

THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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12 Issues Annually
October 2012

Important Workshop/Forums

The Orinda Association (OA) will be sponsoring two forums to help inform voters of candidates' positions. Each forum will be run by the League of Women Voters. Audience members will have the opportunity to write out questions for the candidates to answer. For more information, call the OA office at 254-0800.

October 11 from 7 - 9 p.m.
City Council Candidates' Forum
Orinda Library Auditorium

October 15 from 7 - 9 p.m.
OUSD School Board Candidates' Forum
Orinda Library Auditorium

Festival of Trees Begins the Holiday Spirit in November



SALLY HOGARTY

Participants at last year's Festival of Trees admire the small table-top treasures.

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Fashion and fundraising go hand in hand at the Orinda Woman's Club Festival of Trees event, said event co-chairpersons Barbara Rogan and Alison Kling. The Festival will be held Thursday, November 15, at the beautifully remodeled San Ramon Marriott Hotel.

A 10:30 a.m., the viewing of the mini-trees and gift baskets begins followed by a noon luncheon. A highlight of the event is always the fashion show featuring Helen Lyall Clothes for Women. Channel 7 news anchor Dan Ashley serves as Master of Ceremonies.

Kling said the fundraiser, hosted by the club for the last 26 years, "helps women and children to rise above the difficult situations in which many find themselves."

[SEE TREES page 20]

Third Annual Olive Festival Fundraiser Set for October 7

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

When California's first Surveyor General, Theodore Wagner, laid down roots in the City of Orinda and helped establish the town's first school, did he imagine the type of legacy he was establishing? Some 130 years later, the orchard of Mission Olive trees, which Wagner planted in the late 1800s, will be the site for the Third Annual Olive Festival. Sponsored by the Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, the event takes place at the Nature Area, Bear Creek Road and Camino Pablo, on Sunday, October 7 at 1 pm.

Kathy Barrett, board secretary for the Friends, says that they operate under the "graces of the school district, which owns the land." The group has been in existence since the 1990s. "We are a grassroots group," she says. "The group provides educational activities including: First Thanksgiving, Native American Studies, Rancho Day, Pioneer Day and Animal Studies."

According to Barrett, the Wagner



SALLY HOGARTY

Families enjoy the fish pond at the Olive Festival, one of many attractions at the Nature Area.

Ranch programs are all closely tied to the State standards & the school district curriculum. A retired teacher and former UC

[SEE OLIVE page 20]

City Councilmembers Say Measure L Will Make a Difference



MAGGIE SHARPE

Workers were removing and replacing failed portions of the asphalt in front of the Fire Department on Orinda Way on Sept. 14. According to Brendan Ottoboni, a consultant to the city who was overseeing the work, this thin "slurry seal" method is also being used to fix problems on Rheem Boulevard.

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

In its 2011 "Pothole Report," the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) gave Orinda's 92.5 miles of paved roads a dismal "Poor" rating, just one rung above the lowest "Failing" rating on the six-tier scale.

To address the problem, the Orinda City Council approved the "10-Year Roads and Drainage Repairs Plan" last July. It's a four-phase plan to raise \$47 million to fix deteriorated roads and drains. Phase 1 is Measure L on this November's ballot, which proposes a half-cent increase in the city's sales tax that would generate about \$6.7 million over the 10 years.

"It's an important step forward in funding our 10-year road and drain repair plan," says Mayor Steve Glazer. "It's a plan to bring all public roads in the city to a fair condition and replace failing drains underneath each of them."

Phase 2, a proposed \$19.8 million bond or parcel tax, will be put to a vote in 2016; Phase 3, also a \$19.8 million bond or parcel tax, will be on the 2020 ballot; Phase 4, an extension of the half-cent sales tax to ensure ongoing maintenance, is slated for the 2022

ticket.

Cassandra Forth, co-chair of Fix Orinda Roads, emphasizes that monies from the four-phase plan will add to the city's infrastructure investment, not replace current funding. "Measure L funds will increase the city's total spending on roads and drainage; the council has committed to maintain the current Pavement Management Program as

[SEE MEASURE L page 24]

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the Colors of Fall & Winter



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Find Yourself in Art at Library's October Exhibit

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Writer and mystic Thomas Merton said that, "Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time." Guests are invited to do both at Orinda Library Gallery's October show. A reception for the artists will be held on Saturday, October 6, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. when light refreshments will be served.

Artists exhibiting their works include Judy Feins (landscapes in oil); Fred Lee (photographic giclées); Billie Jean Bertoli (travel-themed acrylic paintings); Bill Carmel (bronze sculptures and acrylic paintings); and Ginny Ruble (oil paintings).

Orinda resident Feins says she's inspired by "the magical pale lavender of Mount Diablo against the delicate butter yellow sky as I drive down Route 24 in the morning."

She finds our natural environment so beautiful that plein air oil painting is her passion. The fleeting effects of light and weather change minute by minute and she loves to capture their changing moods at Lafayette Reservoir or Mount Diablo over the course of a day and through the seasons. *Lafayette Reservoir*, a 30 x 40" acrylic on canvas, portrays a boater who looks like he is sailing in the clouds.

Feins has been painting and drawing since childhood and received her B.F.A. from the Boston University School of Fine Arts. She was the principal illustrator for the *Coastal Access Guide* produced by the California Coastal Commission and also created illustrations for the Archeological Department at U.C. Berkeley.

Feins hopes the show will inspire viewers



© 2012 BILL CARMEL
Bill Carmel's "Puffer Rising" is a 24" x 18" acrylic on canvas.

to take even greater pleasure in the beautiful area that we live in. Visit www.judithfeins.com to view her work.

Fred Lee also lives in Orinda. He doesn't consider himself a "true artist, per se, because I'm basically an engineer." However, for 40 years he has been drawn to painting and taking photographs.

Lee uses a 22" Cintiq digital tablet with a stylus to create images. He uses Photoshop and Painters and prints on giclées (fine art digital prints made on inkjet printers). Some images he draws himself, for others he uses his photographs as a base.

"My father's innate creativity has benefited his career as an engineer, especially his work in magnetism," says Lee's daughter Mary. "Most people, especially those in applied sciences, don't realize that feeding one's creativity as an artist creates a flow into their work life, and vice versa."

Lee will exhibit several giclées, including still lifes.

"Art stimulates a person's vision and enriches their life," says Lee.

Billie Jean Bertoli lives in Briones but hails from Swaziland, in southern Africa. She has been painting with acrylics for the last 12 years as she likes the vibrancy and variety they offer. She finds that when painting on raw wood, using a lot of detail



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Billie Jean Bertoli 24" X 36" acrylic on canvas entitled "A Month By the Lake" will be part of the October exhibit.

(such as for animal fur), or painting on the fly, acrylics are easier to work with and more durable than watercolors. She used them to build a 3D wave on canvas and to mix in real sea sand from the beach to create texture.

Her theme for this show is travel. Works include *Month by the Lake*, 24 x 36" acrylic on canvas, *The Language of Music*, 18 x 18" acrylic on American birch wood, and *The Invitation*, 16 x 20" acrylic on American birch wood.

Her whole family travels, once spending an entire summer working on a sheep farm in the Australian outback. Travel helps keep her work fresh, but she also touches base with African filmmakers and wildlife photographers who live in remote places.

"Nothing beats a phone call to my father who always has the latest stories of the bush, and places I call home," says Bertoli.

She enjoys rubbing elbows with local artists and appreciates the support of the local art community.

"We are all artists in one form or another; some of us just put down our crayons early," she says. "Mankind has always represented those things that are precious via art. The more we rush around, the more we need a peaceful place to escape into."

Bill Carmel of San Ramon holds an M.F.A. from U.C. Berkeley and has taught at Humboldt State and Southern Illinois universities. He especially enjoys collaborating on public art projects and created five cast bronze California animals for the Veterans Park in Brentwood.

Works in the show include *Coming In Out of the Rain*, 18 x 24" acrylic on canvas; *Pyramid (Grand Canyon)*, 13 x 13 x 11" acrylic on epoxy sculpture; and *Puffer Rising*, 24 x 18" acrylic on canvas. Many of his bronze pieces use actual casts of topographical maps of California. Recurring themes include fractals and animals.

Carmel says he keeps his work fresh by
[SEE GALLERY page 8]

illuminating wisdom

"Painting the nightscape with light is magic. Subtle details are amplified while exposed places become intimate and quiet spaces. Everything becomes a star in a bold drama. The black sky is your stage."

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President
November Election Will Impact Orinda's
Future**



Bill Waterman

Orindans certainly agree on one thing – that the most pressing problem we now face is the ever-worsening state of our city's residential and arterial streets and roads. Every day, we experience the frustration of having to negotiate our way over deteriorated and worn out streets – both our neighborhood roads and the some of the main "arterial" streets as well. It does not take a "rocket scientist" to know that the great majority of our fair city's roads are in terrible shape, and that something has to be done. We also know that we lack sufficient funds in the city's annual budget to begin addressing this big problem. What are we prepared to do to solve this problem?

Over the past several years bond measures and parcel taxes aimed at fixing our roads failed by narrow margins. Thus, the City Council created the Orinda Citizens'

Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) to come up with solutions. Their immediate suggestion now is to pass a half-percent sales tax – Measure L on our November ballot – to begin to raise extra funds for road and drainage repair work. This measure would last for 10 years, and while the funds would go to the city's general fund, they would be spent according to an annual plan jointly developed by the Public Works Department and the CIOC, with the public's input. There would thus be citizen oversight and annual audits. Opponents of the plan claim the funds will likely go to repaving of the main arterial streets only and will place Orinda businesses at a competitive disadvantage to those in neighboring cities, among other arguments. In rebuttal, backers say the measure was specifically created to raise funds to repair both resi-

Lamorinda Cert Drill October 20



SALLY HOGARTY

Volunteers at a previous CERT training drill prepare for a simulated disaster.

By REBECCA KUNZMAN
CERT Drill Committee

Here is the opportunity for your neighborhood to plan and practice a real world scenario that could help you during a natural disaster. If you do not have a neighborhood communication plan, you have time to prepare.

Neighborhoods will preregister for the exercise. There will be at least one training session for participating neighborhoods and planning support from the Lamorinda CERT Drill Committee.

The first part of the exercise on October 20 takes place in each participating neigh-

borhood. At 9 a.m., the simulated disaster will begin with CERTs and neighborhood leaders checking their neighborhoods using Family Radio Service (FRS), Ham radios and door-to-door checks.

The gathered information will then be communicated to the Lamorinda CERT Communication Center. Next, the neighborhood groups will develop their plans for post-disaster action.

The second half of the exercise will begin at the Rheem Elementary School in Moraga at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Rebecca Kunzman at 254-1849 or be email at rkunzman@comcast.net.



Did You Know That...
The Orinda Association has published
The Orinda News since 1986?

Kathryn McCarty has been writing for *The Orinda News* for three years. She is a playwright of 18 works produced throughout the Bay Area, Chicago and Los Angeles. This December, her play (*Not*) *A Christmas Carol* will be produced at Contra Costa College, where she has taught for 12 years. McCarty is also on the drama faculty at Orinda Academy, and teaches Creative Writing for Orinda Parks and Recs. Visit kgmccarty.com for more info.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA TENNIS

Orinda's #1 Source for News!

