



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Safety Inspections Top Priority for Caldecott's New Fourth Bore



Jet fans are part of the Caldecott Tunnel's state of the art system of fire and life safety. In the far left photo, a 200 horsepower jet fan is delivered to the east portal of the fourth bore. The middle photo shows one of the 19 jets being carefully placed along the tunnel roof, and the far right photo shows workman laboring on the permanent soundwall on the western side. PHOTOS BY KARL NIELSEN, MTC

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

No exact date has been set, but the new fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel will open by late 2013, according to Ivy Morrison, public information officer for

the Caldecott Fourth Bore Project. "We're very excited for the opening and appreciate the patience of motorists who have long been anticipating the fourth bore," says Morrison. "An average of 150,000 vehicles use the Caldecott daily." Morrison says all major construction

is complete. When open, the two original bores will carry all eastbound traffic, while bores three and four will carry westbound traffic. "Now we're in the process of installing and testing complex, state-of-the-art fire and life safety systems that detect and suppress fire and that pertain to motorist notification of tunnel conditions and events," says Morrison. "The most important thing is that the motoring public is safe and that all safety systems are integrated."

She says the 1982 Caldecott Tunnel inferno that claimed the lives of seven motorists prompted a review of tunnel safety standards nation-wide. "The design of the fourth bore meets and exceeds these standards," says Morrison. "Designers used that 1982 incident to install safety mechanisms that can withstand a 100-megawatt fire."

Some of the safety mechanisms being installed and tested include 19 jet fans, linear heat detectors and a high-pressure water pipe for use by firefighters. "All

these systems are integrated and will be managed 24/7 from a new operations and maintenance building on the west side of the tunnel in Oakland," says Morrison.

She says that once the fourth bore is complete, some of the state-of-the-art safety features will be incorporated into the other tunnels, with priority given to the high-pressure water pipes for firefighters.

Orinda Mayor Amy Worth, who also chairs the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), says area residents will see not only a decrease in tunnel traffic congestion, especially at off-peak hours and weekends, but also economic benefits as well. "Each lane of freeway traffic will have its own lane through the tunnel, so there will be no more merging or switching between bores," says Worth. "In addition, local businesses, shops, restaurants and the Orinda Theatre will benefit because the drive through the tunnel will be more

[SEE CALDECOTT page 6]

Orinda Grove Opens Its Doors to Prospective Buyers



JACKSON FOUNTAIN

Pulte workers ready homes for Orinda Grove's grand opening, which took place on October 19.

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

It's been in the works for nearly a decade. Finally, 73 new homes in the 11-acre Orinda Grove housing development on Altarinda Road are up for sale and awaiting new occupants.

The development, set on a hill within walking distance of Orinda Village, held its grand opening October 19 and had its first release of homes the following weekend.

Patricia Morgan, division vice president of sales for developer Pulte Homes, says

that interest in the homes has been "tremendous."

"There is a very limited supply of new homes at affordable prices in this area," says Morgan. "The resale homes often need a lot of updating, which can be costly and time-consuming."

Orinda Grove consists of 66 single-family homes and eight duplex dwellings, ranging in size from 1,533 to 2,672 square feet. There are six different designs, including single-story, two- and three-story homes, with either three or four bedrooms [SEE GROVE page 16]

Housing Component Moves to Planning Commission

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

With a modest turnout of interested citizens, the Orinda City Council went page by page through the 144 page Fourth Draft Housing Element at its October 1 meeting. An additional 27 page supplemental document submitted by Orinda Watch was also reviewed.

According to Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu, the October meeting marked [SEE HOUSING page 6]

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LIBRARY GALLERY

Spirit Dolls, Paintings and Fabric Art Included in November Exhibit

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Gallery is proud to present spirit dolls from K.S. Rankin, paintings by Beryl Glen-Reiland and Neil Kellman, and fabric art from members of the Valley Stitchers Guild during the month of November. In America, we celebrate Thanksgiving this month and art lovers are no exception. Friedrich Nietzsche reminds us that, "The essence of all beautiful art, all great art, is gratitude." Enjoy the creativity in our community by attending the artist reception on November 7 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. where coffee and culture will be served.

K.S. Rankin of Concord has been an artist most of her adult life and works in a variety of forms including wall hangings, art figures and spirit dolls and describes her work as "Art for the soul. I've always been interested in mythology and ancient mysteries and my work reflects this." Each

artwork Rankin handcrafts is individual and one of a kind. She has shown work all over the United States. Expect to see 40-50 pieces including *Flower Sprite*, an 18" handmade doll with a hand-painted face, poseable weighted fabric body and moveable arms. Rankin hopes that those who view her work will find their life journey enriched by the positive energy in her creations. For more of Rankin's work, see www.sylverwoode.com.

Beryl Glen-Reiland of Orinda worked in charcoal and watercolors before turning to oils because, "My application is looser and freer with oils." She is showing around 18 rather large works, 36" x 48" and 22" x 30." To keep her work fresh, Glen-Reiland reminds herself that life is full of surprises and to remain static would not be creative. Her oil paintings on canvas include *Existentialistic*, 24" x 36"; *I Talk to the Flowers #1*, 22" x 30" and *Asilomar Catharsis*, 24" x 36." She hopes that when people look at her work they will see that it is truthfully, factu-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
K.S. Rankin's 18" *Flower Sprite Doll* features a hand painted face, poseable weighted fabric body, moveable arms and legs, yarn, flowers and beads.

ally and creatively hers and it awakens them to the fact that life is constantly changing.

Neil Kellman of Berkeley has been painting in acrylics and oils for about 10 years and is drawn to it because it provides mental relaxation and rejuvenation. He will be exhibiting 14 works, which he hopes will stimulate viewers to, "see beneath the surface of people and places." Look for *Straw Hat #1*, 16" x 20" acrylic on canvas; *Pi in the Sky*, 30" x 40" acrylic on canvas and *Still Life with Samovar*, 18" x 24" acrylic/giclée on canvas.

Ulla Kaprielian of Orinda, publicity chair of the Valley Stitchers Guild, says the Guild is "not just about quilts – you'll see beading, baskets and all kinds of fiber art." The group was formed in 1967 and has about 120 active members. Its mission is to promote the growth of creativity and originality in the field of textile arts and to maintain high standards of accomplishment in this area. They meet monthly in Pleasant Hill and will have membership information available. Members hope that viewers will enjoy the variety of fiber artworks pre-

sented and possibly join the group.

Members showing over 30 fiber artworks include Marlane Turner, dolls, concho belt; Joan Anderson, beaded Kuminomo necklace; Marie Canane, knitted hat and Christmas stocking; Monica Kaseman, quilted wall hanging embellished with hummingbird; Pat Bennet, wall hanging quilted and framed; Nancy Briemle, knit baskets; Ellen Heathcoate, handbag, quilted wall hanging; Suzi Stone, barn quilt; Pam Rogers, hand painted scarfs; president Dawn Marie Yates, embroidered pillow; Esther Williams, fabric woven vests; Jan Muto, crazy quilted basket and assorted neckpieces showing a variety of techniques; Elaine Frazel, fabric doll; Anne Lagache, knitted afghan; Francine Tchan, woven picture; Ulla Kaprielian, needlepoint pillow, embroidered pillow and quilted pumpkin; Karen Wetherell,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Neil Kellman's *Straw Hat*, an acrylic on canvas, will be part of the creatively varied show at the Orinda Library Gallery this November.


embroidered footstool, crocheted pumpkin; and Ruth Stack, embroidered pieces. Go to www.valleystitchersguild.com for more information.

Regarding the place of art in our commu-
[SEE GALLERY page 6]

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FARMERS' MARKET



Seasoned Shopper
Plan Ahead for the Holidays
BARBARA KOBSAR




BARBARA KOBSAR

Winter squash and sweet potatoes keep well for holiday carving and baking.

Getting ready for the holidays means lots of planning, and planning ahead can mean less stress and more time to enjoy family and friends. There are four Orinda Farmers' Market shopping Saturdays this month to begin gathering up some fabulous foods, decorating ideas and gift giving solutions before the market ends for the season on November 23.

Pumpkins, winter squash and sweet potatoes are great "keepers" so when you find the perfect shaped pumpkin or a favorite winter squash pick it up and store it in a dry, well-ventilated space until you're ready for the carving or baking to begin.

Pie pumpkins (sugar pumpkins) are sweet and fine-grained – perfect for baking or steaming in pies, soups and desserts. Cooking in advance and freezing the "meat" gives you a head start in the kitchen. To cook, slice in half crosswise and scoop out seeds and strings. Place cut side down on a baking sheet, add a quarter cup of water and bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 45 minutes until soft. Cool slightly, scrape out meat and mash. If necessary, refrigerate for a few days or freeze for up to 2 months. Thaw before using.

Apples keep well in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Apple pie filling and applesauce can be made in advance and frozen, ready for a traditional dessert or potato latke topping.

Most apples are suited for eating out of hand with flavors from sweet to spicy to tart. Rome Beauty, Granny Smith and Pippins are good baking apples since they hold their shape; Golden Delicious are excellent for applesauce since they do not discolor as quickly as some of the other varieties.

Sweet potatoes just get better with time. Like standard potatoes, sweet potatoes should not be stored in the refrigerator. They keep three to four weeks if placed under ideal conditions in a dark, dry, well-ventilated area. As they're stored, part of their starch content converts to sugar - scrumptious sweet potatoes.

Brussel sprouts on the stalks keep longer if placed in a container of water in a cool

area. Cut sprouts of approximate equal size from the stalk as needed to ensure even cooking. Cook only until just tender whether sautéing the leaves, or roasting or simmering the whole sprout – overcooking tends to turn them a dull, grayish color.

Persimmons and pomegranates are as decorative as they are delicious. Line them up with colorful fall leaves to create a beautiful holiday table or take advantage of this once a year crop to make your favorite persimmon pudding or pomegranate, spinach and walnut salad.

The two most common types of persimmons have distinct differences. Both hachiyas and fuyus boast a lustrous, deep orange sheen when wiped lightly with a cloth. Each is topped with a calyx or cap as a result of being carefully clipped from the tree in a fairly labor intensive process, but the similarities stop there.

Acorn-shaped hachiya persimmons generally arrive at market while still firm and need seven to 10 days to completely ripen. They are extremely astringent before reaching this "soft pudding" stage, but on ripening become sweet and juicy. Simply scoop the pulp from the skin with a spoon to eat fresh or use in cakes, puddings, cookies and ice cream.

Fuyus come to market ripe and ready to eat. The tomato shaped fuyus do not contain tannin and are, therefore, non-astringent whether firm or completely ripe. Eat out of hand like an apple or slice crosswise to reveal an intriguing star shaped design that looks great as a garnish.

Pomegranates keep at room temperature for two to three weeks so enjoy a beautiful bowlful before making your way to the edible part. Under the red, leathery skin are the shiny, red kernels waiting to be tossed on salads and entrees or juiced and strained to make jellies and sorbets.

The heavier the pomegranate the better – it's juicier. Signs of cracking means the fruit is completely ripe and coming-apart-at-the-seams. Use a sharp knife to cut a thin piece off the crown of the pomegranate. Slit the skin from top to bottom in three or four

places and pull the fruit open using both hands. Immerse the sections in a bowl of cool water and soak for about five minutes. Holding the fruit under the water, separate the seeds from the membrane. Discard the pith that floats to the top and strain the seeds, which sink to the bottom (pomegranate juice is indelible so it's always a good idea to wear an old shirt).

Complete your shopping by browsing the market aisles for gift giving ideas. Market bags and gift certificates are available at the information booth, and you'll also find soaps, plants, jams, honey, dried fruit, nuts and cheese.

Enjoy and see you at the market! Contact the Seasoned Shopper at cotkitchen@aol.com.

The Orinda market closes for the season on Saturday, November 23.

THANK YOU to the community, City, volunteers, local businesses and other non-profits who have supported and contributed to a very successful market season. See you next May!

Be sure to visit many of your favorite growers and vendors from the Orinda market at the year round Sunday market in

Walnut Creek. For more information, visit the website at www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at (925) 431-8361.



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Letters to the Editor

Downtown Location Not Safe for School

As Orinda's population grew substantially during the 1950s and 60s, schools were built in the new neighborhoods so that students wouldn't have to walk, bike or ride to the old Orinda Union School downtown – which was then closed and became our community center. School district officials knew then it made sense to put schools closer to where children lived: it was safer to have them travel shorter distances and not have to contend with the traffic nearly always present in a business district.

