

## Community Forum Focus on Safety and Crime in Orinda

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Approximately 45 people came out the day after the Nov. 8 election to attend the Safety Forum at the Orinda Library Auditorium. Sponsored by the Orinda Association, the evening included presentations by Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel, Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Chief Stephen Healy, MOFD's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein and Lamorinda CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Deputy Program Director Robert Pope.

A wide variety of topics were covered including what constitutes a first responder, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) emergency preparedness list, how to be safe during an earthquake and other safety precautions.

Chief Nagel discussed the importance of being alert and getting to safety if feeling threatened. "Time and distance are important," he said. "Follow your instincts and if something doesn't feel safe or if you think you're being followed, go where there are people and call 911. If you're walking to



SALLY HOGARTY

Chief Mark Nagel spoke on personal safety and preventing home robberies at the Orinda Association's Safety Forum on Nov. 9.

## Growing Orinda's Municipal Code to Accommodate Prop 64

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

While the nation watches and waits for a new administration to take shape in Washington, D.C., local governments are dealing with their own problems as they make way for Proposition 64.

The Adult Use of Marijuana Act, approved 56 to 44 percent on Nov. 8, has local communities throughout California

your car from Safeway, go back inside. If you're in your car and think you're being followed, don't drive home. Call 911 and drive to a populated area."

For home safety, Chief Nagel suggested making access to windows more difficult by planting bushes with thorns and being aware of shrubs on the property that could conceal an intruder. He also recommended solid core doors with heavy locks as well as bars on sliding doors and motion detector lights.

"A safe room can be accomplished with an easily accessible interior room fitted with a solid core door and heavy locks. It gives you more time to be safe while the police get to you," Nagel explained. "But most important is having a loud alarm and turning it on. Burglars are less likely to come in if they hear that alarm."

Chief Nagel spoke about the effective-  
[SEE SAFETY page 6]

discussing how to deal with the new regulatory system for recreational pot. Cities and counties must pass any local regulations, such as prohibiting dispensaries, before the law goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2018.

Currently, medical marijuana dispensaries are legal in California but when Prop. 64 takes effect, medical dispensaries will all but disappear as the operators apply for recreational licenses.

[SEE PROP 64 page 16]

## Orinda Starts the Holiday Season in Style



CHARLIE JARRETT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The holidays are well underway with Orinda's Friends of Hospice and Chamber of Commerce starting things off on Dec. 3 with the annual tree lighting at the Bank of America parking lot on the Village Square from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Orinda school children will sing holiday songs and Santa Claus will arrive by fire truck. Shown above is **Ben Naldoza** having a chat with **Santa** at last year's tree lighting. See story page 15. The Orinda Ballet Academy will once again present "A Sweet Nutcracker" ballet at the Orinda Community Center Dec. 9-11. See story page 10. Shown above are student performers (L-R) back row: **Eva Moss** (Waltz of the Flowers), **Cara Holden** (Dew Drop), **Helen Casendino** (Sugar Plum), **Connie Warthen** (Spanish Dancer), **Mila Radetich** (Ribbon Candy). Front row: **Courtney Mercer** (Clara) and **Aisling Holton** (Arabian Dancer).

## A Grand Lady Celebrates 75 Years of Entertainment



COURTESY OF THE ORINDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Orinda looked quite different when this photo of the **Orinda Theatre** was taken in 1941.

By SALLY HOGARTY and  
TOM WESTLAKE

cartoon also shown on Dec. 29, 1941.  
"I always thought, along with many oth-  
[SEE THEATRE page 14]

Those living in the Contra Costa County area and traveling along Highway 24 either via car or BART pass a familiar and arresting sight -- the Orinda Theatre. Whether during the day or against the dusky sky, one can easily see the multi-colored flashing neon signs proudly proclaiming that here is something truly of note. Even after a long day, one can look out the train window or car windshield and feel a certain wonder that there are still movie palaces that harken back to a time when double features, newsreels, cartoons and real ushers that would help you find your seats in the dark or even bring refreshments were taken for granted.

This rose-colored nostalgia might seem like a distant memory or, to some, little more than a tale told by parents but, on Dec. 29 at 7 p.m., some of those memories turn into reality as the Orinda Theatre celebrates 75 years of existence. In honor of this momentous occasion, the theatre will be showing the same film and Superman

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## Visit *People, Places and Things* at Library Art Gallery in December

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites everyone to brighten up their holidays by visiting the Orinda Library Art Gallery to view the colorful and uplifting 2D and 3D artwork by the Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA) from Dec. 3 through Dec. 31. The exhibit is entitled *People, Places and Things* and includes 47 works in various genres including paintings, mixed media, ceramics, photomontage, watercolors, porcelain, photography, linocuts and prints. Meet the artists at a reception on Dec. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. when light refreshments will be served.

LAA has 160 active members and was founded in 1994. Its mission is to promote and increase knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts and to enhance the cultural development of Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda and the surrounding communities.

Members exhibit frequently in the area and are involved in a variety of activities. Recently, they hosted a panel at Diablo Valley College (DVC) on helping artists get their work into DVC galleries. Those interested in joining or supporting LAA are invited to access their website at [www.laa4art.org](http://www.laa4art.org) for more information. As a member, you can experience workshops, art lectures and visits to galleries in the Bay Area.

LAA members Pam McCauley and Karen Thapa installed the show, which was juried by Geoffrey Meredith. With 40 accomplished members displaying work, the genres, styles and approaches to art cover the gamut – you will not be bored. I am reminded of Meister Eckhart (13<sup>th</sup>-century theologian) who said, “When the soul wants to experience something, she throws out an image in front of her and then steps into it.” In this exhibit, you’ll be stepping into what all these artists have created. You’ll find color, wit and a bit of nature’s mysteries, including scenes close to and far from home.

The group hopes that when people see their work what is experienced stays with them. Perhaps the art may provide comfort, beauty, playfulness, or get people to think. The artists remind us, “It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see” (anonymous). As to the value of art in the community, LAA President Donna Arganbright says, “Before I studied art, I felt like I saw in black and white, and after I was an art major, I saw the world in color. I hope we give people a richer way to look at the world.”

LAA members exhibiting work include Zarmine Aghazarian, oil painting, Orinda; Donna Arganbright, porcelain and Tamsen Armstrong, oil painting, both of Lafayette;



Artist **Dee Tivenan** exhibits her work *Poppies*, a 29" x 45" mixed media piece, at the Library Gallery during December.

Jeanette Baird, oil painting, Walnut Creek; Arlynn Bloom, acrylic painting, Lafayette; Renee Bradshaw, ceramics, and Alys Briggs, photomontage, both of Oakland; Mark Coffey, photography, Orinda; Jane Corich, acrylic painting, Walnut Creek; George Ehrenhaft, watercolor, Moraga; Judy Feins, oil painting, Orinda; Donald Fones, photography and Sylvia Fones, acrylic painting, both of Piedmont; Carla Gelbaum, acrylic painting, Moraga; Linda Geniesse, oil painting, Alamo; Lynn Glenn, acrylic painting, Danville; Lisa Gunn, oil painting, Orinda; Kim Holmes, ceramics and oil painting, Alamo; Jan Lainoff, acrylic painting, Walnut Creek; Jill Landau, oil painting, Walnut Creek; Pam McCauley, oil painting, Lafayette; Ruth McMillin, watercolor, Pleasant Hill; Geoff Meredith, oil painting, Lafayette; Yolanda Mihic, acrylic painting, Walnut Creek; Judith Mortensen, oil painting, Berkeley; Pat Moseuk, acrylic painting, Pleasant Hill; Kara Navolio,

photography, Walnut Creek; Wenda Pymman, photography, San Francisco; Rashmi Rajesh, oil painting, San Ramon; Maria SantoStefano and Mary Spain, oil painting, both of Orinda; Hallie Strock, linocut and watercolor, Berkeley; Joanne Taeuffer, acrylic painting, Concord; Sharon Tama, acrylic painting, Orinda; Karen Thapa, prints, Lafayette; Dee Tivenan, mixed media, Orinda; Lucia Tsang, ceramics, Walnut Creek; Ann Vestal, photography, Clayton; Carolyn WarmSun, acrylic painting, Oakland; and Polly Ziolkowski, oil painting, Moraga.

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. The library is closed Dec. 23 through Dec. 26 for Christmas and closes at 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 for New Year’s Eve. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President  
Home for the Holidays Good For Orinda



Cindy Powell

December in our town is lights and action. A big thank-you to Orinda Garden Club for hanging the beautiful **Wreaths around Orinda**. On Dec. 3, the Orinda **Hospice Tree of Lights Ceremony** begins at 4:30 p.m. in Orinda Village by the Bank of America. Come see cute singers from our schools, a beautiful tree of lights and maybe catch a visit with Santa.

Do you know someone who has made a difference through volunteer activities or who has made an impact on our environment? Then get your Volunteer of the Year and/or William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award nominations to the Orinda Association (OA) by Dec. 5. I love this local award that recognizes our town's special people and groups. Dec. 5 is also **Repeal Day**, which commemorates the repeal of the 18th Amendment that prohibited the manufacture, transportation, sale and consumption of alcohol.

Dec. 6 is **St. Nicholas' Day** named for a bishop in 4th-century Turkey. His reputation for putting coins into shoes began the Christmas tradition of leaving gifts and treats in stockings and boots.

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** on Dec. 7 honors the victims of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor Naval Station. The attack started American involvement in the Second World War. If you have a home flag, please display it. Our public buildings will fly our flag at half-mast in honor of those who lost their lives in the attack. Remember

to purchase a Buddy Poppy from the OA office to support our veterans. And, in the evening, join the Orinda Historical Society for their fun holiday dinner and hear about the history of the Redwood Valley Railroad in Tilden Park.

**Orinda Theatre** loves the holiday theme. They will show the classic movie *Home Alone* free on Dec. 8, and on Dec 10 Jan Wahl and Derek Zemrak will host a "Hollywood Does the Holidays" presentation with film clips, fun stories and holiday refreshments.

On Dec. 12, **Green Monday** promotes sustainability through green lifestyle choices such as recycling, reusing and reducing global energy consumption or switching to a vegetarian diet to conserve resources and reduce our carbon footprint.

If you would like to help as a resident volunteer with the Library, Parks and Recreation, Art in Public Places or many other Committees in our city, Dec. 12 is the last day to submit your forms to the City Clerk's office. Go to the city's website ([www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org)) and see the many opportunities to serve as a liaison.