For information on the OA, go to www.orindaassociation.org.

The Orinda Association

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

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

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dential and main arterial roads and that this is a modest but significant step forward supported by the City Council and CIOC. We in the OA are not taking a position on this specific measure, but it goes without saying that Measure L deserves our careful consideration. And if Measure L passes, we Orindans owe it to ourselves to support our Orinda businesses even more than before – to show that we care about the future of the city and our business community.

The Orinda Association will again sponsor the Orinda City Council Candidates' Forum on Thursday, October 11, at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Library Auditorium. Two seats on the Orinda City Council are up for election – and incumbents Steve Glazer and Victoria Smith will join challenger Linda Delehunt at the forum. The OA will also sponsor a forum for the school board candidates on October 15 at 7 p.m. at the library auditorium. Audience members can pose questions to the candidates during the forums, which will be orchestrated again by the League of Women Voters. I look forward to seeing you there, and happy October!

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**Grand Opening
October 2012**

National Kidney Foundation's Authors' Luncheon in November

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

For the 18th year, Orindan Tyler Hofinga is chair of the National Kidney Foundation Authors' Luncheon to be held on November 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Marquis Marriott Hotel in San Francisco, 55 4th Street. "It's an opportunity to meet outstanding writers and learn about the new



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger will discuss his book, *Making a Difference: Stories of Vision and Courage from America's Leaders*.

books they have written in 2012," Hofinga explains. "Danville resident, Capt Chesley 'Sully' Sullenberger III, who piloted his plane into the Hudson River thus saving many lives, will discuss his entry, *Making a Difference: Stories of Vision and Courage from America's Leaders*."

Hofinga undertakes his assignment

for two reasons. First, he hopes to raise awareness of kidney disease and the work of the National Kidney Foundation. One in nine Americans, 20 million people, suffer from chronic kidney disease. Called the "silent killer" because it has no recognizable symptoms, kidney disease needs to be detected early. Seeing one's doctor for three quick tests – blood, urine and high blood pressure – is highly recommended. Second, this father of four wants to be a role model for his children, showing them, by example, how important it is to give back to the community. He spends on average 10 hours a week, year round, to put on this event. "We have 1,000 attending the luncheon, including many from the Lamorinda area," he adds. "The Marriott is close to the Powell Street BART station. Each year, we raise about 1/3 of a million dollars for the National Kidney Foundation."

From 10 a.m. until noon the authors are available to sell and sign their books, with additional time in the afternoon also available. After the gourmet lunch, the authors discuss their books for 12 minutes each. Along with Sullenberger, other writers and their books include: *Keller's Souvenirs: Stories and Recipes from My Life* by Hubert Keller, owner of the Fleur de Lys restaurant in San Francisco; *The Headmaster's Wager* by Vincent Lam, emergency physician who wrote *Bloodletting and Miraculous Cure*, winner of the 2006 Scotiabank Giller Prize; *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* by Tom Lichtenheld, New York Times bestselling children's author; *Astray* by Emma Donoghue, whose book *Room* was an international best seller and a Man Book Prize finalist. The sixth author is still to be announced. Michael Krasny, host of KQED

[SEE AUTHORS page 14]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tyler Hofinga (center) will chair the Kidney Foundation event. He is shown above with his children (L-R) **Elizabeth, John, (Tyler), Robert** and **Anne**.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is Here Again!

By TIFFANY SVAHN, MD
Contributing Writer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tiffany Svahn, MD.

It seems like just yesterday that we were honoring Breast Cancer Awareness in 2011 – while the year has gone by quickly, it has not done so without leaving its mark in the advancement of breast cancer treatment.

We all know that breast cancer is a very important health issue for women – it is the most common cancer in women, and the second most common cause of cancer death. In 2011, there were more than 220,000 new diagnoses and more than 40,000 deaths due to breast cancer in the United States. But the most important statistic is that there are more than 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in this country right now! That is due to improvements

[SEE CANCER page 19]

Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert for Orinda Schools

Some Cool Tools for School

- Study Blue: Online Flashcard and Study Tools (<http://www.studyblue.com>)
- The Kahn Academy: Free online learning on a multitude of subjects (<http://www.khanacademy.org>)
- Knewton & the Flipped Classroom: Information on digital, personalized knowledge (<http://www.knewton.com/flipped-classroom>)



"In addition to being an active school volunteer for nearly a decade, I have spent years talking with parents, teachers and staff about what is working well in the OUSD and their hopes for the future. I know that with new leadership and fresh ideas the OUSD can become more efficient, create a culture of collaboration and provide an even better 21st Century education for our children."

– Bekki Gilbert, JD, MSW, PhD

My Credentials

- UC Berkeley Graduate
- Former Tenured Professor (CSUH/EB)
- Author/Editor of Books & Articles on Social Policy
- Attorney

Active Orinda Schools Volunteer

- Room Parent, 2004-2012
- Think First Instructor, 2005-2011
- Monster Mash, Chair, 2005
- Friendship Day, Chair, 2006-2008
- Hospitality, Chair, 2007-2008
- Parent Education, Chair, 2008-2010
- Technology Committee Member, 2010
- Ensemble Singers, Coordinator, 2010-2012
- Kennel Cruiser, 2010-2012
- Assistant Producer, "Suessical Jr.", 2012

Community Volunteer

- OYA Boys Soccer Coach
- Gift Giving Event, Seneca Center for Children & Families
- Board Member, Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area
- Advisory Board Member, Camp Galileo & Summer Quest
- Volunteer, Measure B
- Founder, Save Environmental Education in Orinda
- Volunteer, Bay Area Crisis Nursery



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WOMEN / COMMUNITY

Restaurant Walk Benefits AAUW's Tech Trek Program!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jan Cushman and Sandy Fox-Sohner of the Lamorinda branch of AAUW prepare for the upcoming restaurant tour.

By SANDY FOX-SOHNER
Contributing Writer

Gather your friends for a great night out and do a good deed for Lamorinda 7th grade girls. Tuesday, October 9, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., is the date of the 15th annual Restaurant Walk in Walnut Creek benefiting AAUW's Tech Trek program.

Sample delicious cuisines at some of the best restaurants in downtown Walnut Creek. You will be sampling homemade chili at Hubcaps, pastrami sliders at Lark Creek, butternut squash soup at Lettuce, and garlic fries at Mel's. The Pomegranate Restaurant will be serving pomegranate chicken and hummus. Altogether 24 restaurants will be providing delicious samples of their best dishes to happy participants.

Ticket proceeds will allow the Orinda/Moraga/Lafayette (OML) branch of AAUW to send more girls to Tech Trek camp next year. This camp encourages young girls to continue their interest in science and math by taking classes and choosing science and math careers. In 2012, AAUW OML sent six girls to the Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp on the Stanford University campus.

Ticket packets are \$30 per person. Packets will contain 24 individual tickets for the participating restaurants and a map showing the best route to take. Come hungry!

Mail checks (made payable to AAUW-OML) to AAUW-OML, 2914 Fyne Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. For more information, call Sandy Fox-Sohner at 925-631-0668. Tickets will also be sold at the Pear Festival in Moraga on September 29.

MOFD Directors Run Unopposed

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Fred Weil (incumbent), Steven Anderson and Alex Evans are running unopposed for the three vacancies on the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors. As a result, according to the Contra Costa Elections Office, the three seats will not appear on the ballot and the three unopposed candidates will be appointed and sworn in at a December MOFD board meeting.

In February, Brook Mancinelli (Division 5) and Dick Olsen (Division 3) resigned their seats on the MOFD board. Olsen's seat was up for election in November 2012, while Mancinelli's seat was not due for election until November 2014. Since then, the board has been operating with only three members. In March, the remaining board members, Frank Sperling, Fred Weil, and John Wyro, unanimously decided to put the two open seats on the ballot for the general election in November.

Weil resumes his seat in Division 2, which covers north Moraga and Rheem Valley. Weil has served on the board since 2003 and was president in 2008 and 2012. Evans, currently the chair on the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission, will assume Orinda's Division 5. Anderson will take Division 3, which covers parts of Moraga, Orinda and Canyon. Anderson will serve out the remainder of Olsen's term, and Evans and Weil will serve full four-year terms.

Anderson is the managing partner in a business consulting practice, which provides services to U.S. and international Information Technology companies. Anderson said, "I emphatically support the MOFD service model and intend to work diligently to insure MOFD's long term financial health. For MOFD to slowly and painfully reduce its services or go out of existence is not an option."

For more information, visit www.mofd.org.

Forum on Domestic Violence at Orinda Community Church

On Sunday, October 14, 2012, Women Helping Women of Orinda Community Church will recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month through Worship and a Forum.

The Service of Worship, organized by Women Helping Women, will focus on domestic violence through choral reading, prayer, dance, music and the Word.

During the Forum, the film, *Telling Amy's Story*, a public service media project from Penn State Public Broadcasting, will be shown. The film is based on events leading to a domestic violence homicide that occurred in central Pennsylvania.

The forum speakers will include a

representative from STAND!, the comprehensive family violence reduction agency in Contra Costa County, which provides prevention, intervention, and treatment services to end the cycle of domestic violence.

Other speakers at the Forum will be Anna Johnson, M.S, Psychology; Jennifer Brown LMFT, and Rev. Lee Cruise, Adjunct Pastor at Orinda Community Church.

Orinda Community Church is located at 10 Irwin Way. Worship is at 10 a.m., followed by refreshments and the Forum at 11:15 a.m.

For information, contact the Rev. Lee Cruise at 254-4906.

OCF Accepting Grant Applications

By SUE SEVERSON
Contributing Writer

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) now in its third year is accepting grant applications for 2012 through October 15. All dollars raised the prior year through its main fundraisers, including community donations, Everyday Heroes golf tournament and NorCal Kids Triathlon,

go directly to meet our mission of "Enhancing the Quality of Life in Orinda." To download application or for more information see website www.orindafoundation.org.

OCF has also expanded its board and selected new trustees including Erik Andersen, Mark Roberts and Ted Urban. They join founding trustees Dick Burkhalter, Carol Penskar, Sue Severson and Richard Westin.



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Letters to the Editor

Random Act of Kindness

No doubt most of us have lost a prized possession. If lost because of our own carelessness or inattention, our response upon recognition of the loss often starts with an unrepeatable exclamation, followed by two hopes: 1) "I hope someone finds it;" and 2) "I hope they are nice and return it to me. It seems rare that such hopes are realized; lost possessions all too often become someone else's found prize.

Pete Hasselman, Orinda architect and resident, found such a prized possession while walking on San Pablo Dam Road over the long Labor Day weekend. Pete often walks that road and, as a good citizen, picks up trash which has been thrown or blown onto the path. On Saturday, Pete had managed to fill several bags full of highway refuse when he came across a plastic bag, filled with contents heavier than most of his finds. Inside was truly a prize: an Apple I-Phone. Meeting friends for a cup of coffee after his walk, he and his buddies clicked on "Contacts," found the number of the owner's girlfriend who gave Pete the name and number of the I-Phone's owner. . . . a very grateful owner who rushed to meet Helen, Pete's wife, the next day to retrieve his lost phone.

