

## City Council Looks at Regulations on Short-Term Rentals

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

On Feb. 13, a tragic event occurred at a party in Orinda. A 21-year-old Chabot College student was brutally beaten at a party on Camino Encinas. The Orinda police responded to the 1:53 a.m. incident and, due to the large number of young people at the party, subsequently asked for additional police support from Moraga, Lafayette and the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office. A suspect, 21-year-old Falealea Tytus Maka, has since been arrested for attempted murder and aggravated mayhem and was arraigned on April 13. The victim suffered a life-threatening head injury and is still in a coma at a local hospital.

The five-bedroom, \$2-million residence had been rented out for the event, purportedly for a party. [SEE RENTALS page 20]

## Citizen Group Aims to "Spruce Up" Downtown Orinda

By MAGGIE SHARPE  
Staff Writer

More than 80 supporters, family and friends packed The Fourth Bore restaurant in downtown Orinda on the evening of March 31 for the city's first WUDO Welcome Wagon. WUDO, an acronym for "What's Up Downtown Orinda," was formed last fall by a group of young families interested in revitalizing downtown and giving residents more in-town shopping options while preserving the city's old-world charm.

"The evening could not have gone better, it was the perfect event," said Fourth Bore owner Michael Karp, whose family lives



SOPHIE BRACCINI (L-R) Mayor Victoria Smith joined What's Up Downtown Orinda members Trudi Loscotoff, Ali Drasin, Darien Destino and Kirsten Larse at the group's Welcome Wagon event held at The Fourth Bore restaurant in Theatre Square on March 31.

in Orinda. "I love the concept of WUDO; anything that spurs new business and brings attention to downtown is great."

WUDO Steering Committee member Laura McDowell said interest in WUDO has boomed since the group launched its website last September, with more than 500 people now signed up on the email list. The group has also met with Mayor Victoria Smith and City Manager Janet Keeter to mull over how to bring in new business and inspire existing businesses and property owners to "spruce up" and take pride in their appearance.

Topping the wish list of what surveyed WUDO members want is a gourmet market. They would also like to see more women's and kids' clothing boutiques and a "fun independent coffee shop." WUDO is also floating an idea for "pop-up" stores, where owners rent a space for a few months to test the business waters in Orinda.

"Janet Keeter used to be the economic development director for the City of Lodi, so she has a great perspective, and we are interested in hearing more of her ideas," said McDowell, who grew up in Orinda, left for a few years, and returned to raise her family. She thinks Orinda could benefit from having a dedicated economic director, but Keeter said there are no plans to hire such a person at the moment.

Ali Drasin, also a WUDO steering committee member, has lived in Orinda for five years and has two children in local schools. She said it's a fine line when talking about

[SEE WUDO page 6]

## Miramonte Opens New Baseball Field



SALLY HOGARTY

Miramonte senior James Vaccaro winds up for the first pitch of the first game on Miramonte's new baseball field. Delayed for several months due to rain, the new field has a completely overhauled irrigation system and new grass specifically selected for use on a baseball field with Miramonte's soil type and climate conditions. The old field had drainage and severe gopher problems making it dangerous to play on. Evidently, the new field, which was re-sodded by local landscape contractor Cleary Bros, proved a good omen for the Mats who beat Las Lomas 4-0.

## OA Hosting Informational Meeting On Roads Bond

The Orinda Association will host a meeting forum aimed at providing information about the upcoming \$25 million road-repair bond set for the June primary election. This will be geared towards helping Orindans get the facts about the proposed bond measure and ask questions of knowledgeable experts. It will not be a debate format.

Wednesday May 4, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Orinda Library Auditorium

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

## AAUW Honors Volunteers at May Distinguished Woman Luncheon

By DENISE BURIAN  
Contributing Writer

The American Association of University Women Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (AAUW-OML) branch will recognize volunteers at the Burckhalter Elementary School in Oakland at its annual Distinguished Woman luncheon on May 17 at the Moraga Country Club.

Local residents Carol Messinger and

K. DeGroot founded the school's tutoring program in 1993 and have volunteered for all of its 23 years. In addition, Marilyn Budge, who founded the school's library program in 1997, Jan Coe, Carrol Foxall, Jean Somerset and Connie Mueser have volunteered for 15 years. These women

[SEE AAUW page 18]

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## New Section

## Celebrations

Just in time for those spring engagements and summer weddings, *The Orinda News* will launch a Celebrations page. Here is your opportunity to send in a photo of the happy couple and announce an engagement or the date of a wedding. It's also the perfect place to let people know about a special anniversary.

For more information on the details and cost, please email [news@orindaassociation.org](mailto:news@orindaassociation.org).

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

Dedicated Volunteers and OA Members: Steve and Tish Harwood

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Each month a family or individual member of The Orinda Association (OA) will be profiled. We hope you enjoy getting to know your fellow Orindans, who are actively improving the quality of life in our community by their membership. This month meet Steve and Tish Harwood. The long-time Orinda residents raised their three children (Will, Alison and Tim) here and continue to be very involved with the community. Will lives with his wife, 8-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter in Chicago. Alison, lives in Denver with her husband and 8-month-old son, and Tim lives close by in San Francisco.

**How long have you been members of the OA and how did you find out about the organization?**

We moved to Orinda 41 years ago and joined The Orinda Association soon thereafter. That's so long ago it's hard to recall

how it came to our attention. It may have been from a courier on horseback, announcing the news.

**What made you want to become OA members?**

Initially, we joined The Orinda Association to support it in bringing community concerns to the attention of the Board of Supervisors, which governed the city prior to incorporation.

Subsequently, we've continued to support the OA as its activities have evolved. Now the *The Orinda News* keeps us up to date, Seniors Around Town is a valued service, the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration is a classic small town event, and other activities promote volunteerism and discussion of current issues.

A common theme throughout its history is that The Orinda Association helps to give our community its identity.

**You both do quite a bit of volunteer service through the OA. Please explain**

**what you're involved in and why.**

Steve: I've been involved with the 4th of July parade for over 20 years. My first involvement was as Elvis, singing from the backseat of Jim Barnett's gaudy convertible, surrounded by screaming ladies, who were held off by secret service men. When we drove down to the parade my daughter, Alison, then 10 years old, needed a ride to the parade, but she was so embarrassed by her dad dressed up as Elvis, she lay down on the backseat so no one would see her as we drove to town. In the parade, as Jim's car approached the judges' platform, the generator in his trunk powering my sound system conked out. So there was Elvis, sweating, as he kept pulling on the generator rope in a failed attempt to get it started. From that auspicious beginning, I've been involved with the parade each year, as Volunteer Pick-Up Band organizer, Chairman, sound equipment guy and announcer. I've loved being involved with the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade since it's fun, and it celebrates the many wonderful aspects of our community.

Tish: When I retired four years ago, I began to drive for Seniors Around Town. I have met the most interesting, delightful individuals who have often led unique lives. Losing the ability to drive is a life-altering experience. The riders are so appreciative and gracious that after a ride, I leave feeling uplifted by their positive spirit in the face of adversity.

**Why do you think other families should support the OA or become active members?**

Admittedly it's difficult to carve out time for volunteer activities, given the many demands of family life and work. But we think that all who are active volunteers in the community would echo the same message: that volunteering is tremendously rewarding – contributing to the community,



SALLY HOGARTY  
**Tish and Steve Harwood** have been members of The Orinda Association for 41 years. They joined when the OA brought concerns of Orinda residents to the County Board of Supervisors prior to Orinda's incorporation.

making new friends and having fun. The OA offers a full range of opportunities to become involved. Regardless of whether one becomes an OA volunteer, it is an organization worthy of support as a member.

**What would you like to see the OA do more of?**

The OA is a well-established platform that is positioned to organize volunteer-based activities to meet community needs. Seniors Around Town is a great example of a response to a need that the OA identified and then responded to. We think the OA should continue to think outside the box to identify and meet other community needs.

Anyone interested in supporting the OA by becoming a member or volunteering, contact the office at 925-254-0800, email to [oa@orindaassociation.org](mailto:oa@orindaassociation.org) or go to the website at [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).



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As an Orinda resident, you are invited to join The Orinda Association. For over 70 years, we have been dedicated to enhancing our community and enriching the quality of life here. Please join us – the membership fees are nominal, but the returns are immeasurable!

**Some of the ways we keep you Informed, Involved & In Touch:**

- Publishing *The Orinda News*
- Operating the Volunteer Center
- Hosting Community Forums
- Organizing the All-Community 4th of July Celebration
- Providing transportation through "Seniors Around Town"
- ... and more!



PO Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563

Visit [www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org) to see all the ways we support our community. Only through your generosity and support can we maintain Orinda as one of the best communities in the nation! For more details, contact us at 925-254-0800.

To join, visit [www.OrindaAssociation.org/membershiponline](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org/membershiponline)



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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President  
Much To Do In May



Cindy Powell

It's a busy May in Orinda – full of things to celebrate and enjoy. Why not join in and try something new?

May 1 celebrates spring and the beginning of summer as **May Day** becomes apparent in the beautiful yards and hills of Orinda! May 3 is **National Teacher's Day**. We trust teachers with our most valuable asset, our children, so why not thank these important people for their dedication?

On May 4, we have an opportunity to educate ourselves at The Orinda Association's **Informational Meeting on Measure L**. More information is on Page 1 and on our website, [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org). Celebrate Hispanic and Mexican cultures on May 5 – **Cinco de Mayo**. Did you know that Orinda was originally located within four Mexican land grants?

Then it's Hallmark's favorite holiday – **Mother's Day**, which takes place on May 8 this year. My mother is visiting, to keep me in line...that's what mothers do. To work off some of those calories you may have consumed on Mother's Day, why not get into the spirit of **Bike to Work Day** – May 12 – and bike rather than drive to work. The OA is taking the biking challenge for the month of May. Look for *Team Orinda Association* to pass 1,000 miles in May.

The only **Friday the 13th** of the 2016 cal-

endar year occurs in May! Maybe a lucky year? If not May 13, then May 21 will certainly be lucky as **Beer Taste of Orinda** takes place. Beer lovers and brewers – to find out more, email [Steve\\_Meagher@yahoo.com](mailto:Steve_Meagher@yahoo.com). It's also **Armed Forces Day**, so salute the men and women in all branches of the service who protect our country. Another fun day will be **National Wine Day** on May 15. Although wine has been around for thousands of years, our Lamorinda AVA (American Viticultural Area) is fresh. Go to the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association website ([lamorindawinegrowers.com](http://lamorindawinegrowers.com)) and see the activities listed for May.

May 29 is **National Compost Day**. Check out your Recycle Smart's website ([www.recyclesmart.org](http://www.recyclesmart.org)) for classes and FREE worms. May 29 is also **Senior Ball** for Miramonte. Thank you to all the parents that plan and staff the magical evening. A very special day takes place on May 30 – **Memorial Day**, dedicated to service men and women who gave their lives for freedom and country. Attend a parade or have a picnic to honor those who have passed away.

As you are outside biking, picnicking or simply walking the neighborhood, be thankful for our happy, safe and friendly town!

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda;
- Promoting awareness and discussion of issues that are important to the community;
- Encouraging and recognizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character and security of Orinda.

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**The Spring Real Estate Market is Here!**  
Buyers are out in full force and we are seeing multiple offers on many properties.  
This is an excellent time to sell.



Laura Abrams

Please call for a market update.

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Parade Guy



Andrew Radlow

Hello Orinda 4th of July Parade fans! I'm the Parade Guy, and I'm helping coordinate this year's 4th of July Parade and post-parade party events. As we count down the weeks to Orinda's biggest annual community celebration, the Parade Committee thought we should do more to spread the good word about "The Best Hometown Parade!"

The Orinda Association formed and oversees the 4th of July Parade Committee. The Parade Committee plans, raises funds for and ultimately produces "The Best Hometown (4th of July) Parade!" The Parade Committee Chairperson, 12

Area Captains and approximately 75 helpers are all volunteers that genuinely care about Orinda and residents of the Bay Area who come from near and far to celebrate America's birthday.

We are a non-profit team that is scrappy, creative and determined to help one another make each year's Parade better than the last.

Our mission is to produce the premier regional entertainment event that:

- Celebrates our community and culture, while revering the anniversary of America's birth;
- Brings together everyone in the region

[SEE PARADE page 17]

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ORINDA REMODEL



# Letters to the Editor

## We Need Measure L

For decades, Orindans, in fits and starts, have been trying to find a solution to the roads problem. How does an affluent but small community with 93 miles of public roads in poor condition execute a fix?

It took 10 years and three tries at the ballot box before the community came together and agreed on a phased approach to bring all roads to at least "good" condition.

Phases 1 and 2 have gone well, El Niño notwithstanding. Twenty nine of these 93 miles have been either repaired, are under construction, or have been specifically identified and placed in the repair queue.

Now, we need to approve Phase 3, the \$25 million bond proposal known as measure L. These funds are necessary to continue beyond the 29 miles. Without Measure L, progress will stop when these 29 miles are complete.

But the nattering naysayers, who have no plan of their own to fix the roads, want Orinda voters to turn down Phase 3 financing and simply walk away from a job only partially complete. Why? None of their reasons are sound.

Don't be fooled. Vote to continue the excellent start to fixing our roads. Vote to support the road repair project to completion. On June 7, vote Yes on Measure L!

– Carol Penskar

## Measure L: Fix Orinda Roads

We were excited to move to Orinda a few years ago and get to know this great city with its beautiful scenery and active community. However, as we began driving around Orinda we were not so excited to discover the terrible condition of some roads. While our new home is on a newly renovated street, we were surprised that many of the local roads are in such poor condition. We did not expect to need a four wheel drive vehicle to maneuver some of the awful streets.

