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# THE ORINDA NEWS

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## Lots of Candidates to Consider on Election Day – November 4



SALLY HOGARTY

It's nearly impossible to travel in Orinda for long without seeing a plethora of election signs. Hopefully, those that put them up will also take them down after Nov. 4.

## Audience, Candidates Impress at City Council Forum

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

A larger-than-capacity crowd greeted the six candidates for Orinda City Council at a forum sponsored by the Orinda Association (OA) on Oct. 6 at the Library Auditorium. The outer doors of the auditorium had to be opened and chairs placed on the upper patio to accommodate the many audience members.

"It was really something to look out and see all those people with such an interest in their city," said City Council candidate and former Planning Commissioner Carlos Baltodano. Sharing the platform with Baltodano were fellow candidates Linda Delehunt, Dean Orr (incumbent), Eve Phillips, Robert Thompson and Amy Worth (incumbent).

The large, respectful audience listened attentively as candidates answered four questions prepared by the OA and approxi-

mately 12 questions submitted by audience members. Sharon Burke of the League of Women Voters moderated the panel and gave each candidate one minute to answer each question. The candidates also gave an opening and closing statement.

In her opening statement, Delehunt stressed her long history of government service and experience in education while Orr noted the City Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget and adopt a road plan during his four-year tenure. Fellow incumbent Amy Worth listed the building of the Orinda Library and the opening of the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel as her proudest achievements during her multiple terms in office. A 22-year Orinda resident, Thompson said his extensive financial background and financial prudence would be assets as a councilmember. Also a 22-year-resident, Baltodano pledged to improve communication between the City Council and the citizens and to combat the



SALLY HOGARTY

A capacity crowd attended the **City Council candidates forum** on Oct. 6 at the Library Auditorium.

increase in crime. Phillips, who grew up in Orinda and graduated from Miramonte High School, emphasized the important role the next council would take as it made decisions that would have long-term impacts on Orinda and its semi-rural environment.

When asked about the deteriorating roads and drains that have plagued Orinda since incorporation, all the candidates agreed on the importance of fixing the infrastructure but differed as to how it could be accomplished. Phillips felt that the "approach so far has been piecemeal" and worried that because some roads had been repaired people wouldn't vote for more taxes. "We need to look at other ways to fund our roads," she said.

Noting the failure of two previous parcel taxes, Thompson felt the group Fix Orinda Roads was on the right track while Baltodano suggested looking at Orinda becoming a charter city and instituting a real estate transfer tax as a possible solution. "We need to look at everything. There isn't one final answer," said Orr. "Our first priority is to fix the roads per Measure J as efficiently as possible or else we'll lose the residents' trust."

According to Worth, residents want to [SEE COUNCIL page 10]

### Housing Draft EIR

Public Meeting to receive comments  
Nov. 5 at 7 pm  
Library Auditorium  
Draft EIR available at  
[www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

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### Preschool Directory Inside This Issue



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from **Nanny's House Child Care and Preschool** enjoy an outing and a beautiful view of the Golden Gate Bridge. Preschool Directory on pages 15-17.

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LIBRARY GALLERY

# Contra Costa Camera Club at Library Gallery

By: ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Orinda Arts Council presents work by members of the Contra Costa Camera Club (CCCC) of Pleasant Hill during November at the Orinda Library Gallery. Join them on Sunday, Nov. 2 from 2 to 4:30 pm for an artist reception when light refreshments will be served.

Approximately 60 works including both framed and matted prints will be on display. Members exhibiting include: Eric Ahrendt of Orinda; Lucy Beck, Georges Pelpel,

Helen Sweet, and Daniel Wagner of Lafayette; Stephen Busch and Jane Postiglione of Castro Valley; Joan and George Field and Joseph Hearst of Danville; Bilha Sperling of Alamo; and Bill Stone of Walnut Creek. *Union Square at Christmas*, a 25" x 19" color photograph by Ahrendt, will make you want to get your ice skates ready for winter while Wagner's *Mono Lake Sunset, Eastern Sierra*, a 16" x 12" color photograph, will astound you with the colors nature can bring to a sunset.

Founded in 1948, CCCC is a member of the Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C) and the Photographic Society of America. N4C is an umbrella organization for 16 San Francisco Bay Area camera clubs. The 60-member CCCC meets the first, third and last Thursdays of each month at 7:15 pm in the Winslow Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Rd., Pleasant Hill. The first and third Thursdays are competitions of various kinds which hone members' skills from beginner to masters and include critiques. Categories include pictorial, nature, monochrome, creative, travel, journalism and sequence. The last Thursday of the month is education night



ERIC AHRENDT

Eric Ahrendt's 25" x 19" color photograph *Union Square at Christmas* will be displayed at the Library Gallery.

with guest speakers. Their last speaker was a drone pilot who told them all the basics about owning your own drone, flying it with a camera, and taking video and still photographs from the air. "Mentoring fellow photographers is part of what we do. I invite anyone interested in photography to drop by one of our meetings and to consider taking their photography to the next level," says Stephen Busch, president of the group.

The group also has a volunteer who coordinates field trips as far as the Eastern Sierras and farther - last year a group went to France. CCCC has members at all levels

of experience from five to 50 years and members range from college age on up. "Let's say we're all young at heart," says Jane Postiglione, past president. Many members win awards in a variety of venues and submit to local galleries. The membership consists of photography enthusiasts who run the gambit from professionals to hobbyists to amateurs; all levels of skill are welcome. "Our group is really well traveled," says Busch. "One of our members has been to Africa 12 times; Bilha Sperling has been around the world including Uz-

[SEE GALLERY page 4]

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JANE POSTIGLIONE

Spring at The Palouse, WA is a 25" x 21" color photo by Jane Postiglione.

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### Echo Grove's November Charms

The Theatre Square gift shop continues its custom designed, handmade charms with special editions representing the four elementary schools and intermediate school in Orinda. "We're also adding a non-school version for folks without school age children," adds Echo Grove's Margaret Doty.  
No purchase is necessary to receive a charm. Just stop by the store, located at 2 Theatre Square, #112, and utter the secret phrase. This month's magic words are "Orinda-Awesome."

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President

Election Time and Celebrating Volunteerism

Bill Waterman



On behalf of all Orinda Association members, I'd like to thank all of the candidates running for the Orinda City Council and the Orinda Union School District Board (OUSD) this fall, plus those running for the Acalanes High School District Board. There are 10 candidates running for the council and OUSD board this year – a tribute to our community and a sure indication that a lot of Orindans care deeply about our collective future. Regardless of who we support, we owe a debt of gratitude to each of these candidates for their commitment to our community. While observing all of the candidates state their views at two candidate forums sponsored by the OA, I could see that each person was deeply committed to seeking solutions to the varied challenges that lie ahead. We are

fortunate that we have fine people willing to volunteer their valuable time to serve us and the community. After all is said and done, we are all the beneficiaries of their contributions. So, if you have not done so already, please vote on Nov. 4.

This is the time of year when the OA seeks nominations for our two annual volunteer awards – the Volunteer of the Year and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Awards. This is the 28th year that the OA has honored a person or group for their contributions as volunteers, and our 20th year for the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award. It's the time when we can look back and thank many people for their efforts to benefit the community. The OA Board seeks your nominations – simply go to the OA website

Time to Nominate for Volunteer Awards

Do you know an individual or group that has benefited the Orinda community by volunteer efforts on behalf of the community or to sustain the environment? If so, now is the time to submit those names to the Orinda Association (OA).

Nomination forms are available on the OA website, [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org), or at the office, 26 Orinda Way, lower plaza level of the Orinda Library. Winners of the Volunteer of the Year award and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental award will be honored at a festive dinner at the Orinda Country Club in February. Deadline for nominations is Dec. 1. Call 925-254-0800 or email [oa@orindaassociation.org](mailto:oa@orindaassociation.org) for more information.

--Sally Hogarty, Editor



CHARLIE JARRETT

Paula Arnold, founder of the Orinda Junior Women's Club, spoke at last year's awards ceremony. The club received the volunteer award for its multiple volunteer efforts throughout Orinda.

([www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org)) and click on "Programs and Events," and then "Orinda Association Volunteer of the Year" and you can fill out a nomination form, and mail or fax it back to us. The deadline is December 1. The award recipients will be announced in early January, and they will be saluted at

the awards dinner in early February.

So, let us all celebrate and recognize the efforts of many of our fellow Orindans, who are contributing to our community in a variety of ways. We thank all of them for their contributions and willingness to make our home a better place.

The Orinda Association

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

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

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# Orinda's First Mayor Honored

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

On Sept. 26, the upper level of the library officially became the Richard Heggie Plaza in a ceremony full of remembrances of Orinda's first mayor and the fight for Orinda's incorporation as a city.

A large crowd of local residents turned out to share stories about Heggie, who was on the City Council from 1985-1992, and his long history of service to Orinda and other organizations.

Serving with Heggie on the first City Council, Bobbie Landers remembered his integrity, sense of humor and determination. "You couldn't find a better representative to start a city out on the right foot." Former Mayor Laura Abrams added, "I don't think of Dick Heggie without thinking of his wife Bea. What a wonderful community that has people like this who are so dedicated to helping." Joyce Hawkins, also a former mayor and city councilmember, noted, "Diplomacy was Dick's trade. He was so respectful and helped us get much needed funds for the city."

Heggie, who passed away in 2012, specialized in international relations and received a lifetime achievement award from the Japan Society of Northern California and was president of the National Council of Community World Affairs Organizations among others. Locally, his many involvements included serving on the boards of



(L-R) **Bea Heggie**, daughters **Karen and Jennifer** and Jennifer's husband **Ray Kutz** at the dedication of the Richard Heggie Plaza.

Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation, American Red Cross Bay Area, California Shakespeare Theater, Institute of International Education - West Coast Chapter, International House - UC Berkeley, Kennedy King Scholarship Fund and Osaka Sister City Association.

## Something to Howl About... Animal Tales Turkey Time



Jennifer Conroy

Turkeys are my downfall. I admit it. As much as I want to be a vegetarian, I always failed at Thanksgiving when, I confess, I indulged in eating the bird that almost became our national emblem.

One year, I decided to give turkey a pass. I went to an environmentally, politically and organically correct store in search of a turkey substitute. To my happy surprise I found an abundance of substitutes. There were shelves filled with well-crafted tofu products in the shape of turkey legs, half turkeys, and, yes, whole turkeys. I discovered tofurkey!

When accompanied by mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, mushroom dressing, fresh cranberries and vegetable broth gravy, I discovered something else. I didn't need the tofurkey! In fact, all I needed after a meal of Thanksgiving "sides" was some pumpkin pie and an espresso.

So now, once a year at least, I can feel presidential, kind of like President Truman who instituted the annual presidential pardon of a Thanksgiving turkey. There is some dispute, however, over which president extended the first turkey pardon. Some historians believe it was President Lincoln.

Today the selection of the presidential turkey is handled by the National Turkey Federation and it's not uncommon for two turkeys to get a pass by the Commander in Chief. In 2012, "Gobbler" and "Cobbler" were pardoned and sent to live on an estate in Leesburg, Virginia. Prior to that, retired turkeys lived at Mount Vernon. Alas, the lifespan of food-farmed turkeys is short, even when pardoned - less than two years

- while the lifespan of their wild cousin is typically twice that.

Most of us in the Bay Area are familiar with the wild turkey. In some locations, the populations have grown so large that the turkey becomes a nuisance. My neighborhood has experienced numerous flocks of wild turkeys including fearless toms who challenged my car until I got out and opened a golf umbrella in front of the turkey. Now, I'm not necessarily questioning turkey intelligence, but the umbrella trick did work and the tom stalked off. While some neighbors have complained about turkey droppings, I don't mind watching my step when the payoff is the chance to observe wild turkey chicks dutifully following their mom.

Wild turkeys can be discouraged from sharing your yard by keeping areas under bird feeders clean of overflow and dropped seeds. Turning on sprinklers is another preventive but is ill-advised during this time of drought. Turkeys tend to avoid yard areas of homes with companion dogs but seem less wary of companion cats. And yes, turkeys can fly, not very well, but they can achieve lift off. It is more common for wild turkeys to run, and they can do so at a pretty good clip of about 25 miles per hour.

As the bird that had Benjamin Franklin's vote, the wild turkey has an established place in this country's history. For many of us, it is equally established as Thanksgiving fare. Let us give thanks for the many values of this bird and for its endurance as a key part of Americana.

### ◆ GALLERY from page 2

bekistan, Papua, New Guinea and Tibet." For more information, see <http://contracostacc.homestead.com>.

CCCC is participating in Foto Clave, a photography event from Nov. 7 to 9 at the Concord Hilton, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord. The event is described as, "An Astounding Weekend of Photography," and is sponsored by N4C. Speakers include Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, Tony Sweet and Canon Explorer of Light, Rick Sammon. For more information, including online registration, see <http://fotoclave.slickpic.com>.

Postiglione says she hopes viewers will feel some kind of emotional response when they see the work on view at the library. As to the value of art in our community, Busch says, "If we didn't have cameras and paintbrushes, we'd still be painting with charcoal in caves - I can't imagine life without art!"

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours - Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm. The library is closed on Nov. 11 and 27 and closes at 6 pm on Nov. 26. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.



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VETERANS

# Honoring All Those Who Serve Our Country

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

“The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten.” Calvin Coolidge.

America’s military Veteran population is projected at 21,973,000 this year, according to the Department of Veteran’s Affairs. Of that number, 1,795,455 retired military personnel reside in California – soldiers who fought in conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Vietnam, Korea, World War II as well as those who served in times of peace.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Doug Mann was a Corporal in 1949 and finished his service as a Staff Sgt.

Residents Terry Murphy, Barclay Simpson, Joe Garvey and Doug Mann are just a few of the veterans that Orinda honors this Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11.

Orinda resident Doug Mann was state side during his service in the Air Force. Stationed at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino, CA, Staff Sgt. Mann was transferred to the local base hospital in an administrative role when his squadron shipped overseas. But that didn’t mean he missed all the action. One night, a doctor asked him to accompany an ambulance transporting a young wife who was in labor. “She lived 25 miles from the hospital, and this was her first child,” Mann recalls. On the way back to the hospital, Mann realized she was about to deliver. “I found the sterile kit to get what I needed to clamp off the cord, and then I wrapped the little guy in what was left of the sterile package. It was quite an experience.”

A graduate of Annapolis Naval Academy, Joe Garvey served aboard a destroyer in the early 1960s. As part of the 6th Fleet, he found himself in the Mediterranean and North Seas. “Let me tell you it was scary as the dickens out there when the 100 foot waves came up,” he recalls. As a Lt. JG (junior grade), Garvey’s focus onboard ship was the combat information center. “I learned a lot of things that were meaningful and still guide my life. For instance, I learned to be positive, how to stay cool



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe Garvey and his wife Linda at a recent anniversary celebration.

under pressure, and key to everything, how to clearly explain a mission and the goals of that mission. Something that’s not done enough today.” Garvey also notes the importance of learning discipline and honesty – both essential in the service and in life.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Terry Murphy served during Vietnam and continues to be involved in veteran’s affairs.

Barclay Simpson was attending UC Berkeley in 1942 when he was recruited to be a part of an elite group called the “Flying Golden Bears.” In a 2013 interview, Simpson explained that the WWII Navy Air Corps unit started out with 45 pilots, but only three are currently living. Simpson has lived in Orinda since the early 1950s, raising seven children and is well known for his support of educational and art programming.

Terry Murphy received two deferments before being told to report for induction during the Vietnam conflict. He was allowed to finish his junior year at UC Santa Barbara before being drafted into the Army.

Murphy, who is the 2009 Orinda Association Volunteer of the Year, was a driving force in getting The Veterans Memorial Building in Lafayette approved. According to Murphy, the original building was a WPA project that “had become very old and tired.” After three years of effort by Lafayette’s City Manager Steven Falk and Murphy, along with fellow veteran Art Miller, the building was approved.

According to Murphy, the facility, which [SEE VETERANS page 30]

## Local Veteran’s Day Activities

**Veteran’s Dinner**, November 11, 5:30 pm open bar, 6:30 pm dinner, Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo, Lafayette. A joint program of VFW Post #8063 and American Legion Post# 517, with support from the Boy Scouts. For more info, visit [lafayetteveterans.org](http://lafayetteveterans.org).

**Walnut Creek Concert Band Veterans Day Program**, Nov. 11, 11 a.m. at the Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets, which are free, must be reserved by calling 925-943-SHOW (7469) or visiting [lesherartscenter.org](http://lesherartscenter.org).

**Rosie the Riveter Visitor Education Center**, 1414 Harbour Way South, Suite 3000 (Oil House), Richmond, CA 94804. Free Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park preserves and interprets the legacy of the United States home front during World War II.

**A Tribute to Our Veterans** at the San Leandro Public Library, Saturday, November 15, 10 am to 3 pm, 300 Estudillo Avenue. Free. Members of the World War II Military Commemorative Association will provide living history information for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. A museum exhibit of WWII memorabilia will be on display as well as a vintage WWII jeep! Visitors can write letters of thanks to those currently serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. For more information, 510- 577-3971.

**Complimentary meals, desserts and appetizers for Veteran’s and Active military** are offered at a variety of restaurants on Tues., Nov. 11, including Noah’s Bagels, Starbucks, Applebees, Red Lobster, Outback Steakhouse and Chilli’s. Military ID is required. Please contact your local restaurant to ensure its participation.

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Editorial...

# Giving Thanks to Veterans and More

November begins the often crazed time period known as the holiday season. We decided to begin this often chaotic period with a few thoughtful considerations. First, we wanted to acknowledge the service to our country given by local veterans both during peace and times of war (see page 5). My mother and father were both in the Navy during World War II, and I am so grateful to the Veterans Administration (cumbersome though the bureaucracy can be) for all they did to make my mom's final

years more comfortable.

This issue also starts a new column by photographer Charlie Jarrett entitled *Roving Reporter* (see page 13). This month Jarrett asks Orindans what they are thankful for and how they will be spending Thanksgiving this year.

And, finally, we can all be thankful that the Nov. 4 election will soon be over and all those campaign signs and mailers will disappear!

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

## Letters to the Editor

### A Big Thank You

The Orinda Historical Society would like to thank Orinda Motors and the organizers of the Car Show for including the Orinda Historical Society in what has become a wonderful event with many very special autos and bikes. Great job! We also thank the many volunteers that made our participation possible with a special thanks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #8063 for logistical support and to whoever was in charge of the weather! A perfect and a good time was had by all. See you next year.

– Terry Murphy

### Safety First

There are many reasons why the Orinda School, now the site of our Community Center, closed in the 1950s: rapidly increasing number of students and safety concerns for those students.

Nearly 60 years ago, school administrators recognized that the Orinda Village business district was no longer an appropriate location for a school. Traffic even then was increasing and students coming to and going home from school were at greater risk. Placing new schools in residential neighborhoods would decrease that risk and enhance safety.

Fast forward to 2014 and you can ask nearly any parent who drives his or her child to and/or from school about that experience. They'll tell you that traffic congestion around these neighborhood schools is severe on many days.

As a six-year member and the current chair of the Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, I've heard concerns about this issue from dozens of parents. That's why I was surprised and dismayed to learn last year that the operators of Fountainhead Montessori Preschool wanted to move their school from its current location on a church property at the end of a cul-de-sac to the site of the former Phair's store in the middle of the Orinda Village business district.

This proposal motivated me to support the group that rallied behind the resident appealing the Planning Commission decision, which had approved the proposal

with a 5-2 vote, to the City Council. While other members of the group noted that the relocation of the school was not in compliance with the city's general plan or existing zoning requirements, I focused on the risks to the young children – ages 18 months to five years.

Fortunately, City Councilmembers shared and appreciated our group's concerns and voted 3-0 to overturn the Planning Commission's decision.