Such random acts of kindness and courtesy seem rare these days in our beleaguered communities. So, it's worth a mention and a reminder to us all that there are indeed good citizens among us.

– Sharon Iversen

Yes on L to Fix Roads

What do we do when our home's water heater fails or the roof leaks after a big storm? We fix it. Orinda's roads and drains have been failing for years. In the meantime, many strategies have been tried and progress was made, despite limited resources. But, we still have a multimillion dollar problem. And just as our home repairs become more costly when delayed, the costs of fixing our infrastructure escalate.

Polling data from January 2012 has shown that Orindans would support a 0.5 percent sales tax that would enable the council to increase the road and drain budget by approximately \$600,000 per year. So instead of focusing on main roads such as Rheem or Moraga Way, the city can put more emphasis on our residential streets.

With guidance by the council and support of Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Committee, city staff has put together a ten year plan that if put in place will bring our roads back to good condition. Measure L, a 10 year 0.5 percent sales tax, is the first piece of the plan. All roads and drains won't be repaired overnight, but it will allow the city to accelerate repair while taking advantage current competitive bidding in

this economic environment. It is a necessary first step.

We have the opportunity to say "Yes!" to Measure L on November 6 and begin to repair our Orinda home.

– Cassandra Forth

Task Force on MOFD

In June of 2011, City Councilmember Amy Worth advised the council that they should create an emergency services task force to review how Orinda is being served by Moraga Orinda Fire Department 14 years after its formation. The majority of the council disagreed, even after being presented with a petition requesting the task force signed by 220 residents. Despite numerous fruitless efforts of the past, the City Council continued to instruct citizens with concerns to deal with MOFD directly.

In response, some of the petitioners formed their own Task Force and have spent the past year collecting data and analyzing the operations and finances of MOFD, specifically how they affect Orinda's residents and taxpayers. The report is ready for release (www.OrindaTaskForce.org) and some of its findings are worthy of the public's attention:

- 40 percent of all time critical incidents in Orinda are not responded to within the six-minute industry standard.

- the District has accrued \$700 million in deferred employee benefit liabilities and currently only has \$110 million in assets to offset them.

- to fully fund the employees' future benefits could cost between 40 and 50 percent of MOFD's total revenue for a couple of decades.

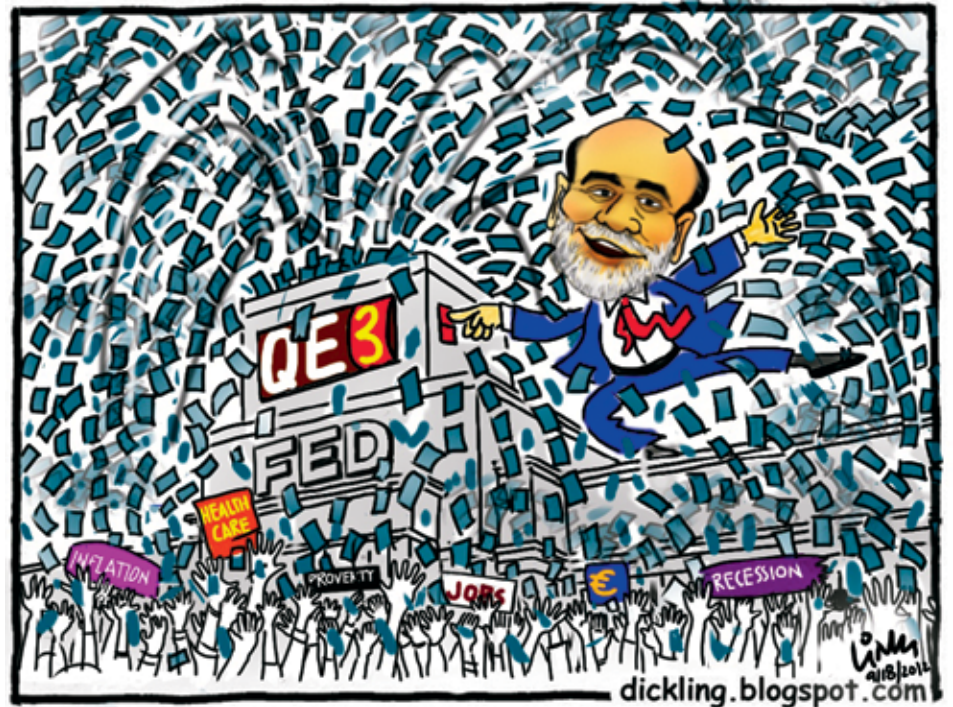
Service cuts or realignment may be necessary to ensure MOFD's future financial stability and city officials need to be involved in the process to advocate for Orinda's taxpayers. The city needs to assure its citizens' safety by fully understanding the issues and working with MOFD and Moraga to provide for the community's emergency services needs.

We have an upcoming election with three candidates running for City Council. The voters should understand where each candidate stands on this crucial issue.

– Diana Stephens

Orinda Road Tax

In July the City Council adopted a 10-year plan to fix Orinda's roads (www.OrindaRoadFacts.virb.com/orinda-ten-year-plan). This plan starts with a half-cent sales tax, which will be on the November ballot. The tax is projected to generate \$600,000 annually. The good news is that this is half of the current shortfall between what the city says they should be spending to maintain our roads in their current condition (\$2.2 million) and what they currently



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can afford (\$1 million). The bad news is it is only half of the shortfall and in no way will touch the 45 miles of residential streets that are in poor or failed conditions.

The plan says that it will address those streets with two \$20 million bond measures in 2017 and 2021. Those bond measures will require a 2/3 majority vote and will each cost the average homeowner \$200 per year for 30 years. The last two road

surveys reported that fewer than 50 percent of the respondents would support a \$200 per year road tax. What are the chances that two thirds of the voters will support two \$200 per year property taxes on top of a sales tax? And if they don't, how will our roads get fixed?

So should we support the November sales tax? Some say, "something is better [SEE LETTERS page 22]

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Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to the Editor for the November issue are due October 5, 2012.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the December issue is October 20, 2012.

CAR TIME / POLICE BLOTTER / ALCOHOL POLICY COALITION

CAR TIME

Who Really Takes Car of My Car?



by JOHN VANEK

The real question is who is responsible for the maintenance and repairs to your car, truck or SUV? It starts with the owner operator but also includes the driver/operator that may not be the owner. The actual repair and maintenance comes down to your car care provider. However, it is the responsibility of the owner to keep track of the maintenance required for the vehicle. Once you have researched and selected a car care provider you can use that facility consistently for your car care. Sticking with one shop will help eliminate confusion regarding the repair and maintenance history. This is the trusty shop that can help you figure out what maintenance intervals are required and is there to help when you have a problem. The owner/operator is the person that pays attention to the maintenance and repair intervals as described in your owner's manual. When is the oil change due? When are the spark plugs due for replacement? When is the timing belt due for replacement? Does your vehicle have a timing belt? These are all things that the owner/operator needs to know and should be responsible for. Your car care provider is responsible for performing inspections as listed in your maintenance guide and per-

forming repairs as needed. Once again, the maintenance guide in your glove box has all of service intervals that the manufactures suggests for your car.

What is a service? Every day local motorists make an appointment for a "service." When they bring the vehicle in, they have no idea what their vehicle is due for. It is great that they make time to bring the vehicle in for service. I encourage owner/drivers to be part of the process. Keep track of the lube sticker in your window, check your maintenance intervals and check your records so you know what has been done in the past. Never ignore the maintenance reminder light and definitely do not ignore a check engine light. It is also good to know if you are due for major maintenance interval so you will be prepared for the time and cost required. Being an active part of your vehicle's maintenance actually will help eliminate the chaos that may occur when you need to be without your car. It is a good idea to pull out your service guide and get up to speed with the needs of your car. I am always available for questions regarding maintenance.

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



POLICE BLOTTER

June 2012

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 109 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Burglary – Auto: 1 incident was reported on Via Floreado.

Burglary – Miscellaneous: 1 incident was reported on Moraga Way.

Petty Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident was reported at Theatre Square.

Suspicious Circumstance: 1 incident was reported on Moraga Way.

Vandalism – Felony: 2 incidents were reported on Miner Rd. and Tahos.

Arrests

Death - Homicide: 1 arrest was made on Moraga Way.

Driving Under the Influence –

MISD < .08: 2 arrests were made on Camino Pablo @ Camino Sobrante and El Nido Ranch Rd. @ St. Stephens Dr.

Drunk in Public: 3 arrests were made on Moraga Way, Avenida de Orinda @ Orinda Way and Moraga Way.

Possession of Burglary Tools: 1 arrest was made on Ardith Dr. @ Ivy Dr.

Possession of Narcotics: 1 arrest was made on Bryant Way @ Moraga Way.

Warrant Arrest: 2 arrests were made on Orinda Way and Stein Way.

Orinda BART Station

Petty Theft from Vehicle: 4.

Stolen Bicycle: 1.

Stolen Vehicle: 1.

July 2012

Arrests

Drunk in Public: Camino Pablo & Brookwood.

August 2012

Arrests

Battery - Felony: 1

Burglary - Commercial: 1

Driving Under the Influence – MISD > .08: 1

Receiving Stolen Property: 1

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition Meetings in October and November

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The goal of the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition is to reduce the access of youth to alcohol and to help stem underage drinking. According to the current California Healthy Kids Survey, 38

percent of Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) 11th graders reported drinking in the past 30 days and 21 percent of AUHSD 11th graders and 11 percent of 9th graders reported having been drunk on school property. The report also showed that youth are most likely to access alcohol from their home or the home of a friend

and that children who are drinking by the 7th grade are more likely to have academic problems, substance use, and delinquent behavior in both middle school and high school.

According to Jaime Rich, Orinda resident and the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coordinator, the coalition strives to create


a healthy and safe environment for youth. All are invited to attend the coalition's upcoming meetings on October 10 and November 14 at 10 a.m. at Orinda City Hall's community room, 22 Orinda Way. For more information, contact Rich at 925-687-8844, ext. 227 or by email at jaime@chd-prevention.org.

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OBITUARIES

◆ GALLERY from page 2

going to galleries and museums (in person and online) and staying in contact with other working artists. Carmel hopes that his art communicates something to viewers and enjoys hearing their thoughts and responses.

"Art is a beautiful and dynamic two-way street; it tells the community about the life of the artist and tells the artist about life in the community," he says. "Artists take in all the information about, and all their experiences of their community, with all of their senses. Then they make images and use a visual and/or auditory language to express those sensibilities."

Moraga resident Ginny Ruble started painting lessons in the 1970s and knew it was something she wanted to come back to when she retired. Five years ago, she did retire and finds oil painting peaceful and satisfying.