At the same time, preschools opened for younger children. Today, most preschools in Orinda are on the grounds of church properties. This makes perfect sense because these churches provide parking lots and drop-off/pick-up areas away from busy streets. Drivers can queue up or park to wait to drop-off or pick-up their children without worrying about blocking traffic or having other vehicles try to pass them.

None of these safeguards are present at the current Phair's building in the Orinda Village business district, the proposed site for the relocation of Fountainhead Montessori School. Fountainhead is currently located on the grounds of Santa Maria Church, which is private property at the end of a cul-de-sac with large parking lots on both sides of the building. The Phair's property, by contrast, is located at the corner of Orinda Way and Avenida De Orinda and has only one small parking lot across a street from the building.

Fountainhead anticipates that enrollment could almost double to 150 students at this location. All of these children would be between 18 months and six years of age. Most would be dropped-off between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. More than half would be picked-up between noon and 1 p.m. while the others would be picked-up between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

While proponents of the school's relocation say that the traffic and parking impacts of these trips have been accounted for, logic and common sense says they have not and cannot. Vehicles waiting to drop-off or pick-up students will back-up on Avenida De Orinda to both directions of Orinda Way and, most likely, around the corner on to Camino Sobrante coming from Camino Pablo.

For the safety and protection of all drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians in the area around the Phair's property, and especially for the 150 very young children who would be at greatest risk twice a day every weekday, I urge the City Council to overturn the decision of the Planning Commission to permit this project to go forward. It is not an appropriate use of the property, and it certainly is not safe!

– Mark Roberts

Questioning Financial Acumen of MOFD Board

Reading recent articles on MOFD deficits has led me to question the financial acumen of the directors who recently voted to spend \$1.3 million on property in Lafayette. Wouldn't it have made sense to hang onto those funds for future needs?

Instead, directors thought it was a great idea to move our fire station to Lafayette and make the taxpayers of Orinda and Moraga cover the costs of providing services to Lafayette – in hopes of some day getting money from the nearly-bankrupt Con Fire or the cash-strapped City of Lafayette. Not only is this a foolhardy venture, moving our fire station to Lafayette will add two minutes to response times to all of North Orinda.

Now, directors are considering another reduction in service levels: have one fully-staffed ambulance (instead of two) on duty and house it at the Orchard Road station. Since three quarters of district calls are for medical emergencies, I fail to understand how this could be a good idea. Maybe they should sell that property in Lafayette?

– Ellen Dale, Orinda

New Low-Income Residents

The City of Orinda has prepared a report that covers the movement of "extremely low" income and "very low income" individuals into Orinda.

The report, dated September 17, 2013, is called the City Council Staff Report. Emmanuel Ursu, Orinda's planning director submitted the report. Janet Keeter, Orinda's city manager, approved the report.

On page 83 (which also bears page number 3-25) of the report several categories of income are listed. Households designated as "extremely low" income have a "maximum annual household income" of \$26,790. The report designates "very low income" households as those with an annual income of \$44,650. The income figures are based on data from 2009. For 2012, the report says, income levels are "five percent higher."

The report does not state how income levels are verified or calculated. Does Orinda plan to ask low-income individuals for two years (or more) of recent federal income-tax returns? What happens if low-income people did not file tax returns? The report does address these matters related to tax returns.

Some low-income people receive special benefits like food stamps, housing money (often called Section 8 housing assistance), medical care (called Medical in California), and energy (electricity and gas) assistance. Some of these benefits are not taxable. The report does not say if Orinda will be determining if low-income individuals are receiving special



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benefits.

It is possible for a low-income person to be asset-rich. For example, a low-income person may have a Rembrandt painting, a bank account in a foreign country, or gold coins. It is very easy for a so-called low-income person to have gold coins stored in a Canadian safe-deposit box. The coins could be exchanged for Canadian or American cash. The cash could be

brought back to Orinda, and presumably no one in the Orinda government would know.

I have no objection to low-income individuals or households having residences in Orinda. However, the Orinda government has a responsibility to verify that low-income individuals are, in fact, low income and do not have hidden assets.

– Richard S. Colman

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Appreciation for and Recognition of
Volunteers



Bill Waterman

As showing appreciation is very important, on behalf of the members and volunteers of the Orinda Association, I'd like to thank and recognize some fellow Orindans for their selfless efforts to benefit the community.

First, special thanks go to everyone that worked on the Orinda Classic Car Show – which was another success this year, albeit of the “car wash” variety. The Car Show committee again included the super-dedicated Chip and Carolyn Herman, and the inexhaustible committee members Mike Robinson, Henry Alfaro, Lindsay Lautz, Tom Steinberger and Lou Parrague. A very special thank you also goes to Orinda Rotary and Barbara and Jack Bontemps, who spearheaded the “Dancing with the Cars” dinner the night before the Car Show (wonderful job, Barbara and Jack!). The event was made possible again due to the support of Orinda Motors – thanks to Allen Pennebaker, John Vanek and the other hard working people at OM – and Orinda Country Club. Many others volunteered to help with the show and dinner – especially Steve Harwood, and Bill Cosden, who worked tirelessly both days. During the show,



DAVID DIERKS

Orinda Classic Car Show volunteer Steve Strand directs Ray English to the parking place for his 1936 Ford Three Window Coupe.

several winners of Lamorinda Idol sang inside Orinda Motors too, helping everyone remain positive during the rain. Because of their collective efforts, the Car Show and Friday dinner raised much needed funds to benefit the OA (and the Seniors Around Town ride program), EFO, Orinda Arts Council, and the Orinda Historical Society, among other local non-profits. Thanks again for everyone's support for the dinner and Car Show

Second, I'd like to thank everyone involved in the Orinda Chamber of Commerce's Restaurant Tour – from all of the mobile diners to the many volunteers working behind the scenes. It was clear that Chamber executive director Candy Kattenburg, Chamber board president Sylvia Jorgensen, other board members and the Chamber's many volunteers worked very hard again this year to make the event so successful. Kudos to all of you for a job well done.

This brings me to my final point – recognizing people who volunteer here in Orinda. The Orinda Association is now taking NOMINATIONS for the “Volunteer of the Year” and “William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Awards” – nominations can be submitted to the OA's office (by mail, fax or email) by December 1. The Volunteer of the Year Award (VOY) recognizes outstanding service by volunteers in Orinda, while the William Penn Mott, Jr. Award recognizes a person's volunteer efforts toward environmental preservation and protection. Please take a look at the list of winners of the VOY and William Penn Mott, Jr. Awards, which are listed on the OA's website.

Again, I extend sincere thanks to all of you volunteering to make a difference here in Orinda. We appreciate all you do!

Orinda Association Thanks Seniors Around Town Drivers



SALLY HOGARTY

On September 24, Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program held a thank you luncheon for the drivers who volunteer their time to drive Orinda seniors to various appointments. A generous donor paid for the luncheon held at the Orinda County Club where drivers were also recognized for various milestones such as most miles driven.

Orinda Association Board Member and Residents Help Cleanup Orinda Creeks

By ADRIANE BOSWORTH
Contributing Writer

John Moran, Barbara Denny, Toris Jaeger, and Orinda Association board member Jim Luini were among the many volunteers who helped remove a total of 178 lbs. of trash from Orinda Creeks.

John Moran, Del Rey Elementary School teacher, had previously obtained the support of five other fourth and fifth grade teachers (over 100 students) to participate in trash cleanup of Moraga Creek and the surrounding area. And on September 20, Jim Luini provided support as each teacher-supervised class took its turn at cleanup.

Also on September 20, Barbara Denny, Miramonte High School environmental teacher, supervised 47 students as they removed trash from the part of Moraga Creek that flows past the high school site.

On Saturday, September 21, Toris Jaeger and Jim Luini supervised over 30 volunteers in downtown Orinda on the part of San Pablo Creek that flows from the back of the Chevron Station to the back of the Bank of America, cleaning up an enormous amount of trash as heavy rain soaked every one.

The Friends of Orinda Creeks thank everyone for their great work and for taking an interest in Orinda Creeks.

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.

P.O. Box 97
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www.orindaassociation.org



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The Orinda Association
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Send in Your Nominations Today!



SALLY HOGARTY

Last year's Volunteer of the Year Kay Aaker (L) and William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award winner Elizabeth O'Shea are congratulated by Supervisor Candace Anderson at last year's dinner.

Nominations for this year's awards are now being accepted by the Orinda Association. The Volunteer of the Year recognizes outstanding service by a volunteer or a group while the William Penn Mott Jr. Award recognizes efforts towards environmental preservation and protection. The deadline for nominations is December 1.

Nominees can be emailed to oa@orindaassociation.org, faxed to the office at 254-8312, or by mailing to P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563.

CONTINUATIONS

◆ CALDECOTT from page 1

predictable. Orinda is a really wonderful place to go to enjoy an evening out.”

She says many Orinda residents commute through the tunnel every day. “The new bore will make their lives better, with less time waiting in traffic,” says Worth.

Morrison says there is no exact data on how much time the new bore will save rush-hour commuters. “Anecdotally, I’ve heard it could save motorists 12 minutes,” Morrison says.

Worth says the fourth bore demonstrates the kind of inter-agency collaboration and voter support it takes to complete such a huge project - the new bore cost \$402 million and features two 12-foot-wide traffic lanes with shoulders on each side.

“It’s long been recognized that a fourth bore was needed,” says Worth. “Voters made a \$125-million-dollar commitment with the passing of Measure J in 2004, which extended the half-cent sales tax, earmarked for transportation projects.” The

same year, voters passed Regional Measure 2, which raised bridge tolls by \$1. The MTC set aside \$50 million of those funds for the Caldecott Tunnel’s fourth bore.

Despite these regional funding sources, the fourth bore project was floundering, due to the economic recession in 2008. When the Obama administration stepped in with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, however, the fourth bore plan was “shovel-ready” and landed the second largest pool of money from ARRA in the nation. The fourth bore tunnel was underway.

In an interesting parallel, the first two bores of the Caldecott Tunnel (completed in 1937), were funded with Works Progress Administration (WPA) monies. WPA provided millions of Americans with jobs in the wake of the Great Depression.

Orinda resident Catherine Akazawa drives to San Francisco at least five times a week, taking her daughters to Irish dance classes. “I drive at various times, but generally around 5 p.m. when only one bore is open on the way to the city,” says Akazawa. “So I always allow at least 15 minutes extra for the traffic merging into the tunnel.”

She says returning to Orinda around 1:30 p.m. or on weekends is even worse. “I am hoping the fourth bore will alleviate some of this wait time.”

She also thinks less traffic congestion through the tunnel might attract more people to live in the Lamorinda area. “That being the case, we may need a fifth bore in the next few years!” she says.

Morrison says the final step before the tunnel opens is to have the State Fire Marshall observe, pass and sign off on the project. “There will be fire drills and every possible scenario will be tested,” says Morrison. “Our number one priority is the safety of motorists.”

◆ GALLERY from page 2

nity, Kellman says, “Art speaks to the mysterious and the holy (here I exclude video art, which seems more about entertainment).” Kaprielian says that, “Art lifts the spirit of those who view it.” Glen-Reiland believes that, “Art alerts the community to the need in everyone for beauty, truth and experiences from the past and possibilities for the future.”

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

◆ HOUSING from page 1

the seventh public meeting on the housing element. “The draft includes many edits/revisions proposed by the citizens’ committee with the supplemental document submitted after the rough draft had been published,” Ursu explained. “Many of the changes make the document more advocacy neutral.”

Orinda resident Owen Murphy noted that 34 of his 42 recommendations had been included in the latest draft, “You won’t be hearing from me on this again. You’ve come close enough to fulfilling my recommendations,” he said. Murphy felt that the final focus should be on the Santa Maria parcel that the City Council hoped to rezone for higher density to meet HCD (Housing and Community Development) requirements.

The Santa Maria site is currently zoned for 6 to 10 units per acre and the City of Orinda proposes changing this to 20 to 25 units per acre. Several residents expressed concern over the change and asked the number be set at 20 rather than a range. Mayor Worth, however, noted that the HCD had indicated they would not approve a set number and preferred a range. After much discussion, the City Council concurred to go with the range of 20-25 noting that any future development would have to go through local design review.

Chet Martin expressed concern that the possible rezoning might be for Santa Maria’s entire 9.35-acre parcel, owned by the Diocese of Oakland, and not just the 3.2 acres originally proposed. The City Council noted that they were only looking at the 3.2 acres for possible rezoning.

