



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Miramonte Public Speakers Succeed at CHSSA State Tournament



PAUL BARRIE

The Miramonte High School Public Speakers took sixth place out of 151 high schools at the California High School Speech Association (CHSSA) State Championships held near Tracy, CA from April 19-22. Teacher and Head Coach Kristen Plant led the team for her 10th year, keeping team spirit high in the face of 14-hour days and stiff competition. Standout Miramonte speakers include Kelly Zheng and Tai Fox who won first and second place, respectively, in International Extemporaneous Speaking, Evan Barrie-Kivel who came in second in Presiding Officer in Congressional Debate and Clara Wu who took fourth place in Original Oratory.

New Student Center Slated for Miramonte

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

When students at Miramonte High School return to school next fall, they will find a new Student Center designed and constructed just for them along the lines of college student unions.

The work is being done this summer in classroom space previously used for art classes. Plans are for the Center, according to Associate Principal Jan Carlson, to be open all day for students to relax, talk, receive peer tutoring, meet friends, have a quiet space or play games. Further, if interested or needed, students may consult with resident professional intervention specialists who deal with social, emotional and physical health aspects of students.

[SEE MIRAMONTE page 8]

Measure J Library Tax Tops June Ballot for Orinda Residents

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

According to Ballotpedia, the online Encyclopedia of American politics and elections, voters in California decide local ballot measures on as many as a dozen different election dates. In even-numbered years, voters decide hundreds of measures; the number of local measures has ranged from about 530 to more than 800 in the last three two-year cycles. In odd-numbered years, local voters generally decide between 100 to 200 measures.

Fortunately, Orindans have far fewer ballot measures to contemplate June 5. Tops among local concerns is Measure J. This library parcel tax increase measure will add \$30 annually to the existing parcel tax. Passed in 2008, the existing tax maintains the Orinda Library's present 60 hours per week and pays for repairs and maintenance. Increased costs over the years, however, have made the current funding inadequate to continue those hours.

The Friends of Orinda Library point out the 2008 tax, without a sunset limit but also without a cost escalator, "funded 42 percent

of the library's open hours for 10 years." Measure J, also without a sunset limit or cost escalator, is projected to fund the same level of service until 2024.

"If Measure J doesn't pass, the county library staff would recommend cutting back to 35 hours a week," says Friends of the Orinda Library Treasurer Linda Landau.

For more information on Measure J, go to <https://cityoforinda.org/384/MEASURE-J--Library-Services-Parcel-Tax>.

Also of interest to Orindans, especially those commuting to San Francisco, is Measure RM3. The Bay Area Traffic Relief Plan asks for a \$1 toll increase on local bridges (except the Golden Gate Bridge) effective in 2019 with additional \$1 increases in 2022 and 2025.

Possibly increasing traffic closer to home is Measure L. A yes vote on this measure on the Lafayette ballot would allow 44 units of residential housing and a park facility, known as The Homes at Deer Hill, to be built on a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Moraga resident **Ursula Schilling** has launched a write-in campaign challenging Dianne Feinstein for her Senate seat.

steep hillside along Highway 24.

Also, on the local front, a tenacious Moraga resident is running a write-in campaign for the United States Senate. Ursula Schilling hopes to challenge Sena-

[SEE ELECTION page 2]

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District Teacher of Year



SALLY HOGARTY

On May 2, the Orinda Rotary honored teachers from the Orinda Union School District at its weekly luncheon. Above are (L-R) front row: Rotary President **Weylin Eng**, District Teacher of the Year Giorietta's **Carol Levin** and OUSD Superintendent **Dr. Carolyn Seaton**; back row: Mayor **Amy Worth**, and Wagner Ranch Teacher of the Year **Julie Ritzman**. See page 9 for more awards.

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ORINDA ACTION DAY AND VOUNTEER FAIR

◆ ELECTION from page 1

tor Dianne Feinstein for her senate seat. The energized 70-year-old is a native of Germany who moved to Australia at age four and immigrated to the United States when she was nine. She became a U.S. Citizen in 1962 while attending Acalanes High School.

Her many careers include: high school chemistry, science and music teacher; realtor; lawyer; stockbroker for Merrill Lynch; sales rep for Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical and book author. "I learned so much at Merrill Lynch that helped me

formulate one of my main goals: fixing the infrastructure nationwide. We have lots of things in California that are first class, but our infrastructure isn't one of them," Schilling notes.

As a former teacher, Schilling also hopes to work on offering extracurricular arts, music and sports programs in every public school. "It helps develop social skills, teamwork, lifelong friendships while also improving grades and test scores. It's the best way to help our youth prepare for the future," she says.

When Schilling missed the April 11 deadline to get her name on the ballot (she was recuperating from a hip replacement), she decided to run a "zero money" write-in campaign.

For more information about Schilling, go to www.uschilling2013.wixsite.com/schillingforussenate.

Orinda Action Day Volunteers



SALLY HOGARTY (L-R) Blythe Walterspiel, Hawken Walterspiel, Quinn Walterspiel, Orion Filippenko, Anarose Eng Smith and Capri Filippenko were all smiles while pitching in on Orinda Action Day. The helpful volunteers donned their gardening gloves to pull weeds and pick up litter along Orinda Way.

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- ★ Parade Route Monitors

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Orinda Volunteer Fair

SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda Association (OA) Vice President **Joe Garvey**, Mayor **Amy Worth**, OA Co-Presidents **Anil Comelo** and **Cindy Powell**, and Seniors Around Town staff members **Cathy Goshorn** and **Pamela Manning** welcomed Orinda Action Day participants and other attendees to the Volunteer Fair in Library Plaza April 21. The event gave local nonprofits the opportunity to reach out to new volunteers and to share ways to get more involved in the community.

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Park it in Orinda



Cindy Powell

Orinda Park is the place to be this month! On June 1, let's enjoy the opening night of *Spider's Web* as **Orinda Starlight Village Players** kick off their season with Agatha Christie's play in the park amphitheater.

Happy Trails to you on June 2 as we celebrate **National Trails Day**. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Trail System, pledge to pack out trash, join a trail work project, or clean up a park. In 1996, the City of Orinda won a Trail Town USA designation. Get out there and stomp about, but remember to leave the trail better than you found it.

On June 4, the **Orinda Library's Summer Reading Festival**, open to all ages, begins. Drop in any time and see what the new theme will be this year.

Remember to **Vote on Tuesday**, June 5. You can put your mail-in ballot in the "CoCo Vote-N-Go" drop box at City Hall and skip the postage. Don't forget the "I voted" sticker which you should wear proudly.

Join the **Lamorinda Arts Council** and lovers of the arts on June 6 in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library to schmooze and celebrate art, dance, poetry and singing and meet new chair of the board, Jenny Staelin.

The first **Summer Concert in the Park** is June 12. Bring your picnic and hear "3-Day Weekend" kick off our fun summer

tradition. They will also be playing on July 4th after our hometown parade.

Come back to the park two days later on June 14 because *Beauty and Beast* will begin at dusk on the big screen. And because it is a Thursday, you can skip the picnic basket and get your dinner from the food trucks. Thank you to the Park & Rec. Foundation, Orinda Community Foundation and Rotary for the movies and concerts in the park all summer. June 14 is also **Flag Day** and Orinda looks great when we have our flags flying. Thank you to Dick Burkhalter, local Boy Scouts, VFW Post #8063 and Orinda Public Works for hanging our American flags around town.

If you live in a house in Orinda, you need to prepare for fire season. Create defensible space and clear your property of fire fuel by June 15. The Fire District offers home assessments and information to "harden" your house against fire. Check out the MOFD website and start trimming.

Take your dad to the **Farmers' Market** on June 16 (and every Saturday April thru November) to get him a gift for **Father's Day** on June 17. Give fathers, whether biological, adopted or a father figure to you, some recognition on this day and maybe take them fishing. **Go Fishing Day**, June 18, is on a Monday so there will be fewer people with lines in the water at your favorite spot. On June 19 return to the Orinda

[SEE PRESIDENT page 9]

Named Longest Married Couple



SALLY HOGARTY

At 66 years of marriage, **June and Joe Haughin** received Longest Married Couple honors at this year's Three-Quarter Century Club luncheon. Joe is an Emeritus Board Member for The Orinda Association.

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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Parade Guy

4th of July Parade Seeks Cure for Digital Dystopia



Andrew Radlow

Hello Parade Fans,

The Parade Guy has been thinking about the role of Internet technology in peoples' lives lately. Recently, a lot's been written about data privacy concerns (thanks, Mark Zuckerberg and the European Union), cyber bullying (thanks, Melania) and a Lamorinda favorite, technology-driven dehumanization (thanks, Millennials). As Technology Dystopia approaches (or not), a thoughtful reader thinks about what the Orinda 4th of July Parade Committee can do to help. Right?

Fear not says a recent study of 1,150 tech culture experts published by the Pew Research Center. This report asserts that 47 percent of respondents predicted that "individuals' well-being will be helped more than harmed by digital life in the next decade." Yet, nearly a third of respondents

feel the reverse will occur in the next 10 years. It appears those smart folks in Pew's study can't agree about the tech effect on humanity's future well-being.

The conclusion that found almost universal agreement among survey respondents holds that the Internet is a fantastic connection tool. Humans value connectedness, a feeling of belonging, security and inclusion in a community. Daniel Weitzner, principal research scientist and founding director of MIT's Internet Policy Research Initiative, explains, "Human beings want and need connection, and the Internet is the ultimate connection machine." But can the Internet replace physical world, face-to-face, neighbor-to-neighbor connections?

This is where a recent editorial by David Brooks at the *New York Times* has

[SEE PARADE page 6]

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Editorial ...

As the end of the school year marks a time of transition with students moving to the next level of education, June marks a time of transition for *The Orinda News's* staff. First, we are saying good-bye to our wonderful *Business Buzz* columnist Valerie Hotz. Valerie started in January of 2001 as my assistant editor, left us for a brief time in mid-2002 and returned as our *Business Buzz* editor in 2004. She is now leaving us to literally start a new chapter – this one on the novel that keeps getting put aside. I can't wait to be at her launch party! Our own long-time writer Elana O'Loskey will be taking over the *Business Buzz*.

As we say good-bye to Valerie, we say

hello to Lynn Kalmar. Lynn has been one of our wonderful volunteer editors who show up each month and spend the day reading the newspaper and making final edits right before we go to press. We couldn't do the paper without them! Lynn will continue as one of our prized editors, but she will also join the staff as an assistant editor, giving me some much-needed help.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who helps make *The Orinda News* such a well-read community newspaper, and I would like to especially thank our advertisers, without whom our paper could not exist!

A special congratulations also to all of our graduates and a very Happy Father's Day to all dads!