You can imagine my disappointment when I read several letters to the editor in last month's *Orinda News* citing this decision as reason to vote out the incumbents who put the safety of our community's children first. For that reason, and many others, I wholeheartedly endorse and support the re-election of Dean Orr and Amy Worth to the City Council and the election of Carlos Baltodano, who, as the chair of the Planning Commission last year, cast one of the two opposing votes to the ill-conceived Montessori proposal.

These fellow Orindans have proven to me their concern for, and commitment to, our community as a whole and their desire to work for ALL of us.

– Mark Roberts

### Elections Not Popularity Contests

Elections should not be popularity contests. As a current Orinda Union School Board Trustee, I choose not to publicly endorse as it is an exploitation of my elected position.

Please join me in encouraging your friends, neighbors and family of voting age to reiterate to our current OUSD Board and City Councilmembers the importance that independence plays in ensuring transparent, collaborative, representative, high performing governance.

Reminding those current members that choose to endorse candidates to refrain from prejudice ensures and encourages independent thought and impartiality of those elected.

The students of our community are actively learning the election process and how



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it works from us as well as bearing witness to our political behavior each and every day.

A cause of concern are those candidates that choose to advertise their endorsements highlighting endorser's leadership positions within one of our valuable community

non-profits. They do so while putting those non-profits and the students they support at legal risk.

Please lead by example and cast your important, independent individual vote after

[SEE LETTERS page 22]

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT FORUM / EBMUD

# Giants' Win Affects OUSD Forum Attendance

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

A sparse audience attended the school board candidates' forum on Oct. 16, the night of the deciding game for the San Francisco Giants as they battled (and won) the right to return to the World Series for the third time in five years.

Those in attendance at the forum made up for their smaller numbers with thoughtful questions on a myriad of topics and challenges facing the district. The four candidates, Carol Brown, Jason Kaune, Julie Rossiter (incumbent) and Hillary Weiner, represent a wide range of ages and experience. Kaune, Rossiter and Weiner currently have children in local schools while Brown's adult children attended

Orinda schools.

The importance of communication with all stakeholders – teachers, administrators, parents and the community – became a common theme for all candidates. Questions on curriculum, budgeting and teacher morale also took center stage at the forum.

Whether OUSD teachers received fair compensation provided one of the few points of contention. Rossiter, who is completing her four-year term on the board, said Orinda's teachers do receive pay competitive with other districts while Brown asserted that they received \$2,000 -4,000 less annually than teachers in Lafayette and Moraga.

When asked about their vision for educational excellence in Orinda schools, [SEE OUSD page 10]

# City Council Honors EBMUD Retiree Nora Harlow

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER  
Staff Writer

Orinda resident Nora Harlow was honored by the City Council at its Oct. 7 meeting when she was presented with a certificate on the occasion of her retirement from a 20-year career with the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). Several audience members and councilmembers praised Harlow and her commitment to Orinda.

Vice Mayor Steve Glazer described Harlow as a "jewel in our midst." He went on to say that while the city/agency relationship is not always an easy one, Harlow's graciousness made it easy. Councilmember Amy Worth stated, "Words are inadequate to express our appreciation to you. You exemplify the best in a community relations expert and made people really feel that EBMUD cared. You've been there for us every single time we've needed you."

Harlow's first position with EBMUD in 1994 was performing water audits and working closely with customers on water conservation. In 2003 she moved into government and community relations, the position which included public outreach on construction projects. As a community relations representative her job was to stay in close touch with cities and customers, hearing their complaints and concerns, resolving their issues with the district, and keeping them informed about EBMUD projects and initiatives.

"What I'll miss most about my job are my customers," said Harlow. "The people in the communities I served (Lamorinda and the I-680 corridor). I love working with people, helping to solve their problems,



FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER  
Nora Harlow was honored at the Oct. 7 City Council meeting upon her retirement from EBMUD.

hearing their stories, getting to know them. Over the years, quite a few customers have become friends."

Harlow said that, while she is retiring from EBMUD, she is not retiring from Orinda where she has been a devoted community activist and volunteer (and recipient of the Orinda Association's (OA) Volunteer of the Year award). She has served on the OA board, the Trees Committee, the City's first General Plan Committee, the Design Review Committee and the Planning Commission.

"I have really enjoyed working with the City of Orinda, and I am proud of the work EBMUD has done here," said Harlow, who will celebrate her retirement by working on her garden (she is a landscape architect who has designed many EBMUD facilities), hitting the gym, hiking local trails, riding her motorcycle and firing up her jewelry-making business. "Don't expect me to disappear," she said.

## School District Office and Ballfields Officially Open



PAM SEVERSON  
Cutting the ribbon for the Orinda Union School District's new offices at 8 Altarinda Rd. are former and current school board members (L-R) Jack Bontemps, Sarah Butler, Superintendent Dr. Joe Jaconette, Riki Sorenson, Dr. Christopher Severson, Mayor Sue Severson, Pamela West and Julie Rossiter.



PAM SEVERSON  
The new ball fields behind the school district office now sport a variety of team games. Cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony in early October are (L-R) maintenance worker Alex Ramirez, former Parks and Rec Commissioner Julie Whitsitt, Vice Mayor Steve Glazer, Mayor Sue Severson, City Councilmembers Victoria Smith, Dean Orr and Amy Worth and Recreation Supervisor Jennifer Weiss.

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## Coastal Cleanup Days A Big Success

By ADRIANE BOSWORTH  
Contributing Writer

Orinda participated in National Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 19-20 with a huge, three-site success. On Friday, Del Rey Elementary School teacher John Moran supervised 40 volunteer students in a cleanup of upper Moraga Creek; they picked up 80 pounds of trash. On the same day, Miramonte High School science teacher Barbara Denny supervised 51 students on a cleanup of lower Moraga Creek; they picked up 226 pounds of trash.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, Friends of Orinda Creek board members Jim Luini, Toris Jaeger, and Adriane Bosworth, along with Wendy Wellbrock from the City of Orinda, supervised 27 volunteers in downtown Orinda on a cleanup of San Pablo Creek. These volunteers, including most of St. Mary's College women's volleyball team, picked up 210 pounds of trash and pulled out 220 pounds of non-native, invasive ivy.

Thanks to these volunteer groups over 500 pounds of trash will not make its way to our coastal waters.



Members of the **St. Mary's College women's volleyball team** were among the many volunteers who cleaned up the local creeks in Orinda.



## POLICE BLOTTER

September Through October 4, 2014

**Battery:** 1 incident: Orchard Rd./ Scenic Dr.

**Brandishing a Weapon:** 1 incident: Orinda Country Club.

**Burglary, Auto:** 6 incidents: Orchard Rd., Wovenwood Dr., Orinda Way, Orindawoods Dr., Wagner Ranch Elementary and Starbucks.

**Burglary, Commercial:** 1 incident: Orinda Way.

**Burglary, Miscellaneous:** 2 incidents: Wanda Ln. and La Campana Rd.

**Domestic Disturbance:** 1 incident: Moraga Way.

**Fraud Under False Pretenses:** 1 incident: Starbucks.

**Grand Theft:** 2 incidents: Ivy Dr. and Estates Dr.

**Grand Theft from Vehicle:** 1 incident: Persimmon Walk.

**Hit & Run Misdemeanor:** 1 incident: Charles Hill Rd.

**Identity Theft:** 3 incidents: El Toyonal (2) and Orinda Way.

**Petty Theft:** 3 incidents: The Knoll, Wagner Ranch Elementary, Safeway.

**Shoplifting:** 1 incident: Camino

Sobrante.

**Trespass:** 1 incident: Frog Leap Way.

**Vandalism:** 1 incident: Glorietta Elementary School.

### Arrests

**Burglary, Residential:** 1 arrest: Muth Dr.

**DUI Misdemeanor Arrest:** 1 arrest: Tahos Rd./Bates Blvd.

**Prowler Heard Arrest:** 1 arrest: Via Las Cruces.

**Suspicious Subject Arrest:** 2 arrests: Safeway and Sleepy Hollow Ln.

**Suspicious Vehicle Arrest:** 2 arrests: Ardith Dr./Whitehall Dr. and St. Stephens Dr./E. Altarinda.

**Traffic Accident Arrest:** 2 arrests: Rheem Blvd. and Tahos Rd./Bates Blvd.

**Traffic Stop Arrest:** 2 arrests: Moraga Way/Lloyd Ln. and Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.

### Orinda BART Station

No incidents.

— Compiled by Jeanette Irving,  
Orinda Police Department

## Residents Concerned About Fire Station 43 Closure

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

Orindans are concerned about the potential drop in service if Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Station 43 is closed when proposed Station 46 is put into operation. The move from Station 43, at 20 Via Las Cruces in Orinda, to proposed Station 46, at 1035 Lorinda Lane/El Nido Ranch Road in Lafayette, would increase MOFD response times for north Orinda by up to two minutes. "Those two minutes added to already too long response times in north Orinda are a serious, even reckless degradation of service levels to an area designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the State of California," said Orinda resident Ellen Dale. "An additional two minutes is a potentially disastrous reduction in service levels."

MOFD Station 43 has been in the plan-



DAVID DIERKS

Station 43 at 20 Via Las Cruces may be closed.

ning process of being rebuilt since February 2012. Station 43 was to be rebuilt because it does not meet seismic standards, modern fire apparatus does not fit in the apparatus bays, and the living area does not adequately accommodate mixed gender staffing. Current plans are to retrofit Station 43, rather than rebuild. "The Station 43 retrofit is about stabilizing the doors to ensure operation during an earthquake as the Station 46 program will take a couple of years to complete," said MOFD President John Wyro. "The current thinking, although no

formal action has been taken, would be that Station 43 would be closed." MOFD Chief Stephen Healy added, "There are presently no plans to close Station 43, although a joint facility on the Orinda-Lafayette border is being explored (Station 46)."

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (Con Fire) Station 16, at 4007 Los Arabis Ave., Lafayette, was closed in June 2012 because mold and rodents infested the station. At that time, the crew from Station 16 was relocated to Con Fire Station 15. In January 2013, the crew from Station 16 was eliminated due to budget cutbacks. At that time, Con Fire asked if MOFD would be interested in teaming up to build a new station with each district paying for half of the station. A station costs about \$2 million to run per year. A joint station would, therefore, cost each district about \$1 million per year to run, saving each fire district about \$1 million a year. The MOFD board told staff to look into the deal and put the Station 43 rebuild on hold.

Last July, MOFD entered into a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Lafayette to purchase 1035 Lorinda Lane in Lafayette. Lafayette is covered by Con Fire. The agreement was necessary because the property does not reside within MOFD boundaries and therefore, MOFD could not purchase the property. "The El Nido Ranch Road property has been purchased. This was done following site plan and geotechnical studies that demonstrated viability," said Wyro.

So far during the negotiations with Con Fire, MOFD has ended up paying the costs. Originally MOFD and Con Fire were to split the purchase of the El Nido Ranch property. Con Fire backed out of the deal, so MOFD purchased the property for \$1,225,000. "Operating and fiscal negotiations continue between MOFD and Con Fire," said Wyro. "The district is currently evaluating the operational effect of the proposed movement of the station, 0.7 miles from its current location. Once we have a draft plan to discuss, we will be in a position

[SEE MOFD page 23]

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FARMERS' MARKET / CAR SHOW

**Seasoned Shopper**  
Stock Up for Thanksgiving at  
Farmers' Market

BARBARA KOBSAR



Start your holiday shopping early this year. Every Saturday at the Farmers' Market you can find something to help jump-start the Thanksgiving meal planning and festivities. November 22 wraps up the 18th season of the popular Saturday morning market but tables will be full until then with an array of fresh fall produce, baked goods, honey and preserves, eggs, nuts and dried fruits.

Many root vegetables such as turnips, rutabagas, beets and carrots keep well so purchase early and keep in the refrigerator until ready to use. Pumpkins, winter squash and sweet potatoes also keep well so when you spot the variety or shape you like, pick

it up and store in a dry, well ventilated space until the carving or baking is about to begin.

Bakeries at the market are bursting with fabulous breads, baked goods and apple tarts. If you're a home cook, you'll find new crop almonds and walnuts, raisins, eggs and dried fruits to help you create your own favorite desserts. Choose from a variety of apples at the market and make an apple pie (uncooked) and place in the freezer to cook Thanksgiving Day – it smells great and your guests will enjoy the results.

Brussel sprouts on the stalks do double duty as a conversation piece and fresh vegetable. Store in a cool place and cut the sprouts off as needed. Persimmons and pomegranates also add flare to the holiday table. Traditional persimmon puddings and cakes are family favorites. Pomegranates are a once-a-year treat (be sure to wear old clothing when removing the seeds as the juice is indelible). Add the seeds to winter green salads, toss a few on a dish of ice cream or yogurt, or drop several seeds into a glass of champagne or apple cider.

The last Saturday before Thanksgiving is the perfect time to choose salad greens, beans, mushrooms, chards, celery, peppers, grapes, fresh flowers, and maybe a little something for the host or hostess.

Thanks to the community, city, volunteers, local businesses and other non-profits who supported and contributed to another successful market season.

Be sure to visit many of your favorite growers and vendors from the Orinda

[SEE FARMERS page 10]



BARBARA KOBSAR

Preston Hamada at his popular vegetable stand.

**Classic Car Show Raises \$60,000 for Charity**



DAVID DIERKS

Car Show Attendees enjoyed the Porsche exhibit on the Orinda County Club's 16th Fairway.

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Classic Car Show held its 10th successful event last month, which raised more than \$60,000 for local charities. "This is a new record and takes us over the \$300,000 mark for the 10-year total," said event organizer Chip Herman. "We want to thank our sponsors, partners, volunteers and the community of Orinda for all of their efforts and support." The three-day weekend included a Dancing with the Cars party, the Classic Car Show and Speed on the Screen showings of *The Blues Brothers* and *Duel*. Hosted by Orinda Motors, the event showcased 220 vehicles along Avenida de Orinda, Orinda Way and the 16th Fairway of the Orinda Country Club.

Dancing with the Cars, the ticketed party presented by Mechanics Bank, had over 260 attendees who got a sneak peek at some of the cars before the show. "We had a sell-out crowd. The dinner proceeds were up 20 percent over last year, and the car show weekend as a whole set a new record for monies raised," said party producer Barbara Bontemps. This year's theme was Rebels With a Cause and

featured a '50s diner catered by Shelby's with wait staff courtesy of the Orinda Starlight Village Players. "Everyone came together for a night of fun and a common purpose. A good time was had by all," said Bontemps.

The primary beneficiaries were Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) and the Orinda Rotary. Other organizations benefitting include the Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Association, Lamorinda Theater Foundation and the Orinda Community Foundation. "Our beneficiaries represent a cross-section of Orinda – schools, the senior community, business community, and the arts. EFO, Rotary, the Arts Council, the Orinda Chamber, the Starlight Village Players, Seniors Around Town, the Orinda Historical Society, Scouts and more stepped up as event partners," said Bontemps. "Special thanks to the community for supporting the car show for 10 years and for making it Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser," she said.

For more information, visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).

**Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend**

wants to thank those that helped make this year's events such a great success....



**Orinda Annual Classic Car Show**



**Dancing with the Cars**

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California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF)	Orinda Association	Hurrell, Marshall Johnson,
Cal Shakes	Orinda Books	Sylvia Jorgensen, Candy
Casa Orinda	Orinda Chamber of Commerce	Kattenburg, Janet Keeter, Dan
Chip & Carolyn Herman	Orinda Country Club	Lawrence, Randy Madeiros,
City of Orinda	Orinda Florist	Marc Maier, Gail McIntyre,
EFO	Orinda Garden Club	Anny Monteilh, Orinda Rotary,
Elaine's Nails	Orinda Starlight Village Players	Scout Troop 237, Orinda
Eldercare Services	Parr Family	Starlight Village Players,
	Piccolo Napoli	John Vanek-Orinda Motors,
	Raymond Vineyards	Michael Walker, Raya Walker,
	Republic of Cake	Leslie Ward, Marie Waterman,
		Kate Wiley, Dina Zapanta.

CONTINUATIONS

◆ OUSD from page 7

Brown replied that she would like to restore funds for math and science specialists and reiterated the necessity of giving classroom teachers the support they need. Rossiter added that the Orinda schools are already excellent but that the “challenge is to make sure we transition to the Common Core curriculum and that we can attract and keep the best teachers.”

Kaune noted that the district “always has to be upping its game, constantly looking for innovation and ways to improve.” Weiner agreed and added how important it is “to listen to everyone involved and work together on goals and pathways for transition.”

Commenting on what was the school board’s most important responsibility, Kaune said fostering communication was key and added that one of his first meetings involved the teachers: “We disagreed on some things, but we had a great dialogue.” According to Rossiter, hiring the superintendent is the board’s most important decision. “Another is setting policy,” she said. “For instance, we updated the math component in the new Common Core curriculum to ensure that our students can take the highest levels of math in high school.”

Both Weiner and Brown agreed that setting goals formed an important board function but noted that the board needed to dialogue with teachers and the community to do so. “You can’t set goals in a vacuum. We need the community’s input,” Brown said.

The new Common Core curriculum re-

ceived primarily high marks from all four candidates who praised the curriculum’s emphasis on learning how to think rather than just memorizing. “The challenge is how we implement it,” said Rossiter. As to how to measure a student’s success, Weiner responded, “Of course, we have test scores, but I think another important way is whether your kids come home from school happy and can share positive anecdotes.” Rossiter and Kaune both agreed that test scores were the obvious way to note progress, but they emphasized that the school environment needed to also teach students how to be good citizens of the world.

As to teacher morale, all agreed it could be improved. “This is a tough one,” said Brown. “We need to give teachers a real seat at the table and really listen to them. They should have a say in how they teach, and we need to compensate them in a real, comparable way.”

On how to create a 21<sup>st</sup>-century classroom, all candidates agreed on the need to upgrade technology at the schools as well as the facilities with Brown noting the importance of retaining books and paper along with new technology. Kaune added, “I want a 21<sup>st</sup>-century classroom so that if my kids come back in 30 years, they will see something new and something familiar in the schools.”

**Voting Box at City Hall**

A secure red box is now available through Election Day at City Hall, 22 Orinda Way. Any registered voters in Contra Costa County can drop off vote-by-mail and absentee ballots.

◆ COUNCIL from page 1



(L-R) Linda Delehunt, Dean Orr, Robert Thompson, Amy Worth, Eve Phillips and Carlos Baltodano prepare to answer questions at the OA forum on Oct. 6.

see the city follow its adopted 10-year road plan to completion. “Through Measure J funds, we can leverage other funds and grants,” she added. Delehunt agreed that Fix Orinda Roads had many good ideas but that “we need to address all the issues including maintenance.”

The six candidates were also asked about how to revitalize Orinda’s aging downtown, maintain financial strengths, deal with increased crime and, of course, the state-mandated housing element. Baltodano noted that changing the downtown area “is something that has been kicked down the road for years. We need a plan that looks not only at new businesses but also congestion and parking.” On downtown and housing, Delehunt pointed out the critical need to look at the entire city: “Density as represented by Eden Housing with its increased height limit is not the legacy I want to leave.”

On crime, Thompson applauded Police Chief Nagel’s recent meeting with concerned residents. “Chief Nagel has embraced citizens’ suggestions. But it comes down to how much money we have to spend. There are no simple solutions,” he said. Baltodano agreed that the cameras recommended at Chief Nagel’s meeting could be one way to deter crime but he also

wanted to see other methods addressed.

When discussing Orinda’s mandated housing element and its association with ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments), Phillips expressed frustration with ABAG’s reliance on population projections that “are 30 percent higher than projections by other groups such as Cal Trans.” Delehunt agreed adding, “ABAG data is skewed in the wrong direction. Orinda needs to fight back.” Worth responded that Orinda did push back against ABAG’s initial housing requirements for Orinda. “This is a process required by the State of California,” she said. “Initially, we were asked to add 1,400 housing units. We were able to get that lowered to 235, which is consistent with Orinda’s General Plan.” Orr also noted that low-income senior housing such as Orinda Village and Eden’s Monteverde project fulfill most of Orinda’s low-income housing component. He further said that of the 374 applications for Eden’s 67 units, 97 applications came from Lamorinda residents and 58 came from current Orinda residents.

