

THE ORINDA NEWS

Published by The Orinda Association

Gratis
Volume 31, Number 6

Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
June 2016

New Supe Takes Helm at OUSD

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

May 2 marked the first day of work for the Orinda Union School District's new superintendent, Dr. Caroline Seaton. In addition to being the new leader of the school district, she recently received her Doctor of Education from the University of Southern California. Seaton brings a wealth of experience from her prior employers, the Highland Park School District in Texas and the Manhattan Beach Unified School District in Southern California.

Asked why she choose education as a career, Seaton said, "My mom was very involved with the schools and would have liked to be a teacher." She also credits several of her teachers when growing up as major influences. "I am still in contact with my first-grade teacher," she said.



BILL O'BRIAN

Orinda Union School District's new superintendent, **Dr. Caroline Seaton**, began her new position on May 2.

Seaton grew up in Torrance where she completed her elementary and secondary school education. She graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas with her undergraduate degree and completed her Masters of Education at the University of North Texas. She then spent 13 years teach-

Summertime Means Concerts and Movies in the Park



MARY ANN WITTENBERG

The funk, soul and classic rock group, **Bay Bridge Beat**, opens the summer concerts in the park.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Warm weather, fun entertainment and good food will keep the Orinda Community Park the place to be this summer as the summer concerts and movies begin. Sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department and supported by the Orinda Community Foundation,

Rotary Club of Orinda and the City of Orinda, the concert series takes place on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. with the exception of Opera in the Park on Sunday, July 24, at 4 p.m. Food trucks to complement the various bands will also be available.

June concerts include: June 14 – the funk, soul, and classic rock of Bay Bridge Beat; June 21 – the jazzy moves of Stratify

and June 28 - the Motown sounds of 3 Day Weekend.

Movies in the Park also returns with a mix of animated films and a Disney classic. Selected by the community via an online survey, the movies begin at dusk. First up is *Minions* on June 23.

For a complete listing of concerts and movies, call Parks and Rec at 925-254-2445 or go to www.cityoforinda.org.

ing in Texas at Highland Park schools. She taught fifth and sixth grades for seven years, and then served as a science specialist for six years.

She returned to Southern California to live closer to her sister and mother, teaching math, science, English and language arts at Manhattan Beach Middle School. She went on to become the assistant principal there and later served as principal from 2002 to 2005. Her next promotion moved her to the district office where she was in charge of curriculum and instruction for nine years, then served two more years as human resources director. "It's unusual for someone to do these two different jobs in a district office," said Seaton.

Seaton said the recession in California continues to be challenging for schools.

[SEE OUSD page 10]

Town Hall Style Road Meeting

On May 4, the Orinda Association held an informational public meeting on Measure L, the \$25 million road-repair bond on the June ballot. Orinda Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission Chair Terry Murphy and Vice Chair Richard Nelson gave an overview of the state of Orinda's roads and drain pipes and how roads are selected for repair.

An informal question and answer period followed with audience members asking about funding sources, the Street Saver program, average daily traffic on local roads and how Measure L funds will be allocated if approved by voters. For more information on Orinda's roads, see page 9.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission Chair **Terry Murphy** (L) and Vice Chair **Richard Nelson** at the May 4 meeting.

Orinda Academy Hosts Students, Faculty from China



SALLY HOGARTY

The founder, principal, teachers and a group of 60 students from 3rd through 11th grade from the Hangzhou Guotai Foreign Language and Arts School in China attended classes at Orinda Academy on May 9. After a banquet lunch, the students and faculty performed a program of dances, songs, recitations and stories about their school and homeland in the Library Auditorium. The Orinda Academy students also performed contemporary dances, musical numbers and solo piano pieces. According to Orinda Academy principal Ron Graydon, the brief visit helped establish a link between the two schools and their countries. Hosted and guided by Orinda Academy Chinese students, guests participated in tours and attended classes, science labs and sporting events. The two student bodies share an eagle mascot and love of the arts. Attendees included the Chinese Consul General's wife, Qiao Li.

–Sally Hogarty, Editor

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One of the OA's Newest Members: The Kalmar Family

SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Each month we are profiling a family or individual member of the Orinda Association. We hope you enjoy getting to know your fellow Orindans, who are actively improving the quality of life in our community by their membership. This month meet Lynn, a stay-at-home-mom, and Louis Kalmar, a regional manager at Cisco, and their daughters 9-year-old twins Nora and Lily and 5-year-old Evie. We asked Lynn a few questions to get to know her family better.

How long have you lived in Orinda?

We've lived in Orinda for five years. We moved into our house the week before our youngest daughter was born so it's very easy to keep track of how long we've been here.

What drew you to this town?

We were living in San Francisco and had always liked the city, but by the time our twins were two years old, we had started looking at other towns in the Bay Area where we could find good neighborhood schools and more space for our family to grow. We visited Orinda and immediately loved the small-town feel – and we were so impressed with the school district.

Are you involved in volunteer activities?

There are some real superstar volunteers in this community, and I'm not quite at that level, but I do help with activities at Sleepy Hollow Elementary where my older girls go to school (and my little one will soon follow), and I'm on the board of the SH Parents' Club. I also act as the cookie sales

manager for my daughters' Girl Scout troop so every February and March our dining room is overrun with Girl Scout cookies. And, I help out as a copy editor on the newsletter team for the Lamorinda Moms Club.

I've also recently started volunteering with *The Orinda News* as a copy editor. This is a publication of The Orinda Association, and I really enjoy going down to the OA office and doing the final corrections on the newspaper before it goes to press.

As a new OA member, what OA activities interest you the most?

We love the 4th of July parade every year, particularly the celebration in the park afterward. Our girls have so much fun running from booth to booth, checking out all the activities and seeing friends from school. This past year, they loved the animal area, petting the goats and chickens and a very friendly little pig.

How would you like to see the OA grow to accommodate more young families?

I think the OA could introduce a couple of new events that are targeted toward families with young children – they don't need to be as elaborate as the 4th of July celebration but could center on a holiday in a similar way. I also think the OA could reach out to young families as they move to the area with a "welcome packet" that includes information about local events, activities and shops. I remember when we first moved here, it took some time to get the lay of the land and a little guidebook would have been helpful.

Help support the OA's Volunteer Center, "Seniors Around Town" ride program, 4th of July Parade and The Orinda News, join today at www.orindaassociation.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nora, Lynn, Louis, Evie and Lily Kalmar are some of the OA's newest members.

Orinda's Best Hometown Parade Rooted in Humble Beginnings

By MONICA FITZSIMMONS
Contributing Writer

We all get excited about a parade, especially when it's in our own backyard. Orinda's 4th of July Parade is one of my favorite things about raising a family in this community. Thousands of happy people in red, white and blue sitting in the sun, kids laughing, waving and waiting for treats to roll by, great music, entertainment and an entire community coming together.

The backstory and the energetic team behind this magical day were unknown to me until this spring. The humble beginnings of the Best Hometown Parade started over 30 years ago in a tiny office of the Orinda Association. Bobbie Landers (member of

Orinda's first city council), Dick Heggie (first mayor of Orinda) and Bill Gross (former Orinda fire commissioner) sat down together to brainstorm how they could get local residents excited about Orinda becoming a city. Drawing from childhood memories, the parade was born and continues to bring our community together each summer.

Their vision grew and evolved through the years and is now a full day of fun activities for everyone in the family. Today, Bobbie still sits on the planning committee and adds her insights, energy and ideas. Andy "Parade Guy" Radlow is head planner for the big day with support from a team of volunteers. Without this team and the

[SEE HOMETOWN page 12]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Orinda's first City Council ride in the 1985 4th of July parade. (L-R) Back: Aldo Guidotti, Bobbie Landers, Dick Heggie. Front: Bill Dabel and driving Joe Harb.

SUPPORT THE ORINDA 4TH OF JULY EVENTS!

Show your spirit by sponsoring a flag along the parade route!

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT – SPONSOR A FLAG!

Forty-five, 6 foot tall American flags are available for sponsorship. For a \$50 donation, you can help beautify Orinda and support a variety of community events including the July 4th Celebration. The flags will be displayed throughout downtown Orinda and along the parade route.

To sponsor a flag go to www.orindaassociation.org or call (925) 254-0800

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
In Orinda, we are friendly and smart



Cindy Powell

How do we do it? We never stop learning.

Beginning June 1, the **library summer reading festival, STEAM**, will be open to ALL AGES! I already got my clever game sheet and book list. Also on June 1 is the **Orinda Historical Society's** annual meeting and Kay Norman will be the speaker. Kay knows more about Orinda history than anyone in town. I will learn some fun facts!

Happy Trails to you on June 4 as we celebrate **National Trails Day**. In 1996, the City of Orinda won a Trail Town USA designation. Get out there and check them out.

June 6 is **D-Day**. Thank the Second World War veterans in your life for their service and appreciate the liberty it affords us. The OA will be offering **Buddy Poppies** from Memorial Day through July 4th to support our vets. June 6 is also **Yo-Yo Day**. Show off at home or work and consider the fact that three U.S. presidents (Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon) showed off their Yo-Yo expertise while in office.

June 7 is **Election Day**. You can put your ballot in the "CoCo Vote-N-Go" drop box at City Hall and skip the postage. Don't forget the "I voted" sticker and wear it proudly.

June 9 is **Graduation day** for OIS, and June 10 is the big day at Miramonte, Orinda Academy and the Orinda Elementary Schools. Holden High graduates on June 3.

Flag Day is June 14, a chance to celebrate and show respect for our flag. A Big Thank You to Terry Murphy and The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8063 for replacing our local damaged flags and

disposing of them properly.

Tuesday evening, June 14, is the first **Concert in the Park** with funk & soul band Bay Bridge Beat and a soul food truck. Look at our city website (cityoforinda.org) to see the other bands and food truck combos for June.

You received a reminder postcard from Fire Chief Stephen Healy to complete your **Weed Abatement** by June 15. The Fire District offers home assessments and information to "harden" your house against fire.

Go Fishing Day is June 18, but many of us will go to the Farmers' Market to get a gift for **Father's Day** on June 19. Whether biological, adopted or a father figure to you, give these men some recognition on this day and maybe take them fishing or to a baseball game. The first baseball game was played on this date 170 years ago.

June 20 is **Summer Solstice**, the longest day of the year. The sun's zenith is at its furthest point north of the equator at 3:34 p.m., Orinda time. Also, it's a full moon that night.

On June 23, **Minions** will arrive in the Orinda Park at dusk...the movie. Thank you to Park & Rec. Foundation, Orinda Community Foundation and Rotary for the movies and concerts in the park this summer!!

June 30 is **Meteor Watch Day**. We call them "shooting stars" and hope for clear skies.

Every day we can learn something new, and our town has so many fun opportunities. Get out and find a weird or wild fact to share.

OA Sponsors Volunteer Fair

SALLY HOGARTY
(L-R) OA Board Members **Joe Garvey** and **Joe Haughin**, OJWC Board Member **Leigh Colburn** and OA Board Member **Kate Wiley** (far right) helped out at the Volunteer Faire, which shared the Library Plaza with participants in Orinda Action Day. The event allowed other nonprofits in the area to offer information on volunteering with their organizations.

Orinda Community Foundation Presents:

NorCal KIDS Triathlon TRI 4 HEALTH

Saturday morning, August 27
Miramonte High School in Orinda, CA

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Parade Guy
Big Plans for 2016

Andrew Radlow

Hello Parade fans, it's the Parade Guy with another update for this year's 4th of July Parade. Last month, we spoke about how we are "determined to help one another make each year's parade better than the last." To fulfill that goal we have focused on a number of "Parade 101" fundamentals in our attempt to make this year's parade the best yet!

After each parade, the Parade Committee gathers feedback about what worked and what needs improvement. We review all feedback and recommendations in January as we make plans for the next year. Prioritizing is tough, but each year we assess our resources and decide what improvement projects we are going to take on. I can't

list them all, but some of this year's top projects are:

Close the Gaps Between Floats & Change Flow of Parade on Theater Square Side – Yep, you read that right, we are changing the direction the parade flows on the Theater Square side! We will be starting the parade at the Wells Fargo on Moraga Way, make our way down to Brookwood and turn left between CVS and Cine Cuvée. We will then line everyone up again at the Shell station on the north side and release everyone once we can be assured there will be few to no gaps. Like last year, "Closing the Gaps" is one of our top goals this year, but we really mean it this time!

[SEE PARADE page 10]

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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Corrections . . .

The caption on this photo in our May issue said that Jamie Westdal was retired from her well-respected photography business. She isn't closing the business, just the location on Brookside Road. She will still be offering her photographic services on location and can be reached at www.jamiewestdal.com or by calling 925-254-9689.



Letters to the Editor . . .

OA's Road Repair Meeting Appreciated

Kudos to the Orinda Association, publisher of *The Orinda News*, for its in-depth, educational forum -- held May 4 -- on Measure L, Orinda's \$25 million road-repair bond. I hope the association holds more forums on important issues affecting Orinda.

– Richard S. Colman

Road Repairs Welcome

I've seen some entries on "Next Door" criticizing Measure L. It has taken years of work to create the actions and plan needed to repair the roads and some of Orinda's infrastructure. The repairs so far are welcomed with great relish. Let's not make the mistake of "kicking the can down the road" again. We are all blessed to live in one of the most wonderful environments in the country. Let's please recognize that we must take care of the roads and infrastructure and vote Yes on Measure L.

– Fred and Carole Johnson

Good Roads - Less Wear on Cars

Measure L will provide needed funds to continue Orinda's multi-pronged approach to bringing our road and drainage infrastructure up to par. I support Measure L because I want our roads to be better and safer. I am also confident that much, if not all, of the money that I pay as a result of Measure L will be recouped in lower expenses for wear and tear on my cars. Please join me in voting yes on Measure L.

