

THE ORINDA NEWS

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Local Home Front Soldier Joins Thousands in Rosie the Riveter Reunion

Editor's Note: This Veteran's Day we honor all the men and women who have served our country whether overseas, on a military base stateside, or as a home front soldier building the ships and other items necessary to support those in harm's way. The following is a story of one such veteran who served his country at shipyards in Oakland and Richmond.

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Orinda resident Robert Hinds donned the hard hat he wore as a Home Front Soldier during WWII and joined 2,229 men and women of all ages at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond in August. The goal was to break the Guinness World Record for the most people dressed as Rosie the Riveter.



Robert Hinds (far right) donned his hard hat to pose with other homefront soldiers for the Guinness Book of World Records for the most Rosies in one place on Aug. 13, 2016.

The event, held at Craneway Pavilion, was sponsored by the National Park Service, Rosie the Riveter Trust, the City

of Richmond and the Richmond Museum Association. Rosie the Riveter is an iconic figure that represents American women who

worked in the shipyards and factories in WWII.

Hinds, 94, volunteers at Rosie the Riveter National Park, where he has spent most Friday afternoons for the past three-and-a-half years. Hinds shares his story of working as a shipwright, boat builder, tugboat operator and fireboat captain from 1941 to 1945 as well as his experiences during the war years.

Born in Berkeley, Hinds built his first boat when he was 14. He later built a cabin cruiser and sailed to the 1939 Treasure Island World's Fair. That same year he worked as an apprentice for Hunt Marine Service where he eventually became supervisor. With his carpentry skills, Hinds was hired to build launching ways for Navy ships at Moore's Shipyard in Oakland in 1941.

After WWII began, Hinds worked at shipyards in Richmond, building ships for the war effort. During the war, Kaiser Shipyards produced 747 ships - more than any other shipyard in the country. Hinds was one of millions of Americans who provided essential work to help win WWII. He said his work included protecting and transport-

[SEE ROSIE page 26]

OUSD Trustee Carol Brown Recovering from Wounds

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer



Tom Spalding (L), Carol Brown, shown here with their son Micah, were victims of a robbery at their home.

Residents Invited to Safety Forum on Nov. 9 at Library Auditorium

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The recent follow-home robbery during which Orinda resident Carol Brown was shot and her husband Tom Spalding pistol-whipped shocked and outraged many local residents. Given the anxiety that resulted from the attack. The Orinda Association, in conjunction with the City of Orinda, will offer a Safety Forum on Nov. 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Orinda Library Auditorium.

Information from the Orinda Police Department, Ring (video doorbell), local security companies, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and others

will be available at tables in the Library Gallery beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Safety Forum will involve a panel discussion by Police Chief Mark Nagel, who will show an informative PowerPoint presentation, Fire Chief Stephen Healy or his representative from the Moraga Orinda Fire Department, and a CERT representative.

Those attending are encouraged to submit questions for the panel in writing. Questions can be submitted in advance by emailing oa@orindaassociation.org (put Safety Forum in the subject line) or on the evening of the event.

For more information, contact the OA at 925-254-0800 or go to the website at www.orindaassociation.org.

Carol Brown, who was shot twice in a robbery in her driveway on Sept. 26 around 9 p.m., is now back at her home in Orinda and recuperating. Brown, who is vice president of the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Board of Directors, was released from the hospital on Oct. 6, after spending 10 days being treated for her wounds.

"It's going to be a long recovery, but I'm getting stronger every day," said Brown on Oct. 7. "I'm out of bed most of the day, and I have people staying with me all the time to help while my husband and son are at work."

Brown's husband, Tom Spalding, who was pistol whipped on the forehead by the assailants during the robbery, was also hospitalized but has since recovered.

The assault happened after Brown, 70, picked up her husband from BART. The couple went grocery shopping at Safeway, then headed home.

[SEE ROBBERY page 8]

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ORINDA VISION

Monica Fitzsimmons
Author of the "Keep Orinda Moving" petition on Change.org

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Orinda Native Returned to Raise Her Family in Her Hometown

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Each month, a family or individual member of the Orinda Association (OA) is profiled. We hope you enjoy getting to know your fellow Orindans, who are actively improving the quality of life in our community by their membership. This month, meet the Simmonds family: Shauna, who grew up in Orinda, her husband Mark and their two daughters, Hannah, 14, and Caroline, 12.

1. How long have you lived in Orinda?

I grew up here and attended the first class of St. Stephen's Preschool followed by Sleepy Hollow Elementary and Miramonte High School. After 20 years away from Orinda, I moved back in 2005.

2. Why did you decide to return to Orinda to raise your family?

We returned to Orinda when our girls were one and three years old. At the time, we were living in Boston and realized this was a time in our lives when we wanted to be closer to family, for our girls to grow up being close to their grandparents. It

was also an opportunity for my parents to be there when their granddaughters had their first day of school or to come watch their lacrosse games and to enjoy their performances in school musicals.

3. As a recent member of the OA, what made you decide to join?

I have been inspired by the generosity of countless members of our community, especially my parents, Rich and Casey Thompson, as well as Steve and Tish Harwood and Norm and Janet Pease. They are not only generous financially but also with their time and talent.

Belonging to the Orinda Association gives back to the community I love, sets a good example for my daughters, and helps ensure programs like the Orinda Fourth of July Parade and Seniors Around Town continue to thrive. Participating in programs such as these helps connect people in our community and gives us a sense of pride in our hometown.

4. Are there certain OA programs you'd like to volunteer to help?

I volunteered with the Fourth of July celebration this year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Simmonds family: Mark, Caroline, Shauna and Hannah.

5. What other organizations and/or volunteer efforts keep you busy?

My volunteer career in Orinda started when my girls were in preschool at St. Mark's Nursery School where I was involved for 10 years. I have also spent five years on the Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club

Executive Board as treasurer and then as co-president. And, most recently, spent the past four years on the Executive Board of the Educational Foundation of Orinda. Currently, I am Co-President of EFO.

This past year my younger daughter, [SEE OA page 4]

Nominations for Volunteer of the Year and Environmental Award Due Dec. 5

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Orinda is full of wonderful individuals and groups that give generously of their time and expertise to make Orinda a great place to live. If you know an individual or nonprofit group that deserves the Orinda Association's (OA) Volunteer of the Year or Environmental Award, OA would like to hear from you.

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 Monday, Dec. 5.

Winners of the Volunteer of the Year and the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Awards will be honored at a festive dinner at the Orinda Country Club on February 12, 2017. Recent recipients include: Dick Burkhalter, Orinda Intermediate School's Others First; Orinda Junior Women's Club; Kay Aker, Elizabeth O'Shea and, last year's winners, Anna Tague and the Orinda Community Foundation.

For further information, call the OA at 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.

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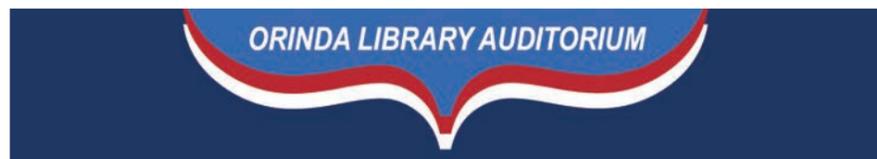
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PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Doors open 6:30 pm
Safety and Emergency Preparedness Information Available in the Lobby

7-9 PM

Speakers will be
Mark Nagel, Orinda Police Chief
Representatives from MOFD and
Community Emergency Response Team

Presented by



Fitness Tip of the Month

Channel Some Focus Towards Fitness

You Have Done It Before... You Can Do It Again

We know we can be successful, because we have already been successful in some aspect of our lives whether it be career or raising kids or what have you.

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
November Holidays and More!



Cindy Powell

As we finish off the Halloween candy, we prepare our homes for the upcoming months with an eye on safety and local holiday events.

Drop by the **Artisan Faire** at Orinda Country Club on Nov. 3 and check out local artists, enjoy tequila or wine tastings and buy a few holiday gifts made locally. They also have free childcare available.

“**Spring Forward, Fall Back**” and on Nov. 6 move your clocks back one hour. Use this reminder to replace your smoke detector batteries, update your first aid supplies and replace the emergency food and water you have been snacking on in your car.

Nov. 8 is **Election Day**. We only get to vote for a U.S. President once every four years! If you did not mail in your ballot, get down to the poll and put it in the red box. Get a cool I VOTED sticker. To find your voting precinct or ballot box, check out www.cocovote.us. If you are a registered rider with Seniors Around Town and need a ride, please call our office by Nov. 1.

Nov. 9 is **The Orinda Association’s Safety Forum** in the Library Auditorium. Please attend and ask questions. We will have police, fire and safety officers to update you on new residential and business safety ideas. Thank you to OA members and residents that asked for this safety forum. This is what the Orinda Association likes to provide for you.

On Nov. 10, see the film *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* for free at the Orinda Theatre. A great movie selection for election week.

Nov. 11 is **Veterans Day**. We honor and give thanks to all the men and women who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces. On 11/11 at 11:11 a.m., 1921 the U.S., France and England each buried an unknown soldier in honor of those who died in World War I. They called this date Armistice Day. This time and date were picked because WWI fighting ceased on Nov. 11, 1918 at 11:11 a.m. President Eisenhower changed it to Veterans Day in 1954, in honor of those who served and died in all wars. Parades and ceremonies will be held across the country. Remember to say “thank you” to your local veterans. Buy a Buddy Poppy at the OA office this month to support our local vets.

On Nov. 17, the Orinda Woman’s Club will again hold its **Festival of Trees Fashion Show** and luncheon. What’s different this year? A new model ... me! Come and encourage me on the catwalk, bid on a cute miniature tree and say hello to Santa.

Also on the 17th is the **Great American Smokeout**. The American Cancer Society has encouraged smokers to give up the “butt” since 1977.

Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 24 is our celebration to give thanks for the harvest of the past year. Many families start the day with a parade and end with a pledge to not eat so much next year! Remember you can put fruits and vegetables in your green Organics bin, but did you know you can also put in dairy products, breads, meat and fish (including bones and shells)? Organics is the largest portion of landfill materials and RecycleSmart is really pushing our town’s

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		BOARD MEMBERS
President	Cindy Powell	Joe Haughin
Vice President	Joe Garvey	Chris Laszcz-Davis
Secretary	Alison Dew	Tom Romaneck
Treasurer	Bill Waterman	
Membership	Kate Wiley	

residential food scraps program. So when you are clearing the table on Thanksgiving, use your food scraps container.

Nov. 25 **Black Friday** is one of the

busiest shopping days in the United States. It is marked by massive crowds that mean the beginning of the Christmas shopping

[SEE PRESIDENT page 26]

Donate to One Warm Coat at OA Office

Winter will soon be here and many in the Bay Area will face it without a nice sturdy coat to keep them warm. The One Warm Coat Project has been filling this need since 1992 when it began its first coat drive on a Thanksgiving weekend in San Francisco. Since then, it has grown to a national organization supporting over 3,000 coat drives each year. In its 22-year history, One Warm Coat has collected over four million coats, 300,000 of which went to children.

Now Orinda residents can help this worthwhile cause by bringing a gently worn or new coat/jacket in all sizes for men, women and children to the Orinda Association Office, 26 Orinda Way, lower level of the Library Plaza across from the elevator.

A bin will be set up outside of the office starting Nov. 1 and continuing through Dec. 21. All coats will be delivered to Alameda County Social Services North County on Dec. 21.

The social services agency promotes self-sufficiency and provides continuing economic assistance through public and private sector partnerships while fostering a workforce development system that supports individuals and families.

For more information on the OA’s drop-off center, call 925-254-0800 or go to www.orindaassociation.org.

Darlene K. Gee
Orinda City Council



- ✓ ENGAGED
- ✓ EXPERIENCED
- ✓ EFFECTIVE

Partial List of Endorsements

- ✓ Steve Glazer, California State Senator, District 7
- ✓ Victoria Smith, Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Amy Worth, Orinda Councilmember
- ✓ Dean Orr, Orinda Councilmember
- ✓ Bobbie Landers, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Sue Severson, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Tom McCormick, Former Mayor of Orinda
- ✓ Terry Murphy, Chair, Citizens’ Infrastructure Oversight Commission
- ✓ Richard Nelson, Vice-Chair, Citizens’ Infrastructure Oversight Commission
- ✓ Linda Landau, Former President, OUSD Board and Orinda Association
- ✓ Pat Rudebusch, Former President, OUSD Board
- ✓ Inga Miller, Candidate, Orinda Council
- ✓ Cara Hoxie, Candidate, OUSD Board
- ✓ Hillary Weiner, Candidate, OUSD Board
- ✓ Susie Epstein, Board Member, Acalanes Union High School District
- ✓ Steve Harwood, Lamorinda Arts Council | Former President, Educational Foundation of Orinda
- ✓ Joan Kiekhaefer, Former President, Educational Foundation of Orinda
- ✓ Cindy Powell, President, Orinda Association
- ✓ Kate Wiley, Former President, Orinda Association
- ✓ Mark Roberts, Former President, Orinda Association
- ✓ Richard Westin, Co-Founder, Orinda Community Foundation
- ✓ Brad Barber, Director, MOFD
- ✓ Alex Evans, Director, MOFD
- ✓ Robert Burt, Member, Orinda Finance Advisory Committee
- ✓ Carol Penskar, Member/Formal Chair, Orinda Finance Advisory Committee
- ✓ Julie Whitsitt, Former Commissioner, Orinda Parks and Recreation
- ✓ Cassandra Forth, Campaign Co-chair, Orinda Measure L
- ✓ Stephanie Davis, Former President, Orinda Junior Women’s Club
- ✓ Tom Trowbridge, *OrindaVision*
- ✓ *What’s Up Downtown Orinda?*

“With the prospect of some important decisions to make on the future of our downtown, Orindans are very fortunate to have Darlene Gee seeking re-election to the City Council. She has already demonstrated the ability to combine her engineering and business background with thoughtful contributions to Council decision-making.”

— Tom Trowbridge, Chairman, Orinda Vision

“Darlene’s professional engineering background and financial management experience are essential assets in the ongoing effort to help Orinda successfully complete our roads program and maintain our strong fiscal standing.”

— Amy Worth, Orinda City Councilmember

Darlene’s Top Priorities

1. Complete Orinda’s roads and drainage rehabilitation
2. Define a funding plan for ongoing road maintenance
3. Continue Orinda’s excellent fiscal management
4. Plan a vibrant downtown while still preserving our small town feel and beautiful natural environment

VOTED
DARLENE

Paid for by Committee to Elect Darlene Gee for City Council 2016, FPCC 1387114

Visit www.darlenegeeforcouncil.com for more information or to donate, endorse, or volunteer your support.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

OA Hosts Candidate Forums

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

On Oct. 6, the Orinda Association held the first of three forums. The initial forum featured candidates for Orinda City Council, followed by a forum for the Moraga Orinda Fire District and the Orinda Union School District (at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. respectively) on Oct. 17. Approximately 75 people attended the City Council Forum with approximately 50 attending the Oct. 17 forums.

Moderated by the League of Women Voters, the forums gave local residents an opportunity to hear candidates' positions

and ask questions.

Comcast Community Access Television recorded each forum and is broadcasting them through Nov. 8 on Comcast Channel 26 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. The schedule is as follows: Moraga Orinda Fire District – Thursdays at 11 a.m., Sundays at 8 p.m., Mondays at 2 p.m.; Orinda City Council Forum – Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Thursdays at 6 p.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m.; and Orinda Union School District – Thursdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 4 p.m., Mondays at 11 a.m.

For more information on the forum broadcasts, go to www.contracostatv.org.



Candidates for Orinda City Council: (L-R) **Darlene Gee, Linda Delehunt, Bruce London** and **Inga Miller**.



Candidates for Orinda Union School District: (L-R) **Hilary Weiner, Sarah Butler,** and **Cara Hoxie**.



Candidates for Moraga-Orinda Fire District: (L-R) **Victoria Smith** and **Craig Jorgens**.

◆ OA from page 2

Caroline, and I joined National Charity League where we volunteer our time serving local charities, often as a mother/daughter team. I am also a member of the Junior Garden Club of Orinda. We maintain the beautiful plantings in the circle area in front of Theatre Square Starbucks as well as the hanging baskets along Orinda Way (although the water for this project has been cut for the past two years due to the drought).

When you volunteer in your hometown, you not only give back to your community, but you also meet some of the most remarkable, generous people along the

way. I am constantly amazed at the depth of talent and passion for the community the volunteers bring to these organizations. Working together, it all makes a tremendous difference for our special community.

6. What is a favorite pastime for you and your family?

We enjoy family bike rides and hikes around the Bay Area.

7. Is there anything the OA can do to make it more relevant to your family?

Keep doing all your good work! It is an invaluable part of what makes Orinda a wonderful place to live and raise a family!



Inga Miller
for Orinda City Council

Orinda is the best community in the Bay Area. I am running to preserve its charm and move us into the future.

Over 200 people have endorsed Inga for Orinda



"As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, and a Native Orindan, Inga loves Orinda and understands the need to preserve our community feeling while

increasing amenities and services for our residents. With her volunteer and Board experience, Inga will work together with the Council to move Orinda forward!"

– **Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith**



"Inga Miller is a thoughtful, forward looking leader who knows how to listen to opposing views and find common ground. We know she will focus on our schools and the well being of our children. We trust her to help develop our local amenities while keeping the vibrant, small town charm we all love about Orinda."

– **Julie Athayde and Bob Athayde, Director of Music, Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Summer Music Workshop**



"In the increasingly politically chaotic world in which we find ourselves, Inga is a beacon of civility, centism and

thoughtfulness. I have lived in Orinda for forty-four years and known Inga for a good portion of that time...I am convinced that Inga's youthfulness and sensitivity to doing what is best for Orinda will make us all better."

– **Richard Westin, Co-founder and Current Board Member of the Orinda Community Foundation and 2012 Citizen of The Year**

"Inga Miller is my choice for Orinda City Council. As someone who has lived her whole life in Orinda, she understands our town, and will make a very positive difference in its future."

