

THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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June 2012

Shapell Homes Chosen to Build at Wilder

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Brooks Street, the master developer for the Wilder residential project in Gateway Valley, recently signed an agreement with Shapell Homes to build as many as 50 homes over the next few years.

"We are excited to welcome Shapell to the neighborhood," said Scott Goldie of Brooks Street. "Their involvement speaks to the desirability of a luxury community located in one of the Bay Area's most sought after small towns."

Shapell's president Bill West feels that Wilder is a perfect fit for his company. "We are passionate about building homes and communities where families want to live, and Wilder offers just that," said West. "We are eager to get started."

Located on 1,600 acres off Hwy. 24 just east of the Caldecott Tunnel, Wilder will feature 245 single-family homes, an extensive network of trails and pathways, a

[SEE SHAPELL page 21]

Orinda Residents Offer Camp for Youth With Special Needs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youth from last year's camp enjoyed their two-weeks in the beautiful Sierra Nevada mountains at this camp for youth with social cognitive differences. The camp is run by Orinda residents Meg and Mike Fields. For more information, see page 19.

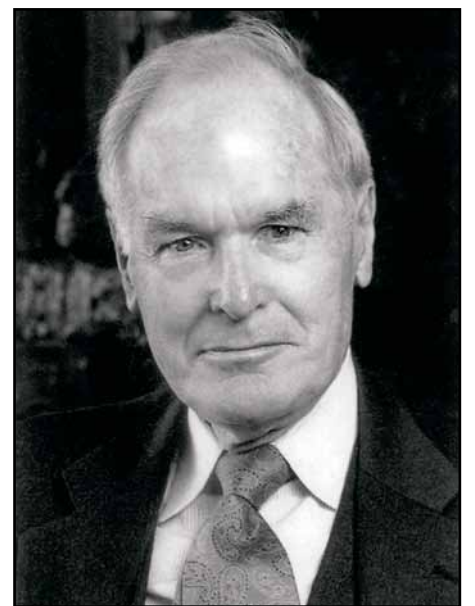
Orinda's First Mayor Remembered by Family and Friends

On May 9, Orinda residents lost a strong advocate and visionary man who helped Orinda transition from an unincorporated area under county control

to becoming its own city and so much more. The first mayor of Orinda, Richard Gordon Heggie (Dick), passed away at his home in Orinda surrounded by his family. He was 88.

"Knowing Dick Heggie was like getting my post-graduate degree," says Bobbie Landers, who was a member of Orinda's first City Council with Heggie. "He enjoyed sharing his wisdom and wit and his way with words was especially phenomenal. We both shared our love for Orinda. It is a joy to call Dick my friend."

— Sally Hogarty, Editor



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Richard Gordon Heggie was Orinda's first mayor. He passed away on May 9 at the age of 88.

Berkeley where he received his Masters in International Relations. He met his future wife, Bea, through the Cal Symphony Forum when he agreed to move a piano

[SEE HEGGIE page 8]

Old Yellow House Gets A Lift



ANN O'CONNELL-NYE

James Wright (L) recently purchased the house from Ezra Nelson, who grew up in the Old Yellow House and now lives next door.

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Orinda's historic Old Yellow House is getting refurbished by James P. Wright, an architect who specializes in green or "passive houses." Originally built in 1893 by Captain Jenkins, the house is located on Moraga Way. Wright said, "It was occupied by the Nelson family until 1966, when Ezra Nelson's mother passed. It hasn't changed since 1966. Ezra told me it got painted this salmon color in 1991. Ezra's dad dug out and built the stone foundation."

Wright plans on doing a complete energy overhaul of the house and hopes to bring its

[SEE HOUSE page 6]

Veterans Wanted!
To ride in the 4th of July parade.
Call 254-0800.

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Getting In Step With the 4th of July Marching Band



SALLY HOGARTY

Marie Waterman, a long-time member of the band, plays the quad drums in a recent 4th of July parade.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Marching to the beat, literally, of her own drum, Marie Waterman is busy polishing her technique, practicing her paradiddles (drum beats), and making sure she has comfortable shoes as she prepares for another performance with the Orinda All Volunteer Marching Band.

Each year, the motley crew of musicians gets together for one practice on the morning of July 4 before taking their place in the parade route and bringing joy to the thousands of spectators watching the festivities.

"I've played in the marching band for over 15 years," says Waterman. "My love affair with drums began in my high school marching band in Port Chester, New York, Ed Sullivan's hometown, where I also

played in an all-female drum and bugle corps." After high school, Waterman played in college and even in summer stock. "I come from a musical family. My dad was a lounge singer and when his band would practice in our basement, I became fascinated by the drums. My brother became a studio musician and does a lot of session work."

At one time, Waterman dreamed of making a living as a musician. "Then reality set in," she adds. Although she went on to a career in finance with Schwab, she never gave up her music. "I discovered other musicians also working at Schwab; one had graduated from Julliard," recalls Waterman. "We formed the Schwab All Stars and all performed everywhere."

[SEE MARCHING page 8]

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Saluting Our Veterans and The
Orinda Classic Car Show



Bill Waterman

The Fourth of July is just around the corner, and this year the Orinda Association, in partnership with the Orinda Community Foundation and the Orinda and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce, proudly presents the Lamorinda Fourth of July Parade and Celebration. This year our event is sponsored by Orinda Motors and Mechanics Bank, and our theme is "Saluting Our Veterans." We are inviting ALL VETERANS – of all ages and branches of service – to ride or march in this year's parade.

Many veterans live here in Lamorinda, and this year's parade is a good way to show each of them our heartfelt appreciation for their dedication and service. Therefore, I ask that any interested vets or family members please contact the OA office – so that we can make arrangements for your participation in the parade. Our office phone is 254-0800, and our email is oa@orindaassociation.org.

I am also proud to announce that the OA

and Orinda Rotary have agreed to work in tandem with Orinda Motors and the car show team to support the 8th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend, set for Friday and Saturday September 21-22 in Orinda Village. The event will include the "Dancing With The Cars" party on Friday night, followed by Saturday's show, with over 180 pristine cars expected to be on display. The Car Show benefits many worthwhile causes, including the OA's "Seniors Around Town" driving program, EFO, and the Orinda Historical Society, among others. With the addition of the OA and Orinda Rotary to the Car Show team, the event has truly become a broad-based community gathering. More information on the event is available at www.OrindaCarShow.com and in our story on page 13.

With the support of our fine community partners, the OA is proud to continue its service to the community and to help bring about the "Summer of Fun" here in Orinda.

Show Your Spirit With a Flag

What would the 4th of July be without the American flag? It's a time-honored symbol of our nation's fight for independence, and proud Americans display it on various holidays throughout the year – but none more so than on the 4th of July.

The Orinda Association (OA) in partnership with the Orinda Community Foundation and the Orinda and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce are busy planning this year's 4th of July parade and celebration in the park and hopes to have flags hanging throughout Orinda on this special holiday. The flags will be hung from light poles in the downtown area.

Businesses, individuals or families can



SALLY HOGARTY

A sample of the 6' flags that will be displayed throughout downtown Orinda on the 4th of July.

purchase a flag by making a tax-deductible contribution of \$45. For more information, contact Bobbie Landers at 254-8260 or OA treasurer Steve Stahle at stevestahle@sbcglobal.net.



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Important Info for Members

Ever missed a meeting or event in Orinda that you intended to attend but didn't know about it in time or needed a reminder? Let us help. Now, OA members who have given us their email address will receive periodic (maybe six a year) announcements of upcoming events or meetings of importance to the community. Now, you can be in the know!

New and renewing members, please sign up online. It's easy, fast, secure, and helps reduce paper waste. Go to www.orindaassociation.org and sign up today! Your support has never been more critical and is very much appreciated. Thank you!

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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Jill Gelster began as one of the newspaper's graphic artists in 2002 and shortly started selling the advertising as well.

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For information on the OA, go to www.orindaassociation.org.

Editorial MOFD on the Right Track

For some time now, the board of the Moraga Orinda Fire District has been criticized for its financial decisions. The latest debacle involved losing a \$25,000 deposit when they decided (rightfully so) that the purchase of a large office building on Moraga Way was not a good use of the district's funds.

I applaud the board's decision to save approximately \$145,000 in salary and benefit costs by eliminating the recently vacated fire marshal position and instead combining that position with Fire Chief Bradley's current responsibilities and changing Kathy

Leonard's position from fire prevention officer to assistant fire marshal. Leonard will now take on some of the previous fire marshal's duties in addition to her current responsibilities (see page 7 for more information). Let's hope this new trend of using the district's finances wisely will continue.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Correction

In the May issue, the name of Veronica Huish was incorrectly listed as Victoria Huish in the article on Girl Scout Troop 30675.

Letters to the Editor

Residential Streets Need Help

The Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) made its annual report to the Orinda City Council on May 1. It reported that Orinda's major roads have seen significant improvements in the past several years and that all major roads are projected to be improved to the level of at least "fair" by 2015. However, none of the 60 miles of residential streets have seen any improvements, and the city lacks the funds to repair the 45 miles of streets in poor and failed conditions. Further, while the CIOC encouraged the council to develop a plan to address these residential streets, in the six years since the Infrastructure Committee report quantified Orinda's crumbling infrastructure issues, no plan has been developed. A proposed half cent sales tax would fall far short of providing any meaningful improvements.

As a means for developing a workable plan, the grassroots group FAIR announced that they created a website, www.Orinda-RoadFacts.virb.com, detailing Orinda's infrastructure challenges and listing options for solving these. Orindans need to understand the issues and demand action from their leaders or our roads will never be improved.

– Steve Cohn

Dealing with Particulate Matter (A satirical response)

In her letter to the *News* printed in the April issue, Kat Holoch points out the health risks of particulate matter pollution and calls for restrictions on the use of wood-burning fireplaces. Physicians who supported restrictions on leafblower use in Orinda made similar claims last year, arguing that particulate matter pollution was especially harmful to young children (particularly asthmatics) and the elderly.

Ms. Holoch should take heart that the Orinda City Council has already addressed the issue of particulate matter pollution in a thoughtful and deliberate way. Councilmember Severson has recommended that

homeowners in Orinda install triple-pane windows to mitigate the effects of noise and air pollution. Ms. Severson's suggestion has inspired other, less costly measures, such as applying Saran wrap around the entire exterior of the home, or erecting inflatable play structures over the top of the home. Enterprising real estate agents in Orinda have recently been distributing welcome kits to new home buyers, replete with gauze face masks, noise-cancelling headphones, portable inhalers, and eye goggles to ensure that pollution will not be a deterrent to prospective new residents.

Ms. Holoch may be relieved to learn that new research, to which Orinda City Councilmembers were privy, has determined that the particulate matter that circulates in the air over Orinda is a superior form of particulate, known in the industry as "Matador Green" (quite different from Berkeley Red or Piedmont Yellow). This type of pollutant has little or no adverse health effects. In fact, some studies have shown that regular inhalation of Matador Green actually stimulates the body's auto-immune system, similar to the way in which a high-fiber diet reduces arterial blockages.

Orinda, under the guidance of its council, is establishing itself as a safe "blow and burn" zone, where the debris from our glorious oaks keeps on giving, long past the life of the trees.

– Jeff Segall

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Finances: Facts versus Fantasy

In the April *Orinda News*, MOFD board president Fred Weil cited "elaborate fictions" about MOFD finances. He wrote that "in the last two years, operating costs were contained, the district had an aggregate operating surplus of about \$220,000."

Less than three weeks later, at its April 18 board meeting, MOFD staff outlined a preliminary budget deficit of \$834,000 for the next fiscal year. Causes cited in the staff report include an "approved" prior year deficit of \$355,000, and an increase



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in pension retirement costs of \$582,000.

An "aggregate operating surplus of about \$220,000" vs. a \$355,000 deficit followed by an \$834,000 deficit?

A "two year... surplus of about \$220,000" or a two year deficit of \$1.2 million? What

is going on here?

Mr. Weil certainly should know. Both he and John Wyro were directors on December 9, 2003 when MOFD signed the contract that first gave the firefighters unsustainable

[SEE LETTERS page 6]

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to the Editor for the July issue are due June 5, 2012.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the August issue is June 20, 2012.

POLICE / OP ED



POLICE BLOTTER

March 2012

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 120 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Burglary – Auto: 4 incidents were reported on Camino Don Miguel, El Nido Ranch Rd. at Charles and 2 on Camino Pablo.

Burglary – Commercial: 4 incidents were reported on Orinda Way and 3 at Theatre Square.

Burglary – Residential: 2 incidents were reported on Lost Valley Dr. and Underhill Rd.

Grand Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident was reported on Irwin Way.

Petty Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident was reported on Wanda Lane.

Vandalism – Felony: 1 incident was reported on Moraga Way.

Arrests

Driving Under the Influence – MISD. < .08: 1 arrest was made on Camino Pablo at Claremont Ave.

Probation Violation: 1 arrest was made on Orinda Way.

