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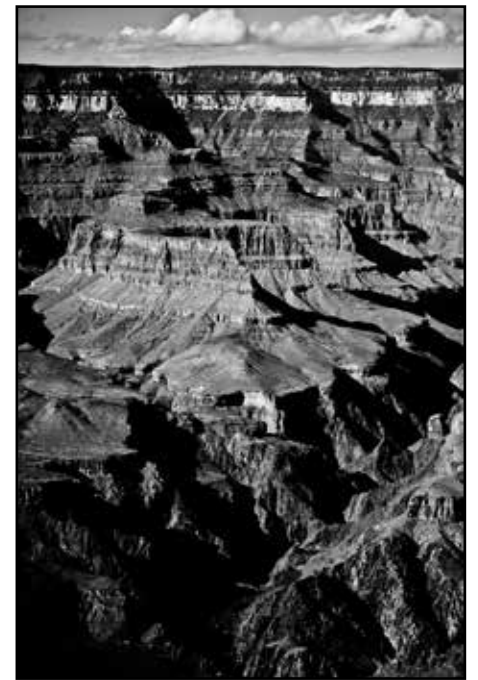
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May Gallery: Ceramics, *Plein Air* Paintings and Travel Photographs

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
 Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Gallery is proud to present the paintings of Mark Monsarrat, photographs of Terri, Matt and Ryan Riggins and works from the Orinda Ceramicists during the month of May. Before entering any art gallery, it's a good idea to remember what Einstein said about logic, "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." The works shown this month all prove this quote to be true as each is imaginative in its own way. Join the artists at their reception on May 16 from 4 to 5:30 pm when light refreshments will be served.

The Orinda Ceramicists consists of five women who live in Orinda and met while taking ceramic classes at Civic Arts in Walnut Creek. They are Susan Sohrakoff, Pam Bivins, Susie Dubnoff, Karen Horn and Maggie Boscoe. You will find them throwing pots, making sculptures and hand-built items and, in general, playing in clay. The group is showing 75-plus works including



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Matthew Riggins' Grand Canyon captures the majesty of the location.

hand-built high-fired ceramics, raku and pit-fired works, sculptures and decorative pieces. Boscoe took classes out of curiosity after retiring in 2008 from teaching music. "It takes many years to perfect the art of throwing, but I am just enjoying the process," she says. Look for Boscoe's *Untitled*, a blue 10" x 10" high-fire clay plate with a floral design and *Bowl*, a 5" x 5" pit-fired clay piece steeped in intriguing smoky colors and almost-there patterns which float away as if on fog. Horn doesn't throw on a wheel but hand builds and sculpts. She was commissioned to create a Buddha face for placement in a garden. To make a Buddha face reflecting calm and serenity she had to

[SEE GALLERY page 8]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Maggie Boscoe's 10" x 10" high-fire blue plate will be exhibited at the Orinda Library Gallery during May.

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Our Deplorable Roads Require Our
Serious Attention



Bill Waterman

Because the Orinda Association's (OA) mission includes promoting awareness and discussion of important community issues, this month I wanted to again address a key topic - the condition of our roads and drains and the upcoming road repair bond measure (Measure J). The Orinda Association, by policy, does not endorse candidates for office or advocate for passage of specific legislative measures. However, many OA members have expressed their growing frustration over our rapidly deteriorating residential roads and drains and desire action now. Thus, I wanted to highlight certain facts that deserve our serious consideration, as we consider whether to move forward with the second phase of the road repair plan.

Fact: Orinda's 92.5 miles of roads are now rated fourth lowest in the Bay Area, according to objective criteria used by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Fact: Orindans' response to a recent city-commissioned survey showed overwhelming support for repairing roads and drains now, not later. Those surveyed said that their top concerns included: (1) the need for action now, because delaying road and drain repairs will only increase the costs later (due to higher construction and lending costs); and (2) increasing the safety for children and drivers on the roads is of paramount importance.

Fact: Measure J is a \$20 million bond and is phase two of a four-phase plan to repair and replace aging roads and storm drains. This plan was developed by the City Council with input and expert study provided by the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC). These funds can only be used for road and storm drain repairs and replacement, not for other city purposes, to be verified publicly by the CIOC. And the CIOC will work with the City Council and

[SEE PRESIDENT page 18]

Committee Working Hard to Make
This Year's Parade the Best Ever

By MIMI BOMMARITO
Contributing Writer



Artist **Andrew Benzie** designed the OA's new July 4 logo.

A catchy new logo will soon be spotted all over Orinda, thanks to the efforts of the Orinda Association's Fourth of July Parade Planning Committee. The committee recruited Orinda graphic artist Andrew Benzie, of Andrew Benzie Creative Design, to create the bold new look, soon to be featured on promotional banners and posters all over town.

"Although July 4th still seems a long way away, we've been working hard on additional fundraising for this year's event," said parade co-chair Andy Radlow. "We have already added several more bands, as we'd like music and entertainment to play a larger role than ever before." Radlow continued, "We're adding more decorations and more kid's activities. We hope all of Orinda will come and check out this year's

[SEE PARADE page 18]

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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Editorial . . . Mother's Day Produces Mixed Feelings

May 11 is Mother's Day, a holiday that has always produced mixed feelings for me. Will my (now grown) children remember the date or will they go overboard and embarrass all of us? Thanks to the advertising hype, the pressure on both children and parents can be overwhelming.

I usually opt for a very simple celebration, and this year I'm inviting my family,

friends and fellow breast cancer survivors to join me in the two-mile walk that benefits the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center (see story on page one).

I'll be celebrating my 8th year as a breast cancer survivor, and I can't think of a better way to enjoy Mother's Day than by helping others cope with the disease.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Correction...

In the April issue of *The Orinda News*, we inadvertently made a mistake on the exemption for seniors in our story on the Measure A Renewal. On page nine, we stated that Measure

A included "exemptions for low-income seniors on fixed incomes over the age of 65." While there is a senior exemption, it is not restricted to low-income.

Letters to the Editor

Parking in Downtown Orinda

The points were well taken by Richard Colman in his letter to the editor in your latest edition.

To these, I, as a resident of Orinda since 1953, would like to add: Why would our City Council even consider another bank in Orinda. Plus for Chase to consider building on the abandoned old gas station property across from our library.

We have precious little land left in downtown Orinda, plus we need another bank as much as a hole in the head. We have a half dozen banks now, but only one grocery store. A parking garage on the old gas station property would be a far better choice.

Other potential parking aids: Our merchants need customers. Customers need parking spaces. Perhaps more merchants could ride BART to and from work or even double up on ride sharing.

Consider more remote undeveloped areas to pave and use for parking and run a shuttle as Walnut Creek now does.

Some of us residents could consider doubling up with a neighbor and plan a shopping day.

– R.M. "Andy" Andersen

Home cookin' is always best.

Home cookin' and Measure J? (June 2014 City of Orinda \$20 million bond ballot measure, to help fix Orinda Roads).

Yes. Measure J is a unique revenue source. All of the money raised will stay right in Orinda. Home cookin'.

Few taxes are so consistent in "staying home." Consider our income/gift taxes: 12 percent of the amount paid by Californians leaves the state, to be spent in other states.

Consider our state income tax: Taxes paid by cities generally subsidize rural areas.

(Average Contra Costa County tax return generates twice the amount of a Nevada

County return, 5x the amount of an Imperial County return.)

Our "local" property taxes? Of \$1, less than 20 cents stays in Orinda, most of that spent for MOFD (fire) and not for the City of Orinda.

Local sales taxes? About 80 percent leaves Orinda for the County or the State.

Though part of our property tax, all of the Measure J money will stay home. Measure J fixes our roads, not the other guy's roads. (And, spending is controlled by a volunteer citizens' organization of Orinda citizens, the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission).

Measure J. Home cookin'. Our vote is yes for both.

– Dave and Sandy Anderson

Now is the Time to Prepare Roads

The "nattering nabobs of negativitism" are wrong about Orinda Measure J, a \$20 million bond that will fix Orinda's worst roads. They want you to turn down a plan that polled with 70 per cent support. They have no plan to fix our awful roads. They prefer our inexorable march to gravel.

No one is going to pay to fix our roads except us. With a combination of existing funding including the Measure L sales tax; the Measure J bond, and a future additional ballot measure to be determined based on the community's preference and future cost, Orinda will finally enjoy all roads at an acceptable level.

Measure J requires the funds to be spent on Orinda roads and drains. It will be Orinda's money, coming directly to us and completely controlled by us, the very epitome of local control.

How much will all of this cost? If someone can perfectly predict the weather, utility work on our roads, interest rates, mudslides and drain failures, and the growth of property and sales taxes in Orinda, then ask that person to give you a precise figure.



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Our city is in sound financial shape, except for the roads. Orinda is the rare entity that does not have a defined benefit retirement program for its employees. It has a defined contribution program. The

city does not provide a retirement medical plan. This prudent approach has spared Orinda the rapidly rising pension costs that have caused service cuts in most other cities

[SEE LETTERS page 6]

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

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For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the June issue is May 5, 2014.

POLICE / MOFD



POLICE BLOTTER

March to April 14, 2014

Armed Robbery: 1 incident at Shell Station.

Burglary, Auto: 5 incidents at Theatre Square, Moraga Way and Wilder/Hwy. 24 (3).

Burglary, Residential: 6 incidents at Bobolink Rd., Ivy Dr., Bates Blvd. (2) and Hacienda Circle (2).

Credit Card Fraud: 1 incident at Orinda Way.

Grand Theft: 1 incident.

Identity Theft: 2 incidents at Melody Lane and Orinda Way.

Petty Theft: 4 incidents at Warford Terrace and Bates Blvd. (3).

Stolen Vehicle: 1 incident.

Threats: 1 incident at Barbara Rd.

Vandalism: 3 incidents at Camino Sobrante, Bryant Way and Orinda Way.

Arrests

Corporal Injury of Spouse: 1 arrest.

Driving Under Influence (DUI) –

Misdemeanor: 6 arrests at Bryant, Hwy 24/St. Stephens Off-Ramp, Camino Pablo/Hwy. 24, Glorietta Blvd./Orchard Rd., Moraga Way/Camino Encinas and Hwy. 24/Oak Hill Rd.

Drunk in Public: 6 arrests at Donna Maria Way, Moraga Way/Southwaite Ct., Theatre Square, Brookwood Rd./Moraga Way, and Moraga Way (2).

Sale of Narcotics: 1 arrest at Camino Pablo/Santa Maria.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery: 1 incident at Brookwood Rd.

Warrant Arrests: 4 arrests at Hwy. 24/St. Stephens Dr., Moraga Way, Southwood Dr./Davis Rd. and Hwy. 24 Off-Ramp.

Orinda BART Station

Identity Theft: 2 incidents.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
Orinda Police Department

Additional Police Activity From March to April 14

- Orinda PD prepared two felony cases for preliminary hearings.
- Orinda PD packaged and filed seven misdemeanor cases to the D.A.'s office.
- Orinda PD Attempted to contact residential burglary suspect in San Jose.
- One case of DUI filed with D.A.'s Office.
- One case filed resulting in 42 counts of sexual assault; Bail set at \$2,125,000
- The Orinda Police Department has established an email address that will allow anyone to provide crime tips, suspicious activity, and information relating to crimes. Anonymous or named emails can be sent to: orindatip@cityoforinda.org.
- The Orinda Police Department is now using Nixle to alert and notify the Orinda community on advisories, events and emergencies that affect the City of Orinda. The alerts arrive via text messages and email. The sign up process is quick and easy. On your computer or from your smart phone, go to www.nixle.com.