– **John Goyak, owner of Casa Orinda**

Elected Offices:

- Victoria Smith**
Mayor
- Amy Worth**
Orinda City Councilwoman
- Dean Orr**
Orinda City Councilman
- Darlene Gee**
Orinda City Councilwoman
- Carol Brown**
Orinda School Board Member
- Susie Epstein**
Acalanes Union Board Member
- Sarah Butler**
Orinda School Board Member
- Rebecca Saltzman**
Bart Director Dist. 3
- Sue Severson**
Former Mayor
- Bobbie Landers**
Former Mayor
- Bill Judge**
Former Mayor
- Tom McCormick**
Former Mayor
- Pat Rudebusch**
Former Orinda School Board Pres.
- Linda Landau**
Former Orinda School Board Member

Prominent Orindans:

- Sandy and Dave Anderson
- Julie and Bob Athayde
- Ian Baird
- Sandy Barnett
- Jordan and Lindsay Beck
- Doris and Bob Bergman
- John Bower
- James Brovelli
- Bruce Burrows
- Karen and Robert Burt
- Sylvia and Tim Carter
- Shoshana Chazan
- Susan and Richard Curry
- Darien and Don Destino
- Nancy Dickmeyer
- Linda Doran
- Alison and Eric Drasan
- Hap and Diane Eames
- George Eckard
- Jessica and Ethan Elkind
- Jill Fernald
- Graeme Fitzsimmons
- Monica Fitzsimmons
- Cassandra Forth
- Kevin Friedman
- Kellyn and Glen Gagon
- Dennis Gee
- Paul Gilbert
- Brent and Laurie Goetzel
- John Goyak
- Haydee Gustetick
- Judy and Jud Hammon
- Tish and Steve Harwood
- Helen & Peter Hasselman
- Darlene Hattersley
- Peter Hattersly
- John Henstrand
- Elle Hoffnagel
- Ben and Sarah Holzemev
- Jackie and Bruce Horowitz
- Cara Hoxie
- Phyllis and Gilbert Jay
- Leslie Johnson
- Kathleen Kolman
- Larissa and Nick Kosla
- Jim Landau
- Kirsten and Craig Larsen
- Dana Leahy
- Charles Levine
- Peter Locke
- Jennifer and Jason Lurie
- Anthony Malutta
- Audrey Mao
- John Markley
- Lindsay Mauceli
- David and Pam McDowell
- Laura and Josh McDowell
- Gengxin Miao
- Justin Michaels
- Drew and Hadley Mickel
- Liv and Bruce Milan
- Larry Mishkin
- Marilyn and Mark Morris
- Stefanie and Steve Murphy
- Terry Murphy
- Michael Nevitt
- Eileen Nevitt
- Eartha Newsong
- Julie Oliver
- Daniel Palmerlee
- Laura and Nick Pavlovich
- Norman and Janet Pease
- Ryan Pedroni
- Carol and Mark Penskar
- David Penskar
- Kersti and Bill Peter
- Carolyn Phinney
- Kit and Allan Prager
- Peggy and Jim Quirk
- Manoochehr Rahmanian
- Mark Roberts
- Pat and John Robertson
- Kathie Rupert
- Steve and Gena Schwartz
- Ralph Severson
- Pam and Chris Severson
- Kenneth Silbert
- Shauna Simmonds
- Jackie and Gordon Smith
- Wick Smith
- Jay Solmonson
- Martin and Noelle Spittler
- Roger Squier
- Andrew and Emily Stoddard
- Carol and Tom Sueoka
- Le Tran Thi
- Bob and Maryett Thompson
- Rich Thompson
- Jeremy and Laura Tieman
- Lynn and Tom Trowbridge
- Joanna Truelson
- Rebecca Verity
- Charles Vollmar
- Alex and Emily Waterbury
- Bill Wadsworth
- Hollie Webster
- Wilson Wendt
- Richard Westin
- John and Bobbie Wilson
- James Phillip Wright
- Scott Yancey
- Molly and Ben Young
- Mani Jeh Zarif Zadeh
- George and Marie Zizer

~Partial List

Find Out More at www.IngaForOrinda.com

Paid for by Inga Miller for Orinda City Council 2016, 61 Avenida de Orinda, Suite E, Orinda, CA 94563 Campaign ID # 1388379

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VOTE FOR BRUCE LONDON FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL



My wife and I have been Orinda homeowners for 32 years. Our daughter attended Glorietta, Orinda Intermediate School, and Miramonte. I am a retired medical doctor. I've attended every Orinda City Council meeting over the past three years and regularly attend committee and commission meetings.

My priorities for the Orinda City Council are:

- Orinda residents need to be assured that our Public Safety is unsurpassed.
- I will listen to and respect all Orinda residents.
- I will protect our schools from overcrowding.
- I will work to bring new restaurants and retail to a refreshed downtown while fighting to protect Orinda's semirural, small town character.
- I will efficiently use taxpayers' money.

Correction . . .

In the October issue of *The Orinda News*, Ethan Elkind was misquoted on pg. 2. We have him quoted as say-

ing in the Downtown Development article that "Orinda has one of the worst 'tailpipe revenues' in Contra Costa County...." It should have read: "Orinda has one of the worst 'low per capita sales tax revenues' in Contra Costa County...."

Letters to the Editor

Annual Car Show a Huge Success

The founders and prime movers, Chip and Carolyn Herman, demonstrated once again their talent and organizational skill in putting the show together for the benefit of several local charities. The event generates tens of thousands of dollars each year for those organizations.

Thank you Chip and Carolyn. Your significant contribution to our community is much appreciated.

— Syd Anderson

Try a Game of Chess

I wanted to complement two high school students who have opened a chess club at the Orinda Community Center open from 9 to 11 a.m. each Saturday to all comers from beginners to high ranked players. These women running the club have scheduled a room with tables and provide the chess sets, making it easy for anyone to stop by to enjoy a game. Their enthusiasm carries over even though there have been very few to turn up. They remain hopeful the word will soon spread. I am a senior who never has studied the game seriously but enjoyed the mental challenge of the game. I certainly encourage others of all ages and skills to try. The best part is that joining the Saturday Chess Club is free!

— John Nackley

Fact Checking Orinda Watch Aka: Time to Move on

As the election winds down and Orinda moves forward to address some well-defined priorities, let's consider the accuracy of certain statements by Orinda Watch advocates Richard Colman and Bruce London. All of their quotes below are taken from Colman's second "Icon" or from the October *Orinda News*.

Colman: "The schools face overcrowding." Contrast that with this statement by School Board candidate Cara Hoxie: "... The District projections do not show a large increase of students...Growing enrollment is a positive, economically, for the OUSD."

London: "The actual road repair work has been slow." Contrast that with an October 3 city report: "It is anticipated ... that all residential roads will be rehabilitated by ...early 2020. All residential roads are projected to be "Very Good", with no deferred maintenance costs. The average PCI for the city is projected to be 87. City staff Is currently projecting a net savings of \$5 million."

Colman: "Orinda faces the construction of high-density high-rise housing." Contrast

that with *The Lamorinda Weekly*: "the property owner - the Archdiocese of Oakland - (is) still in charge of ...decisions regarding whether or not to allow development of the site, and that any development ...would face a rigorous public review process." In other words, Mr. Colman, those bulldozers you see are working on the roads, not stack-and-pack apartments.

London: "There is compelling evidence...that retail below residential is not successful." Contrast that with Danville, as lauded by both London and Colman: "Danville built attractive shopping areas that are compatible with the city's environment." Apparently, gentlemen, you have not visited the site and also overlooked www.danvilleimprovements.com. Danville Hotel Site: includes: 35,000 square feet of new residential, retail and restaurant space ... And 16 for-sale second story residential units.

London: (referring to the Phair's property) The "property owners....will be reluctant to...sell their property;" Contrast that with: The Phair's property, months ago, was effectively sold via a stock purchase of the Phair's corporation, per public records.

London: "Orinda Vision has plans to entirely redevelop Orinda's downtown." Contrast that with my experience on the board of Orinda Vision. London's statement is simply false. We have some lovely suggestive sketches. But our sole purpose has always been and will remain to stimulate a community conversation.

We seem to have succeeded. Now, we should put the past behind us and move forward together.

— Carol Penskar

Divisive Politics

I commend Carol Penskar for calling out Richard Colman for his brand of divisive politics and evasiveness about the sources of funding for his newsletter and other activities designed to disrupt Orinda's traditions of collaborative community decision-making, cooperation and civility (August). I've watched with dismay in recent years as a small cabal of naysayers and contrarians has attempted to frighten and bully our community in a direction more to their ideological liking.

This includes a deceptive campaign against the narrowly passed proposition to fix Orinda's roads, enticing voters to reject a practical and well thought out incremental approach for a vague and completely unspecified "plan" to fix all of our roads at once. Particularly disturbing was an attempt



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to drive a wedge between Orinda's younger and older families by claiming the former would unfairly shoulder a larger part of the long-term cost since they may potentially be Orinda residents for longer than the older families. True, the older among us won't be around as long as the newer residents, but who wouldn't trade extra years of life for a few additional years of assessments. Perhaps his next campaign will encourage older families not to support raising taxes

for our schools since this is an unfair burden on those without school-age children. Fortunately, most of us vote to tax ourselves in order to enhance our community and the quality of life of all its residents, not because of a calculus of individual gain.

I mustn't overlook Mr. Colman's "dog-whistles" about increased density housing with some affordable units (Hey, maybe my

[SEE LETTERS page 7]

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MOFD / CITY COUNCIL

Demolition Complete on MOFD Fire Station 43; New Station Up Fall 2017

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) began demolition of Station 43 in September. Station 43, at 20 Via Las Cruces, has been in the planning process of being rebuilt since February 2012.

"The fire station, which was built in 1952, was designed for two personnel," said MOFD Fire Chief Stephen Healy. "MOFD has staffed this station with three personnel for many years."

The station also did not meet seismic standards, modern fire apparatus did not fit in the apparatus bays and it did not adequately accommodate mixed-gender staffing.

"Due to seismic vulnerabilities, size and obsolescence, the station was approved to be rebuilt by the MOFD Board of Directors in late 2015," said Healy. Asbestos re-

moval began in early September and, once deemed safe, the building was bulldozed. Construction of the new 5,002-square-foot station will take about one year and completion is expected in October or November 2017.

While Station 43 is being rebuilt, the paramedic engine company crew will be housed in temporary quarters at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church upper parking lot on Via Las Cruces. MOFD has a lease with St. Stephen's Church for the use of the upper parking lot as a temporary fire station, and will repave the parking lot at the end of the lease, as it will be ruined during station reconstruction.

A temporary building was purchased from Carmel Regional Fire Ambulance and was moved to the Station 43 temporary site in June.

For more information, visit www.mofd.org.



The remains of MOFD Station 43 after demolition began in September.

City Council Hears Results of Downtown Parking Study Started in January

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Results of the Downtown Parking Study were presented at the Oct. 4 City Council meeting, along with plans for relieving parking problems in Orinda.

The main items to be implemented include: Adjust parking time limits to achieve optimal parking occupancy and turnover; increase parking enforcement; implement a residential parking permit program; and implement an employee parking permit program. Longer term issues include removing/relocating the Casual Car Pool pickup zone and identifying public/private partnerships on shared-use parking

facilities for local employees and BART riders.

The parking study was initiated due to growing concerns of residents and the Chamber of Commerce regarding overflow of BART parking into nearby neighborhoods and the lack of parking for employees who work in the downtown area. In November 2015, the City Council authorized the parking study to identify current parking patterns, restrictions and enforcement and the overall demand for parking. Staff was charged with finding possible solutions and delivering an action-oriented plan with consultant firm TJKM.

The study began with a community meet-

ing last January when residents were asked to share their concerns about parking and any ideas they had for solutions. A second community meeting was held in June when TJKM received insight and additional suggestions in advance of finalizing the study. The final draft of the parking study was presented on Oct. 4.

All members of the City Council agreed that the parking issue is huge and items from the implementation plan are heavily intertwined. Councilmember Dean Orr said, "I don't want to act on any of this unless we're acting on all of it: The enforcement, signage and the parking permit programs. I'm not interested in seeing a piece of this come back to us. I think this all

has to happen, and I'd like to see it happen sooner rather than later."

Currently, there is no date for the parking issue to return to the City Council. City Manager Janet Keeter said, "I would be remiss to say what date we will come back to the council because there's a lot of moving parts that need to come together." Keeter will be meeting with city staff and TJKM to create an implementation schedule. "I want to help manage expectations. We can put it on a future agenda or broadcast it out on an Orinda Outlook to give the community an update on how quickly we can roll some of these things out," added Keeter.

For more information, visit www.cityoforinda.org.

◆ LETTERS from page 6

kids might actually be able to afford to live in Orinda!), unsubstantiated insinuations of conflict of interest and corruption by our elected officials, and the mean-spirited invective against the really quite attractively terraced new senior housing project across from the firehouse (Hey, I can see myself living there when I can no longer drive!). Then there is Mr. Colman's scare-mongering newsletter vision of a dystopian Orinda future replete with cratering property values, rampant foreclosures and decaying schools, all of which will apparently result from actions taken to invest in our future. Maintaining Orinda's small town charm should not mean being forever chained to its unincorporated legacy of poorly constructed and decaying roads, crumbling infrastructure, lack of storm sewers and sidewalks

and a dowdy and dated downtown. At least Mr. Colman's newsletter endorsement of a member of his gang for City Council makes it clear who I won't be voting for.

— Michael Nevitt

WUDO Endorses Gee and Miller

Consensus at the September 6 City Council meeting was that something needs to be done about the state of Orinda's downtown. Both the written correspondence sent to the City Council and the speakers in the room were overwhelmingly in favor of downtown revitalization being a key priority moving forward. Orindans don't want talk; they want a real actionable plan. A promising presentation from our new Planning Director Drummond Buckley showed that he is established in his new role and that he and his staff are ready to lead the effort.

With this in mind, What's Up Downtown

Orinda (WUDO) is officially endorsing two candidates for the open City Council seats who have confirmed that the downtown issue will be a high priority should they win: Darlene Gee and Inga Miller. Through questionnaires and conversations with WUDO, both candidates have made it clear that they will work to see Orinda's downtown reach its full potential and become a town that is vibrant, charming and a place of pride.

Appointed to the City Council in July 2015 to fill Steve Glazier's vacant seat, Darlene Gee will continue the current momentum in a "results-oriented way and

with a fairly aggressive schedule" as she has stated. Inga Miller represents the next generation of Orinda and will bring a fresh perspective and open mind to the position and can use her legal expertise to help us, as she says, "chart a course for the future."

WUDO asks that Orindans who would like to see thoughtful progress downtown cast their votes for these two worthy candidates on November 8. The alternative is to let fear of change keep our downtown stuck in the past.

— Laura McDowell, Ali Drasin,
Laura Pavlovich, Emily Stoddard,
[SEE WUDO page 10]



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POLICE



POLICE BLOTTER

August 28 through November 2016

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 10 incidents.
 Abandoned Vehicle: 3 incidents.
 Accident: 5 incidents.
 Accident Injury: 1 incident.
 Accident Property: 7 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 142 incidents.
 Battery: 3 incidents.
 Barking Dog: 2 incidents.
 Burglary, Auto: 3 incidents.
 Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents.
 Civil Disturbance: 16 incidents.
 CVC Moving Violation: 126 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 84 incidents.
 Death Non Criminal: 2 incidents.
 Disturbance, Domestic: 1 incident.
 Disturbing the Peace: 6 incidents.
 Drunk in Public: 2 incidents.
 DUI Misdemeanor: 1 incident.
 Forgery: 1 incident.
 Found Property: 4 incidents.
 Fraud False Pretenses: 1 incident.
 Grand Theft from Building: 1 incident.
 Hailed by Citizen: 1 incident.
 Health & Safety Violation: 1 incident.
 Hit and Run Misdemeanor: 2 incidents.
 Identity Theft: 8 incidents.
 Intoxicated Subject: 1 incident.
 Juvenile Disturbance: 4 incidents.
 Litter: 3 incidents.
 Loitering: 1 incident.
 Lost Property: 2 incidents.
 Loud Motorcycle: 1 incident.
 Loud Noise: 3 incidents.
 Loud Party: 4 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 7 incidents.
 Missing Adult: 1 incident.
 Motorist Assist: 4 incidents.
 Neighbor Dispute: 1 incident.
 Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 3 incidents.
 Ordinance Violation: 6 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 33 incidents.
 Panhandling: 2 incidents.
 Parking Detail: 150 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 62 incidents.

Petty Theft: 8 incidents.
 Petty Theft Bicycle: 1 incident.
 Petty Theft from Building: 1 incident.
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 5 incidents.
 Petty Theft Purse Shoplift: 1 incident.
 Public Assembly Check: 6 incidents.
 Public Nuisance: 6 incidents.
 Reckless Driving: 27 incidents.
 Runaway Juvenile: 1 incident.
 School Check: 55 incidents.
 Security Check: 40 incidents.
 Service to Citizen: 192 incidents.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 28 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 15 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 11 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 25 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 18 incidents.
 Traffic Collision Property Damage: 2 incidents.
 Tow: 10 incidents.
 Traffic Hazard: 11 incidents.
 Traffic Stop: 4 incidents.
 Trespass: 2 incidents.
 Uncontrollable Juvenile: 2 incidents.
 Unwanted Guest: 1 incident.
 Vacation House Check: 53 incidents.
 Vandalism: 1 incident.
 Verbal Dispute: 3 incidents.
 Warrant Service: 2 incidents.
 Welfare Check: 13 incidents.

Arrests

Drunk in Public: 6 arrests.
 DUI: 3 arrests.
 DUI, Misdemeanor: 4 arrests.
 Petty Theft: 1 arrest.
 Petty Theft from Building: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Burglary Tools: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Marijuana: 1 arrest.
 Shoplift: 1 arrest.
 Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.
 Warrant Arrest: 1 arrest.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incident details, visit www.crimereports.com

◆ **ROBBERY** from page 1

When they got out of their car in their Claremont Avenue driveway, they were accosted by two men whose “hoodies were pulled down over their faces,” according to Brown. The men demanded the couple’s money. Although Spalding handed over his wallet, one assailant struck him on the head with his gun. Brown said that everything happened so quickly that she didn’t even see that the men had guns.

Brown was shot in the arm and pelvis before the two men took off, taking her purse and her husband’s wallet, as well as a cell phone that was later recovered.

“One of the bullets shattered my humerus into several pieces and the other shattered my sacrum,” said Brown. “I have a brace around my arm to hold the pieces together and doctors think it will take about three months to heal.”

Brown’s sacrum (the bone at the base of the spine) must heal on its own, as there’s nothing doctors can do. She said the pelvic injury is giving her a lot more pain than her arm.

“I can sit or lie or stand – but I can’t do any of those for very long,” said Brown, adding that the whole incident has also been extremely traumatic for her husband. “It was very scary for him that I was in the hospital, but he’s been a prince among men, a hero.”