During the meeting, several residents asked for clarification on a variety of housing-related topics. Richard Colman wanted to know how Orinda determined who was low-income while another resident asked for ABAG’s (Association of Bay Area Governments) criteria on job



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jan Muto's Crazy Quilted Basket, a 12" mixed media work will be shown in November at the Library Gallery.

rate growth and housing. City attorney Osa Wolff noted that residents for low-income housing had to meet State of California and Federal requirements and that they had to re-qualify annually.

Other comments from citizens included Linda Delehunt saying that while the city should conform to state housing laws “the city is not required to adopt HCD’s demands.” She also asked that information be given to the citizens on how housing mandates were developed and to inform the public on the perks developers received for building subsidized housing projects. “They are often lining their own pockets instead of giving subsidies to little old ladies,” she said.

The City Council directed city staff to incorporate the minor changes made at the October 1 council meeting and to send the document to the Planning Commission. The housing element document will then come back to the City Council for final approval before being sent to the HCD. “We’ll probably also run a draft by HCD to show them what we’re doing prior to official submital,” said Mayor Worth.

City Councilmember Sue Severson noted her concern that without a certified housing element by the HCD the Metropolitan Transit Commission might not approve the city’s grant fund application of \$553,000 for roadway improvements in the Ivy Drive neighborhood.

A tentative timeline lists the revised housing element draft to be published on October 22 with the Planning Commission reviewing the document at its October 29 meeting. The housing element will then be on the City Council’s November 19 agenda. The housing element is scheduled to go to the HCD for certification on December 18.

For more information on the Draft Housing Document, including the revised document, go to www.cityoforinda.org.

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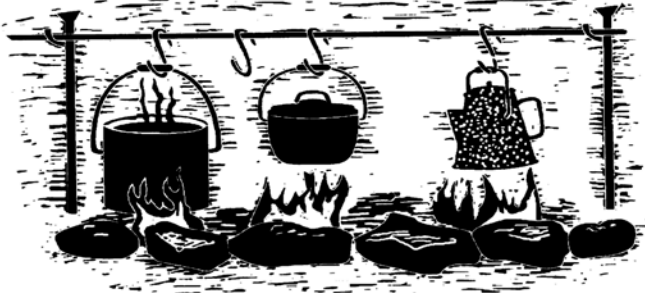
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POLICE BLOTTER

September 2013

Auto Theft: 2 incidents on Sally Ann Rd. and Orinda Way.

Burglary – Residential: 3 incidents on La Vuelta, Via Floreado and El Toyonal.

Arrests

Burglary – Commercial: 5 arrests.

Domestic Violence: 1 arrest.

Driving Under the Influence: 2 arrests.

Petty Theft: 1 arrest.

Probation Violation: 1 arrest.

Public Intoxication: 1 arrest.

Warrant Arrest: 2 arrests.

Orinda BART Station

No stats available at this time.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
Orinda Police Department

Additional Police Activity During September/October

- The Sheriff's Office introduced a new records management system on September 9th and 10th. Like all big computer switchovers, the bugs are being worked out as fast as possible. Due to the computer switchover, statistics for September are spotty.
- The Investigation Unit packaged and prepared several cases for the District Attorney. They include a drunk in public, DUI, resisting arrest, and providing false information to a police officer. They also assisted patrol units on a vandalism case. They continue to investigate recent residential burglaries. The detectives also assisted the Lafayette Police Department in contacting pawnshops in Oakland. They were able to recover property taken from a Lafayette burglary.
- An Orinda citizen had his vehicle stolen from a local gas station while he went to use the rest room. The owner, unfortunately, left the keys in the ignition. The vehicle was eventually recovered in San Francisco a few hours later. A subject was apprehended and is currently behind bars.
- Orinda Police arrested a subject who had stolen items from Lafayette Safeway. The subject was seen entering Highway 24 westbound. He was stopped at Highway 24 and Wilder. The vehicle contained approximately 35 cans of baby formula. Baby formula is a popular item used as a trade for drugs.

Montessori Approval Appealed to City Council



ALEC ABRAHAMS

The old **Phair's** building at the corner of Orinda Way and Avenida de Orinda may be torn down and a new two-story combination Montessori Preschool and retail space created.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The approved application of Fountainhead Montessori to construct a new, two-story building at 10 Avenida de Orinda, the location of the long-vacant Phair's building, has been appealed by a group of concerned citizens. The appeal is on the November 5 agenda of the Orinda City Council.

According to the Planning Commission, which approved the application, preschools meet the compatible use of Class B standards for the downtown area. Fountainhead Montessori hopes to build a structure that includes 11,041 square feet for the preschool and 4,557 square feet for retail.

A group of concerned citizens has filed an appeal saying that the downtown area is not an appropriate site for the school and would add to the congested traffic as well as pose safety concerns for the children.

"I'm primarily concerned about safety, especially the kids being picked up and dropped off, but also parents, pedestrians, and business people," says Mark Roberts, who serves on the Traffic and Safety Commission for the City of Orinda. "Based on my knowledge of challenges at existing schools in Orinda, I know there will be back ups on Orinda Way and Avenida de Orinda. I'm also concerned about the businesses already in the area. This increased traffic will have an adverse effect on them as well."

Roberts says another of his concerns involves setting a precedent for the Planning Commission. "This would essentially open the door for inappropriate uses of space in our commercial district. It would allow the Planning Commission to ignore parts of the General Plan and other zoning ordinances."

The Orinda City Council meets at 7 p.m. on November 5 at the Orinda Library Auditorium. The agenda and staff reports are available at www.cityoforinda.org.

MOFD Faces Difficult Sustainability Issues



SALLY HOGARTY

Public workshops were held in October to gain input on ways to save operational funds at the various MOFD stations such as **Station 44** at 295 Orchard Rd. in Orinda.

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) held two public workshops in October to provide the public with staffing model options under consideration and to gather public comment and ideas to reduce spending. Both meetings were informational only and no decisions were made.

MOFD board member Fred Weil said, "We have a presentation by the chief. That's a starting point for discussions. There is no decision that has been made at this point, nor will there be tonight." Board director Anderson said, "The purpose of tonight is to get new ideas. We don't claim to have all the knowledge of what should be done. I would love to get fresh ideas, clear definitive ideas that we can go forward with." Board president John Wyro added, "The kinds of things we're talking about needing to do are significant. They're going to require community input."

In June, MOFD approved a capital projects fund and general fund preliminary budget for fiscal year (FY) 2013/14. The capital projects fund can only be used for the replacement of fire-fighting equipment, software and hardware, apparatus, building upgrades, acquisition and construction of major capital projects. The general fund is the operating fund for the district. Administrative services director Gloriann Sasser said, "At that time, the general fund was projected to have a deficit of \$878,000. The capital projects fund was projected to have a surplus of \$966,000. Since that time, several significant events have occurred that have changed that." Changes to the capital projects fund include the Station 46 land purchase and the removal of the previously planned Station 43 reconstruction costs. Changes to the general fund include:

- Property tax revenue increased \$325,586 (according on the Contra

Costa County Assessor);

- MOFD received a grant of \$416,804 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) to hire four new firefighter/paramedics for two years;
- Salary and benefit expenditures increased by \$575,441 to reflect the four new firefighter/paramedic positions;
- Overtime reduced to \$1,500,000 based on FY 2012/13 Actuals and the hiring of the four new firefighter/paramedics (overtime for FY 2012/2013 was \$2.2 million).

Revenue for the capital projects fund is projected to be \$1 million from the Fire Flow Tax. Capital projects fund expenses for FY 2013/2014 are projected to be \$1.6 million. Expenses include improvements for Station 45, seismic improvements to Station 43, and land purchase, architectural drawings, lot split services and California Environmental Quality Act requirements for the future Station 46. Projected future construction costs for Station 46 are not included in the proposed budget, because they will likely not begin in this fiscal year. Wyro said, "In the capital fund budget, there are years where we spend a lot and there are years where we don't spend much. Over the longer term, we can continue to build the reserve in the capital fund." On July 1, the start of the fiscal year, the capital fund had a fund balance of \$3.6 million. At the end of FY 2013/2014, the capital fund is projected to be \$3 million.

Revenue for the general fund for FY 2013/14 is projected to be \$19.2 million. Total expenditures are projected to be \$20.5 million. At the beginning of FY 2013/2014, the general fund started with \$2.1 million. The current budget projects using \$1.2 million, which is more than half of the

[SEE BUDGET page 8]

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ BUDGET from page 7

beginning fund balance. The Government Finance Officers Association recommends that local government maintains at least two months of operating expenses in its general fund. At the end of the fiscal year, the MOFD general fund balance is projected to be \$900,000, which is less than one month's operating expenditures. "What we found when looking at the different expenditures was that the only two things that made a difference were the staffing model and the personnel costs for the district," said Interim Fire Chief Stephen Healy.

At the workshops, Healy presented background on how the district has gotten to where it is financially and previous efforts to curb spending. "To maintain service levels over the last three years, the district has spent reserves. The retirement costs have gone up \$3 million in the last three years. The retirement system was inherited by the district when the district was formed. A lot of the retirement costs are for people who are no longer providing service in the fire district. Overtime costs were way up last year due to a variety of factors," said Healy. These factors include the December accident on Highway 24, as well as low staff and the ongoing wear and tear of the job on the firefighter's bodies. These all contributed to accelerate the reserve fund drain.

The district has put compensatory measures in place to help slow the drain. "We reduced our administrative staff. We've cut half of our full time positions over the last few years. We've reclassified and given new job assignments to many of the employees. We've frozen the four battalion chief positions several times since 2009. We froze the Fire Marshal position for two years. Health care contributions have been frozen for the last three years. There have been no salary increases since 2008. The

district has pursued grants – most of the grant money is from the FEMA SAFER grant," added Healy.

"To maintain service levels over the last three years, the district has spent reserves," says Interim Fire Chief Stephen Healy.

The current staffing model is for 19 firefighters. Three firefighters at each of the five stations in the district with two full-time ambulances, one at Station 45 in Orinda, one at Station 41 in Moraga, and one reserve ambulance staffed by the firefighters at Station 44. The full-time ambulances are each staffed by two firefighter-paramedics. "We presently have one cross-staffed ambulance in the middle of the district at Station 44. That ambulance is staffed by the engine crew of Station 44. If we get a third medical call in the district, they jump on that rig, and that engine is out of service," said Healy.

Under the current staffing model, Healy estimated that the engine at Station 43 is available 95 percent of the time, the engine at Station 45 is available 93 percent of the time, the ambulance at Station 43 is available 77 percent of the time, the engine at Station 42 is available 95 percent of the time, the engine at Station 41 is available 89 percent of the time, the ambulance at Station 41 is available 76 percent of the time, and the cross-staffed engine/ambulance at Station 44 is available 95 percent of the time. Healy said, "The way I came up with these figures is I took the number of responses for the ambulances. I multiplied it by an hour and a half and divided that by the number of hours in a year. Not every ambulance response resulted in an hour and a half of down-time. For the purposes of this discussion, I wanted to keep everything con-

sistent. I did the same thing for the engines but made them half an hour. Sometimes they're at a fire all night, sometimes they go on a call and are cancelled on the way, so I used half an hour as the baseline."

Healy proposed two 17 personnel staffing models at the meetings. Option 17-1, which has been looked at in the past, involves having one full-time ambulance and moving it to Station 44 in the center of the district. The district would then have cross-staffed ambulances at Stations 41, 42 and 45. This model requires the purchase of an ambulance at a cost of \$160,000 which would come from the capital projects fund. "I'm not recommending staffing model 17-1 at this time," said Healy.

Model 17-2 would keep one full-time ambulance in Moraga at Station 41 and put three cross-staffed ambulances in Orinda at Stations 43, 44 and 45. Healy said, "At this time, this looks to be the best model. We've put a lot of thought into this. We keep the ambulance in Moraga, because it is statistically the busiest ambulance. We have a good distribution of firefighters between Moraga and Orinda. Including the Battalion Chief, you would have 10 people in Orinda and eight in Moraga." This model would also require buying an ambulance.

