



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
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## Orinda Association Hosts Annual Awards Dinner Feb. 9

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Association hosts their annual dinner Feb. 9 to celebrate the presentations of the Volunteer of the Year



DAVID DIERKS  
Past Orinda Action Day co-chairs **Molly Wilson**, **Charles Vollmar**, **Holly Henkel**, and **Kate Rittman**.



SALLY HOGARTY  
(Top) **Paula Arnold**, founder of the Orinda Juniors, (middle) **Tracy Cummings**, current president, and (bottom) **Cathy Opdycke**, past president.

and the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental awards.

Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC) will accept the 2013 Volunteer of the Year award. Orinda Action Day chairs/co-chairs Kate Rittman (2009 chair), Jessica Smith (co-chair 2010-2013), April Cotaxis Webber (co-chair 2010), Mollie Wilson (co-chair 2011), Charles Vollmar (co-chair 2012) and Holly Henkel (co-chair [SEE OA page 3])

## Lamorinda Seniors Team Up for Fun and Learning

By MAGGIE SHARPE  
Copy Editor

Lamorinda seniors are teaming up in 2014 for some interesting and informative adventures.

"The recreation departments in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette are joining forces to offer a variety of events for seniors," said Eva Phalen, Recreation Coordinator for the City of Orinda. "We are catering to similar populations and decided to pull together with our events."

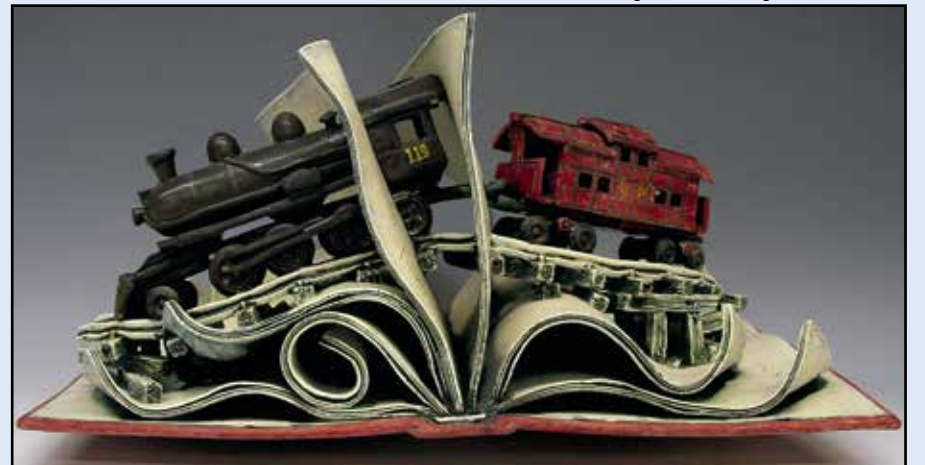
Phalen says Lamorinda Lunch n' Learn – which teaches technology skills – is back this year by popular demand. "Last year's program, which taught seniors about Facebook, Skype and iPad use, was hugely popular," said Phalen.

This year's Lamorinda Lunch 'n Learn program focuses on digital photography, with the first class – Digital Photography 101: The Basics – scheduled for February 12 at Orinda Community Center. The second class – Digital Photography 102: Archiving Your Photos – will be on March 26 at the Lafayette Community Center.

"Refreshments and a free boxed lunch are provided at each event," said Phalen. "Various senior agencies in Lamorinda donate the lunches."

Enjoy walking and bird watching? [SEE SENIORS page 7]

## Over 100 Art Pieces at Library Gallery



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Steven Allen's** porcelain creation entitled *Golden Spike* will be among the wide variety of subjects and artistic mediums exhibited at the Orinda Library Gallery during February. See page 2 for complete information.

## District To Decide How to Divvy \$14 Million from Pine Grove Sale

By BILL O'BRIAN  
Staff Writer

The Orinda Union School District (OUSD) will soon be spending close to \$14 million on its five schools. The money comes from the sale of the old Pine Grove Middle School site to Pulte Homes, which took title to the property in June, 2012. The purchase price was \$19.2 million. Pulte Homes has been making monthly deposits

to OUSD toward the full price since the original agreement between the district and Pulte nearly eight years ago.

During that time, the OUSD school board authorized various capital improvement projects to be funded from the sale, concentrating on areas of technical, health and safety issues. At this point, \$14 million remains to be allocated for other improvements.

OUSD Facilities Director Ed Silvas says his department maintains an ongoing Master Facility Plan of needed improvements at each school site, from which the board will decide how to spend the money. (The entire list of items to be repaired or replaced at each school site can be seen at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org). Go to "departments," "facilities and maintenance," "documents and developer fees," then Master Plan Update 2013, page 27.) The site lists 121 specific improvements by school site.

The improvements include sewer line replacement, removal of asbestos floor tile, new thermal pane windows, rotted roof gutter replacement, an improved intercom system and new security cameras.

The process to determine which items from the master list would be chosen took

[SEE OUSD page 5]

### IN THIS ISSUE

News	
Orinda Grove	5
Parcel Tax	6
Police Blotter	5
Around Town	
First Friday	15
Performing/Visual Arts	2
Schools/Students	8, 9, 13
Between the Lines	6
Business Buzz	16
Calendar	3
Classified	12
Editorial/Obits	4
Everyday Changes	11
Orinda Association	3
Something to Howl About	10
The Reel Less Traveled	14



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## Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

Art on the 100th Anniversary of World War I  
February 2 - April 13, 2014

Power Point Lecture: The War Within the War of 1914-1918  
Adam Hochschild Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 pm, LeFevre Theater, free admission

UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism professor Adam Hochschild is the former editor of *Ramparts*, and *Mother Jones* magazines and has written for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New York Times*. He is the author of seven books. His newest book, *To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918*, is a narrative of the First World War, retold as a struggle between generals, cabinet ministers and ordinary soldiers



who fought in the trenches, and, opposed to them, war resisters who refused to fight. A book-signing and reception will follow in the Theater foyer.

**From Swords to Plowshares - Powerful Trench Art from the Great War**



In WWI many soldiers crafted compelling art from artillery shells, bullets and coins. The metal objects reveal bravery, grief, boredom, fear, faith, hope and patriotism amid destruction.

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Both exhibits are on loan from Hollingsworth Fine Arts in Florida.



Also on view -

*Illuminating the Word Anew: The St. John's Bible*  
*Malcolm Lubliner: The Automotive Landscape*  
*William Keith: Nature's Tranquil Splendor*

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Hours: Wed-Sun, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
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## Library Gallery Hosts History Makers on Canvas, Get-Wild Paintings, Ceramicists and Wood Engravings

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

In America, we celebrate so many events in February it would take a whole page to list them. Valentine's Day, African-American History Month, Groundhog Day, Presidents' Day, Chinese/Lunar New Year, Purim, Ash Wednesday and Mardi Gras are on the short list.

The scope of more than 100 pieces of artwork presented this month embraces all these events – Kabir Adejare's pen and ink drawings on canvas, Robert Wahrhaftig's vibrant acrylic portraits, 14 ceramicists from the Lafayette Art Gallery, and Carole Dwinell's multi-media works. The public is invited to join them for an artists' reception on Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 6 to 7:30 pm when light refreshments will be served.

Adejare was born in Ede, southwestern Nigeria, and now lives in Concord. He became an artist in 1990 when he studied with a Nigerian sculptor. In 1996, he entered a center for art and culture. He started learning batik, then pen and ink and rice paper. He also works with plywood, using a plywood saw, then applies acrylic paint, finishing up with pen and ink.

Adejare is past president of the East Bay Artists Guild. Among the 16 works he is showing, several are from his History Maker Series, which he conceived to document past and present events for future generations. Look for *Young Obama*, 16" x 20" and *Nelson Mandela*, 30" x 40" - both pen and ink on canvas. *Imura* ("Preparation"), a 30" x 40" pen and ink on canvas, illustrates a young lady in transition, surrounded by her friends, inspired by the cultural support that adolescents received at a time when they were no longer considered minors. This was common in the past and still exists in some societies today.