Good Orinda roads are critical to every Orinda resident, not just for access to our homes, but also for safety and long term community health. We understand a road repair plan is in place and are glad to see that some of the Orinda roads are being repaired. We agree Measure L is needed to continue the work and reach our goal of good public roads throughout Orinda. We urge you to vote yes on Measure L to fix Orinda roads and keep our community moving in the future.

– Jeremy and Laura Tieman

## Road repair funding: Can Orinda taxpayers afford to be fair?

The city has determined that it will cost \$80 million to fix our roads. This is the price of deferred maintenance. It is little different than the \$60 million that MOFD

owes to its retirement funds due to underfunding them in the past.

The question is: Will Orinda's residents and taxpayers take this obligation on themselves or will they pass the obligation onto the next generation (in some cases, their own children)?

The city is proposing an additional \$25 million bond, repaid with an ad valorem tax, to help solve the problem. This tax, like the tax repaying 2014's \$20 million bond, will be repaid mostly by Orinda's youngest homeowners. They will end up paying 90 percent of the cost with the longstanding residents, who incurred the obligation, only paying 10 percent.

The youngest 1/3 of Orinda's homeowners are already paying property tax based on an assessment of 85 percent of their home's market value. They pay 60 percent of Orinda's total \$60 million in annual property tax. Conversely, the oldest 1/3 of Orinda's homeowners, who have seen remarkable gains in the value of their homes but are paying taxes based on assessed values of 20 percent of the market value of the homes, are only paying 10 percent of the total.

Is this fair? The argument that it is says that the new homeowners will be using the reconstructed roads for a long time, but they will also be paying taxes to maintain them. One of the benefits of the new roads, in addition to less wear and tear on cars, is enhanced home values. So the existing residents will see enhanced home values, sell to new residents who will pay the enhanced price to live in Orinda and "get to" pay off the road bonds which enhanced the price.

Can we afford to be fair? Should this be a concern to the city and to the individuals in the city who are being asked to vote for this new ad valorem tax? There are alternatives as outlined in the [www.OrindaRoadFacts.info](http://www.OrindaRoadFacts.info) website. We can choose to be fair. It doesn't cost that much.

– Steve Cohn

## Bond Measure Unfair to Some

In June, Orinda voters will be asked to vote for a \$25 million road bond measure to continue repairing the \$80 million of deferred maintenance on Orinda's public residential streets. We support the move that Orinda improve from a third world road system to the first world we live in. However, we would like to point out that there are over 1,000 families which are disenfranchised from these improvements. These are the households living on Orinda's 26 miles of privately maintained streets.

Very few know what these streets are (except, for the most part, they are Orinda's better maintained streets). They are not gated enclaves. However, they represent 30 percent of Orinda's residential streets and



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when Wilder is built out, will include 20 percent of Orinda's population. The people on these streets pay the same taxes as the people on public streets; they pay the same garbage fees which include a franchise tax devoted to road maintenance; they pay the same Measure L sales tax and Measure J bond tax for public residential street road

repair; and if the new bond measure passes, they will pay that tax too. However, they see almost no benefit from these road taxes.

The claim is made that they use the public residential streets like every other Orinda resident, but this is not true. The website [www.OrindaRoadFacts.info/private-](http://www.OrindaRoadFacts.info/private-)

[SEE LETTERS page 8]

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to [news@orindaassociation.org](mailto:news@orindaassociation.org).

Letters to Editor for the June issue are due **May 5, 2016**.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the June issue is May 5, 2016.



## MEASURE L

# Pros and Cons of the June Ballot Measure to Fix Orinda Roads

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

In January 2016, the City of Orinda hired a public opinion research firm to conduct a voter survey on whether they would support a \$47 million bond measure or a parcel tax of approximately \$411 annually to complete the needed road repairs in Orinda. Neither received a two-thirds majority, the number necessary for passage in an election.

Following the results of the survey, the Orinda City Council voted at its mid-February meeting to move forward with a June 2016 ballot measure asking citizens to support a \$25 million general obligation bond that would fix many but not all of Orinda's roads.

In an attempt to provide you with important information prior to the mail-in ballots for the June election, *The Orinda News* asked Steve Cohn of Orinda Road Facts to write his group's argument against the ballot measure and co-chairs of the Measure L campaign – Bob Burt, Brad Barber, Mark Roberts and Sue Severson – to write the argument for the ballot measure.

## Yes on Measure L

Orinda's roads are among the worst in the Bay Area. Without more funds to implement Orinda's Roads and Drainage Repairs Plan (Plan), our residential roads will continue to deteriorate and future repairs will cost even more.

Measure L funds the third phase of the publicly approved five phase Plan to fix Orinda's failing roads and storm drains. The Plan, which commits to repairing all public roads to "Good" to "Excellent" condition (Pavement Condition Index/PCI 50 or greater) and maintaining them, was developed by Orinda's Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) and City Council, with input from the Finance Advisory Committee, after numerous public hearings.

Currently, 90 percent of the funds available from all sources, including the first \$10 million of Measure J bonds, have been spent or committed to road construction contracts, in accordance with the Plan. Twenty-nine miles of Orinda's 93 miles of public roads have either been repaired, are under construction or have been targeted for repair with current funding. Many poor quality roads remain, still needing the repairs that Measure L monies will help provide. The 2016 Measure L Bond assures that we will keep making progress.

For more information, see [www.Fix-OrindaRoads.org](http://www.Fix-OrindaRoads.org).

### Measure L will:

Substantially increase repairs to Orinda residential roads and drains;

Add \$25 million to our infrastructure investment, not replace current funding;

Mean safer conditions for children, bikers and pedestrians on neighborhood streets;

Protect property values, increase public safety and reduce auto damage.

### Taxpayer Protections

Included among the taxpayer protections are requirements that:

Funds can only be used for street and drain repairs, not for other purposes;

Outside agencies are prevented from raiding these funds;

CIOC will report annually on expenditures funded by this measure;

An annual audit is performed.

Measure L enables continued work on

critically needed infrastructure improvements. Homeowners will pay an average annual property tax of about \$17 per \$100,000 of assessed home value (not market value) to \$25 million dollars of infrastructure improvements. Orinda taxpayers will benefit by acting now while construction costs are low and avoid future cost increases from escalating road deterioration. Numerous safeguards are in place to ensure the money is spent as promised.

With approval of Measure L bonds, Orinda will double annual road repair expenditures and hire a full time project manager to supplement city staff. Failure to approve Measure L will stall road repair progress, since new contracts cannot be awarded until new bond proceeds become available.

The City Council has engaged in substantial public dialogue regarding funding, repair standards and street selection since 2009. The council reviewed a recent survey of Orinda citizens and concluded the best chance of success in financing the road and drain repair program is to continue the incremental approach voters overwhelmingly approved in 2012 (the Measure L sales tax) and 2014 (the Measure J bonds) by placing a second bond on this June ballot. Voters have been asked about other funding options but have selected sales taxes and bonds as the preferred method to finance road improvements.

The combination of the sales taxes and bonds:

Ensures that nonresidents who drive on our roads to shop or dine are contributing to road repairs;

Provides a specific amount of money (the bond proceeds) vs. a variable revenue source which makes project planning most efficient;

Means that newcomers to Orinda immediately contribute to road expenses;

Means that as additional homes sell in Wilder and other developments, per capita bond costs will decrease.

Let's continue the momentum and progress to repair and maintain our roads. For decades, Orinda has struggled for a roads solution – to better enhance a safe, livable community and to protect our property values. Let's keep moving forward!

Vote yes on Measure L! For more information, go to [www.fixorindaroads.org](http://www.fixorindaroads.org).

## No on Measure L

Orindans want to fix their roads and are willing, and able, to pay for the repairs but the proposed \$25 million bond, to be repaid with an ad valorem tax, is not the solution. There are other viable solutions which the community needs to discuss; and there is time to do this before more funds are needed to continue the repair process.

There are four major flaws to the proposed bond:

1) **It does not provide enough money to fix all of the roads.** In the recent public opinion survey, 75 percent of the respondents said they were willing to pay additional taxes to fix the roads, with two thirds of those saying they would be willing to commit to all the money needed in one vote. And in her statement to the City Council, Councilmember Darlene Gee, a professional transportation engineer who was selected by the council for her road expertise stated: "if we do pass a \$25 million bond, we will never finish the rest of it." Are we willing to take this risk when ultimately, most people are willing to pay what it takes to fix all of our roads now?

2) **There are no provisions for additional maintenance funds** after the roads are repaired. The reason our roads are in miserable condition is that we only have \$1 million per year to spend on maintenance when we need \$3 million. There is a very real risk that once our roads have been

repaired people will not vote for additional taxes to maintain them.

3) **An Ad Valorem tax will put 90 percent of the cost on the youngest members of the community.** The youngest one third are paying 60 percent of the existing ad valorem tax (\$60 million per year). The average "established" homeowner's house is assessed at 20 percent of market value while new buyers are assessed at 100 percent of market value. In addition, "established" homeowners are more likely to move on well before the bond is paid off. The net result is that the senior two thirds of the community, who accrued the \$80 million in deferred road maintenance, would only pay ten percent of the additional ad valorem tax while seeing their property values increase due to the repaired roads. There are fairer means to tax ourselves which do not put the entire burden on the next generation.


4) **20 percent of Orinda's homes are disenfranchised from the city's road repair and maintenance plan.** These homes are on Orinda's 26 miles of roads which are privately maintained by the owners of the homes. While they pay their taxes, including 2012's Measure L sales tax and 2014's Measure J road bond tax, they receive minimal benefits from those taxes. The claim is made that everyone uses the residential streets that those taxes are being

[SEE ROADS page 7]



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BREAST CANCER / POLICE BLOTTER

Breast Cancer Walk on Mother's Day



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Tina, Reagan and D.J. Tierney, Amy Worth, Zoe, Nicky and Mahboud Zabetian at last year's walk.

May 8 from 9 a.m. – noon  
St. Stephen's Trail at Bates Blvd.

This event is a two-mile family walk to raise funds for the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center. It was started by Reagan Tierney and Zoe Zabetian four years ago, who are now sophomores in high school. The walk began as a

tribute to Tierney's mom who had survived breast cancer. "We wanted to do something that was fun and that would actually help people," says Zabetian. For more information, email reaganandzoe@gmail.com.

◆ WUDO from page 1

revitalization and bringing in new business to downtown.

"People worry about traffic and parking if Orinda becomes a destination shopping area," said Drasin. "People ask us, 'are you trying to turn Orinda into a Lafayette or Walnut Creek?' Our answer is, 'no, we are dedicated to keeping Orinda's own identity.' However, we don't see it as a negative to develop and enhance retail and restaurant options to draw people from other communities."

One new business that has been attracting customers, not only from Orinda but Piedmont, Marin and San Francisco as well, is Parker Thatch, which Irene Grenby opened at 19 Orinda Way last year. The shop specializes in customized totes.

"I love this community and meeting all the people who live here," said Grenby. "It's really quite simple. Just a nice coat of paint can make a store pop. I believe in baby steps, it doesn't have to be a gigantic effort."

Grenby believes the real secret is for everyone to work together so that the shopping area has a cohesive feel. She added that many of her customers are surprised by the quaint aesthetic of Orinda.

"They say how 'cool' it is, but it would be nice to see more retail options that would make them stay a little longer," said Grenby, adding that a "little country mart" would be perfect for Orinda. "With baby steps, big changes can be made."

Keeter said that WUDO has really stepped up to give a voice to citizens' concerns about the state of downtown.

"Their enthusiasm is to be commended," said Keeter, adding that there are still vacancies in Orinda that are ripe for development. "The members of What's Up Downtown Orinda are focusing a lot of positive energy for the betterment of the community, while still maintaining Orinda's semi-rural village charm."

WUDO is planning more Welcome Wagon events. Visit <http://www.whatsup-downtownorinda.com> for information.



POLICE BLOTTER

February 29 through April 9, 2016

Calls for Service

- 911 Abandoned: 1 incident.
- 911 Hangup: 15 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 3 incidents.
- Alarm, Audible: 155 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 30 incidents.
- Animal Cruelty: 3 incidents.
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon: 1 incident.
- Burglary, Auto: 10 incidents.
- Burglary, Residential: 2 incidents.
- Civil Disturbance: 3 incidents.
- Civil Problem: 11 incidents.
- Civil Standby: 2 incidents.
- CVC Moving Violation: 49 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 42 incidents.
- Death, Non Criminal: 2 incidents.
- Disturbance, Fight: 1 incident.
- DUI, Misdemeanor: 2 incidents.
- Found Property: 3 incidents.
- Forgery: 2 incidents.
- Fraud, Credit Card: 2 incidents.
- Fraud, False Pretenses: 3 incidents.
- Hailed by Citizen: 1 incident.
- Hit and Run, Misdemeanor: 6 incidents.
- Identity Theft: 13 incidents.
- Intoxicated Subject: 1 incident.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 4 incidents.
- Litter: 1 incident.
- Loitering: 1 incident.
- Lost Property: 1 incident.
- Loud Music: 1 incident.
- Loud Noise: 4 incidents.
- Loud Party: 9 incidents.
- Medical Hospital: 1 incident.
- Medical Police Needed: 2 incidents.
- Motorist Assist: 8 incidents.
- Neighbor Dispute: 1 incident.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 2 incidents.
- Ordinance Violation: 4 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 24 incidents.
- Panhandling: 3 incidents.
- Parking Detail: 134 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 46 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 7 incidents.
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents.
- Phone Harass: 2 incidents.
- Public Assembly Check: 5 incidents.
- Public Nuisance: 11 incidents.
- Reckless Driving: 13 incidents.
- Run Away Juvenile: 1 incident.
- School Check: 18 incidents.
- Security Check: 54 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 139 incidents.
- Shoplifting: 3 incidents.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 29 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 9 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 26 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 31 incidents.

- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 23 incidents.
- Tow: 8 incidents.
- Traffic Collision, Fire & Ambulance Enroute: 1 incident.
- Traffic Collision, No Details: 3 incidents.
- Traffic Collision, Property Damage: 16 incidents.
- Threats: 2 incidents.
- Traffic Control: 1 incident.
- Traffic Hazard: 23 incidents.
- Traffic Stop: 96 incidents.
- Trespass: 1 incident.
- Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.
- Unknown Problem: 1 incident.
- Unwanted Guest: 3 incidents.
- Vacation House Check: 23 incidents.
- Vandalism: 8 incidents.
- Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 2 incidents.
- Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents.
- Verbal Dispute: 4 incidents.
- Violation Custody Order: 1 incident.
- Violation Restraining Order: 2 incidents.
- Warrant Service: 2 incidents.
- Welfare Check: 21 incidents.

Arrests

- Drunk in Public: 3 arrests.
- DUI: 5 arrests.
- DUI Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Controlled Substance: 5 arrests.
- Possession of Dangerous Drugs: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Marijuana: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Narcotics: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Weapon: 1 arrest.
- Probation Violation: 1 arrest.
- Public Intoxication: 1 arrest.
- Revocation of Probation: 1 arrest.
- Shoplifting/Possession Weapon: 1 arrest.
- Stolen Vehicle: 1 arrest.
- Stolen Vehicle Recovery: 2 recoveries.
- Violation of Probation: 1 arrest.
- Wanted Person: 1 arrest.
- Warrant Arrest: 8 arrests.

BART Statistics

- Burglary, Auto: 1 incident.
- Grand Theft (Catalytic Converter): 1 incident.
- Public Intoxication/Warrant Arrest: 1 arrest.

For more incident details, visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

– Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

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CAR TIME

CAR TIME

Should You Buy An Extended Warranty?



By JOHN VANEK

An extended warranty is repair coverage that kicks in after the typical manufacturer bumper-to-bumper warranty has expired. This extended warranty will cover most major breakdowns and will — in theory — stabilize the cost of repairs, since the price of parts and labor tends to fluctuate over time. It is important to note that you have the option to purchase this warranty any time before the manufacturer warranty expires. You can even purchase an extended warranty after the manufacturer warranty expires, although the price will go up considerably.

You have already asked the questions that precede a new-car deal. Now it's time to ask five extended-warranty questions. They'll help you decide whether to purchase an extended warranty, and they'll also help get the best price. Warm-up question: Do you plan on keeping the car for only three or four years? Do you get tired of a car by its third year? If so, paying for an extended warranty doesn't make much sense, since the manufacturer warranty will still likely be in effect. But if you like to drive a car until the wheels fall off, the extended warranty might be worth considering. Nevertheless, go through the rest of the questions before making a decision.

Many dealerships offer third-party warranties from companies with varying track records. If you are going to purchase an extended warranty, make sure it is backed by the automaker, not just the dealership. You can use a manufacturer-backed extended warranty at any dealership across the country. A third-party warranty might be good only at the dealership that sold it to you. If you are considering coverage for a specific purpose, such as a road-hazard policy that isn't offered by the automaker, check for online reviews to see what others are saying about it.

Have you shopped for the best price on the warranty? It's unlikely that the car

dealer will let you shop around while you're sitting at his desk with a pile of purchase paperwork. This research is best done prior to your dealer visit. If the car purchase is already a financial handful, you can also shop for a better extended warranty price after the sale. Get a price quote from the Finance & Insurance (F&I) manager for the warranty he's offering. Then shop around by phone with F&I managers at other dealerships in the same way that you compared prices on the car you're about to buy. The F&I manager at the dealership that has your car might say that the price of the extended warranty is not negotiable, but that might not actually be the case. If you check with other dealers, some of them will have a lower price for the same product.

Do you know what's covered? An extended warranty isn't the cure-all that some dealers make it out to be. Many wear-and-tear parts — items that will eventually break or wear out — are not covered by most extended warranties. To complicate things even further, many extended warranties come in coverage tiers (silver, gold, platinum, for example), each with its own price and level of coverage. Take the time to read the fine print to determine what is and isn't covered.

You must also determine who will front the cost for the repair bill. Are the repairs fully covered? Do you have to pay a small deductible? Or do you have to pay for the repairs up front and get reimbursed later? Will you have peace of mind if you don't buy it? The answers are all up to you. If you will always have a nagging feeling that you should have bought the warranty, go ahead and get it. Sometimes there's no price tag on peace of mind.

Source: Edmunds Automotive

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

A plan can be developed which can overcome these flaws. It can be developed by active community involvement with an open, honest discussion of the issues. The proposed bond does not address many issues that need to be addressed. It was proposed because the City Council thought it could pass. However, as Councilmember Gee stated, if it passes, it may be the last road funding measure we pass for a very long time. Are we willing to risk leaving 1,000 homes on bad roads or having the repairs we have made degrade back to the state we are in now? We may win the battle but end up losing the war.

For more detailed information on the issues and possible solutions, see [www.OrindaRoadFacts.info](http://www.OrindaRoadFacts.info).

◆ ROADS from page 5

used to repair. This is not true. Almost 60 percent of all private streets feed directly into Orinda's collectors and arterials which receive none of the new tax money for maintenance. Only 20 percent of private streets traverse public residential streets, which the new tax money is devoted to, for more than one quarter of a mile. And with one of the big selling points for the new taxes being that home values on repaired streets will increase, no private street homeowner will see that property value increase. A viable road repair plan needs to address the disenfranchisement of Orinda's 1,300 households living on privately maintained streets if it is to pass.

Orinda Citizen of the Year John Wyro



CINDY POWELL

Congratulations to John Wyro, who received Orinda's Citizen of the Year for 2016 for his longtime volunteer efforts in local schools, the Moraga Orinda Fire District and various arts organizations. Sponsored by the Orinda Rotary Club and the Lamorinda Sun, Wyro was feted at a festive dinner at the Orinda Community Center in March. Shown above (L-R) Ali, John, Evans and Emily Wyro.

Orinda Declares 2017 "Year of the Czechs"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bobbie Landers (foreground) talks with (L-R) Barbara Pivnicka (Honorary Consul General of Slovakia), Richard Pivnicka (Honorary Consul General of Czech Republic), Bohuslav Sobotka (Prime Minister of the Czech Republic) and Sobotka's interpreter.

Bobbie Landers, chair of the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation, recently met with the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Bohuslav Sobotka. The visit coincided with the City of Orinda declaring 2017 "Year of the Czechs."

As part of the celebration, an Orinda Czech Festival takes place on Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1, 2017 at the Orinda Community Center. Opening ceremonies will be held around the Linden Tree in the Community Park, which was planted by

the first Tabor delegation to visit Orinda. Other festivities include food, music, dancing and artifacts from the Czech Republic.

Funds raised will go towards bringing a Tabor student to Orinda for the Fall/Winter semester at Miramonte. The foundation is currently soliciting for a host family for next year's student, Adam Kraus. For more information, email [bobbielanders@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbielanders@yahoo.com).

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

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## FARMERS' MARKET



## Seasoned Shopper

Snap Up In-Season Peas At Saturday Farmers' Market

BARBARA KOBSAR



Your local Orinda Farmers' Market is the place to find the freshest produce, delicious artisan foods and lively music. It's a wonderful community event where you can bring the family or meet friends and neighbors on a Saturday morning. Momentum is building each week as more crops ripen and stands fill with seasonal produce.

May is National Egg, Salad, Strawberry and Asparagus Month so plenty to celebrate! Mother's Day on May 8 is the perfect time to pick up what you need to make a brunch or dinner for Mom – think French Toast, Caesar Salad, Strawberry Shortcake or Asparagus Frittata! Cherries are sweet and the season is short so don't forget to pick up a few handfuls to enjoy at home, school or the office.

Plenty of peas pop up this month. Green peas were actually one of the first vegetables to be commercially canned in the 1860s and improvement came in the 1920s with the advent of frozen vegetables. But nothing compares to the fresh picked peas arriving at market.

Fresh green peas, also referred to as garden or English peas, are best when glossy, bright green, smooth-skinned and firm. To prepare, pop the inedible pod open along its seam and remove the peas to eat raw or to simmer briefly for a minute or two. If storage is necessary place pods in a plastic bag and refrigerate for no more than two or three days before using or freezing the peas.

Edible pod peas are perfect for salads and stir fry. Sugar snap peas (a cross between green peas and snow peas) look like a small version of a green garden pea. The pod walls are fairly thick, but completely edible and the peas are full, round and buttery in texture. Snow peas (Chinese peas or sugar peas) are also completely edible with tiny peas inside a rather dull, green, three- to four-inch long flat pod. Like the sugar snap peas, snow peas are harvested before reaching full maturity.

To prepare edible pod peas, snap off both tips and pull downward to remove any "string." If you need to store, place in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for two or three days.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park and Rite Aid. For more information visit [www.cccfm.com](http://www.cccfm.com).



BARBARA KOBSAR

While the **Kids' Event** at Farmers' Market isn't until May 14, it's never too late to make a pot for mom and make it an added Mother's Day gift.

org where you can also sign up for market specials sent right to your phone.

Market Hotline: 925-431-8361. The Second Saturday Kids' Event is on May 14 – make a flowerpot for Mom.

### Fresh Garden Pea Salad

1 pound fresh garden (English) peas, (about 1 cup)

Half bunch fresh mint (about 1 cup)

1 cup arugula

2 tablespoons lemon juice

3 tablespoons olive oil

Salt and pepper

Half-cup shaved Pecorino, Asiago or Parmesan cheese

Shell peas. Add to boiling water and simmer one minute. Remove and cool in ice water. Combine peas with washed and dried mint and arugula. Add juice, olive oil and salt and pepper. Add one-quarter cup Pecorino to salad and toss. Serve and top with remaining cheese. Serves four as a side dish.

### ◆ LETTERS from page 4

streets shows that:

- Almost 60 percent of private streets feed directly into Orinda's collector and arterial roads which none of the new tax money will go toward repairing.

- Only 20 percent of private street residents traverse publicly maintained residential streets for over a quarter mile before they hit a collector or arterial.

- And while one of the major benefits of bringing our residential streets up to acceptable conditions is the increase in home values on those streets; this benefit will apply to no private street homeowner.

We are not saying that Orinda's private street holders should not support the common good, but there should be a quid pro quo. The greater community should also show some support to the private street dwellers. Share some common tax and fee revenue with the private streets. Allow private streets to become "public" if so desired by the private street holders. Offer some recognition of commonality. Until then, we, and we encourage others, to reject more taxes dedicated only to the public streets which we do not benefit from.

– Madelyn Mallory & Mark Bresnik

### Carrying Guns is Our Right

Maggie Reeves letter in *The Orinda News* of April on "Gun Safety" was a lie. By "gun safety," she meant gun control. People pushing gun control are almost all socialists of one sort or another. They could not care less about "gun safety." Nor do they care about crime. They want to disarm patriotic Americans so that they may impose a socialist government on us. Gun control makes society less safe and exacerbates crime.

Violent crimes have declined in all states which legalized concealed carry. An armed society is safer than one where only the victims are disarmed. Violent crimes have come down overall in the U.S. in the past several years.

The right to have and bear arms is a right! We will never allow politically correct fascists to take away the 2nd Amendment.

– Henry R. Pinney

### Measure L Will Not Do the Job

On the June ballot, the Orinda City Council will ask the voters to approve a \$25 million property tax increase to repair Orinda's roads. This is the third time the city has come to us for money for this project, and it will not be the last. The total cost of repairing all of Orinda's roads will be roughly \$80 million. To date, the city has raised only \$35 million, and even if Measure L passes, the city will be still be \$20 million short. The council is kicking the can down the road hoping they can to come back to the voters again when the city runs out of money. This approach presents a big risk to the 20 percent of families whose

homes will remain on poor roads. How can they be sure that the 80 percent of lucky voters whose roads are fixed will vote for yet another tax increase?

At a City Council meeting in January, Steve Glazer, our state senator, made an appearance to urge the council to go for the \$25 million rather than be up front about the true cost. Why would he do that? People who follow city politics think Mr. Glazer is afraid that a \$45 million measure for Orinda would reduce the voters' appetite for another tax measure that he is supporting on the same ballot. Furthermore, admitting that the city has been fooling the voters about the true cost of fixing their roads reflects badly on the job he and the council did while he was the city's mayor.

Don't take the risk that your road will not be fixed. Vote No on Measure L and send a clear message to the City Council to come back in November with a comprehensive tax measure that repairs all our roads and provides funds for their long-term maintenance.

For more information, go to: [www.orindaroadfacts.info](http://www.orindaroadfacts.info).

– Roger Squier

### Orinda Road Repair Funds Are In Good Hands

As members of Orinda's Finance Advisory Committee, we have seen first-hand how the city's finances are handled and reported. Orinda's road repair funds are rigorously tracked and controlled.

As of February 2016, 90 percent of the funds made available for road repair (including \$10 million of bond proceeds from the sale of Measure J bonds) has been spent or committed to construction contracts awarded.

In accordance with Attachment 2 of the city's Road and Drainage Repairs Plan (Plan), the remaining \$10 million of Measure J bonds will be sold and the proceeds spent in FY2017 (beginning July 1, 2016) and FY2018. The Plan, including Attachment 2, is available on the city's website ([cityoforinda.org](http://cityoforinda.org)): "Roads and Infrastructure".

Like the Measure J bonds, if approved by voters in June, Measure L bonds will be sold in tranches (portions). These proceeds will double total road repair expenditures in Fiscal Year 2017 through Fiscal Year 2020 (per Attachment 2 of the Plan). To handle the additional construction activity, Measure L will also pay for a professional project manager to supplement city staff and the city's construction management firm, which oversees the construction contracts.