Station 44, in the center of the district, would be run as a full-time ambulance. "That crew would go with that ambulance when they go shopping. It would basically be an ambulance crew that also happens to be an engine crew. That would be the primary ambulance for Orinda. You would also have redundancy in Orinda because you have the engine/medic combination at 43 and the engine/medic combination at 45," added Healy. Using this model, the engine/ambulance at Station 43 is available 94 percent of the time, the engine/ambulance at Station 45 is available 92 percent of the time, the engine at Station 42 is available 95 percent of the time, the engine at Station 41 is available 89 percent of the time, the ambulance at Station 41 is available 83 percent of the time and the ambulance/engine at Station 44 is available 68 percent of the time. "I did take into consideration the calls of Engine 43 going into northern Lafayette and that is factored into that 94 percent as a projected number," added Healy.

During public comment, Moraga resident Richard Olsen said, "I would like to note that Chief Healy's recommended staffing, although the usage of cross-staffed ambulances at all three Orinda stations is different, is exactly the same model that we developed in the joint committee for Moraga and Orinda that developed the plan for the MOFD. It was adopted and was the operative model for the MOFD until five years ago. That was the original

presentation we made, five firefighters at Station 41 and three at each of the other stations."

Recommendations for the board to analyze included:

- Making all firefighters in the district firefighter/paramedics;
- Cut salaries and benefits to staff across the board from top to bottom;
- Cut down on staffing;
- Increase the length of the firefighter's work week from 56 to 64 hours, effectively maintaining the same on duty staffing with fewer firefighters;
- Contract with an outside agency like CAL FIRE, which is the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. CAL FIRE provides fire, paramedic and ambulance services to small cities around Riverside as well as Half Moon Bay (which just extended its contract for seven years);
- Contract with a private agency like G4S GS, which provides fire and EMS service, including air-lift transport services, to a variety of federal government agencies including NASA and many military bases;
- And look at additional revenue including collecting more of the allowed Fire Flow Tax in Moraga.

"As interim fire chief, I'm going to do everything I can to keep our firefighters safe, to serve the community and to provide the service we're supposed to be providing," said Interim Fire Chief Stephen Healy.

The MOFD board will look into these recommendations. Healy said, "I appreciate all the input from the public. I took notes and I listened. As interim fire chief, I'm going to do everything I can to keep our firefighters safe, to serve the community and to provide the service we're supposed to be providing." Weil summed up the meetings when he said, "Something has to change. We've seen some suggestions about what has to change. I don't think there is any doubt that this board doesn't like the fact that we have to make hard choices, but we're all prepared to do that in order to maintain the sustainability of the district and to maintain, to the greatest extent that we can, the excellent service that we have." Healy added, "I'm very open-minded going forward. I'm very open to ideas so call or email me."

For more information, visit www.mofd.org.



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CAR TIME / FILM FESTIVAL

CAR TIME

Is Buying Tires On-Line a Good Idea?

by Jeff Joyce



Today's technology has opened up numerous opportunities that just a decade or so ago were only a vision. Thanks to the Internet, people are able to pay bills, bank, renew car licenses and research a wealth of information just to name a few. You can surf Ebay, Amazon, and most major retailers for nearly anything you can imagine. In many cases, you may save money, time and traveling to and from crowded stores. This is a convenient and especially handy benefit during the holidays.

What about buying new tires online? Choosing the right tire involves safety and vehicle specific details which can be frustrating for the average motorists. Price is not necessarily most important. Without proper knowledge of your vehicle's specific needs, there can be problems.

A few examples of problems we've seen include: a customer ordering a set of 16" tires when her car required 17" tires. This mistake was solely the customer's fault by not knowing which wheel option the car had. Another disappointment occurred when a customer chose a set of tires that were the correct size but were specifically rated "snow & ice" for a car that will never see these driving conditions. Fortunately, on both occasions, we had the right tires in stock and were priced less than what the customer had paid online and without having any shipping charges! In addition to the frustrations both of these customers felt, they were also charged a tire return shipping fee since the supplier was never involved in their choices. Finally, a customer

ordered a wheel and tire package, which arrived to us ready to install. The bad news came two weeks later when the customer returned to us because his/her vehicle had a shimmy ever since the new wheels and tires were installed. We had to charge the customer to re-balance the wheels since all four were out of balance.

The other issue is with defects or warranty issues. If any thing goes wrong with mail order tires, they need to get shipped back to the on-line vendor, which can be a big hassle.

How can you send back defective tires and still drive around? Local service centers like ours here at Orinda Motors will stand behind you during warranty situations and make your experience painless. A local experienced facility also has the know how needed to be sure you get the appropriate tire for your vehicle the first time. The on-line tire service can only go so far. For instance, our tire shop offers our tire customers free tire rotations and free tire pressure checks to insure proper tire wear through the life of the tires.

In closing, do your homework first. We know buying new tires can be expensive. Talk with your local trusted tire experts for advice to help you make the right purchase decision to suit your needs. You will be surprised that by the time you consider the lack of personalized service, shipping costs and now sales taxes on many items shipped to California addresses, the savings by shopping online for tires may not be what you've expected or deserve.

Independent Film Festival Brings Bright Lights to Orinda and Rheem



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) President of CAIFF board of directors **Derek Zemrak** and treasurer **Steve Hitchcock** receive a donation from Wells Fargo's branch manager **Catherine Saadeh** in the amount of \$10,000. Moraga Mayor **Dave Trotter** far right.

By TOM WESTLAKE
Staff Writer

If the lights in Moraga and Orinda seem to be burning a little brighter, the main reason might be the 16th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF), which runs November 7 - 10. Taking over both the Orinda and Rheem Theatres, the festival will feature the very best local talent, mainstream features, shorts and documentaries...and that's not even mentioning the parties and guest filmmakers, as well as a kid's program. Indeed, this venerable 100-plus year art form will be getting the royal treatment and will include something for the most hardcore cinephile as well as the casual moviegoer.

This year, the festival has several goals, not the least of which is raising awareness that a thriving cinema culture exists in Lam-

orinda. Not more than a few blocks from St. Mary's College, the Rheem Theatre still suffers from a lack of exposure, mainly due to its location. The Orinda Theatre has the advantage of being plainly seen from the freeway, not to mention to riders on BART, but the Rheem is something of a hidden gem, especially in light of the many new restorative touches that have recently been completed. Both theaters are now 100 percent digital projection – a particular source of pride to Derek Zemrak, president and founder of the festival (as well as an aspiring film maker in his own right). The Rheem and Orinda theaters are also two of the few remaining theatres that can show movies on celluloid as well as digital, making this palace a place for both the old and the new.

Excitement for this event started early
[SEE CAIFF page 20]



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THANKSGIVING

The Orinda News Welcomes New Interns

Three middle school students from Canyon Elementary School have joined the newspaper staff as interns. They will be covering stories and taking photos over an eight-week period.

Seventh-grader Alec Abrahams lives in Hercules and commutes to Canyon to take advantage of the unique educational opportunities available in the small school located in a redwood grove. He enjoys photography and writing.

Olivia McKee is an eighth grade student who also has an interest in photography and writing. She hopes her internship with *The Orinda News* will give her a sense of what it's like to work at a job and how to work as part of a team.

According to eighth-grader Jackson Fountain, he has always wanted to do an internship at a newspaper and is enjoying meeting new people and learning interview skills.

During their first two weeks, the trio spent time in the Orinda Community Park



SALLY HOGARTY
The Orinda News interns include (clockwise from left) Jackson Fountain, Alec Abrahams and Olivia McKee.

and Orinda Library taking photos and interviewing people on how they celebrate Thanksgiving (see story adjacent). They also had an opportunity to visit the Orinda Grove housing project as workers readied it for an official open house.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Celebrating Thanksgiving and Being Thankful

The three young interns for *The Orinda News* asked a variety of people, and one dog, how they spent Thanksgiving and what they were thankful for. Here are their responses.



OLIVIA MCKEE

“We go to Ojai, California for Thanksgiving and celebrate it with friends. My family, good health and good friends are what I’m thankful to have.”

– Marc Levine, bass player and performer at Orinda Jazz Festival 2012

smelling food on the ground not just on Thanksgiving but pretty much every day. I’m very thankful to have a house to live in since I previously spent Thanksgiving in the pound.”

– George



JACKSON FOUNTAIN

“I go to my youngest son’s house. We don’t always have turkey. One year, it was Cornish Game Hens. I’m very thankful for my good health and that of my family and that everyone in the family has a job!”

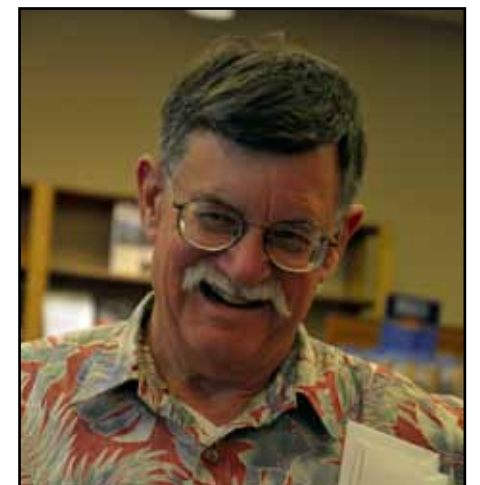
– Sara Grossman



JACKSON FOUNTAIN

“My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is to cook the turkey using my grandmother’s recipe. It’s also a wonderful time to be with family.”

– Tab Aryon Pura, III



ALEC ABRAHAMS

“Our tradition is to get together with as much family as we can. For the last few years, we’ve also been including our neighbors and can have as many as 30 people enjoying all the traditional holiday foods.”

– Jon Bagg



JACKSON FOUNTAIN

“I sit on the kitchen floor and wait for my owners to drop some of the good

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Move of the Month

One Arm Push Press: thighs, glutes, shoulders, chest and arms



Stand with your feet shoulder width apart, a dumbbell in each hand with your palms towards you and by your shoulders.

Squat down, keeping your hips and

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



knees aligned.

As you return to standing press the right dumbbell up overhead. Repeat on the other side.

Everyday Changes

Getting the Upper Hand on Aging

Bonnie Waters



We all on occasion catch a glimpse of our reflection in the mirror and frown at the signs of aging. For most baby boomers, aging is not something that we celebrate. While we mostly fret wrinkles and crow's feet, our hands actually show the earliest signs of aging. There is very little fat on the backs of our hands, so when a small amount of collagen or elastin fibers begin to break down (a normal aging process and caused by sun exposure) it's going to give our age away. The most obvious signs of aging are age spots, crinkly crepe-like skin texture and bulging veins.

While we can hide a lot of the signs of aging, our hands are difficult to hide. Celebrities and others may opt for a \$1500 plastic surgery procedure called a hand lift but if that is not in the cards, we need not throw up our hands in despair. In this age of advanced cosmeceuticals, it is possible to turn back the clock on aging hands. The newest technology in skin-care products can make skin appear plumper and even boost the production of collagen.

If you are like many women, your hand-care regime is limited to a dab of hand cream now and then. With just a bit more effort, you can improve the appearance of your hands right now and in the years to come.

A handcare regime is three fold:

1. Prevent – Products and practices that prevent aging of the hands
2. Repair – Products that provide immediate improvement in the appearance of the

texture of the back of hands and minimize dark pigmentation (age spots)

3. Groom – Well groomed nails go a long way in minimizing the signs of aging.

Begin by following these simple recommendations:

Do dishes and household chores involving chemical with gloves on.

Wear gloves in cold, dry weather.

Wear sunscreen regardless of the weather because the sun's rays penetrate even on cloudy days.

Keep the nails groomed by having a manicure every two weeks.

Apply hand cream and cuticle oil or cream before you go to bed. Put both by your bedside as a reminder.

Apply the excess moisturizer and/or serum used on your face to the surface of your hands. Anything you are applying to your face is most likely something that you can apply to your hands. **Exfoliate gently.**

If using an exfoliating cream on your face or body, put it on the surface of your hands though avoid abrasive products.

If using hand sanitizer, try one that also moisturizes.

Carry a hand cream with you and apply after you wash your hands. Pick one that has SPF.

The best way to find hand-care products is to ask a trusted beauty professional. Ask your nail technician or esthetician for their recommendations. Regardless of your age, it is never too late to get the upper hand on aging!

◆ FAIR from page 11

include Urbansitter, Pediatric Dentistry of Pleasant Hill and East Bay Preschools.

LM is a social and support club for parents with children under five years of age in the greater Lamorinda area including the cities of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. It strives to help members enrich

their lives through cultivating new friendships, personal and professional growth, and community involvement. With more than 900 members, the club hosts dozens of activities and special events each month and provides valuable resources to Lamorinda parents. For more information, visit www.lamorindamoms.org.