– Steve Catton

Yes on Measure L

We moved to St. Stephens Drive nine years ago and appreciate living in this beautiful community. However, in the time we have been here many of Orinda's roads have deteriorated badly. We are grateful that our road has been repaired, but we know that the current funds will not stretch far enough to fix all the roads that need it. Other Orinda residents are desperately waiting for their roads to be repaired as well. Our roads are the foundation of our city, and all of us who live here share the responsibility of keeping them in good shape. Measure L is necessary in order to continue the progress we have made repairing our roads. We know that Orinda cannot fix all the roads that need repair without additional funds. If we don't finish fixing the roads in Orinda now, the delays will lead

to much bigger issues and more costly repairs in the future. Measure L continues the work to restore Orinda roads to a good safe condition. We all need to take responsibility for making sure the roads are repaired. I urge you to vote Yes on Measure L.

– Jay Solmonson and Le Tran-Thi

Measure L is Bad Tax Design:

I have followed with some interest the various proponents and detractors of Measure L, our fix the roads tax measure. While I am in agreement our roads are deplorable and in need of overhaul, I am convinced the current conditions of Measure L are not the solution.

Rather than debate the whole notion of Jack of citizen input in an open forum with elected officials, or the structure of oversight, or any other flawed elements of the Measure, I will confine my rationale for a no vote to a single element of the measure: an ad valorem tax.

Logically, the notion is unsupportable or even rational. What possible justification is there for the value of your property to be the determinant of the amount of tax one pays? As several before me have pointed out, long term residents with a low property basis and the very people that have caused the long term deterioration of the road, will pay less than their "fair share" for infrastructure repair. Newer families and the wellspring of vibrancy in the community will be forced to fix a problem that has been kicked down the road when they are saddled with a higher tax due to simple inflation in home prices.

There are much better or more justifiable solutions. The City Council should have considered a parcel tax, where all residents pay the same. An alternative would be a tax based on the number of vehicles per household under the theory that more cars suggest more miles traveled on our roads. Even a tax based on the aggregate net gross weight of the vehicles registered to a residence would have made more sense than an ad valorem tax. The notion this value tax is a progressive tax whereby the "wealthy" are taxed more than the less wealthy or those on fixed incomes is nonsense and lacks all reasonable economic proof or support. This is the economic conundrum in economics called the "theory of second best."

The solution proposed should not, and hopefully, cannot be fulfilled, so there needs to be a different solution. Part of that different solution would be to reinvigorate the Orinda downtown



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area and make it a more attractive place to shop while developing a more robust tax base. Many of our neighboring towns have done that without compromising the rural or small town feel of their city.

Measure L has correctly identified the problem, but the solution is wholly inappropriate and wrong. Inevitably there will need to be a tax. However, it should be fair, justifiable and

logical. Measure L is none of those.

–Steve Race

Need to Share the Burden

The road repair bond in Orinda has started to make a noticeable difference around town. I have no problem with the +/- \$130 a year I pay for this first bond, and I will gladly contribute

[SEE LETTERS page 6]

The Orinda News prints 9,000 copies and is published 12 times a year by The Orinda Association. The office is located at 26 Orinda Way (lower level of the Library). All rights reserved. The publication is sent out by direct mail (Permit #4, Orinda Post Office) and distributed to key locations throughout the city.

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 Printing.....Folger Graphics

The Orinda News

A Publication of
 The Orinda Association
 Mailing Address
 P.O. Box 97
 Orinda, California 94563
 Telephone: 925 254-0800

www.orindanews.org



The OA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the July issue is June 5, 2016.

MAYOR / POLICE / FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Delivers Upbeat State of the City Address


By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Mayor Victoria Smith delivered the annual State of the City address at the April 27 luncheon hosted by Orinda Rotary and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce at the Orinda Country Club.

With the road repair bond, Measure L, on the June ballot, the mayor gave promi-

nence to pavement management and storm water drainage repairs, along with current and future sources of revenue. Before-and-after slides of recently completed streets and roads showed impressive results. The PowerPoint presentation also included a list of roads that would go to bid in the spring of 2016 and roads planned for engineering design in 2017.

[SEE MAYOR page 22]



POLICE BLOTTER

April 3 through May 14, 2016

Calls for Service

- 911 Abandoned: 1 incident.
- 911 Hangups: 17 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Accident Injury: 1 incident.
- Accident Property: 8 incidents.
- Alarm: 32 incidents.
- Alarm, Audible: 27 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 103 incidents.
- Barking Dog: 1 incident.
- Battery: 3 incidents.
- Burglary, Auto: 7 incidents.
- Burglary, Residential: 2 incidents.
- Civil Disturbance: 15 incidents.
- CVC Mov. Violation: 153 incidents.
- CVC Non-Mov. Vio.: 111 incidents.
- Embezzlement: 1 incident.
- Found Property: 6 incidents.
- Fraud Credit Card: 1 incident.
- Grand Theft: 3 incidents.
- Grand Theft fr. Building: 1 incident.
- Health & Safety Violation: 1 incident.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 2 incidents.
- Identity Theft: 21 incidents.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 3 incidents.
- Loitering: 1 incident.
- Lost Property: 3 incidents.
- Loud Noise: 3 incidents.
- Loud Music: 2 incidents.
- Loud Party: 1 incident.
- Medical Hospital: 1 incident.
- Missing Adult: 1 incident.
- Missing Juvenile: 1 incident.
- Motorist Assist: 4 incidents.
- Ordinance Violation: 9 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 27 incidents.
- Panhandling: 2 incidents.
- Parking Detail: 128 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 65 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 6 incidents.
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 3 incidents.
- Petty Theft Other: 2 incidents.
- Phone Harass: 1 incident.
- Public Assembly Check: 5 incidents.
- Public Nuisance: 8 incidents.
- Reckless Driving: 17 incidents.

- School Check: 22 incidents.
- Security Check: 50 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 205 incidents.
- Shoplifting: 1 incident.
- Suspicious Circ.: 23 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 11 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 30 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 11 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 20 incidents.
- Tamper with Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Traffic Coll., Prop. Dam.: 3 incidents.
- Threats: 1 incident.
- Tow: 10 incidents.
- Traffic Hazard: 7 incidents.
- Trespass: 2 incidents.
- Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.
- Unwanted Guest: 1 incident.
- Vacation House Check: 54 incidents.
- Vandalism: 2 incidents.
- Verbal Dispute: 9 incidents.
- Vio. Restraining Order: 1 incident.
- Welfare Check: 19 incidents.

Arrests

- Battery: 1 arrest.
- Drunk in Public: 2 arrests.
- DUI: 1 arrest.
- Pos. of Controlled Substance: 1 arrest.
- Pos. of Dangerous Drugs: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Dagger: 1 arrest.
- Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1 recovery.
- Violation of Probation: 1 arrest.
- Warrant Arrest: 8 arrests.


BART Statistics

- Burglary, Auto: 1 incident.
- Grand Theft: 2 incidents.
- Vehicle Theft: 1 incident.
- Warrant Arrest: 1 arrest.

— Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

For more incident details, visit www.crimereports.com

MOFD Station 45 Open House



JILL GELSTER

The Moraga-Orinda Fire Department hosted their annual Spring Open House on May 14. (L to R) **Jeremy Kshevatzky, David Mazaika, Andrew Leach, Mayor Victoria Smith, Anthony Stephens, and Jeff Keena.** The Firefighters are wearing special T-Shirts during the month of May to raise money to support local veterans. The Moraga-Orinda Firefighters Association lead this initiative.



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ LETTERS from page 4

an additional \$130 annually for another bond if it means I don't have to be embarrassed when visitors come over (let alone save my car's suspension). As a new resident of three years, I am thinking of the next 30 years and how little life is left in the existing roads. Those who already have nice roads may not feel a direct impact, but we should all share the burden of improving the rest of Orinda.

– Justin Hibner

Orinda's Roads are Hurting Its Reputation

We moved from Chicago to Orinda just over a year and a half ago and so far have loved it here. There is, however, one thing I do not love about

living in Orinda: the roads. The roads here aren't just bad; their horrendous state has become a thing of legend that is impacting Orinda's reputation. This fact was brought to light for me during a recent conversation with a good friend.

He said, "When I first moved to the Bay Area from New York, I focused on the East Bay. My realtor showed us lots of homes in Walnut Creek and Lafayette. I asked her about Orinda. It seemed nice and was one BART stop closer to the city. She quickly dismissed it, stating 'You don't want to live in Orinda. They don't pay to keep up their streets. You'll rattle your fillings loose simply going from Hwy 24 to your house!' Our family now lives in Walnut Creek."

When realtors are telling you not to live somewhere, that somewhere has a major problem. It's time to wake up. Our awful roads are negatively affecting the image of the city we love and driv-

ing down our home values.

There is good news: we can fix it. Measure L, a \$25M bond on the June ballot, will address Orinda's road fiasco. Let's protect Orinda's reputation and, in turn, our property values by getting our roads fixed. Vote yes on Measure L.

– Matt Miller

Improving Roads, Improves Investment

Our family has lived in Orinda for the past 29 years. Our experience living in Orinda has been our most fulfilling and enjoyable.

Like many of us, our home is our largest investment. Over the years, we have resided in two Orinda neighborhoods and have remodeled both homes to further enjoy our daily lives and enhance our investment.

We view plans to renovate our roads much like we have our home investments and renovations. It's an investment that will enhance the value of all our homes and Orinda's outstanding and beautiful environment.

The \$25-million-dollar bond measure on the June 7 ballot has our support for all the reasons stated above. The cost of the bond will be supported by a residential property tax increase that will cost the average Orinda household approximately \$12 a month. To us, that's an investment that's well worthwhile and fulfills our commitment to improve the quality of life that we so much enjoy!

– Joe and Linda Garvey

This plan has been supported by Orinda voters, who strongly approved the funds needed to start implementation of the plan, voting in favor of a 0.5 percent sales tax in 2012 and a \$20 million bond measure in 2014. With these initial funds, a number of our worst roads have been repaired, and more are scheduled to be repaired soon.

However, these funding sources provide only the first part of the necessary financing. They were never expected to be sufficient to repair all of our roads. As projected in the plan, a large fraction of the existing funds have already been used or are committed to planned repairs. To keep this crucial project moving, we need to assure that the next funding increment is in place before the present funding is exhausted. Road repair is an expensive, complex process, and the city cannot commit to new repair contracts unless it is certain that the necessary funds are in hand.

The ballot this June includes a new bond measure, Measure L, which would add \$25 million to the city's road repair fund. Passage of Measure L will assure a timely continuation of the funding stream our city needs, so that this badly-needed repair work can continue.

Vote Yes on Measure L this June.

– Jud Hammon

Roads Have Buyers Going Elsewhere

Orinda is a great community. I love living and working here, but I no longer love driving the roads. Some have such bad potholes that it is difficult to navigate them. The poor condition of many Orinda roads is negatively impacting the value of our homes. I am working with clients who were originally looking to purchase in Orinda. They were very surprised by the poor condition of the roads in our city. They ended up buying in an area of Walnut Creek that has well maintained roads instead of buying in Orinda. We have made a good start and a number of roads have been fixed, but we need to complete all the planned road repairs so that families looking for a new community don't "move on" when they see our roads. Measure L is the third phase of the road and drain repair plan and is key to attaining our goal of good roads throughout the city. I urge you to Vote Yes on Measure L.

– Patti Camras

Assertions Full of Holes

In the May *Orinda News*, opponents of Measure L, the \$25M bond for roads, voiced four criticisms. Like Orinda's roads, their assertions are full of holes.

1) Measure L funds the third phase of the publicly approved five-phase "Orinda Roads and Drains Repair Plan" to fix badly deteriorating roads and drains. The Plan commits to repairing all public roads to "Good" to "Excellent" condition. A phased approach to road repairs has been

[SEE MEASURE L page 20]



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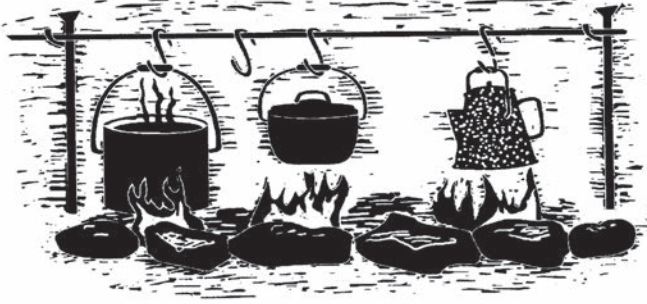
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CARS

CAR TIME

Avoid Pitfalls of Classic Car Purchase



By JOHN VANEK

Many local motorists experience the urge to drive a vintage car or truck. You may want a fun car drive to help decrease stress, relive a segment of American history or recapture your younger days. At Orinda Motors, we work on a lot of classic cars and know something about these oldsters. We see many customers who buy a classic car from out-of-state through eBay or the Internet. These cars usually look gorgeous when they arrive, but when you try to live with the car, you might find issues that you weren't expecting. They may have leaks, make noises or have electrical or brake problems.

The fact is these cars are over 50 years old. Many things can happen to a car over that period of time. It might have been wrecked, raced or worked on by the wrong person, or a combination of the above. Yes, a "tore up" car could be hiding under that nice paint job. That is the phenomenon we face just about every time we see a shiny classic that was purchased from outside the area.

Fixing a car like a 1965 Mustang is a far cry from doing repairs on a Lexus. For one thing, parts availability for an old car can be a problem. The stuff made today is a reproduction of what was made back in the day. Most of the parts for these old cars now are made in China, are not comparable to the original and do not last. There are often problems with fit, finish, quality and application. Some repair shops put these parts on the car anyway, but that can create problems. The person repairing the old

car needs to use parts that work. You can look at 75 pictures of a car online and all you can appreciate is the shiny paint. You hope that the person who sells you the car shares its actual condition. If it is a broker or classic car sales company, they probably don't know the condition of the car and did not have a proper inspection done. Sometimes, someone who just wants to make a profit restores the car. Many times, they get in over their head and sell the car when it still has unresolved issues. Often, they just don't have the knowledge to properly restore the car. It can be a battle to get these old cars to the point where they're problem-free.

