

# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
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## Three Enter Race for District 2 Supervisor



Candace Anderson

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Sean White

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tomi Van de Brooke

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By HEATHER WILSON  
Contributing Writer

With the retirement of long-time Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, a contested race for her seat as the representative for District 2 has developed. Three candidates, two from Lamorinda, are running for the privilege of servicing Alamo, Canyon, Danville, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, San Ramon, Walnut Creek and Saranap. The election takes place on June 5.

Uilkema, who has served for 16 years

as supervisor and 19 years as a member of the Lafayette City Council, leaves some big shoes to fill. During her extensive political career, she has served as a bridge between local residents and the county government and was honored this year as Lafayette's Citizen of the Year.

Running for Uilkema's position are current Danville Mayor Candace Anderson, Lafayette resident and small business owner Sean White, and Orinda resident Tomi Van de Brooke.

Anderson, who recently received an en-

dorsement by Uilkema, has over 10 years experience serving on city councils. During her time in various public offices, she has received several awards for her work in improving parks, starting a city-wide arboretum, implementing a graffiti eradication program, and for supporting historic preservation. She has a degree in Public Policy as well as a Law Degree.

The Danville Mayor's top priorities are to stop pension abuses, improve public safety, provide support for businesses, increase job creation, and protect the quality of life in Contra Costa County. "We are losing good deputy sheriffs and district attorney's to neighboring counties because of salary rates and funding for staff," she says adding that this issue is important because responding to crime directly effects the quality of life in Contra Costa County.

Prior to entering politics, Anderson began her legal career as an Appellate Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in her hometown of Honolulu, arguing criminal appeals before the Hawaii State Supreme Court and the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals. She believes her legal work as well as her experience in city government gives her an understanding of how to work within the system and a strong familiarity with what the community needs.

Anderson moved to Danville in 1983 where she met her husband. They have six

[SEE CANDIDATES page 6]

### Candidate Forum For Supervisor's Race

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[www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) or  
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## Governor's Proposal Would Devastate Local Schools

By BILL O'BRIAN  
Staff Writer

California's Governor Jerry Brown has proposed an educational budget to commence this year that will be an enormous financial shock to most educators. He proposes to restructure the funding formula for the entire public K-12 system. There are 18 elementary and secondary school districts in Contra Costa County, and with the proposed funding, three will

[SEE BUDGET page 8]

### Pets of the Month



Milo and Minette patrol their neighborhood from early morning till late at night. Keeping everyone (well, maybe not birds and small rodents!) safe. The brother and sister are two years old and are half Maine Coon and half domestic shorthair. Owner Jessica Nevin, daughter of our Business Buzz writer Valerie Hotz, says they are very sweet and gentle. To have your pet considered for Pet of the Month, send a high resolution photo and short description to [news@orindaassociation.org](mailto:news@orindaassociation.org).

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## Local Reservist to Command U.S. Base in Africa

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

A Navy Reservist from Orinda will soon take command of the United States' only military base in Africa. Beginning in mid-May, Captain Kevin Bertelsen begins his command of the Navy Expeditionary Base Camp Lemonnier, in the small East African country of Djibouti.

Camp Lemonnier is the only U.S. military base located in Africa. It provides supporting operations geared toward building security, sovereignty and stability in the region. The base also supports various counterterrorism and building activities. The base gained notoriety in January of 2012 when it was at the center of the commando raid by a Navy Seal team to free an American and a Danish aid worker taken hostage by Somali pirates.

Captain Bertelsen has served as a Naval Aviator since he was commissioned in 1987. He previously commanded two Navy Reserve units – Naval Station Newport, RI and Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, WA. He returned to active duty in September 2009 following the September

11 attacks. His deployment lasted over two years with only three, two-week visits to his family.

Bertelsen returned to active duty in September 2011 and was assigned to Africa with the U.S. Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, serving in both Djibouti and Kenya.

This latest recall to active duty came as a surprise to his family, who thought he'd be home for the foreseeable future. "Kevin had just returned from over two years of active duty so we thought he'd be home for a while," says his wife Robin, a social media marketing consultant and active Education Foundation of Orinda board member. "We were also surprised when he was recently appointed as base commander, because no Navy reservist has ever been selected to command an active U.S. Navy base." Captain Bertelsen will serve as the base commander until May 2013.

The Bertelsens have lived in Orinda since 2003. They have two sons. Spencer is a junior at Southern Oregon University, and Carter is a junior at Miramonte, where he plays varsity lacrosse.

"It's amazing how all the 'Navy wife'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Orinda resident Captain Kevin Bertelsen will be the first Naval reservist to command a military base in Africa.

habits come right back when Kevin is deployed," says Robin. "When Kevin and I were first married, he was on the USS Forrestal and gone for long periods of time. Later, when our first son was born, Kevin was away on six-month-long deployments for several years."

When on active duty, Kevin flies the P-3 Orion Submarine Hunter. The four-engine turboprop anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft was developed specifically for the Navy and introduced in the 1960s. It is currently used primarily for maritime patrol, reconnaissance, anti-surface warfare and anti-submarine warfare.

"We're very proud of him and more than willing to make this sacrifice so Kevin can serve our country," Robin says. "Although, this three and a half year deployment presents more of a challenge than previous six-month deployments. Fortunately, the Internet makes it possible for Kevin to remain much more in touch with the family than was possible early in his career," she adds. The Bertelsens will also be able to see each other in person a few times a year. "We hope to see him mid-way through this current deployment," Robin explains. "He usually gets R&R every six to eight months." Hopefully, one of those R&Rs will occur when Carter graduates from Miramonte.

## Plans for Exciting 4th of July Well Underway

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

It may only be May, but a group of volunteers has been working for months to plan for a bigger and even better 4th of July parade and celebration.


The event, sponsored by the Orinda Association (OA) since the first parade in 1984, will now add the Orinda Community Foundation (who began partnering with the OA a few years ago), the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce as co-sponsors.

"It's very exciting to work with the chambers in addition to the OCF," says OA president and 4th of July chairman Bill Waterman. "Last year, the parade attracted over 7,000 spectators and participants, and by combining the resources and talents of these additional sponsors, we hope to make it even better for all who attend."


In addition to the parade, the concert in the park, the children's activities, and the food booths, Waterman said that the two chambers will work with local businesses to re-institute the business decorating contest. "We will be encouraging local businesses to go all out in decorating their spaces with lots of red, white and blue with the winners receiving some great prizes," he explained.

This year's celebration will honor Lamorinda residents who have served in the military or are currently attending such institutions as West Point or Annapolis. One such person being honored is Captain Kevin Bertelsen profiled in a story on this page.


For more information on the 4th of July celebration, go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).



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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President  
Carrying On A Proud Tradition  
of Service**



Bill Waterman

What is the Orinda Association and what does it do? Many fellow Orindans have asked this question, so I thought it a good idea to revisit what our organization is all about and update recent developments.

**What are we?**

The Orinda Association, started in 1946, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda, promoting awareness and encouraging dialogue among Orinda residents on issues of importance to the community, and mobilizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character and security of Orinda.

**What do we do?**

The Orinda Association has a long history of traditional programs and events, along with some newer programs developed to meet the changing needs of Orindans.

Our **July 4th celebration** was started by the Orinda Association in the early 1980s as a way to celebrate not only Independence Day, but also to celebrate "community." Thousands of citizens gather on this special day to enjoy the annual Pancake Breakfast and flag raising ceremony, followed by the Roadrunners' Fun Run and Haley's Run For A Reason, and then the parade and the live music, food, games and booths in the park following the parade. This year, we are presenting the parade and park celebration in partnership with The Orinda Community

Foundation, and the Orinda and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce, and our theme will be "Saluting Our Veterans."

**The Orinda News**, another long-standing tradition of the Orinda Association, has always printed news of special interest to the community and is still delivered free to every household and business in Orinda. The monthly publication is now available on-line for your convenience.

**The Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award** is an annual celebration honoring the citizens or groups, which have displayed outstanding contributions through volunteer efforts that benefit the community and environment.

**Seniors Around Town (SAT)** began in August 2005. The SAT program was designed to offer alternative transportation for Orinda seniors who are no longer able to drive and who may not qualify for the County Connection LINK system. SAT is the only program of its kind in the county with its ease of use, no cost, door-to-door service, and eligibility to all Orinda seniors. Volunteer drivers offer transportation to the Lamorinda, Berkeley and Walnut Creek areas, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

We on the Orinda Association board thank our many dedicated volunteers and members for their continuing support – and look forward to serving Orinda in new and exciting ways in the future.

**Orinda Association Members – a part of tradition**

Thank you to all who have renewed membership and to our newest members, welcome! Your support allows us to continue programs and events we've been delivering to Orindans for decades including *The Orinda News*, celebrating its 25th year of continuous publication and has been rated the most important source for reliable local news. Orinda's annual 4th of July parade and celebration is in its 28th year of entertaining all generations and the Orinda Association, celebrating its 66th year, both long time traditions keeping pace with an ever changing world. If you haven't joined us or haven't renewed yet, go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org), and click the big orange button, it's that easy and your support is more critical than ever before. Thank you!



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**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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*The Orinda News* since 1986?



David Dierks began as one of the newspaper's graphic artists in 2002. He became the Assistant Editor in 2012.

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For information on the OA, go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).



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CAR TIME

**CAR TIME**  
 Is the Octane in Gasoline Really Important?  
 by JOHN VANEK



With gas prices steadily climbing towards \$5.00 per gallon, each fill up is becoming more painful. We have choices at the pump based on the octane level of the fuel. I have noticed a trend to use the least expensive fuel to save money. There are many opinions on this subject, and it really depends on who you listen to. The manufacturer of your vehicle dictates the octane level required. The octane level required is mainly based on the compression ratio of the engine. The compression ratio of an engine is based upon how much air a piston can push, which is typically measured in cubic centimeters or cc's. In a nutshell, the more air that an engine can push, the higher the compression ratio. More air in a cylinder in turn allows for faster detonation and hence, better performance. The combustion that occurs inside your engine is like a mini explosion that makes the engine produce power.

Most cars these days are designed to

achieve more power from a smaller, lighter engine. High compression ratio is designed into the engine and the combustion process is manipulated through computer controlled sensors and components. The engineers at the factory formulate the required octane level based on the compression ratio of the engine. When a lower octane gas is used in an engine that is designed for high octane gas, the combustion process is affected in a negative way. It can have a domino effect that can hurt many components including sensors, catalytic converters and even internal components. This can be a slow, silent killer that could end in catastrophic results. Modern engines are also equipped with a computer control component called a knock sensor. When detonation or pre-ignition (pinging) is sensed, the computer will automatically retard the timing (tune down the engine) which will safeguard the engine but it will reduce power and gas mileage. This also causes emission control

Chamber Welcomes New Business at Theatre Square



**Jessica and Stephanie Lee** (4th and 5th from the left) cut the ribbon to their new business, Visual Entrée Optometry, in Theatre Square. Also in the photo are members of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

components to work harder to clean the exhaust, contributing earlier failure and compromised efficiency of those parts.

The octane level in fuel is dictated by the additives used. Chemicals like the methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl, or MMT, have been used for years to boost octane ratings. For the lower octane fuel, these additives are often substituted with alcohol. It is the alcohol content that leads to carbon build up in the engine that is often referred to as "gunk." This gunk is one of the things that diminish your engine's power and performance over a long period of time.

The bottom line is that it is important to take responsibility for knowing what octane rating your vehicle requires. The manufacturer has a good reason to suggest that octane rating. You will find this information in the owner's manual or sometimes it is even on the fuel door or gas

cap. If you drive a vehicle such as BMW or Cadillac, you can be assured that high octane levels are required. If you do not want to pay for premium fuel, you may consider trading the vehicle for something like a Honda Civic or Ford Focus. There is a price of admission when it comes to driving a powerful, sophisticated vehicle. We do need to be careful, even a vehicle like Jeep Grand Cherokee V8 may require premium fuel. It is all part of being a good consumer. This awareness also comes into play when shopping for a new or used vehicle. Always remember that you play a big part in the longevity of your vehicle. So do the right thing for yourself, your vehicle and the environment. Do your homework and be an educated automotive consumer. I am always available for questions about your vehicle.

You can reach John Vanek at [john@orindamotors.com](mailto:john@orindamotors.com).

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DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT / MOFD

# City Council and Planning Commission Hear Public Comments on Downtown Orinda

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

At the March 27 Special Joint City Council and Planning Commission Meeting, Emmanuel Ursu, the Director of Planning, gave an update of the downtown planning process. Twenty-three members of the public spoke to the City Council and planning commission expressing their worries and frustrations with the progress of the downtown plan. The next step, according to City Manager Janet Keeter, will be for the staff to set up a "proposed timeline to bring back to the City Council that would elaborate on the general plan process and the advisory committee and what their role would be, and at the same time, pursue discussions with the downtown property owners through the survey that Ursu has described."

Ursu went over the history of the downtown planning process. The council-established Planning Process Review Task Force presented a set of recommendations to the City Council in August, 2009. In 2010, the city staff started presenting the recommendations to the Planning Commission. During that process, it was decided to get more public opinion on the downtown vision. At two workshops, attended by over 300 citizens, responses were recorded. At the March 1, 2011 meeting, the City Council directed the city staff to get more public input. The staff presented seven more workshops and received another 988 surveys. The survey results are available as item D-1 of the 03-27-2012 Agenda and Staff Reports.

During the public comments, Orinda Vision was mentioned many times. Orinda Vision is a revitalization plan for the downtown area designed by a group of Orinda

residents with experience in development and urban planning. Peter Hasselman, a member of Orinda Vision, said, "Urban design is about long term issues with city space. Our target should be 25 years, the year 2037, when a child born in 2012 will be finishing graduate school and settling in Orinda, drawn by the housing, transportation, location, climate, lifestyle and educational excellence. We shouldn't focus on the current downtown of vast parking lots, barren sidewalks and many old buildings. Orinda should think seriously about long-term considerations of demographics, energy and transportation." Orinda Vision member Tom Trowbridge added, "One of the hallmarks of a successful city is that it is constantly engaged in the process of renewal. We need to get that process restarted."

Resident Frank Darling said, "I was very impressed with Orinda Vision. I haven't seen a lot of support from the City Council. I think it's time for the council to step up and show some leadership." Orindan Katherine Barrett disagreed: "I applaud you [the council] for taking these last two years of meetings and workshops and fact gathering, stopping to take the time to get that kind of input from the community. I think the City Council has shown leadership and sensitivity to the broad spectrum of people who live here." Resident Jeff Hopkins added, "I'm not completely sold on everything I hear from the Orinda Vision group and others about change, but I do support the vision that Orinda does need to plan for the future, and downtown Orinda needs to be updated. I want the council to know there are lots of quiet voices out there that do support this change."

Other residents are concerned about the addition of downtown housing. Orindan



SALLY HOGARTY

The City Council and Planning Commission are once again asking residents for comments on revitalizing Orinda's downtown, which could change the configuration of offices, restaurants and stores.

