



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 30, Number 11

Published by The Orinda Association
Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
November 2015

Festive Artwork and Events as Holiday Season Approaches



Scarecrow on Moraga Way.

SALLY HOGARTY



Festival of Trees Table Top creation.

CHARLIE JARRETT



Gerry Wallace and her ceramics at Artisan Faire.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Crafts from previous Holiday Bazaar.

SALLY HOGARTY

Thanks to the Orinda Garden Club and the creative Marty DeJonghe, Orinda sported fun scarecrows around town. "We held some workshops at my house to show members and their families how to create these colorful scarecrows, which work perfectly in areas like the freeway off-ramp where we don't have access to water," says DeJonghe. The Orinda Woman's Club will hold their annual fundraiser "Festival of Trees" on Nov. 20 (see story this page). The annual Artisans Faire, featuring ceramics by Gerry Wallace, and much more, happens Nov. 5 (see story Page 17). On Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary presents its popular Holiday Bazaar at the Community Center.

Volunteer of the Year

Nominations for the Orinda Association's Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Awards for 2015 are due by 5 p.m. on Dec. 4. See Page 3 for more information.

Molly Gravelle Celebrates 100th Birthday at Her Orinda Home

By VALERIE HOTZ
Staff Writer

Sitting in her Sleepy Hollow garden on a recent autumn afternoon, Molly Gravelle enjoys recounting when she and her late husband Carl built their home here on a vacant lot in 1950 and the entire valley was covered in yellow wheat. "As far as the eye could see was wheat waving in the wind," says Gravelle.

"When our children were young, we lived in Berkeley and our young daughter was having trouble with pneumonia. The pediatrician recommended we move to a warmer climate. I have had a lifelong passion for gardening, and when we looked for land to buy, we searched for good soil and a northern exposure," says the centenarian who celebrated her 100th birthday

on May 1.

A 1936 graduate of U.C. Berkeley, Gravelle was denied admission to a class in architecture. "A professor explained to me that I was not allowed to take architecture classes because I was a woman," says Gravelle. "The only women who were allowed in an architecture class in those days were women who had architects in their family, so I majored in English." More than one generation of Orindans knows Molly Gravelle - she taught mechanical drawing at Miramonte High School from 1955 to 1975. Not to be thwarted by the college professor, Gravelle created the blueprints for the Orinda home that she and Carl built 55 years ago.

Originally from Tulare, California, Gravelle's mother taught at the local grammar school and placed great value on higher education. Both her mother and grandmother graduated from Mount Holyoke and her daughter attended the college as well. Her father was a carpenter and shared his passion for gardening with his young daughter. "My father made a pansy patch for me, and by the time I was three years of age, he made me a garden of my own," says Gravelle.

Molly Gravelle will tell you the secret to living a long life is spending time in [SEE GRAVELLE page 16]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Molly Gravelle, 100 years old and going strong.

Planning Department Staff Turnovers

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Over the past few months, the Orinda Planning Department has changed dramatically. The senior planner accepted a higher-level position with the City of Benicia as community development director, while the part-time senior administrative assistant left for a full-time position.

"One planner moved out of state with family and another planner who was with the city for nine years left for a promotional job with the City of San Jose," said City

Manager Janet Keeter. "Our temp planner took a full-time permanent job with the City of San Francisco. The overall timing of the staff turnover was unfortunate; however, the city organization is thin with not much depth for promotional/career advancement. I am pleased for the employees that we launched to higher level jobs."

Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu announced that he was leaving the planning [SEE PLANNING page 16]

Orinda Woman's Club Hosts Fundraiser

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Woman's Club's (OWC) 29th Annual Festival of Trees benefit luncheon 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 day. The event is held at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m., attendees will have a chance to peruse raffle items including decorated small trees, trips to Club Tahoe at Incline Village or Poipu Kai Beach Resort, a silent auction for a one-week

[SEE TREES page 16]

IN THIS ISSUE

News	
Parks and Rec	5
Police Blotter	5
Around Town	
Local Businesses	7, 19
Local Organizations	5, 6
Performing/Visual Arts	2
Preschool Directory	9-11
Schools/Students/Teachers	13, 14
Scouts	12
Between the Lines	15
Business Buzz	19
Calendar	17
Car Time	7
Classified	16
Editorial	4
Everyday Changes	18
Orinda Association	3
Roving Reporter	8
Seasoned Shopper	6
Something to Howl About	13
The Reel Less Traveled	12

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
ORINDA, CA
PERMIT # 4
ECRWSS

Postal Customer



Breedlove Insurance Services
Life, Health, Long Term Care

Expert Medicare and Pre-65 health advice since 2004

Phone 925 254-6262
www.breedloveinsurance.com

Artists Display Passion for Pastels

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents the work of seven painters at the Orinda Library Gallery during November. Five of them - Linda Beach, Ruth Hussey, Mark Mertens, Pat Suggs and Debbie Wardrope - chose *A Passion for Pastel* as their theme



Ruth Hussey's pastel *Provincial Table* will be shown at the November exhibit.

to show 40 artworks. Larysa Rybchynska Larson paints in oil and Cynthia Brown-Hernandez prefers watercolors. Between them they will be showing 15 artworks. Join them on Nov. 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. for an artist reception when light refreshments will be served.

All the pastel painters are members of the Pastel Society of the West Coast, among other art organizations. Linda Beach of Livermore strives to depict a sense of distance and evoke a mood of serenity in her pastel landscapes. For more of her work, visit www.lindabeachstudio.com. Ruth Hussey of Danville has painted with pastels for more than 40 years and exhibited at the deYoung Museum. "My work is all about the expression of joy," says Hussey. She is also exhibiting seven egg tempera paintings and demonstrating her tempera painting techniques at the artist reception. Visit www.ruthhusseyart.com. Mark Mertens of Danville exhibits widely in the Bay Area and says his pastels are inspired by "our bountiful natural and varied landscape." See www.pal-art.com for more of his work. Pat Suggs of San Jose has also been painting pastels for 40 years and has exhibited widely. She personalizes her approach to subject matter to infuse it with immediacy.



Mark Mertens' *Elk Horn Vista* is a 33.5" x 27.5" pastel on paper.

See www.alliedartistswest.com/pats/pat.html to view her work. Debbie Wardrope of Pleasanton works to make her pastels evoke an emotional response in the viewer, often using recognizable images that might otherwise be overlooked. To view her work, visit www.debbiewardrope.com.

Larysa Rybchynska Larson of El Sobrante was born in the Ukraine and has taught art professionally at many levels in the Bay Area, most recently at Lamorinda Art Studio. "For me, painting is a meeting place between philosophy and the visual arts," says Larson. Her favorite philosophers include Kant, Kierkegaard, Sartre and Nietzsche. Other than oil painting, she works in pastel, charcoal, graphite, ink, watercolor, acrylic and mixed media. "Each piece involves a calm meditative practice and takes 100-150 hours to complete. I begin with a black-and-white collage, turn that into a canvas and finish in oil," she says. Look for *Portrait of*

a Doll, a 9" x 12" oil on wood board, and *Composition*, a 6" x 6" oil on wood board. Cynthia L.M. Brown-Hernandez of Dublin, one of Larson's students, will be showing works in watercolor. Look for *Sunflowers*, an 11" x 14" watercolor on paper.

Regarding the value of art to our community, Hussey says, "It's amazing that as one grows older, the inclusion of the arts in one's experience opens so many more doors than ever imagined." Larson says, "Art is a very metacognitive process. It allows people of all ages to reflect and self-express the most human aspects of their nature."

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours - Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day and Nov. 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

"Yellowstone: Beauty, Beasts, and Boneyards"
A new show, opening Nov 4th
Featuring paintings by Lisa Gunn
and tableware by Lisa Neimeth
Your destination for fine art and handcrafted gifts
Ample and free parking
MORAGAARTGALLERY
522 Center St., Moraga, CA 94556 www.moragaartgallery.com 925-376-5407

Morrison's
Jewelers Since 1923

Trunk Show

Saturday, November 14th 12-5pm

Join us for an afternoon of baubles, bubbles, & bites.

10% of the afternoon's proceeds go to Children's Health Guild

www.morrisonjewelers.com ~ 35 Moraga Way, Orinda ~ 925.253.9227

Breguet: Art & Innovation in Watchmaking

History, science, art and innovation await you through Jan. 10, 2016 at the Legion of Honor's Breguet (pronounced like reggae) exhibit of 80 objects dating from 1798. See a stunning 2008 reproduction of Marie Antoinette's famed 18 karat gold pocket watch with 23 complications and a provenance that reads like a historical thriller. Breguet of Switzerland is responsible for literally changing the face of time by way of their game-changing technical developments in watchmaking including the winding crown, striking mechanisms of all kinds and the first wristwatch (c. 1810). Their tourbillon (a rotating device which solved the problem of gravity affecting pocket watches) was a major step forward in horology.

You will learn many horological terms while viewing Empress Josephine Bonaparte's diamond "touch watch" and a "sympathique" clock made for a Russian count with a kind of docking station to reset the watch that came with it (c. 1836). Breguet



The Breguet exhibit features Empress Josephine Bonaparte's touch watch (c. 1800).

made unique pieces for Napoleon, Tsar Alexander I and Queen Victoria. On view are repeating watches which chime at the hour and minute, self-winding watches, travel clocks, marine chronometers, chronographs and touch watches so wearers can "feel the time." See www.legionofhonor.famsf.org/exhibitions/breguet for details.

- Elana O'Loskey, Staff Writer



Maureen Wilbur
Prevues Property Specialist
Top Individual Producer
2012 - 2014!
International Presidents
Premier

Maureen Wilbur

Thinking of selling in 2016?
Call Maureen and set up your
marketing plan.

Maureen Wilbur,
known for her
superior service!

Happy Thanksgiving

Coldwell Banker Orinda
925-253-6311 Direct
Email: Maureen@MaureenWilbur.com
DRE# 01268536



ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
OA Fulfills Its Mission For Close to
70 Years



Bill Waterman

Next year, the Orinda Association (OA) will be 70 years old, the oldest organization in Orinda. The OA is always striving to improve, and over the summer, we surveyed our members about a number of things, including finding out what OA members thought about the work we do. Our membership clearly said they enjoy and highly value *The Orinda News* for its role in informing Orindans about current news, for its feature articles about people and businesses and for its role as an unbiased community forum. A second thing highly valued by our members is the OA's role in hosting community forums, something the OA has done for many years, whether it's to let folks see and hear City Council candidates running for election or to decide whether to support the road repair bond, as a recent example. A third activity that our membership really liked is no surprise - the OA's role in organizing the Fourth of July celebration.

Backed by the OA membership's continuing financial support, the dedicated work of the OA office and *The Orinda News* staff and the good work of many marvelous volunteers, I see the OA continuing to fulfill its mission to inform and promote dialogue about issues that matter to us all, and thereby enhance the quality of life in our fair city. To fulfill this goal, *The Orinda*

News staff will continue putting out a very high quality paper, which includes the publishing of letters to the editor on myriad subjects and from varying viewpoints and objective and unbiased coverage of important local matters. In the coming year, the OA will host community forums on important topics, such as downtown district planning and ways to fund the final costs of road repairs. We will also host next fall's City Council election candidates' forum. Plus, the OA remains committed to carrying on this part of our mission in as neutral a manner as possible, thereby providing a true forum where people with varying and divergent views can be heard. Thus, while community Internet blogs such as Next Door have definite value, we hope to continue providing actual community forums where everyone can comfortably state their views in person, while their fellow citizens listen. By doing so, we believe we will be fulfilling this part of the OA's mission in the years ahead, as our membership wishes.

Finally, on behalf of our staff and board, a hearty thank-you to all OA members for your ongoing support! For those of you not yet members, why not support this paper by becoming an OA member - and thereby ensure that we can continue to fulfill our mission for the next 70 years? Thanks very much.

Nominations for VOY Due Dec. 4

Do you know an individual or group that has improved the Orinda community by volunteer efforts or has helped sustain the environment? If so, now is the time to submit those names to the Orinda Association (OA) and see those individuals/groups publicly recognized.

