



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Local Mom, Philanthropic Organization Win Orinda's Top Honors for 2015



SALLY HOGARTY

Anna Tague has been selected as the OA's 2015 Volunteer of the Year.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Each year the Orinda Association (OA) has the difficult task of selecting the Volunteer of the Year and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award recipients from a myriad of local residents. This year was no exception with OA board members reading through the various nominees and



SALLY HOGARTY

The **Orinda Community Foundation** is this year's William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award recipient. (L-R) OCF board members **Ted Urban, Mark Roberts, Dick Burkhalter, Sue Severson, Richard Westin** and **Richard Stanaro**. Not shown is board member Carol Penskar.

deliberating over their choices. But, when all was said and done, Anna Tague emerged as the Volunteer of the Year and the Orinda Community Foundation was selected for the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award.

Volunteer of the Year

Anna Tague swears she doesn't deserve the honor of being the 2015 Volunteer of

the Year. "There are so many wonderful people in our community that do so much," she says. "Can I decline the award so you can give it to someone truly deserving?"

However, given the many recommendations that flowed into the OA office on her behalf and her impressive 19 years of volunteering in Orinda, this year's Volunteer of the Year award is well deserved.

"Anna says she 'never volunteers' but,

in reality, she volunteers for many things," says Sandy Kassis. "If she sees a need in the community, she doesn't just talk about it, she personally looks for ways to meet the need."

From working with the Orinda Juniors to the Community Center Auxiliary to driving for the OA's Seniors Around Town program, Tague has kept very busy while [SEE AWARDS page 12]

Orinda Association Marks 70 Years of Service to the Community

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Orinda Association (OA) proudly celebrates 70 years of making Orinda a better place to live and raise children. Beginning this month, the OA takes a look back at its rich history and its plans for the future.

Most residents recognize the OA for its popular 4th of July parade and the monthly newspaper *The Orinda News*. Others participate as riders or drivers in the OA's Seniors Around Town volunteer ride program while students come to the OA's Volunteer Center looking for volunteer hours to fulfill school service requirements.

But did you know that in 1923, the OA (then known as Orinda Improvement Association) established the Orinda Volunteer Fire Department, and, in the same year,

helped form the Orinda Union School District? The busy volunteer organization officially became the Orinda Association in 1946 when the Orinda Improvement Association (OIA) and Orindans, another public service organization, merged.

The fledgling group named landscape designer William Penn Mott, Jr. as its first president. Mott went on to serve as head of the State of California park system and then head of the national parks under President Reagan. The OA proudly awards a local resident the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award each year.

Knowing libraries were very important for the sleepy little hamlet, the OA (then the OIA) established the first real library in 1935, and, in 1956, gave 1.4 acres of land for a new library, which stood for many years at the corner of Orinda Way and Irwin Way. Did you know that Irwin

Way is named after former OA president Mowry Irwin?

As the town continued to grow, the OA formulated plans and began fundraising for a community center. By 1974, the group had sufficient funds to make a major capital down payment on the former Orinda Union School and provide the impetus for purchase and development of today's Community Center.

Prior to incorporation as a city, Orinda residents looked to the OA to act as their voice with local, state and federal authorities -- a role the OA took to heart with members regularly present at county meetings to be sure Orinda got its fair share of tax dollars and services.

With the 1985 incorporation of Orinda, many expected the OA to disband but instead the organization continued its watchdog role as the new city went through its

inevitable growing pains.

As the Orinda City Council and its many committees took shape, the OA looked to refocus its role in Orinda. In March of 2003, a committee made up of a cross section of community members recommended a new structure for the OA and a new mission to maintain and improve the quality of life in Orinda, promote awareness of issues and encourage volunteerism.

The OA already had a proud history [SEE OA page 8]



DAVID DIERKS

The **Orinda Association** board of directors: Back row L-R: **Bill Waterman, Alison Dew, Cindy Powell, Tom Romanack**; Front row: **Joe Haughin, Jim Luini** and **Joe Garvey**. Not pictured are **Maura Aars** and **Chris Laszcz-Davis**.

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Orinda Association's Annual Awards Dinner

February 21 - 6 p.m.
Orinda Country Club

Come and celebrate your fellow residents for their exceptional volunteer work in our community. See page 3 for more information.

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LIBRARY GALLERY

Library Gallery Rings in New Year With Exhibit By Women Artists

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Alfred Lord Tennyson reminds us that, "Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, Whispering 'it will be happier...'" The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to begin an even "happier" 2016 with a visit to the Orinda Library Gallery to see the work of local artists Hilary Mills Lambert (oil paintings), Mimi Wild (ceramics), Julia Chen Wen (Chinese brush paintings) and Donna Anderson (photographs) from Jan. 3 to 31. Join them on Saturday, Jan. 9, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. for an artists' reception when light refreshments will be served, music will be heard, and you will be tempted to linger and speak with creative minds.

Hilary Mills Lambert of Alamo is a fifth-grade teacher at Lafayette Elementary School and has been involved in the art world all of her adult life. She earned an MS from the Pratt Institute in New York

City and an MFA from the Academy of Art in San Francisco. The theme for her show is "Art Around Town" because she has chosen more than 10 works depicting local landscapes such as the Lafayette Reservoir, Mount Diablo, a friend at a stable, people at Chow Restaurant and four-footed friends. To stay fresh, she keeps learning and is enrolled in the Golden Gate Atelier School where she studies French Academy 19th century painting four days a week. She hopes viewers appreciate her interest in harmonious, colorful and beautiful shapes. Look for *Summit Ranch* (12" x 12") and *Lafayette Reservoir* (8" x 16"); both are oil paintings on canvas. Visit www.millsgallery.com to see more of her work including her murals.

Mimi Wild of Danville has been creating ceramics for over 35 years at the Clay Arts Guild (the Guild) in Walnut Creek. Her introduction to clay occurred when, as a young mother in Southern California with two babies, she realized she needed

to get out of the house. While her husband watched the kids, she enrolled in a ceramics class. As an art major in college she had done a lot of things, but never clay. She was hooked from the first night. After moving to Danville, she found the Guild and credits them with keeping her work fresh because, "We have a fantastic studio, great teachers and an eclectic group of members so we end up feeding off each other's creativity." The Guild's motto is, "Seize the Clay." Fans of Gary Larson's *Far Side* cartoons will understand Wild's sense of humor immediately. Get ready for 30 ceramic pieces such as snakes in a meat grinder, a vulture pitcher, a sea otter casserole, raccoon dip dishes and a chicken with chicken noodle soup. Most of her pieces are animal figures in different poses and many are caricatures. She hopes viewers find the humor in her work and come to appreciate her piquant point of view of the animal, insect and avian worlds.

Julia Chen Wen of Walnut Creek has had a passion for Chinese brush painting since she was a teenager. She learned the fundamentals of this traditional form of painting from master teachers Chang Heng and Chen Jian Chang. Later she studied under Du Den Ying and Deng Xuefeng specializing in freehand style paintings of flowers and birds. Wen stresses her method is traditional in nature, depicting flora, small animals, birds and insects. The more than 20 works she has chosen to exhibit invite viewers to experience a lifetime's worth of her artwork. Look for *Plum Flower* (13" x 25") and *Chrysanthemums* (24" x 18"), both of which are ink paintings on sheng xuan paper. She hopes her work inspires people to appreciate and learn more about Chinese art forms. For the last 10 years, Wen has taught Chinese brush painting at the Golden Crane Senior Center, 1401 Danville Blvd. in Alamo. Visit www.goldencrane.org or phone 925-820-0500 for more information.

Donna Anderson, an Orinda native, has been attracted to visual images since college. After a long career in film, she has returned to still images. Nature is her muse. Her passion is finding and photographing nature's incredible abstracts where she captures something that others may walk by and never see. *Delta Dawn*, *Tinsley Island*, a 19" x 23" canvas Giclée photograph, is so atmospheric it is hard to believe there



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Donna Anderson's canvas Giclée photograph is entitled *Autumn Abstract*.

has been absolutely no manipulation of the image; the more you look at it the more interesting it gets. Yet, Anderson is a purist, "I do not manipulate my photographs in any way, either on the computer or in the printing." Other works include *Tulip Tree*, *Van Ripper Lane*, *Orinda* (10" x 13") and *Autumn Abstract* (11" x 14"), both are canvas Giclée photographs. A Giclée is a digital inkjet print used to reproduce fine art photography and other 2D art with superior clarity and color. Anderson is showing more than 15 large photographs and over 20 4" x 6" photographic cards mounted on archival mats from her company, Zenshine. She hopes viewers appreciate her portrayal of nature's wonders, especially the way light interplays with landscape. To see her work visit www.djanderson456.wix.com/dj-anderson-photo.