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– Marty Lenzi



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PHOTOGRAPHER

Photographer's Unique Panoramic Creations Dazzle the Eye

By CHARLIE JARRETT
Staff Photographer

In September, former Orinda resident Don Bain demonstrated the art of 360-degree panoramic photography at the Rheem Theater in Moraga for a near capacity crowd. Bain has been experimenting with photography throughout his life. Trained in the field tradition at UC Berkeley's geography department, Bain gained a strong appreciation of landscapes and the natural forces that have formed those landscapes.

His geological studies and teaching have given him ample opportunities to experience the wilderness and beauties of the outdoors. His appreciation of the complexity of light on those landscapes spurred him to pursue photography as a means to capture the beauty he experienced.

Over the many years he has traveled and photographed the world around him, Bain broadened his perspective from a single frame, single image recorded on film, to multiple images taken on a linear panoramic collection concept. His career as the Director of The geography computing facility at UC Berkeley also provided him with a unique opportunity to experiment in the groundbreaking field of digital photography technology. Very quickly he became a leader among his peers and a leader in the field of digital panoramic photography with his panorama website becoming one of the first in the world as well as one of the first computer assisted sites to feature color photography.

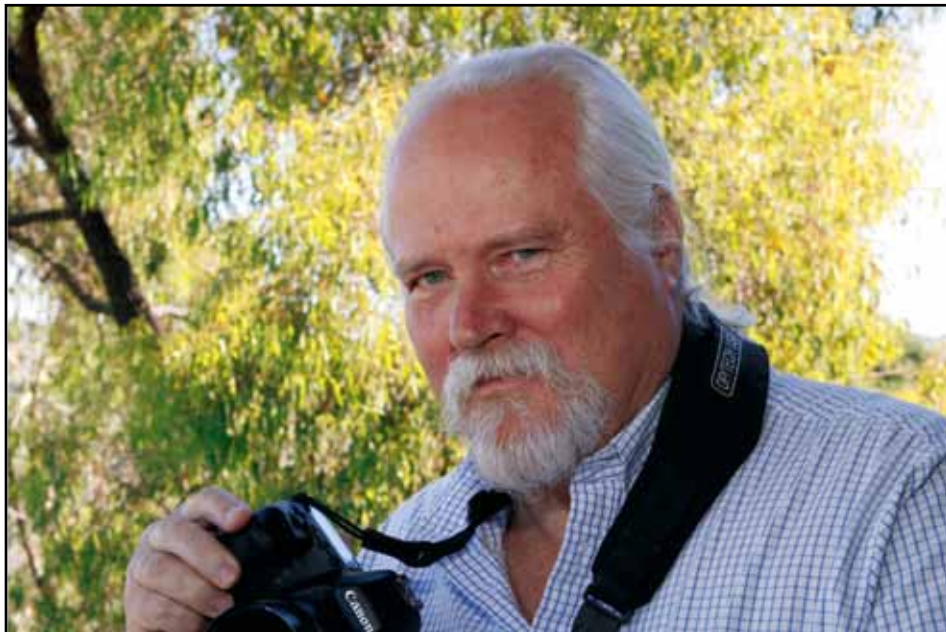
He became the founder of the World Wide Panoramic Foundation, presently with over 600 members globally. The foundation's website (<http://WorldWide-Panorama.org>) includes 7,600 panoramas

created by over 1100 photographers.

Panoramic photography today involves the basic photographic act of mounting a camera on a perfectly level tripod and carefully taking repetitive photographs in a circle, each one slightly overlapping the previous image until the photographer has completed a continuous and contiguous level circle of photographic images. While most people envision this as a panoramic image, it is not in the same universe as what Bain produces.

To the amazement and delight of the Rheem Theatre audience, Bain demonstrated not only linear panoramas that covered a full 360-degree arc, but also his own unique panoramas allowing the viewer to experience imagery in a more natural way. One photograph started at Bain's boots and then sweeps up to a point of light above and beyond 180 degrees directly above his head, while rotating in a 360 degree circle fully to the left or the right with just the simple movement of a mouse on his laptop computer.

Bain describes this visual experience as a "cylindrical" or "spherical" panorama, like standing inside a cylinder looking at the world that surrounds us. To better conceptualize this visual experience, imagine standing in a redwood forest. The image you see in any direction is uninterrupted and referred to as "field of human vision." You can look down and see the undergrowth at your feet, and, as you move your sightline upward, the images in front of you (from your feet up to the top of the trees and the sky above) is a range of vision that might be described as a cylindrical or spherical field of view. Only the absolute center of that field of view, however, is sharp enough to clearly discern every detail. That area of view is actually limited to only about the



CHARLIE JARRETT

Photographer **Don Bain** has created life-like 360 degree digital photography technology that allows viewers to truly experience various locales.

central six degrees of that collective 120 degree visual arc. The remainder of the 120-degree arc is made up of varying degrees of sharpness called peripheral vision.

Bain's unique accomplishment involves taking a single plane of images and incorporating them into spacial experiences that mimic the visual majesty of human vision through photographic and computer manipulation, which he calls 360 degree panoramic spherical photography.

Bain's presentation at the Rheem Theatre included a visual tour of a good portion of the United States, and, more specifically, scenery that ranged up and down the West Coast of America from Baja in Mexico to the most northern points in Alaska. One of Bain's demonstrations included images of the great redwood trees that panned from the mossy, fern covered forest floor to the emerging sunlight at the very tip of the

[SEE BAIN page 16]

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Seventh Annual Artisan Faire in Orinda

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

With the crisp air of fall relacing summer's warmth, a group of talented artists prepare for the seventh annual Artisan Faire. The festive event will be held on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
George Lucido (L) with his wife **Mary**, displays one of his wooden bowls that will be displayed during this year's Artisan Faire at the Orinda Country Club.

Thursday, November 14, from 4-7:30 p.m. at the Orinda Country Club.

Twenty-eight creative local artists, craftsmen and authors look forward to sharing their latest creations just in time for holiday gift giving. Many favorite artisans from previous years will be returning as well as new artists. Complimentary wine tasting will again be offered with favorite vintages available for purchase.

Gail Solt's vividly jewel colored beads will return to the Faire. Gathered from Europe, Russia and Hawaii, these unique gems turn into treasured one-of-a-kind necklaces in Solt's creative hand. Solt, who started the Artisan Faire seven years ago, has been making the sought-after jewelry for 10 years.

[SEE FAIRE page 20]



Models at last year's Festival of Trees fashion show applaud the audience and Helen Lyall's lovely designs.

Festival Of Trees – Orinda Woman's Club Fashion Show Fundraiser

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Woman's Club's (OWC) 27th Annual Festival of Trees fundraiser on November 21, offers tempting raffle prizes, lunch and a runway-style fashion show of Helen Lyall's designs. Dan Ashley, co-anchor of Channel 7 News is the Master of Ceremonies for the day, which takes place at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. Starting at 10:30 a.m., attendees will have a chance to peruse raffle items including decorated small trees, trips to Puerto Vallarta and Hawaii, wreaths, gift baskets and more. Lunch follows at noon, after which models strut up and down the runway in Lyall designed outfits.

OWC Festival of Trees co-chairs Barbara Rogan and Alison King, along with president Elene Lee and publicity chair Susan Domingos organized this year's event. Major beneficiaries of the fundraiser include the Contra Costa County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Restorative Justice in Schools, and the Orinda Woman's Club Community Service Committee.

CASA has been "the child's voice in court" for 32 years by providing trained community volunteers to advocate for the needs of neglected or abused children so the court can make timely and informed decisions in the best interests of the children. Restorative Justice is a subsidiary of SEEDS – Services that Encourage Effective Dialogue and Solutions – which uses

restorative justice practices in Berkeley and Oakland public schools to create sustainable, positive school environments, build community and reduce punitive and racially disproportionate disciplinary practices. OWC's Community Service Committee donates to local and international nonprofits and awards education grants to improve the lives of women and families. Tax deductible tickets are \$85 each. For more information, call 254-4900 or visit www.orindawomanclub.org.



SALLY HOGARTY
This "Teddy Bear" tree was one of many gorgeous trees and baskets that attendees sought to win at last year's Festival of Trees.



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AROUND TOWN

Holiday Bazaar – Family Fun to Kick Start the Season

By Elana O’Loskey
Staff Writer

Mark your calendar for November 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. when the Community Center and surrounding area will be filled with over 55 local and unique vendors, live entertainment, gourmet food, fitness and activities for the kids. It’s the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary’s 37th annual Holiday Bazaar fundraiser and all proceeds make the Halloween Parade, Summer Concerts in the Park and other Community Center programs and projects possible. The Boy Scouts signal the beginning of the day with a flag raising followed by the day’s entertainment activities including balloon making, ukulele, Zumba fitness classes, a clown and vocals. The public is

invited to enjoy this free event. Jennifer Robb, one of five volunteers organizing the event says, “I wouldn’t miss it for the world because of the feel-good experience working with Linda [Dezzani of Orinda Parks and Rec] and the local vendors, many of whom have family-owned businesses.” There will be delicious food to munch on and to bring home for gifts, such as jams and preserves and every kind of handmade craft you can imagine. The Orinda Teen Advisory Council has organized a kids’ art drop with simple games and crafts to keep little hands busy and happy. Volunteers are needed – call 254-2445 or go to www.cityoforinda.org for more information. The Orinda Community Center is located at 28 Orinda Way.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shoppers enjoy the many art pieces both inside and outside the Orinda Community Center.

Hospice Tree of Lights Here Soon

Hospice of the East Bay, Friends of Hospice Orinda, and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce will once again present the Tree of Lights in Orinda Village Square. This year’s date is Saturday, December 1, at 4:30 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by a children’s chorus composed of students from the Orinda Union School District and, of course, an appearance by Santa Claus, who arrives in a fire truck.

Safeway provides Christmas cookies with CVS donating sparking cider and Rite Aid supplying the candy canes.

You can support the important end-of-life care that Hospice provides by purchasing a light on the tree. It’s also a wonderful way to honor a friend or relative who has passed or who needs support. For more information, go to www.hospiceeastbay.org.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



DAVID DIERKS

The **Tree of Lights** shines in Orinda Village from early December through the holidays.

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Guatemalan Jewelry and Hand-Woven Items

Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, in Orinda will host a sale to benefit needy indigenous women in Guatemala on Sunday November 3, from 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.

MayaWorks, a nonprofit social venture that empowers indigenous women of Guatemala to achieve economic security by providing markets for their handcrafted products, coordinates the sale. In addition to helping women transform their skills into a means of financial support for their families by creating a market for the traditional arts of Mayan artisans, the organization also expands educational opportunities for the women.

For more information on the organi-

zation, go to www.mayaworks.org. For more information on the November sale, call Orinda Community Church at 254-4906.

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ORINDA HOMES SALES IN 2013 (MLS Date from 1/1 - 9/30)

Homes Sold: **202**

Average Sold Price: **\$1,222,245**

Average \$ per square foot: **\$480.52**

Average Days on Market: **24**

Average size of homes sold: **2,543 square feet**

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HEALTHCARE ACT

Is The Affordable Healthcare Act Really Affordable?

By MARY LEIGH MILLER
Contributing Writer

Alison McKenzie, having served as an administrative law judge in social services for the State of California, knows firsthand the “ins and outs” of many of the state’s publicly funded service programs, including Home Supportive Services, Cal-Fresh (aka Food Stamps), Foster Care and Aid to Adoptive Children. She will share her extensive knowledge on November 19 at the Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, in Moraga. Sponsored by the Lafayette-Orinda-Moraga (LOM) Chapter of the American Association of University Women, the event begins at 9:15 a.m.

Although newly retired, McKenzie continues to be involved with administrative hearings on a part time basis and, because of her familiarity with MediCal eligibility, has been recruited by the California State Department to train county leaders about the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA) and its implications.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Alison McKenzie is the featured speaker for the AAUW, Lafayette-Orinda-Moraga branch, on November 19.

McKenzie will highlight the ACA provisions: “What it is, who it covers and how it works.” Her presentation applies to a broad audience of all ages and includes many of our children who may find themselves in serious need of health coverage at some point in the future.

For more information about the event, email communication-publicity@aauw-oml.org.

◆ BAIN from page 13

treetops.