Dec. 15 is **Bill of Rights Day**. These 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution protect your individual rights. How many can you identify? As Americans, we are grateful for rights that do not exist in many other countries.

Continuing a Lamorinda tradition, Cali- [SEE PRESIDENT page 4]

Donate to One Warm Coat at OA Office

Winter will soon be here and many in the Bay Area will face it without a nice sturdy coat to keep them warm. The One Warm Coat Project has been filling this need since 1992 when it began its first coat drive on a Thanksgiving weekend in San Francisco. Since then, it has grown to a national organization supporting over 3,000 coat drives each year. In its 22-year history, One Warm Coat has collected over four million coats, 300,000 of which went to children.

Now Orinda residents can help this worthwhile cause by bringing a gently worn or new coat/jacket in all sizes for men, women and children to the Orinda Association Office, 26 Orinda Way, lower level of the Library Plaza across from the elevator.

A bin was set up outside of the office starting Nov. 1 and continues through Dec. 21. All coats will be delivered to Alameda County Social Services North County on Dec. 21.

The social services agency promotes self-sufficiency and provides continuing economic assistance through public and private sector partnerships while fostering a workforce development system that supports individuals and families.

For more information on the OA's drop-off center, call 925-254-0800 or go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

Award Nominations Due December 5

Send in your nominations for 2016 Volunteer of the Year and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award by 5 p.m. on Dec. 5.

Individuals or local groups are eligible. Winners will be feted at a gala dinner at the Orinda Country Club in February.

Go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) for a nomination form, call 925-254-0800 or email [oa@orindaassociation.org](mailto:oa@orindaassociation.org).

Celebrate those who make our community such a wonderful place to live!



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.

P.O. Box 97  
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- Publishing *The Orinda News*
- Operating the Volunteer Center
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- Providing transportation through "Seniors Around Town"
- ... and more!



Visit [www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org) to see all the ways we support our community. Only through your generosity and support can we maintain Orinda as one of the best communities in the nation! For more details, contact us at 925-254-0800.

To join, visit [www.OrindaAssociation.org/membershiponline](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org/membershiponline)

# Editorial . . .

## Holiday Warmth Especially Needed This Year

Our entire nation has been through one of the most stressful presidential elections I can remember. Certainly, there have been hotly contested elections before, but I cannot remember one quite this nasty or one that has left so many frightened of what the future may bring.

Families and neighbors have had tense, sometimes bitter, discussions that strained relationships and may make the holidays a

bit uncomfortable. But, it's precisely that holiday spirit of togetherness and feelings of peace and joy that we need now more than ever.

For at least a little while over the holidays, I encourage everyone to let go of anxieties about the future and take a replenishing respite with those you care about. Happy Holidays.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

# Letters to the Editor

## Need Moratorium on New Development

The sad history of Orinda's last dozen years has been the selling off of the city's precious land assets.

Over these last 12 years, the Orinda City Council has used its power to endorse massive real-estate development projects in Orinda.

Two examples are the Monteverde Senior Apartments at 2 Irwin Way (across the street from the Orinda Way firehouse) and the Orinda Grove/Pulte project on Altarinda Road. Orinda Grove has squeezed 73 houses into 11 acres.

Currently, the problem in Orinda is that the city has no more room for real-estate development. But lack of space has not deterred the majority of the City Council from promoting more development.

On October 18, the City Council asked the city's staff to come back with proposals – for more downtown development – by working with the Urban Land Institute (ULI). City Councilmember Eve Phillips voted against the plan, which would cost \$15,000.

ULI is a nonprofit organization. However, a review of ULI's federal tax return for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015, shows that the organization had \$50.6 million in net assets and a profit of \$7.6 million. The head of ULI had, for the same fiscal year, an annual salary of \$700,000, a salary higher than the president of the United States. Should ULI really be a nonprofit organization? Is ULI too expensive?

Unfortunately, the City Council, with the exception of Ms. Phillips, just keeps supporting more and more development.

All of this development is having an adverse impact on Miramonte High School in Orinda. The September 30 issue of *The Mirador*, the high school's newspaper, reported that “. . . the student population has increased by 25 students this year. That number of students is enough to fill another classroom.” The article in *The Mirador* said that the extra students have forced teachers to share classrooms.

Extra development in Orinda will affect

more than the quality of the city's excellent schools. Anyone driving a car in Orinda is well aware of the huge traffic and parking problems that the city has. For example, between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. on workdays, a driver going from the Orinda BART station to Miner Road, a trip of less than two miles, can be stuck in traffic for 30 minutes or more.

The time has come for Orinda to place a moratorium on new development.

– Richard S. Colman

## Congrats to Miller and Gee

I congratulate Inga Miller and Darlene Gee on their success in the City Council election. Approximately 64 percent of Orindans cast their votes in support of these two candidates, creating a mandate for the council to complete the road repair program and develop a plan for an improved downtown. I look forward to supporting progress in both of these areas which are the highest priorities for Orinda at this time.

– Bob Burt

## Thank you Orinda voters!

Thank you for embracing the future and rejecting the naysayers and curmudgeons. The huge victory you gave Inga Miller and Darlene Gee is a strong statement of your priorities: finishing the roads and starting the downtown.

Orinda has enjoyed strong leadership that has embraced community involvement and financial strength. A new generation of leaders is now infusing the community with energy and purpose.

Let's get on with it!

– Carol Penskar

## ◆ PRESIDENT from page 3

formia Academy of Performing Arts' *The Nutcracker* ballet will be performed Dec. 16, 17 and 18 at Campolindo High School. This is an all-ages performance and many families have attended from toddlers to 20s.

Dec. 17, **Wright Brothers Day** commemorates the first successful flight in the heavier-than-air, mechanically propelled craft named Flyer, accomplished in 1903,



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near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Dec. 21 is **Winter Solstice**, the beginning of winter and the shortest day of the year. Seen as a new solar year, it celebrates the return of the sun, as every day after will see more sun. At 2:44 a.m. Orinda time, the sun will be at its southernmost point and begin its long, six-month journey north. Many pagan rituals have revolved around the Winter Solstice to bring the sun back to the north.

**Super Saturday** is the end of the holiday shopping season (and was the biggest sales day in 2014). Please remember to shop local and keep the funds for your schools,

roads and services in your town.

Beginning on the eve of Dec. 24, **Hannukkah** celebrates the Jewish victory from religious persecution. One small flask of olive oil, enough to light the Menorah for just one day, lasted eight days, hence the celebration lasts eight days. We will also celebrate **Christmas** on Dec. 25. This day celebrates Jesus Christ's birth and is often combined with customs from pre-Christian winter celebrations.

Dec. 26 is **Kwanzaa**, started in California in 1966. It celebrates African-American history, culture and community. And the

[SEE NEW YEAR page 6]

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Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to news@orindaassociation.org.

**Letters to Editor for the January issue are due December 8, 2016.**

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the January issue is December 8, 2016.

POLICE / FIRE

MOFD Station 43 Groundbreaking



SALLY HOGARTY

Ground was recently broken for the new Station 43 on Via Las Cruces in Orinda. (L-R) Fire Chief **Stephen Healy**, architect **Alan Kawasaki**, MOFD Board President **Steve Anderson**, Battalion Chief **Sean Perkins**, **Ellan Dale**, Firefighter/Paramedic **Jared Costanza**, Board Member **Brad Barber**, Firefighter **Anthony Grgurevic**, Board Members **Fred Weil** and **Kathy Famulener** and Fire Captain **Dan Dick**.

## Orinda Union School Board Member Carol Brown Optimistically Faces Long Road to Recovery

By MAGGIE SHARPE  
Staff Writer

Carol Brown, Orinda resident and vice president of the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Board of Directors, is still healing after being shot twice in a robbery in her driveway on the night of Sept. 26.

Brown, 70, and her husband Tom Spalding were returning to their Claremont Avenue home around 9 p.m. after shopping at Safeway when they were attacked and robbed by two men as they unloaded groceries from their car. Brown was shot in the arm and pelvis, and her husband was pistol whipped on the forehead by the assailants. Brown spent 10 days in the hospital being treated for her wounds.

"I'm doing as well as can be expected," said Brown on Nov. 10. "I'm not using my cane any more and getting around quite

well. The doctor says I'm right where I'm supposed to be, but it's going to be a long recovery."

Brown said that "there are several bones to mend and they're doing that at their own pace." One of the bullets broke her humerus into several pieces and the other shattered her sacrum (the bone at the base of the spine).

"I'm thankful things are moving along as they're supposed to, but sometimes I get impatient that I can't do the things I normally do, like driving," she said.

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel said in an email on Nov. 9 that investigators have developed leads in the case. He added that he couldn't discuss details of the ongoing investigation but that a Contra Costa County district attorney task force is scheduled to issue a press release on the case "in the next one to two weeks." (The release was not yet available at *Orinda News* press time.)

Brown has not let the traumatic incident keep her from attending school board meetings. She's also on OUSD's Strategic Planning Committee that is garnering input from students, parents, teachers and Orinda citizens on what they want for the future of the district's children.

"Once we gather and distill all that information, we can make dynamic decisions for the future of our students," said Brown.

Brown said that her husband has healed physically from the wound to his forehead and has been "the backbone of the family through all this." However, the whole family, including her son Micah, who was home at the time of the robbery, is still coping

with pain, grief and anger.

"PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) is very real, though I don't like it," said Brown. "I'm thankful that my family has each other to hang on to. I feel that we take a few steps forward and a half step back here and there."

Brown said that when she's fully recovered, she wants to do something for her friends, neighbors and the whole community that has reached out to her through the ordeal.

"I'm so grateful to live in such a supportive, caring community," said Brown. "All the love, support and good wishes have been overwhelming – in a good way. It's really helped us heal. All the prayers and good thoughts have created something that's really tangible."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Brown has a long recovery road ahead.



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CONTINUATIONS / POLICE BLOTTER

◆ SAFETY from page 1

ness of cameras both outdoors and indoors. He showed a video on Ring, the motion-activated doorbell that records activity on the front porch and rings the owner's cell phone. "Video from these cameras have helped us make arrests and they deter crime – something that will be very valuable over the holidays when people are receiving packages on their doorsteps," he said. The chief also noted that Orinda's rate of thefts went down after installing cameras at key places in town. One of the most effective videos was from an Orinda resident whose indoor camera caught a pair of burglars breaking in and stealing valuables from

the home.