"Even though I'm 75 years old, I still enjoy learning and there's a lot to learn

about painting," says Ruble. "I tried *plein air* painting, but it's not my thing. I paint mostly from photographs, which means I had to learn how to draw. I do it on a grid to get the spacing right. It's quite a process – then I paint on canvas."

Ruble paints things she hopes bring people peace and joy to offset the negativity in today's world. Favorite locales include California and the Northeastern states. She enjoys being part of the Moraga Art Gallery and finds the other artists supportive and friendly. Ruble will be showing *Portland Head Lighthouse* and *Napa Valley Vineyard*, both 11.5 x 14" oil on canvas.

Ruble is grateful for the support the Lamorinda community gives for art in the schools. She hopes that will increase so that no child goes without opportunities to learn about music and art.

The Orinda Library Gallery, 26 Orinda Way, is open during library hours: Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Call 254-2814 for information.

Former Orinda Resident Dies at Age of 98

By JOHN O'DEA
Contributing Writer

Maxine Isabel Anderson died July 29, 2012, at the age of 98, in her home in Brookline, MA, with her daughter and granddaughter at her side.

She was proudest of her role as wife, mother and grandmother, but in addition to rearing an active family, Maxine helped create a student bookstore and a career counseling center at Miramonte High School in Orinda, where her youngest three children graduated. She also worked as a pre-school teacher for many years, and, remarkably in her 70s, she took a rigorous course in teaching the Bible at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. She taught classes there for many years in the late 1980s and was a beloved confidante of many of the clergy and parishioners.

Maxine was the eldest of five children born to George Hamilton Stillson and Priscilla Margaret Patterson. Maxine was born in 1914 in Port Townsend, WA, and lived with her family in Seattle until her parents tried their hand at ranching in California's Napa Valley in 1925. In 1929, her father moved the family to Crockett, CA, where

he became the chief chemical engineer for C&H Sugar. Maxine and her younger brothers and sister graduated from John Swett High School (Maxine winning the high school tennis championship at age 16), and she subsequently worked the soda fountain in the Crockett drug store to pay her tuition at the University of California at Berkeley. At Cal, she met and married another student, Henry Randolph Anderson, and in the years between 1938 and 1949, they had four children: Clifford Hamilton Anderson, Maxine Karen Anderson, Nelson Jeffrey Anderson, and Julie Priscilla Anderson. Henry and Maxine moved to Orinda, CA, in 1959 and remained there until after Henry passed away in December 2001 at the age of 89.

Following Henry's death, Maxine moved to Goddard House in Brookline, MA, where she became a central part of the community.

In May of 2011, Maxine celebrated her 97th birthday in a wonderful family reunion with her children and their spouses, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service for Maxine will be held at the United Parish Church, 210 Harvard St., Brookline, MA, in January 2013.

Former Orinda Resident Enjoyed Backpacking and Sleepy Hollow Home

Dorothee Driggers Paterson, a former resident of Orinda, passed away peacefully in Moraga on August 8, 2012 at the age of 85, surrounded by her loving children and friends. Dorothee was born on February 6, 1927 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and spent her childhood in Long Beach. She received a B.S. in chemistry from U.C. Berkeley and worked for a short time for Standard of California (now Chevron) in its laboratory in La Habra, CA. She married the late Robert E. Paterson on August

22, 1948 in Lakewood, CA. They shared many adventures together, including building their home in Orinda's Sleepy Hollow, backpacking in the Sierras and raising five children. Dorothee was a gifted mother and will be sorely missed by her children Kathryn Rowe, Karol Robinson and Scott, Steve and Chris Paterson, eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and many friends. A gathering is planned next spring to celebrate the lives of Dorothee and Robert.

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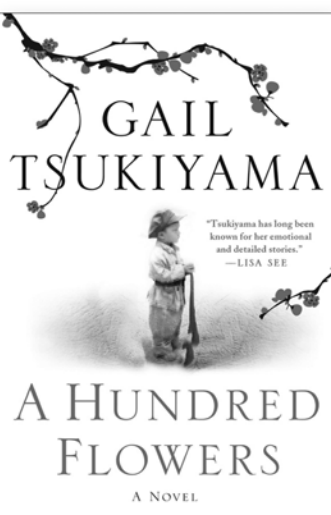
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Important Workshop/Forums

The Orinda Association (OA) will be sponsoring two forums to help inform voters of candidates positions. Each forum will be run by the League of Women Voters. Audience members will have the opportunity to write out questions for the candidates to answer. For more information, call the OA office at 254-0800.

October 11 from 7 - 9 p.m.
City Council Candidates' Forum
Orinda Library Auditorium

October 15 from 7 - 9 p.m.
OUSD School Board Candidates' Forum
Orinda Library Auditorium



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SLEEPY HOLLOW TENNIS AND SWIM CLUB

Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club Revitalizes Its Facility

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Established in 1955, the Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club (SHSTC), 1 Sunnyside Lane, Orinda, is thrilled to break ground for extensive renovations. "This has been planned for many years, and the entire membership is 100 percent behind the plan," according to board member Andra Berkman. SHSTC is a private club covering 45 acres, owned by its members, who, along with the volunteer board of directors have worked tirelessly to turn plans into reality. Mark Cavagnero Associates, an award winning architectural firm from San Francisco, designed the renovation, and Oliver & Company of Richmond are the builders. ProPM of Danville is handling project management.

The revitalization plan includes a new entry plaza, new competitive pool, new children's activity pool, and tennis court renovations. The eight lane competitive swimming pool is sized for racing, lap swimming, and training for adults and children. The new children's activity pool is just for pure fun – playing, splashing, water basketball and just plain horsing around. It is designed for young children, has a gradual entry, and will appeal to babies as well. They are rebuilding the bathrooms and locker rooms. The 11 tennis courts will be renovated during the course of the phased plan.

The Sleepy Hollow Legends finished

sixth in the county and second in the Orinda Moraga Pools Association's (OMPA) championship meet this year. The OMPA is one of the largest recreational swim meets in the country; over 1,700 athletes enter in 5,000 events. Each year, the Legends outperform in all events. Swim coach Matt Ehrenberger just completed 19 years with the team. He also teaches year-round at Orinda Aquatics, which is a nationally recognized organization. Tennis pro Jim Coyne is also on the board of directors of the U.S. Tennis Association. He is a huge advocate of "10 and under tennis," a program designed to make the game more kid-friendly.

Membership director Andra Berkman says that, "Sleepy Hollow is different because we are a neighborhood club but have phenomenal programming from an exceptional staff; we are truly inclusive, casual, fun and family-friendly." Current board members include Lucy Barry, Julia Bates, Andra Berkman, Barbara Burkhalter, Kim Purcell, John Hansen, Steve Lucas, Catja McDonald, Melissa Thorn, Heidi Vasconi, Karla Vukelich and Valerie Wilson.

Construction has started and the pool has been drained. Renovations should be completed in the spring. A memory book of photographs will commemorate the transformation. Berkman has been collecting the photos and memorabilia from the founding days to the present. A contest has been launched that will not only help with the book's accuracy but will also give valuable prizes to the lucky winner.



DAVID DIERKS

Some members of the Sleepy Hollow Legends Swim Team in front of their pool, which is being removed to make way for a new competitive pool. Top (L to R): **Leo Berkman, Allison Burkhalter, Rachel Purcell, Katie Barry,** Middle (L to R): **Bradley Berkman, Sean Barry, Will Thorn, Annabelle Vasconi,** Bottom (L to R): **Maren McDonald, Tyson Bates, Francesca Vasconi, Christabella Vukelich, and Eliza Bates.**



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Sleepy Hollow Founders Who's Who Contest



The purpose of the Who's Who Contest is to solve the mystery by matching the names of the 10 founding fathers with their placement in the above 1953 photograph. The first person able to match all 10 names to the corresponding men in the photo will be the first place winner. The first place winner gets their choice of either: a half-hour swim lesson; a half-hour tennis lesson; or a Sleepy Hollow baseball cap. The second place winner gets to choose between the remaining two prizes, and the third place winner receives the remaining prize. Contestants should send their entries via email to shstc@comcast.net with Contest in the subject line. All entries must be emailed by December 1, 2012. Winners will be announced in the January 2013 *Orinda News*. In the spring, the mayor will invite the community to a grand opening event including ribbon cutting. Winners of the Who's Who contest will be featured at the event. Visit www.sleepyhollowlegends.net for more information.

The following are the names of the Sleepy Hollow Improvement Association 1953 officers and directors. The names are in alphabetical order. Can you match them with the photo above listing them correctly from left to right?

Frank Coffey, Thomas Ferguson, Richard Fayram, Al McCann, Boone Robinson, Stanley Soreans, Ernest Starkman, Miles Sutcliffe, William Witter and Francis Wyatt.



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Could You Pass the U.S. Citizenship Test?

By ROBERT ETHEREDGE
Contributing Writer

With the upcoming elections, it seems that a review of our democratic system would be beneficial. Sadly, 38 percent of Americans can't pass the U.S. Citizenship test. Many can't name the vice president or identify the *Bill of Rights*.

Test your knowledge by answering the following questions from the Citizenship test: 1) What does the President's Cabinet do? 2) What are two cabinet-level positions?

The Constitution never mentions the term "cabinet" or names specific executive departments. Article II, Section 2 mentions that the President "may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices..." George Washington created the first departments and named their heads – Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, and Attorney General. This was the "Presidential Cabinet" – the government leaders who advise and assist the President, in addition to running their own departments.

Current Executive Departments

The President chooses the department heads, but the Senate must confirm them with a majority vote. The Cabinet has grown to include 15 departments. The department heads serve at the pleasure of the President and may be dismissed at any time. Their formation year determines the position in presidential succession in case the President is killed or incapacitated. All are members of the President's Cabinet.

Agriculture (1862): promotes our agriculture at home and abroad, researches new crops, manages food programs like Food Stamps, and ensures the safety of our food.

Commerce (1903): promotes international trade, works to prevent unfair trade and business practices, forecasts the weather, regulates patents, and conducts the census.

Defense (1789): originally named the War Department, manages all military forces, including Navy, Army and Air Force.

Education (1979): administers federal education programs, handles student loans, and works to eliminate discrimination in education.

Energy (1977): researches and encourages the development of energy and energy

conservation, oversees nuclear energy and nuclear weapons, and regulates energy allocation.

Health and Human Services (1953): administers Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, manages social programs, conducts medical research, and ensures safety of drugs and non-meat food products.

Homeland Security (2002): formed from 22 separate agencies after the 9/11 attacks, protects the country from terrorist attacks and natural disasters. It includes the Coast Guard, Immigration, Customs and Border protection, and the Secret Service.

Housing and Urban Development (1965): encourages affordable housing and community development, administers fair housing laws, oversees and insures mortgages.

Interior (1849): manages federal land, forests, monuments, and parks, runs federal dams, encourages resource conservation, and manages U.S. territories.

Justice (1789): enforces federal laws, supervises federal marshals, administers immigration laws, and runs federal prisons.

Labor (1913): protects workers' rights, gathers employment statistics, and improves working conditions.

State (1789): handles U.S. foreign policy, negotiates treaties, represents U.S. internationally, supervises foreign embassies and consulates.