Adejare hopes that people see the uniqueness of his art and learn something new. For more information, visit [www.jareking.com](http://www.jareking.com).

Robert Wahrhaftig of Walnut Creek lived in Orinda for many years, which is where he met artist Pam Glover. He bought one of her most unusual paintings, which is shockingly vibrant. Soon he signed up for her *plein air* painting classes where Glover encouraged him to, "get wilder!"

Nowadays he paints twice a week at art studios in Rossmoor and finds working with other artists keeps him inspired. Paging through books about artists such as Joan Brown, David Park and early Fauvists such as André Derain, Maurice de Vlaminck and Henri Matisse helps him get wilder.

"If they can go crazy, I can go crazy," he quips.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kabir Adejare's *Imura (Preparation)*, a 30"x40" pen and ink on canvas, will be exhibited during February.

Among the 20 works he is showing, look for *Catherine*, 30" x 24" and *Emily*, 28" x 22" - both acrylic on canvas. Wahrhaftig hopes that those who view his paintings will see that he is, "not restrained by what is sufficiently bland to go over their couch, and perhaps they might conclude that if you want to create something fun and exciting, in whatever creative field, then go for it."

For information go to <http://flickr.com/people/robertwpaintings>.

David VanderJagt of the Lafayette Art Gallery, a collective of 28 local artists, says that the gallery is, "a creative force in the heart of Lafayette and a Bay Area destination gallery for ceramic art."

VanderJagt, a past president of the Clay Arts Guild in Walnut Creek, promises that the 50 pieces exhibited by 14 ceramicists will have descriptions, artist statements and varied firing styles.

Members of the gallery exhibiting ceramics include James Aarons of Calaveras County, contemporary porcelain; Coren Abbott of San Francisco, intricately glazed and decorated porcelain; Steven Allen of San Francisco, sculpture, figures and functional ceramic art; Michael Berkley, stoneware and alternative fired wheel thrown vessels; Kurt Fehlberg of Pleasanton, stoneware wood fired in an anagama kiln; Lesley Jensen of Benicia, raku and pit fired ceramic vessels; Olga Jusidman of Walnut Creek, raku bowls; Martha Kean of Danville, functional high fire ceramics; Judy Miller of Lafayette, raku, stoneware and sculptural ceramics; Lauri Moffet-Fehlberg of Pleasanton, porcelain wood fired, anagama kiln; James Newton

[SEE GALLERY page 12]



Save the Date:  
*Comedy Night!*  
Friday, March 7, 2014

For ticket and event information  
[www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org)  
925.254.3909  
[info@orindachamber.org](mailto:info@orindachamber.org)

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President  
City's Infrastructure Remains Priority  
for Orindans**



Bill Waterman

Part of The Orinda Association's mission is to promote dialogue on important issues within our community, without taking a particular side in a debate. Thus, I want to touch on one of the key elements essential to our city's future well-being: the familiar topic of infrastructure.

The need to repave our roads and rebuild our storm drains is a key challenge that Orindans face over the coming decade. It is beyond dispute that the work is essential to our community's safety and economic well-being – not to mention the sustainability of your family vehicle's suspension! While the condition of our city's infrastructure is not the most exciting of topics, it has become a key issue that we all must face.

I encourage readers to check out the well-written piece by Darlene Gee in *The Orinda Way* (mailed to Orinda households in December). Gee is one of seven volunteer members of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission charged with the task of assisting the city council in its implementation of Orinda's 10-year road and storm drain plan that was adopted in July, 2012. The commission makes recommendations on which roads and drains should be fixed first.

Gee provides an update on the progress

being made, including the fact that selected residential streets are now slated for repaving using Measure L funds. (Measure L, passed by voters in November, 2012, is a half-cent sales tax that generates about \$600,000 annually for infrastructure work.)

Gee also emphasizes that, while Orindans will start to see some repaving of limited streets using Measure L funds (two streets recommended are portions of Charles Hill Road and Lost Valley Road), the measure was just a start. To accomplish the city's 10-year plan to repave roads and restore storm drains will require Orindans' approval of further funding – whether in the form of bond measures, parcel taxes or other means.

The City Council will shortly have the benefit of a phone poll, conducted to assess Orindans' preference on how to raise the needed revenue to fix our city's infrastructure. The poll will provide the council with insight into Orindans' collective mind-set on the issue.

Let us hope the message is being heard by all of us – for we must meet this challenge and take thoughtful action this year. The prospect of doing nothing further beyond Measure L is not a viable option.

The Orinda Association

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

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

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◆ OA from page 1

2013) will receive the William Penn Mott Jr. award.

The dinner will be held Sunday, Feb. 9, in Founder's Auditorium at the Orinda Community Center. Festivities start with no-host cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner and the awards ceremony. Anyone who has been involved with OJWC or Orinda Action Day may attend. Dinner costs \$40 per person for Orinda Association members, \$45 for non-members.

OJWC has been fundraising in the Orinda community for 30 years and focuses its fundraising primarily to benefit women and children's programs. Women residing in Orinda are eligible to join OJWC, the junior division of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Orinda Action Day began in 2009 as a citywide clean-up day. According to Mayor Sue Severson, each year volunteers "pick up litter, clean up trashed items, plant flowers, restore creeks and many other projects

to beautify and improve our community for the enjoyment of all." In addition to recognition and appreciation, prize money will be awarded to the William Penn Mott Jr. recipients to give to the non-profit of their choice.

For more information, visit www.orindaassociation.org. Reservations can be made at http://www.orindaassociation.org/store/VOYDinner.html or call 925-254-0800.

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**Orinda Juniors Women's Club**  
Volunteer of the Year Award for 2013

**Orinda Action Day**

William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award  
for 2013

These two fine organizations and their members will be honored at a gala dinner on Sunday, **February 9**, at 6 p.m.  
Orinda Community Center

Call 254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org to reserve your dinner reservation.

## Letters to the Editor. . .

### Cost to Orinda Still Too High

Regarding your December 2013 article "MOFD Reduces Service Model," what was not mentioned in the article was the fact that despite the number of firefighters servicing Orinda dropping from 11 to nine while the number in Moraga is being maintained at eight, the cost to Orinda and Moraga taxpayers has not changed. This year Orinda taxpayers will pay \$11.8 million in taxes to MOFD (\$1.3 million per firefighter) while Moraga taxpayers will only pay \$6.7 million for their eight firefighters (\$840,000 each).

Why is Orinda paying 60 percent more than Moraga for the same service? Because no one except a few individuals will stand up to defend the very foundation of the formation of MOFD. This extra charge to Orinda taxpayers effectively is a subsidy of two million dollars to Moraga taxpayers. We have been told we pay extra because the firefighters in Moraga serve Orinda, but studies show this never was the case; and with 90 percent of all emergencies being medical and with Orinda now having three ambulances to Moraga's one, whom will be servicing whom?

When the Orinda City Council asked the residents of Orinda to form MOFD in 1997, the Mayor of Orinda, Sarge Littlehale, told the Orinda voters "we must never again

spend \$2.8 million of Orinda's money elsewhere in the County, ignoring Orinda's needs." The voter's pamphlet, endorsed by such luminaries as Joyce Hawkins (Council Member), Alan Tabor (Mayor Pro Tem), and Aldo Guidotti (former Mayor), went on to declare "The County has neglected the fire protection needs, while squandering millions of Orinda taxes on services in other cities."

And yet we still have dozens of sub-standard fire hydrants; major areas of very high fire hazard terrain, which could use vegetation reduction; and 40 percent of our critical emergencies are not responded to within MOFD's benchmark six minute response time.

So what does our City Council do? Ignores the entire issue saying it is not within their "purview." Two hundred and twenty residents signed a petition in 2011 asking them to review the MOFD service. The Council refused. A group of residents ([www.OrindaTaskForce.org](http://www.OrindaTaskForce.org)) then produced a 100-page report, free of charge. The council did not even acknowledge receipt. And now the situation has gone from bad to worse. If it is not their job to guarantee our safety and the proper spending of our tax dollars, what is their job?