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel said no arrests have been made in the case so far. A series of similar crimes in other East Bay neighborhoods led to the arrest last month of six men who were charged in Contra Costa County court with criminal street gang conspiracy. Nagel said that, so far, there is no definite link between those suspects and the Orinda case.

“The Contra Costa DA’s task force has made arrests, and there is a possibility those are the suspects related to the Orinda case,” said Nagel. “However, nothing has been confirmed, and we are still investigating the case.”

Brown said that she doesn’t want this whole incident to be about her just because she’s lives in Orinda and is on the school board. “We are pretty sheltered here in Orinda, but kids all around us are affected by violence every day. That’s something I would like us as a community to think about,” said Brown. “I’m not happy about what happened to me, but I want something good to come out of it. I don’t want kids in Orinda or anywhere else to be afraid.”

Brown said she’s particularly saddened that now kids in her own neighborhood are scared to go trick-or-treating this Halloween, but she’s grateful for the Kidpower safety program that OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton is promoting.

“It teaches parents how to talk to their kids to help them not be scared any more,” said Brown.

Sense of Relief

On Oct. 10, Seaton issued a statement expressing her joy and relief at Brown’s homecoming from the hospital. It read, in part:

“... Carol and her husband Tom Spalding are delighted to be home and ready to return to their busy lives. Carol has served our community on the board of trustees for two years, and during this time, she had come to be known for her wisdom, patience, intelligence, and witty, warm sense of humor. She is trusted, respected and enjoyed by people throughout the district.

“As a demonstration of her work ethic and tremendous energy, Carol has spoken to me about school district business on numerous occasions from the hospital and recently from home, just to make sure she did not miss a beat. I know the entire Orinda community joins me in welcoming Carol home and will support her throughout her recovery.”

Police Chief’s Advice on Safety

Chief Nagel has some general advice for Orinda citizens on how to stay safe.

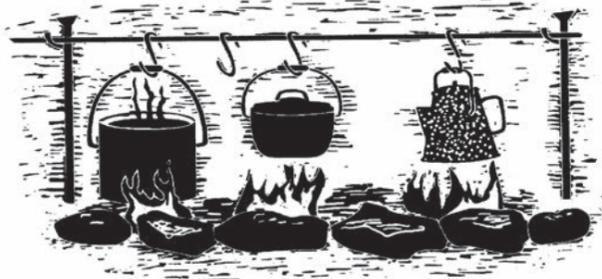
“As a general policy, no matter where you go in public, whether it be walking through a parking lot or walking back to your car after just going to the bank, look at your surroundings,” said Nagel. “If there are people paying extra attention to you, make sure you take notice and they have no doubt you looked them in the eye, and it is very clear you have noticed them.

“That doesn’t mean making any gestures or comments or doing anything other than just looking at them and making a mental note. Most suspects rely on the element of surprise and will look for someone not prepared or aware.

“If you can make yourself simply aware and alert to your surroundings, I believe that will make a big difference. In those moments, we are most vulnerable, getting into your car, exiting your car, opening the door to your home, opening and closing the garage ... take a moment to look 360 degrees and take note. If something doesn’t look right, go back to a position of safety.”

He warns anyone who thinks that they are being followed to “first and foremost, never go home.”

“Continue driving and call the Orinda Police and tell them where you are and stay in public,” said Nagel. “Finally, I cannot stress enough the importance of having cameras in and around your home. From exterior security cameras to the doorbell cameras, the video evidence is incredibly important when investigators are looking to find out who is committing the crimes.”



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CITY CLERK / CARS

Orinda Welcomes New City Clerk Sheri Spediacci



BILL O'BRIAN

Sheri Spediacci is Orinda's new City Clerk.

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

Orinda's new City Clerk, Sheri Spediacci, began work in September. She brings to the job many years of experience and is delighted to be living and working in Orinda.

"Getting to know the people, procedures and methods is my first challenge," said Spediacci, who sees her job as a way "to make it easier for the city, staff and citizens to get their hands on records."

Spediacci formerly made her home in Burlingame. She worked for the City of Brisbane for 24 years as receptionist and as secretary to the City Manager and Deputy City Clerk. During her tenure there, she completed a four-year course at the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, earning her City Clerk certification.

"I really love the job of City Clerk," said Spediacci. "... the people and the issues in a city change every day which makes the work interesting. Meeting many different people and helping them get the information they need is satisfying, and I have the ability to do that."

In her spare time, Spediacci, who was born and raised in San Francisco, likes cooking, hiking, swimming and general physical fitness.

"I am thrilled to be here in this beautiful city to serve the citizens," she said.

CAR TIME

Beyond the Oil Change



By JOHN VANEK

Drivers have different ideas about what car maintenance means. It is indeed important to change engine oil regularly. That makes the engine last longer and more reliable. A large percentage of owners understand this and make a point to change oil regularly. Others struggle with this concept. Failing to change oil regularly costs more in the long run. Some drivers struggle with the concept of maintenance beyond the standard oil change. Many folks consider an oil change taking care of the car's maintenance, but that's not true.

There is a process when it comes to automotive maintenance and it starts with the owner's manual in the glove box. The vehicle's manufacturer has recommendations for the upkeep of the car. They spell it out based on mileage intervals. Different

intervals will require different services, with oil changes and tire rotations being the most frequent. Sometimes an overall inspection of the vehicle is called for. This is an important one, especially at 30,000-mile intervals. Oil change personnel are trained to change oil and check an infinite amount of fluid levels. But they have less experience and training than a certified automotive technician.

More involved vehicle inspections require automotive training and experience. An experienced mechanic will look for potential issues like fluid leaks, oil leaks and tire wear due to worn suspension and steering. It is also important to have a proper brake inspection and test the battery. These items don't get checked during a speedy oil change.

When these inspections are neglected it

can turn a calm day into chaos. Grinding brakes or a coolant leak can go from a small problem to being stuck on the side of the road. I understand when drivers are worried that the repair shop is going to find something wrong with their car and it will cost money to fix. Are you worried that these suggestions are just a ploy to charge for stuff you don't need? Then you need to find a shop that you can trust. Most shops operate with honesty and integrity, but it is okay to call them out to test their honesty. Ask to see the old parts that have been replaced or to explain a situation you don't understand. Check credentials and take recommendations from friends.

The vehicle maintenance schedule will also suggest particular services depending on the mileage. Some of these interval-based services are more significant, such as a transmission service, spark plug replacement or even a timing belt job. The cost of these items will be more significant so it is good to know in advance in order to budget and schedule possible repairs. When a vehicle passes the 60,000-mile mark, expect more significant repairs. Spending money maintaining a vehicle is a reality. Ignore-

[SEE CAR TIME page 26]

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LETTERS

◆ WUDO from page 7

Trudi Loscotoff, Darien Destino and
Kirsten Larsen

Vote For Inga Miller For Orinda City Council

I urge all Orindans to go to the polls and vote for Inga Miller for the Orinda City Council. Inga is a young and enthusiastic candidate with rare qualifications. She is a third generation Orindan and has attended Orinda schools and lived in Orinda for most of her life.

She practices law in the city and has a deep and abiding affection for her city, which has led her to decide to become a candidate and try to “give back” to the community that has given her so much.

Orinda is faced with a number of challenges but one of the major issues is attracting smart, effective young people to take part in city government. Victoria Smith has served tirelessly and well but is now retiring from the council. Victoria recognizes in Inga the rare and exceptional qualities that make her a leader and has endorsed Inga’s candidacy.

Inga is extremely smart and organized and approaches problem solving on a positive, cooperative basis. She has served well on the Orinda Parks and Recreation Commission and will not only be an extremely effective councilperson but will also send a message that young people can and should become involved in city government in order to assure that our city remains as unique and exceptional as it has always been.

Inga represents all that is the best about Orinda and will be an extremely effective leader in identifying and dealing with the multitude of problems that face the City Council.

The candidates are all qualified but Inga stands head and shoulders above all of them as a native born and raised Orindan with strong ties to the younger generation, which must step forward and provide the energy, foresight and leadership for our community. Anyone who meets Inga will be impressed with her poise, graciousness and ability to work with people. Her political ambition is genuinely based in a desire to serve the community and not a desire for personal notice.

I strongly urge a vote for “Inga for Orinda” in the November election.

– Wilson Wendt

Three Orinda Groups Endorse Gee And Miller For City Council

OrindaVision, What’s Up Downtown Orinda and Monica Fitzsimmons, the author of the Keep Orinda Moving petition, have combined forces to endorse Darlene Gee and Inga Miller for the two open seats on the Orinda City Council in the November elections.

Together the groups count more than 1,000 Orindans as members. They have endorsed candidates Gee and Miller because both have demonstrated a commitment to

improving Orinda and making downtown more vibrant.

“We have come together to advocate for a downtown of which we can all be proud,” said Tom Trowbridge, chairman of OrindaVision. “For over two decades, almost no attention has been paid to the commercial properties in our downtown. The results are plain to see. All three groups share a commitment to preserving Orinda’s village character while improving its built environment.”

There has not been a new building built in Orinda’s commercial districts since Theater Square opened 26 years ago. The majority of Orinda’s commercial buildings are over 50 years old according to Contra Costa County records. Orinda’s annual per capita retail sales in 2015 were \$47, second lowest of 19 cities in the county, according to MuniServices. By contrast, Lafayette’s per capita retail sales were \$102. Orinda was incorporated in 1985. Its General Plan and Design Guidelines were adopted in 1987 and have never been updated. Orinda is the only city in the county to have no plan for its downtown.

“When we allow our downtown to atrophy, it affects everything from our property values to our quality of life,” said Laura McDowell, a founder of What’s Up Downtown Orinda. “Orindans deserve a thoughtful plan and real leadership to improve our community. Too many young families can’t find the services they need here and are forced to drive all over the East Bay. We can do better. I’m proud to join forces with my neighbors to advocate for a better Orinda.”

“I am pleased to join OrindaVision and Whats Up Downtown in supporting two candidates who share our vision of a revitalized downtown that better serves the community,” said Monica Fitzsimmons, the author of the Keep Orinda Moving petition on change.org, that was signed by over 700 Orinda citizens. “At the last City Council meeting on this issue, hundreds of Orindans submitted comments asking the City Council to act to improve our downtown. The desires of the community are clear – now we need the political will and civic leadership to make it a reality.”

– Orinda Vision, What’s Up Downtown Orinda and Monica Fitzsimmons

Gee and Miller for Responsible Revitalization

When it comes to Responsible Revitalization for Downtown Orinda - Darlene Gee and Inga Miller are the only proven candidates for the Orinda City Council who share a community-focused and action-oriented approach.

As a mother of three young children (ages 4, 9, and 11), a local psychologist and childhood-native of Orinda – I long for an attractive, pedestrian-friendly downtown that celebrates its history and character, while providing cultural amenities. I wish for fresh produce for my children, locally-made products and entertainment that connects families. Why do I have to drive to Rock-

ridge, downtown Lafayette or Fourth Street in Berkeley for shopping and entertainment?

Darlene and Inga also recognize our local environmental treasures like the San Pablo Creek, which desperately needs restoration to preserve its native wildlife. Did you know that river otters, salmon and trout once swam through our creek? Did you know that Orinda boasts the largest number of creeks in our county? Just imagine what a stroll through this natural habitat could offer our children in their educational and social-emotional development. Berkeley renovated Strawberry Creek for its residents – it’s time we offer our community the same access to our very own under-utilized natural resources.

Vote Inga and Darlene for Downtown Revitalization and San Pablo Creek Restoration.

– Nadine Watters

Darlene Gee and Inga Miller for City Council

Orinda is very fortunate that Darlene Gee and Inga Miller have stepped forward as candidates for the two open seats on the City Council this November. Both have the professional backgrounds and experience that will enable them to be significant contributors at this level, especially at a time when the community is about to embark on a process of planning for the future of its downtown.

Their command of the range of issues of concern to Orindans during the Candidates’ Forum on October 6 amply demonstrated they are by far the most qualified candidates currently running for Council.

– Tom Trowbridge

Need Results-Oriented Change

Like a lot of young families in Orinda, my wife and I moved from San Francisco seeking a tight-knit community with great public schools and beautiful open spaces. We haven’t been disappointed – Orinda is an amazing town in so many ways. But looking back, I’m reminded that we looked past its tired downtown and pot-hole riddled roads, believing it to be just a matter of time before common sense would prevail and a thriving downtown (and retail tax base) would finally take shape. Having grown up in Lafayette and witnessed the gradual improvements to its downtown, with improved markets, dining, streetscapes, and high-quality housing for all ages, surely Orinda would capitalize on its own obvious opportunities - albeit in a way befitting of its own small town charm. However, six years later, it’s clear to me that nothing is going to improve in Downtown Orinda without strong new leadership in the City Council.

Darlene Gee and Inga Miller represent that opportunity for thoughtful, results-oriented change. Both of these candidates recognize that a thriving downtown, which caters to its existing residents, does not equate to traffic, congestion and certain doom – it equates to better community. It means frequent encounters with neighbors, a better tax base for roads, parks and schools. It means a town that we can be even more proud to call home. Darlene and Inga understand that serving on the Orinda City Council requires an ability to listen and respect all of its residents. For too long, Orinda has listened only to those that choose to look backward for fear of change, all the while ignoring the voices of a large, engaged base of residents and families that represent the future of this town. If you agree, please get out and vote this election for Darlene Gee and Inga Miller – Downtown Orinda will not improve on its own.

– Alex Waterbury

Revitalizing Downtown – what’s really at stake?

If you cherish the semi-rural uniqueness

in the Orinda Community, value our high quality schools and don’t want to turn the downtown into another overcrowded Walnut Creek look-a-like, don’t be fooled by promises from the “Orinda Vision” developer group and their latest partners, “What’s up, downtown Orinda?” Both these groups are big supporters of real estate attorney Inga Miller, who up until a few weeks ago, never attended a City Council meeting, and Darlene Gee who the City Council appointed last year, despite overwhelming public support for a far more knowledgeable and experienced candidate.

Recognize you are being set up. As pointed out (SAVE ORINDA), “this is a ploy by the developers to build high density apartment buildings in downtown Orinda. The promise of new cafés, restaurants and boutiques are just window dressing to divert you from their real goal – lucrative multi-story luxury condominiums to make developers fabulously wealthy,” and as a consequence, add to Orinda’s downtown traffic and the destruction our unique semi-rural character. The last thing we need are more recommendations from “development professionals,” sponsored by Orinda Vision. Unfortunately, hiring the worldwide Urban Land Institute (ULI), despite the objections of Councilmember Phillips, appears to be moving toward approval by Smith, Orr, Worth and Gee.

Prospective voters for the two open City Council positions should also be aware that three years ago the City Council (Smith, Orr and Worth) overturned a well-designed, attractive, code compliant, Montessori preschool proposal on the old Phairs site, which would’ve been a giant improvement to the downtown. Along with many other younger folks, I spoke twice in support of the Montessori proposal, approved on two separate votes, 5 to 2, by the planning commission. Many in the Orinda Vision crowd spoke against and opposed the more organic Montessori proposal, presumably because they favor a larger, multi-story condo complex.

Bottom line, Orinda is at a critical point in its evolution and history, and Orindans need to seriously engage in the November City Council elections. Based on my meetings with more than 200 home owners over the past few weeks, Bruce London, M.D. offers what most Orindans want and cherish: organic growth, adherence to semi-rural values, code compliant buildings (35 ft), and local control, as put forth by the founders in our General Plan. Candidate Linda Delahunt also has similar views in keeping the basic values of Orinda.

– Chris Kniel

Don’t Allow Orinda to Become Another Lafayette

Look at what is happening to Lafayette! Parking meters everywhere, congestion all over town (have you ever tried parking at Trader Joe’s?), multi-story apartment buildings going up in all sorts of places and even further development scheduled for the future, including any remaining open space (Deer Hill, for example). The real estate developers are certainly having their way in Lafayette.

Don’t allow this to happen to Orinda! Don’t allow the powerful real estate lobby to gain control under the guise of revitalization of downtown!

Sensible revitalization and renovation of downtown Orinda should be allowed, by all means, but only within the blueprint of the well-conceived Orinda general plan that calls for preserving Orinda’s wonderful semi-rural character.

The only two candidates for the Orinda City Council who have expressed their support for these principles, which includes

[SEE LAFAYETTE page 22]



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LOCAL RESIDENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Olive Festival Pays Tribute to Wagner Ranch Naturalist Jaeger

By KATHARINE BARRETT
Contributing Writer

The Seventh Orinda Olive Festival at Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA) on Oct. 2 opened with a tribute to Toris Jaeger and her 40 years of teaching children at the nature area. Terry Slaman, founding member of Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, described Jaeger's deep respect for biodiversity and earth systems and how she has taught thousands of children to love nature and explore local history.

Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith spoke on how Jaeger has served the community for many years, and Ann Alton described how she encouraged Jaeger to apply for the job of district naturalist in the late 1970s. Miriam Storch, a former WRNA student, quoted a Native American saying, "The wind cannot defeat a tree with deep roots," adding that through all the winds that blew, Jaeger kept her feet planted firmly on the ground and kept the nature area alive.

Esther Railton Rice, Ed. D. wrote: "At the nature area, Toris found her niche and has dedicated her life to this piece of land and the children who learn on it. Her warmth, gratitude to those who help her and selflessness make her one of the most joyous and warmest of my career memories."

Jaeger often tells how the looks of wonder on the faces of her "nature detectives" feed her soul. Finally, the students of the Academy of Language Arts and Music (ALMA) led the audience in a "Happy An-

niversary to You" song, dedicated to Jaeger.

Seventh Celebration of Olives

Hundreds of children and adults gathered to celebrate WRNA and its 133-year-old olive grove. Amphora Nueva from Lafayette provided visitors with a variety of extra virgin olive oils and balsamic vinegars.

Berkeley Olive Grove showcased its award-winning organic olive oil, and a variety of California olives and olive oils were displayed for visitors to taste at the All About Olives station. Cricket Nissen treated visitors to the aromas and textures of olive soaps and lotions at the Raw Soap booth.

Children received Olive Passports to take to 30 activity stations for a nature stamp and were rewarded with honey sticks for having their passports stamped at 10 stations.

Embracing the theme of olives and peace, children and adults wore leafy olive crowns, which they crafted from fresh boughs. The Orinda Juniors offered face painting, while others enjoyed Nature Tattoos by Coyote Brush, Decorating Tiles, and a variety of olive games, for which Bell Carter-Lindsay Olives gave delicious black olives as prizes.