The election takes place Nov. 4. In addition to mail-in ballots and precinct locations throughout Orinda, residents can bring their mail-in ballots to the secure drop box at City Hall prior to and on Election Day.

◆ FARMERS from page 9

market at the year-round Sunday market in Walnut Creek. For more information, visit [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

Enjoy and see you at the market! Contact the Seasoned Shopper at [cotkithcen@aol.com](mailto:cotkithcen@aol.com).

**CHICKEN ALMOND STIR FRY**

- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large red onion, cut into narrow wedges
- 2 medium red bell peppers, cut into strips
- 1 cup shredded red cabbage
- One-half cup raw almonds

Cut chicken into narrow strips. Stir fry over high heat in oil in large skillet or wok for about 3 minutes until tender but not dry; remove from pan. Return pan to heat. When hot, add onion and stir fry until tender, about 3 minutes.

Add bell peppers, cabbage and almonds. Stir fry 2 minutes longer until tender crisp. Return chicken to pan and add sauce mixture (recipe follows). Cook, stirring until hot and sauce is glossy. Serve with rice. Makes about 4 servings.

**SAUCE:** Mix one half cup dry sherry, 2 tablespoons soy sauce and 1 tablespoon each cornstarch, brown sugar, minced fresh garlic and minced ginger root (or 1 teaspoon ginger powder).



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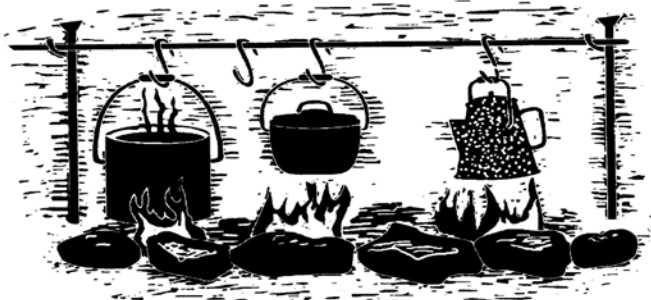
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CARS / FUNDRAISER

# CAR TIME

Why is there a charge for diagnostic time?



JOHN VANEK

There is a world of difference between a free estimate for known repairs and a diagnostic procedure for difficult, intermittent or technical problems. Accurate diagnosis of your vehicle's troubles is necessary for precise estimates and economical, accurate and lasting repairs, but it can frequently take a lot of time and resources to get there – which can be expensive.

In some cases, diagnosis of a problem can be straightforward and there may be minimal expense involved. Other times, problems are complex, may only appear under certain conditions or intermittently, or may be caused by multiple interacting systems. Today's technical problems require highly trained and experienced personnel, along with the use of proprietary equipment and data resources. Difficult problems on late-model computer-controlled vehicles often require more time for diagnosis than the repair itself. For example, we might invest hours testing vehicle systems to ultimately find that corrosion in some buried wiring connector is creating a malfunction, then spend just a few minutes cleaning the guilty connector to resolve the problem.

If your "check engine" light comes on and warns of problems with the engine management, body control or other computer-controlled systems, code retrieval will reveal trouble codes (if stored). But these codes offer no specific information about causes or corrections and may not reveal the existence of multiple problems. In some cases, there will be no codes or the symptoms may be intermittent. These

"no code," "intermittent" complaints will challenge even the best technicians and tools. Many auto parts stores will retrieve and supply trouble codes for free to sell you parts. However, a trouble code is not a diagnosis and the parts stores will not allow returns on these "test" parts. Many shops do not have the information, equipment or trained personnel to perform proper diagnosis, repair or verification. They will retrieve a trouble code from the vehicle and then replace *likely* parts until they stumble on a fix (all at the client's expense). Simply "throwing parts at cars" will never fix certain types of problems such as corroded connectors, broken wires inside harnesses, high resistance pathways or poor grounds, or a series of problems, nor prevent repetitive failures if underlying causes are not determined. We will pull trouble codes for free if requested, but we can't move from trouble code information to professional guaranteed repair without diagnosis and repair verification.

Maintaining the ability to accurately diagnose technical problems is expensive. Aside from the labor costs of experienced ASE Certified Technicians, diagnostic equipment and data access are costly. There is a world of difference between a code reader and a manufacturer-specific diagnostic scanner that can access and record multiple live data streams. Even a good generic diagnostic scanner is expensive, but the manufacturer-specific diagnostic tools required are \$3,000 to \$9,000 each and need thousands of dollars in yearly updates.

[SEE CARS page 28]

## Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament Supports Local Charities



DAVID DIERKS

Detective Travis Dennison, Chief Mark Nagel and Officer Landon Lawson were some of the Orinda Police Department officers honored by the Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament.

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Fifth Annual Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament was held at the Orinda Country Club on Oct. 13. The tournament attracted 67 golfers and raised money for local charities, including Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and Orinda Community Foundation (OCF). Orinda Fourth of July Parade, Lamorinda Idol, Spirit Van for Orinda Seniors, Orinda Art in Public Places and Orinda Action Day, are just a few of the community programs that the OCF helps.

Each year, the tournament honors members of the community who have upheld the values of a hero. The honoree at this year's tournament was the Orinda Police Department (OPD). "This event helps raise much needed funding for many important local events and services while paying tribute to our local heroes," said tournament co-chair Allena Behnke.

The tournament gave awards to the first,

second, third and most honest four-person teams, as well as individual awards. The first and second place teams were tied with a score of 100. The tie was broken by determining who had the better score on the back nine. First place went to Brandt Severson, Jim Ellis, Kim Manning and Jill Ellis. Second-place winners were Bill Judge, Wayne Canterbury, Don Jenkins and Jeff Hawkins. In third place (with a score of 105) were Bill Mullally, Nancy Mullally, Nick Mullally and Ryan Okimoto. The most honest team was awarded to Ted Urban, Lida Urban, John Brown and OPD Chief Mark Nagel.

The most honest player was John Brown. The most accurate drive was awarded to John Hunt. The closest to the pin award was won by Jill Ellis. The women's longest drive was by Stephanie Hayes and the men's longest drive was by Nick Mullally. The longest put was made by Paul Winters.

For more information, visit [www.everydayheroes.golfreg.com](http://www.everydayheroes.golfreg.com).

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HOLIDAY EVENTS

## Hospice Tree Of Lights Ceremony

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Santa Claus is coming to town but not on a sleigh. The jolly old man will arrive on a shiny red fire truck on Dec. 6 as part of the annual Hospice Tree of Lights Ceremony.

Festivities begin at 4:30 pm with holiday musical entertainment by the talented youngsters from Orinda's elementary schools as well as the Orinda Intermediate School. Free cookies, apple cider, popcorn and candy canes will be available.

The event takes place in the parking lot in front of the Bank of America, located in the Village Square Shopping Center off Orinda Way. Mayor Sue Severson will lead a countdown to the lighting of the magnificent old oak tree in front of the Bank of America building.

Santa will be seated nearby in his special chair to greet all children who want to discuss their Christmas wishes.

Sponsored by Hospice of the East Bay and organized by Friends of Hospice, the City of Orinda and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, the event raises funds for Hospice's invaluable end-of-life care. By dedicating a Memorial Light for a minimum gift of \$25, residents can honor a family member or friend while also directly supporting patient care.

Hospice also operates Bruns House in Walnut Creek, a unique facility for people in the last days of their lives, as well as a Comfort for Kids program and a palliative care program.

For more information on light dedications, call 925-887-5678 or visit [www.hospiceeastbay.org](http://www.hospiceeastbay.org) and click on the donation button.

## Holiday Bazaar Welcomes Santa, Dozens of Vendors

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

Santa Claus will usher in the busy holiday season when he arrives from the North Pole for a visit to the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary's (OCCA) 38th Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Children may have their pictures taken with the event's honored guest and families can start their holiday shopping by visiting a host of local vendors and artisans.

According to Jennifer Weiss, recreation supervisor with the Parks and Recreation Department, the bazaar will feature more than 55 exhibitors, with wares including children's clothing, home decor, one-of-a-kind jewelry, specialty foods, eco-friendly products, original art, holiday decorations and pet items. Live entertainment at the event will include performances by Scooter the clown and the local ukulele class.

Recreation Coordinator Amanda Perceval, who will be a vendor at this year's bazaar, said the event is "a nice time to get out and see what's going on around the community center and the library." Perceval said that the bazaar's organizers try to stay as "local and hometown" as possible in booking vendors for the event.

The OCCA is a non-profit organization formed in 1976, dedicated to supporting the Orinda Community Center and its programs. One hundred percent of the bazaar's proceeds benefit the Parks and Recreation Department. The OCCA also supports the summer Concerts-in-the-Park.

Perceval estimates that there are hundreds of classes offered every year for children and adults at the community center



SALLY HOGARTY

A multitude of vendors offer a wide array of items for the holidays and more, making the annual bazaar a one-stop shopping experience for all your gifting needs.

and park. From cooking to writing to ballet, children and adults alike can participate in a wide variety of classes as well as sports activities. The program also holds camps during summer and holidays. Perceval said that this year the center's summer camps were "up over 100 percent."

She said that many of the bazaar's partici-

*"It's a nice time to get out and see what's going on around the Community Center," says Amanda Perceval.*

pants are involved in the center's programs including the ukulele class which is part of the entertainment line-up. "It's something they look forward to all year," she said, adding that the holiday bazaar gives the community and opportunity to "look at what we offer here."

For more information, contact Weiss at [jweiss@cityoforinda.org](mailto:jweiss@cityoforinda.org).

## Eighth Annual Artisan Faire

By BARBARA DUFF  
Contributing Writer

Just in time for the holidays, the annual Artisan Faire, showcasing the unique work of 27 talented local artists, will be held on Thursday, Nov. 13, 4 to 7:30 pm, at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. A wide array of distinctive artwork and crafts will include ceramics, glass, painting, jewelry, woodwork, fabric and woven items, clothing, stained glass, photography, gourd art and clocks. Everyone is welcome and there is no admission charge. To enhance the festive atmosphere, an assortment of wines from several wineries will be offered for complementary tasting.



AUDREY PROTIVA

Gerry Wallace displays one of her ceramic pieces made at her home kiln.

"We enjoy bringing together artists working in different mediums and styles to interest a broad range of tastes. It is a special

[SEE FAIRE page 14]

RE-ELECT

# Dean Orr 2014

for Orinda City Council

"It has been an honor to serve the Orinda Community as a member of the City Council for the past four years. Working with my colleagues on the council and the citizens of Orinda has been a truly rewarding experience. I am excited by the opportunity to continue in this role and ask for your support."

*"Dean is an exceptional Council member and serves with intelligence, integrity, and insight. He is committed to preserving Orinda's wonderful quality of life. I strongly urge his re-election to the City Council."*

**Steve Glazer**  
Orinda City Council Vice-Mayor

*"Dean has consistently stepped up for the good of Orinda schools and has been a great supporter of our district. Please join me in supporting him for re-election to the Orinda City Council."*

**Matt Moran**  
Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees

**Selected Endorsements Include:**

**Elected Officials**

**Candace Andersen**  
Supervisor District 2 Contra Costa County

**Steve Glazer**  
Orinda City Councilmember

**Sue Severson**  
Orinda City Councilmember

**Victoria Smith**  
Orinda City Councilmember

**Amy Worth**  
Orinda City Councilmember

**Susie Epstein**  
Acalanes Union High School District Board

**Matt Moran**  
Orinda Union School District Board

**Julie Rossiter**  
Orinda Union School District Board

**Chris Severson**  
Orinda Union School District Board

**Community Members**

Larry & Julie Abramson  
Louise Adamson  
Patt & Jim Aitchison  
Greg & Shaun Ansel  
Richard & Julie Atkinson  
Steve & Marcella Austenfeld

*"Dean approaches each issue in a fair and open-minded way, always looking to find the path forward that is best for Orinda. Dean has a proven track record as an Orinda volunteer, has worked hard to obtain revenue to fix our roads, and as the parent of young children, has key ties to our school community."*

**Victoria Smith**  
Orinda City Council

*"Dean has been a strong advocate of the work of the Parks & Recreation Commission. He has worked hard for the opening of new sports fields and outdoor recreation opportunities and is a great supporter of programs that benefit Orindans of every generation. We are fortunate for his leadership and I am delighted to support his re-election."*

**Rachel Zenner**  
Chair Orinda Parks & Recreation Commission

Jack Babcock  
Rich Bartlett  
Brent Bates  
Steve & Betsy Baus  
Todd & Amy Berryhill  
Kurt & Joy Marlow Braitberg  
Kevin & Shauna Brennan  
Shane & Monica Brun  
Bruce & Barbara Burkhalter  
Bruce Burrows  
Robert Burt  
Chris & Annette Butner  
Ed Casey  
Omer & Megan Cohen  
Kim & Kevin Coleman  
Darren & Julie Cooke  
Mike & Sara Curran  
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Grant & Joyce Fine  
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Mark & Lauren French

Shannon Fuller  
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Kevin & Tracy Gong  
Dr. Eugene Gottfried  
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Joyce Hawkins  
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Mike & Mary Henderson  
Jeanie Hocking  
Eile Hoffnagel  
Paul Hollerbach  
Monique Jasper  
James Jenkins  
Bill Judge  
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year  
Tom & Aileen Kelly  
Dr. Michael & Sara Kim  
Caroline LaVoie  
Brad & Leslie Lagomarsino  
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David Libby  
Alissa Lillie  
Jason & Jen Lurie  
Tom & Cinda Mackinnon  
Brook & Alison Mancinelli  
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Tracey & John Millham  
Jeff & Staci Mills  
Kyle & Lisa Mueller  
Terry Murphy  
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Tom & Carole Wolfman  
Tom & Katie Wood  
Rick Woodward  
Tricia & Bret Young  
Rachel Zenner

Paid for by Dean Orr for City Council 2014 FPPC Committee ID #1367264

THANKSGIVING

Roving Reporter Celebrating Thanksgiving

Charlie Jarrett



On a recent sunny October day, our Roving Reporter asked people in downtown Orinda what they were grateful for and how they would be spending Thanksgiving.

**Myrna Witt** says she will celebrate a lifetime of love that she and her husband, Robert Lewis “Bob” Witt, shared during their 30-year residency in Orinda. She will spend Thanksgiving with her son Mark and her grandchildren in Phoenix, Arizona. “My husband passed away quietly on Oct. 2, and my children and I will be celebrating very fond memories at Thanksgiving this year.” Myrna notes that she and Bob moved to Orinda following a stay in Paris. “He joined Hexcel Corporation in 1968 as the Chief Legal Counsel. In 1981, he became the company’s international vice-president



Myrna Witt.

CHARLIE JARRETT

headquartered in Paris, France,” she says. “A major part of his life was being a member of the Wine and Food Society of San Francisco. He loved pairing fine wines with a good meal.” Bob also enjoyed attending



Diana Laythrop and Jack Feist.

CHARLIE JARRETT

Charlie Vollmar’s Epicurean Exchange cooking classes here in Orinda as well.

Good friends **Jack Feist** and **Diana Laythrop** will celebrate Thanksgiving at their respective Orinda homes. Jack moved to Orinda in 1991, and Diana has lived here all her life. Jack shares his Orinda home and Thanksgiving feast with family and co-tenants at his home. He will prepare the traditional turkey in addition to a spiral cut honey baked ham, with separate tables set up for the adults and the children. Diana says, as a child, she and her siblings hated having to sit at the children’s table until they discovered that the “children’s table was the

place to be, with more freedom – where you could roast your peas over the dinner candles – if no one was looking!” Diana says her family will have turkey, dressing, and special heritage sweet potatoes prepared by her sister-in-law’s German father, mashed potatoes and two types of cranberry sauces, including one the way her grandmother liked to prepare it. “In Orinda, we are very blessed, and as a school teacher, I can say that in this school district, everyone really wants to provide the means for the children to succeed.”

**Dave Anderson** says he and his wife will spend Thanksgiving in Chicago, IL, this year. “Both of our kids went to Miramonte High, and today both live in Chicago with their own families, less than 20 minutes from each other. In fact, my wife and I have a condo in Evanston, Illinois, just a 12-minute walk to Peet’s Coffee. Peet’s only has two locations in the entire Midwest, one in Chicago and one near our condo,” Dave says as he sips his coffee at Peet’s in Orinda. An Orinda resident since 1945, Dave promises not to shoot any of the pesky turkeys this Thanksgiving that roam around his neighborhood.



Dave Anderson.

CHARLIE JARRETT

**Haley Reardon** will go to Lake Forest, IL, outside of Chicago, to visit her grandmother for Thanksgiving. Her extended



CHARLIE JARRETT

Haley Reardon.

family lives in Chicago while she, her parents and brothers have lived in Orinda for 15 years. A student at Miramonte High school, the 18-year-old Haley loves Orinda because it is so “homey” and close to San Francisco and “has a little bit of everything.”



CHARLIE JARRETT

Ryan, Jack and Reagan Kaelie.

**Jack Kaelie, his daughter Reagan and son Ryan** have lived in Orinda for the past five years and love it. Reagan and Ryan are both in fourth grade at Sleepy Hollow School. They and their grandparents (also Orinda residents) go to Lake Tahoe every Thanksgiving where they enjoy the weather, the scenery and the lakeshore.

Charlie Jarrett can be reached at [megaline@comcast.net](mailto:megaline@comcast.net).

FRESH IDEAS FOR ORINDA

# Carlos Baltodano

## For Orinda City Council

# CARLOS BALTODANO

**Background**

- 22 year Orinda resident
- UC Berkeley Bachelor of Architecture, Masters in City and Regional Planning
- Six years on Orinda Planning Commission (Chair 2013-2014)

**Priorities**

- Enhance communication between the City Council and residents
- Continue to improve and fix all Orinda residential roads
- Enhance and support local businesses

“Carlos has been a great civic volunteer and member and chair of our Planning Commission. Orinda has been well served by his thoughtful and energetic service.”

*Steve Glazer  
Orinda City Council Vice-Mayor*

[www.carlosfororindacouncil.com](http://www.carlosfororindacouncil.com)

Paid for by Carlos Baltodano for Orinda City Council 2014, ID # 1368607

## Perfect Fundraiser for Joaquin Moraga Adobe



Guests at the Moraga Adobe fundraiser tour the grounds of the Frank Lloyd Wright Buehler House.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe reveled in holding an old-fashioned fandango to raise money for the restoration of the historic Moraga Adobe on Sept. 13. Fandangos, a lively Spanish dance, were often held at the adobe when the Moraga family lived there in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Buehler House and Matsutani Garden provided the perfect setting for the well-attended affair -- one historic house helping another.

"We are grateful to Gerald Shamavonian for his generosity in giving the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe the opportunity to open his home, to the public for our event," says Friends member Bobbie

Landers. Attendees received a guided tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's beautifully crafted house by architect Art Dyson. Dyson is a fellow of Taliesin-West, the architectural school and winter home of Frank Lloyd Wright in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Also in attendance and providing valuable insight into the Wright design were architect Bill Simpson and contractor Keith Alward. Both helped restore the Buehler home following a fire in 1994.

Band leader Tom Carter provided the evening's entertainment with his Generations in Jazz combo. Baile Folklorico de San Pancho Dancers and trumpeter/dancer Gabriel Angelo added a Spanish flavor to the fundraiser.

"The weather was great and the Mexican Hot Chocolate ended a perfect evening," adds Landers.

## Accidental Philanthropist Who Deserves Our Support This Holiday Season?

Ksenija Olmer



The holiday season is upon us again and with it dozens of calls for donations to worthy causes. How are we to pick among the many deserving causes in need of our help?