Road repair funds come from many sources including (1) the Measure L sales tax, (2) the Measure J bond proceeds, and (3) city funds received from gas taxes, garbage franchise fees, county "return to source" sales taxes, and infrastructure

[SEE MEASURE L page 18]

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## SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

## STEM Workshops Inspire Middle-School Girls To Follow Their Dreams

*Editor's Note: At the request of parents, last names of some students were not used.*

By CHARLIE JARRETT  
Staff Writer

About 125 young women attended a series of workshops and presentations by specialists in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) – fields of employment that are becoming more and more accessible to women. The Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) confer-



CHARLIE JARRETT

**Alexandra Finegan** (foreground) asks a question during the digital filming class at the STEM workshop hosted by the AAUW. **Allison Scarpitti** (standing) also attended the class.

ence was held at Saint Mary's College in Moraga in March, hosted by the local chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW-OML), Chevron and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club.

The keynote speakers included Danielle Feinberg, Director of Photography for Lighting at Pixar Animation Studios, and pilot, flight instructor, author and space explorer M.J. Marggraff. The parents of the middle-school students were also in-

cluded. Annie Marie, her younger daughter Ruby and her older daughter Quinn said that they were very excited to listen to Feinberg's address, and for Quinn to experience what will be available to women of the future with proper education. "Quinn is especially interested in filmmaking so we thought this would be great for her," said Ann Marie.

In the "DigiFlix: Digital Film-making for Fun" workshop, student Alexandra Finegan and workshop assistant Allison Scarpitti enjoyed Charlotte Wood Middle School's media instructor Malia Jakus' lively presentation. Allison said that she was glad to have the opportunity to work with other students in this impromptu film-making experience.

During the FBI CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) class, student Ellie learned from FBI agents how to find fingerprints using one of several methods. Ellie was excited to see the fingerprints appear almost by magic, using just natural skin oils to make it happen. The class learned several crime-solving techniques, including fingerprinting, the use of HAZMAT suits while conducting investigations, and using special lighting to reveal important elements at a crime scene not visible to the naked eye. The girls were awed to discover that this FBI team included members who had been involved in the discovery of the notorious San Bernardino cell phone that has been the center of the FBI's recent terrorist-criminal investigation.

The girls expressed their appreciation after the presentations for what they had learned: "Danielle's talk and experiences were so inspirational;" "I loved the speakers who demonstrated how really important it is to believe in your dreams;" "It was great to meet so many others who were excited about the same things I was!"

## Wagner Ranch Earth Day Celebration



DAVID DIERKS

The St. Mary's Women's Soccer Team and Wagner Ranch Nature Area guide Dan Phillips (2nd from left) enjoy the shade at the 15th Annual Earth Day/Wildlife Festival at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area.

## Arts Council Announces Winners of High School Visual Arts Competition

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

High school students who live in or attend school in Orinda, Lafayette, Moraga or the Acalanes Union High School District displayed their artwork at the Orinda Library Art Gallery during the month of March at the 13th annual Visual Arts Competition presented by the Lamorinda Arts Council. Student artists competed for \$2,250 in prizes, which were presented at the awards ceremony on March 4. Congratulations to the winners listed below who competed in three categories and best of show - 2D, 3D and photography (including film and digital).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Sophie Lindgren**, a ninth grader at Acalanes High School, won first prize at the Visual Arts Competition in the 2D category for her work, *Untitled*. Presented by the Lamorinda Arts Council, Lindgren's work, along with 200 other student artworks, was displayed at the Orinda Library Art Gallery during the month of March.

**Best of Show:**

*Nesting Dolls* by Nora Guergah, Miramonte High School, 12th grade

**2D Awards:**

First Place, Sophie Lindgren, Acalanes High School, 9th grade, *Untitled*

Second Place, Madeleine Taylor, Campolindo High School, 12th grade, *Untitled*

Third Place, Siena Kuan, Acalanes High School, 12th grade, *Elegant*

Honorable Mention:

Jadey Sadoff, Acalanes High School, 11th grade, *Untitled*

Adia Tajima, Campolindo High School, 12th grade, *Untitled*

**Photography Awards:**

First Place, Jamie Brown, Campolindo High School, 11th grade, *Untitled*

Second Place, Gabrielle Thompson, Campolindo High School, 12th grade, *A Change in World*

Third Place, Allyson Ikeya, Campolindo High School, 12th grade, *The Chair*

Honorable Mention:

Neelu Namboodiri, Bentley Upper School, 10th grade, *Green Tree Phython [SIC]*

Alicia Long, Campolindo High School, 11th grade, *Untitled*

[SEE VAC page 18]

## Troop 303 has Four New Eagle Scouts



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) **Daniel Huston**, a senior at Miramonte High School, designed, built and installed picnic tables for Fernandez Ranch near Martinez as his Eagle project; **Graham Berger**, a sophomore at Miramonte, researched, constructed and installed four, four-chamber nursery bat houses on 16' wooden cedar posts at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA); **Ryan Riahi**, a sophomore at Miramonte, designed and built four gates for the WRNA; and **Aidan Young**, a sophomore at Miramonte, created a new welcoming sign installation and a bench at WRNA. To learn more about Troop 303, go to [www.bsatroop303orinda.com](http://www.bsatroop303orinda.com).



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LIBRARY GALLERY

# Brilliance In Full Bloom at May Library Exhibit

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Do April showers bring May flowers? The Lamorinda Arts Council says, "Yes." Except that instead of flowers it's artwork blossoming during May at the Orinda Library Art Gallery. View paintings from Bay Area Studio Artists (BASA) with the theme *A Different Brilliance* as well as the ceramic progeny of Susan Gold's love affair with *Vessel-ology* and Daniel Hunter's *Bone Tiles* ceramic panels.

BASA consists of seven women who met about 10 years ago while taking career artist Marcy Wheeler's classes. Members include: Suzun Almquist and Jeanette Baird of Walnut Creek, Susan J. Bonebakker of Benicia, Ellen Reintjes of Lafayette, Joanne Tauer of Berkeley, Sharon Tama of Orinda and Marcy Wheeler of Walnut Creek. They are showing 20 individual

works, each in the artist's own style, and two collaborative portraits. Members paint and show together regularly, and count on the vision of their fellow artists to help each see her work more clearly. All paint in a more or less representational way in either oil or acrylics.

*A Different Brilliance* celebrates brilliance in all its forms. Two of their collaborative portraits on display illustrate this theme. The first work, *Robin: A Spark in the Dark*, is a 41" x 61.5" portrait depicting the face of the late Robin Williams, one of the most brilliant comics of our time. It was accomplished by dividing up a photograph of Williams into pieces. Each BASA member then randomly chose three pieces to paint on canvas in her own style. Marcy Wheeler then combined the painted panels into a cohesive whole. The artists did not paint in each other's presence, so did not know what the finished portrait would look like until it was assembled.

The second work, *Albert: Imagining Reality*, is a 36" x 24" portrait that explores some of the amazing thought experiences from Einstein's brilliant mind. Look for a 2D representation of recently discovered gravity waves in the painting. These waves confirm some of Einstein's most extraordinary theories about reality. BASA members hope that when people view their work, they appreciate their use of color, how subtleties are significant in relation to the whole image and how different styles bring vitality to art. See [www.bayareastudioartists.com](http://www.bayareastudioartists.com) for more of their work.

Susan Gold of San Francisco became interested in wheel-thrown ceramics in college and has never lost that interest. Like many creative people she has worked in different artistic media throughout her



*Robin: A Spark in the Dark*, an acrylic and oil BASA collaborative painting.

life – literature, dance, painting and ceramics. Presently she works both as a ceramic artist and as a teacher of youth ceramics at Sharon Art Studio in Golden Gate Park. "There are so many possibilities to explore making ceramics that I always feel I am on the verge of a brand new way of seeing and doing things," says Gold. Her artistic thirst is focused on exploring ceramic forms, thus, the theme she has chosen for the show is *Vessel-ology*.

Vessels made to contain food are one of humanity's oldest tools. The concept dates back more than 10,000 years to the beginnings of agriculture when vessels were utilitarian. The wild variety of forms that vessels have evolved into – angular, curved, square – provide her with the opportunity to experiment endlessly. This is the definition of *Vessel-ology*. Enjoy over 30 pieces of her reduction-fired stoneware laced with a dizzying array of glazes. There are many vessels approximately 12" in diameter dubbed *Globes* with luminous agate-like colors that will hold your gaze. Or perhaps you will enjoy *Shino Bottle*, a

12" x 6" piece with a glaze named in 16<sup>th</sup> century Japan. Gold hopes her work will wake up viewers to see common shapes in new ways and see the beauty those shapes bring to everyday life. For more of her work see [www.susangoldceramics.com](http://www.susangoldceramics.com).

Daniel Hunter of El Sobrante is retired from Oakland High School as an art teacher and now enjoys using his studio kilns to create ceramics, a lifelong passion. His theme, *Bone Tiles*, consists of 20 tiled panels with the imprint of human bones on the tiles. The tiles are made of low-fire cone 4 ceramics washed in the colors of a hushed spring – pale blues, lavenders, greens. The theme honors 43 college students who were victims of the 2014 Iguala mass kidnapping in Mexico. News reports stated that on Sept. 26 the students were arrested and turned over to a drug cartel and killed. Their bodies were burned for days, then their bones were pulverized and thrown in a river. The event tore Mexico apart on many levels. Still, there is little information on who exactly is alive or dead. "This just struck

[SEE GALLERY page 20]

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## ORDINATION/ARTS COUNCIL

## Orinda Woman to Become Roman Catholic Priest

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

A woman of many talents, Joanna Truelson has a seemingly unquenchable thirst for knowledge, a vast reserve of energy and a need to be of service to others. That need reaches its zenith on June 25 when Truelson is ordained a Roman Catholic Womanpriest.

The native New Yorker began her work career as an RN and went on to become a health care administrator. She left the healthcare field when her children, Alexandra and Jordan, were small and she began a successful career as a Realtor in Orinda. Along the way, she received her BS in nursing (BSN), a master's in mental health administration, a master's in spirituality and a doctorate of divinity.

"I've always loved learning and entered Bellevue Nursing School right out of high school. But I realized that after three years of study, I was trained but I wasn't educated so I went back to school at night. It took me 10 years to get my BSN degree," Truelson explained.

Truelson worked at Brookside Hospital and Kaiser Oakland before deciding to leave healthcare. She was in the midst of a divorce and, with two small children, she wanted to find an occupation that allowed her to set her own schedule and be at home more often. She decided upon real estate and has been a successful, well-respected Realtor ever since. "I keep trying to retire but then I'll get a call from a former client asking for my help, and I just can't say no," said Truelson.

One thing that Truelson did say no to was participating in the traditional Roman Catholic Church. "Our family had been members of Santa Maria Catholic Church but following my divorce, I realized how restrictive the Catholic Church can be. I tried the Newman Center in Berkeley and many of the other churches in Orinda but nothing seemed quite right," said Truelson.

Then, while attending Holy Names College and getting to know theologian and author Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox, Truelson was introduced to The Chaplaincy Institute. The inclusive spirit of the group spoke to Truelson who became an ordained interfaith minister in 1999.

Truelson's world changed again when



Dr. Joanna Truelson and her dog Kingston at their Orinda home.

Orinda resident Eartha Newsong invited her to attend a service in the Namaste Day community where a Roman Catholic Womanpriest, Victoria Rue, was presiding. "It was such a wonderful experience, so inclusive. Everyone shared during the liturgy, and you could say you didn't understand something in the gospel or even that you disagreed with it," said Truelson. "I knew immediately that I wanted to be a part of the community,"

With Victoria Rue only able to attend occasionally, it was soon suggested that Truelson look into becoming a priest herself. "At first I thought, 'me a priest? No way.' But then the idea just wouldn't go away, and I soon realized this was the path I needed to take," said Truelson.

The Roman Catholic Womenpriests (RCWP) forms a model of service with a strong social justice commitment. The RCWP international movement includes members in Europe, Canada, South America, South Africa and, recently, Taiwan. The social justice component resonated with Truelson who had already worked in Tibet with the Tibetan Aid Project, in India with Hindu leaders and in Southeast Asia and Haiti on various missions.

The mission of the RCWP is to prepare, ordain in apostolic succession and support women who are called to the priesthood. Roman Catholic male bishops ordained the first seven women priests on the Danube River in 2002. In 2003, two of the seven became ordained bishops with the power to ordain other women priests. In 2005, a

woman priest from South Africa became the third ordained bishop. There are currently over 145 women priests worldwide.

According to Truelson, women priests follow a similar apostolic succession that male priests go through. If you are under 55 years of age, you need a master's in divinity, and if you're over 55, you just need a bachelor's in divinity. "I already have a doctorate but it wasn't enough. I needed an additional 10 units on the sacraments," said Truelson. "I have a spiritual director, a spiritual mentor and a sacramental mentor who all guide me on this journey. There has been so much preparation and writing, but I've loved every minute of it."

Truelson's son and daughter will travel from the Seattle area where they live to attend their mom's ordination. "The rituals of the church don't really speak to them, but they know what this means to me, and they're happy for me."

Bishop Olivia will ordain Truelson on June 25 at 1 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church (OCC), 10 Irwin Way. Everyone, especially other clergy, is invited to attend the ceremony and reception. The Namaste Catholic Community, of which Truelson is a member, meets the second and fourth Saturday of each month at 4 p.m. in OCC's Fellowship Hall.

### Lamorinda Arts Council Call for Artists: *Around the World at 80*

During the month of July, 2016, the Orinda Library Art Gallery will showcase local artists who are octogenarians or older. The Lamorinda Arts Council requests work that is transformative and manifests the core of the artist - work that breathes the spirit of life into those who view it.