Warrant – Arrest: 4 arrests were made on Oak Ln., Sundown Terrace, and 2 on Orinda Way.

Orinda BART Station

Statistics unavailable at the time of this report.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

Should City Council Or Public Decide On Downtown Plan

Editor's Note: The following is an op ed piece by a local resident. Those with differing opinions may submit their response to The Orinda News by June 5 for inclusion in the July newspaper.

Orinda is a general law city. What does this mean for residents? We have no voting power as yet, specifically regarding a downtown plan. The city's website states, "Under the Council-Manager form of government, authority is concentrated in the elected council which hires a city manager to implement its policies."

"Its" policies. Hmmm. In addition, "The City Council is responsible for making policy, passing ordinances, voting appropriations, and having overall supervisory authority..."

"Making policy...and having overall authority." Hmmm.

Sure, residents can go before the City Council during "public forum" or speak on agenda items at meetings. While citizens' three-minute comments are recorded in the minutes, the city does not have to address their concerns.

Hundreds of residents attended planning commission meetings and expressed overwhelming opposition to a possible downtown plan that could include height change (from 35' to 55-70'), razing city blocks, building hundreds of condominiums, and perhaps a transit hub, ongoing construction, and increased traffic.

Suddenly, the city stopped further discussion of the matter, deciding to take more "public input." The results were months of pricey consultants, polls and surveys, and meetings, where the city ran the show and asked attendees, "What do you like and don't like about Orinda?" There was no panel with a variety of ideas for the audience to ponder.

City approval at the old library site was given for a 48' high structure (the height limit is still 35') that will span the property and loom over our park. Thirty public parking spaces would be removed; residents will not have easy access to the park. Ten spaces will be placed inconveniently across the road. Inside the senior housing will be 37 spaces to accommodate 68 residents, their visitors, and employees. Not enough.

Five city councilmembers, who are neighbors and perhaps friends, will have the final say on the downtown plan, unless there is a public referendum.

Orindans voted for local control with the passage of incorporation in 1985. This was the result of an eight-year battle to keep a local developer from demolishing the Orinda Theatre and building a mega

structure on that small block.

The precedent-setting decision of the California Supreme Court took away the developer's variances, stayed the demolition of the theater, and scaled down the project. This same developer has been appointed by the city's task force as co-chair of the downtown plan.

The usually affable planning director, who works closely with city officials, gave a surprising answer when asked why the city objects to a public vote on the direction of our downtown, "We don't have mob rule here in Orinda," he said.

Voting is mob rule?

By giving the power to five city councilmembers, residents do not have local control. From reports of the March 27 meeting, one gets the feeling that the city may have decided this could be the right time to move forward on what they seemed to have wanted all along – to come up with a plan to reconstruct our city in their "vision."

In the May 2012 *Orinda News*, the city manager stated, "The next step... will be for the staff to set up a proposed timeline, to bring back to the City Council, that would elaborate on the general plan process [raising the height?] and the advisory committee [is this the downtown task force?] and what their role would be ...and pursue discussions with the downtown property owners through the survey..." Where does that leave all the public input if it has no effect on the outcome?

The mayor's quote at the same meeting was, "My assurance will be that this will be a transparent process. That's how we do things in the city...it is going to be an open public process." Yet, the city still is not presenting alternatives to the public.

Many in the community have offered ideas for beautification, updating storefronts, artistic murals and signage, and bringing both sides of Orinda together. Residents continue to attend meetings and speak out. A group called SaveOrinda.com has a website. There could be petitions for residents' signatures on height concerns.

Orindans should have an opportunity to vote on the direction of our downtown, not have it decided by five councilmembers and their staff. If a public vote results in a majority to build big or not, at least we would know what 17,000 residents want.

Is there no place for small towns and villages? Other cities have said "No" to supposed mandates from the county or state. Think of Danville, Mill Valley, and even Carmel. Orinda can be all that – unique. And we could keep our view of the hills.

– Ann O'Connell-Nye

City Council Acknowledges Local Papers



SALLY HOGARTY

Mayor Steve Glazer (L) congratulates the *Lamorinda Weekly* staff on the paper's fifth anniversary. (L-R) Wendy Scheck, Lee Borrowman, Caitlin Graveson, and Laurie Snyder. Standing behind Glazer is publisher Andy Scheck.



HEATHER WILSON

The *Orinda News* staff received a proclamation from the City Council to commemorate the paper's 25th anniversary. (L-R) Jill Gelster, former editor Hillary Hoppock, Dick Ling, Marie Waterman, David Dierks, Sally Hogarty, Bill O'Brian, Elana O'Loskey, and former editor and founder Ann O'Connell-Nye.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ HOUSE from page 1

energy consumption down to zero. Wright said, "My architectural practice focuses on green and renewable. 'Passive House' is a new movement in construction, which essentially reduces the energy consumption of the building up to 90 percent. It uses energy recovery and fresh air ventilation – it basically takes the fresh air that is coming in, like today's hot fresh air, and it goes through a heat exchanger so the stale air going out becomes the temperature of the fresh air going in. It uses only 60 watts of power, the same energy as a 60 watt light bulb." Wright further explained, "typical newer homes leak between 20 and 40 air changes a day. That means you're heating or cooling 20 to 40 times a day. When you make an air tight envelope and you bring in fresh air through a heat exchanger at 60 watts an hour, you can imagine how much energy you're saving. It's huge!"

Currently, the house has been lifted so that Wright's team can get access to the foundations that were put in by Nelson's father over 70 years ago. Wright explained, "the foundation held the house, but the house was four inches out of level. Now it's level. We're going to do a seismic upgrade, putting plywood on the exterior and then make an internal foundation. We're going to make internal sheer walls, and we're going to keep the exterior walls for gravity bearing. All the existing broken foundations are going to be utilized. They haven't moved since Ezra's father put them in."

In addition to bringing the foundation up to seismic code, Wright will completely

isolate the basement from the rest of the house. Wright explained, "What happens in all of our buildings is the skeleton of the building wicks the earth's temperature. Inside the wall assembly the moisture in the interior air of the house condensates and causes mold and rot. It's a fundamental problem with all construction. In a passive house, we keep the dwelling in an isolated thermal envelope and abandon the basement or crawlspace. To air seal a building, you have to air seal where it connects to the ground. That's the challenge in retrofit. We're going to encapsulate the basement with our basement energy system; we're going to put foam insulation on the walls, and we will then evacuate the air. I call that the geo-cavity."

For the fresh air ventilation system, there will be two energy recovery ventilators. Wright said, "There's one for the whole home ventilation, and the other is for the geo-cavity. It never cross contaminates. That's what we're doing here that's so exciting!"

While working on the foundation, Ezra's father also installed a well in the basement. Wright will use the well for part of his cooling system. "Essentially I'm going to make a styrofoam jacket for the interior of

the basement, we'll evacuate the air, run it through the geo-heat exchanger, and we'll inject water from the well. In the summer, it will add cooling effect to the air, in the winter it will add warming effect to the air."

Wright also plans to do a chainsaw retrofit to the building. Wright said "Chainsaw retrofit is when they cut off all the overhangs. The overhangs are thermal bridges, which wick the outdoor temperature. Like a thermos we put insulation on the outside skeleton of the building. The overhangs then go back on the outside of the thermal envelope. So esthetically it looks the same. Part of historical preservation is not to remove and replace, it's to remove and refurbish. So I'm going to remove all of the siding, and I'm going to refurbish it. I'll refurbish everything I possibly can. All the windows are coming off and will go into a shop to be refurbished. I'm going to scrape the roof off and put back the original shake roof. We're going to go with the original yellow paint from when it was first painted."

All the insulation will help not just with heating and cooling, but also with sound. "When you eliminate your thermal bridges and put insulation on the exterior and then cladding on top of the insulation, it isolates

the interior envelope from the vibration of sound as well as thermal transmission. So you end up with a near-sound proof dwelling. What I'm planning to do here, and this is what excited me about this property, is I will take a derelict dwelling whose nearness to the street made it unreasonable to live in and make it habitable."

After insulating the house, Wright will add an integrated photo-voltaic solar skylight. Wright said, "The orientation of the roof is beautiful for natural solar, so I will get natural light inside, as well as creating electricity. Along with the geo-cavity encapsulation of the basement, these two renewable energy sources will allow me to 'Net Zero' the house. Meaning, annually, its energy consumption will net zero. In the summer, I'm generating a lot of electricity, in the winter, I'm using what I banked in the summer."

Wright went through the City of Orinda Planning Department to get approval for all of his modifications to the house. Wright added "I put a sign up to educate everybody about what I'm doing, because when they see me cut off the roof overhangs, they're going to go bonkers!"

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/netzerohomes.

◆ LETTERS from page 4

able pensions of the "3 at 50" formula and lifetime medical. This contract, retroactive to July 1, 2002 and expiring on June 30, 2006, created the need to issue the \$28 million bond just two short years later. This contract doomed the MOFD to financial decline.

MOFD keeps assuming, as Chief Bradley said at the April 18 meeting, that "expected revenues would increase" and that MOFD "could afford the rising costs."

This is like a homeowner whose income does not cover his mortgage payments and desperately hopes to earn his way out, while fast drawing down savings to stay afloat.

MOFD cannot earn its way out. Its property tax revenue has fallen for two years, driven by a decline in Orinda home sales prices of over 30 percent. Meanwhile, MOFD 2011 audited financials say: "unprecedented losses in the stock market" will cause "significantly higher employer pension" costs.

MOFD was already technically insolvent at 6/30/11. Its audited financial statements show assets of \$42 million and total liabilities of \$56 million (pages ii and 21). And it gets even worse. Since the audit, the county pension plan disclosed that the 2011 rate of return on the plan was only one third of the long term assumed rate of 7.75 percent.

Total compensation costs, including the

pension bond repayments, have risen to 92 percent of revenues. This amount is not even fully funding the accumulating retirement obligations.

The board has done little to fix this problem. It extended the problematic 2003 contract from its 2006 expiration date to 12/31/2010, with a requirement that negotiations start on 9/1/2010. Nineteen months later, MOFD still has no new firefighter contract. The old unsustainable formulas continue, and the hole grows bigger every day.

The board can stop this nonsense. But it dawdles, even as many public safety agencies have acted. Some, like Palo Alto, have declared an impasse. Others, like our county sheriff and Pleasanton, implemented tiered compensation. Others, like Martinez, have increased employee contributions to benefits. Some, like Pleasant Hill, imposed a contract when negotiations failed.

Marin County, facing an unfunded pension liability of up to \$2.4 billion, has acted to curb spiking, raise retirement ages, limit retiree health benefits, and cost of living increases for retirees, reduce retiree health liability and is working to develop a less costly "hybrid" pension plan.

Right next door to Orinda, at Con Fire, the firefighters took ten percent pay cuts, lower tiers for new employees and reopened pension talks. But still, Con Fire, in March, told "shocked" County Supervisors that it now requires a new \$90 parcel tax to avoid closure of 20 percent of its stations and layoff of 25 percent of its firefighters.

Is MOFD next?

The MOFD board's ongoing failure to

address this financial catastrophe has placed our fire service at great risk. The MOFD board appears to be running the district for the benefit of the firefighters, not for the citizens of Moraga and Orinda.

– Carol Penskar

Ivy Drive and Police resources.

Ivy Drive No Left Turn has had many unintended consequences. Whitehall is asking for the No Left Turn on their street.

Valley View will be next, asking for a No Right Turn.

The official Orinda Police position is No Left Turn signs on Moraga Way. Those signs have nothing to do with safety, just the comfort of the residents. Once all the signs are up on Moraga Way policing them will deplete police resources, leaving the rest of Orinda unprotected.

The problem could be solved by installing a traffic light at Moraga Way and Ivy Drive. At that intersection there already exists a dedicated left turn.

The reason for the traffic jam in Moraga Way, affecting Orinda residents, is to keep the Ivy Drive neighborhood free of traffic. No report has indicated that there is a safety matter for the left turn ban to exist.

Ivy residents knew there were two schools in the neighborhood and yet they chose to move there. It was nice to get a cheaper house, yet demand expensive comforts.

The remedy left for drivers is to make left turns at private driveways, at least until those private owners decide to place ban signs too.

– Maria Campos



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CARS / MOFD

CAR TIME

What is a TPMS?

by JOHN VANEK



The TPMS (tire pressure monitoring system) would initially appear to be nothing but another warning light on your vehicle designed to drive you crazy. It could also be thought of as another government inflicted regulation. But, it's really a way to make sure that motorists are aware of low tire pressure situations.

Due to the significant influence tire pressure has on vehicle safety and efficiency, TPMS was first adopted widely by the European market as an optional feature for luxury passenger vehicles in the 1980s. Think of it as a check engine light for your tires. Later, the U.S. Dept. of Transportation began requiring the installation of a tire pressure monitoring system on all new passenger cars, SUV's and trucks.