I am very distrustful of big governmental or non-governmental organizations. Too much has been uncovered about the misuse of funds on the domestic front and graft and waste on the international. I am also skeptical of outfits that spend lots of money on sleek brochures or professional telemarketers. Did you know that some of these organizations spend up to 90 cents on a dollar for marketing and overhead? While my heart is easily swayed, my head warns me that I should do due diligence about a potential charity. The easiest way to check is to see if it is listed on any of the three major Internet services (Guide Star, BBB Wise Giving Alliance and Charity Navigator), although looking at their different methodologies I am not convinced that the information or ratings they provide

are giving me all the answers. Seeing how quickly a highly lauded charity can fall from grace when irregularities are uncovered, I'd rather not give to those in the limelight.

Since I have more time than money to donate, I prefer to give to organizations by volunteering or personally visiting the location where they operate. I get more satisfaction that way than by just writing a check -- as do many of my friends. It might be easier to just write a check than organize a big charity event, but it would be less fun and a lot more lonely.

The simple truth is everyone can be a philanthropist. You don't need to be a millionaire or even have a lot of disposable income. Anyone, young or old, student or retiree, can donate their time, skill, expertise, passion or voice to spread awareness of their chosen cause.

This holiday season, what is your favorite cause or charity you wish everyone to know about?

### ◆ FAIRE from page 12

time to meet very creative and interesting artists and to learn about their work," says Gail Solt, event founder and one of the many volunteers who assure the event's success. Solt will display her necklaces, designed with gemstones, crystals, pearls and beads collected over her extensive travels.

Orinda's Gerry Wallace will return with her whimsical and creative ceramics as well

as Ellis Sjoberg and his handcrafted wood items. New this year is the Congo Necklace group, headed by Bobbie Dodson-Nielson from the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. Proceeds from the sale of these hand-crocheted necklaces and earrings embellished with pendants and beads benefit over 800 schools for needy children in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For more information, email gailsolt@gmail.com.

# Bob Thompson

## A FINANCIAL EXPERT FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL

- 37-year career in the financial industry
- Chair, Orinda Finance Advisory Committee
- President, Founding Boardmember, Bay Area Financial Education Foundation
- Boardmember, United Way of the Bay Area Finance Committee
- Chair, Investment Committee of the Girl Scouts of Northern California
- Past President, CFA Society of San Francisco
- Member, Finance and Investment Committees of St. Stephen's Church
- Member, Investment Committee, Episcopal Diocese of California
- Nuclear Submarine Officer, U.S. Navy

For more information about Bob Thompson, please visit his website at

[www.BobThompson4Orinda.com](http://www.BobThompson4Orinda.com)

“BOB IS THOROUGH, DEEPLY UNDERSTANDS FINANCIAL ISSUES, EMPHASIZES FISCAL SOUNDNESS, AND IS VERY COLLABORATIVE AND RESPECTFUL OF ALL VIEWPOINTS.”

—Carol Penskar

ON NOVEMBER 4,  
PLEASE VOTE FOR **Bob Thompson**  
FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL



*I'm Bob Thompson, and I'd appreciate your vote for Orinda City Council. My wife and I are proud to have raised our family in Orinda, and I'd like to give back and offer my financial experience as a different perspective on our city council. I've worked in the financial industry for over 37 years, and volunteered my time and effort to maintain our community's incredible quality of life. Please contact me at (415) 740-6807 with any questions about my background or any of my positions.*

Thank you!

—Bob



Paid for by Bob Thompson for Orinda City Council 2014, FPPC # 1370981  
PO Box 689, Orinda, CA 94563; (415)740-6807; bobthompson4orinda@gmail.com

PRESCHOOL DIRECTORY

# Lamorinda Preschools Create Wonderful Environments for Children

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Preschool is an important part of forming a child's personal, social and emotional development, as well as helping parents with their busy schedules. Below is *The Orinda News'* list of Lamorinda preschool and after-school programs.

Contact the schools for further information on enrollment and cost. Visit [www.eastbaypreschools.com](http://www.eastbaypreschools.com) and [www.lamorindamoms.org](http://www.lamorindamoms.org); both are good resources for researching preschool programs. See the article on page 18 about the Lamorinda Moms Preschool Fair on Nov. 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Orinda**

**Fountainhead Montessori School**

30 Santa Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563  
925-820-1343  
7 am to 6 pm

Children ages 2 to kindergarten; before and after care; summer school.  
[www.fms.org](http://www.fms.org)

**Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool**

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-3429  
9 am to Noon, extended day until 2 pm



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

These two youngsters enjoy the playground at Orinda's **Fountainhead Montessori School**.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**The Orinda Preschool - TOPS** features a large playground area with lots of activities to keep young minds and bodies busy.

Ages 2-3, Tu/Th; ages 3.4-5, M-W-F  
Pre-kindergarten; ages 3.5-5, M-F; lunch  
bunch 12:00 pm - 2 pm  
[preschool@holyshepherd.org](mailto:preschool@holyshepherd.org)  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)

**Orinda Afternoons - Childcare and Preschool**

103 El Toyonal, Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-1974  
7:30 am to 5:30 pm  
Monday - Thursday, ages zero to five.  
[orindaafternoons@gmail.com](mailto:orindaafternoons@gmail.com)  
[www.orindaafternoons.com](http://www.orindaafternoons.com)

**St. John Preschool**

501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-4470  
7 am to 5:30 pm  
Ages 18 mon.-5, half day or full day, offered two, three or five days a week.  
[preschool@stjohnorinda.org](mailto:preschool@stjohnorinda.org)  
[www.stjohnorinda.com](http://www.stjohnorinda.com)

**St. Mark's Nursery School**

451 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563

925-254-1364

Classes for 3's, 4's and K-Prep M-F, 9 am - 12 pm. New 2's program Jan. 2015. Children may attend 2-5 days per week; lunch bunch daily.  
[stmarksnurseryschoolorinda@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksnurseryschoolorinda@gmail.com)  
[www.stmarksnurseryschool.org](http://www.stmarksnurseryschool.org)

**St. Stephen's Preschool**

66 St. Stephen's Dr., Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-3770, ext. 19  
Program for 2 year olds 9:15 am - 11:45 am, Tu/Th; for age 3-5 year olds, 9 am to noon, M-W-F or M-F, with optional lunch bunch 12-2 pm.  
[www.ststephenspreschoolorinda.org](http://www.ststephenspreschoolorinda.org)

**The Orinda Preschool - TOPS**

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-2551  
9 am to 12:00 pm  
Preschool, ages 2-4; transitional kindergarten, age 5. Optional afternoon lunch bunch playgroup, ages 3-5.  
[topsonline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:topsonline@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.topsonline.org](http://www.topsonline.org)

**Lafayette**

**Apple Seed Little School**

Lafayette, CA  
925-979-9089  
8 am to 5:30 pm  
Preschool program for 2 - 5 year olds with extended child care.  
[www.appleseedlittleschool.com](http://www.appleseedlittleschool.com)

**Building Bridges Preschool**

1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-283-6792  
8 am to 5 pm  
Preschool program with extended care to 5 pm for ages 2 to 6.  
[www.buildingbridgespreschool.com](http://www.buildingbridgespreschool.com)

**The Child Day Schools**

1049 Stuart Street, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-7092  
6:45 am to 6:15 pm  
Ages 2-6, minimum 3-5 days per week, twos, threes, pre-K, developmental kindergarten, summer programs.  
[lafayette@tcdschools.com](mailto:lafayette@tcdschools.com)  
[www.tcdschools.com](http://www.tcdschools.com)

[SEE LAFAYETTE page 16]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children at **Orinda Afternoons** maneuver a fun vehicle around the play area.



A true friend of the Orinda Library:  
**Councilwoman Amy Worth**

**"We are so fortunate** to live in a community where people treasure their families, their schools, their parks, their neighbors, and their library."

**THE ORINDA LIBRARY: CHECK IT OUT!**

26 Orinda Way • Orinda • California • 94563 • 925-254-2184 • <http://ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html>

- Lending Library
- Art Gallery
- Community Meeting Rooms
- Plaza Area
- Café

**HOURS:**

Monday through Thursday: 10am—8pm  
Friday and Saturday: 10am—6pm  
Sunday: 1pm—5pm

VOTE TO RE-ELECT

[www.AmyWorth.org](http://www.AmyWorth.org)

*Amy Worth*

Paid for by Friends to Elect Amy Worth to the Orinda City Council 2014.  
P.O. Box 1808, Orinda, CA 94563 Campaign ID 982411

PRESCHOOL DIRECTORY

◆ LAFAYETTE from page 15

**Diablo Valley Montessori School**  
3390 Deerhill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-283-6036  
7:30 am to 6 pm  
Infants/toddlers, 3 mon. to 2 yrs., 8 am - 5 pm; two's/transition 2-3 yrs.; preschool/ kindergarten 3-6 yrs. 7:30 am - 6 pm; morning program for 2-6 yrs. 8:30 - 11:30 am; extended care 7:30 am to 6 pm for enrolled students 3-6 yrs.; summer program 3-6 yrs. www.dvms.org

**First Steps Learning Center**  
3201 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-933-6283  
7 am to 6 pm  
Ages birth to 2; infant care, full time only, year-round.  
info@first-steps-learning-center.com  
www.first-steps-learning-center.com

**French for Fun**  
3381 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite B100, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-283-9822  
Moms and tots/tots at play / Friday circles, morning immersion for 30 months old plus.  
Madame@frenchforfun.com  
www.frenchforfun.com

**Gan Ilan Preschool, Temple Isaiah**  
945 Risa Road, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-8453  
Ages 2-5, 9 am - 1 pm; extended care 8 - 9 am and 1 to 5:30 pm. Playgroup 0-30 mon, free to all.  
www.Temple-Isaiah.org

**Gymboree**  
3482 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-283-4896  
Classes at various times/days for ages 3-5 years; see website.  
lafayetteca@gymboreeclasses.com



Jonathan and Bryce work together cooperatively at **TOT DROP**, where kindness and friendship are stressed.

www.gymboreeclasses.com

**Happy Days Learning Center**  
3205 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-932-8088  
7 am to 6 pm  
Age 2-5+, preschool, kindergarten up to 5th grade. Before and after school care ages 5-12.  
info@happydayslafayette.com  
www.happydayslafayette.com

**Joyful Beginnings Preschool**  
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-1143  
Serves children age 2.5 years (as of Sept. 1) through age 5. Classes held M-F, 8:45 - 11:45 am for pre-K to 5 year olds; Tu/Th for 3 year olds; M-W-F for 4 year olds; lunch bunch, 11:45 am - 2:45 pm.  
joyfulbeginnings@sbcglobal.net  
http://thelumc.org/joyful-beginnings-preschool

**Lafayette Kids' Cottage**  
Downtown Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-286-6848

8 am to 6 pm  
Preschool program 2.9 yrs. to 5 yrs. 9:30 am to 2:30 pm; after school program 2.9 yrs. to 10 yrs., 2:30 pm to 6 pm.  
www.lafayettekids.com

**Lafayette Nursery School**  
979 First Street, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-2448  
Preschool program for 2 year olds Tu/Th, 9-11:15 am; preschool program for 3 year olds M-W-F, 9-11:30 am; preschool programs for 4 year olds, M-Th 12:30 to 3 pm. Open House Nov. 15.  
membership@lafayettenurseryschool.org  
www.lafayettenurseryschool.org

**Merriewood Children's Center**  
561 Merriewood Dr, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-2121  
Toddler-parent class, Mon only 9:15 - 11:15 am; preschool ages 2.5-3 yrs. (T/Th); age 3-4 yrs. (M-W-F); age 4-5 yrs. (4 or 5 days), 9 to 11:30 am. Early arrival at 8:30 am; extended care available till 2:15 pm.  
merriewoodchildrenscenter@comcast.net  
www.merriewood.org

**Michael Lane Preschool**  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-7244  
9 am to noon with a lunch option from noon to 1 pm, 2 yrs. 9 mon. to K.  
www.michaellanepreschool.com

**Nanny's House Child Care & Preschool**  
969 Acalanes Road, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-385-0129  
Full time and part time programs, 6 weeks to 5 years old.  
nannyshouse@ymail.com  
www.nannyshouselafayette.com

**Old Firehouse School**  
984 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-4321  
8 am to 5:30 pm  
Infants to pre-kindergarten (12 months to age 5).  
ofslafayette@gmail.com  
www.oldfirehouseschool.com

**Seedlings Preschool**  
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church  
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549  
[SEE MORAGA page 17]



This young lady enjoys learning to drive at **St. Mark's Preschool** in Orinda.

ON NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> PLEASE VOTE FOR **JASON KAUNE FOR SCHOOL BOARD**



CITY LEADERS, PARENTS & RESIDENTS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES HAVE ENDORSED JASON.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Matt & Molly Wilson  
John & Jodi Kaelle  
Chris Severson  
Branislav Yaich  
Rene & Anna Marie Gamboa  
Jim & Sue Breedlove  
Yasaman Lee  
Charles & Janice Legge  
Ted & Whitney Pope  
James & Kathrine Riewerts  
Le Tran-Thi & Jay Solmonson  
Ward & Ruth Sangren  
Thomas & Merlon Williamson  
Jason & Haidee Wong  
Charles Yeomans & Desiree LeClerc  
Richard & Daphne Bertero  
Corrine & William da Cunha  
Bill Quinn & Chipp Ferguson  
Trevor & Mary Katherine Kienzie  
Joffa & Ellen Dale

Brad Zwahlen  
Gary & Kristine Kushner/Ing  
Orinda Educators' Association  
Charlene & Michael Robinson  
Brad & Cindy Barber  
Pat Rudebusch  
Mark & Sara Nelson  
Richard & Janet Cotter  
Alexander & Vanessa Imberg  
David & Joyce McCaulou  
Allan & Barbara Resnick  
John & Mary Dodge  
Jackson & Jennifer Mosher  
Roy & Kim Scheingart  
Colleen Sullivan  
David & Noel Twist  
Steve Cassriel  
Dave DiFranco & Kim Anderson  
Ed & Barbara Flinn  
Jillian & John Esopa  
Ray & Audrey Miskelley  
Catja & Trent McDonald

David & Carolyn Schiller  
Alan Smith & Lisa Fass  
Harold & Diane Hill  
Jonathan Tomasco  
Tom & Marianne Aude  
Scott & Stephanie Barmmer  
Patrick & Marci Dunne  
Al & Marijane Walburg  
Peirce & Jo Ann McKee  
Chris & Virginia Hanlon  
Charles & Marty Froese  
Dianne Schneider  
Susan Wisk  
Bob & Maryett Thompson  
George & Beverly Webb  
Mike & Elaine Meyers  
Matt Moran  
Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert  
Thomas & Jeanie Finch  
Douglas & Ruth Fortune  
Mark & Nicole Meredith  
Pete & Diana Hutchins  
Jim & Carol Brovelli



PRIORITIES:

- Improved communication among all stakeholders
- Opportunities for students of all abilities
- Civic education, smart use of technology, and long-range planning

Phil & Nancy Placier	Tom and Roxanne Trutner
Scott & Roxanne Rhoades	Sue and Al Farmer
Robert Burt	Harlan Van Wye
Riki Sorenson	Sage and Tyler Lincoln
Don & Connie Bentley	David & Marilyn Martin
Fran Swanson	Thomas & Pat Paulson
Ali & Liu	Lionel & Ann Sorenson
Toraby-Moghadam	Steve & Linda Siljestrom
Joseph & Pamela Wiley	Kame & Philip Woo
Steve & Darla Lucas	Fiona Fellner
Kris & Jim Anthony	Midge Zischke
Frans Martono & Maria Rachmat	Dan and Mimi Gannon
Shaun & Katherine Dial	PARTIAL LIST
Mario & Leigh Feusier	

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE NAMES AND ADD YOURS!

JASON IS RUNNING FOR THE ORINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A CONSENSUS BUILDER WHO WILL BRING INDEPENDENT THINKING AND FISCAL PRUDENCE TO THE SCHOOL BOARD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND "COFFEE HOUR" DATES PLEASE VISIT: [www.JasonKaune.com](http://www.JasonKaune.com)



PRESCHOOL DIRECTORY

◆ LAFAYETTE from page 16

925-284-3870

9:15 am to 2:15 pm

Infant/toddler, preschool, pre-K, developmental kindergarten; extended care, ages 2-4 to 3:15 pm.

seedlings@lopc.org

www.lopc.org

**Tiny Tots Preschool**

at the Lafayette Community Center  
500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-299-3266

9 am - 1:30 pm, 3.5 to 5+ yrs. M-W-F;  
9 am - 11:30 am, 2.5 to 3.5 yrs. Tu/Th;  
pre-K 12 - 2:15 pm one day; optional  
lunch bunch to 12:30 pm.  
www.lafayetterec.org

**TOT DROP - Preschool by Appointment**

500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-3999

Any portion of 9 am to 1 pm

Ages 1-5, M-F, pay as you go, maximum  
12 hours/week. \$11/hr. with \$1 discount  
when siblings attend together.  
www.totdrop.com

**Viva el Español**

3451 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette, CA  
94549

925-962-9177

Toddler, preschool and elementary



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This young man makes pumpkin bread at Mora-  
ga's Creative Playhouse Preschool.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young painters at Lafayette Nursery Preschool.

school classes, flexible scheduling. Rolling  
enrollment.

info@vivaelespanol.org

www.vivaelespanol.org

**White Pony**

A division of the Meher Schools  
999 Leland Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-938-9958

7 am to 6:30 pm

Preschool, pre-K, kindergarten; also  
grades 1-5.

www.meher.schools.org

**Wirlybirds Treehouse**

1085 Marguerite Court, Lafayette 94549

925-310-4429

Quality childcare enrichment programs  
for toddlers, preschoolers and early  
school-age children. Drop-in program  
available 9 am - 3 pm, M-F.

marty@wirlybirds.com

www.wirlybirds.com

**Moraga**

**The Child Day Schools**

372 Park Street, Moraga, CA 94556

925-376-5110

6:45 am to 6:15 pm

Infant/toddler, ages 1-2; preschool, ages  
2-3; pre-K, junior-K and summer program.  
moraga@tedschools.com

www.tedschools.com

**Creative Playhouse Preschool**

1350 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556

925-377-8314

7 am to 6 pm

Infants and toddlers 3 mon. - 24 mon.;  
preschool classroom 2-3 yrs.; pre-K class-  
room 4-5 yrs.

www.eastbaypreschools.com

creativeplayhouse

**Growing Tree Preschool**

1695 Canyon Road, Moraga, CA 94556

925-376-8280

8 am to 5:00 pm

Seedlings 1.5-2 yrs.; sprouts 2-2.5 yrs.;

maples 2.5-3; yrs. mulberries 3-3.5yrs.;  
cedars 3.5-4; redwoods 4-4.5; sequoias  
4.5-5+.

www.growingtreepreschool.net

**The Nurtury Preschool**

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church  
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga, CA 94556  
925-376-4800 x248 Connie or Jenifer

9 am to 3 pm

2-5 yrs./kindergarten readiness 9 am -  
noon; extended care 12 noon to 3 pm.

www.mvpc.today.org/nurtury

**Mulberry Tree Preschool**

1455 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, CA 94556  
925-376-1751

7:45 am to 4 pm

Variable schedule, ages 2-5, extended  
care available (hourly), 5 days/week.

www.mulberrytreepreschool.com

**The Saklan School**

1678 School Street, Moraga, CA 94556

925-376-7900

Pre-K to 8th grade, extended day 7 am  
to 6 pm; half-day option for 3 year olds.

www.saklan.org

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email stmarksnurseryschoolorinda@gmail.com  
or visit our website at www.stmarksnurseryschool.org

451 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563

**Old Firehouse School**  
Serving Ages 1-5  
CONTACT US FOR AVAILABILITY

**www.oldfirehouseschool.com**

<b>Lafayette Campus</b> 984 Moraga Road Lafayette, CA 94549 925-284-4321 Open Houses Jan 12th and Feb 9th 6:30 pm	<b>Walnut Creek Campus</b> 55 Eckley Lane Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925-934-1507 Open Houses Jan 27th and Feb 23rd 6:30 pm
---	---

**Adults Only**

**EVE PHILLIPS**  
For Orinda City Council

**About Eve**  
\* An advocate for Orinda residents  
\* Miramonte, MIT & Stanford alum  
\* Healthcare software company CEO

**Top Priorities**  
\* Protect our semi-rural, small-town atmosphere  
\* Fix our roads  
\* Address traffic & parking issues  
\* Maintain a balanced budget

**evefororinda.com**

Paid for by Eve Phillips for Orinda City Council 2014, FPPC # 1369353

**Canned Food Drive**

The second annual canned food drive, sponsored by the City of Orinda, Orinda Union School District and Republic Services, will begin on Dec. 1. Boxes

will be located in the schools and various parts of downtown. More information will be available in the December issue of The Orinda News.