Transportation (1966): sets transportation policy for the nation including land, sea, and air.

Treasury (1789): regulates banks, prints money, collects Federal income taxes (IRS), and prints stamps for the Post Office.

Veterans Affairs (1989): handles government programs and hospitals that assist veterans and their families, and operates national cemeteries.

Other Cabinet-level Positions

Other cabinet level positions are listed below. Presidents can decide which positions are accorded cabinet-level status. Currently, they include:

Chief of Staff: responsible for the White House staff and managing the president's schedule.


Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): protects the health and environment of the country.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB): helps the president prepare the federal budget.

[SEE CITIZENSHIP page 19]

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CITY COUNCIL

Candidates for City Council Discuss Their Priorities for Orinda

Linda Delehunt



The five members of Orinda's City Council are elected volunteers who set policy, give direction to city staff, and make budget decisions. Besides attending twice-monthly council meetings, each council member serves on several committees. They also interact with the various levels of government between the city and the state on issues such as transportation, smart growth and traffic. *The Orinda News* asked the five candidates to answer the following questions:

1. Many local residents continue to be concerned about the proposed changes to the downtown area detailed in the Planning Process Review Task Force report. How would you revitalize downtown Orinda and address local residents' concerns at the same time?
2. Measure L, the proposed half-cent sales tax measure on the November ballot, would help fund road maintenance. Do you agree that the passage of Measure L is necessary to curb the deterioration of Orinda's roads? What else would you propose in addition to or instead of Measure L?
3. What other areas of importance do you see for Orinda?
4. Identify 3 things you have been responsible for accomplishing in Orinda, whether alone or part of a committee/board.
5. List any qualifications for serving on the Orinda Council.

the same time. We are not alone and have models within our geographical reach to examine that might assist us in long-term planning for our unique community.

Measure L

According to city officials, Measure L is designed to assist with annual road maintenance, and it is my understanding that it will cover approximately 33 percent of the required annual road maintenance. Residents need to understand that this sales tax is not a long-term solution to our road problems. I would like to see a more comprehensive plan put into place that will address the entirety of Orinda's road infrastructure as well as maintenance issues. As a community we need to come up with a comprehensive solution that is appropriate for all citizens. Putting off the problem until 2017 and 2021 through additional bond elections is not a satisfactory solution; past surveys indicate that bond measures are not typically favored by the required

2/3 majority of the voting population. The current plan that the city is proposing is not really viable since the populace is not likely to approve it in 2017 and 2021.

One viable solution may be to look at moving towards a real estate transfer tax that might appeal to both young and older residents. Surveys show that such a tax might be acceptable to residents and actually doable since it would take effect only upon the sale of homes. Studies done by Orinda citizens also show that the tax could provide enough revenue to take care of the entire road infrastructure and annual maintenance issue. A transfer tax of 1.5 percent, which is what Berkeley and Oakland have, would provide adequate resources to do road infrastructure and maintenance. Piedmont currently has a 1.3 percent transfer tax. There would be a 10-year sunset on the tax.

Other Areas of Importance

Orinda's general plan was written in

1987 and is vastly out of date. The plan itself needs revision so as to ensure that any developments approved by the city are in line with the expectations of the citizens. The city's general plan is meant to protect the integrity of the city architecturally and embrace the values of its citizenry. Planning developments using an out of date plan can potentially have disastrous results for a community both in terms of architectural integrity and design. Additionally, an out of date plan can result potentially in a loss of revenue from state and federal funding streams.


I would like to see the city eliminate the ordinance passed in August of 2010 (Ordinance No. 10-09) that allows the city to award contracts without a bidding process to project contractors where the project total is under \$50,000. Such discretion does not support a fiscally sound city model. Since Orinda projects might potentially run the gamut of what might be considered a repair, the danger in allowing such discretion is that small, multiple projects, may result in the same vendor or vendors being hired by the city without competition. Since the city needs to be cautious with its spending, it should be attempting to save money where possible. To avoid wasting precious dollars, all projects should be subject to a competitive bid process.

The city should also consider revising its systemic organization. Other cities do elect city planning committee members from areas/districts. This might be an improvement for Orinda as well.

Orinda is a relatively new city. In order to be an efficiently run city, I would like to see the city examine best practices as modeled by other exemplary small cities.

I would like to see the city government

[SEE DELEHUNT page 12]



Steve Glazer

4 Orinda City Council

Accomplishments

- * Maintained a balanced city budget and prudent reserves
- * Streamlined planning process for home remodels
- * Expanded citizen participation in city decisions
- * Prioritized repairs of roads most traveled
- * Strengthened partnership with Orinda schools

Fiscal Watchdog

"Mayor Glazer has been an effective voice in spearheading greater transparency and fiscal accountability. He has been a staunch advocate for the Orinda schools. I unequivocally support Steve for Orinda City Council."

— Susie Epstein
Governing Board Member Acalanes Union High School District

Selfless Volunteer

"In a town with more than its fair share of talent, Steve Glazer stands out among the most capable, reliable, and selfless volunteers working on behalf of all Orindans."

— Sue Severson, Orinda City Council

School Champion

"For more than a decade, Steve has successfully led efforts to increase funding for Orinda schools. He has been a champion for our schools and our city."

— Pat Rudebusch
President, Orinda Union School District Board

http://steveglazer4citycouncil.nationbuilder.com

Paid for by Steve Glazer for Orinda City Council 2012

Dear Orinda Friends:

It has been a distinct honor serving you and the Orinda community as a member of the City Council. Working with my fellow council members, I believe that we have fostered an open and collaborative environment to chart a positive course for our city. With your support, I hope to continue serving with the same passion and enthusiasm. I hope you will consider supporting me.

Sincerely,

Steve Glazer
Steve Glazer
Mayor
City of Orinda

CITY COUNCIL

◆ **DELEHUNT** from page 11

model improved to incorporate increased communication and feedback by the citizenry to facilitate the incorporation of the citizens' cumulative wisdom in a new systemic design.

I am also in favor of the city creating a task force to examine the issues surrounding the Moraga Orinda Fire District that have recently been released.

Accomplishments

I have a long history of Orinda civic involvement and have served on Orinda's EFO Board, the Glorietta and OIS Parents' Club Boards, and founded Orinda's first Girl Scout Daisy Troop.

As principal of Downer Elementary School located in West Contra Costa Unified School District, I created a partnership with Miramonte AP Spanish classes where Miramonte students provided direct mentoring support to less affluent, Downer Elementary School students. This partnership was mutually beneficial for all students involved, as it expanded personal perspectives for both student groups and inspired students to set their own personal goals higher and thus become future leaders in their own right.

I am also proud of the work I did for Orinda Union School District as Gate Coordinator for Sleepy Hollow Elementary school. I designed several Gate units of study that supported students in their current and future endeavors. Gate units such as the "Stock Market" and the "Weather" units of study were both popular and useful at the same time.

Qualifications

I have extensive experience dealing with the State Agency of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as well as other State agencies. Specifically HCD currently oversees city housing requirements. Thus, I

do have an overall understanding of HCD's requirements, methods of operation, and I am sophisticated in my knowledge as to how to get things done in order to address their concerns and meet their requirements. Such expertise is critical to maintaining state and federal funding streams that provide critical fiscal assistance to cities.

Steve Glazer



Downtown Revitalization

I support efforts to improve our downtown while maintaining its small town charm. The city should be supportive of property owners who want to improve their facilities. This may include upgrading retail and office spaces as well as the addition of residential housing.

The current conflict seems to be centered over allowing an increase in building heights. Unless we have a specific plan that makes clear how greater building heights will maintain and enhance Orinda's small town charm, we should resist efforts to arbitrarily increase them.

The city doesn't own its downtown, but we have an important role to play in making sure that planning policies protect our city's character while working cooperatively with property owners who want to improve their buildings. The city staff, planning commission, and council should be committed to this shared goal.

Measure L

I support Measure L, a small sales tax increase to help Orinda's roads. Measure L is part of a 10-year road and drain repair plan adopted by the City Council to solve Orinda's road problem. The details of that plan can be found here: <http://bit.ly/TZeOf6>.

We continue to have a serious infrastructure challenge as our aging roads and drains fail. This is an approximately \$50 million problem in a city whose entire annual budget is around \$10 million. We have worked hard to secure regional, state and federal grants to improve roads; but, without new funding sources, our roads and drains will continue to deteriorate.

I strongly encourage our residents to support this effort by voting yes on Measure L this November.

I would also encourage our residents to shop and dine in Orinda, thereby helping our local businesses and providing valuable sales tax dollars that fund repairs to Orinda's roads.

Other Areas of Importance

In addition to Orinda's roads, the city's financial stability and public safety are also areas of importance.

Despite the economic recession, our city budget is balanced and we maintain prudent reserves. This has occurred because we have eliminated non-essential programs, reduced staff, and improved efficiencies. We must continue to closely monitor our city budget.

Orinda is one of the few cities in Cali-

fornia that provides a 'defined contribution' retirement plan for employees. We do not have the financial overhang of pension or post-employment health care obligations that are straining the budgets of most other cities. It's critical that we remain fiscally prudent in order to safeguard our valued city services.

Public safety is another top concern. Orinda is a very safe city, but we are not immune to crime, as we see from time-to-time with occasional spikes in home burglaries. Our Police Department is providing free home safety audits. You can call the Department to request one. Public safety is a priority function of government, and we must stay vigilant.

Accomplishments

I believe deeply in community service and have had the honor of working with hundreds of neighbors on important civic activities.

I have held leadership positions in two school funding campaigns that are providing vital and ongoing educational resources for our children. This local funding cannot be touched by the state and has been critical for our schools during these difficult financial times.

Together, with my fellow councilmembers, we have substantially expanded the involvement of our residents in the governance of our town and increased transparency with all community decisions. We created new advisory bodies on Finance, Infrastructure, Traffic and Safety. We have required public noticing of all community meetings, including subcommittee meetings, so residents can attend and participate.

