing about, happening on their very doorstep.

There are lighthearted moments and poignant moments that sustain Govednik and keep her going. "I particularly remember a day around Easter when somebody donated a bag of chocolate Easter eggs in gold foil," she recalls. "There was this big burly guy, going around collecting his share of canned food all the while carefully holding one golden Easter egg in his hand. Such a small thing and it made him so happy."

Like her historical mentor, Govednik is a deep and independent thinker, which sometimes puts her at odds with the church's teachings, especially concerning homosexuality and women's role in the church.

"If the basic premise of Catholic social teaching is the dignity of the human person on all levels, then we need to treat everyone as such," she said. "It is not just a Catholic

## Feng Shui and De-Cluttering 101

By MICHELE DUFFY  
Contributing Writer

No one likes clutter! Why is clutter a huge Feng Shui taboo? The homes and offices we occupy have a lot to do with our health, life outlook and resilience. If they are clogged with clutter, we are undermining our wish for sustainable health. Feng Shui is based upon a belief that everything around us has Qi, Ch'i or energy. If your environment has positive Qi it will have a positive effect on your life. The opposite is also true.

From a Feng Shui perspective, clutter creates negative or "stuck" energy and is a pre-disposition for illness, disease, lethargy, stagnation and depression. Next time you return home take a critical look around your space. Do you feel "stuck" or does part of your life feel stagnant?

Clutter is unhealthy on many levels. First, it creates real chaos when we cannot find what we need or are looking for. Second, it is not cost-effective to continually accumulate "stuff" we already have and don't need. Third, clutter is not sustainable, and we need to make the choice to pare it down to a manageable tide. Clutter can snowball and overwhelm our space and lives and create "stuck" Qi that holds us back from experiencing the ideal shifts in our life's destiny.

So how do we begin to get clutter under control?

### Where Do I Start? Phase I – The Garage

Schedule a two-hour block of time to start de-cluttering.

First, tackle the garage so you can make room for household items you may store in Phase II.

Have de-clutter tools ready, for example, large black garbage bags, storage bins, cleaning cloths and green multipurpose



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eliminating clutter makes homes, offices and even garages a more positive environment.

cleanser so you clean as you go. Sort in "donate," "store" or "toss" piles.

Set your mental intention to work happily and "clear space" rather than clean. Remember, you are getting rid of what's holding you back and making room for new opportunities and new growth.

Try to get to the bottom of boxes, pull everything out so you can really see what you have since you may have forgotten what's in there.

If you have multiple items, schedule a pick-up from the Salvation Army.

Tie the bags up and immediately set to the curb for garbage pick-up.

Step back, admire the de-cluttered garage, notice how much lighter you feel, how it opened up the Qi.

Are you on a roll? Phase II includes repeating all of the above, starting in the master bedroom and going room by room over time.

Since 1999, Michele Duffy has professionally created "Space as Medicine," Feng Shui for residential and commercial clients, space clearings and blessings, color, lighting and art and most recently for guests at world-class Canyon Ranch Tucson. She lives in Orinda with her husband, children and Jack Russells. For information, go to [www.mandalafengshui.com](http://www.mandalafengshui.com), [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com) or 520-647-4887.

premise, it is universal."

She has fulfilled many roles in her church not usually taken on by a woman and would like to see more opportunities for women to serve in their church community.

"It is a matter of inclusion; certainly women have been denied roles in the Catholic Church that they have a vocation for and should be allowed to fulfill," she said. "I cannot be confined by certain things in my church. I have no doubt in my mind that women who have gone through ordination and call themselves Catholic women priests, though not recognized by the Catholic Church, are sincere and believe what they are doing is right."

Govednik is delighted with the direction Pope Francis is taking in emphasizing compassion. "When he says, 'who is he to judge?' people respond positively. The pope cares about the poor and he tells us to

care about people. That comes right down to feeding the people."

Govednik realizes advocacy is important, whether in church or in Sacramento. She prefers to advocate locally for such things as funds for Catholic education in the inner cities that serve immigrant children, but she is also willing to advocate on Catholic lobby days, whether for health care for farmers or fair housing.

Govednik likes to invoke a mantra from Mother Theresa who said: "Do small things with great love."

"You can do many small things and if there are a lot of us doing small things, together we can accomplish great things," said Govednik.

If you are interested in doing a few small things and helping Margaret feed the hungry, email her at [Mwgovednik@comcast.net](mailto:Mwgovednik@comcast.net).

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## LOCAL RESIDENT / FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

## Peace Corps Volunteer Works with Deaf in Kenya

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Davin Lal joined the Peace Corps to get a different perspective on the world and create sustainable change. At first, the 24-year-old college graduate thought the two-year commitment seemed long but reasoned that sustainable change takes time.