**St. Mark's Nursery School Introduces New Director**

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

St. Mark's Nursery School in Orinda recently hired Claire Peterson as the director. Peterson comes to St. Mark's with 11 years of experience as a head preschool teacher as well as management experience and 33 credits in Early Childhood Education. A Bay Area native, Peterson is a resident of Orinda and has two children in Lamorinda schools.

The small class size consists of 30 children on site per day grouped into smaller



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Claire Peterson is the new director for St. Mark's Nursery School.

learning circles. The school offers a structured and nurturing environment in which to learn social skills and conflict resolution. The teacher-guided, child-led, play-based curriculum fosters cognitive, social, emotional and physical development.

"Our teaching philosophy here at St. Mark's acknowledges the educational intention behind play," Peterson says. "We believe the curriculum for preschoolers should regularly include opportunities for developmentally appropriate project based learning. And, we view early childhood education as a true partnership between families and educators – as we build relationships with the children, we also build relationships with their primary caregivers, so that we can all best understand the needs of the child."

By offering programs two, three or five days a week for three- and four-year-olds, St. Mark's hopes to complement the traditional schedules already in place in other area schools and allow families greater flexibility. St. Mark's also offers a kindergarten preparation program. The challenging and fun pre-K option allows children to benefit from an extra year to work on cognitive, motor, social and emotional skills. Call about their new twos program beginning Jan. 2015.

For more information, go to [www.stmarksnurseryschool.org](http://www.stmarksnurseryschool.org) or call 925-254-1364.

**Lamorinda Moms' Preschool Fair: Time Saver for Parents**

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Lamorinda Moms' (LMs) 17th annual Preschool Fair will be held on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from more than 40 Lamorinda preschools who will discuss their programs and answer questions. The event is designed to help parents find just the right preschool for their child. Some 300 parents and their children attended last year. A directory of local preschools will be distributed.

"We know how important it is to choose the right preschool," said 2014-15 Lamorinda Moms co-director Stephanie Francis-Jones. "You'll receive a comparison of each participating preschool and have the chance to meet and talk with the directors and parents from each school."

LMs is a social and support club for parents with children under five years of age in the greater Lamorinda area. With more



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Lamorinda Moms' annual preschool fair has become a mandatory destination for those with young children.

than 900 members, the group hosts dozens of activities aimed at assisting members in enriching their lives through cultivating new friendships, personal and professional growth and community involvement. New members are welcome to join through the website where the 2013 Preschool Fair Directory can also be downloaded - see [www.lamorindamoms.org](http://www.lamorindamoms.org).

**Snow at Orinda Intermediate**



JEANETTE LIPP

Cast members from Orinda Intermediate School's *The Snow Queen*, running Nov. 13-15.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Winter comes early to Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) as the Bulldog Theater stages its fall drama, *The Snow Queen* by Ron Nicol, Nov. 13-15, 2014 in the

OIS Multi-purpose room, 80 Ivy Drive, in Orinda.

In Nicol's adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen's tale, childhood friends, Gerda and Kay, learn about the Snow Queen through a grandmother's description: "On winter nights when we are asleep, she [Snow Queen] flies silently through the streets and alleyways. Sometimes she stops to look through a window, and when you get up, the window is covered with flowers of frost for she has breathed on the glass." The Snow Queen casts her icy spell on the world and turns young Kay's heart to ice as well. She then takes Kay as her prisoner and returns to her Ice Palace at the top of the world. Determined to save her friend, Gerda journeys forever north and braves many dangers to save Kay and break winter's grip.

Directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) as part of their Youth Education Program, the show features two casts comprised of 50 OIS [SEE SNOW QUEEN page 19]

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Web: [www.amyrosmith.com](http://www.amyrosmith.com)  
Web: [www.iloveorinda.com](http://www.iloveorinda.com)  
BRE: #01855959

Amy Rose Smith  
Village Associates  
93 Moraga Way  
Suite 103  
Orinda, CA 94563

**TOPS**

The Orinda Preschool  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda  
**925.254.2551**

Alumni priority deadline for Fall 2015 is January 15

- Play based preschool for 2, 3, and 4 year olds
- Transitional Kindergarten for 5 year olds
- Parent participation program since 1938
- Accepting applications year round.

[www.topsonline.org](http://www.topsonline.org)  
[topsonline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:topsonline@sbcglobal.net)

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[www.breedloveinsurance.com](http://www.breedloveinsurance.com)

**Insurance Services**

## SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

## Middle School Girls Release Their Inner Scientists

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

“This was one of the best weeks of my life. I’m not just saying that. I’m being honest,” says Jane Fong, an eighth grade student at Orinda Intermediate School. Fong, along with fellow OIS student Dara Kazmierowski, spent a life-altering week at Stanford University this summer attending Tech Trek.

A math/science camp designed to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in young women who will enter eighth grade in the fall, Tech Trek features hands-on activities in math, science and related fields. All sleeping, eating, instructional and recreational facilities are located on a university campus where camps are held.

from Stanley Intermediate School.

Ellen Le, a former Tech Trekker who graduated from Stanford in Chemical Engineering last year and works for a startup perfume company, kicked off the camp with an inspiring speech.

“I got to try things I’ve never done before like robotics,” says Fong, who hopes to pursue a career in engineering. “It really helped me develop new interests like astronomy and robotics.”

Some of the “hands on” experiences the Tech Trek campers enjoyed included: constructing a robot with sensors and programmable actions; learning how to suture from a veterinarian; dissecting a squid; creating a group machine; constructing balloon-powered and mousetrap-powered car models; extracting DNA from strawber-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Scholarship winners (L-R) **Sharon Yuan, Jane Fong, Ally Scarpitti, Dara Kazmierowski, Sofia West** and **Claire Gallagher**.

Thanks to the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Fong and Kazmierowski received scholarships to the camp. In addition to the two Orinda students, AAUW OML granted scholarships to Ally Scarpitti and Sharon Yuan from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School and Sofia Elise West and Claire Gallagher

ries and much more. Adding to the fun, the girls staged a murder mystery in the dorm after a forensics session.

The girls also participated in Professional Women’s Night where they were able to ask questions of 12 women with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)-related careers.

[SEE TEK TREK page 23]

### ◆ SNOW QUEEN from page 18

students along with an additional 14 OIS students serving on tech crew. Rachel Robinson directs with Brett Jones as assistant director and acting coach.

Funded through parent contributions, the OIS Parents’ Club, Orinda Arts Council and donor contributions, the performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, including one intermission. Show times are 4:30 and 7:30 pm on Nov. 13 and 14 and 3 and

7 pm on Nov. 15. Tickets for Thursdays open seating performances are \$6 adults and \$3 students. The Friday and Saturday performances are \$10 for premier seating and \$8 for standard seating.

To purchase tickets, visit [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets are also available at the OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times. Additional information on the production can be found on the OIS website, <http://ois.orindaschools.org>.

## Orinda Teachers Enthusiastically Endorse



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Paid for by Orinda Educators’ Association PAC for Brown and Kaune, School Board 2014 FPPC#1370655

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

Note: Schools closed Nov. 10, 11 for Veteran’s Day; Nov. 24-28 for Thanksgiving break.

- 3 **Miramonte High School** Parent Education: Supporting Student Independence, library, 7 pm. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte).
- Orinda Union School District** Board Meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 pm. Visit [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).
- Holden High School** Information Night, 10 Irwin Way, 6 pm. Visit [www.holdenhigh.org](http://www.holdenhigh.org).
- 5 **Miramonte High School, Arabian Nights**, 750 Moraga Way, 7 pm. Also Nov. 6 and 7. More information, visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte).
- Acalanes Union High School** District Governing Board Meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 pm. Also Nov. 19. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us).
- Glorietta Elementary School** Focus on Science Parent Education Night, multipurpose room, 15 Martha Road, 6:30 pm. Visit <http://gl-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 8 **Holden High School** Fundraiser at Foreign Cinema, 2534 Mission St., San Francisco, features cocktail, wine and appetizer party and the Charles Wheel Jazz Trio. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at [www.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com).
- 13 **Miramonte High School** Financial Aid Night, theatre, 750 Moraga Way, 7 pm.
- 19 **Miramonte High School** Parents Club Meeting: College Career, 750 Moraga Way, 9:30 am.
- Orinda Intermediate School** Others First Lunch, mini-gym, 80 Ivy Drive, 12:20 to 1:50 pm. Visit <http://ois-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- Miramonte High School** Parent Education: MADD Underage Drinking, theater, 750 Moraga Way, 7 pm.



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SCOUTING

# Orinda Boy Scout Troop 57 Honors Four New Eagle Scouts

By STEVE TENNANT  
Contributing Writer

Orinda's Boy Scout Troop 57 proudly announced that Dennis Finger, Cole Sitar, Ryan Sitar and Christopher Tennant achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout.

Their achievement was celebrated at an Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, September 7, 2014, at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda. Each was presented with a proclamation from Orinda Mayor Sue Severson, as well as congratulatory letters from elected officials including State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Representative George Miller, Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Diane Feinstein, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, Governor Jerry Brown, Vice President Joe Biden and President and Mrs. Barack Obama. Senator Feinstein also sent U.S. flags that were flown over the U.S. Capital in honor of each Scout.

To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community:

Dennis Finger refurbished a section of trail in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. He supervised a group of more than 25 scouts, adult leaders and families in clearing the trail, transporting gravel and materials and, finally, placing a layer of gravel on the trail. Dennis is son of Sylvia and David Finger and is currently a senior at Miramonte.

Cole Sitar rebuilt a dilapidated bocce ball court at Orinda Oaks Park. Thanks to the hard work of many scouts and scout leaders, the court took shape over three weekends last September, and is now fully functional for bocce tournaments by the residents of Orinda. Cole is the son of Robin Bradley and Nick Sitar and is currently a senior at



(L-R) Dennis Finger, Cole Sitar, Ryan Sitar and Christopher Tennant are Troop 57's latest Eagle Scouts.

Miramonte.

Ryan Sitar designed and constructed a propagation greenhouse in the Del Rey Elementary School garden and repaired a garden shed. With help from Scouts, friends, and family over the course of four weeks, the greenhouse was built and the shed was refinished. Ryan is Cole's brother and son of Robin Bradley and Nick Sitar. He is currently a senior at Miramonte.

Christopher Tennant built a display system for students' plaques in the Miramonte Public Speaking classroom. Christopher led a loyal team of Scouts and helpers over four days to paint a wall and trophy case, and install aluminum channels that now display 158 plaques the Public Speaking program has collected over the past 30 years. Christopher is the son of Laurie

[SEE TROOP 57 page 23]

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# Troop 237 Honors Three New Eagle Scouts



(L-R) Tucker Fife, Bryce Hummer and Stephen Schmidt recently became Eagle Scouts.

By S. FIFE, C. CARTER-HUMMER, T. SCHMIDT  
Contributing Writers

Three scouts with Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda have achieved scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. Tucker Fife, Bryce Hummer, and Stephen Schmidt will be celebrating their Eagle Court of Honor Sunday, November 16, at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

Tucker Fife's project benefitted the volunteer national ski patrol at Squaw Valley. Tucker and his family have enjoyed a long

relationship with Squaw Valley from racing, competing on race teams and serving on the volunteer ski patrol. In December 2012, Tucker was swept from the KT-22 chairlift by an avalanche, and the ski patrol jumped into action to save him. He chose to help the helpers who helped him and so many others. The volunteer ski patrol headquarters had been moved into a building without ample ski storage. Tucker built two large ski racks for use by the patrollers, to make their volunteer service a little bit easier. Tucker is the brother of Berkeley and Carter and the son of Scott and Joan Fife of Lafayette and a senior at Bentley School.

Bryce Hummer's project improved a sports facility at Miramonte High School. A four-year member of the school's varsity tennis team, Bryce noticed that the

[SEE TROOP 237 page 23]

## LA ORINDA

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Happy Thanksgiving!

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- 1209 Pine St #139, Oakland \$499,000 (Pacific Cannery Lofts)
- 146 Canon Orinda \$812,000 (Listing - 12 Offers!)
- 124 Jennie Dr. Pleasant Hill \$585,000 (Listing)
- 635 Sterling Dr. Martinez \$580,000 (Listing - off market)
- 4259 Harbord Dr. \$1,288,000 (Upper Rockridge 4 offers)
- 1253 Upper Happy Valley \$2,200,000 (4 offers)
- 28 Calvin Ct. Orinda \$2,150,000 (Buyer in love!)

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- 862 Regal Rd. Berkeley Hills **Coming Soon** (4800 sq ft masterpiece)
- 0 Los Venados Orinda \$200,000 (vacant 2 acre parcel)

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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

# MHS Senior Gains Clarity from Work in Cambodia

By MADISON GEARY  
Contributing Writer

During the summer of 2013, I enjoyed 17 days exploring Shanghai while also taking Mandarin classes for five hours each morning at a university. While my main purpose in traveling to China was to improve my Mandarin, I also wanted to learn about the people and culture. However, something urgent and unexpected struck me during my trip. It was the horrific quality of the water in China's most populated city.

Upon my return to Orinda, I began my research. I learned that, worldwide, more than 1.5 million children under five years of age die each year as a result of diarrhea, making it the second most common cause of child deaths. The number one cause is

pneumonia, which takes the lives of an estimated 1.8 million children per year. What is so frustrating is that the majority of these two illnesses are preventable by improving water sanitation.

So last year, I started a club at Miramonte High School (MHS) called Purification People. The aim is to raise awareness and money to help improve the quality and accessibility of water in Third World countries. Through a series of fundraisers, the club raised \$350 for Tippy Taps, an organization that provides clean water for washing in rural areas around the world. With the money raised at MHS, we were able to install 18 Tippy Taps at three schools in Siem Reap, Cambodia, through the nonprofit organization Cambodian Child's Dream Organization. With this inspiration,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miramonte senior **Madison Geary** in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Through her efforts students at three schools now have clean water to drink.

I planned a trip to Siem Reap this summer, with the goal of making the biggest difference possible. My expectations ended up being very different from the reality.

Siem Reap is more of a town than a city. Apart from a few of the main roads, most roads are just dirt with countless potholes. Instead of cars, motorbikes serve as the main mode of transportation. There is one traffic light in the entire town. Driving laws that we follow in the U.S. are nonexistent

in Siem Reap and traffic is chaotic.

During my trip, I volunteered at the three schools where the Tippy Taps had been installed. The schools I was working at were in the middle of summer vacation, just like me. However, they all offered summer camps that gave the children the opportunity to continue their education. The attendance rates were high each day and I loved to see the drive in all of the students in

[SEE GEARY page 23]

# Miramonte High School Rapper Earning His Place in Music Culture

By MICHAEL SAKODA  
Staff Writer

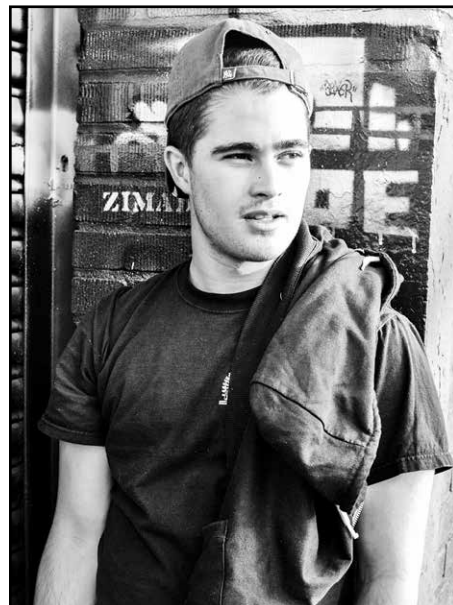
Like many of his peers, Elijah Stavena, a.k.a. Kahleo (The Voice), is on his way to a bright future, and his future as a rapper is well underway with the help of a little serendipity, a whole lot of talent, and even more hard work.

To the layman, rap has always been more a sub-music, a sub-genre with ties to gang culture, but to the Miramonte senior, and to a more open-minded audience, the poetics of rappers flow patterns, the significance of their lyrics, the immensity of their vocabularies are undeniable – Shakespeare's documented lexicon (5,170 words) is dwarfed by rappers like GZA from Wu-Tang Clan (6,426 words) and Aesop Rock (7,392 words). Rap, and by extension Elijah, has earned a place in art culture.

"When I was 10, my parents got divorced," he said. "I started writing, not necessarily hip hop or rap or music per se. It was more poetry, a way for me to vent and express how I was feeling."

It transformed shortly thereafter when Elijah heard a song by Eminem, and felt inspired to become a rapper.

"I heard [Eminem's] 'Sing for the Mo-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elijah Stavena, "Kahleo's," music career is well underway.

ment,' and it really connected with me," Elijah said. "During the divorce, I didn't really express my emotions to people. I was really quiet, and music was my only escape from it."

From there, the budding lyricist kept his dream secret until he was 16. "About sopho-

[SEE KAHLEO page 23]



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For additional endorsements and other information, please visit

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ◆ LETTERS from page 6

careful study and consideration.

– Tyson Krumholz

**Downtown Development**

In the 44 years I have lived in Orinda, I have never gotten involved in the politics of our city. Yes, I studied the candidates, their position on issues and voted. I was able to go about my family life and work without having to think of Orinda drastically changing its direction from a family-oriented, semi-rural community to a metro-oriented, densely populated city.

I began attending City Council meetings two years ago and was stunned by the lack of engagement our City Councilmembers had with the public. Issues would be brought before them, and they would give every appearance of listening, but citizens' input was largely dismissed as "uninformed." Initially, I gave the councilmembers the benefit of the doubt. But I can assure you, the current council's deafness to the concerns of its citizens is blatant.

The results of the council's actions are apparent. Monteverde, as constructed at 2 Irwin Way, does not fit into our semi-rural environment. The argument is not against senior housing per se. Most Orindans want to avail senior citizens of secure housing, but housing development should conform to the restrictions of Orinda's General Plan, especially with respect to height limitations and set-back requirements. Orindans were misled. We were told the senior housing would be built on the old library site. The former library was not visible from the street. Really, did any of you dream it would look like it does now? And, then there is Pulte. More unbelievable development plans of size and density continue. There is another development group influencing City Councilmembers to tear down

Country Club Plaza where restaurants and our doctors' offices are located. The plan I have seen shows luxury condos being built and Orinda Way closed to vehicular travel.

Wouldn't it make more sense to build facilities that serve Orindans such as a good medical center where our doctors already are and bring in some businesses that our residents would frequent? That is more important.

It is understandable that as young families, immediate family concerns take up most of your time. Nonetheless, if you care for the Orinda that you moved here for, this election is of importance to you. Please vote for only two candidates in the upcoming election: Eve Phillips and Linda Delehunt. Both are thoughtful and intelligent women who want the best for our city and its current residents.

– Sandra Wooten

**Support Orr and Worth**

I have had the honor of serving on the council with Amy and Dean, and I have a deep appreciation for their individual areas of expertise and knowledge.

Amy has accomplished so much for Orinda: from working collaboratively with the School District to build the Wagner Ranch gym for the community, to crafting a private-public partnership to build the Orinda Library and provide the highest number of open hours in the county. Serving as our representative on many regional agencies, Amy has brought us additional dollars for senior transportation, increased recycling choices, and completed the fourth bore of the Caldecott tunnel on time and under budget.