Police Department Chosen as 2014 Everyday Heroes

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) recently chose to honor the Orinda Police Department as 2014 Everyday Heroes. The department will be recognized at the annual Orinda Everyday Heroes Golf Fundraiser on October 13, 2014 at the Orinda Country Club. A reception will follow the golfing event to honor

the Police Department at 5:30 pm. The tournament is in its fifth year successfully raising dollars benefiting OCF that puts every dollar back into the community to "enhance the quality of life in Orinda."

For more information on the annual fundraising golf tournament, go to www.everydayheroes.golfreg.com.

Mandarin Language Immersion Program

A group of parents in Orinda are exploring the possibility of setting up a Mandarin Language Immersion program in an elementary school in Orinda starting with a kindergarten class by fall 2016. If you are interested in learning more about the effort and helping, please contact jeannehuangli@gmail.com, Tel: 415-238-6077.

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Fire Station Open House on May 17

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Spring Open House and Hot Dog Lunch takes place on Saturday, May 17, from 10 am-2 pm, at Station 45, 33 Orinda Way, in Orinda. Kids and adults can meet their local firefighters, tour the fire trucks, and gather important fire safety and disaster preparedness information from MOFD and other local agencies.

Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog will make special guest appearances throughout the day. A child ID and fingerprinting station, a bounce house, popcorn and much more are included.

The hot dog lunch is sponsored by our firefighters from Local 1230. All proceeds will be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

For more information, contact the Moraga-Orinda Fire District at 925-258-4525 ext. 533, or visit www.mofd.org.

– Grace Santos, Contributing Writer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Smokey the Bear hugs participants from last year's open house.

Contra Costa Kops for Kids Run/Walk/Wheelchair Races

On May 17, at the Willows Shopping Center located, 1975 Diamond Blvd, in Concord, the 8th annual Run/Walk/Wheelchair Races will be held. All proceeds go to support Contra Costa Kops for Kids, a group of active and retired police officers whose mission is to help prevent violence, drug abuse, gangs, and juvenile delinquency in Contra Costa County.

Registration begins at 6:45 am with the race starting at 8 am. Participants can choose a 1 mile, 5K or 10K race with wheelchair races held in each category. The band, Full Tilt, will play classic rock and

roll plus a medley of military songs.

Pre-registered racers can pick up their t-shirts, race number, and participant bags at Roadrunner Sports located in the Willows Shopping Center on Friday, May 16, between 11 am and 2 pm. Registration will also be available then. The cost is \$25 per runner. Discounts are available for families with multiple runners.

To register for the race, visit www.active.com. For more information, please contact contracostakopsforkids.org or call 925-827-1998.

– Laury Olson, Contributing Writer

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

◆ LETTERS from page 4

and agencies.

But even with no pension overhang, the seven cents that Orinda receives from each property tax dollar is not enough to fix a problem that exceeds \$50 million.

Vote "Yes" on Measure J. The time for us to repair our roads is now!

– Carol Penskar

Bond Measure Right Next Step

The bond measure that will be on the June ballot is the right next step to fix Orinda's roads. We must fix our worst, residential roads and do so quickly as these roads are truly in deplorable condition. Proceeds from the bond, together with the Measure L funds approved in 2013, will enable us to fix all of our worst roads over the next four-five years. We do not have the luxury of delaying these repairs any longer, and I urge all Orindans to support the June bond as the right, next step.

I have served on Orinda's Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission since its inception in 2007. It is the commission's responsibility to work with city staff to recommend policy for road repair and specific roads to be repaired each year. The Orinda City Council has endorsed all of our recommendations, and Public Works Director Swanson is doing an excellent job of implementing our road rehabilitation program. We are doing a good job of using the funds which are presently available, but this is not enough.

Today, funds from the gas tax and other dedicated sources are being used to repair arterials and collectors, our most heavily travelled roads. We have reduced the number of arterials and collectors that are in poor or very poor condition from 43 in 2009 to 19 today and expect that all of these roads will be in good to excellent condition within the next five years. We are currently using Measure L (sales tax) funds to begin repairing our worst residential roads. These roads pose serious safety concerns and potential damage to vehicles. Measure L funds will allow us to fix some but not all of these roads. Proceeds from the June bond, together with the Measure L funds, will enable us to fix *them all*. We do not have the luxury of delaying these repairs

any longer.

We need to fix all of our worst residential roads and to do so quickly. The June bond measure will enable us to do so. I hope you will join me in voting for this important measure.

– Richard Nelson

A Plan that is in the Long Term Interest of Orindans

Measure J is the second phase of a long term plan by the City of Orinda to bring Orinda's roads from unsatisfactory to satisfactory condition. The plan certainly doesn't get the entire job done, but it is the most our civic leadership believes can be financed for now. The first phase is being implemented capably by the City of Orinda under the watchful eye of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission. It is very much in our interests as homeowners and citizens of Orinda to continue to address – sooner rather than later – the much needed repairs to the City's roads and drains. Further delay only raises the costs of the fix. We support Measure J for the June ballot.

– Tom and Lynn Trowbridge

Orinda Roads Measure

The opponents to the recent bond measure to improve Orinda's roads recognize that Orinda's roads are in desperate shape and need upgrading. Yet they offer nothing by way of a fix. The current bond measure, while perhaps not the complete answer, is a reasonable start toward bringing most of Orinda's roads to drivable conditions. The longer we wait to address this issue in a meaningful way, the more it will cost the citizens of Orinda in the long term.

When my family moved to Orinda in 1972, the roads were bad. Continued neglect over the years has made them worse to the point that citizen safety has become an issue. We must address these issues now.

Please vote to improve our roads. No one will be coming to our rescue in the future. It is up to us now to take the first step.

– Jim Roethe

Bond Measure Costs Too Much

On the June 3, 2014 ballot, you will be voting on a 20-million-dollar road and drain tax, Measure J.

The Orinda City Council will not tell each of the Orinda voters what improvements will be made to their street using the proposed road and drain tax or when these improvements will be made. You will pay the tax, but what will you get for your street?

In the January 24, 2014, issue of *The Lamorinda Sun*, which is part of the Friday *Contra Costa Times*, Charles Swanson, the Orinda Public Works Director, told the Sun that a 20-million-dollar tax would fund the repair of about a third of the City's residential streets. In other words, 60-million dollars in bonds would be needed to fix all the streets.

Orinda residents living on private roads will pay the tax but get no money for their road.

In the March 7, 2014, issue of *The Lamorinda Sun*, it was reported that the principal and interest on a 20-million-dollar bond would be 30.6-million dollars. So to furnish the needed 60-million dollars to fix all the roads 3 x 30.6-million dollars or 91-million dollars (principal and interest) will be needed. Can we afford 91-million dollars in new taxes?

This proposed 20-million-dollar bond is merely the first step in a series of taxes which will cost taxpayers 91-million dollars (principal and interest) to bring all Orinda roads and drains up to good condition.

If you dislike the fact that the City Council will not tell you when your road will be brought up to good condition, please vote no on this ballot.

If you don't feel you can afford to fund 91-million dollars in new taxes to upgrade all Orinda residential streets to good condition, please vote no on this ballot.

– Clyde Vaughn

Support Measure J

Orinda has been voted one of the best places in the country to live. Unfortunately, it is not one of the best places to drive. Our roads are ranked among the worst in the Bay Area. There is no question that the roads need significant repair and that they need to be repaired now. Numerous potholes and uneven pavement create driving, walking and biking hazards throughout the city.

Delaying much needed repairs further will come with a hefty price. Without more funds, our residential roads will get worse and repairs will cost even more. In addition, we will be faced with more expensive car repairs, lower quality of life and slower emergency response times.

The City of Orinda is currently stretching the dollars available, but the funds are not sufficient for the task of restoring Orinda roads to "good" condition. We urge you to support Measure J in June. These funds can only be used for street and drain repairs. They can only be used for the City of Orinda (no State or Federal agencies can raid these funds). An independent citizens' oversight committee will oversee the implementation of the measure to make sure funds are spent wisely.

We will all benefit from Orinda road

repairs. We all need to support Measure J.

– Pete and Helen Hasselman

Orinda Needs a Viable Plan

A recent Orinda survey showed that close to the 67 percent required to pass the proposed (Measure J) \$20 million road bond favored it. But only 23 percent would accept an alternative 1.5 percent real estate transfer tax. No comparison? Yes, because the options are not comparable.

Close examination of the problem shows that it will cost about \$100 million over the next 13 years to bring Orinda's roads up to reasonable standards and thereafter close to \$5 million per year to maintain them.

It would take, on top of the current sales tax, four \$20 million bonds plus a doubling of the sales tax after the roads are repaired in order to fix and then maintain them. Each of the four bonds will cost the average homeowner \$3,000 over the life of the bond. Thirteen years of sales tax will cost the average household \$2,400 plus \$500 per year after the roads are fixed if they are to be maintained.

Alternatively, the real estate transfer tax will be a one-time 1.5 percent-of-sales-price tax. With a current average home value of \$1.3 million, that would generate a \$20,000 tax. But the seller, you, only pays half of that. This is a lot of money, but it is one-fourth of a standard real estate commission. This cost will inflate over time but, considering time value of money, the inflation is projected to be less than that time value of money making deferring this payment a benefit. The longer you live here, the less expensive it is as opposed to paying off the bonds for the next 30 years. And it is simple. And everyone pays it once.

There need not be all of one method or the other; we can have some of each. But what there does need to be is a viable plan to actually fix our roads. If you want more facts on this issue, you can get them at the web site www.FixOrindaRoads.info as well as at Measure J's site www.FixOrindaRoads.org.

–Steve Cohn

Measure J a Vital Step

Measure J – the Orinda roads bond – is a vital step toward repairing our worst residential roads. We've made a good first step with the passage of the Measure L sales tax, which is yielding nearly \$1 million annually. But the total cost to fix our roads over several years far exceeds this revenue.

One hundred percent of net proceeds of this \$20 million bond will stay in Orinda and are restricted to road and drainage repairs. These funds will be applied to roads and drains that will be selected in a public process with oversight by a citizens committee comprised of Orindans with engineering experience. This selection process will take all appropriate factors into account to make the most effective use of the funds.

As with all Orinda public works projects, standard project management controls such as competitive bidding, project scope and timeline at the start of each construction

[SEE LETTERS 2 page 20]



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TRAVEL / OAK TREES

Backyard Getaways and Beyond Jaunt to Yount!

Fran Miller



We can't quite recall when our annual Yountville gathering originated. The restaurants visited, wines tasted, and group photos taken assist us in mapping our history, and we think we just celebrated our 15th year. We are junior high school friends originally from Davis. Sharon comes from Portland, Monica from Salt Lake City, Shana still from Davis, and I from Lamorinda. We've seen many changes in Yountville through the years and have witnessed the elegant gentrification of this 1.53 square mile hamlet - a place for *bon vivants*. Life is certainly fine in Yountville, and at just less than an hour's drive from Orinda, one can easily make the trip in a day. But with so much to see, eat and drink, why not make it a weekend?

Visitors have their choice of eleven B&Bs and hotels. The most established in town is the north end Napa Valley Lodge. Warm and inviting, the lodge supplies guests with coffee and tea in the fire-warmed lobby, afternoon cookies and complimentary continental breakfast. The spacious courtyard features a year round heated pool and spa, bocce ball court and fire pit. Rates starts at roughly \$300. Further south at the Y (the intersection of Washington and Yount Streets) is the elegant Bardessono, one of only three LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) platinum certified hotels in the country and rated second most romantic

hotel in the nation by TripAdvisor. Utilizing salvaged tree wood, natural linens and bath products, and "smart" technology for heating, cooling and water systems, Bardessono proves that a hotel can provide unmatched luxury and be green at the same time. Bardessono guests are well respected in the valley and are afforded "access." Whether it is restaurant or wine tasting reservations, in-room spa treatments, chauffeur services, or a desire for a delicious, locally sourced, gourmet midnight snack from restaurant Lucy, staff will make it happen. Rates start at roughly \$650.