I am pleased to have supported many changes to our planning rules, as recommended by a citizen's planning task force, that streamlined city review of home remodeling plans and assists our commercial sector. We are processing residential

[SEE GLAZER page 13]

We're Voting to Re-elect Victoria Smith to Orinda City Council



"As a Council Member, Victoria works tirelessly to hear all sides and build consensus."
—Dean Orr, Orinda City Council

"I appreciate Victoria's work in support of small business and the Chamber of Commerce."
—Janet Boreta, Orinda Books

"Victoria and I have worked together to enhance safe routes to schools, new and improved playing fields and recreation for our students."
—Matt Moran, Chair, OUSD

"Victoria respects Orinda's small town community and history, while looking for ways to improve services and amenities."
—Bobbie Landers, Former Mayor

"I worked with Victoria on improving walkways and traffic safety around our schools, and I couldn't be happier to support her re-election to City Council!"
—Shannon Fuller, Former Parks and Recreation Commissioner

Elected Officials

- Congressman George Miller, 7th District of California
- Ellen Tauscher, Undersecretary of State, Former Congresswoman
- Tom Torlakson, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Mark DeSaulnier, State Senator, 7th District
- Nancy Skinner, Assembly Member 14th District
- Joan Buchanan, Assembly Member 15th District
- Steve Glazer, Orinda Mayor
- Amy Worth, Orinda Vice Mayor
- Dean Orr, Orinda City Council Member
- Laura Abrams, Former Orinda Mayor
- Joyce Hawkins, Former Orinda Mayor
- Bill Judge, Former Orinda Mayor
- Bobbie Landers, Former Orinda Mayor
- Allan Tabor, Former Orinda Mayor
- Gregg Wheatland, Former Orinda Mayor
- Tyson Krumholz, Orinda Union School District Board Member
- Matt Moran, Chair, Orinda Union School District Board Member
- Julie Rossiter, Orinda Union School Board Member
- Pat Rudebusch, Orinda Union School District Board Member
- Jack Bontemps, Former Orinda Union School District Board Member
- Linda Landau, Former Orinda Union School District Board Member
- Jean T. Lyford, Former Orinda Union School District Board Member
- Susie Epstein, Acalanes Union High School District Board Member
- John Wyro, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
- Steve Anderson, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member-Elect
- Alex Evans, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member-Elect
- Eugene Gottfried, Former Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
- Brook Mancinelli, Former Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
- Dick Olsen, Former Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
- Pete Wilson, Former Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
- Robert Campbell, Contra Costa County Auditor-Controller
- Tomi Van de Brook, President-Contra Costa Community College District
- Gail Murray, BART Board of Directors
- Katy Foulkes, East Bay Municipal Utility District Board Member
- Richard Rainey, Former Contra Costa County Sheriff/ State Senator
- Sue Rainey, Former Mayor, City of Walnut Creek

Community Supporters

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- David & Sandra Anderson
- Glenn & Lynne Alper
- John & Judith April
- Laura Abrams & Joel Sheiman
- T. Wesley Ayers
- Christie Batterman-Jordan
- Reg & Kathy Barrett
- Todd Berryhill
- Hera Z. Blazer
- David Bowlby
- Jack & Barbara Bontemps
- John E. Bowen
- Janet Boreta
- Dick & Barbara Burkhalter
- Mark Cameron
- Craig Cheslog & Kari Dahlen
- Bill & Marion Cooper
- Catherine Cutler & Abe Mintz
- Ellen & Joffa Dale
- Lawrence Del Santo
- Robert & Patricia Dunn
- Susie Epstein
- Cheri & Bob Etheredge
- Karen S.Fenichel
- Katy Foulkes
- Gary Fryer
- Glen & Shannon Fuller
- Darlene K. Gee
- Steve Gentry
- Bill & Elizabeth Gross
- Peter & Sandy Golze
- Alex Evans & Katherine Guptill
- Phyllis & Eugene Gottfried
- Pam & Alan Hall

Peggy & Ernie Hartz

- Nora Harlow
- Joyce Hawkins & Jack Sweitzer
- Beatrice Heggie
- Elle Hoffnagel
- Aram Hodess & Suzanne Fox
- Keith J. & Susan Horrocks
- Randy Holleschau & Jeff Johnson
- Jeff & Allison Holland
- Tim Hyden
- Toris Jaeger
- Elisabeth Jewel & John Smith
- Bill Judge
- Kathleen B. Kolman
- Kathryn S. Korn & Chris L'Orange
- Nicholas Kosla
- Tyson & Anna Krumholz
- Becci & Jack Kunzman
- Craig Labadie & Debra Margolis
- Linda & Jim Landau
- Bobbie Landers
- Charles Levine
- Sue Littlehale
- Donald & Vicki Lucas
- Jean T. Lyford
- Tom & Cinda Mackinnon
- Brook Mancinelli
- Carol & Doug Marin
- Dr. Carol Moll
- Matt Moran
- Bielle Moore
- Eartha Newsong
- Tom & Karen Norris
- Richard J. Olsen
- Dean Orr & Alissa Lillie
- Diane Oshima

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- Bill & Mary Phelon
- Pam Pulley
- Dana & Richard Sankary
- Rae L. Schindler
- Ron & Karin Sharp
- Ted & Terry Slaman
- Valerie Sloven
- Daniel & Sarah Smith
- Wick & Will Smith
- Jeff Smyly
- Erwin & Terry Schrittwieser
- Tom & Carol Sueoka
- Pat & Davis Todhunter
- Allan Tabor
- Tom & Lynn Trowbridge
- John & Tomi Van de Brook
- Katherine Waddill
- Florence & Carl Weber
- Sue & Ronald Wecht
- Susan Weldy
- Richard Westin
- Gregg & Shirley Wheatland
- Jack and Jeanne Wickware
- Lucy Hupp Williams
- Peter & Amelia Wilson
- Randi & Brian Woods
- James Woodall & Charly Guidry
- Jeff Wolk & Debra Harrington
- Tom & Amy Worth
- John & Evans Wyro
- Robert & Irene Yee
- Rachel Zenner
- Peter & Midge Zishke

(Partial List)

www.voteforvictoria.org

Re-elect

VICTORIA SMITH to Orinda City Council

CITY COUNCIL

◆ GLAZER from page 12

improvement applications faster and at lower cost to residents. And we have done this while expanding neighborhood notice and oversight. We have changed the ground floor occupation rules in Theatre Square, which has led to a more robust mix of offices, restaurants and shops. Theatre Square is hopping, so stop in and enjoy a meal and go to the movies!

Qualifications

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Orinda community as a member of the City Council and as Mayor in 2007 and in 2012. I have served on a variety of community committees and boards. They include: the Orinda Parks and Recreation Commission, the Citizen's Infrastructure Committee, the Save Our Schools Committee, the Friends of Orinda Library Campaign Committee, the Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club Board of Directors, and the Orinda Fire District Citizens Committee. More information about me can be found at: <http://steveglazer4citycouncil.nationbuilder.com/>. If I can answer any additional questions, you are welcome to e-mail me at Glazers@pacbell.net.

Victoria Smith

**Downtown Revitalization**

Theatre Square is a gem, and I am proud that the city has assisted the property owner and the business owners to help make it the lively local spot that it now is. A couple of years ago, the council rezoned the back lane of Theater Square to allow some service businesses; that helped to bring foot traffic in, and we now have highly successful

restaurants and new, diverse shops for our residents to patronize. The merchants especially have been dedicated to improvement and the results are fantastic; Theatre Square is now at 98 percent occupancy!

How do we spread that success throughout the downtown? We continue to engage the public in workshops and, informally, at the Farmers' Market Council table and during the 4th of July festivities, to discuss what we collectively want to see in our downtown – an emphasis on the creeks, how to address parking concerns and to plan for the future. We want to find our own identity – not that of our neighbors, large or small – and to encourage the discussion to continue.

At the same time, I recognize that each property in the downtown is unique, and ultimately it is up to the owner to bring forward a project for consideration on its individual merits. I believe that the citizens will support good projects in the downtown, which respect the desire for additional housing, shops and restaurants, while at the same time preserving our small town feel and connection to the outdoors. No one likes to see buildings sit idle; I would be happy to see a proposal for Phairs, for example, and to engage in a constructive process to approve a new project there. While we continue to pursue public exploration of future options, our existing development framework allows every property owner to propose a new project for economic growth, and we can see from Theatre Square that our residents will support innovative and interesting shops and restaurants.

Measure L

In April 2009, when the banking world was in freefall, we revised the city's investment policy to require that all investments are kept in AA or AAA securities. At the same time, we adopted a reserve policy which requires an operating reserve of 50 percent of the annual general fund, but no less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000), as well as a balanced budget policy; we have met these requirements each year, even though Orinda experienced a three percent decrease in property tax revenue last year.

We have balanced the budget by making tough decisions, which resulted in the loss of two employees, required our employees to take unpaid furlough days, and eliminated cost of living increases. At the same time, our employees have worked hard to continue to provide great customer service to the public, to keep public counter hours open, and we have maintained our police at full strength; our employees have done

a great job! Despite the impacts of the recession, Orinda is the 5th safest city in California, and 98 percent of our residents recently rated the quality of life in Orinda as good or excellent.

But we must address our greatest unmet need. I began working nine years ago with the infrastructure committee, which identified the enormous problem; right now, the cost to completely rebuild our roads and storm drains, never yet rebuilt since we inherited them from the county, is \$52,000,000. We have squeezed all dollars available to spend on road and drain repair – over the past eight years, we have annually averaged \$2,420,000 on infrastructure projects, \$878,316 on roads and drains alone. With the help of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Committee, we will have fixed all of our major roads, and the roads around the schools, by 2015. However, we need revenue to fix our residential roads. I served on the campaign committees for Measure Q in 2006 and for Measure E in 2007; each was a comprehensive bond designed to raise the cost of a full repair. Each time we came close to success – 64 percent, 63 percent of the vote – but we did not reach 67 percent. The numbers show that the majority of Orindans want to fix the roads and understand the need for some tax measure to do so. In April, the City Council adopted a 10-Year Plan to fix our roads, the first step of which is a half-cent cent sales tax. This will be followed in later years by two bond measures, so that collectively, and over time, we will accumulate the money needed to comprehensively repair our roads. While Measure L will result in a relatively small amount of money, approximately \$600,000 annually, it is the first step which will allow us to show the voters that if they entrust us with tax revenue, we will use it to attack our road deficit and produce measurable results which will inspire confidence in future road measures.

Other Areas of Importance

Enhancing our emergency preparedness by collaborating with the fire district and our neighboring communities, building new walking and bike paths to implement our Pathways Master Plan, and providing new recycling services to our citizens while stabilizing garbage rates.

Accomplishments

Working on the council: rebuilding our major roads by 2015, opening the first two beautiful playing fields at Wilder for sports at no cost to the city, and bringing art to our public spaces.

Qualifications

I have a bachelor's degree from Cal, and a J.D. from Hastings College of the Law. I was elected to the City Council in 2004, and served as mayor in 2008 and 2011. I serve on the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, and was chair of the board in 2010. I currently serve on the executive board of the Contra Costa County Mayor's Conference, as liaison to the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, and on the City of Orinda Library Steering, Senior Housing, and on the Audit and Finance, Committees. Please visit my website at www.voteforvictoria.org for further information and to send me your thoughts for our community.

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for Orinda City Council**

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HELPING OTHERS

LOPC Hosts President of Congo Church

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi, president of the Presbyterian Church of Congo (CPC), will speak on Sunday, October 7, at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) Fellowship Hall.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rev. Dr. Joseph Mulumba Musumbu Mukundi and his wife, Helene Kapinga.

“The occasion provides an excellent opportunity to become informed about the Congo and helpful actions we might take to alleviate the suffering there,” says event chair Rena Meyers-Dahlkamp.

Rev. Mukundi will preach at the 9 and 11 a.m. services at LOPC, followed by lunch at noon featuring Congolese food. His talk will follow at 12:30 p.m. Drummers and dancers will provide entertainment.

Although the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the second largest nation in Africa, many Americans know little about its poor living conditions or the war that has raged since 1998, taking some 5.4 million lives, according to Meyers-Dahlkamp.