Lal graduated from Cal State East Bay in December, 2011 with a degree in health sciences and entered the Corps in October, 2012. He said that speaking with former Peace Corps volunteers helped in his decision. They all said they benefitted from their assignments and many developed life-long friends in the country they served. The Peace Corps was established in 1961. To date, 215,000 volunteers and trainees have served in 65 countries.

Over a year has passed since Lal entered the Corps. He encountered more challenges working in a developing country than he expected. There are cultural differences such as a lack of diversity. When someone not only looks different but also comes from a different background, it takes time for a community to accept that.

"I learned the most useful question to ask is: What kind of change does the com-

munity want? Next I learned, who do I ask? The answer is at school, the teachers, cooks, guards, students and parents. In the village, ask the Mamas or older women," said Lal.

For the first six months, Lal was assigned to a school for the deaf in rural western Kenya near the Ugandan border. There were three teachers for 38 freshman and sophomore high school students. Shadowing the experienced teachers helped him learn how to teach.

Next he was transferred to the Rev. Muhoro School for the Deaf in central Kenya in Nyeri county, Mukurwe-ini district ([www.revmuhorosfd.com](http://www.revmuhorosfd.com)). It was founded in 1988 by the Very Rev. Charles Muhoro wa Kareri who visits the school frequently. Deaf students are accepted from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia and Rwanda. The school is well maintained and has received grants to build new classrooms. There are 300 students at the school ranging in age from 14 to about 25 years.

For 20 years, Kenya has been a leader in educating the deaf. However, some students don't begin school until they are 10 years old, some repeat grades and are therefore older than average by the time they reach secondary school. Sometimes mixing



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Davin Lal and students at his Peace Corps Service Training activation in rural western Kenya near the Ugandan border in 2012. Lal shadowed experienced teachers in a school for the deaf to prepare for his current teaching assignment at the Rev. Muhoro School for the Deaf in central Kenya.

long-time students with newer students creates a clash – the older students can be rambunctious. Twenty percent of students are hearing, unlike any other school for the deaf in Kenya.

"I like the hearing model at our school because hearing students learn Kenyan sign language and deaf students learn lip-reading from the hearing students," said Lal.

The school has both day students and boarders who only go home during breaks. Deaf students do not continue on to university since there are no resources for them at that level. Lal is one of seven teachers living on the school compound, while the remaining 16 live off-campus. There is electricity from solar panels and running water – not the cleanest, but they have it. Lunches are provided at the school cafeteria; Lal provides his own dinner.

"Luckily, both my parents worked, so I learned how to prepare dinner for myself a long time ago," said Lal.

The projects he has worked on towards his goal of exploring and creating sustainable change include:

1. Gender and Development: A collaborative project in which volunteers from different communities taught men between the ages of 15 and 19 about HIV prevention, goal setting and prevention of gender-based violence.

2. Running: Lal is coaching deaf students who have not run before - not timed running, but to develop physical ability.

3. National Award Scheme: Within six months, 30 students choose to learn a skill

or sport that is new to them.

4. Greenhouse: Lal developed a greenhouse to encourage local agriculture.

5. Peer Mentorship: Secondary students teach life skills to primary deaf school students. Subjects include basic hygiene, relationship building and HIV prevention.

6. Alumni Association: The Rev. Muhoro School has many graduates in all walks of life. Lal wants to create a structure whereby alumni become mentors for current students. He also wants to initiate a memory wall on each school building where local artists paint the likenesses of alumni.

7. Vocational School: Lal is working with the principal of the deaf school in rural western Kenya, writing grant applications to fund three new classrooms for a vocational unit. The principal is trying to obtain permission to use an abandoned orphanage to house the unit but has not yet received the go-ahead from the district. They are also trying to get a Member of Parliament to allocate funds.

Lal's Peace Corps Close of Service is December, 2014.

"I may continue my work with the deaf in Kenya in other ways," said Lal. "When I return to Orinda, I plan to apply to graduate schools and pursue a career as an occupational therapist."

To contact Lal and/or contribute to his projects, email him at [davinlal26@hotmail.com](mailto:davinlal26@hotmail.com) or reach him through the school at [www.revmuhorosfd.com](http://www.revmuhorosfd.com), attention Mr. Davin.