— Steve Cohn

## Obituary. . .

### Marian Davis McCosker

Marian Davis McCosker, a resident of Orinda, passed away on Dec. 26, 2013. Born in San Francisco on May 19, 1916, she attended Galileo HS and UC Berkeley, where she graduated with a BA in 1936. Marian was a school teacher before marrying John H. McCosker in 1940.

She has since lived in the East Bay for 74 years: Albany, Orinda and Walnut Creek. With her husband, John, she was affiliated with the West Berkeley and Berkeley Lions Club(s), the Sierra Club, the Orinda Tennis Club and the Oakland Fukuoka Sister Cities Society. Through the Lions Club, the couple was involved with the California School for the Blind scouts for many years, on their properties in Orinda and Canyon.

Marian enjoyed playing bridge at St. Perpetua's Catholic Church. She was a member of Moraga's Seniors and took swim classes in Orinda for many years. Marian was widowed in 1995 after being married to John Harvey McCosker for 55 years.

She is survived by her four children: Vicki Saputo, Gary, Randy and Roger McCosker, and seven grandchildren: Sean



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marian and John McCosker.

and Kevin White, John and Kirk McCosker, Scott and Natalie McCosker, and Brett McCosker. Marian had one great grandchild, Seaya White. A funeral mass was held on Dec. 29, 2013 at St. Monica's Catholic Church in Moraga.

### Applications for Major Beneficiary Awards Now Available

The Orinda Woman's Club is accepting applications for its 2015 major beneficiary awards. Appropriate applying agencies must meet the following basic criteria: non-profit 501 (c)(3); serving women and children in need; Alameda and /or Contra Costa County based; receiving \$1,000,000.00 and below as annual income stated on tax returns 2012-2013. Application forms can be acquired from Orinda Woman's Club, Post Office Box 533, Orinda, CA 94563, or from Adeline McClatchie, Beneficiary Chair, at 254-1162 or [Adeline@mcclatchie.com](mailto:Adeline@mcclatchie.com). Two applicants will be selected at the general club meeting. The deadline is March 3, 2014 at 7 p.m. Beneficiary Chair must receive applications before this date for consideration.

### List of *The Orinda News* Advertisers

	Page		Page
<b>Art &amp; Entertainment</b>		May Technology Consulting	9
St. Mary's College Museum of Art	2	Professional Organizer Nancy Henderson	12
Orinda Chamber of Commerce Comedy Night	2	<b>Real Estate</b>	
<b>Automotive</b>		AG Realty	
Orinda Motors	5	Alexander Gailas	3
Orinda Shell	8	Better Homes & Gardens	
<b>Beauty and Fitness</b>		Lisa Shaffer	15
Changes Salon & Day Spa	16	Coldwell Banker	
Gina Khan Salon	1	Laura Abrams	11
Living Lean Exercise & Eating Program	11	Patti Camras	15
Susan Warner Health & Wellness Coach	3	Shellie Kirby	14
<b>Churches</b>		Maureen Wilbur	3
Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church	14	Frank Woodward	9
<b>Construction and Trades</b>		Orinda Oaks	
Cabrillo Plumbing, Heat and A/C	1	Kellie Bequibelle	14
David Collins Painting	8	Pacific Union	
Tom Romaneck Painting	14	Virginia and Paul Ratto	10
<b>Dental</b>		Leila Schlein	5
Dr. Kristi L. Doberenz DDS	9	Village Associates	
Dr. Mary Smith DDS	6	April Matthews	7
<b>Educational/Camp</b>		Ann Sharf	2
Old Firehouse School	8	Clark Thompson	8
<b>Financial and Insurance Services</b>		<b>Restaurants/Catering</b>	
Breedlove Insurance Services	7	Baan Thai	14
Linney CPA Group Inc.	15	Casa Orinda	11
RPM Mortgage	10	La Mediterranee	3
<b>Garden/Landscaping</b>		Lava Pit	4
Blue Ridge Landscaping	15	Loard's Ice Cream and Candy	7
Tree Sculpture	12	Shelby's	13
<b>Medical</b>		Siam Orchid	16
Dr. Brian Clark	9	Szechwan Restaurant	6
Dr. Kristin Walker	7	Zamboni's Pizza	3
Medicine Shoppe	15	<b>Retail Stores</b>	
<b>Pet Service</b>		Morrison's Jewelers	9
Animal House Pet Sitting	10	Orinda Books	6
Theatre View Veterinary Clinic	10	Orinda Florist	9
<b>Professional Services</b>		Theatre Square	16
Cruise Adventures Unlimited	6	<b>Senior Services</b>	
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Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to [news@orindaassociation.org](mailto:news@orindaassociation.org). Letters to the Editor for the March issue are due February 5, 2014.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the March issue is February 5, 2014.

HOUSING / POLICE

# Orinda Grove Below Market Rate Homes Workshop

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

Interested parties lined up to sign the guest-book at the Orinda Grove Below Market Rate (BMR) Workshop on Jan. 13. A standing room only attendance confirmed the avid interest.

The Orinda Grove development will feature a total of eight BMR homes in the next two years. The four homes scheduled for completion in 2014 will cost \$385,000. The four scheduled for 2015 may be priced slightly higher. The homes will be 1,582 square feet and include 3-bedrooms, 2-1/2 bathrooms, a tech room and a 2-car garage.

Attendees of the workshop learned the eligibility requirements that potential buyers must possess. Key requirements include: Applicants must have a minimum of four members in their household and the maximum annual income (for four members) must not exceed \$112,200. Applications must be received by the City of Orinda by Feb. 18.



DAVID DIERKS  
Attendees of the workshop signing the guest-book at the BMR Workshop.

There is a two-tiered random selection process (the date will be announced after the application deadline), and people who have worked in Orinda for one year or longer will have preference over other applicants. Applicants must be present at the drawing to be eligible, and applications will be reviewed in the order they are pulled.

For more information, visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org) or contact Christina Ratcliffe in the City of Orinda Planning Department at [cratcliffe@cityoforinda.org](mailto:cratcliffe@cityoforinda.org).

◆ OUSD from page 1

place over several months last fall. The district created a task force of two school board members and five parents (one from each school site). "It was a long process to gather community input," said Superintendent Dr. Joe Jaconette.

The task force held meetings at schools early in the current school year to give parents a voice in the process and made its final report to the school board last November. The board will select items from the report for repair or improvement.

Silvas said the reason the list of needed work items is so long is because there has

been no "deferred maintenance" money from the state in the last six years. While the state normally provides funds for maintenance each year, for the last six years school districts across the state have used general fund monies. "Almost every school district in the state has put the money to salaries to keep their employees," said Silvas.

In addition, OUSD is moving into its new office building in late February. As part of the purchase, Pulte agreed to demolish the old OUSD building on Altarinda Road and construct a new 7,500-square-foot district office. Pulte also paid for rent for OUSD offices at the Vintage Building on Orinda Way during construction of the new offices.



## POLICE BLOTTER

December 2013

**False Residential Alarms:** Officers responded to 43 false alarm calls throughout the city.

**Auto Burglary:** 1 incident at Orinda Oaks Park.

**Burglary – Commercial:** 3 incidents on Davis Rd., Wilder Rd./Upton Rd., and Orinda Way.

**Burglary – Residential:** 5 incidents on Charles Hill Lane, Nelson Lane, Muth Drive, WB SR24/Wilder Blvd., and Broadview Terrace.