Nina Armstrong said, "I agree that the status quo is not the best vision; I am very concerned about the high-rises that are a big part of the Orinda Vision plan. I've heard numbers ranging from 500 to 1,000 units, so let's pick 750 and let's average it out to

2.5 people per unit. That gives us 1800 new Orinda citizens. The population of the entire town is only 18,000 people today. We're looking at a 10% increase. This would lead to at least a 10% increase in fire, paramed-

[SEE DOWNTOWN page 22]

# MOFD Announces Two Seats for Election in November

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor


On February 29, Dick Olsen and Brook Mancinelli, two of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) board members resigned, which leaves the five-member board with two vacancies. At the March 21 MOFD board meeting, the remaining board members unanimously decided to put the two open seats on the ballot for the general election in November. Olsen's term expires December 15, 2014 and Mancinelli's term expires December 15, 2012. Mancinelli's seat was already on the ballot for November.

Other options that were available to the board were to appoint new board members or to hold a special election for the new board members. A special election would cost approximately \$38,750 and the earli-

est an election could be held would be at the end of July. Fred Weil, the president of the board, said "I don't see the point of appointing for a very short period of time. I surely don't see the point of having an election in late July or early August at cost. We have a very well trained professional staff. If this board didn't meet for a month or two, the fire engines would go when they're supposed to, the ambulances would go when they're supposed to. I don't want us to overemphasize the importance of the board. We have a function, but let's be realistic about it."

The board openings present certain difficulties in the operation of the board. With only three members, two members now make up a majority. Under the Brown Act (a California Statue passed in 1953), any meeting of a majority of the board

[SEE MOFD page 22]

  
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- Mike Brown, Danville
- Michelle Henry, Danville
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- Frank Puglisi, Danville
- Susanna Schlendorf, Former Mayor of Danville
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- Allan Moore, Walnut Creek Planning Commissioner
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- Phyllis Bratt, Walnut Creek
- Dan Caruth, Walnut Creek
- Kuldip Chohan, Walnut Creek
- Angie Coffee, Walnut Creek
- Bryan Hirahara, Walnut Creek
- Victoria Justmann, Castle Hill
- Christine L. Moore, Walnut Creek
- Tom Terrill, Walnut Creek

**Tom Van de Brooke**  
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## Happy Mother's Day to All The Moms

Given the high price of gasoline, some might consider a gas card an appropriate present for a wedding, graduation or Mother's Day gift, but I would advise against it. In fact, Bonnie Waters in her

Everyday Changes column on page 13 gives some fun Mother's Day trivia and a few good ideas on how to treat the mom in your life. Happy Mother's Day!

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

## Letters to the Editor

### Revenue Source for Orinda

Unfortunately, in my letter to the Editor last month there was a misprint regarding the total revenue that would have been generated if a nominal one-half of one percent (0.05%) Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) was implemented in years 2010 and 2011. The total revenue should have been \$767,600 and \$829,000 respectively. Assuming the real estate market improves, using the same rate, the revenue should grow.

An article by Cathy Tyson in the February 17, 2010 issue of *The Lamorinda Weekly* summarizes the results of an independent survey of 400 Lafayette residents asked about becoming a charter City and

implementing an RETT of .007% (one-half of one percent). I found this article very enlightening on how Lafayette citizens felt about the concept. In Orinda's recently completed survey of its citizens about revenue generating options, the Real Estate Transfer Tax question was not included. The survey results favored increasing the sales tax imposed on Orinda citizens. A parallel could be drawn between a RETT and a sales tax; when you sell your house or commercial property a RETT is collected and when you buy or lease a car, a sales tax is collected. One difference is, the entire RETT remains in Orinda, and cannot be garnished by any other public entity.

–Greg Chovanes

### ◆ CANDIDATES from page 1

children and have remained rooted in the Contra Costa County community. Along with her extensive political and legal career, Anderson has spent several years volunteering for local organizations such as California Women Lead and Friends of the Danville Library. She is also on several boards including the San Ramon PTA. For more information on Anderson, see her website at [www.AndersonForSupervisor2012.com](http://www.AndersonForSupervisor2012.com).

Dr. Sean White, who grew up in Orinda, has also thrown his hat in the ring for supervisor of District 2. White grew up on a homestead in Contra Costa County, where he is a fifth generation resident. He previously ran for supervisor in 2000.

White currently works as a Solar Energy Professor and travels extensively teaching. He resides in Lafayette and has a daughter attending Miramonte High School.

The main focus of his campaign is on money in politics. White states "as long as money is in politics, progress on anything else is suspended." He is looking for an avenue where candidates can be elected without any campaign contributions so he will be running a "free" campaign. White comments, "an elected official can't have their judgment impaired by large financial contributors with agendas of their own." With his 12 years as a chiropractor in Orinda, White also sees health care and related services as important issues for District 2.

For more information on White, see his website at [www.SeanWhite.org](http://www.SeanWhite.org).

Orinda resident Tomi Van de Brooke is the third candidate for the supervisory

position. The Women's Campaign Fund along with State Assembly Member Joan Buchanan and Congresswomen Ellen Tauscher endorse Van de Brooke, who graduated from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School and Miramonte High School.

Van de Brooke currently serves as president of the Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board. Her diverse experience includes working with large Fortune 500 companies, starting her own small business, and serving as the managing partner for a Walnut Creek communications firm. Van de Brooke also served on a number of economic development boards and as Chief of Staff for the District 3 County Supervisor in San Ramon Valley. She has dedicated much of her time to helping the community, serving on a number of non-profit boards including the Contra Costa Council, Economic Development Alliance for Business, and the Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation.

Van de Brooke is fiscally conservative, pro-choice and pro-marriage equality. As Supervisor, Van de Brooke says she will ensure "fiscal transparency and accountability and push a results-oriented approach to county operations." Her focus will be on investing in local roads, protecting public safety, and revitalizing the local economy. Van de Brooke comments, "I will make roads and public safety for the county a top priority. With revenues in a decline, we have to focus on the top priorities." For more information on Van de Brooke, visit her website at [www.TomiVdB.com](http://www.TomiVdB.com)

The Orinda Association will sponsor a Candidate Forum on May 7 from 7-9 p.m. at the Orinda Library auditorium. Moderated



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by the League of Woman Voters, the forum will allow candidates to answer prepared questions regarding their experience and plans for District 2 as well as take questions

from the audience. For more information, go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) or call 254-0800.

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STATE OF THE CITY/POLICE



SALLY HOGARTY

Police officers honored at the April 10 City Council meeting include: (L-R) First Row: Sergeant **Mohammad Djajakusuma**, Reserve **Daryl England**, Volunteer **Lloyd Pringle**, Reserve **Bill Howard**, Officer **Travis Dennison** and Chief **Jeff Jennings**; Second Row: **Mayor Steve Glazer** and **City Councilmembers Victoria Smith, Dean Orr, Sue Severson**, and **Vice Mayor Amy Worth**. Not pictured: Orinda Police Officer of the Year **Danny Jeffries**.

## Mayor Gives Cause for Optimism in Annual State of the City Speech

By HEATHER WILSON  
Contributing Writer

Mayor Steve Glazer laid out “the big picture” in his State of the City speech at the Orinda Rotary Club’s March 28 meeting. How to define a healthy community was his main topic as he discussed such issues as public safety, downtown redevelopment, new residential developments, and the condition of Orinda roads.

Using a Harvard study that concluded, “personal happiness is directly affected by the social connectedness of our community,” Glazer compared Orinda’s social connectedness to determine its health. “Here in Orinda, the level of community engagement and connection continues to be robust,” he said. “I believe these are good indicators of an involved and happy citizenry.”

The Mayor boasted of Orinda’s “terrific services” for residents, listing the Orinda Library and the Orinda Association as well as groups like the Rotary and Friends of Orinda Creeks to show how actively connected the citizens are to their community. “There is a great deal of satisfaction in volunteer work and your activity in these groups is another example of how you are connecting to your community and enriching all us,” he explained.

The Mayor also addressed some of the challenges that will be facing Orinda and the importance of conflict resolution to help solve them. Some of the projects coming up for debate include: the conversion of the J&J Ranch Subdivision county landmark into a possible club house; the creation of a Lavenida Lane Subdivision; downtown improvements regarding density and height rules; the Orinda Grove residential development; the ball fields and maintenance facility at the Wilder development; the Orinda

Oaks development; and the affordable senior housing slated for the old library site.

Mayor Glazer also spoke about the issue of public safety and Orinda’s deteriorating roads. He stressed the need to slow down on Orinda’s narrow roads as well as the recent rash of residential burglaries. “Our Police Department successfully dealt with the burglaries, arresting some 30 suspects and returning some of the stolen property to the rightful owners. Orinda continues to be a safe community,” he said. “No violent crimes have occurred in the past few years



HEATHER WILSON

Mayor **Steve Glazer** discussed the state of Orinda at a recent Rotary luncheon.

making our community one of the safest in California; recognized as the 5th safest city in California by the FBI.”

Moving from Orinda’s safety record into finances the Mayor noted, “Our financial health is stable but tenuous.” He reported that revenues were down so the city had also curtailed expenditures. Staffing has been reduced, positions frozen, and employees were required to take six furlough days this year, which may be increased to 10 in 2013.

[SEE MAYOR page 10]

## 2011 Police Department Annual Report

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

At the March 10 City Council Meeting, Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings presented the 2011 Annual Report on the Orinda City Police Department. During 2011, Orinda officers responded to 14,945 calls for service (which include calls for police service by citizens and any proactive police actions – making arrests, investigating suspicious activities, or making traffic enforcement stops). Of these calls, 4,979 were for traffic violations, 2,230 were for parking violations, 87 were traffic accidents, 98 were adult arrests, 1,408 were alarms, and 4 were unruly private parties.

The crime statistics are broken into two parts by the Department of Justice: Part I Crimes are those considered to be more dangerous and include murder, rape, assault, burglary, robbery, theft, auto theft and arson. Part II Crimes are less dangerous and include fraud, vandalism, sex offenses, drugs and narcotics, domestic violence and vice.

During 2011, Part I Crimes rose 57 percent over the previous year. There were 245 reported crimes in 2011 compared to 156 in 2010. The rise was due to an

increase in property crimes. Jennings said, “One of the good things is we ended up arresting over 30 individuals specifically for property crimes, which is a significant number. We were also fortunate to return stolen property to some folks which is a rare pleasure.” During the year, there was an increase in residential burglaries (72 reported in 2011, vs. 59 in 2010). In order to fight this increase Jennings said, “We adjusted our shifts to respond to the times that the crimes were taking place, we did surveillance, and we worked overtime.” No violent crimes, such as murder or rape were reported during 2011.

Part II Crime was decreased by 37 percent in 2011 with 70 reported as compared to 111 in 2010. Jennings said, “Vandalism was down because we had a group of youngsters who were bad in 2010. We identified them, and they chose not to be bad this year.”

Orinda’s Part II Crimes are low compared to other Bay Area cities and to the national average. According to the FBI Uniform Crime Reports for 2010, Orinda is one of the top five safest cities in California. The other four safest cities (Bradbury, Belvedere, Los Altos Hills, and Bear Valley)

[SEE CRIME page 10]

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## SCHOOL FUNDING

## ◆ BUDGET from page 1

see increases in state money and 15 will see huge losses in that money. The proposal is written to fully start in school year 2013-14 and is calculated for five years through year 2017-18.

If this proposal becomes law, the Orinda Union School District and the Acalanes Union School District will experience enormous funding losses. In year 2013-14, the elementary district will lose funding of \$392,309, and over the next five-year period will have lost state funding in the amount of \$9,689,883, or nearly two million per year. The secondary district, in year 2012-14, will lose \$1,799,544, and after five years of increased loss of funding will have lost a total of \$44,448,102, an average of nearly nine million per year.

California currently provides roughly eight percent more funding for English Language Learner students than for other students. Governor Brown's plan calls for replacing the current funding formula with what is called a Weighted Student Formula. This weighted formula gives a "weight" of 37 percent for every English Language Learner student and Educationally Disadvantaged student (as measured by the Free and Reduced Price Meals program). Since Orinda has fewer of these two categories of students, as does 14 other county school districts, the two local school districts will be receiving considerably less money each year for the five-year funding period.

Acalanes District Superintendent John Nickerson states that "this is a proposal," and it may or may not become law. He says what he is hearing from legislators is they believe this proposal is such a major change in funding that it definitely needs greater scrutiny and possibly legislative hearings before a decision can be made to make it law. He adds that if it were to become law it "would be devastating to this district."

Fortunately, the proposal is not slated to fully begin until the next school year, 2013-14. Though the proposal partially would begin this year, the effect will be neutral for 2012-13. According to Nickerson the governor has said, "there will be winners and losers." Since the basis of this proposed school funding formula is changing an 8 percent English Language Learner per pupil funding to a 37 percent per English Language and Disadvantaged Learner per pupil funding, more than quadrupling that added money, the money has to come from

somewhere, and in Contra Costa County it comes from 15 school districts. In Contra Costa County, the following three districts will see increases in funding: Antioch Unified, Pittsburg Unified and West Contra Costa Unified.

The California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has created an analysis of the governor's proposal called "The Weighted Student Funding Formula and English Learner Students." Presented to the Senate Select Committee on English Learners, chaired by the Hon. Alex Padilla, this analysis gives an overview of the current funding system, the English Language students, and an overview of the governor's proposal.

Additionally, it shows how the new formula would replace many existing categorical formulas and gives the LAO assessment of the governor's proposal. The assessment concludes that the proposal includes "several strong components" such as: implementing a system that is simple, transparent, and rational; providing additional funding for districts to serve needy students; and accomplishing restructuring within existing resources.

The LAO also lists drawbacks to the proposal including that the plan does not ensure that additional funding will translate to additional services for disadvantaged students and that it overestimates the power of the existing accountability system.

The LAO recommends adopting a modified version of the governor's proposal. It suggests "maintaining spending requirements for disadvantaged students until the state has a more robust accountability system." Further, it suggests the plan "specifically, require that districts spend supplemental 'weighted' portion of allocation to provide supplemental services to disadvantaged students."

Dr. Joe Jaconette, Orinda Union School District Superintendent, in his website statement regarding the governor's budget says, "In recent years, the Governor's January budget proposal for the coming fiscal year has included the suspense, plot twists, and magical thinking usually associated with the latest Hollywood release." Regardless of California political and economic uncertainty, he says, "We believe that we can weather the fiscal storm this year and next year thanks to careful fiscal planning that includes judicious use of reserves and the continued support of Parent Clubs, EFO, and the OUSD parcel tax."

## Rarely Enforced USDA Rule Could Hurt School Fundraising



Lava Pit is one of several Orinda restaurants who sell meat items to the Orinda Union School District. SALLY HOGARTY

By HEATHER WILSON  
Contributing Writer

A seldom used United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) rule is currently being applied to local school lunch programs that, potentially, will hurt parent's club efforts to raise money as well as affect the bottom line of local restaurants.

The rule has nothing to do with safety concerns but rather involves the resale of meat and poultry. The USDA says that the sale can only occur directly from restaurant to student. The current process at most local schools has the restaurant selling to each school or parents' club and then the school reselling the lunches to the students. Funds raised by the various parents' clubs coordinating the lunch programs provide needed money to supplement the shrinking state support of public schools.

The USDA has already started an investigation in the Moraga school district with Orinda supposedly next in line. Orinda school officials are looking at Moraga's experience with the USDA to help them prepare for any investigation of Orinda lunch programs.