“In the late 1980s, we were pushing the frontiers of digital imagery as used in teaching geography, doing things with a tremendous amount of work and literally hundreds of thousands of dollars,” explained Bain. “Things that today are common place, and you can do them all on your cell phones. One of the things we did was to borrow teaching slide collections from our colleagues and digitize them into a form that anyone would recognize now as a simple website. Unfortunately, websites

had not yet been invented,” he says. “When the web initialized two years later, I was ready, and we launched the Geo-images website. Soon after this, Apple invented QTVR (quick time virtual reality), which was the first system of looking at an immersive image, looking all the way around and controlling it with a mouse, exploring interactively within a panorama. I got right on that, became an Apple developer, built my own equipment, and, after writing my own programs, in August of 1995, I came up with my first panorama consisting of my old car in the brickyard cove in Richmond.

◆ GROVE from page 1

and two or three bathrooms. Homes range in price from \$400,000 to \$900,000.

“The duplex homes – which are in the \$400,000 price range – are restricted to families with an income of no more than \$110,000 per year,” says Emmanuel Ursu, director of planning for the City of Orinda. “Preference will also be given to locally employed persons.”

Ursu says the duplexes are part of the city’s effort to meet state-mandated affordable housing requirements.

“As part of the negotiation with Pulte, the city also required some single-story housing at Orinda Grove that would be attractive to seniors,” says Ursu. “There’s also a new tot lot that is open to the public. The development also features outdoor barbecue pits throughout.”

Pulte Homes purchased the Orinda Grove site from Orinda Union School District (OUSD) for \$19.5 million, which the school district can use for capital improvements. Sale of the property – which was originally purchased under contract in 2004 – was finalized in June, 2012.

From 1956 to 1975, the property was home to OUSD’s Pine Grove Intermediate School, which was closed due to declining district enrollment. OUSD subsequently leased the property to John F. Kennedy University. In 2004, JFK purchased its own site in Pleasant Hill and closed the Orinda location.

The area is also home to OUSD’s administrative offices. As part of the purchase, Pulte agreed to demolish the old OUSD building and construct a new 7,500-square-foot district office.

Additionally, Pulte agreed to relocate and

upgrade the existing baseball fields on 3.1 acres of adjacent city-owned land. “They relocated the two baseball diamonds from the east corner to the southwest corner of the site,” says Ursu. “Also, upgrades to the drainage system were made, new restroom and storage facilities were added and some bleacher seating installed.” Ursu adds that the baseball diamonds are natural turf, and there is no night lighting.

Parking on or near Orinda Grove should not be a problem. “Each house has a garage and at least two parking spots,” says Ursu. “The city has 65 spaces for ballpark parking, and there is guest parking throughout the housing development.”

Pulte is also working with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to build a pedestrian pathway from Orinda Grove to Orinda BART station. Caltrans maintains the right-of-way over the station.

Ursu hopes that the new residents of Orinda Grove will add to the vibrancy of the downtown area. “Orinda Grove provides housing within easy reach of shopping, restaurants and BART,” says Ursu. “It also benefits OUSD by providing capital revenue and affording a new district office.”

Steve Kalmbach, president of Pulte’s Northern California division, says Orinda Grove is ideally situated. “It’s in one of the state’s best school districts, close to retail and ... proximate to many of the major job centers in the Bay Area,” says Kalmbach. “We see this new community as a great opportunity for families seeking a new home in a tremendous location at a good value.”

For more information, contact Orinda Grove sales associates Linda Russell at linda.russell@pulte.com or Eric Hultz at eric.hultz@pulte.com. Or call 1-800-665-4154.

By early 2002, I moved up to a real digital SLR camera, a Nikon D100. Today, I use a Canon 5D Mark II with a Canon 15mm wide angle fisheye lens.”

In his demonstrations and workshops, Bain engages his audience with a cross section of his more than 10,000 photographic projects as he explains the complicated process used to create his awe-inspiring work. Some of his flat pane photographs have been created by using the transverse Mercator projection principle, which is the same process that is used to take a spherical object such as the earth, and flatten it out into an accurate rendering of a 180-degree image onto a completely flat surface, like a map of the earth.

Each requires a great deal of work as each panorama consists of as many as 30 wide-angle photographs woven seamlessly into a 360 degree visual slide show adventure. The image of a redwood tree grove he used

to explain this transverse Mercator projection process currently resides in his home and is, without a doubt, one of the most magical and beautiful examples of this type of photography to be found anywhere.

Bain hopes to lead another photographic and panorama workshop locally in the near future, possibly at the Orinda Library auditorium. In the meantime, Bain’s 360-degree panoramas can be seen at <http://360panos.com>. Using a web browser such as Google Chrome or a Macintosh web browser gives the best illustration of his unique photographs.

These panoramas are the next best thing to being there. Want to visit Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, Las Vegas or New Mexico? How about something as specific as the Ruins of Fort Selden, a cavalry post near Las Cruces, New Mexico? Just click on one of the destinations with your computer mouse and away you go.

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LOCAL RESIDENTS / GROUPS



SALLY HOGARTY

The "Rob Roy" sailing canoe made one of its first appearances at this past year's 4th of July parade. It will be raffled off in November.

Beautiful Canoe to be Ruffled Off to Benefit Rotary Programs

By JOHN FAZEL
Contributing Writer

Rob Roy is a sailing canoe, originally designed by John MacGregor in 1865 and named after his famous Scottish outlaw/hero grandfather. Built by members of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, it conforms to the original plans. Fifteen members invested more than 1200 hours in the creation of this one-of-a-kind wood and canvas masterpiece. MacGregor sailed his originals over 1,000 miles on major European waterways and rivers, and you

might get the chance to do the same if you win Rob Roy in Rotary's upcoming raffle.

Rotary's Rob Roy has been on public tour during for the past few months as part of the group's major fundraiser. It has appeared at such vaunted venues as the Lamorinda 4th of July Parade and the Orinda Farmers' Market in Orinda, Scottish Highland Games in Pleasanton, Solano Stroll in Albany, Alamo Music Festival, Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, Diablo Foods in Lafayette and Octoberfest at the Hacienda in Moraga. In mid-October, it travelled all

[SEE RAFFLE page 23]

Keeping Water Flowing to Customers for 90 Years

By VALERIE HOTZ
Staff Writer

One of Orinda's most high profile neighbors – the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) – occupies three blocks along San Pablo Dam Road, supplying 1.3 million customers with an average of 161 million gallons every day of the year. Its roots date back to 1923, when voters elected to create EBMUD to provide regional water service to 35 communities including Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Danville, El Cerrito, Emeryville, portions of Hayward, Hercules, Lafayette, Moraga, Oakland, Orinda, Piedmont, Richmond, San Leandro, San Pablo, San Ramon, and part of Walnut Creek, among others. In 1944, voters authorized EBMUD to provide regional wastewater treatment, located near the Oakland side of the Bay Bridge.

Jim Smith, superintendent of water treatment at the Orinda water treatment plant, points out that the Orinda facility is the largest and oldest treatment plant in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EBMUD board member and Orinda resident **Katy Foulkes**.

system with a design capacity of 175 million gallons a day, peaking at 190 millions a day. "There are three large aqueducts that deliver snowmelt from the Sierra through the Mokelumne River. EMBUD stores wa-

[SEE EBMUD page 20]

Local Psychologist Passionate About Helping People

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Orinda resident Dr. Brian Clark works as a psychologist in the Lamorinda area and is passionate about helping people. Clark said, "My practice focuses on therapy for adolescents, adults and families. I specialize in achievement pressure, school stress, AD/HD, acting out teens, parental support, depression and anxiety. My treatment approach supports both parents and children in developing healthy strategies for navigating the pressure that is so prevalent in schools and communities today. I also work with individual adult clients facing anxiety, depression and life changes."

Clark, along with his wife and son, moved to Orinda four years ago because of the schools and quality of life. "In a community with such high expectations, the pressure to be perfect can put a lot of stress on both children and adults. Helping people to find ways to manage those stressors is something I truly appreciate doing," said Clark. One of Clark's specialties is helping teens and their families cope with the challenges they face in succeeding in school. Clark has given talks at Miramonte High School about the problems of achievement pressure. "The college admission process is more difficult than adults remember. Today's children are more stressed than ever, and the pressure to achieve can be relentless," added Clark.

Stress comes from all over, not just from parents or schools. There is peer pressure and pressure the teens put on themselves. "In Lamorinda, it's hard to escape. Kids are expected to do everything and do it well. Parents are under pressure to have their kids go to the right schools. They feel that they can't take the chance of their kids losing the opportunity to go to a top school. The competition is crushing and the stakes too high. I support both parents and children in developing healthy strategies for navigating achievement pressure, encouraging achievement, and finding success from within oneself," said Clark.

For parents, there is a fine line between helping their child and micromanaging their child's lives. Clark said, "Different kids need different levels of support. I work with you to find that support level. Some kids need more help." Clark also works with parents that need help with acting out kids and can help refine parenting techniques. "What may have worked for you in the past,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Brian Clark focuses on therapy for adolescents, adults and families.

may not be working for you now with a particular child. If you feel like you're out of answers and have tried everything, I can help you to find the most effective way to parent your child," added Clark.

Clark graduated from the Wright Institute in Berkeley and has been in practice for 10 years. He has worked in the Marin school system and for Kaiser Permanente. "Every individual is unique, and I apply an integrative approach that uses several types of therapy allowing for flexibility in our work together. My goal is to not only help you through current issues and concerns but also prepare you to successfully manage them on your own in the future. Helping

[SEE CLARK page 20]



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A Smiling Face Can Be the Best Medicine

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Isabella Fasheh's giggle is infectious. The Miramonte senior maintains a positive attitude as she juggles college applications, schoolwork, a part time job, and her volunteer position for the California Cancer and Research Institute (CCRI) in Pleasant Hill.

Fasheh has been a volunteer at the Center's help desk for the past two years. It is an organization she is passionate about.

"I meet people at very difficult points in their life," she said, "It's somewhat difficult and sometimes reminds me of when my mom had cancer." Still, Fasheh does what she can to help the patients at the center.

Her volunteer activities include coordination of the schedules for other help desk volunteers, giving directions to guide pa-

tients to doctor's offices, answering emails, updating and managing the scheduling and training of volunteers.

But, she says, perhaps her most important job is giving the patients a friendly smiling face.

"The patients come in every other day, depending on their chemo treatments, and you feel like you're helping them, giving them support and being there through the difficult time in their lives," she explains.

The Center houses Diablo Valley Oncology/Hematology, Epic Care, Radiation Oncology and Diagnostic Imaging and provides comprehensive cancer care all in one building. According to Fasheh, the center "has radiation and chemo in the building, imaging for MRI and PET CT Scans, a Neurology department and a new physical therapy department."

Holden High School Encourages a Unique Spirit of Learning

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

November is a busy month for faculty and students at Holden High School. On Sunday, November 10, at 10 a.m., the school and the Orinda Community Church will hold a special service in the church Sanctuary followed by a round table dis-

cussion from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room of the OCC Fellowship Hall.

"We would love for Holden community members to attend the sermon and come to the round table to share their stories with OCC members," said Abby Tuttle, M.A., co-director and education specialist.

According to Tuttle, Holden co-director Renee Beck will present a sermon about the spirit of learning, and current student Nikaela Bradford will speak about her experience at Holden. "This is a way to give back to the church and to validate all that they give to us by sharing our success stories with them," said Tuttle.

The school will host a fundraiser on November 22 from 7 -10 p.m. at Foreign Cinema Restaurant in San Francisco. "It is a first for us, and we are really excited about it," said Melanie Wentz, Holden's development associate. She added, "Foreign Cinema has been listed as a Top 100 restaurant by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for 11 consecutive years. It offers California/Mediterranean cuisine in an industrial chic setting, screening foreign independent films in its outdoor courtyard nightly."

Wentz said the event will feature biodynamic wines, specialty cocktails, appetizers, the Charles Wheel Jazz Trio, and is "just generally a very hip San Francisco experience!"

Tickets to the Foreign Cinema event are



Miramonte senior **Isabella Fasheh** hopes to find another student to take her place at California Cancer and Research Institute's help desk. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

When Fasheh leaves for college in the fall, she hopes to have a high school volunteer to fill her position, just as she did for her predecessor, Sam Sirott, who as a high school student founded the help desk at CCRI in 2010. The volunteer help desk position offers students a chance "to give back to the community and help out others." Fasheh stresses the need for the volunteers to "be a nice smiling face for cancer patients who are going through a hard time."