**Felony Vandalism:** 1 incident on Honey Hill Ct.

**Petty Theft from Vehicle:** 5 incidents on Sycamore Rd., Meadow Ct., Van Ripper Lane (2), and Dalewood Dr.

**Stolen Vehicle:** 4 incidents on Muth Dr., Dalewood Dr., Camino Sobrante and Amber Valley Dr.

**Stolen Vehicle Recovery:** 1 vehicle recovered on Virginia Dr.

**Arrests**

**Driving Drunk/Drugs – Misd:** 1 arrest on Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd.

**Vehicle Theft:** 1 arrest on Camino Sobrante.

**Orinda BART Station**

No stats reported.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,  
Orinda Police Department

### Additional Police Activity During December

- Detectives completed follow up investigations on several property crimes and made contact with a subject in Antioch who may be linked to a residential burglary.
- Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga Police Departments responded to a call of shots fired. The caller advised the officers that the shots came from the open area behind his home. A subject was located but fled the area prior to police contact. Orinda Police personnel are continuing the investigation and have identified a possible suspect.
- Detectives investigated two elder abuse cases forwarded by Adult Protective Services. Detectives followed up on a child molestation case that involved outside agencies including Santa Cruz County and Hood River in Oregon.

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## Between the Lines

### Literary Ps and Qs for February!

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



The pleasures of “p-reading” (the printed page as opposed to e-books) have been extolled post-holiday by some knowledgeable arbiters of taste, both locally and on a national level.

Jon Carroll, one of our *San Francisco Chronicle* favorites, admitted that he bid a “dry-eyed farewell to his Kindle” which died as he sat on a plane enjoying Donna Tartt’s *The Goldfinch*. Carroll decided not to replace his device and began reading p-books again. Relishing the heft of the physical book, he opined that this tangibility brings a reader closer to the book’s context.

“Other people (brains trained on other media) can probably get as much grist out of novels on reading devices,” he writes. “May they be well and prosper. But me, I think I’m not going to buy a tablet of any sort. I may be living in an increasingly fragile universe, but there is air here, and something to eat, and people to share books with. That should be enough.”

Meanwhile, in the *New York Times Book Review*, Anna Holmes, a blogger and website creator (Jezebel.com), as well as an author (*The Book of Jezebel*), loves what the ownership of a printed book says about its reader (an e-book, she says, is a secret kept). She writes that she cannot become as invested in pixels on a screen as she can in the “indelible glyphs found on good old-fashioned book paper.”

Orinda Books, of course, is delighted to highlight the virtues of the printed book, heft, sensory vibes and all. Discriminating Lamorindans and proud p-readers had some admirable favorites in 2013.

Our hardcover non-fiction bestsellers for the year were led by Daniel Brown’s exuberantly told story of the University of Washington crew in *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*. Our hardcover fiction leaders were *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini and *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt, the latter a title we’ve had a hard time keeping in stock.

Paperback stars for 2013 were led by Jess Walter’s excellent novel, *Beautiful Ruins*. Walter is an author we’ve been proud to host at Orinda Books since the publication of *Citizen Vince*. Each of his novels has been a dramatically different reading experience, and we can’t wait to see what he will offer us next.

First-time author, M.L. Semple, followed close on Walter’s heels with her thought-provoking novel, *The Light Between Oceans*. Seldom has a moral dilemma been presented so persuasively in contemporary fiction. Small wonder it has been a book group favorite.

In non-fiction, Lamorinda paperback readers enjoyed hiking with Cheryl Strayed – glad she, rather than they, had ill-fitting boots and blisters. Strayed’s *Wild: From*

## Acalanes Union High School District Polls Families on Extending Measure A Parcel Tax

By BILL O’ BRIAN  
Staff Writer

During the first two weeks of 2014, Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) hired a professional polling company, True North Research, to conduct a 400-household survey to determine if there are enough YES votes to put a measure on the May 2014 ballot to extend the Measure A Parcel Tax.

That tax levies \$112 per parcel per year, totaling \$4 million per annum, representing eight percent of the district’s annual income of \$50 million.

Measure A funds differ from Measure E bond money. Measure A money goes to the general fund and is a significant part of the ongoing annual budget. Measure E funds total \$93 million and are earmarked to rehabilitate schools, facilities and administrative offices.

The Measure A tax began in July, 2010 and is due to expire in June, 2015.

Parcel taxes require a two-thirds voter majority to pass. In a community poll, there is a three to five percent margin of error. Thus, the district needs an approval rating in the True North Research survey of close to 70 percent to predict voter approval.

AUHSD discussed results of the survey at its January meetings.

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

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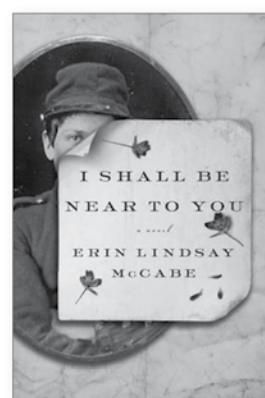
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YEAR OF THE HORSE

# Year of the Horse Bodes Well for Bay Area Residents

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

Bay Area residents usher in the Year of the Green Wooden Horse, while bidding farewell to the Year of the Water Snake, with the first day of Chinese New Year – Jan. 31.

Festivities continue throughout the 15 days of the celebration, culminating in Southwest Airlines' Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco on Feb. 15, from 5:15 to 8 pm.

The Chinese New Year tradition began in the United States shortly after the Gold Rush in the 1860s, but the tradition is centuries old. Also known as the "Spring Festival," Chinese New Year activities celebrate and honor ancestors and deities.

This year's parade begins at Second and Market streets, proceeds west on Market to Geary, then to Union Square before traveling north on Powell Street to Columbus Avenue.

Last year's parade was attended by

500,000 people and had three million TV viewers.

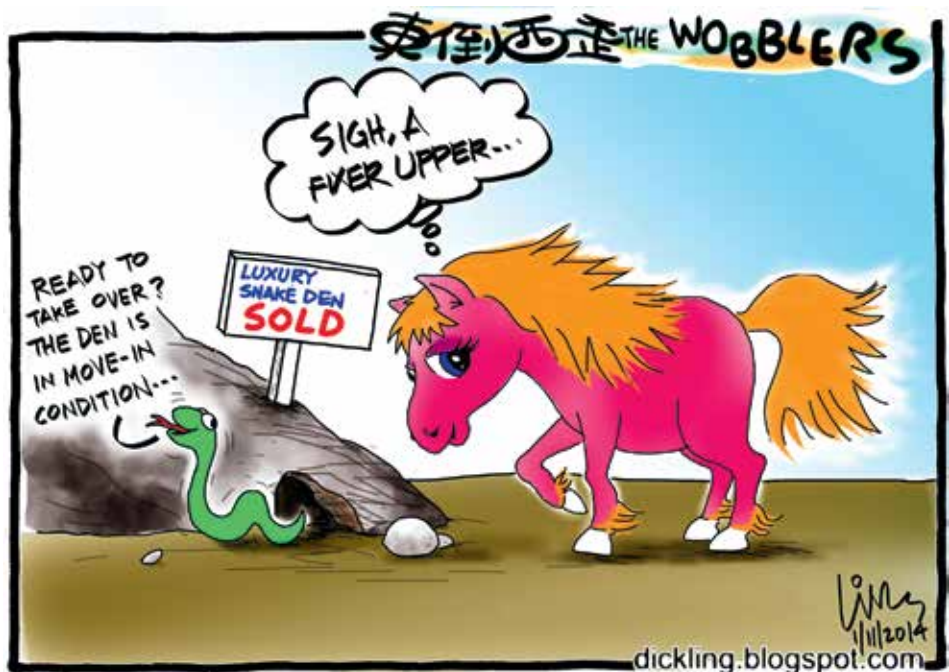
One of the parade's highlights, "Gum Lung," is a 268-foot Golden Dragon, carried by more than 100 members of the martial arts group, White Crane.

According to the Southwest Airlines website, San Francisco hosts the "largest celebration of Asian culture outside of Asia."

The parade also includes the Crowning of "Miss Chinatown," a community fair and Chinese New Year Run to benefit youth and teen programs in San Francisco.

According to San Francisco astrologer Susan Levitt, "The Wood Horse year is a time of fast victories, unexpected adventure and surprising romance. It is an excellent year for travel, and the more far away and off the beaten path the better," said Levitt. "You have to act fast in a Horse year."

For more information on San Francisco's Chinese New Year celebration, visit [www.chineseparade.com](http://www.chineseparade.com).