Selection of artwork will be determined by council curators. Guidelines as to content and installation of artwork can be found online at [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org). Assistance in transporting artwork to and from the gallery is available.

Submit three to six photos of artwork via email in jpg or PDF format by June 1 to Maggie Boscoe or Natalie Wheeler at [gallery@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:gallery@lamorindaarts.org). Include the following for each photo: artist's name; address; phone number and email address. Artists will be notified via email of work selected on or before June 10. A reception is planned for July 17. Questions? Call Maggie at 925-258-4488 or Natalie at 925-518-3233.

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## Historical Fiction Writer Hopes Work Helps Solve Israel-Palestine Conflict

By SALLY HOGARTY  
 Editor

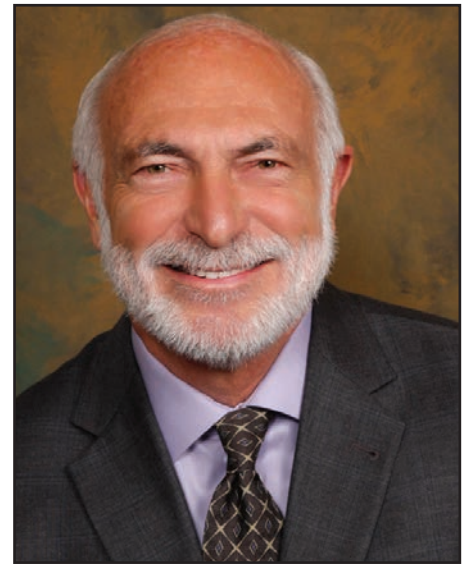
A man of many talents and life experiences, author Michael Cooper is a practicing pediatric cardiologist, an active member of Congregation B'nai Shalom, a volunteer for medical missions and author of award-winning historical fiction. He will be at Orinda Books on May 15 at 11 a.m. to discuss and sign copies of his latest work *The Rabbi's Knight*, set in the twilight of the Crusades in the year 1290.

The historical adventure story follows a war-weary Knight Templar who apprentices himself to a Rabbi. While providing a good adventurous read, the story also implies a possible solution to the violence in Israel-Palestine, a goal of Cooper's.

The East Bay native immigrated to Israel

after graduating from Oakland High School in 1966 and attended Hebrew Teachers Academy in Jerusalem. "This was the last year the city was divided between Jordan and Israel," says Cooper. "I attended Hebrew University for two years (biology) and was accepted to Tel Aviv University Medical School in 1969."

Upon graduating in 1975, Cooper did a year of internship and then a year of residency in cardiology before returning to Northern California in 1977 to specialize in pediatrics first at Oakland Kaiser and then pediatric cardiology at UCSF Medical [SEE COOPER page 16]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
 Lafayette resident **Michael Cooper** is a pediatric cardiologist and an award-winning author.

## Memoir Writing Summer Workshop at the Orinda Library

Have you always wanted to write your memoir but don't know how to begin? Or maybe you have a half written memoir but don't know how to finish or publish?

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Teacher, writing coach and educator Jill Morris will guide participants through the brainstorming stages of deciding how to structure a memoir as well as the art of writing a memoir: plot, scenes, characters, dialogue and publishing options.

The workshop takes place at the Orinda Library, Monday – Friday, June 27 - July 1, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The cost is \$225. To register, go to [www.YourLifeYourWords.com](http://www.YourLifeYourWords.com).

–Sally Hogarty, Editor




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
 Jill Morris will offer a Memoir Workshop at the Orinda Library in June.

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SCHOOLS

# Glorietta Brings Us The Epic Adventures of Simba in *The Lion King Jr.*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tuesday cast of Glorietta Elementary School's *The Lion King Jr.*

By HILLARY WEINER  
Contributing Writer

Glorietta Elementary School presents its spring musical, Disney's *The Lion King Jr.*, on May 13 and 14. Based on the Broadway production directed by Julie Taymor and the 1994 Disney film, it tells the story of the epic adventures of a curious cub named Simba as he struggles to accept the responsibilities of adulthood and his destiny as king. Along the way, the young lion encounters a colorful cast of characters including spunky lioness Nala, charismatic meerkat Timon and loveable warthog Pumbaa. To claim his rightful place on the throne and save his beloved Prideland, Simba must find his inner strength and confront his wicked Uncle Scar. *The Lion King Jr.* features classic songs from the 1994 film such as "Hakuna

Matata" and the Academy Award-winning "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," as well as additional songs penned for the Broadway production.

Music teacher Ron Pickett directs, assisted by parent producers Lani MacKenzie, Susan Jordan and Kathryn Ishizu. There are two student casts, comprised of approximately 90 students, along with a student tech crew. The production is funded through parent contributions, the school's Parents Club, Lamorinda Arts Council and the Educational Foundation of Orinda.

Glorietta Elementary School, 15 Martha Rd., presents *The Lion King Jr.* on Friday, May 13 at 4 and 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 14 at 3 and 7 p.m. Reservations are strongly recommended. Tickets are available in advance at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets may also be available at the door prior to the show.



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June 27 <sup>th</sup> - July 1 <sup>st</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 11 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 18 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 25 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

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Help for the Aging



Jennifer Conroy

If we're lucky, it'll happen to all of us. We'll get old. If we're really lucky, our companion animals will get old with us. The tough part is that they will age faster than we will. Fortunately, our animals have us to care for them.

Caring for an aging animal is a holistic process that involves all members of your family, including other animals and your family veterinarian. To be clear, I am referring to the typical aging process, not one that is disrupted by trauma or disease.

For most animals, getting old affects everything from vision to bowel movements. Hearing loss and mobility issues are not uncommon.

The first step is to maintain a regular health check-up schedule with your veterinarian. You will want to increase veterinary visits to more than annual check-ups. Time compresses for our animals and three months can easily equal a year or more of relative human time.

The second step is adjusting your animal's environment. For larger dogs, elevated food and water stations are helpful. Providing a comfortable resting station is important to dogs and cats to avoid elbow calluses and support arthritic conditions. A resting station can be completely separate from the animal's bed. It can be moved from room to room to keep your animal near you while keeping the bed stationary and clearly identified as the place where your pet "turns in" at the end of the day. Hammock-style beds for cats and dogs are ideal as resting stations and orthopedic beds with built-in heaters can be found online and in quality pet supply stores.

Nutrition needs of animals change as they age and while there are many "senior" foods available for cats and dogs, work with your veterinarian to determine what special

diet will be best for your animal. Some animals develop sensitivities to foods they have been accustomed to eating in the past. Weight watching is important, as too many pounds will affect the animal's circulation and mobility.

If your animal seems slow to respond to voice commands, hearing loss may be the reason. Keep in mind that both cats and dogs have many sharper senses than we humans and sensory compensation can be encouraged. With hearing loss, try using consistent hand commands instead. For example, if you want your dog to sit, say the word sit and move your hand, face down, from your mid-torso to mid-thigh. Eventually you can drop the word sit altogether and rely on the hand gesture.

With vision loss, you may need to gently lead your animal through a command. For example, by saying the word "bed" and then placing your hand on your dog's shoulder, you can walk with your dog and guide it to bed. Consistency and repetition are important.

Mobility challenges can be addressed through ramps and steps, many of which can be folded up and stored when not in use. I suggest using ramps even when animals are young to avoid bone and muscle stresses and injuries. I also encourage gentler play. Reasonable exercise is important but avoid activities that can cause strains. Relieving options may need to change as well, from more frequent opportunities to relieve to even creating an indoor relieving area.

All of these modifications are manageable with the support of all those who join in the love and care of your animals. This is the time of partnership with your pet that allows you to return in abundance all the love your pet has bestowed on you over the years.



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PERFORMING ARTS

# Cal Shakes Launches 2016 Season With Much Ado

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

Under the leadership of new Artistic Director Eric Ting, California Shakespeare Theater kicks off its 42nd season with William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Jackson Gay and adapted by Kenneth Lin and Gay, with additional text by Lin. A blend of romance, scandal and disguise, *Much Ado* has often been referred to as one of the Bard's greatest comedies and will be Gay's Cal Shakes debut. The romantic comedy runs May 25-June 19 at the Bruns Amphitheater.

Gay, named one of the "power players of Off-Broadway" by *The New York Times*, is a much sought-after director. In the first five [SEE CAL SHAKES page 23]



COURTESY OF CAL SHAKES  
Stacy Ross and James Carpenter, shown here in Cal Shakes' 2010 production of *Macbeth*, will appear in cross-gender roles in the company's season opener *Much Ado About Nothing*.

# Starlight Players Applaud Volunteers, Welcome More



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The transformation of OrSVP's stage: On the left is the OrSVP stage before the season starts; To the right is the completed set from last year's production of Agatha Christie's *Black Coffee*.

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

As summer approaches, Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) is gearing up for its 33rd season in the Orinda Community Park. OrSVP puts on three productions during the summer months every year. Being an all-volunteer organization, the company is always on the lookout for

people who are interested in helping to put on shows.

Orindan Dan Phillips started volunteering with the group during the 2014 season. "The troupe is hands-on and everybody in," said Phillips. "I have gotten opportunities to do tech behind the scenes and help with stage set-ups as well as make props." Phillips has worked on every OrSVP production [SEE STARLIGHT page 17]



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## Glorietta Students Show Off Their Skills at Third-Annual Science Event

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

Why don't family members have identical eye colors? Will flowers change color if their water is tinted? Does the ocean freeze?

Glorietta Elementary School students recently sought answers to these questions at the school's third annual Science Show Off. Inquisitive attendees of all ages enthusiastically studied dozens of projects illustrating student experiments on display in the school's multi-use room. The school buzzed with excitement as students and parents viewed results of the students' work as well as exhibitions by professional scientists.

Principal Ron Langer said that an inaugural family evening event featuring interactive science stations hosted by various Bay Area programs was added to the Science Show Off this year, providing "hands-on, minds-on science learning."

Derek Youn, a Glorietta second-grader, participated in both the science fair and the evening event. The eight-year-old described the fair as "awesome." The event, he said, helped him better understand science, his "favorite subject."

Youn's eyes sparkled with excitement as a gloved handler from NorCal Bats displayed a winged mammal in the school's library. At a nearby table, a dozen fellow students surrounded a member of the Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association and a hive of live bees. In another corner of the library, Glorietta dad Dr. Mark LaBarge of Berkeley Labs showed children slides of cells beneath a microscope.

Derek's older sister, fourth-grader Jessica Youn, described the fair as "one of the funnest events" the family has ever attended at Glorietta. "The fair taught people science can be fun."

Linda Youn, co-chair of the Science Show Off with Jill Tarkoff, said her children, Derek and Jessica, possess a "contagious passion for science."

"They had a blast," said Youn. "They saw Jupiter and four of its moons through a very powerful telescope, learned about the solar system from Chabot Space and Science Center while making bead bracelets, created bread from scratch while learning about the chemistry behind it, created led-bling jewelry from pipe cleaners, leds and batteries, witnessed Tesla coil demonstrations, and played with non-Newtonian fluids (blue slime)."

Local exhibitors at the Show Off included Sarah's Science, Steve and Kate's, Camp Edmo, Mad Science and the Saint Mary's College Science Club.

Youn said the event gave participants "an intimate glimpse into the thrilling, adventurous world of science beyond our classroom doors." The fair "explored widely varied subjects - astronomy, physics,

### ◆ COOPER from page 12

Center. He went on to practice as a pediatric cardiologist at Kaiser in Walnut Creek and Vallejo for over 30 years. Cooper now lives in Lafayette and works part-time with UCSF-Benioff Children's Hospitals in San Francisco and Oakland.

"I began writing historical fiction after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin in 1995," Cooper explains. "I was determined to convey a message of coexistence and a hope for reconciliation and peace under cover of fiction. My first novel, *Foxes in the Vineyard*, set in 1948 Jerusalem, was published in 2011 and won the Indie Publishing Award grand prize that year." Cooper's second novel, *The Rabbi's Knight*, was a finalist for the 2014 Chaucer Award for Historical Fiction.

In addition to practicing at UCSF-Benioff and continuing his writing career, Cooper has been volunteering for the past 10 years for medical missions to the Palestinian Authority to help children who lack access to care.

For more information on his works, go to [www.michaeljcooper.net](http://www.michaeljcooper.net). For information on the Orinda Books appearance, call 925-254-7607.



Glorietta 2nd grade students **Derek Youn, Carson Blair and James Giquinto** enjoyed the recent Science Show Off.

ics, biology, chemistry - presented in an interactive, highly engaging and age-appropriate manner."

Langer said that two other science events are scheduled for this school year at Glorietta. The Saint Mary's club will return in early May to host workshops exploring weather. The school will host a Maker Faire on June 6, made possible through a grant received from Well Fargo Bank and KNBR radio. The faire will provide students with a variety of interactive stations including solar energy projects, bridge building kits, explorations with circuits, computer programming and robotics, and solar power learning stations designed to promote STEM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

"This event and other related experiences provide more than scientific learning, they promote the application of science and mathematics processes to real-life experiences as a way of making their learning more applicable and permanent," said Langer. "Science exploration and hands-on learning allow students to practice scientific thinking and problem-solving, improvise when a procedure doesn't work out as predicted, and present science findings to others."

The Science Show Off "was a celebration of science," said Glorietta Parent Club president Yasaman Nazmi Lee. "Science is very important to our school community. It's really rewarding to see kids so enthusiastic while interacting with scientists."

## Orinda Rotary Middle School Team Wins State Odyssey Tournament



The Orinda Rotary Team came in first in Problem 4 and qualified for the World Tournament in May. (L-R) **Sarah Inouye, Amy O'Connor, Caroline Kim, Dr. Sam Micklus** - Founder, Odyssey of the Mind, **Stephanie Wu, Sullivan Jordan, Amy Inouye and Michael Kim**.