When asked what value art has for the community, Lambert says, "Art slows you down, shows you the science and method to beautiful things that resonate throughout time. Art forms, architecture and appreciation of nature are necessary for humanity." Wild says, "Art opens your mind to things that you wouldn't think of as art - it is all around us - such as a sunset which dazzles us with a rainbow of colors." Wen says, "Chinese brush painting is a venerable art form with much to offer in its appreciation of nature." Anderson says, "Art is a universal way of communicating without words, without prejudices, without biases. A way of sharing a vision, a perspective or idea without judgment. It can be shared across the world regardless of culture, ethnicity or religion. It might carry beauty, a smile and a rush of emotion, appreciation."

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Jan. 1 for New Year's Day and Jan. 18 for Martin Luther King Day. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President
We Are Celebrating 70 Years As We
Enter New Phase**

Bill Waterman



The Orinda Association's varied and rich history is summarized well by *The News* Editor Sally Hogarty's story on the front page. But I wanted to take a minute to give some additional thoughts about the OA's role – past, present and even future.

Like many organizations, our Orinda Association has gone through many changes over the course of its 70 years. From our founding in 1946 and continuing for some 40 years, the OA was the organizing entity that helped Orindans solve community challenges. We were the "voice of Orinda" to the County Board of Supervisors until we incorporated as a city in 1985. We had an administration and many committees made up of dedicated volunteers, working on the typical things a city does, including planning, public safety and recreation. The OA board members represented their neighborhoods, and thus everyone had a means to get their views heard and listened to. Most of our initial City Council members had served in various capacities in the OA too. Then from 1985 until 2003, we continued to act as a political entity and helped Orindans express their concerns to the City Council and staff. But with the assistance, advice

and support of many wonderful friends, in 2003 we decided we could serve Orinda best by becoming a non-profit service organization.

And so now the OA is focused on not only maintaining but also improving the unique quality of life we enjoy here in Orinda. We do so by continuing to inform and promote dialogue within our town through the platform of this newspaper, by our hosting of community forums for candidates running for City Council and school board positions, and additionally by promoting awareness and developing solutions for important issues such as road repair and downtown planning. We also host and organize the ever-growing Orinda Fourth of July parade and celebration, and we support the Orinda Classic Car Show in September. We serve the community by organizing and operating our unique "Seniors Around Town" free ride program that helps local seniors stay independent and able to remain in their homes. And we help support volunteerism by operating our office and Volunteer Center and hosting events such as the annual Volunteer of the Year / William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental

The Orinda Association

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

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

P.O. Box 97
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Orinda, California 94563
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www.orindaassociation.org



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Membership	Jim Luini	

Awards Dinner and the Volunteer Fair as part of Orinda Action Day in April. Your membership in the OA makes all of this possible, so please join or maintain your current membership. You can join or renew online on our OA website, www.OrindaAssociation.org.

In closing, this month marks the conclusion of my four years as OA President, and I am happy to announce that our board has elected our long-time board member Cindy Powell as our new president. Cindy is a wonderfully talented and dedicated member of our board, and she will do an excellent job! She will be supported by VP Joe Garvey, and the rest of our energetic board members, office staff and many wonderful

supporters. So please join me in welcoming Cindy to her new role. Our board will continue to work very hard to serve Orinda and our fellow OA members going forward! Thank you, and Happy New Year!

**Boy Scout Troop 57
Open House**

Jan. 5, 7:10 p.m., Orinda Intermediate School Multi-Purpose room. All boys ages 10 to 17 years old. No prior scouting experience necessary. Enjoy "Troop 57 Style" dessert and other fun activities. Contact Gary Peterson at gary.peterson@acem.com or (925) 253-1373.

Seniors Around Town Holiday Luncheon

The OA's Seniors Around Town volunteer drive program held a festive holiday luncheon for both its volunteer drivers and riders on Dec. 8 at the Library Garden Room. Lots of delicious food was enjoyed as well as a performance by Miramonte High School's Bella Voce singing ensemble. Steve Harwood was the MC with Chip Herman an honored guest. Herman and his wife Carolyn organize the Classic Car Show each year which benefits the Seniors Around Town program.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



CHARLIE JARRETT
Chip Herman receives a beautiful clock appropriately set in a steering wheel for his support of SAT through the Classic Car Show.



CHARLIE JARRETT
Singers from Miramonte High School's **Bella Voce** sang at the luncheon.

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William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award -
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Come and celebrate your fellow residents for their exceptional volunteer work in our community.

Call 925-254-0800 or
email oa@orindaassociation.org for more information.

Editorial . . . Local Church Presents Forum on Religious Bias

Congratulations to the Orinda Community Church (OCC) and its forward-thinking members who have planned an open and thoughtful conversation on religious bias in America for Jan. 10 (see calendar page 13 for details).

Religious bias has been building since 9/11 and given the recent horrific acts of terrorism in Paris, France and in San Bernardino, California, it has grown to new heights. Some Americans have started looking at anyone with Middle Eastern characteristics with suspicion and some (think Donald Trump) have even suggested that the United States deny all Muslims entry into this country – a country founded by immigrants.

OCC's goal is to deepen understanding of personal and collective histories so that all people can move with clarity and empathy into the future. Certainly a worthwhile goal for the forum as well as for humankind – although the latter (in my opinion) will take something akin to a miracle to bring to fruition.

Those planning to attend the Jan. 10 forum were encouraged to see Ayad Akhtar's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Disgraced*, which ran through Dec. 27 at Berkeley Repertory Theater. The play follows a Pakistani American lawyer who hides his

Muslim background for personal and professional reasons. As the truth is exposed to his wife and friends, the lawyer finds his carefully constructed life unraveling. The playwright's aim was to leave theater-goers with more questions than answers. Something many of us have whether we've seen the play or just read the latest headlines in the media.

–Sally Hogarty, Editor

2016 Celebrates the Year of the Monkey

As the New Year dawns, it's time for all those monkeys to come out of hiding and celebrate the Year of the Monkey. According to the Chinese zodiac, the official start of the year is Feb. 8, Chinese New Year.

If you were born in 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004 or 2016, this is your year. Per the Chinese zodiac, those born in the Year of the Monkey are known for being lively, flexible, quick-witted, clever and intelligent, especially when it comes to career and wealth. On the other side, they can have an impetuous temper and a tendency to be selfish and arrogant.

Letters to the Editor

Remembering Molly Gravelle

You recently ran a story about Molly Gravelle celebrating her 100th birthday. My mother, Susan Watson, cut it out and sent it to me. Ms. Gravelle was my mechanical drawing/architecture teacher at Miramonte High School in 1973 and 1974 and taught me skills that I still use today. A complicated drawing I did for her was submitted to a regional competition where I won third place. I had never done anything like that before and she encouraged me all the way - in her usual kind, generous, motherly way. I was not a very good student until Ms. Gravelle showed me something I was good at doing. Now, I am a professional scientist and technical drawings are part of my everyday life.

I have often looked back at those years and wondered what ever happened to her. Thanks for letting me know and celebrating her birthday in *The Orinda News*!

