



THE ORINDA NEWS

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4th of July Run Honors Those in Boston Marathon

By JOHN FAZEL
Contributing Writer

Running is one of the last truly innocent sports left as an everyday runner can run in the same race as world record holders. These elite runners will also be very gracious and congratulate the middle or back of the pack runners as he/she knows they are trying as hard as the front runners.

That innocence was damaged at the Boston Marathon this year. It has not, however, taken away our dedication to the one true sport – running. We start with a crawl as a baby; then take a few steps and then we are running. Many people stop running as they get older, but those of us with the inner child in us never stop until our bodies refuse to carry on.

When people ask why we run I say, “Running is an excuse to behave as children in a socially acceptable activity.” Have you ever seen kids playing and not run? Electronic toys excepted.

Our 30th Annual Fun Run and Haley’s Run for a Reason will honor those who ran the Boston Marathon by wearing Boston Marathon Colors (Blue and Yellow). I think UC Berkeley colors would be a suitable substitute. Even our Stanford friends will be happy to change colors for a day.

We have had many Lamorinda Area runners who have run Boston and would like to have them front and center for the start of the Boston Strong Fun Run even if they can’t run and want to walk part or all of it.

We are Runners - We are Strong! - We are Boston Strong!

Sleepy Hollow Celebrates with First Splash



CHARLIE JARRETT

Sleepy Hollow Swim Club made some big waves as it inaugurated its newly renovated pool with a First Splash party. See story page 7.

EFO’s Big Band Headlines in 4th of July Celebration

By BILL O’BRIAN
Staff Writer



SALLY HOGARTY

EFO’s Big Band headlines the concert in the park this 4th of July.

When most people hear big band music, they think of a different era such as the 1940s and 1950s when the sound was so popular. But the syncopated rhythms of that time have regained popularity and will be featured at this year’s 4th of July celebration.

Following the parade, the Educational Foundation of Orinda’s (EFO) Big Band will take center stage in Orinda Community Park. But instead of older musicians, the band is composed of mostly teenagers and twenty-somethings with a sprinkling of adults.

Comprised primarily of high school stu-
[SEE BAND page 22]

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Controversy Over Plan Bay Area Continues

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Plan Bay Area, an outline on how Bay Area communities can accommodate increased population over the next 25 years, remains a hot topic around Orinda. Members of Orinda Watch, a group opposed to the plan, and supporters of the plan continue to attend Orinda City Council meetings and speak during the public forum.

[SEE PLAN page 22]



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An OrindaVision concept for upscale condominiums and cafe/restaurant at the empty Phair’s site at Orinda Way and Avenida de Orinda.

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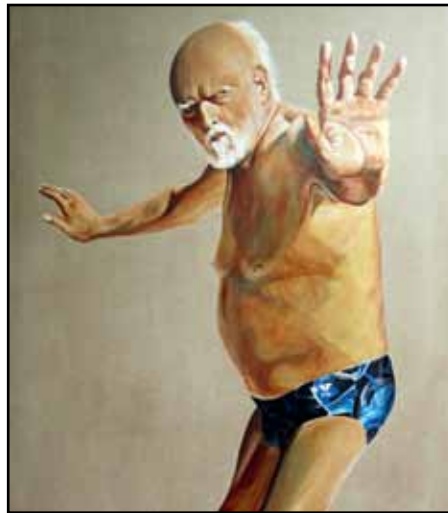
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VISUAL ARTS

Favorite People Paintings, Postcards from Honfleur, Glass Bead Baskets and Fumed Ceramics



KATH BALAMUTH

Kath Balamuth's *Favorite People Paintings* includes *Anna Marie* (left) and *Richard*. Both paintings are acrylic on linen and featured in the July exhibit.

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The July gallery smacks of summertime from Kath Balamuth's *Favorite People Paintings*, several of which portray locals in bathing suits, to Robbin Milne's *Postcards From Honfleur* in the famous Normandy harbor. Susan Wooten's Lilliputian glass bead baskets twinkle with Swarovski crystal, Japanese glass, gold and silver beads. Margo Scarpulla's love affair with clay takes the form of unglazed saggar-fired fumed vessels, where clouds of color float across each piece, and clay monotype collages. Come meet the artists at their reception on July 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. where light refreshments will be served and entertainment will be provided by Bryan Kemler and Ethan Stark. The duo plays lots of different instruments as well as writing their own lyrics.

Kath Balamuth of Orinda has been painting for 40 years, has a BA degree in Design from U.C. Berkeley and worked as a graphic designer for 30 years. Her paintings in the show are acrylic on linen, but she also paints with watercolors and pastels. Her theme, *Favorite People Paintings*, began in 2010 when she was taking a figure drawing class at Diablo Valley College. All but one

of her paintings are of folks from Oakwood Athletic Club, where she has met many interesting people. Anna Marie Lininger, a daily swimmer, offered herself as a model. Balamuth's assignment was to use gouache on gessoed paper, but she decided to do a more permanent version in acrylic on linen. Then Lininger's husband, Richard, caught her eye in his Speedo and red Crocks, and the series began. Look for eight paintings including *Anna Marie*, *Richard*, and *Brett Anne and Kelly*, all 72" x 34" and acrylic on linen. She hopes viewers will appreciate the humor in her paintings as well as a glimmer of the story about the person painted. She is a member of CC14 and Lamorinda Arts Alliance. Visit www.kathbalamuth.com.

Robbin Milne of Concord has been painting, drawing and making collages for 20 years. She was an English major who took a beginning painting class and found she could express herself better in paint than on the page. Text is still part of her paintings and most pieces have text in the layers. Her theme, *Postcards from Honfleur*, is inspired by the beauty she witnessed walking around the Honfleur Harbor in Normandy, France. She has 75 shots of the harbor in the morning, afternoon and evening light. From these she has created four to six paintings and three photographs

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Water wisdom

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Artist **Sandra Wooten** holds one of her baskets made from Japanese glass beads.

of Honfleur. Look for *He + She*, a 36" x 48" mixed media on wood panel and a color photograph, *Honfleur*. She set out to paint in Turner's style as she was looking at his many pieces before and after her trip but found she used more color than expected, "that is typical for me, color seduces me."

[SEE GALLERY page 20]

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President
July 4th - Appreciation for Family,
Community and Country**



Bill Waterman

As this year's Independence Day celebration approaches, I find myself reflecting about the meaning of this annual celebration. It is a good time to feel appreciation for the things we value the most – our families and friends, our community and our country.

I think all of us have some wonderful July 4th family memories from our youth: going on family picnics in the park, eating watermelon, surviving the hot weather, and enjoying nighttime fireworks. At the beginning of summer, my parents would take us to visit my grandmother in Phoenix, and some of my fondest memories are of spending seemingly endless hours in the community pool and going to my uncle's company's picnic grounds, surrounded by lemon groves, for nighttime picnics. Seeing fireflies come out at night was a preview to the July 4th fireworks to come. It was a time for family gatherings and sharing time together. And now we still gather with friends to celebrate the day, but alas, there are no fireflies here in Orinda!

We also celebrate the day as a community. Here in Orinda, this is the 30th year for our "Lamorinda" July 4th parade and park celebration. This holiday provides the single opportunity for the entire community to unite together in celebration. We have so many groups involved in our events – from non-profit service clubs such as Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce to the political parties and elected officials to the local pre-schools, swim clubs, and sports teams. This year, we are highlighting the youth – we will have participation from youth in the swim clubs, sports teams, Lamorinda Idol singers, and the EFO Jazz Band, to name a few. The entire event is put together through the combined efforts of the Orinda Association volunteers, supported by the Rotary clubs, CERT volunteers, Chamber members, Garden Clubs and the fine support of the City of Orinda's staff (Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Police Departments). And this all is possible because of the financial support from within the community (Orinda Community Foundation, Parks and Rec Foundation, Garden Clubs, Orinda Motors and Mechanics Bank, plus other businesses and families too).

Finally, this is the time to appreciate our country. Though we may not be in

Washington D.C., on Independence Day we can still take into account of the benefits we enjoy as U.S. citizens. From reading a biography of Alexander Hamilton recently, I learned how hard it was for our leaders to put together the Constitution after the Revolution. Even after successfully drafting the document, they encountered deep opposition to its ratification. Did you know that even in places like Rhode Island, there were riots over whether to ratify the Constitution? Somehow our dedicated founding fathers and mothers were able to create our country, and it has survived countless storms and challenges since. Though today our country has its "warts," we can still appreciate the many freedoms we enjoy. July 4th is a good time to remember this.

**Orinda Association's
New Website**

The Orinda Association and *The Orinda News* have a new look online. A new colorful logo, lots of new photos, easy to navigate pages, and an even-easier way to pay for membership and newspaper advertising are all on display at www.orindaassociation.org or www.orindanews.org.

The new look includes a community calendar, a sponsors page and soon – a page dedicated to the youth of the community.



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Orinda Association Announces Youth Contests for July 4

This year, the OA will host two contests for youth surrounding the July 4 events:

Youth July 4 Photographer/Videographer: contest winners from each of two age groups will be selected based on content of submission following the event.

For any youth in two age groups (8 to 12 and 13 to 18); submit up to ten photos or 30 seconds video to OA office (oa@orindaassociation.org) by July 7; Winner's photo submission will be included in August issue of *The Orinda News*.

Youth July 4 Reporter: contest winners will be selected based on content of written submission following event.

For any youth in two age groups (8 to 12 and 13 to 18); submit a written report on the July 4 parade and park celebration, up to 250 words, by July 7 to the OA office (oa@orindaassociation.org); Winner's submission will be included in August issue of *The Orinda News*.

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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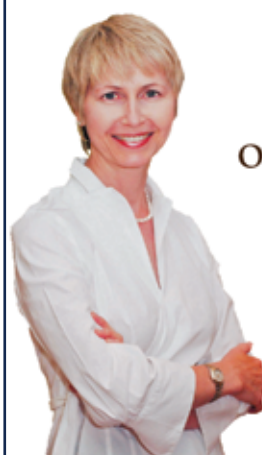
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Traveling in India as a Translator and Volunteer

By GABRIELA MOZEE
Contributing Writer

The experience of a lifetime presented itself when I was asked to accompany five Spanish-speaking participants from Venezuela, Chile, Honduras and Cuba on a five-week trip to India during January and February. It began with 36 participants from 19 countries and 15 translators and coordinators as part of the 11th Annual

International Scholars' Award Workshop (ISAW), which is sponsored by the Sri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM), an international organization dedicated to heart-centered living.

This was my fifth trip to India in as many years, but the first time I've stayed more than two weeks and ventured beyond the Mission's facilities. This time, I flew to Delhi to meet with translators and coordinators from five continents. Only a few spoke

English, which was the language used throughout the program to review, practice and deepen the four elements of our daily practice: meditation, cleaning, prayer and constant remembrance. While in Delhi, one of our first visits was to Mahatma Gandhi's Museum (www.gandhimuseum.org). It was a most inspiring experience as we started on our journey of connecting to one another and our new environment with heart-felt awareness.

From Delhi, all 51 of us took a bus to the train station and headed towards Satkhol, a community at the foot of the Himalayas, some 2,000 meters (approximately 6,600 feet above sea level), where we stayed for a week. From the train station, we traveled by rented vans on winding and steep roads for six hours, until we reached the Ashram, where volunteers were waiting to help us unpack, settle in and get organized. Dormitories for women and men had been lovingly arranged with vegetarian Indian food prepared daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner, morning and afternoon snacks and chai tea.

One morning, we all went for a 90-minute walk up to nearby Kilmora, a small town with wonderful handcrafts and incredibly



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lisa Macketanz from Austria finishes her vegetarian lunch at Manapakkam Ashram; all meals are freely provided and prepared with much care and love.

delicious dark chocolates (www.kilmora.in). It was interesting to see the local residents go about their day and kids returning from school. Many of us purchased gifts to bring back home. Most days, our schedule began with a 5 a.m. bell, and the days were filled with meditation, classes, videos, volunteer and group work, vegetarian meals, tea time and, eventually, bed around 10 p.m. It was a very full schedule indeed, and yet each day went by very fast and sweetly.

From the Himalayas, we travelled back to Delhi and then took a two-day train ride to Chennai (formerly known in the west as Madras) on the southeastern coast of India, where SRCM has its headquarters. While on the train, we translators took advantage of the free time to translate material for the upcoming days and weeks. When we arrived, the Russian Annual Seminar was taking place at the Chennai Ashram with 700 from that country attending. The Latin American Seminar was also about to begin, over 100 participants attending a 10-day program. We would see each other on occasion – mainly during group meditations and meal times – since each group had their own separate program. Those of us in the ISAW program kept our schedule pretty much the same as we had in Satkhol. However, in Chennai, we also had the opportunity to

[SEE INDIA page 8]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marcela Umazor and **Jenny Maldonado** from Chile and **Oswaldo Zuniga** from Nicaragua keep warm on a chilly night.

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POLICE / MOFD



POLICE BLOTTER

May 2013

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 156 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Burglary – Auto: 1 incident at Bates Blvd.

Burglary – Commercial: 2 incidents at Theatre Square and Orinda Fields Ln.

Burglary – Residential: 10 incidents at Via Corte, Claremont Ave., Monte Vista Rd., Overhill Rd., Muth Dr., Warford Terrace, Amber Valley Dr., Overhill Rd., Lost Valley Dr. and Sleepy Hollow Ln.