Orinda Union School District Superintendent Joe Jaconette comments, "The information coming from the Department of Agriculture is a bit vague, however, what

we know is that it's a rule regarding the resale of meat and poultry items." Moraga School district Superintendent Bruce Burns has been dealing with the USDA with equally vague results. "We were visited by a USDA compliance investigator back in September 2011," he says. "During this process, they have not provided us information on this investigation or why it came about. Our school district is not being investigated. The focus is on our local restaurants providing the lunch meals. Our lunch program is also a fundraiser for our schools that provides up to \$100,000 a year. This has been considerably time consuming for our staff and volunteers."

Local Moraga restaurant owner Bing Yee of China Moon says, "We provide lunches five days a week to the local schools. If we lose this revenue, it may force us to move outside of the Moraga area. We are told the change to the lunch program will take affect at the new school year this coming June."

Orinda restaurant owners are concerned what this investigation may mean for them as well. "The loss of this lunch program is not just an issue of revenue for my restaurant," says Sam Lim, owner of the Lava Pit in Theatre Square. "It's more about being involved with the community and the visibility I receive in the schools. That is where I'll feel the impact."

The Moraga School District expects to hear a decision on the investigation in the next few months. In order to comply with the resale rule, restaurants may only provide non-meat options which will exclude several current lunch items. The restaurants are prepared to provide this change; however, it will be up to the students to accept a non-meat option.

"Several of our schools are already starting to offer non-meat lunch options as we prepare for a possible inspection," says OUSD's Jaconette. "It will be up to each individual school lunch program committee to decide how they will handle their outside vendors and be compliant to this rule."



Moraga's China Moon may be forced to move if it can no longer participate in the local school lunch programs. SALLY HOGARTY



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## POLICE BLOTTER / PROJECTS / LIBRARIAN



## POLICE BLOTTER

February 2012

**False Residential Alarms:** Officers responded to 98 false alarm calls throughout the city.

**Burglary – Auto:** 4 incidents were reported on Brookside Rd., Estates Dr., Via Floreado and Moraga Way.

**Burglary – Commercial:** 1 incident was reported on Orinda Way.

**Burglary – Miscellaneous:** 1 incident was reported on Barbara Rd.

**Burglary – Residential:** 2 incidents were reported on Camino Don Miguel and Orchard Rd.

**Petty Theft – From Vehicle:** 2 incidents were reported on Orchard Rd. and Wanda Ln.

**Vandalism – Felony:** 1 incident was reported on Crescent Dr.

**Arrests**

**Alcohol – Drunk in Public:** 3 arrests

were made on (2) on Moraga Way and Ivy Dr./Moraga Way.

**Burglary - Commercial:** 1 arrest was made on Orinda Way.

**Driving Under the Influence – MISD < .08:** 1 arrest was made on Moraga Way and Orchard Rd.

**Interfering with a Public Officer:** 1 arrest was made on Glorietta Blvd.

**Probation Violation:** 1 arrest was made on Moraga Way.

**Warrant – Arrest:** 2 arrests were made on El Toyonal and Camino So-brante.

**Orinda BART Station**

**Property Crime/Theft:** 5.

**Stolen Vehicle:** 1.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,  
Orinda Police Department

## Beth Girshman Takes Over as Orinda's New Librarian

By HEATHER WILSON  
Contributing Writer

The Orinda Library welcomed Beth Girshman as the new librarian in mid-April. Girshman takes over for Caroline Gick, who was tapped by the Walnut Creek Library to replace its retiring librarian.

Previously with the Moraga Library, Girshman and her husband moved to the Bay Area just over a year ago from Massachusetts to join their daughter and son, who already resided in the Bay Area.

Girshman brings extensive experience to her new position, ranging from outreach programs, grant writing, and English as a second language programs. "I plan on focusing on the public programs that the Orinda Library offers and, most of all, making sure the community realizes all that the library can offer the local community," Girshman says.

The Orinda Library's community connection first drew Girshman's interest. "It's located within the Community Center complex, a central spot for locals to gather," she adds. Girshman will continue many



SALLY HOGARTY

**Beth Girshman** gets acquainted with her new library. The librarian transferred from the Moraga to the Orinda branch in mid-April.

of Gick's plans but hopes to add her own touch to ensure that the Orinda Library has something to offer everyone.

Girshman looks forward to meeting local residents and encourages them to stop by the library and say hello. She can be reached at bgirshman@ccclib.org or by calling 254-2184.

## Planning Department Update on Major Projects

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

Emmanuel Ursu, the City of Orinda Director of Planning, presented an update on the major outstanding projects at the March 27 Joint City Council Planning Commission Meeting. The projects Ursu covered include Wilder; Orinda Grove (Pulte); Eden Senior Affordable Housing; J&J Ranch (Joaquin Moraga Adobe); Orinda Oaks; and Southwood Valley.

**Wilder** has a June 1 deadline to complete and deliver to the city the first two ball fields, parking lot and maintenance facility. Three homes have been constructed. 55 home sites have been approved by the design review. While the fields will be open by June 1, some of the amenities will not. At the April 10 City Council meeting, Scott Goldie, representing the developer Brooks Street, said that temporary restrooms will be in use. The bridge that connects the upper and lower parking lots will also not be completed, but there will be temporary access between the two.

**Orinda Grove (Pulte)** is planning to break ground in June of this year. Ursu said, "We've had many false starts from them, but I think this is the closest to them actually proceeding. They've put a lot of time and effort into preparing their improvement plans. They indicated that they are going to be submitting another set of review plans. They've had some issues on their side with getting those plans completed properly."

**Eden Housing**, who is developing affordable senior housing on Orinda's old library site, has submitted their California Tax Credit Allocation Committee Application. Ursu said, "They will hear, hopefully in June, and hopefully that'll be a positive response. If they receive the Tax Credit Financing, they then have six months to break ground. They could potentially break ground as early as December of this year."

**J&J Ranch (Joaquin Moraga Adobe)** Subdivision is, as outlined by Ursu, a "21-acre site, 13 lot subdivision with a proposal to retain the original adobe with an amenity in the project, converting it from a residence to a project amenity clubhouse. They're very close to having submitted all the information we required. As soon as they come in with the outstanding materials, we could be at a Planning Commission Meeting in about two months. That could be as early as June or July." When asked about the connection between the two Donna Maria Ways, Ursu replied "There will be a pedestrian connec-



SALLY HOGARTY

**Pulte Homes** may finally break ground for its residential development at the former JFK University site on Altarinda Way.

tion with a raised boardwalk through that swampy area where the creek runs through. They've also included on their proposal a trail connection from the end of Dolores Way through the development project down to Donna Maria Way to provide multiple connections. They also have offered an easement between Donna Maria Way and the back of Del Rey. There would need to be a bridge. They're not offering to build a bridge, but there would need to be a bridge to get across Moraga Creek at that point."

**Orinda Oaks** is the upper Castlegate project, which is a 23-acre site with 12 lots. Ursu noted, "The subdivision tentative map has been approved by the city. KT Properties is selling the property to Signature Homes. Signature Homes is interested in making some changes to the plan. The changes are in profile, not in plan view so all the lots would be where they were approved. They discovered the landslide on the project is 2.5 times larger than was previously anticipated, so there will be additional tree removal that's associated with implementation of the project. They believe the roadway was too steep, going back to the backside of the subdivision, so they're changing the grade of the roadway. That project is also very close to being complete, theoretically enabling us to complete the environmental review and bring that before the planning commission sometime this summer, June or July. The ball is in the applicant's court on a few items."

**Southwood Valley**, an approximate 42-acre site, is "a development proposal that was submitted five to six years ago. "They put a halt on processing, said Ursu. "We were almost complete with the administrative draft/environmental impact report. They told us they want to reinstate it, but then didn't do anything to reinstate it. That project is at a standstill."

For more information, visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

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CONTINUATIONS

## St. Stephen's Popular Preschool Director to Retire This Year

**K**aren Patera, long-time director of the St. Stephen's Preschool in Orinda, is retiring after a 35-year affiliation with the school.

A retirement party to honor and celebrate Patera will be held on Saturday, May 19, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the campus of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and Preschool, 66 St. Stephen's Drive.

All present and former students, parents, and teachers are invited to share in the celebration which will include great food, supervised activities for the children, and the opportunity to thank Patera for her dedication to the school and the children of our community.

RSVP to [karensretirement@ststephen-sorinda.org](mailto:karensretirement@ststephen-sorinda.org) by May 8. For more information, call the church office, 925-254-3770.



SALLY HOGARTY  
A retirement party for long-time preschool director, **Karen Patera**, will take place on May 19.

### ◆ CRIME from page 7

have populations under 9,000 – half the population of Orinda.

Police responded to nearly 200 traffic accidents, of which 87 needed collision reports. Jennings said, "The ones where we don't take reports are the ones where people exchange information. The number of traffic accidents was down, and I attribute that to the amount of citations that were written. We wrote about 4,900 citations in 2011, compared to 2,900 in 2010." According to the National Traffic Institute, there is a direct correlation between traffic citations and reduction of accidents. Jennings added, "I want my guys to write traffic accident reducing citations. Those are moving violations, failure to maintain the lane, not stopping at stop signs, not stopping at stoplights. Those are my focus. Those are the ones where people get hurt. Our goal is to reduce accidents and make sure that people are safe. We actually save more money by having less accidents – fewer insurance issues, fewer car repairs, less property damage."

Orinda Police also have a number of community outreach programs, which include the Neighborhood Watch, Business Neighborhood Watch, and Home Security Audit programs. Jennings said, "Those are the programs I'm most pleased with. We worked with the businesses and

Chamber of Commerce to do the business watch program. We worked again with the chamber regarding traffic issues downtown, helping them to develop a subcommittee to work with parking issues. We're trying to be more collaborative and more ingrained with what's going on downtown."

The Home Burglary Audit program was initiated in 2011. Upon a homeowner's request, a police officer will come to their home to assess it for safety. "Keeping your home safe helps keep the whole city safe," said Jennings. "If you control your neighborhood with safety, it expands and interconnected communities become safer. That's been successful, but what's been most successful has been arresting a bunch of burglars, so the home security audits are not as popular as they were in the beginning. My goal is to get every house done at some period of time during my tenure here, but people are not fearful anymore, and so they're not calling as much."

Orinda Police have a School Resource Program, where a part-time officer can go to the schools and interact with teachers and students. Jennings said, "this year we went to the schools about 800 times - self-initiated activities where officers would go and be on campus. That program's been very successful."

For more information, visit [www.cityof-orinda.org](http://www.cityof-orinda.org), click on Departments and then click on Police Department.

### ◆ MAYOR from page 7

"We are doing our best to meet our legal obligations and continue to do our best to deliver a high level of public services even with lower revenues," he added. "We are doing our best to not interrupt the citizen's quality of life here in Orinda."

As in the past, Orinda's deteriorating roads and drains continue to be a priority item. A public survey taken in January showed that residents would favor a

half cent sales tax increase to help fund improvements. This would raise roughly \$600,000 of the \$60 million needed to complete the road and drainage project. "The funds would only support a small portion of what needs to be repaired; however, it is a start to a much needed issue," Glazer said.

According to Glazer, the economic downturn continues to impact Orinda. He noted a decline in building permit applications and housing numbers in Orinda. "There has been a 41 percent drop in the permit applications as well as property taxes down 66.7 percent from last February. There are currently 53 homes in foreclosure, but we are hopeful that we have hit bottom and things will begin to improve," the Mayor stated.

Mayor Glazer concluded his "State of the City" on an up note, however. "Sales tax revenues are up by 5.2 percent showing a slow but steady improvement. Theatre Square is now 95 percent occupied, and we have a new restaurant opening shortly."

He also said that the January survey showed that 90 percent rated the quality of life in Orinda as excellent or good. "Few places in California or nationally can boast of such a high rating."



HEATHER WILSON  
Rotarians, friends and interested citizens attending a Rotary luncheon to hear Mayor Glazer's State of the City address.

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LOCAL RESIDENT

# Local Celebrity Finds Latest Challenge Stimulating

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Any one who knows Vicki Saputo can't help but be struck by her enthusiasm for learning new things and for life in general. The long-time Orinda resident was a Registered Nurse at John Muir Hospital as well as a successful commercial actress for many years before she began her current journey into a variety of healthcare options, which resulted in her new career hosting radio, TV and web-based shows.

Already maintaining a very busy lifestyle, Saputo had no idea that accepting an invitation to be on a local television show would propel her into warp speed. The show, "A Forum on Spirituality," interviews high profile personalities from a variety of fields in a fast-paced 30-minute contemporary format. Before she knew what happened, Saputo had been asked to host the show. "I agreed and it really threw me onto the fast track," says Saputo.

Saputo began her journey into non-traditional healthcare following her own debilitating health problems that conventional medicine could not address. Thanks to an

extensive alternative method of determining allergies, her life-threatening allergic reactions were stopped.

Saputo and her husband, Dr. Len Saputo, established Health Medicine Forum in Walnut Creek in 1994, subsequently bringing its principles forward in the form of Health Medicine and in 2000 created the Health-Medicine Center in Walnut Creek. The center has a reputation for helping people with health problems that have been considered unsolvable by Western medical methods and often receives referrals from health care practitioners of many disciplines.

In an effort to share their knowledge with the general public, the Saputos aired a radio show on KEST AM for many years. Now their large fan base can follow them through Internet radio with their "Prescriptions for Health," which airs each Monday at 10 a.m. live with new Fast Track editions in video Monday through Friday. The shows can be accessed at [www.doctorsaputo.com](http://www.doctorsaputo.com).

"There is so much to study and prepare before doing each show for 'A Forum on Spirituality,'" Saputo adds. "It has really stretched me beyond the field of health. Many of the people I'm interviewing have written various books, so I have lots of reading on subjects I knew nothing about. It's challenging at times but so rewarding."

One personally rewarding interview was with composer and musician Steven Halpern. "I'm not a musical person at all, but I learned so much about how music can heal by reducing stress and inducing relaxation," she explains. "Now, I play one of his pieces when ever I'm putting my notes for a show together."

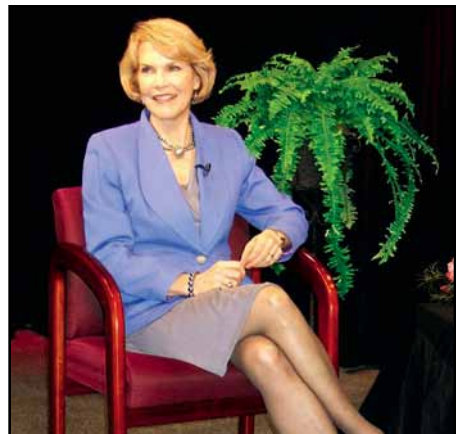
A special show for Saputo that actually ended up being two shows was with Mikol Davis and Carolyn Rosenblatt, who discussed the power of forgiveness when dealing with conflicts between elderly



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Vicki Saputo** has had a varied career as a nurse, actress, and television host.

is her ability to relate to her viewers and ask questions that many in her audience would like answered. "I'm very curious about things and get really excited when interviewing my guests, but I always try to keep my listeners in mind and ask things that I think they would want to know," she says. "I feel very fortunate to be in a profession where I'm constantly learning new things and educating people. Between our radio shows and the television show, I've met so many bright, interesting people. It's never too late to learn."

