



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Time to Think about Summer Camp for the Kids



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The East Bay is fortunate to have a large number of summer camp options for young people. Check out our Summer Camp Directory on pages 15-20 for suggestions. Shown here are campers at Roughn' It Day Camp enjoying the Lafayette Reservoir.

Contra Costa Cities Cooperate on Taxi Regulations

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel met with representatives from neighboring cities Feb. 18 to begin talks about regulating local taxi operations. "It was the first of many meetings," said Nagel. "Representatives from Lafayette, Moraga, Pittsburg, Concord, Danville, Walnut Creek and the Sheriff's Department were there." The meeting was hosted by Walnut Creek, whose City Manager Ken

53075.5 states that "every city or county shall protect the public health, safety and welfare by adopting an ordinance or resolution in regard to taxicab transportation service rendered in vehicles designed for carrying not more than eight persons, excluding the driver, which is operated within the jurisdiction of the city or county."

The meeting included a review of local ordinances, and the neighboring agencies' representatives provided suggestions and



SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda Taxi would be among the local taxi operators subject to local ordinances currently being discussed.

Nordhoff came from Marin County, which already went through the taxi regulation process. "He's been through the process before," said Nagel. "We are trying to streamline and develop a regional approach to determine responsibility."

The proposed taxi regulation "will involve background checks, insurance checks, proof of vehicle maintenance and drug and alcohol checks," said Nagel. "We are doing this to ensure public safety and comply with government code 53075.5. The cities all experience the same predicament." California government Code

made recommendations. "We found out that limousines are covered by CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission)," said Nagel. The CPUC regulates and has safety oversight over for-hire passenger carriers (limousines, airport shuttles, charter and scheduled bus operators), moving companies, railroads, light rail transit agencies and rail crossings. Additional meetings will be held to continue planning for taxi regulation in central and west Contra Costa County.

For more information, visit www.cityof-orinda.org.

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Spring Egg Hunt



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bunny Rabbit has a busy day ahead as Orinda Rotary and the City of Orinda present the Spring Egg Hunt on April 4 at 11 a.m. at the Orinda Community Center.

City Council Looks at Downtown Parking Study... Again

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER
Staff Writer

No one would disagree that Orinda has a parking deficiency issue. Cars regularly circle the Crossroads district in search of spots; BART parkers know that arrival beyond 8 a.m., if not earlier, means having to troll side streets, while local business employees have their share of parking control evasion stories. Many retail patrons

simply avoid the congestion altogether and opt to shop in parking-friendly neighboring towns, a fact that irks Orinda Chamber of Commerce members and leaders, who, for 17 years, have sought and offered downtown parking solutions.

"Seventeen years!" emphasizes chamber member and former chamber president Rick Kattenburg, who cites several concrete parking ideas that have been presented to

[SEE PARKING page 22]

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Assemblywoman Presents Awards to Winners of Art Contest

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Gallery was filled with excited teenagers, their friends and families on March 5 when Assemblywoman Catharine Baker presented certificates from the State of California to winners of the Visual Arts Competition (VAC). Assemblywoman Baker also invited all art students in the VAC exhibit to display their works on the walls of the 16th Assembly District's office in the Sacramento Capitol building or the district office in San Ramon. Contact Cindy.Chin@asm.ca.gov for more information.

The Orinda Arts Council (OAC) created the annual regional competition, which accepts artwork from students living or attending school in Lamorinda and/or the Acalanes Union High School District. Over 160 entries were received in four art categories: 2D, 3D, Digital Design and Photography.

OAC event co-chairs Natalie Wheeler and Heidi Donner handled artwork and gallery coordination, publicity, coordination of judges, posters and the reception program.

A large group of volunteers assisted them, including Maggie Boscoe, Michelle Lacy, Jackie Noyes and Lawrence Kohl. Steve Harwood coordinated sound, Maddie Wheeler helped with the reception, and Kal Deutsch managed the website and Viewer's Choice Award Voting.

Since students learn their artistry under the guidance of their teachers, the OAC expresses its heartfelt thanks to the following teachers from Lamorinda high schools: Acalanes – Stacey Churchill and Susan Fountain; Las Lomas – Jessica Jurgens and Anne Scallion; Bentley – Meredith Steele and Cuong Ta; Miramonte – Stacey Churchill, Deborah Hovey-LaCour and Gavin Kermode; Campolindo – Jill Langston and Collette Sweeney; Orinda Academy – Noel Williams and Holden – Kristin Lamoureux. Local artists who volunteered as judges provided thoughtful deliberation; many thanks to Stephen Busch, Jane Postiglione, Helen Sweet, Teresa Onoda, Catherine Watters, Zand Gee, Kevin Nitsos, Carrie Brewster and Cynthia Whitchurch. Thanks are also due to the OAC's generous sponsors: the Educational Foundation of Orinda, Lafayette Partners in Education and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
(L-R) Orinda Arts Council Visual Arts Competition (VAC) co-chair **Heidi Donner**, **Zach Watson** (Best in Show Winner), Assemblywoman **Catharine Baker**, and VAC co-chair **Natalie Wheeler** at the Orinda Library Gallery VAC awards ceremony on March 5. Watson, a 12th grader at Campolindo High School, won Best in Show for his Digital Design artwork, *Chinatown Bicycle*.

Moraga Educational Foundation. For more information, visit www.orindaarts.org.

Winners of the 12th annual competition are listed below.

Best in Show: *Chinatown Bicycle*, **Zach Watson, Campolindo, 12th grade**

2D Awards:

1st Place, *untitled*, Jadey Sadoff, Acalanes, 10th grade

2nd Place, *Colorful Melancholy*, Bella Gutman, Miramonte, 12th Grade

3rd Place, *Lost*, Bojana Rankovic, Las

[SEE AWARDS page 8]

Library Hosts 9th Annual Art Ambassadors Exhibit

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) and Orinda Arts Council (OAC) are sponsoring an exhibit of unjuried student artwork from March 27 to April 30 at the Orinda Library Gallery. All artwork in the large glass display case near the auditorium depicts an image of a face in keeping with the theme, *Let's Face It – The Arts are Important*. New this year, the faces are done not only by elementary school artists, but also intermediate and high school students from Orinda and are presented by chronological age. The rest of the gallery displays artwork from students in grades

one through eight, totaling 200 works. A Celebration of the Arts Reception hosted by the EFO will be held on April 22 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., featuring light refreshments and a chance to meet the young artists. Young musicians from elementary, intermediate and high school classes will provide music. All students exhibiting work and/or playing music will receive an art ambassador ribbon badge.

Cara Hoxie, EFO co-president, will give an opening welcome at the reception. Hoxie reminds us that Orinda's talented students are not only supported by their families and the community, but by the EFO's arts enrichment program. The arts

[SEE ART page 8]

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Spring Over to Orinda's April Chamber Mixer

Hosted by Land Home

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Check Out Volunteer Fair on April 18

Bill Waterman



The Orinda Association (OA) will help support Orinda Action Day by sponsoring the first annual Volunteer Fair in the library plaza on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. Stop by to talk with many Orinda nonprofits, clubs and service groups, who will have tables with information and volunteers on hand to answer questions. If you have put off getting involved in the community, this is your chance! You can get a good sense of what these groups are doing – and what you might do to help in a way that benefits the group and still fits your interests and schedule.

Here are just a few of the groups you can connect with: Orinda Community Foundation, Orinda Historical Society and Museum, Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Rotary Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Education Foundation of Orinda (EFO), and the California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF).

Hundreds of people volunteer their precious time in Orinda – from serving on one of the many city commissions or commit-

tees, to working with political, nonprofit or service groups. Deciding what you want to do to “give back” to your community is a very personal choice, dependent on your unique background, interests and passions. We in the OA hope this Volunteer Fair will help you connect with a group that matches your interests.

The list of reasons why we benefit from volunteering could take up this entire paper. However, no doubt a prime motivation is the feeling you are truly “repaying a debt of gratitude” for having the good fortune to live in such a pleasant town as Orinda. There is also a less egalitarian, but equally important reason: The joy that comes from meeting new people and making new friends, while simultaneously serving others. So, if you have a few spare moments on April 18 and want to get involved, come by the library plaza and talk to people that might end up being your new “best friends for life.” As Ben Franklin said, “nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

Action Day Includes Volunteer Fair



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers get ready to head out with plenty of garbage bags to clean up the streets in downtown Orinda.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Each year hundreds of volunteers show up at 9 a.m. at the Orinda Library Plaza with their gloves, shovels and trash bags ready to make Orinda an even better place to live. From 9 a.m. until noon, these stalwart helpers can be seen around the community picking up trash, weeding flowerbeds and generally beautifying their community. Sponsored by the Orinda Community Foundation in partnership with the City of Orinda, this year’s Orinda Action Day takes place on April 18.

Adding to the festivities this year is a Volunteer Fair. Spearheaded by the Orinda

Association, the fair will include volunteer opportunities for such groups as the Orinda Historical Society and Museum, Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Orinda Rotary and many more. The Orinda Association will have information on volunteering as a driver for its popular Seniors Around Town program as well as volunteer information on the many organizations throughout Lamorinda.

Those volunteering for Orinda Action Day will receive a free tee shirt, morning refreshments and a light lunch at the end of the morning. Those attending the Volunteer Fair will be entertained by local musicians while perusing the various volunteer opportunities available.

Orinda Action Day Volunteers Needed

Join your neighbors for a day of beautifying Orinda on April 18 from 9 a.m. - noon. Meet at the Orinda Library Plaza for refreshments and assignments. Projects include cleaning and weeding at:

1. Local creeks, trails, paths
2. Downtown
3. BART area
4. School projects
5. Parks/gardneing

Project leaders also needed.

For more information, email orindaassociation@gmail.com.

The Orinda Association

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

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

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Orinda Volunteer Fair

- Connect With Nonprofit Groups!
- Explore Volunteer Opportunities!

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Time: 9:00 am to Noon
Where: Library Plaza in Orinda

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oa@orindaassociation.org
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First Friday Forum Focuses on Future of State Parks

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Ken Wiseman, executive director of the Parks Forward Commission, will talk about "Parks Forward: A New Project to Protect State Parks in California" at the April 10 meeting of the First Friday Forum at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

"This is a very timely topic as the commission's report was very recently released," said Wiseman. "It challenges the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ken Wiseman will deliver a talk on California's state parks.

California State Park System to reform and enhance management and operations so that our parks will once again be maintained and modernized in the best possible way to ensure the long-term sustainability of California's state parks." The report is published after nearly two years of outreach and study that included public meetings, discussion with the park system's leadership and staff, surveys, social media interaction and independent analyses.

The report calls for a "fundamental transformation" of the state's 1.6 million-acre park system. The commission, which operated as an independent panel, was charged by the Governor and Legislature to review the future of the state's 279-unit park system, lay out a vision for the future of state parks for 2025, and formulate a two-year action plan. One part of the vision is to expand park access for under-served communities and urban populations and engage younger generations. One of the modernization efforts cited by Wiseman is installing a credit card system for entry fees. The number of parks with this capability has already increased from 30 to 100.

[SEE FORUM page 5]

Orinda Resident Dr. Scott Zeller Receives Top Honor

Alameda Health System announced that Dr. Scott Zeller has received the distinction of Doctor of the Year by the National Council for Behavioral Health. Dr. Zeller serves as the Chief of Psychiatric Emergency Services for John George Psychiatric Hospital in San Leandro. The honor is bestowed upon an individual who has achieved a lasting impact on patients and the community by inspiring and improving lives. Dr. Zeller will be honored at an April 21 ceremony in Orlando, Florida.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mark Roberts Named Citizen of the Year

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Most people who volunteer their time fit in such duties between work and family obligations. Not so for Orinda's 2015 Citizen of the Year, Mark Roberts. "Right now, I'm so busy volunteering with various local nonprofits that I just don't have time to take on new clients," says the enthusiastic Roberts, who is a paid fundraising consultant for nonprofit groups when time allows.

He formerly worked in development

Community Foundation, current chair of the City of Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, a member of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee and a board member of the Orinda Senior Village, to name just a few. He also co-chaired the successful Measure J Campaign, a \$20 million road and drain bond measure in 2014.

"Working with other volunteers can be extremely rewarding and fulfilling," Roberts says. "You all share a sense of accomplishment that's very gratifying."

A member of the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club since 2009, Roberts now serves as the Assistant District Governor for the five local clubs, a job demanding a great deal of his time. "The Sunrise Rotary serves as the only breakfast club in the Lamorinda area," Roberts says. "I love my job as assistant governor because I believe it's very important for all of our clubs to work together and that's my main goal."

As past president of the Orinda Association (OA), Roberts stays involved with the organization by acting as master of ceremonies at the annual Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. awards banquet and volunteering at the OA's 4th of July parade. He is a long-time member of *The Orinda News* editorial committee and continues to edit each issue of the paper. He lists facilitating the newspaper's publication from quarterly to monthly as one of his fondest accomplishments as OA president. "I really owe my involvement with the OA to Gail Cwalina, who encouraged me to come on the board in 1996," says Roberts. "Through her, I found out how rewarding it was to be involved with my local community."

Roberts calls upon his fundraising skills for his various volunteer duties with the Church of Santa Maria in Orinda. Cur-

[SEE ROBERTS page 22]



SALLY HOGARTY

Mark Roberts is Orinda's Citizen of the Year.

for Saint Mary's College and California Shakespeare Theatre and was community liaison for Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, but now devotes most of his time volunteering for numerous local organizations. The 22-year Orinda resident is currently the board president of the California Autism Foundation as well as a board member and corresponding secretary of the Orinda

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POLICE / ROADS



POLICE BLOTTER

February 2015

Armed Robbery: 1 incident: Orinda Way.

Burglary, Auto: 4 incidents: Bates Blvd./Muth Dr., Meadow View Rd., Wilder Park and North Ln.

Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents: Scenic Dr., Miner Rd. and Estates Dr.

Fraud Under False Pretenses: 1 incident: Bank of the West.

Forgery: 1 incident: Alice Pl.

Grand Theft: 4 incidents: Miller Ct. (2), Dalewood Dr. and Bobolink Rd.

Grand Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident: Bates Blvd.

Identity Theft: 3 incidents: Crest View Dr. and Counter Report at Orinda PD (2).

Litter: 1 incident: Whitehall Dr.

Petty Theft: 5 incidents: Safeway (2), Muth Dr., Bates Blvd. and Rite Aid.

Threats: 1 incident: Miramonte High School.

Vandalism: 3 incidents: Coachwood Terr., Don Gabriel Way and Camino Encinas.

Vehicle Theft: 1 incident: Manzanita Dr.

Arrests

Brandishing a Weapon Arrest: 1 incident: Fleetwood Ct.

Domestic Disturbance Arrest: 2 arrests: Moraga Way and Rheem Blvd.

H&S Violation (Drugs) Arrest: 1 arrest: Safeway.

Public Nuisance Arrest: 2 arrests: Safeway and Theatre Square.

Shoplift Arrest: 1 arrest: Orinda Way.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery: 1 recovery: Charles Hill Rd./El Nido Ranch Rd.

Suspicious Subject Arrest: 4 arrests: Miner Rd./Camino Pablo, El Toyonal, Fish Ranch Rd./Hwy. 24 and Hidden Valley Rd./St. Stephens.

Traffic Stop Arrest: 5 arrests: Moraga Way/Brookside Rd. (2), El Toyonal/Loma Vista Dr., Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante, and Hwy. 24/Wilder Blvd.

Welfare Check Arrest: 1 arrest: Moraga Way.

Orinda BART Station
No reported incidents.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
Orinda Police Department

Updates on Orinda’s Roads
Rehabbed Roads Coming Soon

Mark Roberts



By the end of summer, there will be many miles of newly repaved roads in Orinda. Perhaps you noticed the recent announcement of the offering of the first \$10 million tranche of bonds by the City of Orinda resulting from the passage of Measure J last year. These AAA-rated bonds, the interest on which is free from federal and California income tax, should be popular among investors and we expect them to be fully subscribed by the time you read this column.

While I listed the roads to be repaved, identified by the members of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) and the Public Works department and approved by the City Council in the December 2014 issue of this paper, let me remind you about the many residential streets (segments or complete lengths) to be renovated: Ardor Drive, Arroyo Drive, Calvin Drive (2 segments), Camino Sobrante (2 segments), Canon Drive, Charles Hill Circle, Charles Hill Road (from end of 2014 project), Crest View Drive, Donald Drive (4 segments), Donna Maria Way, Kite Hill Road, Knickerbocker Lane, Lost Valley Drive (from end of 2014 project), Meadow View Road, Miner Road (2 segments), Mira Loma, Moraga Via, Normandy Lane, Ridge Lane, Woodland Road and Zander Drive. (Space limitations prevent me from providing detailed information; visit the city’s website, www.cityoforinda.org – City Council meetings, Nov. 5, 2014 agenda, Item I-3, Exhibit H – for specific start and end points.)