Domestic Violence, Injury of Spouse: 2 incidents (location confidential)

Petty Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident on Orinda Way

Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1 incident at Charles Hill Rd./El Nido Ranch Rd.

Stolen Vehicle: 1 incident reported on Stanton Ave.

Vandalism – Felony: 1 incident on Hall Dr.

Arrests

Court Order - Domestic Violence: 1 arrest on Don Gabriel Way.

Domestic Violence, Injury of Spouse: 1 arrest (location confidential)

Driving Under the Influence – MISD < .08: 1 arrest on Chelton Ct./Whitehall Dr.

False ID to a Police Officer: 1 arrest on Camino Sobrante.

Other - Misdemeanor: 1 arrest on Miner Rd.

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia: 1 arrest at Camino Sobrante.

Warrant Arrest: 1 arrest on Irwin Way/Orinda Way.

Orinda BART Station

No incidents or arrests reported.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
Orinda Police Department

Additional Police Activity During May/June

- There was a burglary case and an assault case filed with the District Attorney. The unit is doing a follow-up investigation on a domestic violence case where the victim was severely injured.
- Officer Mooney and Deputy Valkanoff hosted a Boy Scout troop in the station and helped the boys earn a merit badge for fingerprinting.
- A filed case for domestic violence led to a suspect arrest in Berkeley.
- The Investigation Unit successfully added attempted murder and torture charges to a domestic violence case. The suspect is in custody with bail set at \$2.1 million.
- Officer Mooney provided a “ride along” for three winners of the Glorietta School Auction. Students Ari, Jack, and Kate enjoyed the ride.
- Detective Dennison contacted residents to coordinate future neighborhood watch meetings.
- There were two night time burglaries in the Claremont and Warford Terrace areas. These fit similar past actions in both Orinda and Lafayette. Detectives from both teams are working the case.
- Several cases including a DUI, theft, burglary, probation violation, and a felon in possession of a handgun were filed with the DA by the Investigations Unit.
- Orinda Police arrests included 2 arrests for DUI, 2 arrests for burglary, possession of stolen property, and violation of probation a warrant arrest for probation violation, 2 arrests for embezzlement, 2 arrests for DUI, 2 arrests for providing false ID to a police officer and an arrest for violation of a restraining order.
- The investigation unit filed 3 DUI cases and one drunk in public case. They were able to succeed in securing filings on a DUI suspect who had been arrested previously for the same offense and a person who was driving with a suspended license.
- A new program called “Home Alone” has been developed by Chief Scott Haggard. Parents leaving a teen home overnight or for the weekend can call P.D. to request a check on the welfare of the child/children by either having an officer drive by to check for teen parties or to knock and check in with the teen. Contact information cards similar to vacation house checks are being printed.

Peak Fire Danger During Summer



RICHARD LERNER

On May 20, 2013, a wildfire near Ivy Drive threatened 30-40 homes. Richard Lerner snapped this photo of a California Forestry Department (CDF) aircraft dropping fire retardant on the blaze that consumed almost 10 acres before the combined efforts of CFD and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District were able to control the blaze.

MOFD Terminates Station 46

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) board of directors voted 3-2 to terminate the contract with the property owners of 1035 Lorinda Lane, effectively removing any possibility of Station 46 being built. Station 46 was to be a new joint station with Contra Costa Consolidated Fire District (Con Fire), replacing Con Fire Station 16 in Lafayette and MOFD Station 43 in Orinda.

Con Fire Station 16, at 4007 Los Arabis Avenue in Lafayette, was closed in June 2012 because mold and rodents infested the station. The crew from Station 16 relocated to Con Fire Station 15 until budget cuts necessitated the crew’s termination in January 2013.

At that time, Con Fire Chief Louder contacted MOFD Chief Bradley and suggested the two districts work together to build a new station with each district paying for half of the station. With stations costing about \$2 million per year to run, a joint sta-

tion would only cost each district about \$1 million per year. Chief Bradley brought it to the MOFD board, and they gave him the go ahead to look into the deal and put MOFD’s Station 43 rebuild on hold. Located at 20 Via Las Cruces, Station 43 has been in the process of being redesigned since it does not meet seismic standards, modern fire apparatus does not fit in the apparatus bays, and the living area does not adequately accommodate mixed gender staffing.

In March, MOFD staff found a property on the Lafayette/Orinda border, 1035 Lorinda Lane, that they felt would work. The preliminary time studies from this location indicated that some of the areas currently serviced by Station 43 would have an increase in response times, but that other areas currently served by Station 43 would have a decrease in response time and that areas currently serviced by Station 45 (downtown Orinda) could be covered by the new station, and those response times would decrease.

MOFD placed their half of the deposit,
[SEE MOFD page 24]



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Letters to the Editor

Overwhelming Opposition to Plan Bay Area

Orinda City Council's (OCC) meeting of May 13, in which citizens were invited to speak no more than three minutes each, included overwhelming public opposition to MTC/ABAG's Plan Bay Area housing projects. Two councilmembers were absent.

1. Public speakers repeatedly asked the mayor and OCC to select the No Project option for Orinda. Many Emails/letters sent to the mayor and OCC also supported the No Project option. Orinda's CC consistently ignored this sensible option.

2. Public speakers repeatedly objected to the designation of downtown Orinda as a Primary Development Area (PDA) or "potential" PDA. A PDA would not be subject to Orinda's building codes, environmental requirements, height and density restrictions, etc. Plan Bay Area requires 80 percent of new construction permits to be stack and pack housing construction within the downtown PDA.

3. Public speakers mentioned most friends and neighbors were not aware of Plan Bay Area stack and pack, low/very low-income housing projects coming to Orinda from ABAG/MTC and Orinda's CC. Those aware were usually opposed.

4. On May 13, the website of ICLEI, a "sustainability" growth organization formed at the UN, identified Orinda as a member. OCC staff stated Orinda decided last year to stop paying ICLEI dues. No explanation was given for Orinda's joining ICLEI originally or appearing on the current ICLEI website. According to UN officials, private motor vehicles, air conditioning, private suburban homes, and consumption of meat/frozen foods are not "sustainable."

5. Public opposition to Plan Bay Area also included objections to:

a) loss of private citizen property rights and local control for building construction decisions to unaccountable regional government MTC/ABAG bureaucrats;

b) lower property values, increased crime, traffic congestion, and burdens to educational, fire and police services generated by stack and pack low/very low income housing projects;

c) little or no property/parcel taxes paid by low/very low income stack and pack residents for city services;

d) increased air pollution from additional vehicles of stack and pack residents;

6. Public participants recommended Orinda quit ABAG, following the example of Corte Madera;

7. Public speakers identified a major conflict of interest by Amy Worth, chair of MTC, serving as Orinda's mayor.

Orinda's City Council should stop representing MTC/ABAG bureaucrats, the UN, welfare and food stamp recipients not now

living in Orinda or paying Orinda property taxes, government fed developers/contractors, and start representing Orinda taxpayers who own homes, drive motor vehicles, and want to retain their property rights, safe neighborhoods, high property values as well as excellent academic standards and safe schools for their children.

– R. Adams

Orinda is Not an Island

Opponents of regional planning have engaged in distortion and coded language to whip up fear and hostility toward Plan Bay Area and the regional planning agencies ABAG and MTC. I recently received an alarming flyer and robo-call telling me of the imminent destruction of Orinda, loss of property, and massive high-rise apartments for low-income people foisted upon us by "unelected bureaucrats." The hysterical claims made by these groups and individuals are just not true.

Long range planning for the needs of future generations is essential for the economy and quality of life in the Bay Area. Orinda is not an island. Like most Orinda residents, my daily life and activities frequently take me to other communities and cities in the Bay Area. I believe that residents of Orinda, and all residents of the Bay Area, have an obligation to work with other communities and address our long term needs together. I think it is imperative that our Orinda elected officials have a seat at the table to represent our interests.

Plan Bay Area does not usurp local control of land use decisions. Any new development proposal will continue to go through the same stringent process and design review as it always has. There is no plan to bulldoze downtown Orinda and erect Soviet style "pack and stack" high rises for low-income people as opponents have baselessly claimed. Residents of Orinda are the ones who will decide what their downtown will look like now and in the future.

Our freedoms and property rights are not under assault. There is no nefarious plot to move people out of single-family homes or to force them to give up their cars if they don't want to. However, Plan Bay Area does suggest that we look at broadening choices of housing options. I wish those who zealously speak of freedom to live in single family homes would also concede that some of us might prefer to live in apartments, townhomes or condominiums close to BART. The tiresome repetition of "stack and pack" to describe such housing is insulting, elitist and just not true. I for one favor a mix of retail and residential development in downtown Orinda.

I also believe we have an obligation to provide affordable housing, and I am proud that Orinda has fulfilled some of our obliga-



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tions through the development of the Eden Senior Housing and the Pulte development.

– Valerie Sloven

Don't Create a City Within a City

I call this whole transit village "The Emperor's New Clothes." I'm a centrist, not a socialist. I'm not affiliated with any group, but I can see that SB375 is social engineer-

ing and a developer's dream all rolled into one. Get in, make money, and get out.

The council is marginalizing the 17,000 for the 580 that don't live here yet. They are creating a city within a city for the people that are coming and not the people who live here now. Should the population at large approve of this plan, here are my

[SEE LETTERS page 8]

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SWIM CLUB / CAR TIME

Sleepy Hollow's First Splash - Wow!

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

"Go Blue" echoed off the Orinda hills as Coach Matt Ehrenberger led several hundred people in the Sleepy Hollow Legends' familiar cheer five times – with syncopated clapping in between – to kick off First Splash on a balmy Friday afternoon. Celebrants then streamed through the gates into the newly renovated pool, all ages lining up along the edge for the wet and wonderful First Splash jump.

Orinda Mayor Amy Worth noted that, "The [Sleepy Hollow] founders created a legacy for the entire Bay Area and your board has ensured that all of you, and future generations, will have an incredible swim experience. Congratulations to parents for persevering, the board for success, the coaches for their dedication. To all those swimmers who work from the crack of dawn till late at night who are anxious to get in the pool, you are the future of our community, state and country. We are proud of you and know there are some Olympic hopefuls in the mix." City Councilmember Steve Glazer presented Sleepy Hollow Club President Valerie Wilson with a Certificate of Recognition designating June 1 as Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club Day in Orinda to commemorate First Splash.

After everyone was in the pool, DJ Carter cued up the tunes and the fun began. First Splash signals the completion of the following Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club's (SHSTC) Phase One Renovation projects: \$3.0 million dollar pool facility revitalization; eight lane competitive pool, now the largest "fast pool" in Orinda Moraga Pool Assoc. (OMPA) featuring a rim-flow gutter system as used in all Olympic and U.S. Olympic Trial venues; the gutters reduce turbulence. Its depth range is 3'-6" to 7'-3", contains 183,718 gallons of water, serves up to 229 swimmers and the water turns over every six hours at 510 gallons per minute; separate children's activity pool including parent-friendly beach-entry wading area and water bells. Its depth range is 1'-0" to 3'-6", contains 27,400 gallons of water, serves up to 81 swimmers and the water turns over every two hours at 228 gallons per minute; new men's and women's bathrooms and locker/dressing rooms; new entry plaza with bricks commemorating families who have called Sleepy Hollow their home.

Phase Two focuses on tennis revitalization and will provide the greatest number of match-ready courts and an upgraded teaching court. It also includes an 85-foot double loop open-flume water slide to the club's new activity pool. Phase Three includes bleachers and shade structures to be placed on the east side of the pool area. In 2013, the club increased its membership by 40 new member families with 74 children under the age of eight for a total of 210



CHARLIE JARRETT
Parent **Scott Lohman** joined his children in the pool during Sleepy Hollow's First Splash celebration.

member families.

Valerie Wilson, club president, outlined the history of the six-year project which began in 2006 when a group of volunteers embarked on a very large, sometimes controversial, often overwhelming project to ensure that the experiences they've had are passed on to future generations. Wilson made it clear that there were many hands needed to ensure the success of this ambitious project. "I couldn't be prouder of the efforts of the group of volunteers who have accomplished such great things for our club and our community," says Wilson. Special thanks to SHSTC's Catja McDonald, project coordinator; John Hansen and Karla Vukelich, project funding; Andra Berkman, new member recruitment; Kim Purcell, staff/facilities liaison; Tony Ravnik, staff/facilities; Heidi Vasconi, Julia Bates, Lucy Barry, Barb Burkhalter, Josh Rasmussen and Steve Lucas, board members; John Lucas, Susan Wheatley, Eric Scaff, Michael McGowan, April Murphy, Melissa Thorn, past board members; Jeff White, Kirk Haley, Alicia Rowell, Paul Dolan, revitalization committee and Steve Berkman, legal assistance. Thanks also to the coaching staff for their patience and passion for this special place: Matt Ehrenberger, Kevin Honey, Tony Ravnik, Anthony Estrada and Jim Coyne.

Thanks are due to the revitalization contractors and funding participants including ProPM project management firm, Mike McCaughin, president; Mark Cavagnero Associates Architects, Mark Cavagnero, Goetz Frank and Felicia Dunham; architect's consultants Aquatic Design Group (pool designer), Scott Ferrell, Dennis Berkshire and Joe Bailey; civil design from Franco Civil Engineering, David Franco; landscape architect Monica Viarengo Landscape Design, Monica Viarengo; general contractor Oliver and Company, Rick Spickard, Robert Blake and Ed Guerra; sub-contractor Western Water Features, David Schultz; landscape consultant Sunrise Design, Jeff Vadney; pool timing system AM Aquatic Consulting, Andrew Morris; pool sound system Premier Media, Graham

CAR TIME

Are We Ready To Hit the Road?