Remember that the old car is not going to drive like a newer car and won't be as reliable either. These old cars have old parts and a history we don't know about. It is inevitable that something will go wrong. Just like a new car, they need proactive care by a shop that knows how to deal with all of their specific nuances. Do the research on the type of car you are looking at. Contact your local classic car specialist for advice. Have the vehicle inspected by a mobile vehicle inspection company that specializes in vintage cars and is located in the same area as the car. It may cost several hundred dollars, but it is better than making a \$40,000 mistake. It is a good idea to pad your budget for unexpected repairs needed after the purchase so you won't regret spending the money.

You can reach Vanek at john@orindamotors.com.

Orinda Gears Up for 12th Annual Classic Car Show in September

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor



DAVID DIERKS

Attendees at last year's car show examine under the hood of Colin Holland's Austin-Healey 3000 MK III.

The Orinda Classic Car Show is coming to Orinda for its 12th anniversary in September. The event starts on Sept. 9 with a pre-party dinner at the Orinda Country Club hosted by Orinda Rotary. This year's theme is "The Italian Job" and will feature classic Mini Coopers, Maseratis and Ferraris. The main event is the car show on Sept. 10 in Orinda Village, taking over the streets around Orinda Motors. If you attended last year's show, you remember the rolling exhibit of original Shelby Cobras. This year there will be a rolling exhibit of Ferraris arriving at 1 p.m. Founded by Chip Herman and presented by Orinda Motors, the Orinda Classic Car Show is not to be missed.

Registration for the car show is now open. "Join the fun and camaraderie and get the praise you deserve. As those exhibiting before know, it's a great community with lots of interested attendees," said Herman. The show runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., allowing vehicle owners to explore charming Orinda and nearby attractions. Car registration is \$60. Motorcycle registration is \$35. All registration fees support

the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town, a program that provides alternative transportation for Orinda seniors who are no longer able to drive.

Proceeds from the car show and pre-show dinner go to community organizations, including Seniors Around Town, The Educational Foundation of Orinda, The Orinda Association, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Rotary and Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Over the last 11 years, the car show has raised more than \$360,000 for local charities.

To register a vehicle, visit www.orindacarshow.com/bring-your-classic-to-the-show. For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com.



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Learn How to Become a Citizen Seismologist at First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

“Earthquakes and You: Be a Citizen Seismologist” is the topic of Dr. Peggy Hellweg’s presentation to the First Friday Forum on June 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m.

“We are living in earthquake country,” noted Dr. Hellweg. “Since before seismic instrumentation was developed, ordinary people made valuable contributions to seismology by describing their experiences in earthquakes and what they saw. These reports are still used today to determine approximate magnitudes for past events. In my lecture, I’ll talk about earthquakes in our area, the newest science, and how you can contribute to advancing our knowledge

as citizen seismologists.”

Dr. Hellweg received her Bachelor of Arts in Physics from U.C. San Diego and a Master’s Degree in Physics from the University of Goettingen. After settling in Germany, she married Horst Rademacher and took time off to raise her two children. She went back to work part-time as a programmer with a seismology group and has been studying and researching earthquakes ever since. She received her doctorate from the University of Stuttgart, writing her thesis on volcano seismology. “The difference between geophysics, of which seismology is a part, and regular physics, is that we seismologists don’t have a lab in which to do experiments,” she said. “We get what the earth gives us.”

Since 2001, Hellweg has worked at the U.C. Berkeley Seismological Laboratory [SEE FORUM page 23]

Between the Lines Pub Grub, Palm Trees, and Paperbacks . . .

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



All of the above are not essential for a summer holiday enjoyment but some of each may enliven the lovely June, July and August months ahead. Lonely Planet has just published a series of entertaining new guides highlighting 50 Beaches, 50 Bars, and 50 Museums, each guaranteed to “blow your mind!” That’s a pretty expansive claim, but browsing their index of beaches – some with palm trees (Trunk Bay on St. John) and some without (Giant’s Causeway in County Antrim) – all are indeed breathtaking. Lonely Planet has even included Bowling Ball Beach in Mendocino County for those Lamorindans who would rather vacation close to home. Some of Lonely Planet’s destinations combine beach and bar, for example, at the Hula Hula in Hvar on the Dalmatian Coast, you can enjoy the best of both. And at the White Rabbit in Moscow – no sand in your shoes here – you can follow your bar bites with a 360-degree view of the city at one of the world’s best restaurants. In another handy pocket-sized guide, Yellow Pear Press takes us to London and not only explores pub grub but also afternoon tea, picnic food and other essential elements of the casual London food scene. *Local Eats London* is by Natasha McGuinness and Natasha Kroll.

Once you’ve selected your destination, be it beach, bar, Alpine trek or African safari, the staff at Orinda Books knows that the essentials for any trip are the fiction and non-fiction paperbacks you tuck into your carry-on. A 12-hour flight will seem much shorter when you can shut out the world, put on your noise-cancelling earphones and open to Chapter I of a grand literary adventure. A good paperback travel companion this summer might be *The Lake House* by Kate Morton. Morton’s intriguing mystery immerses the reader in a country house in 1930’s Cornwall and then moves to contemporary London and back again. Paula McLain’s superb fictionalization of Beryl Markham’s life, *Circling the Sun*, is another companionable choice for your carry-on. McClain follows Markham from Kenya in 1906, running barefoot with her Maasai friends, to her years as a horse trainer and then aviator, capturing Markham’s lively spirit as well as her many infamous love affairs in an engaging book.

If reading Africa is to your taste while

on the road, you will welcome the return of Alexander McCall Smith’s delightful heroine, Precious Ramotswe, whose latest Botswana adventure, *The Woman Who Walked in Sunshine*, allows Precious to take a very short-lived vacation before trouble at the No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency summons her back home. From Botswana to Baltimore, Anne Tyler is another author that readers never tire of. Her latest insightful family drama is out in paperback just in time for the summer. In *A Spool of Blue Thread*, Tyler introduces us to the Whitshank family, whose story, like their unpretentious and beloved family home, is sometimes comic, sometimes touched with tragedy, but always credible and completely engaging.

On an edgier note, Owen Sheers’ newest title, *I Saw a Man* (Orinda Books continues to recommend Sheers’ fascinating WWII novel, *Resistance*, in which Wales has been occupied by the victorious German army), is a thought-provoking story set in contemporary London with a protagonist whose one false step leads to shattering consequences for himself and his friends. A less edgy but nonetheless guaranteed-to-please paperback for your travel bag is Elizabeth Egan’s *A Window Opens*, due on our shelves in July. The issues Egan’s heroine deals with hit closer to home – job changes, an aging parent’s illness – but are no less absorbing and are drawn with an acute observance of contemporary mores and family dynamics.

Summertime adventures will be greatly enhanced if Rinker Buck’s *The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey* is in handbag, backpack or playing on your car’s audio player. Buck has recreated the journey that thousands of pioneers made from St. Louis to Oregon in the 1830s. Everything Buck has researched, from the orneriness of mules to the poignancy of the Oregon travelers’ tales, makes this a fascinating contribution to the legends of the settling of the American West. And as inspirational as the westering of Americans can be, another new paperback introduces readers to a much lesser known, though no less inspiring, adventure. *The Three Mile Swim Club: The Untold Story of Maui’s Sugar Ditch Kids and Their Quest for Olympic Glory*

[SEE BOOKS page 18]

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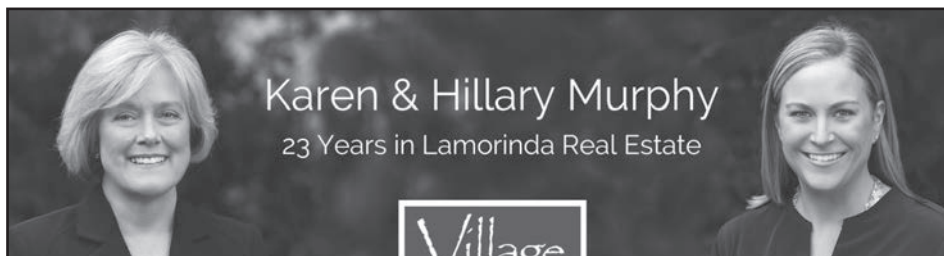
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ROADS

Fixing Roads Remains Top Priority for City's Public Works Chief

By MARK ROBERTS
Contributing Writer

Chuck Swanson may keep a low profile but the projects that he and the members of his staff work on are visible throughout Orinda. As director of Public Works and Engineering Services for the City of Orinda, Swanson is responsible for maintaining, repairing and improving virtually all of the city's infrastructure, including road maintenance, drainage – from large culverts to curbs and gutters along streets – right-of-way maintenance and traffic control signs. I recently sat down with Swanson for an update on current projects and priorities.

Orinda News (ON): What percentage of Public Works activity and operating budget is currently allocated to road repairs and repaving?

Swanson: At least 50 percent goes to roads with another 25 percent to drainage issues. The operating funds come solely from the city's General Fund. Major repaving and repair is funded through the revenue measures passed by Orinda voters over the past four years and from return-to-source funds from the State and county (gas tax and previous county-wide sales tax measures) and grants.

ON: What is the relationship between Public Works and the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC)?

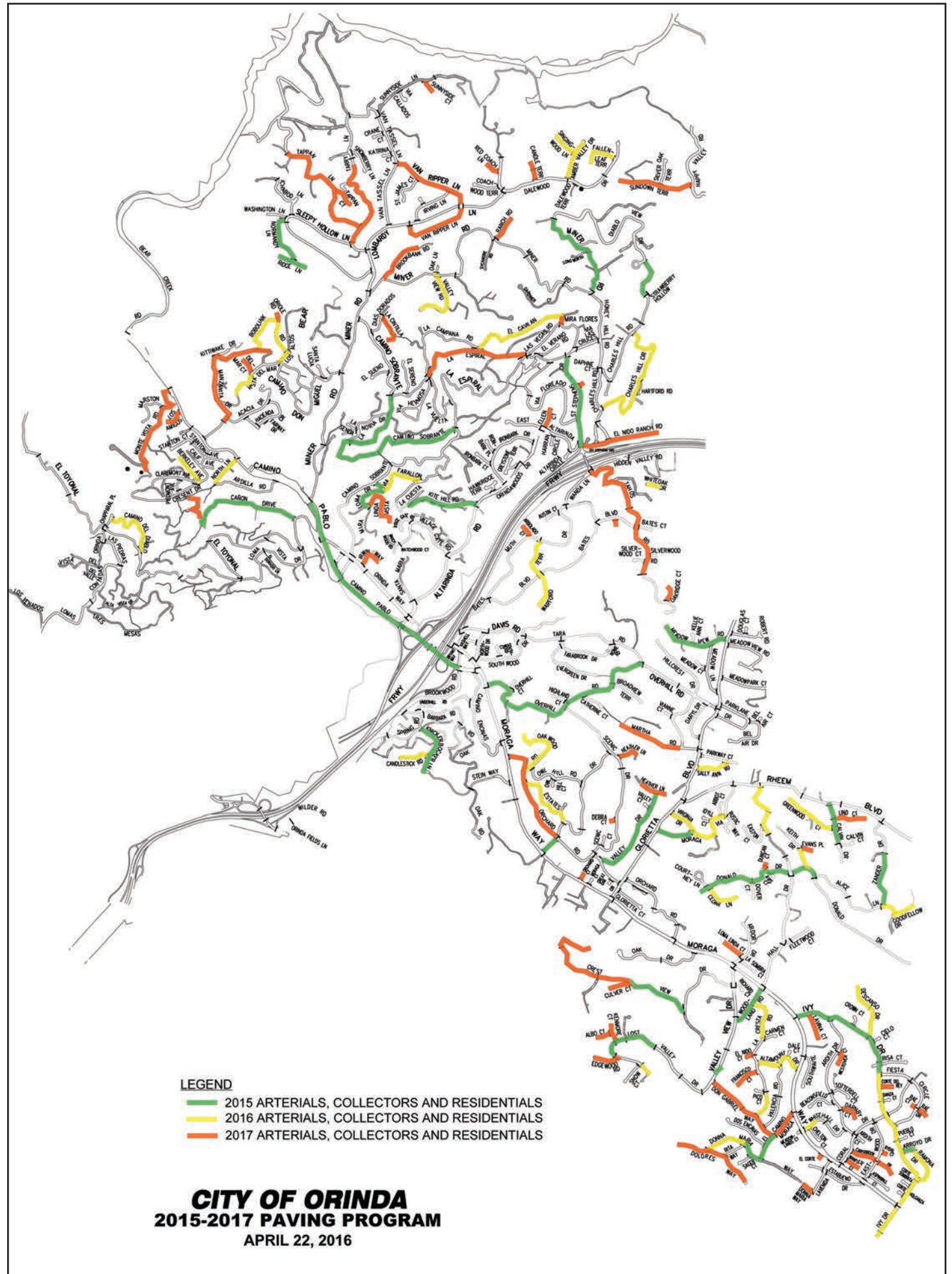
Swanson: The CIOC provides oversight of all road repaving programs but it doesn't supervise day-to-day operations. The CIOC also provides citizens' insight to staff. That's why members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate in CIOC meetings. The CIOC makes its recommendations for road repaving to the City Council, which then approves projects as part of the city's recently updated Road and Drainage Repairs Plan and the Annual Capital Improvements Program. The CIOC is now getting more involved with proposed drainage projects as well.

ON: How would Orinda deal with a situation similar to the sinkhole in Moraga?

Swanson: The culvert that collapsed beneath Tarabrook Drive about three years ago is a similar situation but on a smaller scale. Public Works' priorities were to assess the scope of the problem, ensure safety of local property owners, stabilize the site and develop a solution. The Tarabrook project, which cost about \$1 million, was paid for by the city's General Fund but not from emergency reserves. A small percentage of the cost was paid for by state and federal sources.

ON: Tell me about StreetSaver and the role it plays in determining which streets will be repaved and when.