If you do stay in town and wish to test your palate, the varied wine tasting rooms lining Washington Street eliminate the need for a designated driver; everything is within walking distance. One of our must-stops for inspiration is always Ma(i)sonry, the quarry-stoned farmhouse building at 6711 Washington St. that is part art gallery, part wine tasting destination and is the brainchild of Monica's college friend Michael Polenske. Here, you can find the perfect home accent piece while tasting world-class wines under century-old olive trees. Just a block further, we stop at Girard, 6795 Washington St., and enjoy a flight of their chardonnay and cabernet-based wines, which we learn, in wine lingo, have both "power and finesse." Girard tastings start at \$15 per person, but for those

Help Fight Sudden Oak Death on May 10

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Volunteers are needed to assist UC Berkeley in administering its annual Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitz survey in the East Bay to identify trees evidencing possible SOD infection. Survey results provide data for academic analyses that make important contributions to the understanding and control of the disease which can quickly kill trees that have taken hundreds of years to grow. Volunteers help pinpoint trees that are so-called "reservoirs" of the deadly fungus-like microbe, *Phytophthora ramorum*.

Volunteers will meet in the Garden Room

at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way on May 10 at 10 am for a one-hour session on SOD and the Blitz leaf collection protocol with UC professor and SOD Blitz founder Dr. Matteo Garbelotto. Afterwards, volunteers will collect leaves from areas and at times of their choosing through Sunday, May 11 after which Dr. Garbelotto's lab will analyze the leaves for SOD and post results on the Blitz website map. Studies are funded by the U.S. Forest Service and State and private sponsors. Visit www.sodblitz.org for more information and to see the results of past Blitzes. Contact William Hudson at wllh@gmail.com if you plan on attending so that space and materials can be allocated.



(L-R) Fran Miller, Sharon Malin, Monica Strong and Shana Campbell enjoy a glass of Mumm's Champagne following a strenuous day of wine tasting and sight-seeing.

staying in Yountville hotels, the fee is waived.

Our annual gathering is never complete without a celebratory toast, and for this, we always head a few miles north on the Silverado Trail to Mumm Napa. We love not only their champagne but also their beautifully stocked gift shop. This year, we decided to educate ourselves with a tour, where we learned about riddling, yeast extraction and fermentation/sweetness ratios. We finished our education with a tasting of Mumm's premium library wines while sitting on their beautiful Oak Terrace overlooking the valley. We raised our glasses to long lasting friendship, and to our new pal Charles, who kept our flutes full (save for that of our designated driver).

Then it was back to Yountville for dinner, where we opted for a newbie in town, R+D Kitchen, at the intersection of Washington

and Madison. The menu is self-described as modern American comfort food, with a splash of sushi; we found there was something for each of our tastes, and our dishes were all delicious and well prepared. The casual ambiance, with a bustling outdoor patio and cozy fire pit, is appropriate for both couples and families.

Another of our Yountville traditions is a walk on Yount Mill Rd. - also suitable for a quiet, mostly car-free bike ride. We start at Yount Cross Road, end at Hwy 29, and head back again - taking pictures of the majestic oaks and mustard fields that for the next many months will have to stand-in for the real thing. Sigh...the four of us love it here.

Napa Valley Lodge (888) 944-3545. Bardessono (707) 204-6000. Ma(i)sonry (707) 944-0889. Girard (707) 921-2795. Mumm Napa (800) 686-6272. R+D Kitchen (707) 945-0920.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ GALLERY from page 2

learn how to inhabit those qualities while working. "I was surprised to learn that so many people wanted my Buddha faces," she says. Look for *Garden Buddha*, 12" x 10" x 6" and *Alison's Buddha*, 9" x 7" x 5" – both are hand-built high-fire ceramics.

Mark Monsarrat of San Francisco loves painting *plein air* with the many challenges nature's moods create for artists. A tonal colorist, he builds value and structure from immersion in nature. Monsarrat began painting at 14 and holds an MFA from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and a BFA from California College of the Arts. The 10 works he is showing include *Mt. Diablo Vista*, 24" x 30" and *Martinez Train*, 18" x 24" – both oil paintings on board.

When people view his work, he hopes they will be transported to a reflective place in their hearts while their eyes commune with the nature depicted in his paintings. "Magritte reminds us that, 'Art evokes the mystery without which life would not exist,'" says Monsarrat. Visit www.markmonsarrat.com for more information.

Three members of Orinda's Riggins family – Terry, Matt and Ryan – will be showing 15 photographs between them. This is the first time they are exhibiting together and their theme is travel. Terry is a professional photographer and both her sons have assisted her in workshops she has given. Matt and Ryan also studied digital photography at Miramonte. Terry is showing springtime photos from Healdsburg including *Keep on Truckin*. Matt is 19 and a



Karen Horn hand built her high fire *Garden Buddha*, which can be seen at the Library Gallery during May.

sophomore at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff majoring in forestry. Some of his photographs will be from a recent cycle trip from Vancouver to the Mexican border, others are landscapes. Look for the black-and-white photo of *Grand Canyon*. Ryan is 21 and a junior at Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO. His goal is a double major in business and adventure education. Ryan is at home in the outdoors and an avid rock climber. Look for *The Wind is Calling*, a sepia photo of an unusual mountain range. The Riggins family hopes people will be sufficiently intrigued by the composition of their photographs to visit the locales represented.

Monsarrat says that art celebrates the

natural beauty of the East Bay and beyond, bringing a celebration of life to the community. For Boscoe, art is a window into a community, the vehicle which allows everyone to communicate with their imagination. Riggins says that art represents the heart and soul of a community and that Orindans are especially gracious to show

so many different perspectives and media in the gallery.

Visit the gallery during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday, May 26 and 27. Call 925-254-2814 for more information.

◆ MEASURE J from page 1

"The intent is that, by the end of Phase 2, all residential roads in 'Very Poor' condition will have been reconstructed," according to the April 9 draft report from CIOC, which oversees the 10-year plan and also makes recommendations to the city on prioritization of road repairs (based on the city's StreetSaver program and other factors). According to the report, Phase 3 monies will be used between 2019 and 2022 to repair all roads that fall into the "poor" category.

Orinda resident Steve Cohn, who holds a master's degree in transportation engineering, opposes Measure J. He says he's the first to acknowledge that Orinda roads need to be fixed but says the numbers in Measure J simply don't add up.

"I am encouraged by the CIOC looking hard at a long range road plan and at re-evaluating that plan over time, but the numbers they are presenting to the City Council, don't work," says Cohn, who favors a 1.5 percent real estate transfer tax rather than a bond measure. According to Cohn's calculations, it will take \$100 million over the next 13 years to bring Orinda's roads up to reasonable standards. The estimated costs for roads and drains repair in the CIOC's revised 10-year plan is \$66 million between 2014 and 2023. This doesn't include ongoing maintenance.

"The big question the city hasn't answered for residents is 'will this fix my road' much less 'when will this fix my road,'" Cohn adds.

Mayor Severson says the city recognizes that no one ballot measure or other vehicle can solve the whole problem of repairing Orinda's roads. "That's why we put in place a plan with a multi-pronged approach," says Severson. "Two years ago, Measure L was the first step to repair Orinda's worst residential roads. Measure J is the second step toward repairing our roads and drains."

She acknowledges that the 10-year plan is not perfect and that there are many variables that come into play such as unforeseen utility repairs to roads, weather causing faster deterioration, variable interest rates and increased repair costs.

"The plan is meant more as a vision or hope that roads could be repaired in a

timely way over the next few years," says Severson. "Some people want to see exact numbers, cost and timing, but that is simply not a feasible or practical approach. Who has a crystal ball?"

She says the 10-year plan is an "open and transparent" process with all City Council and CIOC meetings open for citizens to voice their opinions. "We're not claiming it's a perfect process, but it's a very good and fair way to address the best use of dollars in a timely, fair fashion," Severson says.

Bob Burt is a member of Orinda's Finance Advisory Committee and a supporter of Measure J, which he describes as "the next logical step Orindans can take to repair our worst roads."

Burt says, "As a member of the Finance Advisory Committee, I see that the city manages its current revenue streams to meet a balanced budget in operations year after year, while putting as much as possible toward road repair. The city also takes advantage of grant opportunities to add to the revenue streams that are committed to road repair. It is simply not enough. The longer we wait, the worse our roads become and the more expensive their repair becomes."

Diana Stephens, who lives on Crestview Drive, thinks Orindans would benefit from Measure J dollars more directly than any other type of tax. She witnessed first-hand the benefits of fixing her street two years ago – using money donated by Crestview residents.

"Crestview was so bad, it wore us down emotionally and our cars physically," said Stephens. "We were not able to repave all of Crestview, only about one-third, but it was the worst one-third, and it made such a difference."

At the April 9 meeting of the CIOC, chairperson Dennis Fay said that monies from the 10-year plan don't take into account other revenue sources, such as grants. "An historic average would be that \$5 to \$6 million could come in over the 10 years. Camino Pablo and Moraga Way are the best bets to get State or Federal grant money," said Fay.

For more information on the city's 10-year Roads and Drainage Repair Plan, visit www.cityoforinda.org. The last day to register to vote on June 3 is May 19.

Sally Hogarty contributed to this story.

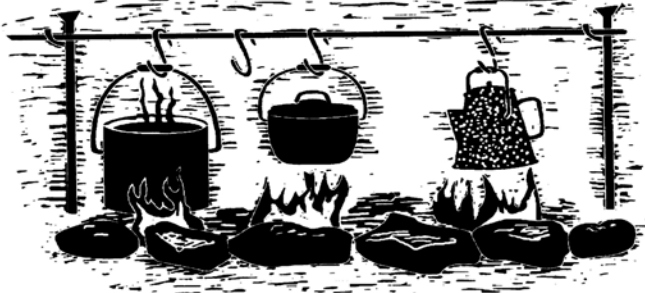



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CAR TIME / NATIVE PLANTS

CAR TIME

When is it really time to replace shocks and struts?



by JOHN VANEK

Have you been told that your shocks or struts need attention? Perhaps your vehicle just doesn't feel like it used to? First of all shocks and struts are basically the same thing. Struts are a different type of shock and mount in the vehicle differently. What we call shock absorbers or struts are really "dampeners." The springs in a vehicle's suspension absorb bumps and other road shocks by compressing, and the shock absorbers control the amount of bouncing created when the springs rebound.

The shock/strut is supposed to keep the tire connected to the pavement. Where the tire meets the road is called the "contact patch." When you lose "dampening" the contact patch is reduced. When the contact patch is reduced, many things are affected such as tire and brake wear. The brakes have to work harder when the shocks/struts lose their dampening. Brakes get hot and this causes the brake discs (rotors) to warp. This will cause a shimmy or pulsation under braking. Sound familiar? This is why your car will need the brakes serviced more often when you start to reach 100,000 miles. The other victims are the tires. When the contact patch on the tires is reduced, the outer edges of the tire will wear unevenly. This will cause a rough feel and excessive noise or shimmy/vibration. When the shocks/struts are worn, the suspension will also have excessive travel, and this actually causes premature wear and tear on suspension components like ball joints, tie rods, links and bushings.