Saputo's television show "A Forum on Spirituality" airs on Comcast Channel 26 at 7 p.m. every Thursday. The show also airs in East Contra Costa County on Channel 24 and in Marin County on Channel 26.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Vicki Saputo** interviews a guest on her Comcast show "A Forum on Spirituality."

parents and their adult children. "This is something so many of us are dealing with as our parents age, and we become their parents. Mikol and Carolyn talked about discovering the reasons for the conflict between parents and siblings and how to get to the spiritual side of it and the power of forgiveness," Saputo says.

Saputo also recalls a very lively two-show interview with KQED's Michael Krasny. The author of *Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest*, Krasny discussed science and the intellect vs. spirituality and much more. "We talked about his curiosity and where he finds purpose, his reason for living, morality, ethics, goodness and his personal code as opposed to following the 10 Commandments," she explains.

One of Saputo's assets as an interviewer

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FILM



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## Headhunters Provides Lots of Suspense

By BEAU BEHAN  
Contributing Writer

*Headhunters* is a film full of riveting suspense that will captivate even the most jaded filmmakers and moviegoers in its web of mystery and deceit. Furthermore, it has a plot that bears that paradoxical special “IT” factor with *je ne sais quoi* written all over it!

The film’s protagonist, Roger, played by the talented Aksel Hennie, famous for his role in *Max Manus*, is a well-respected professional headhunter. He is only five and a half feet tall, and yet he epitomizes a man who exudes charisma, enviable self-confidence, and magnificent reputation. These personal traits make the storyline and script intriguing, especially with an effervescent depiction of a persona employing a Napoleonic syndrome to its advantage.

Undoubtedly, the film aims to arouse the audience’s curiosity from beginning to end.

Roger may be the most accomplished headhunter in Norway, but he is also a scoundrel who engages in clandestine affairs, and steals high valued art to boot. As the plot thickens, he plans the heist of his lifetime — to seize an acrylic painting valued at \$100 million dollars. Now, the twists, turns and chases begin.

While director Morten Tyldum’s crime-thriller does not exhibit the same panache as *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol*, it is a wonderfully entertaining and scintillating film.

*Headhunters* is presented by Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation’s International Film Showcase. It will be screening at the Orinda Theatre from May 18 – 24. Visit [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com) for the most up-to-date schedule.

### THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

Of Foreign Originals And Places Not Recommended By AAA



Tom Westlake

By now, weather permitting, we are starting to dry out, the sun is shining a little more, and the transition to more temperate climes is no longer such a jarring transition. May, overall, has a good reputation. The desire to stay outdoors is greater, and optimism becomes a little easier to achieve. But, despite the lure to remain outdoors, our local theaters have several movies that will entice even the most warm-weather lover to spend a few hours inside.

The Classic Film Series starts things off with Pink Floyd’s *The Wall* on May 12 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre. Bob Geldof plays Pink, a rock star caught in a downward spiral. The film has very little dialogue, using instead Pink Floyd’s music to drive the story.

On May 16, the Rheem Theatre screens *The Heiress* at 4:30 p.m. Originally released in 1949, *The Heiress* is part of the Moraga Movers Monthly Classics series. Directed by William Wyler and starring Olivia de Havilland, Montgomery Clift and Ralph Richardson, it won four Academy Awards: Best Actress for de Havilland, Best Costume Design, Best Art Direction/Set Decoration, and Original Music Score (by Aaron Copland). In 1966, the Library of Congress selected *The Heiress* for preservation in the United States National Film Registry.

Next up, the ever-popular International Film Showcase Series (IFSS) presents an about-face thriller in the vein of *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* entitled *Headhunters* (2011). A combination psychological/heist movie with a little *Les Miserables*

thrown in, this film features actor Aksel Hennie, who also portrayed Max Manus in an earlier IFSS offering. HBO watchers will recognize actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, who portrays Jaime Lannister in the popular series *Game of Thrones*. The twists and turns will more than hold your interest as it becomes increasingly difficult to figure out just who is stealing from whom. It is rumored that American actor Mark Wahlberg so admired the movie that he’s remaking a version for the United States. *Headhunters* screens at the Orinda on May 18 through the 24. For specific times and to purchase tickets online, please go to [www.lfssshowcase@gmail.com](http://www.lfssshowcase@gmail.com) or call 925-283-1700.

Then, there’s *Motel Hell* (1980). As the title might suggest, this is perfect fodder for The Queen’s Slumber Party; a regular event at the Rheem. It is rife with laughable moments and an overall disgusting, but entertaining, premise. But, unlike many of the films on the Queen’s roster, this one was not made in the ‘50s or early ‘60s. It is, instead, an early entry, trying to capitalize on the successes of movies like *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* or the *Friday the 13th* movies. That it fails is reason enough to see it. It also stars Rory Calhoun, as an unfortunate victim, and a very young John Ratzenberger (*Cheers*, not to mention countless voices for Pixar films.) It will screen, as usual, on the third Friday in May at 9 p.m.

For more information go to [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com). Until next month, stay in the dark. That’s where all the magic happens.

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GALLERY

May in the Gallery: Abstractly Speaking

■ Exploring Color, Line, Shape and Form in Abstract Manner

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Orinda Arts Council is proud to present the works of 10 painters who met in Tesia Blackburn's weekly abstract painting class at the Lafayette Studio, sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Alliance. Some have been painting for 10 years, others close to 30; all are members of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance. Join them at the Artist Reception on Sunday, May 6 from 2-4:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served.

"Our group has terrific energy and synergy; we love painting together," says Valerie Corvin, organizer of the show. "We spur each other on to stretch ourselves, to do new and fun things with our paintings and can't wait for Tuesday afternoons." Painting in a supportive group balances out the time each painter spends painting alone in her home/studio, which can become isolating. See [www.acrylicdiva.com](http://www.acrylicdiva.com) for more information on the 8-12 week sessions.

The group includes abstract works by Tesia Blackburn ([www.blackburnfineart.com](http://www.blackburnfineart.com)), Jackie Carroll, Valerie Corvin ([www.valeriecorvin.com](http://www.valeriecorvin.com)), Jane Emanuel, Lynn Glenn, Pamela Hamill, Elise Marshall ([www.elisemarshall.com](http://www.elisemarshall.com)), Nancy Robinson, Tina Pressler ([www.tinapressler.com](http://www.tinapressler.com)), and Lisa Steele ([www.steeleartandphoto.com](http://www.steeleartandphoto.com)). Two works included in the show are Corvin's *Playfulness*, acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 30" x 40" and Pressler's *Theta IV*, acrylic on canvas, 36" x 36."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Playfulness" is the title of Valerie Corvin's acrylic and mixed media on canvas.

An experienced group of painters, the participants keep their work fresh by questioning what they are doing, what their intentions are, and what new techniques,

such as new ways to handle gel mediums for acrylics, to try. It seems to them that there are a million ways to handle acrylic paints so there is always something new and different to try. As they experiment, they often spur someone painting near them to play with paint differently. Blackburn works to help each painter find her inner voice and relate it to other artists "who've gone before them." So you might hear, "Look at Dibenkorn's work from this era," or "Look at DeKooning's work from this time." If Blackburn, a noted art historian, notices your work refers to a prominent artist, she'll bring it up on her iPad. Group members also share art images in books and other media.

All would agree with Hilla von Rebay (1890-1967), an inspiration for the group: "Painting, like music, has nothing to do with the reproduction of nature, nor interpretation of intellectual meanings. Whoever is able to feel the beauty of colors and forms has understood non-objective painting." Von Rebay was an early abstract painter who helped create the Guggenheim art collection and the Guggenheim itself. She chose Frank Lloyd Wright to design the building. Visitors to her Connecticut estate included Marc Chagall, Rudolf Steiner and

[SEE GALLERY page 21]

Everyday Changes

Mother's Day Trivia & a New Tradition

Bonnie Waters



Soon it will be Mother's Day, a holiday celebrated on various dates and in various ways around the world. It is historically a celebration as old as ancient Greece when it lasted for three days and revelers brought Mother's Day gifts and flowers to honor the mother's of the Olympians.

Mother's Day was founded in 1908 in the United States by Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker who organized a "Mother's Work Day" to raise awareness of poor economic and health conditions affecting the children in her community. Years later, Julia Ward Howe, author of the lyrics to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," proposed an annual event called Mother's Day to encourage mothers to rally for peace.

It is hard now to recognize the original intentions of Mother's Day. During the lifetime of Jarvis, Mother's Day became so commercialized that she considered it a "Hallmark Holiday" and eventually ended up opposing the holiday. Today, Mother's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Enjoy a multi-generational Mother's Day!

Day is one of the busiest days for phone companies, card companies and flower merchants.

Make a New Mother's Day Tradition of Inner Peace

Commercialism aside, the frantic pace of modern everyday life doesn't allow much time for relaxation and reflection. Why not dedicate this Mother's Day to finding that

[SEE CHANGES page 22]

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WAY TO GROW

*Way to Grow*

*At Last – Advances in LED Landscape Lighting Combine Energy Savings and Functionality*

by Steve & Cathy Lambert



An attractive landscape can be even more appealing after dark with a well-designed lighting system. Aside from accentuating the style and beauty of your home and garden, lighting systems are beneficial for other reasons.

The initial emphasis of adding landscape lighting was for security and utilitarian purposes. Now, it has emerged as a style statement, highlighting your gardens best features at night. Then, there's the added

benefit of extending your outdoor entertaining hours.

To meet all these needs, there are various types of outdoor lighting fixtures, each designed for a specific purpose. Some utilitarian lights (like porch lights and path lights) have fixtures that are meant to be seen and can add artistic flare to your garden. Accent lights (like down lights and spotlights) are meant to blend into the landscape drawing your eye to the focal point or space they



STEVE LAMBERT

**Garden Lights** combined a variety of lighting effects for this backyard.

illuminate.

Incandescent, fluorescent and halogen bulbs have been used as the conventional sources of illumination for decades. This scenario changed with the introduction of more durable and energy efficient options like compact fluorescent bulbs and LED lighting. LED or (light emitting diode) refers to a semiconductor device that is used for conversion of electricity to light. The invention of LED technology can be traced back to the 1920s, however, it's practical use started in the U.S. during the 1960s. Early versions of LED lights produced low intensity red light mostly for electronic instrument panels.

In the late 1990s, LEDs expanded to more common household lighting and most recently to landscape lighting. On the surface, they sounded great. They use about one third the energy of other bulbs and were said to last up to 20 years. What could be better? The reality was less rosy. The majority of the outdoor LEDs failed to live up to their promises. The D.O.E. (Department of Energy) launched a testing program "Caliper" that put these products back on the testing block. The results were staggering; nearly every product failed to live up to its claims. Some LED manufacturers faced lawsuits because their product capabilities were so abysmal when compared to their promises.

Up until about the middle of 2011, we felt that LED lighting fixtures were not reliable enough for outdoor use. Our first experiences using LEDs had less than desirable results compared to incandescent or halogen lights. The light quality was not as good, output was inconsistent, and the warranties on the LED lamps didn't match-up with its other components. For example, the lamp itself guaranteed 30,000 hours of burning time while the fine print listed other parts (drivers, transistors and connectors) at less than 10,000 hours.

The basic problems with early outdoor LED technologies were low light with little spread, overheating, susceptibility to moisture, poor color and unreliable fixture integrity. LED circuits are very sensitive bundles of electronics. Think about it - would you put your cell phone in a leaky box then plant it in your back yard and expect it to last 20 years? It's not easy to manufacturer a sensitive piece of electronics that will survive the worst Mother Nature has to offer.

We were convinced (up until recently) that LED lighting was just another passing fad much like the fiber optics of the 1990s. Change does happen however, and as new LED technologies evolved and improved in the lighting industry these enhancements eventually trickled down to landscape lighting products as well. Today, there are good products on the market for new installations as well as retrofitting options for older lighting systems.

The newer LED products offer more flexibility in beam-spread (lighting area capacity) better light output (intensity), and improvements in the color the lamp emits. Using an "integral module approach," the fixture manufacturers have designed the entire lighting unit to be better suited for an LED source. This was accomplished by improving heat dissipation to keep the fixture's temperature in optimal range, pro-

[SEE WAY page 20]



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STUDENTS

# Orinda Juniors Announce Youth Ink Winners for 2012

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Auditorium was abuzz with excitement Thursday, April 26, as this year's winners of Youth Ink were honored at an awards ceremony and reading.

Sponsored by The Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC), Youth Ink is an annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. The writing prompt for this year's contest was: "There is a knock on the door."

Twins Hannah and Olivia Fishlow won top prizes this year. Hannah, whose entry "A Starless Night" was chosen as this year's top award recipient said, "I really enjoy writing and I think it would be great to pursue as a career."

Her sister Olivia penned the 2nd place winner and noted, "The thing I like most about writing is that you get to create different worlds. There are so many different

ways to go when you're writing fiction."

The Fishlows, and 3rd place winner Kate Dunn, are all in 7th grade at Orinda Intermediate School. "I just love to write for my own pleasure," said Dunn. "I write fiction but also about things that have really happened. My favorite subject is my dog Casey. She does the most amazing things."

The Youth Ink contest uses a completely anonymous format that provided no information about the writer's name, age, sex or school. Submissions are read and critiqued by an esteemed panel of local professional writers. This year's judges were: Cynthia Leslie-Bole, a personal coach, workshop and writing group facilitator; Ann Manheimer, an educator and published author of works including *Martin Luther King: Dreaming of Equality*, *James Beckwourth: Legendary Mountain Man*, and *What A Song Can Do: 12 Riffs on the Power of Music*; Melissa Manlove, a children's book editor for Chronicle Books and a children's bookseller/puppeteer at Storyteller in Lafayette; and Scott Ostler, 13-time Sports-



(L-R) Hannah Fishlow, Kate Dunn, and Olivia Fishlow were top winners in the Youth Ink contest. All are 7th graders at Orinda Intermediate School.

SALLY HOGARTY

## Proud Ambassador

Giancarlo Sponzilli (center), a 5th grader at Glorietta Elementary poses proudly with his art work. With him are his brother Giovanni Sponzilli, a 4th grader at Glorietta, and his mom Katarina Sponzilli. Sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council, the Arts Ambassador exhibit featured close to 300 pieces of art created by students in K-5. Each participant received an Arts Ambassador ribbon.



BILL CARMEL

writer of the Year and columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

"We were impressed with the high-quality creative writing we observed in this year's Youth Ink competition," said Cathy Opdyke, president of the Orinda Junior Women's Club. "The turnout included a good mix of boys and girls and a solid representation of Orinda residents who attend Bentley School, OIS, Seven Hills School, Stanley Middle School, St. Perpetua, as well as El Sobrante and Moraga residents who attend an Orinda school."