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Letters to the Editor ...

Fundamental Tax Fairness

This letter is in response to Sally Hogarty's article "City Council Seeks Framework for Roads Task Force" published in the May 2018 edition of *The Orinda News*.

I am a member of the group of Orinda residents working towards establishing a Task Force for investigating the issue of public maintenance of private streets in Orinda. I want to thank Ms. Hogarty for her article publicizing the issue. The article contains a very good review of the factual status of the issue at this point.

I am, however, concerned that the tone and content of the article could give Orindans, especially those among the 80 percent of Orindans living on public streets, the wrong impression. We are not approaching the city hat in hand for "help," because, say, some of the private street neighbors are failing to step up to pay their share for street repair, or because of some historical quirks that led, in the mist of time past before Orinda was incorporated, to some streets being dubbed "public" while some, physically indistinguishable from these, were mysteriously considered "private."

The essence of our contention was not mentioned in the article: 20 percent of Orindans are paying taxes for a benefit that only the other 80 percent can receive.

We view this as a question of fundamental tax fairness; we are not asking for "help" but rather are simply seeking tax equity such that 20 percent of Orindans will finally no longer be paying taxes for benefits that none of them can receive.

– Bob Finch

Southwood Valley is back – again!

For more than two hours on April 16 more than 70 concerned neighbors of the 43-acre property, Southwood Valley, gathered in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library to learn about a conceptual development plan. This was yet another attempt to develop and change a riparian habitat and disturb unstable land. The fact that multiple

homes in the past have been damaged or slid into the valley and multiple attempts to develop the 43 acres over a 50+ year period have failed has been substantially discounted by the prospective developers and planners.

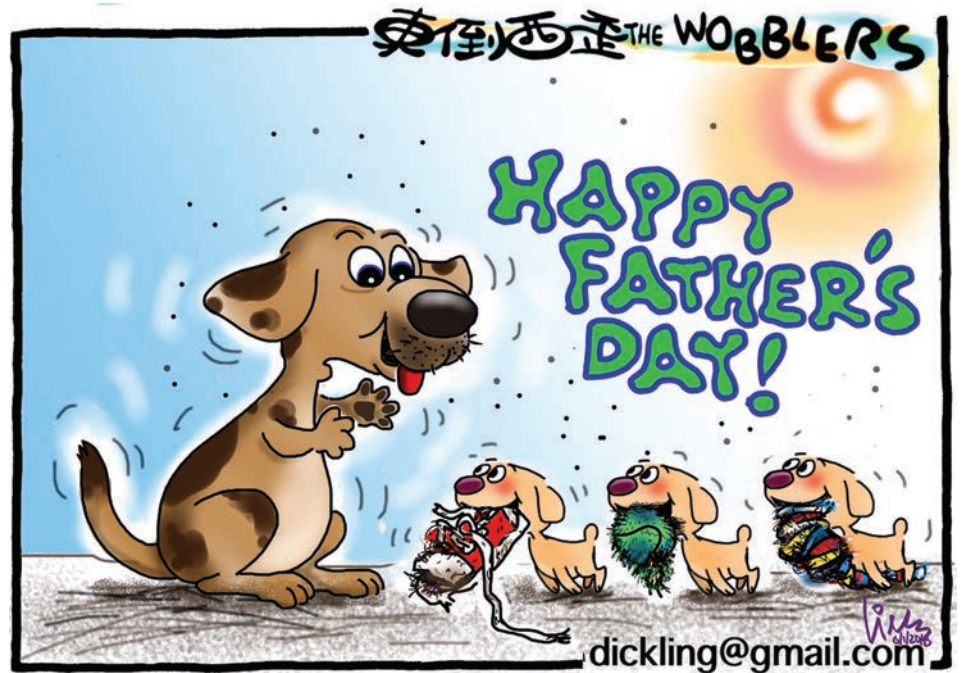
The latest attack substantially upsets both the northern and southern areas of the 43 acres, cramming in 13, 4,000 plus square foot homes at the north end and adding five more at the southern end. Any new homes can only disturb 10 acres of the 43-acre property with the remaining 33 acres to be left as is, to meet specific requirements of Orinda's General Plan. After many questions were asked, it became clear that the developers concept, perhaps disingenuous, misses the mark and does not in any way fit within the Orinda General Plan.

The proposed development of the northern area of 13 homes would feel almost like a Coliseum, with close to 3,000 feet of surrounding retaining walls, ranging in height from six feet to 17 feet. This would require enormous changes to the existing contours and the landscape of the valley. Although the planners and developers had designated oak trees to be saved, an overwhelming amount of acreage, well past 10 acres, would be destroyed.

Further questions from the neighbors suggested that sewerage from the proposed large homes would have to be pumped uphill, with additional holding tanks, to the current existing pump at the corner of Bates and Southwood Drive. With the potential threat of power outages, seemingly on the increase, design issues would have to be approved by Contra Costa Sanitary District and Fish and Wildlife.

Finally, a complete Environmental Impact Report must be prepared prior to any determination of potential development of this fragile property. This has not been done, which constitutes yet another major violation.

– Jack Shriner



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Library Adds Value to Orinda

I can't remember the last time I checked a book out of the library, but I'm pretty sure I can count the years since in double digits. Still, I'm supporting Measure J for what the Orinda Library brings to this community I call home.

I choose to live in a community where everyone has equal access to information and entertainment, where my retired friends can read professional journals, my book club friends can borrow the latest bestseller, and my friends learning a foreign language can reserve a room for their study group

to meet.

I value a community that values children and education. I'm always delighted to see students get off the bus after school and head to the library, and watching a toddler proudly carry her latest selection of books to the car always makes me smile.

Even though I may not check out a book anytime soon, I want to know that my library is ready and open seven days a week, not just for me, but for my community of friends and neighbors.

– Pat Rudebusch
[SEE LETTERS page 16]

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Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to Editor for the July issue are due June 8, 2018.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the July issue is June 8, 2018.

POLICE / FIRE



POLICE BLOTTER

April 1 through May 12, 2018

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 14 incidents.
 Accident Injury: 1 incident.
 Accident Property: 15 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 141 incidents.
 Barking Dog: 4 incidents.
 Battery: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Auto: 3 incidents.
 Burglary, Miscellaneous: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Residential: 1 incident.
 Civil Matter: 11 incidents.
 CVC Moving Violation: 255 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 133 incidents.
 Death Non Criminal: 1 incident.
 Dependent Child: 2 incidents.
 Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.
 Failure to Obey: 1 incident.
 Fire/EMS Response Info: 1 incident.
 Found Property: 2 incidents.
 Fraud Credit Card: 1 incident.
 Fraud False Pretenses: 1 incident.
 Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 3 incidents.
 Indecent Exposure: 1 incident.
 Identity Theft: 3 incidents.
 Juvenile Disturbance: 1 incident.
 Lost Property: 1 incident.
 Loud Music: 4 incidents.
 Loud Noise: 3 incidents.
 Loud Party: 5 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 9 incidents.
 Missing Adult: 1 incident.
 Motorist Assist: 4 incidents.
 Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 2 incidents.
 Ordinance Violation: 7 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 30 incidents.
 Panhandling: 1 incident.
 Parking Detail: 153 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 48 incidents.
 Petty Theft: 4 incidents.
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident.
 Public Assembly Check: 14 incidents.
 Public Nuisance: 6 incidents.

Reckless Driving: 23 incidents.
 Revoked License: 1 incident.
 Robbery: 1 incident.
 School Check: 13 incidents.
 Security Check: 63 incidents.
 Service to Citizen: 148 incidents.
 Shoplift: 2 incidents.
 Shots Heard: 1 incident.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 16 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 20 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 9 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 17 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 19 incidents.
 Tow: 16 incidents.
 Traffic Collision: 1 incident.
 Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 5 incidents.
 Traffic Hazard: 12 incidents.
 Trespass: 1 incident.
 Vacation House Check: 96 incidents.
 Vandalism: 3 incidents.
 Verbal Dispute: 2 incidents.
 Welfare Check: 16 incidents.

Arrest

Burglary, Commercial: 2 arrests.
 Drunk in Public: 1 arrest.
 DUI: 1 arrest.
 DUI Misdemeanor: 2 arrests.
 Pimping: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Controlled Substance: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Dangerous Drugs: 1 arrest.
 Residential Burglary: 1 arrest.
 Shoplift: 1 arrest.
 Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit www.crimereports.com

CERT Sponsors Meeting with Police

By SALLY HOGARTY
 Editor

On May 14, CERT, Community Emergency Response Team, held a special meeting at the Orinda Community Center with the police chiefs from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette as featured speakers. Ironically, the Montclair area of Oakland experienced a 3.5 earthquake during the meeting which centered on how to respond in an emergency.

Fortunately, the earthquake along Highway 13 did not cause injuries or significant damage. The meeting, however, did focus on local events that resulted in both.

“I learned a lot working with law enforcement in Napa and Sonoma counties during the fire in October,” said Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt. “There was fire everywhere and often downed power lines. We had to travel through valleys of smoke that turned to furnaces, often on roads where there wasn’t enough room to turn around.”

The newly appointed police chief for Lafayette (April 1, 2018) noted that lack of communication was a major problem. “Radios were in short supply and while our cell phones sometimes worked on the west side of the freeway, they didn’t work on the east. We also had fuel issues with most gas stations closed and with so many stores closed. It was difficult to get food supplies as well,” he explained.

Orinda’s Police Chief Mark Nagel added that communication with the community is a priority for local law enforcement. “Since we want to be sure to get messages about emergencies to everyone, it’s very important that people register for Nixel, a great community alert app for your phone. Signing up is easy and you can get reports on any emergencies happening not just in your city but in surrounding areas,” Nagel



SALLY HOGARTY
 Lafayette Police Chief **Ben Alldritt** and Orinda Police Chief **Mark Nagel** highlighted the importance of effective communication between police and community members at a CERT meeting in May.

said. “We also rely on the Lamorinda Ham Radio Group, not just for emergencies but also during the 4th of July parade.”

“One benefit here in Lamorinda is that [SEE CERT page 16]

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Orinda Fire Station 45 Open House



JILL GELSTER

Doug Anderson (far left) poses with his puppy **Haydon** from Canine Companions for Independence during MOFD’s open house at Station 45 in Orinda. Firefighters **Adam Thornton** and **Jon Bensley** hold on to service dogs **Janice V (the fifth)**, **Genie** and **Minerva**.

Orinda Starlight Village Players

Present



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 Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. June 1 through 30
 Thursday, June 7, 8:00 p.m., Sunday, June 24, 4:00 p.m.