The problem is that struts/shocks do not

wear out overnight. It is a gradual demise that occurs slowly over a long period of time. Most motorists don't realize how bad the struts are until they have been replaced. How can the average motorist judge the strut condition by driving the vehicle? Usually the ride control will suffer. The vehicle will ride rougher on bumpy roads. You experience more bounce or dips or speed bumps. The body will exhibit more body sway, etc. If your vehicle exhibits this symptom combined with poor tire wear, you are a candidate for replacement. The auto repair industry suggests that shocks/struts start to lose their dampening after 50,000 miles. So by 100,000, the effect is already taking place. Shocks or struts are a significant investment in most vehicles. Replacing brakes and tires prematurely can also get expensive too. As usual, it comes down to deciding to fix your vehicle or deciding to replace it. I am always available to evaluate your shocks or struts at no charge.

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Bringing Back The Natives Features 40 Local Gardens And Plant Sales

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Bringing Back the Natives garden tour, which began in 2005 and features workshops and plant sales, is the brainchild of Kathy Kramer Consulting. The self-guided tour on Sunday, May 4, offers the option to visit 40 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens.

The delightful collection of native plant gardens includes everything from Al Kyte's 30-year-old wildlife oasis to brand new installations, 5-acre lots and small front-yard gardens, local native plants as well as natives from all over California, gardens designed and installed by owners and gardens designed and installed by professionals. The tour includes passes to 40 gardens, a Garden Guide providing details on each garden and garden talks scheduled throughout the day. Learn how to select and care for California native plants and attract butterflies, birds and bees to your garden.

The tour is free with a \$15 free-will donation suggested, but no one is turned away for lack of funds. The plant sale is Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4, from 10 am to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

California poppies are a popular native plant for yards and gardens.

5 pm at a variety of East Bay nurseries in Alameda, Berkeley, Concord, Oakland, Richmond and Half Moon Bay. Registration is required. Go to www.bringingbackthenatives.net for more information and for details about the plant sale or email [kathy@kathycramerconsulting.net](mailto:kathycramerconsulting.net) and/or phone 510-236-9558 between 9 am and 9 pm.

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Seasoned Shopper
 Farmers' Market Reopens May 3 with a
 Bunch of Greens

BARBARA KOBSAR

Pack your bags with plenty of green this month at the local farmers' market, which opens Saturday, May 3, from 9 am to 1 pm on Orinda Way near the library.

You'll find plenty of in-season produce and specialty foods from your favorite growers and vendors. Much of what's arriving right now is fresh cut or picked.

Asparagus is hand-cut when each spear is six to nine inches long. Green varieties dominate with a small percentage of purple asparagus and an even smaller amount of the white variety available. Choice of color and thickness is a personal preference. The most important sign of fresh asparagus is the tips – buds should be dry, firm and closed to form a point. Purchase only enough to use within a few days or wrap stalks in a damp paper towel and place in a plastic bag in the refrigerator.

Fresh-picked fava beans and peas are also on the green list for May. Fava beans are considered a labor-intensive vegetable, since each bean is encased in a pod. Remove favas from the pod and drop into a pot filled with 2 inches of boiling water. Cover and simmer for 1 to 2 minutes. Drop into cold water, drain and slip the beans out of their skins.

Edible pod peas and English shelling peas are delectable treats. Plump sugar snap peas and snow peas are completely edible in their pods and a favorite in salads and stir fry. Only about 10 percent of fresh-picked peas are available for purchase, so get them while you can. The other 90 percent are destined for freezing and canning.

Other green goodies to look for this month include avocados, spinach, kale, broccoli, lettuce, chards and celery.

Barbara Kobsar, The Seasoned Shopper, can be reached at cotkitchen@aol.com. For more information visit www.cccfm.org.

Asparagus and Pea Salad with Toasted Almonds

(Serves 4 to 6)

1 to 1-1/2 pounds asparagus, ends snapped off

- 1 cup fresh shell (English) peas, raw
- 1 medium shallot, minced
- 2 tbs. olive oil
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- 1 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- 6 to 8 fresh mint leaves, chopped
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3-4 ozs. shaved Parmigiano-Reggiano

Wash asparagus and cut into 3-inch pieces. Add to 1-inch boiling water in a shallow wide pot, cover and cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until tender. Drain and place in ice water for about 1 minute, then drain.

Sauté shallots in olive oil over medium-high heat. Remove shallots to a medium-size bowl. Add almonds to the medium-hot oil and toast 6 to 8 minutes, stirring frequently. Let cool. Add almonds to shallots and mix in lemon zest, juice, peas, asparagus and mint leaves. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Garnish with Parmigiano-Reggiano.

Geography Bee Champ



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Samuel SooHoo, an 8th-grade student at Orinda Intermediate School, was one of the top 100 qualifiers out of over 2000 students for this year's National Geography Bee for the State of California.

Patti Camras

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STUDENTS

Miramonte's Public Speaking Team Remains Triumphant



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miramonte High School's individual events speakers had their own "March Madness" as they competed throughout the area.

By FATIMA HASANAIN
Contributing Writer

For most people, the term "March Madness" refers to the frenzy of college basketball games that consume people's lives for the whole month of March. However, for Miramonte High School's public speaking team, the phrase takes on an entirely different meaning. For these students, March is a busy time, with tournaments every Saturday, some even beginning on Friday. These "March Madness" qualifying tournaments determine which distinguished competitors will proceed to the highest levels of competition: the California High School Speech Association's State Tournament held this April in Modesto, California, and the National Forensic League's National

Tournament held in June in Overland Park, Kansas.

Historically, Miramonte's team has had great success in qualifying a large number of students to both of these tournaments, but this year has been one of the most triumphant yet. This year, head coach Kristen Plant will lead a team of 36 students to the State Tournament and 10 students to the National Tournament. There is no doubt that none of the team's success would be possible without the support of the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) and all the hardworking volunteers that make such trips possible. The entire Miramonte public speaking team extends its sincerest gratitude to EFO for its continued support in helping the program thrive.

Fatima Hasanain is a junior at Miramonte High School.

Helping Kids Discover Talents

By EMMA PATTON
Contributing Writer

Editor's Note: Emma Patton, a senior at Miramonte High School, recently completed her Girl Scout Gold Award by creating a music program at a Concord Head Start preschool.

When I asked the circle of enthusiastic five-year-olds to sing their favorite songs, the last thing I expected was to hear a rap by Finatticz. Marcel, the shy one, had

[SEE GIRL SCOUT page 16]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Emma Patton wins Gold Award by helping others.

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Miramonte Varsity Women's Soccer Players Receive Diablo Athletic League Honors



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miramonte's Girls Soccer team enjoyed a banquet following a busy and competitive season.

The Miramonte Varsity women's soccer team finished strong this season earning first place in their section with a record of 10-1-1. They lost in the finals and finished third in the NCS championships with Campolindo taking first place.

Lady Mats' players were honored by the Diablo Athletic League for the DFAL All-League Girls Soccer 2013-14 season.

1st Team All-League

- Jane Fessenden (senior)
- Gina Crosetti (sophomore)
- Cecilia Gee (sophomore)

2nd Team All-League

- Samantha Devecchi (freshman)
- Maggie McGuire (sophomore)
- Sarah Mills (senior)

Honorable Mention

- Maya Sherne (senior)
- Kayla Sigaroudi (senior)
- Kelly McKeen (sophomore)

– Debbie McKeen, Contributing Writer

Orinda Aquatic Alums Shine

The 2013-14 collegiate swim season culminated last weekend with a strong national representation by Orinda Aquatics (OA) alums at National College Athletic Association (NCAA) Swimming and Diving Championship meets held in Minneapolis and Indianapolis.

During the 2013-14 season, OA had 38 alums competing in collegiate aquatic programs throughout the country, one of the highest percentages of collegiate participation of any year-round swim team. This success reflects the culture of OA which promotes career longevity and a love of the sport. OA is ranked as one of the top teams of its size in the nation.

– T. Fu, Contributing Writer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Andrea Ward, a Miramonte graduate and current UCSB senior, finished her collegiate career fourth in the 100 fly and 14th in the 200 fly at the NCAA Championships earning All-America honors and multiple UCSB records.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Ballet Academy Steps Away From Classics With Original *Alice in Wonderland*

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Alice scrambles down the rabbit hole, encountering The White Rabbit, Mad Hatter and a host of other well-known characters in Orinda Ballet Academy (OBA) and Company's upcoming spring ballet, *Alice in Wonderland*, based on the classic story by Lewis Carroll.

Artistic Director and choreographer Patricia Tomlinson has been hard at work preparing for the company's show, which she calls "a great challenge." Tomlinson said that the company's previous productions have been pieces "that are well-known classical ballets with steps and dances that follow a certain suit – *Coppelia*, *Raymonda*, *Swan Lake*, *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty*."

For the OBA show, the choreography is Tomlinson's original work. It is, she says, "my first time creating, fully on my own, a ballet." With the exception of one dance choreographed by Kendall Sparks, Tomlinson is choreographing the entire one-act ballet, using music that she compiled from many different scores.

Sparks will perform as a guest artist, along with OBA alumni student dancer Brooke Lyness.

"Kendall will be performing as the King of Hearts and Caterpillar, adding his terrific professionalism and character acting. He is full of fun surprises," said Tomlinson, who added that Lyness currently studies dance at the University of Cincinnati.

A timeless story, *Alice in Wonderland* has translated well to many genres- theatre, [SEE BALLET page 14]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Take a journey down the rabbit hole with (L-R) standing: **Andrea Shammass** (The Mad Hatter), **Bailey Thomsen** (Queen of Hearts), and **Aisling Holton** (Alice). Seated: **Connie Warthen** (White Rabbit).

Cal Shakes Kicks Off 40th Season With *A Raisin in the Sun*

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

The curtain rises May 21 at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheater in Orinda as California Shakespeare Theater celebrates its 40th anniversary season with Lorraine Hansberry's drama, *A Raisin in the Sun*. This season the company is also celebrating its successful *Raise the Roof* fundraising gala, which garnered a record-breaking \$688,000 at the March event.

"What a fantastic way to kick off our 40th anniversary and embark on our next 40 years of building character and community through authentic, inclusive and joyful theater experiences," says Cal Shakes Managing Director Susie Falk, who added to the



KEVIN BERNE

Margo Hall shown here in *Spunk*, is featured in *Raisin in the Sun*.

anniversary festivities by announcing the launching of the Moscone Permanent Endowment Fund at the *Raise the Roof* gala.

In addition to the newly launched fund, the theatre also welcomes Rebecca Novick into the newly created position of Director of Artistic Engagement, a part of the organization's senior leadership team.

Founded in 1974, Cal Shakes, then known as the Emeryville Shakespeare Company, first performed at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall in Berkeley. A 15-year tenure at Berkeley's John Hinkel Park followed before the company built the Bruns Memorial Amphitheater. They began performing at the 545-seat venue in 1991.

Patricia McGregor (who previously headed Cal Shakes productions of *A*

Winter's Tale and *Spunk*) directs *Raisin in the Sun*, which runs May 21 through June 15. Hansberry's script was the first play [SEE CAL SHAKES page 16]

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ANIMALS

◆ **BALLET** from page 13

film, dance, opera and musical theatre, and Tomlinson understands why.

“Alice is a story about fantasy and comedy, which allows the imagination to run wild with its rich assortment of characters,” she explained. “Entering a world where normality no longer exists allows really anything to transpire.”