◆ SENIORS from page 1

Lamorinda recreation departments invite seniors to explore local trails while learning to identify a variety of birds. "That's been a really popular event," said Phalen, who encourages participants to bring binoculars. "Seniors meet every Wednesday from 9 to 11 am at different locations." (Call 254-2445 to hear location information and join in this free event.)

Last October, Lamorinda Travelers took a trip to the Livermore Valley wine country. The first outing for 2014 will be a February 4 excursion to the de Young Museum in San Francisco to view The Bay Bridge Exhibit, a docent-led tour that includes photographs by Peter Stackpole (1913-1997) who documented the bridge's original construction in the 1930s.

"In March, we'll take a trip to the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show and in May we'll hold the Health Expo for Boomers and Beyond at the Orinda Community Center," said Phalen. "We're partnering with the town of Moraga for the health expo."

For details about Orinda and Lamorinda programs for seniors, visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org), call 254-2445 or email [ephalen@cityoforinda.org](mailto:ephalen@cityoforinda.org).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Seniors enjoyed a trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium last year.



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## Orinda Aquatics Has Strong Performance at Winter Junior Olympics

By TRACY FU  
Contributing Writer

Despite temperatures in the mid-20s, more than 50 Orinda Aquatics swimmers competed at the Winter Junior

Olympics held in Morgan Hill (December 6 – 8) where, out of 97 teams and 1,200 swimmers, they finished fourth.

Here is a summary of top three:

Girls:

- 11&12, 200MR, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; 400Fr & 200 Fr, 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Claire Maxwell, Eloise Engs, Margaux McDonald & Lauren McAninch, Belle Peterson).
- 13&14, 200MR, 1<sup>st</sup> place (Megan Colpo, Katherine Cane, Ashleen O'Brien & Sophia Kosturos). Megan Colpo (13), 200BR, 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Boys:

- 9-10, Brock Zamanian (10), 50Fly, 100Fly, 50Fr, 200Fr & 500Fr, 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- 11&12, 400Fr, 200MR & 200Fr, 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Richard Zhang, Max Cruz, Will Nagle, Cody Peterson & Andrew Devlin). Max Cruz (11) 50Fly & 100Fly, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; 50BK, 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Richard Zhang(12) 500Fr & 400IM, 1<sup>st</sup> place; 100Fr & 200Fr, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; 50Fr, 100IM & 200BK, 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Note: Max Cruz's 50 Fly time of 26.34 in ranked number one in the nation for 11-year-old boys.
- 13&14 – 400Fr, 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Justin Lammert, Kai Nashan, Alex Low & Alec Baker). Justin Lammert (14) 50Fr, 3<sup>rd</sup> place.




CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

L-R (top row): **Ashleen O'Brien**; Girls relay: **Claire Maxwell, Eloise Engs, Margaux McDonald, Lauren McAninch**; (middle row): Boys relay: **Kai Nashan, Justin Lamert, Alec Baker, Andy Kang; Kai Nashan on blocks**; (bottom row): **Kenna Van Steyn, Sophie Lurie, Abby Dulski**.



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Lafayette Open Houses Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup> , Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. 984 Moraga Rd. (925) 284-4321	Walnut Creek Open House Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup> , Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. 55 Eckley Lane (925) 934-1507
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Open houses are for adults only!

### Glorietta's Daisy Troop Spreads Holiday Cheer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Glorietta's First Grade Daisy Troop** visited the Orinda Rehabilitation & Convalescent Hospital spreading holiday cheer during the holidays. The girls brought crafts to make with the residents as well as sang a variety of holiday tunes. It was a wonderful day for all involved.



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SCHOOLS

School Children Make a Difference with Food Drive



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda's "Cans for a Cause" Food Drive has completed the first phase of the event, collecting 5,582 lbs of food to date. A partnership between the City of Orinda, Orinda Union School District, and Republic Services (which offered to match the total collection efforts), the food drive continues Feb. 3 through Feb. 14 at Glorietta Elementary. For more information, call 925-570-5654.

## Glorietta Elementary School Hosts 32nd Annual Auction

By AIMEE STEVENS  
Contributing Writer

Glorietta Elementary School continues to build community and raise needed funds through the annual school auction, now in its 32nd year. "Through the years, many schools have eliminated fundraising auctions and parties, but we feel building lifelong friendships and fostering family involvement in our school is just as important as raising money," says June Lim, auction co-chair.

The theme of this year's auction is *The Great Gatsby*. The two-part auction fundraiser includes an online auction that is open to the public from Feb. 6 through Feb. 20 and a live auction on Feb. 22. People can bid online for restaurant certificates, deals on photography sessions and fun sporting events. The public is invited to peruse the website and cash in on fabulous deals, all while supporting the school.

The live auction takes place on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 22, at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Items up for auction include themed parties, hosted by parents throughout the year.

"If we had stopped hosting the auction through the years, many families wouldn't have been able to get to know each other," said Grace Kan, auction co-chair. "With so many parents working, it's nice to be able to attend events to meet fellow parents in our neighborhood and have fun together. If we just wrote a donation, we would miss

all of that."

Among items up for bid are block parties, hosted by neighboring families and often catered by themed food trucks. Another highly anticipated Glorietta tradition up for auction is a surprise visit from Chuck the Gopher, a wooden decoration often seen in the front yards of Glorietta residences. It's a crowd-pleaser, especially with the children.

Proceeds from the auction directly benefit school programs and activities. The amount historically raised accounts for nearly half of the Glorietta Parents' Club budget and directly funds reduced K-3 class sizes; classroom instructional assistants; school clerks and psychologists; library, P.E. and science instruction; and other classroom equipment and materials.

To learn more about the auction or to bid on items, visit [www.glorietta.orindaschools.org](http://www.glorietta.orindaschools.org). For information, call Aimee Stevens at 925-570-5654.

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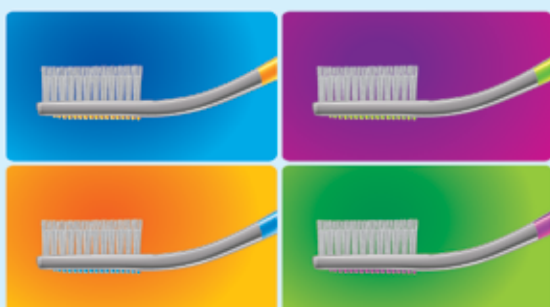
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# Couple Creates Pads 4 Pets to Help Homeless Pets Stay Warm

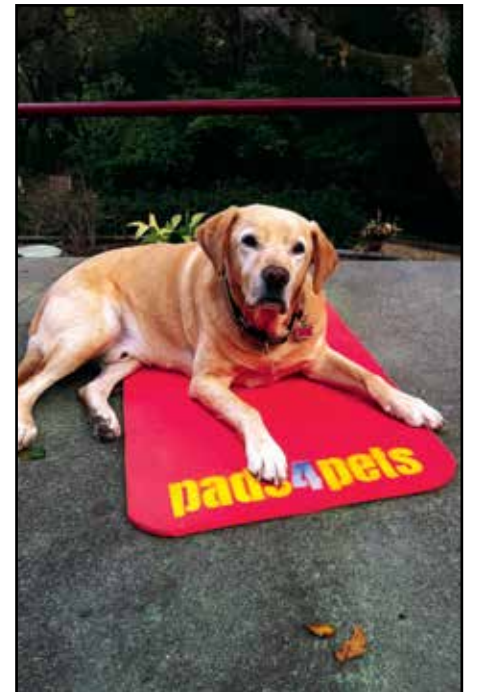
By CHARLIE JARRETT  
Staff Writer

**P**am Schroeder lives in Orinda and commutes every day by BART to San Francisco, where she walks several blocks to her office.

"I was struck by the number of homeless people who have pets, mostly dogs," said Schroeder. "I was bothered by the fact that the dogs are usually lying on the ground next to their person. I was concerned that as the weather grew more intemperate, these dogs have to lie or stand on very cold concrete sidewalks or pavement."

