



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Orinda Association Awards Environmental and Volunteer of Year Honors

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Association will hold its annual awards dinner at the Orinda County Club on Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. This year, Brian Waters is the winner of the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award and Fix Orinda Roads is the Volunteer of the Year.

Waters, a Certified Fisheries Scientist with bachelor's and master's degrees in fisheries biology, has been an Orinda resident since 1970. Waters has been involved with Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOC) for 11 years, as well as volunteering as assistant scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts and president of the Sleepy Hollow Homeowners' Association.

While working with FOC, Waters was instrumental in restoring rainbow trout to San Pablo Creek (see article, page 6) and getting an Orinda Creeks' interpretive sign installed in Orinda Community Park. The sign, produced and installed in partnership with the City of Orinda, features pictures of San Pablo Creek, local wildlife, a map of Orinda's watershed and information about the creek. "Knowing the history of San Pablo Creek, he realized its potential habitat for the restoration of rainbow trout," said Orinda Cinda MacKinnon. "We can thank Brian for the return of trout to Orinda."

Fix Orinda Roads is an all-volunteer organization that was formed in fall of 2011 after two Orinda roads ballot measures failed by small margins to pass. A group of concerned citizens banded together to



DAVID DIERKS

Brian Waters won the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award. He is shown here with the creek sign in the Orinda Community Center Park that he helped create.

create a plan to repair Orinda's roads and associated storm drains and ensure their maintenance in the future.

Since the original two failed ballot measures were all-encompassing options, Fix Orinda Roads focused on creating a multi-phase plan, which would raise funds in more palatable sizes. The plan was adopted by the Orinda City Council in 2012. Through the committee's efforts, Measure L (temporary half-cent sales tax increase) was passed in 2012, Measure J (\$20 million

[SEE AWARDS page 16]



DAVID DIERKS

The Fix Orinda Roads committee won this year's Volunteer of the Year Award. (L-R) Back row: Mark Roberts, Bob Thompson, Brad Barber, Jud Hammon and Bob Burt; Front row: Sue Severson, Carol Penskar and Cassandra Forth.

Winter Storms Create State of Emergency



SALLY HOGARTY

A large sinkhole on Miner Road, approximately 15'x10' and 15' deep, diverted traffic on the heavily-traveled road to Camino Sobrante. The discovery of beavers on the sight added to construction challenges.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

A severe winter storm in early January downed trees and utility poles, created mudslides, power outages, flooding and, on Jan. 11, a large sinkhole at Miner Road and Camino Lenada. In addition to creating a traffic nightmare, the sinkhole impacted two Central Sanitary District sewer lines, a PG&E gas line and an EBMUD water line.

Due to the hazardous conditions, the City Council declared a local state of emergency at a special meeting on Jan. 17. The declaration will allow the city to obtain federal, state or regional disaster/emergency relief funding.

Director of Public Works Larry Theis said at the January meeting that the cause of the sinkhole was still unknown. The culvert running under the affected area was inspected in February 2014 with the report rating it as a moderate priority for the city and recommending prioritization for rehabilitation in five years.

"It could be that water got behind the culvert and started eroding and undermining the soil or one of the two sewers in the same area could have been displaced by the water. We just don't know for sure," said Theis.

PG&E and Central San installed temporary lines to re-route service. Central San did an ammonia test immediately after the collapse on Miner Rd. which showed the water flowing into San Pablo Dam had not been contaminated by the broken sewer lines.

[SEE STORMS page 8]

Orinda Theatre Attendees Dress to Impress



PHOTOS BY SALLY HOGARTY

Getting into the spirit of the Orinda Theatre's 75th anniversary, several attendees and ushers (Thomas Del selling candy cigarettes) dressed in 1940's fashion to help recreate the theatre's opening day (Dec. 29, 1941) atmosphere. Theatre operators Leonard Pirkle and Derek Zemrak mirrored the opening by screening *Texas*, the first film shown at the beautiful art deco venue and featuring variety acts – opera diva Litz Plummer and ventriloquist Joe Gandelman.

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LIBRARY GALLERY

Library Exhibits Underwater Photography, Paintings, Porcelain and Needlepoint

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to stop by the Orinda Library Art Gallery with your Valentine to view the underwater photography of Helen Kostoff, paintings of Attila Cziglenyi, porcelain of Lynne Meade and needlepoint of Anna Marie Levy. Better still, join the artists at their reception on Feb. 4 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. when you can enjoy light refreshments while getting to know them.

Attila Cziglenyi of Hayward has been painting for 30 years in a variety of mediums, the past 10 years in oil. "I'm a *plein air* painter who works oil on a canvas board out in the field. I like the richness and luminous quality of the oil, the texture I can create with a brush or knife," says Cziglenyi. He paints with the Benicia Plein Air Group, the East Bay Plein Air Painters or the Fremont Art Association Plein Air Group. *Plein air* painting is done on site in the open

air. Cziglenyi is showing 22 paintings of various sizes mostly of San Francisco Bay Area sites. He hopes his work gets people interested in and excited enough about local areas to visit them. He admires the Impressionist masters – Monet, Renoir and Cézanne. He is also a member of the California Art Club where he is inspired by the wide variety of genres and subjects of his fellow painters.

Look for *Bernardo Fernandez House, Pinole*, a 20" x 16" oil painting on canvas or go to his website at www.cziglenyi.com/attila. You will find much to hold your interest in the genres and variety of his subject matter, including some humor to lighten your day.

Helen Kostoff of Pittsburg has been skin diving for over 30 years and fascinated by underwater photography for 10 years. Initially a friend lent her a camera and that was it; she got her own point-and-shoot underwater Casio that fits in her back pocket.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Attila Cziglenyi's 20"x16" oil on canvas, titled *Bernardo Fernandez House*, and Lynne Meade's porcelain *Double Gourd Lantern* are part of the Library Gallery's February exhibit.

"Being underwater is my favorite place to be in the world," says Kostoff. "When I try to describe, it to people I find it is indescribable so I call it my 'happy place.'" Luckily for her, her husband is her diving buddy who makes sure she pays attention to where she's at, how much air she's got left and when to get back to the boat, especially on night dives.

Her photos are snapshots of things she found interesting in dives all over the world. Her favorite area to dive, the Indo-Pacific, is a region of the earth's seas comprising the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean and the western and central Pacific Ocean and the seas connecting the two in the area of Indonesia. Locations include Papua, New Guinea; cage diving with sharks in Guadalupe; an island in the Philippines where sardines gather; and the Cocos Island in Costa Rica. A lot of her shoots are macro photography, meaning she's focusing on

a fish the size of a grain of rice. Why? "I guess it's the hunt, to find little things like that – it's something that interests me," she says.

She hopes people will view a lot of sea life they've never before seen and that they are inspired to appreciate and preserve the living treasures in the ocean. Before she goes to a dive site she makes a list of what lives underwater in the area. She's also a big fan of the California Academy of Sciences because they are always discovering new species. Among her 15 works, look for *Three Clowns, Sulawesi, Indonesia*, a 24" x 36" photograph printed on aluminum where she proves that "Finding Nemo" is totally possible. Go to this YouTube video to see a variety of her work: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVKNaVZYDxY.

Anna Marie Levy of Lafayette is an "ocean-artist," meaning she is over 80 and thriving. [SEE GALLERY page 16]



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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Orinda Celebrates Healthy Living



Cindy Powell

Spend an evening with **Dr. Lani Simpson** on Feb. 1. Her PBS show, "Stronger Bones, Longer Life," aired nationwide last summer. Dr. Lani will share information to maintain, prevent or minimize the damage from osteoporosis through diet, exercise and awareness. Thank you to Friends of the Orinda Library for sponsoring this event.

Feb. 2 is **Groundhog Day**. According to folklore, if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day fails to see its shadow, it will leave the burrow and winter will soon end. If the groundhog sees its shadow, the groundhog will supposedly retreat into its burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks. Don't confuse this with Marmot Day, an Alaskan holiday on the same date, established to celebrate marmots and

Alaskan culture. Do you know the difference between a groundhog and a marmot?

Also we will have **Miramonte High School's Open House** on Feb. 2, which seems early in the school year unless you are an incoming student trying to decide what to register for. All Orindans are invited, so take a look at our nice theater (buy a ticket for the **Shakespeare Showcase** on Feb. 3) and large art center, and maybe hear a choral group led by music teacher Meredith Hawkins.

On Feb. 3 **Wear Red Day** raises awareness about the number one cause of death in women, heart disease. We can prevent atherosclerosis with healthy eating, exercise, and avoidance of smoking. Pace yourself because Feb. 5 is **Super Bowl Sunday**, the second-largest U.S. food consumption day after Thanksgiving Day. Because it is usually the most-watched American television broadcast, the commercials are the best! I can recall the ads and half-time show better than most of the games. Feb. 8 is **Boy Scouts Day**. Incorporated in 1910, the organization membership topped one million by 1925, and by the year 2000, over 100 million members had registered. Scouts learn valuable life skills such as "Be Prepared" and enjoy lasting friendships and values like "do a good turn daily."

At the **Orinda Theatre** on Feb. 9, the movie *Charade* plays for free. Everyone likes Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn in a suspenseful romance, but the best part is the music by Henry Mancini.

Feb. 13 is **Clean Out Your Computer Day**. Organize and dump your unused files and programs, dust the keyboard and get ready for Feb. 14, **Safer Internet Day**. Be aware of cyber bullies and identity theft or fraud targeting you.

I celebrate **Valentine's Day** on the 14th
[SEE PRESIDENT page 16]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
OA President **Cindy Powell** (R) with usher **Sean Hinse** at the Orinda Theatre's 75th Anniversary party.

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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Editorial . . .

I am always delighted by the sheer number of creative people in Orinda that I have been fortunate to meet and none more so than our talented book columnist Marian Nielsen.

Since 2003, her love of books and her entertaining and informative descriptions of the latest editions have graced our pages in her "Between the Lines" column.

Every December I eagerly await her Christmas column with all the books listed so cleverly. This is my go-to guide for those special people on my Christmas list!

Now, however, Marian has decided it's time to turn the page and allow another voice to offer reading suggestions. That new voice is none other than the owner of Orinda Books, Maria Roden.