–Charlie Watson

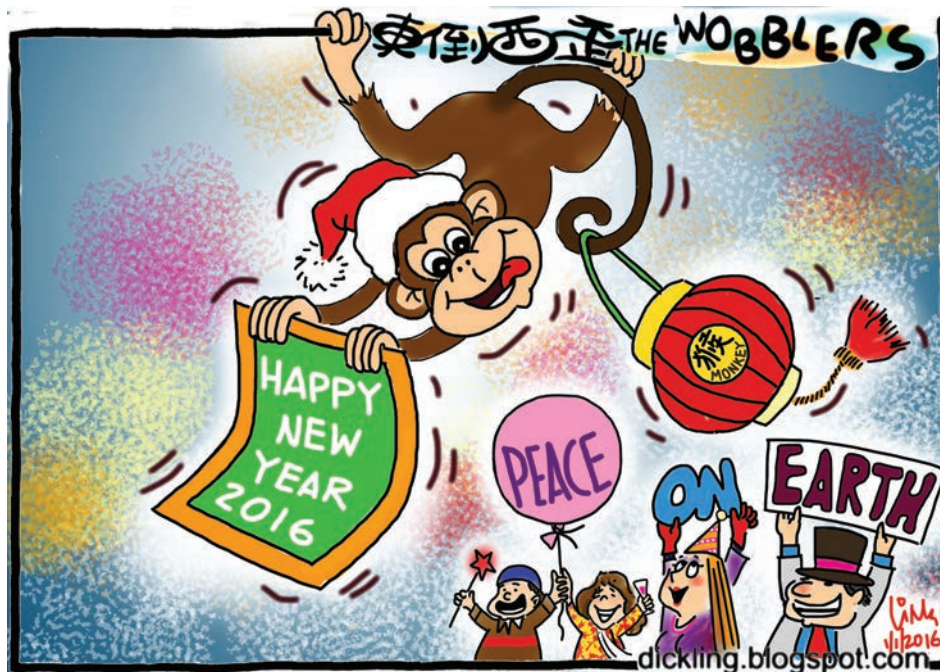
Petition Didn't Represent Majority

I was more than a little perplexed by your front-page story about a 700-signature

petition regarding Orinda's downtown. Although this represents less than four percent of our city's residents, the tenor of the article seemed to be that a "majority" of Orinda citizens are clamoring for major change in our city. While I agree that there is definitely room for improvement, I really don't think the bulk of Orindans want to see our little village turn into downtown Walnut Creek, with huge new condominium and apartment buildings blocking out our scenic views.

Indeed, if you go to the actual petition, you'll see that many people (most signers are apparently anonymous) really would just like to see a better array of restaurants and retail, and who can argue with that? But as even some of the signers wrote, be careful what you wish for.

There are a number of pro-development folks who will exploit this call for change, then insist the only way to "revitalize" is to bulldoze most of the existing downtown and put in huge multi-use buildings, with several floors of apartments over "commercial space." And though this space might allow for "new restaurants and retail," one only has to look at the thousands of square



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feet of still-unoccupied-after-five-years commercial space on the first floors of the Contra Costa Transit Centre in Pleasant Hill – a great example of what developers want to build in Orinda.

Just because you build new apartment complexes (as we've been told is the only way that downtown revival can "pencil out" financially) -- doesn't mean that you can somehow force great restaurants and trendy shops to fill those ground-floor spaces. Instead, you might get a lot of empty windows.

And at what cost? Do we really want an Orinda with limited vehicle access (as is

being suggested), so you'll have to park at one end of town and walk to do all your errands? How about parking meters and pay parking lots?

Just five years ago Orinda paid thousands of dollars for a "Retail Leakage Report," that said Orindans actually spend a surprisingly high percentage of their disposable income right in our town -- and that even adding 500 new apartments would be unlikely to increase sales tax revenues.

Let's all work together to improve Orinda while maintaining its small-town feel, and not just become yet another Walnut Creek.

–Frank Simons

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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 February issue are due **January 8, 2016**.


For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the February issue is January 8, 2016.

FILM / CITY COUNCIL



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

ON BALANCE



Tom Westlake

In December, I lamented the lack of things to talk about and locally playing films to recommend. But in the same column, I predicted that January would see a return to normalcy – and I was right.

The New Year sees the return of the International Film Showcase and the Classic Film Showcase will continue to feature its free movies. January also sees the return of a fairly new feature at the Rheem, where the mysterious Lord Blood-Rah will host a quartet of science fiction classics.

Starting with the Classic Film Showcase, we have *Tootsie*. For as long as there's been theatre, gender switching has been a sub-trope, usually farcical in nature. And gender bending in film is no exception (even Cary Grant did it!), but rare is the movie that adds poignancy and social commentary into the mix. This alone should make it worth your while to check it out. That it has a stellar cast (Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange and Teri Garr) makes it even more desirable. Directed with flair by Sydney Pollack – who is also featured in the cast – there's enough comedy to keep you amused but there's also enough to chew on once the lights go up. Coming as close to a perfect comedy as any I can think of, it will screen at the Orinda Theatre on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. Admission free.

Next is that quartet of sci-fi films and this Lord Blood-Rah has a lot to answer for. Not only is he completely stealing away our Saturday afternoon, but he's doing it in the most enjoyable way by showing four classic films, made from 1951 to 1960.

Unsure at this time what order he's showing them in, I will list them in chronological order, starting with *When Worlds Collide*. Like so many movies during this time, the legendary George Pal (as producer) had a hand in this movie's making. Now more than ever, this film feels relevant (though to be fair, we're more worried about meteors and asteroids than we are whole planets).

Next is *The Incredible Shrinking Man*. Using radioactivity as the bad guy, our hero sails through a mysterious mist, causing him to lose stature in more ways than one. This movie is notable for its oversized props and for making cats and spiders even more terrifying than they already are. But this is more than a simple sci-fi high concept. There's a real heart and soul that just might put a lump in your throat at film's end. Then, there's the 1958 version of *The Fly*. Starring Vincent Price, who takes the idea of animal husbandry to new heights, a case could be made for pairing this and the *Shrinking Man* together – and in a way they did, only we now know it as *Ant-Man* (2015).

Lastly, there's *The Time Machine*. Another George Pal presentation (this time as director), the film finds Rod Taylor as H.G Wells, traveling all over the place, mostly to the future, and finding disappointment, not to mention a bunch of monsters with questionable culinary tastes. Complacency has always been a problem and it's telling that we need a science fiction film to bring it to our attention. But bring it, it does. After


[SEE FILM page 14]

City Council Members Acknowledge Service of Dean Orr



DAVID DIERKS

City Councilmembers present a recognition award to out-going Mayor **Dean Orr** (center) at the December 1 City Council meeting. Pictured are (L-R) incoming Mayor **Victoria Smith**, councilmembers **Darlene Gee, Orr, Amy Worth** and incoming Vice Mayor **Eve Phillips**.



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POLICE BLOTTER

November, 2015

Burglary, Auto: 7 incidents: Wagner Ranch Elementary, Southwaite Ct., Loma Vista Dr., Country Club Plaza, Orinda Theatre, Village Square Shopping Center and Irwin Way.

Grand Theft: 1 incident: Northwood Dr.

Hit and Run Misdemeanor: 4 incidents: Glorietta Blvd., Oak Rd., Scenic Dr. and Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.

Identity Theft: 3 incidents: Lavina Ct. (2) and Oak Dr.

Petty Theft: 5 incidents: Williams Ct., Evergreen Dr., Altarinda Rd./Orindawoods, Stanton Ct. and Counter Report at Orinda PD.

Shoplift: 1 incident: Orinda Way.

Traffic Collision Property Damage: 1 incident: Knickerbocker Ln.

Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents: Orinda Theatre and St. Stephens Dr.

Arrests

Possession of Burglary Tools: 1 arrest: Chevron.

Stolen Vehicle Arrest: 1 arrest: Camino Encinas.

Shoplift: 1 arrest: Safeway.

Warrant Arrest: 5 arrests: Beverages and More, Tahos Rd./St. Stephens Dr., Orinda Way, Moraga Way and Lavenida Dr.

Orinda BART Station

Catalytic Theft: 1 incident.

— Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor



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Every Student Succeeds Now Law

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

Two weeks prior to Christmas President Obama signed into law the new bipartisan education bill called the "Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)." The new law replaces the federal education statute called No Child Left Behind (NCLB) which Congress created in 2001.

NCLB was a bi-partisan attempt that aimed to improve education based on the idea that setting high standards and establishing measureable goals can improve individual student learning outcomes. Proposed by President George W. Bush and co-authored among others by George Miller (D-CA) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA), the NCLB greatly expanded the federal role in education by tying federal education funding for states to annual tests of basic skills. The law did not assert national achievement

standards; each state developed its own standards.