In addition to Hannah, who received \$250 for her first place win, Olivia, who

received \$125 for second place, and Dunn, who received \$75 for third place, the following students were awarded honorable mention and a \$25 gift certificate from The Storyteller book store: Martha Castro, Julia Dureault, Steve Ginsburg, Will Knox, Samira Maboudian, Vivian McGowan, Gabriel Moran, Kate Nerone, Kendall Reid Martin, and McKenna Williams. All other participants received a gift certificate for Loard's Ice Cream in Orinda.

If you are interested in becoming an Orinda Juniors member or making a donation to one of their service projects, please email [info@orindajuniors.org](mailto:info@orindajuniors.org).

# Candace Andersen

## for County Supervisor

### Why Candace?

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### What do our top county leaders think?



**Gayle Uilkema, Our Retiring County Supervisor**  
"Experience matters. District 2 is best served by someone who has City Council experience. Candace has the education and training to analyze complex matters. She understands our county's needs and how to carefully allocate our limited resources."



**Mark Peterson, Contra Costa District Attorney**  
"Her experience as a Mayor uniquely qualifies her to provide leadership at the county level. She knows how to make the tough decisions, including decisions about how to spend limited county funds. She has the experience our citizens need."



**David Livingston, Contra Costa Sheriff**  
"We believe Mayor Andersen will provide the leadership needed to make public safety a priority in the county. Her service as a criminal prosecutor will be extremely helpful as she works with us to make our communities safe for our families."



### Who supports Candace?

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District Attorney Mark Peterson  
County Treasurer Russell V. Watts  
County Assessor Gus S. Kramer

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Councilmember Karen Stepper  
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BARBARA KOBSAR

Loyal market shoppers have been enjoying all the early spring produce at the Orinda Farmers' Market since March. This month the list gets longer with the arrival of hot house tomatoes, cherries, fava beans and a few very early varieties of apricots to add to the stands already filled with asparagus, salad greens, chards, mushrooms, peas and beets.

It never seems like there's a lot of excitement around the boxes of onions, since there's always some type of onion available



Onions, onions everywhere at the Orinda Farmers' Market.

at the market year round - but some varieties are only around for a short time. Onions need little introduction, but familiarizing yourself with the different members of this group may add some diversity to your cooking. From the smallest and mildest chives to the pungent globe type, onions are an essential ingredient in many breakfast, lunch and dinner dishes.

California, along with Idaho, Eastern Oregon and Washington, are the top three

onion producing areas in the U.S. There are three general categories of onions produced - green, fresh (sweet) and storage. Green onions are also referred to as scallions and are any young onion plant that has a definite bulb formation. Onion aficionados wanting "true" scallions or spring onions look for those pulled before the root bulb is fully developed.

Both fresh and storage onions are types of dry onions. California growers generally harvest five to six times as many storage onions as they do fresh ones. Fresh or sweet onions are harvested in the spring until early summer and include red, yellow and white varieties. Their lack of pyruvate (the chemical that causes eye tearing) makes them sweet and mild, but a high water and sugar content limits their storage capabilities to 10 days to two weeks.

Look for sweet Italian red onions as one of the local favorites at the market. These are excellent sliced and added to salads and sandwiches or diced to use as condiments for chili, tacos and hot dogs. Sweet onions caramelize well when used on pizzas and tarts.

Storage onions grow during the upcoming summer months and are harvested in the fall. They may be yellow, white or red skinned, but these "long day" onions (referring to the long summer days during which they grow) are stronger tasting, thicker skinned, less watery and better keepers than sweet onions - they'll keep for up to two months.

[SEE SHOPPER page 22]

National Charity League Class of 2012



JAMES BRIAN FIDELIBUS

The Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League recently celebrated their graduating seniors from the class of 2012.

National Charity League, Inc. is a mother-daughter non-profit organization dedicated to serving local communities. The Lamorinda Chapter was organized in 1989 and has members from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. The girls above were honored for their many hours of philanthropic work volunteering at The American Cancer Society, California Shakespeare, Youth Homes, Smiley Dog and Special Olympics among others.

(L-R) First Row seated: Savannah Ryder, Caitlin Cunningham, Paige Williams  
Seated around chairs: Katie DeWitt, Grace Whitton, Hannah Perkins, Kathleen Stanaro;

Third Row Standing: Meredith Collett, Clare Durant, Shannon Burke, Lindsay Raftis;

Fourth Row Standing: Samantha Reneau, Kimi Klein, Jenna Haufler, Annie Odell, Caitlin Noll, Daelyn Chase;

Fifth Row Standing: Annalise Baer, Megan Freeman, Erin Byrne; and  
Sixth Row Standing: Kellen Scanlan, Kelly Noah, Lizzie Newman, Kelly Leonard.

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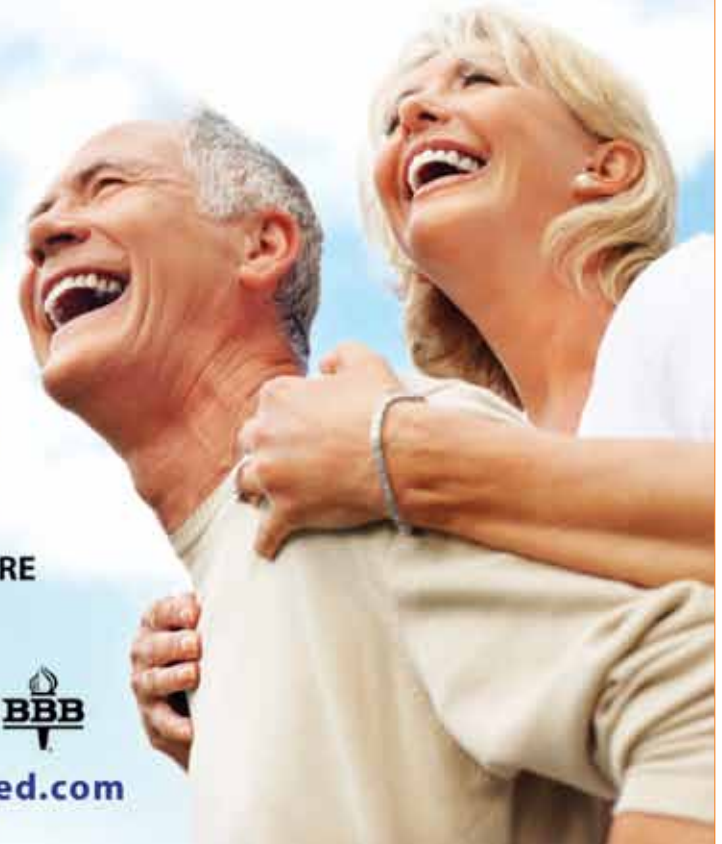
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## SCOUTING / MOVE OF THE MONTH

### Orinda Girl Scouts Honored



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Scouts being honored include (L-R) front row: **Charlsie Green** - Troop 31257 and **Audrey Lambert** - Troop 31342; middle row: **Sophia Cabellon, Ashley Miller, Kaitlyn Miller, Emily Tiedemann, Samantha Bowen, Victoria Huish** and **Dianda Giles** of Troop 30675; and top row: City Councilmembers **Sue Severson, Victoria Smith, Dean Orr** and Vice Mayor **Amy Worth**.

By NICOLLE MILLER  
Student Writer

**G**irl Scouts from Glorietta 5th grade Junior troop 30675, Wagner Ranch 3rd grade Brownie Troop 31342, and Wagner Ranch 2nd grade Troop 31257 came together for the opening flag ceremony of the March 20 Orinda City Council meeting. Vice Mayor Amy Worth presented the Orinda Girl Scouts with a proclamation in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts of America.

The March City Council proclamation was very appropriate as March 12, 2012

marked the day 100 years ago that a woman named Juliette Gordon Low organized and founded an organization that would grow and serve not only her hometown of Savannah Georgia, but also America and the world – Girl Scouts of America. Although the Girl Scouts have seen many changes throughout its 100 years, the basic principles and ideals that it was founded on have remained ever strong: to help young girls become better citizens, friends, and to instill in them life lessons that they will carry them into adulthood.

Today Girl Scouts of America proudly [SEE GIRL SCOUTS page 20]

### New Eagle Scouts for Troop 237



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Troop 237's latest Eagle Scouts include: (L-R) **Drew Holland, Jason Lammert, Tanner Cullen, Charlie Wisner, and Tyler Kirchberg**.

By JULIE KIRCHBERG  
Contributing Writer

**O**rinda Boy Scout Troop 237 is proud to announce that five Scouts have earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout and were honored at a Court of Honor on February 26 at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church in Moraga. The Court was opened and closed by Aklan District Commissioner Wick Smith. Reverend Frank Baldwin from

the Orinda Community Church provided the Invocation and Benediction. John "Tanner" Cullen, Drew Holland, Tyler Kirchberg, Jason Lammert, and Charlie Wisner achieved Boy Scouting's highest award after completing their individual community service projects.

Tanner Cullen's Eagle Project was building a Cobb bench in the Garden of Learning at St. Perpetua School, using recycled [SEE EAGLES page 20]

### Move of the Month

#### Swing and Squat



Hold one dumbbell with both hands between your legs and crouch down until your knees are at 90 degree angles. Lift yourself to a standing position while bringing the dumbbell up above your head and slowly return to starting position after a short pause. Keep your back straight throughout.

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- Rumi

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## Something to Howl About... Animal Tales

The Dish On Dog Parks



Jennifer Conroy

If you have a dog, you are probably familiar with local dog parks. If you are not aware of them, Google “Dog Parks Orinda CA.” You will discover a dense population of dog parks in the East Bay from small neighborhood parks to large, lush expanses of acreage. You will also discover a variety of amenities. Some dog parks feature watering spots for dogs, poop bags, and seating areas for people.

The advantage of dog parks is that they are places where dog owners may lawfully have their dogs off leash. Apart from dogs being able to run leash free, dog parks are popular with dog owners and their dogs for another important reason – socializing.

Both the dogs and their people make friends at the dog park.

So far so good – dog parks sound like the perfect place to bring your dog for leash-free, safe, play time. But wait, there are some cautions to consider.

Dog parks do not enforce canine vaccination protocols, and there are a number of virulent canine diseases that pass from animal to animal – *Canine parvovirus*, to name one. Just because your dog is current on vaccinations doesn’t necessarily mean protection against all possible sources of contagion. Plus, just as with human diseases, canine diseases evolve, always trying

[SEE HOWL page 20]

## Third Annual Walk For Wishes to Benefit Make-A-Wish



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

These enthusiastic walkers participated in last year’s Make-A-Wish Walk at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga.

By JEN WILSON  
Contributing Writer

Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area will host its third annual Walk For Wishes, a family-friendly fundraiser and 5K Walk, on Saturday, June 2 at St. Mary’s College campus in Moraga. Up to 500 runners and walkers are anticipated for this event, with the goal of raising \$75,000 to help grant wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions in the Bay Area and beyond. This moderately easy, wheelchair, stroller and dog friendly 5K

walk/fun run will include activities and entertainment for the whole family, with a focus on wishes and wish children.

One such child is Kevin Irving, age 14, of Martinez. Kevin was diagnosed with sickle-cell anemia at birth. Sickle-cell patients are discouraged from going to higher altitudes because low-oxygen conditions aggravate the disease. But Kevin “is very adamant about being a fighter pilot,” says his mother, Passion. For his wish, he got to experience what that would be like at Boeing’s Defense, Space & Security headquarters in St. Louis. While there, he toured the facilities, tried on a flight suit and helmet, operated a flight simulator and got to sit in a real fighter jet. Says his mom, “Once we made it home he began looking into aviation colleges immediately. This meant so much to him.”

Both individuals and teams are encouraged to register. Registration is \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids until May 21 and then registration increases by \$5. On-site registration begins at 8 a.m. on the day of the walk and the walk begins at 9 a.m. Each participant who registers will receive a Walk For Wishes T-shirt and water bottle. Refreshments and entertainment will be waiting for all who complete the walk. Participants can register in advance at [www.walkforwishesbayarea.org](http://www.walkforwishesbayarea.org), and people can also register on the morning of the event. Make-A-Wish encourages people to walk in honor of a wish child.

For more information or to refer a child for a wish, please call 415-982-9474 or visit [www.SFWish.org](http://www.SFWish.org).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This family helped make a difference in a child’s life by walking in last year’s fundraising event.



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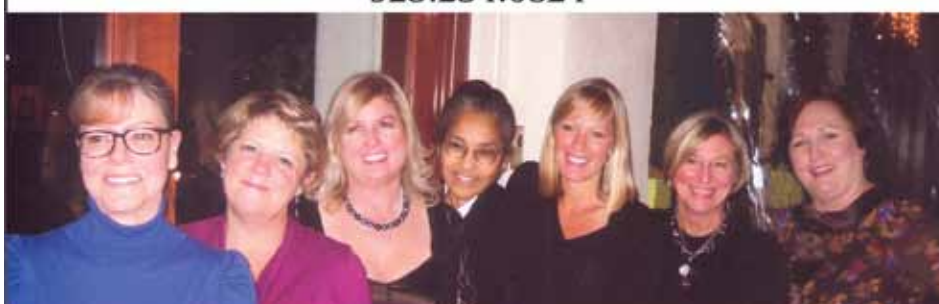
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## SENIORS

## Getting Out and About vs. Staying Home Alone



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seniors rely on the **Lamorinda Spirit Van** or volunteer driver programs such as the Orinda Association's **Seniors Around Town** to get to events like this picnic.

By MARY BRUNS  
Program Coordinator, Lamorinda  
Senior Transportation

At the last Senior Mobility Action Council Meeting, a local attorney addressed the importance of senior transportation, saying that the biggest challenge for seniors was overcoming the tendency to become increasingly isolated and thereby vulnerable to financial predators who phone or stop by. Other participants echoed the attorney's concern for the well-being and mobility needs of seniors who have given up their car keys. This group advocates for senior transportation, for funding for senior transportation, and for volunteer drivers.

Orinda, Lafayette, and Moraga are fortunate in having senior transportation programs in place, which seniors can use and enjoy. Seniors have used the Lamorinda Spirit Van to go to Jack London Square, the Gardens at Heather Farm, and grocery shopping. The more active seniors stay, the healthier, stronger, and safer they will be.

Our two-van program is successfully underway; and due to our expanded schedule, we are experiencing a greater influx of calls for our service. We are excited to see this growth, and we are learning to manage the more complex logistics.

Additional volunteer drivers for the van program as well as for the Senior Helpline Services Rides for Seniors and the Orinda Seniors Around Town programs will help our tri-city community meet the challenge of an aging population. Four additional volunteer drivers would allow the Van Program to offer rides all day Monday through Friday. Additional drivers for Senior Helpline Services and Orinda Seniors Around Town will allow them to accept more clients.

Volunteerism is a key component in creating a vibrant, healthy community. Consider what you would like your legacy to be in Contra Costa County and beyond.

As you step up to the plate to give a ride to a senior who no longer drives, you are paving the way for services to be in place when you need them. "There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness." - Dalai Lama. Volunteerism is "Kindness in Action."

#### **Lamorinda Senior Transportation An Alliance of Transportation Providers**

*Call each program for information, opportunities to volunteer and to make tax-deductible donations. Volunteer drivers are needed and appreciated.*

#### **Lamorinda Spirit Van 283-3534**

Serving Lamorinda seniors with rides to the C.C. Café for lunch in a social setting; grocery and sundry shopping; errands; medical, physical therapy, and other appointments; Senior Services events; the Mall; the Library and social outings. \$10.00 round-trip. Call for more information and to register.