Thank you so much Marian for your years of marvelous columns and a heartfelt welcome to Maria!

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Correction . . .



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The photo in last month's issue on the Warm Winter Nights program was accidentally listed as taken at Orinda Community Church. It was taken at the Winter Night's program at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Letters to the Editor...

Wipers On? Headlights On!

See and be seen! Always great advice, especially when it comes to driving your vehicle in the rain. Visibility is reduced during a storm, night and day. That's why a law has been on the books in California since 2005 requiring drivers to turn on their vehicle's headlights whenever their windshield wipers are on, night and day.

The importance and value of this law was driven home to me (pun intended) while I was driving on highways 680 and 24 one afternoon recently during a heavy downpour. All vehicles in all lanes in front of me were kicking up huge rooster tails of water behind them making it very difficult for me to see them, especially those with lights off. It was like driving in a sea of gray. At least, I could see the red taillights of the vehicles in front of me with their lights on. It was also much easier to see vehicles behind me in my rearview mirrors and those alongside my car when their drivers had their headlights on.

I know that many vehicles have daytime running lights (DRLs) which turn on headlights at reduced power whenever the vehicle is moving. Those help opposing drivers notice you on two-lane roads, but, since your taillights aren't on, they don't alert drivers behind you.

It's really on multi-lane roads, like freeways, that the importance of the wipers on/headlights on law becomes, well, clear. When your vehicle is literally surrounded by other vehicles, whether driving six mph or 65 mph, you want to be able to see them – to minimize the risk of rear-end and lane change collisions – and you sure want them to be able to see you!

So please, for your safety and that of

your passengers and the drivers around you, always turn on your headlights whenever you turn on your windshield wipers, day or night. You'll greatly increase safety – and avoid getting a ticket from the OPD or CHP!

– Mark Roberts
Chair, Orinda Traffic Safety
Advisory Committee

A response to Richard S. Colman

I have received four issues of Richard S. Colman's *The Icon* and have seen his letters to the editor in various *Orinda News* publications.

Mr. Colman appears to be the mouthpiece for Orinda Watch and its supporters and for Eve Phillips, the Orinda City Councilmember who advocates their positions. The major tenets of this group are to:

- Maintain the semi-rural character/ambiance of Orinda;
- Not permit any development in Orinda; and
- Not spend any money doing it. (e.g. They opposed measures to improve our roads, and they do not now want to spend a small amount to obtain the advice of outside experts on how to improve downtown.)

The semi-rural ambiance they worry about seems to apply only to Orinda Village, from the bridge over San Pablo Creek at the north end to the Chevron Station or slightly beyond at the south end.

But when does maintaining semi-rural ambiance slide into urban blight? The Phair's location has been dormant for years; there are commercial vacancies in Village Square; the lot across from the Community Center is fenced and empty; and the Bur-



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mese restaurant has recently closed. These conditions and continuation of the status quo do not help Orinda. We need an active plan to move forward.

Mr. Colman continues to express his unhappiness with the Eden Project on Irwin Way and the Pulte Homes Project on Altarinda Road. The Eden Project is on a steep hill. Where is the 35-foot height limit measured from? The peak of the Community Church looks taller. Whose view of the hills is being blocked? There are no near neighbors. Regarding the Pulte homes, it might have been better to take out the five-foot gaps between units, resulting in more living space, but that probably could not have been permitted. Bottom

line, Mr. Colman: These projects are done deals. They are not going away. Get over it.

The bulk of Orinda is residential neighborhoods. Except for no sidewalks and no streetlights, these neighborhoods are not semi-rural. They are classic suburbia - single family homes with piped in water, gas, electricity, TV cable, a connection to Central San and weekly trash pickup. There are no large propane tanks, no septic tanks. People move to Orinda because of the good school systems, the relative safety, the relative affluence and a shorter commute. Once they find the food store, the gas station, and their routes to the schools, they have arrived. Semi-rural is not on their list.

– Jonathan Bagg

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

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

Letters to Editor for the March issue are due February 8, 2017.

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 March issue is February 8, 2017.

NATURE AREA / POLICE BLOTTER

School District, Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area Share Vision

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Congratulations to the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) and Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The two entities have forged a mutually beneficial agreement that will expand the vision for the nature area and allow more people to enjoy its important historical and environmental lessons.

Presently, third- and fifth-grade students from OUSD use the nature area for such activities as Animal Camp, First Thanksgiving, Native American studies and Pioneer Days. Popular annual events such as the Wildlife Festival and the Olive Festival have allowed public access, but, for the most part, the nature area has been a hidden gem.

The school district and the Friends, which didn't always see eye-to-eye in years past, worked together in 2015 when the OUSD board formed a subcommittee consisting of board members Jason Kaune and Carol Brown charged with revising policy on the nature area.

The subcommittee also worked with Lawrence Hall of Science/Bay Sci Partnership and the Moraga School Board to develop an expanded vision that includes grade levels K-12, with possible overnight field trips for Scouting and student groups, and even programs for senior citizens.

"We really want to open the area up to a broader community. But that also means we need to make it ADA-accessible," says Brown. "We want other school districts to be able to use the nature area as a vibrant laboratory for science instruction as well as



ALEC ABRAHAMS

Students participate in a First Thanksgiving activity at Wagner Ranch Nature Area.

social studies, history and the arts."

In addition to making the area ADA-accessible, insurance coverage and facility

use procedures will need to be revised as well as staffing needs. With this comes

[SEE NATURE page 8]



POLICE BLOTTER

November 27, 2016 through January 7, 2017

Calls for Service

- 911 Hangup: 9 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 2 incidents.
- Accident Property: 13 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 93 incidents.
- Barking Dog: 1 incident.
- Burglary: 2 incidents.
- Burglary, Auto: 2 incidents.
- Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident.
- Civil Disturbance: 9 incidents.
- CVC Moving Violation: 81 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 42 incidents.
- Death Non-Criminal: 2 incidents.
- DUI Misdemeanor: 3 incidents.
- Fire/EMS Response: 1 incident.
- Grand Theft: 3 incidents.
- Grand Theft Bicycle: 1 incident.
- Grand Theft from Building: 2 incidents.
- Grand Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Identity Theft: 5 incidents.
- Illegal Entry: 1 incident.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 6 incidents.
- Lost Property: 4 incidents.
- Loud Music: 1 incident.
- Loud Noise: 4 incidents.
- Motorist Assist: 1 incident.
- Neighbor Dispute: 1 incident.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Ordinance Violation: 6 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 33 incidents.
- Parking Detail: 88 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 52 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 5 incidents.
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Public Assembly Check: 3 incidents.
- Public Nuisance: 4 incidents.
- Reckless Driving: 11 incidents.

- School Check: 11 incidents.
- Security Check: 13 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 127 incidents.
- Shoplift: 2 incidents.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 19 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 11 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 13 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 18 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 13 incidents.
- Traffic Collision Property Damage: 1 incident.
- Tow: 8 incidents.
- Traffic Hazard: 10 incidents.
- Trespass: 1 incident.
- Unwanted Guest: 2 incidents.
- Vacation House Check: 17 incidents.
- Vandalism: 3 incidents.
- Vehicle Theft: 3 incidents.
- Verbal Dispute: 2 incidents.
- Welfare Check: 8 incidents.

Arrests

- Assault w/Deadly Weapon: 1 arrest.
- DUI: 2 arrests.
- DUI Misdemeanor: 3 arrests.
- Petty Theft: 1 arrest.
- Trespass: 1 arrest.
- Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

— Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit
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ORINDA CREEKS

Shoals of Rainbow Trout Spotted in Orinda's San Pablo Creek

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Thanks to two fortuitous gifts of nature, more than 100 rainbow trout, 10 to 14 inches long, were spotted near the Orinda filter plant on Oct. 24, 2016. The first gift was in August of 2015 when Mother Nature caused the opening of a sluice gate in East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) 12-foot-high dam to be blown out, removing root wads, vegetation, gravel and other debris that clogged it. This provided a route for trout to travel upstream. Then, this year's early rains provided enough water for the fish to appear in San Pablo Creek to the delight of many Orindans, especially Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOC).

"We have been trying for years to get EBMUD to keep this gate open, but they said they needed a permit, and it was too expensive and too much work; or that it was built to keep fish from going upstream," said Brian Waters, a 46-year Orinda resident, certified fisheries scientist, and member of FOC. "However, when it was constructed in 1940, records show that its purpose was for stabilizing the stream bed. Then it happened spontaneously with no

need of a permit or at any cost to them." He said that for a while EBMUD left the metal bars across the opening, but now they have been removed, cutting down on debris to obstruct the opening. "We hope EBMUD keeps the aquatic corridor open for free movement of fish, invertebrate, any creature that wants to go upstream," said Waters.

Jenesse Miller, senior public information representative for EBMUD, said the hole was plugged with debris and sediment for much of the last 20 years, but was opened for fish passage several times during that period.

"After spotting the fish in October, our crew netted 137 rainbow trout from the spillway basin and returned them to the creek," said Miller. "Their presence is likely the result of flow in the creek that coincided with a fish plant in San Pablo Reservoir, causing lots of fish to come at once. These fish are planted for fishermen to catch and are not native to San Pablo Creek. Further, they are sterile and cannot reproduce, but they will go upstream to try to spawn."

Miller said that for now EBMUD will do what is practical to keep it open and allow the trouts' journey to continue.



BRIAN WATERS

This overflowing dam on Bear Creek Rd. created a barrier to upstream passage for fish.

"When debris can be safely removed as part of EBMUD's routine maintenance, we plan to do it," said Miller. "However, there are times when debris cannot be removed in a safe manner, and in those cases, the hole may remain plugged until it is safe and practical for our staff to return and clear it."

She said that if, over time, EBMUD finds that keeping the structure open starts to cause bank erosion or threatens infrastructure upstream, the situation would be reevaluated. "The bottom line is we plan to continue keeping the gate open if we do not see any negative impacts," said Miller.

Waters adds, "Since the 1980s, EBMUD and the Department of Fish and Wildlife have planted large numbers of rainbow trout in San Pablo Reservoir for recreational fishing. In 2001, EBMUD began planting only sterile fish to minimize a potential genetic contribution to the Central California Coast Steelhead. Native trout have largely been absent in San Pablo Creek for many decades."

