



THE ORINDA NEWS

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May 2017

Run Supports Education and Wellness for Zimbabwe Children

The 14th annual J.F. Kapnek Trust Family Fun Run will take place at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 7, at Miramonte High School, 750 Moraga Way, in Orinda.

The event supports pre-schools, nutrition and AIDS treatment and prevention programs for children and families in Zimbabwe.

The J.F. Kapnek Trust works to improve family health, reduce child mortality and create educational opportunity for the children of Zimbabwe. To date, the Trust has developed and implemented initiatives that continue to prevent over 15,000 cases of HIV/AIDS in newborns every year and has created pre-school programs now serving over 18,000 children at over 200 pre-school sites. It has also brought services to families with disabled children, helping those children reach their potential.

Help the Trust continue its valuable work by participating in the Family Fun Run. Along with a 5K run and a 1K children's run or walk, event participants will enjoy music, art and crafts, food and prizes for the top finishers. And all participants will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Runners from last year's J.F. Kapnek Trust Family Fun Run. This year's fundraiser takes place May 7 at 9 a.m. at Miramonte High School.

receive a commemorative t-shirt.

Visit www.jfkapnektrust.org for more information and to register.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

Orinda Garden Club Goes All Out for Annual Tour and Plant Sale

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

How about a little Tasmanian Chocolate or, perhaps, a Bulgarian Triumph or a Sugar Drop would hit the spot? No, these aren't extravagant desserts or exotic drinks. These are just a few of the types of tomato plants available at the Orinda Garden Club's (OGC) plant sale during the group's annual garden tour, which takes place on May 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"One of our members, Sue Anderson-Berger, is the most successful tomato gardener I've ever seen," says OGC's Vanessa Crews. "She is growing over 300 tomato plants for the sale. For many of these plants, there is no commercial source."

The sale, as well as proceeds from the garden tour, benefits the group's mission



SALLY HOGARTY

Sue Anderson-Berger shows off a small number of the hundreds of tomato plants she has raised at her Orinda home for the Orinda Garden Club and other nonprofits.

to beautify Orinda as well as scholarships and donations to local nonprofits furthering horticulture. One project includes plantings on the median strip along Camino Pablo adjacent to Safeway.

Anderson-Berger has always grown tomatoes, but a few years ago she started researching tomato plants and discovered a wealth of knowledge online. Her favorite websites are Tatiana's Tomatobase and Tomatoville.

"Tatiana is a woman in Canada, and she maintains a database of probably 3,000 tomatoes," says Anderson-Berger. "I find

[SEE TOMATOES page 4]

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Large Turnout for Urban Land Institute's Report on Downtown

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Countless meetings about downtown redevelopment have taken place over the years and a myriad of ideas offered, but very little has changed in Orinda's business districts.

The Heart of Orinda plan, which shaped the Community Center and library into a pedestrian-friendly destination, provided a starting point, but that was in 2001.

For those seeking more progress in the downtown area, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Technical Assistance Panel dangled a little thread of hope at its presentation before a joint meeting of the Orinda City Council and Planning Commission on

[SEE DOWNTOWN page 16]



SALLY HOGARTY

Speaking at the public comments portion of the April 11 meeting, Paul Nieto notes the number of regulatory agencies that would have to be involved to implement changes in downtown Orinda.

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Spring into Beautiful Orinda!



Cindy Powell

May Day, our first day of the month, celebrates Spring and the coming of Summer. In Orinda it is very apparent that Spring has sprung! **National Loyalty Day** has also been observed on May 1 since 1958. This day is set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and the recognition of our heritage of American freedom. I would like to thank our loyal Orinda Association members for their year-long support of our events and programs.

May 1 is also Casting Call day: Be part of the show with the Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe at the famous Orinda Old Yellow House in August. Wouldn't a fun historical musical be better with you in the cast? All ages and all levels of talent are needed. Interested? Call Bobbie Landers at 254-8260 and help create history.

May 2 is the **Orinda Chamber's Restaurant Tour**. Last year I waited until the last minute to buy tickets and they sold out.

I still went and had a yummy glass of wine and listened to the music, but this year I got my buddies together and bought tickets early because it will be even bigger with the addition of Street Fair Art and a new format with more merchants participating.

Cinco de Mayo is observed annually on May 5 as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride, highlighting Mexican culture, music and dance. Or, if you are a student at OIS, you can dance at the **Tri City Dance** on May 5. This dance features inflatable obstacle courses and other activities! While you play and dance, a DJ will be pumping out your favorite beats.

On May 6, the **Moraga-Orinda Fire District Open House** will be held at Station 45. These first responders encourage the public to interact with them and to learn about the services provided by the district, other associated agencies, public safety, [SEE PRESIDENT page 16]

The Orinda Association

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

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

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Parade Guy
Big Plans for 2017

Andrew Radlow

Hello parade fans, it's the Parade Guy saying hi and welcome to 2017! I was just thinking as the rains finally give way to sunnier days, our attention is beginning to pivot to the lazy days of summer. I'm speaking about all the good that comes with longer days, warmer evenings, more time with friends/family and, of course, the Orinda Association's best (Fourth of July) hometown parade!

planning this year's gala since January. It's a bit awkward approaching sponsors about supporting the parade when most of them are planning ski weekends at Northstar. However, through the eloquent perseverance of our fund-raising captain (Bill Waterman) and the tremendous generosity of our sponsors, we are well on our way to another sensational birthday party for America. [SEE PARADE page 5]

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SALLY HOGARTY

This year's parade theme, The Year of the Czech, highlights Orinda's association with Sister City Tabor, in the Czech Republic. Shown here is the **Orinda Sister City/Tabor Foundation's** float from last year's parade.

The Orinda Association Says
Be Informed, Be Involved, Be in Touch and Be Safe!

The Orinda Association is actively helping Orinda be safe through:

- Its Safety Video available at www.orindaassociation.org and on the OA Facebook page;
- Promoting CERT emergency info and supplies;
- Participation in Moraga Orinda Fire District's Open House.

Join the OA at the MOFD's Open House
May 6 10 am – 2 pm
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Letters to the Editor ...

Every Day Should Be Earth Day

We are writing from P-1 kindergarten at Del Rey School. Our kindergarten class is on a mission. We have an extraordinary school and a beautiful campus. We not only want Del Rey to be special, but we want to make the whole wide world a better place! We've noticed a problem, and we think Orindans can help. The problem is: TRASH.

We are happy people mostly throw their garbage in the garbage can, or else Orinda would be full of litter. But, we are writing because recyclable and compostable items are being mixed in with landfill garbage. Do you know how long glass will exist in a landfill? One Million Years! That's 1,000,000 years!

Another factor is our landfills are overflowing. The United States of America has been shipping its garbage to be recycled in China. China has begun to refuse our recyclables if they are contaminated with mixed garbage.

The good news is: We have an idea to help fix the problem!

Backpackers have a slogan when they are hiking in the wilderness: "take only memories, leave only footprints."

They accomplish that by following another reminder: "Pack it in, pack it out!"

The kindergarten students of Del Rey's P-1 classroom respectfully ask that you communicate this important message to our citizens: "Pack it in, pack it out!"

How about if people take recyclable and compostables home to their curbside bins? Paper coffee cups can be composted — but not the plastic lid; it goes into the recycle bin. Better yet — encourage everyone to remember her/his reusable cup or bottle. The world will be a better place if we all work together. Remember, every day should be Earth Day.

— The P-1 Students, Del Rey Class of 2022

Plans to Glorify Downtown

I just read the report of the Urban Land Institutes' "Technical Assistance Panel". They want high density housing and restaurants which encroach on San Pablo Creek. They are discussing "parking enforcement" and "parking management as a potential revenue stream." That's parking meters, folks. I predicted months ago these lizards would try to impose meters on us.

The glorious Potemkin Village they envision will use up even more of the limited parking the Village and Crossroads still have. The City of Orinda only cares about expanding its tax base. Government planned "City Planning" is never based on the true needs of the city. In Orinda, we drive cars. We do not want buses! If I cannot park easily and free in Orinda, I will go to Moraga or Rheem, where they have lots of parking.

— Henry R. Pinney

Dog on Page One

We would like to thank **Fiona**, a two-year-old German Shepard, and her owners Tom and Denise Romanek. In addition to his painting business, Tom is also on the OA board, NorCal Triathlon committee and an ambassador with the Orinda Chamber.

In last month's issue, **George** was our clean-up dog carrying a stick. His owners are OA office manager Marie Waterman and her husband Bill, who is also on the OA board and on the Classic Car and 4th of July steering committees.

the school gardens but also for the teachers to take home to their own gardens.

But, according to Anderson-Berger, "soil is everything." In the fall, she begins adding amendments to her soil and lets the rain work it in, using a pitchfork to help mix the various ingredients. This year, she began transferring her plants outdoors in early April and hopes for the first fruit the last half of July.

"I use a bunch of amendments. Some you can get at Orchard, but I also go to Harmony Farm and Supply in Sebastopol for a lot of the organic amendments and my potting soil. American Soil and Stone in Richmond is another stop I make. They have wonderful organic compost," she explains.

Anderson-Berger uses both raised beds and her ample yard for growing and recommends changing out the soil every four to five years in the raised beds.



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◆ TOMATOES from page 1

varieties that I want and that would work well here and then order seeds from various companies and individuals online. There's a woman in Florida who offers free seeds for varieties that aren't commercially available and a man in Sunol who has developed this beautiful tomato called Orange Jazz. It's orange with a kind of yellow vertical striping on it. And Seed Saver Exchange is a large catalogue of growers that you can request seeds from."

Anderson-Berger planted so many seeds that she often ended up with too many for her own garden and started giving them to friends and bringing them to Orinda Intermediate School when her children attended there as well as Miramonte High School where her twins are now juniors. She not only brings the tomato plants for

In addition to a wide variety of different-sized tomatoes, Anderson-Berger will have a new dwarf tomato available at this year's sale.

"This man in the southeast has a dwarf project where a smaller-size plant still produces a nice size tomato," she explains. "It's perfect for people who don't have a lot of space and maybe want to grow tomatoes in a container. The New Big Dwarf is my favorite. It's actually an heirloom, very productive and delicious."

As for the various pesky critters that

attach to tomato plants, Anderson-Berger recommends a dusting of cayenne pepper over the plant and the perimeter.

The OGC garden tour allows aficionados to tour five gardens in Lafayette and Orinda with pop-up boutiques featuring a variety of items (such as Anderson-Berger's tomato plants), refreshments and a silent auction. The tax-deductible tickets are \$50. An optional cocktail party from 5 to 7 p.m. can also be added. For tickets and more information, go to www.orindagc.org or email gardentour@orindagc.org.

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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. Letters to Editor for the June issue are due May 8, 2017.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the June issue is May 8, 2017.

ROADS/ POLICE

Miner Road Sinkhole Update

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Army Corps of Engineers re-issued the city's emergency permit on April 11, allowing repair work to begin. The original permit had been granted in mid-January and required that work begin within seven working days. Additional rains, the flooding of three homes adjacent to the sinkhole and disagreement with one of the property owners on a suitable repair held up the work, allowing the permit to lapse.