## Talk Centers on Afghanistan After U.S. Troops Withdraw

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

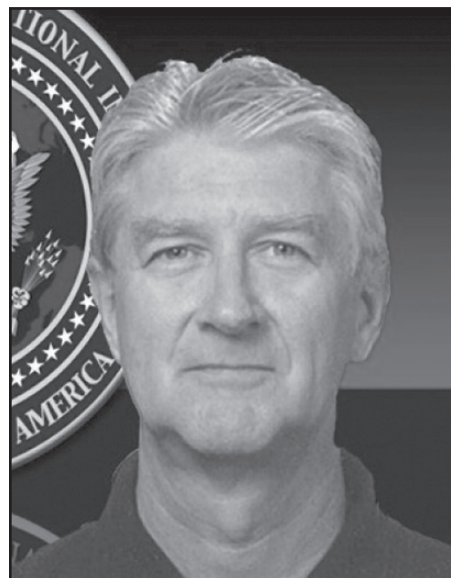
Back to the Future – the Pakistan-Afghanistan Challenge in 2014 is the timely topic for the First Friday Forum on April 4, at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Dr. Neil Joeck, who has worked extensively in the region, will be the speaker.

"After being attacked by Al Qaeda on September 11, 2001, the U.S., NATO and allied partners responded by engaging in a war against Al Qaeda's protector, the Taliban government in Afghanistan, and against Al Qaeda directly," said Joeck.

He says that, after more than a decade of military engagement in Afghanistan and extensive economic assistance to the Afghan government and people, the U.S. and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are withdrawing troops by the end of 2014.

"How Afghanistan turns out after the withdrawal is important to us as Americans and as global citizens because of our need for security, our values and international stability," said Joeck.

He says the U.S. faces multiple foreign policy challenges: first, to avoid civil conflict in Afghanistan; second, to find political space for both India and Pakistan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Neil Joeck will speak on the Pakistan-Afghanistan challenge at the April 4 First Friday Forum.

as they seek to maximize their positions in post-ISAF-Afghanistan; third, to prevent terrorist safe havens from forming in the open spaces between the contesting political factions; and fourth, to sustain a constructive American presence in the region after 2014.

Joeck has a long list of credentials: He is a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for International Studies at UC Berkeley and was employed at the Center for Global Se-

[SEE JOECK page 20]

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CLASSIFIED

◆ LETTERS from page 4

program, the City would have to change our Municipal Code. (Currently the Municipal Code is written to preserve neighborhood parking for residents and their guests.) As a result, other neighborhoods could be turned into parking lots for merchants or others who find it acceptable to impose their parking needs on our neighborhoods. We could all end up paying to park in front of our own homes.

These are only a few of the issues and gaps with both the article and the parking program. While it is important to support our local business community, parking in our neighborhoods should be reserved for residents and our guests. I encourage the chamber and city to seek other parking alternatives including pursuing parking spaces that are currently advertised as being available, additional spaces that may be available in other existing parking lots (e.g. churches, other businesses) and engaging with 511.org, BART and other park-n-ride options.

– Rachele Latimer

Don't Let Government Plan Downtown

Mr. Trowbridge is unhappy with the lack of action in downtown Orinda. If he were sincere about this, he would lament the rejection of the Montessori school, in the Village. I do not want to "renew" our downtown areas. I do not want government to plan our downtown and force low income housing on us. I do not want high rises in the Village or Crossroads. The recent move to disallow the Montessori school was a clear indication of corruption on the Orinda City Council. Mr. Trowbridge is a (retired??) mortgage banker / real estate developer, and head of "Orinda Vision." Follow the money.

I do not want government to plan the downtown. The council is entirely "democrat" and clearly is in the pockets of interests outside Orinda. We must demand and enforce a city wide vote to decide to issue of downtown zoning that we want. How about a City Council of patriots?

– Henry R. Pinney

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I buy 1950's Furniture. Danish modern, Herman Miller, Knoll wanted. 1 item or entire estate! Call Rick at 510-219-9644. Courteous house calls.

Whose city is this, anyway?

I am very disappointed by the backdoor manner in which City Council and staff are conducting city business which will affect all Orinda residents.

In the fall, we repeatedly heard that the housing element needed to be quickly adopted so that we would not miss the deadline for receiving road repair funds for Ivy Drive. That situation arose because City Staff ignored prior instructions from City Council to invite public comment on the Housing Element Draft.

It was only after a few concerned members of our community, who were paying close attention, discovered that a June draft had already been submitted to The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) that many Orindans were alerted to the severely flawed draft and strongly protested.

Eventually, as the deadline approached, City Staff stated that many of our edits would be included in the subsequent draft. However, the adopted draft included multiple contentious items, one of which sets up the city for a claim that its fees are unreasonable and, hence, an unlawful constraint on the development of multifamily housing.

HCD itself, in its December 19, 2013 review of Orinda's adopted housing element, "found the adopted element to be substantially the same as the draft element reviewed by the Department on June 12, 2013."