This story dates back to 1870 when the first rainbow trout fish hatchery was established in San Leandro Creek, then a tributary of San Francisco Bay. The first shipment in 1875 went to Caledonia, New York. Besides rainbow trout, steelhead stock and silver salmon were found in San Leandro and San Pablo creeks.

Today, native rainbow trout are still found in San Leandro Creek. Waters said they have tried to get permission to bring them into San Pablo Creek, but so far have been unsuccessful. The two creeks separate at a point on Moraga Way at Valley View in Orinda, with San Leandro Creek entering

Upper San Leandro Reservoir and San Pablo Creek flowing to San Pablo Reservoir.

FOC is active in other projects. The group participated in Coastal Cleanup Day in September with Miramonte High School students, collecting 36 pounds of trash and recycling from Moraga Creek; they worked with Del Rey Elementary students, picking up three pounds of trash along the fence by Moraga Creek; and 42 volunteers cleaned up 48 pounds of trash from the downtown area near San Pablo Creek.

FOC recently installed an interpretive sign in Orinda Community Park, near the tot structure by the front fence. It features pictures of San Pablo Creek in downtown Orinda, local wildlife, a map of Orinda's watershed and information about the creek. It was produced and installed in partnership with the City of Orinda.

Visit FOC's website (www.orindacreeks.org) to learn about the group's activities and how to join or volunteer. There are also pictures of 22 native species found by

[SEE TROUT page 8]



JOE SETKA


More than 100 rainbow trout have been spotted near the Orinda filter plant.





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CAR TIME / RETIREMENT

CAR TIME

Is It the Battery or Something Else?



By JOHN VANEK

The last thing that people want when they turn the key or hit the button is for their car not to start. If this happens, you first need to figure out if the battery is dead. However, there are other reasons why a vehicle won't crank other than the battery.

The first thing to do is to turn the key to the "on" position and see what works. Do the dash lights come on? Do the headlights come on? If the lights don't come on, then it is likely you have a dead battery and will need a jumpstart. If the lights do come on, then the charging system is probably okay and it could be something in the starting system. In this case, a jumpstart won't help. It is more likely to be a bad starter motor or other component related to the starting system.

Jumpstarting a battery is a critical task on a modern vehicle and, if done wrong, can cause damage. Leave it to somebody who has done it before or a tow truck driver.

Just because the battery is dead does not mean that the battery needs replacement. The battery holds 12 volts and is maintained by the alternator. Modern vehicles have many electrical components for multiple systems and are supposed to shut down after the vehicle is parked. If a component fails, it could cause what is called a parasitic draw, which drains the battery when parked overnight. Even corroded battery cables can cause a no-start condition.

Nobody can tell what a car may need when the only thing known is that the car won't start. At our shop, we first inspect for corrosion and make sure the cables are tight. Then we check the battery voltage. If

it has low voltage, we put a slow charge for a minimum of one hour. We perform a load test with special equipment that gauges the integrity of the battery. If it tests below 9.5 volts, then we recommend replacing the battery. We also check the alternator output to be sure it is working properly. Then, we conduct a parasitic draw test to ensure there are no components causing a draw on the charging system.

Harsh weather is hard on batteries. Extreme hot or cold weather will kill a battery that seemed fine the day before. This winter has been particularly cold and wet. We have been replacing a lot of batteries. Extreme cold weather will kill a battery that is marginal.

How can we anticipate battery failure? If your vehicle starts to crank slowly, that is a warning sign. How old is the battery? Traditionally, a battery will last three to five years. Inactivity will cause premature failure. A car that is driven daily with a good charging system will last longer than one that is only driven once a week.

How can you anticipate an alternator or starter failure? Unfortunately, you can't. Those are just random failure items. The key is to have your vehicle serviced regularly to try to catch potential problems. It is also important to pay attention to how your vehicle is starting and if warning lights are on. We recommend an annual inspection of vehicles that includes testing the battery. It is also good to have the battery tested before driving in cold weather conditions. A battery that works fine in Orinda may fail in

[SEE CAR TIME page 10]

Orindans Share Retirement Passions and Pastimes

By HILLARY HOPPOCK
Contributing Writer

Retirement. No alarm clock. Relaxation. Freedom. Time to dust off old projects, hobbies and ideas. Volunteer. Reignite relationships. What are retirees in our community doing? Do they wake up in the morning eager to greet the new day or lie in bed and wonder how to fill the time?

After two-and-a-half years of retirement and missing a rewarding career in teaching, I decided to find out. I contacted long-time



Linda Landau volunteers at the U.C. Botanical Garden and the Friends of the Orinda Library.

friends and acquaintances and found some very happy Orinda retirees delighted to share their stories, as well as some who continue to search for the fulfillment they found in their careers.

Enjoying retirement requires some research, and the recently retired should realize it's not unusual to feel anxious about this stage in life. It takes effort to replace "the positive feedback you get from colleagues and clients when working, which is suddenly gone," says Maggie Halliday, who along with husband Jeff, find, volunteering and babysitting for grandkids helps fulfill that need.

Opportunities abound to pursue long-time interests, revisit former skills and offer your valuable time and talent to local, regional or farther-reaching service projects. Essential to this all-encompassing search is the advice to make sure, "you tend to your family and, foremost, to yourself," in the process. Read on for an impressive list of pursuits shared by community retirees.

Pursuing Long-time Interests

Harlan Hirschfeld has spent his 16 years [SEE GIVE BACK page 17]

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Fitness Tip of the Month

Reaching Your Full Potential

Failing to reach our full potential can often be due to underestimating our capabilities. Interestingly, as we become more fit our capabilities change and our end goal must also continue to change. In your journey, recognize when you reach a new level of fitness and remember to set a new higher goal.



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

◆ STORMS from page 1

The EBMUD water line was not broken and plans are to stabilize the relatively new line with a steel beam in case of further undermining during subsequent storms and construction.

“Our goal is to get Miner Road open as soon as possible,” said Theis. “We have secured the site for public safety and determined that the existing culvert should be upsized from 84” to 108” diameter to accommodate a 100-year storm event.”

Theis planned to finish basic design plans by Jan. 24 (after press deadline) and, with the City Council’s approval, award a construction contract immediately. Weather permitting, construction should take three-four weeks and cost between \$1.0 - \$1.3M.

◆ NATURE from page 5

monetary considerations.

“It’s possible we could generate a modest revenue stream by charging other school districts and organizations,” Brown explains. “We’ve already had the Moraga and Lafayette school districts express interest.”

The subcommittee will be meeting with the Friends and other stakeholders to develop a new collaborative oversight model. Public meetings will be held to gather more ideas.

“We will also be exploring public and private grant funding and developing new curriculum and program options and partnerships,” Brown adds.

The OUSD board plans to review the Wagner Ranch Nature Area strategic plan by May 2017.

Something to Howl About... Animal Tales

Let’s Celebrate Groundhog Day

Jennifer Conroy



Get ready! Mark your calendar. Groundhog Day is Feb. 2, and if you haven’t booked your flight to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, just let your fingers do the walking and head on over to www.groundhog.org. The site is home to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club and is filled with events, contests, groundhog gear, photos and, yes, a blog.

The groundhog is an interesting critter that packs a lot in a relatively short lifespan of three to six years. On the East Coast, it is known as a woodchuck but, in fact, it does not chuck wood. The name derives from the Native-American word “wuchak” and then morphed to groundhog probably because it spends considerable time either hibernating or adding amenities to its luxurious (for a groundhog) underground burrow.

A groundhog burrow can be as long as 60 feet with multiple rooms and exits, including an area specifically used as a bathroom. Primarily an herbivore, the groundhog likes to burrow in areas filled with vegetation causing it to raise the ire (and worse) of farmers.

Early to rise and early to bed, its favorite feeding times are morning and early evening in between extensive napping and hanging out in its burrow. With upper and lower incisors growing at the rate of an inch per week, these members of the rodent family spend a lot of time actually grinding their teeth in order to keep pace with fast incisor growth.

A healthy adult groundhog can be almost two feet long, including a bushy tail, and weigh 10 pounds or more. It will bulk up in order to survive several months of hibernation that typically begin in October. During that time, body temperature will drop from 99 degrees Fahrenheit

down to 40 degrees and the heartbeat will slow from 80 beats per minute to only five.

What wakes the groundhog up is not exactly the arrival of spring but more the mating call of nature. The groundhog seeks to mate at a time when its “kits” will have the best chance of survival. It will seek a mate among other groundhog burrows and, following a relatively short gestation period of about a month, two to four kits will be born. They are weaned after two months, and then are out on their own to begin their own groundhog dwelling.

In case you are wondering, Groundhog Day was adopted in 1887 in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, by the editor of the local newspaper but is now celebrated in a multitude of other locations ranging from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, where Groundhog Jimmy is the prognosticator, to Staten Island, New York, where Staten Island Chuck is alleged to have bitten the gloved finger of the mayor.

Punxsutawney Phil may be the most famous but perhaps not the most accurate forecaster of the duration of winter. If he sees his shadow, another six weeks of winter are due but his predictions, according to weather almanacs, are only valid about 40 percent of the time. I’m not sure that’s

[SEE HOWL page 10]

◆ TROUT from page 6

the Orinda Creek watershed, ranging from river otter and the California red leg frog to black tail deer and wood ducks. FOC was established in 1994 with its mission “to conserve, restore and educate the public about the values of and threats to the creeks of Orinda.”



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Hunter is a formerly world ranked ATP tennis pro. Hunter was voted USPTA mens open player of the year a record setting 5 times and has been ranked number one in the US mens Singles division. Hunter has achieved many of his tennis playing goals by being one of the fittest senior players in the world. Being part of Living Lean is his new passion and he is excited about helping people get in shape so they can play tennis and other sports as they age up!

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NEW BUSINESSES

Chamber Conducts Survey on Potential New Businesses in Orinda

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Thanks to three students in Saint Mary's College's Executive MBA program and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Orinda now has hard numbers on what type of businesses residents would like to see downtown.

"Part of the chamber's mission is economic development but as we worked with new businesses coming to town, we thought we were missing information," says the Chamber's Executive Director Sophie Braccini.