The projected cost of the work on the streets listed above is just over \$5 million. Without the passage of Measure J, the funding would not exist. We can also look forward to another \$5 million worth of projects next year. A primary reason that the full amount can’t be allocated to projects in a single year is the nature of Orinda roads. Unlike cities laid out in grids with square blocks, many Orinda roads are cul-de-sacs or have connections only at their ends. The CIOC and Public Works have worked hard

to make plans that pose minimum inconvenience to residents on roads being repaved.

Next on the agenda are residential roads that will be repaved thanks to funding from Measure L, the half-cent sales tax increase approved by Orinda voters in November 2012. As a result of nearly \$980,000 in funding generated by 2014 spending in our own community, the following roads will be renewed: Brookside Drive (from Orchard Road to Moraga Way), Camino Sobrante (from south end of La Noria to La Espiral), El Camino Moraga (from Donna Maria Way to Don Gabriel Way) and Valley Drive (from Orchard Road to Heather Lane).

Important arterial and collector roads will also get needed attention this summer. Funding for these projects comes from return to source funding, including sales taxes from old county Measures C and J and gas taxes. Three segments of Overhill Road, from Moraga Way to Broadview Terrace, will be repaved. The other project will be the repaving of St. Stephen’s Drive from the north side of Highway 24 up to La Espiral. The estimated cost of these projects is just over \$1.2 million.

The city recently got more good news. Thanks to successful grant applications made by Public Works, funds have been secured to repave heavily traveled Camino Pablo from Moraga Way to Miner Road, and Ivy Drive from the north intersection with Moraga Way to the north intersection with Fiesta Circle. Good things come to those who wait so don’t give up hope if your street isn’t listed above. Remember that funds from Measures L and J will fund similar numbers of projects from 2016 through 2018. Before that time, Orindans will decide how we will repave the rest of our roads and then maintain them. So please stay tuned...

Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission

2nd Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Room

Additional Police Activity Through March 4

- On Wednesday, Mar. 4 at 11:48 a.m. Orinda PD were dispatched to Del Rey Elementary School due to a report of a 1st grade student seeing an adult male, dressed in blue, with red hair, carrying a gun and walking in or near the creek bed. Upon arrival, the school was already locked down and officers from Orinda, Lafayette, and Moraga set a perimeter and conducted a grounds search with assistance from a CHP helicopter. Nothing was found around the school and officers proceeded to do a room to room search to clear the school. The suspicious person was never found and an accounting of all the students took place.

◆ FORUM from page 4

The Parks Forward initiative is a partnership between the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and a group of charitable foundations working together for a sustainable future for state parks. As executive director, Wiseman serves as a loaned executive to the CNRA. From 2007 to 2013, he served as executive director of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, which established the locations for a network of marine protected areas that was implemented by the California Fish and Game Commission and now encompasses

16 percent of the state’s coastline. Wiseman spent more than 30 years in the private sector as an executive with Beldridge Farms and Packing, Lockheed Martin IMS and Affiliated Computer Services. He is a graduate of U.C. Davis where he also received a Masters in Business Administration.

“I hope many members of the community will plan to attend and bring their questions and comments about our state parks,” said Wiseman. “We want to do our best to plan for a bright future for our parks.”

Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m., prior to the talk. For questions, call 925-283-8722.



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Editorial . . . Some Fans Go Beyond School Spirit

In this issue, we recap some of the successes of Miramonte High School's athletic teams (see page 14). The teams and their coaches have lots of reasons to be proud -- the fans less so. Many people have heard about Miramonte fans' alleged racial slurs against the Berkeley High School girls' basketball team when they played Miramonte in January. While conflicting stories abound and sanctions were not imposed, it is still troubling to think that fans would disrespect their own well-coached team with such conduct.

I was a witness to similar conduct -- though not nearly as derisive -- at the division championship game in February between the Miramonte and Campolindo girls' soccer teams. My granddaughter is a starter for Campolindo so I was on the opposite side of the field watching this well-matched, hard-fought contest between two teams of skilled athletes. All of a sudden the referees stopped the game and had a discussion with Miramonte's coach who, subsequently, had a discussion with some of the fans. I found out from my 15-year-old granddaughter that she and the other Campo players had been taunted throughout the game by name. It seems someone had passed out the Campo roster with the girls' names and numbers and, whenever they had the ball, some fans would yell out something personal about the girl. Really?!

I know the rivalry between Miramonte

and Campo can be intense. My son went to Miramonte and my daughter to Campo and our home was sometimes a battleground. For most of my life, I was very competitive in a variety of sports as well as a coach. I'm still an avid sports fan and regularly attend sporting events. And, yes, I've been known to yell a thing or two at a game official or professional player.

But yelling racial slurs and personal verbal attacks against teenage girls? What are we teaching our kids by this behavior? Do the teams we're cheering appreciate this type of "support?" I think not. Most athletes want to win on their own merits, not because their opponent was distracted by verbal insults. Why not let these very capable student athletes do just that?

I'm not suggesting that all Miramonte fans engage in this type of behavior. It's a small, very vocal, minority, and it's not limited to Miramonte. At a Campolindo boys' soccer game, a neighbor's son was injured on the field. Parents from the visiting team high-fived each other and commented how they wouldn't have to worry about that player any more. In what universe is it all right to cheer when a young athlete is injured?

Hopefully, fans with true school spirit and more positive ways of showing it will win out. I sincerely hope so.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

Letters to the Editor

Is Orinda's Semi-rural Character Important to You?

During a very recent City Council meeting, a long line of Orinda residents made public comments regarding a proposed plan for sidewalk placement in their neighborhood. While I attended this meeting because of interest in two other agenda items rather than the sidewalks, I was impressed by the large number of speakers who mentioned semi-rural character as an important factor in their opinion on the sidewalks. These citizens did not appear to be members of any community group. It's apparent that, like me, many Orindans cherish the semi-rural character of our city. My wife and I actually moved here over 30 years ago from San Francisco because of the semi-rural charm and the downtown village character which contributed to a convenient lifestyle; later, we stayed because of the fantastic schools.

Therefore, I was dismayed in January when no councilmember would even second Councilmember Eve Phillip's motion for a public vote on issues regarding the Housing Element and downtown development. Had the motion carried, council would have discussed a ballot referendum

in which Orinda voters could make their priorities known to regional agencies and developers. As it stands now, the agencies assume that their mandates of multi-story, dense multi-family housing with limited parking and other waivers are acceptable to us and developers have been trying to raise height limits downtown for their future projects.

Likewise, Councilmember Phillip's motion in a later, special council meeting on Strategic Planning to incorporate the term semi-rural character in our city's mission statement was ridiculed as too controversial -- even though semi-rural character is defined and frequently mentioned in The Orinda General Plan. The motion died. During that meeting, a citizen requested that local control and also village character of downtown (defined in The General Plan, as well) be part of our -- that's right, our -- city's mission statement.

If you agree with me that four members of our City Council, outside agencies, and local developers need to recognize that we cherish local control, semi-rural character in residential neighborhoods, and village character downtown, speak up at City Council meetings or send e-mails to the



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councilmembers; their e-mail addresses can be found at www.cityoforinda.org.

— Bruce London

Submit Housing Element

Several members of Orinda Watch are

angry (nothing new there) because Councilmember Eve Phillips' proposal to have a city wide vote on the 5th Cycle Housing Element received no support from fellow Council members.

[SEE LETTERS page 10]

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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 8, 2015.

CARS

Father – Daughter Day at Orinda Motors



John Vanek of Orinda Motors and members of the NCL-Acalanes Chapter class of 2017.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

On Sunday March 15, an eager group of fathers and daughters from the Acalanes Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) spent time at Orinda Motors learning about car maintenance and operation. Orinda Motors' John Vanek put on the clinic, something he has done for high school groups, women's clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

When approached by Laurie Dunn from the NCL, Vanek had no problem saying yes. "Orinda Motors likes to give back to the community by educating about automotive basics," he says. "It is important for these young women (and their dads) to learn how to take responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the vehicles they drive."

The class included topics such as the importance of the owner's manual, learning the location of emergency flashers, and the jack or spare tire. "These are things that you don't want to figure out when you are broken down in the dark," Vanek adds. He also discussed what the warning lights and messages mean for the eager group and how to pay attention to sounds, smells and fluids coming from the vehicle. "The person behind the wheel, whether he or she is the owner or not, should know when the next service is due, how to recognize if the car does not seem normal, and when it's time to pull over and call for help."

Vanek stressed the importance of having a "breakdown" plan to prepare young drivers for potential problems on the road. Time was also spent on how to plan for a road trip including letting others know your agenda and when you expect to return. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

At the end of the clinic, Tom Dunn, who's daughter Lindsay attended the clinic said, "These girls will be able to put things they learned today into practice right away."

Echo Grove Secret Phrase



Commemorating its one year anniversary, Echo Grove's secret phrase for this month's charm is "Happy Birthday."

Looking for a Few Good Classic Automobiles

Moraga Classic Car Show is accepting registrations. Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 7th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place May 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. as part of the 2015 Moraga Community Faire. The \$30 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1. The car show is sponsored by Moraga Chamber of Commerce, 5A Rent a Space, Moraga Motors, and Jason Evans Coldwell Banker Realty. To register, go to www.moragachamber.org/faire or, call Gloria 925-247-4473 or Jason: 925-788-3889.

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CAR TIME
Loyalty, Does It Matter?



By JOHN VANEK

What is customer loyalty and how does it work in the world of auto repair? In the current day of price shopping frenzies, where does loyalty come into play? There are often risks when price shopping and staying with a trusted service center – loyalty – means you don't have to waste time checking prices.

Being consistent with one facility also makes things easy and predictable. For instance, the majority of consumers do not keep track of their maintenance requirements. If you're always changing shops, this can cause confusion when you bring your car in for service since the shop won't know what has been done in the past. However, going to the same place results in a trail of previous visits allowing the shop to see the entire picture and more effectively care for your car. At Orinda Motors, like many reputable service centers, we track the history for our regular customers and send out e-mail reminders based on their history with us. Our goal is to always do what the car needs, no more and no less. You should be able to say the same about where you take your car on a regular basis.

Think about how a business might feel about customer loyalty. If you favor a shop due to its performance, convenience

or comfort level, why not use them exclusively? If a customer is exclusive with a business and easy to work with, a business is more likely to give them a deal on the price. The auto shop is also more likely to make time for the "loyal customer" when they have an emergency at 4 p.m. on a Friday. Squeezing someone in at the last minute can cause stress and pressure for a shop, but it's something routinely done for a loyal customer. I have personally unlocked cars at Safeway parking lot for local car owners – some regular customers and some that I never see again. Nobody is obligated to use a certain facility, but it is nice to show some love to somebody that genuinely comes through for you.

Price is always a concern. Quality auto repair is expensive. But some shops, like Orinda Motors, offer a Rewards Card that gives our customers discounts for being loyal.

Loyalty matters for both the customer and for the repair facility. Both stand to

[SEE CARS page 20]

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BOOKS

◆ AWARDS from page 2

Lomas, 12th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Untitled*, Izzy Tankka, Acalanes, 11th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Untitled*, Madeleine Taylor, Campolindo, 11th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Untitled*, Laura Ramirez, Las Lomas, 12th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *How To Grow Up!*, Klifford Ganancial, Las Lomas, 12th Grade

3D Awards:

1st Place, *The Lichen Ladies*, Nora Guer-gah, Miramonte, 11th Grade
 2nd Place, *Untitled*, Brigid Berndt, Mi-ramonte, 10th Grade
 3rd Place, *Kirin*, Ara Walls, Campolindo, 10th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Adam Smith's In-visible Hand*, Will Gittings, Miramonte, 12th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Untitled*, Kathryn McCarty, Acalanes, 12th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Pencil Box*, Grace Schmidt, Campolindo, 9th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Labyrinth*, Lydia Lapporte, Acalanes, 12th Grade

Digital Design Awards:

1st Place, *The Fire Burning In All of Us*, Zachary Sandberg, Bentley, 11th Grade
 2nd Place, *Leap Posters*, Sophia Spitul-nik, Miramonte, 12th Grade
 3rd Place, *On Cloud Nine*, Michelle Pang, Campolindo, 12th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Natsu*, Klifford Ganancial, Las Lomas, 12th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *1914/2014*, Bojana Rankovic, Las Lomas, 12th Grade

Photography:

1st Place, *Untitled*, Taylor Odom, Hold-en, 12th Grade
 2nd Place, *Smoke Bomb*, Bojana Rankov-ic, Las Lomas, 12th Grade

3rd Place Tie, *Gabrielle*, Alannah Buyce, Campolindo, 12th Grade
 3rd Place Tie, *Love Has No Gender*, Kris-ten Kawaguchi, Miramonte, 12th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Smile*, Julie Bowers, Miramonte, 10th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Untitled*, Ana Glos-son, Campolindo, 11th Grade
 Honorable Mention, *Duet*, Kai Mills, Acalanes, 10th Grade

◆ ART from page 2

enrichment program funds highly quali-fied credentialed arts, music and electives teachers (and many other programs) to keep education in Orinda of the highest quality. Hillery Paterson, Orinda Union School District (OUSD) arts coordinator, and Jackie Noyes, EFO art ambassador event coordinator, worked with many volunteers to make the exhibit and reception enjoy-able for all. Also, thanks to the OAC for providing mounting boards for student art.

Speaking of superlative teachers, the EFO, OAC and the entire community send thanks to: OUSD elementary school visual art teachers Susan Zib and Hillery Paterson; Gavin Kermode and Deborah Hovey-Lacour (visual art), Stacey Churchill (pho-tography) and Ari Gorman (instrumental music), all at Miramonte High School; Greg Mazmanian (instrumental music at OIS); David Uyeno (instrumental music at OUSD elementary schools); and Susan Weiss and David Morritt (art teachers at OIS). Their consistent encouragement of students at all age levels to express themselves in creative media is evident in the exhibit.

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way, second floor, during normal library hours – Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. All libraries are closed April 5. Call 925-254-2184 for more infor-mation or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

Between the Lines
 Books To Read – and Re-Read



Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books

In the March 3 edition of the *New York Times*, Dana Stevens, one of those literate and lively voices on *Slate's Culture Gab-fest*, wrote about books we read over and over again. She wrote that the books that she can “live inside of indefinitely and at will” are those she read first when she was in elementary school – *The Secret Garden*, *Ballet Shoes*, *Anne of Green Gables*. For her, these books are comfort food - wonder-ful when she is sick in bed since they embody a kinder, gentler world than the daily news feed offers.

Beloved childhood titles – *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *Tintin* or the *Little House* series—are often special gifts from parents and grand-parents who have anxiously awaited a little person to enter their lives. Re-reading these stories with a new audience brings back happy memories of one’s own earliest ad-ventures in books. And now, old favorites, from *Eloise* and *Angelina* to *Ramona the Pest* or *Matilda*, will be joined by *Harry Potter*, *the Wimpy Kid* and *The Penderwicks* to become beloved childhood books – re-reading for a new generation.

Re-reading is certainly a pleasure for all of us, but for booksellers, pre-reading is a delightful fringe benefit. Here are some of the titles that publishers have promised us in the next several months which we have been able to preview. Fans of John Masters’ chronicles of colonial India will welcome *The Strangler Vine* by M.J. Carter (Putnam \$27.95). This 1838 adventure follows a young Army officer and a secret agent as they venture into the heart of one of the princely states to find a missing writer who has shocked Raj society. A reviewer called it a “ripping yarn” and rightly so. Many local readers have read and re-read Kate Atkinson’s excellent *Life After Life*. In early May, Atkinson’s new title, *A God in Ruins* (Little Brown \$28) makes Teddy, the brother of Ursula Todd, the heroine of *Life After Life*, the centerpiece of a remarkable new novel in which Atkinson again bends time and makes us reconsider the nature of storytelling.