Reins noted that Orinda is a safe community but that "there are bad guys out there" looking for an opportunity. He suggested that if residents have "home" listed in their GPS that they change the title as an added precaution.

For information on crime and emergencies in the Lamorinda area, go to [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com) (updated every 24 hours), [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and [www.pulsepoint.org](http://www.pulsepoint.org). The latter two are available as cell phone apps. Information on home security, Neighborhood Watch and Orinda's crime statistics is available at [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org) by clicking on Departments/Police Department.



SALLY HOGARTY

Attendees at the **Orinda Association's Safety Forum** on Nov. 9 peruse various safety and emergency preparedness information available in the Library Gallery.



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**POLICE BLOTTER**

October 2 through November 5, 2016

**Calls for Service**

- 911 Hangup: 11 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 2 incidents.
- Accident Injury: 1 incident.
- Accident Property: 9 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 110 incidents.
- Battery: 4 incidents.
- Barking Dog: 2 incidents.
- Burglary, Auto: 3 incidents.
- Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident.
- Civil Disturbance: 9 incidents.
- CVC Moving Violation: 106 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 54 incidents.
- Death Non Criminal: 1 incident.
- Disturbing the Peace: 5 incidents.
- Drunk in Public: 3 incidents.
- DUI Misdemeanor: 1 incident.
- Found Property: 5 incidents.
- Fraud False Pretenses: 1 incident.
- Grand Theft: 1 incident.
- Hailed by Citizen: 1 incident.
- Harassment: 1 incident.
- Health & Safety Violation: 1 incident.
- Hit and Run Misdemeanor: 5 incidents.
- Identity Theft: 4 incidents.
- Illegal Entry: 1 incident.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 3 incidents.
- Litter: 2 incidents.
- Loitering: 2 incidents.
- Lost Property: 3 incidents.
- Loud Motorcycle: 1 incident.
- Loud Music: 2 incidents.
- Loud Party: 6 incidents.
- Medical Hospital: 6 incidents.
- Motorist Assist: 2 incidents.
- Ordinance Violation: 7 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 38 incidents.
- Panhandling: 1 incident.
- Parking Detail: 97 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 48 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 7 incidents.
- Petty Theft Bicycle: 1 incident.

- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Petty Theft Purse Shoplift: 1 incident.
- Public Assembly Check: 2 incidents.
- Public Nuisance: 10 incidents.
- Reckless Driving: 24 incidents.
- Runaway Juvenile: 1 incident.
- School Check: 32 incidents.
- Security Check: 30 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 139 incidents.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 32 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 19 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 12 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 12 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 18 incidents.
- Traffic Collision Property Damage: 1 incident.
- Threats: 1 incident.
- Tow: 8 incidents.
- Traffic Hazard: 5 incidents.
- Traffic Stop: 4 incidents.
- Trespass: 1 incident.
- Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.
- Unwanted Guest: 2 incidents.
- Vacation House Check: 59 incidents.
- Vandalism: 5 incidents.
- Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents.
- Verbal Dispute: 10 incidents.
- Welfare Check: 16 incidents.

**Arrests**

- Drunk in Public: 5 arrests.
- Burglary, Residential: 1 arrest.
- DUI: 2 arrests.
- Petty Theft: 1 arrest.
- Revocation of Probation: 1 arrest.
- Shoplift: 1 arrest.
- Trespass: 1 arrest.
- Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests.

**BART Statistics**

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

For more incident details, visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

◆ NEW YEAR from page 4

26th is **Boxing Day**, to box gifts and food for the less fortunate.

Remember OA is a non-profit organization, so renew your membership by Dec. 31 for a 2016 tax deduction. **New Year's Eve** is the last event of the year. Think of a resolution you would like to keep

... improve your life or the lives of those around you. Volunteer your time, donate your extra items and support your wonderful town. Happy New Year and a healthy 2017 to come.

(And on **New Year's Day**, at 10 a.m., meet at the Linden Tree in Orinda Community Park on Orinda Way to usher in Orinda's 2017 theme, "Year of the Czech.")



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CAR TIME / FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

CAR TIME

Beware Recall Repair Scams



By JOHN VANEK

The automotive industry is approaching a record number of recalls on newer vehicles. General Motors alone recalled over 20 million vehicles in the first six months of the year. Yes folks, new cars are less reliable these days.

The combination of complex systems and inferior parts produced overseas lead to component failures and recalls. All car-makers, foreign and domestic, are affected by this phenomenon. When you receive a letter from your automotive manufacturer telling you that there is a recall, you must go to the dealer in order to get it taken care of. The dealer may use this visit to check out the rest of your vehicle for the purpose of selling you more stuff.

If you trust the dealer, you may be okay with it. The problem is that the dealer is not always trustworthy. Many customers go in for a free recall repair and leave with an excessive repair bill that they were not expecting. We have first-hand experience that some of these recommendations are bogus. Some owners feel they need to have an allegiance to the dealer or feel that they need to take it only to the dealership.

The dealership service center is just a repair shop with technicians and service advisors like all other shops and is not run

by the manufacturer. Some of these establishments encourage behavior that is based on greed. The ownership may put profits and sales before customer service. Most service advisors are paid on commission and will benefit from a large repair bill. Many technicians also get a bonus based on the work done. They sell the easy stuff like brakes and bushings whether the car needs it or not. We have seen customers get sold a brake job on a vehicle with only 20,000 miles, but the car had a tire wear issue that they did not even address.

This does not mean that all dealers are bogus when it comes to overselling services during a recall repair. Customers need to know their rights and understand they have a choice when it comes to automotive repair. There are laws in California regarding automotive repair. No licensed facility can perform any repair or inspection without the owner's permission.

When you drop off your vehicle, you sign a paper to authorize repairs. Be sure to read this and understand what you are signing. If they sneak in a vehicle inspection, you have the right to say no. If you already have a car care provider that you trust, it is not necessary for them to do such an inspection. If they do sneak in an inspection and make a recommendation, get a second opinion. Remember, you are in the driver's seat! Be a good consumer of automotive repair.

John Vanek can be reached at john@orindamotors.com.

City Council Makes Statement on Unity

Following a request from an Orinda resident, the Orinda City Council made a statement at the Nov. 15 City Council meeting affirming the city's commitment to supporting diversity and having zero tolerance for hate crimes.

"It is my belief that through our individual actions we as a community and as a city organization, can and do demonstrate inclusion regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, political stance and faith," said Mayor Victoria Smith at the meeting. "I personally encourage everyone to be mindful of our friends, neighbors and family."

Mayor Smith also noted that the council had received calls from citizens concerned about possible unrest. While she acknowledged a few incidences of vandalism that might be racially or politically motivated, she emphasized the safety and tolerance of the community.

First Friday Forum of 2017 Focuses on Politics in the Age of Trump

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

The First Friday Forum (FFF) lecture series will resume at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, on Jan. 6.

Dr. David Peritz, professor at Sarah Lawrence College in New York, who is currently on sabbatical in Berkeley, will be the featured speaker. At the forum's initial event, his topic will be "Social Justice and Politics in the Age of Trump." Refreshments are served at 1 p.m. and the lecture begins at 1:30 p.m.

On Feb. 3, Dr. Henry Brady, dean of the Goldman School of Public Policy, will speak on "Political Polarization."

The March 3 forum features Robert Johnson, M.D., Ph.D., whose topic will be "Will Gene Therapy and Gene Editing Change Your Life?" Johnson is the chief scientific officer and chief medical officer and a Scientific Advisory Board member of Epeius Biotechnologies, a gene therapy company.

On May 5, Stephen Mendes' presentation will be "Spirits of the Polar Nights," with spectacular slides promised. Since 1996, he has been a senior fellow at the Space Science Lab at UC Berkeley.

For the June 2 forum, Judge Peggy Hora will speak on "Justice in the Courts." The April 7 meeting speaker is yet to be decided.

Committee Co-chair Judy Nielsen urges people not to miss these provocative lectures.

For information, call 925-283-8722 or go to www.lopc.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. David Peritz will be speaker at January's First Friday Forum.

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# No Need to Fight Traffic: Shop Orinda This Holiday Season

By SOPHIE BRACCINI  
Contributing Writer

Orinda has it all for your gift-giving this season. No need to go elsewhere and fight the crowd; the range of really unique treasures of all kinds, for all types of people, is available right here.

You probably already know several of the Orinda stores, such as the Christmas shop at McDonnell Nursery on Moraga Way with a very wide range of Christmas ornaments for indoor and outdoor decorations. Sarah McDonnell says that in recent years her store has extended the selection to add a plethora of gifts: jewelry, decorative

objects, candles, as well as an extensive collection of unique plaques with quotes that are a perfect hostess gift.

A holiday shopping excursion would not be complete without a trip to Orinda Books. This local treasure has been growing its business this past year for the pleasure of readers of all ages. Of course, the first stop should be the staff recommendation table. There you will find books that will appeal to anyone on your list. But the pleasure of browsing and selecting a gift does not end there. Maria Roden and her staff have added literary gifts that are unusual and delightful: mugs that feature the cover of your favorite book, or even more unusual, scarves that reproduce entire pages of timeless novels like *Les Misérables* or *Pride And Prejudice*. You can also pick up the best Lamorinda-made chocolates at the




SOPHIE BRACCINI

**Maria Roden of Orinda Books** says the store has something for everyone while bird cages made out of mailboxes are among the many unique, eco-friendly items available at **Echo Grove** in Theatre Square.



SALLY HOGARTY



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SALLY HOGARTY

Whatever holiday you may be celebrating, you'll find accessories and much more at **Sanvitalia** in Theatre Square.

store. Hofssi Chocolates offer a moment of pure happiness. Try a good book with a few pieces of decadent dark gianduja (chocolate mixed with nut paste).

Last year, Sanvitalia opened in Orinda's Theatre Square with a treasure trove of gifts. The store has developed its flower arrangements, orchids and succulents for truly unique presents. They also offer beautiful jewelry, good cookbooks and anything you would want for a hostess gift. You can find gifts for the men in your life such as Laguiole steak knives, subdued colored cashmere scarves or toiletry items featuring male fragrances. Don't forget to get your Orinda-labeled towels. You will also find something quite unique: vinyl mats for high-traffic areas with elegant prints. Sanvitalia has a lovely selection of Christmas and Hanukkah décor as well.