By SARA LEE KIM  
Contributing Writer

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving competition which enjoys tremendous popularity in Lamorinda. This year, 14 elementary and middle school teams from Orinda competed in the San Francisco regional tournament on Feb. 27. Five of the Orinda teams finished 1st or 2nd, advancing them to the state tournament at U.C. Riverside on April 2. At the state tournament, the Orinda Rotary team, comprised of Sarah Inouye, Sullivan Jordan, Caroline Kim, Amy O'Connor, Leah Sopak and Stephanie Wu, took 1st place for Problem 4 - Middle School Division, and will advance to the world tournament

at Iowa State University on May 25-28. They also received the prestigious Ranatra Fusca award for demonstrating exceptional creativity with their problem solution.

Their solution included a large-scale clock representing the four seasons; working clock gears for the hour and minute hands; costumes made from plastic bags, leaves, flowers and balsa; a 15-gram, 8-inch tall structure made of only balsa wood and glue that held 580 pounds; and an 8-minute skit incorporating these elements into the problem theme "attack the stack." For those interested in participating in Odyssey of the Mind for 2016-17, introductory meetings will be held in the fall and will be announced through the Orinda schools' Parent Clubs.

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## SCHOOLS

## The Winners of Youth Ink 2016 Have Been Announced!

By CHANTEL VALENTINE  
Contributing Writer

Youth Ink, an annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda, happily announced this year's winners:

1st place – Julia Sato “Bridge: (Noun) [brijj]”

2nd place - Cecily Bartsch “My Future”

3rd place - Deborah Jung “One Half of Us”

**10 Honorable Mentions** - listed by last name in alphabetical order

Nisha Andrews “Once Upon A Time”

Alison Gan “A Turing Test”

Tess Hornbeck “When Morning Comes”

Sophia Kofoed “Flying to the Stars and Back”

Amrita Pannu “A New Role Model”

Ilana Rubin “Life”

Natalie Sovocool “Et Respice Finem”

Lauren Staelin “For Alanna”

Tenley Thompson “A Life of Expression”

Eva Winter “Narnia”

Organized by the Orinda Junior Women's Club and judged by a panel of local professional writers, the Youth Ink 2016 prompt was *Future*. An awards ceremony was held on Thursday, April 21, from 6 – 7 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium.

The guest speaker was Maura Wolf. The author of three books, including her most recent, *What Matters Most: Everyday Leadership at Home, at Work, and in the World*, Wolf lives in Moraga. A presenter of hundreds of workshops and author of dozens of articles, her focus has been on authentic leadership, work/life balance, the practice of reflection and women's leadership.

Orinda Juniors, a local non-profit service organization, supports a variety of organizations in the greater East Bay. Every year, its community service projects help the Orinda Senior Village, STAND! Against Domestic Violence, the Orinda Convalescent Home, the Oakland Children's Hospital Family House, Brighter Beginnings, and others. For more information, email [info@orindajuniors.org](mailto:info@orindajuniors.org).

### ◆ PARADE from page 3

to participate in and/or be an audience member of our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and associated events;

- Provides a safe, clean and inviting environment for all;
- Continues to enrich the lives of everyone that is touched by “The Best Hometown Parade!”

### ◆ STARLIGHT from page 15

since he joined. “I have gotten experience on stage, performing roles in shows with experienced performers so that I could learn about the craft. The group is friendly and helpful. I found I liked performing in front of and behind the curtain. This keeps me coming back.”

Local resident Betsy White has also been a long-time volunteer at the theatre. “I love the fact that there is live theatre performed in the town I live in every year,” said White. “This is truly a wonderful thing. The fact that every year the group takes an empty piece of concrete and creates a whole little world from nothing - being a theatre buff from way back, I have to be part of that!” White has acted in several shows, as well as helped behind the scenes and volunteered with the box office. “The benefits are just being able to be a part of the creation and being able to have such a positive effect on the community here. Audiences love us and look forward to

The Parade Committee is a great group of generous and fun loving Orindans who have made big plans for this year's parade. You'll have to wait until next month to learn more, but in the meantime if you are interested in joining the crew, send me an email with your interest to The Parade Guy at [oa@orindaassociation.org](mailto:oa@orindaassociation.org)!

See you at “The Best Hometown Parade!”

coming back year after year. Nothing compares to live theatre as far as being able to raise the tone of a community. Besides it's fun!”

As longtime OrSVP player Susan Chapple said, “It's a good excuse to hang out with your friends in the park for the summer.” For more information and to volunteer, visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) or call 925-528-9225.

OrSVP's 33rd season starts with Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Nile*, running Fridays and Saturdays, June 3 through July 2, with a Sunday matinee on June 26 and a Thursday performance on June 30. The second production is Robert Merrill's *Aria's*, running Friday and Saturday nights, July 22 through Aug. 13, with a Sunday matinee on Aug. 7 and a Thursday performance on Aug. 11. The final production is Billy Van Zandt and Jane Millmore's *Love, Sex and the I.R.S.* which runs Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 10 through Oct. 1, with Sunday matinees on Sept. 18 and 25 and a Thursday performance on Sept. 29.

### MAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please forward school calendar listings to [m.sharpe66@gmail.com](mailto:m.sharpe66@gmail.com). Schools will be closed May 30 for Memorial Day.

- 1 **Miramonte High School** 13th Annual JF Kapnek Trust Family Fun Run, 750 Moraga Way, 9 a.m. to noon, benefits families in Zimbabwe affected by HIV/AIDS. Features run or walk, prizes, post-run brunch, music, arts, crafts and face painting. Register at <http://jfkapnektrust.org/our-events/family-fun-run/>
- 4 **Acalanes Union High School District** board meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m. Also May 18. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us).
- 9 **Orinda Union School District** board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Visit [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org)
- 13 **Glorietta Elementary School**, 15 Martha Rd., presents its spring musical *The Lion King Jr.* on May 13 at 4 and 7 p.m. and May 14 at 3 and 7 p.m. Reservations recommended. Visit [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com) for tickets. See story page 13.
- 19 **Miramonte High School** presents its Spring Play, Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, 4 p.m. Also May 20 and 21 at 7 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte/>
- 26 **Miramonte High School** presents its Spring Band Concert, Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, 7 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte/>

### Cheer Team Becomes National Champs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The **Miramonte Competitive Cheer Team** became National Champions in the Small Varsity Show Cheer Division after competing against 23 other teams. The USA National Cheerleading competition was held in Anaheim from Mar. 19 - 21.

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## FILM

## ◆ MEASURE L from page 8

grants secured by city staff. All monies received and spent from each of these (and future) sources are accounted for in separate funds created in the city's general ledger. The status of each fund is regularly reported to the Finance Advisory Committee and the City Council and are included in the city's financial statements, which are audited by the city's certified public accountants as part of the annual audit.

Orinda's taxpayers can rest assured. Road repair funds are well stewarded.

– Bob Thompson  
– Carol Penskar  
– Bob Burt

## Measure L Not the Answer

Orinda's very bad roads need to be repaired. But the City of Orinda has failed to demonstrate that it can properly handle a major road-repair project.

At the June 7, 2016, election, Orinda's voters will have an opportunity to approve or reject Measure L, a \$25 million bond for road and sewer repair. A two-thirds majority is needed for approval.

On February 16, 2016, the Orinda City Council voted to put Measure L on the June ballot.

But in June 2014, Orinda's voters passed a \$20 million road-repair bond measure. As of late March 2016, only \$2.5 million of the \$20 million had been spent. Orinda did not appoint an experienced and qualified Project Manager to oversee the expenditure of the \$20 million.

Orinda's taxpayers should see how well the \$20 million from 2014 are spent before approving an additional \$25 million in June 2016.

For Measure L of 2016, there is no guarantee that Orinda will hire a Project Manager if the \$25 million road bond passes.

The Orinda City Council, with the notable exception of Councilmember Eve Phillips, does not want to communicate with voters. The City Council has refused to hold any town-hall meetings (or press conferences) on Measure L. For an expenditure of \$25 million, the entire City Council should be willing to have an exchange of views with taxpayers.

Orindans must not be stampeded into voting for an ill conceived Measure L put forth by a City Council that refuses to hold discussions with voters.

Orindans, by voting No on Measure L, can send the City Council a message. That message is that the council should do its homework before asking voters for extra road-repair money.

– Richard S. Colman

## Slow Down Drivers

Speeding drivers have made many of our residential streets unsafe - too dangerous for children at play, dog walkers, older residents out for a "constitutional" and, in short, all of us who live on Orinda.

Many neighbors have resorted to installing or lobbying for speed cushions to help slow down the speeders, who too often ignore warning signs, such as "Children at Play", and speed even on narrow, hilly, curving streets. We should not tolerate speeders.

What can residents do? If you see a neighbor speeding, talk to him or her. Wave down speeding drivers. Encourage more police monitoring and ticketing on residential streets.

Orinda is a beautiful semi-rural community. It is unacceptable for uncaring drivers to jeopardize residents' safety and quality of life.

– Richard Cowan

## Welcome to Orinda

Welcome and now pay to fix our roads. That should be the new entrance sign to our beautiful city if Measure L the Roads Bond Measure is passed by Orinda voters. Measure L puts a higher burden of road construction costs on new residents by imposing a new property tax based upon assessed value. As structured, long-time residents who have used the roads the most pay significantly less than our newer residents, often young families, who can pay 5 – 10 times more taxes. We must stop pushing our debts onto the next generation. Measure L does exactly that. We need to fix our roads but do it in a fair and equitable way. Measure L is neither fair nor equitable. It is irresponsible. Vote No on L.

– Ed Jajeh

## ◆ VAC from page 9

## 3D Awards:

First Place, Nora Guergah, Miramonte High School, 12th grade, *Nesting Dolls*

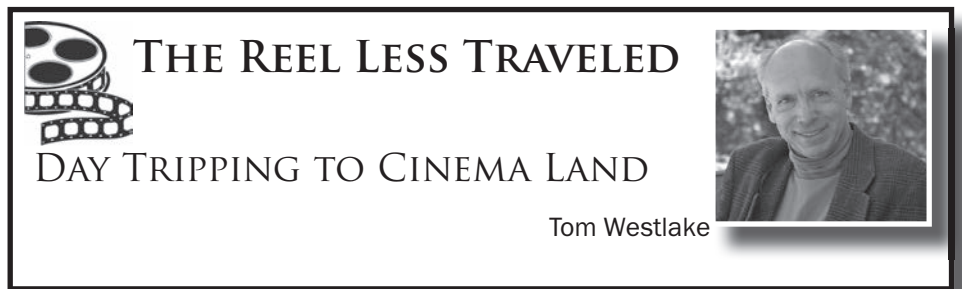
Second Place, Zoe Venable, Miramonte High School, 10th grade, *Lost Love*

Third Place, Samuel Turoff-Ortmeyer, Bentley Upper School, 12th grade, *Out to Lunch*

Honorable Mention, Siena Kuan, Acalanes High School, 12th grade, *Octopi in Boxes*

Council members Cindy Raleigh and Te-

resa Onoda co-chaired the event along with help from many volunteers. A big thank you to educators at Acalanes High School, Bentley Upper School, Campolindo High School, Holden High School, Las Lomas High School, Miramonte High School and Orinda Academy for their dedication in guiding and encouraging participating youth. St. Mary's College Museum featured the works of the first-, second- and third-place winners as well as Best of Show at a reception on April 24. All participants and their families received complimentary admission to the museum. See [www.lamorindaarts.com](http://www.lamorindaarts.com) for more information.



**THE REEL LESS TRAVELED**  
DAY TRIPPING TO CINEMA LAND  
Tom Westlake

This month could easily be compared to a weekend day trip: You start out towards your destination, stop somewhere along the way for lunch and get back on the road for your return. Unless, that is, you decide to throw caution to the winds and travel on to Zanzibar, but we'll get to that later. In any case, it's always good to have a map with you and, in this case, no map is better than the one that can be found at [lamorindatheatres.com](http://lamorindatheatres.com). Wisdom dictates that one should consult this with care for rumor has it that you might encounter an unexpected detour and come across a bevy of potentially unpleasant creatures attending a most unconventional convention.

Let's get on with the known part of our journey, starting with a showing of Production #1060. Released in 1939, the film was subject to countless delays, recasting, troubles on the set and endless unsavory rumors about the misbehavior of its cast. It also received only lukewarm reviews, despite its beloved source material. It was later learned that none of the principals were particularly happy during filming; one had to leave completely due to serious health concerns while another was accidentally set on fire. Time, however, eventually won out and now it's widely regarded as one of the most beloved classics of all time. Many cinema lovers will have, by this time, already guessed what I'm talking about. For the rest of you, I will reveal that Production #1060 is usually known by its other name, *The Wizard of Oz*. To the more seasoned members of my readership, this film has a warm place in their hearts as their introduction to the Wizard was an annual showing on TV. To others, you might have a VHS copy somewhere in the house or maybe you have it on a DVD (or, like me, a Blu-Ray), but there is nothing like seeing it projected on the big screen in all

its colorful (and sepia-toned) glory. What is more, as this is part of the Classic Film Showcase, this showing is absolutely free, so be sure to follow the black asphalt road to the Orinda Theatre on May 12 at 7 p.m.

Stopping for lunch, I'm recalling earlier this year when *East Side Sushi* swept through the area to great acclaim. It would seem that co-producers Jo Alice Canterbury and Efi Lubliner are hoping for lightning to strike twice with this month's entry in their International Film Showcase, *Sweet Bean*. This 2015 Japanese film tells the gentle tale of how great gifts can come from unexpected quarters and, like *Sushi*, can be a little disruptive at first but end up making improvements and destroying a complacency that so many accept as the norm. There is also a theme that cannot be taught often enough that states, simply, that just because something is "old" does not mean that it has lost any of its value. It will also add another "food you didn't know existed but want to try" to your list. To see the preview, visit [internationalshowcase.org](http://internationalshowcase.org). This will not only entice you to come to the Orinda Theatre, starting the week of May 13 at 7 p.m., but will also serve to mysteriously make you hungry.