To that end, Braccini contacted Saroja Subrashmaryan, a Saint Mary's College professor in the School of Economics and Business Administration and asked about the possibility of using some of her students for research.

"The college wants to support the community and have real-life projects for its students," Braccini explains. "We had three students take on a two-phase project for us – Ashley Bettencourt, Shelby DeMello and

Jesse Lujan. They are in the MBA program and work full-time so their schedules were very tight. Professor Subrashmaryan set up the framework, and the students worked evenings and weekends to meet their deadlines."

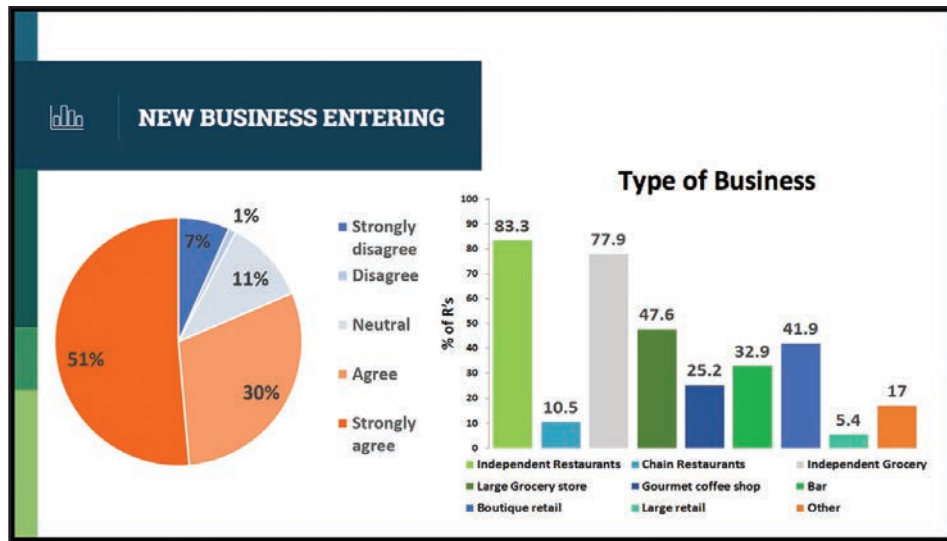
The project resulted in a comprehensive survey of whether Orinda residents wanted new businesses in town and if so, what type. The three students began with in-depth interviews and focus groups to help frame the survey questions that became the second phase of the project. The focus groups included a cross-section of Orinda residents and local groups with the resultant survey linked on several websites and included in the City of Orinda's *Outlook* newsletter and *The Orinda News*.

Approximately 650 people completed the survey with an overwhelming number of residents listing independent restaurants (83.3 percent) as a new business they would like to see in downtown Orinda. Coming in a close second was an independent grocery store (77.9 percent). Other results included: large grocery store (47.6 percent); boutique



SALLY HOGARTY

St. Mary's College MBA students (L-R) **Shelby DeMello**, **Jesse Lujan** and **Ashley Bettencourt** developed a survey for the Orinda Chamber of Commerce to gauge local residents interest in new businesses coming to Orinda.



retail (41.9 percent); bar (32.9 percent); and gourmet coffee shop (25.2 percent).

"There weren't really any surprises, but it does validate things that we already thought," says Braccini. "It's good to have solid figures instead of just assuming certain things."

The chamber's survey also asked about parking downtown, with 58 percent saying it was an issue. One idea not addressed in the survey was overall downtown development. Braccini says that the chamber felt the city was already addressing that with

its various meetings and a consulting firm conducting its own research.

"A key finding for us is that 81 percent of those surveyed think we need new businesses in downtown," explains Braccini. "We weren't sure it would be that high, especially since I've heard from several people that they prefer a quiet downtown. But, on the survey, it showed only 7 percent didn't think we needed new businesses."

Complete survey results can be found at the chamber's website, www.orindachamber.org.



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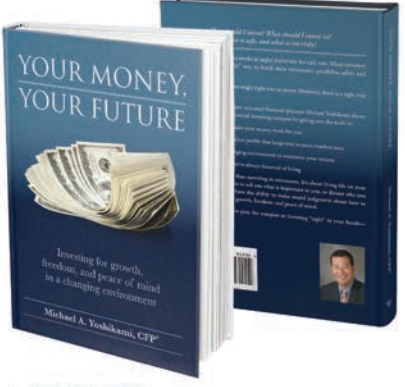
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AAUW Scholarships Available For Local High School Seniors

Applications for an AAUW-OML (American Association of University Women-Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette) scholarship are now available for girls who are seniors at Miramonte, Acalanes or Campolindo high schools.

Three scholarships are offered each year to high school girls: one \$5,000 award and two for \$1,000 each. The deadline to apply is March 7. Additionally, a fourth scholarship of \$5,000 is awarded for graduate work to a senior from Saint Mary's College. The deadline for that application is March 14.

Members of AAUW-OML look forward each year to studying the submissions and to beginning the selection process. The focus of the application is on community service, and the applicant is asked to reflect on her experiences and achievements.

One girl wrote, "I had entered Girls Who Code believing the most important skills I would learn would be technical skills, but the importance of asking questions and engaging with my students became the defining theme of the club. I learned to adapt my plans and to focus on engaging with the girls."

Another said, "Working with special needs children has taught me that understanding the painful place someone comes from can lead to healthier relations void of blind blame and hasty generalizations." The world could use more thinking like that.

"It's tough selecting the best of the best among these talented young people, but it is rewarding – and very important – to recognize a young woman for her unique

[SEE AAUW page 18]



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SCHOOL CALENDAR

Note that schools will be closed Feb. 17 and 19 for Presidents' Day holiday.

- 1 **Acalanes Union High School District** Board Meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us. Also Feb. 15.
- 2 **Let's Talk Math**, parent education math night, Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo, 6 to 7:30 p.m., with district math coach Maple Lai. Learn about common core math and how to best support math success at home. Call 925-258-0016 or visit <http://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 3 **Open House/Eighth Grade Night**, Miramonte High School, 750 Moraga Way, 6 to 8:30 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>.
- 3 **Shakespeare Showcase**, Miramonte High School, Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, 7 to 9 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>.
- 4 **Get Your Glow On**, all-ages dance party, Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo, 5 to 8 p.m., with guest dance instructor and Wagner parent Justin Cole of Joy in Motion dance studio. Snacks and beverages for kids and adults. Call 925-258-0016 or visit <http://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 6-10 **Miramonte High School** pilot block schedule. School will start later on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (at 8:30 a.m.). Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>.
- 9 **Therapy Dogs at Lunch**, Miramonte High School, 750 Moraga Way, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>.
- 13 **Orinda Union School District** Board Meeting, 8, Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Visit www.orindaschools.org.

Send calendar items to Maggie Sharpe at m.sharpe66@gmail.com

Miramonte Crab Feed and Auction

By CHRIS LANG
Contributing Writer

Miramonte Boosters 2017 Crab Feed Auction and Fundraiser is Sunday, February 12 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., in Lafayette, from 5-8 pm.

This event is the Boosters sole fundraiser, enabling the Boosters to provide financial support to all athletic programs offered at Miramonte High School.

Miramonte Boosters helps the school provide a high-quality athletic experience by funding training, sports medicine supplies, team equipment for every sports

team (including balls, nets, training aides, equipment, etc.), post-season player/sports team travel expenses and capital expenditures (recent examples include scoreboards, wrestling mats, infield prep tractor, pole vault pit, lacrosse nets). The Boosters also support the athletic trainer and nutritionist.

As of 2013, the AUHSD School District no longer provides athletic funding for local high schools, due to a need to focus funds on academic needs. Therefore, each sports program is charged with self-funding through parent contributions. Since parents are now asked to donate to their students' team, parent donations to Boosters are even more critical.

More information on the crab feed and tickets can be purchased at:
<http://www.miramonteboostersclub.com>.

◆ CAR TIME from page 7

Tahoe where it is 10 degrees in the morning. As usual, I stress owner awareness when it comes to the vehicle's condition.

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

◆ HOWL from page 8

a bad record. All else aside, the groundhog brings us closer to Mother Nature by reminding us each year that spring follows winter, shadow or not.

Orinda Unplugged

The owners of Genuine Goodness Cafe at 21 Orinda Way are not only creative in the kitchen, but they are now adding creative music to their list of treats.

Open mike music sessions for middle and high school age students are planned for the near future.

If you are in a band, play an instrument, sing or just enjoy listening, grab your friends and hang out for some good food and good music.

For more information, stop by Genuine Goodness, open 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

MHS Student Wins Grand Prize in Google Computer Coding Contest

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

Since taking AP computer science at Miramonte High School (MHS) as a sophomore two years ago, senior Hannah Pan advanced her knowledge to become a grand prizewinner of the 2015 Google Code-In contest. She competed with 980 students from 65 countries to become one of the 28 grand prizewinners. In June 2016, she participated in the winners' trip to Google to receive her award, listen to lectures and visit the Mountain View and San Francisco offices of Google.

She learned to write code in MHS teacher Cynthia Boyko's class. Pan explains that code is "writing software to achieve a certain purpose." One of her class projects was to write the code for a blackjack game that awarded the participants points, not money. She went beyond the basic requirement

that the game have one deck of cards for two players and wrote a program for two card decks and four players. Considering the multiple variations of small to larger numbers, face cards and numerous combinations, it's easy to see how complicated the software writing became. She spent her entire Thanksgiving break writing the program. "I wanted it to run efficiently and quickly, not just correctly," she said.

Pan has taken computer science and linear algebra courses at Diablo Valley College during summer break as well as over the school year. Additionally, last summer she took a computer science course at UC Berkeley. She plans the same major in college saying, "I really like the algorithm aspects. They are like puzzles – more than one way to solve them. After beginning work, and doing more work, they become more efficient, smoother."

Pan described the Google contest: "I

contributed to Haiku, which is an open-source operating system, which means anyone can contribute to the software; all the code is available online on the website Github. Haiku has Tipster, which gives clues to use the operating system. I made it so if someone is in the operating system and is not working in English, Tipster will be your language, which has files for every language."

Another challenge to contestants was to fix bugs, i.e., correct errors in the written code of a project, such as spelling errors. The process was to go to a source of the written code, download it and fix the errors through that code. This method allowed Pan to fix errors that her online mentors received and critiqued. She also participated in collaborative coding with other participants.