Because of Dean's ability to work through every detail with the builder, we now have world-class playing fields at Wilder, as well as at the new Pine Grove Park field. Dean has demonstrated his fiscal prudence by balancing our budget, increasing our reserves, and ensuring that Orinda has no unfunded liabilities. And as the parent of two OUSD students, Dean and his wife Alissa have been active school volunteers, and Dean has worked to deepen the strong relationship between the City and the School District.

And have I mentioned the roads?! Both Amy and Dean have been instrumental in creating the plan to repair Orinda's roads and drains, and, more importantly, actually implementing that plan. We are now beginning to see the result of their hard work, as road projects are underway throughout the city!

Amy and Dean are doers, not talkers. Because of them, we have accomplished a great deal during the last few years. But there is more to do; finding additional rev-

enues to complete our road repairs, working closely with the community to make sure we continue to have a very safe community, and working to provide more services and amenities in our downtown.

Please join me in sending Dean and Amy back to work on the Orinda City Council!

– Victoria Smith

**Exceptional Leadership Skills**

We are fortunate to have someone with such tremendous background and experience running for our City Council: Eve Phillips. As a Miramonte valedictorian, followed by degrees at MIT and an MBA from Stanford, she has returned to our city and is willing to serve our community with her time, experience and exceptional leadership skills. Eve understands our challenges as a growing community and is committed to the citizens of Orinda. Eve Phillips has my vote for City Council, and I urge you to vote for her and get more info at: [www.EveForOrinda.com](http://www.EveForOrinda.com).

– Susan Winchester

**Vote For Two Council Candidates**

I wrote a letter to the editor in the last issue, hoping for a new majority of three on the Orinda City Council. Correction: It seems that Orinda would truly benefit from voting for two candidates.

Eve Phillips and Linda Delehunt will bring ethics, communication, knowledge and expertise – when they are voted into office. They believe in Orinda's electorate and consensus building.

When some cities consider raising the height limit of their town, it triggers a vote from the residents. Consider the huge structure that was built across from Safeway/firehouse plus the city's constant rezoning and keeping vacancies in downtown by blocking projects.

I often think of a question that I asked planning director Ursu. "Why does the city object to residents voting on the direction of our city?" His reply: "We don't have mob rule here in Orinda."

– Ann O'Connell-Nye

**Reelect Worth and Orr**

Thank you for the excellent coverage in *The Orinda News* of the Orinda City Council election. It is great that six candidates have stepped forward to seek office and are willing to serve our community.

While it is exciting that new names are on the ballot, it is important to retain talented, experienced and responsive council members who have worked so hard on behalf of Orinda.

Please re-elect Amy Worth and Dean Orr – they have done their best to keep Orinda strong and vibrant. They have the knowledge, relationships and integrity needed to be effective in governing our semi-rural village--which is nestled in a metropolis region. We are not an island isolated from any sphere of influence.

Our city is known for rational, intelligent and forward-thinking governance. We need evidence-based decision-makers who listen, carefully weigh and examine all options in the context of our state laws governing planning for sustainable communities.

– Elisabeth and Mike Kersten

**Paradise Lost: A New Name For Orinda**

For years, Orinda has had excellent schools. There were excellent views of the nearby hills. The town's semi-rural environment was appealing.

That very pleasant Orinda started to disappear about 10 years ago, when Orinda began electing a City Council beholden to real-estate developers, construction workers, banks and nonprofit organizations like Eden Housing. Eden, based in Hayward, California, is building the Monteverde Senior Apartments at 2 Irwin Way (across the street from the Orinda Safeway and Citibank).

Monteverde exceeds Orinda's 35-foot height limit, will have 67 units and 30 parking spaces. Monteverde will add to Orinda's parking and traffic woes.

During its fiscal year from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, the latest year for which figures are available, Eden had income (revenue) of \$22.9 million and a profit of \$15.6 million. Eden's assets on June 30, 2013 were \$79 million. These numbers come from the Internal Revenue Service. Eden, as a nonprofit, pays no taxes on its profit.

If unbridled development continues in Orinda, demand for housing will decline and homes will tumble in value.

Crime soared in Orinda from 2012 to 2013. In 2012, there were 56 burglaries. In 2013, there were 86 – an increase of 54 percent. Auto thefts went from 7 (in 2012) to 15 (in 2013) – a 114 percent jump. These numbers come from the Orinda Police Department.

To turn matters around, new thinking is needed on the City Council. Both Eve Phillips and Linda Delehunt are City Council candidates who will put a halt to Orinda's "Manhattanization" and keep Orinda's village-like charm.

– Richard S. Colman

**Bob Thompson Gets Things Done**

Bob Thompson is the best candidate for the Orinda City Council. He has substantial financial expertise that no other candidate comes even close to matching. (Let's not forget recent examples of other cities in California neglecting their finances and going broke.) But Bob is more than just a financial expert. He's ethical. He's genuine, and he cares about his community and his family. He doesn't just talk. He listens and he collaborates. He gets things done. Join me and many others in Orinda and vote for Bob Thompson.

– Paula Goodwin  
[SEE LETTERS 2 page 24]

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## CONTINUATIONS

## ◆ GEARY from page 21

their efforts to reach their fullest potential.

I taught three lessons about water in each of the three schools during my stay. We educated the students on how the water cycle works, how to properly brush their teeth and how to effectively wash hands. We brought many school supplies from the U.S., however, the majority of the supplies I lugged across the world were foreign to the students and teachers alike.

For example, one activity I included in my water cycle lesson involved splitting the students into three groups: water, clouds and rain. The students who were assigned to be clouds were given about 10 cotton balls to throw up into the air when I yelled "clouds." The smile on each student's face when they got to touch the fluffy balls was one of the most genuine things I have ever seen. They are so easily pleased with the smallest of things. I realized that while they are poor with regards to money, they are rich with compassion. It amazed me that

these people, all touched to some extent by the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge, are so determined, hopeful and happy.

By the time I returned home, my entire perspective on life had changed. Before my trip, the most important thing in my life was getting into the best college possible. I put so much time and energy into this because society taught me to value success and money over everything else. We grow up to believe that success is happiness. I still see the value in education and success, but success is not money. Success is reaching your individual full potential. I constantly flash back to the Cambodian students' hopeful eyes and toothy smiles that display a fuller happiness than anything I have ever seen. They want the best for themselves, and they know that education will provide that, but they are perfectly content with their lives. With each flashback, I am reminded that in order to be happy you must be content with what you have instead of constantly craving more.

*Madison Geary is a senior at Miramonte High School.*

## ◆ TROOP 57 from page 20

and Steve Tennant and is a freshman at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts.

These four young men join less than four percent of all Scouts who achieve the Eagle rank. In Troop 57's more than 50-year history, 136 have become Eagle Scouts.

Troop 57's Scoutmaster is Dr. Jim McFeely. The Troop has 55 Scouts, and meets Tuesday nights at Orinda Intermediate School, and is chartered by St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Orinda. To learn more about Troop 57, visit [www.orindatroop57.com](http://www.orindatroop57.com) or contact the Troop Committee Chair, Steve Tennant, at 925-788-1092.

## ◆ TROOP 237 from page 20

match viewing area for players and spectators featured a large area of weeds and bare dirt. With the school short on funds to maintain its sports facilities, Bryce's goal was to make the area more hospitable and less allergy provoking. He and his team of volunteers installed borders, crushed granite hardscape under the stands and drought tolerant plantings. Bryce is the son of Bill Hummer of Walnut Creek and Colleen and Ron Carter of Orinda, brother to Victoria Hummer, Ryan Carter and Adriana Carter and is a senior at Miramonte High School.

Stephen Schmidt's project benefitted Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. Passionate about school safety after learning that his cousin's elementary school

principal was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School disaster, Stephen met with Dr. Ken Gallegos, the principal of Sleepy Hollow, and discussed ways to make the campus safe in case of a natural disaster or unwanted intruder. They determined that directional markers on campus in times of emergency would greatly help first responders, as well as victims. Stephen designed two foot diameter five color compasses, produced the design into reusable templates, and let a team of scouts and friends as they painted compasses in several strategic locations on the campus. Stephen's goal is for all schools to have safety compasses. Stephen is the son of Larry and Theresa Schmidt of Orinda and is a sophomore at Miramonte High School.

## ◆ MOFD from page 8

to have a study session on the program. My hope is that we will be a position to do so soon." Chief Healy added that when further information is available, public workshops will be conducted.

"It is important to note that there will be an increase in both first due (supposed to arrive first) and second due (supposed to arrive second) response times. Northwest

Lafayette is suffering long response times ever since Con Fire closed Station 16 two years ago," said Dale. "Yes, our Engine 43 is first due to northwest Lafayette. But, it does not follow that we should move our station to Lafayette to improve the situation." Northwest Lafayette currently has no fire station and relies on first response coverage from MOFD.

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

## ◆ KAHLEO from page 21

more year, I decided that if I was going to pursue a music career, pursue my dreams of hip hop, it has to happen now," he said.

So, Elijah told an uncle about his goal, and a lie brought the *real* truth to light.

"[My uncle] set me up with this guy in Oakland. I went over there, and I was in this closet, and that's where I was recording," he said.

Elijah had told his mother he was going to a friend's, not to record in a closet at "some guy's" house in Oakland, and she found out.

"The good thing that came out of it was I stayed true, told her how I was feeling and what I wanted to do," he said. "My mom was a little skeptical about it, obviously your son telling you at 16, 'I want to be a rapper,' is a little weird to hear."

His mother was supportive. Through her connections as a movie producer, writer and director, she was able to set Elijah up with Robin Reynolds, with whom Elijah cut his first single, "Life's About Your Individuality."

"I went to Robin's house, and we picked a beat out together, and I went home and wrote to it. About a week later, I finished it," he said. "It was about three in the morning, and I was so excited that I wanted to show someone. I went to my mom's room, knocked on her door, brought her to my room, and I performed the song I wrote with a toothbrush, because I didn't have a mic."

And that wee-hour performance was the most important moment of his young career.

"Coming from Orinda, I was scared people would say, 'He's just some preppy white kid trying to do hip hop and rap,'" he said. "That [moment] gave me my first confidence boost, showed me that this was possible, that I could do this and be accepted."

From there, Elijah began writing more. He made a music video for "Life's About Your Individuality," which his mom sent to his school principal, who tweeted it to the entire student body. There was no hiding Kahleo anymore, and a chance encounter, would introduce him to an even wider audience.

"My mom owns a boutique in Lafayette, and this woman whose husband owns the California Music Channel (CMC) came in. I told her I was a rapper, and we sent the video to her, and she showed it to her husband," he said.

CMC premiered the video for "Life's About Your Individuality," and later for "Earthquake," a song Elijah collaborated on with singer, Zoe Winter.

Last summer, Elijah was one of about 30

students selected to participate in NYU's Clive Davis program, where he and classmates, calling themselves the New York Mauraders, recorded the song, *Above the Water*. Elijah's lyrics were inspired by a trip to France earlier that summer. He and some friends were on the metro in Paris, when a homeless man came up to them. Elijah brushed the man off, asked him to go away, and after walking off the train the man looked at him and started to cry.

"Every night after, I kept thinking of that, being the stereotypical privileged kid who couldn't even give a couple seconds to help someone in need," he said. "*Above the Water* is about being able to understand that some aren't as fortunate as you, that you need to help them because we're all human."

In his study of rap, Elijah is disciplined, printing out lyrics of artists, like Logic, who influence him, analyzing their flow and their lyrics, which helps him get inspired for his own moments of creation.

"I have this vintage leather chair, and I sit there and drink my Peet's coffee, and I think, 'What do I want to talk about?' 'What's pressing in my life, in the world?' Once I get the concept, I choose a beat," he said. "I usually listen to it once or twice through and that's when the ideas starts coming alive."

Elijah is genuine in his pursuit and driven by a desire to create art in the purest sense of the word.

"Music is really special because you can take something and write it down and have it turn into something that's living, breathing, that will be heard by other people," he said. "Take Eminem, he can speak such personal words, exactly what's on his mind, and it connects with everyone. Whether he's talking about a break up, and he's angry, or his sadness, like when he talks about his father, we've all experienced that, can relate to that."

Elijah is applying for early decision to NYU and working on his debut mixtape, "Prototype," which he hopes to complete by January. Find him on YouTube under "Elijah Stavena," and on iTunes and Soundcloud under "Kahleo."

## ◆ TEK TREK from page 19

AAUW will be selecting another round of Tech Trekkers in the spring of 2015. The cost to send each girl to camp is \$1,000. Donations to support these young scientists and engineers can be made to: "AAUW OML Community Outreach Fund, Inc. Tech Trek", P.O. Box 6705, Moraga, CA 94570.

For more information about Tech Trek or scholarship opportunities, call Sandra Fox-Sohner at 925-631-0668.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ◆ LETTERS 2 from page 22

**Waxing Poetical for Dean Orr**

Orinda City Council has  
A thoughtful member  
That again I will vote for  
This coming November.

He is smart and attentive.  
His integrity glisters.  
To folks of Orinda  
He carefully listens.

He works for good schools  
And for roads well maintained.  
He is honest and earnest  
And architecturally trained.

On the fourth of November  
You need do no more  
To do Orinda a "solid"  
Than vote for DEAN ORR.

– Dick Atkinson

**Keep Orinda Semi-Rural**

There are six candidates running for the Orinda City Council. If you believe Orinda should not lose its semi-rural character, please consider that four of the candidates are either on the present City Council or are City Council appointees to city commissions.

There are two independent candidates. Eve Phillips was valedictorian of her 1995 Miramonte class. Eve received a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Engineering from MIT, and an MBA from Stanford. Eve is CEO & Co-founder of a healthcare software company, and an accomplished endurance athlete. Linda Delehunt is also highly qualified for the Orinda City Council.

– Bruce Nicolai

**Supporting Robert Thompson**

I am writing to encourage the voters of Orinda to elect Robert Thompson to the City Council.

I have known Bob for over a decade through his leadership in various community organizations, from the Scouts to his church to service on the Orinda Finance Advisory Committee and have always been impressed with his strong financial skills, careful planning, balanced judgment, thoughtfulness, courtesy and civility.

Bob has over 37 years of experience working in finance as an investment advisor and has a strong set of analytical and financial skills that will be a great addition to the Orinda City Council. In his professional life, evaluating and avoiding financial risk is a major part of what he does. His service on the Finance Advisory Committee shows his dedication to sound municipal finance in Orinda.

Bob cares deeply about Orinda, and maintaining the qualities that have made this community a very special place. He will work to preserve those qualities – but he is also open to careful planning for the kind of changes in the city (especially the downtown area) that will improve what we already enjoy and not detract from it.

Bob is committed to doing what is necessary to keep our crime rates low and our municipal finances in balance. He will work to continue to improve our infrastructure, especially our roads and storm sewers. He is also dedicated to giving all members of the community an opportunity for meaningful input into decision making.

Please join me supporting Robert Thompson for the Orinda City Council.

– Brad Barber

**Wake Up and Smell the Coffee!**

That was the advice dispensed by the late, great columnist, Ann Landers, when some forlorn reader would write-in, belatedly lamenting a situation, where he or she seemed to be encountering one negativity after another.

If you have already voted in the Orinda City Council election (and many have via mail-in ballot), there is still a tremendous opportunity to have your vote really count.

Make no mistake; the defining issue in this election is all about determining the scale and scope of development in Orinda. When Orinda became a city in 1987, every citizen had the opportunity to vote directly on the General Plan for Orinda. That included definitions of semi-rural character and village-character. That also included specific building height and building density limitations, which have served the city well.

Of the six candidates in this election, there is one, and only one candidate, who trusts Orinda citizens to directly vote on any proposed major changes to the city's building height and building density. If Orinda citizens were qualified to decide such matters in 1987, why shouldn't Orinda citizens be qualified to do so again? Moreover, you should be asking why is Eve Phillips the only candidate giving Orinda citizens this choice. Start with the words "insider influence" with the other candidates and go from there.

When you cast your ballot, remember the only candidate who trusts you. Whom do you trust? A vote for Eve Phillips, and only Eve Phillips, is a vote for yourself, the existing Orinda citizen. Don't be forlorn, belated or lamenting, somewhere down the road.

– Owen Murphy

**Vote for Bob Thompson**

I strongly endorse Bob Thompson for

City Council.

I have served with Bob for over six years on the city Finance Advisory Committee (FAC). He is thorough, deeply understands financial issues, emphasizes fiscal soundness and is very collaborative and respectful of all viewpoints. Bob has extensive community service experience.

I know that Bob will bring this wisdom and approach to the two key issues facing Orinda: (1) maintaining the city's strong fiscal position in light of rising police expense and employee health care costs and (2) fostering a community consensus on how to improve our sad and tired downtown. Orinda home values have begun to lag comparable properties in Lafayette, as young families prefer the vitality and options next door.

Bob Thompson understands these two issues and the need for balanced and collaborative approaches to both. Please join me in voting for Bob Thompson for Orinda City Council!

– Carol Penskar

**Repaving Camino Pablo**

Council recently approved \$2,495,900 to repave Camino Pablo (Camino Encinas to Miner Road, including Orinda's "Crossroads"). Absent from this was critical infrastructure mitigating historic, ever-growing, daily delays. Reports include 20 minutes getting from Miner Road onto Rt. 24 eastbound & long waits as traffic exits Rt. 24, crossing the Crossroads. Attempting a drive through the Crossroads can take five minutes or more to head north toward BART, south toward Moraga, or to the Theatre area to shop or access Rt. 24 eastbound.

To whom do we turn for solutions? For years and years, the same City Councilmembers who now seek re-election, and other candidates who have been on city committees or commissions, have not solved this Crossroads confluence of congestion.

Responding to our proposed solution to this continuing congestion, a Public Works Department liaison to a city committee just told us that solutions to this Crossroads congestion are not within the charter of either CIOC or TSAC, saying: "This is a big issue that should be addressed as part of an overall downtown strategy that would likely stand on its own, beyond the scope of these two committees."

Orindans repeatedly asked incumbent councilmembers to consider & act to (1) mitigate Orinda's traffic problems, such as in discussions of Housing Elements or council's approval of large and dense development projects in or close to downtown, and (2) return to its long-ago policy of publishing verbatim written minutes of council and other city meetings. For historic transparency, see council minutes of 1/30/06 (now on city website) and the 10/9/2002 Park & Recreation Committee minutes (prepared by a recording secretary!) The inaction of these incumbents

speaks for itself.

Having lived in Orinda for a combined 60 years and seen this Crossroads confluence of congestion not only remain, but get worse, and seen council's transparency decline, we respectfully ask our fellow voters to join us in electing Linda Delehunt and Eve Phillips to the City Council. Each has qualities of sound leadership, good judgment, an ability to look critically at Orinda's age-old problems (e.g., Crossroads or abbreviated minutes) and a desire to face reality without an attitude that: "the Crossroads has always been a problem, why try to fix it?"; or (untrue) "we have never had verbatim minutes." With Linda and Eve, let us move together with a spirit of Renewing Orinda's Legacy.

– Judy Martine & Chet Martine

**Roads No Better Today**

Six years ago the two winning City Council candidates campaigned on three top priorities:

- 1) Roads
- 2) Roads
- 3) Roads

In the intervening six years, the city has spent \$7.5 million, or \$1.25 million per year, on roads. This is half of what Orinda's road consultant says we need to spend just to maintain the roads at their current unacceptable level. So it is probably safe to say: our roads are no better today than they were six years ago and may even be in worse shape.

But there has been movement. We have voted in a sales tax which, when combined with general fund monies, will provide "almost" enough to maintain our roads at their current miserable condition. We have voted for a \$20 million bond, which is supposed to repair the worst of the worst roads. And the city has created a road plan which "anticipates" that it can repair all 53 miles of residential roads which are now in poor (or worse) condition for an additional \$25 million.