By JOHN VANEK



Summer time is here, and it is time to make vacation plans. If we plan on taking the trusty family hauler, we need to make sure it is ready for the road. Our goal is to properly maintain the vehicle and avoid unwanted problems.

Unfortunately, cars are machines and despite our best efforts, they can breakdown. The first step is to take your vehicle into your local trusty shop for a pre-trip inspection. Especially if you know that there may be some issues already. Please, please, I mean please do not wait until the day before your trip to do this. A short time frame will only add unwanted stress to you and your car care provider. I recommend scheduling this pre-trip ritual about one week before leaving on the trip.

When you travel, you will most likely be faced with higher altitudes and higher temperatures that can accelerate battery failure. For instance, a battery may operate fine in Orinda but fail in consistent temps over 100 degrees while in Tahoe. A simple battery load test will confirm the battery's condition.

The next tip is to make sure you are ready for a breakdown. Do you have a road service plan such as AAA? Do you know who to call in case you get stuck on the road? A common failure is a flat tire. Do you know where the spare tire and jack are located? This information is in the owner's manual located in the glove box. Do you know the condition of the spare tire? Does the spare tire have air in it? These are questions that

must be addressed before you hit the road. I purchased a Ford Explorer and found out that the jack and tools were completely missing!

What if you think you have a flat tire? You should safely pull over. Your cars handling will drastically change if you have a tire going flat. Do not apply heavy brakes or make quick steering movements. Carefully steer your car off of the roadway and apply the brakes smoothly. It is important not to drive a car too long on a flat tire because it could cause damage to your wheel. But if you do not have a safe place to pull over it is better to drive to a safe place than risk damage.

What to do if my car breaks down? The first thing to keep in mind is safety. As soon as you feel that there is a problem, you should immediately look for a safe place to pull over. Now is the time to put your "breakdown plan" into motion. What to do if your car overheats? If you notice your temperature gauge is reading high or overheating you must make an immediate decision to pull over. Some cars have a light instead of a gauge. If you see your temp gauge is heading towards the right or your temp light is on, than you must safely pull over immediately. If you continue to drive a car that is overheating, you will cause damage to your engine. There is no good reason to open the hood at this point.

Is there any other reason to pull your car over? If you hear an unusual noise from

[SEE CAR TIME page 22]

Cooper and funding, Wells Fargo Bank, Dave Zorich, Pat Collins, Margaret Dunlap and Melissa Ensey. Emmanuel Ursu, Scott Pacheco and Amy Worth of the City of Orinda also lent a hand.

SHSTC was founded 56 years ago as

a place for adults to relax and rejuvenate with friends, where kids are safe to have fun, build lifelong friendships, learn new skills and compete in the pool and on the courts. See www.SleepyHollowLegends.net for more information.



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CONTINUATIONS

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suggestions:

- We apply for a grant from the EERE to put all municipal buildings and schools on solar energy. That should satisfy our carbon credits, and create a precedent for other cities to follow.

- We keep the senior portion intact. It actually fits the demographics of the population and 66 of 70 are very low income. Excellent!

- We cut the rest of the numbers in half. We are revisiting this mandate every five-eight years for the next 40 years. We need to see the affects on traffic, crowding and schools. Not counting the seniors, the new residents will bring in about 73 new cars that they will park in our neighborhood and yours. And making Orinda a destination place will bring more crime.

- We have a lottery for our municipal workers, police, fire and teachers, who don't have mortgages and wish to live in Orinda.

They should be our most important consideration. And they actually have jobs.

- These should be lease to own condos, one owner, no slum landlords allowed!

- The retailers that rented before should be able to come back at the same rent if it's even possible for them to return. Perhaps, the city can put the four restaurants in the Crossroads on food trucks in the interim so they don't go bankrupt along with their families.

- Regardless of the mandates, retail in other cities is successful because the businesses have parking, and we need parking

for the residents. Many live in the hills.

The new Orinda is a vision but it should be a vision for all of us. People need more information and deserve to vote for or against Orinda becoming a PDA. This is a democracy, not the former Soviet Union. Please write your council members. Make the "Politburo" let us vote.

— O.M. Murray

Plan Bay Area Will Not Destroy Orinda

Two recent Orinda City Council (OCC) meetings have devoted considerable time to Plan Bay Area (PBA) — in one case, an entire Special Meeting convened solely for this purpose. Regrettably, although these meetings have been beneficial in developing public awareness of PBA, citizens appropriately concerned with maintaining the semi-rural character of Orinda have been led to believe that PBA will destroy or significantly alter it.

Not true. Review of PBA's evolution reveals that, at the request of OCC, Orinda's preliminary housing allocation has been reduced by ABAG to the point where it now conforms to Orinda's existing General Plan. These requests occurred after public discussion at OCC meetings. In this regard, OCC and city staff have served Orinda citizens well by closely monitoring the development of Plan Bay Area as it affects Orinda.

Additionally, according to the staff report presented to OCC at the May 13 Special Meeting (report available on the Orinda website), Orinda has not applied for Priority Development Area (PDA) designation

for its downtown area. As stated in the report, should Orinda want to consider this action, the advantages and disadvantages would be discussed at a city council meeting with prior notice that would allow for public input.

I also want to draw attention to the following excerpt from the PBA Draft EIR (http://onebayarea.org/pdf/Draft_EIR_Chapters/3.1_Alternatives.pdf), page 3.1-48:

"Consistency with Local Plans . . . Plan Bay Area will not supersede existing general plans. . . . Land use patterns included in the adopted Plan Bay Area would only be implemented insofar as local jurisdictions adopt the policies and recommendations included in the proposed Plan."

OCC has forwarded all of the communications it has received regarding concerns about various aspects of Plan Bay Area to ABAG/MTC. Citizens can also lobby our local assembly member and senator requesting the elimination or modification of AB 32, AB 375, and related laws that mandate coordinated regional transportation and land planning (and assembly and senate candidates can be asked to state their position). In the end, these are the only agencies — not OCC — that can act to address the concerns.

—Robert Burt

Special Housing Tax Needed To Save Orinda's Environment

Irreparable environmental damage will come to Orinda unless drastic action — like the imposition of a special tax on planned high-rise, high density housing — is taken.

Regional Bay Area governmental agencies like the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) plan to require Orinda to construct so-called stack and pack housing in Orinda.

MTC and ABAG, under what is called Plan Bay Area, want individuals to ditch their cars and move into so-called stack and pack housing. The housing would be built near such transportation hubs as BART stations.

The respective boards of directors of MTC and ABAG are not directly elected by voters.

The neighboring city of Lafayette has come up with a plan that, if emulated properly, could preserve Orinda's semi-rural environment and prevent Orinda from becoming the next Manhattan.

Lafayette wants to impose a special tax on newly built housing. Orinda should

consider doing the same thing. If each unit of high-rise housing in Orinda is taxed at a high enough rate, stack and pack housing in Orinda will not be constructed.

Orinda should consider imposing a special \$10,000 annual fee on each new unit of high-rise housing. With such a fee, stack and pack housing will not be occupied and, therefore, will not be built.

To learn more about what might be planned for Orinda, please visit www.orindawatch.org.

— Richard S. Colman

Protect Our Creeks

I am a seventh grader at Orinda Intermediate School, and I am working on my Take Action Project (TAP) for science. My TAP is on cleaning up Orinda's creeks. In the process of researching organizations that help clean up creeks, I found an organization called Friends of Orinda Creeks. I was hoping you could write an article in your newspaper about what they do, who they are and how to help.

I think it is important to keep the creeks clean because the Orinda creeks flow into two of our watersheds. In just one short hour, I was able to collect two full garbage bags of trash and a bicycle tire from the banks of the Glorietta Creek. My family has lived in Orinda for 13 years and did not know about the Friends of Orinda Creeks. If you could put out the word about this really cool organization, then I think a lot more people would help to clean up the creeks of Orinda.

— Aidan Jacuzzi

◆ INDIA from page 4

visit our organization's leader and spend precious time with him.

St. Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, is said to have established a church in Chennai. I visited the church (www.velankanni.in/stthomas.html) the first time I travelled to India in 2009; it was a Sunday, and the place was packed with worshipers. I've also travelled through the city's neighborhoods and beach — quite a contrast from our lives in the Bay Area. While the body is not always comfortable in many places in India, the soul seems to have its day!

Traveling has always been grand for me. Traveling as a translator and being of service to others has been my best experience yet! I hope to go again next year as one of the English to Spanish translators. Five weeks on such ventures is a long time to be away from home, but when one is so merged with the moment and with others, it is a timeless, wonderful experience.



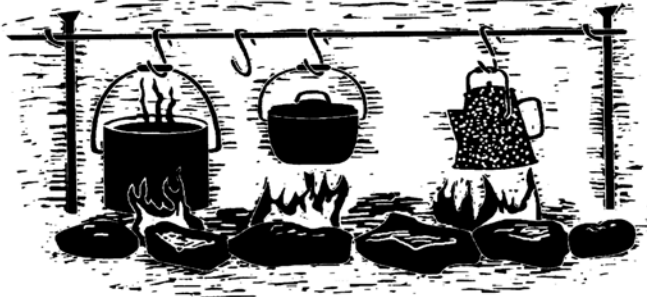


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Remembering Volunteer Extraordinaire – Millie Armer

By CAROL BROWN
Contributing Writer

Last November, the Friends of the Orinda Library (FOL) and the Orinda community lost a valued volunteer and friend. For over 15 years, Millie Armer had taken on the responsibility of going through all the donated children's books — sorting them according to age appropriateness as well as subject, preparing them for the annual book fair, moving them for sale, and being there to sell them. Then, when we opened the bookshop in the new library, she made certain the best donations were placed in the children's corner of the bookshop on a daily basis. Millie had a great fondness for books that appealed to a child's imagination and sense of curiosity. Her enthusiasm was such that many of these books went home with Millie where she cleaned and mended them before offering them to the community. There are FOL volunteers who spend countless hours in the sorting room and others who do the same in the book shop. Millie did both.

Last January, the FOL Board voted to ask another talented, giving member of our community — Liz Piatt — if she would

accept a commission to make a quilt to hang in the children's corner in memory of Millie. Many of you are familiar with Liz's work: her history of Orinda quilt hangs in the gallery on permanent exhibit; her Mother Goose flies over the children's section of the library. Liz agreed — though she would only do so if we accepted her work as a donation. She asked about the kinds of books that Millie enjoyed and spoke with Rollin, Millie's husband, about her love of hiking and of wildflowers. Liz listened, thought, designed and created. The result is an extraordinary tribute filled with the joy of the world of the imagination — as well as the beauty of the flower-filled foothills.

Rollin Armer has begun an endowment to honor Millie's love of the library and of children's books with a \$30,000 donation. The endowment known as the Children's Book Fund in Memory of Millicent Armer will continue to purchase children's books in the future. Friends of Millie and those who love children's books are invited to contribute.

All are invited to come to the FOL Bookshop and admire Liz Piatt's quilt remembering Millie.

Local Group Returns to Joplin to Rebuild More Homes

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

“You're back, you're back! We're so thankful you haven't forgotten us” was a greeting the 34 members of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) Adult Mission Team received as they returned to Joplin, Missouri for the second year. This town, where 7,500 homes, over 500 businesses and 10 of 19 schools were destroyed or damaged by the 220 mph tornado in May of 2011, still has a lot of rebuilding to do. “Often, the rest of the country forgets after the initial response to a disaster,” says Rich Lewis, who headed the group. “It appears only one-third of the homes have been rebuilt. So, there continues to be great need.”

In the five-day work week, the LOPC team, whose ages ranged from 43 to 87, put in 1,140 volunteer hours on five homes. Jobs ranged from installing siding, sheet rock, floating floor tiles, insulation and electrical wiring, to caulking, texturing and painting.

Volunteers are vitally needed. Thus far 165,000 volunteers have helped in the recovery efforts contributing over one million hours of service. “Imagine how many fewer homes would be finished without this help,” Lewis says. “Our team worked with Rebuild Joplin, which has returned 75 families back to safe, permanent housing with a long term goal to get 250 families in homes by March of 2015. It was our privilege to work with young men and women in Americorps, the domestic equivalent of the Peace Corps.”

The families where the team worked had amazing stories to tell, especially Clay and Melissa. They and their four children sought shelter in the hallway with the parents holding a mattress over their heads when the tornado struck. First the roof blew off; then the windows all broke. Wind rushed in sucking the mattress from the house. Then each of them was pulled from the home and tossed into the neighbor's back yard. Miraculously they landed in pockets created by tornado debris and rode



Bruce Kronmiller works on one of the new homes in Joplin.

out the storm safely. Reunited, the family was unhurt, but their home was completely destroyed. In the house next door, four were killed and on the other side one person died. In all, 161 lives were lost.

Keith, another of our homeowners, who has suffered from Parkinson's disease for over 30 years, rode out the storm in an interior room, building a shelter from furniture, cushions and blankets. His roof was destroyed and the house badly damaged as rain poured in, but he was uninjured. Initially, the roof and windows were repaired, but Keith lived in the home for almost two years before Rebuild Joplin came in, gutted it, and reconstructed the inside so it appears like new. He says, “I wake up at night because I'm so excited to move back to this beautiful house. I'm so blessed to receive this tremendous help.”