The new law makes significant changes in federal education policy extending beyond the past decade. It returns power to the states to determine how to improve poorly performing schools, and curbs the authority of the U.S. secretary of education. "ESSA maintains annual testing to identify groups of students who are failing, but empowers states to come up with their own standards, and determine how to overhaul schools that don't make the grade," according to Douglas Belkin of the *Wall Street Journal*.



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SALLY HOGARTY

Tazze, Richard Westin's 10-year-old Aussie-Doodle, just couldn't resist the water in the Library Plaza fountain in December.

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ROADS

City Staff Looking for Funding Sources for Next Phase of Road Repairs

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

As the City of Orinda enters Phase 3 of its four-phase Road and Drain Repairs Plan, which began in 2012, city staff must grapple with how to pay for the much needed repairs to its deteriorating infrastructure. The latest funding goal for Phase 3 of the plan requires \$46 million dollars.

In January, the city will perform phone polling to determine the community's feelings on various funding options. Mayor Victoria Smith said, "The best revenue measure is the one the voters will support."

The current funding options include: city sales tax, parcel tax, ad valorem tax (on property), real estate transfer tax and utility tax. The sales tax and utility tax can be passed with a simple majority if the proceeds are for general purposes. The real estate transfer tax requires a majority to pass, however, only charter cities can levy this tax and Orinda is not a charter city. An election to become a charter city can only be held in November in even numbered years. This would necessitate putting Phase 3 on hold until after that election. The parcel tax and ad valorem tax both require a two-thirds majority to pass and the proceeds are legally restricted to a particular use.

In November, the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) presented three options for road work in Phase 3. Option A continues the plan as is with no changes. The current plan aims to get the average of all roads up to a "good" status

(not all roads will be repaired under this plan). Option B changes the requirements to get an average of all to "very good" status, giving an average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 70 (again, not all streets will be improved). Option C moves all roads up to a "good" status with all roads having a minimum PCI of 50.

Each scenario can be completed in either an eight-year or a 10-year period. CIOC Chair Terry Murphy said, "We had to ask ourselves what would be best for our neighbors, the people of Orinda, and what would be best for the City of Orinda. We voted unanimously for us to go with Option C." Councilmember Darlene Gee added, "A good plan evolves. A good plan has to be revisited. Every member of this community wants their road to be in good shape. We need good roads, and we deserve it."

When Orinda incorporated in 1986, it inherited 92.5 miles of publicly maintained roads from the county, many of which were in need of repair. Given the new city's budget limitations, adequate road maintenance became impossible to accomplish with Orinda's roads falling into poor conditions. By 2012, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission listed Orinda roads as the fifth lowest among all Bay Area cities and counties with 53 percent listed as "poor" or "failed."

Working in four projected phases, the current plan seeks to improve the average of Orinda's roads up to the good or excellent range, giving them a PCI of 50+. Phase 1 began in 2012, when voters passed Measure

[SEE ROADS page 12]

2015 Mayor's Award for Excellence Recipients



DAVID DIERKS

The 2015 Mayor's Award for Excellence recipient is the Public Works and Engineering Services. Top row Director of Public Works and Engineering Services **Chuck Swanson**, Senior Civil Engineer **Larry Theis**, City Councilmembers **Victoria Smith**, and **Amy Worth**; front row: City Councilmembers **Darlene Gee**, **Eve Phillips**, out-going Mayor **Dean Orr**, Public Works Inspector **Tod Fierner** and Public Works Supervisor **Bryan Rowe**.



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OBITUARY

◆ OA from page 1

of promoting volunteerism and public awareness in Orinda. From establishing the Neighborhood Awareness Program for crime prevention to helping develop Orinda's general plan to honoring the Volunteer of the Year and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award, the OA has its roots firmly planted in the fertile soil of volunteer opportunities.

With its new mission, the OA changed its nonprofit designation from the more political 501.c.4 to a 501.c.3 organization, and in April of 2002, it opened the Volunteer Center at its current location in the library plaza. "With the opening of the new library complex, the OA was given the opportunity and challenge to set up and run the first Orinda Volunteer Center," says past OA president Kate Wiley. "We also offered other Orinda non-profits our brick and mortar site as a place where citizens could learn about their upcoming fundraisers, programs and a place to purchase tickets to events. The center, being open M-F, 9 - 4 p.m. also became a natural repository for

donated items, such as soccer uniforms for our Soccer for All program or eye glasses for the Lion's Club. Many newcomers stop by to learn more about their new community so we've become a disseminator for information as well."

As publisher of *The Orinda News* (which has published off and on since 1927!), the OA increased the newspaper from a quarterly publication to a monthly, giving local residents more timely access to local news and events.

Part of the OA's commitment to the local community is its sponsoring of various public forums. During elections for City Council and the Orinda Union School Board, the OA routinely offers a venue for local residents to hear nominees' positions and ask questions. The OA is currently planning a public forum on how to finance repairs for Orinda's deteriorating roads.

As 2016 unfolds, the OA will continue to look for ways to serve local residents. For further information on the OA or to serve on its board, call 925-254-0800, go to www.orindaassociation.org or visit the OA on Facebook.

Michael Lynn Emmons: A Prince in Plain Clothes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael Lynn Emmons: June 13, 1941 - Nov. 27, 2015

Michael Lynn Emmons passed away from a heart condition that shadowed him in recent years. He was on a sunny afternoon walk around Lake Cascade in Orinda with lifelong love, his wife of over 52 years and best friend, Gail Emmons.

For those who never met Mike, he can be summed up in two words: humility and generosity. A prince in plain clothes, his view of the world filled many of us with the joy he felt every waking minute. With an insatiable thirst for knowledge, few could match his command for recalling historical events as if reading from a book. Fewer still could match a willingness to listen, no matter how trivial the agenda. In his eyes, you were the only person in the room.

Mike's drive to give back and contribute benefited several worthy organizations. He made a lasting impact through key policy decisions and strategic direction for Black Butte Ranch, Mentor Corporation and the Deschutes Land Trust. He was a strong supporter of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, Friends of Orinda Library, EFO Orinda Schools, Orinda Baseball, Lamorinda Water Polo, the Orinda Garden Club and the Presidio School in San Francisco.

Though he never bragged, Mike was an All-American for Albany High Football and 1960 NCAA Champion at the University of Washington from which he graduated with B.A. and law degrees.

On June 14, 1963, Mike married the love of his life, Gail Williams of Corval-

lis, Oregon.

After earning a master's in tax law from NYU, he joined Arthur Andersen out of Portland in 1967. Making partner in 1975, the family lived overseas twice during his 34-year career. Hong Kong became home 1974-1978, where Mike was president of the American Chamber of Commerce. He joined the Tokyo office from 1990-1993. Living overseas had a lasting impact on daughters Lisa and April, fostering a shared passion for adventure travel.

After retirement in July 2001, Mike worked in the Bay Area, forming an in-house worldwide tax organization for Andersen Consulting. His team helped construct a strategic plan to reorganize what emerged as the world's leading consulting firm: Accenture. Mike was among key executives to ring the bell on Wall Street July 2001 when Accenture, LLP listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Retirement followed, and he enjoyed extensive travel with Gail and family. Mike and Gail visited over 75 countries and all seven continents. Days in Orinda or their second home in Sisters, Oregon were filled with family time, fly-fishing, photography, flying his Cirrus Plane, hiking and golf. Mike fired a hole-in-one at Black Butte Ranch on August 1, 2013!

A supportive and endlessly proud husband, Mike captured memorable moments photographing Gail's Ikebana floral exhibitions and demonstrations. Known as BaBa to his grandchildren, he never missed an opportunity to attend and document their many birthdays, performances, musicals, concerts and sporting events.

Born June 13, 1941 in Salem, Oregon to C.S. and Mildred Emmons, Mike is survived by brother Terence and sister-in-law Victoria Emmons and sister Karen Emmons; brothers David and Pat, Jr. are deceased. Mike is also survived by his loving wife Gail Williams Emmons, daughters Lisa Emmons Hallahan and April Emmons Asai, sons-in-law Jack Hallahan and Hiroki Asai, and six grandchildren: Patrick Hallahan, Helena Hallahan, Griffith Hallahan, Niko Asai, Kai Asai and Masa Asai.

Donations can be made to the Deschutes Land Trust: deschuteslandtrust.org/michael-emmons

You can find this tribute on Google Docs at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W5qLLc1OW0c4bkr9UX7DObbvLPm-cWXuowEpEcUfUR-I/edit?usp=sharing>.