"Between the actual sinkhole and the narrow, hazardous detour roads, we could prove to the Army Corps that an emergency still existed," Mayor Eve Phillips explained.

The city also had to secure Cal Trans and EBMUD approvals. A major EBMUD

water line as well as a PG&E gas line and two Central Sanitary District sewer lines have been impacted by the sinkhole and re-routed with temporary lines.

Bay Cities Paving and Grading, Inc. of Concord began excavation of the site on April 18 with a completion date in mid-to-late June. Crews are expected to work two 10-12 hour shifts a day to replace the previous 7-foot wide culvert with a 16-foot wide culvert.

The estimated cost of repairs with contingencies added is \$2.3 million, most of which will be reimbursed by several state and federal agencies.

The city will update residents on repairs via the Internet on NextDoor and the Orinda Outlook. To subscribe to the Orinda Outlook, go to www.cityoforinda.org.

◆ PARADE from page 3

"Unity in the Community" is a core objective of the Orinda Fourth of July parade. One of the parade design principles is forming an event that gets everyone in and around Lamorinda to come out and spend time in the sunshine with family, friends and neighbors. We try to produce a variety of events that honor American traditions while providing entertainment for people of all ages.


"The Year of the Czech" is the parade's 2017 theme and represents an expansion of our community spirit well beyond the borders of Contra Costa. It was 20 years ago that the cities of Orinda and Tabor in the Czech Republic became "Sister Cities." This union was formed in keeping with president Dwight D. Eisenhower's vision for promoting international friendship, communication and understanding between cultures. You can learn more about this terrific international fellowship at www.orindataborcity.org.

One of my favorite things about being

the Parade Guy are the Parade volunteers I get to work with each year. The Parade is a 100-percent volunteer affair. We are a crew of busy, hard-working Lamorinda residents just like you. These are generous people who prioritize community involvement and insist on having a good time while doing it. If you want to do something that makes even a difference in your community, allows you to work with fun neighbors and is only a short-term commitment, then send me (the Parade Guy) a note at oa@orindaassociation.org.

Whether you are a parade participant, a volunteer, an audience member or a visitor to the Festival in the Park or the Theater Street Party in front of the Orinda Theatre, you will have a great time. The Orinda Fourth of July parade is designed to get everyone out and together, in a non-commercial setting, to celebrate not only America, but our tremendous local community. So, mark your calendars to be in town on July 4 for the best hometown parade!

See you at the Parade,
The Parade Guy



POLICE BLOTTER

February 26 through April 8, 2017

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 13 incidents.
Accident Injury: 6 incidents.
Accident Property: 8 incidents.
Alarm, False: 182 incidents.
Animal Cruelty: 1 incident.
Barking Dog: 1 incident.
Battery: 2 incidents.
Burglary: 1 incident.
Burglary, Auto: 3 incidents.
Burglary, Commercial: 2 incidents.
Burglary, Residential: 11 incidents.
Civil Matter: 35 incidents.
CVC Moving Violation: 239 incidents.
CVC Non-Moving Violation: 76 incidents.
Death Non-Criminal: 3 incidents.
Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.
Elder Abuse: 1 incident.
Excessive Speed: 1 incident.
Found Property: 6 incidents.
Fraud/False Pretenses: 1 incident.
Grand Theft from Building: 3 incidents.
Hailed by Citizen: 1 incident.
Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident.
Identity Theft: 6 incidents.
Illegal Entry: 1 incident.
Juvenile Disturbance: 8 incidents.
Lost Property: 2 incidents.
Loud Music: 6 incidents.
Loud Noise: 4 incidents.
Loud Party: 1 incident.
Medical Hospital: 10 incidents.
Motorist Assist: 3 incidents.
Neighbor Dispute: 1 incident.
Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 1 incident.
Ordinance Violation: 18 incidents.
Outside Assist: 46 incidents.
Panhandling: 1 incident.
Parking Detail: 135 incidents.
Patrol Request: 101 incidents.
Petty Theft: 3 incidents.
Petty Theft from Building: 1 incident.
Petty Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents.
Petty Theft Other: 1 incident.
Public Assembly Check: 4 incidents.

Public Nuisance: 18 incidents.
Reckless Driving: 27 incidents.
School Check: 22 incidents.
Security Check: 102 incidents.
Service to Citizen: 214 incidents.
Shoplift: 4 incidents.
Suspicious Circumstances: 32 incidents.
Suspicious Person Stop: 21 incidents.
Suspicious Subject: 18 incidents.
Suspicious Vehicle: 27 incidents.
Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 31 incidents.
Tow: 12 incidents.
Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 3 incidents.
Threats: 2 incidents.
Traffic Hazard: 27 incidents.
Trespass: 5 incidents.
Trespass w/Vehicle: 2 incidents.
Unwanted Guest: 2 incidents.
Vacation House Check: 75 incidents.
Vandalism: 7 incidents.
Vehicle Theft: 1 incident.
Verbal Dispute: 6 incidents.
Violation Custody Order: 2 incidents.
Welfare Check: 16 incidents.

Arrests

Drunk in Public: 1 arrest.
DUI: 1 arrest.
Possession of Dangerous Drugs: 1 arrest.
Possession of Firearm: 1 arrest.
Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1 recovery.
Shoplift: 1 arrest.
Warrant Arrest: 4 arrests.

BART Statistics

Grand Theft - Catalytic Converter: 2 incidents.
Possession of Stolen Property: 1 arrest.

- Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

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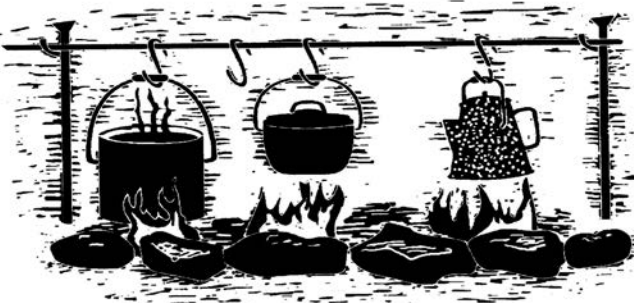
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CAR TIME

A Bygone Era: Classic Cars Today



By JOHN VANEK

We now have enough classic cars in the Lamorinda area to substantiate the Orinda Classic Car Center. We also have more motorists in the area that want to own and drive vintage vehicles. There are more TV shows and automotive auctions that feature classic cars than ever before. Car enthusiasts of all ages appreciate these vintage American vehicles more now than ever.

While new cars are more sophisticated, more comfortable and often offer more performance than the cool cars of yesteryear, many people are willing to spend the same amount of money on a particular classic car than a new modern car. This is on a vehicle that does not even get driven all the time.

This is kind of a hobby that makes you feel good and look even cooler. I guess if you have to ask then you just don't get it. It is a passion. It is an American heritage. It recalls a glorious time when the U.S. was on top of the world. Our cars were hands down the envy of all other countries. The artistic flair that gave us fins and gracious hood ornaments have other countries searching out these vehicles. Europe, Asia and even India are swooping up these old cars like crazy. It is more than just the cars, it's a lost era that has gone by, a culture that represents our country's past.

What is the difference between now and then? The automotive advancements of the last 30 years are now being utilized in vintage vehicles. Better components and improved systems are being adapted to older cars. There was once a time when a classic car was worth more money in completely stock condition. Nowadays, they have a better value if the driving experience is improved and offers more convenience or safety than when they were built. Many drivers love the idea of driving that cool classic convertible that they always wanted since they were a kid. However, when they get out of their Lexus and jump in a stock 1960 Ford Thunderbird, they find that the driving experience is completely different. You expect it to be a different experience but driving the beautiful T-Bird may make you worry about stopping ... that is where we come in.

[SEE CAR TIME page 14]

Terry Brings Music to Cuba

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

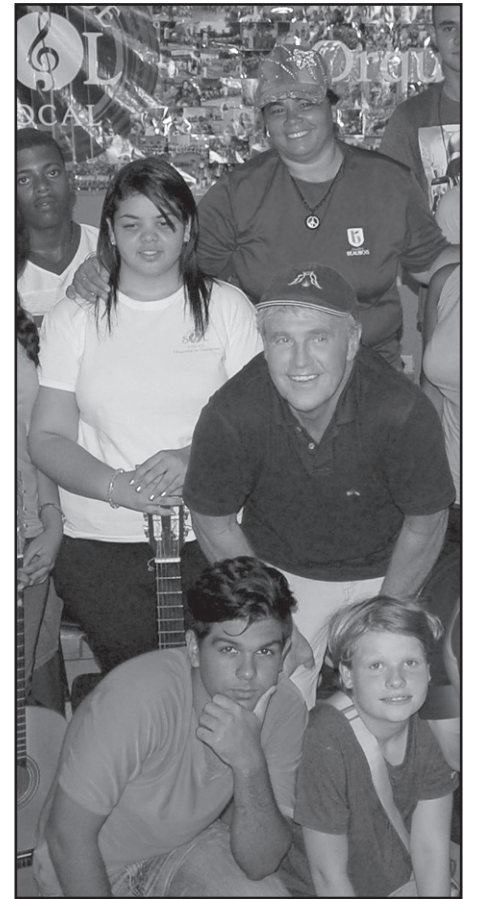
“A better world through music,” that’s the goal of Orinda resident Terry Miller. The founder of Terry’s Kids, Miller works with Bay Area musicians and educators to help alleviate the effects budget cuts have had on arts-based educational programs. Terry’s Kids provides free music programming to schools and care facilities throughout the world. “Our goal is to bring children together through music.”

In December, Miller traveled to Havana, Cuba, where he and members of the group shared musical experiences with hundreds of residents in Havana, working with La Colmenita, the renowned children’s theatre of Cuba, along with Clave de Sol, a 200-piece children’s guitar orchestra of Havana and Escuela Nacional Arte, which Miller calls “the equivalent of our U.S. Juilliard.”

Terry’s Kids solicited donations of instruments and materials that were then donated to young students in Havana. Money for the trip was raised through online crowd sourcing and a fundraising concert. The group travelled with instruments, costumes and clothes that were donated to area music schools in the company’s fifth Music Exchange Program.

“This is exactly what this trip is all about. This is why we do what we do. These kids and their families need our help. Our donations will mean the world to them,” said Miller. “Our group made a dream come true for these beautiful children and their families,” he added.

“The trips are magical,” said Leslie Darwin O’Brien, who performed with Miller, an internationally acclaimed bass player



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Terry Miller (2nd row) worked with children in Havana, Cuba, during his fifth music exchange program.

and producer at the Havana Jazz Festival. O’Brien is a singer who performs in San Francisco and is known for her kid corraling at various Lamorinda music camps. Terry’s Kids Havana Jazz Festival Band also included Shelly Berg, Gary Novak, Tom Scott, Brian Nova, Tim Huffman, Howard Paul, Missoni Lanza, Neil Lavonis and Brett May. “Terry is well-connected in the American music industry, so he hires top-notch musicians to accompany art patrons on the trips.”