What are the real world applications for writing code? Boyko suggests it allows



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Miramonte computer teacher **Cynthia Boyko** (L) and Miramonte senior **Hannah Pan**, who considers algorithms as puzzles with several solutions.

people to run many different kinds of simulations. For example, agriculture code can be written to determine the effects of

[SEE GOOGLE page 18]

MHS Boosters Inducts Nine into Inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame

By GREG ANDERSON
Contributing Writer

Miramonte High School (MHS) Boosters Club has formed the Miramonte Athletic Hall of Fame (MAHOF) to honor athletes, coaches, administrators and community members for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to MHS athletics.

Since it opened in 1955, MHS has had a rich tradition in athletics. Following stellar prep careers, many alumni have gone on to success at the collegiate, amateur, Olympic and professional levels. All funds raised by the MAHOF will be donated to the MHS Boosters Club to support MHS athletics.

Nine individuals are being inducted into the MAHOF in the inaugural class

of 2017. "The biggest challenge for the selection committee was to narrow down all of the people who have contributed to MHS athletics over the years, to a group of finalists to be considered for induction in the inaugural class," said MHS Athletic Director Vince Dell'Aquila. "We feel the excellence of this first class is representative of the type of individuals that the MAHOF was formed to honor."

The induction ceremony will take place at Moraga Country Club on Mar. 4. For information and tickets, visit www.miramonteboostersclub.com.

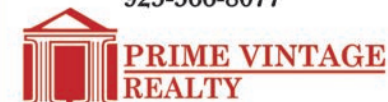
2017 Hall Of Fame inductees are:

Drew Bennett, Class of 1996

Bennett earned two varsity letters in football, three in basketball and two in baseball. As a senior, he earned first-team All-League and second-team All Bay Area honors while he led the football team to a league championship as a quarterback. As a senior on the Matadors' baseball squad, he was first team All-League. Bennett went on to play football at UCLA. He played for the NFL's Tennessee Titans from 2001 to 2006 and for the St. Louis Rams in 2007 and 2008 before finishing his NFL career with the Baltimore Ravens in 2009.



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Tom Blackwood

Blackwood was a teacher and basketball coach at MHS for 38 years from 1966 to 2004. He also coached football for 20 years and tennis for five years. He retired in 2004 as the eighth most winning basketball coach in California state history. He coached teams to seven league titles and an NCS championship in 1998 and was named NCS CIF Honor Coach in 1995 and the Cal Hi State Coach of the Year in 2002.

Nicole Branagh, Class of 1997

Branagh competed in basketball, volleyball and track and field at MHS. In basketball, she was first team All-League and league MVP as a senior. In track and field, she was league champion in both the long jump and triple jump in 1995. In volleyball,

she was league MVP as a senior. She went on to play volleyball at the University of Minnesota, where she won numerous honors. Branagh was a member of the National Volleyball team from 2001-2003, before transitioning to beach volleyball. She played professionally on the AVP Tour and on the U.S. Olympic team at the games in Beijing in 2008.

Bill Brown

Brown was a coach and teacher at MHS for 39 years, from 1966 to 2005. When he began his career as a teacher at MHS he intended to coach football and basketball, but started the water polo program at the urging of a handful of students. Brown

[SEE BOOSTERS page 12]

Listen to a Good Tale

If you like to hear a good tale, entertainingly spoken, try the Contra Costa Tale Spinners. The storytelling group keeps the oral tradition alive by spinning tales the fourth Thursday of each month at the Orinda Library. Now in its 15th year, Tale Spinners has a faithful audience of tellers and listeners as one teller presents a tale followed by an open mic. Look for the group from 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 23 and every fourth Thursday thereafter. For more information, email Sally Holzman at sholzman1614@gmail.com.

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STUDENTS

Middle School Girls Invited to Sign Up for March STEM Conference

By STACIA CRAGHOLM
and HEIDI MAYER
Contributing Writers

The STEM conference is back again in 2017 for a repeat performance. After a successful first year in 2016, the local American Association of University Women (AAUW) branch, in partnership with the nonprofit Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) and the College of Science at Saint Mary's College, Moraga, is again hosting a day of exciting STEM-related (science, technology, engineering and math) activities for middle school girls on Saturday, March 18, at Saint Mary's College.

Registration for an unbelievable set of

hands-on workshops, facilitated by successful STEM professionals and students, is only \$25. Not to be forgotten, attending parents can register to attend a special early-morning panel of professional women who will address "Touchpoints: Achieving Wellness and Academic Success."

This year's conference will open with keynote speaker Jessica Mah, CEO of in-Dinero, and close with speaker Christina Cragholm, business development leader for Mobile and Internet of Things. The conference offers an increased number of activities, with a total of 18 workshops for girls to choose from. Girls can attend three of these entertaining and diversified workshops, which are led by distinguished STEM professionals. Returning workshops include the FBI Crime Scene Investigation and Learning to Design and Build Bridges activities, while new offerings include Flying Machines: An Intro to Aerospace Engineering and Coding from Scratch: Get Creative with Coding.

Last year's conference drew over 120 girls, some from as far away as Pacifica. This year, AAUW hopes that even more middle school girls can participate in order to accommodate everyone who is interested. AAUW has long sent a small group of seventh-grade girls to Tech Trek, a weeklong STEM-intensive camp at Stanford University. Unfortunately, many interested nominees are not selected to participate, given the limited spots available. The all-day STEM conference, open

to all middle school girls, aims to engage as many young minds as possible in the fascinating world of science, technology, math and engineering.

"This conference is put on so that all interested girls are able to attend a mini Tech Trek-type conference for a day," said Ally Scarpitti, a former Stanford Tech Trekker who volunteered at last year's STEM conference. Many Tech Trek alumni such as Scarpitti have remained an integral part of the program, returning to serve as facilitators and to help co-chairs Stacia Cragholm and Heidi Mayer plan the conference.

Cara Wolfe is another Stanford Tech Trek alum who volunteered at last year's STEM Conference and is volunteering again to help make this year's conference

another success. She too emphasizes the role that AAUW has played in supporting her passion for STEM. "I'm so thankful for the life-changing exposure to STEM fields that AAUW has provided," said Wolfe. "Through Tech Trek and the local AAUW branch, I have met so many professional women in STEM who have inspired me. This conference will hopefully expose even more girls to the incredible STEM world and encourage them to pursue their passions."

For more information and reservations, go to <http://www.expandingyourhorizons.org/conferences/AAUW>.

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881.

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◆ BOOSTERS from page 11

coached teams to 20 league titles and 11 NCS championships. Led by Brown and coach James Lathrop, MHS has been the most successful high school water polo program in Northern California. Brown has been inducted into the California High School Coaches Hall of Fame, the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame and the U.S.A. Water Polo Hall of Fame.

Ken Dorsey, Class of 1999

Dorsey earned two varsity letters each in football and basketball at MHS. In football, he was named All East Bay in 1997 and 1998, *Examiner* All Metro in 1997 and 1998 and Cal Hi All State (Medium Schools) in 1998. As a quarterback, he led the Matadors' football team to back-to-back NCS titles. Dorsey went on to play football at the University of Miami, where he earned numerous honors. He was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers and spent six seasons in the NFL with the 49ers and Cleveland Browns. He finished his pro career with the Toronto Argonauts in 2010.

Dixon Farmer, Class of 1959

Farmer was a prolific track and field athlete at MHS. He was a California State Champion in both 1958 and 1959. He went on to run at Occidental College, where he was NCAA champion in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles in 1961. That same year, he represented the U.S.A. in meets against Russia, Poland, Germany and England. Dixon went on to coach track and field. In 2000, he was the track and field coordinator at the U.S. Olympic training center and a member of the U.S. Olympic coaching staff at the games in Sydney, Australia. Dixon also served as athletic director at Occidental College for seven years before retiring in 2007.

Pete Jensen, Class of 1967

Jensen led the Mats' basketball team in

scoring in both his junior and senior years, being named second team All-League as a junior and first team All-League as a senior. He also played in the prestigious Nor Cal East-West All Star Game. Jensen continued his basketball career at the University of the Pacific (UOP), where he played WCAC's Co-Champion team in 1970 and WCAC Champs in 1971, advancing to the NCAA Tournament for just the third time in school history. He was inducted into the UOP Hall of Fame as a member of the 1971 team.

Heather Petri, Class of 1997

Petri swam and played water polo at MHS. She was a member of the National Junior Swim team in 1995. As a sophomore, she played on the MHS boys' water polo team before a girls' team was established in her junior year. She was captain of the girls' team for two years, leading the team to back-to-back Foothill Athletic League titles in 1994 and 1995 and an NCS championship in 1995. Petri went on to play water polo at Cal where she earned All American honors in 1998 and 1999. She has also medaled at four Olympic games.

Peter Schnugg, Class of 1969

Schnugg swam and played water polo and basketball at MHS. In 1969, he was a NCS champion in swimming. In water polo, he was first team All-League as a junior. In his senior year he was again first team All-League, was named the Foothill Athletic League Player of the Year and made fourth team All American. Schnugg played three years of varsity basketball, making second team All-League and serving as co-captain during his senior year. He went on to swim and play water polo at Cal. In water polo, Schnugg earned All-American honors in 1972 and 1973. He was named NCAA Player of the Year in 1973. Schnugg played water polo on the U.S. National team from 1976 to 1980. He was a member of the U.S. Olympic team when the U.S. boycotted the Moscow games of 1980.



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HELPING OTHERS

Children's Health Guild Event Raises \$55K for Kids' Health Care

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Children's Health Guild (CHG) held its annual holiday boutique and luncheon fundraiser at the Ritz Carlton San Francisco on Dec. 2. The 325 attendees at the "Hope Lives Here" event raised over \$50K via a paddle raffle and over \$20K in vendor product sales, of which 25 percent goes to CHG. Close to 30 vendors in six categories opened their booths at 9:30 a.m. – men's and women's apparel, home décor, jewelry, children's products, women's accessories and edibles. CHG, a nonprofit group, has raised \$1.1 million since 2012 to assist children and families in need at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland (CHO) and George Mark Children's House (GMCH) in San Leandro.