Swanson: StreetSaver is a pavement management software program that helps optimize the paving budget to keep good roads in good condition. Sustainability is important because it costs a lot more to repair a road that has failed than to keep one in good condition. The Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is an important criterion but so is expert observation and evaluation. We use different analysts every year to look at our roads to maximize quality control. Pavement that looks pretty good on the surface may have failed underneath. Look at pavement right after rain. You'll see the "alligating" – patchwork cracks – that shows how the pavement has broken up and how water has undermined the base. Kite Hill Road and Zander Drive looked good but had failed. The drought worked in our favor for a few years but not last winter. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) helps fund the pavement manage-



ment report update program. Arterials and collectors (more heavily traveled roads) are assessed every two years; residential roads, every four years.

ON: What lessons learned or experience gained during last year's repaving program are being applied this year?

Swanson: Getting trees trimmed first, before paving projects begin, saves time and money. We try to have roads to be repaved ready the year before. Careful coordination with utilities, like PG&E and EBMUD, is an even higher priority since we moved from \$1 million in projects per year to \$6 million. We are using full-depth recycling (FDR) on more streets this year, because the results will last longer than mill and fill. But FDR requires us to dig deeper which can lead to interference with shallow water and gas lines. We will delay a project when this happens to allow the utility to make needed changes immediately rather than have to patch later. Also, a construction management firm is being used to

[SEE ROADS page 11]

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Crazy Application Process Ends Well for Miramonte Student

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

When most high school seniors apply to college, the process involves endless paperwork, essays and sending of grades and test scores. When a high school senior interested in a performing arts college or conservatory begins the application process, the same paperwork applies, as well as videotaped auditions that allow college personnel to determine whether they will even schedule a “live” audition.

“It’s a totally crazy process,” says Miramonte senior Jesse Epstein, who applied to performing arts programs at 18 colleges. “So many people apply now that the schools pre-screen with the video audition, which usually cuts the applicant pool down by one-third to one-half.

Epstein ended up with 14 auditions in such locales as North Carolina, Chicago, Texas and the East Coast. She worked on a variety of songs, dances and monologues with private coaches, who also guided her on which of her seven songs and five monologues would fit best with the various schools.

“PACE University was one of the schools I really had my eye on from the beginning. I was extremely impressed with it when we visited the campus in Manhattan,” Epstein says. “PACE came to a mass audition in Texas, but I was told it was just a pre-screening audition so the pressure was off a little. But that didn’t stop my audition from being a bit of a nightmare.”

Unlike most auditions, the Texas venue did not provide an accompanist for the singing part of the audition. Instead, students had to bring music recorded on a device that could be plugged into Blu-ray speakers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Miramonte senior **Jesse Epstein** will attend PACE University in New York City this Fall.

As luck would have it, Epstein’s speakers stopped working right before her audition. Fortunately, another applicant loaned her speakers to Epstein.

“It was so nice of her to share her speakers with me, but I didn’t have time to test them before I went in to audition. I guess the volume was really low because they asked me to fix it before my second song,” explains Epstein. “Then they told me I didn’t need to do the monologue I had prepared but instead sing a third song. That’s usually not a good sign and, of course, I didn’t have music for another song so I sang this really over-the-top and cheesy song from a TV show a capella. It was definitely not the normal up-tempo/ballad selection you usually do.”

Evidently, doing something a little different worked well for the talented senior who will be pursuing a BFA in musical theater

[SEE CRAZY page 11]

◆ OUSD from page 1

“Schools have lost so much money, and the cuts were very deep,” she said. “One of the greatest challenges is to work through the process, to keep the support staff as much as possible and to maintain the educational level for the children.” Though she is a big proponent of technology in the schools, she said the difficulty is to stay on top of all the new devices.

Seaton regards relationship building as the most satisfying aspect of her job. “Building relationships with all the district stakeholders – teachers, parents, business people – and bringing opportunities to the kids.” She once wrote a grant for Chevron to get girls in the Manhattan Beach Middle School excited about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). “It was an elective course that allowed girls to delve more deeply into topics than their science classes did, to give them a chance to see themselves as scientists,” said Seaton. The class had a robotics program as well as a component studying oceanography. After the initial year, the school opened the class to boys also. She said the course “became very popular.”

When it comes to making improvements in high-achieving schools such as Orinda, Seaton said she doesn’t rest on her laurels. “In a high-performing environment people cannot get complacent,” said Seaton. “Our children deserve the very best, and that means we need to keep pushing ourselves so we grow.” She pointed to the Golden State Warriors as an example of the very best of teams continuing to improve their game. “A great organization continues to look for ways to get better, and this can be done by incremental improvements as well as creating the culture we want to instill,” said Seaton. She added that a useful improvement concept used by successful businesses today is summed up in four words: communication, collaboration,

creativity and critical thinking.

Seaton said students are our most precious resource. “Parents entrust us with their children. We provide the concepts and skills they need to succeed in the future. We need to make sure we are well-prepared to do our jobs.”

◆ PARADE from page 3

Parade Party at the Orinda Theater – This year we will be spreading the post parade party fun with BBQ/Beverages/Entertainment on both sides of town. Derek Zemrak, owner/manager of the Orinda and Rheem Theaters, has graciously allowed us to create an after party event at the main entrance to the Orinda Theater with Orinda’s own band the Dil-Farmers! If you are on the Southside, definitely check this one out!

Street Banners Back for the 4th of July – One of the Parade 101 fundamentals is lots of decorations. With that in mind, the Orinda Association, with the help of select sponsors, has gone all out this year and will be decorating the streets with 24 festive fourth of July banners. Trust me, these decorations look very spirit of ’76, Orinda style.

Another reason we’re excited about this year is our Captain of Fund Raising (Bill Waterman) has just set a new record. That means our sponsors really dug deep and invested in our event this year! More about our sponsors soon!

Let’s also give a shout out to our spectacular volunteers as well. As my neighbor said to me just yesterday evening, *The Best Hometown Parade* is a pure “above and beyond” volunteer event. The Parade is a 100 percent volunteer affair, and we couldn’t do it without the many volunteers that spend the time and effort to make the Parade a hit. And, we still need many more for the day of the event! If you’d like to join the team, send me an email with your interest to The Parade Guy at oa@orindaassociation.org.

Over 350 Orinda Neighbors Urge You to Vote YES on Measure L Let’s Fix Our Residential Roads!

“The poor condition of our roads is negatively impacting the value of our homes. I’m working with clients who wanted to purchase in Orinda, but were surprised by the poor condition of our roads. They ended up buying in Walnut Creek. It’s time to fix Orinda roads so potential buyers don’t move on.” Patti Camras, Orinda resident & local realtor

“Homebuyers looking in Orinda have high expectations. Many desire to live here until they drive on the terrible roads. Some choose other towns because of the many potholes and road hazards. This impacts our property values. We can’t afford the cost of not fixing our roads!” David Pierce, Orinda resident & local realtor

- ✓ Repairs Residential Roads, Plan- Phase 3
- ✓ Adds to, not replaces current funding
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- ✓ Independent oversight & annual audit

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“We back Measure L because fixing Orinda’s roads remains a critical need.” Contra Costa Times Editorial

www.FixOrindaRoads.org

FPPC Campaign ID 1343654



ROVING REPORTER

Roving Reporter

Are you excited about graduation and the new challenges and opportunities you'll face at your new school?

Charlie Jarrett



June is graduation month for millions of American students, and today it is a graduation celebration and a "Rite of Passage" at the same time. We transition children through at least four different stages of education today: elementary school; intermediate school; high school and college.



CHARLIE JARRETT

Lindsay and Audrey French.

Orinda sisters **Lindsay and Audrey French** were visibly excited over their upcoming graduation plans. Lindsay is a student at Wagner Ranch School and will be moving on to Orinda Intermediate School in the fall. "I'm looking forward to seeing friends from other schools and looking forward to having a variety of teachers and classes, all on a brand new campus," she says. Her sister Audrey (currently at OIS) agrees, "I'm also looking forward to new teachers and new options for classes and sports (including volleyball) at Miramonte.

I'm also excited to be able to start preparing for college, plus a lot of my friends will be going to Miramonte as well," says Audrey.

Holden High student **Jordan Mc Guinness** is in his second year at Holden High, having begun his high school career at Las Lomas High in Walnut Creek. His present learning path focuses around computer science and chemistry. When asked how he likes Holden High, Mc Guinness says, "Its been different than at Las Lomas, which I did not like as much. It's been a different style of learning at Holden. They are open to different ideas that other schools don't usually embrace. It's less restrictive. I am planning to attend Sierra College in Rockland, California, focusing initially on



CHARLIE JARRETT

Orinda Academy senior **Paula Fogel**.

computer science."

Orinda Academy's **Paula Fogel** graduates with very high marks and has been accepted at Cornell University in New York. "I love this school and have learned so much here," she says. "My favorite course of study in college will be biology, as it has been here at Orinda Academy. I want to go into Pre-Med and eventually get my MDPHd. I have been to the school, and I just love it, it is so beautiful there. During the Cornell Days, I went and sat in on a few classes and got to talk to some of my future classmates. I am *sooo* excited about going back to New York to work at this fine school."

Miramonte Senior **Maxwell August**



CHARLIE JARRETT

Holden High's **Jordan Mc Guinness**.



CHARLIE JARRETT

Miramonte senior **Maxwell Hunt**.

Hunt worked very hard in theater classes and has been accepted at Columbia College in Chicago in the Comedy Writing and Performance School. Max says that this school is only one of two schools in the United States that actually has a major in comedy writing and performance. Columbia also has close ties with the famous Second City improvisational comedy theater troupe in Chicago. A number of well-known performers began careers as part of the historic Second City comedy troupe, such as Dan Ackroyd, John Belushi, Chevy Chase, and Dana Carvey. Max's friend and Miramonte classmate, **Caroline Lake**, is also heading back to Chicago to attend the same school. "I committed to Columbia College before I had even visited the school," Max explains. "I have been doing standup comedy since I was eight years old and love doing sketch comedy as well. I am so excited about going back to Chicago, which will provide an ethnically diverse student body and environment (such as in Oakland, where I grew up). It should be a great opportunity for a student of comedy to learn my trade!

◆ **ROADS** from page 9

manage contractors in the field this year. If additional funds become available for more projects in the future, a firm would be hired by the city to manage the entire multi-year repaving program.

ON: What Public Works projects are you most excited about?

Swanson: Road repaving without a doubt! We've waited many years to be able to repave a significant number of streets every year, and we're ready to do more. The upcoming North Lane drainage project to control flooding is also high on my list. Keeping up with calls from the public is a continuing top priority. We have to fill potholes until all roads are repaved. We'll also place more focus on vegetation management, reminding property owners that it really is their responsibility to keep their trees and shrubs along streets trimmed. The city's right-of-way extends from three to 10 feet in from the edge of the street and 15 feet above it. Those clearances make it easier for emergency response vehicles, like fire engines, to get where they need to go quickly.

ON: Sounds like you have plenty to do.

Swanson: And it's time to get going!

◆ **CRAZY** from page 10

at PACE in the fall.

"My feet still haven't touched the ground," says Epstein. "I just feel this sheer joy that I got into PACE in one of my favorite cities and that the application process and all the auditions are over."

Epstein hopes to stay in New York following graduation and pursue a career in musical theater. "My ultimate goal is to be a professional performer, but if that doesn't happen, I'm open to other careers as well." If she had any advice to give others, it would be to "stay open-minded."

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

Something to Howl About... Animal Tales

A Trip to the Zoo



Jennifer Conroy

It's a lovely summer day. Maybe you are looking for something local to do with the kids, with your partner or just on your own. Maybe you haven't been to a zoo in a while and think you might want to visit one here in the Bay Area. Visiting a zoo, once a simple pastime, is now more complicated. Public education, animal welfare programs and media attention have all added to the scrutiny faced by venues that exhibit live animals. That scrutiny, combined with the genuine compassion of the majority of those working at zoos, has improved zoo experiences for the animals and for visitors. But even the most prestigious zoos will always admit there is more work to be done.

Improving animal habitats is a critical part of the commitment that zoos must make, as is limited selective breeding. On one hand, zoo breeding of animals that are in danger of extinction can help save species. On the other hand, transitioning animals born in captivity to the wild can be difficult to impossible. It is a delicate balance with vigorous supporters and opponents on both sides of the zoo "fence."

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is the national agency that has accredited 230 zoos in the U.S. You can visit the website, www.aza.org, for a complete listing. Take a moment to explore other areas of the AZA site. For example, its Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) initiative and its education programs and resources. Before visiting a zoo, look through the AZA site to familiarize yourself with the challenges and solutions being advanced. This can make your zoo visit a much more meaningful and motivating experience.

If you plan to take children to the zoo, take some time to share the history and

origins of various animal species. In helping your children learn, you will gain new knowledge and understanding as well. And in building a child's respect and value for an animal's life, you may have a significant influence on reducing the number of adults who see a lion like Cecil as nothing more than a trophy.

If there is a particular animal you favor – lions, tigers, elephants, wolves, polar bears, whales – you can Google that species to find out about welfare, rescue, preservation and rehabilitation programs welcoming your support. In some cases, field workers are welcomed as well.

A trip to the zoo can be a passive activity on a pleasant summer day. It can also be a heart-opening experience that connects you to the needs of animals across the planet. It can set the tone for how future generations accommodate and protect other species from disappearing forever.

◆ HOMETOWN from page 2

countless student and resident volunteers, this great parade would not be what it is today. Looking through photos from the early days and recent parades, the same thing stands out – engaged and happy families with pride in their community.

See you on the 4th of July when new elements are revealed, and please make sure to follow and post your photos for our contest the day of the parade. Here's to the Best Hometown Parade, Orinda's own!

For more info or to participate and/or volunteer, visit: <http://orindaassociation.org/participate-parade>. Follow us on Instagram @orindaparade.



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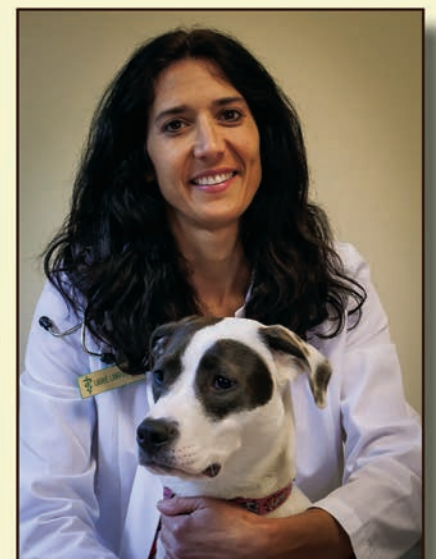
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VISUAL ARTS

Artists Ask the Question: “Are You a Traveler Or a Tourist?”