Don't leave Theatre Square before stepping into Echo Grove next to Sanvitalia. Truly unique jewelry and other objects from artisans all over the country line the shelves. Check out the ceramic earring holders, birdhouses made out of license plates and many other special treasures.

Across the street, Morrison's Jewelry offers precious jewels and unique jewelry designs that have been a favorite among Orindans since the store opened in 1923! The store features a variety of modern

items in all price ranges that will make you feel like you're wearing a work of art. Morrison's is also the place where you can take the older gems that you might have inherited and have the design department create something especially for you.

Speaking of personalized items, Orinda Florist, at 99 Brookwood Road, is expanding its hours and offerings this season. Mitra Misaghi and her team of gifted creators will make the personalized centerpiece and flower arrangements that you need for your home or to take as gifts to one of the many holiday parties you may attend. Misaghi says she encourages people to bring their own personal containers and she will create the arrangement in it. A cute idea for a gift would also be to offer someone a membership at Orinda Florist which includes fresh flowers on a regular basis.

If shopping in Orinda is all about uniqueness and personalization, then Parker Thatch is the perfect place to procure a personalized gift that will stand out. Located at 19D Orinda Way, the store offers bags, clutches and accessories with the name of your loved one or the quote of your choice printed inside. The personalized tennis bags are a big hit, and the smaller jewelry bags make excellent stocking stuffers.

Close to Parker Thatch you'll find Hilton [SEE GIFTS page 9]



SALLY HOGARTY

Antique, estate and consignment jewelry are among the many items, including beautiful furniture pieces, available at **Hilton House** on the Village side of Orinda.

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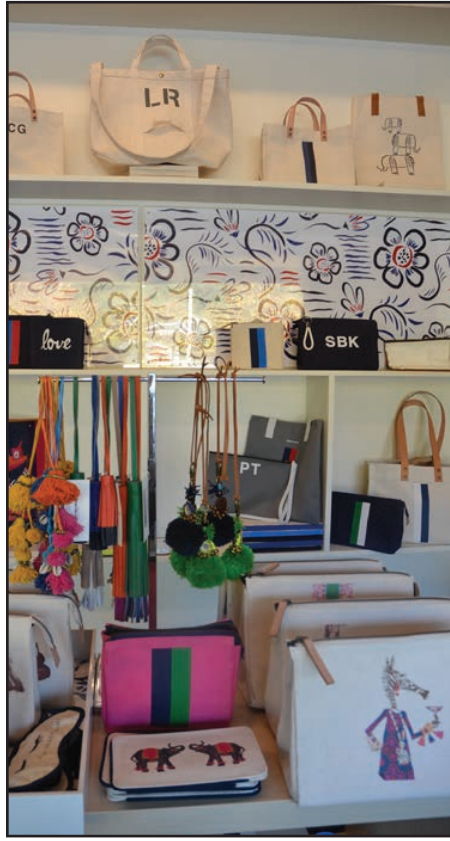
## BOOKS

## ◆ GIFTS from page 8

House, which has featured high-quality gifts for many years. Entering the store resembles going on a treasure hunt rather than a shopping trip. Here you are fairly certain to find something rare and valuable for a great price. The jewelry case features some real beauties, and shelves abound with collectibles of all types and from all countries. For example, you can find old Blue Willow Chinese porcelain or original plates from Quimper in Brittany.

Just next door, the UPS Store will pack and ship all your gifts, and if you get a bit unwell after all the good food and multiple libations that often accompany holiday celebrations, stop at the Medicine Shoppe, at 282 Village Square, and pharmacist Alan Wang will be happy to help.

Shopping local is not only convenient, it also supports those local businesses (many of which are owned by Orinda residents) that contribute to the character of Orinda, with sales tax revenues going to roads and schools. To help locate these businesses, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce has developed a mobile app, Explore Orinda, that's available for Apple and Android devices.



**Parker Thatch** has lots of unique gifts that can be personalized.

SALLY HOGARTY



SOPHIE BRACCINI

**McDonnell Nursery** has a plethora of holiday items from which to choose.

## Between the Lines The ABCs of Holiday Books for All Ages

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



**A** is for *Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty & David Roberts (Abrams \$17.95)—the perfect gift for little girls (and boys) who ask “Why?” (Ages 5-7)

**B** is for *Before the Fall* by Noah Hawley (Grand Central \$26)—the literary thriller of the season.

**C** is for *Commonwealth* by perennial favorite Ann Patchett (Harper \$27.99)—a sympathetic and engaging novel that confronts today’s family issues.

**D** is for *Double Down: The Diary of a Wimpy Kid #11* by Jeff Kinney (Amulet \$13.95)—Kinney continues to entertain middle readers with Greg Heffley’s crazy adventures. (Ages 8-12)

**E** is for *The Expatriates* by Janice Y.K. Lee (Penguin \$16)—the Hong Kong expat community is beautifully dissected in this very readable novel.

**F** is for *French Rhapsody* by Antoine Laurain (Gallic \$14.95)—Laurain’s *The Red Notebook* continues to be an Orinda Books favorite and his latest novel, with some political commentary tucked in, will not disappoint.

**G** is for *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles (Viking \$27)—*Rules of Civility* author Towles takes us back to 1922 Moscow. Fine historical fiction!

**H** is for *Hamilton: The Revolution* by Lin-Manuel Miranda (Grand Central \$40)—a splendid gift for anyone who is a fan of the ground-breaking Broadway musical.

**I** is for *The Improbability of Love* by Hannah Rothschild (Vintage \$16)—chicanery

in the art world of contemporary London, as well as a love story—who could ask for more?

**J** is for *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende (Atria \$16)—this tender story of young love that was broken by war but endured for 70 years glows in Allende’s moving narrative.

**K** is for *Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood from Sports Legends* by David Stabler & Doogie Horner (Quirk \$13.95)—young readers have loved Stabler’s series which includes *Kid Presidents* and *Kid Artists*. (Ages 8-12)

**L** is for *The Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig (Riverhead \$16)—a farewell gift from a writer who has given us such pleasure since we read *This House of Sky* in 1979.

**M** is for *Marlene* by C.W. Gortner (Morrow \$15.99)—Chris Gortner brings Marlene Dietrich magnificently to life, from the Weimar cabarets to her Hollywood years.

**N** is for *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles (Morrow \$22.99)—if there can be a lovable Western, this is it. Savor the scent of sagebrush and settle in for a great read!

**O** is for *Old MacDonald Had a Truck* by Steve Goetz & Eda Kaban (Chronicle \$16.99)—a whimsical update of the classic folk song. (Ages 3-6)

**P** is for *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker (Balzer & Bray \$16.99)—a moving story of a young boy and his pet fox, Pax, whom he must abandon. (Ages 8-12)

**Q** is for *QB: My Life Behind the Spiral* by Steve Young (Houghton Mifflin \$30)—

[SEE BOOKS page 16]

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PERFORMING ARTS

# Diablo Choral Artists Present “Christmas Pudding” December 2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Diablo Choral Artists** bring their Christmas concert to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Dec. 2. The varied program includes traditional English songs as well as a sing-along.

Titled “Christmas Pudding,” the Diablo Choral Artists will present a concert Dec. 2, 8 p.m., at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, in Orinda. They promise a varied selection of music including songs from traditional English celebrations, featuring music by Rutter, Byrd, Vaughan Williams, Holst and Taverner. They will also include a Christmas

carol sing-along.

The group was established in 1993 (as Voices of Musica Sacra) and is under the direction of Mark Tuning, with John R.S. Walko, accompanist. They have performed extensively in the Bay Area and have taken tours to Germany, Austria, Italy, England and Ireland. The choir has been guests of the Contra Costa Performing

Arts Society and the Diablo Symphony Orchestra. In 2002, Diablo Choral Artists participated in the world-wide “Rolling Requiem” singing Mozart’s Requiem in honor of those who perished in the 9/11 tragedy. They continue to provide quality choral music to the community through concerts and other events throughout the

year.

Tickets are available for the Dec. 2 performance online at Brown Paper Tickets or 1-800-838-3006. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$15 for seniors. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$25 for adults \$18 for seniors 60+ and \$5 for students.

– Bobbie Dodson, Staff Writer



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## Time to Get Sweet on *The Nutcracker*

By ELANA O’LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Where else but the Orinda Ballet Academy can you experience a version of Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* created by Patricia Tomlinson? Tomlinson was coached by George Balanchine, danced around the world with Natalia Makarova, and taught ballet all over the United States. Performances – which often sell out – are Dec. 9 through Dec. 11 at the Orinda Library Theater.

The eighth annual “A Sweet Dream Nutcracker” can be described as a two-act story ballet performed by 70 members of the Orinda Ballet Academy’s student youth company. But for those with a little imagination, it can be a journey on Christmas Eve to a magical world where we meet a Mouse King, toys dance about the room, the Sugar Plum Fairy rules the Land of Sweets and a little girl named Clara saves the life of her favorite toy, the nutcracker.

Guest artists this year include Kendall Sparks (Uncle Drosselmeyer and Nutcracker Prince), Jackie McConnell (Sugar Plum Fairy and Mouse King) and Maurice Monge (Cavalier). Dance instructor McConnell says, “the Mouse King is a funny character role and a good warm-up for dancing the Sugar Plum in the second act.” This is the only time during the year the Mouse King’s subjects are allowed to run

all over the place.

Tomlinson, artistic director, says, “This year we open with something new, ‘The Holiday House Elves’ jazz dance to celebrate our eighth season of performing this special version of *The Nutcracker* for the community.” Upper-division students perform this number, which is choreographed by the Ballet Academy’s multi-talented jazz tap instructor, Shahla Radetich – look for a fun surprise twist.

Students performing lead roles include Helen Casendino as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Snow Queen and Aisling Holton, also performing as the Snow Queen. Student dancers aged four to 18 often perform in multiple roles utilizing some of the 1,000 costumes on hand. Cheri Etheredge, Juliet Montagnon and Shahla Radetich are adult ballet volunteers for the mothers’ party scene.

The Orinda Library Theater creates a more intimate setting than other venues because it only holds so many people, which necessitates more shows for a family-oriented event. It also means the audience is closer to the performers with great sight lines. Tomlinson says, “Since the students have worked for three months on the show, they are thrilled to be performing it five times even though it’s hard work.”