This is all good news which is why *The Orinda News* City Council candidate interviews last month did not even ask about roads and of the six candidates, two mentioned roads as their second area of need, one as third on her list, for two more it was down at number five, and for the sixth candidate, roads didn't make the list at all. The city has created the perception that the problem is well in hand, and we just have to follow "The Plan."

But here's the inconvenient truth: On top of the \$40 million identified over the next 10 years for roads, we will probably need an additional \$60 million to bring all residential streets up to "good" condition, not the \$25 million stated in the current road plan. And after that, we will need about \$4 million per year to maintain them. Those "in the know" realize this but no one wants to say so out loud because it will scare people from voting for new taxes.

[SEE LETTERS 3 page 25]

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR / FILM

◆ LETTERS 3 from page 24

So have roads been replaced by downtown planning as our major issue even though not much has been done since they were the number one issue? And if they are still an issue, and you still live on a terrible road, which is probably worse than it was six years ago, who is going to fix it for you?  
 – Steve Cohn

**Throw (or keep) the Bums Out**

The cry of recent letters to editor regarding the upcoming Orinda City Council election. The opposition rejects four candidates for City Council as unworthy. Instead, the letters support two opposition candidates. Fervid. Impassioned. Exaggerated.

**Misguided. Misplaced anger.**

The current City Council, duly elected; has been careful, prudent, cautious in governing.

1) Road repair. The council commissioned an independent poll, presenting multiple options, and saw 2/3 support for a \$20 million bond issue. Measure J, passed (June 2014; 75 percent yes vote) reflected such community views. A textbook example of the council staying in touch. (One of the two opposition candidates for City Council, professing now that roads are important, signed the ballot argument urging rejection of Measure J.) Now opposition supporters complain that Measure J's victory didn't represent Orindans' views. "Our way or the highway!!!"

2) Housing: The council followed California law (protecting road funding from fed/state/county sources) by zoning a small, land-locked parcel at Santa Maria Church for higher density. This zoning may never, ever, lead to any increase in moderately priced housing. Indeed, the council adopted a deft, locally based solution to meet skepticism regarding such housing. Still not enough for the opposition.

3. The current council applied the city's General Plan and zoning ordinances squarely, evenly to deny placement of a nursery school in a downtown retail area. (The Planning Department advised the nursery school that success was a "long shot." The school is already located near the downtown.) Opposition letters? The council is an enemy of "family values."

4. The city has a slowly deteriorating downtown. Opponents have no plan, nor interest, to attract investment to address this decline. An attempt (which the current council is not even close to undertaking) to improve our downtown is an opposition rallying cry, who decry an unholy alliance with "collaborating, crony developers."

As 40-year residents of Orinda, we be-

lieve that four candidates for City Council would most appropriately occupy a City Council seat. They are two community members (Robert Thompson, Chair, Finance Advisory Council, and Carlos Baldano, former Chair, Planning Commission) and the two incumbents (Amy Worth and Dear Orr).

Of course, only three council seats are open this election. But, all four of these candidates are worthy of our respect and support. They represent caution, careful governing, compromise, listening to the community, respect for law, seeing the big picture.

– David W. and Sandra S. Anderson

**Thompson for City Council**

We hope you will join us and vote for Bob Thompson for Orinda City Council. We have known Bob and his family for most of the 20 plus years they have lived in Orinda.

Throughout that time, Bob has served our community in numerous volunteer positions, including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, financial advisory positions with the Episcopal Diocese of California and of St. Stephens Church, founding board member for the Bay Area Financial Education Foundation and as chair of the City of Orinda Finance Advisory Committee.

Bob's record of leadership, service and 37 year career in finance set him apart from all of the other candidates running for Orinda City Council.

We have seen Bob's leadership style in several contexts. He works well with everyone, is open to contrasting views and would be very helpful in repairing the trust and lack of transparency issues that many are concerned about.

Bob is the right person, with the right expertise for Orinda at this time. His financial expertise will help Orinda deal with problems such as the escalating cost of services, funding the renovation and maintenance of the roads and public safety concerns.

– Sue and Ron Wecht

**Orinda Needs a Change**

Orindans need a change in our City Council. The current council has accepted high-rise, ultra low-cost housing, major increases in the height of downtown buildings, the building of second units on current home sites. This trend will destroy the character of Orinda as a city of large lots and open space. It's time for a change.

Please join me in voting for new councilmembers: Eve Phillips, Bob Thompson and Linda Delehunt.

– Clyde Vaughn

[SEE LETTERS 4 page 26]

**THE REEL LESS TRAVELED**  
 SEASON OF CELEBRATION  
 Tom Westlake

The Season of Celebration starts sometime in mid-October and lasts well after the final confetti has been cleaned up – sometime early in February – which means we're still approaching the holidays with some idealistic enthusiasm. Cinema-wise, we can still look forward to a selection of movies that are free from holly leaves, cloying carols or anything resembling the works of Charles Dickens. For now, let's deal with some works of film that are a little more down-to-earth.

The International Film Showcase presents the Estonia film *Tangerines* Nov 1 - 6 at 7 pm at the Orinda Theatre. This official Oscar submission deals with the 1990 war in Abkhazia and tells of a farmer who stays behind to harvest his crop of tangerines. Go to <http://internationalshowcase.org/> and you can find other local theaters featuring movies that Lubliner and Jo Alice Canterbury bring to the Bay Area. According to Lubliner, *Nightingale* is "the best film I've seen all year" and well worth the trip to El Campanil Theatre in Antioch, where it's showing on Nov. 9. This Mandarin/French "road movie" might have to tide us over until January or February when the showcase returns to the Orinda Theatre. For more information, visit [www.elcampaniltheatre.com](http://www.elcampaniltheatre.com).

On the home front, the Film Classics Showcase offers *To Catch a Thief*, an Alfred Hitchcock film that polarizes many movie buffs. However, it must be remembered that *Thief* is early Hitchcock and many of the themes that he is famed for are not so much on display here. If you're expecting nail-biting suspense, you might be disappointed. This is more Hitchcock-lite but even given that, there is still enough to keep Hitchcock fans happy – not the least of which are the two leads. Cary Grant and especially Grace

Kelly have never been more enchanting. The exotic French Riviera has never looked lovelier and the central mystery, while not particularly original, is still buoyed by the sparking dialogue and romantic tension. It will screen at the Orinda Theatre on Nov. 13 at 7 pm.

Playing at the Rheem Theatre on Nov. 19 at 1 pm is Frank Capra's *You Can't Take It With You*. This movie is generally regarded as superior to the play on which it was based. With a cast consisting of Lionel Barrymore, James Stewart and Jean Arthur (with a little Eddie "Rochester" Anderson thrown in for good measure) one can hardly argue. As with a majority of Capra's films, there is no shortage of feel-good moments peppered with sheer lunacy, but that's almost secondary to the overall theme of good old-fashioned human decency. The Moraga Movers are presenting this antidote to the modern age and everyone is encouraged to see it.

We're a little light this month as far as extra-cinematic events are concerned, but there might be some surprises along the way so check out [www.lamorindatheatres.org](http://www.lamorindatheatres.org) for any last-minute additions. And ... remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

- International Film Showcase** presents the U.S. premiere of the award-winning Estonian film *Tangerines* through Nov. 6, Orinda Theatre. Visit [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com) for showtimes.  
**Orinda Books** hosts Jessica Barksdale Inclin discussing her new novel, *How to Bake a Man*, 1 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- Orinda Books** hosts Stacy Finz discussing her debut novel, *Going Home: A Nugget Romance*, 1 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- Orinda Books** hosts Dr. Andrew Schlegelmilch (with office in Orinda) discussing his new book, *Parenting ASD Teens: A Guide to Making It Up As You Go* and in conversation with Lafayette's Laura Shumaker, author of *A Regular Guy: Growing up with Autism*, 7 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for children aged 2 to 4, Thursdays, 10 to 11 am, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.  
**Thursdays Together.** Board games for seniors, Orinda Community Center. Bring a friend or socialize and make a new one, 10 am to noon. \$3 residents, \$4 non-residents. No meeting on Nov. 27(Thanksgiving). Call 925-254-2445 or visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).
- Pacific Chamber Symphony** presents a new work *The Hobbit: A Symphonic Portrait* and more, 7:30 pm, Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Call 800-838-3006 or go to [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).
- Holden High School** Festive Fundraiser at Foreign Cinema, 2534 Mission St., San Francisco, features cocktail, wine and appetizer party and the Charles Wheel Jazz Trio. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at [www.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://www.BrownPaperTickets.com).  
**Book Club Forum** presented by Ron Shoop at the Pleasant Hill Library to benefit Project Second Chance, the adult literacy program of the Contra Costa Library.
- St. Mary's College Guild** Harvest Faire Sale, 4-7 pm, Soda Center. Continues on 11/13 from 10 am - 3 pm and includes Thanksgiving luncheon. Call 925-820-8002.
- Artisan Faire** featuring 27 local artists and a wide array of distinctive artwork and crafts, 4 - 7:30 pm, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. For more information, email [gailsolt@gmail.com](mailto:gailsolt@gmail.com).  
**Lamorinda Moms Preschool Fair**, Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, free, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Visit [www.lamorindamoms.org](http://www.lamorindamoms.org).
- What is the Cloud?** Lecture for seniors about the internet "cloud," presented by Lamorinda Lunch 'n Learn, Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, 10:30 am to noon, \$10 residents, \$11 non-residents. Call 925-254-2445 or visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).  
**Orinda Books** hosts a Poetry Reading with Judy Halebsky, Raina J. León, Rashaan, Alexis Meneses and Elizabeth Rosner, 7 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- Orinda Woman's Club** Festival of Trees, fundraiser for Holden High School among others, San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. Call 925-254-4900 or go to [www.orindawomansclub.org](http://www.orindawomansclub.org).
- Holiday Shopping Trip for Seniors**, 9 am to 5 pm, \$18 (residents), \$20(non-residents). Call 925-254-2445 or visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).
- 38th Annual Holiday Bazaar** featuring visits with Santa, live entertainment and dozens of local vendors and artisans, Orinda Community Center, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.  
**Orinda Books** hosts former Orinda resident Peter Karplus, signing his new book for children, *Silver Arrow: A loyal friend, companion, and playmate, and Other Free Verse Works*, 1 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Note the library will be closed Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day and Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html).

- Saturday Morning Live!** Story time for children aged 3 to 5, Picture Book area, 11 am. Also Nov. 8.  
**Paws to Read.** First- through 5th-graders can practice reading with a friendly dog, Gallery Room, 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Call or visit the library to register.
- Toddler Lapsit.** Story time for children aged 1 to 3 and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 am. No registration required, but attendance limited to once per week. Also Nov. 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26.
- Paws to Read.** First- through 5th-graders can practice reading with a friendly dog, Gallery Room, 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Call or visit the library to register.  
**Armchair Traveler.** Bay Area resident and Champaca Journeys founder John Leupold shares insights from his visits to Bhutan, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Adult program.
- English as a Second Language Conversation Circle.** Practice English conversation skills in an informal, small-group setting, Tutoring Room, 1 to 2:30 pm. Preregistration not required. Also Nov. 13 and 20.  
**Special Monthly Book Sale.** Hosted by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and sorting room, 10 am to 1 pm.
- Navajo Weaving Presentation** by Gary Beaudoin, author of *Unbroken Web: The Art of Ellen and Lucy Begay*, Garden Room, 2 to 3:30 pm.
- Mystery Book Club.** Members discuss *The Long Way Home: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel* by Louise Penny, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 pm. Adult program.
- Celebrate Frozen**, one of the most popular movies of recent times with crafts, games, and maybe even give a warm hug to a snowman. For all ages, but especially 4- to 8-year-olds, 3 pm. Call the library or register online.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 pm, Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe.** Third Monday, 7:30 pm, Gallery Room, Orinda Library, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks.** Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 am, May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition.** Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 am, Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 am, free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.

## The Sorcerer Meets the Hobbit



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the **Pacific Chamber Symphony** will perform Nov. 7 at the Lafayette Library.

Just in time for the movie to hit the theaters, Pacific Chamber Symphony will feature Christopher Caliendo's new composition *The Hobbit: A Symphonic Portrait* on Nov. 7 at 7:30 pm at the Lafayette Library.

The evening also features Paul Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* and *Bela Bartok's Suite for Small Orchestra*. "It's a musical journey from *The Sorcerer's*

*Apprentice* to the heart of Middle Earth with the world premiere of Caliendo's new work," says musical director and current Orinda Arts Council president Lawrence Kohl.

For tickets to the Nov. 7 event, call 800-838-3006 or go to [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

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

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.** Every Friday, 7 am, Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or 925-283-8288.

**Lamorinda Toastmasters.** Every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, [www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net](http://www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net).

**Montelindo Garden Club.** Third Friday, 9 am, September through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com). This month, Bruce Rogers will discuss Sobralias and the Orchid Whisperer.

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

**Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 pm, [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

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

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

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

**Orinda Historical Society.** Third Wednesday, 3 pm, 26 Orinda Way, 925-254-1353. Note that the Holiday Dinner is Dec. 3 at Orinda Community Church.

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

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

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

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

**Walnut Creek Garden Club.** Second Monday, 9:30 am, Camellia Room, Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek, <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/walnut-creek-garden-clubor mslittle44@gmail.com>. Tim Nash of Navlet's Nursery in Pleasant Hill will speak on the choosing and caring of houseplants.

## 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.

**Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission.** Second Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Sarge Littlehale Room, City Hall. [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

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

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

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

**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](http://www.orindaschools.org).

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

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

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## Everyday Changes Change is in the air!



Bonnie Waters

With the approaching 30th birthday of my business, Changes Salon and Day Spa, I realized it might be time for a makeover. As I excitedly shared my remodel vision with my staff, friends and family, their reactions varied. While some shared my excitement, others asked curiously, "Why mess with success?" or "If it isn't broke, why fix it?" Their responses were no doubt well meaning and they inspired me to consider how I approach change. I think "Messing with Success" is important. It fosters growth. I also believe there is value in fixing something even if it isn't broken... if it leads to improvement. Most importantly, change can improve what success looks like and provide rewards far beyond what is available today.

For most of us, change isn't easy and often feels risky. Consider the metamorphosis of the caterpillar into the butterfly. This transformation is risky for the caterpillar however without undergoing the intense changes the caterpillar could not reach the beauty of its full potential and take flight. Nor can we reach the beauty of our full potential unless we can learn to embrace change. Change is the single most important thing that we must do personally and professionally for growth.

To make change easier and to help lessen risk, I would like to share with you the strategy I used to make sure that the new and improved Changes Salon and Day Spa will better serve our loyal clients, the local community and friends who have supported our growth throughout these 30 years.

### The 1-2-3 of Changes

**1. Clarify Your Vision:** Know what you are committed to and have a vision of what you want to see and experience in your life. What changes would you need to make to achieve your vision? The more thorough you are in the visualization process the less daunting the decision making process will feel. Take time to put your commitment and your vision and the necessary changes in writing. Putting your vision in writing enables you to review and recommit when the going gets rocky.

**2. Embrace All Your Emotions:** Change can be an emotional roller-coaster. Understand how you personally perceive the changes. Which changes are scary to you? Which are exciting and which are no big deal? Make changes at a realistic pace for you. Some changes need to occur like the flip of a light switch and others can occur gradually like a dimmer switch slowly moving to full power. Again, put the pen to paper and create a change timeline.

**3. Expect Breakdowns:** Even when you are embracing change things can and will go wrong. Reread your vision and commitment and let them be your guiding light. Remember with breakdowns come breakthroughs and with breakthroughs come positive change.

Come visit us at Changes and enjoy our changes (pun intended). One thing that won't change at Changes is our basic belief about success: "Success comes from serving others."

## Harvest Faire at St. Mary's College

By MILLIE MCCORMACK  
Contributing Writer

The St. Mary's College Guild will hold their Harvest Faire Annual Sale beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 4 - 7 pm in the Soda Activity Center on the St. Mary's College campus, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres will be available.

The sale continues on Nov. 13 from 10 am - 3 pm. Shoppers can enjoy a glass of wine, soda or juice while shopping for

holiday decor, stocking stuffers and hostess gifts. After you've found the perfect gift for that special person on your list, relax and enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving luncheon served at noon. All proceeds benefit the St. Mary's College Scholarship Fund.

For further information, contact Cyndie Harrison at 925-820-8002 or email [cyndie@cyndie.net](mailto:cyndie@cyndie.net).

Harvest Faire Nov. 12  
St. Mary's College Soda Center  
925-820-8002

## Move of the Month

### Tricep Dips with Ball and Chair



Sit on a workout bench (or a stable chair) with your hands placed on the edge, fingers pointing forward. Rest your calves and ankles on top of a firm ball. Straighten your arms to lift your hips off the bench. Bend your arms to lower your body, then straighten them to the starting position. Repeat 15 times.

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or [www.thelivingleanprogram.com](http://www.thelivingleanprogram.com).

### ◆ CARS from page 11

As a full-service shop, we maintain OEM scanners for Acura, Honda, Subaru, Toyota, Lexus, GM, Ford, Chrysler and many other Asian and European vehicles. Like many shops, we could choose not to do technical work. We could just do the profitable easy stuff but that is neither our mission nor why people use our service.

No one likes to pay diagnostic charges. We understand it is frustrating that we need to charge for time just to determine your vehicle's problem. We spend roughly 20 percent of our total available time on some

form of diagnostic evaluation while the expense of proper equipment and experienced personnel represents major overhead. Not billing for diagnostic time would quickly force us to change our professional practices. We prefer to stay equipped, well-staffed, capable and honest and to bill our time out fairly and accurately.

This article should give some feel for why diagnostic time is both necessary and a value to our clients. If you ever have any questions about diagnostic charges or any other subject, please feel free to contact me at Orinda Motors.

*Tom Dwer contributed to this article.*

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I lost 10 pounds of fat  
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of muscle in 4 weeks!

I recently transferred to the University of Oregon and struggled with maintaining my weight. I fell into a pattern of eating when I was stressed before a test, eating when I was bored, and not planning my meals accordingly. I came home for summer and my mom suggested I try Living Lean. I couldn't be more happy I did!

Sheena sat down with me and helped me build a workout and meal regimen that I can also use when I go back to school! My favorite workout to do with Sheena is boxing, it makes me feel strong and its a great workout!

-Lauren Barkan

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**Backyard Getaways and Beyond  
Palo Alto: Not Just A Harbor For  
Hi Tech**

FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER



Palo Alto is well known as the world’s epicenter of innovation and technology but is not necessarily known as a vacation spot. It should be. Just a quick drive from Lamorinda, its distinct essence makes for a fresh travel experience.

While Palo Alto hotels tend to cater primarily to business travelers and college campus visitors, those seeking a luxurious getaway have choices. Our home base for a two-night stay was the elegant Garden Court Hotel in the heart of downtown. Located at 520 Cowper St., the Garden Court is just around the corner from the premier shops and restaurants lining energetic University Avenue.

The Mediterranean-style boutique hotel features 62 beautifully appointed rooms, most with spacious, furnished balconies overlooking the courtyard below. Cozy robes, Molton Brown toiletries, complimentary Peet’s coffee and tea, pastries and a variety of newspapers are all standard.

Staff members are proud of the hotel’s four-star rating from Forbes Travel Guide and are even prouder of the hotel’s reputation as a philanthropic community partner. General Manager Barbara Gross has been a leader in creating community connections by underwriting non-profit events at

the hotel. “We understand that non-profit organizations typically don’t have budgets to pay for events - either to thank their current donors or sponsor an event to raise awareness for their cause,” says Gross. “By sponsoring these types of events we have become a local presence. We make deep, long-lasting connections within our community and support the services being provided by the organization.”

On our first night, we intended on dining at hotspot Tamarine, but were lured to the hotel’s courtyard “pop-up” bar and never left. The Garden Court does not have its own restaurant (Il Fornaio is attached and rents some of the patio space) but selections from French-trained, South African-born chef Clive Berkman’s appetizer menu hit the spot. Four ping-pong tables in an adjacent ballroom added to the fun. The hotel offers a complete room service menu of Berkman’s delectable dishes, which are also highlighted the third Thursday of each month at the hotel’s 520 Chef’s Table, a one-of-a-kind dining experience featuring cocktails, appetizers and a six-course tasting menu with paired wines.