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

“The traveler sees what he sees, the tourist sees what he has come to see” – G.K. Chesterton. The Lamorinda Arts Council asks, “Are you a traveler or a tourist when you look at art?” During balmy June, you are invited to view paintings by Jeffrey Kelling, photography by Aphra Pia, ceramics, glass and metal works by Rana Nassar and Reeven Sensi-Rosen and turned wood pieces by Ellis Sjöberg at the Orinda Library Art Gallery. Meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments at the June 12 reception from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Jeffrey Kelling, who grew up in Walnut Creek, has been drawing and painting all his life. Early on he won several prizes through the S.F. Art Institute. He describes his work as Americana expressionist – somewhere between realism and abstract with some whimsy thrown in. Most of the dozen titles he is showing are acrylic on canvas such as *American Graffiti Bike* and *Woody at the Beach*; both are 48” x 30.” Along the way, he has painted 13 full-size Harley motorcycles including *Psychedelic Harley*, a 73” x 38” acrylic on wood. Kelling hopes that when people view his art they feel the joy he experiences while painting the images he loves. For more of his work, see www.jeffreycarterkelling.com.

Rana Nassar, a ceramist and Reeven Sensi-Rosen, a glass blower and metal worker, live and work in Benicia. “I am strongly influenced by the town I live in and

grew up in; it has a nautical history, which highlights the element of water against the backdrop of industry,” says Nassar. The husband-wife team is showing 30-plus pieces, a compilation of ceramics, glass and metal. Sensi-Rosen is a glass artist in Benicia while Nassar is a ceramic studio tech and teacher at Civic Arts Education in Walnut Creek.

Both keep creating new work because they are inspired when they see how people connect to the ideas they bring to life. A collection of ceramic and metal pieces, *Buoys* range in size from 12 to 24 to 36 inches in diameter. Their colors and patinas look like they were just lifted out of the ocean. *Jellyfish* (15” x 14” x 8”), a glass and metal sculpture, recalls the movement of the tides.

Aphra Pia of Oakland has been taking photographs for 40 years. Her theme for the show, *Wabi-Sabi Lens*, reflects her overall sensibility as to how she chooses what to show. *Wabi-sabi*, a Japanese term with many nuances, can be summed up as: A basic concept of Japanese aesthetics stressing unpretentiousness, earthiness and satisfaction with imperfection. *Lens* simply adds on her camera lens, which filters the images she photographs through her *Wabi-sabi* sensibility.

In this exhibit, she groups her photographs into four categories: trees, ice, flowers and buildings. *Holding On*, an 18” x 24” photograph, shows a tree balanced between the precipice of life and death. Pia hopes people will see beneath the obvious when



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeffrey Kelling's *American Graffiti Bike* is a 48” x 30” acrylic on canvas.

they view her photographs. “When they look at the ice pictures, I want them to feel cold. If they look at the sky, I want them to think, ‘we just found 10 new planets that could be Earth.’” For more of her work, see www.aphrapia.com.

When Ellis Sjöberg of Orinda retired over 20 years ago, he stopped making furniture and learned how to turn wood. “I tell people who ask about retirement, ‘If you don’t have something to do, you’ll get bored out of your mind,’” says Sjöberg. Woodturning is defined as the art and process of turning wood on a lathe. The objects he creates are both functional and aesthetic. He works with a variety of woods including walnut, maple, cherry and wenge wood (the dark kind is a poor man’s ebony). When he can’t find wenge wood, he likes to use black acacia because it has so many colors in it. Look for his *Cordless Desk Lamp* (23.5” x 13.5” x 16”) made of walnut and poplar wood that uses an LED light via battery.

He hopes people enjoy his 20-plus pieces both for their practicality and for the innate beauty of turned wood.

Regarding what value art is to our community, Kelling says, “I love it when kids see public art and they wonder, ‘how did they do that?’ and get excited.” Nassar says, “Art is a wonderful and fundamental form of self-expression. It helps you define yourself as an artist, builds individuality and at the same time brings people together.” “It’s good for the community to think about art,” says Pia. Sjöberg says, “Art is something you can enjoy forever; I like seeing the brightly colored benches and other artwork all over Orinda, because it shows we have an interest in art.”

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

Colorful Children’s Alcove Now Open in Orinda Library



SALLY HOGARTY

Young children couldn’t wait to try out the new furniture in the Orinda Library’s colorful new **Children’s Alcove**. Funded by the Tarbell Family Foundation, Friends of the Orinda Library and the Contra Costa County Library, the room features kid-size furniture in fun shapes and brilliant colors.



Laura Abrams

Please call for a market update.

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As Spring transitions to Summer our residential real estate market usually takes a pause. This year we are still seeing buyers searching for their new homes. This is an excellent time to sell.

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1531 Everett Ave., Oakland \$1,220,000 SOLD
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Library Talk Features Local Author's Tale of A Bear and Her Cubs

By HILLARY HOPPOCK
Contributing Writer

Local author Ginger Wadsworth will discuss her book, *Seasons of the Bear, A Yosemite Story*, at the Orinda Library Family Talk on Tuesday, Aug. 2 at 2:30 p.m. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, Wadsworth's 32-page picture book for children tells the tale of a mother black bear and her cubs in Yosemite National Park.

The story follows the black bear wintering in the den with her two newborn cubs, their spring and summer emergence and growth, ending with her yearling cubs back in the den. The bears survive the threats of wildfire, finding enough food, encountering other bears and avoiding humans. The book is beautifully illustrated by Wadsworth's longtime friend and acclaimed artist Daniel San Souci. Its watercolor pictures and text were thoroughly vetted by Yosemite Park

staff and include portrayals of a bear drinking from Dog Lake in Tuolumne on the cover, bears eating natural foods without scavenging, napping in trees and rambling through Yosemite Valley.

"Both Dan and I feel strongly about illustrating and writing to introduce young readers to wildlife in their natural setting," said Wadsworth. In her "Author's Note" at the end of the book, Wadsworth reminds people how to enjoy the bears so they can be in the park and yet remain wild. She also shares interesting facts such as a bear's ability to smell something up to 14 miles away and long-distance travels that make relocation a challenge for problem bears. Listening to recordings of bear sounds that humans hear, Wadsworth had to find a way to translate the sounds phonetically onto the page to represent, for example, the typical mother bear screaming, "Let me sleep!"

Of the 30 award-winning young readers' books Wadsworth has published, several



BILL WADSWORTH

Local resident and author **Ginger Wadsworth** is shown with her hard-working dogs: **Oreo** (on her lap) a miniature poodle mix who works as an ARF volunteer at LARC and at various reading-related events; the two goldens, **Scout** (age 11) and **Willa** (age 12), are retired from ARF and the Orinda Library's Paws to Read program.

have a Yosemite connection. Among those are *Yosemite Songster*, *One Coyote's Story* about a coyote looking for a mate in the valley, also illustrated by San Souci; *Camping with the President*, about the historic 1903 camping trip of John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt; the biography *John Muir, Wilderness Protector*; and the non-fiction book *Giant Sequoia Trees*.

Other biographies by Wadsworth include *Rachel Carson, Voice for the Earth*; *Juliette Gordon Low, First Girl Scout*; *Julia Mor-*

gan, Architect of Dreams, as well as *Cesar Chavez*, the organizer of a farm workers' union, and *Benjamin Banneker*, a black freeman surveyor who helped the first president with the layout of Washington, D.C.

Due out in October 2016 and already a Junior Library Guild Selection, Wadsworth's book *Poop Detectives: Working Dogs in the Field* describes rescue dogs working in the wild around the world. Their handlers are scientists who test the

[SEE BEAR page 18]



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Cal Shakes' Conservatory Program

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Cooper Smith and Lauren Hall, seventh-graders at Orinda Intermediate School, are looking forward to participating in California Shakespeare's Conservatory program this summer.

"Everyone should try it once," Smith said enthusiastically. Smith, in his second year with the conservatory, said it helped him to understand Shakespeare, and that his favorite part was "performing at the end after we've practiced a lot." He and Hall, a novice to the program, recently performed a scene from *Henry VIII* at the Orinda Library.

All OIS seventh-graders study with Cal Shakes teaching artists during a yearly six-week classroom residency. According to Clive Worsley, director of Cal Shakes' Artistic Learning Program, this is the com-



SALLY HOGARTY

Cooper Smith (L) and **Lauren Hall** performed at Orinda Action Day.

pany's 13th year working with OIS.

The summer program is an important one. "It's not just about learning to act," said Worsley. "The lesson learned in creating theater together teaches our students valuable lessons that help them develop into compassionate, literate and well-rounded human beings. During the course of the

[SEE OIS page 16]

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PERFORMING ARTS

Murder on the Nile Launches Starlight Village Players' Summer Season

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players starts its 33rd season on June 3 with Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Nile*. The play centers around newlyweds Simon Mostyn and Kay Ridgeway, on their honeymoon aboard a paddle steamer on the Nile. Also present is Jacqueline, Mostyn's former lover who has been following the couple, Canon Pennefather, Ridgeway's guardian, and a bevy of memorable characters. When Ridgeway is found shot in her bunk, Pennefather must figure out how, why and who before the boat reaches its destina-

tion. Adapted to the stage in 1942 from the book *Death on the Nile*, Christie removed Hercule Poirot from the play, as she was tired of the character, replacing him with a church canon to ferret out the criminal.

Longtime Starlight member Suzan Lorraine, who has directed over a dozen plays for the company, mostly by Christie, directs the production. "They're fun for both the cast and the audience! Most people are familiar with her books so they already know what's likely to happen, but they love seeing it happen on stage," said Lorraine. In addition to directing at The Masquers (Point Richmond), Chanticleers (Castro Valley), Actors Ensemble (Berkeley) and the Marin and Edinburgh (Scotland) Fringe

Cal Shakes Presents Award-Winning Drama in July

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

California Shakespeare Theatre presents its first play by two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson. *Fences* opens July 9 and runs through July 31 at the Bruns Amphitheatre in Orinda. Raelle Myrick-Hodges, former Artistic Director for San Francisco's Brava Theatre (2008-2012), will direct *Fences*, which won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play. Myrick-Hodges currently serves as Curator of Performance Arts for the Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans.

"I love Wilson. His work is ironic, painful, sincere and present all the time in my epicenter," said Myrick-Hodges, who makes her Cal Shakes directorial debut with *Fences*. "Being a part of Eric Ting's history at Cal Shakes is the biggest honor. To have his eyes and ears as a producer as I try to find new insight into this classic work is a blessing."

The drama is about a middle-class family's disillusion with the American dream and centers around Troy Maxson (Aldo Billingslea), a charismatic baseball player-turned-sanitation worker. *Fences* is one of 10 plays comprising Wilson's "Pittsburgh Cycle," a collection of scripts the renowned writer set in 10 separate decades, from 1900s - 1980, chronicling African-Amer-

ican culture in the 20th century. Wilson passed away in 2005, at the age of 60.

Billingslea, previously seen at Cal Shakes in *Spunk*, *King Lear*, *The Winter's Tale* and *Lady Windermere's Fan* serves as Professor of Theatre Arts at Santa Clara University, where he teaches acting, directs plays, and is Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion.

Billingslea has a long history with Wilson's works. He has performed in seven of the 10 plays in Wilson's decalogy, including *Gem of the Ocean*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Piano Lesson* (Wilson's second Pulitzer Prize winner), *Seven Guitars*, *Two Trains Running* and *Radio Golf*.

"*Fences* will be my eighth. I still need to be in productions of *King Hedley II* and *Jitney* to complete the August Wilson Canon."

Cal Shakes hosts a variety of activities associated with performances of *Fences* including Open-captioned performance (July 13), Meet the Artists (July 10 and 24), InSight Matinee (July 17) and Grove Talks (held 45 minutes prior to curtain).

[SEE CAL SHAKES page 16]



CHARLIE JARRETT

Orinda Starlight Village Players 2013 production of Agatha Christie's *Black Coffee*. Seen here from the cast are (L-R) Lisa Marie Taylor, Ken Sollazzo, Baillie Anne Simpson, Marina Simpson, Nicholas Hargrave, John Chapin, Kyle Goldman and James Frankle.

Festivals, she is also managing director at Chanticleers.

Lorraine is excited to be working with Orinda Starlight Village Players again. "I love it when the audience gasps and oohs and aahs and tries during the whole show to figure out who done it. This one will keep 'em guessing 'til the bitter end," said Lorraine. "Christie's story lines are pretty formulaic, but she's really good at character definition, and there's a whole slew of characters in this one."

On clear nights, Starlight usually has telescopes set up so the audience can look at some of the nearby celestial objects. The moon, of course, often gets a close look, but whenever Saturn is visible you can get a nice view of her rings. "The venue at Orinda is my all-time favorite, and the people I get to work with are worth the cold nights and hot days," said Lorraine. "This is a magic setting, and when the lights go down, the stars - on stage and in the sky - come out."

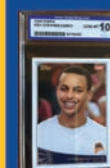
Performances of *Murder on the Nile* run from June 3 through July 2, Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m., with one Sunday performance on June 26 at 4 p.m. and one Thursday performance on June 30 at 8 p.m.

The company is run completely by volunteers; nobody gets paid. "We could not do

without our sponsors, such as Village Pizza for donating our all-day rehearsal dinner and Geppetto's for donating our coffee," says Managing Director Jill Gelster. "We love being a part of the community."

Anyone interested in any aspect of the theatre or who wants to volunteer can contact www.orsvp.org or 925-528-9225. "This is a great place to get your feet wet in community theatre, so do come play with us," said Lorraine.