Nomination forms are available on the OA website (www.orindaassociation.org) or at the OA office in the Library Plaza (26 Orinda Way). The deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4.

Winners of the Volunteer of the Year (VOY) and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental awards will be honored at a festive dinner at the Orinda Country Club in February. Recent past recipients include: Dick Burkhalter; OIS's Others First; Orinda Junior Women's Club; Kay Aker and Elizabeth O'Shea.



2014 VOY recipient **Dick Burkhalter** with **Bea Heggie**.

For more information, call 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.

- Sally Hogarty, Editor



Authentic Cuisine
of Thailand

- Family Owned
- 3 Generations of Thai cooking experience
- All sauces made fresh
- Full Bar

Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11-2
Dinner: Mon.-Sun. 4:30-9:00

23 F Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-1975



PIZZA CO.

presenting

- Regular & Chicago style pizza
- Fresh, high quality ingredients
- Gourmet specialities
- Pizza by the slice at lunch
- Salads
- Fast, free, on time delivery for lunch, dinner, parties and special events

1 Camino Sobrante, Suite 4
254-2800

Open 7 days 11-10 p.m. Monday - Saturday
11-9 p.m. Sunday

TAXI BLEU

All Airports
Served 24/7

Dispatch:

925-849-2222

Direct:

925-286-0064

www.mytaxibleu.com

mytaxibleu@gmail.com



The Orinda Association

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

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

P.O. Box 97
26 Orinda Way (Lower Level Library)
Orinda, California 94563
Phone: 254-0800 Fax: 254-8312
www.orindaassociation.org



OFFICERS

President: Bill Waterman
Vice President: Joe Garvey
Secretary: Alison Dew
Treasurer: Cindy Powell
Membership: Jim Luini

BOARD MEMBERS

Maura Aars
Joe Haughin
Chris Laszcz-Davis
Tom Romaneck



When it's TIME to CHANGE your LIFE



Are you and your student
reaching your full potential?

Intensives at ATC during school breaks provide
Neurofeedback to optimize Brain Function for
Peak Performance.

Training programs designed from QEEG assessment are
targeted to address issues that may have arisen from:

- Head Trauma (sports concussions)
- Personal Trauma
- Fever
- Stress
- Nutritional Issues
- ADD/ADHD and Anxiety

Special pricing for parent/student packages.

Call for details: 925 254 7823
AdvancedTherapyCenter.org

Award Nominations Due December 4

Send in your nominations for 2015 Volunteer of the Year and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award by 5 p.m. on Dec. 4. Individuals or local groups are eligible. Winners will be feted at a gala dinner at the Orinda Country Club in February.

Go to www.orindaassociation.org for a nomination form, call 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.



Celebrate those who make
our community such a
wonderful place to live!

Letters to the Editor

Police Blotter a Real Plus

My original purpose for this letter was only to praise David Dierks for his compilation of data for the article the "Police Blotter." I don't know what is involved, but I greatly appreciate his efforts. I read it every month, taking my time to understand where the incidents are occurring and what is occurring.

If an incident is in my neighborhood, I try to reach out through "NextDoor" to the neighbor to convey sympathy and learn what I can do to help, or learn how to prevent the incident from occurring again.

I know I'm not the only one who looks forward to reading the "Police Blotter" because other friends seek it out every month and moan if it's not there!

Also, there is so much bad news out there. Everywhere the reader turns. Except for the well-written article by David Dierks on Orinda Motors' efforts to help the donor of a van and its recipient.

Thank you Allen Pennebaker, John and Barbara Vanek, the Elks Lodge and David Dierks. Kudos to all of you on all your intentions and efforts.

— Anne Lagache

In Support of a ULI Panel for Orinda

A few Orinda citizens have raised concerns in this space about the prospect of the City of Orinda retaining the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to conduct a Technical Assistance Panel that could facilitate the community's discussion about the future of downtown. I believe these concerns are misplaced. ULI panels are about enhancing the community planning discussion, not about "outsiders telling us what to do."

Few Orindans would disagree that downtown is in need of significant renewal. Most would like to see us preserve what should be preserved and renew what needs to be renewed, while enhancing the village character we appreciate in downtown.

The council is correct in finally turning its attention to this task. It is deplorable that Orinda, with all of its many attributes, is one of a very few cities in the Bay Area with no plan for its downtown. The absence of direction is plain for all to see.

Yes, Orinda has a General Plan. But the vast majority of other cities have moved beyond general plan guidelines to get much more specific about how their guidelines should be achieved. Right now if an owner were to consider the renewal of a significant downtown property, and his architect were to ask, "What does the community want?" Orinda has no answer. We say we like our village character – which is a worthy guiding principle – but how is it to be implemented over time? This is what planning is about.

Americans are skeptical about planning

because as we look at our built environment, we see much that has not been done well, particularly in the suburbs. This is a reasonable observation. But, with our well-established spirit of volunteerism and with all the professional talent that exists in the Orinda, doesn't it stand to reason that our citizens can come up with a plan that is appropriate to our sensibilities as a community?

Having attended technical assistance panels in the past, my experience is that the typical panelists are well-qualified. They come to address the particular issues the city wants them to address. They listen to what community stakeholders have to say. They bring experience gained in other communities. Their professionalism elevates the discussion. As Orindans go about finding their own solutions, it would seem to make sense to learn of best practices other cities have discovered. We might come away with some ideas we could use.

— Tom Trowbridge

MOFD Wasting Money Again

In October, *The Orinda News* wrote about the talks breaking down between MOFD and ConFire regarding a joint Station 46. It was reported that the cost of operating a station is \$2 million per year, thus MOFD would save half of that by sharing the station with ConFire. This cost is questionable as MOFD's budget for a five-station system is \$23 million.

When the cost of rebuilding Station 43 came up, it was reported elsewhere that the firefighters thought that money should go into their salaries, not a new station.

Also elsewhere in the news was the report that Pete Nowicki's \$241,000 pension was reduced by \$61,000 by the County retirement board (CCCERA) because last minute salary bonuses given him by the MOFD Board in 2008 which resulted in that \$61,000 benefit were improperly arrived at.

All of this news impacts the community, as it appears that money is being wasted now as it was in 2009 with Nowicki's pension. The three areas of concern which impact every resident of Orinda are:

1) Cost containment by our emergency services providers: MOFD and ConFire are walking away from an opportunity to eventually save upwards to \$100 million by working together on a joint station by blaming each other for being too hard to deal with.

2) Appropriate employee compensation: The MOFD firefighters don't believe that they are paid enough and that capital expenditures should be redirected into employee salaries. In fact, since MOFD was founded in 1997, MOFD's revenues have increased over twice as much as inflation and employee compensation, including \$60 million of unfunded benefits, has consumed



List of *The Orinda News* Advertisers

	Page		Page
Arts and Entertainment		Animal House Pet Sitting	13
aMfa Art Gallery	20	Theatre View Veterinary Clinic	13
Moraga Art Gallery	2	Professional Services	
Automotive		Cruise Adventures Unlimited	11
Orinda Motors	7	May Technology	13
Orinda Shell	12	Taxi Bleu	3
Beauty and Fitness		Real Estate	
CoreKinetics	19	Better Homes & Gardens	
Living Lean Exercise & Eating Program	18	Lisa Shaffer	12
Yoga by Jeanne Dowell	17	Coldwell Banker	
Construction and Trades		Laura Abrams	11
David Collins Painting Services	12	Suzanne Toner Geoffron	18
Tom Romaneck Painting	8	Shellie Kirby	6
Dental		Steve Stahle	8
Dr. Kristi L. Doberenz DDS	10	Maureen Wilbur	2
Dr. Mary Smith DDS	9	Pacific Union	
Educational		Virginia and Paul Ratto	6
The Orinda Preschool (TOPS)	11	Leila Schlein	7
St. Stephen's Preschool	10	Soheila Smith Real Estate	
Financial and Insurance Services		Soheila Smith	11
Breedlove Insurance Services	1	Village Associates	
Prospect Mortgage		Dexter Honens	15
Kat Rider	5	April Matthews	14
RPM Mortgage		Ann Sharf	6
Dianne Crosby	6	Clark Thompson	5
State Farm		Restaurants/Catering	
Kathleen Conroy	14	Baan Thai	18
Garden/Landscaping		Casa Orinda	15
Blue Ridge Landscaping	19	home/made in Moraga	17
McDonnell Nursery	5	La Mediterranee	5
Tree Sculpture	14	Lava Pit	16
Medical		Siam Orchid	3
Advanced Therapy Center	3	Village Pizza	19
Dr. Brian Clark	13	Zamboni's Pizza	3
Dr. Nicole Ionascu	14	Retail Stores	
Medicine Shoppe	15	Echo Grove	8
Dr. Kristin Walker	10	Farmers' Market	8
Non-Profits		McCaulou's	15
Orinda Association	3	Morrison's Jewelers	2
Orinda Chamber of Commerce	9	Orinda Books	15
Pet Service		Theatre Square	8

over 100 percent of revenues collected.

3) The resurrection of the 2009 "Nowicki Affair:" What did Pete Nowicki's \$241,000 annual pension really cost the community and what was the MOFD Board's true role? The Board granted Nowicki \$110,000 in additional compensation in his last year of employment through a series of retroactive contract changes, which resulted in excessive pension benefits which would cost MOFD and the community it serves

\$4,000,000 over the next 30 years.

These three topics are discussed in greater detail on the website www.OrindaTaskForce.org, which also announces a community petition requesting MOFD Director Fred Weil to step down due to his complicity in granting a public employee millions of public dollars and violating the public trust (www.thepetitionsite.com/975/654/937/).

— Steve Cohn

The Orinda News prints 9,000 copies and is published 12 times a year by The Orinda Association. The office is located at 26 Orinda Way (lower level of the Library). All rights reserved. The publication is sent out by direct mail (Permit #4, Orinda Post Office) and distributed to key locations throughout the city.

Editor.....Sally Hogarty
 Assistant Editor.....David Dierks
 Copy Editor.....Maggie Sharpe
 Advertising Representatives.....Jill Gelster, Elana O'Loskey
 Editorial Committee.....Jill Gelster, Sally Hogarty,
 Lynn Kalmar, Jim Luini, Elana O'Loskey,
 Mark Roberts, Bill Waterman, Kate Wiley
 Staff Writers.....Jennifer Conroy, Valerie Hotz, Barbara Kobsar,
 Charlie Jarrett, Kathryn G. McCarty, Fran Endicott Miller,
 Marian Nielsen, Elana O'Loskey, John Vanek,
 Bill Waterman, Bonnie Waters, Tom Westlake
 Contributing Writers.....Barbara Duff, Tracy Fu, Jeanette Lipp
 Graphics.....Aspen Consulting: Jill Gelster & David Dierks
 Printing.....Folger Graphics

The Orinda News

A Publication of
 The Orinda Association
 Mailing Address
 P.O. Box 97
 Orinda, California 94563
 Telephone: 925 254-0800

www.orindanews.org



THE Orinda ASSOCIATION

The OA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Opinions of *The Orinda News* are expressed on the editorial page. Views of writers and letters to the editor are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Orinda Association or of *The Orinda News*. Advertisements appearing in *The Orinda News* are not to be construed as endorsements by The Orinda Association or *The Orinda News*. Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to Editor for the December issue are due **November 8, 2015**.

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 8, 2015.

POLICE / PARKS & REC



POLICE BLOTTER

September through October 10, 2015

Burglary, Auto: 11 incidents: Camino Del Diablo, Brookwood Rd., Moraga Way, The Knoll, Hawkridge Ter., Rite Aid, Wagner Ranch Elementary, Theatre Square and Hwy 24/Wilder Blvd (3).

Burglary, Commercial: 2 incidents: Orinda Way and La Sombra Ct.

Burglary, Residential: 1 incident: Westover Ct.

Grand Theft: 2 incidents: Via Floreado and Spring Rd.

Grand Theft from Building: 1 incident: Moraga Way.