Two non-fiction titles are claiming advance attention from booksellers. Da-vid McCullough takes flight with *The Wright Brothers* (Simon & Schuster \$30) and cleverly separates the men from the

myth in a thrilling book from a master of narrative non-fiction. In *The Road to Character* (Random House \$28), David Brooks dissects 10 lives that demonstrate to him the way character is developed. He emphasizes the importance of inner worth in a world where external success and its trappings often seem essential to survival. David Brooks’ book would be a superb graduation gift as will be a new offering from J.K.Rowling – *Very Good Lives* (Little Brown \$15). It is a reprint of a commence-ment address she made at Harvard in 2008, in which she discusses the benefits of failure and the importance of the imagina-tion and, though Hogwarts graduates may all be aware of these two cornerstones of character, today’s grads will be informed and inspired by Rowling’s words.

Along with our favorite re-reads and pre-reads we are also looking forward to some fine paperback arrivals in April and May that will be embraced by readers as superb travelling companions or as challenges for local book groups. Antoine Laurain’s *The Red Notebook* (Gallic Books \$14.94) can be read in an evening – a tender love story that breathes Paris in every word. Donna Tartt’s award-winning novel, *The Goldfinch* (Back Bay \$20), makes its long-awaited paperback debut in April. It’s a great read, fine literary fiction, and perhaps a two-month challenge for book groups. *Euphoria* by Lily King (Grove Press \$15) will make splendid book group reading, as King explores some of the controversies in anthropologist Margaret Mead’s life in this well-researched fiction. *One Plus One* (Penguin \$16) by Jojo Moyes (*Me Before You*) offers something light and likeable in a contemporary novel—fun to read, while Lisa See’s *China Dolls* (Random House \$16) is a fascinating look at San Francisco’s Chinatown and its Forbidden City nightclub in the difficult days right before WWII.

With the hope that all these books become reads and re-reads on your shelves, enjoy the books of springtime!

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SCOUTING / GARDEN CLUB



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New Eagle Scouts for Troop 303 are (L-R) **Will Gittings, Jack Brovelli, Gunnar Davison** and **Cole Wirtz**.

Four Attain Scouts' Highest Ranking

By **DEBORAH SITZMANN**
Contributing Writer

Will Gittings, Jack Brovelli, Gunnar Davison and Cole Wirtz of Orinda Scout Troop 303 have achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. Their achievement was celebrated last Dec. 7 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church when Mayor Steve Glazer presented each Eagle Scout with a proclamation noting their accomplishment and a "day in their honor."

To reach the rank of Eagle Scout a candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges including 13 required Eagle badges, demonstrate leadership and complete a service project to benefit the community. During their scouting experience with Troop 303, the four scouts accrued a total of 680 miles hiking, 227 nights camping, and dedicated 352 hours to community service.

For his Eagle Scout project, Gittings remodeled the rose garden at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, replacing fence posts, framing, fencing, two gates, stairs and parts of a retaining wall. Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club gave funding while Economy Lumber provided materials at cost. Gittings, his family, friends and fellow scouts put a total of 174 hours into the project. Gittings, a senior at Miramonte High School, is the son of Tracy and Mike Gittings.

Brovelli installed a new 300-foot redwood rail fence with signage for St. Stephen's church. He worked with the rector of the church to find a solution to illegal mulch dumping on the church property. The Eagle Scout raised money to pay for fence materials and coordinated the 212 volunteer (scout and parent) hours for planning and construction. Brovelli, a senior at the Athenian School in Danville, is the son of Carol and Jim Brovelli of Orinda.

Davison restored the playground for the Northern Light Charter School in Oakland, which was founded in 1989 as a "shelter from the storm" for abandoned or foster care children, as well as students whose parents are incarcerated. Their motto is "Nothing is Impossible." Davison coordinated 162 hours of work by scouts and friends that included the removal of all the old bark from the playground. The original bark was recycled around the campus planters. The ground was leveled and compacted and fresh carpet was secured prior to the installation of new wood chips. Davison, a senior at De La Salle High School in Concord, is the son of Deborah and Matthew Sitzmann of Orinda and Jeff Davison of Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Wirtz coated a playground black top surface and painted a 40-foot map of the world on the surface at the Northern Light Charter School. The project took more than 140 hours of work on eight separate visits and involved the assistance of 14 other scouts during these multiple workdays. Northern Light students now play on the colors of the world – one can even see them playing on their world map in a school video. Cole, a senior at Miramonte High School, is the son of Kimberly and Brian Wirtz of Orinda.

The new Eagle Scouts join the less than four percent of all scouts who achieve Eagle Rank. Troop 303, with 65 scouts of all ages, meets every other Monday night at St. Stephen's church. For more information, visit www.bsatroop303orinda.com or call scoutmaster Jim Brovelli at 925-997-8437.

The four new Eagle Scouts accrued 680 miles hiking, 227 nights camping and 352 hours of community service during their time with Troop 303.

Garden Club Marks 50 Years of Bouquets for Patients

By **JANE WISER**
Contributing Writer

In 1964, an inspired team from Orinda Garden Club launched the Floral Arranging Group, also known as "F.A.G.S.," with the goal of giving patients at the Contra Costa County Hospital in Martinez a nosegay of flowers once a month. Most of the indigent patients had never received flowers. Fifty years later, although the name has changed to "Bouquets," the mission remains the same. More than 50,000 patients

Today, armed with greens, flowers and clippers, 12 to 20 members gather to create roughly 200 bouquets on the first Monday of the month. Two large arrangements are made for the nurses' stations. At Christmas time, small Christmas trees are fully decorated and delivered to the hospital.

Many of the early leaders still come, drawn together by the contagiousness of the process: Muffy York, Helen Richards, Marie Krenz, Jean Schommer, Diana Caldwell and Dayna Taylor to name a few. Most claim with pride – and a chuckle – that



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Garden Club members proudly display their sign as they mark over 50 years of preparing flower arrangements for patients at a local hospital.

have received one of these precious bedside arrangements.

There have been few changes to the process over the years. Initially arrangements of homegrown flowers were secured by rubber bands and placed in baby food jars. Today cans are purchased and decorated and many are returned and reused monthly. The St. Stephen's Church Altar Group often donates flowers during the lean months in the members' gardens. Recycling and repurposing have been consistent themes through the years.

they were happy to be called the F.A.G.S. Along the way, however, the club felt it appropriate to change the name, and, in 2004, the F.A.G.S. became the more politically correct Bouquets.

Through the years, the members have bonded together knowing that some unknown patient will receive a medicinal dose of beauty in his or her day. As the hospital volunteers have said, "Your meaningful gift – none more elegant than a flower – raises the patient morale and brings good cheer and mental health to so many persons."



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◆ **LETTERS** from page 6

Contra Costa Times columnist Tom Barnidge commenting on Ms. Phillips ill-conceived and poorly thought out request wrote “asking residents to vote on whether they approve of the latest version of the still unfinished document seemed a bit like asking cruise ship passengers into the captain’s cockpit midway through a voyage to look over his nautical charts and decide if he knew where he was going.”

What the columnist did not say was the “nautical chart,” in this case the Housing Element document, is hundreds of pages long.

Yes, Orinda Watch candidate Eve Phillips won election to the City Council. However, voters also re-elected Amy Worth and Dean Orr. Of the six candidates who ran for election in November, two had the support of Orinda Watch and garnered 35 percent of the vote. The four remaining, more mainstream, candidates accounted for 65 percent of the vote.

For more than two years, Orinda Watch supporters have disrupted and, in some cases, deliberately sabotaged meetings with boorish behavior. Councilmembers and staff have been bullied, talked down to, and accused of corruption, of being socialists and communists while simultaneously being in the pocket of big bad developers.

The City Council and staff are doing their jobs as mandated by state law to update the Housing Element every eight years. Every town and county in the region is required to zone for future housing needs in all income levels. It is a tool used to make the Bay Area a livable place for all.

Residents have control over any new development in Orinda. The Monteverde Senior Housing and the Pulte development took years of planning with countless opportunities for public input. The Orinda School District administration, Board members and school parents were the driving force behind the housing you now see at the former Pine Grove site. Orinda Watch would have you believe that both developments appeared overnight, the result of back-room deals and nefarious

outside forces. That is pure fiction. Their endless repetitive talking points presented as “facts” does not make them so.

I urge the council to submit the Housing Element for approval and move on to other business such as the deteriorating condition of our downtown area. Short of walling off Orinda from the outside world, Orinda Watch will continue their negative obstructionist campaign.

– Valerie Sloven

The Playground Bullies

In Orinda, the “consent of the governed” – a phrase found in the Declaration of Independence and from which every form of U.S. government derives its just powers - has become a fiction. With one exception, Eve Phillips, Orinda’s Councilmembers have assumed that being elected does more than allow them to govern according to the will of its taxpaying citizens. It allows them to rule according to their own political persuasion. Election to council, they would have you believe, gives them the keys to the city.

Indicative of this assumption, a special workshop held on February 24 - to set short and long-term priorities that included a review of Orinda’s mission statement - found the council decidedly deaf to citizen input. Numerous citizens commented that Orinda’s current mission statement was too generic and lacked any reference to “semi-rural” or “village character” that distinguishes Orinda from larger metropolitan cities. The professional business experience of these citizens showed an understanding that a mission statement should communicate a sense of the intended direction of an organization and drives decisions respecting that sense. Our mission statement provides the framework for the General Plan, which contains the policies of acceptable land uses and the context within which they are formulated and executed. Without a properly crafted and explicit representation of Orinda’s distinct character, it is open-season to introduce into the General Plan unbridled development. Despite cogent contributions by citizens, the

council favored the insubstantial generic statement because such would not “invite controversy,” stated Mayor Glazer.

Eden Housing and Pulte Homes demonstrate that the Orinda Councilmembers, excepting Eve Phillips, prefer unrestrained development and would not support a mission statement that hampered high-density housing or prevented overriding private property protections. Hence, they march in lockstep with regional bureaucrats. These bureaucrats are calling the shots and running the show.

This raises the question. Why have a City Council? Why not just have an administrator who enforces the regional central plan of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments? Why not just put the rules of the game up for sale to benefit outside special interests?

Because, as everyone learns by fourth grade, once you let the bullies rule the playground, then extortion, control and playing favorites become the criteria by which all decisions are made. The council has us well on our way to forfeiting the playground.

– Charlie Brown

City Council Violated Policy

Orinda citizens are concerned about pressure for more extensive development in downtown as stack and pack does not fit the semi-rural character of Orinda.

What about concern for the increased zoning in semi rural residential Orinda?

The General Plan is the embodiment of community values. Doesn’t the General Plan also preserve the quality of life from extreme pressure to more extensive development in residential Orinda?

The General Plan, 2.1, states residential zoning should be low density, single family, one to two units per acre. The guiding policy is to maintain the semi-rural character of Orinda.

The Orinda City Council has violated that policy by increasing Orinda residential zoning to high density to allow for a rental unit on each lot. Now homeowners can end up surrounded by rental units. This new higher density residential zoning will increase traffic as each rental unit will have one or more cars. Increased traffic will deteriorate roads and increase green house gas in our neighborhoods. Increased population will denigrate our schools. Orinda voters should be allowed to vote to determine if they want to destroy their quality of life. Unfortunately, the City Council, with the exception of Eve Phillips, will not allow Orinda citizens to vote on maintaining the semi rural character of Orinda.

– Janet Maiorana

Traveling Across Ireland

The March of 2015 issue of *The Orinda News* featured the usual impressive selection of local news along with, this time, a brief note recounting a return by your copy editor to Belfast, and a visit to the offices of the *Belfast Telegraph* during “her recent trip to Ireland.”

Inspired, to some degree, by the photograph’s headline that the “Written Word Still Carries Some Weight,” I feel obliged to write.

While I am sure the holiday was lovely, it took in more territory than reported. For if Belfast was visited, this required a trip to the north or east of Ireland, across a border, to the United Kingdom and, specifically, Ulster. Ireland, for all its stark and craggy beauty, remains 26 counties, not 32.

– Steven Schnier

Proposed Closure of Honey Hill Fire Station

When I moved to my house on La Espiral, I had a difficult time buying homeowners’ insurance because of the high fire danger zone that we live in. Many companies simply told me they didn’t insure in Orinda. I was finally able to buy insurance at a high price.

So now MOFD wants to move our Honey Hill fire station to Lafayette, which is clearly farther away from the North Orinda homes which are in this high fire danger zone. Will this mean that we won’t be able to get any homeowners’ insurance except that offered by the state for people who can’t otherwise get any insurance? And at what cost would that be? Aside from cost, how much more vulnerable would our homes be to a catastrophic fire if the Honey Hill station were to be moved? MOFD says response time would be increased by two minutes, but a lot can happen in two minutes. Homes can be burned and lives can be lost.

MOFD has already bought property in Lafayette on which to build a new fire station. This it did over the strong objections of many Orinda citizens. Legally it can’t buy land outside its district. How did it get around this?

MOFD says it will save on construction costs for this new station. This is not the case. It has been estimated to cost \$6M to build a new Lafayette station and \$3M to rebuild Honey Hill. The claim is that the County will help pay the operating expenses at the new station. Since the County has been closing fire houses throughout its district to save money, I strongly doubt this is will be possible. Please visit www.savehoneyhillfirestation.com to sign the petition and voice your objections.

– Judy Sherwood



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ROVING REPORTER

Roving Reporter
“What’s happening at the Orinda Parks and Recreation Center this spring and summer?”

Charlie Jarrett



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department held its first Annual Recreation and Summer Camp Fair in the Orinda Community Center last month, to the delight of hundreds of curious Orinda residents and visitors from neighboring communities. The department wanted everyone interested in the various programs to meet the instructors, explore class options and even meet with students. To view the entire Activity and Summer Camp Guide, go to www.cityoforinda.org, click on “Departments”

the fair to inquire about the availability of French classes that would best fit her schedule. She said she began taking French classes as an adult in San Francisco, at age 40. Page said Collins’ classes were very stress-free and comfortable.

Spanish class instructors Douglas Lezameta, Martha Gonzales and Cesar Orellana carried on a similar discourse with prospective students, explaining the value, convenience and enjoyment students get from taking their classes through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Orinda Farmers’ Market representatives Staci Deshasier and Nora Duffy were on hand to announce that the market was launching a new children’s interactive program on the second Saturday of the month. The first program on April 11 will feature a Spin Art Booth. The Farmers’ Market opening day will be on April 4 at 9 a.m. and will coincide with a fun Rotary-sponsored Easter Egg Hunt in the nearby Community Center. In June, a Father’s Day project



CHARLIE JARRETT
 (L-R) Allison Page, Nicole Collins and Rebecca Evert.

and then “Parks and Recreation.”

One instructor at the fair was Nicole Collins, who teaches Italian and French. She brought along one of her former students, Rebecca Lillard Evert, to provide interested attendees with her personal experience. Collins shared her “real world language experience,” including the fact that she was born in Milan, Italy, raised in Paris, France, and has been teaching for 20 years.

Former student Allison Page came to



CHARLIE JARRETT
 (L-R) Douglas Lezameta, Martha Gonzales and Cesar Orellana.



CHARLIE JARRETT
 Claire and Elizabeth Morris enjoy a library program with volunteers Natalie and Vannie Ho. Librarian Lin Look (standing) and dad Owsen Morris (seated) watch.

will be held, and on July 11, the Orinda Library will host a special reading activity. For more information, visit the market’s website at www.cccfm.org.

Also at the fair were library staff members Lin Look and Melanie McCallum, who presented information about the library’s summer reading programs and a new partnership between Contra Costa County libraries and local museums called “Discover and Go.” This partnership will allow Contra Costa library members to explore participating museums by providing discounts or free passes. To obtain passes, go to <http://ccclib.org/>, click on “Discover and Go.”

During the fair, librarian Look and volunteers Natalie and Vannie Ho taught children how to make maracas to celebrate the library’s next summer reading program, entitled “Read to the Rhythm.” Owen Morris and his daughters Claire and Elizabeth participated in the maracas project with Look and the Ho twins. The reading program begins on June 6 at 2 p.m. with live music by teen jazz group “Oakland

Future Trio.” Young readers can also pick up their reading logbooks that day. Prizes are awarded at the end of the summer reading program to children recognizing their efforts and accomplishments.



CHARLIE JARRETT
 (L-R) Staci Deshasier and Nora Duffy.



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Wildlife/Earth Day Festival on April 19

Once again, the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA) celebrates the beauty around us with its annual Wildlife/Earth Day Festival taking place on April 19 from noon to 4:30 p.m.

Located at Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo, in Orinda, the Friends of the WRNA has planned a full day of viewing and educational activities. Attendees can participate in a wide variety of arts and crafts, view and learn about raptors, take part in recycling projects and learn about solar energy. The free event also includes entertainment by the Earth Tribute Band and student musicians. There will also be a photo contest. Refreshments will also be available.