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STUDENTS / BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Awards Outstanding Young Women



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tech Trek Camp Scholarship Winners and Keynote Speaker: (L-R) **Helen Kaidantzis, Emilia Gutman, Yuhuan Liu**, Keynote Speaker **Mary Fettig, Abbie Lee, Shannon Lipp** and **Reese Whipple**.

By GAIL CHESLER
Contributing Writer

On Sunday, April 17, The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the Association of University Women (AAUW) celebrated with 10 remarkable young women from Lamorinda schools by awarding six Tech Trek camp scholarships and four college scholarships. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading

voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

Six middle school girls, passionate about science and math, were awarded full scholarships to the week-long science and math Tech Trek Camp that will be held on the Stanford campus this July. In addition, one \$5,000 and two \$1,000 community service scholarships were awarded to three high school young women and a \$5,000 graduate studies scholarship was awarded to a Saint Mary's College student.

Ace It! Tennis Tourney Benefits Breast Cancer Research

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Ace It!, the popular annual tennis tournament that benefits cancer research, returns to Orindawoods on Saturday, June 25. Tennis pro Keith Wheeler promises a full day of fun as participants take part in the morning clinics and an afternoon of round-robin play. At mid-day, all guests are welcome to savor a gourmet lunch prepared by committee members.

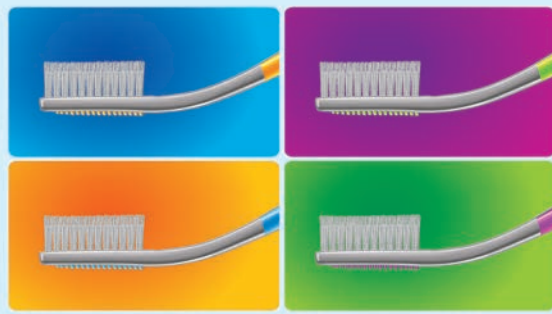
"We are proud to be sponsoring the Ace It! tournament for the 14th year," said committee member Danielle Signorella. "The money we raise goes to Better Health East Bay (formerly Alta Bates Summit Foundation) and the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center. Breast cancer is a disease that can be conquered, but continuing research is necessary. Last year's event raised \$11,000, and we hope to do even better this year. The overall total raised exceeds \$120,000."

Clinics led by professionals from the Lamorinda area begin at 8:30 a.m., lunch is at 11:30 a.m. and round-robin play begins at 1 p.m. Cost for the full day is \$140 or \$80 for the morning or afternoon sessions, and \$25 for lunch. Registration is tax deductible. Sign up at www.orindawoodstennis.com under the Events heading. The form can be completed by mail or on-line. Single registrants will be paired with a partner of similar ability.

"We always have a large number of raffle prizes, for which you receive a ticket with registration," said committee member Tessie Siegel. "There are some special prizes in the silent auction, including wine baskets, Warrior and Giants tickets, vacation get-aways and a tennis dinner catered by the committee. There will also be a post-tournament raffle for those present. It promises to be a perfect way to spend the day, learning from the pros, putting their tips to work in the afternoon tournament and relaxing with friends during lunch."

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◆ OIS from page 14

summer our students build their own communities, learning valuable lessons about mutual respect and tolerance, working across differences and coming together with a shared goal in mind."

Worsley said the conservatory helps foster a "holistic and long-standing engagement with the youth of our community," allowing Cal Shakes to have "a lasting, positive impact on the fabric of our community."

Students of all ages and skill levels participate in the conservatory. Worsley said that some former attendees continue on to professional acting roles. Leon Jones, a recent participant, performed with Frances McDormand in the Berkeley Rep production of *Macbeth*. Another conservatory student will perform in this season's production of August Wilson's *Fences* at Bruns Amphitheatre.

According to Worsley, television and recording artist Zendaya attended the summer programs for several years prior to landing her first big job on the Disney Channel show *Shake It Up*. "Zendaya regularly returns to Cal Shakes to visit old friends and attend our performances," he said. "She has also gone out of her way to speak to our young actors and offer them encouragement and advice."

Cal Shakes offers two- and four-week sessions in Oakland (at the School for

the Arts) and Lafayette (at Bentley Upper School) for student actors, ages 8-18. Morning sessions are spent with a team of working theatre professionals studying acting, stage combat, improvisation, Shakespearean history, physical comedy, clowning, auditioning and stage makeup.

Afternoon rehearsals prepare conservatory students for Shakespeare performances held at the end of the program. Worsley said students will have the opportunity to perform material from *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Julius Caesar* and *Henry V*. Participants receive free tickets to the Cal Shakes Main Stage season.

Young thespians who wish to participate in the 2016 Summer Shakespeare Conservatory can get registration information by calling 510-548-3422, ext. 105, or email learn@calshakes.org.

◆ CAL SHAKES from page 15

Previews for *Fences* are July 6-8, opening on July 9 and continuing through July 31 at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheatre, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Performances are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. There will be a Saturday matinee on July 30 at 2 p.m. The grounds open two hours before curtain and the theater offers free shuttle service from the Orinda BART station (beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain) as well as free onsite parking. For more information or to charge tickets (which are \$19 to \$87) by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.

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LOCAL RESIDENTS

Orinda Community Church Awards \$250 Grants To Charities

By HILLARY HOPPOCK
Contributing Writer

This spring, Orinda Community Church presented \$250 grants to Diversity Festival in Concord, the Animal Shelter of Orange County, Marin Against Youth Abuse (MAYA) and White Pony Express in Contra Costa County.

Church pastor Jim Brommers Bergquist challenged members to suggest worthy non-profits to receive funds from the church's Justice and Mercy Commission. Recipients of the grants were selected randomly during worship (out of 15 submissions) and recently shared their stories of the multiplier effect of each grant.

Congregant Gwen McNeilus was familiar with the work of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County through the church's participation in the Winter Nights Shelter program. She requested grant funds be used to support the 13th Annual Diversity Spring Festival at Mount Diablo High School, sponsored by the Interfaith Council in collaboration with Concord Kidfest. "The focus is on valuing

different cultures and encouraging children to know and understand others leading to high school students 'competing for good works,'" said McNeilus.

For congregant Sue Ellen Thomas, it was a family decision to support the Orange County Animal Shelter. On spring break, while visiting family in Southern California, a new "generation of givers" emerged, as her son Jacob, daughters Michaela and Annika, and her niece purchased needed towels, blankets, dog shampoo, food and toys for shelter animals at the 99-cent store. Later, the family realized the impact of the grant through Thomas' chance encounter with a Vietnam veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome, who was accompanied by a rescue dog from the shelter.

MAYA is a group of 20 teens and college students who design prevention programs and outreach campaigns to teach their peers about dating abuse and healthy relationships. Church member Christina Schiffner learned about MAYA through her work at the Center for Domestic Peace in Marin. She donated the grant to support MAYA's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Community Church Generosity Challenge Grant recipients (L-R) Sally Train and Gwen McNeilus, Pastor Jim Brommers Bergquist and grant recipient Sue Ellen Thomas. Not shown is Christina Schiffner Santschi.

education and outreach efforts about how to recognize the warning signs of unhealthy relationships and where to go for help.

The all-volunteer White Pony Express provides fresh, nutritious food donated daily by supermarkets and restaurants throughout Contra Costa County. Year-round, seven days a week (except Christmas Day), the

white refrigerated vans pick up food that used to be thrown out by restaurants and stores and take it to shelters serving some 115,000 county residents. Congregant Sally Train said the \$250 grant paid for one truck for one week to deliver 4,500 pounds of food to people in need, translating into about \$7,515 worth of food.

Child Advocate Publishes Book on Keeping Kids Safe

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Stephanie L. Mann is passionate about her advocacy work for children, which began in the early 1970s. Mann, an Orinda resident since 1967, said her motivation stems from witnessing the tragic treatment of children across the nation. "It's shocking," she said, explaining that one in every three girls and one in every six boys has been abused before their 18th birthday.

Mann's new book, *Street Safe Kids*, provides working steps for adults to use in teaching young people how to empower themselves by developing their own identities. "Anyone can learn to keep kids safe, and children can be taught how to protect themselves."

A crime and violence prevention consultant for 36 years, Mann is the founder and executive director of the National Safe Kids Now Network, and the author of five crime prevention books. She has worked as a consultant for the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, Oakland Police Department and Contra Costa County as West



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Resident **Stephanie Mann**.

County Coordinator.

Mann is a frequent guest on radio and television, having made over 140 appearances on CBS, NBC, ABC and FOX.

Street Safe Kids provides parents, family members, coaches and educators with the tools to help create centered, responsible, self-aware youth.

Street Safe Kids is a 10-step guide with [SEE MANN page 18]



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SCHOOLS / FILM

JUNE SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please forward school calendar listings to m.sharpe66@gmail.com. Note: Last day of school is June 10.

- 1 **Acalanes Union High School District** board meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m. Also June 28 and 29. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us.
- 2&3 **Miramonte High School** presents Pops Concert, Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, 7 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>.
- 3 **Holden High School Graduation**, 10 Irwin Way, 3 to 5 p.m. Call 925-254-0199 or visit www.holdenhigh.org.
- 3&4 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School** presents the fourth- and fifth-grade musical, *Disney's My Son Pinocchio*, June 3 at 4 and 7 p.m.; June 4 at 3 and 7 p.m., 350 Camino Pablo. Call 925-258-0016 or visit <http://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 8 **Holden High School** Information Session, 10 Irwin Way, 6 p.m. Call 925-254-0199 or visit www.holdenhigh.org.
- 9 **Orinda Intermediate School** 8th Grade Promotion, 80 Ivy Drive, 6 p.m. Call 925-258-3090 or visit <http://ois-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 10 **Miramonte High School** Graduation Ceremonies, 750 Moraga Way, 5:30 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>.
- 13 **Orinda Union School District** board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Also June 27. Visit www.orindaschools.org.

Young Documentarians Lauded

By Tom Westlake
Staff Writer

On May 15, the Lamorinda Arts Council sponsored and the Lafayette Library Community Hall hosted the first annual Lamorinda Short Docs festival. To many, documentary films are often overlooked and dismissed in favor of the more popular feature films. Indeed, if asked to name the last documentary they watched, most would be unable to answer or they might mention the latest from Michael Moore.

But Moore is by far not the sole keeper of stories that need telling as became evident on May 15 when 17 future film makers showcased their work. Made mostly by local students, there was absolutely no age limit (the youngest entrant was in third grade), nor limitation on subject. Subjects ranged from vital social issues like Josh Silva's *The Journalism Formula* or Jack Moser's *Homeless Church of San Francisco* to lighter fare such as Leonardo Ding's *Llama and Emu: Life in the San Francisco Zoo*.

Awards were handed out in four classifications: Elementary School, Middle School, High School, and Adult. While award decisions were made before the Festival, three of the judges (Julie Rubio, Vicki Ables and Joel Patterson) came to the event to personally award recipients. Rubio, an Orinda resident, made a cinematic Bay Area splash of her own earlier this year with *East Bay Sushi*. The audience formed another judging panel as they voted by text for their



TOM WESTLAKE
Walnut Creek Intermediate student **Josh Silva** won Best Middle School Documentary for his film *The Journalism Formula*.

favorites. In a rare instance of synchronicity, the People's Choice winner turned out to be Josh Silva, who also received the Best Middle School Documentary award. Other winners included Jack Nixon's *Public Art is Everywhere* (Elementary School), Jack Lewis' *Eating Through the South* (High School) and Graham Robert's *Boxing Bob 2pac Shakur Thug Mansion* (Adult).

Technology also played an important part in the making of these films with one filmmaker even using a drone. When asked what filmmaker inspired him, Nixon said it was someone who had his own YouTube channel. Nixon went on to say that he too has his own YouTube channel where in all likelihood, you will see his winning film.

This flagship event was very well attended and not just by the parents of the entrants. One could not dismiss the vitality of nearly all of the entrants, and whereas some appeared to be fulfilling required assignments, many others displayed a real urgency with messages of importance to the filmmakers. One looks forward to next year when most certainly we will be seeing more fine work from these aspiring documentarians as well as a host of new voices.

◆ BEAR from page 14

dog-discovered poop to learn the status of a great variety of wild species from tigers to whales, thus contributing to their survival.

Wadsworth comes from a long line of writers and outdoor enthusiasts and environmentalists. Her mother was a Mills College graduate who created watercolors, pottery and furniture while working as an art teacher. Her father and grandfather were writers for the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Colliers* and authors of numerous books. Her other grandfather was the director of San Diego Natural History Museum and an ornithologist.

Copies of Wadsworth's *Seasons of the Bear*, a bear puppet, bear skull and bear tags supplied by a Yosemite Ranger will be on display at the library talk. Visit www.gingerwadsworth.com for more information.

◆ MANN from page 17

138 illustrations and stories to help parents and children share experiences, which can strengthen family bonds. "One hour a week of special time together can improve communication skills and give youth self-confidence to stay centered, safe and healthy," said Mann, adding that the book will help families learn how to handle anger, discover how to stay safe from bullies, drugs and other self-destructive behaviors. "Teens will discover the power of intuition, setting goals and working with others."

Mann has big plans to continue her advocacy work in the future. She is working with a national network, which she calls "a great team of people" to plan a child abuse prevention conference in 2017, in order to "wake people up and let them know they need to be involved." Mann said that the group needs more volunteers and people can help in many different ways. She invites community members who are interested in youth, home, neighborhood and community safety to join the Safe Kids Now National Network.

For more information on how to become involved in the conference or to order *Street Safe Kids*, visit www.safekidsnow.com.

◆ BOOKS from page 8

by Julie Checkoway has been compared to Orinda Books favorite and perennial bestseller, *The Boys in the Boat*. Checkoway tells the story of a Maui schoolteacher who, in 1937, challenged his ill-nourished and raggedy Japanese-American students (their parents worked in the sugar plantations) to become a swim team that would ultimately outrace athletes twice their size and aim for the 1940 Olympic Games (these games were cancelled at the outbreak of war). For Lamorinda parents with swim team offspring, this is a book to consider.