The Firestone recall in the late 1990s (which was linked to more than 100 deaths from roll-overs following tire tread-separation), pushed the Clinton administration to legislate the Tread Act. The act mandated the use of a suitable TPMS technology in all light motor vehicles (under 10,000 pounds) to help alert drivers of severe under-inflation events. This act affects all light motor vehicles sold after September 1, 2007. Phase-in started in October 2005 at 20 percent, and reached 100 percent for models produced after September 2007. After the Tread Act was passed, many companies responded to the new market opportunity by releasing TPMS products that use an obvious means of getting tire pressure and temperature data across a vehicle's rotating wheel-chassis boundary. Along with the new systems comes

technology that utilizes components with a finite life span. You can image a radio transmitter that is bolted to your wheel and revolves as your tire rolls down the road. Most units have batteries built into the sensor and may not last the life of your vehicle. There are other types of systems as well. Either way, when the TPMS light comes on, it may be because of low tire pressures or because of a system failure. The actual light will vary with manufactures. It may have a funny picture of a tire or may have a message sensor displaying "check tires, low tire pressure, TPMS," etc. Some more sophisticated systems may actually tell you which tire is low.

The first thing to do when the light comes on is to have the tire pressures checked. After a low tire pressure is corrected, the TPMS light may need to be reset. Many vehicles reset automatically by just driving down the road; some have a reset procedure utilizing a specific button; others may require specialized equipment. Most quality tire shops and repair shops possess the appropriate tools and training required to properly diagnose a TPMS problem. Like a check engine light, you do not want to ignore a low tire pressure warning light. Many times it really is due to low tire pressures, which is often the result of a puncture.

Make sure your repair shop is qualified to maintain TPMS systems. Properly inflated tires help reduce tire wear, fuel mileage and adds to the overall safety of your vehicle.

You can reach John Vanek for any questions on TPMS at john@orindamotors.com.

Motorama – World of Wheels



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

If you're looking for something special to do this Father's Day, the **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** has just the thing – Motorama. The world of wheels takes place June 17 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Clock Tower and Bank of the West parking lots in Lafayette. A large number of classic cars, bikes and motorcycles will be displayed at this free event. The day includes plenty of food and beverages, live entertainment and a raffle. For more information and to register your car in the show, go to www.motorama.us.

MOFD Revamps Fire Marshal Position

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

In a surprise move, Fire Marshal Mike Mientink retired from the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) on March 30. In an effort to reduce expenses, the MOFD has decided to create a new position, assistant fire marshal (AFM), and distribute the fire marshal's duties between the newly created AFM and Fire Chief Randall Bradley. Bradley said, "We believe it would be in the best interest of the district not to fill the position at the current time and to create a new position called assistant fire marshal. The California Health and Safety Code identifies the fire chief as the fire marshal.

[SEE MOFD page 18]

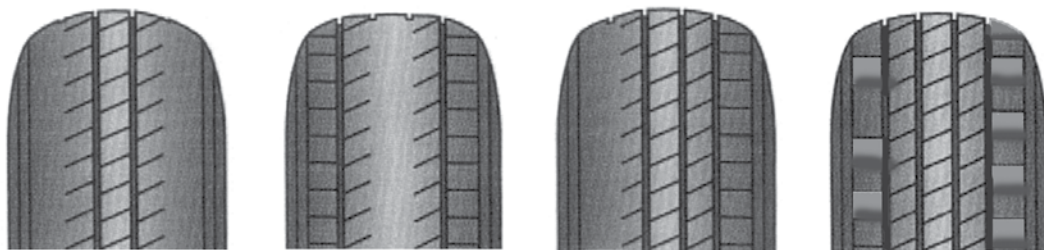


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kathy Leonard takes on the new title of Assistant Fire Marshal.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ HEGGIE from page 1

for her. They married in 1948 and moved to Madison, Wisconsin where he served as Vice President of the National Student Association.

Richard began his career with the Asia Foundation where he remained for 19 years. During his tenure with the Asia Foundation, he was posted to Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and India. Later, he served as executive director of the World Affairs Council of Northern California for over 12 years before retiring in 1983.

Throughout his life, Richard demonstrated a tireless commitment to many causes and organizations associated with his values of higher education, international affairs, Asian art and community service. He devoted time and support to local, state, and national educational, political and cultural organizations.

He was a lifetime Cal Bears fan and served Cal in many capacities including: president of the University of California Alumni Association; regent of the University of California; trustee of the UC Berkeley Foundation; board member,

International House; and member of the executive committee of the Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies. He was a Berkeley Fellow.

Other board service and leadership roles included: president of the Japan Society of Northern California; the National Council of Community World Affairs Organizations; the International Visitors Center of Northern California; the East Bay Division of the League of California Cities; the Society for Asian Art; the San Francisco Committee on Foreign Relations; vice president of the Chinese Culture Foundation and the Oakland Museum; board member of California Shakespeare Theater; American Red Cross Bay Area; San Francisco - Osaka Sister City Association; West Coast Chapter of the Institute of International Education; president of the East Bay Division of the League of California Cities; vice-chairman of the State League of California Cities Public Safety Committee – policy committee on Growth Management and Regional Issue; and on the Recreation Service Area 6 Board. He was a Contra Costa Transportation Authority Commissioner and was chairman of the City-County Relations

Committee and Fiscal Unity Committee appointed by the Contra Costa County Mayors' Conference; and chairman of the Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund. He served as chair of the San Francisco Committee on Foreign Relations and was a member of the Fulbright Advisory Committee and the Venerable Order of St. John. He was director emeritus of the East Bay Community Foundation; a director of the Orinda Foundation and the International Services Committee of the Rotary Club of Orinda; was co-founder of the Orinda - Tabor Sister City Foundation and a partner in Freemark Abbey Winery.

He was honored by the Government of Belgium with the Order of Leopold II, and received the Japan Society Lifetime Achievement Award, California Alumni Citation and Wheeler Oak Award. His many local honors included Orinda Citizen of the Year and receiving the Orinda Historical Society Award.

Richard took great pleasure in backpacking in the high Sierra, fishing, and spending summer vacations at his home on the Truckee River. He loved classical music and enjoyed the San Francisco Opera

and Symphony. He traveled extensively throughout his life and led many tours internationally through his association with the Cal Alumni Association and the World Affairs Council. He never lost his passion for visiting and/or climbing every tower, museum or tomb in each foreign city he visited. Richard celebrated many friends' and family members' significant occasions with witty doggerel. He will be particularly remembered for his integrity, determination, eloquence and sense of humor.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Bea; three daughters, Karen of Mountain View; Jennifer (Ray) of San Francisco; and Deborah (Ed) and two grand-daughters, Sarah and Emily, of Maryland.

At his request, there will be no formal service. A gathering of friends and family will be held in his honor at a later date.

"Remembrances can be made to the CAA Beatrice and Richard Heggie TAAP Scholarship, CAA, Alumni House, Berkeley, CA 94720, or the East Bay Community Foundation, De Domenico Building, 200 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612.

◆ MARCHING from page 2

Waterman, who now runs the Orinda Association office and coordinates the Seniors

Around Town program, still finds time for her music and especially for the Orinda Association's annual 4th of July parade. "It's so much fun. You never know who's coming. I'm always amazed at how good we sound," Waterman says.

The band is always looking for new people to join in the fun, and it's not unusual to see entire families marching and playing


together. While music is available ahead of time, there is only one rehearsal and that's on July 4. Drummers meet at 8 a.m. behind the Flying A Station and Casa Orinda with all other musicians joining in at 9 a.m. The parade begins at 10 a.m. and travels from Orinda Theatre Square under the overpass to the village side of Orinda. The reviewing stand is in front of the Orinda Community

Center. Drums are supplied by Rick Meyer at Miramonte High School. He has helped out the marching band for over 25 years. Participants should bring their own lyre.

"Last year, the marching band had two tuba players. They gave us a really solid baseline. Mo Levitch has been our conductor forever. He runs everyone through all the music and then it's show time," Waterman says.

For more information on joining the Orinda All-Volunteer Marching Band, call Waterman at 254-0800 or Bobbie Landers at 254-8260.

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PRESCHOOL

St. Mark's Nursery School Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

It all began in 1962 at 451 Moraga Way in Orinda and continues to this day. St. Mark's Nursery School was set up to give parents a little break from their children from 9 a.m. - noon and, 50 years later, the schedule is still the same.

To celebrate their 50th year, an ice cream social is planned for September 30 from 2-4 p.m. at the school, featuring Loard's ice cream. All alumni, teachers and families are invited to attend. Please RSVP via email to: stmarksnurseryschoolorinda@gmail.com or call 925-254-1364 for more information. The staff at St. Mark's invites anyone with photos or other memorabilia, or who would like to write a testimonial about St. Mark's, to contact them in advance of September 30 so they can include these items in their 50th Anniversary Memory Book.

Patricia Przekop, 2012-2013 Preschool Director, says, "We have a really strong teacher base, it's a small school but a large

space! The teachers know all the children and vice versa, and their personalities, and are interacting with them all the time which creates a good bond. There is cooperation and professionalism with the children in a nurturing environment. St. Mark's gives them a love of learning – we want them to love learning and love coming to school. I've never heard of one child who didn't want to come to school. That's a good foundation for education."

Przekop notices that some children haven't interacted socially very much and they are taught how to do that – there are three teachers, one director and 30 children, so the staff is able to give the children the individual attention they need. Communication with the families is very important at St. Mark's – the staff interacts with them so that they have the same goals for their child, working with each family. Classes run from August to June each year.

Michele Colaco, current Parents Board President, attended St. Mark's from 1977-1979. "I had sisters who attended after me, and now my son attended this year and my daughter will start in the fall." According



Current teachers at St. Mark's Nursery School are (L-R) Patricia Przekop, director Patricia Mahoney, Meryline Nyberg and Kristan Torres.

Ace It! Tennis Tournament Raises Money for Cancer Center

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

What could be better than instruction by tennis pros, round robin play, and a gourmet lunch, all to support a great cause? The answer is the Ace It! Tournament sponsored by the Orindawoods Tennis Club (OW) to benefit the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center, which will take place at the club, 501 Orindawoods Drive, Saturday, June 23.

"Players from all over the area come to participate," says committee member Jo Kerner. "We're looking forward to a big turnout this year as it's the 10th anniversary of the tournament. We're proud to report that over \$100,000 has been raised in these years and we hope to raise a significant amount on June 23. Even if you're not a tennis player you may join in the effort by making reservations for lunch which is what many people who are cancer survivors, or who want to further cancer research, do." OW head tennis pro, Keith Wheeler, adds, "This is not just a women's issue. If breast cancer strikes in a family it affects everyone. Men, too, want to see this disease treated in the best manner possible. We certainly encourage men to join in the activities to support the

anniversary of the tournament. We're proud to report that over \$100,000 has been raised in these years and we hope to raise a significant amount on June 23. Even if you're not a tennis player you may join in the effort by making reservations for lunch which is what many people who are cancer survivors, or who want to further cancer research, do." OW head tennis pro, Keith Wheeler, adds, "This is not just a women's issue. If breast cancer strikes in a family it affects everyone. Men, too, want to see this disease treated in the best manner possible. We certainly encourage men to join in the activities to support the

[SEE ACE IT page 18]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

St. Mark's Nursery School founding teachers from 1962 (L-R) director Irene Wickland; Juanita Gilbertson, who taught at the school for 30 years; and Fran Smith, who became director in 1972. Smith worked at St. Mark's for a total of 35 years and is still an active volunteer.

to Colaco, St. Mark's has lots of kids with alumni parents; all the teachers and directors each sent their sons and daughters as well. "Small schools have been good for our family because the kids bond well with their classmates and the parents get to know other parents and families. It's fun to know that being a small school, parents can get involved, go into the classrooms as much as they want, join the board, etc. We also have some social events during the year for families." Colaco showed pictures her mother took of her 35 years ago to her son to prepare him for going there. There's a great playhouse at the school, which is freshly painted every few years. It's the same playhouse Colaco spent time in as a youngster. Her son got to ride his bike in the same area set aside for bike-riding that she did!

There have been six directors at St. Mark's over the last 50 years as follows: Irene Wickland, first director (1962-72); Fran Smith, over 34 years at St. Marks, was

one of the first teachers when the school opened in 1962 and went on to be director of the school for 25 years 1972-96; Leslie Schonborn, 15 years at St. Mark's, first as a teacher starting 1991, then as director from 1996-2006; Karen Mankowski, 13 years at St. Mark's also first as a teacher starting 1998, then as director from 2006-2010; Mary-Margaret Robbers, one year at St. Mark's 2010-2011; Pat Przekop, current director, teacher from 2004 until 2011 and now the current director.

Current staff at the school include Patricia Przekop, Director, Patricia Mahoney, 3's and 4's teacher, Meryline Nyberg, 3's and 4's teacher and Kristan Torres, D-K teacher. All are looking forward to many more years at St. Mark's and welcoming folks at the ice cream social. Bibiana Colins, public relations director, has put together photos and memorabilia about the school in a 50th Anniversary Memory Book. Visit www.stmarksnurseryschool.org for more information.