The Orinda Ukulele Players entertained with lively tunes and sing-a-longs. Visitors enjoyed Zamboni's Pizza as well as Nature Art with Jennifer White and BOGOS Art with the Strickler family. Local *plein air* artist Sylvia Fones painted a grove scene,



Young people at this year's **Olive Festival** had lots of arts and crafts to make and foods to sample. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

as families watched her at work.

The Pit Spit Challenge, sponsored by Diablo Foods, featured delicious olives – with the pits used for target practice. Volunteers from Others First recruited visitors and organized the challenges, with contestants hoping to best last year's distance record of 34 feet.

The Cooking Demonstration Tent featured Amphora Nueva's recipes with Nate Bradley, Jeff Wampler of Eccleddish Catering and Darro Grieco of Berkeley Olive Grove.

Professor Dan Phillips presented the Chemistry of Olive Oil while Derry Calay of Healthy Ways Massage offered a chance for the adults to relax.

Hardy olive seedlings, grown from

WRNA olive trees, were available, while Ask A Master Gardener (with Martha Lee, Linda Mizes and Anne Diggins) provided valuable information about gardening.

Money raised at the Olive Festival, including more than \$5,000 from the silent auction and raffle, supports environmental education programs for Orinda youth at WRNA, which is the property of the Orinda Union School District.

Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area thanks sponsors: Bell Carter-Lindsay Olives, Mechanics Bank of Orinda, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Alan Metheny of Wells Fargo Advisors, Orinda Optometry Group, Orinda True Value Hardware, Amphora Lafayette, Berkeley Olive Grove and Diablo Foods.

Catharine Baker to Speak at AAUW

Assemblywoman Catharine Baker will speak at the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on Nov. 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the Orinda Community Church Hall, 10 Irwin Way, in Orinda.

Assemblywoman Baker will discuss the impact that the AAUW fund has on the lives of women and girls throughout the world through education, research, advocacy and philanthropy. She was elected to the 16th Assembly District on Nov. 4, 2014, and has since served on a number of committees including Vice-Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

The mother of school-age twins, Baker volunteers on several school committees as well as with the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, where she served as an archery instructor. An attorney who has helped small business and local charities become successful, Baker lives in Dublin with her college sweetheart and the twins.

For more information on Assemblywoman Baker's visit to the AAUW meeting, go to www.oml-ca.aauw.net.



Assemblywoman **Catharine Baker**. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Residents Dine with Author Michael Lewis



Orinda residents, **Bill and Linda Davidson**, are shown here with author **Michael Lewis** (center) during an informal dinner gathering on Thursday, October 6, at the Center for Early Intervention on Deafness (CEID) in Berkeley. Lewis, who wrote *The Blind Side*, *Moneyball*, *The Big Short*, and many other bestsellers, shared stories with guests from *Home Game*, his book on fatherhood. The gathering celebrated the work of CEID, a nonprofit organization serving young children throughout the Bay Area who are deaf or hard of hearing. CEID also has an audiology clinic offering hearing evaluations and hearing devices for children, youth and adults. For more information, visit www.ceid.org. CAROL LETTKO

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Paintings, Art Glass, Uber Pixel Photographs and Ceramic Talking Heads At Library

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents preservation paintings by the Lamorinda *Plein Air* Painting Group, art glass by Leda Contis, 80 megapixel photographs by Don Mohr, and ceramic talking heads by Chris Efstratis during November at the Orinda Library Art Gallery. Join them on Sunday, Nov. 13, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for an artist reception when light refreshments will be served.

The group's work is described as "preservation paintings" because this extraordinary group of local artists literally rushes to the scene to paint iconic vistas just before they vanish into the maw of development. Pam Miller, spokesperson for the group, says, "Often the bulldozers are waiting in the background as we paint." *Plein air*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Chris Efstratis' fanciful ceramic sculpture *I Can Put Out Your Fire* will be on display in the Library Gallery through November.

painting is always done outdoors in the open air.

The group has been painting together since 2006. They also record historical sites prior to their disappearance or deterioration. Mark Jezierny painted the corner of Ignacio and Oak Road just before they cut down all the 250-year-old oak trees. The once-beautiful corner next to Shadelands is now a shopping center. Pam Miller has rendered paintings from various properties as if they were in the 1800s through photos from the Orinda and Lafayette historical societies. They can be viewed at the Ranch House Café on School Street near what used to be the old firehouse in Moraga.

Group members showing acrylic and oil paintings on canvas include Ruth Kolman Brophy of Walnut Creek (five works), Patricia Draper of Crockett (11 works), Mark Jezierny of Walnut Creek (12 works), and Pam Miller of Pleasant Hill (10 works). All the works shown are legacy paintings of Lamorinda vistas or historical sights.

At times when they have attempted to capture vistas on Mt. Diablo, they have been chased away with rifles. They want friendly invitations, not rifles, from local property owners so they feel welcome and comfortable. "We are quiet, unobtrusive and respectful," says Miller. *Plein air* painters are invited to join them in their quest to record the natural beauty we all value so much. To invite these preservation painters to your property, or to join them as artists, contact Mark Jezierny (an art teacher at Lafayette Community Center) at jezart@astound.net.

Leda Contis of Berkeley got hooked on fused glass at The Crucible art school in Oakland 15 years ago and is still going strong. Contis says, "It's the only art I know



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Winter at Moraga Ranch is an 18" x 24" acrylic on canvas work by Pam Miller.

of where your very first attempt can come out perfect. Yet, there is no end to the complexity you can explore. I'm still part of the glass lab at The Crucible." She is showing about 20 works and will also demonstrate her techniques at the reception.

You may see the clarity and colors of the sea in some of her pieces. Contis grew up in Greece and often tries to capture the movement of water on the glistening surface of fired glass. *Clothesline*, her 11.5" x 11.5" x 2" kiln-formed fused glass platter recalls blue skies and wind whipping brightly colored laundry. For more of her work, see www.bighairfireandglass.com.

Don Mohr of Orinda built his first darkroom at 10 years old, inspired by the magic of a black-and-white image emerging from a developing tray. Now his aspiration is to share with others the joy and adventure of being outdoors where he works to capture images of nature's magical light. Mohr is displaying a dozen 22" x 29" color prints

taken with a Phase One IQ180 medium-format digital back camera from Denmark.

Jon Snyder of *Wired* online magazine asks in his review of the Phase One IQ180, "What would you do with 80 million pixels?" Then he goes on to say, "The images produced ... are massive — upwards of 500MB each. That amount of depth adds a level of clarity and definition to your images that's truly stunning." Thus the phrase "uber pixel photographs."

Mohr's *Aspens in Snow*, a 22" x 29" pigment print photograph, opens a doorway to a dense field of aspens dusted in snow. The level of detail in his photographs will surprise you. He hopes his images invite people to respond to the natural world around them in some small way.

Chris Efstratis of Sacramento has been drawn to working with clay since high school. "The magic of clay being able to stand up in the shape of a vessel all the

[SEE GALLERY page 15]

TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION KEEP OUR ORINDA SCHOOLS EXCELLENT.

HILLARY WEINER

CARA HOXIE

Consensus Endorsement:

Four sitting members of the OUSD Board of Trustees and Community Leaders, including Carol Brown, Jason Kaune, Matt Moran, Julie Rossiter, Ricki Sorenson, Pam West, Linda Landau, Pat Rudebusch, and more, all enthusiastically endorse

Cara Hoxie and Hillary Weiner
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LAMORINDA PRESCHOOLS

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 schools for further information on enrollment and cost. Visit www.eastbay-preschools.com and www.lamorindamoms.org; both are good resources for researching preschool programs. Attend the Lamorinda Moms Preschool Fair in Lafayette on Nov. 10 from 6:30-8 pm; see article on page 12 for more info.

Orinda

Buzzy Bee Play School
Orinda (Glorietta Area)
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ages 4 mos. to 3 yrs. M-F. Home-based playschool.
4stevens@sbcglobal.net

ET Day Care
Orinda

7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
925-528-9993

Ages 1.5 to 3 yrs. M-F. Play-based learning. Aftercare available.

Fountainhead Montessori School
30 Santa Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-820-1343

7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ages 2 yrs. to kindergarten; before and after care; summer school.
www.fms.org

Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-3429



Miss Debbie, a teacher at the Nurture Preschool in Moraga, strums her autoharp during a fun music and movement activity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

9 a.m. to noon, extended day until 2 p.m.
Ages 2-3, Tu/Th; ages 3.4-5, M-W-F Pre-kindergarten; ages 3.5-5, M-F; lunch bunch noon - 2 p.m.
preschool@holyshepherd.org
www.holyshepherd.org

Orinda Afternoons - Childcare and Preschool
103 El Toyonal, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-1974

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday - Thursday, ages 0 to 5 yrs.
orindaafternoons@gmail.com
www.orindaafternoons.com

St. John Preschool
501 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-4470
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Ages 18 mos.-5 yrs., 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 ages 2-4 yrs. and K-Prep M-F, 9 a.m. - noon. Children may attend 2-5 days per week; lunch bunch daily noon to 12:30 p.m. Early morning drop-off available.

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 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., Tu/Th; for ages 3-5 yrs., 9 a.m. to noon, M-W-F with option Tu/Th 9 a.m. to noon. Lunch option.

www.ststephenspreschoolorinda.org

The Orinda Preschool - TOPS
10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-2551
9 a.m. to noon

Preschool, ages 2-5 yrs. Optional afternoon lunch bunch playgroup, ages 3-5 yrs.
topsonline@sbcglobal.net
www.topsonline.org

Lafayette

Apple Seed Little School
Lafayette, CA
925-979-9089

8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Preschool program for ages 2-5 yrs. with extended child care.
www.appleseedlittleschool.com

Building Bridges Preschool
1003 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-6792
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Preschool program with extended care to 5 p.m. for ages 2-6 yrs.
www.buildingbridgespreschool.com

The Child Day Schools
1049 Stuart Street, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-7092

6:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Ages 2-6 yrs., minimum 3-5 days per week, 2-3 yrs., 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 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Infants/toddlers, 3 mos. to 2 yrs., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; 2's/transition 2-3 yrs.; preschool/ kindergarten 3-6 yrs., times available 7:30

[SEE LAFAYETTE page 14]

Victoria Smith for Moraga-Orinda Fire District



www.VictoriaforMOFD.com

"There is no finer public servant." Alex Evans, Director, Moraga-Orinda Fire District
"The City of Orinda's loss is MOFD's gain." Amy Worth, Council Member, City of Orinda
"Victoria's wealth of experience in fiscal matters, combined with her proven commitment to the community make her the ideal candidate for the job. MOFD will be most fortunate to have her join the board." John Wyro, Former President, Moraga-Orinda Fire District
"MOFD will be very fortunate indeed to have a director like Victoria Smith. With her experience and accomplishments as Mayor of Orinda, her knowledge and understanding of the important issues facing the district, and her excellent judgment, she is highly qualified for this position." Eugene Gottfried, Former President, Moraga-Orinda Fire District
"Her priorities have never wavered in ensuring Orinda operates under a balanced budget while maintaining the levels of emergency services that Orindans expect. She will be a real asset to the MOFD Board." Dean Orr, Council Member, City of Orinda
"As an Orinda City Councilmember, Victoria Smith emphasized fiscal stability and responsible stewardship of the city's resources. She will bring that same focus on fiscal responsibility and high ethical standards to the Moraga Orinda Fire District Board." Julianne Rossiter, President, Orinda Union School District

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Richard Olson, Former Director, MOFD
Pete Wilson, Former President, MOFD
John Wyro, Former President, MOFD
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Dean Orr, Orinda City Council Manger
Amy Worth, Orinda City Council Member
Laura Abrams, Former Mayor, City of Orinda
Bill Judge, Former Mayor
Bobbie Landers, Former Mayor
Sue Severson, Former Mayor

Allan Tabor, Former Mayor
Karen Mendonca, Former Mayor of Moraga
Matt Moran, Former Board Member, OUSD
Julianne Rossiter, President, OUSD
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Moraga-Orinda Firefighters Local 1230
(partial list; visit www.victoriaformofd.com)

LAMORINDA PRESCHOOLS

◆ LAFAYETTE from page 13

a.m. - 6 p.m.; 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. for 2-3 yrs.; extended care 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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 a.m. to 6 p.m.
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, 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 a.m. - 1 p.m.; extended care 8 - 9 a.m. and 1 - 5:30 p.m. Playgroup 0-30 months on Friday, free to all.
www.Temple-Isaiah.org



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Time for gardening at Nanny's House Child Care and Preschool in Lafayette.

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

Happy Days Learning Center
3205 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-932-8088
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
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
8:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Ages 2-5 yrs. Preschool/Pre-K programs
M-F 8:45 -11:45 a.m. Lunch bunch daily 11:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
joyfulbeginningsschool@gmail.com
www.joyfulbeginningsschool.org

Lafayette Kids' Cottage
Downtown Lafayette, CA 94549
925-286-6848
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Preschool program 2.9 to 5 yrs. 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; after school program 2.9 to 10 yrs., 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
grace@lafayettekids.com
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 a.m.; preschool program for 3-4 year olds M-W-F, 9-11:30 a.m.; preschool programs for 4-5.6 year olds M-Th, 12:30 to 3 p.m. Open House Dec. 3.
membership@lafayettenurseryschool.org
www.lafayettenurseryschool.org

Merriewood Children's Center
561 Merriewood Dr., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-2121
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merriewoodchildrenscenter@comcast.net
www.merriewood.org

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

Nanny's House Child Care & Preschool
3099 Old Tunnel Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-878-5795
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 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
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
925-284-3870
9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Ages 6 mos.-5 years, infant/toddler, pre-school, Pre-K, developmental kindergarten; extended care, ages 2-4 to 3:15 p.m.
www.seedlings@lopc.org
www.lopc.org/seedlingspreschool.org

Tiny Tots Preschool
at the Lafayette Community Center
500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-299-3266
9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 3.5 to 5+ yrs.
M-W-F; 9 -11:45 a.m., 2.4 to 3. 6 yrs. Tu/Th, optional lunch bunch to 12:30 p.m.; Pre-K 4 or 5 day options 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
www.lafayetterec.org

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925-284-3999
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[SEE PRESCHOOL page 15]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It's tykes on bikes at Orinda Afternoons Child-care and Preschool.

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LAMORINDA PRESCHOOLS / CONTINUATIONS

◆ **PRESCHOOL** from page 14

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marty@wirlybirds.com

Moraga
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925-376-5110
6:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Infant/toddler, ages 1-2 yrs.; preschool, ages 2-3 yrs.; 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 a.m. - 6 p.m., infants and toddlers 3 mos. - 24 mos.; preschool classroom 2-3 yrs.; Pre-K classroom 4-5 yrs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Having fun in a tub are two "students" at Lafayette's **Tiny Tots Preschool**.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two young men create a piece of art at **St. Stephen's Preschool** in Orinda.

www.eastbaypreschools.com
creativeplayhouseinc@yahoo.com

Growing Tree Preschool
1695 Canyon Road, Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-8280
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www.growingtreepreschool.net

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925-377-0407

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office@lamorindamontessori.com
www.lamorindamontessori.com

Mulberry Tree Preschool
1455 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-1751
7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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www.mulberrytreepreschool.com

The Nurtury Preschool
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925-376-4800 x248 Connie or Jenifer
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www.nurturyatmvp.com.

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www.saklan.org

Orindans Carpool Karaoke Video Goes Viral



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) front seat: **Melissa Matosian Taylor, Mimi Bommarito, Leslie Darwin O'Brien**; back seat: **Betsy Shandalov, Nicole Radlow and Julia Stenzel**.

A group of Orinda women just couldn't resist putting together their own humorous Carpool Karaoke for Hillary video following the second presidential debate. As of Oct. 19, the video has had 25,000 hits.

"We just couldn't not do this," said Mimi Bommarito. She and fellow collaborator Leslie Darwin O'Brien have written and performed humorous

Meadow Moms' Skit Nights for the last eight years, much to their offspring's mortification, at Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, during OMPA spirit week. "This is an election where we just can't keep quiet and hope everything will work out for the best," she added.

To see the video, go to YouTube and enter "Carpool Karaoke for Hillary."

◆ **GALLERY** from page 12

while getting muddy is fun, and keeps being fun; the more you work with it the more you push it to its limits," he says.

Look for about 20 whimsical comedic heads (that seem to talk) and colorful contemporary ceramic pieces in the show. The head of Efstratis' 30" x 14" x 12" ceramic sculpture, *Roll Your Eyes*, sports a jaunty red top hat – what does he say to you? For more of his work, see www.chrisefstratis.com.

As to the value of art to the community, Miller says, "Art is a form of inspiration that feeds the soul." Contis says, "Fused glass is a medium which people who have never done anything artistic find very

rewarding right from the beginning; it changes your mood and encourages you to continue." Mohr says, "I think art helps all of us connect with our higher selves as individuals and as a community." Efstratis says, "Art can add life to someone's home, help people question societal ways, bring laughter to someone or just change their day."

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 Veterans Day, closes at 6 p.m. on Nov. 23 and is closed all day on Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit http://ccclib.org.

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Orinda Books Celebrates Four Decades of Service

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Forty years ago, five Orinda women – Libby Raferty, Elizabeth Gould, Janet Boreta, Ginny Bacon and Barbara Klein – decided that Orinda should have a bookstore. Thanks to their expertise, enthusiasm and spunk, Orinda Books, a thriving independent bookstore, is now celebrating its 40th anniversary. “The bookstore was fun and a lot of us attribute that to two of the women who worked there – Margaret Van Siclin and Carolyn Hayes,” recalls Klein.

Carrying on the bookstore’s proud tradition are current owners Maria and Danny Roden. A new sunny décor now greets patrons as they come to browse among the



COURTESY OF THE CONTRA COSTA SUN, CIRCA 1977, PHOTOGRAPHER: JAK
(L-R) Janet Boreta, Elizabeth Gould, Barbara Klein and Libby Raferty.

diverse selection of books or attend one of the many author presentations, book club meetings and other gatherings hosted by Orinda Books.

In addition to a variety of “book” events, the store also exhibits art work from local visual artists. In October, works created by Miramonte Honors and AP art students were featured.

Although the bookstore has been celebrating its 40th anniversary all year, a special celebration will take place on Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lots of giveaways and discounts will take place as well as “bubbly” and cake. Former owner Janet Boreta will be a special guest. For more information, call Orinda Books at 925-254-7606.