Miller said there’s music at every meal, mostly with American and Cuban musicians playing together. “This trip we were able to take guitar strings to Clave del Sol, a children’s guitar orchestra in one of the poorer sections of Havana.”

Julio Reyes, a well-known classical guitarist and conductor at Holy Names University in Oakland, presented the strings to the children. Reyes and O’Brien serve on the board of Terry’s Kids.

“I am so moved by what Terry does,” O’Brien said. “It is incredible to see the kids in Cuba doing music with the players from the USA. It truly is a language without words.”

For more information about Terry’s Kids, visit www.tmkids.org

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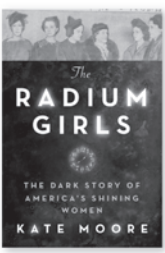

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BOOKS / SCHOOLS

Between the Lines Continuing a Tradition

Maria Roden, Orinda Books



In 2003, when Marian Nielsen was asked to share her love and knowledge of books through this column, I had just moved to Orinda from North Carolina and had yet to discover the bookstore, let alone dream of being its new owner. Every two months for the next 14 years readers grew to love her literary musings, and when Marian asked me to take over from her the other month, I was very conscious of the impressive boots I was stepping into.

Her dedication to the reading community in and around the Lamorinda area has become legendary during her 30-plus years at Orinda Books, and, in 2015, her contribution to the book industry was officially recognized outside her immediate fan club when Marian won the top holiday-bonus award from bestselling author James Patterson. Even though her picture may not be adorning this column any more — don't be alarmed — you can still enjoy her expertise and smiling face in the book shop!

Back in 2003, *The Orinda News* was a bimonthly publication, Orinda Books was celebrating 27 years in business, and the top selling book at the time was Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. News headlines included the U.S. led invasion of Iraq, and North Korea's announcement that it was withdrawing from the Nonproliferation Treaty on nuclear operations — the repercussions of which are still alarmingly evident in world news today.

What struck me most when I asked Marian to dig out her very first piece for me to

read was the fact that her lead story dealt with a selection of novels on the topic of immigration and assimilation. A quick glance at the titles on our Staff Favorites table at Orinda Books today shows this topic is more prominent than ever in literature.

In the beautifully written *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid, a young couple, Nadia and Saeed, escape their war-torn hometown in a fictional Middle East country and arrive in London and finally California. Mohsin popped in to the store to sign copies the other week — we may still have copies available!

Lucky Boy by Oakland author Shanthi Sekaran tells the story of 18-year-old Solimar Castro-Valdez who crosses the Mexican border and arrives in Berkeley, undocumented, pregnant and detained in an immigration center.

The cultures of Korea and Japan are the focus in *Pachinko*, a sweeping historical family saga by Min Jin Lee. And in *Behold the Dreamers*, Imbolo Mbue has written an unforgettable story of a young Cameroonian couple making a new life in New York just as the Great Recession upends the economy.

And, in case you were wondering which novels Marian highlighted all those years ago, they were Monica Ali's *Brick Lane* (about a young woman leaving Bangladesh for London in an arranged marriage) and Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*, which follows the Ganguilis family's experience

[SEE BOOKS page 14]

Glorietta Elementary Brings Us *Mulan Jr.* on May 12 and 13



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two student casts, comprised of approximately 65 students and tech crew, will present *Mulan Jr.* on May 12 and 13. One of the student casts is shown above.

By HILLARY WEINER
Contributing Writer

Glorietta Elementary School presents its Spring Musical, Disney's *Mulan Jr.* on May 12 and 13.

Based on Disney's Oscar-nominated film, *Mulan Jr.* celebrates culture, honor and the fighting spirit. The misfit Mulan and her mischievous dragon sidekick, Mushu, must save the Emperor from the Huns. Defying the village matchmaker, Mulan disguises herself as a boy and takes up arms to spare her father from serving in the army. As the great battle with the Huns approaches, Mulan must choose between revealing her true identity as a girl or saving all of China with her clever plan. With hit songs and a story packed with action, humor and heart, *Mulan Jr.* brings

ancient China to life with a modern sensibility.

Music teacher Ron Pickett directs with the assistance of parent producers Susan Jordan, June Lim and Melissa Matosian. There are two student casts, comprised of approximately 65 students along with a student tech crew. The production is funded through parent contributions, Glorietta Parents Club, Lamorinda Arts Council and EFO.

Mulan Jr. takes place at Glorietta Elementary School, 15 Martha Road, on Friday, May 12, at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 13, at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday performances (all reserved seating) will be available in advance online at www.showtix4u.com. Tickets may also be available at the door prior to the show.

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Fitness Tip of the Month

4 Easy Steps To Becoming An Addict

If you are addicted to wine, chocolate, snacks, dessert and/or rich gourmet food...you can be addicted to becoming very fit. Intense, purposeful exercise combined with healthy eating produces the same addictive endorphins as eating certain foods.

Useful tips for becoming an addict:

1. Repetition
2. Memory...pay attention to how you feel afterwards
3. Association, try to make a connection between that (the addictive activity or substance) and enjoyable social experiences.
4. No breaks. Try not to take a very long break from it while you are developing your addiction.



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

Something to Howl About... Animal Tales

Those Devious Dogs and Cats

Jennifer Conroy



Okay, so we've tried to ignore the lobbying efforts that have been going on for some time now. You know the ones I mean, right? The secret agendas of dogs and the even more secret agendas of cats. We can no longer hide from this, especially with the latest revelations from Petileaks that expose what many of us have long suspected.

Canine files recently released indicate that dogs have been serving as secret lobbyists to the burgeoning pet product industry. That industry, caught between the demands of human companions and animal companions, has tried to satisfy both sides by offering products that are visually pleasing to humans while being delectably delicious to animals. An example of compromise proposed by both sides is the broth-imbued tennis ball, offered in beef and chicken flavors. Pressure exerted by a dog's teeth on the ball enables the release of broth through pinholes in the ball that automatically close when pressure is removed. According to Petileaks, an official announcement of the Brothy Ball might be announced sometime "in the future."

Feline files are more obscure but indicate a cat movement in support of something called "spider cat wall coverings." Apparently a cat contingent is working with a manufacturer to create ridged wall coverings that enable a cat to walk up and down interior walls. This is part of the cat lobby's "Freedom of Space" movement that believes all areas of a human companion's home should be fully accessible to cats. What is not known at this time is the location of the manufacturer creating prototypes of the wall coverings. Petileaks states that cats want production to take place in the U.S. providing appropriate materials are

available.

Given these lobbying efforts, the claim has been made by parties unknown that dogs and cats appear to be self-indulgent. "Why are dogs always looking to put something delicious in their mouths and why are cats always looking for new things to climb on?" asked a voter at a recent Dog and Cat Town Hall.

Questions remain unanswered but they focus attention on common notions regarding the priorities of each species. Dogs, perceived as homebodies who often think with their taste buds; cats, seen as wanderers who want to climb the walls when shut in. In an effort to counter stereotypes, dogs have been known to jump over or dig under fences and cats have taken to humans' beds, chairs and kitchen tables.

Spokes-animals from each side have tried to clarify positions. On the dog side, a statement appeared that "Dogs are not lazy slobberers who only care about their bellies," while on the cat side it was reported, "Cats do not necessarily want to spend their time climbing all over the place; we are just as happy curled up on your stomach as we are at the top of the bookcase."

However, as Petileaks shows, there are movements afoot that will clearly benefit the pro-taste and pro-climbing contingents on both sides. How these movements will affect human companions only time will tell. There is talk of adding GPS tracking to microchips currently available for cats and dogs. At least this way, humans will be able to determine where their cats and dogs are secretly meeting. But other news reports, possibly fake, claim that cats have already developed ways to block GPS devices. The resourcefulness of our companion animals should never be discounted!



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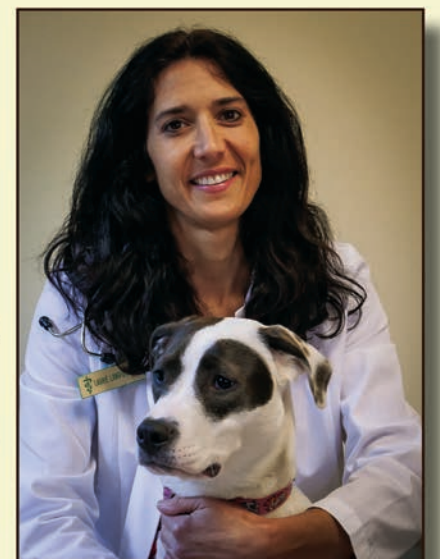
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ORINDA RESIDENT / OUTDOOR ART

Orindan Hopes To Hit the Slopes On His 100th Birthday

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

At 99-1/2 years of age, George Jedenoff is back skiing at the Alta ski resort in Utah. Remarkable as it may seem, he navigates the slopes smoothly and skies parallel with a wide smile on his face.

A regular at Alta since he took up skiing, Jedenoff says the staff made a video of him heading down the hill entitled "Happiness." He was there for four days this year, skiing with his son. Yes, he taught his two children, Nick and Nina, to ski and also his grandchildren. And he learned from the best.

When Jedenoff moved to Utah in 1960 he decided to take up skiing and went to a local store to purchase equipment. "I ran into Earl Miller, who was a registered ski instructor and inventor of many sporting goods, including the Miller binding which was the only reliable binding at the time. He volunteered to take me to Alta.

"I began on the rope tow. Initial progress was slow but eventually produced results. Later that year, I had some lessons from the famous Alf Engen, Olympic gold medal winner and a great instructor. In 1964, I met Junior Bounous, who later became the instructor at Snowbird, Utah, where I also like to ski. I had the opportunity of skiing with him many times. He later was named to the Skiing Hall of Fame. Junior is now 91 years old and in great shape. He has been my inspiration."

Jedenoff says for his 100th birthday he's made tentative arrangements with Junior and his two Utah skiing buddies to make a few runs at Alta and Snowbird, providing there is enough snow on the ground on July 6. "A number of years ago, we skied there at that time of the year, so I'm hoping it will be possible. I have skied there every year since 1960 and to encourage me to return when I moved from Salt Lake City, they gave me a lifetime pass."

Jedenoff moved to Orinda in 1974 with

his wife Barbara, taking the job of president of Kaiser Steel Corporation. The couple met at Stanford, when Jedenoff was a graduate student and waited tables at her sorority, Chi Omega. They have been happily married for 74 years. Barbara has had health issues, and Jedenoff has been her faithful caregiver. Now that she is in a care facility he goes twice daily to help with her meals and continue to show the love he has for her. When he was away at Alta, he made sure she was cared for by his daughter and granddaughter.