Fasheh knows first hand how difficult it is to have a loved one battle cancer. Her mom Nadia's bout with colon cancer was the driving reason behind Fasheh volun-

teering at the center. "She went through cancer treatments when I was in 8th grade. People did so much for us, they brought me food and gave me rides to school, and I wanted to give back to the community," she adds.

Fasheh plans to look for other volunteer opportunities when she goes away to college in the fall. Though she isn't sure which of the schools she will attend, she plans to major in either education or psychology. Volunteering, she says is "the way of life. You have to give back to receive. You have to work to strive for good morals and good karma."



A previous showing of student art at Remedy Salon in Emeryville drew a good number of students and supporters. SALLY HOGARTY

\$55 and can be purchased through Brown-PaperTickets.com.

Other special events at Holden High School include Student Open Mic night in the Holden High Theater on Friday, December 6 and a Student Art Show/fundraiser at the Remedy Salon in Emeryville in the spring.

According to Wentz, Holden High School is "a safe haven for non-traditional learners from all over the San Francisco Bay Area." The school features a 5:1 teacher/student ratio, individualized academic planning,

required internships and volunteer work in the community, and a focus on developing a post-high school plan for college, training or employment.

"For me," said Wentz, "what's special about Holden is the emphasis on creating a tight, caring community to support young people as they navigate the challenges of high school and adolescence. The teachers and staff at Holden get to know each student in depth and provide the kind of support these kids need to blossom and mature both socially and intellectually."

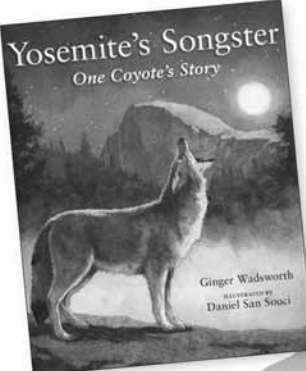


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SCHOOLS

OIS Presents a New Version of Robin Hood in November

By JEANETTE LIPP
Contributing Writer

Orinda Intermediate School's (OIS) Bulldog Theater will stage *The Trial of Robin Hood*, November 14-16, at OIS. This dramatic production written by Thomas Poole includes musical scores by composer Michael Kroener.

Promising fun for the whole family, the production begins outside of Sherwood Forest in the town of Nottingham where a celebration of May Day will soon take place. The town is busy preparing for the festivities when the ruthless Sheriff of Nottingham enters with Robin Hood, now captured. The Sheriff wants to make an example of Robin Hood and hang him without a trial but is surprised by the arrival of King Richard's Judge who insists that the townsfolk have a voice. He asks them to reenact Robin's adventures, which reveals

the real hero of this classic tale.

The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) as part of their Youth Education Program. BACT's Rachel Robinson serves as director with Brett Jones as fight choreographer. Assistant director Jack Henry is an alumnus of OIS. Two casts, comprised of over 45 OIS students, have each spent approximately 35 hours rehearsing and preparing for the show. An additional 16 OIS students will serve on tech crew.

The production is funded through parent contributions, the OIS Parents Club, Orinda Arts Council, and donor contributions. The performance lasts a total of 90 minutes, including one intermission.

For show time information and to purchase tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.



SALLY HOGARTY

Cast members from OIS' upcoming production of *The Trial of Robin Hood* take a break during rehearsals.

Miramonte High School Readies Thornton Wilder Classic



SALLY HOGARTY

(L-R) Students **Daniel Estopinal** and **Colin Mooney** take direction from teacher **Heather Cousins** during a rehearsal for *Our Town*.

The Miramonte High School drama department will present Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* November 6-8 at 7 p.m. at the school's theater, 750 Moraga Way in Orinda.

"This production will be unique for us since we will have the audience seating on the stage making it a more intimate experience," explains drama instructor Heather Cousins. According to Cousins, this will provide 80-100 seats – some of which will be filled by actors when not performing.

For advance tickets, go to the Miramonte website at www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte, click on web store, then click on tickets, and finally on drama tickets.



SALLY HOGARTY

Three actresses play Emily at different stages of her life and death in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. (L-R) **Maritza Grillo**, **Elena Wasserman** and **Maya Konstantino**.

OIS Offers Students Expanded Opportunities to Learn and Serve

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

When Orinda Intermediate School principal Michael Randall says, "There are a lot of great things going on at our school," he certainly has plenty to talk about. In addition to four new teachers, there is a full panoply of activities for students to be involved with that are beneficial and fun in any number of ways.

OIS has four new teachers, and three of them are new to teaching: Marshall Sachs and Heather Johnson are both teaching science, while Shannah LaRoche is teaching math, having spent years in the business world prior to her new career. The fourth new teacher, Kate Hessefort, is teaching science and spent several years teaching in an Antioch school.

The school is offering a new elective course this year called "Clay: 3D Sculpting," which has been "incredibly popular" according to Randall.

Also, the school is working with the Bay Area Children's Theater for the first time together producing their fall play, *The Trial Of Robin Hood*. The program is after school, and the theater group managing the play sends people three times per week to work with the students. The production will be performed at the school on November 14, 15 and 16.

In addition to the theater program, OIS

continues to offer a "robust after school sports program." The current season has over 200 participants in cross country, football, volleyball and wrestling. An in-house P. E. teacher is coaching the running sports, other coaches come from the community, and some from St. Mary's College.

[SEE OIS page 20]




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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1 **Orinda Books**, Story Hour for 2- to 4-year-olds and their caregivers, Tuesdays, 276 Village Square, call 254-7606.
Valley Art Gallery's Artfall exhibit runs through November 16 at 1661 Bothelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. Visit www.valleyartgallery.org or call 935-4311.
Lafayette Art Gallery features The Heart of Art through December 28 at the gallery's new location at The Forge, 3420 Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Visit www.lafayettegallery.net or call 2842788.
- 2 **Orinda Holiday Bazaar** with 55 one-of-a-kind local vendors and live entertainment, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Orinda Books hosts Ginger Wadsworth and Daniel San Souci, discussing their new picture book, *Yosemite's Songster: One Coyote's Story*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 3 **Orinda Books** hosts Jeanne Olin, discussing her new novel, *Dear Jude*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 6 **Senior Activity: Monterey Bay Aquarium Behind the Scenes Tour** gives seniors an insider look at research projects and how food is prepared for 10,000 animals, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$45 for residents; \$51 non-residents (lunch not included). To register, call Parks & Recreation at 254-2445.
- 7 **Orinda Books**, Story Hour with Cathy Goshorn for toddlers and their caregivers, Thursdays, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 254-7606.
- 9 **Orinda Books** hosts Janet Dawson, Margit Liesche and Glinda Carroll, discussing their new mysteries, respectively, *Death Rides the Zephyr*, *Triptych* and *Dead in the Water*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 10 **Annual Holden High School/Orinda Community Church Service**, 10 a.m., followed by a round-table discussion between students, staff and church members from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the church's Fireside Room, 10 Irwin Way. Visit www.holdenhigh.org or call 254-0199.
- 12 **The Second Wednesday Book Group** will read and discuss *The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. The group meets monthly; new members welcome. Visit www.orindabooks.com.
- 14 **Lamorinda Moms' Preschool Fair**, featuring more than 40 local preschools, Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- 16 **Vino, Queso Y Musica**, a benefit for Contra Costa Children's Chorus, is a musical evening of song featuring tenor Martin Benvenuto, soprano Leah Arington and pianist Paul Caccamo, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$100. To reserve, email programs@childrenschorus.org, then mail payment to CCCC, PO Box 2518, Walnut Creek, CA 94595 or through brownpapertickets.com. Visit www.childrenschorus.org.
- 17 **Orinda Books** hosts co-authors Shirley Streshinsky and Patricia Klaus, discussing *An Atomic Love Story: The Extraordinary Women in Robert Oppenheimer's Life*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 19 **World Affairs Book Group** will discuss *Syria: The Fall of the House of Assad* by David W. Lesch, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
Lunch n' Learn, Lamorinda seniors learn iPad skills from Ed Zeidan, founder of Nerd 4 Rent, Moraga Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch and refreshments provided. \$10 residents; \$11 non-residents. To register, call Parks & Recreation at 254-2445.
- 21 **Festival of Trees**, annual raffle and fashion show fundraiser for Orinda Woman's Club, San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$85. Call Kelly at 254-4900.
- 22 **Holden High School** hosts An Autumn Evening Fundraiser with cocktails, wine, appetizers and music by the Charles Wheel Jazz Trio at Foreign Cinema Restaurant, 2534 Mission Street, San Francisco, 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$55. Visit <http://holdenhigh.org>.
- 23 **Orinda Books** hosts Harriet Scott Chessman discussing her new book, *The Beauty of Ordinary Things*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 24 **Orinda Books** hosts Orinda resident Amy Lyford discussing her new book, *Isamu Noguchi's Modernism: Negotiating Race, Labor and Nation (1930-1950)*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. The library will be closed Monday, November 11 for Veterans' Day and Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 7 **Book Sale** sponsored by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and Sorting Area, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 12 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop-ins welcome, attendance limited to once per week. Also November 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27.
Peek-A-Book Time, songs, stories, rhythms and rhymes for infants to 16 months old and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 a.m. Also November 19 and 26.
- 15 **Mystery Book Club** members read and discuss *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley, Tutoring Room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Adult program.
- 16 **Saturday Morning Live** features story time for children 0-5 years, Picture Book Area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also November 23 and 30.
- 26 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent will talk about the theatre's upcoming production of *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*, based on a true story, it tells the tale of a young Jewish musician whose dreams are interrupted by the Nazi regime, Fireside Room, 7 p.m. Adult program.

CLUB MEETINGS

- American Association of University Women (AAUW) Presents** Is the Affordable Healthcare Act Really Affordable, a talk presented by Alison McKenzie, former California administrative law judge in social services, Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga, 9:15 a.m. Email communication-publicity@aauwoml.org.
- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Call Karen Seaborn, 689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Better Homes and Garden Mason-McDuffie office, 51 Moraga Way, www.moragaadobe.org.

Rock and Classical Music Combine for Unique Concert

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Orinda resident Robert Kaplan has a philosophy about playing rock music with Contra Costa Wind Symphony (CCWS), "You can never have too many Beatles songs."

Kaplan, a semi-retired psychologist, has been with CCWS since 1991, when he moved to Orinda. He'll be joined on stage at the Leshner Center for the Arts by three other Orinda residents for the CCWS season opener "Classic(AI) Rock" on November 17 at 7:30 p.m.

According to conductor Duane Carroll, "The performance is a fusion of classical and rock musicians uniting in an evening of classic rock favorites," which includes several Beatles tunes, Queen's spectacular "Bohemian Rhapsody," and music from *Led Zeppelin on Tour*. The Wind Symphony will join Bay Area rock musicians for the U.S. premiere of a new arrangement of Deep Purple's "Concerto for Group and Orchestra," composed by Jon Lord, with lyrics by Ian Gillan.

Besides Kaplan, Orindans Denis Winter, Laura Remington and Marilyn Raia will play with the 50-piece symphony. They will be joined by renowned bassist Terry Miller,



Orinda resident **Laura Remington (L)** and **Anne Howell** rehearse for the November 17 concert.

who currently tours with the Zac Brown band. Miller's rock credentials include performing and recording with Steve Miller, Debbie Harry, Jimmy Buffett, Emmylou Harris, members of The Doobie Brothers, Grateful Dead, and Yes. The group Miller founded, Terry's Kids, will also be featured at the concert.