So, the community's input has been totally ignored, but, as we learned last year from our current mayor's e-mails, developers definitely have City Council's attention. This is not fair to us and is downright insulting.

Additionally, we certainly don't want to find our city in the same situation as Lafayette, where their City Council now admits that decisions on the Terraces are based on fear of litigation by the developer.

Despite last year's comments by councilmembers and City Staff that a General Plan update was unnecessary, the community learned that the General Plan will be updated this year. The next cycle of the housing element will also be drafted. Hopefully, these processes have not secretly begun.

Page 2 of the Orinda General Plan dated May 20, 1987 states: "Community desire

◆ EVERYDAY from page 10

plaid for a personalized look.

Spring Nail Trend 6: Strategic Sparkle

All-over glitter can read holiday really fast, which is why the more low-key sparkles are perfect for spring. To get a contemporary look, limit the use of the glitter polish to the free edge of the nails, or near the cuticle for a sparkly moon manicure.

Spring Nail Trend 7: Proper Nail Care

The hottest nail trend of all is to maintain proper nail care. By following these simple tips you will be able to really rock beautiful nail designs:

Nourish your mani and pedi. Apply cuticle oil or cream daily and massage into finger and toe nail bed.

Reapply a fresh coat of polish or topcoat every few days.

Apply moisturizer to your hands and feet nightly.

Protect your fingernails by wearing gloves when doing dishes or other household chores.

Are You a Nail Art Neophyte?

Nail art is an accessory that can quickly change according to whim or wardrobe. If you are a nail art novice, help is as close as your nearest nail professional. Book a mani and/or pedi and give them creative license. If that is too much too fast just add a simple stripe.

This Easter Embrace Your Inner Child

Fill your Easter basket with Vinyl Lux Easter Egg colored polishes and color your nails instead of eggs. Have a sensational spring and remember to take every opportunity to bring vibrant color to your world.

for direct involvement in planning decisions was a primary reason for Orinda's incorporation...the General Plan process was led by a 27-member volunteer General Plan Committee appointed by the City Council..." City departments provided supporting roles.

Planning decisions should be placed where they belong — in the hands of our highly-educated community.

–Bruce London

◆ JOECK from page 19

curity Research at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 1987 to 2013.

He has served as National Intelligence Officer for South Asia; as Director for Counter Proliferation Strategy at the National Security Council where he was responsible for India and Pakistan proliferation issues; and as a member of the Policy Planning Staff at the Department of State where he was responsible for Indian, Pakistani and Afghani issues related to nuclear proliferation.

Dr. Joeck holds a Ph.D. in political science from UC Los Angeles. He has also published numerous articles and edited two books dealing primarily with arms control and nuclear proliferation.

"The Friday Forum team feels this is a very important topic on which to become informed," said forum chairperson Darlene James. "We encourage everyone to invite friends and neighbors on April 4. Refreshments will be served at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall."

For more information, call 925-283-8722.

◆ EBMUD from page 5

said Pook, explaining how consumers might shave the requested 10 percent off their water use. She also suggests low-flow toilets, checking indoor and outdoor water systems for leaks and upgrading aeration in kitchen and bathroom sinks.

EBMUD board president Andy Katz issued a thank-you to customers who are already saving water. "We are grateful to our customers who use water wisely every day, but we must ask for a 10-percent voluntary cutback to make sure we have enough water stored in case this water shortage persists," said Katz. "If mandatory rationing becomes necessary, we guarantee that customer allocations would not be based on use during this voluntary cutback period. Now is a great time to fix leaks, manage irrigation and transform lawns to sustainable landscapes. We hope that these water savings can help us avoid more stringent measures later."

For the latest water supply update, information on rebates and tips on saving water, go to www.ebmud.com/watersmart.

2014 Publication Schedule

Table with Issue and Deadline columns: May 2014 (April 5, 2014), June 2014 (May 5, 2014)

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• Pets
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Write your ad in the boxes below with one letter, space or punctuation mark in each box. Cost is \$5 per line: \$10 minimum.