#### **Contra Costa Yellow Cab and DeSoto Company 284-1234**

A 20 percent discount for Lamorinda seniors. A taxi is often an economical alternative to owning, insuring, and maintaining a car.

#### **Volunteer Driver Program**

#### **Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town 925-402-4506**

Orinda volunteers serving Orinda seniors available M-F, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### **Senior Helpline Services Rides for Seniors 284-6161**

Serving Contra Costa seniors with rides to medical appointments Monday through Fridays and to grocery shopping on Saturdays. Ask about reassurance phone calls and additional programs.

## Driving Class Helps Seniors Around Town Program Volunteer Drivers

Twelve drivers with the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town participated along with program director Kate Wiley and program coordinator Marie Waterman in a driver safety course. Sponsored by AARP and held at the Orinda Community Center, the course reviewed driving safety knowledge and introduced some new driving techniques.

"It's an entertaining 8-hour course that refreshes your knowledge but also talks about how certain driving skills diminish with age and how to compensate for that to become better drivers," explains Wiley, who notes that insurance companies in California are required to give discounts to any senior who completes the course.

The course represented a partnership between the Orinda Parks and Rec Department and the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program, which provided coffee for everyone at the class. Seniors



KATE WILEY

Seniors attend AARP driving class to reinforce skills and learn new techniques.

Around Town is a program that provides rides to Orinda seniors utilizing volunteer drivers. For more information, go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

— Sally Hogarty, Editor



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **WAY** from page 14

viding for a wide range of voltage variation, protecting the driver/board from voltage spikes or surges, filtering electromagnetic interference and, most importantly, sealing (or potting) the circuit board to eliminate moisture interference with electronic parts. As technology advances, some newer LED fixtures are even designed with the ability to replace just the module.

There are a few factors to consider when purchasing LED lighting and these tips will help you choose the right products for your project. The first consideration is lumen output. This measures the intensity or brightness of a light. One early criticism of LED lighting was that it was not bright enough. In many cases, this criticism was well founded. In fact, it can still be an issue with many lower quality LED lighting products.

When choosing an LED landscape light, it's important to be sure it will produce enough light for your application. Yet when told that a particular LED light produced 200 lumens, it probably wouldn't mean much to you so we'll use a common incandescent light bulb as a benchmark. Most people are familiar with the amount of light produced by a standard 60-watt incandescent bulb. A 60-watt bulb equates to about 850 lumens of LED light output. This should give you a general idea of light output when expressed in lumens.

The other important factor to consider

is the color the light emits. Color of light is expressed using what's called color temperature and is measured by a term called kelvin. A light source with a higher kelvin or color temperature (5000K or more) is considered "cool" and produces a bluish light. Light sources with a low color temperature (2700-3000K) are considered "warm" and produce a light that is more yellow in color. The typical incandescent light has a warm color temperature of about 2700K while a fluorescent light has a cooler color temperature, in the 4800-5000K range.

When you're shopping for LED landscape lights, be sure to select an LED lamp that has a color temperature suitable for your application. Choose a higher kelvin for task lighting (cooking spaces), a medium kelvin for safety lighting (walkways, steps and entry areas) as well as entertainment spaces, and a lower kelvin for special effects (lighting focal points such as trees, shrubs, water features, statuary, etc.). Increase the kelvin for larger objects like oaks or other large specimen trees. Several manufactures also include multiple colored lenses with their fixtures to allow you to achieve the best color effects.

The last consideration is cost. Whether you're installing new fixtures or retrofitting your existing landscape lighting, LED lamps cost about 25 to 50 percent more than traditional low voltage lighting bulbs. Keep in mind that this will be somewhat offset by lower energy use, reduced cable and transformer size (which translates to lower installation costs), and extended product life span which will reduce ultimate repair and replacement costs.

Is LED right for all applications? Not yet. Many contractors, ourselves included, prefer an integrated approach to landscape lighting using LED for path lights, small trees, rocks, and in hard to access locations combined with traditional 12-volt lighting for bigger items like mature Oaks and other large trees. LED lighting will not eliminate the need for system and fixture maintenance like cleaning lenses of debris and mineral build up and occasionally refocusing (moving and re-aiming lamps).

Green is good and so is solar, but it's not a good option for powering an outdoor lighting system, not yet anyway. The concept of solar fixtures, (renewable energy with no wires or transformers) plus easy installation is just not practical. Generating enough solar power would require intense sunlight all day, which would at best only provide enough energy for a marker light and very little ambient or usable light.

The tiny, 1-inch solar cell and battery on top of the common lighting fixtures sold at big-box stores simply isn't large enough to gather and store the power required for efficient nighttime use. To generate enough solar power to operate an entire outdoor LED lighting system, a large collection panel would need to be installed in the appropriate location along with a high quality battery. This would be a cumbersome

◆ **EAGLES** from page 17

materials. Drew Holland's Eagle Project involved working with the Urban Farmers and the Contra Costa Food Bank; he coordinated Scouts to pick over 1,800 pounds of fruit in addition to creating a YouTube video and a database for trees to be used in the future.

Tyler Kirchberg built a trophy case made of oak wood for the Orinda Intermediate School.

Jason Lammert's Eagle Project benefitted the Orinda Community Church and Orinda TOPS Preschool. After clearing out dead trees and bushes, he built flowerbeds and an irrigation system to beautify the area.

Charlie Wiser rejuvenated an overgrown

approach and unattractive solution to low energy outdoor lighting.

While not every "green idea" has great result in every application, we are all obliged to do the research and find earth friendly solutions that work for our customers.

For more information about LED and outdoor lighting systems, email us at Office@GardenLightsLandscape.com.

sitting area at the Orinda Community Church. He designed and constructed a bench and built a retaining wall for the benefit of Church members and residents of the Senior Village.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 237, chartered by the Orinda Community Church, has been serving the Orinda Community for over 58 years and has recognized 188 Eagle Scouts over its history. Each candidate must earn a minimum of 21 Merit Badges, including 12 Eagle required Merit Badges. They must also demonstrate leadership, outdoor skills, Scout spirit, plus successfully complete a service project with a minimum of 100 volunteer hours to earn the Eagle award.

◆ **GIRL SCOUTS** from page 17

carries on these basic principles as it serves over 50 million girls worldwide. The Orinda City Council's proclamation publicly recognized not only Juliette Low, but also the organization itself for its contributions and tireless dedication to the development

of American's next generation of young girls and women.

The proclamation was accepted by Orinda Service Unit Director, Thama Brentano; Orinda Troop 30675 lead by Kim Miller; and Troop 31257 lead by Mireille Green.

◆ **HOWL** from page 18

to stay ahead of the vaccination curve. And, it's not just dog to dog contact that can be problematic. Some canine diseases and certainly parasites can be found in the soil and on grass. Under no circumstance bring an unvaccinated dog to a dog park.

The socialization that a dog park affords can be a challenge. While dogs are indeed social by nature, they are also pack animals and in every pack there will be a top dog. Put two top dogs together, and you have the ingredients for posturing that can lead to a fight. The trickiest time for this is when a new dog is introduced to a group of canines at the dog park that has already formed its own social pack. Ideally, all the canine visitors to dog parks should be spayed or neutered, but we know that is not necessarily the case.

The smartest way to introduce your dog

to an existing dog park pack is for you to go to the park without your dog first! Yes. You, without your dog, go to the park and meet the other humans and dogs there first. Wear clothes that have the scent of your dog on them such as your old jeans, your boots, whatever. Introduce yourself to the humans and to their dogs. Take some time to watch the dogs and get a sense of their personalities. Let the dogs come up and meet you. Tell the humans about your dog and see if you can arrange a time when they will help introduce your dog to the others. On introduction day, have your dog on leash, and ask the other owners to help you do one-on-one introductions. This may seem like a lot of hoo haw for going to a dog park but a thoughtful, slow introduction can prevent some nasty territorial confrontations. Be cautious, courteous, and careful and, always remember, your dog's best social partner is YOU.



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FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

# Caldecott Tunnel Topic of Next First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

“Caldecott Fourth Bore Project: Moving Forward” is Ivy Morrison’s title for her presentation to First Friday Forum on May 4, 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive Lafayette.

As the public information officer for the project, Morrison will provide an update on recent tunnel activities as well as an overview of the many challenges and complexities of this long-awaited project. The presentation will include photographs and videos from the breakthrough and more recent footage.

The breakthrough occurred at 2:37 p.m. on November 29, 2011, marking a major milestone when the two top ends of the

tunnel were connected. Morrison says since then work has continued to progress rapidly on the 391 million dollar project. The fourth bore is slated to open to traffic in late 2013. There will be some final project work such as a landscaping job on both sides of the tunnel which is planned for completion in 2012.

Morrison has served in her present capacity since March, 2011. Prior to that, she worked on several major infrastructure projects in the Bay Area, including the Bay Bridge Seismic Safety Projects, FasTrak, and the new Benicia-Martinez (George Miller) Bridge.

A native New Yorker, she has lived in central Contra Costa County for more than 20 years. She holds a Master’s degree from Columbia University in New York.

First Friday Forum chairman, Judy

expand their knowledge and ability to look at art. As far as the value of art to our community, Blackburn says, “Viewing art done by people in your community allows you to discover first of all what people are doing – revealing a side of them that is very intimate. You may be surprised by the depth and range of local art being made. We hope this exhibit invites a deeper understanding and appreciation of your community.”

Visit the gallery during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 254-2814 for more information.

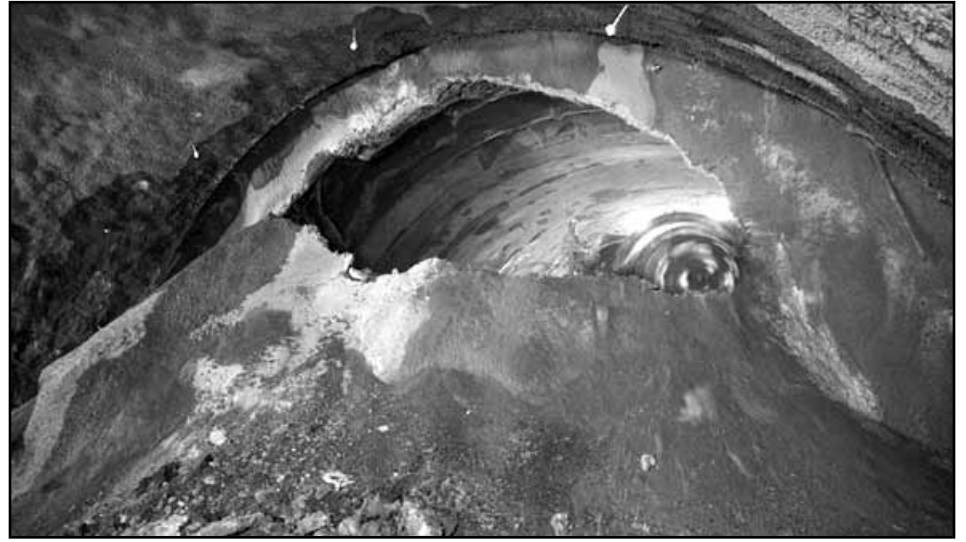
## ◆ GALLERY from page 13

Wassily Kandinsky. She was noted for her erudite taste in modern art.

Corvin explains her fascination with abstract painting: “As a middle-aged woman I have lots of demands and expectations on me. By being an abstract painter, I don’t have to meet anyone else’s expectations – only my own. If I paint realistically, let’s say a bowl of fruit, there’s an expectation that the fruit will look a certain way and everyone will interpret the way they want to see it. For example, the apple is ‘too green,’ or ‘not round enough.’ Whereas, in painting non-representational abstracts, it is solely my vision and the expectation for interpretation isn’t as rigid and can’t be as specific as for representational art. Sometimes when I paint there are a lot of voices in my head telling me, ‘the arm is too long,’ ‘the dress is the wrong color,’ etc. But when I paint non-representational abstracts, there are fewer voices in my head. It makes the art more my own and gives me great joy.”

While some viewers may think abstract painting is easy – that a child can do it – their experience is that it is not easy to do. They are called to make the work interesting with depth, variety and composition. There are many principles and tools to use, but you can’t throw a vase on a table to finish out the composition. It is much harder to create something that has rhythm, balance and depth without referential imagery – layer upon layer of imagery – so that each time you look at it you can see something different and go deeper into the work.

The group hopes viewers will enjoy the exhibit, learn something new, and perhaps



KARL NIELSEN

The breakthrough on November 29 shows a construction worker standing in the hole.

Nielsen, says, “The new tunnel is something which will affect most all of us. We eagerly await its completion, especially when we’re waiting in long lines of traffic when going the direction where there is only one bore available. We hope many from the community will come to hear this free lecture which will highlight the new

tunnel bore and its implications for the traffic flow between Oakland/Berkeley and the Lamorinda area. All are also invited to our social time beginning at 1 p.m. when refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall.”

For questions, call 925-283-8722 or click on [www.lopc.org](http://www.lopc.org).



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## COOKING

## COOKING WELL

Essentials of Proper Food Selection, Preparation and Enjoyment



Chef Charles Vollmar

Spring has arrived, and the growers and markets are getting caught up as local crops are finally hitting the shelves. For the seasonal chef, this is the beginning of the culinary year. It's when we really start to feel the relationship between the earth and ourselves as nature renews itself. After a long winter of rich, slow-cooked and hearty food choices, we are now able to lighten things up with fresh, crisp preparations.

You know it's truly spring in Northern California when the first local asparagus arrives in the markets from the Central Coast and Delta regions. Through winter and up to recently, most asparagus has been grown in and shipped from Mexico – another opportunity to remind shoppers to read labels, and for vegetables it is all about origin. If we anticipate the seasons and shop for locally grown produce, we can expect better condition, flavor, nutrition and value. Although I encourage buying organic, if at all possible, asparagus is an exception if you are concerned about pesticide residues. Asparagus is one of "The Clean Fifteen" vegetables and fruits that have been found to be the least contaminated. This is important to know, as organic asparagus can cost over \$5.00 per pound, whereas conventionally-grown and local crops can be found for as little as 99 cents per pound at the height of the season.



CHARLES VOLLMAR  
Local asparagus makes a delicious soup with the addition of curry and coconut.

When selecting asparagus, you want young, smooth-skinned and bright-colored spears with tips that are compact and tightly formed, and free from flowering, which is an indication of age. Young, freshly harvested asparagus is sweet, tender, and succulent. As asparagus ages, it usually becomes tough and stringy, and can taste grassy and bitter. Ideally, asparagus should be stored refrigerated with the cut-ends in ice or cold water – this preserves sweetness that is lessened from the moment they are cut. Better markets attempt to prolong the quality of the asparagus by presenting them

with ends in ice or chilled water.

Asparagus is particularly popular because it can be prepared using a broad range of applications from raw, to a variety of cooked methods, and its unique shape and flavor is complimented by countless flavorings and finishings. Asparagus can be blanched, steamed, roasted, grilled and sautéed – each preparation brings out different flavors, from sweet to caramelized. Most importantly, avoid overcooking – as with all green vegetables, cook no more than 5 minutes total time or the vegetables lose their vibrant green color and best flavor. Cooked asparagus should be cooled rapidly or served promptly to retain their appealing color and crisp sweetness.