On the last leg of our journey, we are joined by two of the most hapless travelers that ever trod a road. The good news is that you are almost guaranteed to enjoy their company. The teaming of Bob Hope and Bing Crosby might not immediately spring to mind when one thinks of great comedy teams, but on May 18 at the Rheem, they, along with Dorothy Lamour, will do their darnedest to remedy that situation. *The Road to Zanzibar* may not be the best of the "Road" pictures but that should not stop you from going. It certainly isn't stopping the Moraga Movers for they clearly recognize that even second-rate "Road" pictures are far and away better than any comedy showing today (and that's coming from someone who just saw *Superman vs Batman*). Indeed, the chemistry between these two cannot be matched. They were a singular team and, along with the lovely Ms. Lamour, who always managed to hold her own against these two, it's a sure thing that you'll find yourself smiling. It will show at 2 p.m.

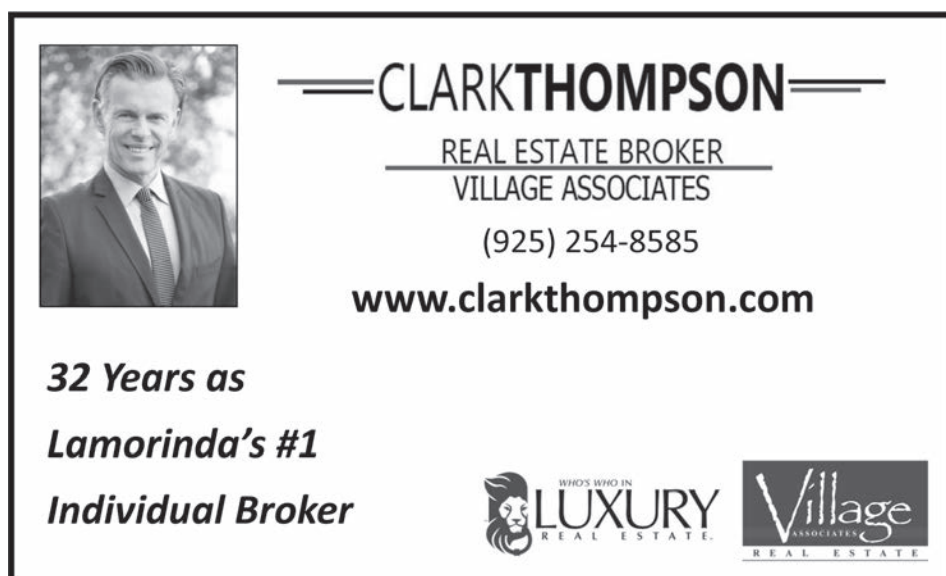
As for me, I'm going home, confident that you'll be fine on your own. After all, someone has to get ready for our next excursion, and it might as well be me. Y'all go have fun. I'll unpack the car. And remember to stay in the dark, for that's where the reel magic lies.

## ◆ AAUW from page 1

give five or more hours each week to tutor children or work in the library.

The OML branch volunteers have provided over 27,000 tutoring hours, making a significant impact in the lives of the children and the school as a whole. Some have tutored a child for several years, with some students crediting their tutor for helping them succeed. There are currently 12 tutors from OML at the school.

For information on attending the luncheon or being a part of the AAUW-OML, go to [www.oml-ca.aauw.net](http://www.oml-ca.aauw.net).



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## FIRST FRIDAY FORUM / REAL ESTATE

## Middle East Expert Glenn Robinson Talks on Syria's Long Civil War

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

The timely topic for the First Friday Forum on May 6 is Syria: The Long Civil War, which will be presented at 1:30 p.m. at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Glenn Robinson, who has conducted research in Syria many times, beginning over 30 years ago, will be the speaker.

"The seeds of Syria's long civil war were planted in the 1960s and the first 'hot war' took place in the late 1970s and early 1980s," said Robinson. "The latest round of fighting since 2011 is by far the bloodiest, having killed perhaps 300,000 people and displaced more than 10 million others. My talk will focus on the causes, characteristics, evolution and consequences of Syria's long civil war, including its impacts on the broader Middle East, the prospects for the fragile (and incomplete) cease-fire being maintained and whether Syria will remain as a country in the future."

A professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey for 25 years, Robinson has a Ph.D. in Political Science from U.C. Berkeley where he remains affiliated with the Center for Middle East Studies. He has been widely published including three books and dozens of articles and book chapters and has done significant



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Glenn Robinson, Associate Professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, will speak at the May First Friday Forum.

development work with the U.S. Agency for International Development, a branch of the State Department. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Jordan in Amman and a Johns Hopkins SAIS Fellow at Yarmouk University in Jordan.

"With the refugee crisis so much in the news today, as well as the terrorists being harbored there, learning more about Syria and what has brought about these events should be of great interest to our attendees," said Nancy Holtzapple, chair of the First Friday Forum Committee. "Please come and invite your friends to this free lecture."

Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. For more information call 925-283-8722.

## Local Author's Award-Winning Book Now Popular Stage Play

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

Orinda writer Milalia Perkins' children's book *Rickshaw Girl*, named by the New York Public Library as one of the "Top 100 books for children in the past 100 years," has received many prestigious awards and has been translated into six languages.

Now a stage adaptation by playwright Aditi Kapil is in performance at Berkeley's Osher Theatre and Sleepwave Films is shooting a movie based on the book, scheduled for release in spring, 2017. Perkins said she enjoys the "community" of artists coming together to work on adaptations of her novel through different genres.

*Rickshaw Girl* is about Naima, a 10-year-old Bangladeshi girl, who disguises herself as a boy and attempts to earn money for her impoverished family by peddling her father's prized rickshaw. In the family's Bangladeshi village, boys can work for pay but girls must stay home and help with household chores.

Perkins described her experience of seeing Kapil's theatrical adaptation for the first time, with songs performed in Bangla, as "magic."

"When you create a story in your head and people it with characters who exist only in your imagination, it is otherworldly to see them come to life," Perkins said. "It was incredible, all these creative people – actors, directors, a script writer – all their imaginations, their different gifts, added to the story."

She said the relationship between a novelist and reader is much different than the one between a play and its audience. Seeing the effect the dramatization had on the sold-out audience moved Perkins. "The children didn't restrain themselves; they were very engaged with the characters and really understood the theme." The audience,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
*Rickshaw Girl*, a children's story by Orinda writer, Milalia Perkins, has been adapted into a play, which receives its world premiere at Berkeley's Osher Studio May 7-22.

she said, was captivated, leaning forward in their seats and listening to the actors. "The children – five, six, seven years old – reacted emotionally to what was happening on stage."

Perkins, who was born in India and immigrated to America when she was seven, is the author of nine novels for teens and younger readers. Named as a "Most Engaging Author" by independent booksellers across the country, her books include *Bamboo People* (an American Library Association's Top Ten Novels for Young Adults) and *Tiger Boy*, a Junior Library Guild selection.

The Bay Area Children's Theatre brings the world premiere of *Rickshaw Girl*, directed by Vidhu Singh and featuring live percussion by Amit Sharma, to the Osher Studio May 7-22. Perkins will conduct a book signing at the theatre after the May 22 performance. Young readers who wish to have their book autographed by Perkins may leave the book and a request at Orinda Books, 276 Orinda Way.

The Osher Studio is located at 2055 Center St., Berkeley. For tickets, visit [www.bac-theatre.org](http://www.bac-theatre.org) or call 925-973-3343. For more information, visit [www.mitaliperkins.com](http://www.mitaliperkins.com).

## Real Estate Reality What are Propositions 60 and 90?

Maureen Wilbur



Prop. 60 was a constitutional amendment approved by the voters of California in 1986. It is codified in Section 69.5 of the **Revenue & Taxation Code**, and allows the transfer of an existing Proposition 13 base year value from a former residence to a replacement residence, if certain conditions are met. This benefit is open to homeowners who are at least 55-years old and are able to meet all qualifying conditions.

Proposition 90 has the same provisions and qualifications as Proposition 60. The difference is that it allows base year transfers from one county to another county in California. The only counties that have adopted an ordinance to allow values from other counties are: Alameda, El Dorado, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Ventura.

This list can change at any time. Contact the local assessor to see if the value of your original property can be transferred to a replacement in that county.

What are the eligibility requirements for Propositions 60/90?

You, or a spouse residing with you, must have been at least 55 years of age when the original property was sold. The replacement property must be your principal residence and must be eligible for the homeowners' or disabled veterans' exemption.

The replacement property must be of equal or lesser "current market value" than the original property. Owners of two qualifying original properties may not combine

the values of those properties in order to qualify for a Proposition 60 base-year value transfer to a replacement property of greater value than the more valuable of the two original properties.

The replacement property must be purchased or built within two years (before or after) of the sale of the original property.

To receive retroactive relief from the date of transfer, you must file your claim within three years following the purchase date or new construction completion date of the replacement property.

Your original property must have been eligible for the homeowners' or disabled veterans' exemption either at the time it was sold or within two years of the purchase or construction of the replacement property.

The original property must be subject to reappraisal at its current fair market value at the time of sale, unless the buyer(s) of your original property also qualify the property as a replacement property for a base year value transfer due to disaster relief or a base year value transfer for a severely and permanently disabled person. Therefore, most transfers between parents and children will not qualify.

This is a one-time only benefit. The only exception is that if you become disabled after receiving this tax relief for age, you may transfer the base year value a second time because of the disability, which involves a different claim form.

You can reach Wilbur at Maureen@maureenwilbur.com.

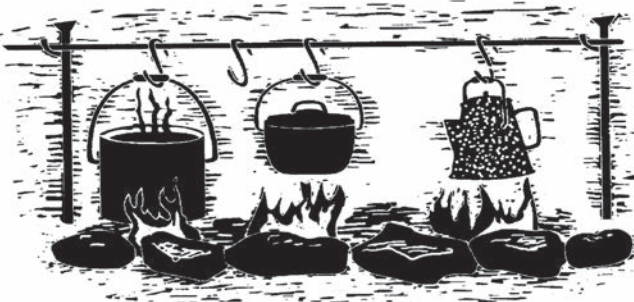
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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## MAY

- 1 **Orinda Library Gallery** presents *A Different Brilliance*, works by seven local women artists, *Vessel-ology*, ceramic pieces by Susan Gold, and *Bone Tiles* by Daniel Hunter through May. See article, p. 10.
- The International Film Showcase** will present the Danish Oscar finalist in the Foreign Language Category film, *A War*, at the Orinda Theatre through May 5, 7 p.m. Visit [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com).
- Reception for Orinda's Dee Tivenan**, whose abstracts (in oil and acrylic) are on display at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 to 5 p.m.
- 3 **Orinda Chamber of Commerce Mixer** with a Cinco de Mayo theme, Land & Home Financial Services, 2 Theatre Square, Suite 146, 5 to 7 p.m. Contact 925-885-6610 or [Orinda@LHFS.com](mailto:Orinda@LHFS.com).
- 4 **Orinda Books** hosts Jessica Fechter, author of *Stir: My Broken Brain and the Meals That Brought Me Home*, who will prepare recipes from her book with samples for all, 276 Village Square, 11:30 a.m.
- 5 **Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for children 2 to 4 years, with reading, songs and games, Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m., Orinda Books, 276 Village Square.
- 6 **First Friday Forum** features Glenn Robinson discussing "Syria: The Long Civil War," Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 1:30 p.m. Refreshments served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. See story page 19.
- 7 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** will be doing set construction at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater weekends in May. Come and volunteer to help and learn construction skills. More info. call 925-528-9225 or [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org). See article page 15.
- 8 **Orinda Books Mother's Day Reading** of poems about mothers and their children by East Bay poets Gail Entrekin, Judith Offer and Renee Schell, from the new anthology *All We Can Hold: A Collection of Poetry on Motherhood*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Adult/older teen event, free.
- Breast Cancer Walk**, St. Stephen's Trail at Bates Blvd., 9 am - noon. Benefits Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center. [reaganandzoe@gmail.com](mailto:reaganandzoe@gmail.com).
- 9 **POISE Meet and Greet** for Orinda parents with special needs children. Make connections and share ideas. Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 7 p.m. For information contact Anna Tague at [tague6@gmail.com](mailto:tague6@gmail.com).
- 12 **California Independent Film Festival** presents a free showing of *The Wizard of Oz*, Orinda Theater, 7 p.m. Visit [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org) and click Events.
- 13 **The International Film Showcase** will present the Japanese film *Sweet Bean* at the Orinda Theatre through May 19. Show times will be available on May 10 at [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com).
- 14 **Orinda Books** hosts the launch of Mary Volmer's *Reliance, Illinois*, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m.
- 15 **Orinda Books** hosts Michael Cooper discussing *The Rabbi's Knight*, his adventure story set in the twilight of the Crusades, 276 Village Square, 11 a.m. Attendees will receive a free CD, *Dreaming in Yiddish* (Adrienne Cooper) with every book purchased. All proceeds will be donated to Adrienne Cooper Dreaming in Yiddish Fund.
- Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation Doggone Fun Fest**, Community Center Park, 2 to 4 p.m. See story this page.
- 17 **The World Affairs Book Group** *The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies* by Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, 3 p.m.
- 18 **SEED** hosts a panel discussion, "Siblings of Children with Special Needs Have Needs Too," Contra Costa Jewish Day School, 955 Risa Rd., Lafayette, 6 to 8 p.m. RSVP to [seedlaf@seedlafayette.org](mailto:seedlaf@seedlafayette.org).
- 21 **AAUW Tech Trek SHRED Fundraiser**. Shred papers on site at 5A Rent-A-Space, Moraga, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. \$7 per file box.
- 25 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* through June 19 at Bruns Amphitheater, Orinda. Visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org) or call the box office at 510-548-9666. See story page 15.
- 26 **Maria's Book Group** will read and discuss *The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty* by Vendela Vida, Orinda Books 276 Village Square, 11 a.m.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Note: library closed May 8 for Mother's Day and May 29 and 30 for Memorial Day. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html).