New homes now dot the landscape where the EF-5 tornado made a ¾ mile wide and 13 miles long path — leveling almost everything, uprooting trees and even tearing out lawns. “The LOPC team is grateful that they could join in the rebuilding effort to help some families put their lives back together,” says Judy Duff, LOPC Associate Pastor, who accompanied the group.

Rebuild Joplin Volunteer Coordinator, Theo Holtwick, says, “We always welcome volunteers, singles, couples, groups; we can put you to work.” If interested contact him at theo.holtwick@rebuildjoplin.org.



SALLY HOGARTY

Artist Liz Piatt (L) and Rollin Armer hold the quilt that Piatt made to honor Rollin's wife Millie.

Wayne F. Miller Left Indelible Mark on America With His Art

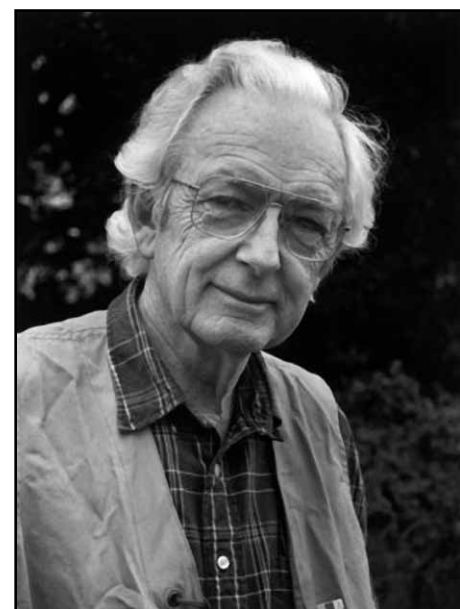
By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Long-time Orinda resident and renowned photographer Wayne F. Miller died at his home on May 22 following a brief illness. He was 94.

Born in Chicago in 1918, Miller served with an elite navy unit that produced some of the most memorable images of World War II before going on to create a groundbreaking series of portraits chronicling the lives of black Americans in Chicago. Miller's images in the series included everything from a young Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington to factory workers and pool players. His war photography included some of the first photos of Hiroshima, Japan following the atomic bomb.

Miller and his wife Joan moved to Orinda in the 1950s. He worked with famed fashion photographer Edward Steichen on the *The Family of Man*, a Museum of Modern Art exhibit featuring hundreds of portraits by photographers from all over the world. Miller went on to produce his own intimate book of photographs of children entitled *The World is Young*.

While based in Orinda, Miller worked as a photojournalist for *Life*, *Ebony*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and numerous other magazines. He became a fervent forest conservationist in his later years and a founding member of Forest Landowners of California. He and his wife Joan restored a clear-cut patch of forest and helped lobby



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wayne Miller, internationally acclaimed photographer, dies at 94.

for the passage of laws providing incentives for landowners to protect rather than log trees.

“He's a legendary figure in the Bay Area and nationally,” said Ken Light, a UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism professor and documentary photographer. “He was very generous and would come to classes and talk to my students.”

Miller is survived by his wife Joan, four children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A public service is planned for September.



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OCF Hosts Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament July 22

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

This year marks the 4th annual Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament hosted by the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF), which will be held at the Orinda Country Club on July 22. Everyday Heroes honors members of the community who have upheld the values of a hero. The heroes honored this year are MOFD firefighters Captain Michael Rattary, Firefighter Paramedic Kelly Morris, and Firefighter Stephen Rogness. The firefighters were injured in the line of duty on December 2, 2012 while responding to a four-car accident on Highway 24 and were struck by an out of control vehicle.

The Golf Tournament starts at 10:30 a.m. with registration and a complimentary buffet lunch. At noon, a shotgun start begins the tournament. Allena Behnke, co-chair of the tournament, said, "The tournament format is a two best ball shamble. In a best ball format, (or sometimes called better ball format) teams consist of two players each. The team records the better of their two scores on each hole. In a shamble, in order to speed play, each player hits their own drive, but second shots are moved to the best drive. From that point, each player plays their own shot until the hole is completed."

Contests, food and treats await participants along the course. Following the tournament there will be awards, appetizers and entertainment. MOFD firefighters Rattary, Morris and Rogness will be attending the award ceremony at the end of the tournament.

Sponsorships are still available and start at \$250. Business sponsorships provide financial support that helps some very worthwhile local and area programs and gives



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two golfers from last year's tournament practice their putting.

participating businesses exposure within Orinda and the surrounding communities.

The charities include Town Hall Theatre Company, California Shakespeare Theater, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties, and the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF). Orinda 4th of July

Parade, Orinda Idol, Spirit Van for Orinda Seniors, Orinda Art in Public Places and Orinda Action Day, are just a few of the community programs that the OCF helps.

For more information and to register for the tournament, visit everydayheroes.golfreg.com.

From Oakland Estuary to Royal Henley England



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda resident and former Oakland Strokes athlete **Ian Drake** credits his years of training with the Oakland Strokes for making it possible for him to compete on the University of Washington (UW) rowing team.

One of the best rowing programs in the country, the UW team has highly competitive tryouts. Drake made the team as a walk-on freshman and worked very hard to prove his worth. "In the end though, I shattered every goal I had set for myself," says Drake.

After a grueling year of training and competition, Drake and his teammates decided to spend an extra month training for the Henley Royal Regatta. Held 40 miles outside of London in Henley-upon-Thames, the regatta is one of the most prestigious rowing events in the world. When all was said and done, the UW team came home with the 1st place trophy competing against an international field of rowers. The Temple Trophy was given the UW team by the Mayor of London and has each rowers name engraved upon it.

CongoSwim Supports Peace and Ending Violence Against Women

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Swimmers across the nation and the world are joining CongoSwim 2013, a collective call to action to break the silence about the deadliest conflict in the world since World War II (an estimated six million lives lost, half being children under the age of five) and the worst humanitarian crisis of our time by sending a *wave of love* to the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo. People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to swim, support a swimmer or host a CongoSwim party on August 25 in solidarity with Congolese working for peace and stability in the heart of Africa.

Coco Ramazani is a young survivor of systematic rape in eastern Congo whose horrific story is told in *Tell This to My Mother* by Joseph E Mwantuali (<http://alturl.com/6qij5>). To mark the global event and to spotlight how soldiers are ordered to rape women and children and to destroy communities in the scramble for Congo's resources, Coco will take part in a healing ceremony on a pilot boat while CongoSwim founder Keris Dahlkamp strives to swim



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Charlie Wiser, a recent Miramonte graduate will swim 100 laps.

22 miles across Lake Tahoe, expected to take him 12-14 hours. Rape as a weapon of war has been used around the world throughout history, yet an overwhelming silence remains.

Canyon resident Keris Dahlkamp extends great appreciation to Orinda Aquatics for their financial contribution enabling him to train with the Masters' team at Campolindo daily at 6 a.m. as he prepares for his 22 mile swim on August 25. The Orinda Aquatics coach of the Masters team will also be on the boat in Lake Tahoe to coach and swim with Keris.

Charlie Wiser, Miramonte senior and Stanford bound super swimmer, has registered to support CongoSwim. "I am thrilled that the sport I love, swimming, can bring awareness to this worthy cause; and hope that I can inspire others to join this action to help end violence against women and girls in DR Congo. I'll be swimming 100 laps

in a pool at Stanford University on August 25." If you would like to honor Wiser's (or any other swimmer's) participation, donate in his name at www.congoswim.org. Contact CongoSwim at congoswim@gmail.com or by phone, 925-812-2496.

Four pastors at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church have committed to swim 500 laps collectively by August 25 in support of the event. They are Associate Pastors Jaime Polson, Gerald Chinen, Judy Durff and head of staff Pastor Peter Whitelock. Pastor Polson says, "I am swimming 125 laps because I want to be part of this local and global wave of love to the Congolese people."

There is no registration fee, but participants are encouraged to contribute funds for the Congolese grassroots groups receiving grants from Global Fund for Women and Friends of the Congo. A portion of the funds raised will also benefit the USA Swimming Foundation's Make a Splash initiative, to prevent children from drowning in the U.S. Upon registering, participants receive a Swim Pack with sample fundraising letters, facts about the Congo as well as tips for talking with children about injustice. This unique and inspiring collective swim was organized by volunteers in observance of Orange Day, a call to action by the United Nations UNiTE campaign to end violence against women and girls (www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/orangeday).

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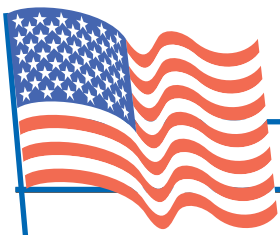
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4th of July Festivities Celebrates Youth and Much More

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Colorful floats, great music, classic cars, jugglers and the ever-popular Orinda All-Volunteer Marching Band will delight youngsters and adults alike at Lamorinda's 30th annual 4th of July celebration.

The Orinda Association, in partnership with the City of Orinda, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, presents the widely attended all day celebration — including a fun run/walk, pancake breakfast (hosted by the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary), parade and park activities. Orinda Motors, Mechanics Bank, the Orinda Community Foundation, Orinda Parks & Recreation Foundation and the Orinda Garden Clubs are title sponsors.

This year's theme is "Lamorinda's 30th Fourth of July Celebration – Celebrate Our Youth" and features the Educational Foundation of Orinda's (EFO) Big Band as the headliner in the Community Park following the parade. The group is comprised primarily of high school and middle school students plus a few adults (see story page 1). Finalists from Lamorinda Idol will also perform throughout the day including



Scouts and veterans carry the banner and American flag to start off the parade each year.

SALLY HOGARTY

da Theatre and travels under the freeway to the Orinda Community Center. When the parade ends at approximately 11:30 a.m., a wide variety of activities will take place at the Orinda Community Center Park. Adults can peruse the many nonprofit booths, all the while enjoying the EFO Jazz Band, while children have fun at the petting zoo or watch Jeremy the Juggler. There will also be face painters, balloon artists creating whimsical animals, a balloon toss, carnival games and two bounce houses. The Miramonte High School Varsity Football team will return to run its popular football toss.

Anyone who has worked up an appetite during the parade won't have to go far. Delicious food and beverage booths, including the popular Orinda Chamber of Commerce's hot dogs, bratwurst from Shelby's Restaurant, burritos from La Cocina Mexican Food, ice cream from Loard's, kettle corn and smoothies, specialty beers from Orinda Rotary and, of course, Czech beer in honor of Orinda's Sister City Tabor in

[SEE FESTIVITIES page 12]

the singing of the National Anthem at the 7:55 a.m. flag raising ceremony in front of the Orinda Community Center. Many young people, including the Miramonte High School cheerleaders and members of the football team, will be at the Community Center on July 3 decorating the area with lots of red, white and blue bunting. The parade will also be overflowing with youngsters as they walk or ride in celebration of their preschools, swim teams and many other affiliations.


The day's activities begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Orinda Community Center with the pancake breakfast, followed by the Roadrunners' Fun Run and Haley's Run for a Reason, both renamed Boston Strong this year to honor those involved with the Boston Marathon (see story page 1). Participants can choose between a 2-mile run/walk or a 5-mile run through scenic parts of

Orinda and EBMUD watershed.

At 10 a.m., the parade begins by the Orin-



RICHARD WESTIN
Claire Stevenson (R) with her daughter Genevieve enjoy last year's parade.




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4TH OF JULY



RICHARD WESTIN

Young parade participants travel the parade route in style in their decorated wagon as they check out the cheering crowd.



SALLY HOGARTY

Drew Wright showed his spirit in last year's parade.

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◆ **FESTIVITIES** from page 11

the Czech Republic.
Car enthusiasts will get their fix with Orinda Motors' classic car show at the entrance to the park as well as in the parade, giving a glimpse of a few of the prize automobiles that will be displayed at the annual Classic Car Show in September.
To accommodate the parade, the west-

bound Highway 24 on/off ramp and the east side of Camino Pablo will be closed from approximately 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Traffic will be allowed on the west side of Camino Pablo with the on/off ramps on that side of the street open.
For the complete schedule of activities, the parade route, and parking availability, go to www.orindaassociation.org or call 925-254-0800.

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4TH OF JULY

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4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

Schedule of Events:

7:30 - 10 a.m. Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Pancake Breakfast – Orinda Library Plaza

7:55 a.m. Flag-raising Ceremony - Orinda Community Center

8 a.m. Haley's Run for a Reason and "Boston Strong" Orinda Roadrunners 30th Annual Fun Run - Orinda Community Center

9 a.m. Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale - Library Plaza

9:30 a.m. Community Booths and Kids Activities - Orinda Park

10 a.m. PARADE - Orinda Theatre to Orinda Community Center

11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Community Center Park Activities

- ☆ Delicious Food and Beverage Booths
- ☆ Live Music by EFO Big Band
- ☆ Petting Zoo and Children's Activities
- ☆ Classic Car Show

For a complete listing of activities, road closures, and parking accommodations, go to www.orindaassociation.org

Presented in Partnership with
Orinda Community Foundation, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Orinda Parks & Recreation Foundation, Orinda Garden Clubs and The City of Orinda



SALLY HOGARTY

These young lovelies patiently waited for last year's parade to begin.



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SALLY HOGARTY

You can't get much more enthusiastic than these three young people waiting for last year's 4th of July parade to begin!