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Oakland Art Association Exhibit Lights up the East Bay

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Enjoy the warm weather of June and take a stroll through the Orinda Library Gallery Exhibit featuring artwork from members of the Oakland Art Association, June 2 through June 29. Join them on June 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. for an artist reception where light refreshments will be served. Works include paintings (acrylic, watermedia, watercolor, oil), drawings, photography, collage, monoprints, etchings, woodcuts and small sculpture.

The Oakland Art Association (OAA) began in 1957 and now has 60+ members with more than a dozen founding members still actively participating. A nonprofit, OAA focuses on arranging regular venues to show members' artwork with 10 juried shows, each year and additional ongoing satellite shows at prime locations in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The current show

is juried by noted art instructor Marianne Brown of Moraga. There are cash prizes of \$125 First Prize, \$75 Second Prize and \$50 Third Prize with Merit Awards at the discretion of the juror. Show chair Jenifer Kolkhorst says, "We are all thrilled to return to the Orinda Library Gallery; it's our favorite place to show because the light, airy space creates a striking tableau for our diverse work."

Tina Nelson relates that the membership has shifted over the years in that now they have more members from Moraga, Walnut Creek, etc., not just from Oakland. Nelson believes that art is of great importance in our community, especially for young people. "Art rounds out their life; I can't imagine a world without art, can you? I taught art to children for 10 years. Some of the kids who had trouble with academics created beautiful art. It was important for them to discover that they could interpret their world through an art medium better



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gisela Volkmer's "White Linen It Was," an acrylic collage, will be in the June show.

than they could with numbers or words." Look for Moraga resident Jenifer Kolkhorst's "Palestine," a 26" x 40" watercolor and Gisela Volkmer's (also of Moraga) "White Linen it Was," a 24" x 30" acrylic collage. Completely different in style and color, both abstract works will hold your interest.

OAA members exhibiting include:

Jenifer Kolkhorst, watercolors; Gisela Volkmer, watercolors/acrylic paintings, mixed media; Patricia Dahlberg, acrylic paintings; Michael Topliff, watercolors; Carol Sideman, acrylic paintings; Tina Nelson, acrylic/oil paintings; Rita Sklar, acrylic paintings; Rick Nelson, photography; John Henry, photography; Yin

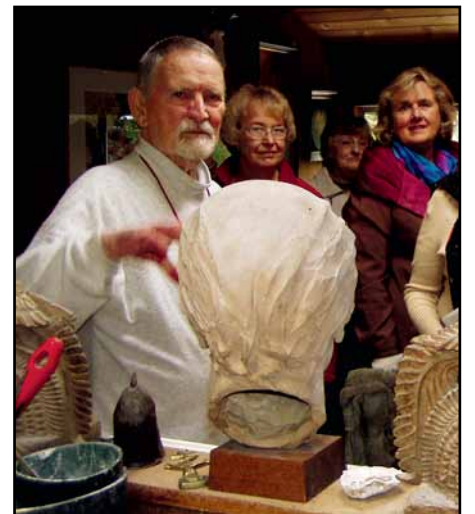
[SEE GALLERY page 18]

Civic Arts League of Walnut Creek Tours Cleary Sculpture Studio in Orinda

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Noted sculptor Joe Cleary and his wife Marion hosted 42 members of the Civic Arts League of Walnut Creek on May 3 at their home in Orinda as part of the group's biannual studio tour bus program. Cleary is known for such pieces as a larger-than-life bronze "Lady in the Lake," in the lobby of the Hotel East 21 in Tokyo; and "Mother River," another bronze - a 30' tall winged goddess, located on the Mississippi River front in downtown New Orleans (Katrina didn't touch her - she weighs 30 tons!).

Grace Jenner, program committee member and tour leader, guided 42 members into Cleary's studio where they enjoyed hearing about the many artworks he has created there since 1962. There was a lively question/answer period and many anecdotes about Cleary's journey from working on cars as a young man, becoming a commercial artist, working for the Air Force, and transitioning into a world-class fine artist



BILL CARMEL

Joe Cleary leads a tour of his Orinda studio.

and bronze sculptor.

After the field of commercial illustration succumbed to computers, Cleary became a fine artist, including watercolor portraits and other paintings shown throughout the U.S. But for the past 20 years, Joe has made

[SEE CLEARY page 16]

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SUMMER OF FUN

Plan a Staycation Right Here in Orinda

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

While beautiful Lake Tahoe or cross-country trips may beckon some Orinda residents, for those that choose to stay in our lovely, rustic enclave, they will find a plethora of activities to enjoy.

Whether picnicking at one of the Concerts-in-the-Park, discovering new musical groups at the Orinda Library, enjoying a meal and the outdoor concerts at Theatre Square, or cheering on the wonderfully talented young people competing for Orinda Idol, music lovers will be more than entertained.

Summer in Orinda also includes two outdoor theater venues: California Shakespeare Theater and the Orinda Starlight

Orinda Library present the third annual summer music series. Performances begin at 6:30 p.m. inside the library. Free of charge.

June 20 – The Real Placebos – Local performers play American Roots music.

July 19 – The Amthyst Trio – Chamber music blending violin, cello and piano.

August 22 - The Pocket Trio – Swing and traditional jazz featuring keyboard, bass and drums.

Theatre Square Music Series

Think inside the square as Orinda’s premiere dining and shopping experience begins its summer music series. For musical groups and dates, go to www.orindatheatresquare.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Crisis will once again rock out audiences at the Orinda Community Center Park. Look for them on June 19.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Real Placebos play at the Orinda Library concert series on June 20.

Village Players. Both venues encourage dining and imbibing while the talented artists whisk you away to another world.

What better way to celebrate the birth of our nation than by attending the Lamorinda 4th of July Parade and Celebration? This year, the Orinda Association partners with the Orinda Community Foundation and the Orinda and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce to bring you one of the finest celebrations in the area. And, car buffs won't want to miss the Classic Car Show and Dancing With the Cars – two very special events that benefit local nonprofits.

More information on many of these activities can be found on the following pages. Enjoy!

Concerts-in-the-Park Music Series

Sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary and taking place in the Community Center Park from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., this concert series offers a wide variety of entertainment at no charge!

June 12 – Brian Moran Jazz Trio

June 19 – The Crisis – This popular East Bay rock band returns for another evening of fun. Their extensive playlist ensures that everyone’s favorite will be played!

June 26 – Bay Bridge Beat – This 8-piece band delivers sweat-breaking 70s-style funk, soul and blues with tributes to Tower of Power, James Brown, Blood Sweat & Tears, Joe Cocker, and the like.

July 3 – Cal Alumni Big Band – Here is big band jazz at its best. Returning by popular demand to swing away into the night.

July 10 – Stone Soup – This local group brings back its own version of vintage rock to the park.

July 17 – Orinda Idol – The Orinda Arts Council presents “Arts in Bloom” and the terrific voices of contestants in its annual singing contest for a community celebration of the visual and performing arts.

July 29 from 4 – 6 p.m. – Opera in the Park – Sponsored by Orinda Rotary with the support of the Orinda Community Foundation and the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary, this concert presents selections from various operas.

Orinda Library Summer Music Series

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Starlight Opens 29th Season With Agatha Christie



Performers (L-R) **Mark Barry, Charles Guitron, and Mya Ewing** rehearse for Starlight's season opener *And Then There Were None*.

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) open their 29th season with Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. Set in the 1950s, the story is about 10 people who are invited to a house on a remote island, accessible only by boat. One by one, the guests are murdered in ways that mimic the children's rhyme "*Ten Little Soldier Boys*."

This production marks longtime actor Malcolm Cowler's directorial debut for Starlight. Many will remember him from the numerous shows he's appeared in at the Community Center Park's amphitheater. Most recently, he appeared in last year's production of *The Mousetrap*, in which he played Inspector Trotter.

"My approach to this current play is that it's not a Christie mystery," says Cowler. "There are no clues in this. It's not a whodunit. It's really a Christie thriller. It's psychological and it's horrific because 10 people die. That's why I decided to do away with the classic country house style that Christie originally had for the play and give it a more Gothic setting which gives you more of a sense of horror."

Starlight regulars Mark Barry, John Chapin, Al Guaraglia, Jim Fritz, Charles Guitron, Patricia Inabet, Marian Simpson, and Ken Sollazzo join Starlight founder Geotty Chapple and new players Mya Ewing and Bruce Kaplan in bringing this suspenseful story to life.

For more information, visit www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225. Tickets can be purchased at the theater.

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Cal Shakes' Highly Theatrical, Dance-filled Tempest

Shakespeare's *The Tempest* opens Cal Shakes season. Directed by Cal Shakes artistic director Jonathan Moscone with choreography by Erika Chong Shuch, the show runs through June 24 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda. It features Michael Winters as the wizard Prospero and the drunken butler Stephano, and Shuch as the spirit Ariel. The cast also includes James Carpenter, Catherine Castellanos, Emily Kitchens, Nicholas Pelczar, and three professional dancers as the island sprites.

For more information or for tickets, call 510-548-9666 or go to the website at www.calshakes.org.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor



Erika Chong Shuch as Ariel.

Orinda Starlight Village Players
Presents

Agatha Christie

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

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Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. June 1 through June 23
Sunday, June 10, 4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 21, 8:00 p.m.
At the Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park,
28 Orinda Way (Across from Rite Aid). Two blocks from BART.

Regular admission \$16, Discount admission \$8
Season Tickets: \$35 regular, \$21 discount tickets
(All 3 shows - *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie,
Room Service by John Murray and Allen Boretz
The Speckled Band by Arthur Conan Doyle)

Orinda Starlight Village Players,
P.O. Box 204, Orinda, CA 94563
www.orsvp.org
Tickets at Box Office or call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org

Starlight Dinner Theater Offer
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CAR SHOW / ROTARY

Local Groups Join Together for Annual Classic Car Show

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Each year, Chip Herman, founder of the car show and presenting sponsor Orinda Motors add something new and exciting to this popular annual event. Three years ago, Dancing With the Cars dazzled participants with its glitzy dinner, live band and sneak preview of unique cars. Last year, the Orinda Country Club opened up its 16th fairway to allow the event to display classics “on the green.” Now, this year Orinda Rotary joins the Orinda Association (OA) to help Herman and Orinda Motors continue to expand the anticipated event.

“We have seen what Chip and Orinda Motors have accomplished with the car

show. They have raised so much money for local groups, and we just want to help and support their efforts,” says Orinda Rotary president Frank Darling. “We’ve already agreed to take on a parking plan so that we can let people know the best places to park in Orinda so that they can attend the car show,” adds in-coming Rotary president Jack Bontemps. “This is really an expansion of a broad community effort,” says Herman. “Here we have two organizations – Orinda Rotary and the OA – that really look at a broad range of community projects. It just seems like a natural relationship for them to join together to help raise money for local nonprofits.”

Founded in 1949, Orinda Rotary has committed members who support local,



SALLY HOGARTY

Planning the annual car show are (L-R) Jack Bontemps, Bill Waterman, Frank Darling, and Chip Herman.

regional and international projects including Meals on Wheels, dictionaries for all Orinda 3rd graders, the annual spring egg hunt, water projects in Fiji, and a conva-

lescent hospital in Mexico. Most recently,
[SEE CAR SHOW page 21]

Orinda Rotary’s International Project Funds “Wheels for Little Flock”

By HEATHER WILSON
Staff Writer

Many people may think of Rotary Clubs as primarily a business networking group that also contributes to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children from the Little Flock orphanage in Chennai, India.

worthwhile causes in the local community. They might be familiar with Rotary’s Field Day for youth or distribution of dictionaries to 3rd grade classrooms, but many have no idea of the international efforts the group undertakes. Orinda Rotary President Frank Darling, however, hopes to spread the word about how much Rotary does within and outside their local communities.

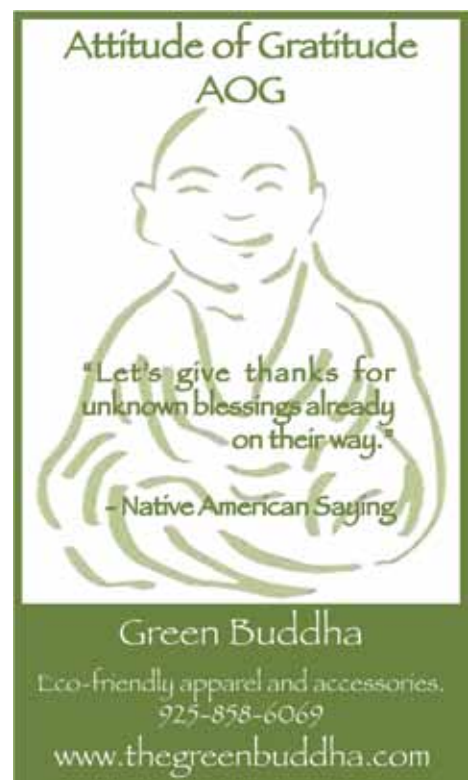
Rotary, one of the largest humanitarian organizations in the world, believes in service — in the community, in the workplace, and around the globe. The 1.2 million Rotarians who make up more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in nearly every country in the world share a dedication to the ideal of “Service Above Self.” Members touch lives from the local community to communities overseas.