The gripping paperback, fiction or non-fiction, and the well-chosen guidebook (for beaches, bars or museums) should be part of any well curated travel bag this summer. Whether your palm trees are close to home such as those that dot the Embarcadero in San Francisco or far afield on the beach at Bora Bora, paperbacks make splendid travel companions, for commuters and transoceanic travelers alike.

Happy trails ... and happy reading!

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

JUNE

- 1 **Orinda Library Gallery** presents an exhibit of paintings, photography, ceramics, glass, metal and turned woodwork by a variety of artists, through June. A reception for the artists with light refreshments is June 12, 2:30 to 4 p.m. See page 13.
Orinda Books displays works by Miramonte High School students through June, 276 Village Square.
California Shakespeare Theater presents William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* through June 19 at Bruns Amphitheater, Orinda. Visit www.calshakes.org or call the box office at 510-548-9666. See page 15.
- 2 **Story Hour with Cathy Goshorn** for children 2 to 4 years, with reading, songs and games, Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m., Orinda Books, 276 Village Square.
- 3 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents Agatha's Christie's *Murder on the Nile* through July 2 with performances at the Community Park on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., Sunday, June 26 at 4 p.m., and Thursday, June 30 at 8 p.m. Visit www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225. See page 15.
First Friday Forum features geophysicist Dr. Peggy Hellweg talking on "They Are Our Faults: Living in Earthquake Country," Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 1:30 p.m. Refreshments served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. See page 8.
- 8 **Orinda Books** hosts Cathy Goshorn in a lively hour for preschoolers and caregivers, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m.
The Second Wednesday Book Group will discuss *Are You Somebody: The Accidental Memoir of a Dublin Woman* by Nuala O'Faolain, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m.
- 9 **California Independent Film Festival** presents a free showing of *MASH*, Orinda Theater, 7 p.m. Visit www.caiff.org and click Events.
- 10 **Diablo Choral Artists** presents *Summer Nocturne* at Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, 8 p.m. Also June 12, 3 p.m., at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda. Tickets \$5 to \$25. Visit www.dcachorus.org or call 925-680-7089.
Orinda Books hosts a poetry reading. Poets will read from their anthology, *Remembering the Days that Breathed Pink*, a collection of women's voices that exposes both the inner balance and the female journey, 276 Village Square, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 **Concerts-in-the-Park** featuring funk/soul/classic rock of "Bay Bridge Beat," Orinda Community Center Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 **Three-Quarter-Century Club** welcomes Orinda's Holly Penfield performing "Holly Sings Judy," Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 11 Irwin Way, 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Chicken lunch and the King and Queen (oldest man and woman) will be crowned. Contact John Fazel at runmtns@prodigy.net or 925-324-2017. See page 21.
- 18 **Rheem Theatre** presents Litz Plummer performing Broadway and movie songs, 7 p.m. Tickets are limited. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com for reservations.
- 21 **Concerts-in-the-Park** featuring the jazz of "Stratify," Orinda Community Center Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 **Orinda Chamber of Commerce** hosts a ribbon cutting at Sutter Health Urgent Care, 12 Camino Encinas, Orinda, 4:30 to 7 p.m., with music, appetizers and a tour of the facility. Visit www.orindachamber.org for information.
Maria's Book Group will read and discuss *Love and Summer* by William Trevor at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606 to let them know you're coming.
Move-in-the-Park featuring *Minions*, Orinda Community Center Park, dusk.
- 28 **Orinda Books** hosts Karen Eberwein discussing her book *24/7 French Lessons: My Quest to Learn French in a Dordogne Village*, 276 Village Square, 7 p.m. The evening will include wine and cheese, a slide show and brief readings from her book.
Concerts-in-the-Park featuring the Motown beat of "3 Day Weekend," Orinda Community Center Park, 6:30 p.m.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 1 **Summer of STEAM begins!** Summer Reading celebrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (and Reading!) Visit <http://ccclib.org/summer> or the library to pick up an activity sheet.
Open Play. For children, 0-5, Gallery Room, 10 a.m.
- 2 **English as a Second Language Conversation Circle.** Practice English in an informal, small-group setting, Study Room A, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also June 9, 16, 23 and 30.
- 7 **Toddler Lapsit.** Stories and songs for children aged 1 to 3 and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required, but attendance limited to once per week. Also June 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29.
Peek-A-Boo Time. Story time for children ages 0 to 5, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also June 14, 21 and 28.
Math Lounge. Drop-in math tutoring on iPads for students K-12, sponsored by MathElf app, Gallery Room, 4 to 6 p.m.
- 11 **Saturday Morning Live.** Family story time for children 3-5, Picture Book Area, 11 a.m., with STEAM activity. Also June 18 and 25.
- 23 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners.** A monthly story swap with featured speaker, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m. Share a story or just come to listen. Adult and teen event. Call 925-478-8488.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214,** Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe.** Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Gallery Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks.** Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Guided Meditation.** Wednesdays, 9 a.m., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition.** Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall

Kiwanis Club Presents \$5,000 to EFO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley recently presented a check to the Education Foundation of Orinda for \$5,000. (L-R) EFO co-president **Dean Burnick**, Kiwanis past president **Gloria Eive** and EFO co-president **Cara Hoxie**.

- Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Meditation.** Every Monday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, 7:15 p.m., Career Wisdom Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga, Suite 100. Meditate in silence for 30 minutes, \$5 donation. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmooze@gmail.com.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.** Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com>. or 925-283-8288.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters.** Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.
- Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary.** Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 925-254-2222.
- Orinda Association.** Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club.** Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society.** Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters.** First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation.** Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Woman's Club.** Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub>.

CITY/FIRE DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

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CLASSIFIED

◆ MEASURE L from page 6

expressed by voters as the preferred method to finance infrastructure improvements.

Orinda Council Member Darlene Gee confirmed she supports Measure L, the third phase of the Plan, stating, "Steve Cohn has taken what I said out of context."

2) The Plan also commits to maintaining the roads to a minimum of "Good" to "Excellent" condition (PCI 50+). Voters will determine in a later phase the best way to achieve this.

3) Almost all Orindans agree our roads and drains need repairs, including the "youngest third" and those new to our community. Some new homebuyers have expressed their support for Measure L and are anxious for road repair progress to continue. For example, recent move-ins Jeremy and Laura Tieman, stated in their Orinda News' letter (5/2016), "Good roads are critical to every Orinda resident... We agree Measure L is needed to continue the work and reach our goal of good public roads throughout Orinda..."

4) Orindans are public-spirited and generally support local causes that enhance the community though individual benefits may vary. Orinda schools and the library are obvious examples. As someone on NextDoor put it: "... each individual tax is not always 'fair' to every person. My husband and I pay parcel and bond taxes for the schools and do not have any children in the schools. Do I complain about those taxes - no of course I do not since it is for the good of the community.... The roads I drive on in Orinda have been fixed. Should I be so selfish to as to not vote for a tax to help fix other roads in Orinda? I don't think so. I will vote Yes on Measure L."

Measure L is the choice on the ballot now. Voters must decide to continue the progress on road repairs or halt progress. It's clear the best option is to vote Yes on Measure L!

- Brad Barber, Bob Burt, Mark Roberts, Sue Severson

Support Measure L

The Wallace family has lived or worked in Orinda in the real estate business since the 1930s when my dad sold homes, lots and land here in Orinda. After graduating from Cal as a real estate major in 1955 and a three year stint in the U.S. Navy, I came into the family real estate

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Unwanted Eye Glasses are collected for Lions Club at the Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

business here in 1958, permanently residing here since 1963. My wife Gerry and I have been active members in many facets of this wonderful community ever since.

The largest investment most of us make is in our homes and, fortunately for Orindans, our homes have almost always risen in value. On the plus side, one obvious reason is our top of the line school system; another is scarcity or a limited supply with an on-going large demand. Conversely, a huge negative has always been our inferior road system which have been a financial issue for let's just say, forever.

Almost no one over the years I believe would disagree that our roads and drainage are a continuing serious problem. To that I add, "And they have a real negative impact on our home values." Measure L is the third leg of a long term plan devised over the past 10 years to correct this deficiency in small bite-size chunks which our community has in previous elections found palatable. We need to stay the course.

As a long time senior Orindan, kids grown, settled and here to stay, I have no direct interest in this issue; however, I do have big indirect interest - Vote Yes on Measure L - my Orinda home value will grow 24/7 even when I am sound asleep at night.

- Clark Wallace

Orinda Community Foundation Says Thanks to Community

Thanks to all who came out to beautify Orinda! We probably had over 200 volunteers working all over Orinda -- Wagner Ranch Nature Center, Orinda Village, downtown, BART path,

trails, creek, parks, Wilder, Glorietta school, and even a Rotary event "Stop Hunger Now" in the Community Center. We appreciated sharing the Library Plaza with the Orinda Association's Volunteer Fair again this year.

A big thank you to our supporters -- Cafe Teatro donated coffee, Mechanics Bank donated backpacks with supplies for our project managers, Village Pizza gave a discount, Safeway provided cookies, the Farmers' Market donated fruit and Janet Pease and family gave us the colorful balloons. Steve Harwood again donated his time and sound equipment as our d.j., and Cal Shakes gave us a performance of Henry VIII to celebrate 400 years of William Shakespeare (He died 400 years ago)! Jack Lewis and assistant from Miramonte High School filmed the event, and we'll post it on www.orindafoundation.org. Please email me us your pictures! See you next year!

- Holly Henkel

Orinda Books is a Community Gem

I am grateful for Orinda Books presence for so many reasons, the most recent of which is the kind support provided by owner Maria Roden to the special needs community of POISE. Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education, POISE, was embraced years ago by Orinda Books when it began hosting parent education events. More recently, Maria kindly kept the store open on a Monday evening to allow special needs parents a place to meet, share and offer support to one another. This safe, free, comfortable place for parents was a true gift to

everyone present.

Business owners, such as Maria and Danny Roden, who are creative in their strategies to support and connect with the community, are a blessing. Please show your gratitude to Orinda Books in person when you are downtown -- a simple thank you goes a long way, and a book purchase is always welcome to accompany your thank you!

- Anna Tague

Lack of Facts on Gun Control

In regard to Henry R. Pinney's letter to the editor in May, his appalling lack of facts when trying to advocate his position on private gun ownership cannot be obscured by the baseless attacks he tries to make against me personally. I don't list the articles below to help enlighten someone as closed-minded as him, but rather to set the record straight for your readership against Pinney's claim that "Gun control makes society less safe and exacerbates crime." Here are some articles correlating strict gun laws with gun violence, the most glaring example being in Connecticut where, in the 10 years since they enacted tougher gun laws, they have seen a 40 percent reduction in gun-related homicides.

http://www.cnn.com/2015/06/12/us/gun-law-homicide-drop

http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/08/the-states-with-the-most-gun-laws-see-the-fewest-gun-related-deaths/448044

http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/03/07/gun-violence-study-chicago/1969227

- Maggie Reeves

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2016 Publication Schedule

Table with Issue and Deadline columns: July 2016, August 2016, June 5, 2016, July 5, 2016

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CLUBS

Orinda Garden Club Works to Save the Bay, Endorses Measure AA

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Garden Club (OGC), in conjunction with the Piedmont Garden Club, has been in partnership with the Save the Bay organization since 2014 in an ongoing initiative to restore and protect San Francisco Bay Area shorelines. The two clubs have adopted a portion of the East Bay Regional Park, MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline. Members from both clubs visit the shoreline to weed, gather seeds from native plants, propagate and plant seedlings along the shoreline above the high tide zone. Shoreline vegetation will provide habitat for native birds and mammals and

serve as a buffer against rising sea levels, king tides and storm surges. Long term, the focus is to plant pollinator-attracting native plant species.

Co-chaired by Senator Dianne Feinstein, Measure AA will fund important wetlands restoration projects around the San Francisco Bay. One example is restoration of 15,000 acres of wetlands and tidal marsh that function as natural filters at the mouths of creeks and along the shoreline and provide nature-based flood management for homes, businesses and critical infrastructure in at least 15 cities along the San Francisco Bay Shoreline. See www.savesfbay.org/MeasureAA for more details.

On June 7, voters in the Bay Area will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

L to R: Orinda Garden Club members **Kirsten Whitsett** and **Linda Thompson** planting native species at the East Bay Regional Park as part of their Save the Bay restoration efforts.

be casting their votes on Measure AA, a proposed \$12 parcel tax for 20 years. If the measure passes, \$500M will be invested into protecting the shoreline for now and the future. The OGC recently joined many

civic organizations, politicians and individuals to endorse Measure AA, and urges area voters to join them in supporting the passage of Measure AA to protect the future of our San Francisco Bay Shoreline.

Cabaret Diva Channels Judy at Three-Quarter Century Club

BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Holly Penfield of Orinda starred on the London stage as a cabaret diva for 15 years, including performances for Prince Charles and Lady Diana. Now, she will be the featured artist at the Three-Quarter Century Club's annual gathering Wednesday, June 15, from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 11 Irwin Way, Orinda.

The show, entitled "Holly Sings Judy," will cater to the senior crowd with some of Judy Garland's favorite songs. "I'll do all Judy songs as I rarely sing for an audience that will recognize tunes like *Rockaby* and *Swanee*," said Penfield. "So many young people don't know Judy's repertoire or

understand the power of her fame. Even her peers like Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire and Frank Sinatra all called her the greatest entertainer of their time."

As a second-grader, Penfield – who grew up in Orinda – received an assignment to draw a picture of what she wanted to be later in life. She drew a picture of a blonde nightclub singer. "I graduated from Campolindo High School by the skin of my teeth because I was singing in a North Beach nightclub called the Roaring 20s the last six months of my senior year," said Penfield.

Her father Ray was her biggest fan and sang with her all over Europe when he was in his 90s. His parody remake of *Addicted to Love* became a certified YouTube sensation, scoring over 100,000 hits. Sadly, in 2014, ill health confined him to Orinda where Penfield returned to care for him. He died last December, but even sang in an open-mic night at Utopia restaurant in San Francisco just a month before he died. Many Three-Quarter Century attendees will remember when he sang at one of their meetings. Penfield is also looking forward to an engagement at Feinstein's at Hotel Nikko in San Francisco July 15 and 16.