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Do you make New Year's resolutions? What worked well in the past and what do you resolve to do better this year?

Charlie Jarrett



"To take my cell phone and lock it in my glove box before any drives that I take so that I have no cellphone to play with while I'm in the car and driving," says Orinda resident Patty Hung. "Even if the phone rings while in my glove box, I have to wait until I have stopped my car and turned it off before I can access my phone. You see, the key to my glovebox will be on my car keychain, which will be in the ignition while I'm driving!"



CHARLIE JARRETT

Patty Hung and Linda Stepanek.

Linda Stepanek, an Orinda resident for 28 years, says, "I have not made any resolutions, but along the same line, whenever we leave the house for dinner or an outing, I propose to leave the phone at home, as long as I am sure I won't need it for an emergency or when I know someone has to reach us."

"I never did much physical exercise at all," says Orinda resident Wendy Herman.



CHARLIE JARRETT

Orinda resident Wendy Herman.

"After moving to California to live with my brother, however, I've gone into training with a physical trainer (Andre). I work out with him three times each week. I am now getting my muscles in shape and toned up. I have resolved in the new year to keep it up to stay in good physical shape!"



CHARLIE JARRETT

(L-R) Saudia Ooyshee, her daughter Audree Haque and husband Asif Haque.

Saudia Ooyshee comments: "My resolution that I have always made, since I had my children, is to work out in the gym and lose some weight, but so far I've not stuck with that as well as I want to. My other resolution, especially for this next year, is to work on my frustrations and anger."

Her husband Asif Haque adds, "My wife tries very hard, but with two very small children in the home under feet, it is hard for her! We will work together towards that goal. We moved to Orinda recently and love this community. Orinda is a great place to raise children and the schools are very good!"

Orinda Woman's Club



CHARLIE JARRETT

Santa seems right at home walking down the runway with a beautiful model at the Orinda Woman Club's annual Festival of Trees fundraiser on Nov. 20 at the San Ramon Marriott. The event raised \$35,000 for beneficiaries including White Pony Express and SEEDS Restorative Justice program.



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Local Songstress Releases CD that Benefits Kids

Local singer Leslie Darwin held a CD release party at Orinda Books on Dec. 6 for a very special album. *Merry Christmas from Terry's Kids* features local artists as well as Grammy Award-winning musicians with the sales benefiting the Terry's Kids Foundation, a non-profit program that provides music education and performance opportunities to kids everywhere. Local beneficiaries include Holden High School, as well as Mary Farmer and Robert Semple Elementary Schools in Benicia, California. The jazzy CD received an enthusiastic welcome from those attending the CD party.



SALLY HOGARTY
Orinda Resident **Leslie Darwin** signs CDs at the December release party at Orinda Books for *Merry Christmas from Terry's Kids*.

Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales

Show and Tell



Jennifer Conroy

Get out your calendars! Two big dates are coming up for you and the family. The 2016 Golden Gate Kennel Club All-Breed Dog Show is Jan. 30 and 31 at the Cow Palace in San Francisco and the Cat Fanciers Association have a show Feb. 20 and 21 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa.

The Golden Gate Kennel Club show is one of the few "benched" dog shows in the entire country. A benched show means that virtually all breeds of dogs will be represented. They will be waiting patiently in rooms adjoining the main arena where their owners, handlers and groomers will be combing, brushing, massaging, prying and otherwise going through various maneuvers to ensure their particular canine is show ready.

The show includes categories of obedience training, utility work, and conformation. So, what the heck does that all mean? Obedience is the basic standard of training that all well-mannered canines should display. It includes basic commands like "sit," "stay" and "come." Most local humane societies offer such training.

Utility work is more advanced, typically involving a bunch of gear, such as ramps and hurdles, and includes the use of hand signals. For this training, you need to contact a local dog club, preferably one that specializes in your breed, but mixed breed dogs can also learn and excel at utility work.

Conformation is, simply put, the canine beauty competition. There are strict conformation standards for purebred "show

dogs" that literally cover every inch of the dog from nose to tail.

These shows, alas, do not accept the all-American Heinz 57© dogs but for anyone interested in the dog world there is no better place to see uncommon breeds such as the nearly hairless Chinese Crested Dog or the giant woeful Irish Wolfhound all in one place. The fact that an all-breed benched show takes place right here in the Bay Area is a big deal. The most famous one, which is televised nationally, is the Westminster Kennel Club Show in New York City. But living here, it is well worth the trip to the Cow Palace to be able to walk among the beagles, poodles, terriers and retrievers, all hanging out together. If you want to prepare yourself, watch the movie *Best In Show* and you will find that the comic movie by Christopher Guest is very close to reality.

As for cat shows, one sponsored by the Cat Fanciers of America is an excellent introduction to the world of "cat fancy." Just a little tip – the Santa Rosa show, also an all-breed show, will have a cat costume contest and that alone may be worth the price of admission. But if that does not convince you, let me share that some of the staging for the cats is, well, out of this world. Cat kennels set up as mini castles with cats on thrones should be enough of a hint. The real treasure of an all-breed cat show is that you will have a chance to see Scottish folds, Manx cats, sphinx cats and standard tabbies beyond anything you have ever seen before.

For information, visit <http://www.gold-gatekennelclub.com> or <http://cfa.org>.



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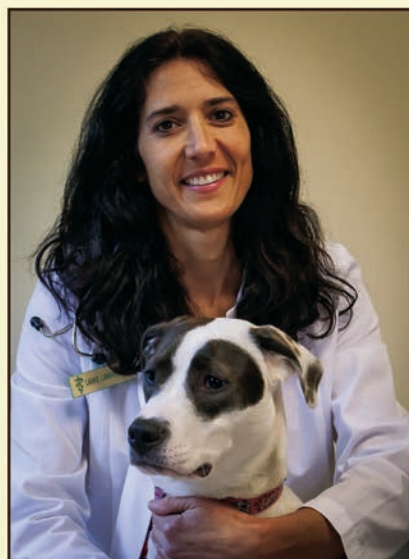
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Orinda Books' Marian Nielsen Wins James Patterson Award

Author James Patterson believes in supporting independent bookstores and established a Holiday Bonus in the amount of \$5,000 to be paid to a bookstore employee who helps to instill a love of books and reading in his/her customers. This year, the American Booksellers Association and Patterson selected Orinda Books' long-time employee Marian Nielsen as one of those selected to receive the award. According to Bookweb.org, Nielsen received nominations recognizing her as an "outstanding independent bookstore employee, one that was especially deserving of a holiday bonus this year."

According to Orinda Books owner Maria Roden, her staff as well as book club members, customers and friends all sent



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marian Nielsen, long-time employee of Orinda Books, also writes a book column for *The Orinda News*.

in nominations.

–Sally Hogarty, Editor



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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Orinda Junior Women's Club Announces Youth Ink 2016

By CHANTAL VALENTINE
Contributing Writer

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors) announces the prompt for this year's Youth Ink is "Future." The creative writing contest is open to middle school students who live or attend school in Orinda. This prompt was chosen because it encompasses almost limitless potential for subject matter, thereby, encouraging young writers to personalize their pieces.

A panel of several local professional writers, including reporters and best-selling novelists, will evaluate Youth Ink 2016 submissions and choose winners. Cash prizes of \$250, \$125 and \$75 will be awarded to the top three winners at an awards ceremony to be held on April 21.

Youth Ink 2016 submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis but must be hand-delivered to a designated school representative or postmarked by February 17 and mailed to Orinda Junior Women's Club, Post Office Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563. Youth Ink 2016 submission forms are available through the administrative offices and English departments at Orinda Intermediate School, the Orinda Public Library, Orinda Academy, Athenian School, School for Girls, or online at www.orindajuniors.org.

Co-sponsors of Youth Ink 2016 include The Orinda Association, Friends of the Orinda Library and The Orinda Community Foundation.

If you are interested in becoming an Orinda Juniors member or making a donation to the various service projects, email info@orindajuniors.org.

Brownie Troop Made the Holidays Joyful



MAI ANGSUPANICH

Girl Scout Brownie Troop 33321 (all 3rd graders from Glorietta Elementary School) made their annual visit to the Orinda Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital to spread holiday cheer with caroling and festive crafts.