After guests spent time sipping and shopping at the boutique, Annie Holmes of Lafayette, holiday co-chair, opened the event with a warm welcome. Luncheon followed, and then Laura Pavlovich of Orinda, CHG president, introduced celebrated author Christine Carter, Ph.D., who is the happiness expert at U.C. Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center. Says Carter, "I spoke at the event because I grew up in Orinda, and so have been aware of the work that CHG does and really wanted to support them. As a mother of four teens, we made a few trips to Children's Hospital. I am so grateful to have it as a resource in our community. Supporting CHG is a way for me to pay forward my gratitude."

Liz Heflin shared her family's experience with respite care for her teenage daughter Kaitlyn at George Mark. Kaitlyn experiences seizures, so every day is filled with complex medical protocols. When Kaitlyn stays at GMCH, Heflin gets a rest and can spend time with her son, Kai, knowing Kaitlyn is in good hands.

Hillary Weiner of Orinda, CHG public relations chair, pointed out that physicians and medical staff at CHO see more than 200,000 patients each year, many of whom have nowhere else to turn. Katia Merriam, senior director of external relations for CHO, says that funds from the event are used in a variety of ways including,

"supplies for our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit such as hypo-hyperthermia pads used for warming and cooling, blood pressure cuffs, diapers, hats and onsies, all for premature babies as small as one pound." This is in addition to CHO's Child Life Services program, which bridges the gap between home, hospital and school with age-appropriate activities designed to help young patients understand and adapt to the hospital experience.

When GMCH opened in 2004, it was the first freestanding facility in the nation to offer palliative and hospice care to terminally ill children. While this is common in Europe, the United States is catching up in opening such facilities. According to Children's Hospice International, most of the 3,000 hospices in the U.S. will now consider admitting children but only about 450 have child-centered programs. As far as independent children's hospice homes, there are about 10 in the U.S., six in Canada and three in Australia. Ken Sommers of GMCH says that two examples of what funds from CHG are used for include their Adopt-a-Family program, which funds \$50 to \$99 per day of meals and incidentals for families at the facility or \$250 to \$999 for one day of end-of-life, respite or transitional care for one patient and memory making supplies for one month.

For more information about CHG, visit www.childrenshealthguild.org.



ALICIA CERVENKA PHOTOGRAPHY

At the Children's Health Guild "Hope Lives Here" holiday fundraiser members (L-R) Annie Holmes of Lafayette, Laura Pavlovich of Orinda and Shannon Nelson of Pleasant Hill teamed up to organize the event.

Help Those Without Shelter

White Pony Express, a nonprofit based in Pleasant Hill, has launched its 2017 Cold Weather Clothing Program. The program, launched two years ago when two homeless men died from exposure, needs new or like-new articles of warm clothing.

Volunteers and monetary donations for the purchase of clothing are also needed and most appreciated. Interested volunteers should contact Many Nakaya at 925-818-6361, email her at mandy@whiteponyexpress.org or go to the website, www.whiteponyexpress.org, for volunteer and donor information.

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Discussion and light refreshments to follow

Dr. Gawande is a renowned surgeon, public health researcher and writer, who will speak about the value of community and opportunities as we grow older. While Dr. Gawande's book *Being Mortal* alludes to death, the stories in it are about life. He describes people's efforts to maintain autonomy as they age in the face of ingrained habits, cultural expectations and one-size-fits-all corporate offerings.

He discusses options for empowering older adults who want to remain in their homes and enjoy the rich stew of activities, attributes, attitudes and energy that engage the community's senior population.

One of the great issues worldwide today is how to support and care for aging populations. By 2030, 20 percent of our nation's population will be over 65, an estimated 83 million people. Dr. Gawande's profound understanding of the importance of choice and community offers valuable insights and solutions to this challenging phenomenon.

RSVP by Feb. 7 to 925-253-2300 or RSVP@LamorindaVillage.org.

Between the Lines The Curmudgeon, the Cursed Child, and What Lies Ahead?

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



One of the most magical moments in bookselling is when we are able to look back at the year's bestsellers and consider the variety of books that customers have enjoyed throughout the year. In 2016, Fredrik Backman's *A Man Called Ove*, about a Norwegian curmudgeon, outranked all other titles at Orinda Books, and we often had the pleasure of hearing our customers tell each other what a delight *Ove* and its sequel, *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You*, were.

Not far behind *Ove* was another title from across the pond, J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. This stage play about the further adventures of Harry, now an employee at the Ministry of Magic, and his son, Albus, was eagerly purchased by many who had first met "The Boy Who Lived" when they themselves were only 6 or 7 years old. What can we make of this unlikely pairing at the "Top of the Charts"?

One thing we do know: the Lamorinda reading public has wide-ranging tastes. Politics produced some significant book-buying patterns at Orinda Books. Early in 2016, Orinda author Carol Pogash brought out her satirical *Quotations from Chairman Trump*, which delighted an incredulous local reading public. And post-election, both *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance and *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Hochschild were sought after by those trying to understand the changing face of the United States political landscape.

When we look at the year as a whole, however, current affairs were trumped by fine fiction. Titles such as Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See*, a bestseller in 2015, continued near the top of our hardcover list throughout 2016 and the publisher still hasn't given us a paperback date. Kirsten Hannah's *Nightingale*, another 2016 favorite, is finally scheduled for paperback release in April after two years on the hardcover list. Our readers also enjoyed new fiction, such as Amor Towles' novel, *A Gentleman in Moscow*, which takes us to 1922 Russia under the Bolshevik regime.

Another set of our top-selling titles illustrates how Orinda Books customers (along with the rest of the country) were caught up this year by the magic of Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton*. Ron Chernow's

biography of Alexander Hamilton, which was published in 2004 and was the genesis for Miranda's remarkable musical, was given a new lease on life when Miranda, as Alexander Hamilton, stepped onto the stage at the Richard Rodgers Theatre and rapped his way through the most innovative theatrical production in years. And because the libretto and its wordplay are so intriguing, both the CD (available at Orinda Books) and the beautiful coffee table book, *Hamilton: The Revolution*, have been on the bookstore's bestseller list throughout the year.

In our children's department, one of our 2016 bestsellers and hot on Harry Potter's heels was author/illustrator Jon Agee's *Lion Lessons*. Agee was incredibly generous in his willingness to visit schools and see that all of the youngsters received a delightful drawing along with his autograph on the title page of his books. Agee's *Lion Lessons*, *Little Santa* and *It's Only Stanley* were high on Orinda Books' bestseller list in 2016.

But what bestsellers lie ahead in 2017? There will certainly be a great deal of political analysis, but we are also looking forward to a variety of new books from some of our favorite authors, many of whom are offering work in new genres. George Saunders, acclaimed for his contemporary short stories (*The Tenth of December*), takes on the Civil War era in his first novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo* (Feb. 14), while Calvin Trillin, whose humor has engaged us for years, has collected his *New Yorker* pieces about murder in *Killing* (April 4). Trillin's perceptive reportage on lives cut short is really about how Americans live as much as it is about how they die.

Another genre switcher we are looking forward to in 2017 is from Colum McCann whose novel, *Let the Great World Spin*, was a hugely popular book group selection at the store. His new book is a non-fiction collection of essays, *Letters to a Young Writer: Some Practical and Philosophical Advice*, and is due April 4. And Yiyun Li, whose novels and short stories (*The Vagrants* and *Gold Boy, Emerald Girl*) have been favorites at the bookstore, has also temporarily left fiction behind to write a memoir, *Dear Friend, From My Life, I*

[SEE BOOKS page 16]



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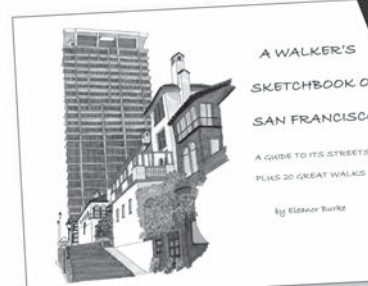
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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 1 **International Film Showcase** will present Iran's submission for an Oscar in the Foreign Language category, *The Salesman*, directed by Oscar winner Asghar Farhadi, Orinda Theatre, Jan. 27 through Feb. 3. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com for show times.
Orinda Library Art Gallery presents Underwater Photography, Paintings, Porcelain and Needlepoint through Feb. 28. Artist reception is Feb. 4 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. See article on page 2.
- 2 **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.
- 5 **First Friday Forum** features Dr. Henry Brady talking on "Public Policy and Politics Going Forward," Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 1:30 p.m. Refreshments served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall prior to the presentation. Call 925-283-8722. See article on this page.
- 8 **Second Wednesday Book Group** will read and discuss *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. The group meets monthly at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m., and welcome new members.
- 9 **Free Movie Night** at Orinda Theatre, 7 p.m., features *Charade*, starring Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn. Free movies are screened every second Thursday. Visit <http://lamorindatheatres.com>.
- 17 **Orinda Books** hosts an author luncheon with Eleanor Burke discussing her new book, *A Walker's Sketchbook of San Francisco: A Guide to its Streets Plus 20 Great Walks*, 276 Village Square, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tickets \$10. RSVP to 925-254-7606.
- 23 **Maria's Book Group** meets at 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.
- 25 **Summer Camp Fair** at Orinda Community Center Park, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., sponsored by Orinda Parks and Recreation. Sign up for camp on the day of the fair and receive a 10-percent discount.
- 26 **Orinda Association** holds its Annual Awards Dinner, Orinda County Club, 6 p.m. Brian Waters is winner of the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award and Fix Orinda Roads is the Volunteer of the Year. Tickets are \$60 and are available at www.orindaassociation.org. See article on page 1.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Note the library will be closed Feb. 20 for Presidents' Day. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit <http://cclib.org/>.