Along with entertainment by Penfield, John Fazel, the founder of the Three-Quarter Century Club, promises a delicious chicken dinner and the crowning of the king and queen – oldest man and woman in attendance – and longest married couple. Sponsors of this event are BHF Mason McDuffie Real Estate, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and the Orinda Community Church. A new sponsor this year is Lamorinda Village.

When asked why he worked so hard to establish the club, Fazel said, "I remember

[SEE DIVA page 22]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

International performing sensation **Holly Penfield** will perform at this year's Three-Quarter Century Club luncheon.



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FARMERS' MARKET / ORINDA ACTION DAY



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BARBARA KOBSAR

Here we go! June seems busier than ever. The parade of stone fruits (apricots, peaches, nectarines and plums) arrive at the Farmers' Market, we celebrate dad on Father's Day, schools out, and it's National Fruits and Vegetables month.

Summer snacking, picnicking, canning, barbecuing and travelling all call for stone fruits. Apricots and peaches are most fragile when ripe so best eaten close to home. Plums, pluots (75 percent plum and 25 percent apricot) and apriums (75 percent apricot and 25 percent plum) are a little less susceptible to bruising.

Although related, peaches and nectarines are two distinct types of stone fruits. White flesh varieties of both fruits are available (along with the yellow varieties) so dive in and pick up a few different ones to try.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Apricots are already in season at the Market.

Shoppers typically find only the freestone variety peaches at the market stands, but early varieties may include a few clingstones for any "canners" out there.

Peaches are a natural for the grill. Cut in half, remove the stone and fill cavity with two teaspoons butter, one tablespoon brown sugar and cinnamon to taste. Place skin side down on medium hot grill to heat through to one of the juiciest, sweetest desserts ever!

Plums are the perfect size for snacking at home or while travelling. Look for Japanese variety Santa Rosa, El Dorado and Black Amber and a few European prune plums later in the season.

Coffee is now ready and waiting at the Orinda market. Zolo Coffee Roasters is serving hot pour-overs, cold brewed coffee and fresh brewed tea. Bags of coffee beans are also available and ground on request. Stop by to welcome Dave and Baley to the community.

Find something special to nourish, protect and cleanse your skin at Cricket Nissen's Bay Area Raw Soap stand. Check out www.bayarearawsoap.com

Enjoy, and see you at the market!

The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way. More information is available at www.cccfm.org.

Orinda Action Day Volunteers



(L-R) **Robin, Raiden, Rowan, Rocklyn** and (in back) **Robert Reasoner** enjoyed cleaning the streets in the Crossroads area as part of this year's Orinda Action Day. The popular activity sponsored by the Orinda Community Foundation saw a record turnout as volunteers took on a variety of projects including clearing debris out of San Pablo Creek, weeding at Wagner Ranch Nature Area and cleaning Orinda's downtown area. Families, boy scout troops and individuals joined together to make Orinda even cleaner and more beautiful. This year's event also featured a poster contest for K-12.



(L-R) **Nick Kosla** watches his children **Audrey** and **Grace** as they work on their posters while grandfather **Norm Pease** offers his encouragement. Winners of the contest were: (high school) 1st place - Megan Severson; (3rd grade) 1st place - Audrey Kosla, 2nd place - Cooper Smith; (2nd grade) 1st place - Cole Stieglitz, 2nd place - Sasha Bevacqua, 3rd place - Nicole Bevacqua; and (K-1st grade) 1st place - Samantha Reidenbach; 2nd place - Campbell Sabarese and 3rd place - Grace Kosla.



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◆ **MAYOR** from page 5

The mayor's crime stats showed a decrease in burglaries in 2015 but a slight increase in assaults and motor vehicle theft and a jump in larceny occurrences. The crime stats, however, still ranked Orinda in the top 10 of the 50 safest cities in California for 2016, according to the FBI.

On a lighter note, Orinda's Parks and Recreation classes continue to be popular with class enrollment totaling 7,216 for 2014/15 as opposed to 6,819 in 2013/14. Adult and youth sports also increased from the previous year with adult sports capping 882 in 2014/15 and youth sports at

1,791.

According to the mayor, the final phase of Orinda Wilder Park, located off the Wilder exit on Hwy. 24, will break ground this summer. Accommodating the increases in adult and youth sports, this phase includes two playing fields in addition to a playground and an Art and Garden Center. Expected to open in the fall of 2017, the Art and Garden Center includes 7,000 square feet of community space, an outdoor stage and multiple demonstration gardens.

To view the mayor's State of the City address and PowerPoint presentation, including financial highlights, go to www.cityoforinda.org.

◆ **DIVA** from page 21

thinking how everything in Orinda was so youth-oriented. That's fantastic because they are our future, but what about our seniors who provided this foundation for Orinda's success? I felt they needed to be recognized and honored for who they are and for what they contributed not only to Orinda, but to California and our country. The first few years most of our guests were WWII veterans or major contributors

to the effort on the home front. I didn't want the Greatest Generation to become the Forgotten Generation. So I started the Three-Quarter Century Club, patterned after one to which my mother belonged in Perry, Iowa, where we can pay tribute to the wonderful seniors in our community."

If you are not on Fazel's guest list but would like to attend the June 15 event, and are an Orinda resident 75 years or older, contact him at runmnts@prodigy.net or 925-324-2017.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

stimulation. Remember the Beanie Baby craze of the '90s? Here you can find their descendants, Beanie Boos By Ty. Today's plush stuffed animals by Douglas are soft beyond belief.

Children aged three to eight enjoy an array of Melissa and Doug educational toys. There is a classic wood clock for learning to tell time and the "Door Bell House" featuring doorbells, locks and keys for learning shapes. Corolle baby dolls and their wooden cribs are to be had here.

Sales associate Yolanda Sanchez creates window displays with enthusiasm, designing special fantasy worlds in each window at Sweet Dreams. "Each window has a message," she says. Sanchez also oversees the costume and dress-up section where you will find pirate, astronaut and princess costumes.

"In the middle of the shop we have a feature table that changes with each season," says Sanchez. "With summer approaching we feature outside toys like gardening tools, Original Butterfly garden, Nerf super soakers, water balloons, kites, a pop-up theatre tent for puppet shows and Pogo jumpers. We have an official Doink-It dart board test center in our store."

From Folkmanis hand puppets to arts and crafts activities for five- to eight-year-olds – there is a rack of Klutz activity toys – you will also find supplies of beach buckets, shovels and molds to build castles in the sand during your next trip to Stinson Beach. Check out the Jellyfish lamps on the front counter and the lava lamps.

Truth is, justice can't be done to all the delightfully fun toys at Sweet Dreams in the limited space of this column. You will have to drop by yourself and let your imagination wander. On top of it all, two free gift wraps are available with your purchase. Sweet Dreams is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more



John Goyak, owner of Casa Orinda. VALERIE HOTZ

information visit <http://stores.sweetdreamscandyandtoys.com> or call 925-254-6672.

Iconic Casa Orinda Celebrates 84 Years at the Crossroads

Renowned as the oldest restaurant in the Contra Costa County, Casa Orinda offers mouth-watering Italian dishes in a comfortable, eclectic Wild West atmosphere. Step inside and while letting your eyes adjust to the very low light, you will notice the unique ambience of this special establishment, located at 20 Bryant Way, nestled between Coldwell Banker and Flying-A Service Station.

The solid mahogany bar features original hand carvings, with original lighting made of oxen yokes. Drop in on a chilly evening and enjoy the warmth of a cozy fire tended in the main dining area, which features original and authentic wagon wheel chandeliers. Original owner Jack Snow, a Montana cowboy who traveled to these parts to work on the Caldecott Tunnel, commissioned the over-sized Western-themed paintings. Snow opened Casa Orinda in 1932. A sign etched in a copper plate above the fireplace reads, "People sitting around this hearth should speak no evil of any living creature."

The fare includes steak, chicken, veal and daily fresh fish selection, while remaining true to its Italian tradition with pasta offerings. It is the southern fried chicken dinner – complete with mashed potatoes, gravy, biscuit and vegetable – that generations of Orindans have grown up on and refer to as the Casa's Famous Fried Chicken. Large hearty portions are the norm. Custom-made dining tables have the brands of local ranches emblazoned across the top, while the dishes sport an image of cowboy boots complete with spurs.

"Over the years, I have literally watched several generations grow up here. They keep coming back," says John Goyak, owner of Casa Orinda. Goyak's father, Ivan Goyak, was a partner with Jack Snow and young John began working at the Casa as a busboy even before his father bought an interest in the place. By the time John graduated from college, he had done every job in the restaurant, except tend bar. His family bought full ownership of Casa Orinda in 1978.

"The Casa is one of the few places that has remained the same," says Goyak. "It is an old-fashioned restaurant, the kind that families enjoy going to through the years. It has earned an excellent reputation and been featured on both the Food Channel and the Travel Channel. We have had customers from Brazil, Germany, and all over the world as a result."

Casa Orinda is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Open daily 4 to 10 p.m. The bar closes at midnight. For more information, go to www.casaorinda.net or to make reservations call 925-254-2981.

J. Colleen Closes Brick and Mortar Store



SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda resident Julie Rubio closed her boutique, J. Colleen, in Lafayette on May 1. Aficionados of Rubio's eclectic fashion sense, however, can still purchase her widely-varied collection at www.jcolleen.com. Rubio hopes to spend a little less time with her boutique and quite a bit more time on her latest film, *One*. An accomplished film producer, Rubio has many films to her credit including the award-winning *East Side Sushi*. For more information on her latest film, go to www.onewomenmen.com.

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where she is operations manager. The lab runs a network of high-quality seismometer stations that record earthquakes throughout the world. "Although you may see a seismograph in our lab, it's only for show now," said Hellweg. "For the earthquakes we are interested in measuring, we'd need a roll of paper that is three miles across, which is not very convenient. We use computers now."

One of seven children, Hellweg was raised in Orinda and is a graduate of Glori-etta Elementary, Inland Valley Intermediate and Campolindo High schools. Her mother, Betty Karplus, taught school in Lamorinda for many years and her father, the late Dr. Robert Karplus, was a distinguished physics professor at U.C. Berkeley. Hellweg returned to her roots and now lives in Orinda with her husband.

For more information, call 925-283-8722.



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SunJams Foundation Believes in Healing Power of Music

When Orinda resident Dr. Amer Budayr discovered that many public schools in Contra Costa County eliminate music education, he established SunJams Foundation, a nonprofit charity with a mission to raise money to fund music education at the elementary school level.

“There are many positive benefits that flow from music. For example, it is proven that exposure to music education in third and fourth grade improves math skills. When students reach middle school, they are more likely to stay in school if they have music classes,” explains Budayr. “If we don’t pay attention to the wider environment, we all lose. Music education is one of the most effective means of helping children develop a positive connection with school.”

SunJams Foundation organizes and hosts outdoor concerts as a fundraising mechanism to support the organization’s mission of funding music in public schools. “We host concerts on our backyard stage in Orinda. It is a relaxed and comfortable setting, and we offer complimentary valet parking,” says Budayr. “Proceeds go to funding music education in under-resourced elementary schools throughout the Bay Area. Donations pay for new

instruments, school trips and one-on-one music lessons for at-risk youth throughout our community.”

Not only is music a way to connect culturally, but it also has healing powers. “Injured people can recover better because our brain chemistry is enriched by music. It has been demonstrated that movement and music are linked to deep circuitries in the brain. The mind-body connection is really the key. The less a person moves, the more the brain atrophies,” says Budayr.

The eventual goal for SunJams Foundation is to adopt all 2,700 third-graders in



Dr. Amer Budayr, founder of SunJams.

West Contra Costa County through providing music education in their curriculum. Budayr estimates this requires \$250,000. “We are beginning this journey by adopting one third-grade class, which we estimate costs \$25,000 to \$30,000 for one year of music education,” he says.

Budayr is an endocrinologist with Kaiser Permanente, his wife Anna is a psychiatrist practicing in Oakland. The couple’s daughter Anaya attends the sixth grade at Orinda Intermediate School. Son Ramzi is in the hospitality business in New York City. The name - SunJams - comes from the Old World process (Budayr was born in Damascus and grew up in Lebanon) of preparing apricot jam by first cooking on the stove and then laying it out in the sun for two to three days to let the sun finish baking the jam. The Budayrs prepare 300 pounds of delicious jam every year using this process.

For more information about SunJams Foundation or to make a donation, visit www.sunjams.org or email to sunjams.org@gmail.com. You may call Amer Budayr directly at 415-336-4930.

Sweet Dreams for You at Sweet Dreams Toy Store

Whether you are a parent of young children, an empty nester anticipating becoming a grandparent, or nostalgic for your own childhood, there is no better way to spend a few minutes than stopping in at Sweet Dreams Toy Store, located in Theatre Square adjacent to Petra Café. Here you will find friendly helpful service from longtime manager Connie King and sales associate Yolanda Sanchez. Owned by Gary Gendel (Sweet Dreams is an original tenant of Theatre Square), the store started as a candy store on College Avenue in Berkeley before expanding to Orinda as a delightful toy shop.

Saturday morning is the busiest time of



VALERIE HOTZ

At Orinda’s toy store, Sweet Dreams, manager Connie King and sales associate Yolanda Sanchez help shoppers find the right toys amid dazzling displays of fun.

the week as families swoop in on their way to a birthday party to select that special gift. While candy and balloons are still sold at the Orinda location, the massive offering of toys dazzles. If you agree with Albert Einstein that imagination is more important than intelligence, then mosey on over to Sweet Dreams and let your imagination soar.

King’s favorite these days is “Double Shutter,” designed for ages eight to adult. “It is excellent for learning number combinations and can be as fast paced as you want it to be. I am addicted to it these days,” laughs King, who will happily give you a demonstration.

There are the ultra-classic toys like Brio and Lego, as well as books for every age range. A section for babies aged newborn to 18 months features Jellycat plush toys that serve to soothe baby and soft cuddly books. A new line of baby toys by Manhattan Toy Company offers fabric soft books and a wooden rattle that provides tactile

[SEE BUZZ page 23]

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