Remington, who moved to Orinda in 1993 and is a flautist with the Wind Symphony, compares playing music to a "team

[SEE CONCERT page 23]

- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m, free. Call 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. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Celia's Mexican, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 a.m., September through May, St. Stephen's Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive. Ted Kipping, an arborist who travels the world locating rare flora and fauna, will talk on Flowering California Native Shrubs for Gardens, www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Garden Club**. Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. Visit www.orindagardenclub.org.
- Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m. Contact Thama Brentano at thamascout@gmail.com or www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 254-2222. Orinda Association. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday. Visit www.orindahiking.org or call Ian at 254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday, 5 p.m., Historical Society Museum, 26 Orinda Way, 254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 283-7176.
- Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881. Visit <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub/>.
- Walnut Creek Garden Club**. Second Monday, 9:30 a.m., Camellia Room, Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. Speaker Ann Leyhe, co-owner of Mrs. Dalloway's Book Store in Oakland, will discuss new gardening books. Visit <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/walnut-creek-garden-club>.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- 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.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 6 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 25 Orinda Way, Suite 200, Orinda, CA 94563. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

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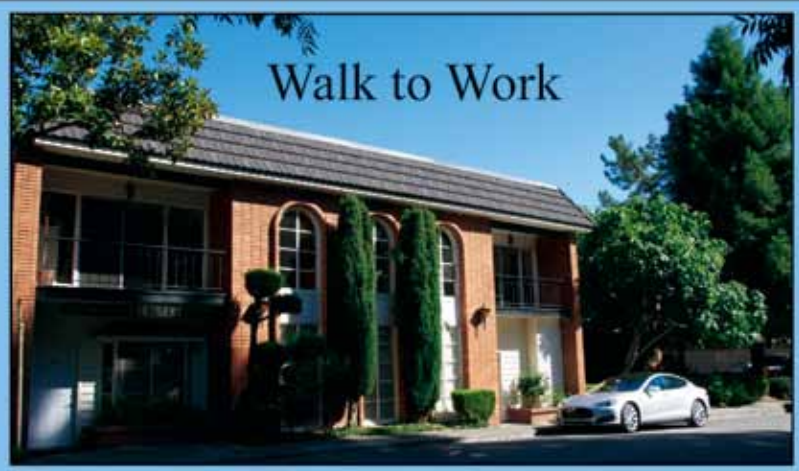
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Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales
Give Thanks for Our National Bird



Jennifer Conroy

If it had been up to Benjamin Franklin, our national bird might have been the turkey, right? Well, not actually. Franklin's comments about the turkey were made when comparing the suitability of a bird as a national symbol. In fact, he wrote to his daughter about the selection of the eagle, decriing it as a bird that does not make it's living "honestly" but rather steals from the nests of other birds. He wrote that the turkey was more "respectable" and brave, although sometimes a little silly. It appears Franklin would have been happy without a bird on our national seal at all. If you are interested in what our seal might have looked like with a turkey at its center, look up the issue of the *New Yorker Magazine* for November 24, 1962, and you will see Anatole Kovarsky's depiction on the cover.



CHARLIE JARRETT

Two majestic bald eagles wake to begin another day of hunting and fishing.

Here in the Bay Area, many of us are familiar with the wild version of the turkey that ranges throughout North America and parts of Mexico. For some of us, the wild turkey is an annoyance, leaving droppings and making noisy disturbances. Others enjoy the antics and even tomfoolery of wild turkeys as they flair their tail feathers and strut through our neighborhoods.

But what if the turkey had been named our national bird? Might it have faced the same struggles as the bird selected for that honor? The bald eagle, chosen in 1782 as the symbol of country for its strength, dignity and beauty began a significant decline only 20 years after being so honored. Perceived as a threat to small livestock and other domestic animals, the eagle was hunted and poisoned. Nesting areas were cleared and habitats completely destroyed. The almost final nail in the eagle's coffin was pesticides, notably DDT.

When first placed on our nation's seal, there were approximately 100,000 nesting eagles in this country. By the early 1960s, only about 450 nesting pairs remained. Thanks to the efforts of conservationists and the U.S. Government, the bald eagle was first placed on the endangered species list in 1966 with partial protection. Subsequent enactments of the Endangered Species Preservation Act provided broader protection and the ban on the use of DDT further helped save the eagle along with many other species.


Today, there are almost 10,000 nesting

pairs of bald eagles throughout the United States, still a far cry from the 100,000 birds back in the 1780s. Major nesting areas are in Alaska, where the fortunate resident or tourist may see an eagle in flight. But eagles are nesting here in California as well, including right in the Bay Area!

Typically counted as nesting pairs because eagles mate for life, eagles really do have "eagle vision" in that their vision is four times better than that of a human with perfect vision. Only one to three eggs are laid each year with no guarantee that they will all hatch. In fact, only 70 percent of eagles survive their first year. Nests are used year after year with "additions" that can add several feet to the nest. The lifespan of an eagle in the wild is about 20 years. Sadly, there remain many threats to their existence. New insecticides, continuing habitat loss, and disregard for the unique role each and every species has in our world play key roles in their demise.

This Thanksgiving, let us give thanks that the bald eagle is making a comeback and remain vigilant in safeguarding all species. Let us honor this symbol of our nation's strength, dignity, and nobility by recognizing the value of all creature life, be it small or large, with wings or hooves, with fins or carapaces, wild and domestic.

"All birds find shelter during a rain. But the eagle avoids rain by flying above the clouds."....American Indian Quote




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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

my patients and following up afterwards. I know my patients," he says.

Takao practices general pediatrics and also specializes in several conditions including asthma, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and other behavioral issues. "In today's complex world, children and teens sometimes worry about problems, and this can develop into emotional and physical complaints that they need help with. I counsel families through physical and emotional crises and when appropriate, I refer families to therapy for that kind of assistance," he says.

Takao teaches third and fourth year medical students once a week at the UCSF Medical School. "I keep current on medical trends and offer customized personal service. It was a great honor to be recognized this summer by third year students with the "Outstanding Foundations of Patient Care Preceptor" teaching award. It means a lot

to me," comments Takao, who is also very involved at Children's Hospital Oakland.

With the health insurance panorama changing, Takao points out that he accepts many large insurance plans. "I am part of several large HMO programs, including Brown and Toland, Hill Physicians, Anthem Blue Cross and several others."

Takao earned his medical degree at the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo and studied zoology at U.C. Berkeley during his undergraduate years. Originally from Cincinnati, he and his wife Elizabeth have three adult children. Takao enjoys snow skiing, snorkeling and serving as a medical volunteer at the Iron Man Triathlon in Hawaii. He takes ukulele lessons at the Orinda Community Center. Elizabeth is a floral designer, focusing on weddings and special occasions. The couple lives in Moraga.

For more information, go to the website at www.LloydTakao.com or call the office at 253-1199.

◆ RAFFLE from page 17

the way to Chico, CA, for a Rotary District Conference. The last Sunday in October will find the canoe at the Lafayette Reservoir Run. In many cases Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary has shared up to 20 percent of the proceeds of the events with other Rotary Clubs, or worthy non-profits, who have partnered in booth participation at their own sponsored events.

Raffle ticket sales proceeds thus far have exceeded \$12,000, which will benefit Rotary's International projects as well as Lamorinda Sunrise projects, such as The Rotary Home Team (where members

donate home maintenance for the elderly); LN-4 replacement prosthetic hand for victims of land mines and other injuries; Las Trampas Incorporated (Lafayette-based center for adults with developmental disabilities); the formerly homeless families of Garden Park Apartments (operated by Contra Costa Interfaith Housing), and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

You can win this beautiful craft (including its custom-built trailer) and support these essential projects by purchasing raffle tickets at \$20 each or six for \$100. Visit www.lamorindasunrise.com or email cmroberts@aol.com for more info.

◆ CONCERT from page 21

sport that exercises the mind and sometimes the soul." Remington, who is taking a sabbatical from practicing law, said she enjoys playing "a wide variety of music and collaborating with musicians in a range of styles." She enjoys a "break out of the norm" and hopes the concert is a "fun for the audience as well."

According to Remington, this is the second concert where CCWS has teamed rock and classical music. "'The Queen Symphony' was one of my favorite concerts, and it was a big hit with the audience."

The CCWS season also includes "Win-

terfest" (Monday, December 16), "Mountains and Canyons" (Sunday, March 9, 2014), and "Johan de Meij Live" (Sunday, May 18). "Winterfest" will be performed at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave. The other concerts will be at the Hofmann Theatre in the Leshner Center for the Arts. Season tickets are available.

Classic(AI) Rock, will be performed Sunday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek. Tickets, which range from \$10 to \$25, can be reserved by calling the Leshner Center box office at 925-943-SHOW or by going online to www.lesherartscenter.org.

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DAVID DIERKS
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Scott McCue Photography

At his studio located at 83 Orinda Way, Orindan Scott McCue offers a full range of services, specializing in individual and family portraits, weddings and professional portraits, as well as photographing professional artwork for catalogs and portfolios. McCue has over 30 years of experience in his field, and in recent years, he has enjoyed curating a show of the late Stanley Truman's photography at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art.

McCue began his craft early in his youth, memorializing family events by taking photos with his camera. "I started out doing formal photography as a kid, had my own darkroom set-up in high school and got a part-time job in a camera shop as soon as I could. I learned the technical side at the

camera store, and, then once that is learned, it is all about composition and framing the shot to bring out the expression that the subject wants captured," he says.

There is a major focus these days on executive headshots for Lamorinda professionals, which makes up a portion of McCue's business. "Different feelings are conveyed through an executive's portrait than through a family portrait, for example. It is important to discern what is to be conveyed and to use the right photograph for the right purpose. I can help you look good," he smiles.

A photographer can bring out an aspect of an individual that they may have lost track of or might not realize is present. "I help people become aware that we can work together to communicate that spark and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In addition to being a professional photographer, **Scott McCue** is a partner in Ghent and McCue art appraisals.

that magic to others through their portrait. Sometimes people's expressions are fleeting, and I catch it on film."

McCue's three adult children, Sean, Melissa and Reed, are Miramonte High School graduates. His wife Nancy has worked in the field of computer design. The couple enjoys traveling together, and McCue is keen on travel photography. With a keen interest in art, he has been known to host art shows at his photography studio, where tribal art is on display.

For more information, visit the website at www.scottmccue.com or call for an appointment at 253-1719.

Sushi Island at the Crossroads

William Shi and Joyce Luo welcome

Orindans to Sushi Island, the newest restaurant in town, located at 19 Moraga Way – between La Piazza and Bank of the West. Shi creates the dishes and with 10 years as a sushi chef, he takes great delight in offering new style sushi.

There are only seven tables at this cozy family-friendly establishment, featuring earth tone slate flooring and an exposed beam ceiling. A television is available so sports enthusiasts won't have to miss a game. Customers observe Shi creating



VALERIE HOTZ

William Shi has been creating sushi dishes for over 10 years.

sushi dishes behind the bar.

"We always use real crab in our restaurant, never imitation and always top quality fish. New style sushi is a great variety, featuring different offerings inside and outside. We also offer old style sushi as well. Every sushi restaurant offers classic rolls, Island Special Rolls are only available here," explains Shi.

The children's menu offers a selection of chicken teriyaki, tofu teriyaki, sesame chicken, chicken katsu or California Roll and is served with soup, rice and either Gyoza or Takoyaki. Kids won't want to miss the dessert menu which features Green Tea ice cream, Mochi ice cream, and Tempura ice cream, which is deep fried. "All our ice cream selections are good for the body. We have coffee, mango, strawberry and vanilla Mochi ice cream, which is very good for you," smiles Shi.

In addition to the diverse offerings of sushi, there are six cold sake selections. "Every two weeks we offer an additional new sake to our customers because we want to see which sake customers prefer here in Orinda," points out Shi, who happily serves free samples to encourage customers to discover their favorite sake. "If a customer is unable to finish sake, we will put the customer's name on it and save it here for

the next visit," he adds. Kirin, Sapporo and Asahi beer are featured, and wine selections include chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, cabernet sauvignon and merlot.

Shi and Luo are enthusiastic about welcoming the community to Sushi Island. In her free time, Luo enjoys painting and drawing. "When I am not working, I enjoy my friends. I like making new friends all the time," says Shi.

Sushi Island is open Monday through Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Fridays 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturdays 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. To place a takeout order or for more information, call 253-8399.

Lloyd Takao, MD

With over 30 years of experience as a pediatrician, Lloyd Takao, MD, returns to Orinda as a solo practitioner, establishing his office at 15 Altarinda Road, Suite 100, and sharing this space with Dr. Samuel Lewis.

Dr. Takao places high value on accessibility and continuity of care. "I am much happier to be in charge and on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no answering machine when you call here, and no nurse advice line. Parents speak directly with me about their child's care. I have found parents appreciate seeing the same doctor and, if necessary to follow up on something, they also appreciate speaking to the same physician who has seen their child," says Takao.

As part of this one-on-one care, Takao has been known to make house calls on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Takao (L) recently received the Outstanding Foundations of Patient Care Preceptor award from UCSF. **Dawn Maxey** (R) presented the award.

occasion, an especially reassuring gesture for new parents. "In today's busy world, often parent's can't see their own pediatrician or have a follow up talk. I enjoy seeing

[SEE BUZZ page 23]

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