This year, the Orinda Rotary’s international project came about because of Frank

Darling’s wife, Rhonda, who had a passion for the Little Flock orphanage in Chennai, India. When Rhonda returned home from a trip to Chennai delivering much needed medical and dental assistance, Frank asked her, “If you could wave a magic wand, what one thing would you want for those children?” Rhonda’s answer was simple and quick, “a bus!”

Located in Southern India, Little Flock currently houses 50 children with hopes to house 100 in the near future. Since 2006, this home near Chennai, India has rescued orphaned children from grinding poverty and provided them with shelter, food, medical treatment, and educational opportunities. Their lack of transportation hinders their ability to bring in the needed volunteers such as Rhonda’s medical group. Not only is transportation difficult and

[SEE LITTLE FLOCK page 21]



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Questions with home care? Ask Vanessa

DEAR VANESSA:

I am a 45-year old professional and my 78-year old mother’s resistance to care and indifference to accept the process of aging have kept her from getting the support she needs for a better quality of life. She’s been ignoring aids to make her life better, such as a hearing aid or a cane to prevent falls. She thinks that giving up driving will limit her mobility. She will not admit or recognize the fact that she cannot do things as well as she used to do. And she is not open to the idea of receiving in-home care to stay safely in her home.

This is an area of frustration; I’m afraid that her reluctance to make necessary adjustments can and will lead to danger to herself and compromise her health and well-being. I live in constant fear that my mother might do major damage to herself and others in a driving accident. REBA

DEAR REBA:

I empathize with you. You may also have difficulty admitting that times are changing, roles are reversing, and you need additional help for your mom. Have a heart-to-heart talk with your mother and explain to her that getting older is nothing to be ashamed of. Not preparing for old age and denying the aging process will often accelerate the symptoms. According to David Stephen, PhD, “Denial is a kind of self-imposed ignorance, a defense mechanism that helps block a feeling or intellectual realization because admitting the feeling as reality is painful. Elders often deny they need assistance or that their abilities are diminishing. It is difficult to admit that one needs help, because that may be perceived as indicating a loss of independence and a loss of self worth.”

Moving your mother into an assisted living facility piles feelings of guilt on top of denial. Depending on the level of assistance that she needs, hiring an experienced in-home caregiver may be a good option at this point. Patiently explain to her that having someone by her side would not mean losing her independence and privacy. The transition need not be as drastic as she fears it might be. Each person needs a period of adjustment to become accepting of care, to trust a caregiver, and to let down barriers of privacy. Let her know that having a caregiver does not have to be round-the-clock; she can pick certain times of the day when she prefers a caregiver to come in. The caregiver can start making her life easier by doing light housekeeping or running errands for her. As the rapport is gradually established, your mother will become more accustomed to the idea of accepting or paying for care; she will even welcome the support that she has resisted for some time now. Look at what home health care agencies in your area can offer; do a research on the type of services and flexibility in terms of hours required.

I hope that you find a suitable caregiver for your mother so she can embrace the concept of receiving services more easily, and remain comfortably in her own home. May she get the care that she needs, and you get the peace of mind that you deserve! VANESSA

Got Questions & Answers about Home Care is written by Vanessa Valerio, RN, VP and COO for Patient Care at Home Care Orinda. If you would like more information about senior care and how home care can help, please email Vanessa Valerio at vanessav@careindeed.com, call her at (925) 317-3080 or visit their website at www.homecareorinda.com/.

Elders often deny they
need assistance or
that their abilities are
diminishing.



Vanessa Valerio, RN

VP and COO for Patient Care
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ANIMALS

Pets of the Month



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Looking beautiful and serene, **Fazon**, a chestnut, and **Parry**, a Bay seem quite content at their home at the Orinda Horseman's Pasture. They are cared for by owner **Cheryl Ann Fulton**.

Something to Howl About...

Animal Tales

Watch Out For These Hazards!



Jennifer Conroy

Summertime – and the living will be a lot easier if you keep an eye out for hazards that can be harmful to pets. The on and off rainy season the Bay Area experienced has created fertile ground for wild mushrooms. Sizes vary from tiny ones hiding in the grass to explosive large varieties. Groom your yard to remove them and be watchful on walks to ensure your dog doesn't slurp one down. Some varieties of wild mushrooms are killers and don't think for a minute your omnivore dog or cat won't eat one if the opportunity presents itself.

If you see your pet ingest a wild mushroom, take it to the veterinarian immediately. There are medications that can be given orally. Foaming at the mouth or unusual drooling can be a sign that your pet has ingested something poisonous, and immediate veterinary attention is required.

Insects stings or bites can also be life threatening. I have known dogs to succumb to poisonous spider bites, and some animals have severe reactions to bee or wasp stings. I am not suggesting a war on spiders or bees. They certainly have important roles in our ecosystem, but be mindful of where your animals sleep, play, and hang out and clear out any signs of insect habitation.

Professional beekeepers can be contacted to remove and relocate bee hives.

Perhaps the most common summer hazard is the foxtail which is the spikey, sticky awn (bristle) found at the tip of many local grasses. Foxtails can do terrible damage to an animal and often that damage is not uncovered until the worst of it is done. Foxtails operate like fish hooks, embedding themselves in the skin and working deep into the tissue. They find their ways into nostrils, eyes, ears, between toe pads, and, once embedded, require extraction by a veterinarian.

Make it a practice to check your animal's coat and body after it has been outdoors. Run your hands through the tail and up and around the entire body, letting your fingers move against the skin. Your pet will think this is a great massage and will love you for it. If you find a foxtail clinging loosely to the coat or skin, you may be able to brush it off. Check inside the ears, between the toes, around the muzzle. A sure sign that your dog or cat has absorbed a foxtail through the nostrils is rapid and repeated sneezing. Sudden, rapid head shaking is a sign that foxtail may be working its way through the ear canal. Please do not wait or think that an embedded foxtail will come out on its own.

You may be wondering about fleas and ticks. Fortunately, there are so many excellent preventives available that you need not search far to protect your pet. Also, keep in mind that fleas and ticks are year-round pests.

Summertime can be the most wonderful season for you and the animals in your life. There are great walks to take, sunny spots for napping, balls to chase, birds to watch. Enjoy these activities and more with your best friends protected at your side!



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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Local Musician Furthering His Dreams in Los Angeles



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ryan Harper, a graduate student in composition at USC, recently completed a mentorship with professional musician/producer Gregg Field.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Ryan Harper, a native of Orinda, and a graduate student in composition at the USC Thornton School of Music, just finished a very special mentorship program designed to help him reach his career goals. One of a select group of students, Harper was paired with a professional in the music industry, who is also on the school's Board of Councilors.

"The mentorship was a fantastic experience," says Harper, whose mentor was musician/producer Gregg Field. "Gregg is a real luminary in the music industry, and he had amazing stories to share. In addition to playing drums with Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra, he has produced numerous albums, including the Concord-Starbucks release and #1 Bill-

board Album *Ray Sings, Basie Swings*. He's also been a partner of the Concord Music Group and served as a Recording Academy governor and trustee of the Grammys. All of which made for some great lunch conversation."

Comprised of some of the biggest names in the music business as well as arts leaders, the board members help usher students into the professional world. "We stress that the Thornton School is preparing them musically, so the board member does not need to do that," said Dean Robert Cutietta. "What the mentor does is open doors to the real world and coach students in how to take advantage of that."

Singer-songwriter and board member Randy Newman calls the program "a remarkably rewarding experience for me and, I hope, for the mentees. Each one of them has been talented, personable and extremely conscientious about music."

Harper agrees that the experience was rewarding from a "mentee" standpoint. "As a composer/performer working with digital media of all stripes, I found it very inspiring to hear how Gregg has managed to pursue his various interests so that they have become complementary aspects of his career."

After graduation from USC, Harper will be working for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art within their technology and digital media group in addition to continuing to write and perform music. His parents, Joe and Robin Harper, live in Orinda.

For more information about USC's Thornton School of Music, go to www.usc.edu/music or call 213-740-6935.

Wagner Ranch Presents *Seussical Jr.*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wagner Ranch Elementary School proudly presents its annual spring musical, *Seussical Jr.* Based on Dr. Seuss' beloved books, the show runs Friday, June 1, at 4 and 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 2, at 3 and 7 p.m. Director Ron Pickett and producers Jennifer Wallace and Ara Jelalian have been working with the fourth and fifth grade actors and tech crew from Wagner Ranch for months. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.showTix4u.com. The prices are \$12 reserved, \$9 general seating. For more information, visit the school's website at: www.orindaschools.org/wagnerranch.

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Miramonte Grad Plays for Razorback Football Team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miramonte graduate **Raymond Gervasi** (on the right with teammate **Brad Sherin**) earned the Scout Team Offensive Player of the Year Award at the University of Arkansas, where he is a freshman. As a member of the scout team, Gervasi helps prepare the starting defense for each game.

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EVERYDAY CHANGES / GOLF TOURNAMENT

Everyday Changes

The Many Health Benefits of Massage
Why Massage is a "Need-To" Rather Than a "Nice-To"
Bonnie Waters



Massage for Pain Relief

Although massage may have developed a reputation as a decadent treat for hedonists, new studies show that massage has a wide variety of health benefits. Pain is one of the top motivators that bring clients to massage. In a poll conducted by *Consumer Reports Magazine*, results show that 80 percent of adults in the United States report at some point being bothered with back pain. Hands-on therapy was the top rated modality rated by the 14,000 consumers polled in the *Consumer Report* survey.

Massage for Stress Relief and Increased Immune Response

On average, Americans are more stressed out than ever driving more and more people to seek medication as a solution. This approach may minimize symptoms, however, the effects of medication may masquerade the body's needs and prevent internal functions from staying in check. While massage therapy improves mood, alleviates depression, effects relaxation and provides stress relief, the benefits go beyond the feelings of relaxation and can actually lessen the cor-

tisol levels in our bodies. This can increase the body's immune response and help to avoid cold and other illnesses due to stress.

Massage Benefits for Mom-to-Be

Beyond the wellbeing of the mom-to-be, studies indicate that common stressful events during pregnancy including financial and relationship problems, difficult pregnancy, death in the family, job loss and issues with other children are related to increased behavioral problems in children according to the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. Massage during pregnancy has been shown to reduce stress overall in pregnant women. An online women's magazine featured an article titled "Prenatal Massage Tips to Relieve Headaches, Fatigue, Nausea & More" promoted the benefits of prenatal massage including the ability to help moms-to-be learn to better cope with the changes and stresses of pregnancy.

These symptoms, known as "chemo brain," are commonly experienced by patients undergoing chemotherapy. A health psychologist at the University of Missouri found that those who had undergone surgery for cancer, but who had not yet received chemo, may experience similar cognitive deficits as those undergoing chemo. Patients who were stressed were more likely to experience cognitive declines.

A groundbreaking study indicates that stress reduction inhibits tumor growth according to investigators at the University of Miami. The study published in the journal *Biological Psychiatry* is one of the first to link psychological intervention with genetic expression. According to the study psychological intervention for stress – including massage – affects which genes in the cells of the immune system are turned on and off in ways that may facilitate better recovery during treatment for cancer.

Although the research on the benefits of massage continues, current results point to this conclusion: Regularly scheduled massage is no longer a "nice-to" but a "need-to" for those seeking a long and healthy life.

Bonnie Waters, owner and founder *Changes Salon and Day Spa, Center for Well Being.*

OCF Hosts Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Community Foundation brings the 3rd annual Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament to the Orinda Country

Club on July 23. Allena Behnke, co-chair of the tournament said, "The tournament is intended to be both fun and competitive. Last year's favorite hole in one prizes featured a Rolex watch and a raffle ticket for \$1 million."

The event will open at 10:30 a.m. with a buffet lunch, and the tournament will start at noon. After the tournament, appetizers will be provided and awards will be handed out for closest-to-the-pin (multiple awards), longest-drive, and a raffle will be held.

Behnke added, "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 its two scores on each hole. In a shamble, in order to speed play, each player hits a drive, but second shots are moved to the best drive. From that point, each player plays his or her own shot until the hole is completed."

Registration is \$225 per person. Sponsorships are still available, with Tee Sponsorships starting at \$250, and other event sponsorships ranging up to \$5,000. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Orinda Community Foundation and Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

For more information, visit everydayheroes.golfreg.com.

Massage Benefit for Cancer Patients

Those undergoing treatment for cancer can experience cognitive declines such as decreased verbal fluency or memory loss.

◆ **CLEARY** from page 10

a name for himself as a bronze sculptor with pieces popping up all over the world.

Joe and Marion, who have been married for 63 years, met at a dance at the Oakland City Club; he insists he was a pretty good ballroom dancer. Marion remembers that when he worked as a commercial artist, sometimes he would stay up days at a time to meet his art deadlines for publications such as *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Argosy*, *Playboy*, *The Ladies Home Journal* and *Life*. He also created Air Force illustrations for four decades, beginning with his Viet Nam tours; his missile portrayal hangs in the Smithsonian.