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Enclose your check payable to The Orinda Association and mail to Orinda News, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563. We reserve the right to reject any ad. Classified ads must be prepaid. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## APRIL

- 1 **Orinda Library Gallery** features *Celebration of the Arts* with work from students in grades 1-8. Reception on April 16 at 4 pm. 925-254-2814. See story page 2.  
**Friends of Orinda Library** sponsors the *2014 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest*, open to high school students who reside or attend school in Orinda. Deadline to enter is Friday, April 18, noon. Entry categories are Science Fiction, Essay/Memoir, Poetry and Short Story. Up to four winners will be awarded a \$250 prize. Visit [www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org](http://www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org) or email [contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com](mailto:contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com).  
**Moraga Art Gallery** presents *Illuminated by Nature* through May 31, Rheem Shopping Center, 522 Center Street. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 pm. Visit <http://moragaartgallery.com>.  
**Lafayette Gallery** presents *Location, Location, Location* through May 3 at the gallery's new location, 3420 Mount Diablo Boulevard. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm. Visit <http://www.lafayettegallery.net>.
- 3 **Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for 2- to 4-year-olds and caregivers, Thursdays, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 am. Call 925-254-7606.
- 4 **The International Film Showcase** presents *This Life* at the Orinda Theatre through April 10. The film is based on the true story of the Fiil family, who were innkeepers in rural Denmark during the Nazi occupation. Daily screenings at 12:45, 3:30 and 6:15 pm; additional shows on April 5 and 6 at 9 pm.
- 6 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** holds auditions for *Towards Zero* by Agatha Christie, Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 5 pm. Also, April 7 at 7 pm at the Orinda Community Center room 3. Call 925-528-9225 or [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org).
- 11 **Health Matters for Boomers and Beyond: Embracing the Benefits of Living a Balanced Lifestyle**, a health expo for seniors, featuring talks by health and crime experts, fitness classes, 9 to noon, Orinda library. Contact Beth Girshman, [bgirshma@ccclib.org](mailto:bgirshma@ccclib.org), call 925-254-2184, ext. 15, or visit [www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org](http://www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org).
- 12 **Gardening With Nature in Mind**, Part 2, a tour of a Walnut Creek garden, 10 am to 3 pm. \$35. Visit <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/select-tours> or call Kathy Kramer at 510-236-9558.
- 17 **Lamorinda Republican Women Federated** luncheon, featuring a talk entitled *Restoring Our Constitution* by Mark Winthur, founder of the Institute for Principle Studies, Orinda Country Club. Call Elsie Euing at 925-254-8617 by April 15 for reservations. Cost is \$25. Men also welcome.
- 19 **Orinda Action Day**, 9 am - noon, various locations. Meet at Orinda Library Plaza at 9 am for free t-shirt. See story this page.  
**Orinda Rotary Spring Egg Hunt**, 11 am, Orinda Community Park. See story page 9.  
**Theatre Square's Family Fun Day**, 2-5 pm, rock climbing wall, petting zoo and more. See story page 9.
- 25 **Orinda Books** hosts Orinda ceramic artist Gerry Wallace in an exhibit and sale of her works, 276 Village Square, 10 am to 5 pm. Call 925-254-7606.  
**Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool's 5th Annual Crab Feed**, 433 Moraga Way. Call 925-254-3429 or visit [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org).  
**Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area** host a free festival with food, music, creek explorations, games, nature walks and arts and crafts, 350 Camino Pablo Road, 1 to 4 pm. Congressman George Miller is the guest of the day and Chester Miner, Elder of the Cherokee Nation, will open with a tribute to nature. Visit [www.fwrna.org](http://www.fwrna.org) or call 925-258-0009.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. The library will be closed on Sunday, April 20 for Easter. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html).

- 1 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and finger play for infants to three-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 am. Drop-ins welcome, attendance limited to once per week. Also April 2, 8 and 9.  
**Peek-A-Book Time**, songs, stories, rhythms and rhymes for infants to 16 months and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 am. Families with older siblings are welcome at Toddler Lapsit. Also April 8, 15 and 22.
- 3 **Book Sale** hosted by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and Sorting Room, 10 am to 1 pm.
- 5 **Saturday Morning Live** features family story time for three- to five-year-olds, Picture Book Area, 11 to 11:30 am. Also April 12, 19 and 26.
- 15 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent will talk about the theatre's upcoming production of *Tribes* by Nina Raine, Fireside Room, 7 pm. Adult program.
- 18 **Mystery Book Club**, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 pm. New members welcome. Adult program.
- 19 **Family Story Concert** features Dana Sherry, Terry Stokes and Ann Riley spinning tales for all ages, Garden Room, 3:30 pm.
- 22 **Humanities West's George Hammond** previews its upcoming production of *Baghdad's Golden Age*, 6:30 to 8 pm. Visit [www.humanitieswest.org](http://www.humanitieswest.org). Adult program.
- 24 **Talespinners of Contra Costa** features adult storytelling and a guest speaker, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 pm.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 pm. Orinda Masonic Center. Call Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 pm, Gallery Room, Orinda Library, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 am, May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 am, Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 am, free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 am to 1:30 pm, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Call Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 am, Celia's Mexican, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-8288.