One morning when it was really cold, Schroeder started thinking, "Wow, the forecast is really bad. I don't know what made me think about repurposing my yoga mat, which I had not been using very much," said Schroeder. She cut it in half and donated it to a couple of people she repeatedly saw with their dogs as she walked to her office.

"I subsequently stopped and talked to these people and got to know their names and their dogs' names," she said. "Then, following several meetings, I approached them, said 'hi' and told them I would like to give them a mat ... this initial couple



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Cody** tries out one of his owner's converted yoga mats.

couldn't have been nicer. They took the pad and placed their pet on it."

After she told her husband Gary what she had done, they became excited about [SEE PADS page 14]

## Something to Howl About... Animal Tales

"How Do They Love Thee"

Jennifer Conroy



**I**t's February and love is in the air. Valentine's Day marks a time of tributes to love and to the loved ones in our lives. Expressions of love bloom through cards, flowers, gifts and other expressions of affection. Many people include their companion animals in Valentine's Day recognitions. Special treats, safe toys, and favorite activities are ways to bestow Valentine's love on your pet. But what about the animals. How do they show "the love"?

Fortunately for us humans, every day is truly Valentine's Day in the hearts of our companion animals, and, we don't have to do very much to earn that love. A diamond studded collar will not make our cat or dog love us more. Most of the time all we humans need do to see how much our animals

love us is to simply show up!

The cat perched by the window watching for you to drive up the driveway; the dog lying behind the front door waiting for the turn of your key. We show up and they are happy. The cat rubs against our legs to mark us with his scent letting the world know you are his. The exuberant dog jumps up in our face in the equivalent of a dog greeting another dog with face to face contact. He jumps up to us because we are taller than the average dog! Of course, a jumping dog is not to everyone's liking, and this month's column is not focusing on training but on animal love and expressions of it.

My budgie would greet my entrances [SEE HOWL page 12]

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HEALTH / BEAUTY

**Everyday Changes**

Ask the Expert – Tips for Enhancing Your Relationship



Bonnie Waters

No sooner do the holiday festivities pass than we begin to see cupids in flight and we know that Valentine’s Day will soon be here. While it is fun to commemorate our special relationships on Valentine’s Day, I decided to “Ask the Expert” for the best way to nurture and grow relationships every day. I was unable to reach Cupid, the ultimate relationship expert.

Instead I will share the advice of notorious Cupid surrogate, Dr. Phil.

**Have A Solid Friendship And Set Specific Goals For The Relationship**

“Ask yourself what kind of friend you are being to your mate,” Dr. Phil says. “If you want a good friend, be a good friend,” he suggests.

“Wake up each morning and say, ‘What can I do today to improve the relationship?’” Dr. Phil advises. “Even small things will accumulate over time and make a difference. Find a quiet moment each day and come up with a specific goal to improve your relationship, whether it’s calling your spouse during the day just to say hi, or telling your mate that you love him or her more often. Make a conscious effort.”

**Take Time to Nurture Your Relationship**

If I were able to get in touch with Cupid, he would no doubt offer up the following advice: Without regular attention relationships will wither. Make the commitment to spend regular time relaxing and reconnecting with your loved one. Schedule time to nurture your relationship.

And that brings us back to Valentine’s Day. A day together enjoying massages at a spa is the perfect way to spend Valentine’s Day. Research shows that massage and spa services go beyond pampering — they help relieve stress, anxiety and provide deep relaxation. More and more medical studies are finding that stress can lead to many unwelcome side effects, including high blood pressure, decreased immunity function and reduced energy levels.

Spas are places devoted to overall well being through a variety of services that encourage the renewal of mind, body and spirit. Is there a better gift to share with your loved one this Valentine’s Day? Call today and schedule time to rest, relax and reconnect with your someone special.

**Move of the Month**

**Mountain Climber!**

Come to hands and knees plank position.



Bring one foot forward and place it on the floor under your chest.



Brace your abdominal muscles to stabilize your spine. Jump to switch leg positions.

Continue for 20-30 seconds.

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

◆ **BOOKS** from page 6

Irish novels.

P-reading is our stock-in-trade at Orinda Books, and we were particularly happy that on Jan. 28 a novel from Anna Quindlen, our literary “Q” for the month, arrived on our shelves.

*Still Life with Bread Crumbs* (Random House \$26) will engage readers on many levels. Quindlen’s protagonist, Rebecca Winter, is a celebrated New York photographer, some of whose images have become feminist icons. Now in her 60s, Rebecca, divorced and no longer the famous name she had once been, is partially supporting

two aging parents and needs to retrench economically. To make ends meet, she leases her Upper West Side apartment and moves to a cottage several hours out of the city. There her life takes unexpected turns. She finds new photographic challenges, a dog, and, most importantly, a roofer named Jim Bates.

Quindlen herself is a 60-something Manhattan dweller and a witty observer of the art/literary world that Rebecca is abandoning for the countryside. Always a thoughtful and elegant writer, she has given us a book that is delightful entertainment. Is it a coincidence that it arrives just in time for Valentine’s Day?



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– Wendy Nieto, Danville




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In keeping with our practice of giving back to the community, Living Lean will be making a contribution to the following charities:  
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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## February

- 1 **Orinda Books** hosts Mary Mark of Lafayette discussing her memoir, *Mary's Moments: Tales of a Young Widow*, 276 Village Square, 1 pm. Call 925-254-7606.  
**Free Champagne and Chocolates Reception** celebrates Lafayette Art Gallery's exhibit, *Love at First Sight*, 5 to 7 pm. The exhibit runs through March 28 at 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite A. Visit [www.lafayetteartgallery.com](http://www.lafayetteartgallery.com) or call 925-284-2788.
- 4 **Orinda Parks and Recreation** hosts a trip for seniors to San Francisco's de Young Museum for a docent-led tour of *The Bay Bridge Exhibit*, 9:30 am to 3 pm. Cost is \$29 for residents, \$33 for non-residents (lunch not provided). For reservations, visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org) or call 925-254-2445.
- 6 **Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for toddlers and caregivers, Thursdays, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 am. Call 925-254-7606.
- 8 **Orinda Books** hosts Erin Lindsay McCabe discussing her novel, *I Shall Be Near to You*, about a woman who disguises herself as a man in order to fight alongside her husband in the Civil War, 276 Village Square, 1 pm. Call 925-254-7606.  
**The International Film Showcase** will present *Wadjda*, Saudi Arabia's first submission to the Motion Picture Academy for Oscar consideration, through Feb. 14 at the Orinda Theatre. Check [www.lamorindatheatre.com](http://www.lamorindatheatre.com) for screening times.
- 9 **Orinda Books** hosts Susan I. Hickman discussing her memoir, *Be Happy: Life After Loss*, which she wrote after the sudden loss of her husband, 276 Village Square, 1 pm. Call 925-254-7606.  
**Orinda Association's** Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. Awards Dinner, 6 pm, Orinda Community Center. This year's honorees are Orinda Junior Women's Club and Orinda Action Day. Call 254-0800 or email [oa@orindaassociation.org](mailto:oa@orindaassociation.org).
- 12 **Lunch n' Learn** for seniors, hosted jointly by Lamorinda recreation departments, features *Digital Photography 101: The Basics*, Orinda Community Center, 10:30 am to 1 pm. Cost is \$10 for residents, \$11 for non-residents. Lunch is provided. For reservations, visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org) or call 925-254-2445.
- 13 **Game Day and Luncheon**, a fundraiser hosted by St. Mary's College Guild, features bridge and bingo, St. Mary's Soda Center, 9:30 am to 2 pm. \$35 per person. Mail check, payable to St. Mary's College Guild, to Dolores McGonigle, 828 Crossbrook Court, Moraga, 94556 by Feb. 8. Call Shirley Holloway at 925-376-6588 for information.  
**Leadership Seminar Series** for nonprofits and individual projects, Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Continued on March 13 and 27. Co-sponsored by Town of Moraga, Moraga Citizen Network, Lamorinda Presents and Saint Mary's College Leadership Center. \$20. Contact [news@moragacitizensnetwork.org](mailto:news@moragacitizensnetwork.org).
- 19 **Red Cross Blood Drive**, hosted by Orinda Parks and Recreation Department, 28 Orinda Way, 10 am to 3:30 pm. To schedule an appointment, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code ORINDA or call 1-800-733-2767. For information, call 866-236-3276. Bring ID.
- 20 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents *Twelfth Night*, a co-production with Intersection for the Arts, through March 2 at 925 Mission Street, San Francisco. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm and Sunday matinees Feb. 23 and March 2 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20. Visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org) or call 510-548-9666.
- 27 **Fourth Annual Anniversary Celebration of Orinda Community Foundation**, Orinda Library Plaza, 4:30 pm. The foundation will announce its 2013 nonprofit award recipients.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 17 for Presidents' Day. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html).