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21 Camino Del Diablo, Orinda - www.21CaminoDelDiablo.com

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4TH OF JULY



SALLY HOGARTY

Members of the **Orinda Volunteer Marching Band** add lots of spirit to the 4th of July parade each year. All levels of musicians are encouraged to show up on July 4 to march and play in the parade. Marching drums will be provided but musicians must call to reserve. Percussionists meet at 8 a.m. behind Casa Orinda. All other instruments meet at 9 a.m. Call 254-2357 for more information or to reserve a drum.



Orinda Volunteer
MARCHING BAND
Come and play on July 4th

All Levels of Musicians - Young and Senior Welcome!

Our **SCHEDULE: Thursday, JULY 4th!**

<p>★ 8:00 a.m. Percussion Practice (some marching drums provided-but you need to call Jim to reserve one that's right for you!)</p> <p>★ 9:00 a.m. All Other Instruments Practice</p> <p>★ 10:00 a.m. We March!!</p>	<p>MEET: behind the Casa Orinda</p> <p>UNIFORMS: Blue Pants or Shorts and a White Shirt or something Patriotic!</p> <p>MUSIC: Contact Jim 925-254-2357</p>
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ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Orinda Classic Car Show Supports Organizations that Help the Community

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Classic Car Show has been helping to support the Orinda community for eight years and is gearing up for its 9th annual weekend event in September. Proceeds from the car show have benefited local community non-profits since its inception in 2005. Beneficiaries include Seniors Around Town (SAT), The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), Orinda Association (OA), Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Rotary, and Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Over the last eight years, the car show has raised over \$200,000 for local charities.

Seniors Around Town, an OA sponsored program, which offers alternative transportation to Orinda seniors who cannot drive themselves. Kate Wiley, director for SAT said, "Seniors Around Town would not exist as it does today without the years of continuous, generous support from the Orinda Classic Car Show and its founder, Chip Herman, who believed in our mission and became dedicated to supporting our program these past nine years." SAT offers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Monies contributed to the **Educational Foundation of Orinda** help a variety of school programs including funding music classes.

no cost, door-to-door service to all Orinda seniors. Wiley added, "Orinda volunteers in the SAT program provide on average 60 rides per month to seniors for medical appointments, errands or social events. One of the biggest fears for older adults is not being able to drive – one of their last holds on independence and socialization. SAT and other senior transportation programs, give back some of that independence. SAT, like all programs, relies on the generosity of donations to keep the program going five days a week, month after month, year after year."

EFO provides financial support, which directly benefits students in the Orinda Union School District and at Miramonte High School. Joan Kiekhaefer, co-president of EFO said, "We raise money to fill the gap in state funding for our schools. Chip and Carolyn Herman had success raising funds with the car show. They started only with SAT and that was so successful, they looked for another beneficiary and contacted EFO."

The OA started in 1946 and is dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of [SEE CAR SHOW page 22]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Volunteer driver **Dick Burkhalter** (R) gives a ride to a senior participant in the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program.

Orinda Classic Car Show By The Numbers

- Years the Show had been running: 8
- Total \$ raised for local charity: over \$200,000
- Total \$ raised for local charity year one: \$1,500
- Total \$ raised for local charity last year: \$57,000
- Cars that have exhibited thru the years: 958
- Cars exhibited the first year: 21
- Cars exhibited last year: 209
- Lunches served: 2,970
- Consecutive years Orinda Motors has been the Presenting Sponsor of the Orinda Classic Car Show: 8
- Consecutive years the Mechanics Bank has been the Presenting Sponsor of the Dancing With the Cars Party: 3
- Attendee's at last year's Speed on the Screen Sunday movie event: 300
- "Pit Crew" volunteers that support the Car Show Weekend each year: 68
- Sponsors for the first year: 1
- Sponsors for this year's weekend events: 30
- Attendee's at last year's Dancing with the Cars party: 258 – A Sell Out!!!
- Local charities receiving benefit from the Car Show Weekend events: 9
- Orinda community partner organizations working to make the Car Show Weekend successful: 8
- Cocktails consumed at the Dancing with the Cars parties and Speed on the Screen events: COUNTLESS

Dancing with the Cars party – Friday September 20th , 7 p.m.
9th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show – Saturday September 21st, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Speed on the Screen at the Orinda Theater – Sunday September 22nd, 5:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.

Event, Entry and Ticket Information available at www.OrindaCarShow.com

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**Saturday,
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ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**Sunday,
September 22nd, 5:30pm and 7:45pm
"SPEED ON THE SCREEN" at the Orinda Theater**

Cruise in a Classic! Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the parade. Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in Orinda Village on Orinda Way and the 16th fairway of Orinda Country Club

Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle!
Register online today!

Enter Your Car and Make Party Reservations Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Orinda Arts Council and Seniors Around Town.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Arts in Bloom and Lamorinda Idol Sneak Preview on July 16

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Arts in Bloom In the Park is free to the public beginning at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, and includes a Visual Arts Faire featuring artist exhibits and art sales, a silent auction, kids arts and crafts activities, and music by the EFO Big Band. The evening will be capped off by a performance at 6:30 p.m. by the 2013 Lamorinda Idol Finalists (formerly Orinda Idol) as part of the Concerts-in-the-Park series sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary (OCCA). Concessions will be provided by Loard's of Orinda and Food

Truck Mafia.

Net proceeds will benefit The Orinda Arts Council (OAC) in their ongoing 60-plus year mission of supporting and advocating for the arts in our schools and community. The event is made possible through the support of the OCCA, which funds and administers Concerts-in-the-Park, Halloween Tot Parade, Holiday Bazaar, and raises funds for the Orinda Community Center and Park. Special thanks to the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, local artists, and silent auction donors from the Lamorinda and Berkeley performing arts and restaurant communi- ties. The events include:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants from last year's **Arts in Bloom** event take time out from enjoying all the art and listening to finalists of Lamorinda Idol.

- 5 p.m. Arts in Bloom Visual Arts Faire Featuring the EFO Big Band
- Artist Exhibits, Art Sales, Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Jewelry and Decorative

- Art
- Visual and Performing Arts and Food Lovers Silent Auction

[SEE ARTS page 18]

Romantic Favorite, *Romeo and Juliet*, Comes to Cal Shakes in July

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

For over 400 years, *Romeo and Juliet* has been a celebrated mainstay of many types of theater throughout the world. According to scholars, William Shakespeare first presented the story to audiences somewhere between 1591 and 1595. Since then, it has been translated into almost 300 different languages. Shakespeare's plot line has been adapted for stage and screen, and incorporated into musical theatre, opera and dance.

Director Shana Cooper explores the time- less classic of star-crossed lovers (played by Rebekah Brockman and Dan Clegg) in California Shakespeare Theater's upcoming production, opening July 3 and running through July 28, at the Bruns Amphitheater.

Clegg was last seen at Cal Shakes in *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Verona Project*, and Brockman most recently appeared in last season's *Blithe Spirit*.

Joining them, five other actors take on Shakespeare's nearly two dozen roles in Cooper's ensemble driven show.

Cooper is known to Cal Shakes audiences



KEVIN BERNE

Dan Clegg and Rebekah Brockman in a scene from Cal Shakes' *Romeo and Juliet*.

for her direction of *Taming of the Shrew* (2011), and her previous work as associate artistic director for the company. A gradu-

[SEE CAL SHAKES page 22]



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CONCERTS / AAUW

Open Opera Sizzles This Summer in the Community Center Park

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

“Summer Sizzle” is the title of the Open Opera concert, which takes place Sunday, July 28, at 4 p.m. in the Orinda Community Center Park. “We have assembled a truly spectacular line-up of talent,” says Dr. Julia Nielsen, who will serve as master of ceremonies. According to Nielsen, the program includes singers who are graduates of the prestigious Merola Opera Program (San Francisco Opera’s celebrated apprenticeship program), members of the elite San Francisco Opera Chorus, who also have flourishing solo careers, and principal artists from Opera San Jose.

“It’s an excellent opportunity to hear lovely voices sing favorite arias or to introduce opera to those for whom it is a new experience. We hope many children will attend so they can begin learning about opera and enjoy the music,” Nielsen continues.

The concert will include beloved arias and favorite ensembles from operas including *Carmen* by Bizet; *Così Fan Tutte* and *The Magic Flute* by Mozart; *Tosca* by Puccini; and *Il Trovatore* by Verdi. “All of opera’s grand passions will truly ‘sizzle’ with the voices of our talented performers,” Nielsen says, adding, “There might

even be a little ‘dessert’ from the classic musical theater repertoire as we hope this afternoon concert will be followed by ‘Some Enchanted Evening.’”

Orindan Lisa Vander Ploeg, mezzo soprano, says “I’m thrilled to be singing in my ‘own backyard.’” Other performers include: Coco Harris and Angela Moser, sopranos; Alex Boyer, tenor; Bradley Kynard and David Zelenka, baritones; and bass-baritone, Jason Sarten.

In addition to the musical feast, the Orinda Rotary Club will be selling food and beverages. This is the fifth year the club has sponsored the event. “We invite people to bring a blanket, a chair, their kids, dogs and their love of opera on the 28th,” says Dick Marchick, who heads up the Rotary team. “Attending the opera is so expensive, it’s almost impossible for the average family to go. Our free Open Opera concert is a fine way to introduce children to opera, or friends who might never go to hear an opera. The music chosen is very listenable, and the master of ceremony’s explanation of what is happening when the song is sung helps in the enjoyment.”

Ellen St. Thomas, co-founder of Open Opera says, “The goal of the group is to enrich lives with free classical music and provide excellent opportunities for performers. It’s a win-win situation – a great community builder.”

For further information, call Barbara Bontemps at 925-219-0082.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mezzo-soprano Lisa Vander Ploeg will sing a variety of arias and ensemble pieces from favorite operas.

July Concerts-in-the-Park

- July 2 - Bay Bridge Beat (funk, rhythm and blues)
- July 9 - Stone Soup (classic rock)
- July 26 - Lamorinda Idol Singers
- July 23 - Pladdohg (Celtic rock)
- July 28 - Opera in the Park (4-6 p.m.)

All concerts are 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Orinda Community Center Park except for July 28, which takes place on Sunday from 4 - 6 p.m.

AAUW Celebrates Women 4 Women

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) celebrated its busy year with a luncheon at the Orinda Country Club.

Themed “Women4Women,” the event acknowledged various members’ contributions to the organization and awarded Marie Bonilla with the 2013 Distinguished Woman award. Bonilla was a chemical engineer with Chevron for 28 years and regaled the 60 plus attendees with her stories about being an engineer in such a male-dominated field.

The local AAUW contributed over \$8,000 in 2012 to a variety of worthwhile causes including the legal Advocacy Fund and scholarships to young women furthering their education.

For more information on the organization, go to www.aauwoml.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jan Coe (R) presents Marie Bonilla with the Distinguished Woman Award for 2012.

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Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales
Traveling with Your Pet



Jennifer Conroy

Times they are a-changing and more and more of us are including our companion animals in travel plans. The very first consideration is your pet's health. Get your cats and dogs up to date on all vaccinations. Proof of vaccinations will be required to gain entry into most locations, like national parks. A photocopy of current vaccinations typically suffices but call locations first to make sure of the most current regulations.

Consult your veterinarian well in advance of any air travel planned for your pet. Depending on your pet's needs, a veterinarian may want to prescribe a sedative or tranquilizer. You will also need to acquire a pet crate that meets the standards of the airline and, if your cat or dog is not accustomed to being crated, you will want to allow your pet plenty of crate practice time before the scheduled trip.

At parks and other recreational areas, the rules are updated frequently. Yosemite, for example, does not allow dogs on trails. Each park will have its own set of regulations. One thing for sure is that leashes are always required for dogs and, of course, you'll want to pack a good supply of clean up bags.

Car travel can be made comfortable and safe for your pet with a few investments in items such as seat coverings, canine seat belts, and travel water dishes that prevent spills. Take your cat or dog out for short drives before embarking on a long distance one. This will acclimate your pet to the car and also let you know if your pet is prone to car sickness. Don't laugh – dogs especially can become car sick with symptoms of restlessness and panting while you are driving. An old dog owner's trick for curbing canine car sickness is keeping a box of ginger snaps in the car. Ginger can help relieve motion sickness in a pinch and can work for humans too!

Motels and hotels are generally becoming more pet friendly. The Automobile Association of America publishes information on pet friendly accommodations, and a good website to check out is www.petswelcome.com. Even when you see in print or on a website that pets are welcome, it is wise to call in advance to double check and find out, for example, if there is a refundable pet deposit fee.

As for overall access to planes, trains, hotels, and restaurants, unless you have a qualified service dog, you will need to check carefully each and every time you plan to bring your pet with you. Even service dog users know to give advance notice that they are partnered with one of these uniquely trained animals.

If you plan to fly with your pet, contact the airline well in advance to learn all the requirements. Pet air travel is governed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and there is excellent information available at www.usda.gov. Many airlines have web information posted on their specific rules and fees. Alaska Air and Delta are two such airlines.

This year, don't leave your pet behind when the family goes on vacation. Make plans that can include your pet and enjoy a truly complete family vacation.



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◆ ARTS from page 16

- Kids Arts and Crafts Activities
- Face Painting and Balloon Art
- Food Concessions from Loard's and Food Truck Mafia
- Net Proceeds to benefit the OAC
- 6:30 p.m. Lamorinda Idol Concert-in-the-Park
- Sneak Preview of the 2013 Lamorinda Idol Finals on September 8 at the Orinda Theatre featuring performances by 2013 Lamorinda Idol Finalists K-12th Grade
- Presented by The Orinda Arts Council

• Sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary

Bring your family, friends and a picnic and enjoy an evening of visual and performing arts in the park to benefit the OAC, with the support of the OCCA. Thanks to OAC co-chairs Kal Deutsch and Susan Garell along with committee members Steve Harwood, Dawn Kurisu, Susan Mautner, Wendy Meckes, Jennifer Wallace, Natalie Wheeler, Myrna Witt and Cathy Wong for all their work in making this event so much fun. See www.orindaartscouncil.org for more information.