Since more than half the Congolese population is under 18, Dr. Mukundi will talk on the transformative power of education for social change. He will address the “Excellence in Education in Congo Project” in which the Presbyterian Church USA is a partner. The CPC has 2 million members who sponsor 702 schools and run hospitals in many communities.

“We have learned that the Congolese are among the poorest in the world, having the second lowest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, yet their country is considered to be the richest in the world



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students attending class at one of the few Congolese schools available.

regarding natural resources,” says Meyers-Dahlkamp. “These include cobalt, copper, industrial diamonds and coltan, which is a major source of tantalum used in the fabrication of electronic components and mobile phones.”

Meyers-Dahlkamp says the country’s untapped raw materials are estimated to be worth more than \$24 trillion. Guests will hear how this potential for wealth might be translated into jobs and income for the general population.

Dr. Mukundi holds a B.A. in theology from the United School of Theology of Ndesha, an M.A. in sociology from the Federal University of Cameroon, and a Ph.D. in theology and intercultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary in Southern California.

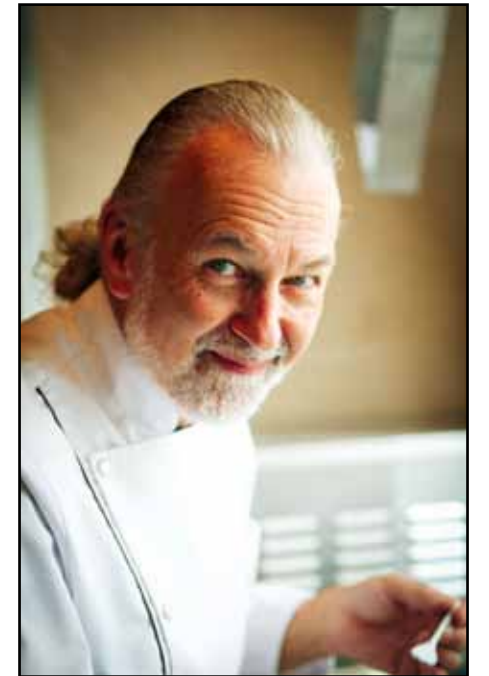
Lunch costs \$10; the talk is free. For reservations call LOPC at 283-8722 or www.LOPC.org, Mission in Society/Tickets. LOPC is located at 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

◆ AUTHORS from page 4

public radio’s Forum, serves as master of ceremonies.

Hofinga says Orindans may order tickets, priced at \$125, by calling him at 925-254-5544, or emailing, tylerhofinga@yahoo.com. He offers tables of 10 for \$1,100, which might appeal to book clubs.

He concludes, “This is an incredibly challenging disease. Cases routinely require weekly blood transfusions. Kidney transplants are possible, but there aren’t enough donors available so I hope more



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hubert Keller, owner of the Fleur de Lys restaurant in San Francisco, will sign his work **Keller’s Souvenirs: Stories and Recipes from My Life**.

people will be motivated to become organ donors thus providing the gift of life. The beneficiary of this event, The National Kidney Foundation, is a leader in the fight against the disease with a three-fold program providing awareness, prevention and treatment. Come to the luncheon to support this worthwhile organization, while being entertained by some of the country’s leading authors.”



NINA SUBIN

Internationally best-selling author **Emma Donoghue** will sign her latest work *Astray*.

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SCHOOL BOARD

Candidates for School Board Discuss Their Priorities for Orinda

Sarah Butler



The five-member Board of Trustees works with the superintendent to establish a long-term vision for the district as well as adoption of policies, curriculum and budgets. Currently, two of the five board positions are up for election. Matt Moran is an incumbent running for re-election; Jason Lurie, Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert and Sarah Butler are also running for a position on the board.

The Orinda News asked the four candidates to answer the following questions:

- What do you see as the greatest challenge for the school board in the coming school year, as well as the medium and long term?
- If elected or re-elected to the school board, what strength, skills or special qualities do you bring to the position?
- While Orinda schools have a very fine reputation, do you see areas to improve that would make them even better?

Coming Challenge

Our Orinda schools are excellent thanks to the local support from our community and the efforts of students, parents, and staff! With that said, the greatest challenge for the school board now and in the foreseeable future continues to be maintaining the level of excellent schools, despite the reductions in state funding over the last four years.

Although we have strong local financial support, the school board will continue to be challenged by the significant uncertainty in state funding that all school districts are facing. In addition to carefully monitoring its budget and looking for ways to be even more efficient, the school board will need to continue to rely on community financial support, as well as always searching for new funding solutions in areas such as grants from foundations to supplement classroom needs.

The financial uncertainty at the state level will take time to resolve, but good fiscal planning of the Orinda Union School District and the continuation of local support of our local parcel tax and donations from Parents Clubs, and the Education Foundation of Orinda keeps our schools on good financial footing, and the classroom experience top rated.

Special Qualities

As a school board member, I will bring to the board a combination of experience in the Orinda Schools, historical knowledge, fundraising experience, and collaborative working relationships.

For several years, I have served on the Las Trampas Legislative Team, including as co-chair, where we communicate to our school communities about education issues, and advocate and write letters in support of education at the state level. This has given me a much broader understanding of the issues and challenges that all school boards face. I regularly attend OUSD School Board meetings and at this point have attended over 50 school board meetings as well as occasional meetings of other school

boards in our area.

I have a good working knowledge of the school district budget process from my attendance at OUSD school board meetings, and from my experience on the AUHSD Measure A Oversight Committee, and previously the district Budget Advisory Committee. I have a degree in Environmental Planning from UC Davis and professional experience in consulting and property management. As a parent, I have volunteered in countless ways from the classroom, to Site Council, to district committees.

Areas to Improve

Just as Orinda Schools do have an excellent reputation, there are still opportunities for improvement. The current school board has done an excellent job of maintaining the quality of our schools despite the funding challenges. As a member of the school board, the areas that I would work to improve would include: 1. Strengthening and expanding the information technology resources and 21st Century Curriculum; 2. Improving Communication and Collaboration between all stakeholders, parents, teachers, students, administrators, and the local community; 3. Expanding outreach to local businesses and community leaders; 4. Improving budgeting methodologies, and long term planning; 5. Expanding the arts, music and critical thinking skills in the curriculum. However, the main focus should always be – the children!

We have great schools now, but there are constant challenges. I will work hard to maintain the reputation we have built for our Orinda schools, and I will work to ensure that that reputation continues to translate into a great education and opportunities for our children.

Jason Lurie



OUSD to maintain small class sizes, to offer a well-rounded curriculum, to provide professional development opportunities for teachers, and to incorporate technology into the classroom.

We will be under significant fiscal pressure for the foreseeable future. Meeting the challenge of balancing our budget will require a cooperative, results-oriented approach. I am confident that the district and the community will continue to do what is right for our students and build on our schools' excellence.

Coming Challenge

Woefully inadequate state funding is the greatest challenge. Since 2007, California's public schools have seen a dramatic decline in revenue. Depending on the outcome of Propositions 30 and 38, our district may suffer another \$1 million or more in mid-year trigger cuts. As a consequence, the district has been forced to make difficult budgetary decisions in recent years.

In the face of California's funding crisis, our community has banded together to ensure that our schools remain among the best in the state. This local support enables

Special Qualities

I will bring to the board experience, skills and an outlook grounded in both my professional life and in my service in a non-profit community organization. As a transactional attorney, my job is to understand the facts, apply those facts to the range of outcomes and advocate for the best results of my client. As important, I also have had many years of experience in helping found and serving on the board of directors of a volunteer organization dedicated to assisting chronically ill children and their siblings.

[SEE LURIE page 16]

SCHOOL BOARD

◆ LURIE from page 15

Since last year I have served as the legislative representative to the Glorietta Parent's Club. In that capacity, I have focused specifically on California's current and proposed funding mechanism for public education, how it affects our district now, and what it means for the future.

If I am fortunate enough to become a member of the OUSD board, I will bring to the position a fundamental belief that what we need during these difficult economic times is board members who stand ready to work together with the community to make sure our district delivers the best possible education to our students.

Areas to Improve

In recent years, our district has had the annual challenge of balancing a budget with inescapable uncertainties about the amount of state funding, how much of those funds will be deferred and until when, and whether additional trigger cuts will take effect.

The Fiscal Advisory Committee presents

an annual report addressing deficit reduction and revenue enhancement alternatives in the event of budget shortfalls. Building on this committee's good work, I am committed to strengthening collaborative efforts with stakeholders so that we have an informed community and as much consensus as possible in the event significant remedial measures are required to balance our budget.

We will be transitioning to a new curriculum, the California Common Core Standards, beginning next year. This shift represents significant challenges for our teachers who already are working harder than ever with fewer and fewer resources. We must seek and value the teachers' input, recommendations, and views and make them an integral part of the transition.

Lastly, with the closing of the Pine Grove sale, our district has a substantial amount of money earmarked for capital improvement projects. This year, the district will update our facilities plan and make recommendations for the use of those funds. We must assure the safety of our students and teachers and upgrade the physical facilities

to provide a positive learning environment.

Matt Moran

(no photo provided)

Coming Challenge

The greatest challenge is continuing to excel in a declining revenue environment. A secondary challenge will be to fill the vacuum of a three term board member that is retiring. This puts so much importance on a board that works well together. This need for a collaborative board is so very crucial as we look to the future.

Special Qualities

My strength is my ability to work with all (not some) stakeholders for the betterment of the district. This includes teachers, administrators, students, and our crucial funding partners: EFO and the parents clubs.

Areas to Improve

As a district, we work very hard to provide professional development for our teachers and administrators so they can constantly grow, evolve and improve. The Columbia Readers and Writers Project is a literacy program out of Columbia University that we have adopted, and our educators are using these new skills to help our kids become twenty-first century learners. These crucial critical thinking skills are helping our kids as they move on to high school, college and the world at large.

parents, teachers and community members as partners in the educational enterprise, measures should be implemented to assess their satisfaction with the district's performance and to help inform decision-making.

Finally the Orinda schools have begun their transition to fully implement the new California Common Core Standards by 2014-15. These standards will be accompanied by new state assessments. As the district prepares to meet the new standards and keep our schools among the top academic performers in the state, the challenge is to keep our eyes fixed on the larger academic and developmental objectives of educating the whole child and avoiding the incentives to "teach to the test."

Special Qualities

With academic training in law and social welfare policy as well as experience as a practicing lawyer and a university professor (teaching social policy and child development), I believe that I bring a special combination of skills, knowledge and understanding that would make a constructive contribution to the work of the OUSD Board of Trustees.

In addition to relevant professional knowledge, I am intimately familiar with the Orinda Schools, its curricula, many of the staff and the fiscal and academic issues being faced. As a mother of two children in the Orinda Schools, my familiarity with the district has been gained as an active volunteer in numerous capacities of leadership for nearly a decade. These include: room parent ('04-'12), Think First instructor ('04-'11), Monster Mash chair ('05), Friendship Day chair ('06-'08); Hospitality Chair ('07-'08); Parent Education chair ('08 - '10), Technology Committee ('10-'11), assistant producer of the spring musical ('12), ensemble singer coordinator ('10-'12) and as a Kennel Cruiser ('10-'12).