For more information on the contest and all the activities, go to www.fwrna.org.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



SALLY HOGARTY
Visitors to a past Wildlife Festival check out the teeming insects and fish in the Nature Area's pond.

Something to Howl About... Animal Tales What's a Safe Pet Treat?



Jennifer Conroy

Pet foods, pet treats. What is safe? What isn't? Over the past years media attention has turned to products we give our companion animals. From imported pet treats to domestically created foods, questions have been raised about the safety of what we are giving our animals to eat and chew.

This was brought close to mind in a personal experience I had the other day. An acquaintance brought his puppy to visit along with all the puppy accoutrements: small crate with puppy-size rug, leash, folding water bowl and a rawhide chew. An impressively well-behaved puppy, I admit to paying little attention to her while my colleague and I caught up on work items. It wasn't until halfway through the visit that I noticed the rawhide chew. Then the "lecturer" in me rose up, and I proceeded to spout warnings about rawhide chews and all manner of other dangerous treats.

As with most matters, moderation is often the wise course and that may well be the case with suspect pet treats. In other words, a rawhide chew might be acceptable if allowed under supervision and removed when edges start to fray. The real question, however, is that of risk. In today's world, there are so many safe items for our companion animals, why not choose one that has the lowest risk factor? Rawhide, if ingested, can cause damage to the intestinal tract. Those hardened pig ears can cause teeth to crack. Even a tennis ball can be deadly if unraveled and ingested.

The range of pet foods now available is staggering and includes subsets for age, mobility, weight issues, etc. How did we get so specialized considering the nutri-

tional origins of our two most common companion animals – the cat and the dog? Cats are, in general, carnivores, although we probably all know exceptions to this, including a cat of mine who loved potatoes. Dogs, on the other hand, are omnivores. Those of us of a certain age may remember days before commercial pet foods and treats when our companion animals were fed home-prepared foods that typically included table scraps. It was our passion for our pets that led to an industry that has us spending \$60 billion a year for pet products in the U.S. alone.

Redirecting our passion for our animals may be helpful in ensuring that we are really providing the healthiest foods and treats for them. There are many factors to consider: the animal's size, age, activity level, physical condition and genetic history, if available. The person best able to make recommendations for food and treats and supplements is your animal's second best friend (you are the first best friend!) – the veterinarian.

Bring a list of items you think your animal might enjoy – hard bones, rawhide, dental chews, etc. – and ask your veterinarian what problems might be encountered by offering them to your pet. Discuss your animal's nutritional needs with your veterinarian to come up with a food plan that fits your pet. Ask your veterinarian what ingredients should be avoided entirely in any food or treat product and then check the ingredients list before purchasing an item. Lastly, remember that giving your cat a little plastic ball or giving your dog a chew stick can never replace what your animal craves the most – your attention.

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Moraga Gardens Farm Plant Sale

Once again, it's time to plant those delicious vegetables and herbs in order to enjoy a robust garden this summer. Helping towards that goal is the annual Moraga Gardens Farm plant sale.

Located at 1290 Moraga Way (between the fire station and School Street), the sale includes heirloom tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and savory herbs. The sale runs

Mar. 28 - April 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to the plant sale, the all-volunteer Moraga Gardens donates many plants to the various schools' teaching gardens. Last year, Del Rey Elementary, the four schools in the Acalanes High School District, and Stanley and Joaquin Moraga middle schools received plants.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

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STUDENTS

Navy Girls are State Cup Champions



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congrats to the **Lamorinda U11 Navy Girls** for winning the State Cup Red/Diamond 2 Division. (L-R) back row: **Lindsey Lucas, Danielle De Francisci, Anna Solomon, Sydney Tuggle, Isabella G., Samantha K., Coach Javier.** Front row: **Natalie Means, Brooke Palma, Kelsey Viadro, Katherine Montoya, Caitlyn McCulloch, Lily Boyden, Emma Bonardi.**

Catholic Youth Organization Teams



JANICE NEFF

Green Lightening, the Santa Maria 5th grade girls' team, won the national championship in their age group. (L-R) back row: **Coach Aaron George, Coach Jim Bergquist.** Middle row: **Peyton Mays, Caroline Kemner, Ellis Bergquist, Elle Efremsky.** Front row: **Mia Hardwick, Kate Swan, Paige Mays, Allison Neff, Piper Fleming, Riley George.**



MIKE STONE

The Emeralds, the 4th grade Santa Maria girls team, went into the playoffs in the number one position and finished victorious after defeating St. Catherine's in a fast-paced game. (L-R) Back row: **Zoe Petty, Ruby Martin-Gulutzan, Allie Lurie, John Eddy (Coach).** Middle row: **Coach Laurie Gulutzan, Courtney Scheingart, Leah Lopez, Lauren Stone.** Front row: **Courtney Eddy, Sanjeeta Pannu, Katherine Scheingart.**



FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER

Members of the **Orinda Teen Advisory Council** were recognized at a March Orinda City Council meeting for their completion of an alcohol awareness program at which they received CPR information and practice and learned the effects of alcohol. (L-R) Front row: **Jaime Rich** of the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition and teens **Christianna Fernandez, Sam Zaffanella** and **Colin Mooney.** Back row: City Councilmembers **Dean Orr, Eve Phillips, Mayor Steve Glazer, Victoria Smith** and **Amy Worth.**

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Strong Showing by Miramonte Soccer, Mats and Hoops

By MICHAEL SAKODA
Contributing Writer

As the cold weather melts into spring, there's a lot for the winter athletes at Miramonte to be proud of. The girls' soccer team wrapped up an impressive season with a 13-4-5 record (5-3-4 DFAL) and a 1-0 nail-biter win over rival and defending champion Campolindo to capture an NCS title. After beating the number one-seeded Dons of Acalanes in the semifinals on a penalty kick, the championship game with Campo was almost too thrilling. The score was tied until the final two minutes when junior Gina Crosetti beat four Cougar defenders to punch in the game winner.

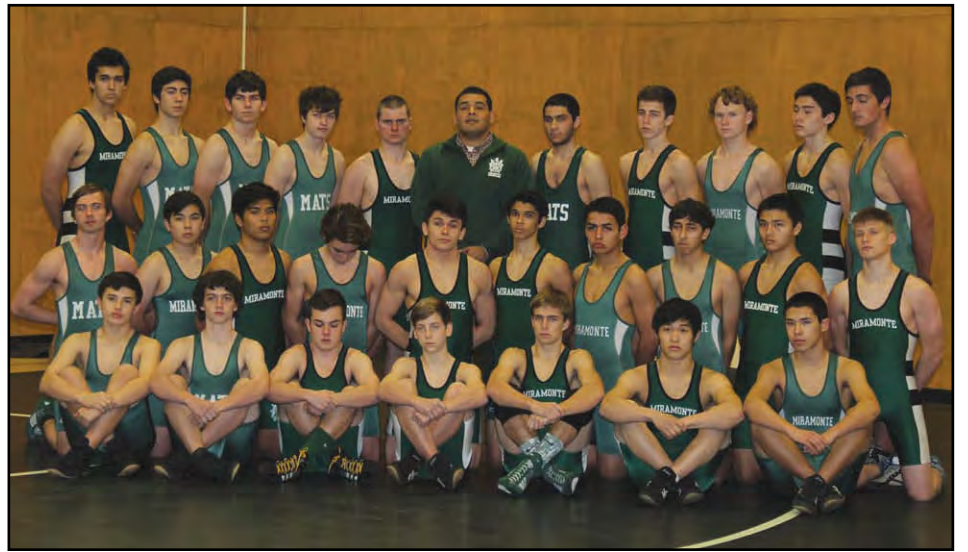
"Our girls' soccer team had to beat some teams that were ahead of them, a tough Alhambra team, a number one seeded Acalanes team and the Campolindo game was just crazy," said Miramonte's athletic

director, Vince Dell'Aquila. "Maritza Grillo was stopping everything that was coming her way and the team put it together and did a wonderful job."

The boys' soccer team also saw their share of success this season, finishing with a 5-5-6 record (5-3-4 DFAL), securing the school's first trip to the NCS playoffs in eight years after trouncing Las Lomas 4-0 in the last game of the regular season. They faced De Anza (20-0-2) in the opening round of the playoffs, and despite being only one of two teams to tie De Anza in the regular season, the Mats fell 2-0, ending what was an historic season for Miramonte. Dell'Aquila says they'll be even tougher next year.

"They've got a junior goalie, Garret Johnson, who is just a wall," he said. "Lots of young talent, their future is bright."

Miramonte has been rebuilding its wrestling program in the past several years, and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2014-15 wrestling team boasted one of the largest in team history.

this season the program boasted the largest team it has had in four years.

"We had over 30 wrestlers this season, which is the biggest team we've had, and they battled," said Dell'Aquila.

The team, led by senior captains Alex Jang, Owen Chang and Justin Joss, worked hard in the preseason to get ready for a tough season. Under head coach Jose Herrera, the Mats' efforts culminated in a win over Acalanes in a dual meet on Dec. 11.

The boys' basketball team competed this year despite losing All-League performers Drew Anderson and Joey Goodreault to graduation last year. The Mats fought their way through a tough DFAL schedule to finish 14-14 (4-8 DFAL), grabbing the 7th seed in the NCS playoffs. Miramonte ousted Elsie Allen 58-41 in the first round before being upended in the second round,

81-67, by eventual runner-up, Moreau Catholic.

The girls' basketball team (28-2; 12-0 DFAL) wrapped up a perfect league campaign by capturing its second straight NCS title, topping Bishop O'Dowd 72-66 behind a 26-point performance from junior Sabrina Ionescu.

"Girls' basketball is good. They've been good," said Dell'Aquila. "When other teams come to play Miramonte, they bring their A game, so the girls battled every single night. They didn't have a drop off, didn't have a lull, and that's a hard thing to do."

Their record earned them the 2nd seed in the CIF State Tournament's Open Division, where they continued their outstanding play.

In-game accolades aside, this group of student athletes boasts an even more impressive statistic, a 3.33 grade point average, which is in the running for the high academic achievement award given out by the NCS.

"I think the biggest message we give our athletes and our students is that at Miramonte, academics come first," said Dell'Aquila. "Our coaches are great about giving the kids time to do their work, and out of the thousand or so student athletes we have, their GPAs are always in the 3.3-3.4 range at the end of the year, for all three seasons."

Beyond the court, the mat or the field, it is achievement like this that separates Miramonte from the average high school, and these exceptional student athletes deserve every bit of the honor they have coming.



SALLY HOGARTY

Miramonte and Campolindo girls battle it out in a tense game for the NCS title.



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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 the 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

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www.cityoforinda.org

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

OK Camp & OK Corral Extended Camp (ages 3.5-6) Daily activities may include sports, crafts, dance, music, games and nature walks (exploring). Special trips to nearby locations and guest presenters. Jun. 15-Aug. 14. Cost \$125-\$173.

Mad Science Camps (ages 3.5-11) Camps that engage your child in the world of science. Jun. 29-Aug. 14. Cost \$225-\$259.

Chinese Immersion Camp (ages 4-12) Purpose of camp is to inspire students' interest to learn Chinese and to introduce Chinese culture. Students learn Mandarin Chinese through games, songs and drawings. Class introduces pronunciation, basic phonic (pin-yin) system and simple character writing. Jun. 15-Aug. 7. Cost \$165-\$190.

Lunch Bunch Camp (ages 4-16) Let us create a full day camp for you! If your child is enrolled in a morning and an afternoon camp at the Orinda Community Center, we will have City Camp Staff pick your child up, supervise a lunch period, play fun games and create exciting projects with them. At the conclusion of each lunch bunch, staff will drop your child off at their afternoon camp. Jun. 15-Aug. 24. Cost \$45-\$51.

Orinda Summer Enrichment Program, Down on the Farm (Grades K-3) Pull on those overalls, stick a piece of straw between your teeth and prepare to get a little muddy as this year we present a really fun and very informative visit "Down On The Farm!" Jun. 22-Jul. 17. Cost \$490-\$530.

Play Well Camps (ages 5-12) Have your child become a Play-Well Engineer! Jun. 15-Aug. 14. Cost \$225-\$259.

Carpentry Camps (5-14) Learn to use hammers, saws, drills, planes and other basic hand tools on fun projects. Advanced students work on furniture, scooters and skateboards. Students gain experience in cooperation, measuring, fractions and problem solving. Jun. 15-Aug. 27. Cost \$130-\$149.

Orinda Nature Camp (ages 6-9) Participants experience the environment and outdoor habitats through exploring nature, art and educational projects, short hikes, visiting various nature areas, and special presentations. Aug. 10-14. Cost \$150-\$173.

Camp Orinda (ages 6-11) Join Camp Orinda and have a summer filled with great trips, games, nature walks, arts and crafts, skits, cooking, sports curriculum, guest presentations, special events and all kinds of fun. Each session includes a different theme with adventures to Lawrence Hall of Science, Waterworld, Exploratorium and more. Jun. 15-Aug. 7. Cost \$225-\$304.

Chess Camps (ages 6-12) If you are new to chess or just polishing your skills, come develop your understanding and enjoyment of the king of games. Chess students have shown improved test results in reading, science, and math and other cognitive skills. Jun. 15-Jul. 17. Cost \$205-\$236.

Fun & Sports Camp (ages 7-11) Sports vary greatly from traditional to outdoor to international and obscure sports. Children are taught the fundamentals in the morning before scrimmaging and playing games in the afternoon. Jun. 15-Aug. 7. Cost \$225-\$305.

Around the World Cooking Camp (ages 7-14) Learn to prepare delicious dishes from Europe, Asia and Central America! Popular dishes such as crepes, pasta, tacos and pot stickers are sure to delight these budding chefs. Jun. 2-25. Cost \$140-\$161.

Babysitting Camp (ages 10-14) This camp covers child development, safety, bedtime strategies and ways to make babysitting fun for you and the children. Students also learn what to do in an emergency. Jul. 13-16. Cost \$80-\$92

Teen ouTEENS (ages 11-14) Each week is

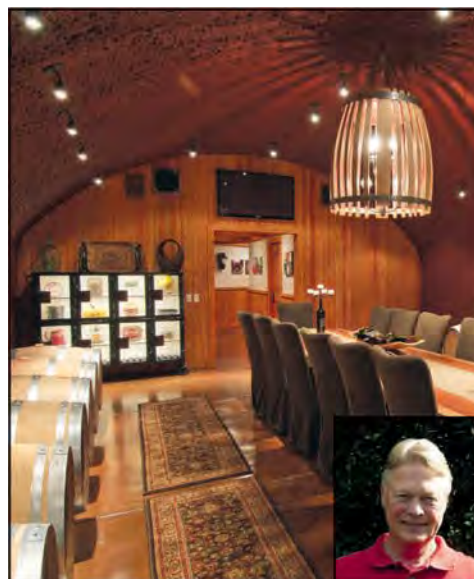


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Parks and Rec. camp included a field trip to a local fire station.

filled with three amazing trips (typically Tues., Wed., Thurs.). Mondays of each week consist of team building, outdoor games, and fun projects.

Fridays consist of camp games, an outdoor BBQ and water play. Jul. 6-31. Cost \$350-\$402 [SEE CAMPS page 16]



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- Fever
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- Personal Trauma
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AdvancedTherapyCenter.org

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- MVP Marlins Swim Team
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Memberships Available for the 2015 Season

Visit moragavalleypool.org or email: membership@moragavalleypool.org

Swim Team Registration Now Open!

CAMPS

◆ CAMPS from page 15

Camp Brainy Bunch
19 Altarinda Drive
Orinda CA 94563
510-548-4800

www.campbrainybunch.com

Located on the beautiful Orinda Academy campus, weeklong camps serve children in grades one through six from Jun. 29-Jul. 17. There are eight camps, each with a different focus, including: Engineering—Powered Up, Writing—Creating Characters, Public Speaking—Mock Trial, and Leadership—Superheroes. Healthy lunches provided by Whole Foods. Sibling and multiple week discounts. Extended care available 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Camp Galileo and Galileo Summer Quest
38 Bay Area locations
13 East Bay Camps
1-800-854-3684

www.galileo-camps.com

Camp Galileo utilizes award-winning curriculum designed by Stanford grad Pamela Briskman and her team. Young pre-K – 5th grade campers are encouraged to brainstorm, create and think like innovators in one of four themes for week-long sessions. Themes include: **Galileo Rocks** - music-inspired art and instrument

engineering; **Destination San Francisco** - art and engineering in the City by the Bay; **Galileo Makers** - DIY art and real-world inventions; **Mount Everest Expedition** -Himalayan art and the science of scaling mountains. Nine East Bay locations with varying dates.