At the Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park
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Regular admission \$20, Discount admission \$10
 Season Tickets: \$48 regular, \$25 senior tickets
 (All 3 shows - *The Spider's Web* by Agatha Christie,
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OBITUARY

◆ PARADE from page 3

something to say. Brooks' dedicated his opinion column on May 7, 2018 to the phenomenal achievements of one Stewart Brand (a Bay Area resident). Brand was an independent soul and a creative genius, described in a newly published biography as a "cultural architect." A pioneer in Silicon Valley, Brand is also a lover of the sensation of wholeness, belonging and authenticity. He espoused his blend of technology, culture and community and successfully did so through festivals, conferences and local organizations.

That concept inspired the Parade Guy. People are complex, and the impact of

technology is different for everyone. Many of us use technology to promote our own connectedness, but as we know, often the reverse occurs. Either way, we all crave a sense of belonging, of connectedness to our community and to one another.

That's where the 4th of July Parade comes in. When it comes to getting people together out of doors in this idyllic region of ours, the Parade is the "ultimate connection machine." The Parade Guy guarantees (and I'm sure Stewart Brand would agree) you will feel like you belong to the Lamorinda community more than ever as you share the experience with friends, family and neighbors at this year's *Best Home-town Parade*.

International Artist and Orinda Resident Passes Away

At 92 years, Joseph S. Cleary passed away peacefully on April 16, 2018 in his Orinda home. Born in Long Beach, CA, Joe grew into a gifted young man.

With a scholarship to California College of Arts & Crafts his career began. During WWII, Joe joined the Merchant Marines, and while at sea, honed his artistic skills. After the war, Joe's career took off as a commercial illustrator, and he later developed an internationally commissioned talent, including large-scale sculpture, portraiture, landscapes and figures.

Joe's specialty was expressing the elegant flowing form of the female body. This is captured beautifully in a 30-ft bronze sculpture "Mother River" who now overlooks the Mississippi at the Port Authority of New Orleans.

With wife Marion, Joe had four children and 12 grandchildren. The Cleary house was always known as a local go-to and social hub for all. Joe loved animals, fast cars and a good joke. Membership at the Bohemian Club was Joe's proudest association. With his Monkey Block buddies, he had unmatched friendships, and being indoctrinated into the Old Guard was a highlight for Joe.


Joe is preceded in death by his parents Joseph "Dee" and Wilhelmina "Billy" Cleary, by his siblings William, John "Jack," Mary and Robert "Bob" Cleary, his grandchild Madison Newlin, son-in-law Eric Topel and his wife Marion Cleary.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joe Cleary was a gifted artist, internationally recognized for his work as a painter and sculptor.

Joe is survived by his sister Bonnie Porter and his children: Erin Newlin and husband Tom; Michael Cleary and wife Julie; Martin Cleary and wife Loretta; and Rinda Topel; and his grandchildren: Courtney, Michael and Bailey Newlin; Kaitlynn, Allyson, Brooke and Morgan Cleary, Sarah and Krista Cleary; and Joseph, Tucker and Grace Topel.


Friends and acquaintances are welcome to pay their respects to Joe at a "Celebration of Life" on Sunday, June 3 at 11a.m. at Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sorbrante, in Orinda. For more information, email InMemoryOfJoeCleary@gmail.com.



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Del Rey Receives Shade Grant

Del Rey Elementary has been named the recipient of a 2018 Shade Structure Program Grant by the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), receiving up to \$8,000 for the purchase and installation of a permanent shade structure. The program is part of the AAD's SPOT Skin Cancer™ campaign to reduce the incidence of skin cancer by educating the public about effective prevention tips.

Del Rey School Principal Kirsten Theurer has already embraced sun safety and has been instrumental in leading efforts to install a large solar panel shade structure at the edge of the school field providing

much needed shade, but there are many more areas on campus that could benefit from additional shade. In response to the newly awarded grant, she commented, "I know just the place to put this structure."

Del Rey Elementary will be holding a dedication ceremony for the new shade structure after its installation. Dermatologist Maryam Asgari, MD MPH, a former member of the Orinda Association Board and a member of the AAD, sponsored the grant application. To learn more about the Shade Structure Program or for ways to prevent and detect skin cancer, visit www.SpotSkinCancer.org.

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Sponsorship Opportunities/Questions: info@fwrna.org



All funds raised benefit The Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, a 501c3 non-profit that provides stewardship of the Nature Area and its educational programs.

TAX ID 30 0472974

CAR SHOW / LIBRARY GALLERY

American Graffiti Party Kicks Off 14th Annual Classic Car Show

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The 14th annual Orinda Classic Car Show, coming to Orinda Sept. 8, is working on its pre-show party, *Dancing With The Cars*, slated for Sept. 7. The party, produced by Rotary Club of Orinda “kicks off the Car Show and is Orinda’s largest community-wide fundraiser, benefitting our seniors, our schools, the arts and more,” says Rotarian Barbara Bontemps before adding, “In addition to benefitting Orinda, proceeds also help with projects around the world.”

The theme this year is *American Graffiti*. “We are encouraging attendees to be guided by the movie and come dressed in early

‘60’s attire,” Bontemps says. She hopes that includes “Bouffant hair-dos and bows for the women and chinos and crew cuts for the guys.” The all-inclusive party starts at 5:30 p.m. and features silent and live auctions, a deluxe dinner menu, liberal libations, exclusive car displays, music and dancing.

Tickets are available at www.Orinda-CarShow.com/enjoy-dancing-with-the-cars. Tickets are \$125 per person. A table of 12 is \$1,450. Proceeds from the dinner benefit local charities, including Educational Foundation of Orinda, Rotary Club of Orinda, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and other non-profit community partners. Bontemps says, “We are

[SEE CARS page 17]



DAVID DIERKS

Participants from last year’s *Dancing with the Cars* enjoyed a cocktail party outside before feasting on a tasty dinner inside the Orinda Country Club.

Contra Costa Camera Club Showing at the Orinda Library Gallery

By ELANA O’LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill. Visitors are always welcome. More [SEE GALLERY page 13]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

John Templeton’s award-winning photograph *Running from the Cowboys* is featured as part of the Library Gallery’s June exhibit.

The Lamorinda Arts Council is proud to present the work of members of the Contra Costa Camera Club (CCCC) of Pleasant Hill during the month of June at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library. Join them on Sunday, June 3, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for their artist reception where light refreshments will be served. Look forward to music provided by The Fretful String Band made up of Mike Reed, bass; Stephen Busch, guitar and vocals and Pete LeBoy, lead singer and guitarist. They specialize in blues, country, Americana and original musical genres.

The CCCC is now 70 years in existence and 84 members strong. They meet at 7:15 p.m. on the first, third and last Thursdays of each month upstairs at the Winslow

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Fitness Tip of the Month

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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.livingleanprogram.com.

Lamorinda Water Polo Brings Home the Gold



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lamorinda Water Polo's 12U Boys team took home first place in the gold division at the San Diego County Cup. The tournament was held on May 4-6 at the San Diego Shores Water Polo Club. (L-R) Zack Fineman, Hunter Morgan, Tony Trapanese, Nate Fineman, Griff Tunney, Henry Eng, Luca Gaitanaru, Patrick Stice, Dante Vattuone, Beckett Randolph, Grant Kurtz, Nick Bea, Ben Lucas, and Coach Lincoln Haley.



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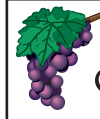
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Seasoned Shopper

National Fruit and Vegetable Month

BARBARA KOBSAR



There's an ever-growing parade of produce arriving at Orinda's weekly farmers' market to help celebrate National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month. It's also time to celebrate dad on Father's Day and grads on Graduation Day with some of the freshest choices in town.

Figs make their appearance in June with the fruit produced on last year's new wood; the second harvest coming in August and September will be from the upcoming summer growth. Hundreds of varieties of figs offer a sweet, aromatic flesh and skin color ranging from purple black to almost white and shapes from round to oval. Here in California there are mainly four varieties to choose from – Black Mission, Kadota, Brown Turkey and Calimyrna.

Figs are not true fruits, but fleshy flowers, with their blossoms on the inside. They are completely edible except for the hard stem – if peeling is necessary be sure to chill the fruit first. Tree ripened figs are the sweetest – like those you find at the farmers' markets.

Okra also begins its fresh season this month. Okra is a love-it-or-leave-it vegetable synonymous with the word gumbo. Okra lends itself to the same methods of preparation as asparagus – simmering, steaming, or marinating. When left completely whole, its texture is fairly crisp, but once cut and cooked it releases a viscous substance that serves as a thickener. These slippery strings that form as okra cooks is a process called "roping" and is the result of the protein in the okra reacting to the heat. It does not affect the flavor and is prized by some in traditional gumbos, soups and stews.

The cherry season continues into its peak with the popular Bing and Rainier cherry varieties. Cherries do not ripen or improve in flavor after harvest. Choose the largest cherries that are firm and deeply colored for their variety. Those with fresh stems still attached are the best quality and store the longest.

Cherries require cold temperature and high humidity for optimum storage time. Place single layers of unwashed cherries between paper towels in a container. Cover and refrigerate for three to four days if necessary. Rinse in cool water and drain before serving.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park and Rite Aid. For more information, visit the website at www.cccfm.org where you can also sign up to hear about market specials sent right to your phone. Market Hotline: 925-431-8361.

CHERRY OATMEAL CRISP

2 cups sweet cherries, pitted
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
One half cup brown sugar
Three quarter cup flour
Three quarter cup rolled oats
1 teaspoon cinnamon
One quarter teaspoon EACH nutmeg and salt
One half cup butter at room temperature

Place cherries in a lightly greased and floured 8-inch square baking dish. Sprinkle lemon juice over cherries. Blend remaining ingredients together until crumbly. Sprinkle over cherries. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes until bubbly and golden brown. Serve hot or cold, plain or with ice cream or frozen yogurt. Serves 4.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It's peak season for cherries at the Farmers' Market.

◆ MIRAMONTE from page 1

This type of Student Center has already been implemented at Las Lomas and Campolindo. Acalanes will also complete its own Center after Miramonte's. Other summer work scheduled at Miramonte includes providing electrical wiring improvements and renovating spaces for moved classrooms.

No summer school will be held this year at Miramonte because all summer school for the Acalanes District will be held at Campolindo.



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STUDENTS / SCHOOLS

Students Raise 7K for Rhett Foundation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Macy's General Store Manager **Maria Padilla-Angel**, President of MSSL **Serena Wang**, Katie's Clinic Director **Dr. Mary Jones**, MSSL Parent Coordinator **Minda Yu** and **Paige Nues** helped to raise \$7,000 in support of the Katie Nues Foundation with a fashion show at Macy's.