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HELPING OTHERS / STUDENT

Orinda Academy Helps Ease Poverty in Central America

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Jurado wiped tears from her eyes as she translated the words of the gentleman who had come to Orinda Academy to collect donations from the school's students and staff. She explained that Esteban de Paz, the director of the Central American Refugee Committee (CRECE), grew up in such poverty that he never learned to read or write.

As he held his two-year-old daughter, de Paz explained that he wanted to help others who were in poverty, and thanked the school for its donations.

CRECE's raises support for communities in El Salvador and in the United States,

focusing on the neediest people.

According to Jurado, the Orinda Academy previously helped sponsor a toy campaign last December to help the group. "It was wonderful how kids, parents and faculty brought so many toys, we helped more than 120 families," said Jurado, adding "Compassion and solidarity are the best lessons you can teach to anyone, especially our young kids – so they can always see and help others and have a better understanding that overall we all look for the same in life – to live with dignity, to be respected and be loved."

Orinda Academy freshman Julissa Molina said she has volunteered for CRECE, alongside her mom, "basically all my life." According to Molina, the organization col-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Esteban de Paz and his two-year-old daughter (center) surrounded by Orinda Academy students and faculty.

Orinda Academy Junior, YingYu Ren, Wins Numerous Awards

By MIRIAM SCHAFFER
Contributing Writer

Seventeen-year-old YingYu Ren completes the academic year in fine form as she receives three awards recognizing her academic achievement, service and leadership.

The junior at Orinda Academy is one of only 10 students in the nation to win A Better Chance Award for Excellence given to students who show academic distinction, who contribute to the school community, and who demonstrate the ability to achieve. A Better Chance works to increase the number of well-educated young people of color who are capable of assuming positions of responsibility and leadership in American society.

The 2013 Alexander Hamilton Citizenship Achievement Award was also awarded to Ren. It recognizes youth who demonstrate leadership abilities, academic excellence and a passion for public service.

Ren's writing talent earned her the 2013 Friends of the Orinda Library Poul Anderson Writing Contest in the Essay/Memoir category. Her entry titled, "The Inspiring Ocean," details how her experience with the ocean impacts and parallels her life, from the time she was an infant in China to today as she looks toward her future.

"These awards encourage me to go further, keep challenging myself, be a better person, do my best and give back to the community," says Ren.

"YingYu is one of the most impressive, extraordinary students I have encountered in my 38 years of teaching and administration," says Ron Graydon, founder and head of Orinda Academy. "She has prospered in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Academy student YingYu Ren receives several honors.

spite of being an English language learner and has maintained a straight-A average in Orinda Academy's rigorous college preparatory curriculum."

In addition to her academic achievements, Ren has been a driving force on the student council, organizing the most successful toy drives in Orinda Academy's history. She is on the yearbook staff (her cover design was chosen in 2012 and 2013), is a math TA, a tour guide for prospective students, and has served as an interpreter for visiting Chinese recruiters and families.

Ren has logged hundreds of hours of community service, including work with the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation helping people prepare tax returns. She has also taught students study skills, time management and social media through A Better Chance's West Coast Orientation Program.

lects donations every year for a rural area in El Salvador which de Paz personally delivers.

In addition she said, "in this country, the group gives toys to children during Christmas, Easter baskets, distributes food every Friday, and we help teenagers get away from the violence. I love to volunteer in the organization, because I like to be part of the process of the change of teenagers and be a part of the help families receive.

Our main goal is to help families, especially teenagers and make them see the bright side of life."

The group collects donations in the form of medicine, school materials, sporting materials, clothes and shoes. Donations can be made directly to Eastbay CRECE in the form of tax deductible monetary or material donations.

For more information, <http://creceeastbay.wordpress.com/> or call 510-393-9546.

Students Learn about History of Orinda



SALLY HOGARTY

Stephanie Davenport's 3rd grade class at Wagner Ranch Elementary School spent the morning learning about and visiting historical sites around Orinda. The school tours are a regular offering of the Orinda Historical Society, located off the Orinda Library Plaza. Shown above with the students are Historical Society tour guide Charles Vollmar (far left), Stephanie Davenport and Historical Society tour guide Kay Norman (far right).

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EVERYDAY CHANGES

◆ GALLERY from page 2

The pieces are mixed media on wood panels - abstract with a landscape structure; the harbor presented her with many directions. She is a member of ProArts in Oakland, Artspan in San Francisco and Kala Art Institute in Berkeley. Milne recently explored cyanotype and lithography to add these techniques into her retinue of skills. Overall, she creates because she is inspired, and hopes that comes through in the work. Visit www.robinmilne.com.

Margo Scarpulla of Fairfield won first and third place in the recent 49th Annual Fairfield Visual Arts juried show in the ceramic vessels category. "My ceramics are all unglazed, the colors come from fuming, metals, oxides, salts, dusts and



ROBBIN MILNE

Honfleur 1 is part of a series of photographs Robbin Milne calls *Postcards from Honfleur*. All were inspired by her visit to Normandy, France.

organic material - a little different style than most ceramics," says Scarpulla. She has been creating ceramics most of her adult life and is drawn to work with clay because it is fluid, sensual and involves fire. "The first class I took I was hooked! I never tire of it, it's always relaxing." Scarpulla started doing the clay monotypes a couple of years ago as she enjoys using clay in this medium for a totally different outcome. She is showing 20-25 ceramic pieces and ten each of her clay monotypes and encaustics. Look for *Untitled*, a 10" x 8" saggar-fired clay vessel and *Cityscape*, a 20" x 16" clay monotype on board. Scarpulla keeps her work fresh by going to museums, entering gallery shows and contests, doing firings with other potters and is a member of the Blue Line Gallery in Roseville and the Richmond Art Center. She hopes viewers will derive as much pleasure from viewing her artwork as she enjoyed in creating them. Visit <http://smokeandclay.com/home> for

more information.

Sandra Wooten of Orinda has been beading since childhood, "I taught myself to make these beautiful objects and love the way they design themselves. I do not use a pattern. They are unplanned at the beginning and begin to come together as I select the colors to add or subtract," she says. "For those interested in symbols you will see that most of my small bead baskets have the five basic symbols used throughout the world: circle, square, spiral, triangle and equidistant cross." Wooten has an M.A. in Somatic Psychology and is a senior Rosen Method bodywork teacher and has taught in Russia, Europe and Scandinavia (see www.rosensouthwest.com). She is showing 60 baskets ranging in size from 3/4" to 1-3/4" diameter and 1/2" to 2" in height. Wooten

uses Japanese glass beads (15 : 1.2 mm in length, 1.5 mm in diameter) 0.8 mm hole for threading (a size 15 bead is approximately 0.004 inches); gold and silver beads; Swarovski crystal beads; silamide waxed thread; a fine needle; and occasionally a size 18 bead, which is smaller. Her small bead baskets are in the Harwood Museum of Art in Taos, New Mexico. She hopes viewers will see how light sparkles through the beads ... "a nice way to start or end the day."

Balamuth believes that art brings our community together and is a way for artists to share their life experiences. Milne says that, "Art is a place for contemplation and experience. Seeing great art is a chance to view the world. It speaks to us in a deeper place and the benefits are substantial." According to Scarpulla, "Even in difficult economic times you can go to a museum or gallery and look at what people have created to lift your spirits. I can't imagine a

Everyday Changes

Skin Aging – Understanding the Triggers and the Solutions

Bonnie Waters



When it comes to aging, we used to see ourselves as victims of our genes. This myth is now being dispelled as research shows that our aging process no longer mirrors that of our parents and grandparents. Approximately 36 percent of aging is due to factors beyond our control — our genes and heritage — but the rest is up to us.

With current advancements in aesthetics, there can be a favorable difference between a person's chronological age and biological age. The hands of time can, unfortunately, swing the other way. We may appear older than our chronological age.

So, what's the secret to achieving beauty at any age? I think most would agree that good health, quality of life and great skin care are key factors. For a more in-depth explanation of what constitutes great skincare as we age, I have borrowed Cosmedix's guidelines, one of the most respected developers of professional skincare.

The 30s

Between career moves, busy lifestyles and starting a family, our 30s can bring on a variety of different stressors. Many women at this age are plagued by adult acne and inflammatory skin conditions due to hormonal fluctuations and work-related tension. More evidence of internal change begins to surface as age spots, crow's feet and fine lines appear around the eyes and mouth, but signs of aging can be curtailed with professional correctives.

Solutions: Undergoing a series of non-wounding peels in conjunction with an at-home treatment regimen of resurfacing products can dramatically reduce the look of blemishes, wrinkles and sun spots, helping you to hold onto your youth.

The 40s

As we enter our 40s, noticeable differences occur as skin begins to lose elasticity.

There may be slight sagging around the neck area, and lines that were only visible when you smiled or laughed in your 30s may now be etched into your complexion. Because skin cells take longer to migrate to the surface, encouraging cellular turnover and stimulating collagen production is central to promoting healthier, more youthful looking skin.

Solutions: Incorporating antioxidants into both your diet and skin care routine will assist in preventing further free radical-induced damage. Look for cleansers, exfoliants and serums infused with vitamins A, C and E and load up on fruits, green vegetables, seeds and nuts.

The Golden Years

After 50, the skin's abilities to retain moisture and heal properly are significantly weakened as the body experiences internal changes. Hormonal oscillation and diminished natural reserves in mature and menopausal skin can cause the complexion to appear dry or flaky.

Solutions: Skin care treatments containing essential vitamins, emollients and hormonal regulators such as soy isoflavones and pregnenolone — also believed to play a role in skin immunity and hydration — will aid in replenishing the skin's lipid barrier to repair tone and texture, and firm sagging skin (now found around the forehead, mouth and eyes) to rebuild definition.

These guidelines can perhaps seem overwhelming. There is a plethora of anti-aging information available on the internet that addresses the issue of lifestyle and diet. Schedule a visit to a well-trained esthetician who can help you design your own personal skincare regime. Remember 64 percent of aging factors are within your control. Education and application are the key factors to swinging the hands of time in the desired direction!

community without art. To those who say 'I only want functional things in my house,' I say, 'how can looking at something beautiful not be functional?'" Wooten says that art takes us from our ordinary busy lives and introduces us to an invaluable pathway to our inner selves.

Visit the gallery 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 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 254-2814 for more information.

Orinda Association's New Website

The Orinda Association and *The Orinda News* have a new look online. A new colorful logo, lots of new photos, easy to navigate pages, and an even-easier way to pay for membership and newspaper advertising are all on display at www.orindaassociation.org or www.orindanews.org.

The new look includes a community calendar, a sponsors page and soon - a page dedicated to the youth of the community.

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SCOUTING / TEENS

Orinda Girl Scouts Chronicle the Nature Area for their Bronze Award

By KATHARINE BARRETT
Contributing Writer

On a breezy afternoon in the garden of Erica and Ravi Bains, the Girl Scouts of Troop 30280 presented their Bronze Award program that included a video documenting their activities in the Nature Area. As the video got underway, each scout stepped into the role of news reporter, explaining one of the many outdoor adventures.

Beginning with the Earth Day Wildlife Festival, the audience was delighted to revisit the raptor show, Native American band, and solar cooking. The scout reporters shared scenes from Rancho Days,

the piano that accompanied the closing scenes of exploring the trails and streams with Toris Jaeger, to whom the production was dedicated.

Their audience of parents, local citizens, and Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area supporters, talked with the girls following the presentation. When asked about their favorite location in the Nature Area several described the "beach" along the creek. The Troop cleaned up litter so that others will enjoy this lovely stretch of stream.

Toris thanked the following Junior Scouts for supporting the Nature Area: Bella Crayton, Taylor Hernandez, Julia Lang, Kaitlyn Miller, Ilana Rubin, Katrina



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Girl Scouts **Taylor Hernandez, Audrey Spindler, Kaitlyn Miller and Ilana Rubin** shown with **Lilana Spindler**.

archery and games from Native American Studies, and scenes from First Thanksgiving. Other scout reporters featured the garden, the Olive Festival, and panning for gold. Cooking was a high point of Pioneer Days, as students made johnnie cake in the adobe oven and chili from scratch. Audrey Spindler played the piano music that introduced the video, and Bella Crayton played

Schrittwieser, Anika Shandalov, and Audrey Spindler. Troop leaders Lilana Spindler and Sandra Rubin took the girls on the outings and helped them choreograph the program.

Spindler filmed and edited the video, which provides a vibrant 17-minute peek into the joys of learning history and science in the out-of-doors.

Girl Scout Troop Completes Badge



ERIC THOMPSON

Junior Girl Scout Troop 31339 celebrated the completion of their "Speak Out!" badge by speaking out against negative stereotypes. (back row L-R): **Alexandra, Katie, Hayden, Roni, Zoe, Tenley, Anna, Camryn, Olivia, Marlowe, Caitlin** (front row L-R): **Leilah, Shannon, Lily, and Kiera**. Not pictured are troop members Madeleine and Madison.