Grand Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident: Camino Pablo.

Hit and Run Misdemeanor: 2 incidents: Camino Pablo/Hwy 24 and Moraga Way.

Petty Theft: 7 incidents: Bates Blvd., Donald Dr., La Cuesta Rd., Moraga Way, El Nido Ranch/St. Stephens, Orinda Way and Safeway.

Petty Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents: Donald Dr. and Stein Way.

Shoplift: 3 incidents: Orinda Way and Safeway (2).

Vandalism: 1 incident: Monte Vista Rd.

Vehicle Theft: 1 incident: Bank of America.

Arrests

Battery: 1 arrest: Moraga Way.

DUI: 7 arrests: Birch St./Spring Rd., Rheem Blvd., San Pablo Dam Rd., WB 24/Wilder Blvd., Camino Pablo/El Toyonal, Moraga Way/Brookside Rd. and Miner Rd./El Nido Ranch.

Possession of Narcotics: 2 arrests: Moraga Way and Acalanes Rd./El Nido Ranch.

Stolen Vehicle Recovered: 1 vehicle: Overhill Rd.

Warrant: 4 arrests: La Sombra Ct., Lost Valley Dr., Theatre Square and Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.

Orinda BART Station

Stolen Vehicle Recovered: 1 vehicle.

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

Park and Rec Foundation Donates AED Units for Local Sports Field



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bill Wadsworth and Parks and Recreation Director **Michelle Lacy** display one of the three automated external defibrillators (AEDs) recently donated by the Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation. The AEDs will be installed at three of the city's outdoor athletic fields: Wilder, Orinda Sports and Pine Grove.

"We continue to strive to increase annual funding for a wide variety of park and recreation facilities and activities," says Wadsworth. "To do so we must continually seek out financial support from the community." Memberships in the foundation are now available through the website at www.oprfoundation.org.

Mixing Up a Delicious Fundraiser



CHARLIE JARRETT

Mixologists Participants (L-R): **Jennifer Jansen** and **Diana Petralia** (The Cooperage) and Taster Participants: **Sandy Preto** and **Brad and Pam Madix**.

Approximately 300 people enjoyed a lovely evening at Theatre Square tasting and voting on their favorite cocktails at the Lamorinda Arts Council's second annual Art of Mixology held Oct. 10. Participants sampled 20 craft cocktails, finger food and received a souvenir shot glass before voting for their favorite professional and amateur drink.

Meanwhile, the bartenders competed for cash and prizes and for one of them to claim Mixologist of the Year honors. Local establishments joining the competition included: Orinda's Barbacoa, Lafayette's T's Firehouse, Lafayette Park Hotel and

Walnut Creek's Corners Tavern. Lafayette Park Hotel bartender Kyle Tran took the first place prize this year with his drink entitled "Daughter of the Devil," whose ingredients included frozen pomegranate liqueur, French vermouth and agave syrup.

The fundraiser brought in close to \$15,000, which will support the Arts Council's programs such as: Lamorinda Idol, Arts in Bloom, art and sketch books for Orinda's elementary schools, support of school performing and visual arts programs and much more.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



Refinancing? Purchasing?
Home lending in Lamorinda over 25 years

Call Kat!

Kat Rider Loan Officer NMLS#202928
Cell: 925.787.1692
kat.rider@prospectmtg.com
1910 Olympic Blvd. #120 Walnut Creek

Equal Housing Lender. Prospect Mortgage is located at 15301 Ventura Blvd., Suite 0300, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403, 800-464-2482. Prospect Mortgage, LLC, NMLS ID #3296, (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) is a Delaware limited liability company, licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. 1910 Olympic Blvd #120 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Branch #301524








30 Years as Lamorinda's #1 Broker

CLARK THOMPSON

REAL ESTATE BROKER

(925) 254-8585

www.clarkthompson.com



CAFE . RESTAURANT . CATERING

"For your next special occasion try our Party Platters and our Chicken Pomegranate!"



Free Delivery to Lamorinda (within 10 miles, with \$300 min. order)

(510) 540-7773
www.cafelamed.com

2936 College Ave. at Ashby . Berkeley . CA 94705

McDonnell Nursery

Christmas trees coming Thanksgiving week



family owned since 1933

Holiday Open House

Tuesday November 17 from 5:00 -7:30
Refreshments, Door prizes, Special pricing on Holiday Items and Free Gift Wrapping

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily

FARMERS' MARKET

Sixth Annual Olive Festival at WRNA



MAUREEN WILBUR

Embracing the theme of olives and peace, children and adults wore leafy olive crowns at the Oct. 4 Olive Festival at Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA). Hundreds of participants enjoyed a large number of fun and educational activities while entertained by the Orinda Ukulele Players and the student musicians of

Orinda's Academy of Language and Music Arts. Lots of local groups including the Boy Scouts, OIS's Others First, Orinda Juniors and Orinda Rotary contributed to the success of the day which raised over \$5,000 for environmental education. For more information, go to www.fwrna.org.
- Katharine Barrett

Seasoned Shopper

ABCs of Fall Fare BARBARA KOBSAR

What's in a name? Look closely at November and you'll find the best buys of the month. Start by cracking open some flavor and nutrition this month with new harvest nuts.

Nuts take center stage for eating fresh and using in holiday stuffing, soups, salads and baked goods. Toasting enhances the flavor and aroma of nuts - spread whole or cut up raw nutmeats (walnuts, almonds or pistachios) on a baking sheet and toast at 350 degrees for 5 to 8 minutes or until golden brown. Turn once so they brown evenly, and watch closely since they burn quickly!

Okra is a love-it or hate-it vegetable but a must-have in gumbos and stews. It's a signature Southern ingredient whether fried, pickled or grilled.

Rinse and blot on paper towels before using.

Raisins and other dried fruits are essential in many holiday baking favorites and are a quick and nutritious snack. Check out the many varieties at several of our farmers' stands.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

The Orinda market closes for the season on Saturday, Nov. 21. Thank you to the community, city, volunteers, local businesses and other non-profits that have supported and contributed to another successful market season.

Visit many of your favorite vendors from the Orinda market at the year-round Sunday market in Walnut Creek. For more information, visit www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.



BARBARA KOBSAR

Dried raisins and other fruits from **Hamada Farms**.

A variety of specialty products are at the markets ready for your holidays. Look for pies, jams, baked goods, soaps and popcorn. Effie is behind the egg table ready to sell cage-free eggs.

Mandarin oranges are juicy and sweet. Most popular varieties include Satsuma, Clementine and Dancy with their characteristic easy-peel and easy to separate segments.

Beets are generally sold in bunches. Look for red, golden and even Chioggia beets with beautiful red and white spirals. Feel good about eating beets - they're a highly nutritious root vegetable.

Eggplants are unique in both taste and texture. All of those beautiful glossy eggplant varieties are slightly bitter in taste and spongy in texture. Salting removes some of the bitterness and tenderizes the flesh of the larger eggplants. After cutting into desired size sprinkle with a little salt and let rest for 20 to 30 minutes.

Roasted Root Vegetables with Walnuts

- 8 baby beets, cut in half
- 1 cup torn beet greens
- 1 medium turnip
- 4 medium carrots
- 4 medium potatoes
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 shallots
- One half cup walnut pieces
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Scrub vegetables and rinse. Cut turnip, carrots and potatoes into quarters. Place all the vegetables in a 9x13-inch baking dish along with garlic, shallots and walnuts. Drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Cover with foil and roast vegetables in a 400-degree oven until tender and browned - about 40 to 50 minutes. Remove from oven and stir in beet greens, allowing them to wilt from the heat of the vegetables.

Serves 4.

Shellie Abbes Kirby

**A Realtor for Lamorinda
Second Generation Orindan
Specializing in Orinda Real Estate
She knows the community.
She knows the market.**

**Office: 925-253-6321
Cell: 925-872-4257
email: shellie@shelliekirby.com**

ANN SHARF

When you need:

- a strong negotiator
- proven results for both buyers & sellers
- professionalism & service
- a top producer

Call ANN at (925) 253-2525

she comes highly recommended...

Website: www.annsharf.com
Email: ann@annsharf.com
93 Moraga Way, Orinda

I can help you navigate through this ever changing real estate market. Be certain your largest asset is in the hands of a professional who represents both buyers and sellers daily.

Solid options for dynamic people

Dianne Crosby

RPM MORTGAGE

CELL 510.541.1662
DIRECT 925.743.3501
www.dianne-crosby.com

Serving Lamorinda, the Bay Area, and the entire State of California from her loan processing center located at 51 Moraga Way, Suite 2, Orinda, CA 94563.

RPM Mortgage, Inc. - NMLS#9472 - Licensed by the Dept. of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. Equal Housing Opportunity.

NMLS# 304682

~ Expertise
~ Service
~ Insight
~ Integrity

Experience Extraordinary

Call us today for a complimentary
Market Evaluation &
Home Enhancement Plan

just ask our clients

Virginia Varni-Ratto

(925) 998-9501

vvarni@pacunion.com

Paul Ratto

(925) 899-9536

pratto@pacunion.com

www.rattoandratto.com • www.fixup2sell.com

51 MORAGA WAY, SUITE 1 ORINDA, CA 94563 925-258-0090

see our open homes and many more listings with virtual & multi-media tours on pacunion.com

LOCAL BUSINESS / CARS

Local Kids' Knits Catch Martha Stewart's Eye

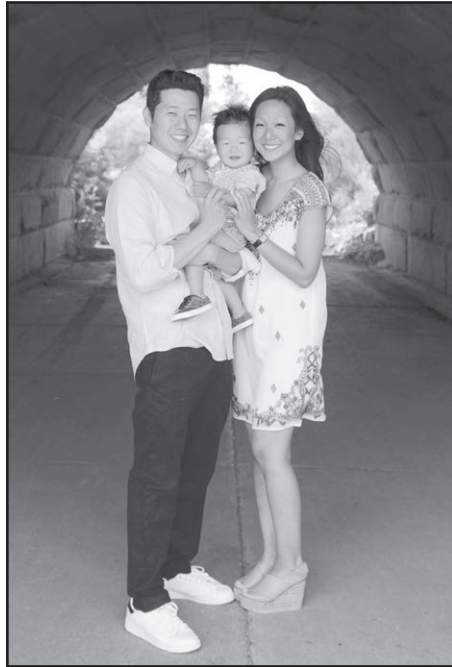
By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER
Staff Writer

Orinda-based iddy bidy, a children's fashion brand started earlier this year by resident Sharon Koh and her cousin Grace Koh, is receiving national attention. The company was selected as a 2015 finalist in the Martha Stewart American Made Audience Choice Awards in the style/fashion category.

Each year, Stewart and the editors at Martha Stewart Living honor makers, small-business owners and creative entrepreneurs in the fields of crafts, design, food and style. These makers are recognized for their dedication to creating beautiful, quality products and building successful businesses and communities. The panel fielded more than 200,000 entries this year.

Sharon, formerly in corporate retail and most recently with GAP, Inc., started iddy bidy with her cousin to bring something new and fresh to the marketplace. Their product focuses on cut and sew knitwear and knit jersey for ages 0 – 4. They started with baby leggings and quickly expanded to tees, sweatshirts and accessories. The two quit their day jobs to focus on their new company. "Our goal is to offer effortless style and comfort that doesn't take too much thought for moms who are already crunched for time ... all at a reasonable price!" says Sharon.

Working out of two locations, Orinda and Grace's hometown in Chicago, the partners collaborate on concept and aesthetics. Grace oversees design and Sharon is responsible for product strategy, marketing, social media and fulfillment. "Our product is cool, modern and slimmer, yet still incredibly comfortable," says Sharon,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lawrence and Sharon Koh with son Tanner.

adding that prices are reasonable. "Receiving this recognition from the American Made Awards is the epitome of the American dream for us," says Sharon. "Our parents were first-generation Korean immigrants who sacrificed their comfort and financial outlook to give us a better life. As small business owners, they started from scratch and found a way to provide for and allow us to live out our dreams of pursuing what we are passionate about. We believe in small businesses and how they can provide for a family, create jobs for others and bring people together."