By Members of Music Students Service League of Contra Costa

On April 28, the Music Students Service League of Contra Costa (MSSL) collaborated with Macy's Walnut Creek to host its first annual fashion show in support of the Katie Nues Foundation. Founded by Jesse Nues after his daughter Katie was diagnosed with a rare disease, the foundation provides funding for Katie's Clinic at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital. "The clinic creates an environment to improve the daily lives of those who suffer from Rett syndrome, a rare genetic mutation that almost exclusively affects girls and impairs brain development," explains Miramonte sophomore and secretary for MSSL Bianca Tung.

In the past, MSSL has donated over \$4,000 to the Katie Nues Foundation. Initially, Macy's planned to donate \$5,000 to the foundation, but thanks to the tremendous support of the Bay Area community, the corporation increased the amount to \$7,000. The donation will go directly towards covering clinical care, research projects and community education. The event included a raffle, gift bags for all attendees, and a continental breakfast, all provided by Macy's.

Tung enthuses, "We would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who modeled in the fashion show: Kathy Corpus, Sharon Gu, Jingfang Hu, Lucia

Brannon, Kelsey Roldan, Julie Camello, Christina Todeschini, Nancy Jin, Kathy Lui and Minzhi Wang. We also thank our wonderful Macy's representatives – Maria Padilla-Angel, Emily Stanchi, Maryanne Guerini, Lesle Nelson and Elba Navarrete."

MSSL is a student-run, nonprofit organization founded by Miramonte students and young musicians of the Bay Area. The group's mission is to promote happiness through music and to provide support for those in need. In addition to fundraising, MSSL members play music at local retirement homes.

For more information on MSSL, go to msslmusic.org or contact serenawang@msslmusic.org.

Orinda School District Awards



JEN WOODMAN

Orinda Union School District celebrated this year's award-winning teachers at a Rotary luncheon on May 2. (L-R) Director of Curriculum and Instruction **David Schrag**; Teacher of the Year at Sleepy Hollow Elementary **Jessica Greer**; Teacher of the Year at Orinda Intermediate School **Danee Jurichko**; Teacher of the Year at Glorietta Elementary School and District Teacher of the Year **Carol Levin**; Teacher of the Year at Multiple Sites **Kevin Cutler**; Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Carolyn Seaton**; Teacher of the Year at Del Rey Elementary School **Marta Wallace**; Board of Trustees President **Carol Brown**; Orinda Educators' Association, President **Charles Shannon**; and Teacher of the Year at Wagner Ranch Elementary School **Julie Ritzman**.

◆ PRESIDENT from page 9

park with your picnic basket and listen to Priceless, the Tuesday **Band in the Park**.

June 21 is **Summer Solstice**, the longest day of the year. The sun's zenith is at its furthest point north of the equator at 3:07 a.m. Orinda time. In terms of daylight, this day is 5 hours, 15 minutes longer than the

December Solstice.

On June 26 the Kenya B trio will be playing in the **Evening at the Park**. And come back to the park on June 28 because *Despicable Me 3* will be on the **Movie Screen**. This, of course, being another Thursday, you will get to enjoy the food trucks again.

We like this easy summer vacation feel at home in our beautiful Orinda Park.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR LOCAL ORINDA SCHOOLS



DEAR NEIGHBOR,

Here in the Orinda Union School District (OUSD), we have a proud history of academic excellence. Our award-winning elementary schools and intermediate school improve the quality of life in our community and protect the value of our homes.

PROVIDING A SAFE, MODERN EDUCATION

We are proud to provide our students with an outstanding education, but our aging Orinda schools are now all between 45 and 60 years old. Our schools need improvements to continue providing a safe and modern education.

Education facilities require updates to improve safety and security, increase energy efficiency and add air conditioning so schools are not forced to close down when temperatures are too high. Orinda classrooms need extensive upgrades to ensure students can keep pace and compete in high school, competitive colleges and 21st-century careers.

Over the past year, OUSD has conducted a comprehensive Facilities Master Planning process, which has identified over \$165 million in facility needs in our local schools. Many of these required repairs are necessary to ensure elementary and middle school students can continue to receive a high-quality education. Our neighbors in Lafayette, Moraga and Walnut Creek have updated their schools and now Orinda schools are falling behind.

ADDRESSING NECESSARY UPDATES IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

In order to keep classrooms and facilities safe and up-to-date, the OUSD Board of Trustees is examining options to fund the improvements our Orinda schools need. One option the District is considering is a potential package of bond measures. Though other school districts in our area have passed bond measures recently to improve education facilities, it has been almost 25 years since OUSD's last facilities bond measure.

As we work to ensure local schools can continue to meet the needs of Orinda students, we want to hear from you. For more information about Orinda schools and education facility needs, please visit www.OrindaSchools.org. To provide your priorities for updating Orinda schools, please take our online survey at www.tinyurl.com/OrindaSchoolsSurvey.

Thank you,

Dr. Carolyn Seaton

Dr. Carolyn Seaton
Superintendent



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MAT'S TALK
The Next Chapter

Chelsea Pelchat



It is almost that time of the year again, when Miramonte's football field fills with green-and-gold graduation gowns while proud parents, many teary-eyed, watch their children make their way into the real world. After a four-year-long rollercoaster ride through the ups and downs of their memorable teenage years, it all has come to an end for the Class of 2018.

While seniors may recall their experience at Miramonte as one filled with an endless amount of social and academic pressure, it is certain that the reflective nature of the college application process has brought a form of introspective closure. "The most challenging part of the application process," says Serena Wong, who will be attending Carnegie Mellon next year, "was being able to properly express in essays the complex emotions of both triumph and failure. I found there are many contradictory feel-

ings that come with important events in my life and having to put those intangible, tacit emotions into words proved to be very difficult."

Speaking of high school in general, Wong adds, "I've struggled a lot to be able to live the way I want. I usually stick to what is most convenient for me - avoiding fights with friends to prevent unneeded drama, taking objectively more 'difficult' courses to appear competitive, and forcing extracurriculars on myself to seem special. But as a tradeoff, many times I found myself wondering, 'Why am I doing this?' and if forcing myself to live the way I was expected to actually mattered."

Yet, the amount of adversity that comes with these stressful four years is often formative of the morals students will take with them to college and beyond. As a current junior, watching my friends in the

[SEE MATS page 11]

Miramonte Students and Career Counselor Create Scholarship Website

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

There are goals, and then there are big goals. Judging by what Samantha Stuber has accomplished in just six months as the full-time college and career counselor at Miramonte High School, it is clear she has made a solid start toward reaching a very big goal.

She and her students have created a website called Scholars.Shop where sponsors can easily create scholarships and students can apply for them. She says, "As the cost of education keeps rising, it's becoming increasingly unattainable for students everywhere." Furthermore, she adds, normal scholarships are hard to make and advertise for sponsors, and scholarships are hard to find for students. "We are solving this problem by creating a centralized place for both sponsors and students to give and get scholarships."

The second-year counselor started working on her website in October of 2017, and she and the students launched the site April 1 of this year. Stuber says she believes "it is important to make a vision come to life." In this case, she taught herself how to code so she could create the website. She learned online at a free platform called CodeAcademy.com where she spent about three months learning the process. Stuber notes, "I worked at home after school at least 15 hours a week on this," noting that about 180 hours of total learning over three months with this "is in the ballpark." She adds, "I am super passionate about technology helping students so they can use these skills to improve others' lives."

How does Scholars.Shop work? Sponsors create their scholarship and application on Scholars.Shop, which can be done in as little as 10 minutes. Sponsors then pay a four percent fee to post their scholarship. This fee allows the site to maintain and promote scholarships. Students create an

account on the site and make a student profile, which contains information about the student's current education, future educational goals, financials, etc.

Students can then use Scholars.Shop to search by location, key words or academic criteria such as GPA or test scores to find scholarships. Students apply for all scholarships through Scholars.Shop which allows sponsors to see student answers to their application questions as well as student profiles. Once the sponsor-determined application deadline passes, sponsors can then choose a student for an award. Sponsors can easily financially award students by sending money directly to the student or to the student's institution through Scholars.Shop.

Stuber says the idea for her site originated after working with multiple students from low income families to sift through scholarship websites. In addition to working at Miramonte, she donates her skills at a high school in Oakland. She says, "After months of going through these sites, both my students and I were frustrated from being scammed, never hearing back from scholarship offers and continuously filling out the same profile information over and over again. The private scholarship process was clearly failing multiple users, and I finally came to a point where I knew that private scholarships could be created and facilitated better to help everyone."

Five weeks after the launch, the site offers 11 scholarships, some individual, some collective, and collects applications for the local Rotary Club scholarships. Rotary offers its own scholarships, but as a result of her coordination with them, the organization can collect applications for its scholarships from students using Scholars.Shop. She has also done some outreach to local real estate businesses.

Asked if it was an uphill battle to ask people to fund Miramonte scholarships,

[SEE SCHOLARSHIP page 14]

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SCHOOL CALENDAR

JUNE

- 2 **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Drama Awards.
- 4 **Miramonte Boosters Club**, 6 p.m. meeting.
- 6 **Holden High School**, 6 p.m. Graduation and last day of school.
Miramonte High School, 7 p.m., Governing Board Meeting, AUHSD Community Room, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Also June 27.
- 7 **Orinda Academy**, 9 a.m. 8th Grade Graduation; 11 a.m. Ron Graydon/Norm Coleman retirement party.
Orinda Intermediate School, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Promotion.
- 8 **Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow and Wagner Ranch Elementary Schools**, last day of school.
Orinda Academy, 4 p.m. Senior Graduation at Lafayette Library and Learning Center.
Miramonte High School, 5:30 Graduation and last day of school.
Orinda Intermediate School, last day of school.
- 18 **Orinda Unified School District**, 6 p.m., board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net

Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) Presents:



NorCal KIDS Triathlon TRI 4 HEALTH

Saturday morning, August 18, 2018
Miramonte High School in Orinda, CA

Register online today: NorCalKidsTri.org

STUDENTS

Four Orinda Elementary Schools Take Part in Spanish Fiesta



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 11th annual Spanish “Fiesta” was held on May 3, showcasing **students of Spanish** from all four **Orinda elementary schools**. This event is the culmination of a year-long Spanish language enrichment program run by Viva el Español on each campus, with over 350 students in grades K-5 participating across the district. Students sang traditional Latin American songs and presented imaginary cities that they created, all in “Español.”

Orinda High School Graduates



SALLY HOGARTY

Holden High graduating class of 2018 (L-R) Molly McArdel, David Werner, Gabriel Bedford, Sam Brady-Smith (January graduate) and Delaney Perez are looking forward to starting life after high school. McArdel will be taking a year off to gather some work experience, Werner also hopes to get a job before pursuing his goal of becoming a fire fighter, Bedford will attend Laney College before transferring to UC Santa Cruz, Brady-Smith plans a year in Europe before continuing his love of cooking at a culinary college and Perez will attend Diablo Valley College before transferring to California State University at Humbolt where she hopes to study nursing. Not pictured is January graduate Kayla Kitchen.



SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda Academy graduating seniors celebrate with founder **Ron Graydon** who retires this year. (L-R) back row: Junhui Ye, Junjie Mo, Liyongxin Huang, Ruiqi Wang, Sishi Han, Yichao Yao, Zeyu Zou; (L-R) middle row: Chase E. Severson, Olivia Plevin-Mackay, Adam Sarfaty, Malayah Phelps, Ithemba Bell, Virginia Hsu Clark, Yusra Amina Khan, Olivia Gibbs, Humah Sultani; (L-R) front row: Stephen D. Earp, Benjamin Cape Christopher, Ian Williams, Matthew Hooker, Max Turner, Steven DeGalan; front and center: Ron Graydon, founder and head of school.

◆ MATS from page 10

grade above mine receive their college acceptance letters and figure out where the next chapter lies for them brings out an unspeakable feeling of both nostalgia and joy. It seems as if it were just yesterday that they were saving a seat for me on the morning bus or holding my hand in nervous anticipation as the awards were given out at a public speaking tournament. “It’s the

little, insignificant moments that you least expect to matter that end up coming back as you take a last glance at this place,” Anika Rawat admits. So when the time comes for this year’s graduating seniors to throw their caps in the air and transition into a world where they must do their own laundry, let’s not forget that although this may celebrate the end of high school, it marks the beginning of the adventure of a lifetime.



Steve Stahle
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Girls Makers Market Debuts at Wilder's Quarry House in Orinda



SHELLY SWANEGAN HAMALIAN

Fifty girls participated in **Lamorinda's first Girls Maker's Market** at Wilder's Quarry House, selling handmade items to over 400 excited shoppers and supporters.

By GILLIAN JUDGE
Contributing Writer

wares – everything from beeswax lip balm to origami animals, from sparkle slime to potted plants, and homemade jewelry to custom velvet cargo pants.

On a recent Sunday afternoon at Orinda Wilder's Quarry House, 50 girls aged 5-13 waited, buzzing with muffled excitement, for the clock to turn two. They stood behind tables laden with their handmade

Lined up outside the doors of the large, hacienda-style building was a queue of eager shoppers – friends, family and com- [SEE MAKERS page 16]

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Lamorinda Arts Council Holds "Arts Affair"

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Orinda's premiere arts organization, the Lamorinda Arts Council, will celebrate local arts with a festive Arts Affair on Wednesday, June 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. It takes place in the Orinda Library Foyer and Garden Room with a special presentation scheduled for 6 p.m. in the Library Auditorium.

Meet newly elected chairman of the board, Jenny Staelin of Orinda and celebrate local arts past, present and future and includes the Orinda Library Art Gallery, Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Festival, the Poet Laureate Program and Lamorinda



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bartender **Portia Battistini** won the top prize at last year's Art of Mixology, hosted by the Lamorinda Arts Council.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mina Lim sings her winning song at 2017's Lamorinda Idol, one of the programs to be showcased at the first annual Arts Affair on June 6.

Idol. The evening also includes a special appearance by the group's arts partner Joy in Motion.

Hors d'oeuvres, wines and beverages will be served at the free event with a specialty cocktail by the 2017 Mixologist of the Year, Portia Battistini from The Cooperage.

Although the event is FREE, an RSVP is requested. Go to www.lamorindaarts.org/arts-affair-rsvp.

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WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

17th Annual Wildlife Festival Hosts Bay Area Visitors

By KATHARINE BARRETT
Contributing Writer

More than 1,500 people of all ages streamed into the Wildlife Festival at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area on Sunday, April 22, to celebrate Earth Day. Over 100 volunteers and 50 presenters joined forces for the day. Organizations playing a big role included scout programs, Others First at Orinda Intermediate School, Miramonte High School, Orinda Juniores, the National Charity League and Boys Team Charities.

Orinda Mayor Amy Worth and Vice Mayor Inga Miller presented the Friends of the Nature Area with a Certificate of Recognition for the Wildlife Earth Day Festival. Toris Jaeger honored the 2018 Nature Area Champions: Chester Miner and Esther Rice, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Education at California State University, East Bay. Chester Miner, Elder of the Cherokee Nation, led the Blessing of the Nature Area before he and friends from Manteca gathered under a giant oak to honor this special area with singing and drumming.

Attending families came from 34 Bay Area cities. Participants chose from a number of activities such as “Nature Tattoos” with Coyote Brush Studio and “Garden Wonders” with Cynthia Brian. Children caught water boatman bugs in the pond with dip nets while others painted ceramic tiles to take home. “Chemistry Magic” with Dan Phillips fascinated children. One seasoned volunteer commented that she hadn’t seen so many strollers and toddlers at past Wildlife Festivals.

For 17 years, the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area have invited the com-

munity to enjoy the wisdom of local environmental groups like Friends of Orinda Creeks, Parents for a Safer Environment, Sustainable Contra Costa, and EBMUD while celebrating Earth Day. This year, young artists made nature rubbings, created science art with James Strickler, and showed off their painted faces compliments of the Orinda Juniores. Solar-cooked muffins were available from Wendy Helms’ *Solarvore* oven. Columnist Joan Morris invited visitors to ask questions about wildlife and to identify camouflaged animals in nature photos.

Students have been installing conservation projects in the 18-acre Nature Area, owned by the Orinda Union School District, for 30 years. Toris thanked seven students for their Eagle Scout Projects: Jack Anthenien, Wood Duck Boxes; Evan Draeger, Bridge over Wagner Creek; Logan Krumholtz, California Quail Project; Kevin Pease, Adobe Brick Frame Boxes; Andrew Patten, Rebuild of Pond Fence; Chinmai Srinivas, South Bridge Ramp; and Max Tom, North Bridge Ramp. In the garden, the O.I.S. Green Team was teaching children eco-projects, and children were hunting for toy critters hidden in the lush grape vines and herbs.

Weary participants were revived by massage artist, Derry Calay, or with lovely music played by students of ALMA, the Academy of Language Arts and Music. Other energetic souls joined John Helms for tours of the Nature Area, visiting the old ruins of the Wagner homestead. Theodore Wagner was California’s first surveyor general, and as an early Orindan, he helped build the first school house and won prizes for his olive oil at the Martinez County [SEE WILDLIFE page 14]



WADE BARRETT

The creek at **Wagner Ranch Nature Area** provides a shady spot for play and exploration.

◆ GALLERY from page 7

information can be found on their website, www.contracostacameraclub.org.

The entire gallery will be filled with members’ photographs of all types – nature, landscapes, portraiture, photo journalism, architecture, composites and unreal compositions with Photoshop or similar apps. Members showing work include Stephen Busch and Jane Postiglione of Clayton, Joe Hearst of Danville, Eileen Johnson of Walnut Creek, Gene Molander of Concord, Anita Rama of Lafayette, Helen and Rodney Sweet of Lafayette, John Templeton of Concord and Jamie Wasson of Pleasant Hill.

Stephen Busch, creative and nature chairperson for the group, says, “The nature of photography is to freeze a moment in time. As a club, we tend to be generalists – we try a little bit of everything.” About 50 images await your viewing pleasure in the show. “Approximately one third of our members make photo prints; the others are fine with

projected images,” says Busch. He hopes viewers feel and learn something from the photographs on view and perhaps decide to use a camera themselves.

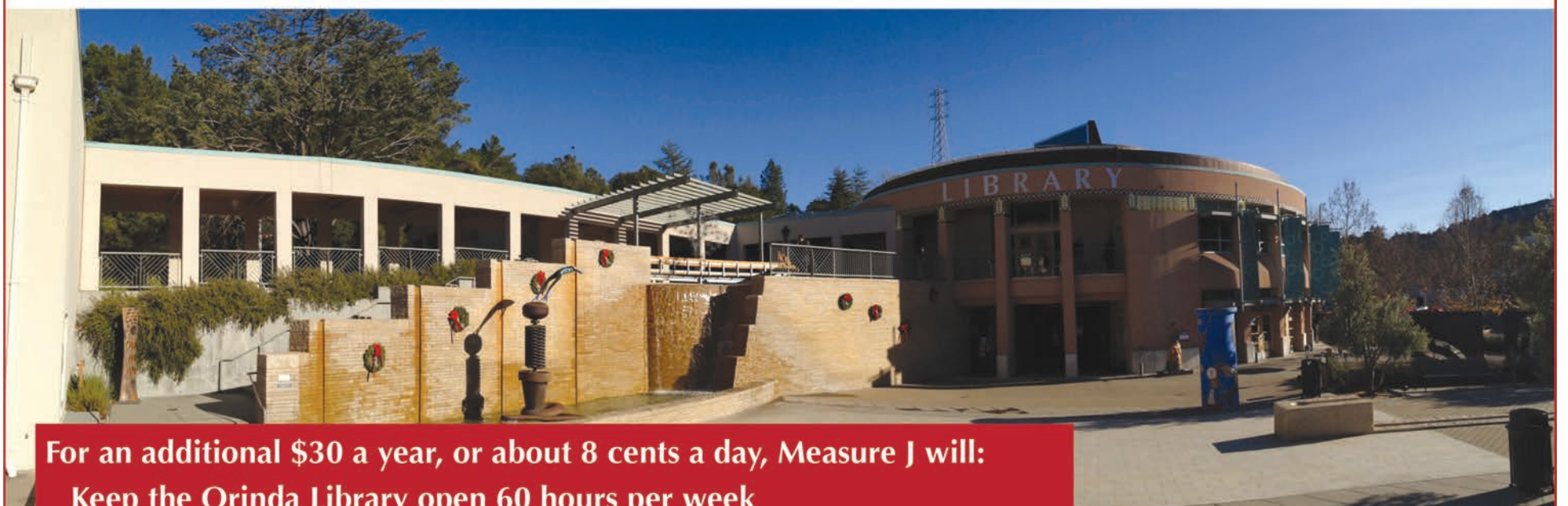
Look for John Templeton’s *Running from the Cowboy*, a photograph on metal which won Best in Show at the 2017 Alameda County Fair. The dust the horses kick up swirls around the cowboy’s lasso, whirling over his head. Jane Postiglione seems to have caught her fuzzy subject, *Sea Otter Portrait, Moss Landing, California*, in the middle of an aria – can you hear its song?

Regarding the value of art to the community, Postiglione says, “Hopefully, art inspires and educates people. Maybe it will move someone in a way that helps that person’s personal life or contributes inspiration to the community at large.”