Senior Girl Scout Troop #32259 Earns the Silver Award



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Girl Scout Troop #32259 has earned the Silver Award, the second highest Girl Scout Award. Over the past two years, the 9th grade girls have partnered with the Feral Cat Foundation to provide feral and abandoned cats with 15 feeding stations and shelters, cat food, bowls and blankets. The feeding stations and shelters were constructed by the girls using environmentally sustainable materials. In addition, the Troop has focused on educating the local community on the many benefits of spaying and neutering pets by providing informational brochures to local pet shops and vets and by speaking to younger Girl Scouts about the benefits of spaying and neutering pets.

The Feral Cat Foundation is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization whose primary mission is to help people live with the feral and forgotten cats and kittens in Alameda and Contra Costa County.

Shown above (L-R): **Taryn Lausch, Elise Anthenien, Lauren Finnell**, Feral Cat Foundation volunteer **Germaine Miller**, and **Valentina Trejo-Honens**.

Help Teens Enjoy Safe Summer

By JAIME RICH
Contributing Writer

Summer is a time of celebration and parties for all ages. Teens have time on their hands and energy to burn. Let's work together to make sure that our kids stay safe this summer.

Parents play a major role in their children's choices about alcohol and other drugs. A recent national survey of parents and teens by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found one third of teen partygoers have been to parties where teens were drinking alcohol or using other drugs while a parent was present. By age 17, nearly half of teens have been at such parties where parents were present.

Fact: As a parent, you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstance even in

your own home, even with their parent's permission. You also cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or in possession of alcohol. In Orinda, there are legal consequences if you do. You can be prosecuted and face up to six months in jail, and/or be fined \$1000.

Here are a few ideas for parents (and teens) planning celebratory parties:

- Create a party plan, including a guest list, with your teen;
- Invite just the friends on your list and let them know in advance the party is "invitation only;"
- Make regular and unobtrusive visits to the party area;
- Be "present" in every way.

The above information is provided by the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Email Rich at Jaime@chd-prevention.org.



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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

July

- 1 **Moraga Art Gallery** presents *Beauty and the Feast* with paintings by Josie Osolin and ceramics by Elayne Isaacs. The show runs through Aug. 10 at 522 Center St. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Visit <http://moragaartgallery.com>.
Theatre Arts for Kids, a function of Contra Costa Children's Chorus, will perform *Wizard of Oz* July 1-12 and *Orphans on Broadway* July 15-26. For tickets visit www.childrenschorus.org.
- 2 **Story Hour** for 2- to 4-year-olds and their caregivers, every Tuesday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 254-7606.
Concert-in-the-Park featuring Bay Bridge Funk (funk, rhythm and blues), Orinda Community Center Park, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. www.cityoforinda.org.
- 3 **California Shakespeare Theatre** presents William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* through July 28, various times, Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theatre Way, Orinda. Call 510-548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.
- 4 **Lamorinda 30th Anniversary 4th of July Celebration**, throughout Orinda, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. See story page 11.
- 9 **Concert-in-the-Park** featuring Stone Soup (classic rock), Orinda Community Center Park, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. www.cityoforinda.org.
- 11 **Orinda Books** hosts Anton DiScianfani discussing her debut novel *The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls*, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 16 **Arts in Bloom**, featuring art exhibits, silent auction and kids' arts and crafts activities, Orinda Community Park, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. See story page 16.
Lamorinda Idol Concert in the Park, a sneak preview of the *2013 Lamorinda Idol Finals*, Orinda Community Park, 6:30 p.m.
World Affairs Book Group will read and discuss *National Insecurity: The Cost of American Militarism* by Melvin Goodman, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 22 **Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament**, Orinda Country Club, 10:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit local charities. See story page 10.
- 23 **Concert-in-the-Park** featuring Pladdohg (Celtic rock), Orinda Community Center Park, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. www.cityoforinda.org.
- 28 **Opera in the Park**, presented by Orinda Rotary and featuring singers from Open Opera performing well-known operatic arias and ensemble pieces, Orinda Community Park, 4 - 6 p.m. Call 925-219-0082. See story page 17.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Please note the library will be closed July 4. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 2 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop-ins welcome, but attendance limited to once per week. Also July 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31.
Peek-A-Book Time, songs, stories, rhythms and rhymes for infants to 16 months old and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 a.m. Also July
Paws to Read, children in grades K-5 can earn Summer Reading minutes with a friendly dog, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call or visit the library to sign up. Also July 9, 16, 23 and 30.
- 4 **Book Sale** sponsored by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and Sorting Area, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 6 **Saturday Morning Live** features story time for children 0-5 years, Picture Book Area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also July 13 and 20.
- 10 **Summer Music Series** features soprano Margaret Miles singing songs from the British Isles, accompanying herself on autoharp, bodhran and penny whistle, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.
- 11 **Kids' Club** for children 0-5 years features music and fun at the Republic of Cake in Theater Square. Music with Melita at 11 a.m. and stories at 11:30 a.m. Also July 18 and 25.
ESL (English as a Second Language) Conversation Circle, practice your English conversation skills in an informal group setting, Tutoring Room, 1 p.m. No registration required. Also July 18 and 25.
- 13 **Weekend Paws to Read** for children in grades K-5. Earn Summer Reading minutes with a friendly dog, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call the library to sign up for a 20-minute session.
- 19 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. New members welcome.
- 21 **Contra Costa County Library 100th birthday** celebration at Pleasant Hill Park and Teen Center, 147 Gregory Lane, with arts and crafts, music and special performances, noon to 5 p.m.
- 25 **Talespinners of Contra Costa**, tell a story or just come to listen, featuring a special storyteller, 7 to 9 p.m. Adult program.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Call Karen Seaborn, 689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Better Homes and Garden Mason-McDuffie Office, 51 Moraga Way, Orinda, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Celia's Mexican Restaurant, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday. Visit www.orindahiking.org or call

OIS Student Helps Animals



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Baker Sharp (center) delivered a check for \$4,173 to Operation Paws Rescue. The Orinda Intermediate student organized several fundraisers, primarily dog washes at Pet Food Express, as part of OIS' Take Action program. Shown with Sharp are (back row L-R): **Sheldon Satnick** (volunteer who donated an additional \$1,000 to Operation Paws Rescue), **Debbie Rodriguez** (founder of Operation Paws Rescue), Sharp and a puppy looking for a home, **Cindy Smith** (Volunteer program manager for Contra Costa Animal Services), **Glenn Howell** (Director of Contra Costa Animal Services) and (front row) **Rick Golphin** (Deputy Director, Contra Costa Animal Services).

Orinda Starlight Village Players Go Dark for July

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) will go dark for July, postponing performances of their second show until August. Artistic director Geotty Chapple cited the park's new electrical construction as the reason for delaying the second show of the company's 30th anniversary season.

When construction started on the new senior housing complex at Irwin Way (the site

of the former library), the contractor and the city discovered that the power to the Orinda Community Center Park, including the tennis courts, pathways and amphitheater stage where Starlight performs, ran through the construction site. As the old library was leveled, the power had to be disconnected plunging the park into darkness.

While PG&E has devised a new connection for the park facilities, construction will not be completed until early to mid-July.

[SEE STARLIGHT page 24]

Ian at 254-1465.

Orinda Historical Society. Third Wednesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Historical Society Museum, 26 Orinda Way, 254-1353.

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

Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 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, 254-3881.

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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THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

ON QUALITY AND QUANTITY



Tom Westlake

Though July is known as the month we celebrate independence, there is a dark side to this, and particularly here in the Orinda/Moraga area where we continue to trudge through a period devoid of exciting independent film choices. Vanessa's Brainless Film Fest is still deposed from its rightful place upon the throne and the International Film Showcase is on vacation while summer blockbusters fill the cinematic firmament, leaving naught but the Moraga Movers and the Classic Film Showcase to take up the slack.

Fortunately, these two august (see what I did there?) institutions have more than stepped up to the plate with films that have achieved true classic status. If I sound too effusive, it's only because I hold these two movies in the highest regard: One for what it represents, and the other for its naiveté and (for want of a better word) oddness.

We'll start with the former. *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942) on the surface could easily be summarized as a film bio of the great George M. Cohan. It could also be called to task for its overly romanticizing its subject matter but that would be totally missing the point. Aside from it playing in the perfect month, it also has some of the sharpest writing and dialogue ever displayed, and that's not even taking into account the music and dancing! James Cagney, ably

fulfilling a dream of playing a role that did not include gangsters and tommy guns, manages to completely immerse himself in the role, going so far as to emulate, in every way possible, Cohan's actual dance moves; they even hired Cohan's original choreographer. It will screen at the Orinda Theatre on July 11 at 7 p.m.

The other film of note is *Spellbound*. Of Hitchcock's early works, this one had been the most lauded, not only because of Gregory Peck and Ingrid Bergman but because there were two other "trends" attaining increased popularity at the time. One was the increasing breakthroughs in psychoanalysis, and the other was a new popular art form called surrealism. It could be argued that the two go hand in hand and Hitchcock, ever the innovator, found a way to do just that. Though, by today's standards the theories might sound simplistic, the artfulness cannot be denied, and, of course, the dream sequence designed by Salvador Dali, though it lasts less than two minutes, is the highlight of the film. Also, look out for a very early use of color. It will screen at the Orinda Theatre on July 17 at 4 p.m.

And that's it! Hopefully, August will see an increase in cinematic choices and, although it may be difficult this month, remember to stay in the dark, for that is where true magic lies.

Sleepy Hollow Book Club Celebrates 60th Anniversary



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
(back row L-R): Rachel Hassard, Jill Lamont, Connie Fenley, Brenda Leese, Jean McKibben, Patty Moore, Gail Roche Van Wye, Nancy Dupuis, Tracy Lloyd and Melanie Widroe (front row L-R): Joye McCoy, Molly Gravelle, Elva Rust and Margo Elmer.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Sleepy Hollow Book Club has been going strong since the 1940s. The group recently celebrated their 60th anniversary with a festive luncheon at the Orinda Country Club.

The club began on Irving Lane and soon expanded to adjoining streets. Several original members, including Nancy Dupuis, Margo Elmer, Elva Rust and Joye McCoy, still attend meetings. For 50+ years, the book club included only Sleepy Hollow residents, but it now boasts members from other areas of Orinda.

The group of approximately 15 women

still meets from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., October through June.

The early meeting time was established to accommodate young mothers, who enjoyed the social aspect of the group but needed to be done in time to pick-up kindergarteners returning from Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.

"Unlike other book clubs, we don't all read the same book," says Patty Moore. "We take turns giving book reviews of books we have enjoyed, and after hearing the review, each member can decide if she wants to read the book." Each year in November, Marion Nielson of Orinda Books attends a meeting to give the club her reviews on the newest holiday books.

◆ MOFD from page 5

\$7,500, on the property in March. Con Fire was not able to get its board of directors, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, to approve making their half of the deposit before the deposit deadline due to scheduling conflicts, so MOFD placed the second half of the deposit, another \$7,500, for Con Fire in April. The Board of Supervisors rejected the proposed joint station at their May 14 meeting, leaving MOFD responsible for the entire \$15,000 deposit.

Since the property in question was not located in Orinda, MOFD could not purchase the property on its own. Chief Bradley contacted the City of Lafayette to see if they would purchase the property on behalf of MOFD. Chief Bradley said, "I believe the location we've chosen for

that fire station is by far the best location to provide services to the western portion of Lafayette and the eastern portion of Orinda. I still believe that's a better location than our current fire station 43." The City of Lafayette agreed, and the proposal was brought before the MOFD board. Don Tatzin, vice mayor of Lafayette said, "We took the position reaffirming our support of the idea of a consolidated station. On the basis that it obviously provides better service to us and over the long term takes costs out of the county wide fire system."

At the May 15 board meeting, the MOFD board rejected the proposed plan in conjunction with the City of Lafayette and terminated their contract to purchase the property. MOFD board of director Fred Weil said, "We've got \$236,000 at risk. We lose that if Station 43 doesn't go forward.

We've got \$15,000 that we spent to keep the option open. I have no disagreement with that. I felt at the very beginning that we needed to take time to explore the possibility. If it cost a little bit of money, then it was worth doing. I only turned around on that issue when it became apparent that the county either would not support it without taking some money elsewhere or maybe just couldn't afford it at all." MOFD board of director Steve Anderson added, "This was a very attractive deal financially. We no longer have a partner. It is no longer attractive financially. It would be a very good thing for us to do for the citizens of Lafayette, but I don't represent the citizens of Lafayette. I represent the citizens of Moraga-Orinda."

For more information, visit www.mofd.org.

◆ STARLIGHT from page 23

OrSVP, with assistance from Orinda Parks and Recreation, was able to run power from the ticket booth, rest rooms and KinderGym in order to provide power for their first show, Frank Vosper's *Love from a Stranger*, an adaptation of Agatha Christie's *Philomel Cottage*. Parks and Recreation also set up floodlights on the corner of the Community Center to provide lights for OrSVP patrons when leaving the theater after dark. The resulting lighting, however, only allowed for minimal illumination.

Chapple has decided to postpone the opening of the company's second show, *A Thurber Carnival* by James Thurber, until August, in order to avoid having performances during the construction.

Performances for *A Thurber Carnival* by James Thurber will start on August 2 and run Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m. through August 24, with one Sunday matinee on August 18 at 4 p.m. and Thursday August 22, at 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225.