For more information on the Martha Stewart American Made Awards, visit www.marthastewart.com/americanmade. Find iddy bidy products at <http://www.iddybidybabyknits.com>.

CAR TIME

En Route to Electric Cars



By JOHN VANEK

Most adults have witnessed a drastic change in technology in their lifetime. From telephone watches to video chatting to cars running on hydrogen, the future is here. Technology feeds technology.

Electric cars have been around for a long time. As technology advances, we could be driving an electric car that operates more like a smart phone. There are already more than 20 electric/hybrid cars on the market to choose from, thanks to computer and battery technology. These technologies will only improve making electric cars more usable and affordable. The best-selling electric car is currently the Nissan Leaf. However, the king of electric cars in my opinion is Tesla, which has developed new hi-tech ways to build and sell cars. Their engineers are more tech geeks than auto engineers, offering features that are inspired by iPhone.

What is the future of electric cars? We know that battery technology will improve,

which will give us extended driving ranges. Tesla will introduce an "SUV" and a more affordable sedan. In addition, Google and Apple are considering making cars. The Google version is the "drive itself." Sounds scary but they actually have test vehicles that drive themselves! Apple is looking into an iCar concept. Imagine giving verbal directions to your Siri-like companion while you snuggle up for a nap on the way to L.A. Eventually, there could be a driverless Uber system that customers subscribe to. Could Google operate such vehicles, making it unnecessary to own a car?

There will be a shift to electric vehicles but good old-fashioned gas burners will still be around for a long time. Technology will continue to improve gas mileage on those too. We still need to think about maintenance on our current vehicles while awaiting the automated car.

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

Are you considering buying?
Do you want to know what your home is worth in the current market?
Are you wondering what is happening to home prices in the area?

For current information, give me a call about your real estate needs.



LEILA SCHLEIN

925.899.7927 Leila@LeilaSchlein.com www.LeilaSchlein.com



A Member Of Real Living



Orinda

Orinda



AUTO RENTAL

Thanks to our Customers, we are celebrating 14 consecutive years as a Diamond Certified Auto Care Provider.



Express
Oil Change & Tire Center

Call or Stop By:
925-254-2012
63 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA

ROVING REPORTER / HABITAT

Roving Reporter

Who in your life really influenced you in a special or important way and what did they do to deserve your deep appreciation?

Charlie Jarrett



Orinda resident Bruce Everett: “While laying on a gurney in a hospital hallway awaiting a very serious surgical procedure, it suddenly hit me that I did not have any family or friends nearby to support me. I suddenly became extremely terrified. As I lay there deep in thought, a gentleman whose job apparently was gathering and dispensing linens, walked by me several paces further down the hallway. Suddenly he stopped, slowly turned around and with a puzzled look on his face, came back towards me, smiled, looked down at me and said, “Don’t worry sir, it will be all right!” He touched my hand and as he walked



Bruce Everett.

CHARLIE JARRETT

Families Come Together to Build Birdhouses for Habitat for Humanity

Twenty-two Orinda families joined Give Together on Sunday, Sept. 13, to build 44 birdhouses for Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley. The birdhouses will serve as welcome gifts for new homeowners in the community. This project was sponsored by Meredith Peterson Homes and Misty Morning Gardens.

Give Together creates volunteer opportunities for families with children ages two - 12 years old. The Lafayette-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

based nonprofit hosts three to five family volunteer projects a month. For more information, visit givegrow.org.

away, I suddenly had what you might call a spiritual awakening. I then went into the operating room smiling and confident of a positive outcome. That experience literally changed my life! I’m now a firm believer that you have a choice between giving and taking and life is a whole lot more fun when you give! After all, isn’t that what Thanksgiving is about, being thankful for giving and receiving?”

Orinda residents Andy Firstenberg and daughter Katie: “I would have said someone else up until about two years ago, but now, the only answer I can give, emphatically, is my wife, Christine! I had

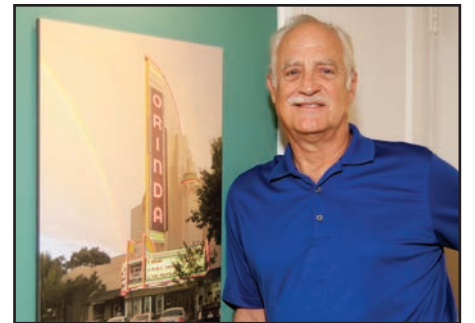


Andy Firstenberg and daughter Katie.

CHARLIE JARRETT

been married for about 20 years and had been stuck in the role of being a typical spouse. It seems that many times when a terrible unforeseen financial obstacle gets thrown your way, the other spouse jumps ship and they don’t spend the time trying to understand and see the other partner’s position. I have seen that my wife clearly took the time and the effort and we grouped together, solved the problems and are now going forward in our lives stronger for it. She gave me a real lesson about life and that you can change and I didn’t always see that – so absolutely, it was her!”

Orinda architect Rick Kattenburg: “For me, it was my mother, Mary Louise Kattenburg, who taught me many good manners and lessons in life and one of



Rick Kattenburg with the photo he took of the Orinda Theatre.

CHARLIE JARRETT

them was to understand and appreciate pacifism. My mother was what I would call a true Christian and moved me to think that maybe it’s not right to enter into wars and kill a lot of people. My mother kind of brought that to me. Unfortunately, she just passed away in August at age 94. I am very grateful to her for all of her wisdom and my thoughts and appreciation are with her at this time. I am sure that if anyone gets to heaven, she certainly did.”

Orinda resident for 49 years, Rosie Heim: “It was my mother, who, while growing up, I both loved and hated, because mom had the iron thumb and I didn’t appreciate her. I remember one time when I was out – I was older than 18 – actually



Rosie Heim.

CHARLIE JARRETT

in nurse’s training, when she came down very hard on me. My boyfriend and I were sitting out in the car in front of the house and I ignored her warning that it was time to come in the house, following her flashing [SEE ROVING page 18]



Steve Stahle
(925) 324-4121
steve.stahle@camoves.com
www.homesinorindaandlafayette.com

Coldwell Banker
40 years business experience
Tradition of Trust - Service You Desire
BRE#01861509



Contra Costa Certified

Orinda Farmers’ Market

Saturdays 9am to 1pm

Orinda Way, Orinda Village

www.cccfm.org

Market closes for the season November 21st




ECHO Grove

- 100% Handmade
- 100% Unique
- 100% Cool



Orinda Theatre Square, 112 www.EchoGroveStore.com




You'll Wish You WERE HERE

Orinda Theatre Square

ALLISON MCCRADY FINE ARTS GALLERY • BARBACOA • CINE CUVÉE • ECHO GROVE GIFT SHOP
ENTOURAGE SPA & SALON • HELLO TIARA JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES • THE INTUITIVE WRITING PROJECT
LAVA PIT HAWAIIAN GRILL • LIVING LEAN • ORINDA TRAVEL • ORINDA THEATRE • PETRA CAFÉ
PICCOLO NAPOLI • REPUBLIC OF CAKE • SERIKA • SHELBY'S RESTAURANT • SWEET DREAMS TOY STORE
STARBUCKS COFFEE • SUBWAY • TABLE 24 NEIGHBORHOOD COMFORT FOOD • VISUAL ENTRÉE OPTOMETRY

orindatheatresquare.com



Tom Romaneck Painting

2015 Orinda Chamber Ambassador of the Year

Meticulous preparation & finish work
Int/ ext, and deck restoration
Excellent References • Owner Operated
Free Estimates

925-323-9908
TRomaneck@yahoo.com
Lic. #922081



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 our list of Lamorinda preschool and after-school programs.

Contact the schools for further information on enrollment and cost. Visit www.eastbaypreschools.com and www.lamorindamoms.org; both are good resources for researching preschool programs. Attend the Lamorinda Moms Preschool Fair in Lafayette on Nov. 12 from 6:30-8:30 pm (see website or calendar listing for more info).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children enjoy a sunny day on the new play structure at Orinda's **St. Mark's Nursery School**.

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

Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-3429
9 am to Noon, extended day until 2 pm
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
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 birth to five.
orindaafternoons@gmail.com
www.orindaafternoons.com

St. John Preschool
501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-4470
7 am to 5:30 pm
Ages 18 mos.-5, half day or full day, offered two, three or five days a week.
stjohnpreschoolorinda@gmail.com
www.stjohnorinda.com

St. Mark's Nursery School
451 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-1364
Classes for 2's 3's, 4's and K-Prep M-F, 9 am - noon. Children may attend 2-5 days per week; lunch bunch daily 12 to 12:30 pm.
stmarksnurseryschoolorinda@gmail.com

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 am - 11:45 am, Tu/Th; for age 3-5 year olds, 9 am to noon, M-W-F with option Tu/Th 9 am to noon. Lunch option.
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. Optional afternoon lunch bunch playgroup, ages 3-5.
topsonline@sbcglobal.net
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

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

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
www.tcdschools.com

Diablo Valley Montessori School
3390 Deerhill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-6036
7:30 am to 6 pm
Infants/toddlers, 3 mos. to 2 yrs., 8 am - 5 pm; two's/transition 2-3 yrs.; preschool/ kindergarten 3-6 yrs., times available 7:30 am - 6 pm; 8:30 - 11:30 am for 2-3 yrs.; 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 birth-30 months on Friday, free to all.
www.Temple-Isaiah.org

Gymboree
3482 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-4896

[SEE LAFAYETTE page 10]



Shop Orinda!

Visit the ten Orinda businesses listed below between now and Small Business Saturday, November 28th, to qualify for a chance to win one of ten \$100 gift certificates at these very stores. Yes, ten \$100 gift certificates!!!

Completed cards can be turned in at any of the 10 participating businesses or to the Orinda Chamber of Commerce office (26 Orinda Way) by Saturday, November 28. The drawing will be done on December 2 at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce office.

 in Theatre Square Date / Initial	 196 Moraga Way Date / Initial
 in Theatre Square Date / Initial	 35 Moraga Way Date / Initial
 19D Orinda Way Date / Initial	 21 Orinda Way Date / Initial
 37 Moraga Way Orinda, CA 94563 Date / Initial	 19 Avenida De Orinda Date / Initial
 in Theatre Square Date / Initial	 63 Orinda Way Date / Initial

MARY H. SMITH, D.D.S. • CECELIA THOMAS, D.D.S.
A Professional Corporation
96 Davis Road, #5 - Orinda, CA 94563
925.254.0824



Taking care of all your dental needs for you and your family. Emphasizing cosmetic dentistry with implants, and Invisalign. Nitrous oxide is available. Consultations are complimentary. Dentistry with Excellence.

YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING



Orinda Chamber of Commerce

www.orindachamber.org

PRESCHOOL DIRECTORY

◆ LAFAYETTE from page 9

Classes at various times/days for ages 3-5 years; see website.
lafayetteca@gymboreeclasses.com
www.gymboreeclasses.com

Happy Days Learning Center
3205 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-932-8088
7 am to 6 pm

Ages 2-11, 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

Ages 2.5 years - 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

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.



Miss Julie, a teacher at the Nurtury Preschool in Moraga, leads a sing-a-long of "If I Were a Butterfly" during class time.