SALLY HOGARTY
Printed in the July 2014 issue of *The Orinda News*, this photo shows long-time Orinda Books owner Janet Boreta (middle) and then new owners Maria Roden (R) and her husband Danny Roden (standing).

National Charity League Sponsors Mad City Money

By SUZANNE TOM
Contributing Writer

The National Charity League (Acalanes and Walnut Creek chapters) in conjunction with Travis Credit Union presented Mad City Money, a financial boot camp and simulation for teens, at Acalanes High School in September.

“Mad City Money is the perfect event, not only for National Charity League, but for all teens and young adults,” said Suzanne Tom, president of NCL Acalanes chapter. “It teaches them skills when schools these days are not able to cover such important topics as creating a budget and sticking to it. It’s knowledge they’ll use for a lifetime.”

The day’s activities hope to increase students’ experience with jobs, salary, spouse, student loan debt, credit card debt

and medical insurance payments using real-life simulation. Those included a mall for “wants,” a pushy car salesperson, a commission-based realtor, and the “fickle finger of fate” – when stuff just happens.

Barry Nelson, president and CEO of Travis Credit Union, said he was proud to provide the opportunity for students to learn basic financial skills.

“Our communities are stronger when our youth master financial skills that will help them reach their financial goals,” said Nelson.

Established in 1925, National Charity League, Inc. is the premier mother-daughter organization of women and their daughters in grades 7 through 12. Currently the organization has 62,000 members in 26 states. For more information, visit www.nationalcharityleague.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Acalanes Area and Walnut Creek Chapters of The National Charity League held a financial boot camp for teens in September at Acalanes High School.

Craig Jorgens

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I’m Craig Jorgens and I’d appreciate your vote to represent North Orinda on the Fire District Board (MOFD). As a retired business executive and 24-year Orinda resident, I would be privileged to offer my skills to the community where my wife Lisa and I raised our two daughters.

– Craig



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Paid for by Craig Jorgens MOFD Board 2016

STUDENTS

Kidpower Teaches Kids to be Safe



Kidpower California Program Director **Erika Leonard** (L) directs parent **Eddy Kong** and Del Rey Principal **Kirsten Theurer** in an improvisational exercise on keeping kids safe.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The bucolic 1950s where children freely roamed through neighborhoods, enjoying an impromptu baseball game or walking to school alone, are long gone. Given the number of abductions and other violence in today's world, children seldom go anywhere unaccompanied.

But physical violence isn't the only threat to young people. Bullying by peers and various forms of intimidation, including online communications, also abound in the 21st century.

Helping to even the playing field for children is Kidpower, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching the skills to keep kids safe.

"Our goal is to foster a child's awareness and understanding of where safety is for them – boundary setting, relationship skills and more," says Kidpower California Program Director Erika Leonard. "We focus on positive support and developing a skill set that will help kids recognize and move out of an unsafe situation and into safety."

After a presentation by Kidpower last year, the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) decided to utilize the organization's workshops in the district's four elementary schools. In August, Kidpower did workshops for OUSD staff and faculty

and this fall, they are presenting two-hour workshops for parents. Additional workshops for parents and students are planned for the spring.

"We had several programs including Think First that deal with student safety, but we decided we needed to do more and to get our community involved. Our goal is to create a culture of student safety," says OUSD Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kathy Marshall. "This training gives additional tools to students, staff, faculty and parents that will improve safety both inside and outside of school."

Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Seaton concurs: "I was very impressed with how the Kidpower presenter actively engaged with our teachers. Very thoughtfully presented."

The late September parent workshops at Orinda's elementary schools used role playing and other methods to help children set clear and appropriate boundaries, deal with other children pushing, grabbing, etc., protect feelings from hurtful words, use voice as a safety tool and much more. "The skills we teach empower children and adults and prepare them to develop healthy relationships and make safe choices," adds Leonard, who grew up in Orinda.

Kidpower has worked with a variety of other Lamorinda groups including TOPS Preschool. For more information, go to www.kidpower.org.

Local Girl Scout Builds Garden for Gold Award



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Erica Stephan created this garden for the Fruitvale Head Start program as part of her Gold Award Take Action project.

A few months ago, a dirt patch with a few withering plants sat in the Fruitvale Head Start's garden. Now, a vibrant garden and mural stand in the same area. Erica Stephan, a member of Girl Scout Troop 33120, Orinda Moraga Service Unit, created this garden and mural for her Girl Scout Gold Award Take Action project. The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn. She is a member of the Girl Scouts of Northern California, which serves over 49,000 girls and stretches from Gilroy to the Oregon border.

The nonprofit group, Unity Council, which helps revitalize areas in Oakland and the East Bay, assisted Stephan, who also collected 178 gently used children's books for the Fruitvale Head Start program. The mural was created by Stephan and a fellow Girl Scout, Antonia Giles. Now a senior at Miramonte High School, Stephan has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten. She is happy to have had the opportunity to make a lasting difference in many children's lives.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Note that schools will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and Nov. 21 to Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving break.

- 1 OUSD schools closed for Staff Development Day.
- 2 **Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD)** board meeting, 7:30 p.m., 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Also Nov. 16. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us.
- 3 **Orinda Intermediate School Bulldog Theatre** presents *Night at the Wax Museum: The Musical*. Shows are Nov. 3, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 4, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.; and Nov. 5, 2 and 5 p.m. Visit <http://ois-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
Miramonte High School presents its fall play, *The Dining Room*, 750 Moraga Way, 7 to 9 p.m. Also Nov. 4-5. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte.
- 14 **Orinda Union School District (OUSD)** board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Visit www.orindaschools.org.

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



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PERFORMING ARTS

OIS Bulldogs Stage *Wacky Night at the Wax Museum* This November



The Pirate cast and crew of OIS' *Night at the Wax Museum* takes a break from rehearsals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Intermediate School's (OIS) Bulldog Theater presents its fall play, *Night at the Wax Museum*, from Nov. 3 to Nov. 5 at the school.

The story follows a group of students who must complete a history project at the Culturally Wax Museum. But when the wax figures such as Cleopatra, King Henry VIII, Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid and Blackbeard, to name a few, come to life, things get very exciting. Supposedly, there's a valuable treasure hidden in the museum, and it's a wild goose chase to find it. Join the hilarity as treasure-hungry outlaws, pirates, royalty, a greedy museum landlord and her bumbling son embark on their search through the wackiest wax museum in history.

There are two casts, comprised of approximately 55 OIS students along with an additional 14 students on the technical crew. The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes.

For show times and tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at the theatre one half-hour prior to the show.

— Jeanette Lipp, Contributing Writer

Popular Film Teacher James Keller Premieres His New Play *Queen Lear: Her Story* about Contemporary Issues

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

A man of many talents, James Keller has long been a popular film teacher at the Orinda Community Center. But many do not realize that the Australia-born, London-educated professor is also a poet, playwright, director and actor.

His latest endeavor *Queen Lear: Her Story* will be produced at Rossmoor's Creekside Clubhouse in Walnut Creek on

Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. and at Temescal Arts Center, 511 – 48th Street, in Oakland, on Nov. 18 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 19 at 2 and 8 p.m. The Rossmoor performance is limited to Rossmoor residents and guests.

"I was always fascinated that you never hear about Lear's queen in Shakespeare's play *King Lear*," explains Keller. "The title started out as a sort of joke, but now it's evolved into this play about contemporary life situations."

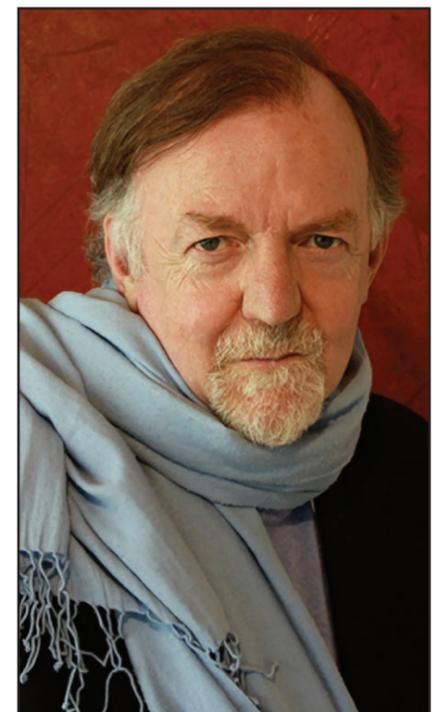
The situation in Keller's *Queen Lear* is

all too familiar. An aging mother who may or may not have dementia and her two adult daughters who want to move her to an assisted living facility.

"It's a rather personal situation for me," Keller says. "My mother just turned 90 and lives far away in Australia. She recently had a bout with pneumonia and had to be in the hospital. My other family members thought she should stay in the hospital longer, but my mom and I really felt she could be back in her own home with help during the day. It's a familiar situation for many people with aging parents."

Keller feels blessed to have three wonderful actresses portray the three characters in his play: Elinor Bell and Beth Chastain portray the sisters with Susannah Wood as their mother. "They are just wonderful to work with," he says.

Tickets to the performances at Temescal Arts Center can be obtained by going to www.brownpapertickets.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

James Keller, a popular film teacher at the Orinda Community Center, premieres his latest play *Queen Lear* in November.

www.cara4orinda.com

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MIXOLOGY CONTEST

Lamorinda Arts Council's Mixology Wildly Successful



SALLY HOGARTY

Derek Zemrak entered his creation "The Creature from the Black Lagoon," which includes Golden State Vodka, Midori, Torani Lime Syrup, Hot Sauce and sparkling wine, in the amateur division.



SALLY HOGARTY

Rachael Kruse of Ruth's Chris Steak House whips up her specialty cocktail "The Hot Girl," consisting of muddled jalapeno and filthy cherries, egg white, vanilla bean infused, simple syrup, lemon juice, Spirit Works barrel aged gin and spiced cherry bitters.



SALLY HOGARTY

Professional bartender **Griffin Henning** had a unique way for patrons to sample his "Teleferic Barcelona," which consisted of Diplomatico Rum, apple brandy, locally harvested farmers market apple cider, egg white, cinnamon and nutmeg.



SALLY HOGARTY

Sharon Zezima entered her creation "Pinatini" in the amateur competition. It consists of Golden State vodka infused with grilled pineapple, Thai chilis, lime juice, basil and agave nectar.

Amateur and professional bartenders shared their creations at a festive outdoor event at Theatre Square on Oct. 8. With the San Francisco Giants in the playoffs, a large screen TV was showing the game while patrons sampled the various concoctions available. Ultimately, the event was more successful than the Giants! Congratulations to the winners: Ryan Wehrenberg - Mixologist of the Year; Kyle Tran, second place; Megan Abraham, third place; Rachael Kruse, Audience Favorite; Shweta Srivastava, Home Crafted; and Megan Abraham, Table Staging.

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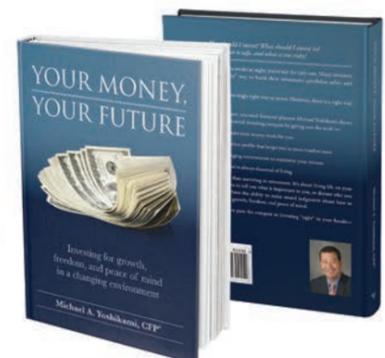
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¹The ranking reflects the volume of assets overseen by the advisors and their teams, revenues generated for the firms and the quality of the advisors' practices. The scoring system assigns a top score of 100 and rates the rest by comparing them with the winner. The Barron's award is not indicative of Destination Wealth Management's future performance.

Artisan Faire Scheduled for Nov. 3

Ceramic artist Gerry Wallace will display several of her pieces at the faire.

The 10th annual Artisan Faire will be held on Nov. 3, 4 – 7:30 p.m., at the Orinda Country Club. Meet talented local artists, displaying and selling their distinctive work in jewelry, ceramics, painting, glass, fiber art, clothing, wood-work and more. Also featured will be



Gerry Wallace with her pottery castle.

culinary products, cosmetics, bath and body items, as well as Orinda's Sanvitalia Home and Garden Shop, Orinda Books and several local authors. Come for a festive evening and enjoy free wine and tequila tasting. For more information, call 925-254-6698.



Orinda artist Ann Testa will display her persimmons pottery at the faire.

Miramonte Celebrates 50 Great Years of Water Polo



KRISTEN TEHANEY

Current and past Mats water polo players took part in a friendly game to celebrate 50 years of playing. The Miramonte Aquatic Center is named in honor of legendary coach **Bill Brown** (5th from the left). Former All American at Miramonte and former captain of the Cal water polo team, **James Lathrop** (sixth from left) also returned for the event.

By JEFF MOULTON
Contributing Writer

Miramonte High School (MHS) water polo celebrated its 50th anniversary with an alumni game and dinner at the school's Bill Brown Aquatic Center on Sept. 23. The event also honored Dave Patching (MHS class of 1974), who died in 2011. Patching was a first-team high school All American water polo player for the Matadors.

Boys' water polo was officially recognized as a high school sport in Northern California in 1967. Led by Coach Brown and subsequently Coach James Lathrop (class of 1996), MHS ranks as one of the best high school water polo programs in the country during the last 50 years. Almost 100 Matadors have been named high school All Americans, 18 players have been named to one or more National College Athletic Association (NCAA) All American teams, and 19 players have played for one or more NCAA championship teams.

MHS fielded its first water polo team in the fall of 1967 after several members of the school's swim team asked Brown to coach water polo. Brown, who started his teaching career at MHS in 1965, knew nothing about water polo before he began coaching it. The 1967 team featured six players who played Division 1 college water polo, including Peter Schnugg (class of 1969), Randy Williams (1970), Jon Svendsen (1971) and Rick O'Hare (1971). All four played at Cal under legendary coach Pete Cutino.

Although Brown is best known for his work with the MHS boys' program, he also helped establish the girls' program in 1995 and helped Heather Petri (class of 1996) develop her skills. Petri, a four-time Olympian, attributes much of her success in water polo to Brown.

Except for 1988, there has been at least one Brown-coached MHS water polo player on every Olympic team from 1980

through 2012. Specifically, 1980 (Schnugg, Svendsen and Drew McDonald, class of 1973); 1984 (Svendsen and McDonald); 1992 (Kirk Everist, class of 1985); 1996 (Everist and Rick McNair, class of 1987); and 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 (Petri).

In addition to the six Olympians, four other MHS graduates played for the U.S. men's senior national team: Colin Keely (class of 1987), Michael Sharf (2004), Jon Sibley (2010) and Drew Holland (2013).

Sharf holds the single-season scoring record at Cal, was a Cutino Award finalist in 2007 and helped lead Cal to two NCAA championships. Schnugg, Svendsen and Everist were each named NCAA player of the year and helped lead Cal to multiple NCAA championships. After finishing his playing career with the men's senior national team and serving as an assistant coach at MHS, Everist was named head water polo coach at Cal in 2002. His Cal teams won the NCAA championship in 2006 and 2007.

Coach Brown, Schnugg, Svendsen, McDonald and Everist have been inducted into the Water Polo Hall of Fame. It is expected that Petri will be inducted in her first year of eligibility.

Brown retired from his teaching position at MHS in 2005. Lathrop, a MHS All American and former captain of the Cal water polo team, is currently a history teacher at MHS. Lathrop took over as head water polo coach after Brown's retirement. His teams have won eight North Coast Section (NCS) championships. He also coached the Junior National teams in 2012 and 2013.

Ask Brown and Lathrop why MHS has been good at water polo for so long and they credit much of the program's success to the support of the players' parents. As a coach in Southern California said, "Miramonte travels with its own cheering section."

The 2016 MHS team shows great promise and is one of the favorites to win the NCS championship.

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LOCAL RESIDENTS

MOFD's First Responders Honored at Orinda Historic Estate



NADINE SMITH

(L-R) **Anthony Stephens**, firefighter-paramedic; **Andrew Leach**, firefighter-paramedic; **Daniel Elbanna**, engineer; **Steve Gehling**, Fire Captain-paramedic and **Felipe Barreto**, Battalion Chief around the bust of Frank Lloyd Wright.

On September 24th, the Frank Lloyd Wright Estate in Orinda hosted a First Responders Appreciation Day. The historic estate recently won the 2016 Most Beautiful Home in the World Award. Lamorinda firefighters and police officers enjoyed a tour

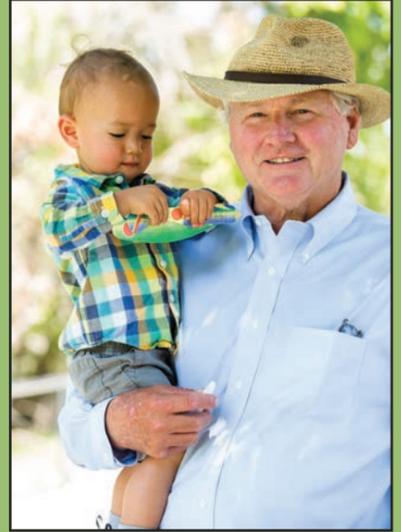
of the five buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and the beautiful four acre grounds landscaped by Henry Matsutani, chief designer of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Information about the Frank Lloyd Wright Estate can be found at www.FrankLloydWright.com.

Orinda Resident Runs for Regional Parks Board

Orinda resident Kent Fickett is running for the Regional Parks Ward 2 election. Ward 2 covers Oakland, Piedmont, Moraga, Lafayette and Orinda.

Fickett received his Bachelor of Science degree at UC Berkeley and his MS degree at the University of San Francisco in Conservation of Natural Resources and Environmental Management. He is a board member of the Concord Naval Weapons Station Restoration Advisory Board and Mount Diablo Audubon.

While working for Governor Jerry Brown, he worked closely with Senator John Nejedly on the 1980 Parks Bill and on the 1988 campaign for Measure AA - the East Bay Regional Parks Bond Measure.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda resident **Kent Fickett**, shown here with his grandson **Rowan**.

Lamorinda Moms Present Preschool Fair

Lamorinda Moms hosts representatives from over 40 preschools to discuss their programs and answer questions on Thursday, Nov. 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

This child-friendly event is designed to help local parents save time and find just the right preschool for their children. Visit www.lamorindamoms.org for more information.

Thursday, Nov. 10

6:30 to 8 p.m.