- 1 **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 Feb. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22.
Dr. Lani Simpson will share excerpts from her bestselling book, *No-Nonsense Bone Health Guide* and demonstrate the many factors affecting bone health, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Her PBS show, *Stronger Bones, Longer Life*, aired nationwide last summer. Sponsored by Friends of Orinda Library.
- 2 **English as a Second Language Conversation Circle.** Volunteer teachers lead informal group discussions, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also Feb. 9, 16 and 23.
- 3 **Teen Coloring Club.** Join Orinda Library Teen Advisory Group (TAG) to de-stress, relax and have fun. The library provides age-appropriate coloring books and colored pencils; teens provide inspiration and creativity. Free and open to all teens, 4 to 5 p.m. Also Feb. 10, 17 and 24.
- 7 **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 Feb. 14 and 21.
- 8 **Local artist Felicia Morris** explores artistic expression as a way to move with greater awareness and love through life's challenges. Several paintings will be on display as she speaks about this unique creative process, Room A, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- 17 **Mystery Book Club.** Meets every third Friday to discuss the latest mystery of the month, Study Room A, 3 to 4:30 p.m. This month's selection is *The Fallen Man* by Tony Hillerman. Adult program.
- 21 **Humanities West Fireside Chat.** George Hammond explores *The Vikings: Raiders, Traders, Neighbors*, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult program. Visit www.humanitieswest.net.
- 23 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners.** Storytelling for adults with a featured storyteller, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214.** Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe.** Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Gallery Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks.** Fourth Wednesday, 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 gcmozee@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.
- 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. February's topic is Plant Hunting at the Edge of the World, with speaker William McNamara, executive director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Glen Ellen.

First Friday Speaker Addresses Public Policy and Politics

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Dr. Henry Brady is the featured speaker when First Friday Forum (FFF) convenes at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church on Feb. 5, at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Brady is dean of the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley. His talk is entitled "Public Policy and Politics Going Forward."

"These are exciting times for the Goldman School, and for all of us, because the world, the nation and the State of California are facing thorny and complex public policy problems," says Brady. "However, I have great faith in the resilience of the American political system and in America's commitment to the rule of law and constitutionalism enforced by an independent judiciary. I am left with hope that the American experiment built upon 'liberty and justice for all' will prevail."

The genesis of Brady's passion for politics and public policy can be traced to the 1960s when he was an undergraduate



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Henry Brady will speak on "Public Policy and Politics Going Forward" at the First Friday Forum on Feb. 5.

student, studying math and physics. "I was involved with student organizing at the Claremont Colleges. Through these experiences, I became intensely concerned about race relations and public policy in America and about how we might better live up to our fundamental beliefs about equity and freedom."

After four years of working in Washing-
[SEE FORUM page 17]

- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Send calendar items to Maggie Sharpe at m.sharpe66@gmail.com



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ GIVE BACK from page 7

of retirement volunteering with City Guides of San Francisco, Oakland Museum, Mission Dolores, San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, Junior Achievement, and both Elder Hostel and American Youth Hostel. The former advertising manager and self-described history buff likes keeping busy, noting Helen Hayes' admonition that, "if you rest, you rust."

Former University of California Engineering Librarian Camille Wanat finds retirement allows time for "digging in the dirt." Every week she works on the curation of native seeds and plants at U.C. Botanical Garden. Linda Landau also volunteers there as a docent in addition to her long-time commitment to Friends of the Orinda Library, where former music teacher Maggie Boscoe serves as volunteer curator of the Orinda Library Art Gallery for the Lamorinda Arts Council.

Adding their voices to The Singing Messengers choir, Joan Brown, Thalia Chan, Nancy Debenham, Pam Hall, Judy Logsdon, Lee Bressette, Gloria Yruel, Maggie Boscoe and Margie Musante sing at convalescent and retirement homes in Contra Costa County. Former journalist and teacher Paul Schindler finds retirement allows more practice time on his tenor saxophone as a member of the Danville Community Band, while Carol Anderson's retirement from professional fundraising translates into time for jewelry making and design.

Retired teacher Doreen Wagner "left a job that I adored" and is now in her third year of teaching Spanish to a group of women in her home who have become very close friends. "We have travelled to Spain, gone to see flamenco in San Francisco and even had a cooking class in paella."

Time to Give Back

Steve Zanki has provided one-on-one basic literacy instruction to five students from Europe, the Middle East and China through Project Second Chance, the Contra Costa County Library Adult Literacy Program. The retired biochemist has also helped three of his students find employment and helped one become a U.S. citizen.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is the most rewarding volunteer work Carol Riddell has ever done. She explains that "volunteers work one-on-one with a foster child (the judges love CASAs!) to be a friend, mentor and advocate in court for a vulnerable child during a stressful time in their lives."

Sandy Anderson found her skills learned in the field of education apply as she volunteers "in areas of social justice like Winter



Several retired Orindans add their voices to **The Singing Messengers** choir, which performs at convalescent and retirement homes.

Nights Rotating Shelter and Mountain View Shelter through Temple Isaiah as well as current pursuits with Women of Reformed Judaism."

Retirement pursuits reach beyond U.S. borders for Gil and Karen Gleason, who visited Uganda while still working as a musician and a clinical scientist. Ten years ago they began Friends of Ruwenzori to establish a medical clinic, which now serves 100,000 in the rural Ruwenzori Mountains with a full hospital and training programs.

At age 91, retired educator Betty Karplus realizes she became "almost a professional volunteer" in retirement, with pursuits ranging from Peace Corps in Jamaica to AmeriCorps in San Francisco as well as teaching English as a second language, science classes for elementary students, serving on the Orinda Historical Society and volunteering with Orinda Community Church.

Tending to Oneself

Recognizing and tending to oneself is a top priority in retirement. Retired psychiatrist Gary Nye likes to use the word "refocus" for the opportunity to pursue interesting projects or service. However, he was surprised to feel "more relaxed than I expected. I miss the patients and the clinic staff but not the record-keeping, the tracking of new regulations and responsibilities related to other peoples' health care."

"Spending one-on-one time with my three adult children, midweek cycling with my husband Mike, revisiting classic authors and going for a walk on a dirt trail in the woods" are the joys of retirement for Elizabeth Kersten, a former California legislature research manager. She also babysits for her granddaughter two days a week and attends her church's sewing circle to make

quilts for disabled children.

Retired Social Security administrators Kathleen Wiegand and her husband Gene have purposely set aside time in their weekly schedule for "a date day of fun, exploring and adventure – going to Napa, Half Moon Bay, Sausalito, a movie or just relaxing."

Former financial advisor Shelley Bagg sums up retirement in a few words: "Grandchildren (now numbering four) for my heart, golf for my body and bridge for my mind."

Pat yourself on the back, retired Orindans, and thanks for the inspiration. And hats off to the many other retired residents, who are invited to share their stories at hop-pock@msn.com.

◆ FORUM from page 15

ton D.C., including a stint as a staff member for a White House Council led by General Bernard Schriever, Brady's interest in politics and public policy led him to graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he completed doctorates in political science and economics. His first teaching post was at UC Berkeley in the fall of 1978 at what was then called Graduate School of Public Policy. Now, nearly 40 years later, he is dean of the Goldman School.

Brady has written numerous books, including *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics*, which won the Philip Converse Award for a book making a lasting contribution to public opinion research. He has served as president of the American Political Science Association and the Political Methodology Society of the American Political Science Association and director of the UC Berkeley Survey Research Center. He was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003 and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2006.

"We welcome visitors to our free lecture series," says Caroline Giers, co-chair of FFF. "Our average attendance has grown to over 200 because of the high quality of our speakers. Having heard Dr. Brady speak several times, I highly recommend our February meeting. As usual, refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall."

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church is located at 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette 94549. For more information, call 925-283-8722.



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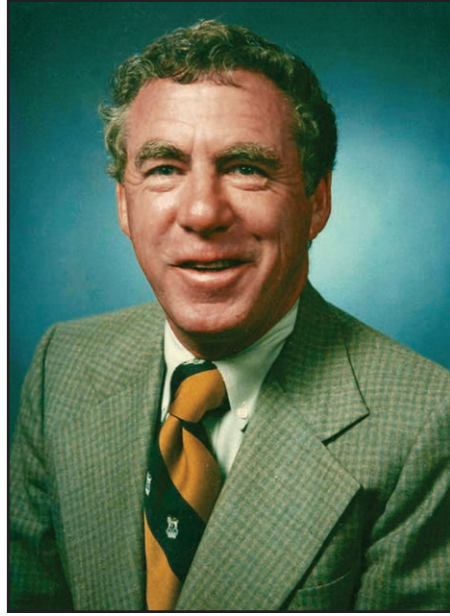
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Former Orindan Charles Lupsha

Charles H. Lupsha, a resident of Williamsburg Landing in Williamsburg, VA, died on Dec. 29, 2016. Born April 7, 1925, he was the son of Frank X. Lupsha and Sylvia Lupsha of Rockville Center, NY. After graduation from high school in Rockville Center, Charles joined the U.S. Navy and served three years, participating in the D-Day Normandy invasion followed by another year in the Pacific Theater of war. After being honorably discharged, he graduated from Oklahoma A&M in 1950. In July 1949, Charles married Jo Turner of Ringling, Oklahoma. His career in sales and marketing with Chevron Chemical resulted in numerous moves around the country.

The Lupshas retired in 1985 to Orinda where Charles was active in tennis and golf at the Contra Costa Country Club. Charles and Jo moved to Williamsburg in 2003. He is survived by his wife, Jo, of 66 years, and his five sons, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In lieu of flowers, dona-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Orindan **Charley Lupsha** passed away on Dec. 29, 2016.

tions may be made in his memory to Santa Maria Catholic Church in Orinda.

◆ GOOGLE from page 11

varying amounts of insecticides on crops. Ideas for a tax code can be tried out on the computer with code written for how varying tax rates affect a government budget as well as household pocketbooks. NASA projects can be simulated with software written for various possibilities of time, fuel, weight, distance or mission goals.


Pan has applied to UC Berkeley, Stanford, Columbia and Harvard. She says, in addition to computer science, economics might be a possible area of study or maybe writing algorithms for stock trading. She says of her MHS computer science teacher, "I want to thank Ms. Boyko because she inspired me to pursue computer science."

◆ AAUW from page 10

contribution to the Lamorinda community," said AAUW-OML member Lynda Leonard. "We have some remarkable young women growing up amongst us, and we encourage them to continue reaching out, engaging with their community, and leaving their footprint. We will honor the recipients at an awards celebration on April 23."


AAUW, established in 1881, advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. It is open to everyone with an associate degree or higher.