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 3-4 year olds M-W-F, 9-11:30 am; preschool programs for 4-5.6 year olds M-Th, 12:30 to 3 pm. Open House Nov. 14.
membership@lafayettenurseryschool.org
www.lafayettenurseryschool.org

Merriewood Children's Center

561 Merriewood Dr., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-2121

Preschool ages 2.5-3 yrs. Tu/Th; age 3-4 yrs. M-W-F; age 4-5 yrs. (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 mos. 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 mos. - 5.
ofslafayette@gmail.com
www.oldfirehouseschool.com

Seedlings Preschool
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-8722

9:15 am to 2:15 pm
Ages 6 mos. - 5 years, infant/toddler, preschool, Pre-K, developmental kindergarten; extended care, ages 2-4 to 3:15 pm.
www.seedlings@lopc.org
www.lopc.org/seedlingsprogram.asp

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 - 11:45 am, 2.4 to 3.6 yrs. Tu/Th, optional lunch bunch to 12:30 pm; Pre-K Tu. only 12 - 2:15 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
25 Village Center, #2, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-962-9177

Toddler, preschool and elementary 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.meherschools.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

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@tcdschools.com
www.tcdschools.com

Creative Playhouse Preschool
1350 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556
925-377-8314

7 am - 6 pm, infants and toddlers 3 mos. - 24 mos.; preschool classroom 2-3 yrs.; Pre-K classroom 4-5 yrs.
www.eastbaypreschools.com
creativeplayhouseinc@yahoo.com

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 3-3.5 yrs.; cedars 3.5-4; redwoods 4-4.5; sequoias 4.5-5+.
www.growingtreepreschool.net

Lamorinda Montessori
1450 Moraga Road, Moraga, CA 94556
925-377-0407

7 am - 6 pm, ages 1.5 - 6 yrs., toddler,
[SEE MORAGA page 11]

St. Stephen's Preschool
Age 2 program ~ Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. - 11:45
Ages 3-5 program ~ Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - noon
2, 3 or 5 days a week with an optional lunch bunch from 12-2
66 St. Stephen's Dr., Orinda CA 94563
(925) 254-3770 ext. 19 • www.ststephenorinda.org

Kristin Walker M.D., Inc.
General & Cosmetic Dermatologist
89 Davis Road, Suite #180
Orinda
(925) 254-1080

Dr. Walker, board certified dermatologist, offers care in general adult and pediatric dermatology, laser surgery, skin cancer surgery, and cosmetic dermatology. Her friendly and supportive staff can assist you with diminishing the effects of nature to reveal the real you underneath. Dr. Walker and her caring staff can help return the glow to your skin with the most advanced skin care lasers and technologies. Dr. Walker is proud to announce the addition of a Nutritionist and Aesthetician to her practice.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE OFFICE:
IPL-Photo Genesis Rejuvenation Treatment for Rosacea, Sun Damage, Fine Lines
Laser Hair Removal
Microdermabrasion
Waxing

COSMETIC PROCEDURES AVAILABLE:
Botox Cosmetic Restylane Sclerotherapy
Collagen Peels

AVAILABLE SKIN RESTORATION SYSTEMS:
Procyte Jan Marini
MD Forte Glyquin

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Now accepting new patients!

Kristi L. Doberenz, D.D.S., Inc.
8 Camino Encinas, STE #110, Orinda
(925) 254-3725

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Holiday Magic Beckons Across the Bay

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER
Staff Writer

Continued warm weather and crispy brown lawns might not hint holiday time but, lucky for us, the Bay Area boasts tried and true activities to help coax a little holiday spirit out of even the grinchiest. There is no better place to start off the season than San Francisco – a city that has never needed a holiday excuse to exude energy and excitement. But at this time of year, San Francisco and its grand hotels kick it up a notch, and whether you choose to book a room or not, everyone is invited to experience a little holiday magic.

Start a new tradition or continue a long held one, and visit the Fairmont Hotel's legendary Gingerbread House. Opening day for the life size, edible structure is Saturday, Nov. 28, at 11 a.m. Hot chocolate, gingerbread cookies and adult beverages

are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Santa, a Christmas fairy, elves and carolers will entertain guests from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Book a date with your youngest for the Fairmont's Gingerbread Tea, offered daily in the hotel's Laurel Court at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. (Children 12 and under \$59/weekdays, \$69/weekends; adults \$89/weekdays, \$99/weekends.) Children receive a Nutcracker ornament and a gingerbread cookie to decorate; a Christmas fairy and a balloon elf provide entertainment, in addition to live piano performances on the weekends. Nov. 28 to Dec. 30.

The Fairmont's Nob Hill neighbor, The Ritz Carlton, begins its official holiday celebration at sundown on Thursday, Dec. 3, with the lighting of a spectacular 40-foot tree. From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Dickens-era costumed carolers perform holiday favorites throughout the hotel. Cider, hot chocolate and cookies will be served, and Santa will be there to take photos with the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel turns its lobby into a magical paradise for the holidays.

kids. Free and open to all.

The Ritz's celebrated Teddy Bear Tea begins the day after Thanksgiving and features holiday stories, sing-alongs, a dancing elf and a giant come-to-life teddy bear. Children are encouraged to bring along their favorite stuffed animal, but they also receive a small teddy bear to take home. Dates and times: Nov. 27-29, 1 p.m.; Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 12-13, 1 p.m.; Dec. 17 and Dec. 19-24, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. \$115/child; \$120/adults. The Ritz donates \$1 for each Teddy Bear Tea guest to Make-A-Wish.

(The Ritz also offers a regular Holiday Afternoon Tea, Thursdays through Sundays in December at 3 p.m. for \$65/person.)

If you've yet to make your Thanksgiving dinner plans, consider the old school, white tablecloth ambiance of The Big Four restaurant at the Scarlet Huntington. They offer both a prix fix classic Thanksgiving feast and à la carte options. And don't miss the amazing pumpkin gnocchi, available lunch and dinner through winter. Stay the night and take advantage of the Scarlet's

[SEE HOLIDAYS page 16]

◆ MORAGA from page 10

preschool, Pre-K/Dev. K programs.
office@lamorindamontessori.com
www.lamorindamontessori.com

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 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

Ages 2-5 yrs., kindergarten readiness 8 - 9 am; extended care 12 noon to 3 pm.
www.mvpcoday.org/nurtury

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children hanging out with their friends in the green bean tunnel at Lafayette's Gan Ilan Preschool.

Lamorinda Moms Preschool Fair November 12

On Thursday, November 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, Lamorinda Moms presents representatives from over 40 preschools to discuss their programs and answer questions. This child-friendly event is designed to help parents find just the right preschool for their child. Visit www.lamorindamoms.org for more information or to download their 2014 Preschool Fair Directory in PDF form.

TOPS
The Orinda Preschool
10 Irwin Way, Orinda
925.254.2551

Alumni priority deadline for Fall 2016 is January 15

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

www.topsonline.org
topsonline@sbcglobal.net

Laura Abrams
laura@lauraabrams.com
www.lauraabrams.com
510-697-3225
CALBRE#01272382

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEW'S

International Presidents Elite 2015
Top 100 Coldwell Banker Bay Area 2015
Top 100 Coldwell Banker Northern California 2015

Exquisite Presentation

Wishing all a Wonderful Holiday season with Family and Friends.

Introducing your dedicated travel consultants!

5 REASONS TO CONTACT US TODAY!

KNOWLEDGE & DESTINATION EXPERTISE
We've traveled the world. Benefit from our first-hand experience and insider connections.

EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGES
Enjoy a wide range of exclusive benefits when you reserve your cruise, hotel or resort vacation with us.

GLOBAL NETWORK
Worldwide partnerships enable us to create unique, tailor-made travel experiences that will exceed your expectations.

BEST VALUE FOR YOUR TRAVEL DOLLAR
Visit our website to easily search and compare multiple options. Plus, sign up to receive our latest offers and travel tips. Our pricing is highly competitive.

PEACE OF MIND
Leave the planning to a professional who will be there for you before, during & after your trip.

Valerie O'Connell and Colleen O'Connell

CRUISE ADVENTURES UNLIMITED
1610 Locust Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925-935-7447 • 800-788-0193
M-F 9 - 5:30, Saturday 10:00 - 2:00
www.cruiseadventuresunlimited.com

Family Owned & Operated


SOHEILA SMITH REAL ESTATE

BUYING OR SELLING?

SOHEILA SMITH, BROKER, SRES
RELOCATION SPECIALIST
CELL 925-963-1284
OFFICE 925-253-0786
SOHEILASMITH@EARTHLINK.NET
BRE#01179226


- LOCAL EXPERTISE
- PROVEN TRACK RECORD
- CLIENT RECOMMENDED

FILM / SCOUTS



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

CHECK OUT *EAST SIDE SUSHI*



Tom Westlake

In a break with tradition, I'm going to focus on a current movie that's playing around the Bay Area that I feel you should seek out. Early in October, I had the joy of seeing *East Side Sushi* at the Orinda Theatre. The event was all the more significant as many members of the cast and crew were in attendance including director Anthony Lucero, star Diana Elizabeth Torres and producer Julie Rubio and associate producer Vicki Wong.

Sushi tells of the trials, tribulations and triumphs of a single mom who has a talent for culinary slicing and dicing. After a series of setbacks, she finds herself working at a Japanese restaurant as kitchen help. It soon becomes apparent that her talents

and ambitions lie beyond that, which lays the groundwork for the rest of the film. Inspired by films such as *Maria, Full of Grace* and shot mostly in Oakland (with a cameo appearance by Lafayette), director Lucero does not sugarcoat the situation and, thanks to art director Jules Kobelin and cinematographer Martin Rosenberg, captures the city's atmosphere perfectly. Indeed, with the exception of the food, the film has a palpable grittiness well-suited to the story. Most important, though, is the film's overall theme, which emphasizes that we are all on the same planet and, though tradition is important, it is equally important not to let it hinder us from progressing as a species.



(L-R) *East Side Sushi* director Anthony Lucero, actress Diana Elizabeth Torres and Orinda producer Julie Rubio and at the Orinda premiere.

Examination of gender roles also plays a key part in the film. It would be easy to dismiss this as a typical underdog prevails film, but that would be doing *Sushi* a grave injustice. There is much to think about that goes far beyond the story told. For more information, go to www.eastsidesushifilm.com.

Of course, there are the usual special event movies still playing in the Moraga/Orinda area. The International Film Showcase will screen *Marshland*, a film about a serial killer pursued by two very different detectives. This Spanish film screens Oct. 30 - Nov. 5. The Film Classics Showcase will still be going strong with a free showing of Francis Ford Coppola's classic *The Godfather*. I have often spoken about the importance of seeing films on the big screen and this is one of those cases. Ushering in a whole genre of films - not counting the mercurial quality of the sequels to this one - *The Godfather* hits all the right notes, not only in the writing and

acting, but also in Gordon Willis' amazing (and dark) cinematography. If less is more, then the lack of light in this case provides such a high degree of "more" as to provide a filling feast for the eyes. It will show at the Orinda Theatre on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m.

On Nov. 18, the Moraga Movers will present *Camille*, starring Greta Garbo. Shakespeare is usually credited with being the master of the tragedy but that would completely discount not only this film, but also the opera and the original Dumas' source work. But it is Garbo's show all the way, and after seeing her radiance on the screen, it will be absolutely no mystery why both Robert Taylor and Lionel Barrymore fall in love with her. You will, too, at the Rheem at 2 p.m.

Don't forget to make a habit of checking out www.lamorindatheatres.com for any last-minute additions and until then, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.





Lisa Shaffer
 Realtor® BRE #00996886
 (925) 528-9278
Lisa@LisaShaffer.com
www.LisaShaffer.com



89 Davis Road, Suite 100, Orinda, CA



Orinda Shell Auto Care

- Complete Auto Care -
 Scheduled Maintenance - Smog -
 Air Conditioning - Electrical Repairs -
 Brakes and Suspension - Warranty
 Repair - Wheel Alignments -
 Free Shuttle Service
 Walking Distance from BART

Celebrating Over 15 Years in Business
 Thank You Orinda!





925 254-1486 • fax 925 254-3427
 9 Orinda Way
 e-mail orindashell@sbcglobal.net



Troop 237 Honors New Eagle Scouts



Eagle Scouts (L-R) Jack O'Melveny, Drew Barber, Callan Hoskins and Tim Tague will be honored at an Eagle Court held Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church.

Eagle Scout projects make communities stronger and that is certainly the case with Troop 237's newest Eagle Scouts. Drew Barber, along with other scouts, collected over 1,000 books, sorted and distributed them to the 26 children living at Shelter Inc. in Martinez, while Callan Hoskins built a display case for Miramonte's award-winning public speaking

program. Jack O'Melveny supervised and worked with 15 fellow scouts to resurrect the long-abandoned garden by the school's aquatic center. Tim Tague, whose younger sister Nicole has ridden at Xenophone therapeutic horseback riding center for the past five years, built a water feature for the center's sensory trail. For more information, go to www.troop237orinda.com.