- 1 **Saturday Morning Live** features family story time for three- to five-year-olds, Picture Book Area, 11 to 11:30 am. Also Feb. 8, 15 and 22.  
**Book Sale** sponsored by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and Sorting Area, 10 am to 1 pm.
- 4 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and finger play for infants to three-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 am and 10:30 to 10:55 am. Drop-ins welcome, attendance limited to once per week. Also Feb. 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19.  
**Peek-A-Book Time**, songs, stories, rhythms and rhymes for infants to 16 months and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 am. Families with older siblings are welcome at Toddler Lapsit. Also Feb. 11 and 18.
- 6 **ESL Conversation Circle** for adults, practice and improve English conversation skills in a small, informal group, 1 to 2:30 pm. Registration not required. Also Feb. 13, 20 and 27.
- 8 **Weekend Paws to Read**, children in grades 1 through 5 can practice reading with a friendly dog. Stop by to visit or sign up for a 20-minute session, 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Also Feb. 22.
- 9 **Lunar New Year Program** features a photography and history presentation by Bay Area photographer and writer Richard S. Lee entitled *Taishan: Why Chinatowns Speak Cantonese*, Garden Room, 2 pm, sponsored by the Eng family.
- 11 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent will talk about the theatre's upcoming production of *The House That Will Not Stand* by Marcus Gardley, Fireside Room, 7 pm. Adult program.
- 17 **Mystery Book Club** members will read and discuss *The Jury* by Steve Martini, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 pm. For adults 18 and over.
- 25 **Humanities West** presents a talk on *The Byzantine Millennium*, Fireside Room, 6:30 pm.
- 26 **Paws to Read**, children in grades 1 through 5 can sign up for a 25-minute session to read with a friendly dog. Sessions at 3:30 and 4 pm. Call the library to register.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- AAUW (Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette Chapter)**, Third Tuesday, 9:30 am, Holy Trinity Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Presentation by Debora Silva, an award-winning Brazilian TV producer/reporter now living in California, [www.oml-ca.aauw.net](http://www.oml-ca.aauw.net).
- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 pm, Orinda Masonic Center. Call Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 pm, Gallery Room, Orinda Library, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 am., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 am. at Orinda City Hall

## Orinda Troop 303 Announces New Eagle Scouts



JOHN WOLFE

Boy Scout Troop 303 in Orinda has inducted four new Eagle Scouts: (L-R) **Christopher Ryan Andrada**, **Cole Wolfe**, **Jorge Alejandro Gutierrez, III** and **Thor Alexander McAvenia** – all Miramonte High School students. In addition to earning at least 21 merit badges, each Eagle Scout organized a service project benefiting his community.

Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 925-687-8844, ext. 227.

**Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 am, free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.

**Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 am to 1:30 pm, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 am, Celia's Mexican, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-254-0440, ext. 463.

**Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, [www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net](http://www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net).

**Montelindo Garden Club**, Third Friday, September through May, 9 am, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive. February's speaker is Marion Brenner, who will talk on *Garden Photography*. Visit [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com).

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

**Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 pm. Contact Thama Brentano at [thamascout@gmail.com](mailto:thamascout@gmail.com) or [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

**Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 925-254-2222.

**Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 pm, Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.

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

**Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday, 5 pm, Historical Society Museum, 26 Orinda Way, 925-254-1353.

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

**Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 pm, social, 7:30 pm, meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 pm, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).

**Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 am to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881. Visit <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub>.

## CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

**Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.

**City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 pm, Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

**Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 pm, Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 pm. Visit [www.mofd.org/board/meetings](http://www.mofd.org/board/meetings) meeting location will be posted on the agenda.

**Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 6 pm, OUSD Conference Room, 25 Orinda Way—Suite 200, Orinda, CA 94563. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).

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

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



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**THE REEL LESS TRAVELED**  
 FILMS BACK IN FULL FORCE



Tom Westlake

It comes as no surprise that the holidays throw nearly everyone higgledy piggledy, and I am no exception – hence I didn’t write a column for last month’s issue. What with my Dickensian and personal obligations, it was all I could do to keep my head above the rising tide of mistletoe and Yuletide cheer. (Although drowning in my wife’s “special” eggnog doesn’t sound all that

horrifying.)

Efi Lubliner and Jo Alice Canterbury (founders of the International Film Showcase) are back in full force after a successful January showcase of *Instructions Not Included*. For February, they offer a film of firsts.

*Wadja* is an award-winning Saudi Arabian film that has made many sit up and take notice. Though the theme may be a familiar one, what distinguishes this one is, not only its country of origin (which has no real film industry per se), but the simple fact that it has acquired so many accolades: It’s the first Saudi Arabian film to be recognized by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Other hallmarks include a strong forward-thinking female character and a frank look at the society she’s growing up in. That the film got made at all is something of a minor miracle, and we owe it to ourselves to make time for it. It will screen for a week at the Orinda Theatre starting Feb. 7.

The second offering is an encore showing of *Roman Holiday*. This popular film gets a reprise here through the generous sponsorship of the California International Film Festival and *Diablo Magazine*. (The Moraga Movers screened it in November 2012 last time around.) Anyone who didn’t get the chance to see the enchanting Audrey Hepburn scooting around Rome with Gregory Peck is strongly advised to do so now. As sweet as it is enduring, it will show at the Orinda Theatre on Feb. 13 at 7 pm.

Finally, there’s *Knute Rockne, All American* which would be worth seeing for no other reason than to hear the collective chuckle run through the audience when they hear one of the more enduring clichés in movie history. That aside, this biography, said to be as accurate as they come, sports many other fine moments and performances including (as said cliché) one Ronald Reagan in a role that many think was his

[SEE REEL page 15]

◆ PADS from page 10

the idea and decided to create a non-profit program to expand the concept into a real service organization.

They began sharing their idea with friends, then advertised it on Facebook and, subsequently, on [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com) in their Sleepy Hollow neighborhood.

“I talked about it at work, and we put a little drop-off bin in front of our house,” said Schroeder. “We talked about it with participants at the Sleepy Hollow Dog Walk last December and, suddenly, we have become inundated – which is great – with a number of old and used yoga mats.”

Now that the Schroeders have a burgeoning foundation, which they named “Pads 4 Pets,” they had to find a more effective way of locating people and animals in need.

“After some research, we partnered with a group in San Francisco called VET SOS,” said Schroeder. “They provide Street Outreach Services (SOS) for homeless people with pets. They are helping us distribute the mats to people and animals in need, over and above what we can distribute ourselves.”

VET SOS uses a mobile Vet Tech vehicle to set up clinics throughout the city 12 times a year. The homeless can get free medical care for their pets from veterinarians and volunteers, free pet food, heart guard, flea and tick medication, baths, leashes, blankets and little pet coats.

By going directly to homeless people, on their turf, the VET SOS team builds trust and breaks down the barriers that keep homeless people and their companion animals from getting the care they need. The Schroeders dropped off approximately 25 mats to VET SOS last month and are gearing up to launch a website for Pads 4 Pets ([www.Pads4Pets.org](http://www.Pads4Pets.org)), where visitors can find out about the non-profit and how to help.