For older kids, **Galileo Summer Quest** campers entering grades 5-8 dive into one or more of 15 majors from four categories during week-long sessions. Choices include: **Arts Academy** - Electric Painting Studio, Digital Filmmaking, Digital Photography or Fashion Design; **High Technology** - Mod Design with Minecraft, 3-D Modeling & Printing, Digital Music Producers, Video Game Design, Website Design; **Culinary Arts** - Chefology, International Eats and Chefology, Decadent Desserts; **Builders and Makers** - Go-Kart Builders and Inventor's Workshop. Four East Bay locations with varying dates.

Peppermint Playhouse
Orinda, CA 94563
925-376-7342

www.peppermintplayhouselamorinda.com

Children age 3-5 have enjoyed a balance of play and structured activities for 20 years in this camp's small group setting.

Chef's Camp (ages 3.5-5) Mondays from Jun. 15-Jul. 20, 9:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. Includes daily cooking project and field trip to local restaurant or bakery.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Galileo Summer Quest campers whip up treats and laughs in Chefology.

Three's Camp (ages 3 or just turning 3 in fall) Wednesdays from Jun. 17-Jul. 22, 9:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. Introduction to art, music, story time, outdoor play and friendship.

Four's Camp (age 4 or just turning 4 in fall) Tuesdays and Thursdays Jun. 16-Jul. 23, 9:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. Includes science experiments, a workshop and a local field trip.

Social Superheroes
Orinda, CA
415-420-9459

Karen@sfbayplaytherapy.com
www.sfbayplaytherapy.com

Social Superheroes camp is offered 10 a.m.-1 p.m., M-W-F, for children aged 5-11. Karen Wolfe, MA LMFT, is the lead facilitator, with two skilled professionals assisting (2:1 adult/child ratio). The camp runs Jun. 22-Jul. 17 (except Jul. 3 and 6) near Theatre Square at a large property including a child therapy room and a tree house. Play therapy techniques include superflex curriculum, mindfulness and kimoichis, all designed to increase your child's social toolbox.

Walnut Creek Civic Arts
Arts, Adventures & Academics Summer Camps

111 N. Wiget Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
925-943-5846

www.walnut-creek.org

Extensive list of choices in four, nine or ten day camps from Jun. 22-Aug. 14 for three age groups (5-7, 8-10 and 11-14) with extended care available 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Check website for all information and registration as camps are in different locations depending on their focus. Both half- and full-day camps offered, scholarships available. Camps include: Capoeira Movement and Creativity; Cartooning; Studio Recording Basics; Rhythm-N-Motion; the Nature of Science and many more.

VISUAL, PERFORMING AND DIGITAL 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, 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 Street
Berkeley, CA 94710
510-548-3422 x105

learn@calshakes.org
www.summershakespearecamp.org

Cal Shakes' Summer Shakespeare Conservatory offers two- and four-week sessions for student actors in grades 3-12 (ages 8-18). Mornings are spent in a wide variety of theater disciplines taught by working theater professionals. Afternoons are spent in rehearsals. The experience culminates in Shakespeare performances at the end of the program. Campers receive free tickets to the Cal Shakes Main Stage season. Payment plans available; **scholarships only available if you apply by April 30**--see website for details or call 510-809-3293 for info.

Four-Week Conservatory offered at Bentley Upper School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Jun. 22-Jul. 17. Cost \$1350. Performances Fri. Jul. 17. Also, **Two-Week Conservatory** offered at Bentley Upper School from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Jul. 20-31. Cost \$675. Performances Fri. Jul. 31.

Four-Week Conservatory offered at Oakland School for the Arts, 530 18th Street, Oakland, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Jun. 29-Jul. 24. Cost \$1350. Performances Fri. Jul. 24.

Two-Week Conservatory offered at Zion Lutheran School, 5201 Park Blvd. in Piedmont from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Jul. 27-Aug. 7. Cost \$675. Performances Fri. Aug. 7.

iD Tech Camps
St. Mary's College
1928 St. Mary's Road
Moraga CA 94575
408-871-2227

<http://idtech.com>

This is the 16th season St. Mary's has hosted week-long tech camps (M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) offering a guaranteed 8:1 student to staff ratio. Camps are divided into age groups 7-9, 10-12 and 13-17. From Jun. 15 to Jul. 31 kids can sign up for: **Adventures in Robotics**, **Intro to Programming with Scratch and JavaScript**,

[SEE CAMPS 1 page 17]

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(925) 254-3725

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)

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| June 22 nd - 26 th | (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm) |
| June 29 th - July 3 rd | (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm) |
| July 6 th - 10 th | (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm) |
| July 13 th - 17 th | (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm) |
| July 20 th - 24 th | (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm) |
| July 27 th - 31 st | (Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm) |

*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

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CAMPS

◆ CAMPS 1 from page 16

Mobile Game Design for iPhone and Android, Robotics Engineering & Programming with VEX, and 3D Level Design with Portal 2 and Team Fortress. The project oriented camps are segmented by course and age, emphasize STEM skills, provide a take home online portfolio and include games and outdoor time. Campers lunch at the university dining hall or have catered meals.

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

Dance Camps (ages 3-5) Fantasy dance camps are offered through the summer. Jun. 15-Aug. 28. Cost \$180-\$207.

Musical Theater Camp (4-14) Children are invited to be a part of our polished mini-productions of musicals. Self-esteem skyrockets as members learn to develop character, vocal technique, presentation and dance skills. Play lasts approximately 40 minutes with about 4-6 songs. Jun. 15-Aug. 21. Cost \$245-\$426.

Art Camp (ages 5-9) Students learn new skills, use a variety of media, and extend their understanding of art concepts. Jun. 15-Aug. 14. Cost \$125-\$144.

Film Making, IncrediFlix Camps (ages



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oakland Strokes consistently trains award-winning rowers.

7-13) These camps offer students the opportunity to create their own film. In the animation camps, kids will create characters, backgrounds, film and add voice-overs while working in age-appropriate groups. Jul. 27-31. Cost \$200-\$414.

Kids on Camera TV/Film Acting School and Day Camp
415-440-4400
info@kids-on-camera.com
www.kids-on-camera.com
TV/Film Scenes, Physical Comedy, Audi-

tion Skills and Improv (ages 6-9 and 10-13) Jun. 29-Jul. 2, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Extended Care 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at Piedmont Veteran's Memorial Building. Parents join students for a review and live improv 1-3 p.m. on Jul. 2. Enroll online at www.ci.piedmont.ca.us or call 510-420-3070. Cost \$390-\$410.

Sing Out Theatre
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Drive
Pleasant Hill CA 94523
925-300-8337
www.singouttheatre.org

Rachael Pergamit (formerly of Shadelands YTC) offers youth musical theatre programs for kids aged 5-18 which runs for three weeks from Jun. 15-Jul. 2.

Summer Theatre Camp (ages 5-14) teaches kids how to produce Disney's *Aladdin, Jr.* Students learn how to sing, dance and act while they rehearse the musical; performance for family and friends is Jul. 1-2. Mini Players (ages 5-6) rehearse from 2:30-4 p.m., while the Kids Theatre and Theatre Jr. (ages 7-14) students rehearse from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. M-F. Tuition includes cast T-shirt. Cost is \$350 (ages 5-6) and \$500 (ages 7-14).

Triple Threat Workshop is for advanced theatre performers. Students entering 6th grade to graduating seniors will work on scenes/monologues, dances and vocal performances from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The workshop concludes with a video performance. Tuition is \$500 alone or \$850 if combined with the afternoon **Summer Theatre Camp**.

Town Hall Theatre Company
3535 School Street
Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-6673
Ginny.Wehrmeister@townhalltheatre.com
www.townhalltheatre.com

From Jun. 15-Aug. 1 kids aged 4-18 receive a mix of training and production-based classes in live theater. Depending on child's age, they could participate in *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Shrek, Jr.*, or *The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)*.

SCHOOL-RELATED CAMPS
Fountainhead Montessori School
30 Santa Maria Way
Orinda, CA 94563
925-820-1343
www.fms.org

A Montessori-based summer school, 9 a.m.-noon with aftercare available from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Age range two years to kindergarten.



SWIMAGES

Young children learn to swim at **Sherman Swim School**.

Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool
433 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-3429
www.holyshepherdchristianpreschool.org
Kids will enjoy summertime activities in a small class environment such as: cooking, 4th of

July celebrations, water play, painting, trains, spirit week and mixed-up crazy week. Camp runs from Jun. 22-Aug. 14., Tues. and Thur. 9 a.m.-12 pm; M-W-F 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Extended care available to 2 p.m. at \$8/hour for all three options.

Orinda Academy (OA)
19 Altarinda Road
Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-7553 or 925-478-4504
www.orindaacademy.org

Open House for interested families on April 22, from 7-9 p.m. 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: Jun. 22-Jul. 14 and Jul. 16-Aug. 7, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., with a student/teacher ratio of 9:1. Books are included in tuition. Courses offered this summer are: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, English as a Second Language for International Students, and U.S. History. Fees for a one semester course (five credits) are \$900 and \$1,700 for a two semester courses (10 credits).

The Saklan School
1678 School Street

[SEE CAMPS 2 page 18]

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Private Swim Lessons
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www.ShermanSwim.com

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| Monday-Thursday 11:00am - 2:30pm 5:00pm - 9:00pm | Friday 11:00am - 2:30pm 5:00pm - 10:00pm | Saturday 11:00am - 10:00pm | Sunday 5:00pm - 9:00pm Takeout/Delivery 3:00pm-9:00pm |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--|

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Orinda Ballet Academy & Company
Artistic Director, Patricia Tomlinson

"Cinderella"

2015 Summer Ballet Camp & Intensive
June 29 - August 7th

Pre-Ballet - Ballet 6 Divisions (Ages 3-18 years)
Ballet Intensive: Intermediate-Advanced Divisions
www.OrindaBalletAcademy.com

Ballet Technique,
Pre-Pointe, Pointe,
Variations, Pas de deux,
Creative Dance, Contemporary & Jazz,
Camp includes: Fun ballet craft projects,
Pilates (reformer & mat) & Stretch,
Private Lessons

Demonstration Performance
"Cinderella" excerpts
Friday, August 7, 2014 at 3pm

ORINDA

City of Orinda * Parks & Recreation * Recreation Programs * 28 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA 94563 * www.cityoforinda.org * (925) 254-2445 * fax (925) 253-7712

CAMPS

◆ CAMPS 2 from page 17

Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-7900
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 Jun. 8 through Aug. 7, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., with extended care from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Ages 3-11.

SPORTS-RELATED CAMPS

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

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.

Multi-Sports Camp (ages 4-6) Baseball, bas-

ketball and soccer are taught in a safe, structured environment filled with lots of encouragement and a big focus on fun! Through games and activities, campers explore balance, hand/eye coordination, and skill development at their own pace. Jun. 15-Aug. 21. Cost \$169-\$286.

Gymnastics & More Summer Camps (ages 4-7): Children learn beginning gymnastics and tumbling skills, working on bars, low balance beams, mini-trampolines, vaulting blocks and barrels and incline mats. Students are introduced to strength and flexibility exercises with fun and challenging games. Jun. 22-Aug. 21. Cost \$195-\$224.

Tennis Camps with Ronald Noon (ages 4-12) Our outstanding tennis staff conducts these fun and instructional tennis camps and clinics emphasizing fundamentals, stroke instruction, etiquette, rules, and scoring. Basic strokes, team building, game strategy, offensive and defensive play, and advanced techniques are introduced. Jun. 15-Aug. 20. Cost \$110-\$121.

Tennis Camps with Drew Diefenbach (ages 4-15) Learn the proper modern techniques necessary to achieve excellent tennis strokes in a safe and encouraging environment. Every student will learn scoring, court position and strategy. On the final day of camp there will be awards, prizes, and a pizza party for all players! Jun. 29-Aug. 21. Cost \$175-\$561.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kids enjoying the brand new fun and fast water slide at **Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club**.

Baseball Camp (ages 5-10) Participants learn the skills required for success in youth baseball by drills designed to teach them the proper throwing, fielding, hitting, base running and pitching techniques. Jul. 13-17. Cost \$159-\$183

Basketball Camp (ages 5-10) Beginning to intermediate players. An active week of passing, shooting, dribbling, defense and rebounding makes this one of our most popular programs. Jun. 22-26. Cost \$159-\$183.

Soccer Camp (ages 5-10) Beginning to intermediate players. Using our progressive curriculum, campers will gain the technical skills, strategy and sports knowledge to take their next step into soccer. Jul. 6-10. Cost \$159-\$183

Tennis Camp (ages 5-10) Skyhawks Tennis with QuickStart is a new format to help kids ten and under learn and play tennis using modified courts, racquets and balls. Jun. 29-Jul. 3. Cost \$159-\$183.

World Cup Soccer Camps (ages 5-13) With an emphasis on instruction, children receive the highest level of attention in a fun and safe environment. The 1:10 coach to player ratio, plus the experienced and educated staff, evaluate individual players and then focus on developing athletic and team building skills. Jun. 22-Aug. 21. Cost \$50-\$229.

Flag Football Camp (ages 7-12) Participants learn the fundamentals of passing, rushing, receiving and defense along with the rules, strategy and play-calls of the game. The camp ends with the Skyhawks Super Bowl. Jul. 13-17. Cost \$159-\$183.

Air-Attack Flag Football (ages 7-12) Our non-contact camp is the perfect introduction to football. Emphasis is on proper conditioning and warm-ups, footwork drills, agility, passing, receiving and game strategies. Aug. 3-7. Cost \$159-\$183.

Lacrosse Camp (ages 7-12) Lacrosse com-

bins basic skills used in soccer, basketball and hockey into one fast-paced game. Athletes will learn the fundamentals of stick handling, cradling, passing and shooting in a fun, non-checking environment. Jun. 29-Jul. 3. Cost \$169-\$194.

Hit and Run Baseball/Softball Camp (ages 7-13) Participants learn the skills required for success in youth baseball by drills designed to teach proper throwing, fielding, hitting, base running and pitching techniques. Jun. 22-26. Cost \$159-\$183.

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

Learn how to row and what real teamwork is all about. OS is a 14-time national champion and 2014 recipient of the U.S. Rowing Anita DeFrantz Award for Advanced Diversity in Rowing. **Summer Rowing Camps** are one week sessions designed to provide an enjoyable but very real introduction to rowing. The camps provide training in rowing techniques, fitness, teamwork and endurance. Camps now being held at the San Pablo Reservoir in Orinda and the Tidewater Rowing Center in Oakland. **Beginner and Intermediate Sessions 1-3** in Orinda run from Jun. 22 to Jul. 10; participants must be 12-17 years old. Limited scholarships available.

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

This marks the 47th year that Saint Mary's College offers 30+ outstanding Athletic Summer Camps to children and teens between the ages of 5-18 from Jun. 5-Aug. 7. Overnight, Day, Half-Day, Team and Specialty Camps include **All Sports, Baseball, Basketball, Lacrosse, Running, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball**. Athletes can expect to participate in daily competitions, conditioning, skill development and other activities. Early morning and extended care options available.

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

Celebrating 54 years, the school offers year-round swimming and diving lessons in a warm, protected environment for ages nine mos. to adult. Private lessons coupled with patient, encouraging teachers and extremely comfortable water (90°-94°) creates an ideal learning [SEE CAMPS 3 page 19]

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www.CoreKinetics.com

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

Visit our website for great offers.

Take control of your health.

The Well Balanced Workout

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

Kids

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MOVE

JUNE 15-19

Register at LOPC.org

We want our kids to Move. From here to there. From bored to passionate. From selfish to giving. From unfocused to wide awake. **For kids 4-years-old through completed 4th grade.**

Questions? Contact Ryan Timpte, ryan@LOPC.org.

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ORINDA ACADEMY

PARENTS, STUDENTS & TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER

College Prep for Students (Grades 8-12)

Orinda Academy Summer Session

Offering: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, English/ESL for International Students, U.S. History

Session 1: June 22 - July 14 • Session 2: July 16 - August 7

Mon. - Fri. 9am - 1pm

All classes meet state requirements for credit and are UC approved.

8:1 Student to Teacher ratio, Personalized Instruction

\$900 per session or \$1700 for both.

(925) 254-7553 www.OrindaAcademy.org

"Inspiring success – Fulfilling potential"

CAMPS

◆ CAMPS 3 from page 18

environment for swimmers of all ages. Their goal is to build a strong foundation for a safe and happy swimmer. **Summer Sessions** run from Jun. 15-Sept. 4, between 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Fri. for two or three days per week. Private swim lessons are 15 to 30 minutes; small group dive lessons are 30 minutes. Facility is available for birthday parties.

Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club (SH)
 1 Sunnyside Lane
 Orinda, CA 94563
 925-254-1126
 email: shstc@comcast.net
 www.sleepyhollowclub.com

Private recreational facility; inquire regarding membership. SH 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. A new super fun and fast water slide was added this year.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE CAMPS

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

Youth aged 13-27 who experience social fears and anxieties or difficulties with spectrum differences are welcome to learn and grow with like peers at this camp. The 16-day camp is located at a summer retreat in the Lake Tahoe area and runs from Jul. 5-20. Activities include light back packing, river rafting, campfires and many educational opportunities to improve social skills while having fun. Pick-up/drop-off at Reno Airport available for an extra fee.

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 a Museum Guide for detailed information.

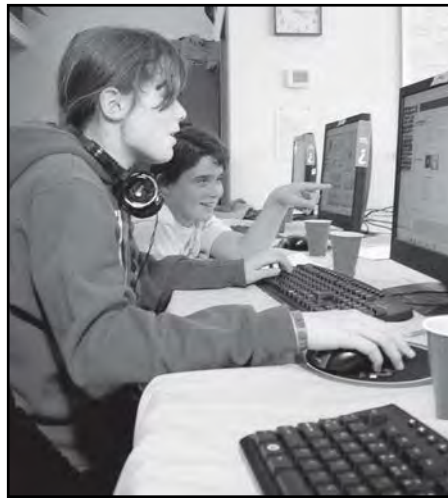
CP-143: Happy Habitats 4 week class (ages 2-3 plus adult) Jun. 3-24, 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. What makes up an animal's habitat? Meet some animal ambassadors and learn about their special homes. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members.
CP-144 same class, ages and dates, 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.).

Mini Monday—Digging Dinosaurs (ages 2-5 + adult) Jun. 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Encourage your young naturalist's curiosity on this special day for children and their caregivers. Animal encounters, activities and crafts help connect your child to our natural world and all its wonders. \$20 for the first child (\$10 museum members), \$6 for each additional child ages two and up. Children under two free with one paid admission. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. Pre-registration is not required. Nut-free refreshments provided.

Friday Family Night (ages 2-17 + adult) Jun. 26, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Meet animals, enjoy craft activities and star gazing. \$15 non-member adult plus child, \$5 for each additional child; \$10 for adult member \$5 for each additional child. Food truck in parking lot; star gazing courtesy of Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society.

CC-414: Raptors Workshop (ages 6-10) Jun. 20, 9 a.m.-11:00 a.m. What is a day in the life of an animal keeper like at Lindsay Wildlife? Meet a keeper and learn how keepers care for, train and communicate with animal ambassadors. \$35 for members, \$45 non-members.

Camp Helper Positions for 12- to 17-year-olds for many camps (Jul. 16-Aug. 20). Training sessions for counselors on a variety of dates, all from 12:30-4 p.m. Details available on website. Cost \$60 for members, \$45 for non-members.



CHARLIE JARRETT

It's all smiles at this **iD Tech** video game design camp at St. Mary's College.

Orinda Summer Adventure Day Camp
Base Camps: Wilder Field, Orinda Sports Field or Pine Grove Park
 Orinda, CA 94563

www.bayareaadventurecamp.com

Extensive list of camps for kids aged 7-14 online. **Sports Only Half Day Camp** (co-ed, ages 5-14) is for kids who are interested in a variety of sports such as: flag football, basketball, soccer, beginner Lacrosse (no pads/no contact), baseball and/or kickball. Camp runs Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-11:45 a.m. the weeks of Jun. 22, Jul. 6, Aug. 3 at Pine Grove Park or Jul. 13 at Orinda Sports field. Cost is \$99 per week. **Movie-Making Plus Adventure** (ages 9-14) begins at the Orinda Sports Field base camp where an instructor from Movie Making Throughout the Bay teaches

kids all about making a movie. The afternoon is spent at an adventure spot such as Sky High Sports, Horseback Riding, Six Flags and more. \$385 per week from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jul. 13-17. Extended care available.

Rancho Del Lago
 2331 Rancho Del Lago
 Briones CA 94553
 925-370-6439

www.rancho-del-lago.com

Campers age 5-1/2 to 13 learn to groom, tack up, ride and care for horses at one week sessions. Full sessions are 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., half sessions are 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and noon - 3 p.m. Sessions run M-F between Jun. 15 and Jul. 24. Each child is matched to a Welsh pony or full size horse depending on their size and experience. Kids learn the basics, "stop, go and steering," and move on from there to riding around obstacles, how to post the trot and practicing jumping position. All campers create a routine they perform for their parents and friends on the last day of camp.

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

Celebrating their 43rd summer as Lamorinda's hometown camp. An all-outdoor day camp located at the Lafayette Reservoir for ages 4 to 16. Camp activities include horseback riding, swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, sports, crafts, an overnight camp out and more! Longer sessions are designed for social

[SEE CAMPS 4 page 20]

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43rd ROUGHING IT DAY CAMP Year

Lamorinda's Hometown Camp

Lafayette Reservoir Site • Ages 4-16
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 roughingit.com/orindanews

www.roughingit.com

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CAMPS

◆ CAMPS 4 from page 19

growth, skill development, friendship and fun for every camper. Programs include: Flagship 4 & 8 Week Day Camp for ages 4-16; 2 Week Little Raccoons for younger campers entering K to 1st grad; 2 Week Specialty English Riding Horse Day Camp for horse loving campers; an introductory program for pre-K to 1st grade campers; and 1 Week Outdoor Explorers for 1st to 6th graders. Free transportation to and from home in Orinda for 4 & 8 Week Day Campers and from Orinda Rite Aid for all other programs; six other Lamorinda bus stops available. Free extended care. Sessions run Jun. 22-Aug. 21. 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)

510-632-9525 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-Jun. to mid-Aug. 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 a.m.-4 p.m.

PreK and Kindergarten: Busy Beasts Full Day 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for pre-K and kindergarten kids who must be potty trained; also, no nap time provided. **Class A Week:** What's the difference between diurnal and nocturnal? Who is the biggest animal that lives at the zoo, and who is the smallest? Jul. 6-10, Jul. 20-Jul. 24. **Class B Week:** Do you live in a house? Apartment? Nest? Animals build and protect homes for their families, just like people! Jul. 13-17. Cost \$301 for members, \$331 for non-members.

PreK and Kindergarten: Busy Beasts Half Day 9 a.m.-12 noon, same ages and requirements. Cost \$206 for members, \$231 for non-members. **Class A Week:** Jun. 15-19, Jun. 29-Jul. 3, Jul. 13-17, Jul. 27-31, Aug. 10-14. **Class B Week:** Jun. 22-26, Jul. 6-10, Jul. 20-24, Aug. 3-7. Cost \$206 for members, \$231 for non-members.

First Grade: Furry Friends: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **Class A Week:** What makes a bird a bird? Or an ant an ant? The animal kingdom is made up of millions of different families-wild and wonderful and sometimes just weird. Sessions Jun. 15-19, Jun. 29-Jul. 3, Jul. 13-17, Jul. 27-31, Aug. 10-14. **Class B Week:** Do you think you can run faster than a tiger? Who do you think would be able to go across the monkey bars faster - you or an actual monkey? Sessions: Jun. 22-26, Jul. 6-10, Jul. 20-24, Aug. 3-7. Cost \$301 for members, \$331 for non-members.

First-Fifth Grades Together: Nature Play Camp 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Kids will tour the zoo, explore Knowland Park, build forts, look for wildlife and come nose to nose with nature.

Grade 1-5 campers play together. Sessions: Jun. 15-19, Jun. 22-26, Jun. 29-Jul. 3, Jul. 6-10, Jul. 13-17, Jul. 20-25, Jul. 27-31, Aug. 3-7, Aug. 10-14. Cost \$301 for members, \$331 for non-members.

Second and Third Grade: Animal Adventures: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **Class A Week:** Would you rather eat or be eaten? Predators need to hunt to survive, but their prey work to avoid being eaten in every way possible! Sessions: Jun. 15-19, Jun. 29-Jul. 3, Jul. 13-17, Jul. 27-31, Aug. 10-14. Cost \$301 for members, \$331 for non-members. **Class B Week:** What habitat houses over half the world's animals and plants? The tropical rainforest! Uncover its secrets. Jun. 22-26, Jul. 6-10, Jul. 20-24 and Aug. 3-7. Cost \$301 for members, \$331 for non-members.

Fourth and Fifth Grades: Eco-Explorers 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **Class A Week:** What would it be like to spend a day in the life of an animal... or a Zoo Keeper...or a scientist? Come experience the zoo from many different perspectives! Sessions: Jun. 15-19, Jun. 29-Jul. 3, Jul. 13-17, Jul. 27-31, Aug. 10-14. **Class B Week:** Animals leave behind all kinds of clues to tell you who was there. Can you find any evidence? Sessions: Jun. 22-26, Jul. 6-10, Jul. 20-24 and Aug. 3-7. Cost \$301 for members, \$331 for non-members.

Grades 6-8 Wild Survivor 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn important survival skills; includes your own emergency survival kit to take home. Sessions Jun. 15-19, Jun. 22-26, Jun. 29-Jul. 3, Jul. 6-10, Jul. 20-25, Jul. 27-31, Aug. 3-7 and Aug. 10-14. Cost \$326 for members, \$351 for non-members.

Grades 6-8 Conservation Crew 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Which animal at the zoo is extinct in the wild and lives only in captivity? Do you know the difference between threatened and endangered species. Jun. 15-19, Jun. 22-26, Jun. 29-Jul. 3, Jul. 6-10, Jul. 13-17, Jul. 20-25, Aug. 3-7, and Aug. 10-14. Cost \$301 for members, \$331 for non-members.

Grades 6-8 Zoo Art: How can you represent the tenacity of tigers? The merriment of meerkats? Join us for a week of art camp where we'll draw, paint, sculpt, and photograph our way through the zoo! Sessions Jul. 13-17 and Jul. 27-31. Cost \$326 for members, \$351 for non-members.

High School: Grades 9-12 Teen Assistants 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Love animals and kids? Come to camp as a Teen Assistant and spend three weeks helping to create a fun and exciting experience for campers. Help lead games, crafts and more while earning community service hours. Sessions: M-F, Jun. 15-19, Jun. 22-26, Jun. 29-Jul. 3, Jul. 6-10, Jul. 13-17, Jul. 20-25, Jul. 27-31, Aug. 3-7 and Aug. 10-14. See Teen Assistants webpage for registration dates. Cost: \$60 for members, \$80 for non-members.

◆ CARS from page 7

benefit by having a consistent relationship. If you have a facility that you trust and that treats you fairly, show your loyalty and use them exclusively.

John Vanek can be reached at Orinda Motors at 254-2012 or by email at John@orindamotors.com.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Gallery Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 9 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or 925-283-8288.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org/
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 a.m., September through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, www.montelindogarden.com. Wildlife biologist James Hale with talk on "Wildlife in the East Bay."
- Orinda Garden Club**. Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. 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 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 925-254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday, 2 p.m., 26 Orinda Way, 925-254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Visit www.mofd.org/board/meetings meeting location will be posted on the agenda.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 6 p.m., 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.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

- 1 **Lamorinda Idol 2015** registration, April 1-30. Visit http://orindaarts.org/lamorinda-idol.
- 9 **Miramonte High School** Blood Drive, small gym.
- 11 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School** Spring Auction, Orinda Country Club, 6 to 11 p.m., featuring auction, raffle, dinner and casino games. Visit https://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com/auction_guide.
- 22 **Orinda Academy** Open House for interested families (8th to 12th grade), 19 Altarinda Road, 7 to 9 p.m.
- 25 **Holden High School** hosts the Catcher in the Ride bike ride through Orinda hills. Cyclists can choose 14- or 22-mile ride, starting at 10 a.m and 9:30 a.m. from the school, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Register by April 18 at www.crowdrise.com/holdenride (\$25 minimum sponsorship). Proceeds benefit the school.
- 30 **Orinda Intermediate School** Bulldog Theater stages *Shrek The Musical, JR*, through May 2 at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive. Everyone's favorite ogre is back in this family-friendly stage spectacle based on the Oscar-winning film. Visit www.showtix4u.com for show times and tickets. Tickets also available at the door. Miramonte Choir Chapel Concert, Church of Santa Maria, 40 Santa Maria Way, 7 p.m.

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

APRIL

- 1 **Educational Foundation of Orinda** 9th Annual Art Ambassadors Exhibit, featuring work by local students, Orinda Library Gallery through April 30. A Celebration of the Arts Reception April 22, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., featuring light refreshments, music by students and a chance to meet the artists.
- 2 **Orinda Books** Story Hour with Cathy Goshorn for children aged 2 to 4, Thursdays, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 925-254-7606.
- 4 **Orinda Rotary** Spring Egg Hunt, Community Center, Orinda Way, 10 a.m. to noon.
Farmer's Market Opening Day, Orinda Way in front of Community Center, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 8 **Second Wednesday Book Group** will read and discuss *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls, 3 p.m. Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, and welcome new members. Call 925-254-7606.
- 9 **Orinda Books** hosts Rhys Bowen and Cara Black discussing their latest mysteries: *The Edge of Dreams* (a Molly Murphy Mystery) by Bowen and *Murder on the Champ de Mars* (an Aimee Leduc Investigation) by Black, 6 p.m., 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
Orinda Theatre Free Movie Night, every second Thursday, 7 p.m. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com/index_orinda.asp.
- 10 **First Fridays Forum** featuring Ken Wiseman talking about "Parks Forward: A New Project to Protect State Parks in California," Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 1:30 p.m. Call 925-283-8722. See story page four.
- 11 **Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC)** Divorce Options Workshop, an informational seminar about the legal, financial, psychological and social issues of divorce, 49 Knox Drive, Room 201, Lafayette, 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No charge for therapists, \$45 for others. Visit Collaborative Practice of the East Bay at www.cpeastbay.com.
- 12 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** auditions, 3 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. Also, April 13, 7 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center carpentry room. For information call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org.
- 15 **Orinda Books** hosts C.W. Gortner discussing his new novel, *Mademoiselle Chanel*, 10 a.m., 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- 17 **California Independent Film Festival's** Founders Night featuring the best films of the CAIFF's 17-year history, Rheem Theatre, 350 Park St., Moraga, 7 p.m. Admission \$7 or free for leading role members of CAIFF. Series runs every third Friday. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com/index_newrheem.asp.
Orinda Parks and Recreation Department Orinda Historical Walking Tour, an event for seniors 9 to 11:30 a.m. Residents \$13; non-residents \$14. Call 925-254-2445 or visit www.cityoforinda.org.
International Film Showcase presents *The Miracle of Bern* for a one-week engagement at Orinda Theatre. Visit <http://internationalshowcase.org/> for information and show times.
- 18 **Orinda Action Day** seeks volunteers to help beautify the city, 9 a.m. to noon. Project leaders also needed. To sign up visit www.orindafoundation.org and go to the volunteer tab or email orindafoundation@gmail.com. Orinda Association's Volunteer Fair takes place same time & place, Orinda Community Center Plaza.
Live Jazz Series at Rheem Theatre, 350 Park St., Moraga, 7 p.m. \$20 general; \$15 seniors and children. Series runs every third Saturday. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com/index_newrheem.asp.
- 24 **Orinda Rotary and Orinda Chamber of Commerce** Annual Trivia Bee, Orinda Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Road. Doors open 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., game starts at 7 p.m. Cost to enter a team (up to six people) is \$360, which includes dinner. For reservations, visit www.orindachamber.org, call 925-254-3909 or email info@orindachamber.org.
- 25 **Orinda Books** hosts Sisters-in-Crime Simon Wood, Janet Dawson, Staci McLaughlin, Priscilla Royal and Camille Minichino discussing their latest mysteries: *The One That Got Away* by Wood, *Cold Trail: A Jeri Howard Mystery* by Dawson and *A Healthy Homicide* by McLaughlin, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 925-254-7606.
- 26 **Holden High School's** Catcher in the Ride cycling event. Twenty-two mile event starts at 9:30 a.m. with the 14 mile event starting at 10 a.m., both begin at 10 Irwin Way, in Orinda. Register by April 18 at www.crowdrise.com/holdenride. Proceeds benefit Holden High School. Sponsored by The Spoke Cyclery. Call 510-652-3089.
JF Kapnek's 12th Annual Family 5k/1k Fun Run benefits children in Zimbabwe, held at Miramonte High School, 9 a.m. Also features face painting, crafts, brunch, Zimbabwean food, African band, free T-shirt and prizes. Visit www.Active.com (keyword: KAPNEK) to register.
- 29 **Orinda Rotary and Orinda Chamber of Commerce** State of the City Luncheon, Orinda Country Club. Lunch at noon; Mayor Steve Glazer will give State of the City address at 1 p.m. Tickets \$20. For reservations email dick@burkhalters.net or call 925-254-2222.
- 30 **SEED/POISE Special Needs Resource Fair**, Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Lafayette. RSVP to info@orindapoise.org.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Please note: the library will be closed April 5 for Easter. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 1 **Toddler Lapsit.** Stories and songs for children aged 1 to 3 and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required, but attendance limited to once per week. Also April 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22.
Paws to Read. 1st- through 5th-graders practice reading with a friendly dog, Gallery Room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Free Computer and eReader Help. Wednesdays, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Also April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Register at the Information Desk.
- 2 **English as a Second Language Conversation Circle.** Practice English conversation in an informal, small-group setting, Tutoring Room, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also April 9, 16, 23 and 30.
Monthly Book Sale. Hosted by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and sorting room, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 4 **Saturday Morning Live!** Story time for children aged 3 to 5, Picture Book area, 11 a.m. Also April 11 and 18 and 25.
Weekend Paws to Read. 1st- through 5th-graders practice reading with a friendly dog, Gallery Room, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call or visit the library to register.
- 7 **Peek-A-Boo Time.** Storytime for children ages 0 to 5, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also April 14

Local Groups Receive OCF Grants



DAVID DIERKS

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) celebrated its fifth birthday on Feb. 26 by presenting \$30,150 to local charities. Pictured here are OCF members and beneficiaries of the OCF grant monies, including representatives from the Orinda Association's 4th of July Parade, Lamorinda Idol, Spirit Van for Orinda Seniors, Orinda Art in Public Places and Orinda Action Day.