According to Tomlinson, this production is “a complete switch from last year’s *Swan Lake* which was a wonderful experience for the students with the challenge of perform-

ing a well-known classic ballet. This year they all are enjoying letting go a bit and having some fun with the nutty sections. This is a ballet to be enjoyed by all ages – it is full of fun entertainment and a familiar story that all can follow.”

Alice in Wonderland will be performed Friday, May 30 at 6:30 pm; Saturday, May 31 at 11:30 am and 4 pm; and Sunday, June 1 at 11:30 am and 3:30 pm at the Orinda Library Theatre, 26 Orinda Way. All tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling 925-254-2445 or online at www.brownpapertickets.com.



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Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales
Hooray It's May

Jennifer Conroy



It's May. Yeah! Flowers are blooming. The strange, mostly dry winter is behind us. Time to get out there, shape up that garden and clean out debris both outside and inside our homes.

While jumping into spring, how about getting rid of some pests that can torment our pets in the months ahead? Let's start with giving the habitats of our companion animals a good cleanup. If you have a cat or dog, you can be pretty sure fleas and their eggs are lurking somewhere in your home environment.

Steam cleaning and vacuuming carpets and upholstered furniture is an important component of pest control to help get rid of flea eggs that are incubating. Wash or replace pet bedding. Check with your veterinarian for flea products. You might consider a safe flea bomb. Follow the directions carefully including covering or removing birdcages, fish and reptile tanks and small mammal habitats from the area. While flea bombing can be a good preventive, you might want to choose a less drastic option.

Maintain the flea and tick prevention program you have been using on your cat and dog. Examine their coats thoroughly after time spent outdoors. Start from the tail end, using the tips of your fingers like the teeth of a comb, running them through the coat and undercoat all over the body. Don't neglect the ears, muzzle and eye areas. You're not just looking for fleas, but ticks as well.

Ticks may appear pinkish almost like a skin bump. This is because the tick is infused with blood. If you see such a bump on your cat or dog, don't try digging it out with your fingertips or tweezers. Purchase an

inexpensive tick remover at your local pet store. If in doubt, go to your veterinarian.

Ticks are especially nasty because they can cause infections in animals and people. One of my Labs nearly died of a tick infection and spent a week in the hospital. This happened even with a regular regimen of flea and tick preventive and with routine examination of his coat.

While focusing on spring cleanup and preventive measures, don't forget to dig out any grasses or weeds that will develop dry awns as the warm weather progresses.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Keeping cages clean will help keep pets healthy.

To make your cat or dog really happy, plant some catnip, pennyroyal and carrots. Your cat will love you for the fresh catnip. The pennyroyal may help keep some pests away and your dog will appreciate snacks of raw carrots.

The other creatures in your life will welcome a spring-cleaning as well. Scrub out that birdcage and replace that old cuttlebone. Clean up the fish tank and get some new gravel. Whatever companion animal shares your life, you can be sure a clean habitat will not only be appreciated but will ensure good health and well-being.



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SENIORS / PERFORMING ARTS

TV's Bob Sarlatte the Keynote Speaker at Senior Health Expo

By CHARLES JARRETT
Staff Writer

The Senior Fair and Health Expo for "Boomers and Beyond" will be held in the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, on Friday, May 16, from 12:30 and 4:30 pm. It will provide seniors, their families and care providers with information on health and security issues. Bob Sarlatte, a nationally known TV personality, writer and comedy contributor who has appeared on NBC and CBS late night comedy shows will give the keynote address.

The expo will include presentations on health screening, fitness demos, end-of-life preparation and dementia and Alzheimer's. Moraga Police De-

partment will talk about how to not be conned by scam artists and California Highway Patrol will talk about driving for elder drivers.

Dr. Eric Freitage will lead a discussion on normal aging versus dementia. Estate planning attorney Stephanie West, who is chair of the City of Lafayette Senior Services Commission, will provide information on how to create an "Advanced Health Care Directive."

The event will include entertainment, prizes and finger foods. For information, call Orinda Parks and Recreation Department at 925-254-2445. Orinda and Moraga recreation departments sponsor the event, in conjunction with Contra Costa-based Senior Helpers (925-376-8000).

Drumroll For Seniors' Music and Laughter Yoga Classes

By CHARLES JARRETT
Staff Writer

During a recent noontime lunch break at Orinda Senior Village, resident Marilyn Sherwin recounted that of all the senior activities in which she's involved, there are two programs in particular that she loves, both conducted at Lamorinda Music in Lafayette. She says *Drumming for Seniors* and *Lamorinda Laughter Yoga Club* are two favorite programs that allow people to relax and get connected with others. "I love 'em, I love 'em," said Sherwin.

Sherwin discovered the programs through posters at the Orinda Senior Center. As a former professional cellist, she had to check it out. The poster stated in part: "Drumming has been used for centuries to improve health, create community and provide opportunity for creative expression [SEE LAUGHTER page 18]



CHARLIE JARRETT
Marilyn Sherwin enjoys drumming and yoga classes for seniors.

Starlight Opens 31st Season With Agatha Christie Mystery

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players launches its 31st season in the Orinda Community Center Park in June.

Opening the season is the Agatha Christie mystery *Go Back for Murder*, which runs from June 20 through July 12. Caroline Crale, imprisoned for poisoning her husband fifteen years earlier, finds herself at death's door and writes a letter expressing her innocence to her daughter Carla. Carla, aided by Justin Fogg – a former admirer of Caroline – persuades those present on the day of her father's death to return to the scene of the crime. When the witnesses reassemble, Fogg discovers the identity of the true murderer.

Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 pm with one Sunday matinee on July 6 at 4 pm and one Thursday performance on June 26 at 8 pm.

Next, Billy Van Zandy and Jane Milmore's comedy *Wrong Window!* will be performed August 1 through 23. Marnie and Jeff are an off-and-on couple who think they see their neighbor do away with his wife.



DAVID DIERKS

Orinda Starlight Village Players previous performance of Agatha Christie's *Mouse Trap* with (L-R) Kelly Hansen, Malcolm Cowler, Mark Barry and Babette Bilger.

The witnesses sneak into their neighbor's apartment and the craziness begins. There are multiple door-slammings, body-snatchings and a flashlight chase scene but above all the question remains: Who killed Lila? If she's not dead, then who is? Performances [SEE STARLIGHT page 18]

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BOY SCOUTS

◆ GIRL SCOUT from page 11

barely looked up from his puzzle when his classmates bombarded me with hugs. So naturally I was surprised when he eagerly volunteered to perform. Marcel marched into the center of the circle and shamelessly broke into song – well, rap.

“Don’t drop that thun thun aye, don’t drop thun thun aye,” he rapped confidently. I immediately recognized the song and had to stifle a laugh while the other kids listened intently, as if this was an everyday occurrence. This is merely a snapshot of the days I spent at a Concord Head Start preschool while working on my Gold Award Project. Needless to say, I experienced many other memorable moments.

I designed my Gold Award to combine two of my passions: children and music and, because of this, I truly enjoyed every second at the preschool. Essentially, I created a summer music program, which focused on developing basic musical skills for the four- and five-year-olds, while providing the same encouragement and enthusiasm for music that I had received as a child.

Upon completion of my project, I realized there is a significant need for Head Start volunteers and even an hour a week can have a huge impact on these kids’ lives. The Head Start program is open to a variety of volunteer-led activities: if you’re a dancer, teach the children ballet; if you’re an artist, lead the children in arts and craft activities – the options are endless. If you enjoy the boundless energy and enthusiasm that preschoolers have, consider taking some time to share your passion with these kids, as I did.

For more information on volunteering for Head Start, contact the Community Service Bureau at 925-313-1551 and ask for the Head Start volunteer coordinator.

◆ CAL SHAKES from page 13

written by an African-American woman to be produced on Broadway. The 1959 performance garnered a Best Play Tony nomination for the writer, and the play is currently having its 2nd Broadway revival. It has been made into three films, in 1961, 1989 and 2008.

Rounding out the company’s 40th season will be William Shakespeare’s *The Comedy of Errors*, directed by Aaron Posner, June 25 through July 20; George Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion*, directed by the company’s artistic director Jonathan Moscone, July 30 through August 24; and Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, directed by Shana Cooper, with movement by Erika Chong Shuch, Sept. 3 through 28.

“Every year, as we figure out a new seasons of work up at the Bruns, I want to provide as surprising and dynamic a roster of works of theater for as many people as possible,” said Moscone. “I’m thrilled to present this eclectic and varied slate of plays as we move forward with our commitment to making theater that resonates with the broad community of diverse audiences throughout the Bay Area.”

Performances of *A Raisin in the Sun* are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 4 pm. There will be a Saturday matinee on June 14 at 2 pm. The Bruns Amphitheater is located at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. The grounds open two hours before curtain and the theater offers free shuttle service from the Orinda BART station (beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain) as well as free onsite parking. For more information or to charge tickets (which are \$35 to \$66) by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666. For information and online ticketing visit www.calshakes.org.

Orinda Boy Scout Troop 57 Honors Five New Eagle Scouts



New Troop 57 Eagle Scouts are (L to R): Tom Kunkel, Matt Coupin, Alex Mangus, Jimmy McFeely and Alex Jordan.

By STEVE TENNANT
Contributing Writer

Matthew Coupin, Alexander Jordan, Thomas Kunkel, Alexander Mangus and Jimmy McFeely with Boy Scout Troop 57 (chartered by Saint Mark’s United Methodist Church in Orinda) have earned Scouting’s highest rank of Eagle Scout.

Their achievements were celebrated at an Eagle Court of Honor on March 23 at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. Each Scout was presented with a proclamation from Mayor Sue Severson, as well as congratulatory letters from elected officials including Representative George Miller, Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Vice President Joe Biden and President and Mrs. Barack Obama. Senator Feinstein also sent U.S. flags that were flown over the U.S. Capital in honor of each Scout.

To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 12 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit and complete an Eagle service project.

Coupin constructed an outdoor art studio for the The Orinda Preschool that involved converting the vacant deck into a functional, creative workspace. He is the son of Melissa and Paul Coupin and a freshman at MIT.

Jordan designed and constructed a vegetable garden including a picket fence

border and arbor entrance for the Northern Light School in Oakland, a private school serving underprivileged children. He is the son of Barbara and Frank Jordan and a freshman at Santa Barbara City College.

Tom Kunkel built a 900-square-foot patio in the environmental garden at Miramonte High School, including a cement block border and decorative trim around two trees. He is the son of Robbie Kunkel and a freshman at Diablo Valley College.

Mangus painted and installed a 7x11-foot mural with help from students of Vincent Academy, a charter elementary school in West Oakland. He is the son of Rodney and Suzanne Mangus and a freshman at Pratt Institute in New York.

McFeely interviewed and videotaped seven veterans about their experiences in WWII and Korea. He sent the interviews and service information to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. McFeely is the son of Kathy and Jim McFeely and a freshman at UC Santa Barbara.

The new Eagle Scouts join less than four percent of all Scouts who achieve Eagle rank. In Troop 57’s more than 50-year history, 132 have become Eagle Scouts. The Troop, led by Scoutmaster Dr. Jim McFeely, has 55 Scouts and meets Tuesday nights at Orinda Intermediate School. Visit www.orindatrouop57.com or contact Troop Committee Chair Steve Tennant at 925-788-1092 for information.



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◆ WALK from page 1

the summer. “We met with surgeons and toured the facility. It was very impressive,” Tierney says.

Last year, the event raised nearly \$4,000 for breast cancer research and early detection technology. The girls hope to do even better this year. “We’re working with a variety of sponsors and hope to have several restaurants that will offer brunch following the walk,” says Zabetian.