Shows are Dec. 9 (6:30 p.m.), Dec. 10  
[SEE BALLET page 16]

**Orinda Ballet Academy & Company**  
Artistic Director, Patricia Tomlinson  
**Presents**

## "A Sweet Dream Nutcracker"

**Orinda Library Theater**

**Friday, December 9, 6:30pm**  
**Saturday, December 10, 11:30am & 4:00pm**  
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SCHOOLS

# Orinda Students Welcome the Season With Lots of Music

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

Kick off the holiday season with music presented by Orinda high school and elementary students at school concerts and the 30th Annual Tree of Lights festival.

Music teachers Christina Holling (Orinda Intermediate, Del Rey and Sleepy Hollow elementary schools), Ron Pickett (Glorietta and Wagner elementary schools) Molly Smart (Orinda Academy), Meredith Hawkins (Miramonte High School, Choral) and David Uyeno (Miramonte High School, Instrumental) lead hundreds of young musicians in entertaining the community with diverse music from traditional carols to rock.

Smart said the winter concerts are “a nice way to cap off the fall semester, and send everyone home for break with a nice warm fuzzy feeling.” She and the other teachers believe the performing experiences facilitate student growth and are full of lessons.

“Kids will perform their best for an audience,” Holling said, adding that coping with nervousness and the accomplishment



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Del Rey choral students along with other Orinda elementary schools will sing at the Tree of Lights on Dec. 3.

of performing are important skills to learn. “Even better, kids will bond with other children and make lifetime friends.”



LAURA COTTRILL

Orinda Academy students will perform at a winter concert on Dec. 9. Shown above is one of the student bands that performed at a spring concert. Orinda Academy performances often include faculty bands and short drama skits as well.



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## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Note that schools will be closed Dec. 19 to Jan. 2 for winter break.

- 1 **Orinda Academy** Toy Drive for CRECE (Central American Refugees) through Dec. 19, 18 Altarinda Road. Call 925-254-7553 or visit [www.orindaacademy.org](http://www.orindaacademy.org).
- 3 **Orinda Tree Lighting**, elementary and middle school choirs perform, Orinda Village, 4:30 p.m.
- 4 **Orinda Academy** Open House for prospective students and parents, 19 Altarinda Road, 1 to 4 p.m. Call 925-254-7553 or visit [www.orindaacademy.org](http://www.orindaacademy.org).
- 5 **Glorietta Elementary School** Cans For A Cause food drive through Dec. 16. 15 Martha Road. Call 925-254-8770 or visit <http://gl-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 6 **Miramonte High School** Toys For Tots Drive, through Dec. 16. 750 Moraga Way. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>.
- 7 **Acalanes Union High School District** Board Meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us).
- 7,8 **Miramonte High School** Winter Choir Concert. Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, 7 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>
- 9 **Orinda Academy** Winter Concert, 18 Altarinda Road, 7 p.m. Call 925-254-7553 or visit [www.orindaacademy.org](http://www.orindaacademy.org).
- 12 **Orinda Union School District** Board Meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Visit [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).
- 15 **Miramonte High School** Instrumental Music Performance. Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, 7 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>.
- 16 **Glorietta Elementary School** Winter Concert. 15 Martha Road, 10:30 a.m. (for school families). Call 925-254-8770 or visit <http://gl-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.

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



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PETS / STUDENTS

California Magic Makes Some of Its Own!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Giving the jack-o'-lanterns on their t-shirts reason to grin, the Lamorinda-based California Magic '05 Girls soccer team pocketed first-place honors at the 4th Annual Impact Boo Fest Sunday, Oct. 30.

In a hard-fought final match, the Magic team battled the Mt. Diablo Soccer Fireballs on the rain-soaked fields of Oakley's Freedom High School. Though the Fireballs broke out with an early goal, the Magic players, coached by Roberto Zambrano, answered confidently with a pair of their own. Holding to iron defense, the mud-splattered Magic players triumphed 2-1 in the final game to clinch the tournament title in the Girls U12 Wizards division.

Something to Howl About...  
Animal Tales

Holiday Wish Lists



Jennifer Conroy

Americans spend about \$60 billion a year on their companion animals. That includes food, veterinary care, grooming, toys and other supplies. That's a whopping big amount given that there are only about 325 million folks populating the U.S.

However, consider that there are 70 million dogs in our country and about 74 million cats sharing our households according to the ASPCA. No wonder the pet industry loves animal lovers.

One of the peak times of the year for spending on our animals is the holiday season. An ABC television poll taken several years ago claimed that pet owners spent about \$30 per pet on holiday gifts. My guess is that the dollar amount has increased over the years. Gifting your dog with a new quality leash and collar can easily cost \$30 and, just like giving your child pajamas as a gift, the leash and collar may not have the same appeal to your dog as a box of nutritional natural treats.

What might some of the items be on your companion's wish list? Here are just a few items:

- Reflective collar visible not only at night but at dusk and dawn
- Reflective vest for your dog
- New ID tag with your name and number inscribed on it

- Grooming glove
- Dental chews
- New scratching post
- Covered litter box
- New food dish and water bowl
- Car ramp

I would wager a bet that a holiday costume is not going to be on your cat's or dog's holiday wish list but, as one whose own dog was known to wear a baseball cap, I plead the Fifth on animal outfits. The "dressing up" compulsion may be solved by the many human accessories one can purchase featuring various dog, cat, bird, turtle and other critter icons. That way we humans can wear the knitted cap with the Labradoodle on it and save our dog the embarrassment.

Fortunately, most of our companion animals are good-natured enough to put up with a little mortification in order to humor us, but temper the purchase of the reindeer antler headpiece with something your animal will truly enjoy. And, while you are purchasing something for your special animal, please do not forget those who are not so fortunate. Your local animal shelter probably has a holiday wish list as well and your help will be greatly appreciated by those animals not as lucky as yours.

Junior Women's Club Holds Youth Ink 2017 Writing Contest

CHANTAL VALENTINE  
Contributing Writer

Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors) will hold Youth Ink 2017, an annual creative writing contest for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live in or attend school in Orinda.

The Youth Ink 2017 prompt is "60 Seconds." The prompt was chosen because it encompasses limitless potential for subject matter, thereby encouraging young writers to personalize their writing pieces. Entrants may write about anything they want - real or imaginary.

"We eagerly await the results of how Orinda's talented young writers approach

this year's prompt, although they can write about anything they choose," said Amy Stuffmann, president of Orinda Juniors.

Event co-sponsors, the Orinda Association, Friends of the Orinda Library and the Orinda Community Foundation, will award prizes of \$250 for first place, \$125 for second place, \$75 for third place, and gift certificates for 10 honorable mentions.

A panel of local professional writers, including reporters and bestselling novelists, will evaluate Youth Ink 2017 submissions and choose winners. The judges will be named when the winners are announced at an awards ceremony at the Orinda Library on April 20. The public is welcome

[SEE INK page 14]



Ski trips or winter travel plans?

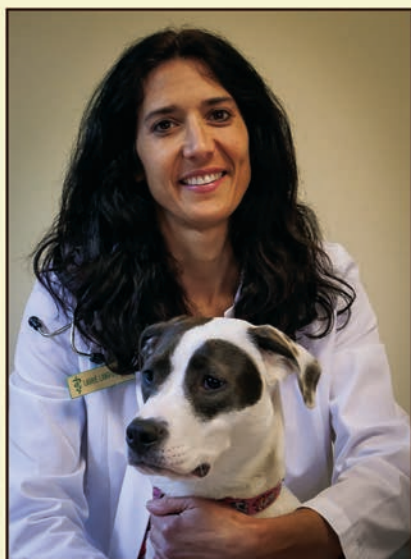
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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

# Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 Honors Four New Eagle Scouts

By Carolyn Stewart  
Contributing Writer

Members of Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237, Justin Lammert, Sam Sernett, Connor Stewart and Jesse Wilkinson, achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and celebrated their Eagle Court of Honor on Nov. 6 at Orinda Community Church. Former Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen presented the awards to the scouts, who are all seniors at Miramonte High School (MHS).

Troop 237, chartered by Orinda Community Church, has served Orinda for 60 years and has seen over 230 of its young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

Lammert, as Consul Officer of the MHS Latin Club, designed a trophy display case for this nationally award-winning club. He built the display case from scratch out of plywood and glass, and included adjustable panels designed to display large trophies. The display case is mounted outside the Latin classrooms, and the club's awards will be rotated quarterly.

Sernett, former Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 237, led the creation of customized, age-appropriate Lego kits for homeless children in transitional housing at Shelter Inc.'s Antioch facility. As part of his project, Sernett hosted a party for the families and presented each child with their kit. He also donated 80-plus pounds of additional Legos to the facility's playroom.

An avid outdoor enthusiast, Stewart researched, constructed and installed four bat houses on 16-foot cedar posts near the Wagner Ranch Nature Area pond in Orinda. The bat houses will help attract



TRACEY MILLHAM

(L-R) Sam Sernett, Justin Lammert, Jesse Wilkinson and Connor Stewart recently became Eagle Scouts in Troop 237.

bats, which in turn benefit the environment by spreading seeds, pollinating flowers and eating insects. Stewart chose this project because he enjoyed his time every week at the Nature Area during elementary school.

Wilkinson provided 80 emergency lockdown kits for each classroom at MHS. Each kit contains first aid supplies, water, food,

toilet paper, large plastic bags, and a toilet seat in a five-gallon bucket with a lid. He bought foam pool noodles and sliced them lengthwise to create a comfortable toilet seat to be placed on the edge of the bucket in case it is needed.

For more information about Troop 237, visit [www.troop237orinda.com](http://www.troop237orinda.com).

# Wagner Ranch Elementary Opens New Kindergarten Playground



SALLY HOGARTY

Children couldn't wait to try out the new play structures at Wagner Ranch Elementary School's new kindergarten playground.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

On Nov. 14, the ribbon was cut and the new kindergarten playground of officially open at Wagner Ranch Elementary

School. "This has been a long-time in the making," says Wagner Ranch Principal Jim Manheimer. "We began a very collaborative process in February, 2016 and had many meetings with parents, teachers, aids, school board members and, of course, the

children. We have such a wonderful result because so many people were involved with the planning and execution."


Gates and Associates were the architects for the project and came up with the concept, which includes a "musical" play apparatus. Green Growth Industries put in the irrigation, retaining wall, surfacing and landscaping with Park Associates Inc (NSP3) responsible for the actual play structures.