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Rotary Awards Dancing with the Cars Proceeds



SALLY HOGARTY

At its Oct. 5 luncheon, Orinda Rotary recapped its successful Dancing with the Cars fundraiser and handed out monetary awards to the various recipients. (L-R) **Joe Garvey**, The Orinda Association; **Sophia Braccini**, Orinda Chamber of Commerce; **David Dierks**, Orinda Starlight Village Players; **Jean Thusen**, Educational Foundation of Orinda; **Steve Harwood**, Lamorinda Idol; **Carolyn Mills**, Orinda Park & Rec Foundation; and Rotary Dancing with the Cars Organizer **Frank Darling**.



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ROTARY / LETTERS

Sunrise Rotary Crafts a Teardrop Trailer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary have put on their building hats as they construct a custom-made teardrop trailer from scratch. When completed, it will be raffled as a club fundraiser. Seen here is a working prototype, which debuted at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival in September.

The cabin of the finished product will be constructed of varnished sapele mahogany, with ash accents. Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100. The club is known to many as producers of not one but two handsome artisan-crafted canoes, both of which were huge successes as fundraisers. As with the canoes, trailer raffle proceeds will help support a variety of ongoing community service programs, including Interfaith Housing, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties, Las Trampas and HOME Team.

◆ LAFAYETTE from page 10

“sensible” revitalization are Bruce London and Linda Delehunt. You must vote for them! Do not vote for the other candidates who have not shown support for these principles.

Developers, construction companies and other outside interests are waiting in the wings. If they succeed, Orinda, as we know it, will be destroyed.

Gone will be the wonderful semi-rural character of Orinda. Gone will be local control and what we will be left with, instead, is a parking nightmare, congestion and high density housing without regard to current height limitations.

– Michael Gordon

Impressed with Weiner

I am honored to write a letter endorsing Hillary Weiner for Orinda School Board.

Hillary and I met in 2010 when we both served as room parents in our daughters’ kindergarten class at Glorietta Elementary. I was very impressed with Hillary and have eagerly worked with her in several other volunteer capacities through the years. Hillary is a true leader, one who naturally brings groups of people together. She is an accomplished professional who works hard for causes she believes in. I have watched her devote countless hours to educational and community causes. As a mom of three and a respected member of our community, she truly cares about the things that matter most and will fight for what she believes in. Hillary truly has her finger on the pulse of education in Orinda. She knows the needs of children at both the elementary level, and

also the middle school level. Hillary isn’t afraid to speak up and let her voice be heard. As a parent of children at both Glorietta Elementary and Orinda Intermediate, I am confident that Hillary knows the needs of our children and will lobby on their behalf. She has worked hard to make our school and community a better place. She will devote countless hours, and has the qualifications to be our next Orinda School Board member. I will proudly be voting for her, and encourage others to do so.

– Aimee Burastero Stevens

Responsible School Board Candidates

As a current Orinda school board member, I know the qualities that are important in a trustee: the ability to listen to all viewpoints, to work together collaboratively and without a personal agenda, and to always keep in mind the best interests of the students. Hillary Weiner and Cara Hoxie embody these qualities and deserve your vote in November.

Both Hillary and Cara have volunteered in our community on behalf of children for years. Hillary has served as a parents’ club president, is currently on the board of the Educational Foundation of Orinda and has served as the auction chair for the Children’s Health Guild. Cara was co-president of EFO for the past three years and has years of experience leading a non-profit. Both Hillary and Cara are level-headed, fair and thoughtful, and are strong believers in the importance of a quality education for all children. They know the importance of working as a team, and of keeping the focus of the board where it belongs: on teaching and learning.

Hillary and Cara are committed to maintaining and improving upon the excellent education our schools provide. I urge you to vote for them for the Orinda School Board of Trustees.

– Julie Rossiter

Re-Elect Butler to School Board

Elections are hard, especially this one. Luckily, this year I have one easy choice – re-electing Sarah Butler to the Orinda School Board.

I don’t go to as many school meetings as I should; somehow, work, parenting and plain old tiredness get in the way. And yet, when I do go, I often see Sarah Butler there, whether it’s at my Parents Club meeting, or EFO and, occasionally, at my School Site Council. I think to myself: she doesn’t have kids in Orinda’s schools anymore, and yet, she is working harder than I am for a job that doesn’t pay a dime.

At the meetings, I see Sarah listening carefully to everyone and, occasionally, asking probing questions or explaining School Board policy. She is intelligent and empathetic. She genuinely cares about the interests of all the stakeholders of Orinda schools. She is the only candidate to receive the Orinda Education Association’s endorse-

ment; our teachers support her!

Both of Sarah’s children went to Orinda schools, and they are now in college. She is free to advocate for every child, including mine. When I talk to her, I feel she understands the concerns and worries of someone like me. I have seen her voice principled dissent with honesty and courage. I trust her to look out for my daughter’s interests and to protect the school district from being blindsided by inadvertent mistakes.

She listens, thinks deeply and works hard. I hope you will join me in re-electing Sarah Butler to the Orinda School Board.

– Amy T. Chen

Need Board Members Who Work Well Together

I am very proud of what we have achieved since I joined the Orinda School Board. In the past year and a half, we have:

- Hired a new superintendent who has a bold vision for taking our schools from excellent to world class
- Achieved an increase in our credit rating from AA to AA+
- Initiated a new policy and program for the Wagner Ranch Nature Area which will open it to educate all of our students in science, conservation, ecology, history and social studies.
- Began a new, strength based student safety program for all students every year.
- Installed a district wide solar system at no cost to taxpayers which will save \$300,000 per year in utility costs.

This November, we will be voting to fill two seats on the school board. We have made significant progress in these last few years, and we have much more that we want to accomplish for our students. We need to finish the change we have begun.

We need new board members who can work together collaboratively – even in times when we have different visions for the best path forward. We need new members who have a record of positive contribution to and accomplishments for the district. We need new members who thoroughly understand the roles and responsibilities of a board member.

For these reasons, I am supporting and urging you to vote for Cara Hoxie and Hillary Wiener.

Cara Hoxie attended Orinda schools as a child, and her children have as well. For the past eight years, Cara has served as President of the Educational Foundation of Orinda. She has worked to create a collaborative fundraising model which will ensure the private funding that our schools depend upon.

Hillary Wiener has served as president of Glorietta Parents Club, and on the Superintendent’s Fiscal Advisory Committee. She is on the board of the Educational Foundation of Orinda and is a Parks and Recreation Commissioner for the City of Orinda.

Both these women have the proven ability. [SEE BOARD page 24]

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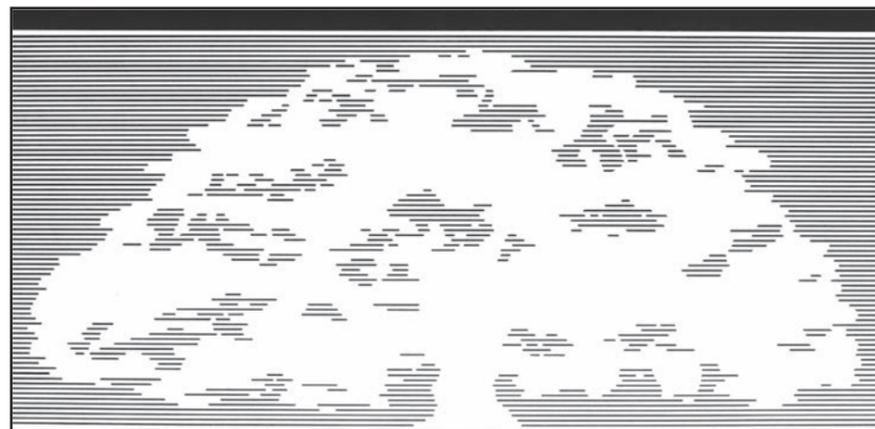


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AUTHORS

Orinda Writer's Book Reviewed in October Issue of Oprah Magazine

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

When Orinda writer Vanessa Hua learned Oprah's prestigious *O Magazine* reviewed her book *Deceit and Other Possibilities* as a "searing debut" she was shocked.

This summer Hua heard from her book editors that it would be reviewed in the October issue, but, "as a journalist, I know nothing is guaranteed until publication." When the magazine was published, she scoured Orinda for a copy before heading to a bookstore in Emeryville. "I grabbed the issue, flipped to the book's coverage, and stared down seeing the cover of my book, included alongside amazing authors. It's an incredible honor."

O Magazine is one of several publications praising Hua's debut collection. "You never know when you're writing what kind of reception your work will receive, and I'm thankful for reviews that will help spread the word about my book," she said.

Hua, who was born and raised in Orinda, recently returned to her hometown with her husband and 5-year-old twin sons. She has a strong affinity for Orinda, "It's been wonderful raising the boys in such a neighborly community."

"Growing up in Orinda made me the writer I am today," she said. She spent many childhood hours in Orinda's "amaz-

ing library."

"As a kid, I visited often, always leaving with a thick stack of books. My childhood literary heroes were Jo March from *Little Women*, Laura Ingalls from the *Little House* series, and Anne from *Anne of Green Gables* – all characters who were aspiring writers, who wrote their own fates."

As an elementary student at Wagner and Sleepy Hollow, Hua said she was "encouraged by people such as Marty DeJonghe, my marvelously creative fourth-grade teacher who gave me an award for being a 'writing genius.'" She also credits Janet Boretta, co-founder of Orinda Books who judged the first competition she won, the Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. She said her mentors strengthened her "confidence in myself and in my writing."

Hua said the 10 short stories in her collection "shine a light on immigrant families navigating a new America, straddling cultures and continents, veering between dream and disappointment." Her immigrant characters, who "straddle both worlds, but belong to none," include a Hong Kong movie idol fleeing a sex scandal, an obedient daughter-turned-Stanford pretender, a Chinatown elder summoned to his village and a Mexican boy who suspects his mother has found love elsewhere. "The characters in the collection illustrate the

conflict between self and society, tradition and change."

The stories "reflect my interest in writing about immigration and identity. Again and again, I revisit strangers in a strange land, making their way in the world. It's the most American of stories."

Hua is an award-winning journalist, who has a weekly column in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She began her career at the *Los Angeles Times*. Her work has appeared in *Hartford Courant*, the *New York Times*, *New Yorker* online, *Salon*, *San Francisco*, *Washington Post*, the *Atlantic* and *Newsweek*. She has travelled extensively, reporting stories from Ecuador, China, Burma, Panama, South Korea and Abu Dhabi.

"I love the mix of deadlines, the relative sprint of journalism, in which I complete assignments and get published within weeks or months, as well as the marathon of writing a book. Journalism gave me the freedom to pursue my every curiosity, to ask 'why?' and 'what if?' and taught me the discipline of writing daily."

Hua's career is moving forward rapidly. Last spring, the author signed a two-book deal with Ballantine. She explained that her debut novel, *A River of Stars*, follows a Chinese factory clerk sent to America to give birth to her married lover's child. The second novel is set during the Cultural Revolution and is told from the point of view of a teenager who becomes the Chair-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda writer **Vanessa Hua's** debut publication received a glowing review from Oprah Winfrey's *O Magazine*.

man's lover.

Deceit and Other Possibilities is available at Orinda Books, or online. For more information about Hua's work, visit www.vanessahua.com.

New Book About Dog 'Detectives' Working to Save Endangered Species

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Author Virginia "Ginger" Wadsworth believes young people have a role to play in the critical fight against the extinction of many of earth's plants and animals.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local author **Virginia Wadsworth** looks at dog "detectives" in her latest book.

"Some species will be extinct in a matter of years. Some species will only exist in zoos," Wadsworth said, adding that to protect endangered species, "young readers need to help win the 'race.'"

In her newest book, *Poop Detectives: Working Dogs in the Field*, written for readers in fourth grade and up, Wadsworth examines the roles of scat detection dogs in locating endangered and at-risk animals. The book is illustrated with pictures of the many scat dogs that travel the world, and has been named a Junior Library Guild selection.

In her book, Wadsworth, referencing the Center for Biological Diversity, said extinction has not been as severe since the loss of dinosaurs. Deforestation, development and illegal poaching have endangered Orca whales, grizzly bears, desert tortoises, tigers, spotted owls and many other animals. Some scientists, Wadsworth writes, "estimate that 30 percent or more of all species will disappear within the next decade."

Wadsworth's book was researched through interviews with scientists, doctors and handlers from scat detection groups.

"It's about dogs, especially ones that are often rescued from shelters because they make poor pets for a variety of reasons,"

Wadsworth said. The dogs are retrained to be scat-detection dogs and work with scientists and handlers in the field.

Wadsworth said she was inspired to write the book when her neighbors, doctors Walter Boyce and Winston Vickers, veterinarians at UC Davis Wildlife Health Center, told her about scat-detection dogs. The two had tracked and studied mountain lions and bobcats. The doctors told her that scat detection was an alternative to the potential physical dangers their work trapping and tranquilizing posed.

The dogs in Wadsworth's book are specially trained to find wild animal scat (animal feces) and alert their handlers by sitting next to their "find." In addition to searching out scat, the dogs sometimes locate the actual animal (tiny tortoises, etc.), as well as invasive plants around the world.

According to Wadsworth, handlers collect scat then take it to a scientific lab, where experts analyze it. Testing reveals information about the specific species and

provides information that helps evaluate the status of the animal, and make decisions about strategies to protect them.

Wadsworth chronicles many different "international ambassadors" and their world travels with their handlers. "Dogs are incredibly smart, have a fantastic sense of smell, and we are just beginning to use them in environmental field work," said Wadsworth, an avid dog lover. "Their success at finding scat or, in some cases, the actual animal or plant, is phenomenal."

Poop Detectives: Working Dogs in the Field reinforces educational curriculum for teachers and introduces students to work by scientists in the field of endangered and threatened species.

Wadsworth is a prolific writer of over 30 books. Visit <http://gingerwadsworth.com/> for information.

Scheduled Book Signing: Saturday, Nov. 5, noon, Laurel Books, 1423 Broadway, Oakland, will feature *Poop Detectives: Working Dogs in the Field*.



It's not too early to start thinking about your 2017 real estate goals. If you are buying a home, Fall is a great time to find an agent, conduct market research and begin the loan pre-approval process. If you are thinking of selling, this is the time to interview listing agents, schedule necessary repairs and get a sales strategy and timeline in place. We are happy to offer complementary consultations, and we would love to be of assistance with your next move.

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FILM / LETTERS

◆ BOARD from page 22

ity to make sound fiscal decisions, work collaboratively, and will be the trustees we need on our school board.

– Carol Brown

Education Association Endorses Butler

The Orinda Education Association, an organization representing all of the teachers in the Orinda Union School District, is pleased to announce its endorsement of incumbent, Sarah Butler, for the office of School Board Trustee. The term, trustee, is particularly applicable to Ms. Butler who views positions on the board as a public trust and whose actions demonstrate her awareness of this responsibility. In making its endorsement decision, OEA closely examined Ms. Butler's experience, past record with regard to support of the interests of teachers, and other endorsements received by the candidate. The teachers of Orinda feel confident that Ms. Butler will continue to champion the inclusion of our voices in the community of stakeholders that strives to provide a truly exceptional education for the students of Orinda.

– Katherine Palmer-Collins

Endorsing Craig Jorgens for the MOFD Board

After spending considerable time over the past decade understanding the workings of MOFD, the services it provides to Orinda residents and the money those residents pay for those services, I consider Craig Jorgens to be the superior choice of candidates for the position of MOFD Director representing North Orinda. His experience in managing large organizations and his background in finance and engineering make him the stronger of the two candidates by far. More information can be found at www.VoteJorgens.com.

His opponent, Victoria Smith, is a real estate attorney and would be the third attorney out of five board members if elected. Her experience includes 12 years on the Orinda City Council, which she is leaving with a partially repaired road system (her 2008 campaign issues were roads; roads; roads after which she did nothing on the roads for four years) and an un-defined downtown plan despite at least three citizen groups clamoring for action for several years. In addition, while she has been the council's liaison to MOFD for five of the past six years, she has gone out of her way to make sure the city has remained uninvolved in understanding how MOFD serves the residents of Orinda. She is a weak second choice.

More details on how the two candidates compare can be found at www.OrindaTaskForce.org/Craig_Jorgens_Endorsement

– Steve Cohn

Supporting Victoria Smith for MOFD Board

This November, my colleague Victoria

Smith will run for election to the Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors. I hope my neighbors in District 5 (North Orinda) will join me in supporting her in this effort.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the City Council with Victoria and work together on many of the issues facing our community. Emergency services and preparedness have always been a priority for Victoria and she understands the importance our citizens place on these efforts. It is a natural transition for Victoria to move her dedication to public service to the MOFD Board. Her leadership and focus on fiscal stability will be welcome attributes to the board. Victoria is a consensus builder and her experience balancing our city budget and prioritizing our capital projects will serve her well in this next endeavor.

Victoria's efforts and dedication to Orinda go far beyond her three terms of service on the council. Victoria has also served on our Planning Commission, volunteered in scout troops, and served in our school communities. We are fortunate to continue to have her leadership in Orinda.

Please help to make sure Victoria is successful in November.

– Dean Orr

Craig Jorgens for MOFD

I strongly support Craig Jorgens for the MOFD board. I worked with Craig for over 10 years, most recently as the head of Strategy and Development for ICO Global Communications. I know Craig to be a quick learner, who makes well informed, fact based decisions and uses his broad background in finance, engineering and operations to develop fiscally responsible, creative solutions to complex problems. Craig does a great job of seeing both sides of an issue and applies strong cost/benefit analysis to his decisions. He was a pleasure to work with and is well respected by both his former employees and the managing board. Craig will make an excellent MOFD board member.

– David Bagley

Supporting Jorgens for MOFD Director

We write in support of Craig Jorgens for MOFD director. In addition to the fact that we've known Craig and his wonderful family for well over a decade, we also know of Craig's accomplishments in private industry. The singular common factor in his personal and business life is integrity.

His opponent in this election – Victoria Smith – highlights on her endorsement page the approval of some 32 elected officials. In my opinion, from approximately five decades of observing the political system and players, these endorsements should raise a huge red flag. Take a very close look at her professional political supporters and what they've done to our little community and the state. Like what you see? Then vote for Smith. Disgusted at the state of affairs in



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

LITTLE DO I KNOW



Tom Westlake

There's not much to tell on the cinematic front for November save that this might be the last column for the year. Efi and Jo Alice, purveyors of International Film Festival offerings, take the month of December off so as not to compete with the Christmas deluge. The Moraga Movers haven't updated their calendar since June, leaving me with slim pickin's to talk about. But instead of bemoaning what I can't tell you, let me tell you about two great movies we *can* see.