The walk takes place on Mother’s Day, May 11, from 7 – 10 am, starting on the St. Stephen’s trail at Bates Blvd. in Orinda. General admission is \$10 with children under 10 entering for \$7. “You can come anytime to start the walk or just come by to donate,” says Tierney. “Last year, one of our classmates ran the two-miles with her dad,” Zabetian adds.

For more information, go to www.reaganandzoe.wix.com/walk2014.

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BOOKS / TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Between the Lines Memoirs and More: What's On the Menu for Spring

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



Three fine memoirs have engaged readers at Orinda Books this spring. Two are written by authors primarily known as novelists; the third by a journalist. The first memoir, *Dancing Fish and Ammonites* (Viking, \$26.95) is from Booker Prize winner Penelope Lively, whose novels have captivated us since *The Road to Lichfield* and *Moon Tiger*. Her recent novels, *Family Album* and *The Photograph*, are current choices for local reading groups.

In her new memoir, Lively writes that she "measures her life in books" - certainly a phrase that will resonate with readers! With *Dancing Fish and Ammonites*, she narrates the decades of her life from the perspective of someone who has just turned 80, using artifacts from her past to evoke her life experiences. Lively's fans will also enjoy her charming chronicle of her Egyptian childhood in the '30s and '40s, *Oleander Jacaranda: A Childhood Perceived*, also available at Orinda Books.

Another novelist, now memoirist, whose superb fiction has delighted us over the years is Diane Johnson. *Persian Nights* was an award-winner and more recently *Le Divorce* and *Le Mariage* swept us to Paris with delightful send-ups of international relations. Johnson has lived in France for years and writes that her French friends have commented on what they perceive to be an American lack of interest in their history. These comments led Johnson to explore her own roots in *Flyover Lives* (Viking, \$26.96). She partners the 18th and 19th century lives of her ancestors with her own journey from Moline, Illinois, to New York, California, England and ultimately France.

Journalist Michael Hainey's memoir, *After Visiting Friends: A Son's Story* (Scribner, \$16), is also rooted in the Midwest. When Michael was six, his father, the night desk editor for the *Chicago Sun-Times* in the 1960s, died suddenly "after visiting friends." Hainey's search for the truth about his father's death is also an elegy to the gritty heyday of the smoky newsrooms and after-hours bars of the last century and makes compelling reading.

As always, new fiction beckons this spring: two new novels will intrigue local readers. One is from an established author and Orinda Books favorite and the second

is a fine debut. Alice Hoffman is perennially popular. Her recent *The Dovekeepers* (2011), set during the Siege of Masada, is still on our book group table. Hoffman's new *The Museum of Extraordinary Things* (Simon & Schuster, \$27.99) takes us to New York City - the gritty Dickensian world of the Lower East Side in the early days of the 20th century. Hoffman tells a dramatic story with her usual combination of well-drawn characters - often tinted with a touch of magic - and superb historical detail ranging from the world of Coney Island freak shows to the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

The debut comes from Susan Rieger, who takes the epistolary genre to new lengths in *The Divorce Papers* (Crown, \$25). Her novel includes all of the documents in the case of Daniel Durkheim vs. Maria Meiklejohn Durkheim, from their daughter's first plaintive memo to her grandfather to each piece of paper generated by the attorneys, plus letters and emails between attorneys and clients. Does this sound dry? It's not - it is great fun. Rieger is a graduate of Columbia Law School and has been a college dean. She is also the mother of novelist Maggie Pouncey and the wife of *New Yorker* film critic David Denby, whose former wife was another favorite novelist of ours, Cathleen Schine - a nice literary circle to move in.

In the non-fiction realm, Michael Lewis's *Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt* (Norton, \$27.95) is already the biggest financial exposé of the season. Lewis has been writing brilliantly about the world of money since *Liar's Poker* in 1989 and *The Big Short* in 2010. He makes high frequency trading understandable (although reprehensible in the way it affects all of us) and tells this story of skullduggery in the stock market traders' world with fascinating journalistic flair.

Let's keep on reading!

Author Frank Burroughs

May 8 at 1 pm
Orinda Books
276 Village Square
925-254-7606

Burroughs will discuss and sign copies of his new memoir *The Pepper Tree Kingdom*.

Tennis Tournament Raises Funds for Breast Health Center



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) front row: Corina Ninayahuar, Tessie Siegel, Daniel Signorella. Back row: Lynda Lawrence, Barbara Britto-Tang, Mel Siegel, Keith Wheeler, Lysbeth McNeill, Jo Kerner.

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Practice those serves and ground strokes. It's time to get ready for the 12th Annual Ace It! Tournament at the Orindawoods Tennis Club on June 7. The program includes a full day of tennis-related activities to raise money for the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center at Alta Bates Summit

Medical Center in Oakland.

The day begins with state-of-the-art tennis clinics by local pros followed by a gourmet lunch and raffle, then round robin tournaments for several levels of play. Attendees can register for the entire day or for just one of the sessions with lunch and raffle tickets included in all choices. Donations are \$125 for the day, \$75 for one session

[SEE TENNIS page 20]

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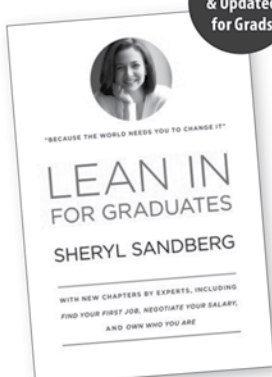
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FILM

◆ LAUGHTER from page 15

... all seniors (50 and up) are welcome, even if drumming for the first time ... no prior musical experience necessary." Sherwin now attends the program regularly on the third Monday of each month. She says that facilitator Kathy Quain is "terrific." For information on *Drumming for Seniors*, contact Barbara at community.drumming.seniors@gmail.com.

Sherwin said that since the *Lamorinda Laughter Yoga Club* is offered at the same location in Lafayette, she decided to sign up and now attends the class every second Monday of the month. Laughter Yoga is a physically-oriented technique that uses a blend of playful, empowering and otherwise "tension-releasing" laughter exercises interspersed with gentle breathing, stretching and rhythmic clapping. Guided relaxation finishes the session. Laughter is not forced, just encouraged, Sherwin said. Participants can either stand or be seated during the class. Sessions last about 30-40 minutes in the wheelchair-accessible music room. A donation is optional and while the program is designed for seniors, no one will be turned away (although the program is not available to children).

Sherwin talked of the many fun-filled entertainment shows that have made her laugh over the years, including *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. In addition, Sherwin vividly recalls a specific Michael Palin travel program clip in which the former Monty Python member participates in a laughter yoga class and describes the health benefits of laughter yoga in helping to reduce prob-

lems of alienation and isolation. To see the clip, google "Michael Palin in a laughing class." According to Internet information, there are more than 5,000 Laughter Yoga Clubs throughout the world. More information can be found at www.laughteryoga.org.

Sherwin said the class will "lift your spirit with a happy high that makes you feel good with lots of healthy belly laughs without the need of comedy or even a sense of humor." She said that class facilitator Jillian Standish invites us, "to find a partner and to laugh each other up." Sherwin said her father believed that everyone takes themselves entirely too seriously and that laughter is a great equalizer. She agrees with what Milton Berle once stated, "Laughter is an instant vacation!" For more information contact Barbara at laughter.yoga.seniors@gmail.com.

Need an instant vacation? Join in the laughter at Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. For more information, call Colleen at 925-385-0963 or visit www.lamorindamusic.com.

◆ STARLIGHT from page 15

run Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 pm with a Sunday matinee on August 17 at 4 pm and a Thursday performance on August 21 at 8 pm.

The final show of the season will be Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* from Sept. 17 through October 11. This show retells the story of the vampire Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England and the battles that ensue between a band of heroes led by Van Helsing and the monster. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 pm with a Sunday matinee on October 5 at 4 pm and a Thursday performance on October 9 at 8 pm.

For more information, visit www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225.



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THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

John Hughes' Classic Teen Drama Launches
May Movie Lineup

Tom Westlake



If there's a sense of urgency to this particular column, it's only because there is absolutely no grace period when it comes to the films being featured. This month we have barely enough time to catch our breath after April, and we're immediately thrown into May.

On the first of the month, we have *16 Candles* playing at the Orinda Theatre – the film that launched John Hughes' career. It also established a sub-genre of sorts: the teen comedy. Hughes went on to direct other similar films such as *The Breakfast Club* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* as well as introduce the quirky beauty of Molly Ringwald, who was featured in several other Hughes' films.

Hughes built a reputation for accurately portraying the teenage experience. No matter when or where you were a teen, *16 Candles* will no doubt awaken some sense of nostalgia. An added bonus for moviegoers is that two members of the original cast (Debbie Pollack and Gedde Watanabe) will be on hand to reminisce and answer questions. *16 Candles* will screen at the Orinda Theatre on May 1 at 7 pm.

◆ PARADE from page 3

July 4th celebration. It will be a good time."

This year July 4 falls on a Friday with the parade beginning at 10 am from the Crossroads (Orinda Theatre) side of Orinda, traveling under the freeway and culminating at the Orinda Community Center in the Village. A festive celebration, including jugglers, face painters and a petting zoo, takes place following the parade in the Orinda Community Center Park.

For more information on the annual event, go to www.orindaassociation.org.

◆ PRESIDENT from page 3

City Staff to determine which streets are repaired first, based on objective criteria, and the public's input.

Fact: Measure J only asks citizens to approve Phase Two of the plan, \$20 million in bonds – the two future phases of the road repair plan will have to be approved by voters later, based on future needs and considerations.

Fact: Phase One of the plan (the temporary half-cent Orinda sales tax passed in November 2012) will only generate enough funds to repair about one-third of our residential streets, whereas Measure J funds will pay for repair of the city's worst residential roads.

Last, it goes without saying that while

Following right on the heels of this event will be the monthly contribution of JoAlice Canterbury and Efi Lubliner and their *International Film Showcase* at the Orinda Theatre. This time Japan comes to Contra Costa with *Like Father, Like Son*. The premise is simple: What if you found out, 6 years after the birth of your child, that he was *not* your child? Though the stuff of nightmares – and more than a few switched-at-birth jokes – here it's played for pathos, a signature of much of director Hirokazu Koreeda's works. The whole nature/nurture theme is played out here with results that will make you both laugh and cry and also realize why this film won so many awards. *Like Father, Like Son* will play during the first week in May, starting May 2 at 7 pm.

Finally, the Moraga Movers bring us a little taste of scandal in the form of a *Libeled Lady* (1936). This is one of those rare films that is not what you initially think of as "screwball comedy" – but it should be. This M.G.M. film demonstrates why the studio was the envy of all. When one single film boasts a cast like this (Jean Harlow, William Powell, Myrna Loy and Spencer Tracy), it's little wonder why the lion's roar was so noteworthy. This, coupled with the wry dialogue and scattershot delivery, makes this the perfect May movie. It will be shown at the Rheem Theatre on May 21 at 1 pm.

There are several websites that local moviegoers should check out on a regular basis, just in case the Orinda or Rheem theatres decide to surprise us: www.CAIFF.org, www.lamorindatheatres.com and www.internationalshowcase.org.

And remember: stay in the dark. That's where the reel magic lies.

nearly all Orindans sincerely want the roads (and drains) fixed, some among us have differing ideas of how to get there. These alternative ideas are both useful and thought provoking. And some residents have been critical of the city's plan or want more time to study the problem or devise alternatives. But this is the third time a road-fixing bond measure has come to Orinda voters in recent years, and the majority want action taken now. While no plan is perfect, this plan will dramatically improve our rapidly declining road and drain system. Thus, to achieve a real solution we must somehow unite together and act for the greater good – to create a reasonably safe and adequately maintained road and drainage system. Let's hope we can cast aside our differences and move forward.