Jedenoff exudes happiness, thus the title of the video. "Happiness is the great powder snow at Alta," he says. "Happiness is attained if one looks at the bright side of life and takes a positive attitude toward everyday activities. There are many problems and disappointments in life. Sometimes we dwell on these events, overlooking all the wonderful things we have to enjoy. I'm constantly thankful to God for the good things he has given me and for the courage



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

George Jedenoff still enjoys skiing and hopes to take to the slopes on his 100th birthday in July.

and direction he provides in finding solutions of tolerance for the negative conditions. We are here on earth a very short time and devoting that time for useful and

[SEE JEDENOFF page 14]

Outdoor Artist Displays New Works

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Nine years ago, Kati Casida was among the first artists to have work chosen for the inaugural exhibits of the City of Orinda's then newly formed Art in Public Places Committee.

Now, Orinda's outdoor spaces have once again been graced with the Berkeley artist's work: *Embrace* sits in the lower level and *Red Jazz* with its flowing ribbons of red-painted steel takes pride of place in the Library Plaza at 26 Orinda Way.

Casida makes small paper models of her art before transferring her design to aluminum and steel.

"I begin with paper or strips of metal, cutting and folding, making small models to explore on an intimate scale how form relates to space," Casida explains. "I'm influenced by images in the landscape and how movement changes these images. The seasons, wind, snow and rushing waterfalls of Norway, the land of my great grandparents, are also reflected in my work."

To transform her small paper models into the large works of art displayed in Orinda



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kati Casida has two sculptures in Orinda. One on the lower level of City Hall and this one, entitled *Red Jazz* located in the Orinda Library Plaza.

and around the world, Casida works with local fabricator Johnny White.

"Sometimes Johnny will discover something in the model that won't work in the

[SEE CASIDA page 19]

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Orinda Boy Scout Troop 57 Honors Record Eight New Eagle Scouts

By STEVE TENNANT
Contributing Writer

Boy Scout Troop 57 of Orinda acknowledged the achievements of Kyle Finger, Maxwell Fleming, Sean Kostecki, Kevin Pease, Zachary Peterson, Matthew Przekop, Steven Rein and Robert Tennant at the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on March 19 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Moraga.

After opening ceremonies, Troop 57 Scoutmaster Jim McFeely presented each Scout with their Eagle award. To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

For his service project, Finger installed a water-wise garden and drip irrigation system for a house belonging to Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Moraga. Finger is a senior at Miramonte High School and the son of Sylvia and David Finger.

Fleming completed his project at Del Rey Elementary School. The project consisted of building garden beds and installing irrigation. Fleming is a senior at Miramonte and the son of Pam and Scott Fleming.

Kostecki led the design, building and installation of new storage cubbies and a sign with hand-cut wooden letters for the after-school program at Glorietta Elementary School. Kostecki is a freshman at California State University Channel Islands and the

son of Vaune and Jeff Kostecki.

Pease constructed 20 adobe brick molds to replace ones that had rotted at Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Orinda students will make adobe bricks using the molds during Pioneer Days. Pease is a freshman at Diablo Valley College and the son of Vicky and Walter Pease.

Peterson's project entailed constructing a shade structure in a horse arena at Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center in Orinda, allowing the therapy horses to rest out of the sunshine. Peterson is a senior at Miramonte and the son of Cynthia and Gary Peterson.

Przekop completed a landscaping project for Saint Monica's church that included clearing a weed-infested, grassy area, installing drip irrigation, wood chips and drought-resistant plants and relocating a marble statue of Saint Francis. Przekop is a senior at Miramonte and the son of Pat and Michael Przekop.

Rein completed a bat house at the San Pablo Reservoir. He built two large bat houses out of recycled cedar planks and installed them at the reservoir to restore a safe habitat for the bats. Rein is a senior at Miramonte and the son of Julie and Brian Rein.

Tennant added stations to the sensory riding trail at Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center. He created two new stations and reconfigured a third, and completed upgrades to trail landscaping. Tennant is a

[SEE SCOUTS page 12]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Troop 57's Newest Eagle Scouts (left to right): **Steven Rein, Matthew Przekop, Robbie Tennant, Kevin Pease, Zach Peterson, Kyle Finger, Sean Kostecki and Max Fleming.**

Eagle Scout's Project Helps Children with Missing Limbs

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Looking for a unique project to earn his Eagle Scout award, Miramonte High School junior Caidan Anderson found a good one. The enterprising 17-year-old member of Orinda Troop 303 partnered with Enable Community Foundation to assemble 3D printed prosthetic hands, which the foundation then donates to those in need.

The usual cost of a prosthetic hand can be upwards of \$10,000, while a 3D printed hand costs about \$50 to print and \$20 to assemble. For families with children who grow and need replacement limbs, the process relieves them of a huge financial burden.

[SEE ANDERSON page 12]



PATTY ANDERSON

Caidan Anderson shows two of the 3D prosthetic hands he assembled for children missing limbs as his Eagle Scout project.



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SCHOOL CALENDAR

Note that Orinda schools will be closed May 29 for Memorial Day.

- 8 **Board Meeting**, Orinda Union School District, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Visit www.orindaschools.org.
- Del Rie Low Golf Classic** fundraiser for Del Rey, Glorietta and Sleepy Hollow, Moraga Country Club, 12 p.m. Email al_eames@hotmail.com
- 10 **Parent End-of-Year Potluck**, Holden High School, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda 6:30 p.m.
- 12-13 **Glorietta Elementary School**, 15 Martha Road, presents its spring musical, *Mulan Jr.*, based on Disney's Oscar-nominated film. Performances are on May 12 at 4 and 7 p.m. and May 13 at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets (all reserved seating) will be available in advance at www.showtix4u.com. Tickets may also be available at the door.
- 17 **Orinda Union High School** Governing Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- 17-20 **Spring Plays**. Four student-written and directed one-act plays, Miramonte High School Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, Visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte> for showtimes.
- 22 **Information Session** for prospective students and families, Holden High School, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda, 6 to 8 p.m.
- 25 **Instrumental Performance**, Miramonte High School Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, 7 p.m. Visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte>.

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




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SHOP LOCAL

Why Shop Local for Mother's Day?

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as a national holiday to honor mothers. Orinda merchants, anticipating that holiday, suggest shopping locally. Shopping Orinda gives you a chance to slow down, save travel time and parking hassles elsewhere and mingle with locals. A recent impromptu question asked of Orinda moms, "What would you like most for Mother's Day?" One response was, "I'd like three days off or a cruise somewhere." Another said, "Tickets to Cal Shakes or any music I really love." The third said, "Not things, I've got enough things. But I'd love a massage or a donation to my favorite nonprofit."

To bring it all home, shop Orinda – Theatre Square side or Village Square side – and choose one or more of the following as a perfect gifting site and item for Mom (MDD stands for Mother's Day Discount, usually available until 5/14).

Village Square Side:

Core Kinetics – Gift Certificate for Pilates session, 50 Vashell Way, #120, 708-3279, www.corekinetics.com.

Farmers' Market – Sat., May 13: free children's craft gift for Mom - clip flower bookmarks.

Hair 2000 – Gift Certificate for any salon services, 20% MDD, 19 Orinda Way, 254-0990.



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Know a Mom who loves teacups, teapots and drop-dead gorgeous China of all kinds? Then stop by **Orinda Village Antiques** where **Susan Leech** will help you find just the right gift for Mom. Leech also provides "Taking Tea in the English Way" tea parties for local tea lovers. Orinda Village Antiques, at 107 Orinda Way, 925-254-2206, Tues. – Sat., 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Hilton House – brand new hand woven straw hats, jewelry, 10% MDD discount, 21 Orinda Way, #A, 254-1113.

Hollyhock Stationery – cards and free gift wrap on items \$15 and more for every occasion, 220 Village Square, 253-9950.

InForma Integral Fitness – Gift Certificate for yoga lessons, 23A Orinda Way, 254-6877, www.informaorinda.com.

McCaulou's – Beautiful wraps and shawls, clothing galore and more. Free gift wrap on items \$15 and more, 250 Village Square, 254-3448

Natural Life – "Love at First Scent" gift box of essential oils, many types of proteins for Mom's healthy smoothies, 20% MDD discount, 21 Orinda Way #F, 254-0130, www.naturallifefoods.com.

Orinda Beauty Supply – high quality beauty supplies from around the world, 15% MDD, 270 Village Square, 258-9090.

Orinda Books – Ticket to *New York Times* bestselling author Paula Hawkins' book tour for *Into the Water* at Bentley Upper School in Lafayette on May 13, 7-10 p.m. 276 Village Square, 254-7606, www.orindabooks.com.

Orinda Village Antiques - China cups from around the world, 15% MDD for any teacup, 107 Orinda Way, Susan Leech, 254-2206.

Parker Thatch – luxury bags and clutches, also custom made, 15% MDD, 19D Orinda Way, 282-1098, www.parkerthatch.com.

Rainbow Nail Spa – Gift Certificate for mani+pedi or other services, complimentary glass of wine for all Moms in May, 2017, and 10% MDD, 21 Orinda Way #D, 253-1346.

Siam Orchid – Gift Certificate for Thai cuisine and full-service bar, 23 Orinda Way #F, 253-1975.

Theatre Square Side:

Casa Orinda – Complimentary house made chocolate truffles for all Moms on Mother's Day, 20 Bryant Way, 254-2981.

Europa Hof Brau Deli – 8-10 oz. New York steak with sautéed mushrooms on Mother's Day, 64 Moraga Way, 254-7202

Loard's Ice Cream and Candy – locally sourced chocolates and truffles, gift bags for Moms, 230 Brookwood Rd., 254-3434, www.loards.com.

McDonnell Nursery – roses, spring bulbs in bloom, gardeners gifts, festive bow for any Mother's Day gift, 196 Moraga Way, 254-3713.

Morrison's Jewelers – Unique three or four image lockets and twinkling rock crystal pendants from Monica Rich Kosann's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Does your Mom love chocolates? Then stop by **Loard's** to choose from locally sourced chocolates and truffles where you can choose just the ones she likes or a boxed set. Their house-made gift bags for Moms include chocolates, coffee, hand cream and other pampering items with a personalized gift tag. Loard's Ice Cream and Candy, 230 Brookwood Rd., Orinda, 925-254-3434.

latest collection made of gold, silver and combinations, 35 Moraga Way, 253-9227, www.morrisonjewelers.com.

Orinda Florist – Special arrangements on request, fragrant spring bulbs and more, 99 Brookwood Rd., 255-5353.

Salon Elegante – Special for Moms through May 14: haircut, wash, head massage and style, or root touch ups/gray cover up for \$49 (reg. \$80), Gift Certificate available, 43 Moraga Way (upstairs) #204, 258-4247.

Taverna Pellegrini – Special menu and live music May 14 for "La Bella Mama," 65 Moraga Way, 258-4200.

2 Theatre Square:

Bamboo Spa – Mother's Day GC available for different levels of mani+pedi and waxing, complimentary glass of wine and chocolate, #114, 386-0734.

Cine Cuvée – Gift Mom with a glass of wine on Mother's Day and her second pour is on the house, #103, 386-0125.