Residential and Restoration Painting Services

Meticulous attention to detail
 44 years of satisfied customers
We also paint wine cellars!

David Collins, Orinda

925-254-6882
 lic. 583003

SCHOOLS / ANIMALS

NOVEMBER SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please note that schools will be closed for Veteran's Day on Nov. 11 and for Thanksgiving Nov. 23-27.

- 3 **Miramonte High School**, 750 Moraga Way, presents 8th Grade Family Night in the gym, 6:30 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte.
- 4 **Acalanes Union High School District** board meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m. Also Nov. 18. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us.
- 5 **Miramonte High School**, 750 Moraga Way, presents *The Great Gatsby* in the school theatre, 7 p.m. Also Nov. 6 and 7, 7 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte.
- 9 **Orinda Union School District** board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Visit www.orindaschools.org.
- 12 **Orinda Intermediate School Bulldog Theater**, 80 Ivy Drive, presents *Transyl-Mania* through Nov. 14. The "Totally Teen" comedy is more silly than spooky and delivers a gentle message about the importance of friendship. Target audience is second grade and older. Visit www.showtix4u.com for show times and tickets. Tickets also available at the door. Call 925-258-3090 or visit <http://ois-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 15 **Holden High School** and Orinda Community Church annual service, 10 Irwin Way, 10 a.m., followed by roundtable discussion in the Fireside Room. Call 925-254-0199 or visit www.holdenhigh.org.
- 16 **Information Session, Holden High School**, 10 Irwin Way, 6 p.m. Call 925-254-0199 or visit www.holdenhigh.org.

**Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales**
TV Show Chronicles Bizarre Behaviors



Jennifer Conroy

You may have seen or heard about the TV show called "Zoo," based on the book by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge. The show, quite different from the book, tells tales of animals, wild and domestic, displaying unusual and often frightening behaviors, such as male lions in the wild working as a pack, masses of bats swooping on an airplane in flight during daytime or a large collection of domestic cats gathered on various branches of the same tree.

The premise of the show is that a pesticide found in grain and other products accessible to animals has affected their behavior. The book offers a different premise, but I won't provide a spoiler to that. Both concepts are interesting and both raise the question of how elements in the environment may or may not affect animal life.

We all know the disastrous results of using certain pesticides. The brown pelican was nearly wiped out as a result of pesticide use that caused the shells of their eggs to thin to the point that reproduction suffered almost to the point of extinction. Look at what happened during the last century and early into this one. The western black rhinoceros, the Javan tiger, the bush wren,

the Brazilian brown mouse and the horned snail have all been lost, and I haven't even started on the list of fish, reptiles and insects that are gone forever. Hunting, destruction of habitats and pesticides have all played a role.

We see some of these factors at play in our own backyards. Increased reports of sightings of mountain lions and coyotes speak volumes about the loss of habitats where wild animals could find food and shelter and breed with no human contact. Then there are the human predators. One of them killed Cecil, and I don't have to explain who Cecil was. It is no small irony

[SEE HOWL page 16]

**Bulldog Theatre Spooks With
Transyl-Mania During November**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The cast of *Transyl-Mania* takes a break from rehearsals.

By JEANETTE LIPP
Contributing Writer

Orinda Intermediate School's (OIS) Bulldog Theater presents *Transyl-Mania*, Nov. 12-14, in the school's theatre. Far more silly than spooky, *Transyl-Mania* is a "Totally Teen" comedy that touches on the importance of friendship.

Cue the lightning! Cue the thunder! It's monster mayhem in this frightfully fun comedy! Set in Transylvania High School, this is where the kids of all the classic monster movie villains go to learn the tricks of the trade. There are vampires, mummies, werewolves, zombies, witches, Frankenstein's daughter, the Invisible Man's son, and even the Phantom of the Opera's kid, all of them struggling to live up to their parents' legendary examples. From science fair projects to cliques, these monsters struggle with the same stresses as typical teenagers. When a group of human high school students stumbles upon the monster school thanks to a broken-down bus, utter

mayhem ensues. This comedy delivers both loads of laughs and a gentle message about befriending those who are different from us.

Transyl-Mania is written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus. The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) as part of its Youth Education Program. Jacob Russell-Snyder serves as director with Sidney Spiegel as assistant director.

There are two casts, comprised of 43 OIS students along with an additional 14 OIS students serving on tech crew. The production is funded through parent contributions, the OIS Parents Club, Lamorinda Arts Council, Educational Foundation of Orinda and donor contributions. Target audience is age second grade and older. The performance lasts approximately 80 minutes, including one intermission.

For show times and tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Bulldog Theater a half-hour before the show.

Small business & home
Computer Help

Apple Mac • Windows Phones • WiFi • Printers

Setup & repair • Patient & professional
Timely appts. • Great local references

510-932-4021
May Technology • maytc.com

animal house
PET & HOME CARE

Fall travel taking you away?
Need help with your pets while you are vacationing?

Let me take the worry out of what to do with your home and pets while you are away.

- Pet Sitting
- Dog Walking
- Pet Taxi
- Home Watch/Security
- Collect Mail and Newspapers
- Water Plants
- Insured and Bonded


925-254-3677 Office
925-368-8978 Cell
animal-house@comcast.net

Theater View Veterinary Clinic

Theater View Veterinary Clinic, owned by Dr. Laurie Langford, is excited to announce a new addition. Dr. Amelia Ausman has joined our team. Come check us out.

P: (925) 317-3187
F: (925) 334-7017
E: tvvc@theaterviewvetclinic.com
W: www.theaterviewvetclinic.com

1 Bates Blvd., Suite 200
Orinda
CA 94563



Brian Clark, Psy.D.
licensed clinical psychologist
PSY 25198

ADOLESCENTS · ADULTS · FAMILIES

specializing in:
Achievement Pressure
AD/HD
Parenting Support
Anxiety
School Stress
Depression

954 Risa Road · Lafayette
(925) 385-8050
www.brianclarkpsy.com

Teachers Still Passionate About Teaching After All These Years

By TRACY FU
Contributing Writer

Miramonte High School math teacher Mike Plant and his wife and fellow Miramonte public speaking teacher Kristen Plant are still passionate about teaching after more than a dozen years.

A native of England, Mike took his undergraduate degree in mathematics at Kings College, London. While he was a student, he met Kristen when she was attending the college on her junior year abroad from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. Their friendship quickly developed, and they were married within two years.

Mike currently teaches Advanced Placement Calculus and Honors Algebra/Trigonometry as well as being Department Chair of the math department. One of his many school activities is Math

Club, a place where students can congregate and work through math problems at whatever their ability. His students regularly receive 5's, the highest score, on their AP tests.

Outside of school, Mike is an avid runner, usually running eight miles a day. On weekends, he's often found working on his house or yard, and along with Kristen taking care of their two sons, Connor and Jackson.

Kristen, a native Orindan who graduated from Miramonte in 1996, started teaching in the English department at Miramonte and went on to develop the school's public speaking program into a powerhouse in state and national competitions. Miramonte Public Speaking currently has approx. 200 students enrolled in seven periods. As head coach, Kristen travels with them to all the competitions. This often consumes over



LINDSEY MANWELL

(L-R) Kristen, 7-year-old Jackson, 5-year-old Connor and Mike Plant.

15 weekends a year. In the most recent state competition, the Mats earned sixth place out of 360 schools and claimed the Congress Champions for the third year in a row. "I love Miramonte Public Speaking because it is an inclusive community that lets students interact with a diverse group of people and learn from each other in the process," says senior Caiseen Kelley.

Kristen has received a "Diamond Award" from the National Speech and Debate As-

sociation for her work as head coach. She is also the vice president of the Golden Gate Speech Association.

"It is a privilege to teach in, and to raise our sons in, a community that puts education first," says Kristen. "We love our jobs! It is such a blessing to invest in these students with my amazing husband as my colleague. I am constantly inspired by helping these bright students find their voices."

Tutor Reflects on Changes in 15 Years of Teaching

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

"Just knowing I've made a small difference in kids' lives makes me feel like I've accomplished something in this life," said local tutor Katrina Martin. In her 15 years as a tutor, Martin has seen changes in society that affect student learning. "I can see that the amount of screen time they have is impacting them," says Martin. "Many of my students do not list spending time outside as one of their favorite activities."

Martin references Richard Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods*, which makes a connection between a lack of time spent in nature and the development of attention disorders and depression in children.

"With the number of students I've worked with who have ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) or ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), this is significant," says Martin, adding that the Centers for Disease Control reports more than five million children have been diagnosed with ADHD. Martin says the best method she's found for helping those students is "mindfulness."

"I believe that more time spent outside connecting with nature, coupled with some kind of mindfulness or meditation practice would be of great benefit to most students," she says. When appropriate, Martin includes these strategies in her tutoring work, "I don't believe that these



LAURA ENGELKEN

Katrina Martin has noticed how lack of time outdoors has affected students' learning.

methods are cure-alls, but rather are vital pieces that are sorely missing from most children's experience that can help them navigate school and life."

Martin said she incorporates mindfulness – a technique for focusing on the present moment – and guided meditation into her tutoring and academic coaching sessions as a way to help students focus and relax. Her coaching focuses on "helping students make better decisions, reduce stress, manage change, build confidence and overcome obstacles." She concentrates on tailoring her sessions to an individual student's learning style and interests. "I'm always adapting and reworking my methods based on how my students respond to what I'm bringing to the sessions."

The reports from her students and parents are glowing and the lessons Martin learns are also invaluable. "The students inspire

[SEE TUTOR page 16]



Kathleen Conroy, Agent

23 Orinda Way, Suite 304
kathleen@kathleenconroy.com
925-254-3344

Insurance Lic#: 0729571



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington IL

It's April in Lamorinda for Real Estate

Consistently representing Buyers and Sellers in Successful Transactions

- *Expert advice
- *20 years of Lamorinda knowledge
- *Personalized strategy
- *Extensive marketing
- *A thorough plan for your home preparation/staging
- *Outstanding negotiating skills



April Matthews
925.253.2147
aprilmat@comcast.net
CalBRE# 01221153
www.dreamhomelamorinda.com




Giving Dreams an Address



TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE


Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977

(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com



DR. NICOLLE IONASCU



Clinical Neuropsychologist
CA PSY 20312
925-588-3592
nicolle@drnicolleionascu.com
www.drnicolleionascu.com

Neuropsychological Testing

- Comprehensive Evaluation & Treatment
- ADHD and learning disorder evaluations
- Measurement of cognitive impairment following concussion or brain injury
- Qualified Medical Examinations

BOOKS

Between the Lines The Elephant in the Room

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



Each time we open the paper these days we see another article about ivory poaching in Africa and India. Some estimates are that each day, 100 elephants are slaughtered for their ivory. Researchers warn that by 2020 most of the large groups of African elephants may face extinction because of the huge profitability of the ivory trade and the wrenching poverty in many of the countries that are host to the remaining herds.

It is small wonder that these stories are so heart-piercing as elephants – and elephant imagery – have played such an important role in so many of our childhood stories. The wise and endearing qualities of these (mostly) gentle and very sensate giants were impressed upon us in our earliest reading adventures.

One of my earliest elephants was Rudyard Kipling's Hathi in *The Jungle Books*. His powerful presence could enforce the laws of the jungle and even, in times of drought, trumpet the *Water Truce*, when animals large and small, predator and prey, would all have equal access to the diminished water supply.

In the 1930s, Jean de Brunhoff brought us *The Story of Babar*. Babar's mother was killed by hunters but he, with the help of the Old Lady, acquires a natty green suit and returns to the jungle to become King of the Elephants. In the 1940s, Dr. Seuss introduced us to Horton (*Horton Hatches an Egg*), probably one of Seuss's most lovable creations who was, as we know, "faithful 100 percent!" Even in the Oz books, Ruth Plumly Thompson, when she took over L. Frank Baum's series, created Kabumpo, wise (and elegant) elephant companion to Prince Pumperdink (*The Purple Prince of Oz*). Kabumpo's hospitable trunk could and did accommodate any number of Oz characters.