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HELPING OTHERS / FRIDAY FORUM

Care Indeed Helps Typhoon Victims

By WINNIE ABENOJA
Contributing Writer

Care Indeed, a California-based leading provider of home care services with offices in Orinda, is giving back to the community with relief efforts to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. The company launched a fundraising campaign last December in response to Typhoon Haiyan's devastation.

Mirabelle Nanette Liston, Care Indeed's Quality Assurance Supervisor, visited Tacloban City, Philippines in early April to help with breakfast feeding, grocery and medicine packs distribution and vitals check for the elderly.

While the company has been actively involved with the Bay Area Filipino community, this was its first international aid.

The owners of Care Indeed, Dee Bustos, CEO, and Vanessa Valerio, VP and COO, Patient Care, are Filipinos.

During Care Indeed's fundraising event last year, a video showing the havoc wreaked by Typhoon Haiyan was shown. "The short video captured images which portray one of the greatest stories ever told; humanity's willingness to help, and the survivors' absolute courage to move on and rebuild their lives," says Bustos. "I'm so proud that Care Indeed, and everyone who donated to our fundraising event, has been a part of the relief efforts," says Bustos. "With help pouring in from around the world, I see a great ending to this story."

For more information on Care Indeed or how you can help typhoon victims, call 925-317-3080.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff members from Care Indeed traveled to the Philippines to aid victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

Theology Professor Takes on Science vs. Religion Debate

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

"Myths of the Science and Religion Wars – Why It Matters For Your Kids" is the topic of the First Friday Forum (FFF) free lecture by Nancy Murphy, a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in Menlo Park. The event is on May 2, 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Murphy has been a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary since 1989 and is highly sought after as a speaker on philosophy and the relationship between theology and science.

FFF Chairman Darlene James hopes members will bring friends to learn about this "hot-button" topic and invites all to come early for refreshments at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Murphy became interested in the science vs. religion debate after talking with a biology professor, who said that 90 percent of his freshman students think they have to choose to believe in either science or religion. They overwhelmingly chose science, rejecting religion.

"Intellectually, I thought those issues were settled 100 years ago but finding that not to be true, I decided to get involved to save our kids," Murphy said. She argues that culture is at least as significant as biology in governing how we behave.

A prolific writer, Murphy will continue her lecture series at LOPC on Saturday, May 3, when she will discuss her latest book, *Did Our Neurons Make Us Do It?* The event starts at 9 am with a continental breakfast in Fellowship Hall and continues from 9:30 to 11:30 am with the talk and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Professor Nancy Murphy is the featured speaker at the May 2 First Friday Forum.

discussion. Her final presentation entitled "Does Neuroscience Teach Us That We Have No Souls?" will be on Sunday, May 4, from 9 to 10:30 am in the Oak Room at LOPC. Both weekend lectures are free but registration is required. To register, call 925-283-8722.

Murphy is a graduate of Creighton University and holds a PhD from the UC Berkeley. In 1998, she was Creighton's alumnus of the year and in 2006 was named alumnus of the year by the Graduate Theological Union. She serves on the steering committee of the International Society for Science and Religion and is an advisor to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2007, she was included in the *Los Angeles Magazine's* 100 most influential people. Murphy is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren.

Living Lean Hosts Party at Barbacoa

Living Lean clients and staff celebrated their personal achievements with founder Sheena Lakhotia at a private party at Barbacoa in March, where Lakhotia presented gift baskets to longtime clients. Lakhotia started the business in 2006.

Lakhotia held a contest to name her new clothing line, which was unveiled at the party, and credited Carla Berry for submitting the winning name, Shaili, after Lakhotia's daughter.

– David Dierks, Assistant Editor



DAVID DIERKS

Sheena Lakhotia and Lynn Therien celebrate at the Living Lean party.



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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

May

- 1 **Orinda Books**, Story Hour with Cathy Goshorn for 2- to 4-year-olds and caregivers, Thursdays, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 am. Call 925-254-7606.
- 2 **First Friday Forum** features a talk on "Myths of the Science and Religion Wars: Why It Matters For Your Kids," LOPC, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. 1:30 pm.
The International Film Showcase presents the international award-winning Japanese film, *Like Father, Like Son* at Orinda Theatre through May 8. Visit www.internationalshowcase.org for information or www.lamorindatheatres.com for tickets.
- 3 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, first day of the summer season, Orinda Way, 9 am to 1 pm.
- 8 **Sleepy Hollow** FireWise Community Meeting focuses on the neighborhood's evacuation plan and realigned emergency path. MOFD representatives and other agencies will provide information and solicit feedback, Sleepy Hollow Elementary School multipurpose room, 20 Washington Lane, 7 to 9 pm.
Orinda Books hosts Frank Burroughs who will discuss and sign copies of his new memoir, *The Pepper Tree Kingdom*, 276 Village Square, 1 pm. Call 925-254-7606.
20th Annual Bike to Work Day features Energizer Stations throughout the Bay Area to encourage everyone to use their bicycles. Visit www.511contracosta.org for details.
- 11 **WALK 2014**, Reagan and Zoe's Second Annual Breast Cancer Fundraiser, St. Stephen's Trail at Bates Blvd., 7 to 10 am. Reagan and Zoe are 8th-graders at OIS. Donations of \$10 general, \$7 children under 10, go to the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center at Alta Bates Hospital. For information, email reaganandzoe@gmail.com.
- 16 **Orinda Parks and Recreation** Senior Fair and Health Expo for Boomers and Beyond features educational speakers, health screenings, local volunteer and club information, local health and wellness providers, live music, raffle and food, Orinda Community Center, 12:30 to 4:30 pm. Free and open to the public. For information call 925-254-2445.
- 20 **World Affairs Book Club** discusses *Monsoon: The Indian Ocean and the Future of American Power* by Robert Kaplan, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 pm. Call 925-254-7606.
- 21 **California Shakespeare Theater's A Raisin in the Sun**, through June 15, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Call 510-548-9666 or go to www.calshakes.org.
- 30 **Orinda Ballet Academy's** production of *Alice in Wonderland*, through June 1, Orinda Library Theatre, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. Call 925-254-2445 or go to www.brownpaper-tickets.com.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. The library will be closed on May 25 and 26 in honor of Memorial Day. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 1 **Friends of the Orinda Library** Book Sale, Book Shop and Sorting Room, 10 am to 1 pm.
English as a Second Language Conversation Circle, practice and improve English conversation skills in an informal setting. The group meets every Thursday from 1 to 2:30 pm in the Tutoring Room. Preregistration is not required. Also May 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- 6 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and finger play for infants to three-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 am. Drop-ins welcome, attendance limited to once per week. Also May 7, 13 and 14.
- 10 **Fight Sudden Oak Death (SOD)**, a one-hour presentation on SOD and the Blitz oak leaf collection with UC professor and SOD/Blitz founder Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, Orinda Library Garden Room, 10 am. Also, collect oak leaves through May 11 and submit to Dr. Garbelotto's lab for analysis. The results will be posted on the Blitz website map. Visit www.sodblitz.org for information and past Blitz results.
- 12 **Make a Birthday Card** for the library to celebrate the library's 100th birthday, 11 am to 8 pm. Also May 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Cards will be put in a time capsule.
- 13 **Peek-A-Book Time**, songs, stories, rhythms and rhymes for infants to 16 months and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 am. Families with older siblings are welcome at Toddler Lapsit. Also May 20 and 27.
Mystery Book Club, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 pm. Adult program, new members welcome.
- 17 **100th Anniversary of the Orinda Library** celebration features live music by Orinda high school musical groups, quilting demonstrations by award-winning quilter Liz Piatt, birthday crafts for kids and families and cupcakes, 3 to 5 pm.
Saturday Morning Live features family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book Area, 11 to 11:30 am. Also May 24 and 31.
Be Firewise Open House and Hot Dog Lunch, hosted by Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) at Station 45, 33 Orinda Way, 10 am to 2 pm. There will be child ID and fingerprinting, bounce house and hot dog lunch. For information contact MOFD at www.mofd.org or 925-258-4525, ext. 533.
- 20 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent will discuss the upcoming production of *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures* by American playwright Tony Kushner. Fireside Room, 7 pm., adult program.
- 22 **Talespinners of Contra Costa** features adult storytelling and a guest speaker, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 pm.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 pm. Orinda Masonic Center. Call Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 pm, Gallery Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 am, May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 am, Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching for Seniors**. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 am, free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 am to 1:30 pm, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Call Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 am, Celia's Mexican, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-8288.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.

School Calendar

- 1 **Orinda Intermediate School** Bulldog Theater presents the musical, Disney's *Peter Pan, Jr.*, through May 3. Visit www.showtix4u.com for show times and tickets. Tickets also available at the door. Visit www.ois.orindaschools.org.
- 2 **Del Rey Elementary School** Walk-A-Thon, 25 El Camino Moraga. Visit <http://delrey.orindaschools.org>.
- 4 **JF Kapnek's** 11th Annual Family 5K/1K Fun Run/Walk to combat the effects of HIV/AIDS in children and families of Zimbabwe, Miramonte High School, 750 Moraga Way, 9 am. Face painting, dancing to African music, kids' crafts, T-shirts, brunch and prizes for the top 5K runners. Visit www.Active.Com to register or email Carey@JFKapnekTrust.org.
- 5 **Miramonte High School** Boosters Club, library, 750 Moraga Way, 6 pm. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte.
- Del Rey Elementary School** Golf Classic, 3 to 4 pm. Visit <http://delrey.orindaschools.org>.
- 7 **Acalanes Union High School District** (AUHSD) Governing Board meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 pm. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us. Also May 21
- 12 **Orinda Union School District** Board Meeting, 25 Orinda Way, Suite 200, 6 pm. Visit www.orindaschools.org.
- 15 **Orinda Intermediate School** Parent Club Meeting, 9 am and Site Council Meeting, 4 pm. library, 80 Ivy Drive,.
- 16 **Orinda Intermediate School** 6th-grade dance, 3:45 to 5:15 pm. and 7th- and 8th-grade dance, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.
Glorietta Elementary School Musical, *Aladdin*, 15 Martha Road. Also May 17. Visit <http://gl-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com/>.
- 17 **Del Rey Elementary School** Parents Party, *Caddyshack*, MCC Ballroom, 7 to 10 pm. Visit <http://delrey.orindaschools.org>.
- 21 **Del Rey Elementary** Parents Club Meeting, 7 pm. Visit <http://delrey.orindaschools.org>.
- 21 **Miramonte High School** Spring Play, *California Suite, Plaza Suite, and London Suite*, School Theatre, 7 pm. Also, May 22 and 23. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte.
- 23 **Wagner Ranch Elementary School** Walk-A-Thon, 350 Camino Pablo. Visit <http://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com/>
- 24 **Miramonte High School** Senior Ball
- 27 **Miramonte High School** Post Senior Day, Senior Awards

Montelindo Garden Club. Third Friday, 9 am, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive. Joan Morris of the Contra Costa Times will talk about Critters in the Garden. Visit www.montelindogarden.com.

Orinda Garden Club. Fourth Thursday, 10 am to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.

Orinda Juniors Women's Club community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 pm. Contact www.orindajuniors.org.

Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 925-254-2222.

Orinda Association. Second Monday, 7:15 pm, Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday. Visit www.orindahiking.org or call Ian at 925-254-1465.

Orinda Historical Society. Third Wednesday, 7 pm, annual meeting at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 925-254-1353.

Orinda Job's Daughters. First and third Monday, 7 pm, 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 pm, social, 7:30 pm, meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.