Fun Run Benefits Zimbabwe



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young runners from last year's fun run.

JF Kapnek's 12th Annual Family 5k/1k Fun Run is Sunday, April 26, at 9 a.m. at Miramonte High School in Orinda. There will be face painting, crafts, brunch, Zimbabwean food, African band, free T-shirt, Fun Run, prizes and more. Go to Active.com (keyword: KAPNEK) to register today!

Saint Mary's College Guild

A fashion show and luncheon await those attending the Saint Mary's College Guild fundraiser on April 25 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The event features clothing by Draper's and Damon's with funds benefiting the Saint Mary's College scholarship fund.

Tickets are \$35. For more information, call Cyndie Harrison at 925-820-8002.

and 21.

Poetry Reading featuring local poets Amy Glynn, Sara Mumolo and Connie Post, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Adult program.

- 8 **Teen Advisory Group** (grades 9 to 12). First Wednesday of month, Tutoring Room, 4 p.m. Teens meet with librarian to collaborate on teen programs, book collections and displays and earn community service hours.

- 13 **Jane Eyre: A Seminar.** Second in two-part series presented by Deborah Janke, a novelist and executive director of a Contra Costa non-profit, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Adult program.

- 17 **Mystery Book Club.** Members discuss the book of the month, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 p.m. Adult program.

- 23 **Maria's Book Club** meets the fourth Thursday at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 11 a.m. RSVP to 925-254-7606.

Contra Costa Tale Spinners. Adult storytelling with guest speaker, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m. Tell a tale or just come to listen.

- 28 **Toddler Tutu Storytime.** Children can use their imaginations in a dance-inspired program offered by Tutu School, 10:30 a.m. For ages 18 months to 3 years.

Humanities West. George Hammond gives a preview of the upcoming performance of *The Cultural Aftermath*, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Visit www.humanitieswest.org.

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Orinda Starlight Village Players Auditions

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (ORSVP) are holding season auditions on April 12 at 3 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater and on April 13 at 7 p.m. in the Orinda Community Center carpentry room. Auditionees will be asked to read from provided scripts.

The 2015 season of shows are: *Black Coffee* by Agatha Christie directed by Suzan Lorraine Chessman, which will run Friday and Saturday nights from June 5 through July 4, Sunday June 28 and Thursday July 2; *Madness on Madrona Drive* by Louis Flynn directed by Jill Gelster, which will run Friday and Saturday nights from July 24 through August 15, Sunday August 9 and Thursday August 13; and *Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio* adapted and directed by Malcolm Cowler, which will run Friday and Saturday nights from September 12 (No September 11 performance) through October 3, Sundays Sept. 20 and 27, and Thursday October 1.

For more information, call Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org.

Bay Area Storytelling Festival Coming to Town

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Performer Willy Claflin, attributes his storytelling ability to his father. "Because my father made up stories, I started making up stories, too," said Claflin. "I can't remember a time when I didn't hear or tell tales. But that's only natural; all human communication is storytelling in one form or another."

Claflin, a nationally renowned storyteller, will be one of the featured performers at the 29th Bay Area Storytelling Festival, April 24-26 at the Orinda Community Center. According to festival co-chair and production manager Michael Baefsky, Claflin will be joined by performers from all over the country, including Kealoha, the first poet laureate of Hawaii, and Tim Tingle, "a wonderful Choctaw teller and celebrated author who has been very popular with listeners of all ages."

Storytelling is a performance art that features usually one performer interacting directly with the audience. "The story may be personal, or it could be historic, literary, folk or fairy tale, even epic legends are told; off the page, from the hearts and minds of the tellers, often delightfully improvised to match audience reactions," said Baefsky. He explained that the festival's co-chair Linda Yemoto and artistic director Mary Gay Ducey strive to select storytellers that "appeal to audiences of all ages, represent a diversity of backgrounds and, above all, are magnificent performing artists." The festival is a project of the Storytelling Association of California, a non-profit agency whose mission is to support the festival, storytellers and the art of live storytelling.

Ducey believes that audiences "will be delighted by a family-friendly mixture of storytelling concerts, workshops, musical interludes and open mic opportunities."

Like the other performers, Claflin, who became a full-time professional storyteller in 1983, is passionate about his art form. "In the realm of the performing arts, I haven't ever found anything more completely entertaining than a master storyteller at her or his best," he said. "The form of a story doesn't matter. It could be an old ballad, it could be a tall tale, a personal tale, performance poetry, or a literary tale brought to life on stage."

Since storytelling has no set, "everyone



Story teller **Tim Tingle**.

in the room is creating an imaginary visual stream in their own imagination," said Claflin. "In this way, everyone creates the story together and the audience contributes as much as the teller. The reaction of the audience nudges the tale this way and that. Sometimes it seems to me like sailing a boat – the teller has the boat and the sail, and the audience is the wind. When they work together, the ride is exhilarating. It's like a collaboration between the performer and the audience; an intimate experience of co-creation."

Telling and listening to stories in person, face-to-face, is a primal human act that hands down the wisdom, culture and humor from generation to generation, according to Baefsky. "In a time when virtual communication is omnipresent, this art form connects audience and performer, and listeners to each other; not virtually, but in time, space, words, music and movement," he said.

In addition to daytime Community Center shows on Friday, performers will also visit local schools to perform. On Friday night, the festival will host an opening gala – with music provided by the Pinole Valley High School jazz band – and unveil the Festival Quilt. In addition to the Saturday and Sunday lineup of tellers, there will also be workshops on storytelling and storytelling merchandise vendors featuring books, CDs, puppets, clothes and jewelry. Sunday afternoon will also feature a children's storytelling concert followed by a children's crafts and stories workshop.

Tickets to the festival range from \$5 for a child's ticket to the children's concert to \$170 for an all-weekend family pass. For more information, to volunteer, find sponsorship opportunities or purchase tickets, visit www.bayareastorytelling.org.

Cal Shakes Artistic Director Wraps Up Long Tenure

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

California Shakespeare Theatre's managing director Susie Falk says she's learned a lot working with the company's artistic director Jonathan Moscone during the past 10 years. "But the thing that I most immediately think of is learning not to fear change," Falk said.

Indeed, big changes are coming for the 41-year-old theatre this August, when Moscone completes his tenure as the company's artistic director with Charles Ludlam's *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, his 22nd production for Cal Shakes.

Moscone, who has accepted a position as the Chief of Civic Engagement with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, will be missed. Falk reflects that in learning not to fear change, she can "now see change as opportunity."

"I couldn't have asked for a greater partner, mentor and friend than I've had in Jon over the past decade that we've worked together," Falk said. "I will miss working with him every day, but know that he will leave a permanent imprint on this organization, for which we are all the better."

Building on Moscone's "imprint" is the goal of Cal Shakes Board of Directors' nationwide search for Moscone's successor. "Due to his efforts, we are well-positioned to find our next great artistic leader," board president Jean Simpson said, noting the board hopes to find a leader who "will build on a legacy of innovative high-quality productions, while furthering our already robust educational and community programs."

Under Moscone's 15-year tenure, the organization has grown its annual budget from \$2.1 million to \$5 million. Falk said the renovations at the Bruns Amphitheater have been a highlight of her association with Moscone.

Other significant accomplishments under Moscone's stewardship include the expansion of the company's programming to include works by classic and contemporary playwrights; the creation of the Artistic Learning program, which serves 5,000 students; and the creation of the company's research and development wing, the Triangle Lab, in collaboration with Intersection for the Arts.

Moscone called the decision to leave his position at the theatre very difficult, adding, "My heart will always deeply be attached to the people who made Cal Shakes what it is."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cal Shakes artistic director Jon Moscone moves to San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

The move, he said, "goes beyond a career move for me; it is my passion to bring civic engagement and art together and I am ready to put my passion to work."

In his new position, Moscone hopes "to build on my work at Cal Shakes, developing new methodologies and partnerships for the arts to matter more deeply to more people."

Moscone has clear ideals of the work he wants to accomplish, "I think there are a lot of different roles that artists can play in society and in their communities," he says. "I am very interested in developing programs that creatively engage diverse communities across the city in art making and problem solving. Artists are essential to this work, as they bring their unique tools to work across sectors with other creative citizens around issues of our day. It's all about collective impact – the more creative minds in the room, the better the ideas, and the more impactful the actions."

Moscone's impact on Cal Shakes is undeniable. The Green Room at the amphitheatre was named after him and the Moscone Permanent Endowment fund was launched by the board to ensure that Cal Shakes' work will continue for generations to come. Moscone's directing work has also touched thousands of audience members who gather annually under the moonlit background of the rolling hills to witness art come alive.

What will Moscone miss most about Cal Shakes? "The space. It's the most beautiful performance venue in the world. And the people – every single one of them."

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OIS Brings Us *Shrek The Musical, JR.*

By JEANETTE LIPP
Contributing Writer

Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) Bulldog Theater presents *Shrek The Musical, JR.* from April 30 through May 2. Everyone's favorite ogre is back in the hilarious stage spectacle based on the Oscar-winning hit film.

Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, *Shrek JR.* is an irreverently fun show for the whole family. In a faraway kingdom, the green ogre Shrek finds his swamp invaded by banished fairy tale misfits, runaways who have been cast off by Lord Farquaad, a tiny terror with big ambitions. When Shrek sets off with a wisecracking donkey to confront Farquaad, he's handed a task - rescue the feisty Princess Fiona from the dragon-guarded tower and his swamp will be returned to him. But, a fairy tale wouldn't be complete without unexpected twists and turns along the way.

With book and lyrics by David Lindsay-

Abaire and music by Jeanine Tesori, *Shrek The Musical JR.* is based on the DreamWorks movie and the book by William Steig. The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) as part of its Youth Education Program. Rachel Robinson directs the production and Annie Clark is music director and choreographer.

There are two casts, comprised of about 60 OIS students. Students are also helping with technical and on stage production. The musical is funded through parent contributions, the OIS Parents Club, Orinda Arts Council and donor contributions. The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, including one intermission. For show times and tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS theater half-hour prior to show times.

Shrek The Musical, JR.

April 30 - May 2



JEANETTE LIPP

The "Swamp" cast of *Shrek the Musical, Jr.* poses for a group photograph.

Tech Trek Camp for Girls Promotes Science and Math

By LANA REICHICK
Contributing Writer

2015 marks the 18th year of the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) ground-breaking Tech Trek Science and Math Camp for Girls. Lamorinda teachers nominated 44 outstanding seventh-grade candidates who were invited by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of the AAUW to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to attend a week long AAUW-CA residential science and math camp held at a major university campus. Six local girls will be honored as the 2015 Tech Trek scholarship winners at the AAUW Awards celebration on April 19.

The success of AAUW-CA's Tech Trek project has gained national recognition. Corporations that see the need for more women in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) are discovering the value of AAUW's project that nurtures budding female scientists and engineers of the future. The project has been rolled out to other states with 21 camps now serving 1,600 girls. Only girls nominated by a science or math teacher are eligible.

Lockheed Martin recently announced its support of the national Tech Trek project with a \$90,400 grant. Lamorinda Tech Trekkers will benefit from the grant, as \$25,000 will support two camps at Stanford University. To learn more, read the joint statement from AAUW and Lockheed Martin: www.aauw.org/article/lockheed-martin-expanding-tech-trek/

Every summer, AAUW-CA holds 10

camps on eight college campuses. Lamorinda Tech Trekkers will attend the Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp at Stanford. Since 1998, when the first camp was held there, AAUW-OML has consistently sent at least one girl from each Lamorinda public middle school. Sixty local girls have benefited from this potentially life-changing opportunity. Letters from former Tech Trekkers glow with enthusiasm about what they learned and experienced at camp. Some Trekkers become junior camp counselors during high school.

Tech Trek camps are managed and funded by AAUW volunteers, with core classes taught by paid credentialed teachers. Each camp is unique with varied field trips and laboratory experiences. AAUW branches raise \$1,000 per camper, through member donations and local fundraising such as the AAUW-OML second annual secure shredding event, called Shred-Fest, on May 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at AAAA Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Moraga. Securely shred documents on site, with HIPAA-compliant shredding provided by Shred Defense, Inc., a locally owned East Bay company. (\$5 per file box.) Also, support local Tech Trek scholarships by sending tax-deductible donations to the non-profit AAUW-OML Community Outreach Fund (mail to: AAUW-OML, P.O. Box 301, Moraga, CA 94570, write: "Tech Trek" on your check).

AAUW, founded in 1881, is dedicated to empowering women and girls and was the first organization to provide educational scholarships for women.

Del Rey Students Win *Odyssey of the Mind* Tourney

By NICOLE READER
Contributing Writer

A team of third-graders from Del Rey Elementary School took first place at the San Francisco Bay Region *Odyssey of the Mind* tournament on Feb. 28. They advance to the California State Tournament on March 28. Team members are Diego Aguilar, Cameron Berg, Sam Laudy, Isaac Reader-Taates and Paul Stephan. Their coaches are parent Nicole Reader and teacher Marta Wallace. Three other teams from Orinda also advance to the State tournament: two from Orinda Intermediate

tournament, the team presents the solution to the long-term problem in the form of an eight-minute skit.

The Del Rey team tackled a long-term problem entitled "Experiencing Technical Difficulties," which required practical engineering skills in addition to creative thinking. "The problem is to design, build and demonstrate various devices that complete specific tasks," said Larsen. "The team will create a theme where technical failures must be resolved through completing the tasks. There will be a list of tasks to choose from ringing a bell, changing the wording on something or sounding an alarm. Of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Del Rey *Odyssey of the Mind* team members (L-R) 1st row: Cameron Berg, Paul Stephan, Sam Laudy, Isaac Reader-Taates, Diego Aguilar. 2nd row: coaches Nicole Reader and teacher Marta Wallace.

School and one from Glorietta Elementary School.

According to Lynn Larsen, state director of California *Odyssey of the Mind*, the program is "a combination of theater and problem-solving with a creative twist." Teams of students choose one of five possible problems assigned each year by *Odyssey*, then work together for four months to create a solution comprised of a story, costumes, props, scenery and technical elements. An adult coach guides the team, but everything is devised and created by students. At the

course, there's a twist - all of the devices must be powered by rubber bands!"

When the Del Rey team asked coach Nicole Reader if she thought they would win the tournament, she told them two things: First, working hard was more important than winning, and second, it would be highly unusual for a team of 3rd-grade rookies to make it to the State finals. At the award ceremony, blue ribbons around their necks, the team turned to Reader and gleefully reminded her of these words.