Both delighted in their children, who were raised in Orinda, are all grown up now but live nearby. Marion says that 8-year-old granddaughter Allie, "Can always be found at her desk working on a drawing pad." As Marion related this story, Joe glanced at her, took her hand, and said, "I can't do without her."

The Civic Arts League of Walnut Creek (CAL) promotes the arts in a variety of ways including May and October bus trips to various art venues in the Bay Area and monthly speaker meetings. The 170-member group meets on the first Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m., November through April at the Shadelands Civic Arts Center on the corner of Ignacio and Wiget in Walnut Creek. If you are interested in learning more about CAL, attend the meeting on November 1 in the Main Auditorium.

Cleary's Bronze Exhibited



BILL CARMEL

When Orinda sculpture Joe Cleary was on tour in Viet Nam, he met Sister Adeline, who worked at an orphanage during the war. He became intrigued by her beauty and courage and tucked a photo of her away, intending to capture her in bronze someday. Thirty-nine years later, the bust is part of an art exhibit entitled "Sacred Journeys" at the Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, in Danville through July 15. Call 925-648-7000 or go to www.peacejourney.org.




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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

OIS Students Make the World Better One Project at a Time

By FRAN MILLER
Staff Writer

For the past three years, 7th grade Orinda Intermediate School students have quietly assumed various roles of activism, making positive differences in a number of causes throughout the Bay Area and the world. Hungry people have been fed, animals have been rescued, and the waters in the Bay are a little bit cleaner, thanks to Take Action Projects, initiated by OIS science teachers Sue Boudreau and Karen Snelson.

The Take Action Project (TAP) has become a much-anticipated portion of OIS's 7th grade science curriculum. Students are challenged to take action regarding a topic of their choice and create their own hands-on project incorporating labs and activities. Projects run January through May.

Kimberly Campbell-White is in her second year teaching 7th grade science at OIS and is impressed by her students' motivation and creativity. She enjoys the TAP portion of the curriculum as it keeps

students interested and curious about current topics, events and problem solving; and it teaches students about project planning, and management skills. "We encourage the students to 'think outside of the box' and come up with new ideas that link their personal interests to their TAP actions," she says. "We have project actions that include everything from volunteer activities, public awareness and education, petitions, prevention, fundraising, picket/strikes, to personal life changes and sacrifices. We hope that these projects inspire students to become active members of society, to participate in activities that better a community while linking science to an activity they enjoy, while making lifelong memories."

Samplings of this year's projects include the exploration of animal endangerment, animal abuse and testing, hunger and famine, climate change, and overpopulation. Student actions regarding these issues include volunteer hours at Bay Area food banks, soup kitchens, Glide Memorial, My New Red Shoes Warehouse, and Larkin Street Youth. Students will be working with



OIS student **Neil Binnie** swam 104 laps in one hour to raise money and awareness for the lemur habitat in Madagascar.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

pollution prevention and clean-up programs such as Save the Bay, Surfrider Foundation, and Keep Tahoe Blue. And, students will participate in public awareness campaigns and support for Planned Parenthood, animal wellness activities for East Bay Animal Rescue, ARF, the Humane Society, and the SPCA.

After watching a BBC documentary about Madagascar, Neil Binnie decided to focus his project on the decline of the world's lemur population. He researched lemurs on the Internet, and discovered Dr. Patricia Wright, a conservationist and lemur expert, with whom he exchanged emails, and learned of the Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments (ICTE) and its Greater Bamboo Lemur Conservation Project.

"There are only 400 of the cute Greater Bamboo Lemurs remaining in Madagascar," says Neil, a competitive swimmer who decided to raise donations for lemur conservation by staging a swim-a-thon. The \$1,337.40 he raised by swimming 104 laps in one hour will go towards planting trees in the lemurs' habitat and hiring local people to monitor the lemurs. He has also created

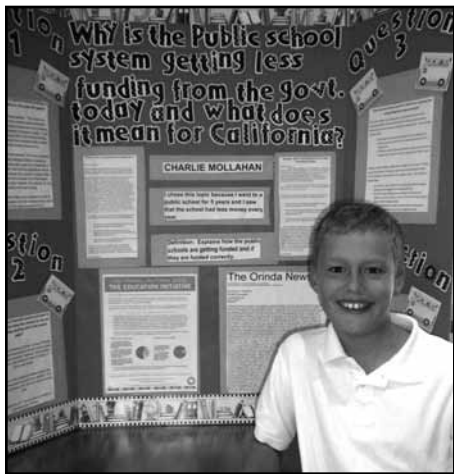
an educational website, and has started a petition, encouraging the Malagasy government to set aside a parcel of land for the Greater Bamboo Lemur.

"TAP gives us 7th graders a chance to help world problems that are currently happening," says Neil. "My change.org petition has been signed by 702 people from 52 countries and 48 states and DC, and 511 people have visited my website. I feel like my actions are making a difference."

Leah Woodcox's project was inspired by The Omnivore's Dilemma, where she learned about factory farming and related issues. She and her project partner, Anna Fields, arranged a vegetarian barbecue with an informative presentation on the problems with factory farming. They are also writing and submitting a persuasive letter to Safeway encouraging them to avoid selling factory farmed meat products. "Anna and I are both upset about the way that factory farmed animals are treated," says Leah. "We hope to stop the horrible treatment of animals in factory farms. If even one store stops selling some factory farmed meat, or a few more people buy organic free range

[SEE OIS page 18]

Ten Year Old Breaks Down School Financing So That Even Adults Can Understand



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Charlie Mollahan in front of his independent study project on school financing.

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

The question of school financing in California is a complicated issue that many adults find difficult to understand. But that is not the case with one enterprising 10-year-old student.

Meet Charlie Mollahan, a resident of Orinda who attended Glorietta Elementary School (which his mother Valerie calls "an amazing school") before transferring to St. Perpetua in Lafayette. Charlie had to choose a topic for an independent study project and decided on school financing. He watched a video on YouTube, and as he says, "It helped me understand the funding

and helped me to decide that this was a real problem that would be good for me to understand and try to make a difference."

Charlie's school report shows that this tenacious young person knows a great deal about California public school funding and the two competing funding initiatives coming on the November ballot – more so than many adult Californians. So what does Charlie know?

In his paper, he gives an explanation of the percentages of school funding from the federal and state governments, local property taxes, local tax revenue and the California Lottery. A little statistic he dug up was that of the lottery money, 50 percent goes to the winners, 36 percent to administration, and 14 percent to the schools. This 14 percent of lottery income translates to a two percent annual contribution to public school funding in our state. Many people think the schools are receiving a much higher percentage of their funds from the lottery. Indeed, this fact was one of the main opposition arguments to the lottery in the first place.

The young fiscal analyst goes on in his paper to explain the history and working details of both Proposition 13 and Proposition 98. Prop 13 limited property tax to the amount of tax at the time of the sale, rather than increasing over time with inflation or tax increases, so if people do not sell their homes, they pay taxes based on earlier

[SEE MOLLAHAN page 18]

OIS 2012 Golf Team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Orinda Intermediate School golf team is undefeated and on their way to a second consecutive championship. Team members are (L-R) lower row: **Kieran Weizmann, Jordan Grelling, Franny Caronna, Claire Dodd, Nick Millham, Sam Sernett, Ales Meyers** and **Edward Anaya**. Upper row: **Chris Hoff (coach), Tori James, Will Lagomarsino, Austin Fischer, John Stenovec, Jacob Goldsmith, Brendon Choe** and **Jose Anaya (assistant)**.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **MOLLAHAN** from page 17

house valuations, rather than current values. When houses are sold today, the taxes are one percent of the sales price and remain there. In Charlie's report he writes, "Voters became worried that schools were getting too little money and passed another law. Prop 98 was supposed to make sure that schools receive a minimum amount of funding each year." He goes on to say a main problem is the legislature will not raise these minimums to account for inflation because then the state budget would annually have to adjust upward in the percentage of school funding.

He adds more data about school funding in California such as the state ranks 47th among 50 states in spending per pupil (\$7,886 against an average of \$11,397). His report states, "California ranks last in number of students per teacher; California's Legislative Analyst estimates that most classes have 28-31 pupils. It ranks 42nd in the proportion of pupils who graduate (63 percent against a national average of 69 percent)."

The young man's research, done mostly on the web, led him to the two competing

tax increase initiatives coming on the November ballot: one is from Governor Brown which will raise the sales tax a quarter point and raise the top marginal income-tax rate to 13.3 percent from 10.3 percent; the other initiative is called "Our Children, Our Future," supported by the Parent Teacher Association and guided by Molly Munger, a California lawyer and daughter of Charlie Munger, business partner of Warren Buffett.

Brown's measure, according to the May 14, 2012 *Wall Street Journal* (p. A2), would "temporarily raise sales tax to 7.5 percent from 7.25 percent for four years, and it would boost income taxes by as much as three percentage points for seven years on individuals making more than \$250,000 a year or households making more than \$500,000." The *Journal* also states that public-employee unions are sponsoring Brown's initiative. The Governor's tax revenue plan does not guarantee that the money will go to education funding. For that reason, Charlie does not support Brown's plan.

Charlie says, "I feel that the governor's initiative does not make a strong enough commitment to strengthening our public schools." Whereas, the "Our Children, Our

Future" plan states that spending will be local. Charlie adds, "The initiative limits the use of these funds for administration – only 1 percent can go for that purpose – and specifies that the funds cannot be used for increased salaries or benefits." The young man has gone on to help collect signatures for the Munger proposal. During sports events, he asked people to sign the petition. He has helped collect about 20 to 30 signatures, though his goal is 100.

Charlie suggests those interested in finding out more information go to the website www.ourchildrenourfuture2012.com where they "can actually enter the name of their school to see how much money their own personal school would gain." Additional information on Governor Brown's initiative is available on a number of websites that also present both sides of the issue – just Google Brown's November Tax initiative.

It seems no matter what the time period, some people feel the younger generation does not have the needed qualities, virtues or lifestyles to carry on with the great American experiment in freedom and democracy. Young Charlie Mollahan helps dispel some of those notions.

◆ **OIS** from page 17

meat, then we feel we've made a difference. Even the smallest of steps can help get to the goal in the end!

"Anna and I think that TAP is a good way to get more kids aware of the world's problems, and it helps people understand how to work with others and arrange projects. We do believe that kids can make a difference, especially when they're assertive about it."

Campbell-White says, "Our students really take on a lot and continuously impress us each year. We share the kids' presentations at the OIS end of the year open house – a celebration of their success and perseverance. We are very proud of our students' hard work and the support and recognition we've received from their families and the greater Lamorinda community."

For more information on the Greater Bamboo Lemur, visit Neil Binnie's website at http://lapsforlemurs.com/Laps_for_Lemurs/Home.html. To sign his petition, visit <http://www.change.org/petitions/malagasy-minister-of-environment-forests-lease-the-land-critical-to-saving-the-greater-bamboo-lemur>.

◆ **GALLERY** from page 10

March, acrylic paintings; Wenda Pyman, watermedia; Ginger Papania, acrylic paintings; Shirley Schmalfluss, acrylic paintings; Ikuko Boyland, water media; Iris Sabre, watermedia; Arlene Streich, watermedia; Julia Montrond, watercolors; Dee Nitecki, watercolors; Marie Guelid, acrylic paintings; George Ehrenhaft, watercolors; Stan Cohen, acrylic paintings; James Coy, watercolors; June Coy, acrylic paintings; Evelyn Call, watermedia; Bobbie Anderson, acrylic paintings, and others.

The OAA board of directors includes Rick Nelson, president; Yin Marsh, membership; Juliet Mevi-Shiflett, vice-president; Hallie Strock, recording secretary; Bobbie Anderson, corresponding secretary; Shirley Schmalfluss, treasurer and John Henry, exhibit coordinator. Gisela Volkmer works all year long finding locations for OAA shows and says, "We are a well-organized group who have kept to the same formula – showing work, for 55 years. There's nothing like a show deadline to keep you working!" Visit their website at www.oaklandart.org or call 925-989-9183 if you are interested in becoming a member or want to learn more about the group.

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.

◆ **ACE IT** from page 9

Health Center, whether it's playing mixed or men's doubles, learning at the clinic, and/or attending the outstanding luncheon the women prepare."

The Carol Ann Reed Breast Health Center at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland was opened four years ago with the principal benefactors being the family of Carol Ann, an Orinda mother of three daughters who lost her battle with breast cancer. It has been a boon to the East Bay area as it brings together all diagnostic modalities in one place, which makes for the quickest turnaround in diagnosis and facilitates collaboration among the various specialties. Prior to this, there was no localized place in our area for these services, so diagnosis could be prolonged and treatment often required to travel to San Francisco or the Peninsula.