#### Spring Asparagus Soup with Curry and Coconut

This is an opportunity to enjoy the first of the young California spring asparagus. Choose medium-sized asparagus (not pencil or large) and look for tips that are tight and free from flowering. Coconut milk and oils, are considered healthy fats and in moderation, are recommended. The Thai coconut milk brands I recommended are Chao Koh or Mae Ploy. Also, this soup is a favorite of kids, but remember to watch the curry spice. I suggest a mild brand of curry seasoning that has flavor, but less heat. You can also substitute ground cumin and turmeric for curry powder.

2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1 medium leek, cleaned and finely minced  
1/2 teaspoon curry powder (or more to

taste)

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger  
Zest and juice of one lemon, divided  
1 1/2 cups peeled and diced red potatoes  
3 cups chicken stock  
1 cup coconut milk  
1 pound (1 bunch) asparagus, trimmed and cut diagonally into 2-inch pieces  
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper  
Crème fraîche or sour cream  
1/4 cup thinly cut scallion greens

Melt the butter and olive oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the diced leek and sauté until soft. Add the curry powder, ginger, lemon zest and potatoes and simmer, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes.

Add the chicken broth, coconut milk and asparagus pieces. Stir to combine. Bring to a simmer over medium heat, cover, and continue to cook until the potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes.

Purée the soup with an immersion blender, or in batches in a bar blender, until smooth. Season with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Garnish with a swirl of crème fraîche (or sour cream) and scallion greens.

Serves 4

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For comments, questions, or class and interactive event information feel free to contact the Chef, via email: [charlie@epicureanexchange.com](mailto:charlie@epicureanexchange.com) or visit [www.epicureanexchange.com](http://www.epicureanexchange.com).

#### Chamber Hosts Mixer at Wilder's Quarry House



SALLY HOGARTY

Charles Vollmar (L) provided the food at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce's April mixer held at the Quarry House at the Wilder development. Eric Jorgensen of Candlestick Home & Garden Landscaping won the door prize of a discounted private dinner for 6-8.

  
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## A Hole in the Ground Owned by a Liar

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

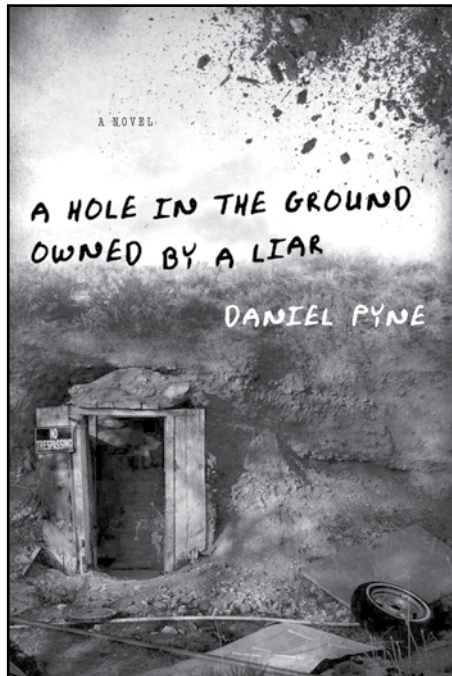
Daniel Pyne has produced four television series, including: *Alcatraz* (currently broadcast on Fox TV); written screenplays for nine movies (*Pacific Heights*, *Fracture*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Any Given Sunday*, *White Sands*, *The Hard Way*, *Doc Hollywood*, and *Where's Marlowe?*); but still finds time to write fiction. Readers may remember *Twenty-Nine Palms* (2010), a California desert *noir* read filled with a strong sense of place and strong characters — both nasty and funny. Pyne is fascinated by the themes and landscapes *noir* fiction provides but eschews strict genre boundaries and pushes out from there.

He will discuss his newest mystery, a story spliced with the adventures only a Colorado gold mine can whip up — *A Hole in the Ground Owned by a Liar* — at Orinda Books, on May 12 at 1 p.m.

Pyne picked up a lot of mining nomenclature when his brother bought a Colorado gold mine as a hobby. In 2006, the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine at Victor, Colorado produced 8.8 tons of gold; there are other mines still active. Most surprising, Pyne says, is that in films, mines are portrayed as dusty and dry. But when a mine has been closed off, ground water accumulates. The person who opens it will find himself ankle deep in mud.

Pyne's story is peppered with hardtack characters culled from his boyhood in Colorado where he learned about the boom and bust history of his state. "A lot of people think they are one idea away from a fortune. No education needed, just a pickaxe and hard work. Then there's the people who lived in ghost towns, eccentrics, outcasts, and Wild West stories," he explains.

On the page, such characters come alive as the Slocumb twins, who provide a glimmer of danger; the "I want a quick-kill" mentality of Doug, the rapacious county clerk; Lee Garrison, who quests



Daniel Pyne's latest thriller.

for adventure and wants his life to sing again; Stan Beachum, a Kansas detective, who shows up then disappears; and Mayor Barbara. Lee, a high school teacher, and his ex-con brother attempt to work the mine both helped and hindered by this cast of characters.

Pyne cites Haruki Murakami's *IQ84* and Neal Stephenson's *Readme* as examples of writers who use this sort of hard-boiled American detective language, but decidedly write in the area of magical realism. Pyne finds Hemingway's writing about war and adventure filled with overtones of *noir*. He considers Raymond Chandler a beautiful writer who rose far above the narrow constraints of the pulp detective genre, who cast a long shadow for *noir* writers and readers to bask in. Hear about all of this and more on May 12.

For more information on Pyne's reading, call Orinda Books, 254-7606, stop by at 276 Village Square in Orinda, or visit their website, [www.orindabooks.com](http://www.orindabooks.com).

## Between the Lines An Embarrassment of Riches— New Spring Paperbacks!

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



Spring and summer will bring reading bonuses to Lamorindans who have been eagerly awaiting the paperback editions of well-reviewed fiction and non-fiction published in the run-up to the last holiday season. Pressure from the e-book market has impacted major publishing houses who realize that they will lose those customers who truly prefer a book on paper to a tablet format if the publisher waits the traditional year to publish the paperback edition.

The many book groups who look for newly released paperbacks will find a feast of possibilities on our Orinda Books tables when they choose their late spring and early summer reading selections.

At the end of March, *Turn of Mind* by Alice LaPlante (Grove \$15) and *The Buddha in the Attic* (Anchor \$13.95) by Julie Otsuki both came out in paperback. LaPlante's literary page-turner introduced a heroine with early onset Alzheimer's who may or may not have been complicit in the murder of a neighbor — of course, she remembers nothing. Julie Otsuki's brief but beautiful novel — the collective story of the Japanese picture brides who came to the West Coast almost 100 years ago to marry men they had never seen — is heartbreakingly real.

In April, Orinda Books was happy to see a number of titles appear in paperback format that had been lauded by reviewers. *The Dovekeepers* (Scribner \$16), the always popular Alice Hoffman's newest novel, takes readers back to the siege of Masada where 2,000 years ago 900 Jews held a mountain top in the Judean desert against the might of the Roman legions. *Say Her Name* (Grove \$15) by Francisco Goldman was a favorite of several Orinda Books staffers who hope that the paperback edition will draw readers to this compelling story — a novelized account of the death of Goldman's young wife — and also a tender story of a very happy marriage.

Vanessa Diffenbaugh's *Language of Flowers* (Ballantine \$15) was embraced by local readers in its hardcover edition. Many had heard her speak at the Stanford Books on Review program in January. This heartfelt story of a young San Francisco woman damaged by a childhood in a series of foster homes drew bouquets from critics and is finding new audiences as an April paperback release.

This month, that rare literary novel that combined baseball with academia, *The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach (Back

Bay \$14.99) makes its paperback debut. Harbach's quirky characters, from Henry Skrimshander, demon shortstop at Westish College to Westish president, Guert Affenlight, reminded me of John Irving's early work. Irving himself, in a review, said about Harbach's book "It's pure fun, easy to read, as if the 'other' Fielding had a hand in it—as if *Tom Jones* were about baseball and college life."

Also in May, be prepared for high adventure on the upper Amazon and shenanigans in the world of Big Pharma as you go upriver with Ann Patchett when her novel, *State of Wonder* (Harper \$15.99), makes its paperback debut on May 8. This is a thought-provoking thriller from one of our most talented writers.

Women's lives are the focus in two more fine new paperbacks this spring. In *Next to Love* (Spiegel & Grau \$15-May 15th), Ellen Feldman follows three women whose lives are tragically impacted on D-Day near the end of WWII. Two are left widowed after the Normandy landings while the husband of the third returns with what we now know as PTSD. But this is more than a weepie — it's the story of the power of women's friendships as well as the story of 20 years of American history—two decades that saw the advent of the Civil Rights Movement, the Women's Movement, and the run-up to the Vietnam War.

Four-hundred years earlier, another strong woman, the creation of Geraldine Brooks in her novel, *Caleb's Crossing* (Penguin \$16), is Bethia Mayfield, the daughter of a Puritan minister who has pioneered a settlement on Martha's Vineyard. Bethia has forged an early friendship with the young son of a Wampanoag chieftain, who later becomes the first Native American graduate of Harvard. Fact and fiction blend well, and Brooks's evocation of language and landscape is memorable.

A very different woman — and totally factual — almost steals the narrative in Erik Larson's *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin* (Broadway Books \$16), a non-fiction title due in paperback in May. Martha Dodd, the beautiful blonde daughter of Ambassador William Dodd, who represented the United States in Hitler's Berlin from 1933 - 1937, dated Gestapo officers but gradually became aware of the horror behind the smart black shirt uniforms. Ambassador Dodd, appalled at what he began to see in Berlin, cabled his concerns to a State Department who, in 1934, were more concerned about Germany's repayment of their war debt than the rise of Hitler and Nazism.

To wrap up this lavish list of spring reading pleasures and books due in paperback in June, is Tom McNeal's love story, *To Be Sung Underwater* (Back Bay \$14.99-June 5th), which captured the hearts of many of us. Forty-four-year-old Judith, dissatisfied with the decisions she has made in her life, looks back to a high school romance and wonders if it is possible to recapture the idyllic ardor of her teenage years. This is an intelligent love story that is moving without being saccharine.

Celebrate the many joys of reading this spring and summer!

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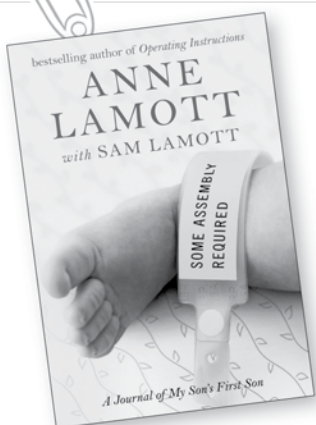


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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## MAY

- 4 **First Firday Forum**, Ivy Morrison, public information officer, will discuss the Caldecott Fourth Bore project, 1:30 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Call 925-283-8722 or go to [www.lopc.org](http://www.lopc.org).
- Glorietta Elementary School** presents its spring musical, *Cinderella*, at 4 and 7 p.m. Also May 5 at 3 and 7 p.m. For tickets, visit [www.orindaschools.org/glorietta](http://www.orindaschools.org/glorietta). The school is at 15 Martha Rd.
- 6 **8th Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour** features 45 Alameda and Contra Costa gardens (including five in Lamorinda) that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife and contain 60 percent or more native plants, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register at [www.bringingbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net).
- 7 **Orinda Association's Supervisor's Candidate Forum**, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium. Call 2540-0800 or go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).
- 12 **Daniel Pyne** discusses his latest noir adventure, *A Hole in the Ground Owned by a Liar*, 1 p.m., Orinda Books, 275 Village Square, Orinda, 254-7606.
- Orinda Rotary Club** holds its 60th Annual Frank Isola Field Day at Del Rey School, 26 El Camino Moraga, 8 a.m. to noon. The event is open to all Orinda 3rd-, 4th- and 5th-graders and includes a variety of track and field events. Free entry; refreshments will be on sale.
- 15 **World Affairs Book Group** will discuss *Pakistan: A Hard Country* by Anatol Lieven, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606. New members welcome.
- 17 **Auditions for 2012 Orinda Idol** will be held May 17 through 19. Registration closes April 30 and is open to all students in Lamorinda schools in K through 12th grades. Visit [www.orindaartsCouncil.org](http://www.orindaartsCouncil.org).
- 19 **St. Stephen's retirement party for Karen Patera**, long-time preschool director, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive. RSVP to [karensretirement@ststephenorinda.org](mailto:karensretirement@ststephenorinda.org) or call 254-3770.
- Janice De Jesus** will discuss and sign copies of her book, *Om Struck: Healing Heartbreak Through Yoga and Meditation*, 2 p.m., Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda, 254-7606.
- 20 **Christian Science Church** presents Responding to God's Sustaining Love with Brian Talcott, CSB, explores what is involved in making good career and life choices, 24 Orinda Way, 2 p.m. Free. Call 254-4212 or visit [www.csorinda.org](http://www.csorinda.org).
- 30 **California Shakespeare Theater**, *The Tempest*, through June 24, various times, Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Call 510-548-9666 or go to [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Please note the library is closed May 27 and 28 for Memorial Day. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html).

- 1 **Preschool Nutrition**, a fun, interactive program about healthy eating for toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10:30 a.m.
- 8 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop-ins welcome, but limit attendance to once per week. Also May 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23.
- Peek-A-Boo Time** with songs, stories, rhymes and rhythm for newborns through 1-year-olds and their caregivers, Picture Book area, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also May 15, 22 and 29.
- 10 **Library Books on my iPad** workshop shows patrons how to check out eBooks and solve problems they may encounter, Gallery Room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Space limited for this adult program. Call 254-2184 to register.
- 12 **Saturday Morning Live**, family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also May 19 and 26.
- 18 **Mystery Book Club** welcomes guest author Zoe Ferraris who will discuss her acclaimed crime novel, *City of Veils*, as well as her second mystery book, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult program, drop-ins welcome.
- 24 **Talespinners of Contra Costa**, storytelling for adults with a featured speaker every month, Garden Room, 7 p.m. Share a story or just come to listen.
- 29 **Berkeley Repertory Theater** docent talks about the theatre's latest production, *Black N Blue Boys*, about children and adults who forge their identities amid fractured lives, Fire-side Room, 7 to 7:55 p.m. Adult program, drop-ins welcome.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Moraga-Orinda Fire District Conference Room, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**, every second Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Sirs for retired men**. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, [www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net](http://www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net).
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, September through May, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com).
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September to June, 7 p.m. Contact Julie Mercer or Charlene Robinson at [info@orindajuniors.org](mailto:info@orindajuniors.org) or [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Hikes every weekend, 8:30 a.m., unless noted differently on website. Hikes also 1st Wed. of every month. Call Ian at 254-1465 or visit [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org).
- Orinda Historical Society**. May 30, 7 p.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 283-7176.
- Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

## Magic and Mayhem at the Helm of Cal Shakes' Season Opener

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

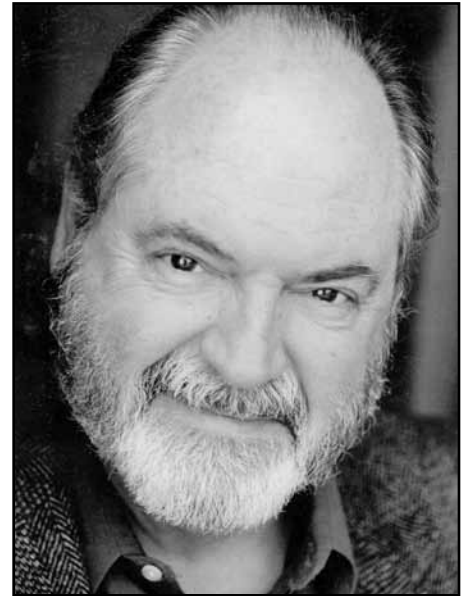
California Shakespeare Theater opens its 39th season at the Bruns Amphitheater with Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, directed by Jonathan Moscone and starring Michael Winters. Winters, a long time favorite at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, is regular on television's *Gilmore Girls* and will make his Cal Shakes debut as Shakespeare's Prospero from May 30-June 24.