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 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

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FILM

◆ SCHOLARSHIP from page 10


she agreed that many Orinda students do not need them. She maintains, however, that some do, some who are “desperately trying to find a way to afford college next year.” In addition she added, “I know a few Miramonte students who received scholarships for their first year, but now that they are in college don’t know how they will pay for their second year since the scholarships were not renewable.”

She says some of the big scholarship sites send their student information to third parties, and some scams occur. “Scholars. Shop,” she says, “is an all in one place site anyone can go and create a scholarship for an individual or an organization, business or memorial scholarship.” Furthermore,

Scholars.Shop “connects donors to individual students, so the donors know who get the scholarships.”


Stuber graduated from California State University at Fullerton majoring in Business/Entrepreneurship with a minor in English. She earned her College and Career Counselor certificate at the University of California, Berkeley, Extension School. She says, “My mission is to reduce all financial barriers to education. I think it is important to have big goals.”

A popular motto is “Think globally; act locally.” For Orinda residents, this new scholarship website is an opportunity to put that idea to work. All an interested person has to do is type Scholars.Shop in the taskbar on their computer to check this out.



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

FOR THE KIDS



Tom Westlake

With the weather warming, winter doldrums are becoming a distant, unpleasant memory. With sun warming the land, children are . . . restless. During daylight hours, this may not be that much of a concern, but what about when the sun goes down? This being a movie column, I’m pretty sure you’ve anticipated the point – and you’d be right.

On June 14, the City of Orinda is going to begin this year’s Movies in the Park program. Now, to anyone who has not already attended one of these events, I can safely tell you that even though I treat the theater going experience with a high degree of reverence (No Talking During the Movie!), there is something nearly as magical in watching a movie beneath the stars. The park in Orinda, surrounded by trees, with much room and with readily available “conveniences,” is particularly good for this. The overall atmosphere promotes just going out and having a good time. And it doesn’t hurt that the movies chosen are quite good too.

In this case, we’re talking about the live action version of *Beauty and the Beast* (2017). Doubtless many of you have already seen the 1991 animated version, and I can assure you that the memories you have of that landmark film will not at all be diminished by this one. In all fairness, I have to admit that there are certain things that the animated version holds above this one, just as this *Beast* has highlights that far outshine the 1991 version – not the least of which is Emma Watson’s performance as Belle. Keeping true to the spirit of her other most famous role (Hermione from the *Harry Potter* films), she plays Belle with determination, more inconvenienced by her travails than fearful of them. Likewise, the musical numbers are better defined here (*Be Our Guest* is a dazzling treat!) and are made all the better for the supporting cast (Ian McKellen and Emma Thompson, to name a few). All in all, a wonderful time is guaranteed. It will start showing around dusk on June 14 at the park near the Orinda Library.

On that very same day, at around that very same time, though, the Orinda Theatre will be showing its usual Free Movie Night movie, *Space Jam* (1996). In many ways, this was supposed to be a sort of

follow-up to *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, which was released in 1988 and, indeed, one can clearly see that many of the techniques used in that film were improved upon here. It also has become something of a cult favorite, not solely because of the nostalgia factor, or even the sports factor, but mostly because the website used to promote the film is still fully active (check it out if you don’t believe me)! Revolving around a paper thin, silly plot, involving basketball, of all things, the film features sports superstars Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Charles Barkley and, on the non-basketball side, Bill Murray, not to mention very nearly every Warner Brothers’ cartoon character you can think of – with a couple of new ones (Helloooooo, Lola). It will screen on June 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre, and admission is absolutely free. Good luck in deciding which one to go to. I don’t envy you at all in making this tough choice.

Going back to the park again, on June 28, you’ll be able to see Gru and his Minions under the stars as *Despicable Me 3* shows. I’ve written about this film before so I’ll try not to repeat myself. I will say that the whole *Despicable Me* series is filled with ready wit, marvelous visuals and top voice talent. Illumination Studios, while no Pixar, has carved out a distinctive place when it comes to the best in CG entertainment – and really, who can resist Minions. It will show in the great outdoors (Orinda Park) on June 28 at dusk.

As summer starts, “Remember the Rheem” and stay in the dark for that’s where the reel magic lies.

◆ WILDLIFE from page 13

Faire in the late 1800s. Terry Murphy, president, and Kay Norman, of the Orinda Historical Society displayed artifacts from the historical site and photographs of the elegant three-story home before it burned down in the 1920s. Teresa Long of Friends of the Moraga Adobe and architect James Wright, restorer of the Old Yellow House, shared their insights about local history.

For more details about the Friends of the Nature Area, visit the group’s website: www.fwrna.org.

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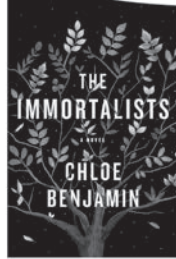
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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

JUNE

- 1 **First Friday Forum**, 1:30 p.m. "Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Historical Context and Contemporary Issues in the Trump Era" with speaker Dr. Karen Musalo, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article this page.
Orinda Starlight Village Players, 8:30 p.m. present Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web*, Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. For tickets, visit info@orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225. Also, Fridays and Saturdays through June 30, Thursday June 7 at 8 p.m., and Sunday June 24 at 4 p.m. See article p. 18.
- 2 **Orinda Farmers Market**, 9 a.m., Orinda Way, Orinda. Also, June 9, 16, 23 and 30. See article p. 8.
Mindful Littles and My Sustainable Table, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Cookin' for a Cause: Warm Meals for Operation Dignity. Cost \$60. Helping Operation Dignity making dinner at a local kitchen in Orinda and then delivering the meal to Operation Dignity During the event. Learn about the cause we are supporting; make meals for families in need. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/cookin-for-a-cause-warm-meal-for-operation-dignity-tickets-45069300491.
- 3 **Orinda Library Gallery**, 2:30 p.m. Contra Costa Camera Club artists reception, with music by The Fretful String Band. Sponsored by Lamorinda Arts Council. See article p. 7.
- 6 **Lamorinda Arts Council**, Arts Affaire 5 to 7 p.m. Orinda Library Foyer and Garden Room with a special presentation scheduled for 6 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. Free. RSVP is requested. Go to www.lamorindaarts.org/arts-affaire-rsvp/. See article p. 12.
City of Orinda, Vital Link Medical Alert Systems presented by Asher Hoffman, Orinda Community Center, Room #6 Vital Link Medical Alert Systems specializes in medical alert devices. See how Medical Alert Systems can help you.
- 7 **City of Orinda Senior Trip**, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to Lavender Bee Farm, Petaluma. Meet at the Hacienda de Las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. Barcode: 24187, \$73. Tour includes guided walk through lavender fields with talk about the farm history, lavender, beekeeping and honey extraction; lavender honey tasting, lavender lemonade samples and shopping for lavender and honey items. 925-254-2445.
Orinda Books, 10 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for 2-4 year-olds and their grown-ups. Also, June 14, 21 and 28. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
Taste of the World Market, 5 p.m. Weekly food truck event features a different mix of trucks and entertainment. To see which food trucks will be present, visit www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style/. Also, June 14, 21 and 28.
- 9 **Diablo Choral Artists** 7 p.m. presents a concert on "Variations on Love and Laughter" by Brahms, Tallis, Gjeilo, Morley and more. Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/16457, 800-838-2006; www.dcachorus.org.
- 11 **Mindful Littles** 9:30 a.m. J.A.M.M. Camp at Orinda Community Church. Also, June 15 at 12:30 p.m. \$100. Age 4 to Grade 5. Songs, skits and stories, Mindfulness exercises and lessons. Register through Orinda Community Church: www.eventbrite.com/e/jamm-camp-joy-art-music-mindfulness-tickets-44564830608.
Orinda Books, 10:30 a.m. The Poetry Circle will meet and discuss *The Present Moment: Poems* by Gary Snyder. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 12 **Concerts-in-the-Park**, 6:30 p.m., featuring 3-Day Weekend; Orinda Community Center Park. See article p. 19.
- 13 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. The Second Wednesday Book Group will read and discuss *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 14 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. We can't wait to meet Gail Honeyman author of *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*. \$12 includes a light lunch and Q & A. Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation.
Movie-in-the-Park, begins at dusk, *Beauty and Beast*, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 16 **Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. Summer Program Kickoff - Bookmark contest winners will be announced. Come and meet authors Steve Goetz, Penny Warner and Tracy Holczer, pick up your reading BINGO card, have fun with origami and lots more! 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.
- 19 **Concerts-in-the-Park**, 6:30 p.m., featuring Priceless; Orinda Community Center Park.
- 26 **Concerts-in-the-Park**, 6:30 p.m., featuring Kenya B Trio; Orinda Community Center Park.
- 28 **Movie-in-the-Park**, begins at dusk, *Despicable Me 3*, Orinda Community Center Park.
- 30 **Art for Vets**, 4 - 7:30 p.m., local artists contributing portions of sales to Habitat for Humanity for veteran housing. Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. 925-254-6869 or dyorgan@comcase.net.

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.

- 4 **Orinda Library's Summer Reading Festival** through August 15. <http://ccclib.org/reads/summerreading/> for more details.
Maker Monday Whether it's Legos, Minecraft, crafts or Coding, creative fun happens every Monday afternoon at your library. Also, June 11, 18 and 25.
- 5 **Toddler Storytime**, 10 and 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and early literacy learning for new walkers (approx. 18 to 36 months) and their caregivers. No registration required; please attend only one toddler storytime each week. Also, June 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27.
Peek-a-Boo Storytime, 11:30 a.m. Lapsit storytime for newborns/pre-walkers (0 to roughly 18 months) and their caregivers. Early literacy advice. Families with older siblings please attend toddler storytime. No registration required. Also, June 12, 19 and 26.
- 7 **ESL Conversation Circle**, 1 to 3 p.m. For adults, practice and improve English conversation skills in a small, informal group. Registration not required. Also June 14, 21 and 28.
Orinda's OWN REAL Alaska Reality Show, 4 p.m. presented by Miramonte High alumna, Laura (Melohn) Emerson, her experience in remote Alaska. Co-sponsored with the City of Orinda. For info, visit Laura's blog at: alaskauu1.blogspot.com or alaskauu1@gmail.com.
- 9 **Teokalli Dancers**, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Start off the summer with the exciting sounds and dances of this Aztec troupe. This free hour-long event will be at the Library Plaza. Paid for by the Friends of the Orinda Library.
- 12 **Orinda Library Writers Group**, 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment to motivate, critique and inspire one another. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group. Also June 26.