The \$487,000 price tag included a generous contributions from the Wagner Ranch Parents' Club of over \$60,000.



SALLY HOGARTY

(L-R) OUSD School Board President Julie Rossiter, Superintendent Carolyn Seaton and Wagner Ranch Principal Jim Manheimer cut the ribbon on the school's new kindergarten playground.




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## OBITUARY

## Family Remembers Former Orindan

Edward Robert "Ted" Smith, an Orinda resident from 1967 - 2000, passed away after a long illness on Sept. 25, 2016 at his home in Nevada City.

He was born Oct. 25, 1937 in Oakland, California, the only child of Edward Raymond and Audrey Ella Lee Smith, and spent his early years in San Leandro. When he was a young boy, the family moved to Santa Rosa where he graduated from Santa Rosa High School and Santa Rosa Junior College.

In 1960, he received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado and started his manufacturing career at Republic Steel in Cleveland, Ohio. Wanting to return to California, he took a job with Bethlehem Steel in 1966 at its Pinole plant. This facility became Marweis Pinole Point Steel where Ted spent the rest of his career, becoming general manager before he retired in 1987.

As the son of a Brown Shoe sales representative, Ted often spent summers with his parents driving through the small towns of Northern California and Nevada. These car trips fostered his love of traveling and exploring the country on back roads. Throughout his life, enjoying the journey was always his goal rather than arriving at a destination.

Following his retirement, Ted pursued diverse interests including travel abroad, California history, Buddhism and water issues. He volunteered with Friends of the San Francisco Estuary for over 25 years, serving for a time as president. He was an avid reader of a broad spectrum of subjects. Next to his chair were always several newspapers, a book, *The Economist* and *The Atlantic Monthly* to which he subscribed for over 60 years at the recommendation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Edward Smith, former Orinda resident, passed away after a long illness.

of a high school English teacher.

Ted will be dearly missed and long remembered for his gentle spirit, dry sense of humor, love of engaging in intellectual debate, curiosity of all things scientific, meticulous maintenance of statistics, keen interest in economics, and non-judgmental attitude.

He is survived by his wife Susan Wiesner; son Edward Mark Smith and his wife Anne; daughter Kirsten Towne Smith; grandsons Edward Raymond Smith and Robert Alexander Smith; and former wife and mother of his children Winifred Clegg Smith.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Santa Rosa High School Foundation (P.O. Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406), Friends of the San Francisco Estuary (P.O. Box 791, Oakland, CA 94604) or the East Bay Regional Park Foundation (P.O. Box 21074, Crestmont Station, Oakland, CA 94620).

## ◆ THEATRE from page 1

ers, that the first film shown at the Orinda Theatre was *The Maltese Falcon* but it wasn't," says Derek Zemrak, owner/operator of the Orinda Theatre. "According to the playbill advertised in a San Francisco newspaper, it was *Texas*, a Western starring William Holden, Glenn Ford and Claire Trevor so that's what we'll be showing."

According to Zemrak, he and his team also hope to locate the short film and newsreel shown at the 1941 opening. In addition, there will be singers, various performers and a ventriloquist.

"While researching exactly what took place at the opening, I found out that we all had another 'fact' wrong," Zemrak explains. "It wasn't Bob Hope who performed at the opening; it was ventriloquist Paul Winchell, who was a regular on the Bob Hope Show. It's funny how facts can change as they are handed down."

In keeping with the 1941 theme, admission to the Dec. 29 anniversary celebration will be \$.50. Ushers and usherettes will be attired in 1940's fashions and attendees are encouraged to do the same. "We even found some ushers who worked at the Orinda Theatre in the 1960s, and they will be attending. It would have been nice to have ushers from the 1940s, but they would be in their 90s now so that didn't happen," adds Zemrak.

## A Colorful History

Local resident Donald Rheem initiated the building of the Orinda Theatre on land he acquired in what is still referred to as the "Crossroads." A fan of Hollywood and motion pictures, Rheem reportedly wanted to build the finest theater money could buy and spent nearly \$400,000 doing so. Architect Alexander Aimwell Cantin and interior designer Anthony B. Heinbergen were commissioned to make his dream come true. Built during the golden age of movies, the final design boasted a late art deco style known as streamlined modern with its rounded corners, Carrara glass, stainless steel finishes and lavish murals.

Six years later, Cantin was commissioned to add the adjoining American Trust Bank building, which now houses the two smaller theaters. He went on to build the Rheem Theatre as well.

The Orinda Theatre was almost lost in

the late 1970s when local developer Clark Wallace and Associates purchased the building and closed it to prepare for a new commercial development. Local citizens led by Carl Weber, Ann Jenkins, Nina Horn and Laura Abrams, however, formed the Friends of the Orinda Theatre in 1981, and on Aug. 13, 1982, managed to have the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"I was a young woman about five months pregnant when I went to the state meeting to testify," recalls Abrams. "I was so nervous about speaking to the group, but as I approached the commission, the chairman stopped me and asked his fellow commissioners if anyone had an objection to the Orinda Theatre being placed in the registry and no one did. So I didn't even have to speak." Subsequently, the building was also unanimously approved at the national level.

But, getting the theater on the National Register did not ensure the theater's survival. The Friends found themselves involved in litigation for almost nine years. "We had to go to the State Supreme Court to get a stay of demolition and then, with the Orinda Association as co-litigator, went through a series of court cases. Finally, the Fifth District Court of Appeals cancelled the approvals for demolition and the theater was saved."

But the threatened demolition of the Orinda Theatre was just one of many threats to the historical building. The advent of multiplexes made it difficult for the Orinda Theatre and its sister theater, the Rheem, to compete for audience members. Different management over the years has responded in a variety of ways with the current operator being especially resourceful. Both theaters have undergone numerous refurbishments and upgrades to ADA standards for accessibility as well as creative programming. Not only do both play host to the California Independent Film Festival, but they also feature monthly offerings from the International Film Showcase and a free movie night plus concerts, stand-up comedy (Will Durst appears Jan. 19) and museum-worthy displays. The Orinda Theatre even opened its own movie-themed wine bar – Cine Cuvée – adjacent to the theater box office.

For more information on the anniversary celebration, go to [lamorindatheatres.com](http://lamorindatheatres.com).

## ◆ INK from page 12

to attend.

Youth Ink 2017 submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis once the competition opens. They must be hand-delivered to a designated school representative or postmarked by Wednesday, Feb. 15, and mailed to Orinda Junior Women's Club, P.O. Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563 in order to be considered for an award.

Youth Ink 2017 submission forms are available through the administrative offices and English departments at Orinda Interme-

diante School, the Orinda Library, Orinda Academy, Athenian School or online at [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

The nonprofit Orinda Juniors supports a variety of organizations in the East Bay, including Orinda Senior Village, STAND! Against Domestic Violence, Orinda Convalescent Home, Oakland Children's Hospital Family House and Brighter Beginnings.

Anyone interested in becoming an Orinda Juniors member or making a donation to a service project, may email [info@orindajuniors.org](mailto:info@orindajuniors.org).



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**Giving Dreams an Address**

HELPING OTHERS

## Interfaith Circles Promote Religious Tolerance and Support Homeless Women

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

Thanks to generous donations, the three Interfaith Circles of Lamorinda put together 250 cinch bags, each with about 20 useful items, for homeless women. Over 50 women, men and teens gathered at the Walnut Creek Islamic Center to fill the bags.

Items included socks, gloves, beanies, underwear, T-shirts, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and nutrition bars. “We wanted to brighten the lives of those who are without homes and often feel they are forgotten by society,” said Karen Rose of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), one of the organizers. “We also want to expand our understanding of the plight of those who are experiencing the challenges of ‘just surviving’ in today’s world. The bags will go to Trinity Center, Serenity House, Monument House Center, Youth Engagement Advocacy Housing

Center and Warm Winter Nights. Some will be given to those on the street by our members.”

Orindans Carole and Andy Amstutz said it was an excellent project on which the three faith communities, Christian, Muslim and Judaism, could work together. “We believe that love is something you do and all religions say this in a different way. Our Christian tradition says, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ We were happy we could show love in action as we got to know those of other faiths. We sensed a spiritual flow when we connected with each other as we reached across three religions and different cultures to help women in need.”

The Interfaith Circles came out of Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N), an East Bay initiative among Christian, Jewish and Islamic congregations, including LOPC, Temple Isaiah and the San Ramon Valley Islamic Center. “They grow understanding, respect, caring and support for the religions



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The three **Interfaith Circles of Lamorinda** distributed needed items at the Walnut Creek Islamic Center to homeless women in November.

of the world with particular emphasis on the followers of the three Abrahamic faiths,” said Terry Clark, coordinator of N2N. “N2N’s mission is to accomplish this via social initiatives that promote deep inter-relationships among individuals of all ages, generations, cultures and beliefs.”

Interfaith Circle women’s groups have been part of N2N since 2011. The groups meet once a month in members’ homes, often for a meal, to share aspects of their faith and to understand how they are similar and how they differ.

Women interested in the Interfaith Circle women’s groups may contact Terry Clark (terence.clark08@gmail.com), Rabbi Judy Shanks at Temple Isaiah (rabbishanks@

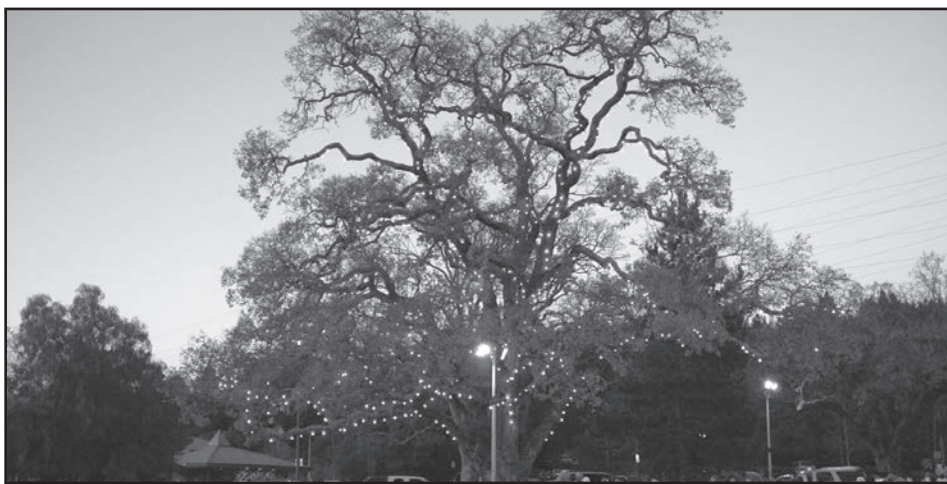
gmail.com), Lauren Gully at LOPC (lauren@lopc.org) or Maram Bata of the Muslim Community (marambata@yahoo.com).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Homeless women found many useful items thanks to the Interfaith Circles.