Lava Pit – Gift Certificate available, free beverage with any meal on Mother's Day, #142, 253-1338.

Orinda Theatre – Complimentary small popcorn for all Moms on Mother's Day, 4 Orinda Theatre Square, 254-9065.

Piccolo Napoli – Complimentary blood orange Margarita for Moms on Mother's Day, #144, 253-1225.

Republic of Cake – Mother's Day Special surprise cupcake, #151, 254-3900.

Sanvitalia – Cut flowers, orchids and plantable succulents that can go in the garden, lotions, #110, 258-6900, www.sanvitaliahomeandgarden.com.

Wild Magnolia – Live music on Mother's Day, special brunch menu and a small gift to celebrate every Mom, #153, 254-0124, online reservation at www.wildmagnoliaorinda.com

Other:

Cal Shakes – tickets to any one of four 2017 season plays, 510-548-9666, www.calshakes.org.

Cruise Adventures Unlimited – How about a cruise with Oprah? It's a "Share the Adventure" cruise to Alaska, RT from Seattle from Jul. 15-22, 2017. Call 935-7447 or visit www.cautravel.com.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Orinda Ballet Presents *Coppelia*

Under the direction of Patricia Tomlinson, The Orinda Ballet Academy and Company presents a comedy ballet for the entire family. *Coppelia and the Magic Toy Shoppe* tells of an eccentric toy maker, a beautiful girl named Coppelia and a very resourceful young woman.

Performances take place May 19 at 6:30 p.m., May 20 at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. and May 21 at 1:30 p.m. at the Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way, in Orinda. Call 925-254-2445 or go to www.orindaballetacademy.com for more information.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Helen Casendino plays Swanhilda in Orinda Ballet's production of *Coppelia and the Magic Toy Shoppe*.

Orinda Starlight Village Players Welcome Volunteers

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

This year marks the Orinda Starlight Village Players' 34th year performing at the Orinda Community Center Amphitheater. The company stages three productions during the summer months each year. This all-volunteer organization is always on the lookout for people interested in learning about theater who want to help put on shows.

Volunteers involved with the group include Orindans Patricia Bolich, Dan Phillips and Betsy White. Bolich started volunteering during the 2015 season after seeing the final production of 2014, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*. Phillips moved back to Orinda and started volunteering with the group during the 2014 season. White joined the group in 2012, acting in the company's production of *Room Service*.

Bolich returns every year because of "the fun, friendly, creative people." She enjoys being able to do something for the community and see live theater. Phillips added, "The troupe is hands on and everybody in. I have gotten opportunities to do tech behind the scenes and help with stage setups as well as make props." White said, "I love the fact that there is live theater performed in the town I live in every year. 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!"

Phillips has worked on every Starlight Village Players' production since he joined. "The group is friendly and helpful. I found I liked performing in front of and behind the curtain. This keeps me coming back. I have gotten experience on-stage, performing roles in shows with experienced performers

[SEE STARLIGHT page 18]

All The World's A Stage (Cal Shakes)

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

"All the world's a stage," at the Bruns Amphitheater as California Shakespeare Theater opens its 26th season on May 24 with William Shakespeare's comedy *As You Like It*. It runs through June 18.

Desdemona Chiang, well known to Oregon Shakespeare and Seattle Rep audiences, makes her Cal Shakes directorial debut with Shakespeare's gender-bending comedy of love and transformation which juxtaposes the worlds of the royal court with a pastoral forest, while highlighting the journeys taken in search of home and family.

In *As You Like It*, Rosalind (Jessika D. Williams), the daughter of banished Duke Senior (James Carpenter), is raised in the court of her uncle, the usurper Duke Frederick (Carpenter). Rosalind befriends her cousin Celia (Maryssa Wanlass) and falls in love with Orlando (Patrick Russell). When Frederick exiles Rosalind as well, she disguises herself as a boy, and she and Celia escape with the help of the jester Touchstone (Warren David Keith) to travel through the Forest of Arden in search of her father.

According to Artistic Director Eric Ting, who enters his sophomore year leading the company, *As You Like It*, like the other works in Cal Shakes season, explores what being "'classic' means in the 21st century." Ting said the company continues to ask itself "How can we interact, engage with, and enrich a plurality of perspectives using these old stories as a foundation for contemporary discourse?"

Ting adds, "Our passion is to take our core offering - the art on our stage - and transform it into an instrument for social impact. We are putting community at the heart of everything we do and how we do it. Whether through the casting of a production or the extraordinary humanity expressed through our story circles, civic dialogues, and classroom residencies, we are pursuing a culture of participation that values authentic discourse around the work we make and allows everyone - everyone

- to see themselves in the stories we tell."

Cal Shakes will feature a variety of events associated with its performances of *As You Like It* including: First Look (Saturday, May 20, 7 p.m.); Family Shakespeare Matinee (2 p.m., June 17); Open-captioned Performance (May 31); Meet the Artists Matinee (4 p.m., May 28 and June 11); InSight Matinee (4 p.m., June 4); Post Show Talkbacks (May 30, June 1, June 7); and Grove Talks (held 45 minutes prior to curtain).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Desdemona Chiang makes her Cal Shakes directorial debut with *As You Like It*.

As You Like It runs May 24 - June 18 at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, 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 17 at 2 p.m. The Bruns Amphitheater is located at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. The grounds open two hours before curtain and the theater offers free shuttle service from the Orinda BART station (beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain) as well as free onsite parking. For more information or to charge tickets (which are \$31 to \$89) by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666. Additional information and online ticketing are available at www.calshakes.org.

◆ ANDERSON from page 10

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Anderson trained three fellow junior friends to assemble 3D printed, wrist-driven prosthetic hands. He then hosted an open house where 10 more people showed up, and together they assembled 10 hands to donate to children in need through the Enable Community Foundation.

An added benefit to the 3D prosthetics is that they can be printed in a variety of colors or themes - even a super hero.

◆ SCOUTS from page 10

senior at Miramonte and the son of Laurie and Steve Tennant.

These young men join less than four percent of all Scouts who achieve Eagle rank. In Troop 57's 55-year history, 151 have become Eagle Scouts. For more information, visit www.orindatroup57.com.

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If you want show info or to enter a car or motorcycle go to www.OrindaCarShow.com

VISUAL ARTS

Library Gallery: *Plein Air* Extraordinaire

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) invites the public to an all-*plein air* painting exhibit that can be seen throughout the month of May at the Orinda Library Art Gallery. *Plein air* paintings are always done on site in the open air. Fifty *plein air* paintings created by members of the intrepid Glover Group in their many forays into the lush California countryside will be on view.

Also on view, by special arrangement, are 13 original *plein air* works by the late Pam Glover (1924-2010). Famous for her bold brushwork and Impressionist use of rich layers of oil in brilliant tones, Glover taught painting for 25 years through the Orinda Community Center.

The 20-plus Glover Group members are all former students of Glover, who championed painting outdoors. Glover passed down *plein air* methods to her students originally taught to her by members of the Society of Six (1915-1930) and their followers who painted here in the East Bay. Although development often intrudes on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pam Glover's 20" x 24" oil painting *Near St. Helena* will be displayed at the Orinda Library Art Gallery.

open space, the Glover Group seeks out painting locations with an emphasis on the more remote open areas so as to record and enjoy the natural environment of the Bay Area.

Dana Beebe and Maria SantoStefano, who organized The Glover Group exhibit, note, "We still meet outdoors on a routine basis and enjoy painting together." Look for *Harvest Time* by SantoStefano, a 12" x 12" oil on canvas and *Reynolds Family Winery* by Beebe, a 16" x 20" oil on canvas, both of which capture the verdant California

countryside known and loved by many.

Of the 20-plus members in the group, 15 are showing work in this exhibit: Maureen Angelo of Moraga, Flora Baumann of Walnut Creek, Dana Beebe of Alamo, Sylvia Fones of Piedmont, Therese Gordon Gladstone of Orinda, Susan Kendall of Sonoma, Janet Mardirosian of Concord, Margaret Mason of Moraga, Irene McDonough of Berkeley, Edward Phillips of Oakland, Iris Sabre of Albany, Maria SantoStefano of Orinda, Mary Spain of Orinda, Marie Claire Stotler of Walnut Creek and Taki Tu of Orinda. For more about The Glover Group, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/theglovergroup>.

You can visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on May 14 and May 28-29. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

Pam Glover's Artwork
For Sale at Exhibition

Thirteen of Pam Glover's original oil paintings are displayed at the Orinda Library Art Gallery during May. Obtained by special arrangement between the LAC, Anne Marie Glover Ehrentraut and Janine Glover Ehrentraut, the paintings are located in the small glass cabinet.

Known as one of the foremost *plein air* painters in California, Pam Glover was one of the founders of the painting group "The Outsiders." Her richly hued landscapes, with their bold brushstrokes and pops of rectangular color, are instantly recognizable.

The original displayed works, as well as prints, can be purchased through the LAC by contacting Maggie Boscoe, Orinda Art Gallery Curator, at galler@lamorindaarts.org. For information on Glover, go to www.pamglover.com.

– Elana O'Loskey, Staff Writer

VAC Awards Draw Big Crowd

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

When the Lamorinda Arts Council planned the 2017 awards reception at the Orinda Library Art Gallery, it decided to change one major thing, the time. Since most teens have multiple commitments in the afternoon, the council opted to begin the

event at 7 p.m. to make it easier for them to attend. On March 8, over 200 teens, their friends, families and teachers applauded as award winners' names were announced and they received award certificates.

While viewing artwork, the crowd enjoyed refreshments and tunes from the Campolindo Jazz Quartet. High school students living in or attending public or private schools in Lafayette, Moraga or Orinda and students in the Acalanes Union High School District who won prizes received a total of \$2400 in three categories – 2D, 3D and photography and digital design. Winners of the 14th Visual Arts Competition are listed below.

Best of Show: *Untitled* by Abby Lapporte, Acalanes 10th grade.

2D Awards: First Place, *Cara* by Anastasia Leones, Acalanes, 11th Grade; Second Place, *Fractured Hawaiian Sea Turtle* by Nicole Edwards, Acalanes, 10th Grade; Third Place *Untitled* by Jadey Sadoff,
[SEE VAC page 18]



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Aiden McBride, 11th grader from Miramonte, won First Place in the 3D category with his entry *Fish* at the 14th Annual Visual Arts Competition Awards.

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Artistic Director, Patricia Tomlinson

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Additional Information: OrindaBalletAcademy.com
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◆ CAR TIME from page 6

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John Vanek can be reached at john@orindamotors.com.

◆ BOOKS from page 7

moving from Bengal to Massachusetts. Two titles that are still book club favorites.

In this current political climate where immigration is such a hotly contentious issue, we need literature like this. When we open the pages of any book, we are transported to another time and place and, hopefully, through the skill of the author we see the world through another person's eyes. As a result, our own experiences are often enriched and our outlook broadened. Books such as these are also an important reminder that the arts both mirror what is important in society today and, more importantly, record that history for future generations.