"We're delighted to support this valuable facility," comments Lysbeth McNeil. "Last year, proceeds from Ace It! benefited women who could not afford screening and treatment at the Health Center. Along with Kerner and McNeil, Corina Ninayahuar, Tessie Siegel, Danielle Signorella, Lynda Lawrence and Wheeler, comprise the committee coordinating this event. Local businesses donating to the day's festivities include Orinda Safeway, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Rossi's Tennis, Orinda Books, Papillion and Moraga Motors.

To take part, go online for the registration form, which allows you to sign up for all or part of the day. Donations are \$75 for either the morning pro clinic or afternoon play, which includes lunch, or \$125 for the entire day. Lunch alone is \$25. The entire donation is tax deductible. Log on to www.orindawoodstennis.com for more information or to register. Choices for the afternoon round-robin are Mixed, Men's, or Women's Doubles. You may sign up

with a partner or be paired up with other players registering. Flights will be formed based on player's ratings. Raffle tickets are included in the price with prizes donated by local merchants, artists and craft designers.

"Many participants come wearing something pink, the color associated with breast cancer. Whatever color outfit you choose, we'll welcome you and promise a wonderful day as you 'play for the cure,'" McNeil says.

◆ **MOFD** from page 7

I would serve as fire marshal under this model and work closely with the AFM to fulfill the functions of the fire marshal."

In addition, the fire prevention officer (FPO) position currently held by Kathy Leonard will be eliminated. Bradley said, "Our plan is to take the fire prevention officer and promote that position into this new assistant fire marshal position." By not filling the fire marshal position, eliminating the FPO position, and creating the new AFM position, the district will save approximately \$145,000 in salary and benefit costs. Bradley added, "I think it's necessary [to create the new position] because Kathy's duties will change dramatically. She'll take on a lot of the previous fire marshal duties, while I maintain the title of fire marshal and make a lot of the decisions that Mentink made prior to his retirement. Kathy will take on a lot of the operational day-to-day duties."

Leonard is now acting AFM until the MOFD board approves her contract. Leonard said, "Until then, I am covering both positions, as FPO and as acting assistant

fire marshal." Leonard has worked with the district for three and one-half years and has 23 years of experience in fire service. Leonard added, "I am very excited and honored to continue to serve the citizens of this wonderful community. The new position will be challenging, but as we move forward with this new model, our fire prevention office will be working hard to provide the highest level of fire safety awareness and education, customer service, fire code enforcement, and planning services to our residents and business community." The MOFD board met on May 30 to approve the contract, but the results of the meeting were not available at press time.

For more information, visit www.mofd.org.

Are You a Veteran?

This year's 4th of July parade is honoring all those who have served or are currently serving their country. If you would like to walk or ride in the parade, please contact the Orinda Association at 254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.



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STUDENTS / BOOKS

OIS Students and Table 24 Help Homeless Kids Get New Shoes

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

On May 15, Katherine Cane and Blake Sharp, students of Orinda Intermediate School (OIS), teamed with Table 24 to raise funds for My New Red Shoes. Sharp explained that My New Red Shoes is a non-profit which "supplies homeless children with shoes so they have a brand new pair of shoes for school." Cane and Sharp got involved with the organization as part of the OIS Take Action Project. Sharp added, "Shoes are something that we all take for granted."

Cane and Sharp have raised money by selling neon shoelaces, bracelets and baked goods. In addition to Table 24's donation of 10 percent of dinner proceeds that night, Cane and Sharp asked potential donors for \$12 donations to provide a brand new pair of shoes to the cause.



DAVID DIERKS
Blake Sharp and Katherine Cane raise money for shoes outside of Table 24.

For more information, email Cane or Sharp at blakeandkatherinesnewshoes@gmail.com.

Asperger's Team Camp Builds Social Skills

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Megan Field's voice fills with excitement as she speaks of summer camp. Her enthusiasm is unmistakable – in fact, she almost sounds as excited as the kids she will work with next month at the Asperger's Team Camp. The site is located at Clair Tappaan Lodge in the scenic Sierra Nevada Mountains north of Lake Tahoe. Asperger's Team Camp is a two-week summer residential program, July 8 - 21.

Armed with a doctorate degree in clinical psychology and more than 20 years nursing experience, and inspired by her 23-year-old son Darin, Megan and her husband Michael anticipate a great summer. The couple has been running the camp for the last three years. Michael, also a registered nurse, works in the medical field and has been on staff at California Pacific Medical Center for over a decade. Staff members Kathy Allen, MA, coach and mentor, and activity director Mark Keim, join them.

The Fields believe their medical training, as well as Megan's experience in research (which was focused in Asperger's), along with their personal experience offers them a "unique perspective." Their son's As-

perger's Syndrome diagnosis served as a "catalyst" for getting the couple to "focus on this frequently misunderstood and often ignored disability."

Long-time Orinda residents, the couple also have two daughters – Amy who attends Miramonte High School, and Anna who is enrolled at Orinda Intermediate School. Amy is a youth counselor at the camp. Megan says that the program has a mixture of returning campers and newcomers. For the more experienced camper, the program has a newly created counselor internship.

"We want to help get a skill set in place to create what they (people with Asperger's and Non-Verbal Learning Disorder) need to succeed; it doesn't exist yet. We want to build that," said Megan. According to her, an example of an important, yet difficult skill to master is learning how to develop relationships. "How do you do that in a new environment? Our group of campers is a new relationship," she said.

In dealing with kids with Aspergers, Megan added, "You will find each kid staunchly grounded in their own viewpoint, and they have to understand that people have different viewpoints." That perspective is another important skill set.

[SEE CAMP page 21]

The Aphasia Café – A Unique Book of Poetry

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Orinda resident Dawn McGuire was co-winner of the Sarah Lawrence Campbell Corner Language Exchange Poetry Prize, awarded for "poems that treat larger themes with lyric intensity" and has written two other books of poetry, *Sleeping in Africa* and *Hands On*. Join her at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square on June 19 at 2 p.m. where she will read from *The Aphasia Café*, an appropriate topic since June is National Aphasia Awareness month.

McGuire trained at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons (M.D.) and the University of California, San Francisco which earned her the ability to practice neurology. But her life as a poet is earned every day by her pull to listen to her patients, then experiment.

Aphasia is an acquired communication disorder that impairs a person's ability to process language, but does not affect intelligence. The ability to speak and understand others is impaired; most people with aphasia experience difficulty reading and writing but retain their identity. One out of every 250 Americans suffers from aphasia.

McGuire has been listening to her patients for a long time; so long that she has been able to dwell for a time in the place of broken language where they reside. She believes we are all meaning-makers; that our brains are wired to make meaning. All of the things we do to transcribe a coherent narrative that makes our lives what they are.

According to McGuire, there are some things we don't do with language, like an intimate silence between two people who understand each other without words. Language is the wheel we make meaning with,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dawn McGuire reads from her book, *The Aphasia Café*, on June 19 at Orinda Books.

and the wheel allows us to move forward. But what is in the center, the silence? Or in the case of those with aphasia, some of whom reside in the silence, what is in their center? McGuire uses language to experiment with what "meaning making" would be like in the various forms of aphasia (there are several).

No one is exempt from aphasia. It is not difficult to extrapolate, as her alter ego, Dr. Fogel song does, what daily aphasias we all engage in – the everyday breakdowns in language many experience, or stepping over a person prostrate on the sidewalk and continuing on because it's too overwhelming. We sometimes protect ourselves by deliberately not understanding. The 48 poems in McGuire's book explore these places.

McGuire hopes her poems allow readers to enter into a conversation with themselves and others about these subjects. If life throws up brokenness and you are compelled to enter it, the question is not about who you were before the brokenness, but, who will you become?

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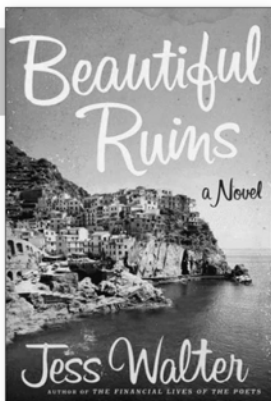


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ON THE CALENDAR

JUNE

- 1 **First Friday Forum**, Jennifer Bryson on "Islam and Peaceful Pluralism," 1:30 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, 925-283-8722
Wagner Ranch Elementary School presents *Seussical Jr.*, 4 and 7 p.m., also June 2 at 3 and 7 p.m., Go to www.orindaschools.org/wagnerranch.
Orinda Starlight Village Players presents Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* through June 23 at Orinda Community Park, 28 Orinda Way. Call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org. See page 12 for more details.
- 2 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents *The Tempest* through June 24 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (formerly Gateway Boulevard), www.calshakes.org or call 510-548-9666.
Orinda Books hosts More Sisters in Crime, a group of mystery writers who will present their latest novels, 276 Village Square, noon. Call 254-7606.
- 3 **Poise Family Park Day**, a summer celebration of fun and friendship, Dalewood Park (corner of Dalewood Drive and Sundown Terrace), 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Bring snacks, drinks and a blanket. No RSVP required. Contact cabennett_98@yahoo.com.
- 9 **Orinda Books** hosts Marty Brounstein discussing his new book, *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*, a true story, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.
Collaborative Practice of the East Bay Divorce Options Workshop explains the legal, financial, psychological and social issues of divorce, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Room 201, 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$45 per participant. Repeated second Saturday of each month. Call 943-7456, www.cpeastbay.org, or divorceoptions.eastbay@gmail.com.
- 12 **Concert-in-the-Park** featuring Brian Moran Jazz Trio, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Orinda Community Center Park, 254-2445.
- 16 **Orinda Books** hosts Michael Cooper discussing his new book, *Foxes in the Vineyard*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 19 **Orinda Books**, Orinda resident Dawn McGuire, M.D. will read from her recently released book of poetry, *The Aphasia Cafe*, at 2:00 p.m. Orinda Books. Call 925-254-5620. **Concert-in-the-Park** featuring The Crisis, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Orinda Community Center Park, 254-2445.
- 20 **Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon**, speaker Dr. Cliff Dochterman, 11:30 a.m., Orinda Community Church, 925-324-2017.
Library Music Series featuring The Real Placebos, 6:30 p.m., Orinda Library, 254-2184.
- 21 **Public Employee Pension Funding** by award-winning columnist Dan Borenstein, who will explain inner-workings of plans and why they will leave our children billions of dollars of debt, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium.
- 26 **Concert-in-the-Park** featuring Bay Bridge Beat, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Orinda Community Center Park, 254-2445.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 2 **Saturday Morning Live**, family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also June 9, 16 and 23.
- 5 **Peek-A-Boo Time** with songs, stories, rhymes and rhythm for newborns through 1-year-olds and their caregivers, Picture Book area, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also June 12.
- 7 **Friends of the Library** book sale, bookshop and sorting room, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 8 **Mystery Book Club** members will discuss *The Thief of Time* by Tony Hillerman, Fireside Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult program, drop-ins welcome.
- 20 **Summer Music Series** kicks off with The Real Placebos playing American roots music, inside the library, 6:30 p.m. Free.
- 23 **Let the Hunger Games Begin**: All tributes 12-17 are invited to play games, create a unique craft and discuss the book, while munching on survival snacks. To help fight hunger in the real world, all tributes are requested to bring a canned or nonperishable food item, which will be donated to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. Gallery Room, 3 p.m. Registration required.
- 28 **Talespinners of Contra Costa**, storytelling for adults with a featured speaker every month, Garden Room, 7 p.m. Share a story or just come to listen.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Moraga-Orinda Fire District Conference Room, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**, every second 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., Postino, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, September through May, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September to June, 7 p.m. Contact Julie Mercer or Charlene Robinson at info@orindajuniors.org or www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 254-2222.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Hikes every weekend, 8:30 a.m., unless noted differently on website. Hikes also 1st Wed. of every month. Call Ian at 254-1465 or visit www.orindahiking.org.
- Orinda Historical Society**. June 20, 3-5 p.m., ground floor Orinda Library, Room 106, 650-349-3382.
- 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. For information, 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.

Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon June 20

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Calling all Orindans 75 years and older. It's party time! The annual Three-Quarter Century luncheon will be held on June 20 in the Fellowship Hall of the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. The social hour begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. Host John Fazel urges all those who qualify to attend. "It's an opportunity to get reacquainted with old friends and to meet some new ones. We want our seniors to get out and enjoy the day. A time together like this cheers us up and, hopefully, we can pass along some cheer to another attendee who might need it. There's nothing like a hug and a smile to brighten one's day."

This theme goes along with the theme of the speaker for the day, "The Joy of Growing Older," presented by Dr. Cliff Dochterman. He says, "Even though growing older may be accompanied by aches, pains and declining activity, each of us has to decide



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Thomas Deahl was crowned King at last year's luncheon.

whether we will let our lives be filled with satisfaction and happiness, or with complaints and discouragement. Although I know I am an 86-year-old man, I'm trying [SEE CENTURY page 21]

First Friday Forum: Exploring Islam and Peaceful Pluralism



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jennifer Bryson will speak on Islam at First Friday Forum.