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SEASONED SHOPPER / MOVE OF THE MONTH



Seasoned Shoppe

Watermelon Takes Center Stage

BARBARA KOBSAR



July brings out some of the best at the local farmers' market. Stone fruits like peaches and plums have had time to soak up the sun before being picked ripe from the tree, tasty heirloom tomatoes are in full swing, and sweet corn offers up both crunch and flavor.

Ratto Farms "sea of green" display is full of kale, parsley, green onions, cilantro, basil and chards, but it's the watermelon that takes center stage this month. There are only two broad categories of melons – muskmelons like cantaloupe and Honey Dew, and watermelons.

Watermelon choices include those with or without seeds, shapes from round to oblong and flesh colors of red, pink or yellow. Do you remember the square watermelon that made its appearance over a decade ago? Developed in the Japanese town of Zentsuji, it remained cost prohibitive to ever enter into the American market, and there are already plenty of ways to buy pre-cut and smaller versions of our local watermelons.



BARBARA KOBSAR
Michaela and Nick Ratto of Ratto Farms provide a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Personal preference comes into play when choosing the perfect watermelon. The only fool proof way of finding one with the desirable deep colored dense flesh is to buy it already cut. Look for whole, ripe watermelons with a hard skin that's changed from its shiny state to a dull finish. The patch that develops during growing, where the melon is in contact with the ground, should turn from tan to a richer yellow color, If you prefer to judge a watermelon by sound, slap it on the underside and it should respond with a dull thump.

Hamada Farms are known for their quality stone fruits and figs along with an impressive selection of dried fruits. Preston Hamada is the familiar face tending the

booth at the Orinda Farmers' Market.

Stone fruits, more than many other fruits, are at their absolute best when allowed to ripen on the tree. A fragile commodity though, they deserve the respect of not being squeezed. Ripe and ready peaches and nectarines give off a tantalizing fragrance – so soak up the scent to find the perfect peach!

Figs develop their sweetness during hot weather, and Hamada Farms in Kingburg (Fresno County) proves conducive to producing fabulous figs. The July fig harvest is produced on last year's new wood, while the second harvest in August and September is from the upcoming summer growth. Fresh figs are at a premium since they are extremely perishable so enjoy them while they last!

Be sure to stop by Jim McKeown's stand to check out more of this month's specialties. Persian cucumbers are a cut above common garden cucumbers with their smooth thin skin, crisp sweet flesh and absence of developed seeds. Harvesting at the 4 to 6 inch size insures Jim's customers the peak-of-sweetness.

Jim takes pride in his crop of Elephant Heart plums – developed by horticulturist and pioneer of agriculture science, Luther Burbank, in Sonoma County, CA. This plum stands up to its name with a heart shape and deep ruby red colored flesh that's tender, firm and succulent.

You'll also find a fresh supply of okra waiting for you. This one-of-a-kind vegetable is actually an edible form of hibiscus. Attractive foliage and yellow hollyhock like flowers make the plant an ornamental addition to home gardens before the pods appear between the leaf stem and the main stem. Commonly associated with southern cooking, the okra pod opens to release a viscous substance that serves as the thickener in the popular seafood gumbo recipes.

This season welcomes a few new and exciting vendors to the market. Ashley Flowers, owner of Savvy's Sweet Shoppe, is bringing several varieties of all gluten free marshmallow pops (Lemon Meringue Pie is the most popular) and Chocolate Chip cookies. Stop by if you're looking for a unique idea for birthdays, weddings, favors and showers!

Patatas is proving a popular stop to [SEE SHOPPER page 27]

Move of the Month

Squat and Over the Bosu



1. Facing forward place the lead foot on the bosu and squat, bringing hips back and knees and ankles aligned.

2. As you rise from the squat, bring both feet onto the bosu and stand vertically.

3. Then bring the lead foot down and squat again.

4. Repeat back and forth. Each time back and forth counts as one.

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

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BILL'S Living Lean Success Story

Bill Rudolph of Lafayette tells his Living Lean story in his own words.

I am a 52 year old guy that came to Sheena weighing 208 lbs, which is too much for my 5 ft 10 in. height. I had a big gut with a 37 inch waist. I had recently been to the doctor and had been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. Given this information my wife and I decided to try the Living Lean program.

We began spinning classes two to three times a week, personal training twice a week and riding our road bikes or skiing on the weekends. We changed our eating habits in accordance with Sheena's guidance.

Within an 8 week period, I lost 22 lbs and reduced my waist size to 33 inches. My recent blood tests indicate that I have eliminated the type 2 diabetes. I feel better than I can ever remember. I feel strong, energized, and have an overall positive attitude. My wife has had similar positive results, and it has been very reinforcing to do the program together. Thank you Sheena!

living lean.

925.360.7051
www.livingleanprogram.com

Is your story next?

Living Lean Question of the Month:
I lose weight in the beginning of my diet but then I plateau after a month or so, why is that?
Check our website for the Living Lean answer

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



To send items for consideration, email Hotz at v.hotz@att.net.

La Piazza Celebrates 18 Years with New Interior Design

This month Charles Mounzer unveils a vibrant new look at his popular convivial bistro located at the Crossroads and directly across the street from Theatre Square at 15 Moraga Way.

The interior makeover features a banquette seating arrangement along the south wall and a color scheme of bold brick red walls accented with espresso as well as new flooring. An appealing mosaic tile scheme replaces the plain stucco exterior of the authentic brick fired oven where so many delicious thin-crust pizzas are baked before your eyes.



Charles Mounzer owns the newly refurbished La Piazza.

"We are all very excited about the new changes to the menu as well as the new look. We have retained popular dishes including the Arrabiata, Vongole, Tequila Pizza and fresh Petrale Sole, and this summer we are adding some new ones," smiles Mounzer. If you have lived in Orinda very long, then you are sure to find a friend at La Piazza on any given night of the week. Mounzer warmly greets diners and oversees the operation, often handling take out orders.

A wine cellar has been installed, with Malbec and Syrah added to the wine list. Fresh fish is delivered daily and featured as a special on the menu. Later this summer look for a special selection of Mediterranean dishes added to the usual menu on the first Monday of the month.

"You can count on an excellent dinner every time you come here. I feel like I am in Italy, it is that good. Their calzone is the absolute best, as well as the Petrale Sole with capers, fresh vegetable and pasta with Alfred sauce," says Cyndi Hilton Girgis, a self-proclaimed regular at La Piazza. "Most of the staff has been here more than a decade and that speaks volumes," adds Hilton Girgis. "A major reason for our consistency is our excellent staff," says Mounzer.

A native of Lebanon who speaks three languages – English, French and Arabic – Mounzer earned his Master's degree in civil engineering in France at the University of Lyon. He was a civil engineer for 13 years and worked on projects in Lebanon, Saudi

Arabia and the United States before becoming a restaurateur in 1995. "My late cousin, Mike Deeb, owned the Nob Hill Café in San Francisco, and we opened La Piazza together with a vision of serving Mediterranean cuisine. I am grateful to the Orinda community for their wonderful support over the years," says Mounzer. He enjoys traveling to the Mediterranean occasionally to find new recipes to bring back to La Piazza. When back in the Bay Area, he loves to tend to his abundant garden where he grows several varieties of tomatoes, arugula, cucumber, lettuce, Swiss chard, apple, plum, peach, apricot, lemon and fig trees.

Stop by La Piazza after taking in a film at Orinda Theatre. They are open for dinner seven days a week, Sunday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Mounzer is a longtime member of the Orinda Rotary Club and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

La Piazza's menu can be viewed online at www.lapiazzaorinda.com. To place a take out order, call 253-9191.

Land Home Financial Services, Inc. Opens Orinda Branch

With over 37 branches located in several states, Land Home Financial Services is primarily a mortgage company offering homeowner's insurance as well as all mortgage products such as FHA, VA, conforming and jumbo loans. The Orinda branch located on the street level of Theatre Square adjacent to Entourage Spa and Salon is overseen by executive vice president Louis Acevedo and ably assisted by co-managers Angela Warren and Parvaneh Poirer.

"The company currently services \$3 billion in loans with 500 employees nationwide. We are experiencing buyers who are very interested in quick closings and getting pre-qualified in advance to facilitate this process. Our office is able to close escrow on a home purchase in 21 days at present, although refinancing existing mortgages takes longer, about 30 to 45 days, depending on the complexity of the situation," says Acevedo.

"Our slogan is 'Knowledge, Commitment and Trust,' which we build with every client. What differentiates us and makes us successful is our excellent customer service. Every loan officer throughout the company is specially trained and delivers



Louis Acevedo of Land Home Financial Services in Theatre Square.

careful attention to detail with every client," adds Acevedo. The entire process it takes to get a loan is completed in house, from approval, underwriting and processing to securing a team of local appraisers. "We do not outsource anything," says Acevedo.

A "Pay it Forward" program at the Orinda Branch involves Land Home Financial donating \$250 to a local charity of the client's choosing upon the close of escrow. "The Educational Foundation of Orinda is one of the more popular charities where clients enjoy directing their donation," he adds.

Acevedo and his wife, Diane, have been Orinda residents for 11 years. They originally met in Hawaii and enjoy scuba diving together in their spare time. Diane is a recovery room nurse at John Muir Hospital. The couple has two children in local public schools.

To contact Louis Acevedo directly, call 888-484-7776. For more information about Land Home Financial Services, Inc., call the Theatre Square office at 925-885-6760.

Cloud 9 Offers an Organic Experience

This conveniently located all service hair and nail salon is situated around the corner at One Orinda Way, just behind the Shell Station. Owners Alyssa Renteria and Leah Crane Kao proudly offer clients completely organic products and share their enthusiasm in using these products.

"All the scrubs, soaks and lotions we use at Cloud 9 are made from organic materials. Spa Ritual, Zoya, Scotch and Hop Scotch nail polishes last as long as other salon polishes, but they do not absorb into the skin or stain nails the way other polishes do," explains Alyssa Renteria, who is a licensed cosmetologist and licensed manicurist. A native of Pleasant Hill, Renteria is an expert in special event makeup for weddings and proms.

"We undertake a two-step disinfection of our manicure and pedicure tools. The first step involves soaking in liquid hospital grade disinfectant, and the second treatment is in the autoclave, a heat sterilizer," says

[SEE BUZZ page 27]

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Saturday morning, August 31

Miramonte High School in Orinda, CA

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 26

Renteria. "This process ensures proper hygiene is maintained."

Voted Best of 2013 in the category of full service salon and manicures and pedicures by Lamorinda Moms Club, Cloud 9 offers a relaxing retreat for Orindans, complete with a calming waterfall and lovely white orchids. "We have a peaceful atmosphere for busy mothers, where they don't have to deal with phones ringing. Everything is by appointment only, so there is never a wait," adds Renteria. The premises are brightly lit by sunlight with plantation shuttered windows and wood laminate flooring. Light fixtures sport six watt LED light bulbs that are environmentally friendly.

As a full service salon, clients can get

anything from a cut and blow dry to deep conditioning treatments, highlights, tint retouch, a special occasion up-style to a full selection of waxing services and much more. Bridal packages are available upon request, as well as a one-time makeup lesson. Brendan Fockler is the licensed cosmetologist who specializes in hair salon services. Loma Organics shampoo and conditioner is utilized here and is sulphate, parabin and gluten free.

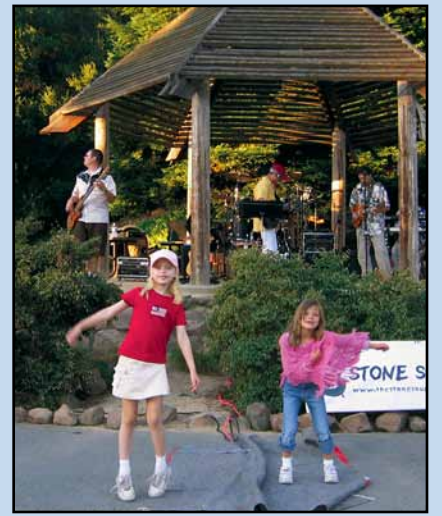
Certified massage therapist Dana Priebe schedules sessions with clients by appointment only. She willingly accommodates schedules with pleasure. Email Priebe directly at drdpriebe@gmail.com. For more information about Cloud 9, visit the website at www.cloud9organictherapy.com or call 925-258-9811 for an appointment.

Parks Make Life Better! ® Photo Contest

The City of Orinda Parks and Recreation department is sponsoring a photo contest. The six photo categories include: Play, Nature, Exercise, Positive Spaces, Gathering Places, and Forever.

Entries may be submitted to OrindaParksRec@cityoforinda.org or to the Orinda Parks and Recreation Office (28 Orinda Way). Entries are due by August 9, 2013. Visit www.cityoforinda.org for information or call 254-2445. Take a photo and help celebrate how Parks Make Life Better! ® now and in the future!

— Linda Dezzani,
Contributing Writer



◆ SHOPPER from page 25

pick up a traditional Spanish tortilla at the Orinda market. Chef Marcos Quezada offers spinach or roasted red pepper tortillas for serving hot or cold. All are dairy free and naturally gluten free.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

The Orinda Farmers' market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park and Rite Aid. For more information, visit the website at www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

Barbara Kobsar, *The Seasoned Shopper*, can be reached at cotkitchen@aol.com.

Land Financial Joins Chamber



SALLY HOGARTY

A festive party and ribbon cutting ceremony at Land Home Financial Services welcomed the group to Theatre Square and to the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. (L-R) **Barbara Jaye, Susan Martin, Brad Waite, Angela Warren, Parvaneh Poirier, Eric Stephan, Candy Kattenburg**



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For more information, please visit
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