## 30th Tree of Lights Ceremony Honors Lives of Loved Ones



SALLY HOGARTY

Hospice Tree of Lights lights up the Village side of Orinda over the holidays.

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

Friends of Hospice, Orinda, and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Tree of Lights celebration on Dec. 3 at 4:30 p.m. in the Bank of America parking lot on Orinda Way. The ceremony is an opportunity for members of the community to honor the lives of friends and loved ones by donating a light in their memory.

Orinda School Children’s Chorus will sing holiday songs from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Santa Claus will arrive in a fire truck to pass out candy canes and there will be an opportunity for children and families to have their photos taken with Santa.

“Having been involved with hospice and the tree lighting ceremony for many years,

I find it a magical time for parents and their children to come together for a very worthwhile cause,” said Caroline Giers, president of Friends of Hospice.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sophie Braccini said that the chamber has been involved for many years and supports the event through coordination and decoration.

“It is only fitting that the business community be represented at this event which begins the holiday season in Orinda,” said Braccini. “Organizations that will be contributing are: Orinda Intermediate School with risers for the choral singers; Boy Scout Troop 237 with volunteers; Rite Aid donating candy canes; McCaulou’s providing Santa Claus a chair; and the Bank of America and City of Orinda helping with

[SEE HOSPICE page 16]

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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

- 1 Camron-Stanford House** trip for seniors, sponsored by City of Orinda, 10:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. The historic house sits on the shores of Lake Merritt. Trip includes transportation, tour, current exhibit and light lunch. Visit [www.orindaparksrec@cityoforinda.org](http://www.orindaparksrec@cityoforinda.org) or call 925-254-2445.  
**Story Hour with Cathy Goshorn** for children 2 to 4 years, with reading, songs and games, every Thursday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. (No story hour on Dec. 22 or Dec. 29)  
**Maria's Book Group** will discuss *Autobiography of a Face* by Lucy Grealy, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 11 a.m. The group meets monthly and welcomes new members. Attendees are asked to call ahead to 925-254-7606.  
**Senior Bridge** meets Thursdays from 12:15 to 2:30 p.m., at Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, sponsored by the City of Orinda. (Call 925-254-2445 to confirm that the group is meeting.)
- 2 Tamara Ireland Stone** will present her novel, *Every Last Word*, at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, 10 a.m. Sponsored by Orinda Books.  
**Diablo Choral Artists** presents *Christmas Pudding*, traditional English songs and a sing-along. Concerts are Dec. 2, 8 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda; and Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m., St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill. For tickets visit [www.dcachorus.org](http://www.dcachorus.org) or call 925-680-7089. Adults \$25; seniors 60+ \$18; students \$5. See article page 10.
- 3 30th Annual Tree of Lights** celebration, Bank of America parking lot, Orinda way, 4:30 p.m., sponsored by Friends of Hospice, Orinda, and the Chamber of Commerce. Honor friends and loved ones by donating a light in their memory. Orinda School Children's Chorus will sing holiday songs from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Santa Claus will arrive in a fire truck to pass out candy canes and there will be photo opportunities with Santa.  
**Orinda Library Art Gallery** presents *People, Places and Things*, an exhibit of 2D and 3D artwork by members of Lamorinda Arts Alliance through Dec. 31. Artist reception Dec. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. See article on page 2.
- 4 Hollywood Does the Holidays**, hosted by Jan Wahl and Derek Zemrak, Orinda Theatre, 4 p.m. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hanukkah seen through the eyes of Hollywood. Lecture includes film clips, behind-the-scene stories and holiday refreshments. Visit [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com).  
**Orinda Books** hosts an artist reception for its December Artist of the Month watercolorist Juanita Hagberg, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m.
- 6 Poetry Reading**, juniors and seniors from Athenian School will read poems they wrote for a poetry seminar, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 6:30 p.m. Open to all.
- 8 Free Movie Night** at Orinda Theatre features *Home Alone*, 7 p.m. Free movies are screened every second Thursday. Visit <http://lamorindatheatres.com/>.  
**Orinda Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party**, 7 p.m. Visit [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org) for details.
- 9 Orinda Ballet Academy** presents *A Sweet Dream Nutcracker* at Orinda Library Theater. Shows are Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 10 at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.; and Dec. 11 at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general seating. For tickets go to [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). See article page 10.  
**Orinda Books** hosts Gerry Wallace Holiday Sale featuring her ceramic gift items, 276 Village Square, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 29 Orinda Theatre** celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a \$.50 showing of *Texas* and a Superman cartoon, the first movies shown when the cinema opened on Dec. 29, 1941, 7 p.m. See article on page 1.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Note the library will be closed Dec. 23 through Dec. 26 for Christmas and will close at 5 p.m. on Dec. 31. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

- 1 English as a Second Language Conversation Circle.** Volunteer teachers lead informal group discussions, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also Dec. 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- 2 Teen Advisory Group (TAG).** Meets to plan future events, 4 to 5 p.m.
- 5 Toddler Lapsit.** Stories and songs for 1- to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required, but attendance limited to once a week. Also Dec. 7, 12 and 14.  
**Peek-a-Boo Time.** Rhymes and rhythms for infants up to 16 months (pre-walkers) and their caregivers only, 11:30 a.m. to noon. Also Dec. 12 and 19.
- 15 Special Book Sale.** Hosted by Friends of the Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 16 Mystery Book Club.** Meets every third Friday to discuss the latest mystery, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult program.

## 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](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks.** Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Guided Meditation.** Wednesdays, 9 a.m., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition.** Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Meditation.** Every Monday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdom Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga, Suite 100. Meditate in silence for 30 minutes, \$5 donation. Contact Gaby Mozee at [gcmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmoozee@gmail.com).
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird watching** 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, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com/> or 925-283-8288. On Dec. 2, nutritionist Jill

## St. Mary's Guild Christmas Luncheon Raises Scholarship Money

Saint Mary's College (SMC) in Moraga features beautiful architecture, lovely campus grounds and facilities and a well-respected education. Many of the students attending, however, would not be there without the help of scholarships.

"There is a perception that all the students at Saint Mary's have money and can afford the tuition, but that is far from reality," says SMC Guild member Millicent McCormack. "Many need help in order to continue their education. That's why the guild works diligently to raise funds for scholarships."

One of the guild's fundraisers takes place on Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Dryden Hall on the SMC campus, 1928 St. Mary's Road, in Moraga. **The Christmas Luncheon** begins with a social hour and bake sale featuring holiday treats. There will also be a Money Tree raffle. A luncheon follows. Attendees will be entertained by SMC's award-winning chorale. The cost is \$45.

RSVP by Dec. 1 to Cynthia Kelly at [cynthiakelly@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthiakelly@yahoo.com).



SALLY HOGARTY

Saint Mary's College's **Dreden Hall** will be transformed into a festive holiday venue when the SMC Guild holds its Christmas luncheon on Dec. 8.

Checks, made out to SMC Guild, should be sent to Kelly at 628 Augusta Drive, Moraga, 94556.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

West talks on "The Six Best Foods for Robust, Lasting Health."

**Lamorinda Toastmasters.** Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, 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](http://www.montelindogarden.com).

**Orinda Garden Club.** Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.

**Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

**Orinda Rotary.** Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222.

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

**Orinda Hiking Club.** Every weekend and first Wednesday, [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org) or Ian at 925-254-1465.

**Orinda Historical Society.** Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.

**Orinda Job's Daughters.** First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

**Orinda/Tábor (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](mailto: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/>.

**Walnut Creek Garden Club.** Second Monday, 9:30 a.m., September through June, Camellia Room, Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek, <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/walnut-creek-garden-club> or [mslittle44@gmail.com](mailto:mslittle44@gmail.com).

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.orindaschools.org).

**Planning Commission.** Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

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



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VISUAL ARTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The **Brothers Le Nain** portrait, *The Adoration of the Shepherds*, ca. 1635-1640 is a 43" x 54-5/8" oil on canvas painting on loan from the National Gallery, London.

# Frank Stella and The Brothers Le Nain Art Exhibits in San Francisco

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

If you have reason to be in San Francisco during the holidays, there are two fascinating exhibits worth seeing: *Frank Stella A Retrospective* at the de Young through Feb. 26 and *The Brothers Le Nain - Painters of 17<sup>th</sup>-Century France* at the Legion of Honor through Jan. 29.

The Frank Stella Retrospective fills six huge rooms with Stella's work arranged in such a way that you are astounded as you turn every corner. Each room is a transition into an evolving artistic direction. At times feelings of jubilation, fun and raw energy permeate the rooms. There are 50 large-scale works including paintings, wall-mounted reliefs and three-dimensional sculptures. The work spans the years 1959 to 2011.

Stella was taking steps into minimalism and abstraction that other artists in the mid-20th century were taking as well; he perceived painting in a different way. He is one of the few post-war artists who has always painted totally as an abstract artist. His work attained an importance of its own; critics regaled him, collectors bought – and continue to buy – his work. Of course at times, he's been reviled by critics as well. Stella's auction record, \$6.66 million at Christie's in 2014, is for a 1964 painting, *Abajo*.

The public is always surprised by what he does next because his work keeps expanding and evolving. He is now 80, still working, and absorbing new technologies such as digital fabrication and 3D printing.

There are familiar pieces such as *Lac Laronge III*, 1969, with its Celtic curves, as well as less familiar work such as *Gobba, zoppa e collotorto*, 1985, a relief painting that extends almost three feet from the wall and tosses the cones and columns of architecture up in the air, defying gravity. Not since 1970 has there been a retrospective of Stella's work, so there's a lot to see.

*Frank Stella: A Retrospective*, 9:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m., Tuesdays-Sundays, Herbst Exhibition Galleries, deYoung Museum, Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, San Francisco, 415-750-3600, www.deyoung.famsf.org.