## Orinda Action Day is April 19



SALLY HOGARTY

Help beautify Orinda on Saturday, April 19, from 9 am to noon during the annual Orinda Action Day. Check in and pick up a free t-shirt (first 300 volunteers) at Orinda Library Plaza beginning at 9 am; light refreshments will be available. Projects happen between 9 am - noon. Report back successes at noon after projects are completed to Library Plaza, then enjoy music and light lunch.

Orinda Action Day is sponsored by Orinda Community Foundation in partnership with the City of Orinda. Go to [www.orindafoundation.org](http://www.orindafoundation.org) to sign up for a project.

- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, [www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net](http://www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net).
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Friday, April 11, 9 am, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive. Freeland Tanner will talk on *Art in the Garden*. Visit [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com).
- Orinda Garden Club**. Fourth Thursday, 10 am to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.
- Orinda Juniors Women's Club**, community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 pm. Contact [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 925-254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 pm, Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday. Visit [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org) or call Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday, 3 pm, Historical Society Museum, 26 Orinda Way, 925-254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 pm, 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 pm, social, 7:30 pm, meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 pm, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 am to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881. Visit <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub/>.

## CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 pm, Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 pm. Visit [www.mofd.org/board/meetings](http://www.mofd.org/board/meetings) meeting location will be posted on the agenda.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 6 pm, OUSD Conference Room, 25 Orinda Way, Suite 200, Orinda, CA 94563. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 pm, Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

Send calendar items to Maggie Sharpe at [m.sharpe66@gmail.com](mailto:m.sharpe66@gmail.com)

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WAGNER RANCH NATURE AREA / PETS

Nature Area's Wildlife Festival



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delightful adventures await those attending the Wagner Ranch Nature Area's annual Wildlife Festival on April 27 from 1 - 4 pm.

Located at 300 Camino Pablo Rd., adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, the free event features food, music, creek explorations, games, nature walks, arts and crafts and much more.

Congressman George Miller is the honored guest of the day and Chester Miner, Elder of the Cherokee Nation, will open the festivities with a tribute to nature.

For more information, go to [www.fwrna.org](http://www.fwrna.org).

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Something to Howl About...  
Animal Tales  
Be An April Fool



Jennifer Conroy

April, the month that kicks off with All Fools' Day, is a time that brings with it the promise of spring and a sense of light-heartedness. Time to put winter's darkness behind us and have some fun. And, yes, time to have fun with the companion animals in your life. But, you say, I have fun with my animals all the time.

Do you really? Do you ever get giggle sneezy silly with your dog? Do you ever have so much fun with your cat that it rolls over and over? Do you and your animal ever just sit on the floor together huddled in laughter and licks?

Playing with your companion animals can be as spontaneous and freewheeling as child's play. It does not have to be an organized activity that requires a fixed set of outcomes. For example, play does not necessarily mean that I throw the ball, my dog retrieves it, brings it to me and I throw the ball again. It does not mean that I put a small dangly stuffed mouse at the end of a stick and dangle it in front of my cat to get the cat to swipe at it.

Consider the personality of your companion animal. Does your dog like to run? Do your fish like to hide in a patch of aquarium grass? Does your bird enjoy time out of the cage? Does your cat like music?

A favorite game I played with one of my Labs was hide and seek. We played in the house or in the yard and it always ended in a goofy and sloppy reunion. My dog knew when the game was afoot. I was usually the one to hide and I hide behind a door or inside a slightly open closet and call out "Find me." This game is actually a variation of what search-and-rescue dog handlers do as part of their extensive training work.

Inevitably, my dog would find me and often the "find" would take place when he planted both front feet firmly in front of

me and chuffed in my face. That moment of being found was always celebrated with exclamations of great joy on my part and a lot of licking and tail wagging on his part.

Out in the yard, there were bulky bushes and thick tree trunks to hide behind. The game could expand into one of surprise when one of us would jump out from behind a tree to surprise the other. This often entailed us leaping about and neither of us feared looking foolish!

My goldfish love having a thick layer of aquarium grass floating in their tank and every now and then I stuff fish flakes into a frozen pea and place it into the grass for



SALLY HOGARTY

Sugar Hogarty playing with her human.

them to discover. One of my budgies that was very good outside the cage enjoyed earring fashion shows. He would sit on my shoulder while I picked through a collection of dangly earrings, affix them in my ear, and put them to the peck test. If he ignored them, I knew they weren't worth a peck! My cat was not only a music lover but enjoyed dancing as well. We perfected a type of kitty cha-cha that included her winding between my ankles. At some point, I would pretend to tire and fall to the floor and she would climb to my face and give scratchy cat licks to my nose.