Four Year Olds Help the Homeless



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngsters from the Old Firehouse Preschool in Lafayette held a bake sale to raise money for the homeless. They raised \$140! Shown are (L-R) **Quinn Curley, Elsa Stratford** and **Mari Beltramo**.

Sister-to-Sister Hosts Three Super Sunday Sessions

By Chris Laszcz-Davis
Contributing Writer

Parents, it's time to register your middle school daughter for Sister-to-Sister's three Super Sunday sessions on Feb. 7, Feb. 28 and March 13. Sister-to-Sister is a community outreach program of the American Association of University of Women-Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette branch (AAUW-OML) that connects middle and high school girls in a supportive environment to address both the empowering and challenging aspects of adolescence. The program equips girls with the confidence and the skills they need to make positive choices in their lives.


High school girls have been preparing for the sessions this fall in trainings conducted by AAUW. They acquire leadership and facilitation skills while deconstructing cultural messages and stereotypes as well as the pressures of being a girl in today's culture. They eagerly anticipate meeting

their "little sisters" and sharing what they have learned at the Super Sunday Sessions that begin in February.

As the younger girls share what's bugging them, they discover they are not alone and have a lot in common with all girls. They become friends as they share their stories and strategize solutions. They are often surprised to hear how much better life is in high school as the older girls address their questions and concerns.

To learn more about Sister-to-Sister, visit AAUW's website at www.oml-ca.aauw.net/s2s/. Registration is now open and is available online. Deadline is Feb. 1. For more information, call Laura Wittenberg at 925-788-0901 or Valarie Burgess at 925-997-0118.

The AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For 134 years, the women have worked as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.



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CLASSIFIED

◆ AWARDS from page 1

raising four children with her husband, Skip. She also found time to organize Girl Scouts for Christmas caroling around the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood and set up book readers at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School as well as new family welcome packets. "I remember when we first moved here, I was pregnant with our first child, Caroline, who is now a freshman in college," says Tague. "It was really difficult to figure out where everything was and how to get started in a new community. I wanted to support other new families by establishing a welcome packet and a picnic at Sleepy Hollow. Now others continue the tradition."

However, Tague's biggest contribution to Orinda and beyond is the establishment of POISE (Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education) in 2009. The organization provides support, information and mentorship for families with special needs children. The impetus for POISE was the diagnosis of the Tague's youngest daughter Nicole with Phelan McDermid Syndrome, a rare genetic/chromosome deletion syndrome affecting approximately 1,300 people worldwide.

When Nicole started Orinda Intermediate School a few years ago, Tague became involved with the school's Diverse Abilities Awareness Week (DAAW). While impressed with the school's commitment to educating students about different challenges as well as learning styles and physical impairments, she felt it should go a step further and include parents and the community. With help from others, she established an open house during DAAW that includes hands-on activities and the popular wheelchair basketball game. In addition to organizing the open house each year, Tague continues her work with special needs children as a trained parent mentor for families of newly diagnosed special needs children through CARE parent network.

"I believe it's all about making connections and supporting the community," says the OA's 2015 Volunteer of the Year.

William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award

When Sue Severson was mayor in 2009, the recession had hit the City of Orinda hard, forcing the City Council to cut all non-essential services. One of those services involved supporting community groups and events. "I really hated to take support away from our local groups and events such as the Fourth of July parade so I decided to see if private funds could be raised to replace the approximately \$20,000 the city had contributed," recalls Severson. She, along with Richard Westin, Carol Penskar, Dick Burkhalter and Paula

Goodwin, launched the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) and raised close to \$40,000 that first year.

Committed to enhancing the quality of life in Orinda by encouraging philanthropy, building partnerships and providing financial assistance to support not only community activities but also the arts and beautification of the city, the OCF has contributed more than \$150,000 in its five-plus years and has created a reserve for the renovation of the entrance to Orinda, one of its long-term projects.

OCF has given grants to such groups as the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, Fourth of July Parade, Orinda Idol and Concerts in the Park, however, it's the organization's commitment to local garden clubs and the establishment of Orinda Action Day that earned it the OA's 2015 William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award.

Orinda's four, very busy garden clubs beautify outdoor areas in the downtown district with native plants, while Orinda Action Day has become a much-anticipated community event every year. Usually held on a Saturday in April, the work day draws hundreds of volunteers, including many families with young children, who pick up trash, weed flowerbeds, clean up the creek and do whatever is necessary to make Orinda a more beautiful and healthy environment for residents.

Anna Tague and members of the OCF will be honored for their contributions to the community at a gala dinner on Feb. 21, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Orinda Country

Club. For more information and reservations, call the OA office at 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org. For more information, visit the OA's website at www.orindaassociation.org or on Facebook at Orinda Association.

◆ ROADS from page 7

L, a temporary one-half cent sales tax. The one-half cent sales tax generated \$964,000 in 2013 and \$1.05 million in 2014. Measure L expires in 2022. Phase 2 began in 2014 with the passage of Measure J, a \$20 million Bond Fund. These monies will be used to improve Orinda's residential roads with a PCI less than 25, prioritized by traffic volume. These two measures will raise approximately \$30 million over the life of the Road and Drain Repairs Plan.

Created in 2004, the CIOC reviews the conditions of Orinda's road system, and as an advisory committee, works with the Public Works Department to analyze road repair progress and give the City Council recommendations on which roads should be given priority for repair.

Orinda's 92.5 miles of paved publicly maintained roads are divided into four classes: Arterials (major through roads expected to carry large volumes of traffic), Collectors (collect traffic from local roads and deliver it to arterials), Urban Local (seven, previously referred to as School Routes) and Residential. Prior to the adoption of the Road and Drain Repairs Plan, 21 miles had a PCI less than 24 and were rated in very poor or failed condition.

Thirty-three miles had a PCI of between 25 and 49, a poor condition. Ten miles had a PCI of 50-69 and were rated good. Fifteen miles of road had a PCI of 70-89 and received a very good rating. The remaining 13 miles had a greater than 90 PCI and were rated excellent.

Orinda spends an average of \$2.3 million per year on street maintenance and repairs under the Pavement Rehabilitation Program (this program is not related to the Road and Drain Repairs Plan). Most of these funds (about \$1.5 million) are generated by gas taxes, countywide transportation sales tax and grant revenues from county and federal sources. The rest of the funds come from Orinda's General Fund and Garbage Franchise Fees (about \$0.8 million). Prior to the 10-year plan, Orinda focused on repairing arterials, collectors and school routes, as these streets affect the greatest number of users. No monies were used to repair residential roads except for emergency repairs.

Phase 3 begins in 2018 and requires either \$47.75 million to be generated to complete the 10-year plan or \$46.37 million to be generated to complete the 8-year plan. Phase 4, scheduled for 2022, will address the need for additional funds to maintain Orinda's roads after they have been repaired to ensure all roads maintain their PCI. The current estimate to maintain the roads is \$2.8 to \$3 million per year, but this will increase due to inflation.

For more information, visit www.cityoforinda.org and click on Roads & Infrastructure.

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classified ads

Household Service

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Instruction

French and Italian Conversation Classes starting in January at the Orinda Community Center. Tel. (925) 254-2445. www.cityoforinda.org.

Sharlyn's Dance Experience: Tap, Jazz, Hip-hop & Broadway Styles. Ages 4-18, Masonic Center, Orinda. Contact: Sharlyn, 510-913-8877. Free Class for new students!

Services

Rain gutter Cleaning. Roof cleaning, overhanging branches trimmed. Charles (h) 925-254-5533 or (c) 925-528-9385.

Wanted

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

2016 Publication Schedule Orinda News classified ads ...

Table with Issue and Deadline columns for February and March 2016.

Your ad in The Orinda News reaches 9,000 households and businesses in Orinda!

Ad rates are \$5 per line - \$10 minimum

There are 32 spaces per line. Count each letter, punctuation mark, and space between words.

Categories

- For Sale: Cars, Musical Instruments, Sports Equipment, Miscellaneous
• Help Wanted
• Household Services: Caregivers, Domestic, House-Sitting
• Instruction: Music Lessons, Tutors, Miscellaneous
• Pets: Pet Care
• Rentals
• Services: Vacation Rentals/ Home Exchanges
• Wanted

Name _____ Category _____
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City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

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

Grid for writing classified ad content.