As we strolled along University Avenue the next morning, we heard many languages spoken and caught bits and pieces of techie



FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER

A bird's-eye view of the courtyard and bar of the elegant Garden Court Hotel in downtown Palo Alto.

conversations. The intellectual vibe around town is palpable – owing perhaps to the fact that more than half of Palo Alto residents possess postgraduate degrees.

For activities, visit gloriously landscaped gardens such as the Gamble Garden and Filoli Center, or see the famous HP garage, considered the birthplace of the Silicon Valley. For Lafayette Reservoir habitués, try the Stanford Dish hike as we did. Named for the 150-foot diameter radio telescope atop its peak, the Dish is one of the most popular trails on the Peninsula. Walkers and joggers traverse the hilly, well-paved path and are rewarded with panoramic views of the beautiful Stanford campus and the entire Bay Area. Three Dish entrances include: The Stanford Gate at Stanford Avenue, Gerona Gate near East Campus Drive and the back Alpine Gate adjacent to Hwy. 280. This back entrance will take you on a 5-mile lasso loop route. The other two Dish entrances cut the distance to 3.7 miles.

After our hike, we headed to the Stanford Shopping Center for lunch and a little browsing. Like Broadway Plaza on steroids, this outdoor mall has it all. The array of high-end stores was actually trumped by a walk through the parking lot where amazing and rare automobiles were casually parked amongst the mini-vans – a reminder that high rollers surrounded us.

We dined that evening at Evvia Estiatorio, sister restaurant to San Francisco’s popular Kokkari. Our sighting of an A-list actress and her family a few tables over suggested that we had likely made a good dining choice - validated by our delicious Greek meals.

Luxurious hotels, excellent food, outdoor activities and great shopping combine with cerebral energy and an air of innovative creativity to give Palo Alto a unique ambience that makes a day or overnight trip inspiring.

Garden Court Hotel: [www.gardencourt.com](http://www.gardencourt.com); Evvia Estiatoria: [www.evvia.net](http://www.evvia.net).

**Orinda Woman’s Club Hosts Fashionable Fundraiser**

By ELANA O’LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Orinda Woman’s Club’s (OWC) 28th Annual Festival of Trees fundraiser on Nov. 20 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 event, 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 chair Elene Lee, along with president Alison Kling 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), Holden High School in Orinda and the

Orinda Woman’s Club Community Service Committee. CASA has been “the child’s voice in court” for 33 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.

Holden High School provides a supportive learning environment for adolescents who have struggled at other schools with challenges such as bullying, anxiety/emotional disorders, limited school success due to learning disabilities or trauma in their home or school life. This private, non-profit, WASC-accredited high school has been addressing the social/emotional needs of teenagers and their families since 1969.

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 \$90 each. For more information, call 925-254-4900 or visit [www.orindawomansclub.org](http://www.orindawomansclub.org).

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## Three Faiths Join in Panel Discussion at Community Church

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

In celebration of the International Day of Peace, the Orinda Community Church sponsored a panel discussion: "A Vision of the Future of the Holy Land from the Three Abrahamic Faiths – Jewish, Muslim and Christian."

"This conference was an effort to allow the three faith perspectives to be heard together on a subject of deep importance to all of them," said Joy Elkinton, who chaired the event. "There has been much misunderstanding of the intentions of each within the framework of the political rhetoric. These voices expressed the faith of believers in the three faiths that has been suppressed by forces outside of their control."

Each panelist was given five minutes to present their perspective on their faith's traditions connection to the Holy Land. A question-and-answer session followed. Those presenting were: Rabbi Pamela Frydman and Dr. Penny Rosenwasser of the Jewish Renewal community; Maram Bata and Dr. Ejaz Haqvi of the Muslim community; Kate Doherty, Roman Catholic community, and Nabil Wahbeh, Greek Orthodox community.

Dr. Naqvi led off and said, "Let's focus about what connects us. We are all children of Abraham but have gone our separate ways. We need to get to know each other. As Thich Nhat Hanh said, 'Until there is peace among religions, there can be no peace in the world.' When I was born Jews, Christians and Muslims lived peacefully together. My mom's family lived inside the walls of Jerusalem for hundreds of years. Now, it is very difficult for us to get into the city. We need to find ways to go

back to the way it was."

Rossenwasser thinks things are changing. "When the Jewish Voice for Peace took a stand against Israel's tactics, emails grew by 60,000. That says there is a lot of support of what we are calling for," she said.

Nabil Wahbeh stated, "I feel that we are missing something as human beings. Until we develop our spirituality to the point that we love our neighbor we'll continue to have problems. Hate cannot drive us, only love can."

There was also dialogue about the problems which are now dividing the faiths such as the Jewish settlements, the wall dividing the Palestinians and Israelis, the recent war, anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim sentiments, especially after 9/11 and terrorist threats.

One of the attendees, Andy Amstutz suggested, "Because the problems of conflict around the world seem so big, we can feel helpless, wondering what we can do. It seems to me that interfaith dialog is increasingly important. I felt that the panel was honest and open, and it was a great example of respectful discussion."

Melissa Creasey, another guest, commented, "While each panelist expressed their own perspectives, borne out both by their particular faith, the clear message was that peace is possible, especially through dialogue. I learned a lot about the long history of harmony among all faiths in Jerusalem. Also, that they all expressed support of a two-state solution."

One way the common theme of "We need to get to know one another and that will lead to understanding one another" is happening is through the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County explained the Rev. Will McGarvey, the council's executive di-

## J. Colleen Boutique Celebrates First Anniversary

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Julie Rubio of Orinda is celebrating her first year at J. Colleen Boutique (JC) in Lafayette. Highlights of the year include choreographing the July "Wine Women and Shoes Fashion Show" to benefit East Bay Hospice and Pleasant Hill Recreation. Working with Gina Kahn and Atlas and Athena, the afternoon event raised nearly \$50,000. *Diablo Magazine* named her boutique the Best New Clothing Boutique in their 2014 Best of the East Bay contest. Another milestone was reached when Rubio was able to purchase the building, quite a find with its ample parking.

The boutique features clothing, jewelry and gifts for stylish women. Designers include Alice + Olivia, Brunello Cucinelli, Michael Kors and Stella McCartney. Patrons will also find Divinity jewelry by Michelle Mirkovich and others who source their materials from nature. Art receptions once a month showcase exhibits by artists Rubio believes in, with works that intrigue the eye and senses. Re-chic means her upscale consignment program provides a way to keep high-fashion items in circulation for up to 80 percent below retail prices. When things don't sell, they go to Hospice of the East Bay, another way JC gives back. No wonder numerous community events and fundraisers find their way to JC. Its charming patio is often filled with scrumptious appetizers and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Julie Rubio's boutique celebrates its first anniversary.

libations on behalf of area nonprofits.

"I'd like to thank my husband Blake Wellen, and son Elijah Stavena and, of course, my staff for all their support," says Rubio. "It's tough to own a start-up; you really need your family, friends and community behind you. I would really like to thank all my friends from Orinda who have come in and shopped J. Colleen. It has meant the world to me to have their support."

Plans for year two include continuing on the paths that have made her first year so successful: growing the business with unique artisan creations and giving back to the community. J. Colleen Boutique is located at 261 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 94549. Phone 925-258-0300 or go to [www.jcolleen.com](http://www.jcolleen.com). Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm, closed Sunday and Monday.

rector who moderated the discussion. More than 100 congregations and organizations belong from a wide range of religions including many Christian faiths as well as Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, Latter-day Saint, Religious Science, Sikh, Unitarian and Unity.

There is also an Interfaith Women's Circle of Contra Costa County started in 2011 by women from Temple Isaiah, the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and the San Ramon Islamic Center. There are now three circles which meet monthly in

[SEE PEACE page 31]

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Collagen Peels

#### AVAILABLE SKIN RESTORATION SYSTEMS:

Procyte Jan Marini  
MD Forte Glyquin

### ◆ VETERANS from page 5

serves Lamorinda veterans, opened eight years ago and was built by the Redevelopment Agency of Lafayette with help from the City of Walnut Creek and Contra Costa County in cooperation with local veterans.

"We simply would not exist without our veterans," he said. According to the VA, the number of current California veterans exceeds the 1,429,995 active duty and 850,880 who make up our current military.

Murphy finds it "appropriate that both Veteran's Day and Election Day are in the same month, since without the veterans there might not be elections."

He adds, "It is more important to realize that in the past we have had leadership that had served in the military and, having done

so, understood both the risks and commitments inherent in serving."

Murphy explained that he believes serving in the military allows for a different understanding of war. "We can vote, disagree/agree, have our voices heard and have an unfettered press because veterans were willing to serve. Next to serving my country, voting is the most important act of citizenship that I can do."

The community is invited to attend a dinner hosted by VFW Post #8063 and American Legion Post #517, with support from the Boy Scouts on Nov. 11. For more information on the event or to buy tickets, visit [lafayetteveterans.org](http://lafayetteveterans.org).

Editor Sally Hogarty contributed to this story.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

## Union Bank's Great Re-Opening



SALLY HOGARTY

Union Bank had quite a festive celebration to mark its new management and decor. (L-R) Chamber of Commerce representatives **Jim Breedlove**, **Candy Kattenburg** and **Sylvia Jorgensen**, **Union Bank's Bobby Vega**, **Maria Cristales**, **Jennifer Buoncristiani**, **Farideh Fakouri**, and **Vincent Fucci** and Chamber member **David Cronin**.

◆ BUZZ from page 32

"When we first arrived in the Bay Area my father worked at a Chinese restaurant, creating his own sauces and always aspiring to open his own restaurant," says Yan. "This dream was realized 20 years ago, and we carry on his tradition of serving delicious dishes. My brother Alex manages our other restaurants, China Bistro, located in Walnut Creek and Alamo."

The extensive menu offers a variety of dishes for various tastes, including gluten-free selections and dry wok style cooking upon request. MSG is never used at Yan's Restaurant. "Salt and pepper style dishes are very popular," says Yan. "We prepare fried calamari, shrimp, and pork chops with green onions and jalapeno peppers with five-spice sauce, which our customers enjoy. An especially popular item is General Chow's chicken, which pretty much every Chinese restaurant offers. However, we prepare General Chow's chicken with a special sauce and in a special way that our customers appreciate."

Susan Yan is married to Jonathan Dy, a computer system engineer who works at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. The couple has two children, 4-year-old Kelly and 3-year-old Kingsley, who keep their parents busy. In her free time, Yan enjoys playing with Kelly and Kingsley and especially taking them to the park.



VALERIE HOTZ

**Sun Chuen Yan** and his daughter, **Susan Yan**, at Yan's Restaurant.

"We really appreciate our regular customers, including those who travel from Lafayette and El Sobrante to dine with us. With our location within an easy walking distance from BART, it is desirable for Shakespeare audiences to drop in for dinner before traveling on to the CalShakes Amphitheatre by shuttle," adds Yan.

To view the extensive menu offerings, go to the web site at [www.yansrestaurant.com](http://www.yansrestaurant.com). As always, take-out orders receive a 10 percent discount. To phone in your reservation or place your take-out order, call 253-9852.

## Dianne Crosby Speaks on Mortgage Market Changes

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

**D**ianne Crosby of RPM Mortgage in Orinda and her colleague George Moody talked about "Financial Literacy for Home Buyers" at the Walnut Creek Public Library on Oct. 15. The lecture was the second in a series designed to inform and empower first-time home buyers and those wanting information on refinancing, buying investment properties, and other home ownership topics. The first lecture of her fall series was held at the West Branch Berkeley Library on Sept. 24.

"The mortgage market has changed significantly in the past few years, and consumers need to be aware," said Crosby. "The wealthy are frustrated by the new standards." Sub-topics included renting vs. owning, home affordability, improving one's credit score, interpreting market trends, writing a competitive offer, and building your home-buying team. Crosby was recently named RPM's top producer nationwide.

The third lecture in the series will be held at the Oakland Main Branch Library, 125-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Dianne Crosby** adds educational speaker to her many accomplishments.

14th St., Oakland on Dec. 3 from 5 to 7 pm. For more information or to RSVP, email Crosby at [dianne@dianncrosby.com](mailto:dianne@dianncrosby.com), call 925-954-3016, or go to [www.dianncrosby.com](http://www.dianncrosby.com). In addition to her Financial Literacy lectures, Crosby is setting up weekend and evening workshops in a new training center at her office, 51 Moraga Way, #2, Orinda. These workshops will be posted in *The Orinda News*.

◆ PEACE from page 30

each other's homes for two hours of conversation and education. They have learned about each other's faith traditions and shared in faith celebrations ranging from a Shabbat Dinner to an Iftar dinner during the holy month of Ramadan to celebrating Advent and Christmas.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was quoted several times during the evening, includ-

ing, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." It seemed all members of the panel were in agreement that this was what we should strive for – love your neighbor and we are all neighbors.

Contacts: Interfaith Council, [www.interfaithccc.org](http://www.interfaithccc.org); Interfaith Women's Circle of Contra Costa County, [rebeccalah-anklein@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccalah-anklein@gmail.com).

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At This Time Of

# Thanksgiving

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## Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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

### Orinda Shoes Offers Designer Label Shoes at Deep Discount

If you enjoy high-end designer shoes at a 50 percent savings, save yourself a trip to San Francisco and drop by the newly established Orinda Shoes at 27 Avenida de Orinda. Like most great things in life, Orinda Shoes is off the beaten track and well worth the visit. Orinda Shoe Service owner Torre Major knows great shoes when he sees them and has been compiling an inventory of elegant designer creations for the launch of his new boutique shop, which is located directly behind Orinda Shoe Service. A longtime authorized dealer of Alden and Sperry shoes, Major knows fine quality shoe craftsmanship and design.

Walk through the Zen-like courtyard of Avenida de Orinda, featuring a water fountain and small garden and make your way to Orinda Shoes, where you will find elegant, classic styles for both men and women made from the finest leather. The salon is reminiscent of what you find in Milan or Paris. This small, exclusive boutique features comfortable chairs for clients to lounge in, indoor plants and an antique

English equestrian boot displayed in the front window.

“By being in the shoe repair business essentially since 1977, I have an understanding of my customers’ tastes in fine shoes. I am able to offer name brand designer shoes made in Italy, Switzerland, Austria, France and Great Britain at half the cost of other establishments,” says Major. “I cater to the individual who wants quality and appreciates a great bargain. I realize sometimes people have to go on business trips unexpectedly, or need a special shoe for a trip and need to get a pair of shoes in



VALERIE HOTZ  
**Torre Major**, owner of Orinda Shoes, a boutique of high end men's and women's designer shoes at deeply discounted prices.

a hurry. I encourage clients to call me. I can be at the shop in 10 minutes, and I will show them our selections,” adds Major.

The elegant designer shoes available to discerning customers are literally works of art, made of the finest calf leather or suede and of excellent construction. The timeless, classic design of Italian shoes, for example, are well represented here and at half the cost of what one would find at other retail establishments.

In addition to being a longtime provider of shoe repair service for Orindans, Major is a commercial pilot, having flown since 1980, and he began flying jets in 2000. “I fly Gulfstream, Falcon 50 and Lear Jets.” His wife, Sherry and son Tyler both work in Orinda Shoe Services and will also be helping at Orinda Shoes. “You can say it is definitely a family affair,” says Major, who is an expert at orthopedic corrective work. “I work with a lot of podiatrists to correct shoes so that they fit properly for customers.”

Orinda Shoes is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 5:30 pm and on Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm, or call Major for an appointment at 925-254-5088.

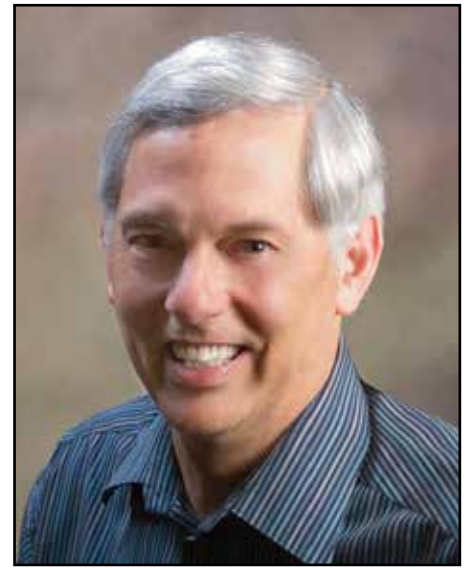
### Altera Design and Remodeling

Established in 1986 by Orindans Jim Vivrette and his wife Sylvia, Altera Design and Remodeling offers full service residential remodeling focusing primarily on kitchens and baths. This family-owned business operates an inviting showroom located at 1079 Boulevard Way in Walnut Creek that is served by very capable and knowledgeable staff.

“We are a one-stop shop business, offering design of space services, assistance in selecting products, as well as seeing our clients through construction completion,” says Jennifer Rocha, the firm’s general manager. “Our showroom caters to our remodel company, providing services to homeowners who are already in the process, as well to as architects and general contractors.”

As a Diamond Certified company, over the years Altera Design and Remodeling has won numerous industry awards including the 2014 NARI National Coty Award, Regional Winner for Residential Bath and recognition by the NKBA in 2012 for Best Bathroom in the Nation. The firm prefers to design and remodel existing structures and in instances where the square footage of a kitchen is expanded, will undertake the expansion as well as the remodel job.

Homeowners contemplating remodeling may wish to take advantage of the free monthly seminars offered by Altera Design and Remodeling at their showroom. These seminars pack a wealth of information on



ANN GORDON PHOTOGRAPHY  
**Jim Vivrette** of Altera Design.

everything from developing an overview of a remodel project to how to plan a budget. Topics include Aging in Place, Design Trends and Kitchen and Bath Planning. The next seminar is on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9:30 am to 11 am at 1079 Boulevard Way in Walnut Creek, near Contra Costa Appliance.

“Our seminars are an excellent first step in the remodel project,” says Rocha. “We want our clients to have a great experience, and we also want our employees to have a great experience as well. If we are not attaining this, then we go to great lengths to rectify the situation. That is how important it is to us.”

Altera Design and Remodeling caters to a wide range of tastes, from traditional to modern. “Visiting our showroom can be very valuable for people. It is helpful to touch and feel items and view photos of our designs and completed projects,” says Rocha. “Since the recession, we have noticed a trend of more homeowners remodeling their homes rather than selling and buying up. There is additional interest in integrating green products into dwellings.”

As a family-owned and managed business, Altera Design and Remodeling employs 24 individuals and construction crews are on staff. Jim Vivrette’s wife, Sylvia, serves as office manager for the firm. The couple has two adult children. In their spare time, the Vivrettes enjoy being with family and friends and traveling.

For more information, visit [www.altera-design.com](http://www.altera-design.com). To schedule a consultation call the showroom at 925-938-1100.

### Yan’s Restaurant

For classic Mandarin or Szechuan Chinese cuisine look no further than Yan’s Restaurant, conveniently located behind the Shell Station at 1 Orinda Way. Established by the family patriarch, Sun Chuen Yan, this family-owned and operated business has two other locations in Walnut Creek and Alamo. Sun Chuen’s daughter, Susan, oversees the Orinda location with enthusiastic and friendly service. “Our father opened his first restaurant in El Sobrante in 1994. He continues to help today by making sauces and handling payroll for all of our restaurant locations,” says Susan Yan, who first started working in the family business while still in high school.

Yan’s Restaurant in Orinda features an open dining room with booths aligned on one wall and a private room for parties of 24 people. The butter yellow walls and green carpet create a warm backdrop for Chinese silk wall tapestries. A fresh carnation is placed on every table and jazz music plays in the background softly enough for diners to enjoy conversation. Children take great delight over the fish tank that greets them at the entrance. An abundance of indoor plants, including bamboo, add to the relaxing environment.

[SEE BUZZ page 31]