While Winters is returning to the Bay Area stage for the first time in over a decade, audiences may remember him as the title role in Bertolt Brecht's *Galileo* at Berkeley Rep, which *SF Chronicle* critic Robert Hurwitt proclaimed was "brilliantly drawn" or from numerous performances at American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco.

Performance times for *The Tempest* are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 4 p.m. There will be one Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. on June 23.

California Shakespeare Theater staff members are still reeling with excitement from the theater's recent annual gala, One Great Party, which grossed over \$537,000 to benefit Cal Shakes' work on stage, in classrooms and throughout Bay Area communities. Cal Shakes' Gala is at the core of the company's annual fundraising campaigns and over the years has garnered more than \$3.8 million to support the theatre.

Managing director Susie Falk described the event held at San Francisco's Four Seasons on Saturday, March 17, 2012, as "incredible. This truly inspiring outpouring of support demonstrates that our community values Cal Shakes' contributions to making theater matter through its work onstage, in communities, and especially through its arts education efforts. I am especially moved



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael Winters plays Prospero in Cal Shakes' season opener, *The Tempest*.

and inspired to be able to continue to ensure that the massive budget cuts in our state do not deprive our youth from experiencing and making art in their lives."

Cal Shakes hosts a series of free educational and audience enrichment programs through out the season.

Subscriptions for the 2012 Season are still available, and include *Spunk*, three tales by Zora Neale Hurston, adapted by George C. Wolfe, music by Chic Street Man, directed by Patricia McGregor; *Blithe Spirit* by Noël Coward, directed by Mark Rucker; and *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare, directed by Liesl Tommy.

The Bruns Amphitheater is located at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Grounds open two hours before curtain and the theater offers free shuttle service from the Orinda BART station as well as free on site parking. For more information call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666 or go to [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

## CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

Send calendar items to Maggie Sharpe at [m.sharpe66@gmail.com](mailto:m.sharpe66@gmail.com)



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# Glorietta Elementary School Students Have a Ball Rehearsing *Cinderella*

By JENNIFER ROGERS  
Contributing Writer

Ninety-six fourth and fifth grade students will turn Glorietta Elementary School's 13th spring musical, *Cinderella*, into a production of epic proportions. The

Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical is based upon the classic fairy tale *Cinderella* in which a young woman forced into a life of servitude by her cruel stepmother and self-centered stepsisters, dreams of a better life. With the help of her zany Fairy Godmother, Cinderella is transformed into

a princess and finds her prince.

As charming as its prince, Glorietta's presentation of *Cinderella* has all the winning theatrical ingredients of song, dance and comedy to entertain audiences of all ages. "It has been a true pleasure watching

Ron Pickett, a professional award-winning actor, returns to direct his 14th show at Glorietta Elementary School while musical director, Ralph Severson, celebrates his 18th year. Parent volunteers include co-producers Leslie O'Brien and



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Glorietta students **Matthew O'Brien, Paul Legallet,** and **Kyle McDonald** rehearse a scene from *Cinderella*.

these kids put their hearts and souls into this beautiful musical," says co-producer and Glorietta parent, Leslie O'Brien. "Through their tireless dedication and, at times, humor, the technical and set crews and entire cast have worked together to bring this classic fairy tale to life."

Shelli Brudzinski and technical director Lara Dutto.

Performances will be at the Glorietta Elementary School multipurpose room on Friday, May 4 at 4 and 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 5 at 3 and 7 p.m. Visit [www.orindaschools.org/glorietta](http://www.orindaschools.org/glorietta) for ticket information.

# Orinda Intermediate Students Take Action

By DREW BARBER and  
ALEX MEYERS

The Take Action Project (TAP) is assigned every year to the seventh grade class at Orinda Intermediate School. In teams of two, students are challenged to choose a problem or issue in the world and then construct a plan towards fixing that problem.

We chose the issue of the over usage of plastic bags throughout the world and specifically, in Orinda stores. Our research has shown just how important this issue is in protecting our environment. According to the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, Californians use 19 billion bags annually and throw away enough plastic bags every year to circle the planet 250 times. According to Salon.com, every year Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags, which equates to the same damage of dumping 12 million barrels of oil. The website, "How Stuff Works" lists many places around the globe that have banned plastic bags already. These include San Francisco, Portland, coastal North Carolina, as well as many international cities and countries, including Modbury, England,



SALLY HOGARTY

**Alex Meyers (L)** and **Drew Barber** hope to get Orindans to stop using plastic bags.

Mexico City, Delhi, Mumbai, Tirumala, China, Bangladesh.

We hope to add Orinda to that list. Our efforts focus on educating the community about the potential damage that plastic bags cause to our world, and hoping that ultimately, this will make a significant impact on the behavior of Orinda residents. Whenever you go to a store, instead of using destructive plastic bags, they ask that you choose recyclable paper bags, or even better, that you bring your own bags, and reuse them with each trip to the store. Hopefully, this will raise awareness on how this small change in your behavior can, and will, make a difference towards protecting our environment.

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## BUSINESS BUZZ

## ◆ BUZZ from page 20

doors down from Village Pizza at 19 Orinda Way. What makes Heaven Sent so special are the fresh ingredients, daily specials and friendly atmosphere here. Carol Heath has a face that makes you want to tell her your life story.

Michelle Meyn has a passion for cooking and creates everything for the bakery from scratch every morning beginning at 5 a.m. She also makes a different soup every day of the week, everything from clam chowder, split pea and chicken noodle to Cajun soup, seven bean and tomato bisque. You will notice the mouth-watering deli sandwiches have something extra and that is because Meyn makes the salad dressing, mayonnaise, ketchup, and pickle relish from scratch herself. Her granddaddy taught her how to cook, and it has become her life's work.

"My granddaddy was the death about



VALERIE HOTZ

Carol Heath and Michelle Meyn serve up sweet treats and more at Heaven Sent.

certain things. He said I could go out into the world and do what I wanted, but when you are in the kitchen, the food has to come out with lots of love," says Meyn. All the recipes are from her Kentucky grandfather. The blackberry jam and biscuits combination is a special treat. She bakes from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m., preparing the *soup du jour* as well. Orindans have taken a special liking to Meyn's homemade jellies and dill pickles. The breakfast offering features an egg, bacon (or ham) and cheese grilled Panini. This aunt and niece team has a background in the food and coffee industry – Meyn opened the first drive through espresso in Pleasanton – and their expertise shows.

Offerings in the bakery include gluten free cookies, bran muffins and cookies made with Splenda, as well as mouth-watering chocolate chip cookies, blueberry scones, peanut butter cookies, chocolate butter cream scones and espresso drinks. Customers enjoy the homemade dill pickles, which are available for purchase by the jar, maple syrup, jams and jellies. "I come to Heaven Sent for Carol and Michelle. They are so friendly and personable. I always get a sandwich and usually a cinnamon roll too," says Mieshia Jones.

Carol Heath takes pleasure in greeting every customer with a smile. Rock n'roll and country music classics from the '50s

and '60s are in full swing. "Every Sunday when I was growing up we made maple syrup and pickles. If there was a problem in the family, we all sat down together at the dinner table and talked it out. I feel in some ways Orinda is old-fashioned in that it embraces quality and nourishing food," says Meyn.

If you come in once, you will be back. "We are a big family here and our customers are our family," points out Heath. Tom Shaver works across the way and visits Heaven Sent for lunch four days a week. "Carol and Michelle have something interesting every day and all of it is good," says Shaver.

Heaven Sent Eats and Treats is open Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, stop by or visit the website at [www.heavensenttreats.com](http://www.heavensenttreats.com). To order take-out, call 254-1990.

### Creative Media Web

Talented graphic designer Carol Galassi located her business that specializes in creating printed material for funerals, memorials and weddings at 23 Orinda Way, suite 307, conveniently situated across the street from the Orinda Library.

"I want people to know they have options for memorial printed material. Many families do not realize they can have material done outside of the funeral home offerings at a much more cost effective solution. Choices in funeral home programs are very limited. Often the family will want an extension of the personality of their loved one reflected in the program. I have over 300 different designs, incorporating many different themes," explains Galassi. If the array of existing templates does not suit the family, Galassi will create an original design.

Not only are there choices beyond the funeral home offerings for the design of the program, but there are also other printing options, all available on short notice. "Families may take our template and print it themselves or take it to a local printer. The difference is that we do this all day long," says Galassi, who has a staff of four. Her husband, Dave, Megan Morehouse and Allie Wadford work with tight deadlines to ensure families have their printed programs available on time. Utilizing the World Wide Web, Creative Media Web attracts clients from Australia, the United Kingdom and across the United States.

The recently expanded funeral section of the website, [www.creativemedia.com](http://www.creativemedia.com), now incorporates memorials as well. Galassi listens to families very closely, and if an existing design is not suitable, then creating an original in about an hour is standard. "Sometimes people decide on a memorial at the last minute and we are able to meet their needs in a very short period of time. A lot of my clients are creatively challenged, so we provide customer support seven days a week to serve our clients during a difficult time when they are required to make many



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The staff at Creative Media Web (L-R) Dave Galassi, Carole Galassi (founder), Alexandria Wadford and Megan Morehouse help make a difficult time a little bit easier.

decisions very quickly while under stress," says Galassi.

In addition to the funeral and memorial program service, Creative Media Web specializes in wedding invitations, RSVP and thank you notes available in many different styles to suit a couple's personality. Templates compatible with Microsoft Word or Apple iWork Pages start at \$19.95, allowing clients to have control from the creative design process to the printing and final outcome.

Carole and Dave Galassi have been Orinda residents since 1992. Their children, Rachel and Jonathan both graduated from Miramonte High School. Rachel is currently pursuing a bachelor's in nursing at West Coast University in Anaheim and Jonathan is studying biophysics at the University of California at San Diego. In their free time Carole and Dave enjoy hiking and wine tasting at a variety of Northern California locations including Napa, Livermore and Monterey.

For more details about Creative Media Web, visit the website at [www.creativemedia.com](http://www.creativemedia.com) or call Galassi at 800-773-9026, extension 116.

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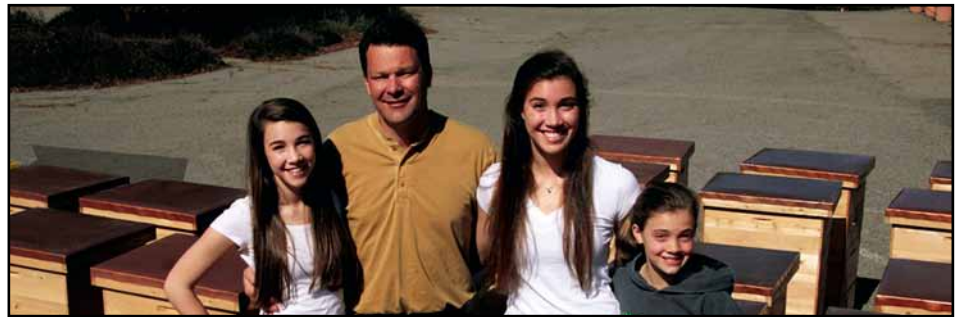
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BUSINESS BUZZ

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Valerie Hotz



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

**The Bee Ranchers – One Hive at a Time!**

When Mike Vigo’s three daughters’ 4-H project made them aware of the phenomena known as honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder, the family established the Bee Ranchers with a goal of stabilizing the honeybee population in Bay Area suburbs.

This Orinda family operates their novel business out of their home.

Pointing out that few businesses are established as a result of the inspiration of teenagers, Vigo is very proud of the fact that his daughters are so committed. Natalie is a sophomore at Miramonte High School, Olivia attends 8th grade at Orinda Intermediate School and Morgan is a 6th grader there. “Urban settings are generally

a safer environment for honeybees – rural locations carry pesticide exposure – so having a hive in a homeowner’s backyard is tremendous help to the bees. Generally speaking, their population will increase,” explains Vigo. “By having a hive in your backyard, you can help the honeybees.” Benefits for the homeowner include getting personal pollinators and increasing the likelihood of the plants in your garden flourishing. “When you provide such a safe, healthy home for honeybees, there is an assurance of pollination and ultimately harvesting honey from your own hive on a twice yearly basis,” adds Vigo.

The Bee Ranchers offers three distinct services. Customers may simply purchase the beehive kit, which includes a Langstroth bee box, the hive stand and the hive. Featuring raw cedar from New Jersey, the Langstroth standard bee box was designed in the 1830’s and is still used today. Under this scenario, the homeowner maintains the hive and extracts the honey. Alternatively, customers may purchase the kit and pay for maintenance by Vigo and his team. Lastly, beehive stands may be purchased individually.

Coming this fall, the Bee Ranchers locally produced honey will be available at ReChic 101 Boutique, at 101 Orinda Way. Mike’s wife, Jennifer Vigo, recently established this charming boutique that appeals to the teen crowd. “The beauty of this is that my children had the idea. They help

me maintain hives and harvest the honey during their summer break from school,” says Mike. There are usually two harvests each year, depending on the weather, with this year being a very good year because of a mild winter. The honey gets extracted during June and late September to early October,” he adds.

“When I think about it, the honeybee is a creature that gives and does not take back. Honeybees pollinate one out of every three foods we eat. Without them, humans could not sustain the wide variety of produce we enjoy on a daily basis. My main interest is to help the bees. I have become fascinated with these creatures,” says Mike.

The Vigo family enjoys Jeeping the Rubicon Trail together every summer and beekeeping. Mike hunts duck, deer and quail and plays golf in his spare time. After 24 years in the financial services industry, he savors involving his children as he turns his hobby into a vibrant business.

For more information about the Bee Ranchers, visit the website at [www.thebeeranchers.com](http://www.thebeeranchers.com) or visit them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thebeeranchers](http://www.facebook.com/thebeeranchers). You can also contact Mike directly at 925-519-0560 or [mike@thebeeranchers.com](mailto:mike@thebeeranchers.com).

**Heaven Sent Eats and Treats – Just the Way Grandma Used to Make It**

Carol Heath and Michelle Meyn recently opened this delightful bakery and deli two [SEE BUZZ page 27]

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