Young readers today love and learn from Mo Willems' clever *Elephant and Piggie* who teach youngsters important lessons about sharing, patience and, above all, about making friends. Again, the wisdom of the elephant is in play! In Roland Smith's *Elephant Run*, a novel for juvenile readers, Hannibal, a captive timber elephant, plays a pivotal role. In this exciting adventure story that takes place during WWII in Burma, Hannibal facilitates the escape of

the young protagonist, Nick Freemantle, from enemy soldiers.

Elephants have starred in recent adult best-selling titles too. Vicki Croke's *Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II*, is a recent and very popular true story, also set in Burma, about the role that timber elephants played, not only as sometimes brutally-treated work animals in the logging industry, but also as heroes when working together with their supervisor "Elephant Bill" in the Allied war effort.

In recent adult fiction, such as Sara Gruen's wildly popular *Water for Elephants*, we were introduced to Rosie, a circus elephant who very satisfactorily brought a villain to justice and effected a happy marriage for the human protagonists. Just this year Tania James, in *The Tusk That Did the Damage*, created a memorable novel about the ivory trade in India, building for the reader a broader understanding of the very complicated world that makes the trade possible and profitable even in protected areas. She gives voice to the poverty-stricken villagers who turn to poaching; to the game wardens and a veterinarian trying to save elephants' lives; and most impressively, to the rogue elephant known as the Gravedigger, a mysterious gray presence in this powerful fiction.

Two nonfiction "elephant" titles have also continued to intrigue local readers. *The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild* is Anthony Lawrence's sweeping inspirational story. A supervisor of a Zululand game preserve, he reluctantly took in a "rogue" elephant herd to save them being killed and ultimately felt himself becoming part of their family. In Dame Daphne Sheldrick's *Love, Life, and Elephants: An African Love Story*, she chronicles the now world-famous conservation efforts she and her husband undertook in Kenya as well as their successes in the Orphans Project in raising young elephants and rhinos whose mothers had been slaughtered.

In his recent fascinating exploration of animal psychology, *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*, noted ecologist Carl Safina devotes a great deal of his text to remarkable elephant behavior. Importantly, Safina concludes: "African elephants are gone from 90 percent of the lands they roamed as recently as 1800, when, despite earlier losses, an estimated 26 million elephants still trod the continent. Now, they number perhaps 400,000. The planet's menagerie has become like shards of broken glass; we're grinding the shards smaller and smaller."

Focus on
Banned Books

SALLY HOGARTY

Adult and Teen Services Librarian Stephen DeFrank shows off his Banned Books display for National Banned Books Week. "It's a great way to discuss the negativity of censorship and to encourage reading," says DeFrank.

The Medicine Shoppe
100% Pure PharmacySM

Happy Thanksgiving

Alan Wong, R.Ph.
Next to Hollyhock and McCaulou's
282 Orinda Village Sq. • 254-1211
www.medicineshoppe.com

McCaulou's
and
Hollyhock
always
FREE Gift Wrap!
on items 15.00
or more.
Orinda Village Square

Serving the real estate needs of clients, friends and family in your neighborhood since 1989.

DEDICATION □ DILIGENCE □ RESULTS

DEXTER HONENS II
Real Estate Broker
Office: (925) 253-2148
Cell: (510) 918-8911
Email: honens@pacbell.net

BRE # 01029372

Love Your Local

Begin your holiday shopping here!

POLAR: A Photocular Book
DAN KAINEN & CAROL KAUFMANN
WORKMAN, \$25.95

Live motion on each page! A stunning family gift that is like having a movie in your hands.

THE WITCHES: Salem, 1692
STACY SCHIFF
LITTLE BROWN, \$32

From the author of *Cleopatra*, a fascinating account of one of the most infamous moments in American history!

OrindaBooks

276 Village Square • 925-254-7606 • orindabooks.com • Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3

CASA ORINDA
RESTAURANT

Dinner served nightly from 4 p.m.

925.254.2981 ■ 20 Bryant Way ■ Orinda, CA 94563

CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1 **Orinda Library Gallery** presents *Passion for Pastel and Philosophy Painted* through November, an exhibit with over 50 artworks. Artist reception Nov. 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. with light refreshments and two artists demonstrating egg tempera and pastel techniques. See article p. 2.
- 4 **Moraga Art Gallery** exhibits *Yellowstone: Beauty, Beasts and Boneyards*, paintings by Lisa Gunn, through Jan. 9, 510 Center St. Artist reception with light refreshments Nov. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Visit www.moragaartgallery.com.
- 5 **9th Annual Artisan Faire**, Orinda Country Club, 325 Camino Sobrante, 4 to 7:30 p.m. Artwork and crafts by local artists, wine tasting. Call Barbara Duff 925-254-6698. **Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for children aged 2 to 4, every Thursday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 925-254-7606.
- 6 **Orinda Books** hosts curator Michael Ross discussing *Novel Discoveries: Quotes from Great Works on Men, Women, Romantic Relationships, Love & Marriage*, a book of favorite literary quotes from 1,500 books, 7 p.m. info@orindabooks.com or 925-254-7606.
- 9 **Orinda Books** hosts Walter Mayes reviewing more than 50 books for young and middle school readers, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Refreshments, raffles and discounts on books. \$10 sign-up fee includes Mayes' book list. Call 925-254-7606 for details.
- 12 **Lamorinda Moms Annual Preschool Fair**, Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. featuring 40 preschools. Visit www.lamorindamoms.org. **California Independent Film Festival** presents *The Godfather*, Orinda Theater, 7 p.m. Free. Visit <http://www.caiff.org/#!events/c17as>. **Harvest Luncheon**, St. Mary's College Soda Center, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon benefiting college scholarship fund, sponsored by St. Mary's Guild, \$35. Mail checks payable to SMC Guild to 828 Crossbrook Ct., Moraga, CA 94556.
- 15 **Seniors' Trip** to Diablo Ballet's *A Swingin' Holiday*, hosted by recreation department, 12:30 to 5 p.m. \$40 (residents), \$45 (non-residents.) Visit www.cityoforinda.org or call 925-254-2445.
- 17 **World Affairs Book Group** will discuss *The Boom: How Fracking Ignited the American Energy Revolution and Changed the World* by Russell Gold, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 925-254-7606. New members welcome.
- 19 **Orinda Books** hosts Adina Sara discussing her new book, set in the Sierra Nevada foothills, *Blind Shady Bend*, 276 Village Square, 7 p.m. Call 925-254-7606.
- 20 **Orinda Woman's Club Festival of Trees**, San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, fundraiser for White Pony Express, Restorative Justice in Schools and other community projects. Call 925-451-0559 or visit www.orindawomansclub.org.
- 21 **Orinda Holiday Bazaar**, Orinda Community Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., features more than 50 exhibitors including home décor, specialty foods, holiday decorations, accessories and jewelers. Visit www.cityoforinda.org, click on "Upcoming Events."
- 25 **Random Readers**, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. The readers meet monthly and welcome new members.
- 28 **Orinda Books** celebrates Small Business Saturday with independent booksellers throughout the country to encourage people to shop locally. Features raffle, giveaways and cupcakes, 276 Village Square. Check www.orindabooks.com for special offers.

AT THE LIBRARY

- All events are free unless otherwise specified. Note that the library is closed Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day and Nov. 26 for Thanksgiving. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.
- 6 **Monthly Book Sale**. Hosted by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and sorting room, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 10 **Toddler Lapsit**. Stories and songs for children aged 1 to 3 and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required, but attendance limited to once per week. Also Nov. 17, 18, 24 and 25. **Peek-A-Boo Time**. Storytime for children ages 0 to 5, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also Nov. 17 and 24.
- 14 **Saturday Morning Live!** Story time for children aged 3 to 5, Picture Book area, 11 a.m. Also Nov. 21 and 28.
- 20 **Mystery Book Club**. Members discuss the latest mystery of the month, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 p.m. Adult program.
- 23 **Holiday Break Movie Matinee**. Enjoy a popular kids' movie, Gallery Room, 2:30 p.m.

CLUB MEETINGS

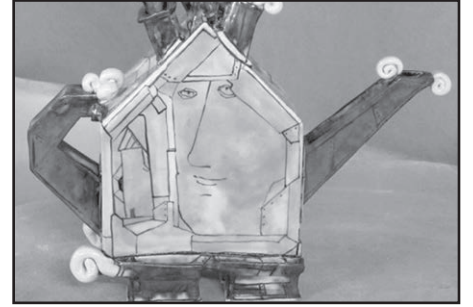
- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Gallery Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com/> or 925-283-8288.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org/>
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 a.m., September through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, www.montelindogarden.com. Beekeeper K. Ruby Blume will talk on "Bee Friendly Gardening."
- Orinda Garden Club**. Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.
- Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.

Orinda Country Club Hosts Artisan Faire Nov. 5

By BARBARA DUFF
Contributing Writer

Mark your calendar for the 9th Annual Artisan Faire at the Orinda Country Club, 325 Camino Sobrante, on Nov. 5 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Guests will enjoy artwork and crafts created by local artists, including ceramics, glass, painting, clothing, photography, jewelry, woven items, woodwork and clocks. To add to the festive atmosphere, several wineries will offer tastings.

The faire, organized by local volunteers, will feature perennial favorites as well as new participants. Gerry Wallace will display her whimsical and imaginative ceramic works, painted with colorful drawings. Gail Solt, the faire's founder, will present her latest necklace creations, designed with gemstones, pearls, crystal and beads, collected by Solt from around the world. An interior designer, Wendy Bunch creates decorative pillows and laptop covers using a combination of natural fabrics, which are painted by hand to create an elegant one-of-a-kind piece. Bunch gives a portion of her



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gerry Wallace's ceramic teapot will be one of the items for sale at the Artisan Faire.

profits to charity. She supports the Foster House Foundation, which provides services to American veterans and their families. For George Lucido, working with wood is second nature, as his father and grandfather were boat and house builders. His love of wood is expressed in the decorative bowls he creates through an intricate process that involves selecting different woods and then gluing them together to create a unique design, highlighting the natural beauty of the wood.

For more information, call Barbara Duff 925-254-6698.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Walnut Creek Garden Club. Second Monday, 9:30 a.m., Camellia Room, Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek, <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/walnut-creek-garden-club> or mslittle44@gmail.com. Anna Campbell will demonstrate "Special Flowers and Arrangements for the Holiday Season."

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. Second Monday, 6 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda, CA 94563. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.

Planning Commission. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. See www.cityoforinda.org for more information.

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



Y O G A

IYENGAR METHOD

• Strength • Stamina • Stress Reduction

JEANNE DOWELL

Former instructor under U.S. Olympic Committee Orinda, and Moraga private instruction available. Classes for all levels.

Take home instructions available.

Ask about unique SPA DAYS!

925.254.0193

www.yogawithjeanne.com**FIRST CLASS FREE**home/made kitchen
café & bakeryCatering
Friday Night Dinner
Four Barrel Coffee337 Rheem Blvd.
Moraga 925-388-0841
www.homemadekitchen.com

Move of the Month

Stability Ball Plank with Mountain Climber

Start with your arms on top of a Swiss ball, keeping your shoulders lined up with your elbows. Your body should form a straight line from your shoulders to your ankles.



Squeeze your abs and lift one foot off the floor, raising your knee up towards your chest while keeping your body in as straight of a line as possible. Return to the starting position and repeat the movement with your opposite leg. This represents 1 rep.



Try to do 12 reps.

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

Everyday Changes Hard to Believe But IT'S FALL Y'ALL

Bonnie Waters



Autumn marks the transition from summer into winter, when the arrival of night comes noticeably earlier and the temperature cools considerably. Although seasonal changes in the Golden State are far less dramatic than in other parts of the country, Californians still look forward to a fall wardrobe of boots, chunky knits and cozy socks.