I can't finish this article without mentioning an author event we are incredibly excited to be a part of. On Saturday, May 13, at 7pm at the Bentley School in Lafayette, Orinda Books, in partnership with Rakestraw Books, will be hosting international bestselling author Paula Hawkins. Her novel *Girl on the Train* was a phenomenal success (we sold over 200 copies at the store!) and resulted in an equally successful movie of the same name. The reviews of her second novel *Into the Water* are equally impressive. Tickets are \$40 and include a signed copy of the book. Buy tickets online at orindabooks.com or Eventbrite.

◆ JEDENOFF from page 9

constructive activity is a source of comfort and happiness – as is doing something good for others. Above all, stay positive and be grateful for all the blessings given to us.

"The anticipation of being able to ski is my motivator for staying in shape and maintaining my daily exercise program." He is faithful to working out each morning on equipment that was given to him by those who didn't use it. "Is there a lesson in this?" he quips.

So, we say to George Jedenoff, our local inspiration, "Keep it up Jedenoff. Your friends and family hope that there is snow at Alta and Snowbird on July 6 for your 100th birthday celebration."

Chamber Hosts "Wine & Dine" Restaurant Tour May 2

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Orinda Chamber of Commerce has a super-charged restaurant tour in store this year with additional restaurants participating, more entertainment and even a complimentary glass of wine from the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association. Titled "Wine & Dine," this year's tour takes place May 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

"We'll begin the tour in the Pacific Union parking lot on Moraga Way," says Chamber Executive Director Sophie Braccini. "People will receive a complimentary glass of wine when they check in, and they can begin their tour with the Village restaurants that will be set up in the registration area," she added.

"We have participated in the restaurant tour every year, and we really enjoy

it," says Carlos Rangel, co-owner of Shelby's Restaurant in Theatre Square. Rangel, who along with co-owner/chef Arno Kober, just celebrated 12 years of operation. "We usually serve one of our popular dishes such as crab cakes, grilled Caesar salad and calamari. The event brings more people into Theatre Square, and it becomes one big block party," Rangel adds.

"I must admit I hadn't been to the restaurant tour before last year," says Laura McDowell, Orinda resident and member of What's Up Downtown Orinda. "We weren't really excited about going at first but then we got there, and it was so much fun. We texted the others from What's Up and told them what they were missing out on. This year, we're all going!"

For a list of participating restaurants and to purchase tickets, priced at \$40, go to www.orindachamber.org.



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MAUREEN WILBUR



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This is the one time the seller and seller's realtor will most likely get a copy of the appraisal. Ordinarily, the appraisal is the sole property of the buyer, and the seller does not find out the amount for which the property appraised. But in this case, the buyer's agent may share the 'bad news' to either negotiate a price reduction for the buyer and/or enlist the listing agent's assistance in solving the problem.

If the seller will not reduce the purchase price, there are four things a buyer can do: 1) Put more money towards the down payment to make up the difference in the appraisal and the purchase price; 2) Cancel the purchase; 3) Ask your realtor to rebut the appraisal; 4) Get another lender who will order a new appraisal. Option 4 has a

'timing' problem. Getting another lender on board takes time, and the seller may not grant the buyer additional time for a loan approval.

When writing an appraisal rebuttal, keep it non-confrontational and only address the facts of the appraisal in the current market. If the realtor knows the inventory well, that professional may know of better comparables that should have been included in the appraisal or may know of significant material facts affecting the used comparables' values. The comparable properties the appraiser used and their weighted value can be challenged with significant material facts, such as excessive traffic or road noise, dry rotted balconies or drainage problems. The realtor can list the material facts he knows regarding the comparable(s) used in the appraisal report and indicate why these facts should be considered in the appraisal report.

The better comparable(s) the realtor finds can be listed with reasons why they should have been used instead of the one(s) the appraiser used.

Lastly, keep the rebuttal to one page with attached supporting document(s). The rebuttal will be forwarded to the buyer's lender. The lender will forward to the appraisal company for review. The

[SEE REAL ESTATE page 16]



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CALENDAR / FORUM

ON THE CALENDAR

May

- 1 **Orinda Library Art Gallery** presents a *plein air* exhibit and oil paintings by The Glover Group and the late Pam Glover. Open during regular library hours. See articles page 13.
- 2 **Wine and Dine Tour**, sponsored by Orinda Chamber of Commerce, features restaurant hopping at participating eateries, entertainment and a complimentary glass of wine from Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets, \$40, can be purchased at www.orindachamber.org. See article page 14.
- 4 **Orinda Books** hosts author Melanie Salvatore-August discussing her book *Fierce Kindness: Be a Positive Force for Change*, 276 Village Square, 6 p.m.
Story Hour with Cathy Goshorn for children 2 to 4 years, with reading, songs and games, every Thursday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m.
- 5 **First Friday Forum** features Jill West talking on "Nutrition and the Media – Separating Facts and Fiction," at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, 1:30 p.m. Refreshments served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall prior to the presentation. Call 925-283-8722. See article this page.
Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser Fiesta, sponsored by SEEDS (supporting special needs children), Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Dinner, margaritas, music, silent auction. Tickets \$45. Free childcare.
- 6 **MOFD Spring Open House**, Meet Smokey and Sparkey and learn about fire and heart safety, Station 45, 33 Orinda Way, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Go to www.mofd.org.
- 7 **JF Kapnek Fun Run** benefiting Zimbabwe children, Miramonte High School, 9 a.m. Go to www.jfkapnektrust.org. See article page 1.
- 11 **Tea in the Garden Tour** sponsored by Orinda Garden Club, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Melanie Snow at 925-360-0344 for tickets and information.
Orinda Books hosts a luncheon with author Laura McBride, celebrating the publication of *Round Midnight*, 11:30 a.m. \$10. For reservations call 925-254-7606.
Free Movie Night at Orinda Theatre, 7 p.m., features *Bonnie & Clyde* with Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway. Free movies are screened every second Thursday. Visit <http://lamorindatheatres.com/>.
- 13 **Orinda Books and Rakestraw Books** present An Evening with Paula Hawkins introducing *Into the Water*, at Bentley School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Road, Lafayette, 7 p.m. Tickets \$40 (includes copy of the book) at Eventbrite.
- 16 **The World Affairs Book Group** will read and discuss *The True Believer* by Eric Hoffer, 3 p.m. The group meets bi-monthly at Orinda Books and welcomes new members.
- 18 **Orinda Books** hosts Mark Lukach discussing his book, *My Lovely Wife in the Psych Ward*, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 **International Film Showcase** presents *Truman* for a one-week engagement in May. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com for dates and show times.
- 20 **"Coach Dell" Retirement Party**, Vince Dell' Aquila, Miramonte Athletic Director, Varsity Baseball Coach and Football Assistant Coach is retiring after 20 years. BBQ lunch, Miramonte Football Field, 11 a.m. Email 4mcgons@gmail.com.
Orinda Books hosts Sisters-in-Crime Janet Dawson and Kirsten Weiss discussing their latest mysteries, *Water Signs* (Dawson) and *Pressed to Death* (Weiss), 3 p.m.
- 21 **Lunch with author Kate Moore** discussing *Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women*, Orinda Books, 1 p.m. \$10.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Note that the library is closed May 14 for Mother's Day and May 28 and 29 for Memorial Day. For information, call 925-254-2184 or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

- 2 **Toddler Lapsit**. Songs and stories for babies, toddlers (0-5) and their caregivers, 10 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop in to any Lapsit, attendance is limited to once per week. Also May 3, 9 and 10.
Peek-a-Boo Time. Rhymes and rhythms for infants and pre-walkers (16 months) and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 a.m. Families with older siblings are welcome. Also May 18 and 25.
- 4 **English as a Second Language Conversation Circle**. Volunteer teachers lead informal group discussions, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Pre-registration not required. Also May 11, 18 and 25.
Meditate for Stress Reduction. Marshall Zaslove, psychiatrist, author and meditation practitioner for over 40 years, will offer simple, effective techniques and demonstrate the most practical methods of controlling and becalming the mind for better meditations and other health benefits. Orinda Library Garden Room, 1 to 3 p.m.
- 5 **Teen Coloring Club**. Join Orinda Library Teen Advisory Group (TAG) to de-stress, relax and have fun. The library provides age-appropriate coloring books and colored pencils; teens provide inspiration and creativity. Free and open to all teens, 4 to 5 p.m. Also May 19 and 26.
- 12 **Teen Advisory Group (TAG)**. TAG advises library on how to improve services for teens, Group Study Room A, 4 to 5 p.m. High school students welcome.
- 16 **Orinda Library Writers Group**. Meets in a supportive environment to motivate, critique and inspire one another. Share two pages of writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Also May 30.
- 19 **Mystery Book Club**. Meets every third Friday to discuss the mystery of the month, Study Room A, 3 to 4:30 p.m. This month's selection is *To Dwell in Darkness* by Deborah Crombie. Adult program.
- 25 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**. Storytelling for adults with a featured storyteller, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Gallery Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call

Nutritionist Talks on Food Facts and Fiction at First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

"Nutrition and the Media – Separating Facts and Fiction" is the title of Jill West's presentation at First Friday Forum on May 5, at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. West is a registered dietitian, nutritionist and certified health coach.

"There is so much information and misinformation on the Internet and in the media today that it's difficult to know what to believe," West says. "Is butter best? Should eggs be limited? Is coconut milk healthier than dairy milk? The volume of research in the field of nutrition has expanded tremendously in the last 15 years. Based on current research I will present information to help separate nutrition facts from fiction and also highlight foods that promote healthy aging."

West graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelor of science in nutritional sciences and completed her dietetic



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jill West will speak on "Nutrition and the Media" at the May First Friday Forum.

internship at UCSF Medical Center. She has worked for several major hospitals, including UCSF Medical Center, Joslin Diabetes Center and UC Davis Medical Center.

A nutrition consultant with a private practice in Lafayette, she works with women, teens and families to help them

[SEE FORUM page 17]

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. Visit the website for weekly topics. May 5 speaker is robotics educator Nancy McIntyre.

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. May features the Spring Luncheon with chef Charles Vollmer and Rosemary Loveall of Morningsun Herb Farm providing fresh herbs, a talk on herbs and herbs for sale.

Orinda Junior Women's Club community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.

Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.lamorindasunrise.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Orinda Teen Advisory Council. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.

Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or www.orindawomansclub.org.

CITY/FIRE DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

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



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FILM



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

BUDDY MOVIES AND MORE



Tom Westlake

Nowadays, we call them buddy pictures. Y'know, the movies that have two disparate (and sometimes desperate) people getting together, going through some conflict only later to find out that they're more alike than they initially thought and, finally, realizing that they were meant for each other. Some take the form of a bro-mance while others adhere to a more conventional romantic theme. During the course of this month, we have three films that explore nearly every aspect of friendship, the first of which nearly covers it all.