Final Forum of Season Tackles Contemporary Issues in Trump Era

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

“R”efugees and Asylum Seekers: Historical Context and Contemporary Issues in the Trump Era” is the title of Dr. Karen Musalo’s lecture for First Friday Forum (FFF) at 1:30 p.m. on June 1, held in the sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Dr. Musalo says, “There are more than 65 million refugees and displaced persons in the world today - higher than at any point since the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees began tracking this group. The United States has only accepted 11 Syrian refugees thus far in this fiscal year.”

As director of the UC Hastings Center



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Karen Musalo will discuss the global refugee crisis in her First Friday Forum.

for Gender and Refugee Studies (CGRS), Dr. Musalo is intimately familiar with these

[SEE FORUM page 17]

- 14 **Paws to Read**, 3:30 p.m. Early readers practice with the perfect audience: therapy dogs! Call or stop by to reserve a 20-minute spot for a child. Also June 28.
- 15 **Mystery Book Club**, 3 p.m. Join the Orinda Mystery Book Club to uncover and discuss the new mystery book of the month. Meetings every third Friday of the month.
- 21 **What's All the Fuss About DNA?** 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. An Introduction to Genetic Genealogy. Join Linda Harms Okazaki as she presents an introductory discussion about genetic genealogy.
- 28 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**, 7 p.m. Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month. Garden Room.

CLUB MEETINGS

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)** General meetings third Tues., <http://oml-ca.aauw.net> or email Marty Schimbor at mgschimbor@comcast.net.
- 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., Garden Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda 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**. Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 328 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com.
June 1 - The DIGITAL WORLD explained by Chris Ford. June 8 - Smell of the greasepaint... by Susan Evans, artistic director of the Lafayette Town Hall Theatre June 15 - Lafayette Citizen of the Year, Don Jenkins and wife Becky on teaching English in the Far East. June 22 - No Death, Just Taxes from Gus Kramer, County Tax Assessor. June 29 - Member exposé. Mike Edwards weaves the tale of his life.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Garden Club**, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, www.orindagc.org.
- 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 Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM**. First Thursday every month, except holidays, at 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center, Orinda. Family Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or www.orindawomansclub.org.

CITY/FIRE/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., Orinda Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net

HANDBELL CHOIR

OCC Handbell Choir Attends the Bay Area Spring Ring

By HILLARY HOPPOCK
Contributing Writer

Five members of the Orinda Community Church (OCC) Chancel Ringers travelled to Cupertino, CA, this spring to take part in the Bay Area Spring Ring. "It was incredible to perform with 100 other handbell ringers in a mass ring concert," notes Gail Mead. "We also attended classes and a concert featuring the renowned handbell musician Mary Liao, using her six-in-hand technique (using three bells in each hand)," adds Kathleen Wiegand.

Chancel Ringer Director Nancy Thursby encourages interested community members

to join the handbell choir. "Our church owns five-octaves of recently-refurbished Schulmerich handbells. We have a long-standing tradition of handbell music in our church and encourage anyone to join us who would enjoy being part of a handbell choir." Contact nlthursby@comcast.net or call the OCC office 925-254-4906.

The members of the Orinda Community Church cherish a spiritual heritage of faith and fellowship rooted in the Protestant Reformation and carried forward in the contemporary United Church of Christ. People of all ages, races, traditions and faith backgrounds are welcome.



GAIL MEAD
(L-R) Kelly Connolly, Gail Mead, Kathi Kling, Nancy Thursby and Kathleen Wiegand attended the Bay Area Spring Ring as members of the Orinda Community Church's handbell choir.

◆ FORUM from page 15

staggering statistics. The center, which is nationally and internationally recognized for its expertise, is engaged in high-level policy advocacy, impact litigation and research on the issue of refugee protection for women, children and LGBTQ individuals. It also plays a key role in training attorneys and providing expert consultation in this complex area of law. "As the pressures on asylum seekers have increased, requests for assistance have skyrocketed," Musalo says.

Karen Musalo is a professor of Law at UC Hastings. Recognized for her innovative work on refugee issues, she was the first attorney to partner with psychologists in her representation of traumatized asylum seekers – a practice that has since become standard. She edited the first handbook for practitioners on cross-cultural issues and the impact of culture on credibility in the asylum context.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brooklyn College, Musalo received her law degree from UC Berkeley School of Law, formerly known as Boalt Hall School of Law. She has received numerous advocacy awards for her pioneering legal work, including the 2010 California Lawyer of the Year Award, the 2009 *Daily Journal's* recognition as one of the "Top 100" lawyers in California, and the *American Lawyer's* 1997 recognition as one of the 45 outstanding young public interest lawyers. In 2012, she received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Lehman College. The same year she received UC Hastings' William Rutler Award for Excellence in Teaching. She is co-author of *Refugee Law and Policy: An International and Comparative Approach* and has contributed to the evolving juris-

prudence of asylum law through her scholarship, as well as her litigation of landmark cases. In 2014, she was named the Bank of America Foundation Chair in International Law in recognition of her cutting-edge engaged scholarship and litigation, which has positively impacted so many refugees from around the world. Musalo is a frequent speaker at conferences and law schools in the United States, and has lectured extensively in Europe and Latin America.

"Dr. Musalo comes with outstanding credentials to address the important issues of our day surrounding refugees and asylum seekers. Plan to attend with your questions and bring friends to become informed about this 'hot button' topic. You are also invited to Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. for refreshments. This is a free event," says Caroline Giers, co-chair of the FFF team. "This concludes our lecture series for the year but we already have some excellent speakers for the next season which begins January 2019."

◆ CARS from page 7

excited to be partnering with so many of our community organizations because we all bring something unique to the table for the benefit of the community. I guess you could say that Dancing with the Cars and the Car Show are your one-stop shopping way to support the entire community."

The preshow party is sponsored by Mechanics Bank, Clark Thompson of Village Realty, and Park Place Wealth Advisors, Inc. "We are really pleased to have local sponsors step up to support our event," says Bontemps.

For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com.

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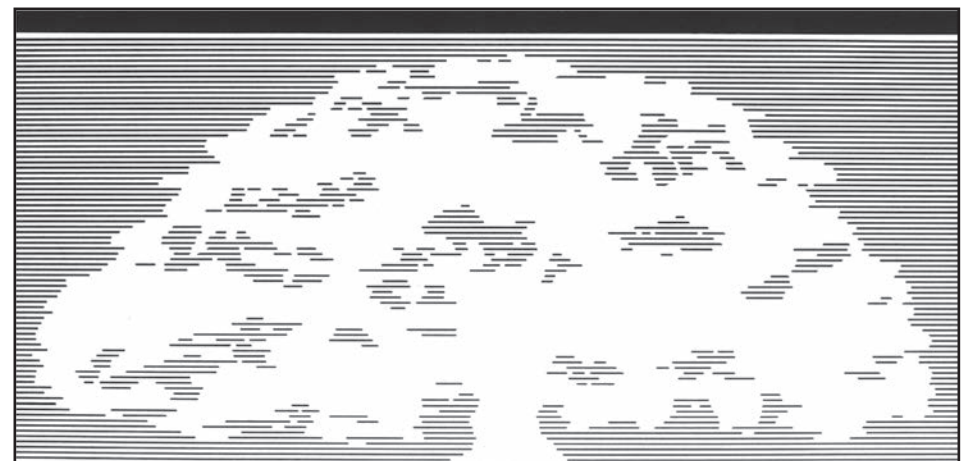
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Texas Comes to Orinda as Cal Shakes Opens Its 2018 Season

By SALLY HOGARTY and
KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Editor and Staff Writer

California Shakespeare Theater opens its 2018 season with Octavio Solis' *Quixote Nuevo*, a world Premiere adaptation of *Don Quixote* set in the fictional modern-day border town of La Mancha, Texas. Like the original on which it is based, *Quixote* follows a larger-than-life knight-errant as he and his trusty sidekick search for lost love. As the community wrestles with containing Quixote's fantasies, his family and friends discover the joys and perils of being the hero of your own story.

Considered one of the most prominent Latino playwrights in America, Solis crosses cultural and aesthetic boundaries with his ever-evolving work. In 2010, Cal Shakes premiered John Steinbeck's *The Pastures of Heaven*, adapted by Solis especially for Cal Shakes.

"I'm so happy to be back at Cal Shakes and excited to bring *Quixote Nuevo* to Cal Shakes' audiences," comments Solis. "This company has not only permitted but has encouraged me to source the production in my own Texas and Chicano roots. I'm finally hearing my voice – in conversation



Emilio Delgado breaks away from his well-known *Sesame Street* character to tackle the lead in *Quixote Nuevo*.

with Cervantes' in this play."

Actor Emilio Delgado, well known for his 30+ years on *Sesame Street*, stars in *Quixote Nuevo*, as a man who loses himself in stories of chivalrous escapades

and embarks on a quest of imagination, adventure and Tejano music. Also, in the cast is Grammy-nominated actor, DJ and emcee Juan Amador.

Solis' work will be directed by KJ Sanchez and in performance June 13-July 1 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, in Orinda. Sanchez, a nationally-acclaimed director and documentary playmaker, makes her directing debut at Cal Shakes with *Quixote Nuevo*.

"I've been a huge admirer of Octavio's for years, and I feel spiritually very close

to the themes in *Quixote Nuevo*," added Sanchez. "Aging, fighting monsters – both real and perceived – the dreamer in conflict with a community that frowns upon dreaming, making up for lost time and regrets... to name a few. I want audiences to walk away from this show thinking about their own lives, their obligations to their family, their community and what they believe in enough to fight for it."

For more information on the Cal Shakes season and for tickets to *Quixote Nuevo*, visit www.calshakes.org or call the box office at 510-548-9666.

Starlight Village Players Begin 35th Season with a Web of Intrigue

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) start their 35th year producing plays in the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater with Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web* on June 1. The plot involves Clarissa, played by Claire Stevenson, a diplomat's wife and spinner of stories discovering a murder victim in her drawing room and her desperate attempts to dispose of the body before her husband arrives with an important politician. The play delivers a blend of suspense and humor in a plot involving murder, drug addicts, police, invisible ink and secret drawers.

This year marks OrSVP's third production of the popular Christie play *Spider's Web*. The company previously staged the show in 1993 and 2009. One of the key roles in the play is a 9-year-old girl, Pippa Hailsham-Brown. This part is also one of the hardest to cast. Stevenson, daughter of Artistic Director Geotty Chapple, played Pippa in the 1993 production and OrSVP regular Laura Martin-Chappin played Clarissa. In the 2009 production, Martin-Chappin reprised her role of Clarissa with her daughter, Natalie Chapin, playing Pippa. This year, Stevenson plays Clarissa and her daughter, Geneveve Di Natale, plays Pippa.