For more information or to download a scholarship application, visit www.oml-ca.aauw.net.



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

TWO FILMS, SOUNDS LIKE ...



Tom Westlake

With this abbreviated month comes, unfortunately, an abbreviated column. With the start of this new year, there does not seem too much in the way of special programming, at least as far as local films are concerned. Some of this might be attributable to recovery from the recent 75th anniversary party at the Orinda Theatre, though another reason might be all the other events that are scheduled, mostly at the Rheem. For that, as usual, I recommend checking out <http://lamorindatheatres.com> to keep up-to-date so you don't miss out on anything.

As far as movies are concerned, there are only two of note. The first is *Charade*, starring Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn. To many this film is regarded as a Hitchcock film that wasn't actually directed by Hitchcock, mostly because of Grant's presence. (*North by Northwest*, which he also starred in, actually came out several years prior.) But also because it's as full of nail-biting suspense as anything done by the Master.

As it turns out, Hitchcock had very little to do with this but that shouldn't dissuade you. Another director, hardly a household name but no less influential, Stanley Donan, was more than up for the task. All one needs to prove this is to look at his accomplishments, such as *Singin' in the Rain*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Funny Face*

– also featuring Hepburn. Add to this the supporting cast – George Kennedy, James Coburn and Walter Matthau – and you have all the makings of a corking good time. It will screen at the Orinda on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Next, we have *The Salesman*, brought to you by the good and award-winning people from the International Film Showcase. This joint Iranian/French film directed by Asghar Farhadi follows a couple who are involved in putting on a production of *Death of a Salesman*. Never considered a happy play, the characters' lives are challenged even more when they are forced to move. And then it gets worse. At this point, I think it is important to bring to your attention that though this sounds like a daunting film to sit through, *The Salesman's* pedigree should be taken into account. Farhadi's previous film, *A Separation*, won an Academy Award in 2011, and the overall critical reception *The Salesman* is receiving strongly indicates that lightning might just strike twice. It will have a one-week engagement at the Orinda Theatre starting Feb. 24. For more details, go to <http://internationalshowcase.org>.

See? I told you this would be short. Still, it is early in the year, and I'm sure there will be lots to report in the months to come so, as ever, remember to stay in the dark. That's where the reel magic lies.

International Film Showcase Wins Award

The founders of the International Film Showcase (IFS), which presents award-winning foreign films at the Orinda Theatre, recently received an award of their own from the small, charitable foundation Sui Generis, which means "unique" in Latin.

"When our Sui Generis Board of Directors chose healing as an emphasis for our awards this year, I thought about the value of foreign films in exposing the humanity of all peoples, telling life stories often in another language. It seems to me that healing comes out of that exposure," says Sui Generis co-founder Marilyn Heilman, who happened to see one of the IFS offerings.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joalice Canterbury (L) and Efi Lubliner received individual awards for their work with the International Film Showcase.

Heilman, along with co-founder Sarita Waite, presented the 2016 awards which included a \$2,000 honorarium.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

Chamber Members and City Staff Turn Out for Taverna Pellegrini Ribbon Cutting



SALLY HOGARTY

Chamber members and City Staff enjoyed a festive ribbon cutting ceremony on Jan. 19 at the popular Italian restaurant on Moraga Way. (L-R) Front row: Chamber Executive Director **Sophie Braccini**, Chamber Member **Holly Henkel**, Taverna owner **Dario Hadjian**, city staffer **Pam Foster**, Chamber Member **David Cronin**; Back Row: Chamber Member **Paul Koenig**, Taverna's **Dante Simoncini**, Chamber President **Roy Hodgkinson**, Planning Director **Drummond Buckley**, City Manager **Janet Keeter**, OA President **Cindy Powell**, City Planner **Derek Farmer**, Orinda resident **Barbara Edwards** and Chamber Members **Haley Armstrong**, **Scott Pollak** and **Michelle Pollak**.

◆ BUZZ from page 20

South Korea in 2002 and the couple has two young daughters, 11-year-old Clara and 9-year-old Allison, who keep them very busy with family activities. "I am certain we have also seen every single Pixar and Disney movie ever made," says Joe.

Caffé Teatro is open Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit the website at www.orindacoffee.com or call 925-254-5871. Caffé Teatro is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

Shop Morrison's Jewelers Pre-Inventory Sale This Month

Founded by William Morrison in Berkeley in 1923, today Morrison's Jewelers is managed by fourth-generation family owner David Berryhill. This family business was located in Berkeley for 70 years and moved to the Crossroads location – 35 Moraga Way, across the street from the Orinda Theatre – in 1993.

Berryhill and his wife, Chris Jorgensen, are hosting the annual 20-percent-off, pre-inventory sale the entire month of February

and invite customers to take advantage of many terrific offerings in the store. "We have very high-end pieces, as well as more reasonably priced pieces. We are happy to order a specific piece for a customer if we do not have it in stock," says Jorgensen.

Morrison's Jewelers has been a tradition for many generations of Orindans. A full-service jeweler, 60- to 70-percent of the work involves custom design pieces. "Our designer, Betsy Bergmann Jimenez, undertakes a collaborative process with clients, working closely one-on-one to create from scratch exactly what the client has in mind," says Jorgensen. "In other situations, individuals who have inherited some family jewelry come in and ask us to design an entirely new piece of jewelry incorporating the family's precious stones or diamonds into a new piece that will be worn."

Jewelry created by local designers is available here, as well as an attractive gifts section featuring more contemporary items such as handmade Sarah Oliver handbags.

Traditional silver baby cups and a selection of baptism gifts are featured. "Customer service is the hallmark of our business. If a client has something specific in mind, we will work together to find the item," says Jorgensen. "We do hand engraving of jewelry as well as machine engraving for clients."

Everything from elegant custom-designed jewelry to bead stringing and engraving is offered at Morrison's Jewelers, a Better Business Bureau certified business. Open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Morrison's is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit the website at www.morrisonjewelry.com or call 925-253-9227.



VALERIE HOTZ

David Berryhill and Chris Jorgensen of Morrison's Jewelers.

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Babierge Serves the East Bay

Trish McDermott manages Babierge East Bay from her Orinda home, providing safe and clean baby equipment and toys on a rental basis to traveling families. The concept is the brainchild of San Franciscan Kerri Couillard. Instead of selling the equipment her children had outgrown, she rented it to others, discovering a need on the part of grandparents who desired safe equipment and toys for their visiting grandchildren.

“Babierge is part of the collaborative economy business similar to Airbnb, but instead of renting accommodations, I rent baby gear by the day to my clients,” explains McDermott. “We are fully insured, and in order to secure insurance, we meet strict standards for cleaning gear and providing safe equipment. With safety being one of our top priorities, we register every piece of equipment and act quickly to respond to any recall issues.”

All gear is cleaned twice - upon renting and upon return - with Baby Organics, a fragrance-free organic cleaner. In addition, anything that goes into a youngster’s mouth is cleaned with a 2-percent bleach solution. McDermott delivers and sets up equipment for customers so everything is in place when the grandchildren arrive, often on short notice.

The list of available gear is lengthy, ranging from full-size cribs on wheels that lock,

highchairs, infant swings and playpens to a 30-gallon tub of toys customized for the age of the child. For the complete list of currently available gear and to make reservations, visit her website at www.babierge.com/trish742. If McDermott does not have a specific item, just inquire and she may be able to locate it.



Trish McDermott provides rental toys to traveling families.

A mother of four who enjoys travel, McDermott understands the needs of traveling families firsthand. “Babierge changes the way families travel. I do not turn down any order. I see the difference having safe, reliable baby equipment makes for the family enjoying their time together,” she says. Some customers have been so pleased they have donated gear to McDermott for others to enjoy.

Previously part of the founding team that

developed and helped build Match.com, McDermott served as head of global communications there. Three of her children attend Orinda schools and her eldest is a sophomore at Willamette University. While spending time with her children is the major priority, her favorite hobby is genealogy, and she has visited her ancestral home in Ireland. “I like sharing our ancestry with my children and understanding where we came from.”

In the way that Match.com changed the way people date, McDermott envisions Babierge changing the way families travel. “Our motto is, ‘Pack light. Travel far. Make lasting family memories.’ We are accomplishing this one family at a time,” says McDermott.

For more information about Babierge, call Trish McDermott at 925-276-2229 or visit the website at www.babierge.com/trish742.

Caffé Teatro Celebrates 14th Anniversary

Since 2003, the husband-and-wife team of Joe and Jin Cho has been serving up phenomenal illy coffee drinks, along with freshly baked pastries, cookies, bagels, biscotti, breakfast offerings and delicious sandwiches at this neighborhood gathering place at 26 Orinda Way, on the ground floor of the Orinda Library building. Rain or shine, it is a welcome and comforting place to read *The Orinda News*, *The New York Times* or catch up with a friend over a cup of excellent coffee or tea.

While illy coffee has always been served here, it was in 2009 that Joe was approached by an illy representative and offered the opportunity to officially become “Artista del Gusto” – artist of taste – which involved detailed training by an illy expert on every detail, including how to use the custom espresso machine, La Cimbali. At that time, only 17 coffee shops in California earned such distinction.



Joe Cho of Caffé Teatro celebrates 14 years in Orinda.

“The illy standards must be met consistently in order to receive the Artista del Gusto rating. Several times each year we have a surprise visit from an illy representative who evaluates our operation and grades us on everything, including how we present the coffee beverage to our customer,” explains Joe.

“We stand by illy. It is truly great coffee, and we are pleased to be official Artista del Gusto for illy,” says Joe, who also shops daily to get the freshest ingredients that make the sandwiches and salads so mouth-watering. Choose from an array of cold or hot sandwiches and specials such as the turkey melt with pesto, avocado, bacon and Havarti cheese or the chicken melt made with pesto, mozzarella and tomato.

Caffé Teatro offers catering for local breakfast or lunch meetings. The breakfast offerings include hot coffee, juices, yogurt, bagels and cream cheese, breakfast sandwiches, muffins, croissants and more. Custom sandwiches, chips, cookies, brownies and a selection of beverages are available for lunch. Call Joe at 925-254-5871 for more information or to arrange catering.

Joe and Jin came to the Bay Area from [SEE BUZZ page 19]

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