This April, take time to have fun with your animals. Discover their sense of humor and enjoy a good laugh together.



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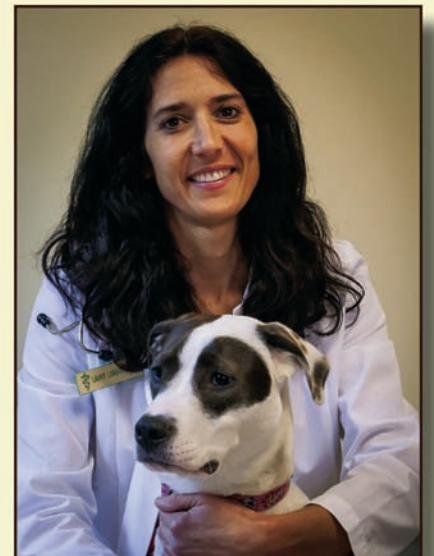
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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

Misaghi will quickly tell you one of the reasons for the success of her business is her great team of floral artists, Heather Woodiwiss, Ben Oshri, Kim Rubio and Michael Panah. "We work side by side, using only materials that are ecologically sound. We do not use plastic, and we utilize recycled vases. We find they have more charm and much better workmanship," says Misaghi. A large amount of ceramic pottery used here is from local artisans.

providing beautiful floral displays on a weekly basis.

Browse additional offerings and you will find local handmade glycerin soaps and a collection of earrings made by local artists. "Many of our customers appreciate nature and enjoy gardening," said floral team member Woodiwiss. "Our Heavenly Scents glycerin soaps are all natural and restore moisture back into your hands after a day in the garden. They also serve as an excellent deer repellent." A few antiques are available here, such as a novel wrought



VALERIE HOTZ

Orinda Florist owner **Mitra Misaghi** (L) with floral team member **Heather Woodiwiss**.

Visit [www.OrindaFloristCa.com](http://www.OrindaFloristCa.com) and view the myriad of creative floral designs for special occasions, then place an online order and pick up at your convenience. Choose from a variety of basket arrangements that include flowers or food or have one custom made for your gift-giving needs. Customers receive a complimentary greeting card with each bouquet. Local Lamorinda delivery is available for \$7 and deliveries to other East Bay communities are slightly higher. In addition to arrangements for weddings, parties and other special events, Orinda Florist maintains accounts for private homes and businesses,

iron garden sculpture made of horseshoes.

A 15-year resident of Orinda, Misaghi is married to Michael Panah. The couple has two children. Their son Sina attends Orinda Intermediate School and daughter Tahra attends Del Rey Elementary School. Misaghi is passionate about gardening and painting. "I also do a lot of homework with my children," she laughs.

Orinda Florist is open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm and is closed Sunday. For more information or to place an online order, go to [www.OrindaFloristCa.com](http://www.OrindaFloristCa.com). Telephone the shop by calling 925-255-5353.

Chamber's Fifth Annual Comedy Night a Success



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE JARRETT

**Kirk McHenry** (L) and **Kabeerzy** (R) entertained audiences at "Live at the Orinda" on March 7. A host of local sponsors and dedicated volunteers made the event a roaring success.

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Michael Friedes Interior Design Ribbon Cutting



DAVID DIERKS

Chamber members welcomed the opening of Michael Friedes Interior Design Showroom in March. (L-R) **Roy Hodgkinson, Candy Kattenburg, Paul Koenig, Olivia and Harrison Friedes, Allison McCrady, Laurie Lowery, David Cronin and Michael Friedes.**

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BUSINESS BUZZ

## Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

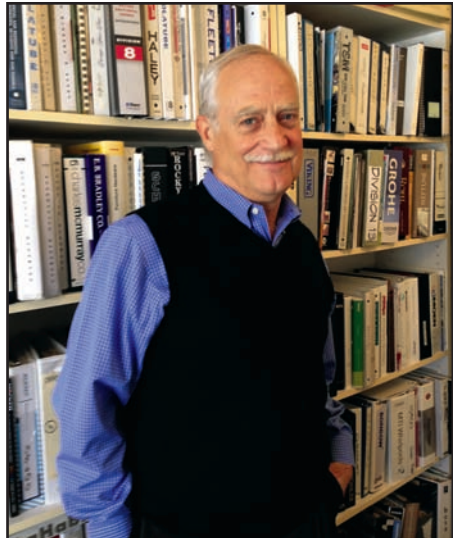
Valerie Hotz



To send items for consideration, email Hotz at v.hotz@att.net.