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

CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

January

- 3 **Orinda Library Gallery** presents *Ting in the New Year with Exhibit By Women Artists* through January. Artist reception on Jan. 9, 2 to 4:30 p.m., features light refreshments and music. See article, p. 2.
- Moraga Art Gallery** presents *Yellowstone: Beauty, Beasts and Boneyards*, oil paintings by Orinda resident Lisa Gunn, through Jan. 9, at 510 Center St., Moraga. Visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call 925-376-5407.
- 7 **Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for children aged 2 to 4, every Thursday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 925-254-7606.
- 8 **First Friday Forum** features Dr. Scott Stephens talking on "Fire and climate change in the Sierra Nevada: There is hope for our future forests," Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 1:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- 9 **Orinda Books** hosts Jennifer Dodd talking about her new book, *Love According to Cosmo*, 276 Village Square, 11 a.m. Call 925-254-7606.
- 10 **Orinda Community Church** hosts a discussion on religious bias in the U.S., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 10 Irwin Way. Call 925-528-8077 or visit www.orindachurch.org.
- Orinda Books** hosts chef Charlie Vollmar in a cooking demonstration and luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Call 925-254-7606 to sign up.
- 13 **The Second Wednesday Book Group** will discuss James Salter's *All That Is*, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. The group meets monthly and welcomes new members.
- 14 **California Independent Film Festival** presents *Tootsie*, Orinda Theater, 7 p.m. Free. Visit <http://www.caiff.org/#!events/c17as>.
- Orinda Books** hosts "An Educational Happy Hour" for teachers and librarians, featuring new spring titles and how the bookstore can help teachers' and librarians' programs, 276 Village Square, 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.
- 19 **The World Affairs Book Group** will discuss *The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster* by Jonathan Katz, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. New members welcome. Call 925-254-7606.
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)**, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch, presents *The Empathy Gap*, a movie that examines the "masculine script" taught by popular culture. Social time at 9:15 a.m., movie airs at 9:45 a.m. at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School St., Moraga.
- 29 **Orinda Books** hosts Sherri Lynn Wood discussing her book, *The Improv Handbook for Modern Quilters: A Guide to Creating, Quilting, and Living Courageously*, 276 Village Square, 11 a.m.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. The library will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year's Day and Jan. 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccplib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 12 **Toddler Lapsit**. Stories and songs for children aged 1 to 3 and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required, but attendance limited to once per week. Also Jan. 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27.
- Peek-A-Boo Time**. Story time for children ages 0 to 5, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also Jan. 19 and 26.
- 13 **Angel Azul**: Awarded winning documentary exploring the work of Jason de Caires, an artist who creates artificial coral reefs from statues cast from live models. Narrated by Peter Coyote. Screening followed by discussion with director Marcy Cravat. (2014, 74 min.) 6-8 p.m. Auditorium. Free and no registration required.
- 15 **Mystery Book Club**. Members discuss the latest mystery, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult event.
- 16 **SAT/ACT practice exam**. Practice your chosen exam in a realistic test setting offered by C2 Education. Test results consultation available in the Lafayette location. Free, Registration required. 10 a.m.-2p.m. Garden Room.
- Saturday Morning Live!** Story time for children aged 3 to 5, Picture Book area, 11 a.m. Also Jan. 23 and 30.
- 19 **Orinda Library Math Lounge**. Free drop-in math tutoring every Tuesday sponsored by MathElf. Professional tutors consulted through MathElf iPad app. iPads provided, in a fun, pressure-free environment. Free and open to all local students. 3:30-5:30 Gallery Room. Also January 26.
- 20 **Orinda Library TAG meeting**. Join the Teen Advisory Group and help the library while having fun! Fun activities and help guide the library's teen collection and events. Free and open to teens who live or go to school in Orinda. 4-5 p.m. in Gallery room.
- 28 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**. A monthly story swap keeping the oral tradition alive, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m. Adult and teen event.

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 gcmzee@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.

First Forum Focuses on Wildland Fire

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The First Friday Forum will be on Jan. 8, as the first Friday is New Year's Day. The forum will be held at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, at 1:30 p.m. with refreshments beforehand at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Dr. Scott Stephens will speak on "Fire and climate change in the Sierra Nevada: There is hope for our future forests."

"I am interested in the interactions of wildland fires and ecosystems," said Stephens. "This includes how prehistoric fires once interacted with ecosystems; how current wildland fires are affecting ecosystems; and how future fires and management

[SEE FORUM page 14]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Scott Stephens speaks on fire and climate change at the Jan. 8 forum.

- 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. Sarah Malone will talk on Form and Foliage.
- 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 Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 925-254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. 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., Camellia Room, Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek, <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/walnut-creek-garden-club> or mslittle44@gmail.com. JanGardens of Giverny, France. Michael Stehr, art historian and tour guide will talk on "Gardens of Giverny, France," focusing on Claude Monet's paintings.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

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Move of the Month

One Legged Inchworm on Stability Ball

This exercise strengthens the core and the hip flexor; it also requires stability.

Starting Position

- Place the hands about shoulder width on the ground
- Lay the shins onto the gym ball. Your legs are stretched out. Balance your body
- Lift one leg
- Hold the back straight and the hip up



Correct Execution

- Angle the leg which lies on the ball and pull it in hip direction
- The gym ball rolls in hip direction, too
- Pull the leg forwards until it is vertical to the ground
- The ball is under your foot in the final position, hold it for a bit
- Stretch the leg out again and roll the ball back into the starting position
- The upper body is stable and straight during this exercise
- Repeat this several times, also with your other leg

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

Wilder Scoreboard All Lit Up



SALLY HOGARTY
Members of the **Orinda City Council**, **City Staff** and **Orinda Rotary** light up the new scoreboard at Wilder on Field #2. The board was donated by the Orinda Rotary Club, Orinda Community Foundation and Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation.

◆ FILM from page 5

watching this movie, if you feel compelled to take action, then I can only comment that the film has done its job. It's playing at the Rheem on Jan. 16. Check the website for exact show times.

Finally, we jump ahead to the week of Jan. 29 when Efi Lubliner and Jo Alice Canterbury introduce you to *A Brilliant Young Mind* (aka: X+Y). This film, uncharacteristically hailing from the far-flung shores of the U.S.A., is not the prequel to *A Beautiful Mind* though it shares many of the themes from that 2001 film. In this one, Asa Butterfield (*Ender's Game*, *Hugo*) plays an autistic mathematical genius, who is mentored by an equally troubled,

unconventional teacher suffering from cystic fibrosis. Autism is a difficult thing to "get right" on film, mainly because it's such a wide-ranging topic. But, since it's Efi and Jo Alice bringing it to us, clearly they felt strongly enough about the movie to want us to see it. It's playing on Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre. To find out more, go to www.internationalshowcase.org.

I can't think of a better way to start the year than to sample the bountiful harvest detailed above. And, if this is any indication, the rest of the year will surely be one for the record books. I can hardly wait, but I guess I'll have to. Until then, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

◆ FORUM from page 13

may change this interaction. I'm also looking into how fire will be affected by climate change as a new area of research."

Wildland fires typically have very complex behaviors and are affected by changes in fuels, topography, weather and ignition patterns. This diverse behavior produces equally diverse effects.

"We know how to restore frequent fire-adapted forests, with generally positive or neutral ecological effects," said Stephens. "Today's challenge is to move more quickly to restore large areas of these ecosystems. The next two to three decades are absolutely critical in terms of restoration. If we are unable to restore frequent fire-adapted ecosystems, wildfires will change these landscapes with outcomes that are very undesirable. In the 50 to 100 years when our grandkids are having families, I hope that they will be able to enjoy these forests

and their associate ecosystem services similarly to what we have experienced. This is possible."

Stephens holds a Ph.D. in Wildland Resource Science from U.C. Berkeley and received a Fulbright Fellowship in 2014 to western Australia. He is a certified senior fire ecologist and received the Environment Science Policy and Management Department teaching award for his fire science class.