Curmudgeons have a rich reputation with cinemagoers, whether culled from great literature (bah, humbug!) or last year's "The One Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out a Window and Disappeared." This month we add another illustrious member to that club. "A Man Called Ove" makes its Lamorinda premier this month and it seems that Efi and Jo Alice have saved the very best for last.

This film has been getting a lot of attention, mostly because of its lead actor, Rolf Lassgard. Many Americans may recognize him from his role as fictional character inspector Kurt Wallander but he is much better known overseas, where he is regarded as one of Sweden's leading actors. Add to this that Ove is taken from the book of the same name, a book that has been on the bestseller list for over 39 weeks and was translated into 35 languages.

Much of this popularity can be attributed to how current this film is, dealing with such topics as immigration, marriage equality and ageism, to name a few. In the middle of this turmoil, we witness Ove trying to make the worst of it (or drastically avoid it altogether). Of course, serio-comedic tales like this one usually see some form of redemption take place and I won't spoil

it here (note: I said "usually"). "A Man Called Ove" starts on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre and runs for a week. For more information check out <http://internationalshowcase.org>.

Speaking of topical, our next (and last) film is "Mr. Smith Goes To Washington." With everyone's mind preoccupied with the upcoming election, this film is both a warning and a salve. The warning comes in the form of the narrative itself with idealism going head-to-head with "reality" while the salve goes by the name Frank Capra. By the time this film screens, the election will be over and much of the shouting will have died down. Regardless of that, I recommend this film if for no other reason than to remind us that, though the current state of our democracy has undergone some – changes – it should never be forgotten that it came from a place of nobility and idealism.

Jimmy Stewart, that personification of purity and all that's right with the world, gives it his all in this film and, just like "It's a Wonderful Life," which came almost 10 years later, if his performance here doesn't stir something within you, then you might want to see a doctor. It will screen on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. As with all film classics shown at the Orinda Theatre, admission is free.

So I leave you now for another year. Remember to keep up with news and events by checking in with <http://lamorindatheatres.com>. I'd also like to express gratitude towards all who take the time to read these words. I don't know how many of you there are but I'm sure there's more than a few and, for me, that's sufficient. I'll return, probably in January sometime, but until then, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

the declining quality of life in your home town and the upcoming nuclear disaster of MOFD's disastrously underfunded pension obligations? Then vote for change, vote for integrity, vote for Craig Jorgens.

– Bailey Lee and Susan Lum

Not Part of Old Guard

Craig Jorgens is not part of the old guard and will bring new thinking to MOFD and strengthen its ability to serve the Orinda/Moraga community. MOFD faces challenges which require an analytical, data driven approach to problem solving so that it can continue to provide the highest quality emergency and fire services in a fiscally responsible manner.

MOFD has worked its way out of its recent financial crisis. However: (1) it continues to have large, unfunded pension and retiree medical liabilities, which need to be fully understood and managed. (2) It needs to negotiate a new contract with the union,

which serves the needs of both our firefighters and our community. (3) It operates in a technological environment, which calls for continual evaluation of new opportunities and energetic adoption of those which makes sense. (4) It needs to find ways to enhance services to our community while remaining within budgetary limits. (5) It needs to understand the increasingly, unequal funding between Orinda and Moraga and address the issue directly once and for all, to maintain cohesiveness of the Orinda/Moraga community.

Craig will bring new leadership and new ideas to MOFD. His leadership on Orinda's Roads Commission in championing Full Depth Recycling (FDR) as the main technology for fixing our worst roads has resulted in a 20 percent reduction in unit costs for these roads, with the result that we are now ahead of schedule in solving our roads problem. I am confident that Craig will bring compa-

[SEE GUARD page 26]



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REAL ESTATE

Tips from the Experts

Three of Orinda's real estate experts offer timely advice for selling your home.

Fall May Be a Good Time to Sell

By STEVE STAHLÉ
Contributing Writer

Although many people think of spring and summer as the prime home-buying season, autumn may be one of the best seasons to sell. That may be particularly true this year given the fact that this has been a seller's market in many areas. Sale prices are still climbing in California as compared to last year, open houses have been well attended and some properties are seeing multiple offers and sales above the asking price.

Here are several reasons to consider selling in the fall:

- Buyers have more time to focus on

home shopping

- Continued demand from buyers
- Pending home sales are up
- "Serious buyers" in the market now
- A lack of available inventory
- Great natural "staging" this time of year

While fall is not always considered the typical home-buying season, there are a lot of advantages to listing your home now - especially at a time when others might shy away from selling. But like any other time of year, it's important to price your home properly, make it look its best, and have a strong marketing plan in place to reach potential buyers.

You can reach Steve Stahlé at steve@homesinorindaandlafayette.com.

Local Expertise Counts When Selling Your Home

By HILLARY MURPHY
Contributing Writer

Hiring a real estate agent to sell your home is a big decision. It is likely your largest asset, and you want someone to deliver great results and keep your best interests in mind. Because trust is a key factor in the Realtor/client relationship, sellers sometimes turn to friends or family members who are in the business even if they are not in the area. This decision can be a result of a family obligation, a fee discount, or because the seller doesn't understand the drawbacks, which can be far costlier than a commission savings.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hillary Murphy is with Village Real Estate.

Here are three reasons to "hire local" when it is time to sell your home.

Touring Homes is Critical to Proper Pricing.

Pictures only tell a fraction of the story, and out-of-area agents who have not toured the recently sold properties must rely solely on photos and MLS data when it comes time to price your home. Often, non-local agents assume that because a nearby home with similar stats sold for \$X, it is a good "comp" on which to base the price of your home. But they might not know that road noise brought down the selling price of comp A, for example, or that comp B had drainage issues - common challenges in Orinda.

Conversely, city agents tend to dramatically under-price properties, expecting buyers to overbid by 20 to 40 percent as is common in Oakland, Berkeley or San Francisco - but this type of bidding is not the norm in Lamorinda. If you overprice your home, it may sit on the market for weeks or months. If you under-price your home, you may be leaving money on the table. Find an agent who tours Lamorinda properties each Tuesday. Their first-hand knowledge of recent sales is critical to helping you set the right price.

The Lamorinda Agent Network is Powerful.

Who your agent knows impacts how quickly your home sells, and for how much. An agent with solid local relationships can even sell a home "off the market" if that is your wish. They can call on their colleagues for pricing feedback, and they know the best service providers to prep

Real Estate Reality

Thinking of Selling?

Things You Can Do to Attract Great Buyer(s)

MAUREEN WILBUR



Hire a Pro. Consider hiring a pro to take a look at your home and offer advice. One morning spent with a home inspector, a real estate agent or a local designer can give you insight into what potential buyers will see when they look at your home - and can save you money in the long run.

Invest Early in Landscaping. A beautifully landscaped yard with gorgeous, mature shade trees can be a big selling point, but you'll need to allow for at least several years of growth to make the most of your investment. Make planting a priority early on, and be sure to seek out expert advice on the proper placement and care of your trees and yard.

Power Wash Paths and Siding. Giving your home's exterior and paved areas a power wash can be nearly as dramatic as repainting, for a much lower cost. Rent a machine from your local hardware store if you don't have one.

Maintain Green Lawns. Sad, neglected lawns are a major turnoff to potential buyers. Maintaining a healthy lawn from the beginning with regular care is the least expensive route, though laying new sod can be worth the dramatic improvement in curb appeal if you don't have time to start from seed.

Upgrade Exterior Doors. Curb appeal will help sell your house! And the way your home looks from the outside depends a lot on the condition of your front door and the garage door, it's visible from the street.

Remove Eyesores. Outdated wallpaper, older light fixtures, stained carpets and popcorn ceilings are all good candidates for updating. The replacements need not

be high-end; just think clean, simple and contemporary.

Minor Kitchen Renovations Bank the Biggest Return. If your kitchen is fairly current, you may want to leave it alone. Remodeling a kitchen is a major expense and you may not recoup your investment. Smaller updates such as painting or refinishing cabinets that are still in good condition, or upgrading to Energy Star appliances, can refresh your kitchen's look at a fraction of the cost.

French Doors Add More Than Light. If you are looking for a special feature to add to your home, consider replacing a door or several windows with French doors. Not only will they let in more light, but the open feel makes the whole space feel larger and adds charm to the walkway to garden or patio.

Choose Current Paint Colors. A fresh, crisp paint job in modern neutrals like gray and putty shows off your home to its best advantage. White in an array of tones, is the new color of choice for many of today's younger buyers. Don't feel you have to avoid all color, but be aware the bolder your color, the more likely it won't agree with someone's taste. And don't ignore the exterior of your home. An overly bright or badly chipped exterior paint color may need refreshing too.

Build in Extra Storage. Another great investment is to add built-in shelving or cabinets in garages or anywhere you have the space. Buyers like lots of storage, so this can add appeal. This does not have to be expensive.

You can reach Maureen Wilbur at www.MaureenWilbur.com.

your home. Most importantly, agents who work locally know which agents and lenders get transactions across the finish line. Relationships matter a great deal in real estate, so pick an agent with strong local ties.

Put Yourself in the Buyers' Shoes.

Imagine a buyer walks into an open house where the listing agent doesn't know much

about the neighborhood, schools, swim clubs, commute or culture of Orinda. What kind of impression does that leave? A local agent will know key selling points to highlight in fliers and ads. Find an agent who lives in the area and can sell it to buyers with enthusiasm. Your home will only look nicer for it.

You can reach Hillary Murphy at www.MurphyTeamRE.com.

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1 Orinda Library Art Gallery** presents *Preservation Paintings, Art Glass, Uber Pixel Photographs and Ceramic Talking Heads* through November with an artist reception Nov. 13 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. including light refreshments. See article page 11.
- Valley Art Gallery** presents *Portfolio 16F*, featuring gallery artists, through Nov. 12. The gallery is at 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite, 110, Walnut Creek. Visit www.valleyartgallery.org or call 925-935-4311.
- Morrison's Jewelers** annual trunk show through Nov. 30, 35 Moraga Way, featuring Angela Cummins Design Collection. Call 925-253-9227.
- Moraga Art Gallery** presents *Beauty Near and Far*, featuring oil landscapes by gallery member Kerima Swain and bold ceramics by guest Lesley Jensen, through Jan. 7 at 522 Center St., Moraga. Visit <https://moragaartgallery.com> or call 925-376-5407.
- 3 10th Annual Artisan Faire**, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 4 to 7:30 p.m., featuring local artists, selling jewelry, ceramics, paintings, glass, fiber art, clothing, woodwork and more. Also featured will be culinary products, cosmetics, bath and body items as well as Orinda's Sanvitalia Home & Garden Shop, Orinda Books and local authors. Call 925-254-6698.
- Story Hour with Cathy Goshorn** for children 2 to 4 years, with reading, songs and games, every Thursday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Orinda Books** hosts author Julie Lythcott-Haims talking about *How to Raise an Adult*, OUSD office, 8 Altarinda Road. \$20 admission includes copy of the book. Event is sold out but there is a waiting list. Call 925-254-7606.
- 4 The International Film Showcase** presents *A Man Called Ove*, starring Swedish actor Rolf Lassgard, for a one-week engagement at Orinda Theatre. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com.
- 8 Healthy Living for Brain & Body**, a presentation for seniors, Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr., Moraga, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Call 925-254-2445 or visit www.cityoforinda.org.
- Free Movie Night** at Orinda Theatre features *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, starring Jimmy Stewart, 7 p.m. Free movies are screened every second Thursday. Visit <http://lamorindatheatres.com>.
- 9 Safety Forum**, Library Auditorium, OA sponsored panel with police, fire, CERT presentations and more, 7 – 9 p.m. Call 925-254-0800. See article page 1.
- 10 Lamorinda Moms Preschool Fair**, Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Over 40 preschool representatives will be at this child-friendly event. Visit www.lamorindamoms.org.
- 11 Orinda Books** hosts Mike Ross discussing his new book, *Ross's Timely Discoveries*, 276 Village Square, 6:30 p.m. Call 925-254-7606.
- 12 Orinda Books' 40th Anniversary Celebration** with special guest Janet Boreta. Featuring champagne, cake, give-aways and 12-percent off all books. Call 925-254-7606.
- 15 American Association of University Women (AAUW)** Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch, general meeting, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9:30 a.m. Guest speaker Assemblywoman Catharine Baker. Also features Annual Marketplace, with handcrafted items. Visit www.oml-ca.aauw.net.
- The World Affairs Book Group** discusses *Indonesia Etc; Exploring the Improbable Nation* by Elizabeth Pisani, 3 p.m. Group meets bi-monthly at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square and welcomes new members.
- P.O.I.S.E** (Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education) event at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 7 p.m. Call 925-254-7606.
- 17 Orinda Woman's Club** Festival of Trees luncheon and fashion show, San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, 10:30 to 2 p.m., with Helen Lyall fashions and MC Dan Ashley of Channel 7 News. Proceeds benefit families, youth, seniors and those in crisis. For tickets visit www.orindawomansclub.org.
- 19 Orinda Holiday Bazaar**, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring 55 vendors and exhibitors.
- 27 Orinda Jazz Festival**, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 3:30 - 5 p.m. Carolalban@aol.com. See article this page.

DECEMBER

- 2, 4 Diablo Choral Artists** presents *Christmas Pudding*, traditional English songs and a sing-along. Concerts are Dec. 2, 8 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda; and Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m., St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill. For tickets visit www.dcachorus.org or call 925-680-7089. Adults \$25; seniors 60+ \$18; students \$5.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Note the library will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

- 1 Humanities West Fireside Chat.** George Hammond explores *Vienna on the Verge* (1900s Vienna culture), 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult program. Visit www.humanitieswest.net.
- 2 Free Tutoring.** AP physics and math tutor available for middle, high school and college students, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tutoring held in half-hour increments. Also Nov. 9 and 16. Register at library.
- 3 Special Book Sale.** Hosted by Friends of the Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 4 Teen Advisory Group (TAG).** Meeting to plan future events, 4 to 5 p.m. Also Nov. 11, 18 and 25.
- 7 Toddler Lapsit.** Stories and songs for 1-to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required, but attendance limited to once a week. Also Nov. 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 and 30.
- English as a Second Language Conversation Circle.** Volunteer teachers lead informal group discussions, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also Nov. 10 and 17.
- 18 Mystery Book Club.** Meets every third Friday, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult program.

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,

Orinda Jazz Festival Benefits Hurricane Matthew Survivors

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Now in its sixth year, the annual Orinda Jazz Festival will once again help those in need. Proceeds from this year's event, which takes place Sunday, Nov. 27, will go to survivors of Hurricane Matthew that caused havoc along the Florida coast and Eastern shore line.

Presented by Carol Alban and Friends, the concert runs 3:30 – 5 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. Performers scheduled to appear include: Ben Flint (former pianist for Isaac Hayes); David DiLullo (percussionist who has led inspirational drumming for Marianne Williamson and Deepak Chopra events); Brian Byrnes (North Bay Blues sensation); guitarists Ronnie Ray Padilla and James Freeman; Captain Didgeridoo; local real estate broker Mark Shaw singing Big Band favorites; Miramonte ukulele players Sebastian Huang and Andrew Chow, flutist Nancy Tyler and renowned electric bassist Kai Eckhardt.

A German born musician and composer, Eckhardt was educated at Berklee College of Music and is best known for his work with John McLaughlin and his unique combination of funk, jazz and world music.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Jazz Festival co-founder Carol Alban recently performed at the annual Jazz en Boucle Festival in France.

The suggested donation is \$10 - \$20 to United Church of Christ (UCC) Disaster Ministries. For more information on UCC, go to www.ucc.org. For more information on the benefit concert, email to carolalban@aol.com.

925-253-1997.

- Guided Meditation.** Wednesdays, 9 a.m., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition.** Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Meditation.** Every Monday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdom Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga, Suite 100. Meditate in silence for 30 minutes, \$5 donation. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmoozee@gmail.com.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.** Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or 925-283-8288. Topics include: Nov. 4, Shark Tank in Lafayette; Nov. 11, Young Professionals at the Institute of Santa Barbara; Dec. 2, Breakthrough Nutrition at Any Age with nutritionist Jill West
- 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. November features Janet Sluis, director of the Sunset Western Garden Collection.
- Orinda Garden Club.** Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary.** Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222.
- Orinda Association.** Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club.** Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society.** Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters.** First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation.** Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council.** Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club.** Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub/>.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District.** First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council.** First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee.** Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District.** First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.. Visit www.mofd.org/board/meetings meeting location will be posted on the agenda.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees.** Second Monday, 6 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 25 Orinda Way—Suite 200, Orinda, CA 94563. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.
- Planning Commission.** Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

SISTER CITY / PETS



(L-R) Mayor **Victoria Smith**, **Corny Foster** and City Councilmember **Amy Worth** in a medieval parade while visiting Orinda's sister city, Tabor, in the Czech Republic.

Orindans Visit Tabor in September to Attend Meetings

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Mayor Victoria Smith and City Councilmember Amy Worth journeyed to Orinda's Sister City Tabor in the Czech Republic to renew friendships and attend meetings in the historic city.

Former exchange students who attended Miramonte High School and others who have traveled to Orinda were on hand to welcome the Orinda representatives. "The

City of Tabor staff, Orinda Klub Tabor and so many others were so gracious," says Wick Smith, who accompanied Victoria and Worth. "There were so many great stories, Czech traditions and foods to sample."

Wick also noted the wonderful events the City of Tabor hosted including a special medieval dinner. "The meeting festival was stupendous, and we really appreciated being able to be part of the festival marching in our costumes and meeting so many

Something to Howl About... Animal Tales

Centuries of Thanks



Jennifer Conroy

November is a wonderful month with a holiday most of us can embrace and enjoy. For one day a year, we collectively pause to give thanks. Many of us connect Thanksgiving Day with the Pilgrims and that alleged feast made possible through the generosity of indigenous people. Feasting and thanking seem to go hand in hand.

Consider, though, that without our feline and canine friends, humanity might have experienced starvation diets that could have impacted empires. Cats and dogs were domesticated about 10,000 years ago. In ancient Egypt, an agrarian society, cats first came to the notice of humans as protectors of the stores of grain. The profound need to keep rats, mice and snakes out of the grain stores led to a courtship of cats in an effort to attract and retain them.

Food, such as fish heads, was left out. No self-respecting cat, ancient or otherwise, would turn down such a treat. In time, cats

moved into the homes of the humans who were feeding them. Beloved on many levels, from that of a comforting and practical companion to that of deity, cats had such a protected status in Egypt that to kill a cat was pretty much of a death sentence for the human who did it.