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FARMERS' MARKET / CONTEST



Seasoned Shopper

Farmer's Market Back in Town April 4

BARBARA KOBSAR



The opening of the Orinda Farmer's Market is early this season. The market opens on Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park with a full line-up of growers and vendors. The launch of the market's 19th season coincides with the annual Orinda Spring Egg Hunt at 11 a.m. at the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A young shopper inspects the strawberries at Orinda's Farmers' Market.

Community Center, so bring the family and baskets for egg hunting and produce shopping.

Manager Janice Faust has retired from the market and her staff, growers and ven-

dors send her many thanks. Norah Duffy, manager of the Walnut Creek Sunday market and Martinez Tuesday market, is the new on-site manager. Duffy graduated from U.C. Santa Barbara and soon after was hired by the Farm Bureau to run their three farmers' markets in San Diego (City Heights, Linda Vista, San Marcos). She is a Bay Area native and glad to be back managing markets in the area. Duffy is very familiar with Orinda – it's where her mother grew up.

Most growers are forecasting an early season with crops a few weeks ahead of schedule.

Baskets of ripe red strawberries are plentiful and locally cut asparagus is at its best. Now is also the time to pick up a fresh bunch of pea shoots. Their soft leaves, curly tendrils and watery stems offer all the fabulous flavor of spring peas. Pea shoots are versatile so try them raw in a salad, in a stir-fry with a little olive oil and minced garlic, or tossed into cooked pasta.

Avocados usually arrive at market a little on the firm side since they do not start to ripen until they are cut off the tree. Allow to ripen uncovered, at room temperature, for three to five days. To speed up this process, place the avocados in a loosely closed brown paper bag with an apple. The natural ethylene gas emitted by the apple ripens the avocado quicker. Haas avocados account for 85 to 90 percent of avocados grown and sold – when ripe, the pebbly-skinned Haas turns from green to almost black. If the fruit yields to gentle palm press, it's ripe. Its buttery texture holds the distinction of

2015 Poul Anderson Writing Contest

The Friends of the Orinda Library announces the start of the 2015 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda.

Entry Categories are Science Fiction, Essay/Memoir, Poetry and Short Story. 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 17, at noon.

Judged by a panel of Orinda writers and residents, this year's judges include Sally Small, Janet Boreta, Marian Nielsen and Maria Roden. Up to four winners will each be awarded \$250 at the end of the school year, underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library. The winning entries will be posted on the Friends' website and inside the Orinda Library facility.

The contest is named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident, who was a true friend to the community for 40 years.

If you have any questions about the contest, email contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com.

being unlike any other fruit!

Strawberries can be served any time of the day. Slice and put on cereal or pancakes, mix into plain yogurt or add to quick breads. Strawberries also combine well with other fruits in salads or smoothies. The traditional shortcake wouldn't be the same without strawberries. Strawberries also make delicious tarts, pies, puddings and crepes.

Strawberries with Balsamic Vinegar and Black Pepper

This recipe has been around a long time but it's always an easy favorite.

- 2 baskets strawberries, hulled and cut in half
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- Freshly ground black pepper

In a medium mixing bowl, gently toss the strawberries, vinegar and sugar together. Divide among 4-6 serving dishes. Grind fresh black pepper over each portion and serve.



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5. Repeat 12-20 times.

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

Everyday Changes Recreate That Beach Look



Bonnie Waters

We haven't had much rain this season however, after months of the winter chill, we all herald the warmth and intense colors of spring to awaken our hibernating spirit. Spring is the season of change and the time we begin to revamp our beauty routine from head to toe.

Heads Up! Surf's Up!

Summer is around the corner, though you don't have to wait until the temperature rises to look like you have spent a day at the beach. Most of us love the buoyant body and sexy, sea-breezy texture of our hair after running through the waves or lounging in the sand. To recreate that look any day, try the newest addition to the Surf Line from Bumble and bumble. Surf Spray is the iconic product for creating sexy, beachy looks – even if you're miles from shore. Since 2001, the Surf Spray finish – matte, full, gritty – has set the standard for wind-swept styles. Now, Bumble and bumble revamps the ocean trend with Surf Infusion – which gives hair a softer, shinier, more touchable feel. This oil-and-salt-infused spray conditions hair with a tropical mix of coconut, mango seed, passion fruit and palm oils – just the thing for dry to coarse hair types. This signature blend of sea salt and minerals creates waves and builds volume for that “just-went-for-a-dip” style you love. It is as simple as spray, scrunch, shine and enjoy the beach in a bottle!

Sandal-Ready Feet - Aloha!

Hawaii is in a perpetual state of spring – blooming → flowers, soft rains, warm breezes inspire sundresses and sandal feet all year-round. While an island vacation may not yet be on your calendar, you can show off your sandal-ready feet with kitschy toes sporting ocean waves or palm tree nail art. The fast track to sandal-ready feet is a professional pedicure, complete with a pop of color. The Hawaii Collection by OPI enhances spring fashion with the colors of the islands and the fun-loving polish names that represent the quintessential Hawaiian lifestyle. Shades of surf, sand and sunsets evoke days spent on Hawaii's beautiful beaches (This Color's Making Waves, Do You Take Lei Away?, Go with the Lava Flow, Aloha from OPI, Just Lanai-ing Around), while lush greenery, tropical flowers and ocean reef dwellers are represented in green, purple and pink (That's Hula-rious!, My Gecko Does Tricks, Is Mai Tai Crooked?, Suzi Shops & Island Hops, Hello Hawaii Ya?, Lost My Bikini in Molo-kini) – all kissed by a brilliant golden sun (Pineapples Have Peelings Too!). Drench yourself in the colors of the Hawaii Collection by OPI and let them lift your spirits and brighten your days. You may not be ready to call your travel agent and book your ticket to Hawaii, however you can call and book a professional pedicure today! Your happy feet might even dance the Hula! Aloha!



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Lamorinda Idol Auditions in May

Registration for 2015 auditions takes place April 1-30, 2015. Auditions will be held at Orinda Intermediate School as follows:

- Soloists K-2** Saturday, May 16, 2015 3 - 5 p.m.
- Soloists 3-5** Saturday, May 16, 2015 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Soloists 6-8** Thursday, May 14, 2015 4 - 6 p.m.
- Soloists 9-12** Friday, May 15, 2015 4 - 5 p.m. and 6 - 7 p.m.
- Groups K-5** Saturday, May 16, 2015 1 - 2 p.m.
- Groups 6-8** Thursday, May 16, 2015 6 - 7 p.m.
- Groups 9-12** Friday, May 17, 2015 5 - 6 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alex Meckes singing in the 2009 Lamorinda Idol competition.

provide financial support. The suggested contribution for those auditioning is \$10 per family with contributions collected at the auditions.

– Esther Becker, Contributing Writer

While there is no required fee for participation in Lamorinda Idol, families of those participating are requested to

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by Sheena

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 28

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BreatheMoveBeWell Pilates and a Whole Lot More

While both Bridget McCarthy and Gaby Diskin share a background in dance, they actually met in a Pilates class and quickly struck up a friendship. Their shared passion for helping people develop and maintain fitness resulted in BreatheMoveBeWell Pilates studio – a tremendous resource for locals – located at 1 Northwood Drive, immediately above the Union 76 station at the Crossroads.

While BreatheMoveBeWell focuses on Pilates, their philosophy of living health and harmony from within inspired the team to offer massage and nutrition services under one roof. “Whether you are looking for relaxation, rehabilitation from an injury or relief from a medical condition, massage can help,” points out Adriana Agnoletto, certified massage therapist and health educator. Having been trained in a variety of massage modalities including Swedish, Deep Tissue, Myoskeletal Alignment, Myofascial Release, Sports massage and Zen Shiatsu, Agnoletto integrates bodywork techniques that provide therapeutic results leading to a healthier and more balanced body and mind.

“We encourage clients to travel from the Pilates equipment to the massage table and then examine their nutrition routine with Dawn Preisendorf, MA,” says Diskin. “As a nutritionist and health coach, Dawn offers excellent nutrition workshops regularly. Recently she hosted a Healthy Happy Hour and Real-Food 28 Day Detox Program for which we also offer massage and Pilates services to provide clients a well-rounded lifestyle. Another Detox Program will take place in the coming months.”

Earlier this year McCarthy traveled to London to train in the Garuda Method, a body conditioning regimen that combines elements of yoga, Pilates, dance and Tai Chi. “In the Hindu tradition, Garuda is a mythical bird that can change form for the task at hand. That is what we want for our bodies. I am really excited to share the Garuda Method with clients,” says McCarthy. Group classes are available, as well as duets



VALERIE HOTZ
Bridget McCarthy and Gaby Diskin of Breathe MoveBeWell Pilates

and private sessions.

An authorized Scolio-Pilates practitioner, Diskin herself lives with scoliosis and understands the challenges clients are coping with. She teaches this class on Mondays. “Historically our medical community has managed scoliosis through observation, bracing and surgery,” says Diskin. “Today we have three-dimensional exercise for correction. The scoliosis spine not only curves to the right and left as it appears on X-ray, it also twists and turns side-to-side, up, down, forward and back. Effective exercise for scoliosis has many components.”

The five different components of Scolio-Pilates include elongation, breathing techniques, aligning the spine towards neutral, strengthening within neutral and connec-

Orinda Chamber Awards Luncheon

Congratulations to (top L-R) **Margaret Doty and Dean Shutt** of Echo Grove (New Business of the Year); **David Berryhill and Chris Jorgensen** of Morrison's Jewelers (Member of the Year); (bottom L-R) **Sarah and Dave McDonnell** of McDonnell Nursery (Small Business of the Year); **Sue Breedlove** (R) of Breedlove Insurance (Business Person of the Year) with **Sylvia Jorgensen**; and (Center) **Tom Romaneck** of Romaneck Painting (Ambassador of the Year).

tive tissue stabilization. In addition to this expertise, Diskin focuses on CoreAlign® exercises, a regimen designed by physical therapist Jonathan Hoffman to improve posture, balance and functional movement.

“I think CoreAlign® is the future of Pilates. Athletes can use it in rehabilitation. It works the feet as well as the core and is especially helpful working on scoliosis,” explains Diskin, whose clients include dancers and athletes.

The positive energy at BreatheMove-

BeWell is contagious and McCarthy and Diskin share a good sense of humor. A prominently displayed plaque on the wall reads, “Studies have shown moderate amounts of red wine and dark chocolate can actually be good for you.” Both McCarthy and Diskin enjoy dancing, hiking, cooking and traveling in their spare time.

For more information on BreatheMoveBeWell or to schedule a class, go to www.breathemovebeWell.com or call 925-586-4893.

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Peppermint Playhouse a "Hidden Gem"

Christine Phelps established Peppermint Playhouse in her Orinda home soon after relocating here in 1988. A Southern California native, Phelps earned her Elementary Education credential, a Special Education Learning Handicapped credential and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education at San Diego State University. After serving as a public school teacher, she envisioned creating a small preschool around her philosophy of encouraging a love of learning through a balance of play



VALERIE HOTZ

Christine Phelps founded Peppermint Playhouse in her Orinda home.

and structured activities. The activities included in the 4-year-old program focus on enhancing kindergarten readiness.

In addition to the 3-year-old preschool program that meets on Wednesdays and

Fridays and the 4-year-old program that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, a summer camp offering centers on a variety of themes where children learn about their world through art and cooking projects, outdoor games and water play. Kathleen Myers has ably assisted Phelps for many years in the preschool programs. This team infuses the activities with enthusiasm and a sense of wonder.

"It is gratifying to make a difference for families and young children," said Phelps. "Getting kids excited about learning and enjoying school is what we do at Peppermint Playhouse. Because we are so small, with each program being limited to 12 students with two teachers, we can do more things everyday than is possible in a larger preschool. We end up becoming one big family due to the low student-teacher ratio."

Always the creative and energetic sort, Phelps' recent addition is Peppermint Chefs, a preschool cooking program that builds curiosity, self-confidence and promotes healthy eating habits. Karen Weintrob helps implement this weekly program. Each child receives a red-and-white candy stripe apron and kid-size cooking tools are utilized here. Throughout the year, children tend a vegetable garden and harvest the vegetables for cooking. Students create their own cookbook, which also serves as a memory book.

"Our teaching assistant, Karen, visited Africa this year and brought back photos of animals on safari to share," says Phelps. "The class made Monkey Bread and learned about African animals. For Chinese New Year, students prepared chicken fried rice, including harvesting the broccoli they had cultivated. We learned to use chopsticks and

ate our chicken fried rice out of tiny take-out containers. We learned about China, the language spoken there and the geography."

"Peppermint Playhouse is a hidden gem," says Erin Hurst, mother of two youngsters who attend. "Our daughter has a reserved personality and does really well with a smaller class in a nurturing environment. Peppermint has been a really positive experience."

The 4-year-old program provides many opportunities for children preparing to attend kindergarten, including learning color recognition, letter, number and shape recognition. "We help advise parents about whether to send their child to kindergarten or whether to delay enrollment," points out Phelps. Peppermint students are exposed to a variety of workshops including the Lawrence Hall of Science, Mad Science Dinosaur workshops, an archeological dig with Orinda Union School District 5th grade buddies at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, and lessons on safety from the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department.

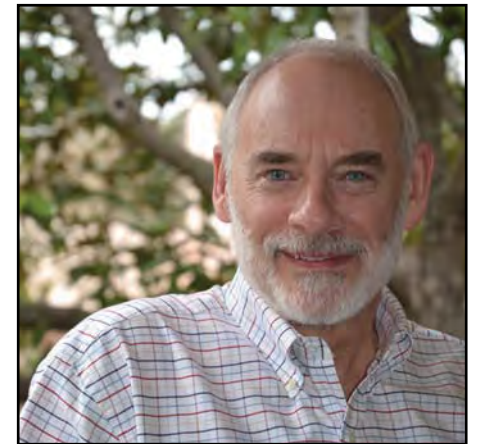
Phelps has two adult children who both graduated from Miramonte High School. Kevin earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in architecture from the University of Southern California and currently resides in Washington, D.C. Lauren earned her law degree from Hastings College of the Law and lives in San Francisco. When not designing curriculum or teaching preschoolers, Phelps enjoys gardening, hiking, visiting with friends and spending time appreciating the beauty of nature in Lake Tahoe.

To learn more about Peppermint Playhouse visit peppermintplayhouselamorinda.com or contact Phelps at 925-376-7342 or by email at peppermintplayhouse@gmail.com.

William Self Associates

Consultants in historic preservation and archeology, William Self Associates maintains its Pacific Region office at 61d Avenida de Orinda. Principal and vice president of the firm, James Allan, Ph.D., has more than 33 years of experience in cultural resource management and directs the staff of 12 here. Additional offices are located in Arizona, Texas and Utah.

"After careers in teaching, advertising and manufacturing, I went back to school and earned a Master's degree and a Doctorate in Maritime Archeology at the University of California at Berkeley," said Allan, who has served as principal investigator on numerous Bay Area projects including 300 Spear Street where he oversaw the recovery of the intact post-Gold Rush era whaling ship, *Candace*. "When intact ships are located, it requires the expertise of a maritime



VALERIE HOTZ

Maritime archeologist Jim Allan has a wealth of experience unearthing historical objects under the cold waters of the San Francisco Bay and elsewhere.

archeologist. These are analyzed differently than how other cultural resources are analyzed," he explains.

"A surprising amount of information related to the Gold Rush era is still there, right at the edge of Yerba Buena Cove. We have excavated tent platforms, bottles and other implements relating to post Gold Rush everyday life. In those days, toilets were situated outside of dwellings in "privies" and this is where people disposed of items. We have found more material from the 1860s and 1870s. Shellmounds relating to the Ohlone Native American tribe have been located at 201 Folsom, Visitacion Valley and in Berkeley."

Local homeowners may be interested to know William Self Associates undertakes historic residential architectural work. "If a residential property is 45 years or older, it has the potential to be considered an historic resource. The property is evaluated according to a series of legal requirements in order to determine if it meets the necessary criteria for such classification. In fact, a large number of historic residential architectural properties exist in Contra Costa County," says Allan. "There is an interesting balance in preserving the historic resource and still keeping it viable currently. Local city planning departments are very good at handling these decisions."

Allan has supervised more than 100 projects in the Bay Area, California and Arizona, including the excavation and documentation of one of the earliest shellmound sites in the Bay Area. Ongoing Contra Costa County projects are the Los Vacqueros Reservoir, the State Route 4 bypass shoulder widening project with CalTrans and the Pleasanton Safeway Shopping Center and De Novo residential project, which involves a quite large, mostly Native American, habitation site.

For more information about William [SEE BUZZ page 27]



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