### Kattenburg Architects Receives “Best of Houzz for Design” Award

Rick Kattenburg is a “Certified Green Building Professional” with more than 35



VALERIE HOTZ

Rick Kattenburg has over 35 years experience in residential and commercial architecture.

years of professional experience, specializing in residential and commercial sustainable architecture. His studio, Kattenburg Architects, has been located across the street from the Orinda Theatre at 11 Moraga Way since 1997. The firm recently received the *Best of Houzz for Design Award*.

“It’s an honor to be recognized by Houzz.com with the *Best of Houzz Design* this year,” said Kattenburg. “This online resource for homeowners is a guide to top homebuilders, architects and remodeling professionals and is essentially a platform for home design and remodeling. There are more than 16 million monthly users on Houzz.com, so it is really special to receive this recognition.” The award is the result of the number of online “hits” made by users.

“We designed a wine cave for a Lafayette client and it received a tremendous response on Houzz.com,” said Kattenburg. “This wine cave involved extensive work by soils engineers and waterproofing, as a major portion is buried underground. With the growing interest in wine these days, wine caves are growing in popularity as well.” One of the firm’s current projects

is a 10,000-square-foot sports bar and billiard hall that includes a café opening onto a greenbelt. The project is located in Emeryville.

A former president of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Kattenburg has been actively involved in creating a workable alternative to the longtime parking issues affecting the city. “The one-hour parking limit is oppressive for employees that work at our local businesses. A parking ticket here currently runs about \$45. I worked with other chamber members including Victor Ivry, Peter McNiff and Richard Westin to develop what we believe is a clever solution to this pressing issue and the City of Orinda rejected our proposal.”

The proposal involved limiting the four-hour parking on nearby Bates Boulevard to employees of Orinda businesses and redirecting commuters to the established overflow parking north of the BART station. “We presented this to the City of Orinda and disappointingly, after three years, nothing has happened,” said Kattenburg. Involvement in issues affecting Orinda is a family affair. Kattenburg’s wife, Candace, is the Executive Director of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about Kattenburg Architects, visit [www.kattenburgarchitects.com](http://www.kattenburgarchitects.com) or call 925-253-7828.

### La Mediterranee Delights Diners for Over 30 Years – Anoush Ella

Orindan Garbis Bagdasarian originally hails from Beirut, Lebanon, a beautiful cosmopolitan city strongly influenced by a variety of cuisines including Greek, Turkish and French. He established La Mediterranee in Berkeley at 2936 College Avenue in 1982, substantially expanding the restaurant in 2000 as a result of popular demand.

“We place a high value on using the freshest ingredients and our customers appreciate this. Since the beginning, we have always included hummus with every dish. Over the past 30 years it has become more popular in California and today you can buy hummus at Costco and Safeway,” said Bagdasarian.

The La Mediterranee features an extensive menu, offering breakfast, lunch and dinner daily with brunch offered on Saturday and Sunday. “Every day we prepare fresh stuffed grape leaves on the premises. A new addition to our menu is the chicken pomegranate, a wonderfully unique recipe with delicious seasonings,” said Bagdasarian, who feels his restaurant is community service at its best. “Of course the baklava is very popular, made with filo dough, walnuts, honey, sugar, cinnamon and a touch of cloves. Serving our neighbors excellent



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orindan Garbis Bagdasarian runs Berkeley’s La Mediterranee restaurant.

food and making them happy is our contribution to our community.”

A 20-year resident of Orinda, Bagdasarian’s wife Silva contributes to the restaurant on a part-time basis by creating new recipes. The couple has two adult children, Ara, who attends Diablo Valley College (DVC) and works at La Mediterranee, and Tara, who studies art at DVC. Bagdasarian has a passion for acting, especially in Armenian theatre. With a deep appreciation for textiles, he collects Oriental rugs and enjoys studying history and geography.

La Mediterranee caters large gatherings and delivers catering orders of \$300 or more to Orinda with only a 5-percent surcharge. When party plans come together at the last minute, La Mediterranee satisfies customers’ needs. Open Monday through Thursday 10 am to 10 pm, Friday and Saturday 10 am to 11 pm and Sunday 10 am to 9:30 pm. For menu selection and information visit [www.cafelamed.com](http://www.cafelamed.com) or call 510-540-7773.

Oh yes, *Anoush Ella* translates into “May It Be Sweet.”

### Orinda Florist Says Thank You to Orinda

Celebrating two years since the grand opening at 99 Brookwood Road, Suite 2, owner Mitra Misaghi is extremely thankful for the community support of her chic Orinda Florist shop. Step inside these quaint premises and absorb a colorful array of tulips, roses, hydrangeas, orchids, peonies and succulents. You name it and Misaghi and her crew will put together a delightful arrangement while you wait.

[SEE BUZZ page 23]

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