Stephen visited the White House in November of 2015 as a speaker in the Fire Chiefs' White House Roundtable on "How Climate Change Impacts the Wildland Urban Interface." Hosted by Vice President Joe Biden, the roundtable focused on how climate change is impacting the number, frequency and intensity of wildfires in the U.S. and how we can better manage the wildland/urban interface going forward.

For more information, call 925-283-8722.



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— Christine Muhawieh



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 16

straighter hair and want to spend less time styling in the morning.”

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VALERIE HOTZ

Orinda Hair Studio owner **Afiza Noor** (L) and stylist **Ashley Smith**.

Hair Studio is an ideal venue for a Sweet Sixteen party, Bridal Shower or any party celebration. “It is so much fun coming to work every day because everyone is excep-

tionally friendly,” says Smith. “We love the Orinda community and enjoy our work.”

An avid gardener, Smith grows squash, green beans, lettuce, herbs, carrots, beets – you name it. Her favorite activities include taking her eight-year-old daughter Madeline to the steam trains in Tilden Park and going to movies. “We are going to learn to ice skate this winter,” says Smith.

Esthetician Aurea Fonseca-Geen offers waxing, facials and massage by appointment. The image skin care product line may be purchased here, as well as the Kevin Murphy line of shampoo, conditioner, gels and sprays. Manicures and pedicures by Kim require an appointment.

All stylists at Orinda Hair Studio are independent operators and Mauldin is only available on Sunday. “Generally we are open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. While we prefer clients call for an appointment, we do welcome walk-ins,” says Smith. For more information, call 925-254-5575. To reach Smith directly, call 510-367-4135.

Chamber Ribbon Cutting for New 4th Bore Tap Room and Grill



SALLY HOGARTY

Members of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and City Staff attended the ribbon cutting for the 4th Bore Tap Room and Grill in Theatre Square. Cutting the ribbon are (L-R) 4th Bore co-owner **J.J. Phair** (green jacket) Mayor **Victoria Smith**, 4th Bore co-owner **Michael Karp** and Chef **Jonathan Williams**. The new restaurant replaces Barbacoa, which was also owned by Karp, and will feature craft beer and a year-round beer garden.

Holiday Bazaar Fun



JENNIFER WEISS

Once again, the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary's Holiday Bazaar was a huge success. Not only did lots of holiday shopping take place but many youngsters told Santa their holiday wishes.

Happy New Year!
Wishing you the best in 2016!

Clients Are Always First



Suzanne Toner Geoffrion
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home/made kitchen Offers Catering Services

Lamorindans have lucked out with the expansion of a delightful eatery, home/made kitchen, located at 337 Rheem Boulevard, adjacent to 24 Hour Fitness in Moraga. If you have not yet had a chance to stop in for breakfast – brunch is offered on Saturday and Sunday – you need to make this part of your New Year’s resolution for 2016.

Owners Gayle Somers and Aly Dean Miller bring Truckee ambience to our neighborhood with attractive décor fea-

turing oak tables, ladder-back chairs and concrete flooring. Enjoy the Bay Area’s fresh air and Moraga’s scenic hillsides in the outdoor seating area cordoned off with white patio lights, complemented by water bowls filled to the brim for pooch and special in-house doggie treats. This is definitely a breakfast or coffee destination for cyclists.

“We offer creative menus such as our mouth-watering Papaya Boat, a Home-made Granola with Organic Yogurt and a drizzle of honey in half of a papaya, Organic Blueberry Buttermilk Pancakes or Market Quiche served with organic greens and house vinaigrette,” says Somers. “We are the only restaurant to serve four Barrel Coffee.” The coffee bar offers scones, cookies, coffee cake and muffins with names like Raspberry Oat Morning Glory and Bacon, Cheddar and Chive. Make plans to spend date night at home/made kitchen on Fridays. This is the only night of the week you can drop in between 5:30 and 8 p.m. for dinner.

The rest of the week you can rely on a take-away dinner menu. Delectable offerings include the Home-Made Kitchen Chicken Pot Pie, Mom’s Meatloaf with Garlic Mashed Potatoes, as well as traditional Lasagna and Butternut Squash Lasagna.

Home/made kitchen provides exceptional catering services. “We can fulfill special

orders tailor-made for special events such as weddings, as well as in-home dinner parties,” says Somers. “Aly is an incredibly talented pastry chef who trained at the Culinary Academy. She makes amazing wedding cakes with intricate decorations, as well as all kinds of desserts.”

Prior to partnering with Dean Miller, Somers enjoyed a 30-year career in the fashion industry. She met her late husband, Steven, during a stint at Joseph Magnin. “As a buyer, I traveled extensively and enjoyed dining in fine restaurants around the world,” says Somers. “I have always been passionate about food. Friends asked me to cater events, and I kept getting bigger jobs, which led to Aly and I launching home/made kitchen.”

While managing a restaurant is a 24/7 proposition, Somers enjoys tending to her chickens, and especially landscaping and overseeing her vegetable garden. Currently on maternity leave with her first child, Dean Miller and her husband Todd savor spending time in the great outdoors.

To view the Friday night dinner menu and join the email list, visit www.home-madekitchen.com. Closed on Monday, home/made kitchen is open Tuesday through Sunday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., with table service starting at 8 a.m. Drop by for Happy Hour on Fridays only from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Friday dinner is served 5:30 to 8 p.m. Reservations are appreciated. Call 925-388-0841.

Blue Ridge Landscape Company, Inc.

With 30 years of experience in landscape building and design, Orindan Jay Feldman and his crew offer everything from nuts to bolts when it comes to installing gardens and hardscape features for Bay Area homeowners.

“We specialize in building hardscapes such as outdoor kitchens, fire pits, patios, low voltage lighting, decks, hot tubs, ponds, walkways as well as drip systems,” says Feldman. “Typically a homeowner will have a vision in mind, and we bring the heavy equipment to implement their concept in the garden.”

A native of Mendocino, Feldman’s mother owned an antique rose nursery, “Heirloom Roses.” His first job was with Quality Landscape Co., whose owner was the originator of the Botanical Garden in Fort Bragg. Fifteen years ago he established Blue Ridge Landscape and has been based in Orinda since 2006.

“We undertake everything from repairing a gate to installing a six-figure landscape for a brand new home. Several projects stand out for me, one of them being the Berkeley garden we installed that was featured in *Sunset* magazine a few years

ago,” says Feldman.

With California feeling the effects of a four-year long drought, Feldman reports water-conscious homeowners in the Bay Area are revamping their yards. “I provide drought-tolerant options and encourage how to control water seasonally, as well as installing drip irrigation,” says Feldman. “When it comes to vegetable gardens, we install raised beds and excellent fencing to keep deer out.” His firm also installs stonework, drainage and those challenging backyard projects such as hot tubs, fishponds and other water features.

Feldman’s wife, Julie, is a native of Great Britain and works for JP Morgan in San Francisco. The couple has two children. Ava is a freshman at Miramonte High School and Henry attends the sixth grade at Orinda Intermediate School. The family enjoys traveling and other special times include attending the antique fair at the former Naval Base in Alameda and go-kart racing with Henry.



home/made kitchen owners Valerie Hotz, Gayle Somers (L) and Aly Dean Miller.



Jay Feldman of Blue Ridge Landscaping.

For more information about Blue Ridge Landscape Company, Inc., visit www.blueridgelc.com. Contact Jay Feldman directly by calling 510-847-6160 or bump him an email at blue@blueridgelc.com.

Orinda Hair Studio at the Crossroads

Conveniently located at 41 Moraga Way, Orinda Hair Studio offers four experienced hair stylists, as well as manicure-pedicure, esthetician and masseuse services all under one roof. Owner operator Afiza Noor has been here since 1996, welcoming walk-ins as well as clients who call ahead for an appointment.

Bay Area native Ashley Smith joined hairstylists Noor, Justin Jay and Amy Mauldin last summer and specializes in color, men’s and women’s cuts and Dream Catcher’s extensions. “This is the only hair extension on the market that is non-damaging and promotes natural growth,” says Smith, who attended Miss Marty’s cosmetology school in San Francisco. “I recommend it for those who want fuller hair. It is especially beneficial for cancer patients who have lost their hair during chemotherapy. They can use hair extensions until it grows out again. I have clients who want the Brazilian Blow-Out. It is fun for those who want smoother, shinier and

[SEE BUZZ page 15]



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