Orinda Teen Advisory Council. Second Wednesday, 4 pm, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.

Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 am to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881. Visit <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub/>.

Walnut Creek Garden Club. Second Monday, 9:30 am, Camellia Room, Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. Visit <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/walnut-creek-garden-club> or contact mslitttle44@gmail.com. Visit <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub/>.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Acalanes Union High School District. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.

City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

Historic Landmarks Committee. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 pm, Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 pm. Visit www.mofd.org/board/meetings meeting location will be posted on the agenda.

Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. Second Monday, 6 pm, OUSD Conference Room, 25 Orinda Way, Suite 200, Orinda, CA 94563. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.

Planning Commission. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 pm, Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

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EVERYDAY CHANGES

Move of the Month

Ball Side Crunch: Work the Obliques



Lie on your side against an exercise ball, fingertips at your temples (as in photo above), legs extended and feet wide apart to give you balance.

Raise your upper body up from the ball and lower it back down after a



short pause. Alternate sides after each completed set.

Breathe out while contracting your ab muscles and breathe in while returning to starting position.

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

Everyday Changes

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Bonnie Waters



April Showers bring May Flowers is a rhyme that has been around since the 1500s. While most of us heard this rhyme in early childhood, few of us realized that it contained a deeper meaning. The words suggest that sometimes the smallest things can bring an abundance of beauty.

On this note, I interviewed some of our salon and spa experts posing the question, "What small thing if done regularly will bring an abundance of beauty?"

Ask the Expert: Esthetician – Kryss

"Nothing says 'beautiful' like well-maintained skin. An effective homecare regime customized for your specific skincare needs is the key. Treating yourself to a professional facial has many benefits. The exfoliation of dead skin cells, brightening the skin's appearance, reducing fine lines, hydrating the skin, elimination of toxins and deep pore cleansing are just a few. In addition to cleansing, rejuvenating and nurturing your skin, facial treatments are extremely relaxing. Aromatherapy is a huge part of the professional facial and together with the massage provide maximum relaxation. Not only do facials make us look beautiful, they make us feel beautiful as well."

Ask the Expert: Nail Technician – Angela

"Regular manicures are the key to beautiful hands and the benefits are numerous. Regular cuticle care helps minimize hangnails and healthy cuticles promote nail growth. Homecare routines for hands should include daily application of cuticle oil together with pushing back the cuticle. To keep hands soft, apply hand cream frequently throughout the day especially after washing hands. These small things combine to maintain beautiful hands that are positive features for a businessperson or anyone working with people.

"Pedicures have many of the same benefits as manicures. For some of us, pedicures are even more important because of the pressure of being constantly on our

feet. During the pedicure, removal of dead skin and calluses makes the feet feel softer. A good foot massage improves circulation, relieves tension and decreases foot discomfort. Nothing like 'sandal-ready' feet to help you put a beautiful foot forward."

Ask the Expert: Hair Stylist – Nicole

"For abundant, beautiful hair nothing is as important as regular trims every six to eight weeks. Glossing after a color service helps protect and maintain beautiful, rich and vibrant hair color. Proper hair maintenance at home includes routine use of the proper shampoo and conditioner for your hair type. Fine and thin hair can feel abundant though the use of thickening products and volumizers. The key to beautiful hair during summer months is protecting the hair from sun damage with UV protectants. Ask your haircare professional for recommendations to ensure your hair enhances your personal beauty."

Ask the Expert: Massage Therapist – Alexandra

"Stress at work and at home creates tension in the body which leads to higher stress levels. In addition, environmental elements such as toxins in the air, water and food can stress our bodies. Massage and other spa services are designed to reduce stress levels, promote relaxation and help the body detoxify itself by stimulating the lymphatic system.

"A little thing one can do is to walk barefoot in the grass in the morning. Walking on grass stimulates the thousands of nerve endings of the foot, helping to restore the body's equilibrium. Why in the morning? The morning fresh air, gentle sunlight and tranquil atmosphere rejuvenate the body, replenish vitamin D and help relax the body, mind and spirit."

After all the April showers everyone is no doubt enjoying May flowers. Remember that planting perennials is a small thing that when done once can provide an abundance of May flowers for years to come.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

a screening of the comedy, *Sixteen Candles*. Two cast members will participate in the question-and-answer session and everyone is invited to attend. May 15 brings a Breast Cancer Benefit Concert to the Orinda Theatre, with Toad the Wet Sprocket and Lace performing.

Vice president of a real estate development company, Zemrak has a deep passion for films and has been involved in filmmaking for quite a while. "The Orinda Theatre is truly a landmark for all of Contra Costa County. In a sense, it is an icon and is loved and cherished by this wonderful community, which is great," said Zemrak.

There is no extra charge to purchase tickets online via www.lamorindatheatre.com and Visa and Mastercard are accepted. For more information call 925-254-9060.

Window Genie of East Bay

Native Orindan Randy Tolerton is owner of Window Genie of East Bay in Walnut Creek. Tolerton guarantees streak-free windows in addition to providing home maintenance services such as window tinting, power pressure washing and gutter cleaning.

"Solar window film tinting is very popular here in our area. Homeowners install window film to preserve furniture and carpeting, as well as to keep the temperature down which reduces utility bills," said Tolerton. This time of year customers must call well in advance, as there is high demand for these services. Window Genie of East Bay is part of a national franchise that is growing fast, with three employ-

After spending 24 years in the software industry, which required frequent travel, I wanted to make a career change so I could spend more time with my family and give back to my community," said Tolerton. "Our company's mission is to reach out giving hope, strength and support where it is needed to help make a difference in local communities, charities and organizations. This dedication enriches the Window Genie culture by upholding a proactive presence in each franchise partner's community. This is really important to me." For a list of supported charitable organizations, visit the web site at <http://concord.windowgenie.com>.

A 1985 graduate of Miramonte High School, Tolerton earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science at UC Santa Barbara. His wife, Caroline, is a marketing professional and helps with the accounting for the business. The couple has been married 13 years and has two children, 6-year-old Tristan and 10-year-old Charlotte. "For the past 10 years, I have been very active in the Shriners and Freemasons. There are a million things I like to do, but I have to say sports and politics are at the top of my list," said Tolerton. "I enjoy seeing my children grow up. This is a demanding business and very rewarding. I enjoy working and maybe I won't ever retire."

For more information about Window Genie of East Bay, visit <http://concord.windowgenie.com>

windowgenie.com and enter your zip code at the top of the page, or call Randy Tolerton at 925-465-6169. You may also email Tolerton at rtolerton@windowgenie.com.

Note: Last month **La Mediterranee** on College Avenue in Berkeley was highlighted in this column. This delightful restaurant features dishes influenced by Lebanese, Armenian, Greek and other Mediterranean cuisines. Born in Beirut, Lebanon of Armenian parents, Orindan Garbis Bagdasarian asked we include the following information: "On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman

Empire began the systematic elimination of the minority population of Armenians in their native homeland, which is today part of the Republic of Turkey," explained Bagdasarian. "The Turkish government continues to deny the Armenian genocide ever took place. The genocide took place in two phases. Firstly, the systematic killing of males through forced labor and massacres and secondly, the deportation of women, children and the elderly on death marches to the Syrian Desert. It is estimated that between 1 and 1.5 million people died as a result."

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VALERIE HOTZ

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ees currently on staff. Fully insured and bonded, all work is backed by Tolerton's "Streak Free Guarantee" and free estimates are available upon request.

This is not your typical window washing company, as Window Genie's motto is, "Clean windows and a whole lot more." What does that really mean? Window Genie gives back to communities by making donations and volunteering time to various charities.

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Echo Grove, A Natural Place for Gifts, Opens in Theatre Square

Last month, the husband-and-wife team of Dean Shutt and Margaret Doty launched their delightful and very unique handmade crafts store in Theatre Square. It is well worth your time to stop by and peruse the impressive offerings. Located between Starbucks and Serika, Echo Grove features an eclectic mix of American crafts with 50 to 60 percent of the items handmade locally. There is a little bit of something for everyone in this shop that is reminiscent of a museum gift shop and is the perfect place to find that special gift.

Doty's expertise is in selecting the whimsical items for the store, while Shutt handles store operations and merchandising, including the social media aspect. She comes from a corporate background, having worked in the Advanced Services Group at Cisco for 16 years. "There has to be a place for the artisan to sell his product," said Doty. "He needs to make a living. In American corporate life, it is always about

grow, grow, grow. We thought to ourselves, what is wrong with growing to a point and then just being?"

"Echo Grove is an inspiring environment that supports the local and U.S. economy. We educate people about the handcrafted items people make and present them in a very fun environment," says Shutt. "One person made the gift, and we believe you should know the name of the person who made it with their own hands."

You will find 550 items at Echo Grove from about 400 different vendors. Ties, belts, jewelry, handmade paper flower bouquets, tea towels, scarves, hats and special soaps are among the array of unusual gift items. Everything in the store is purchased from the artist who made it.

One featured artisan, Berkley Hansen of San Francisco, produces fine wood cutting boards and valet boxes with creative flair. These elegant pieces have heirloom quality. By day, Hansen builds custom cabinets and entertainment centers. Check out the selection of greeting cards that are laser-cut onto veneer wood. Betsey Rieche and Charlotte Miller make artsy statements in a novel way using this process. You will find colorful



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Margaret Doty and Dean Shutt recently opened Echo Grove in Theatre Square.

and practical pottery pieces to brighten any kitchen by Oakland artist Whitney Smith.

Shutt and Doty have been married for 10 years and have always wanted their own store. "I always liked getting to know store owners and getting to know their backgrounds," said Doty. The couple's 7-year-old daughter, Katie, is also part of the family business. Once a month she hosts Katie's Corner. During this free class for youngsters, Katie teaches how to make a preselected craft and students take their new creation home with them.

"We are completely blown away by the reception we are receiving from the Orinda community and the number of people thanking us for opening Echo Grove here. We appreciate the community support immensely," said Shutt.

Echo Grove is open Monday through Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm. and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. For more information call 925-253-1266. You may visit Echo Grove on Facebook at www.facebook.com/echogrovestore.

The Orinda Theatre Offers More

When Derek Zemrak purchased the Orinda Theatre three years ago he brought some new thinking to this treasured community landmark. Originally opened in 1941 - the architect was Alexander Aimwell Cantin - the Orinda Theatre was to be demolished in 1984 and was saved by the efforts of local preservationists. It reopened in 1989 with the main lobby and theatre intact. The murals in the added number two theatre are from the Garden Theatre in San Jose.

"It is especially fun to offer free admission to the Classic Film series on the second Thursday of every month. Last month, we screened Alfred Hitchcock's *The Trouble*

with *Harry* and were excited to have Jerry Mathers appear in the question-and-answer session," said Zemrak. "Over 500 people attended this screening, many remembering Mathers from his *Leave it to Beaver* television days." The Classic Film Series is generously underwritten by Theatre Square management company, GLL Properties. Next month's screening on May 8 is another Hitchcock classic, *To Catch a Thief*.

Every Tuesday at the Orinda Theatre admission to any film is \$7. Once a month, the Lamorinda Film and Arts Foundation screens a foreign film in their International Film Showcase. Orinda is home to the California Independent Film Festival every



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Derek Zemrak keeps things running at the Orinda and Rheem theaters.

September and also the East Bay Jewish Film Festival is hosted here every March. The much anticipated and very successful Lamorinda Idol takes place every September at the Orinda Theatre.

May 1 is the date for a combined community fundraising event for Miramonte and Campolindo high schools' grad nights with [SEE BUZZ page 23]

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