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

"Islam and Peaceful Pluralism: Modern Challenges and Opportunities" is the topic Jennifer Bryson has chosen for the last First Friday Forum (FFF) of this season. It will be held June 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Bryson says, "After doing counter-terrorism work for the Department of Defense for several years after 9/11, including spending two years as an interrogator at Guantanamo, I became concerned that it seemed as if our counter-terrorism money and efforts were focused almost exclusively on 'terrorism,' not on the 'counter' side of the equation. Having studied Islam for more than 20 years and having met a wide range of Muslims from various regions of the world, I knew that many Muslims oppose terrorism and instead support, and in some cases, advocate for, peaceful pluralism. The Muslims who favor this are an absolutely vital component of the 'counter' in counter-terrorism when it comes to dealing with terrorism.

"As a result of this, when I left the Department of Defense and then came to work at the Witherspoon Institute in 2009, I devoted my efforts to a more in-depth study, specifically of Muslims who favor peaceful pluralism, and to practical efforts to partner with them. I wanted to find out, 'Why do [SEE BRYSON page 21]

- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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



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MOVE OF THE MONTH / FILM / TRAVEL

Move of the Month

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Stand tall with one arm by your side, palm facing your body and one arm in front palm facing in.

Simultaneously raise them up, one out to the side and one in front, aligning wrists with shoulders.

Pause for one second at the top of the movement, then slowly lower the weights. Repeat 6 x and then change front and side arm.

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean Personal Training, Nutrition, Cardio Classes for Elite Fitness 925-360-7051, www.thelivingleanprogram.com

Travel With a Purpose to Burma



JILL TUCKER

Orinda resident **Ksenija Soster Olmer** believes in traveling with a purpose and helping others along the way. Her small groups have traveled to Cambodia helping to build wells and supporting education in local villages. One of her favorite places is Burma, and she plans a trip at the end of November. For information on how to join her small group (deadline June 30) to Burma-Myanmar-Cambodia-Laos, email ksenija@aol.com.



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DANVILLE • OAKLAND • ORINDA

First, the bad news – this is one of the two times a year when the studios unleash their collective efforts to keep us in the dark (of the theater that is). Leading with *The Hunger Games* and the box office bonanza that was *The Avengers* followed closely by *Dark Shadows*, and then *Prometheus*, *Brave*, *The Dark Knight Rises* and a host of other movies this summer will leave us with many difficult choices. Jo Alice Canterbury and Efi Lubliner realize this and, as a result, they will not be gracing us with their International Film Showcase for the next month or so. While their decision not to compete with the summer blockbusters is undoubtedly a wise one, their absence and taste for films well off the beaten path will be missed.

But don't think for a moment that those wishing for something other than what the mainstream fare will be left wanting. Both Beau Behan, manager of Orinda and Rheem theaters and Vanessa, the Queen of *Scream*, as well as the Moraga Movers will present three films that could be considered classics.

On June 9, *Young Frankenstein* begins. Often billed as the funniest movie ever made, this Mel Brooks film with a screenplay by Gene Wilder includes landmark performances from the late Madeline Khan (“Oh, sweet mystery of life...”) to Cloris Leachman (“He vas my boyfwiend!”). In fact, there are so many quotable moments from this movie that it could almost be given the “Rocky Horror” treatment, but that would distract from the many other

details to savor in this glorious black and white film. It shows at the Orinda at 7 p.m.

Then, on June 15, the ever legendary Vanessa will offer yet another in her Queen's Slumber Party series with *Psycho Beach Party* (2000). Co-starring Nicholas Brenden (*Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*) and Amy Adams (*Enchanted*), this parody of classic – horror types started out as a stage play before moving onto the big screen. Filmed on the very, very cheap, it's a mash-up of the beach movies of the '60s coupled with the mad slasher movies that are still being made today. This classic will unspool at the Rheem at 9 p.m. Surfboards not required.

Lastly, the Moraga Movers presents *An American in Paris*. Often thought of in the same breath as *Singin' in the Rain*, this movie is actually the superior of the two. *Singin'* may have the flash but *American* tells a better, more intimate story. Actually, it tells several stories, all intertwined with music by Gershwin and a multi-faceted art history lesson as its climax. As always, Gene Kelly's footwork is impeccable and a very young Leslie Caron is divine. Add to this a not wholly unsympathetic Nona Foch, and you have the ingredients for one of the most loved movie musicals in cinematic history. It will screen at 4 p.m. at the Rheem on June 20.

So, whether you prefer Transylvania, Paris or the beach, there are plenty of other choices, aside from *The Avengers*, to choose from.

And remember, stay in the dark. That's where the magic happens.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

have a floral shop,” says Mitra.
Arash Misaghi is fond of saying, “Food is for the body and mind and flowers are food for the soul.” Orindans may feed and nourish their soul at Orinda Florist. Open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 to 3 p.m. For more information, visit the website at www.orindafloristca.com or call 925-255-5353. Visit Orinda Florist on facebook.com and Twitter.com.

Theatre View Veterinary Clinic Opens at One Bates Blvd.

With 15 years of experience serving Orinda pet owners, Dr. Laurie Langford has established her own clinic conveniently located on the parking level of One Bates Blvd., Suite 200. Dr. Langford and her staff invite the community to their Open House on Saturday, June 16, 3 to 5 p.m. Tours will be conducted of the new clinic, pharmaceutical representatives will be present to answer questions and freebies will be distributed to guests.

“We are a small animal clinic offering one-on-one contact so owners can develop rapport with their veterinarian, and services that include ultrasound, X-rays and in-house blood work. For more specialized treatments, we make referrals in the area,” explains Langford. A graduate of U.C. Davis veterinary school, Langford is originally from the East Bay. “I think it is important to explore with pet owners the various treatment options available and discuss what they are comfortable with in terms of selecting treatment for their pet,” adds Langford.

Theatre View Veterinary Clinic treats cats, dogs, pets, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and mice. The staff provides a warm, friendly, peaceful environment, where people can bring their pets and feel at home. There is a separate ward for cats



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Laurie Langford and Oakley now at Theatre View Veterinary Clinic.

and another for dogs. “Pet owners will see a friendly face here, because our staff lives in the area and have been members of the local vet community for many years,” says Langford. Mary Kay Barnes, Dan Dimitriu, Annette Howell, Alisha Wilmington-Smith, Bethany Ruthinck, Katherine Kim and Vanessa John provide clinic support to Dr. Langford.

In keeping with the times, the clinic is completely computerized and considered a paperless office. There are no charts lining the walls here. Clients may schedule appointments, order special diet food delivered directly to their home, and order prescription refills online at www.theatreviewvetclinic.com. This new vet clinic is open and airy, with windows offering views of verdant hillsides. The décor features Pergo flooring and walls of sage green and cream.

Clients may take advantage of a free six week puppy socialization class conducted Thursday evenings for puppies too young for obedience class. This includes puppies six weeks to four months of age, after which



CANDY KATTENBURG

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce welcomes All-In-Fitness. At the ceremony were owners **Jake Miller** (3rd from R), **Nina Peles** (2nd from L) and members of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

time puppies are fully vaccinated and ready for traditional obedience class.

“I have brought together a group of people that work well together to provide consistency and cohesion in our clinic. We have found this serves our clients and their pets, who are really members of the family,” says Langford. A fitness enthusiast, Langford enjoys mountain biking and road biking, skiing and practices yoga. “I enjoy gardening and spend as much time outdoors as I can.”

Theatre View Veterinary Clinic is open six days a week, Monday, 1 to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and Contra Costa Veterinary Medical Association, like all great small businesses, reputation is spread by word of mouth by satisfied clients.

For more information, visit the website at www.theatreviewvetclinic.com or call 925-317-3187.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

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Care Indeed Opens Orinda Location

Dee Bustos and Vanessa Valerio have recently established Care Indeed to serve individuals recovering from surgery as well as the elderly Orinda community with in-home caregivers and healthcare staffing. Located in the Crossroads at 61 Moraga Way, suite #9, the office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Providing in-home custodial, medical and care services to anyone who needs assistance at any age, Care Indeed is a small business with headquarters located in Palo Alto.

Care Indeed spokesperson Apryl Ryder points out that personal service is their specialty. "What distinguishes us from others is that we are open and available to clients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When a client calls, they are not directed to a phone bank, but rather to the personal cell phone



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Vanessa Valerio and Dee Bustos of Care Indeed.

of a staff of eight in both our Orinda and Palo Alto offices," says Ryder.

Quality service is maintained through ongoing monitoring of caregiver performance and conduct. Unscheduled visits to evaluate the caregiver are carried out with the client's knowledge, while the caregiver is not informed in advance of the evaluation. "We are hands on and very involved.

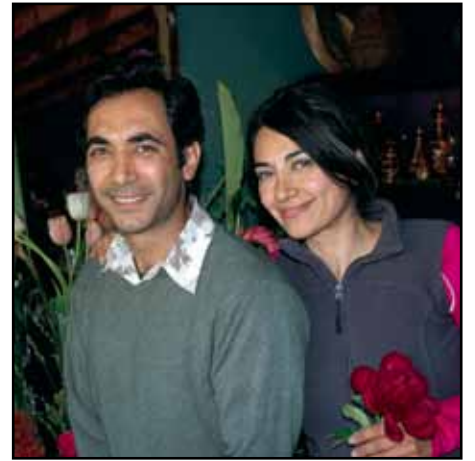
An RN from the management team will complete a full assessment and provide a thorough and supervised training for the caregiver based on a specific client's needs," explains Ryder.

Every member of the Care Indeed office staff has served as a caregiver or is an RN. "We are able to relate to our caregiver staff exceptionally well because all of us in the office have been caregivers in the past. We have a compassionate understanding of the needs of our staff and of our clients," adds Ryder. If needed, proprietors Bustos and Valerio extend assistance to clients by visiting them in their home. "Care Indeed is very much like a big family," adds Ryder. Bustos is an animal lover, and Valerio enjoys nature and exploring.

Caregivers assist clients in enhancing their quality of life by helping them preserve their physical and mental health, maintaining a balanced nutrition regimen, providing moral support, and actively monitoring their home for safety.

Clients have a wide range of options that include care on a live-in basis or hourly service. Services include running errands, performing personal hygiene, leading clients through exercise routines, and medication reminders. LVN's and RN's must dose the medication as needed when requested. There is flexibility with pricing and clients are advised to call for more details.

For more information about Care Indeed or to schedule a free assessment, visit the website at www.careindeed.com or call 925-402-4411 to reach the Orinda office.



VALERIE HOTZ
Arash and Mitra Misaghi of Orinda Florist.

Florist practices sustainability without compromising quality. "We use recycled containers and encourage clients to bring their own containers for recycling, as well as to utilize them in their floral arrangement. We wrap bouquets in brown paper with brown raffia rather than using plastic," explains Arash. "Working with local suppliers helps us remain sustainable without compromising quality. Being in touch with ceramic artists who make vases is important, and we encourage artists to contact us," he adds.

The tiny shop features vibrant walls of purple and green. One wall is adorned with an enormous mirror reclaimed from the Piedmont Theatre, reflecting the beautiful array of floral arrangements. A crystal chandelier hangs from the center of the ceiling, and tables of recycled materials abound. Mitra and Arash encourage the community to drop by and experience the character of their shop and the variety of arrangements available. Current offerings include Freesias, Anemones, Sweet Peas, Peonies, Roses, Orchids, Azealeas and various succulents among others. "Our approach is to push the local agenda. What is good for the community is also good for the local economy," says Arash.

Orindan David Finger, who was selecting flowers for a bouquet to present to his daughter after her performance in *Alice in Wonderland* at Del Rey School, said, "It is great to have a flower shop in Orinda once again. I appreciate they do not use plastic and are conscious of the environment. Thank you for using brown paper."

Mitra Misaghi lives in Orinda and enjoys serving her local community. Her two children attend Del Rey School. Sina Panah is a 5th grader and Tahra Panah is a 3rd grader this year. "Clients say bringing colors and textures of flowers to the community is a very positive thing. This is a wonderful community. People have been stopping by to welcome us and say they are happy to

[SEE BUZZ page 23]

ORINDA THEATRE SQUARE

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Orinda Florist

After too many years without a floral shop in town, Orindans will be pleased to visit the Orinda Florist at 99 Brookwood Road, immediately adjacent to ALMA music. The dynamically creative brother and sister team of Mitra Misaghi and Arash Misaghi launched their small floral business this spring focusing on shopping local farmers and practicing sustainability.

With a background in interior design, Mitra began floral design for major events last year, expanding to creating designs for clients' homes on a monthly basis and evolving into establishing her own small business. "We buy in-season from local flower growers. Everything you see in our shop is in season. We do not have flowers that are chemically treated. By buying in-season, the flowers have not been treated with chemicals. California has rich soil and ideal climate for agriculture and it is important to us to support local Bay Area growers first and Northern California growers second," explains Mitra.

Arash Misaghi studied biotechnology at U.C. Davis and emphasizes that Orinda