Some Egyptians included their cats on hunting trips, and there are tomb paintings showing Egyptian hunters in chariots with a cat running alongside. Typically larger than today's domestic cat, these cat companions were skilled at hunting birds and fish.

There is a canine counterpart in the form of the Egyptian god Anubis but the collaboration between humans and canines really took off on a different path. Whereas cats had to be coaxed to the hearths of humans, early dogs were more often than not nudges, hanging out at campsites, scavenging for leftover food and bones.

While the initial attraction for the ancient cat was in its pest-reduction service, the appeal of the dog was, in part, due to its ability to work its way into the human heart. Those of us with dogs have probably experienced that intoxicating "doggy look." You know, the one where your dog looks into your eyes with such perceived longing or understanding or love. Recent research shows that a dog's gaze at a human creates a beta-endorphin effect (*Scientific American*, April 2015) that pretty much mesmerizes us.

Once our human forefathers and foremothers snapped away from the doggy gaze, they discovered that dogs make pretty good hunters, too. In fact, early dogs taught ancient folks a thing or two about hunting, including concepts of the "pack" and prey selection.

So, during this time of year, when we give thanks, let's be sure to acknowledge the heritage of our cats and dogs. They protected our grain and brought game to our firesides. And today, after all those thousands of years, they continue to bring us comfort and joy.

Czechs, the mayor, vice mayor, and city staff, really went out of their way to make us feel welcome."

The Orinda delegation was also fortunate to meet Adam Krause's parents, Martin and Monica. Adam is currently attending Miramonte High School for six months as part of the exchange program between the two sister cities. "They let us tour their unique home with its 15th century features, and we had a wonderful visit with great Czech wine and snacks. It is easy to see why the students we have visit Orinda are so wonderful – they have great families," adds Wick.



animal house
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LOCAL EVENTS

Hospice Tree Lighting December 3



SALLY HOGARTY

On Saturday, December 3, Friends of Hospice, Orinda together with the Orinda Chamber of Commerce will present the Tree of Lights celebration in the Bank of America parking lot. From 4:30-5:30 p.m., Orinda school children will sing holiday songs and Santa Claus will arrive by fire truck. This is the 30th anniversary of the Hospice Tree of Lights. Donations may be made in remembrance of a loved one who has passed or to support Hospice of the East Bay and their many programs. Tax-deductible donations can be made at the tree lighting or sent to: Hospice of the East Bay, Attention Orinda Chapter, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Festival of Trees on Thursday, Nov. 17

The Orinda Woman's Club's 30th anniversary of the Festival of Trees is almost here. The popular event takes place on Nov. 17 beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a display of table top trees, a silent auction and more at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Dr., in San Ramon. The trip raffle this year includes a one-week stay at Poipu Kai Beach in Kauai, Hawaii, and a one-week vacation at a condo resort at one of many choice locations around the world.

A luncheon begins around noon followed by the much-anticipated fashion show featuring fashions from Helen Lyall of Napa. Dan Ashley, co-anchor of Channel 7 News, returns as Master of Ceremonies.

Tickets to the Festival of Trees are \$90 with proceeds benefiting Monument Crisis Center as well as other local groups and education grants for women and families. RSVP to Janet Nelson at 925-451-0559 or visit www.orindawomansclub.org.

- Sally Hogarty, Editor



CHARLIE JARRETT

One of the beautiful table top trees available at last year's Festival of Trees.

Trunk Show Features Angela Cummins Designs

The entire month of November, Morrison's Jewelers, 35 Moraga Way, will feature the Angela Cummins Collection. Cummins designed for Tiffany for many years before retiring and designing for Assael, one of the world's leading pearl houses.

The inspiration for Cummings' work is rooted in nature. She incorporates forms such as ginkgo leaves, spiderwebs, vines, shells, feathers, sea foam, dragonflies, and orchids into her jewelry. Her work has been praised by critics.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Earrings designed by **Angela Cummins**.

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For additional endorsements and other information, please visit
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*Titles and affiliations of each individual are provided for identification only

SEASONED SHOPPER

Not So Scary Scarecrows Around Orinda



SALLY HOGARTY

Thanks to the Orinda Garden Club this jolly gentleman and this glamorous lady are adding a bit of fun to residents and visitors alike as they walk and/or drive around the city. Unfortunately, a few of the scarecrows were too tempting for some who felt the need to take them away. Started originally by Marty DeJonghe, who passed away suddenly in February of 2016, the Orinda Garden Club continues with the fanciful scare crows in her memory.

Seasoned Shopper
Farmers' Market Winds Down for Winter



BARBARA KOBSAR



BARBARA KOBSAR

Sweet potatoes in all sizes and colors are available at the Orinda Farmers' Market.

The Orinda Farmers' Market folds up its last table of the season on Saturday, Nov. 19, just before Thanksgiving. Each week you'll find something to help you get a little head start on holiday meal planning and festivities. The market is also a great place to find something special for the host or hostess – soaps, flowers, jams and jellies, honey and dried fruits.

Many of the month's fresh harvest (carrots, turnips, beets) keep well so purchase early and store in the refrigerator. Pick up a pumpkin, whisk up a winter squash and select some sweet potatoes to store in a dry, well-ventilated space until ready to use.

Sweet potatoes are synonymous with many Thanksgiving meals to use as a side dish or in desserts, soups and stews. Sweet potatoes are divided into two distinct categories – moist-fleshed and dry-fleshed. The moist-fleshed varieties are commonly referred to as yams, but despite their similarities to sweet potatoes, "true" yams are from a different plant species and indigenous to Asia. Sweet potatoes are native to and grown in North and South America.

The fall produces the one crop of sweet potatoes each year so choose your favorite and enjoy. The tan-skinned sweet potato is dry when prepared and benefits from a dollop of butter. They make excellent chips and hash browns and are a good substitute for standard potatoes.

Moist types have a deep orange flesh and a dark orange to red purple skin. The most common varieties of these "yams" grown in California are the Garnet, Jewel and Beauregard. Most of the starches in these sweet potatoes are converted to sugar during cooking, resulting in the delicate

sweet taste.

Choose firm, dry, unblemished sweet potatoes. Avoid any with soft spots – they deteriorate quickly. To prepare, scrub gently – the skins are delicate.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

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

Be sure to visit many of your favorite growers and vendors from the Orinda market at the year-round Sunday market in Walnut Creek. For more information visit the website at www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

Curried Apple and Sweet Potato Pilaf

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - Half-cup chopped green onion
 - 1 garlic clove, minced
 - 1 cup uncooked long-grain rice
 - 2 cups water
 - 2 cups peeled and diced sweet potato
 - 2 cups peeled, cored and cubed Granny Smith apples
 - Half-cup frozen peas
 - Half-teaspoon curry powder
 - Half-teaspoon cumin
 - Salt and pepper to taste
- Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion and garlic. Sauté 1 minute. Stir in rice and sauté 1 minute. Add water and sweet potato, bring to a boil.

Cover, reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes, or until liquid is almost absorbed. Stir in apple, peas and seasonings. Cover and simmer 3 minutes, or until thoroughly heated.

Serves 4 to 6.



Market will close for the Season, November 19th. See you April 1st!



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 32

vice - and has never looked back.

"I am really pleased to have this opportunity to go down this path in my career and extremely grateful to my loyal clients, a big thank-you to them," says Waugh. "I personally manage everything, with no staffing concerns. Reliability is the key in this business and showing up on time to care for the animals is crucial."

Clients understand it is less stressful for their dog or cat to be able to stay at home than go to a kennel. The pets figure out the routine very quickly and end up being calmer when able to remain at home. "Pets know their routine, which is not interrupted when their owner leaves town. They get their meals and exercise and stay in their own home," explains Waugh.

When taking on a pet-sitting job, Waugh does daily dog walks up to three times a day, administers medicines if necessary and feeds and waters the animals. She will take pets to a veterinary appointment and transport them back home. "For clients who are regularly gone all day during the week, I do daily dog walks, taking them on walks throughout their own neighborhood and walking only dogs from the same family together at any one time."

An animal lover her entire life, Waugh now owns two Australian Shepherds, Mia and Murphy, and two cats, Jack and Viva. "I have fostered a lot animals and work with rescue groups," she explains. "I love puppies, they are my favorite." While her pet-sitting business handles predominantly cats and dogs, she also takes care of rabbits, chickens - turns out there are a lot of chickens in Orinda - Guinea pigs, hamsters, fish and turtles.

While the majority of her clients are in Orinda, All Ears Pet Sitting Service also serves Moraga and Lafayette. "I take care of pets full-time and appreciate the local veterinarians who have provided referrals



VALERIE HOTZ
Evelyn Waugh, owner of All Ears Pet Sitting and one of her furry friends.

as well as all my clients."

Managing a thriving business and with a hectic schedule over various holidays throughout the year, Waugh makes it a priority to carve out special time to travel with her mother. Earlier this year, they traveled to South America. They especially enjoy going on cruises together.

All Ears Pet Sitting Service is a member of Pet Sitters International. Excellent client references are available upon request. For more information, visit the website at www.allearspetcare.com or send Waugh an email at allearspetsitting@sbcglobal.net To schedule an initial meeting, call Waugh at 925-253-8383.

What Retail and Services Do You Want?

The Chamber is partnering with Saint Mary's College MBA students to study the purchasing habits and desires of Orindans. A city-wide survey will be available mid-November to determine which retail and services residents frequent and which ones they would like to see in Orinda. The link to the survey will be at Orindachamber.org.

Shop and Explore Orinda This Fall

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce starts a new Shop Orinda Campaign on Nov. 1. The program hopes to encourage shoppers to frequent Orinda businesses, keeping them vibrant and adding to the city's sales tax revenue. Signs will go up around town and in local businesses touting the benefits of purchasing local retail items and enjoying Orinda restaurants.

According to the City of Orinda's Sales Tax Analysis Report, prepared by MuniServices, the first quarter of 2016 showed only one category effectively capturing the sales tax revenue in Orinda -- liquor stores. Drug store sales come in second with service stations and florist/nursery sales next. The other retailers in Orinda, however, don't fare very well with anywhere from 98 percent to 66 percent of potential tax revenue "leaking" to other cities. The Orinda Chamber of Commerce hopes to change those statistics.

"When we have less sales tax revenue, that means less money for roads, schools and other amenities," says Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sophie Braccini. "People want a vibrant downtown and that all starts by shopping locally."

Braccini and Chamber President Roy Hodgkinson hope to encourage people to first check locally for items they need before going elsewhere. "Shopping locally is so much more convenient," says Hodgkinson. "You not only contribute to the local sales tax revenue, but you can select unique artisan crafts from such stores as Echo Grove or Sanvitalia Home that aren't available in chain stores. And, you receive much more personal assistance from our small businesses." Hodgkinson also noted that local merchants partner with local



nonprofits often contributing money and products to fundraisers. For instance, Republic of Cake cupcakes are often donated to school fundraisers as well as other local events.

A new app for both iPhones and Android devices has been developed to support the Shop Orinda campaign. Explore Orinda will allow users to connect with local businesses by category.

The app was made possible by a \$2,500 grant from the Orinda Community Foundation and developed by Chamber member Lynn McAuliffe of Champagne Design.

"You can find out where the closest store is for that special gift you need or find a particular type of food just by pushing a button on your phone," explains Braccini. "We're encouraging our Chamber members to include discounts and specials, which they can constantly update since the app is a live connection to our website."

According to Braccini, Shop Orinda signs will have a code on them will allow consumers to download the app immediately.

"We're also adding a community resources section to the app and to our website, which will allow people to find various services and resources," says Hodgkinson. "Everything will be a live link with maps."

The Exp!ore Orinda app is available through the app store on mobile devices or by going to www.orindachamber.org.





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- Craig Cheslog, Acalanes Union High School District, Board Member Elect
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Experience matters! I respectfully ask for your VOTE.

Sarah Butler

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Paid for by Sarah Butler for Orinda School Board 2016, FPPC #1389694

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JetSuiteX Flights Depart From Buchanan Field in Concord

Offering the ease and comfort of flying on a private jet with the additional convenience of regularly scheduled flights at appealing fares, JetSuiteX serves Concord, San Jose, Burbank, Las Vegas and Bozeman, Montana, flying Embraer 135, Phenom 100s and CJ3s aircraft. Some one-way flights start as low as \$129. Plans are in the works to add service to Carlsbad from San Jose.

“JetSuiteX is a subsidiary of JetSuite, a high-end private jet service established in 2009 by Alex Wilcox, who co-founded JetBlue Airways,” says Maria Dempsey, corporate sales manager. “Alex’s vision involved going into undeveloped markets, and he was very excited about Concord, which he saw as an under-utilized airport.”

It was after a group of Silicon Valley executives approached JetSuite about doing a private charter to Bozeman that they discovered they needed help selling some of the seats on their charter flights. Soon other executives asked if they could fly out of Concord and JetSuiteX was established, providing flight departures from private jet terminals, thereby eliminating airport terminal delays, security lines, baggage fees and long walks through terminals. Hertz is available on-site for passengers in need of a rental car.

“JetSuiteX provides the freedom and exhilaration of private air travel to more people than ever before, flying from private jet center to private jet center. We provide transparent pricing, efficient operations and industry-leading safety practices,” says Dempsey. “At Concord’s Buchanan Field, complimentary parking is available, while parking at San Jose’s Minetta Airport is discounted. Passengers board the plane within 10 to 15 minutes after parking their car. And, we exceed TSA screening standards for private aircraft.”

For three consecutive years - 2012, 2013 and 2014 - the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) presented its Diamond Award of Excellence to JetSuite for the performance



VALERIE HOTZ
(L-R) Maria Dempsey, Corporate Sales Manager and Melissa Baclig, flight attendant with JetSuiteX.

of the company’s highly regarded teams of pilots and maintenance technicians. “Most of our pilots have commercial airline experience, with every pilot averaging over 8,000 hours flying time,” says First Officer Brandon Weltken. “Many are retired from the airlines, which has a mandatory retirement age of 65. In addition our pilots go through JetBlue training.”

The Embraer 135 aircraft seats 30 passengers in 10 rows of three seats per row – a single and a double – featuring comfortable soft leather seats with 36-inch seat pitch, comparable to domestic airlines’ business class service. Complimentary snacks, beverages and WiFi, with individual power outlets at every seat, make for a comfortable environment to continue working during flight time. The Embraer 135 features two Rolls Royce AE 3007-A1 engines providing a range of 1,150 nautical miles.

To book reservations, go to www.JetSuiteX.com and put in the Promo Code ORINDA (all capital letters) to receive a 10-percent discount off the lowest published fare. In addition, travelers may download the JetSuiteX Application and secure reservations through the App or call 800-iFLYJSX. JetSuiteX is a member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

Sanvitalia Home & Garden Expands Outdoor Living and Home Décor

This delightful boutique is the brainchild of the incredibly creative Helen Bentkowski, who brings a fresh perspective to custom centerpieces and all things relating to designing a comfortable and aesthetic environment. Located at number 110 Theatre Square, across from Sweet Dreams Toy Store, Sanvitalia Home & Garden is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is a must for anyone shopping for that special gift or in need of holiday decorations.

Bentkowski specializes in designing unusual centerpieces with great flare, adding a personal touch for each client, as well as arranging lovely bouquets with fresh cut flowers. “We create arrangements with succulents by the millions! Placing these designs in unusual, eye-catching containers adds to their appeal. We also have fresh living orchids delivered here weekly,” says Bentkowski. You do not want to miss the one-of-a-kind fresh pumpkin arrangements that incorporate succulent plants and will last for three months.

Jewelry designer Heather Woodiwiss assists Bentkowski in the floral-arranging department. Her attractive bracelets, earrings and necklaces that mix vintage materials with new stones are available here. Woodiwiss’ family established their soap-making business, Heavenly Suds, 40 years ago and shoppers will find their fine glycerin soaps in thousands of shapes, from the Eiffel Tower to a ripe Anjou Pear.

Bentkowski has a discriminating eye for color combinations, all things whimsical and beautiful, all wrapped into one, which



VALERIE HOTZ
(L-R) Heliana Bentkowski, proprietor of Sanvitalia Home & Garden, with Heather Woodiwiss, jewelry designer and floral arranger extraordinaire.

is what makes coming to Sanvitalia Home & Garden an experience to savor. A display table features attractively hand-carved olive wood bowls by Le Souk Olivique, sleekly designed stainless steel knife sets by Laguiole France Jean Neron and an assortment of cookbooks including the Barefoot Contessa series and Alice Waters’ *My Pantry*. Luxurious French linens by Garnier-Thiebaut are to be had here and a fine line of leather pocket books, wallets and business card cases.

Also owner and manager of Terrace Gifts and Coffee near the Claremont Country Club in the Upper Rockridge neighborhood, Bentkowski knows her clients and enjoys delivering exceptional personal service. “I love the people that work here, the flowers, the gifts, the orchids,” says Piedmonter Nancy Peterson. “I love everything here. They have a special talent for putting it all together and nothing is ever run-of-the-mill. I always find something wonderful here.”

Now is the time to get ahead of holiday shopping and drop in Sanvitalia Home & Garden. Distinctive gifts are in abundance, along with Papyrus greeting cards, the most popular and classic Thymes Frasier Fir candles, unusual lighting décor and much more.

A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, the boutique is open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information email Bentkowski at sanvitaliahg@gmail.com, visit the website at www.sanvitaliahomeandgarden.com or call 925-258-6900.

All Ears Pet Sitting Service Serves Lamorinda’s Furry Pals

After a successful career providing Information Technology expertise for a financial services firm in San Francisco that required frequent business travel, Beverly Waugh knew she wanted a career change. Over 12 years ago, Waugh left the corporate world to pursue another passion, establishing her own small business that she operates from her Orinda home - All Ears Pet Sitting Ser-

[SEE BUZZ page 31]

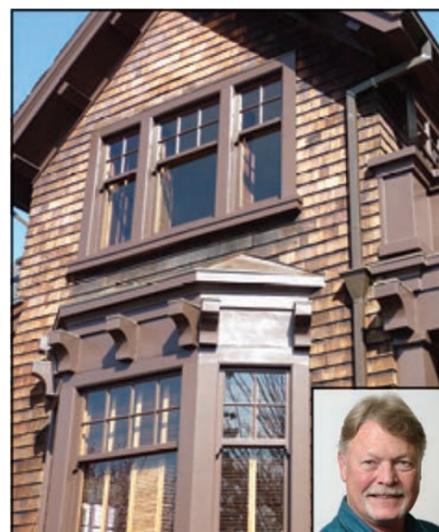
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