Bonnie & Clyde (1967), starring those future Oscar presenters (Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway), play a pair of wacky (albeit larcenous and homicidal) outlaws on the run in this landmark film directed by Arthur Penn. Released one year before *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, this was one of the first films of that era to actually glorify the criminal class. Most films before this made certain to drive home the point that crime doesn't pay, portraying those ne'er-do-wells as sorry losers or, at the very least, poor unfortunates who were driven to a life of crime due to adverse circumstances. To be sure – and I don't think I'll be giving anything away by saying this – things don't come out well here, either, but one can't deny the fun they had while getting there. Highlights include a memorable musical score as well as an appearance by a very young Gene Hackman and Gene Wilder. Like all films in the Classic Film Showcase, admission is a steal at \$0.00 and will screen on May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre.

Next, we have (hopefully) the Moraga Movers proudly presenting *The Maltese*

◆ FORUM from page 15

make lasting changes to improve their health, manage their weight, and increase their energy. She writes a column for *Bay Area Parent* magazine, titled "Just Try It" and is the author of the book *400 Moms*. She is currently the president of the Mt. Diablo Business Women and a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Guests are invited to meet for refreshments at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is a free event. For more information call 925-283-8722

Falcon. This is the very definition of hard boiled, from the central character (Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade) to the corrupt boss and his henchmen (Sidney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre and Elisha Cook, Jr., respectively) and the dame – let's not forget the dame (Mary Astor), nor should we overlook where the film takes place: San Francisco. (Fun fact: Sam Spade's office, or more precisely the building it's in, still exists. I used to work in it. It's right next to the Crocker Galleria. If you go to the ground level, you can find a wall frieze with quite a lot of information, should you wish to learn more.) At any rate, this particular stuff of dreams will be showing at the Rheem on May 17 at 2 p.m.

The International Film Showcase brings us our final "friendly" film. It explores the inevitability that all friendships must eventually succumb to. *Truman* is the tale of two distant friends, Julien and Tomas who get together for one final time, but don't expect the usual handkerchief wringing exercise in Maudlin-Ville. This film takes on a far more realistic, almost pragmatic view of death and though there is some sentimentality, it's tempered by a more realistic approach to the final end. (That the title is actually the name of a dog should be a clue as to where this film is coming from.) It will have a one-week engagement at the Orinda Theatre starting on May 19 at 7 p.m.

Now, for something new. It was suggested that I talk about films that should garner attention, but don't, and in this politically charged time, the first film that came immediately to mind was *Cabaret*. This, I realize, might be an odd choice, what with other films that deal with similar themes (*Schindler's List*, *Life is Beautiful*) but *Cabaret*, I feel, approaches the subject from a more human standpoint, almost peripherally, and it doesn't hurt that the music, direction, cinematography and, most importantly, the performances from Liza Minnelli, Michael York and Joel Grey (who won an Oscar) are all stellar. Go ahead and rent this film and tell me that there aren't parallels to our modern age.

So that's it for May and although the above films may not be "merry" per se, they are all worth your while. Until then, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

Local Filmmakers Show Documentaries

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) will host its Second Annual ShortDocs Film Fest at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on May 7 at 3 p.m. This documentary film festival provides local filmmakers of all ages an opportunity to create new work as well as showcase it at a community screening.

"Last year's festival was inspiring, featuring movies from first-time filmmakers and veterans alike," said Meredith Friedman, festival founder and managing director of LAC. "I feel privileged to offer artists another opportunity to share stories through film."

The competition is open to anyone five years of age or older who is living, working or attending school in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga. Film submissions will be judged in one of four categories: elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult.

Last year's Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest judges - filmmaker Julie Rubio (*East Side Sushi*, *Too Perfect*) and TV Producer Joel Patterson (*Pawn Stars*, *The Unknown Flag Raiser of Iwo Jima*) - will be returning



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jack Nixon, winner of the Elementary School category at last year's film festival, with judge and Orinda's award-winning film producer Julie Rubio.

for this year's festival and will be joined by Greg Fulcher (1013 Media Production) and Los Angeles-based director/producer Jonathan Karsh (Lionsgate TV, Shiny Objects Entertainment).


To learn more about the Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest competition and to enter, go to www.lamorindaarts.org/shortdocs.



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STUDENTS / FARMERS' MARKET

Orinda Odyssey Teams Win State, Off to World Finals

The Orinda Rotary's Division III team and Glorietta's Division I team competed among 190 teams at the Odyssey of the Mind State Finals and won their respective divisions to represent California in the World Finals at Michigan State University, where over 800 teams will compete May 24-27.

The Orinda Rotary team of *Sarah Inouye, Finn Jordan, Sullivan Jordan, Caroline Kim, Amy O'Connor and Stephanie Wu* finished first overall in the structure problem by building a balsa wood structure that held over 707 pounds in weight.

The Glorietta team of *Lauren Angsupanich, Karishma Caro, Tiago Jordan, Sophia Kan, Claire O'Connor, Dylan Tung and Zoe Zimmerman* took first place in solving the vehicle problem by constructing vehicles that undergo transformations to avoid being followed to a secret meeting place.

◆ VAC from page 13

Acalanes, 12th Grade; Honorable Mentions: *girl*. by Elle Hoarau, Acalanes, 11th Grade; *Homeless* by Ana Bernardo, Campolindo, 12th Grade; *Cupcakes* by Grace Schmidt, Campolindo, 11th Grade; and *Will to Power* by Aidan McBride, Miramonte, 11th Grade.

3D Awards: – First Place, *Fish* by Aidan McBride, Miramonte, 11th Grade; Second Place *Full Metal Alchemist* by Nathan Shin, Las Lomas, 11th Grade; Third Place *Humans* by Zoë Venable, Miramonte, 11th Grade; Honorable Mentions: *Light as a Feather* by April Lindblad, Campolindo, 9th Grade; *A Cardboard Fist* by Justin Li, Las Lomas, 9th Grade; *Coil Vessel* by Charlotte Ensley, Acalanes, 12th Grade; and *Midnight* by Dana Chan, Miramonte, 12th Grade.

Photography and Digital Design Awards: First Place, *Untitled* by Maya Jenn, Campolindo, 11th Grade; Second Place, *Untitled* by Isabel Owens, Cam-

polindo, 12th Grade; Third Place *Solitary* by Isobel Whitehead, Acalanes, 11th Grade; Honorable Mentions: *Untitled* by Emilie Naughten, Campolindo, 12th Grade; *Untitled* by Vincent Ho, Campolindo, 12th Grade; *Poking the Bubble* by Henry Braff, Bentley Upper School, 11th Grade; and *Dancing Through Life* by Nell Kessenich, Acalanes, 10th Grade.

Denise Nomura, chair of the event, is grateful that art teachers from Acalanes, Bentley, Campolindo, Holden, Las Lomas, Miramonte and Orinda Academy schools inspired and guided their students to participate. Local artists who volunteered as judges included Lois Mead, Maya Kobashigawa, Lisa Gunn, Lara Dutto, Lynne Meade, Bill Carmel, Lucy Beck, Stephen Busch and Karen Drinkwater. Sponsors who made the event possible included the Educational Foundation of Orinda, Lafayette Partners in Education and the Moraga Educational Foundation. For more information, visit www.lamorindaarts.org.



Seasoned Shopper
May Market
BARBARA KOBSAR

May promises more fresh, local produce at the Orinda Farmers' Market. It's the month to get excited about tasty asparagus, spring onions, juicy strawberries, sweet cherries and delectable fava beans.

Asparagus is considered a short-season crop that will disappear before you know it. Enjoy local bunches of this hand-cut vegetable as soon as possible after purchase to guarantee the best flavor or, if necessary, wrap stalks in a damp paper towel and place in the refrigerator for two or three days. Two all-important qualities to look for when choosing asparagus are the condition of the tips and the color of the spear – tips should be dry, firm, purplish and tightly closed and the majority of the spear should be a bright green color. Thickness of the stalk is a matter of personal preference (but I think the thicker, juicier ones are best).

Mild spring onions are harvested before the bulb has a chance to swell. Both the greens and bulb are edible and ideal candidates to toss on the grill or roast whole.

Red, ripe strawberries just keep getting better as the months go by. Talk to your favorite grower at the strawberry stand to find the one that best suits your taste – the varieties change over the season. If you need to store the berries for a few days, place the unwashed berries in a single layer between paper towels. Place in a moisture-proof container and refrigerate. Wash, just before serving.

Sweet cherries usher in the beginning of the stone fruit season. Early varieties like Burlats, Brooks and Coral Champagne tempt us with good cherry flavor. Dark, flavorful Bings remain a favorite with market shoppers while others look for the light-skinned Rainier cherries. Cherries do not ripen or improve in flavor after harvest so choose the largest cherries that are firm and deeply colored for their variety. Those with fresh stems still attached are best quality and store the longest.

Most often found in the fresh-shell stage, fava beans can actually be eaten during other stages of their development – tender greens, young pods and dried. Choose fava pods that are moist, feel firm and look full without bulging.

The Orinda Farmer's 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.org or the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

Spring Greens with Fresh Cherries, Goat Cheese & Almonds

5 cups mixed spring greens (arugula, baby spinach, escarole)
One-quarter cup thinly sliced red onion
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
Salt & freshly ground black pepper to taste

1 cup pitted fresh cherries
One-quarter cup crumbled goat cheese
One-quarter cup roasted almonds
Combine greens and onion in a large bowl. Whisk together oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper in a medium bowl. Drizzle dressing over salad and toss gently. Divide salad equally on four salad plates. Top each serving with equal parts cherries, cheese and nuts. Makes four servings.

◆ STARLIGHT from page 12

that I could learn about the craft." White has acted in several shows, as well as helping behind the scenes and volunteering with the box office. "Audiences love us and look forward to coming back year after year. Nothing compares to live theatre as far as being able to raise the tone of a community. Besides that it's fun!"

As longtime Starlight Village player Susan Chapple said, "it's a good excuse to hang out with your friends in the park for the summer."

Orinda Starlight Village Players' 34th season starts with Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest*, running Fridays and Saturdays, June 2 through July 1, with a Sunday matinee on June 25 and a Thursday performance on June 29. The second production is Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of *L. Frank Baum's Wizard of Oz*, running Friday and Saturday nights July 21 through Aug. 12, with a Thursday performance on Aug. 10 and Sunday matinees on July 30 and Aug. 6. The final production of the summer is Robert Merrill's *Five-Door Farce*, which runs Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 1 through 30.

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



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 20

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Parker Thatch For Special Gifts Bearing Personal Expressions

Originally established in 2002 under the name iomoi by husband-and-wife team Matthew Grenby and Irene Chen, this successful charming boutique underwent a name change to Parker Thatch. Fortunately for Orindans, they opened a neighborhood shop conveniently located at 19 Orinda Way between Village Pizza and Hilton House Consign & Design.



COOPER CARRAS

Irene Chen, Matthew Grenby

You will find Parker Thatch designs at high-end stores including Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Lord & Taylor and Bobbi Brown, but you do not even have to leave Orinda to procure their original, customized creations. This is the place to find a gift for the people in your life who have everything.