- 5 **Special Book Sale**. Hosted by Friends of Orinda Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- English as a Second Language Conversation Circle**. Practice English in an informal, small-group setting, Study Room A, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also May 12, 19 and 26.
- 26 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**. A monthly story swap with featured speakers who keep the oral tradition alive, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m. Share a story or just come to listen. Adult and teen event. Call 925-478-8488.
- Mystery Book Club**. Study Room A, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult event.
- Summer Reading Program**. Starts June 1 featuring STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math). Includes learning challenges and activities for all ages.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Gallery Room, Orinda Library, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Meditation**. Every Monday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, 7:15 p.m., Career Wisdom Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga, Suite 100. Meditate in silence for 30

## Doggone Fun Fest at Community Center



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Sunday, May 15, from 2pm to 4pm, the Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation will host the Doggone Fun Fest at the Orinda Community Center Park. Join the fun with your dogs on leash to parade around the park. Prizes for best dressed, looks most like their owner and best in show. Enjoy dog agility plus search and rescue demonstrations. Rescue organizations will have dogs for adoption, and there will be dog product vendors in attendance. Come on out for a free, fantastic canine afternoon in the Park. Shown above: OPRF Board Members and Co-chairs of the Doggone Fun Fest, **Carolyn Mills** (L) with her dog **Sophie** and **Alison Zamanian** with her friend **Oreo**.

minutes, \$5 donation. Contact Gaby Mozee at [gcmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmoozee@gmail.com).

**Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.

**Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com> or 925-283-8288.

**Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.

**Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 a.m., September through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com). Speaker Katie Creighton will talk on "Having Fun With Garden Design Challenges."

**Orinda Garden Club**. Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. 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 p.m., [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

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

**Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.

**Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org) or Ian at 925-254-1465.

**Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.

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

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

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).

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

## CITY/FIRE DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

**City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

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

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Visit [www.mofd.org/board/meetings](http://www.mofd.org/board/meetings), meeting location will be posted on the agenda.

**Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

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



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ROVING REPORTER

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## Roving Reporter

### Do April Showers Really Bring May Flowers?



Charlie Jarrett

In 1921 Al Jolson wrote and sang, "Though April showers may come your way, they bring the flowers that bloom in May, and if it's raining, have no regrets, because it isn't raining rain you know ... it's raining violets." These important April showers help to propagate our violets as well as other fine flora, which is keeping local gardeners and garden club members very busy.

I just happened to catch some members of the Orinda-based Montelindo Garden Club working on garden projects in Nancy Chenoweth's garden in April!



CHARLIE JARRETT

#### Linda Luini.

Linda Luini is a 44-year Orinda resident and has been a garden club member for over 20 years. Luini said she was thrilled with the considerable recent rainfall and said that the rain will allow club members to practice the abundance of neat things they learn through club projects, events, tours and classes.

Karen Hume, a member of this garden club for at least 15 years, said that one of



CHARLIE JARRETT

#### Nancy Chenoweth.

Nancy Chenoweth, a 46-year charter member of the club, was doing a little artful trimming of her magnificent wisteria tree and, if it weren't for that little shower, the group would probably not have gathered to spend time in her garden. When asked what she loves most about her garden group, Chenoweth said, "We have so many wonderful, interesting, helpful and considerate people who belong to the club. We even have a botanical illustrator, master gardeners, botanists, artists, landscape designers and many diverse volunteers from several communities."

Bob Neumann is considered by many club members as the tomato expert and has lived in Orinda since 1981. Neumann generally grows several varieties a year and was checking out a good spot to plant a new tomato plant in Chenoweth's yard.



CHARLIE JARRETT

#### Karen Hume.

the things she loves is the club's practice of bringing a plant or flowers to senior citizens in a convalescent facility, such as the Orinda Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital at 11 Altarinda Road. Of course, this will probably be even more special in May, as Mother's Day is coming up!

Linda Luini said that anyone interested in getting acquainted with their group should come to a meeting, held on the third Friday of each month at 9 a.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 Saint Stephens Drive in Orinda, visit [montelindogarden@aol.com](mailto:montelindogarden@aol.com) or drop a note requesting information to P.O. Box 434, Orinda, CA 94563.



CHARLIE JARRETT

#### Bob Neumann.



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## BUSINESS BUZZ

## ◆ BUZZ from page 24

their support during Larry's illness," says Westdal.

Westdal's husband, Larry, passed away last September. A talented graphic designer, for decades Larry designed the look of Emeryville-based coffee company Peet's Coffee & Teas. "He boosted the level of advertising for toy fairs with his creative rendition of the Folkmanis puppet catalogue. Larry's work was so impressive it was selected for the covers of the toy fair catalogues," says Westdal.

A native of San Francisco, Westdal grew up in Oakland. She has two adult daughters who both attended Orinda schools. Lauren is married to Jake Blackshear and the couple has two sons. Claire and her husband Brooks McDonald have one son. Maintaining her photography schedule and clearing out her studio does not leave Westdal much free time these days, although she has plans to attend the annual reunion of nurses that she worked with at Alta Bates many years ago when she photographed the arrival of newborns.

For more information about Jamie Westdal Photography, visit the website at [www.jamiewestdal.com](http://www.jamiewestdal.com) or call Jamie directly at 254-9689.

◆ **Orinda Village Antiques Brings the Past Home**

Susan Leech has been a shop owner for 36 years and takes great delight in sharing antique and collectible treasures. Sole proprietor of Orinda Village Antiques, located near Geppetto's at 107 Orinda Way, Leech is a fountain of information about every type of antique, from furniture to crystal, porcelain and bone china, fine linen, pottery, mirrors and tableware.

Stepping into Orinda Village Antiques is an enchanting experience because you are surrounded by crystal decanters, glassware, lovely collections of porcelain patterns and a variety of unexpected gems. The shop is housed in what was Orinda's first fire station, constructed in 1924, providing the perfect atmosphere for an antiques shop. "Display is very important because often people do not know what they are looking for until they see it in a shop," points out Leech.

"With Mother's Day coming up this month, I encourage families to make an inventory of their treasures. This is one of the best things you can do for your heirs is to tell them about their family history



VALERIE HOTZ  
Susan Leech, owner of Orinda Village Antiques.

and the stories behind the treasures. They are wonderful conversations to be had," says Leech. "Someone needs to stand up for porcelain, the fine detail in the designs and the way furniture was made in the past, with dovetailing and solid, beautiful wood," she adds.

Leech takes items on consignment, but before doing so, she makes a point of educating her customer about the value of an item before accepting it on consignment. "It is important to know the value of something before you part with it," she advises. In addition, she is available to do appraisals of items. "I do appraisals for resale, not for insurance. It is an important way to understand the value of something," she says.

A native of England, Leech grew up appreciating the comforts of tea and preparing the table for either a full dressed tea or a simple informal affair. She lectures on the taking of tea, offering a delightful class, "Taking Tea in the English Manner," both on location and at her shop on Orinda Way. Class fees depend on the complexity of the presentation so call Leech for a price quote and to make an appointment for a class. "In today's fast paced life, it is important we share gracious moments with loved ones and the taking of tea is a delightful way to accomplish this."

An avid cook, Leech admits she loves spending her free time enjoying her treasures. "There are so many fun things for the tabletop these days. Today everyone is eclectic and that is a good thing," she smiles.

Visit Orinda Village Antiques Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment. Learn more by visiting the website at [www.villageantiques.com](http://www.villageantiques.com).

You may reach Susan Leech at 254-2206 or by email at [orindavillageantiques@gmail.com](mailto:orindavillageantiques@gmail.com).

## ◆ CAL SHAKES from page 15

months of 2016, she's directed nationally at Houston's Alley Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, Los Angeles' Geffen Playhouse and New York's Atlantic Theatre Company. At the Atlantic she directed *These Paper Bullets*, (originating at Yale Rep), a "mod-ish rip-off [of *Much Ado*] with a serious backbeat," created in collaboration with Pulitzer Prize finalist playwright Rolin Jones and featuring music by Grammy Award winner Billie Joe Armstrong of Green Day.

Lin, in addition to his work as a nationally known dramatist, is a writer/producer on the Emmy Award winning Netflix series *House of Cards* and is currently developing a number of original series.

Gay said, "this production of *Much Ado* is going to be a streamlined version of the play that enjoys all the fun and energy of the original. Our wonderful cast shares a generosity and infectious sense of fun and theatrical play."

The cast for *Much Ado About Nothing* is led by James Carpenter as Beatrice (title role in Cal Shakes' *Titus Andronicus*, Alfred Doolittle in *Pygmalion*) and Stacy Ross as Benedick (Malvolio in Cal Shakes' 2015's *Twelfth Night*, title role in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*).

"Shakespeare's plays have always had

a certain amount of gender bending and cross-dressing in them," Gay said. "Recently there are more and more contemporary artists and productions exploring this in their work and Kenneth Lin and I wanted to join this exciting ongoing conversation. There is something about stripping away gender constraints that allows us to see these characters in a fresh way – making the familiar unfamiliar to allow you to look at it with fresh eyes."

The cast also includes Safiya Fredricks, Patrick Alparone, Anthony Fusco, Denmo Ibrahim, Rami Margron and Lance Gardner.

*Much Ado About Nothing* runs May 25 through June 19 at Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Performances are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. There will be a Saturday matinee on June 18 at 2 p.m. The grounds open two hours before curtain and the theater offers free shuttle service from the Orinda BART (beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain) as well as free on-site parking.

For more information or to charge tickets (\$20 to \$72) by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666. Additional information and online ticketing are available at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

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BUSINESS BUZZ

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## Orinda Florist Celebrates Third Anniversary

Wandering up Brookwood Road just past ALMA music shop you can't miss Orinda Florist. The charming floral shop is reminiscent of its European cousins. This can be attributed to both the gorgeous arrangements owner Mitra Misaghi and her staff enjoy creating every day, and the fine quality of locally grown flowers they use.

"We do customized floral arrangements with fresh cut flowers, as well as live plants. This month we honor mothers with beautiful and unique floral designs. A fine Mother's Day gift idea is to buy a one-year package. This includes monthly local home delivery of a floral arrangement," explains Misaghi.

Each week Misaghi visits local growers –

85 percent of her flowers are from Bay Area growers - to find the most beautiful flowers for her customers. Another feature offered here is the Narcissus program. "I alert customers about the fresh cut of the week, always seasonal flowers that are available at attractive rates and purchase them for members of the Narcissus program. We deliver fresh cut flowers at bargain prices," explains Misaghi.

Orinda Florist is a very specialized, boutique floral shop. "We try to be sustainable, using recycled pots and environmentally friendly materials. For example, we wrap flowers in brown paper and tie it with a raffia ribbon, rather than use plastic wrap. We encourage customers to bring in a favorite container, and we will create the design for their container, helping to personalize their designs," she adds.

"Everything here is very unique and customized for each individual customer.

No two designs are ever alike. Mitra uses unusual and interesting flowers that you do not see anywhere else, like ornamental kale and artichoke. That is why people come here," points out Ellen Heneghan. A native of Ireland, Heneghan recently joined the design team.



VALERIE HOTZ  
Mitra Misaghi creates fabulous floral designs with fresh cut flowers and live plants at Orinda Florist.

Orinda Florist offers local delivery every day, and nationwide delivery is available. However, notice of one day is required for local delivery. "If a customer places an order before 1:30 p.m., we can have the flower design ready by the end of the day," points out Misaghi.

A resident of Orinda for 13 years, Misaghi is married to Michael Panah, an attorney whose practice is based in Orinda. The couple has two children. Sina is a freshman at Miramonte High School and Tahra attends the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Orinda Intermediate School. "When I am not designing floral arrangements, I enjoy being with my family and doing things together. We like to garden, cycle and go river rafting. One of my especially favorite things to do is hike the rim trail at the Lafayette Reservoir," smiles Misaghi.

Orinda Florist is open Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. To view the abundant beautiful bouquets and designs and to place an order, visit the website at [www.orindafloresta.com](http://www.orindafloresta.com) and to reach Misaghi, call 925-255-5353. All major credit cards are accepted.

## Jamie Westdal Photography Goes on Location

Several generations of Orindans have been the subject of many heirloom quality portraits by Jamie Westdal, whose studio located in the Crossroads at 232 Brookwood Road is closing effective June 30. While the studio will be gone, Westdal continues to offer all photographic services on location.

"I am officially transitioning into a new chapter and want the Orinda community and all my clients to know how grateful I am for their patronage over the years," says Westdal. She photographs on location, bringing backdrops and lighting to professional offices, parks, private homes, wedding locations – most any environment where clients are comfortable and want their portrait made.

Prior to opening her studio in Orinda, Westdal photographed births at Alta Bates Hospital. She had every intention to go to nursing school but became so inspired by the labor and delivery experience and capturing these precious moments for others that she changed career paths and became a professional photographer.

Clients will be happy to know Westdal's plan includes hosting pop up studios at various venues in the Bay Area. Check the website at [www.jamiewestdal.com](http://www.jamiewestdal.com) for updates on locations, dates and times. As always, location preferences are accommodated whenever possible.

"I want to thank Orindans for the privilege of photographing their families. So many people thank me for capturing their family on film. Now I want to thank everyone and also let them know I appreciate

[SEE BUZZ page 23]



VALERIE HOTZ  
While photographer Jamie Westdal is closing her Crossroads studio, she will continue offering all her photographic services on location.

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