This production is directed by long-time OrSVP actor and director Suzan Lorraine. Lorraine has directed over a dozen plays at OrSVP, mostly Christie mysteries. "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," says

Lorraine. In addition to directing at OrSVP, Lorraine has directed at The Masquers (Point Richmond), Chanticleers (Castro Valley), Actor's Ensemble (Berkeley) and the Marin and Edinburgh (Scotland) Fringe Festivals.

You might derive an added bonus when attending the play. On clear nights, OrSVP usually has telescopes set up so the audience can get a look at some of the nearby celestial objects before or after the play or at intermissions. 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," says Lorraine. "This is a magic setting and when the lights go down, the stars - on stage and in the sky - come out."

Performances of *Spider's Web* run from June 1 through June 30, Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m., with one Thursday performance on June 7 at 8 p.m. and one Sunday performance on June 24 at 4 p.m. OrSVP is completely volunteer run and no one at the theater is paid. Anyone interested in any aspect of theater who would like to help is encouraged to contact the group at www.orsvp.org or 925-528-9225. "This is a great place to get your feet wet in community theater, so do come play with us," adds Lorraine, an invite that, unlike *Spider's Web*, contains no mystery.



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What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

- June 6 – Wisdom Workshop: Vital Link Medical Alert Systems, FREE**
- June 7 – Senior Trip: Lavender Bee Farm Tour, Petaluma, \$73**
- June 11 – Youth Summer Camps Begin – Still Time to Register!**
- June 12 – Free Concert in the Park, 3 Day Weekend, 6:30-8:30pm**
- June 14 – Free Movie in the Park, *Beauty and the Beast*, begins at dusk.**
- June 19 – Free Concert in the Park, Pricelless, 6:30-8:30pm**
- June 26 – Free Concert in the Park, Kenya B Trio, 6:30-8:30pm**
- June 28 – Free Movie in the Park, *Despicable Me 3*, begins at dusk.**



ORINDA
PARKS & REC

Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445

www.OrindaParksandRec.org
OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org

28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center
Administrative Office Hours – Monday – Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

HOTZ / CONCERTS

A Fond Farewell to Columnist Valerie Hotz

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

When Valerie Hotz agreed to write Business Buzz in *The Orinda News*, little did she know her tenure would last over a decade. This month will be her last column. Through the years she became used to people stopping her in the street to tell her they read her column "first thing." They said it was important to them to support local business. While "Putting a Personal Face on Local Business" is her tagline, it has also been her heartfelt commitment. She's always found business leaders to have interesting backgrounds and especially enjoys featuring home-based Internet businesses.

Born in Berkeley, a Cal grad with a de-



SALLY HOGARTY

Valerie Hotz, seen here in her column photo from several years ago, has been writing the popular Business Buzz column for over a decade.

◆ BUZZ from page 20

California as well as traveling with her family. She took up Taekwondo since moving to Orinda and is pleased to have earned a Purple Belt.

For more information about Olive Leaf Pediatrics, call Dr. Sheriff directly at 925-297-5573, send her an email to doctor@oliveleafpeds.com or visit the website at www.oliveleafpeds.com.

The time has come for me to hand the baton to Elana O'Loskey, my most capable colleague at *The Orinda News*. Elana will be taking over the Business Buzz column next month. It has been a privilege and pleasure to report to you over the past 15 years on the talented Orinda business owners.

A heartfelt thank you to Sally Hogarty for being a great editor, who allowed me to create the column from scratch every month, and to the wonderful business people who contribute to the vibrancy of this outstanding community.

gree in Rhetoric, Hotz has been part of the community in this area for over half of her life. But part of her childhood was spent in Great Britain. Her father was a physicist and exchange scientist with the U.S. Navy. Her mother was a founding board member of the National Organization for Rare Diseases, NORD. Her mother also worked with the Cystinosis Foundation, a nonprofit supporting patients and families living with this ultra-rare disease. Cystinosis is a metabolic disease which affects every cell in the body. Where once children born with the disease only survived to age nine, because of the foundation's efforts as advocates for obtaining treatment, treatment is now in place. Patients with cystinosis now live into their 40s and 50s.

Hotz has a twofold reason for ending her work on the column. One, she and her husband, Tom Brown, are planning to relocate to the Lake Tahoe region where they have spent a lot of time. They enjoy "metric century" sponsored bike rides with friends and the High Sierras in general. The other reason is to spend time pursuing a variety of writing projects. Black and white photography is another of her interests, as is swimming. In July, they will revisit Great Britain, where she spent time in her childhood. Hotz is looking forward to taking photos at Stonehenge and visiting the Morgan Motor Company, which still builds cars by hand.

"I will always have my heart in Orinda," says Hotz. "My three children went to Del Rey. Jessica is finishing up her Ph.D. at Rutgers in political science with a focus on women in politics. Caitlin is a licensed clinical social worker serving a homeless veteran population in Chicago. Jack will soon graduate with a bachelor's degree in business from Chico State. His passion is renewable, sustainable energy, especially in the wind industry."

The legacy Hotz leaves from her years of writing Business Buzz looms large. She remains impressed by residents' commitment to shop local whenever possible. Many of her loyal readers cut out her column and

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Summer Concerts in the Park

The Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, with support from the Orinda Community Foundation and the City of Orinda, once again has lined up a summer full of entertainment. It all takes place at the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way, on most Tuesdays from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. On Sunday, July 22, the Rotary Club of Orinda sponsors Opera in the Park.

This year's schedule includes:

- June 12 – the rock/Motown group 3-Day Weekend
- June 19 – the rock group Priceless
- June 26 – the jazzy blues of Kenya B Trio
- July 10 – folk/bluegrass sounds of Crawdad Republic
- July 17 – a variety of styles from Lamorinda Idol contestants
- July 22 – Solo Opera performs Opera in the Park (Sunday from 5 – 7 p.m.)

July 24 – the tribute band The Swampers
July 31 – funk/soul rhythms of Bay Bridge Beat
Aug. 7 – pop/rock classics of Little Dog 2
Aug. 14 – funk/soul returns with Floorshakers

For more information, call 925-254-2445.
– Sally Hogarty, Editor

save it for when they need the information, which she counts as one reason to continue printing an actual newspaper.

"Over the years I've seen how local businesses support the schools, the arts and just about anything that helps to make Orinda a thriving community. In turn, the commu-

nity supports them. It's been great to write about that synergy," says Hotz. Everyone at *The Orinda News* wishes Valerie all the best with her newly found free time and offers a big round of applause for all the years spent making Business Buzz such a pleasure to read.

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On Call! Hospitality Staffing, LLC is a woman-owned local small business established by Diane Harris. Joined by partner Patti Restaino three and a half years ago and, most recently, adding party manager Juanisha Elder, they are located on the second level at 378 Village Square.

Stepping into their Orinda office one can't help but become enthusiastic about hosting and organizing the next party. "We manage everything from small intimate cocktail parties and dinners in private homes to a product release party for Google and other corporate clients. We employ individuals on a part-time basis. Some of our employees are retired and simply want a shift each week and for some it is their first job," explains Diane Harris.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Patti Restaino (L) and Diane Harris are the owners of On Call! Hospitality Staffing.

Regardless of experience, every staff member must attend On Call!'s own in-house training seminars. "At our Sterling Service Academy, we teach the finer points of hospitality and reinforce the basics so our team will deliver excellent service for clients. We provide servers, bartenders, cooks and general support staff for events. It is a pleasure to offer the opportunity to our staff that every time they go to work it is literally a celebration," says Harris with a smile.

"Our firm is one of three temporary agencies selected by the University of California at Berkeley to provide staff. Whether it is a private party or a corporate event, our people are professionals and On Call! Hospitality Staffing offers the support you need to ensure a successful event," explains Patti Restaino. "Among the more interesting events was Kentucky Derby Day at Golden Gate Fields," she adds.

"Too often a hostess or host figures their friends or family will help out. While this is sometimes a good idea, it is not practical because people want to socialize and the service needs to continue throughout. Our staff makes it easier for them to enjoy their family time during their event," says Harris.

A new trend these days is the "Who Done It?" party. The mystery theme can be played out over a lunch or dinner with a small group of 10 or a larger group of up to 200. "We can accommodate so you enjoy the party with family and friends," adds Harris.

While Harris and Restaino are virtually on call for their clients, when they do have

some time off they both enjoy sports. Harris prefers spending time in the great outdoors and kayaking, but is especially addicted to playing pickle ball. Restaino enjoys hiking and is a season ticket holder to Cal Women's Basketball games, attending home games along with 10 friends. She is a Healing Touch practitioner and is pleased to work with Anne Rogers offering free sessions for patients at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland.

For more information about On Call! Hospitality Staffing, visit the website at www.oncallhospitalitystaffing.com or call Diane and Patti at 510-388-9932.

Olive Leaf Pediatrics Provides Family Centered Care

Nazia Sheriff, MD, FAAP, established her boutique pediatric practice in Orinda this winter focusing on delivering pediatric care that is holistic and family-centered. As a house call based pediatric practice, Dr. Sheriff brings back the personal touch of home visits for the convenience of parents and patients, providing all care within the comfort of their home.

"I provide a comprehensive and holistic approach, meaning that I treat the whole child and all the different factors affecting the child. In essence, we bring back the roots of medicine and focus on the patient. Being a medical micro-practice allows us to limit the number of patients in the practice so the focus is on building personal relationships and not assembly-line medicine," says Sheriff.

Olive Leaf Pediatrics is a direct primary care (DPC) based practice and is taking new members at this time. Non-member rates are available. Some "out of network" insurance plans may provide some coverage, so it is best to consult your insurance carrier for any coverage that may be available.

Providing full pediatric checks, sick calls and basic office lab tests within the comfort of the patient's home, Dr. Sheriff uses



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Nazia Sheriff at Olive Leaf Pediatrics provides in-home care and check-ups to her patients.

technology effectively so all her notes are paperless and sent to the patient in real time. She has privileges at Children's Hospital in Oakland.

The olive leaf is symbolic of Dr. Sheriff's philosophy of treating body, mind and spirit, hence the name, Olive Leaf Pediatrics. "Its nutritional and medicinal properties symbolize two of the major approaches our practice uses to heal the mind and body. In spirit it grows into a universal for peace and tranquility. Our practice strives to help your little leaf flourish into a wholesome tree," maintains Sheriff.

Originally from Pakistan, Dr. Sheriff lived in Saudi Arabia and moved to Chicago at the age of five. She earned her medical degree from the University of Illinois in Chicago and fulfilled her pediatric residency at Loyola. She and her husband, Ashfaq Mohiuddin, moved to Orinda two years ago with their two young children, Nura and Zayd.

A lifelong hiking enthusiast, Sheriff enjoys exploring the verdant trails of Northern

[SEE BUZZ page 19]

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