When it comes to fashion, many of this season's trends give a nod to the '90's. Not that the return of '90's fashion is anything new – the decade's most defining trends have been infiltrating designer collections for seasons. What is new is how "Retro meets Innovation" to make a unique statement. Just in time for fall, fashion trends have taken a cue from Seattle – circa 1992.

For hair, beachy waves and accent braids transition from summer into fall. Braided accents are an easy way to add interest to any look – and the best part is they never go out of style. Pair overalls with a heavy boot (think Doc Martens) and you are on trend. A season must-have – high-waisted jeans and a knotted shirt around the waist.

When it comes to color for fashion and beauty, we take our cue for fall 2015 from the Pantone Color Institute. Color trends definitely influence makeup this year for both classic and edgy trends. Below we give the hues highlighted this fall by Pantone and a few of our Smashbox cosmetics recommendations:

The Neutrals – You must have some neutrals in any season to create the contrast to distinguish bold colors. These neutrals are more earthy tones such as greens, nudes and grays to reflect the calm of fall.

Desert Sage (greenish-gray) Smashbox 3D Billionaire Liner

Oak Buff (golden-yellow, camel) Smashbox Ambient Shadow

The Blues – The blues are all about tranquility and peace including the teals, blue grays and deep navy blues.

Stormy Weather (medium blue) Smash-

◆ ROVING from page 8

the porch light several times. She probably became angry when I did not come right in, so she came out with a newspaper rolled up in her hand and gave me what for! I will never forget that incident. I depended on her so much after I got married and had my three children. She was there for me and my husband every step of the way. Unfortunately, I don't think it was until after she died that I fully realized just how important she was and today I am sorry that I didn't thank her more while she was still alive!"

box French Navy Liner

Biscay Bay (green blue) Smashbox Cabana Liner

Reflecting Pond (deep blue/purple) Smashbox Aubergine Shadow

The Bolds – "If neutral colors were a birthday cake, bold colors would be the icing."

Deep wine tones are here to stay and Marsala has been named the color of the year! Pink, purple and orange tones are great to give the pop of color.

Marsala (red-brown wine) Smashbox Mulberry Lip Liner

Cadmium Orange (peachy orange) Melodrama Lipstick

Cashmere Rose (soft pink) Flush Blush

Amethyst Orchid (pink-violet) Smashbox Lilac Gel Liner

Makeup trends this fall include bold, groomed brows, blushed cheeks, eyeliner, intense, red-hot lips and volume lashes. You may be thinking that these trends are nothing new and you would be correct. What is new is the updated techniques to take classic trends to the next level. When it comes to lips, variegating the lip color for an ombre effect adds new interest for fall. In a fashion season full of '90's references, it only makes sense that Goth lips would emerge as a trend. Pair a deep lipstick with soft, beachy waves à la Bumble Surf Line or a casual bun for a less intense overall look.

When it comes to eyeliner, let your creative side show. Double cat eye, bright colors or a classic kohl liner, choose your favorite way to rim your eyes. Shimmer and sparkles are used in fresh ways this season, including gold, bronze or silver line across the lower lids or luxe-looking gold shadow mixed with smoky black or deep dusty brown for an updated smoky eye. Speaking of the smoky eye – the best tip for getting perfect smoky eyes is to blend until you think you can't blend any more and then blend again. The resulting look, while intense, still feels soft. When it comes to lashes, falsies and individual lash add-ons are perfect for lengthening, and mascara on the top and bottom creates voluminous peepers. Put aside your taupe sculpting powders and stock up on warm peach and rosy blushes that make you look like you just went on a brisk, fall walk.

The goal of any fashion or trend recommendation we make is to inspire you to customize them for yourself. Come visit Changes for makeup tips and techniques and see how our team rocks this season's fashion trends – and remember to sip a pumpkin spice latte and savor the season!

Coldwell Banker San Francisco Bay Area 2015 Top One Hundred Sales Associates

*Clients Are
Always First*

Suzanne Toner Geoffrion
suzanne.geoffrion@camoves.com
925-699-4832
myagentsuzanne.net
CalBRE# 01878803



©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

live better
live lean

living lean.
by Sheena

In 11 weeks I went from over 30% body fat to 16% body fat!

I knew I'd reached a critical point when my scale registered a weight I hadn't seen since I was pregnant. Living Lean helped me take control, and get back on-track fast. I started seeing results after one week. The personal attention and accountability made the difference for me in sticking with the program. I felt so supported and encouraged by my trainers and Sheena. The measurable results motivated me to work hard and actually look forward to being weighed and measured each week.

I feel healthier, stronger and happier. Other benefits I experience include better posture, better sleep, and more energy. I can sincerely recommend Living Lean to anyone ready to take charge of their body.

– Emily Gorin, Oakland

Contact us for more information:
(925) 360-7051

Personal Training, Nutrition and Group Classes
Locations: Orinda and Lafayette

Read Client Testimonials at
www.livingleanprogram.com





Baan Thai RESTAURANT

Eat Healthy, Live Healthy

ORGANIC SALADS MADE FRESH DAILY.

MANY VEGETARIAN OPTIONS.

WE COOK FROM FAMILY RECIPES.

FOOD TO GO, CATERING & GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE

Open for Lunch:
Mon. - Sun. 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Dinner: Sun. - Thurs. 4:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Fri.-Sat.: 4:30 - 10:00 p.m.

99 Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-0989



BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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

Sanvitalia Home and Garden Opens at the Crossroads

An exciting and innovative home décor boutique opens its doors this month in Theatre Square, across the way from Sweet Dreams. Step inside Sanvitalia (which translates to “creeping zinnia, a plant that belongs to the sunflower family), and you will be treated to an impressive array of gifts and abundant creative displays integrating living succulents and orchids.



SALLY HOGARTY

Helen Bentkowski of Sanvitalia Home and Garden, a recent addition to Theatre Square.

Owner Helen Bentkowski is passionate about decorating in new and unusual ways. “We carry centerpieces for the holidays, including table and mantle displays that are original. For example, instead of candles in candleholders, we place live orchids in candleholders, giving a fresh spin to nature and home décor,” said Bentkowski.

In addition to the myriad of holiday decorations such as old-fashioned tin balance toys and glass globes with battery-operated lights, you will find linens, dishes, candles, jewelry, scarves, lots of books, Papyrus greeting cards, Caspari paper goods, wreaths, candles, lotions, soaps, Christmas stockings and much more. “We specialize in hostess gifts for the holidays and throughout the year that are very well priced,” said Bentkowski. The all-time favorite and the #1 holiday candle in the country, Frasier Fir, is to be had here, including other selections such as French soaps and skin lotions.

With convenient parking at Theatre Square, this is the place to stop in for that special hostess gift or treat yourself to some delightful decorations for your Orinda home or Tahoe retreat. The icing on the

cake at Sanvitalia Home and Garden is the amazing gift wrap. “We use as much recyclable material as we can with our gift wrap, adding a tulle bow and large butterfly on top, making it extremely festive. Customers come just for the gift box and wrapping,” said Bentkowski.

This family-owned business is managed by husband-and-wife team Helen and James Bentkowski. Helen’s creativity and artistic eye is a driving force complemented by James’ 40 years of experience in the nursery business. “I enjoy shopping and gardening, and we put both together to create Sanvitalia Home and Garden.” The couple established Terrace Gifts and Coffee on Broadway Terrace in Oakland 16 years ago and were ready to expand their vision. “We feel Orinda is ready for what we have to offer and are excited to be here.” During the holiday season, Helen is assisted by her friend Kathy Seymour, with whom she shares a passion for shopping.

A native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, of Italian descent, Helen Bentkowski grew up on a farm in Sao Paulo, heavily influenced by her farmer father and the creativity of her mother. “I love to cook. I rise at 5 a.m. every day and go to the produce market in downtown Oakland and cook before I do anything else,” said Bentkowski.

For more information, visit www.Facebook.com/sanvitaliahomeandgarden.



VALERIE HOTZ

Dario Hadjian of newly opened Taverna Pellegrini.

Authentic Italian at Taverna Pellegrini

Last month, seasoned restaurateur Dario Hadjian unveiled his artisan Italian restaurant at the Crossroads, adjacent to Peet’s Coffee and Tea. Emphasizing fresh ingredients and homemade pasta made on site, Hadjian’s goal is delivering Italian food the way it is meant to be – rustic, homemade dishes featuring the freshest ingredients.

“I grew up in a town in northern Italy, Verbania Pallanza, which is located on the border with Switzerland and then spent my later teen years and college years in Rome,”

Chevron Partners with Cal Shakes



JAY YAMADA

(L-R) Marian Catedral-King, Malina Shamsudin and Mark Traylor of Chevron at a performance of Cal Shakes’ *The Mystery of Irma Vep*. Traylor serves as a Cal Shakes’ board member.

Lending a helping hand, Chevron became a production partner for Cal Shakes’ production of *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, Charles Ludlam’s hilarious story featuring two actors playing eight different roles. At the Sept. 2 performance, Chevron also matched audience donations for the evening’s Bucket Brigade.

Proceeds benefit Cal Shakes’ educational program, which funds in-school learning programs, summer Shakespeare conservatories, student discovery matinees, teacher programs and internships for students and teachers in lower income areas.

– Elana O’Loskey, Staff Writer

said Hadjian, who designs the menu selection at both of his restaurants, Piazza Pellegrini in San Francisco and Taverna Pellegrini. “My mother was a great cook and I inherited her talent. You know, a passion for cooking just comes in some people’s blood and that is the way it is with me.

“Italian food is not very complicated, but it always brings freshness to everything. That is the key. My menu is the best of all Italy, all corners of Italy, because each region has its own specialty. We are concentrating on the core of our menu with an emphasis on organic and grass fed.”

The signature dish at Taverna Pellegrini is Lamb Ossobuco from Southern Italy. The homemade crab and lobster ravioli is delectable. No less than 10 different thin crust pizza selections are offered here, along with fresh fish, poultry, eggplant Parmesan, grilled spicy Italian sausage served over polenta and other mouthwatering dishes.

“We are concentrating on the core of our menu and as we move forward we will add daily specials. By December, we will be offering lunch and weekend brunch menus for our customers,” said Hadjian.

The restaurant features a full bar with many great wines and a friendly staff of 20 caters to diners. This is a great place to pop in for a drink and visit with the locals. Sports lovers can watch their favorite sporting event on large screens in the bar area. Painted mosaic tiles depicting scenes of Italy adorn the warm earth-tone walls and soft jazz music plays in the background.

“I grew up cooking, and it is my favorite hobby, that is how passionate I am about food. My fun time involves taking my dog, Simba – a boxer-Labrador mix – to the beach for a run,” said Hadjian.

Taverna Pellegrini is open Monday through Sunday, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, call 925-258-4200.



LANDSCAPE CO. INC.
LICENSE# 818633

Phone 925 258 9233 Cell 510 847 6160

BLUERIDGELC.COM

DESIGN
INSTALLATION
IRRIGATION
DRAINAGE
STONE WORK
CONCRETE WORK
DECKS
FENCES
PATIOS
LAWNS
PONDS
CLEAN UP & HAULING

CLCA
LICENSED INSURED.





VILLAGE PIZZA

PIZZA • BURGERS • STEAKS • PASTA

19 ORINDA WAY • ORINDA • CA
925 • 254 • 1200

DELIVERY • PICK UP • DINE IN

P
I
L
A
T
E
S



*Nationally Certified, experienced teachers.
*Innovative Classes and Private sessions
*We work with every **BODY** and **All** ages

Visit our website for great offers.

CoreKinetics Take control of your health.
www.CoreKinetics.com



The Well Balanced Workout

925-708-3279
Please call for an appointment
50 Vashell Way, #120, Orinda, CA 94563



Pacific Fly Over by Sandy Ostrau

“Textured” by Sandy Ostrau
Opening Reception November 7th from 4:30-6pm



Fine Art Gallery
Orinda Theatre Square

Award Winning Artists represented in San Francisco, NYC, and LA

www.amfagallery.com or call 925 788-5866