“We have many photos of the process, which show how my husband cuts the mats in half, rounds the corners, cleans them and screen paints them with our Pads 4 Pets logo,” said Schroeder. “He then rolls the pads up and secures them in preparation for distribution.”

Anyone with yoga mats to donate can drop them off at the outdoor donation box at the Schroeders’ Sleepy Hollow home at 76 Tarry Lane.

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FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

# Renowned Female Scientist Researches Cancer and Other Vaccines

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

Margaret Liu, named by *Discover Magazine* as one of its 50 most important female scientists, is the speaker at the Feb. 7 First Friday Forum Lecture Series at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 1:30 pm.

Her topic is *New Technologies for Cancer Vaccines and Immunotherapies*.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Margaret Liu will speak on new technologies for dealing with cancer at the Feb. 7 lecture.

A graduate of Harvard Medical School, Liu pioneered the development of DNA vaccines, which are now in clinical trials

for human diseases and veterinary applications. She received an honorary Doctorate of Science from Colorado College where she also obtained her degree in chemistry, summa cum laude.

The Nobel Committee invited Liu to lecture in the Karolinska Research Lecture series in Stockholm, Sweden. She is a foreign adjunct professor in Sweden, where her work focuses on HIV vaccines and cancer immunotherapy.

She is also an adjunct professor at UCSF School of Medicine and consults worldwide for investment firms, non-governmental organizations and governmental scientific advisory boards. Liu was a senior advisor for the Global Health Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has invested over 1 billion dollars in vaccine development and immunization programs.

"Vaccines save nine million lives a year in addition to preventing morbidity from infectious diseases," said Liu. "They could save an additional 16 million lives each year if we could make new vaccines against additional diseases and more widely used existing vaccines."

"New immunization technologies to prevent and treat cancer are being developed because some cancers are due to viral infections, so prevention of the infection eliminates the root cause of the cancer."

Liu and her husband, Dr. Robert Johnson, are members of LOPC and live in Lafayette. Their daughter Ariana is a freshman at Stanford and son Matthew a senior at Yale.

Refreshments will be served at the First Friday Forum in Fellowship Hall at 1 pm. For more information, call 925-283-8722.

## ◆ REEL from page 14

defining moment as an actor. (We can only speculate how he might have fared had he been cast in *Casablanca*.) Be that as it may, this film will screen on Feb. 19 at 1 pm at the Rheem, so show up and give 'em one for ... oh, you know ... that guy.

So, overall, February looks like a pretty eventful one and though I know it's a little late, I wish all of you a Happy New Year with a special shout-out to the ever-patient Lindsay Pirkle, who not only oversees the special programming for the Orinda and Rheem theatres, but also endures my monthly inquiries. Stay in the dark, Lindsay, that's where the reel magic lies.

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### Sleepy Hollow's 15th Annual Dog Walk

December 21, 2013 marked the 15th annual Sleepy Hollow Dog Walk. Founded by **Kaye Chavalas**, the event has a simple goal: getting neighbors together during the holidays for a walk. The walk celebrates the holidays, the lovely neighborhood, and the wonderful people and pets who live there. **Hope (Rosemary and Pat Tool's rescued dog)** had the honor of serving as this year's grand marshal. As in previous years, **Pam and Gary Schroeder** and their dog **Cody** hosted the event in their driveway.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

# Business Buzz

## Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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### Finally a Burmese Restaurant Opens in Orinda

Burma, officially known as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, or Myanmar, is a sovereign state in Southeast Asia bordered by China, India and Thailand. Burmese cuisine is heavily influenced by its neighbors and steeped in tantalizing herbs and spices. The manner in which these ingredients are combined makes Burmese dishes unique. Orinda resident Theodore Wang and his brother and business partner William Lue launched their newest restaurant, The Refined Palate, at 19 Orinda Way, last month.

"We feature only certified organic produce and highest quality seafood and meats including Mary's Free Range Chicken on our menu," says Lue, who was born in Burma and grew up there. "Our chef prepares everything fresh daily. You will discover the spiciest chili in the world here, as well as exotic Asian spices. Popular dishes include seafood fare of scallops and shrimp."

The national dish of Burma is Tea Leaf Salad, a surprising combination of tea leaves, tomato, nuts and seeds that is color-

ful and delights the palate. "Who says salad has to be boring? Burmese Tea Leaf Salad dances inside your mouth," says Lue. "Burma is the only country in the world where its people eat tea leaves. Every bite is so different because of the variety of nuts and seeds and, of course, the caffeine carries its own benefits."

Additional dishes unique to this region include coconut chicken noodle soup and catfish chowder. Wang and Lue recruited authentic Burmese chefs to prepare selections at The Refined Palate. Lue has managed the kitchen and trained chefs at the



Theodore Wang and William Lue recently opened Orinda's newest restaurant.

Oakland Asian Cultural Center for many years.

"We are intent on serving good hearty comfort food, concentrating on fresh dumpling filling and handmade dough," says Lue. "For instance, rice and pasta are all prepared fresh every day. We never use leftovers."

This cozy neighborhood restaurant features an intimate atmosphere accommodating 30 diners at most. Bold abstract paintings provide a backdrop to small tables adorned with white tablecloths. Italian floor lamps create soft lighting for the dining room.

"We strive for warm ambience and superb service that does not interrupt our customers' enjoyable dining experience," says Lue, who is slated to open five restaurants this year. "We are excited to bring Burmese dishes to Orinda and welcome this community to our restaurant."

In his spare time, Lue plays the organ and piano at his church and enjoys doing volunteer work throughout the year.

The Refined Palate is open at 11 am for lunch and dinner, Monday through Saturday. For more information, call William at 925-566-4877.

### Michael Friedes Design Associates Opens in Theatre Square

Native New Yorker Michael Friedes managed his own interior and product design firm in Manhattan before relocating to the Bay Area 12 years ago. This month he launches his retail space in Theatre Square, adjacent to Allison McCrady Fine Art Gallery, with a grand opening reception on Friday, Feb 7, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Drop by to view his inventory of home furnishings and accessories and learn about his interior design services, while enjoying appetizers and sipping cocktails.

"I think today, more than ever, our homes are truly our havens, and it is important to personalize our space," says Friedes. "My perspective is what makes any home unique is to have it reflect the person who lives there. I call it livable luxury."

"Here in the Bay Area, we have a variety of architectural styles, from Ranchers to Craftsman. While we serve the entire Bay Area, we have many clients in Orinda. That is why we are in Theatre Square, where we showcase our designs and sell furnishings and accessories from our showroom."

A graduate of New York University, Friedes' first career was in fashion, working for Giorgio Armani. He has always had a passion for design, including creating custom furnishings for clients.

"I love finding ways of tackling problems," he says. "One client has a ranch-



Michael Friedes relocated his design firm from Manhattan to Orinda.

style home, and the couple differed over how to use the living room, specifically whether the television should be located there. I designed a custom piece that allowed the television to be recessed above the fireplace, behind a moveable piece of concrete that aligned flush with the fireplace. It was the ideal solution for their needs."

Visitors will discover custom-designed sofas, chairs and coffee tables by Friedes at his exotic Theatre Square showroom, as well as furnishings by other California based designers. He showcases lighting designs by artist Emily Winston, including a chandelier made of St. George liquor bottles (St. George is based in Alameda). From time to time, Friedes collaborates with neighboring artist Allison McCrady.

"Sometimes clients do not have a sense of what is possible. I enjoy sharing the creative process, and it can result in pushing clients out of their comfort zone to discover something new that they enjoy," says Friedes. "This process can change the way people think, and when it is done, they get the whole vision."

A big believer in living a balanced life, Friedes loves tennis and plays a couple of times every week. He has a 17-year-old son, Harrison, and 15-year-old daughter, Olivia.

"I am passionate about design and love going to design seminars and events," he says.

Michael Friedes Design Associates is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm and by appointment. For more information, visit [www.mf-da.com](http://www.mf-da.com) or email [michael@mf-da.com](mailto:michael@mf-da.com).

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