Why visit the Legion of Honor to see *The Brothers Le Nain* exhibit? Here's what *The Wall Street Journal* said: "Astonishingly, this is the first U.S. exhibition devoted to the Le Nains in almost 70 years and only the second full-scale survey since a 1978

show in Paris. ... The brothers, in fact, have been described as the first artists' collective." The likelihood of seeing another exhibit of this kind before 2086 is slim, so when I say this is a "once-in-a-lifetime" event, I mean it. Almost 350 years have passed since Antoine, Louis and Mathieu Le Nain astonished the world with their unparalleled artistic vision, full of mystery and psychological complexity.

Experts say the Brothers Le Nain continue to hold our fascination because of the masterful way they paint. They join immense technical facility to an uncanny ability to portray humans with a dignity



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank Stella's, *Gobba, zoppa e collotorto*, 1985, is a 137" x 120-1/8" relief painting that extends out from the wall close to 3'.

rendered by few painters in history. They were prominent in Paris in the 1630s and 1640s and were among the first members of the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture in Paris in 1648. According to art historians, they were 200 years ahead of their time. They specialized in portraits, altarpieces, scenes of allegory and mythology but are known today for their sympathetic and honest depictions of peasants and the urban poor. This is a rare chance to view 40 of their works from far-flung corners of the world.

*The Nativity of the Virgin*, circa 1636, is an altarpiece on loan from Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. A wet nurse holds the infant Mary in the foreground while in the background, the Virgin's mother, Saint Anne, recuperates from labor. Mary's father, St. Joaquim, looks on adoringly, joined by angels, including one who prepares a swaddling blanket. This is a rare opportunity to see this striking painting.

[SEE EXHIBITS page 19]



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 20

week of December. “This Candle Making 101 workshop will utilize beeswax and soy wax, which are cleaner burning products than paraffin,” says Vigo. Contact Vigo for date and time of this fun holiday workshop. An instructor is currently being sought to teach Knitting 101.

Married to Mike Vigo for 24 years, the couple has three daughters. Eldest Natalie is a student at the University of Texas at Austin, Olivia studies at Parsons School of Design and Morgan is a junior at Miramonte High School. Mike owns and operates Bee Rancher Honey, which is available at ReChic Boutique 101.

Open Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays, 1 to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Jennifer Vigo at 925-519-8050.

**Entourage on Brookwood**

Gino Chiodo’s Entourage Salon and Spa, previously located in Theatre Square, has moved across the way to 232 Brookwood Road, adjacent to Loard’s Ice Cream and Candies and sporting a new name – Entourage on Brookwood. An Orinda-based business for the past 22 years, Entourage on Brookwood maintains the same staff providing a variety of services for clients.

“Just like our former location, we continue to offer hair services, manicures, pedicures, massages, facials, all types of waxing and spray tan services,” says Chiodo. “We



VALERIE HOTZ

Orinda’s popular spa **Entourage** now in its new location on Brookwood Road.

honor all gift certificates from our previous location and continue to support local public schools.”

You will find popular high-end products here including dermalogica, JanMarini, Matrix Biolage, Pureology, Living Proof, Redkin, Kai, bareMinerals and many others. There are more to come, as Chiodo is still in the process of stocking hair, skin and nail retail products.

Hair salon services include highlighting, coloring, cuts, perms, Keratin treatments – which puts vitamins back into hair to remove frizz – and Brazilian blow-outs. Step into Entourage on Brookwood and choose from a variety of massages such as deep tissue, head, neck and shoulder, Swedish massage and stone massage. Spa services also feature acne treatments and anti-aging treatments.

◆ EXHIBITS from page 18

Art lovers will understand how a painting can inspire beyond the present moment when they view the large Le Nain portrait of the comte de Tréville. As Captain of the royal musketeers, the painting of Tréville served as inspiration for Alexander Dumas’ famous novel, *The Three Musketeers*. Dumas was a known collector of Le Nain artwork.

The science-minded will be pleased to see an entire wall exploring X-radiography, infrared reflectography and infrared photography of their paintings. These explorations suggest answers to the most enduring Le Nain mystery: Which artist created which painting?

Like the collaboration of the three broth-

ers, three entities collaborated to present this exhibit: the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the Musée du Louvre-Lens in France. It was organized by C.D. Dickerson III of the National Gallery, Washington, and Esther Bell of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

*The Brothers Le Nain - Painters of 17<sup>th</sup>-Century France*, Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 100 34<sup>th</sup> Ave., San Francisco, 9:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m., Tuesdays to Sundays, 415-750-3600, www.legion/famsf.org.



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“We received many requests from clients for late hours and in response we have later evening hours to accommodate clients’ needs,” says Chiodo. With 12 hair stylists serving clients, it is advised to phone ahead for appointments. “Our new facility features two treatment rooms, two pedicure stations, two manicure stations and a spray

tan room.”

Entourage on Brookwood is open Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call 925-254-9721 or visit www.entouragespa.com.

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*map & details at:*  
www.SaintJohnsAnglican.org

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## Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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### Blue Egg Farm an Orinda Gem

Orindans are truly fortunate to be home to the only certified organic farm for many miles around. Nestled in Sleepy Hollow, Blue Egg Farm offers locally grown fresh, organic produce, herbs, flowers and, of course, blue eggs. The farm is a member of California Certified Organic Farmers, (CCOF) passing an annual inspection by CCOF to earn its endorsement, resulting in transparent accountability to the public. You will find suitable holiday gifts here, such as bundled dried herbs, seedlings and fresh organic produce.

Owner Kathleen Schwallie established Blue Egg Farm three years ago on her 1.2 acre spread and quickly admits her greatest challenge involves keeping the critters from the creek away from her plants. "We

placed numerous covers over the top of the beds, in addition to installing tight mesh underneath the beds to prevent voles from intruding and wreaking havoc," says Schwallie. "As a farmer, you become expert at finding the most effective and efficient way to accomplish a task without hurting the environment. Our farming operation is transparent, and the public has a way to know what we are doing."

While pregnant with her daughter, Schwallie began reading about nutrition and became aware of the importance of the freshness and quality of the foods we eat and its effect on the body. "I realized eating what we consider 'traditional food' was not too healthy," she says.

Assisted by two part-time gardeners, Blue Egg Farm harvests Mara des Bois strawberries nine months out of the year and is famous for its San Marzano tomatoes. Artisan Bistro in Lafayette and

Olivetto's Restaurant in Oakland are among its regular customers. While all produce, flowers, herbs and eggs are available through the website, [www.blueeggfarmllc.com](http://www.blueeggfarmllc.com), the seedlings are also available at Whole Foods Market in Lafayette.

"We have the largest variety of organic herbs in the Bay Area and the largest offering of organic herb seedlings as well," says Schwallie. "All of our produce and herbs are grown on about a quarter of an acre. We practice intense French gardening, which basically involves planting everything fairly close together. The secret is to harvest when the plants are young. When harvesting early, the leaves are much more tender, the herbs sweeter and the flavor is vastly better as a result. It is one of those,



Blue Egg Farm owner Kathleen Schwallie.

'ah-ha moments.'"

The 20 hens at Blue Egg Farm receive soy-free feed, resulting in organic blue eggs. "One of our customers shared that they have a serious allergy to soy, prompting us to provide a soy-free diet for our hens," says Schwallie. A variety of expanded greens are available this year, including Asian greens, spinaches, kales and mustards, along with sweet and also hot peppers.

Schwallie and her husband, Eric Chen, moved to Orinda in 2009. Prior to establishing Blue Egg Farm, Schwallie practiced law. Chen is a business consultant advising on mergers and acquisitions. The couple has one daughter. While farming is a dawn-to-dusk enterprise, Schwallie admits to enjoying travel and visiting as many farms as possible. "I count my blessings. We have a wonderful community and amazing partners," she says.

For more information about Blue Egg Farm and to purchase gifts, visit [www.blueeggfarmllc.com](http://www.blueeggfarmllc.com) or call 925-386-0172.



SALLY HOGARTY

ReChic in Orinda Village offers a wide range of clothing, shoes, scented candles and much more for all members of the family.

You may also email Schwallie at [kts@blueeggfarmllc.com](mailto:kts@blueeggfarmllc.com).

### ReChic Boutique 101 Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

This charming boutique, offering an eclectic range of gifts, clothing, accessories and home décor items, is the brainchild of Orinda resident Jennifer Vigo. Located at 101 Orinda Way, nestled between Baan Thai Restaurant and Penny Lane Salon, you will want to be sure to stop in with your holiday gift-giving list and browse among the splendid and often unexpected offerings.

"I am a great fan of affordable giving," says Vigo. "The purpose of a gift is to let people know they are thought of. It is the act of giving that is so important. I always enjoy seeing people come into the shop and leave with a sense of lightheartedness. In fact, I often hear customers laugh out loud."

Stepping inside ReChic Boutique 101, one immediately notices the place has more than one purpose. It is like walking into a friend's home, with one corner featuring an electric fireplace and comfortable seating with a television monitor nearby for watching Bay Area sports teams or the news of the moment.

"I have found people love words. One item my customers enjoy are the porcelain pieces engraved with memorable statements of wisdom, as well as the vintage signs made from recycled tin ceiling tiles that were removed from old banks in the Midwest," says Vigo.

Everything at ReChic Boutique has more than one purpose. "Many items in our inventory are supplies for artists who repurpose them and create something entirely new," says Vigo. A major appeal is the clothing consignment inventory, featuring apparel for girls, women, boys and men. Consignments include clothing and shoes that have been gently worn and are less than two years old.

"We sell a lot of name brand athletic wear such as Patagonia, Lulu Lemon, as well as handbags, greeting cards, hats, galvanized metal wall hangings and traditional hostess gifts. Customers should drop by often as inventory changes," says Vigo.

Most accessories are new, with Vigo supporting local artists, including Good to Go necklaces and pendants, impressive handmade gift cards and greeting cards by Transformative Art and local Orinda belt company, Camino Brands, which manufactures in California. You will find eye-catching dishtowels by local yoga instructor Jeanne Dowell imprinted with one single word - Gratitude - something to think about every day of the year.

"If you take a moment to look around, you will enjoy a truly endearing environment," says Orinda resident April Murphy. "I enjoy shopping here because I always find something I like and often it is the unexpected. Jennifer has a great eye."

Workshops are offered from time to time, with the next one taking place the first

[SEE BUZZ page 19]



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