There are a myriad of ways to personalize accessories, from monograms to favorite quotes. Any bag or accessory may be inscribed with your own special statement, creating a very thoughtful gift for Mother's Day. If you are not feeling particularly inspired, there are excellent ideas for inscriptions here. All artwork is hand drawn by Matthew Grenby, with Irene Chen overseeing color coordination. "We enjoy collaborating and have been blessed to work with talented individuals, including partnering with Gwyneth Paltrow and Goop for several years," says Grenby.

Many affordable options available for Mother's Day range from customized hand bags, duffel or tennis bags, paperweights, stationary, coasters – even a personalized notebook or sleep mask for Mom. Sample bins feature items at \$10, an excellent bargain. "We enjoy using humor and imagination to spread a little kindness that can be enjoyed everyday," says Chen.

"Our business is all about the designs that Matthew does here. Coming into the store has the added advantage that we can get the item to our customer relatively quickly.

We are very happy to help people with last minute gifts," says Chen. "It is a pleasure to work together with clients and provide excellent, prompt customer service," adds Grenby.

Married 13 years, Chen and Grenby have two children, 11 year-old Parker and nine year-old Thatcher, whom the business is named after. They enjoy the Orinda community and appreciate the many regular customers who value their delightful forms of personal expression.

Parker Thatch is open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit the web site at www.parkerthatch.com or call 925-282-1098.

Wild Magnolia in Theatre Square

The dynamic collaborative team of Dianna Davis-Condon, Lisa Karp, Travis Setterbo and Sasha Zukanoff runs the entire operation at Wild Magnolia, offering outstanding dishes made with seasonal and sustainable Bay Area ingredients. Located at the Brookwood Road entrance to Theatre Square, Wild Magnolia features a special Mother's Day Brunch menu along with live music this month.

The embodiment of Davis-Condon's vision of a healthy restaurant, Executive Chef Sasha Zukanoff makes it all happen everyday. "Virtually everything we serve is locally sourced. We procure olive oils and vinegars from Amphora Nueva in Lafayette, Acme Bread, Fra'Mani charcuterie and McLaughlin coffee from Berkeley, and Loard's Ice Cream from across the street," smiles Davis-Condon. The heavy emphasis on local fare extends to live music performed by Orindans, including vocalist Leslie O'Brien and guitarist Terry Miller.

The warm and family friendly atmosphere inside Wild Magnolia is conducive to large gatherings, with comfortable outdoor seating arranged around gas heaters as well as indoor seating. "We serve a very healthy children's menu featuring Petite Filet, Wild Salmon and Grilled Chicken dishes. We do not fry anything here other than the truffle fries and fried chicken," says Lisa Karp, owner and manager of

Let's Put on a Show!

A fun, historical musical talent show needs you, Orinda! Be part of the fundraiser for the 1841 historic Joaquin Moraga Adobe home located above Del Rey Elementary School.

Help the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe save this local treasure for our kids!

All talent – women, men and teens – will be considered at our gathering on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m.

Performances will be at the Yellow House on Moraga Way on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Call 925-254-8260 for more information.

Wild Magnolia.

Davis-Condon is sole proprietor of Dianna Condon Cuisine, an Orinda catering business with clients that include the Golden State Warriors. "The team contacted me for a healthier menu. They enjoy our cauliflower rice with shrimp, zoodles and fresh wild salmon," says Davis-Condon.

Vegetarian options and gluten free dishes are on the menu, as well as sides of Tri Colored Quinoa. "The top seller at lunch is our Wild Magnolia Gumbo, made with cauliflower rice. Zoodles – a concoction of zucchini noodles prepared with olive oil, butter, and choice of parmesan, pesto or marinara sauce - is always a favorite anytime of day," says Davis-Condon. "Our customers rave about the Kale and Quinoa salad, which we often serve with salmon."

The lunch menu features sandwiches and the all-time favorite, Magnolia Burger, made with Wagyu beef and Russian dressing. "We have a customer who raves this is the best burger within 100 miles," smiles Karp.

Offering an extensive wine list and full bar, you will not want to miss the Wild Magnolia Cocktail, recently recognized by Diablo Magazine. Ingredients include mescal, strawberry puree, with lime and pineapple juice. A new spring menu may be viewed on the website, which you will want to check out for the special menu offered



VALERIE HOTZ

Dianna Davis-Condon and Lisa Karp.

for Mother's Day Brunch this year. Karp and Davis-Condon recommend making reservations as soon as possible.

Wild Magnolia is open seven days a week, Monday – Friday, 11:00 a.m. until the last customer leaves, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – again, until the last customer leaves. It is recommended you call ahead for a reservation if you plan on dropping for a dinner after a weekend movie at Orinda Theatre.

For more information about Wild Magnolia and to make reservations, visit the web site at www.wildmagnoliaorinda.com or call 925-254-0124 or bump them an email at info@wildmagnoliaorinda.com.

◆ CASIDA from page 9

metal form so I have to make adjustments," Casida adds.

According to Casida, the metal White works with is the "next step below aircraft quality" so that it will hold its shape for a long time. He first makes a smaller metal version of Casida's art and the two make any further adjustments before creating the full-size work.

Following the fabrication, Casida then works with Richmond Metal Painting supervising the color, which is usually made from a semi-gloss polyurethane paint with a powder pigment.

Casida grew up in a Norwegian farming community in Viroqua, Wisconsin. As a child, she lived in the log cabin her great grandfather had built when he arrived from Norway. Growing up isolated on a remote farm, she began making drawings at the age of three. Encouraged by her parents, Casida developed her talent eventually receiving her B.S. in Art Education from the

University of Wisconsin. She has enjoyed a far-reaching career with her artwork found throughout the Bay Area and in Europe. Casida founded Nordic 5 Arts, an organization for arts of Nordic heritage in the San Francisco Bay Area, in 1993.

"It's marvelous the number of places available today for public work to be displayed and the public spaces in Orinda are quite outstanding," says Casida.

Orinda's Art in Public Places Committee works with artists like Casida to display their loaned art in outdoor settings as well as provide educational workshops hosted by the artists and tours of their studios and workplaces. For more information on the committee and the art around Orinda, go to www.artspaceorinda.org.



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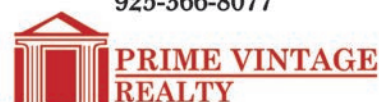
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BUSINESS BUZZ

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Valerie Hotz



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The Bodymind Healing Center

Orinda resident and practicing psychotherapist Dr. Michael Mayer is the director of the Bodymind Healing Center with offices in Orinda and Berkeley. Dr. Mayer is affiliated with quite a few other health-oriented centers: the East Bay Mindfulness Center in Orinda, and the Health Medicine Center in Walnut Creek. He sees patients at his Orinda office at 89 Moraga Way, across from Wells Fargo Bank.



Michael Mayer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After earning his doctorate in humanistic psychology at Saybrook Institute, Mayer went on to pioneer the integration of Qigong into Western mind-body healing. His expertise involves giving his patients effective self-healing methods for their health problems and sharing ancient wisdom practices through Qigong and Tai Chi.

“Qigong cultivates the energy of life through specific movements, allowing us to achieve optimal mental, emotional, and spiritual health. My areas of focus include anxiety, panic and phobias, depression, addictions, chronic pain, life transitions, and trauma,” says Mayer. The River of Life guided meditation practice developed by Mayer teaches how to reduce anxiety, blood pressure, and trauma.

“I am grateful that Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, a preeminent trauma expert, uses my Bodymind healing DVD in his training program for trauma therapists,” adds Mayer. “Both Tai Chi and Qigong combine relaxing and energizing the body at the same time and are incredibly effective for a variety of health issues. I love the opportunity to help people avoid the use of medication when possible by teaching them self-healing practices.

With mothers being the eye of the hurricane, Mayer’s Saturday morning Tai Chi/Qigong class from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. makes the perfect Mother’s Day gift. Classes are small, usually up to eight individuals, allowing for beneficial individual instruction, and are held in the Orinda woodlands. The

Monthly Advertiser Spotlight

Long time *Orinda News* advertiser, Laura Abrams, brings her penchant for quality service and integrity to her job as a realtor.

Specializing in residential real estate, Abrams, who has an MBA, credits her 12 years as an Orinda City Councilmember and two terms as mayor for helping her hone her negotiating skills. “On the City Council, I often had to achieve a balance between competing interests in land use appeals,” says Abrams, who also served on many local and county-wide committees that increased her knowledge of the East Bay, which has served her real estate clients well.

“I work with an amazing group of people that allows me to give my clients a full-service experience,” Abrams explains. “I’m associated with Coldwell Banker, which provides its agents with both professional marketing materials and Internet advantages unique to our organization. Our in-house legal team keeps us up-to-date on important state law requirements that safeguards our clients during transactions.”

Abrams numbers her stager, floor person, painter, cleaners and gardeners among her “amazing group” that allows her to provide full-service to her clients. “Barbara Winters is my stager and she’s fabulous – a wonderful interior designer with two warehouses full of lovely furniture and artwork to make the homes we sell look fantastic,” says Abrams.

The dedicated realtor’s clients couldn’t agree more. “My husband



SALLY HOGARTY

Realtor **Laura Abrams** stands in front of the Orinda Theatre, an historic landmark that she helped preserve when she was co-director of the Friends of the Orinda Theatre.

and I have been clients of Laura since 2002,” says Erron Al-Amin. “On the buy side, she kept us from buying some real lemons and on the sales side, she got our house on the market ahead of schedule with everything perfectly in place. We received multiple offers and may have set a price per square foot record for the neighborhood.”

Abrams believes the idea of becoming a real estate agent seemed like a natural thing to do. Her mother had been a realtor and she grew up helping her. “In those days, we didn’t have the Internet, so I would keep her book of houses for sale, taking out the ones that sold and putting in her new listings.”

For more information on Abrams, go to www.lauraabrams.com.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

American Tai Chi and Qigong Association awarded Master Tai Chi designation to Mayer and he has been bestowed the highest honor of Fellow by the American Association for Integrative Medicine.

In addition to his individual and couples psychotherapy practice, Mayer is an author of six books, including *The Path of a Reluc-*

tant Metaphysician: Stories and Practices for Troubled Times, which received the Ben Franklin Award from the Independent Book Publisher’s Association. You will find all his books on his web site at www.bodymindhealing.com and on Amazon.com.

“I am an advocate for integrative medicine and feel my life has been a golden triangle, involving teaching health professionals, working with patients, and writing books for health professionals,” says Mayer.

“Transformative Practices for Troubled Times” is an on-going class taught by Mayer at 89 Moraga Way in Orinda every Thursday, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The new cycle begins May 18. Space is limited so it is recommended you email Mayer at drmichael@bodymindhealing.com More information about Mayer’s classes is available on the web site.

A longtime Orinda resident, Mayer’s favorite pastime is playing the flute in his backyard after a long day seeing patients. “The children in the neighborhood come over and I teach them how to stand on one leg like a Crane,” he smiles.

[SEE BUZZ page 19]



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