I also have served on the Advisory Board of Camp Galileo and Summer Quest since 2009 and a number of other non-profits including Seneca Center for Children & Families, Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, and Save Environmental Education (SEE).

Areas to Improve

OUSD students have consistently achieved an outstanding record on the conventional measures of academic performance. However, the academic requirements of the 21st century are changing. New skills are in demand based on, for example, advanced information technology, critical thinking and project-based learning. The OUSD has tremendous potential to provide intellectual leadership in reshaping the standard educational model to meet this challenge. As the OUSD transitions to the Common Core Standards, there will be greater opportunity for innovation, collaboration and creative academic developments.



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Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert

Coming Challenge

An immediate challenge is to maintain our fiscal integrity in the current economic climate. Even if one of the tax measures passes, state budget projections are bleak. The district needs to formulate a creative Strategic Plan that generates greater efficiencies, explores collaborative efforts and vigorously advances new revenue generating ideas that make productive use of existing resources.

An on-going challenge and one related to community fundraising efforts involves enhancing the district's responsiveness to the needs and concerns of community members, parents and school staff. Treating



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BACKYARD GETAWAYS

Backyard Getaways and Beyond Cambodia: A Unique Opportunity to See Beauty and Do Good

Ksenija Soster Olmer



I recently dropped a line to a friend who just returned from a trip to Ireland. How was it, did the rain hold off? She replied that the landscape was lovely, but she was more of a Third World gal. I smiled, knowingly. But many of the people I talk travel with (and I love talking travel) could not understand. "How can you stand all that poverty, and dirtiness and bad smells?" I don't relish it, but after visiting many, many Western, "civilized" countries, I can't get that excited by their reconstructed castles, sterile department stores, and antiseptic museum bathrooms anymore either.

Being of a certain age, I do appreciate a decent level of comfort with a (clean) private bathroom, but I also need the excitement of discovering new fruits or fried crickets at a local morning market. Discovering, I said, not necessarily eating them. I like trying to communicate with the local vendors using just gestures and smiles. Learning about new cultures, handicrafts or folktales inspires me. I marvel at amazing architecture on a grand scale or intricate silk weaving or silver bangle at the craft boutique; but, I also welcome every opportunity to meet the people who live in the shadows of the temples or weave the silk by hand in their native village.

I can do all of that quite successfully in South East Asia, in particular in Cambodia, where I can also do a little bit of good while visiting.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The temple at Bayon never fails to amaze with its large, smiling faces.

Temples

No matter how many times I see the temples of Angkor Wat, I am still in awe. In particular, there is something utterly entrancing about the giant smiling heads at Bayon. Some claim the 200 plus stone faces are Buddha images and some claim that they are portraits of the king Jayavarman-VII, who build his new capital Angkor Tom away from the old one-Angkor Wat, foregoing the Hinduism of his ancestors and embracing Buddhism. Seeing that the king himself and his subjects regarded the ruler of this old Cambodian Khmer Empire a devaraja or god-king, it really doesn't matter. The stone faces are mute, but their expressions speak volumes. The faces are imbued with such serene peace and sublime happiness mixed with a touch of understanding and compassion that one's heart can't help but gladden more at every turn.

There is a very short window of opportunity to enjoy such intimate encounters, and I suggest an early start to every day in Cambodia. Not only will the morning temperatures put a spring into your step you will be well done with your exploration by the time the busloads of other tourists arrive. You can't quite have the most famous of them all – Angkor Wat – to yourself even at 6 a.m. as a number of other visitors are willing to stumble around in the dark to enjoy the spectacular sunrise at the main place of worship in this City of Temples, a masterpiece of architecture. It was built by the famous Suryavarman II, a mighty king who first consolidated the Khmer Empire.

While there are scatterings of temple complexes far and wide around the city of Siem Reap, you can't miss the "Jungle Temple" Ta Prom, used as a location for the movie Tomb Raider. For a totally different feel, stop by the small, intricately carved gem Banteay Srei, also called "Citadel of Women."

With your sightseeing done in the early morning, a smart next step would be to take a few hours of rest and spend the midday in the shade by the swimming pool or having an invigorating and inexpensive massage. Shopping for souvenirs and handicrafts can wait for the evening. It is especially fun at the Night Market, conveniently located close to the Pub Street with plenty of restaurants, coffee shops, cooking schools, ice



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Friends of Cambodian Child's Dream sponsored this well in the name of *The Orinda News*, in appreciation of newspaper coverage over the years.

cream parlors (Blue Pumpkin is the best) and, of course, pubs.

Visiting the Villages

The afternoon is when I visit the villages surrounding Siem Reap. Just 20 minutes

outside the big city with its shiny electric lights and advertisements, life in the village has not changed much for the progeny of the ancient temple builders, who grew their rice in the same muddy fields. In some [SEE CAMBODIA page 25]



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Experience Matters! I respectfully ask for your vote.

PETS / MOVE OF THE MONTH

Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales

Myths and Facts...Black Cats Black Dogs

Jennifer Conroy



Halloween is almost here and all those scary tales and superstitions are back to haunt us. Perhaps the most enduring superstition is that of the black cat. But, which superstition is it? Bad luck? Good luck? Well, that depends. If you live in Ireland, a black cat crossing your path is bad luck. But, if you live in Australia, that same crossing of a black cat is good luck.

In America's past, the black cat suffered as much as did women accused of witchcraft. In fact, cats of assorted coloring met their demise along with their mistresses as cats were considered to be witches familiars – messengers between the witch and the devil and carriers of evil spells.

Ancient Egyptians included among their gods, Bastet, who started out as a lion and was later depicted as a cat, frequently a black cat. She could cure ills, bring good fortune, and increase fertility. One busy cat was she! Cats were so beloved in Egypt that those of the wealthy class were often mummified and buried with their master or

mistress. The Field Museum in Chicago has an excellent cat mummy, as does the British Museum in London.

Sailors favored having a black cat on board when they went to sea, believing it would bring fair winds. In some northern lands, a black cat's arrival on the doorstep meant an increase in prosperity.

Black dogs have their share of myths as well. In eastern European lands, the black dog was associated with a hellhound, perhaps because in the dark of night, a black dog is hard to see and its eyes reflected light. A sighting of the hellhound might portend death. Cerberus, guardian of Greek and, later Roman, hell, was a doglike beast with three heads.

The fact is that neither black cats nor black dogs are completely black. Black fur is often tinged with dark rust or copper colored fur that blends right into the black. Black fur may change color as an animal ages or with changes in seasons or diets. Graying of an animal's fur as it

Move of the Month

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Bring the dumbbells up next to your ears. Lift your feet a couple of inches off the floor.

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ages is normal, but a sudden change in its coat color, may indicate illness or dietary issues. Check with your veterinarian if any sudden change in your animal's coat occurs, including bald spots.

What has my experience of black cats and dogs been? Well, I had a black cat named Snow who could portend rain. She would stare up at the sky and within half an hour it would always rain. And I had a black dog named Nola who, I'm convinced was a selkie, a mythical sea creature that appears as a seal but is really something else. Nola was kind of a reverse selkie. She

appeared as a dog but was in spirit a seal for she loved nothing better than to swim in the ocean where she would emit seal-like barks until seals came to join her. There in a group of bobbing black heads, it was hard to tell which one was dog and which was seal. The first time it happened it shocked and terrified me but after many similar experiences at the ocean it became clear that Nola was a dog in appearance only.

This is the gift of living with animals. As much as we know them, there is mystery that keeps us wondering if, perhaps, some of those myths might not be true.



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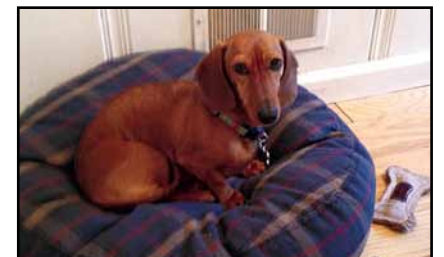
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Pet of the Month

Huey is the October Pet of the Month. A miniature red smooth dachshund, Huey belongs to Molly and Ben Young. He is a very energetic and extremely affectionate little guy who loves to curl up in his bed or next to Molly once they settle in for the evening.




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LOCAL CHEMISTS

Local Chemists Honored by World's Largest Scientific Society

By BRYAN BALAZS
Contributing Writer

Local chemists were honored last week for outstanding community outreach by the national office of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society. The 14 annual Chem-Luminary Awards celebration was held in conjunction with the ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, on August 21, 2012.

The California local section of the ACS, which has over 3,500 chemists and chemi-

cal engineers as its members – received four Chem-Luminary Awards. Local participants included the following Orinda residents: ACS president Marinda Wu; Sheila Yeh, a Chevron scientist who also is co-chair of the Women Chemists Committee; Dr. Igor Sobolev, retired chemist who served many years as the local ACS section Treasurer and was recently honored as an ACS Fellow.

To review more detailed descriptions of the award-winning activities, visit www.acs.org/ChemLuminary/2012Winners.

For more information on the California Section, go to www.calacs.org or call 510-351-9922.

The American Chemical Society is a non-profit organization chartered by the U.S. Congress. With more than 164,000 members, ACS is the world's largest scientific society and a global leader in providing access to chemistry-related research through its multiple databases, peer-reviewed journals and scientific conferences. Its main offices are in Washington, D.C., and Columbus, Ohio.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local chemists were among those honored at the 14th annual Chem-Luminary awards. The California chapter of the national society received four awards. Shown above are (L-R) Lee Latimer, Bryan Balazs and Nancy Jackson at the recent American Chemical Society awards.

◆ CANCER from page 4

in screening, leading to earlier diagnosis, as well as advancements in treatments that increase the cure rate. We often hear the phrase that we need to "find a cure for breast cancer," when in reality, we actually cure more than 90 percent of women diagnosed with this disease.

Although there are some women whose breast cancer cannot be cured, we now live in a time when incurable breast cancer can be treated as a chronic disease, like diabetes and heart disease. There are many different treatments options for women with metastatic breast cancer, and these treatments lead to longer survival and improved quality of life. In the past year, three new drugs have entered the arena for breast cancer treatment, making

it a record year in breast cancer advances. Two of the drugs -- pertuzumab (Perjeta) and TDM-1 -- target HER2-positive breast cancers, while everolimus (Afinitor), treats hormone-responsive breast cancer. Both pertuzumab and everolimus are already FDA-approved, and we anticipate approval of TDM-1 in the near future.

We are fortunate to live in a time and a community in which there is a great focus on breast cancer awareness. Locally, there are some important events in the upcoming weeks. The Sun Valley Mall in Pleasant Hill will host the second "Surviving in Style" fashion show in conjunction with their "Pink Up the Mall" campaign on October 7. "The Many Faces of Breast Cancer," a program that focuses on the issues of breast cancer survivorship, will see its fourth year of an auditorium filled

with breast cancer survivors on October 13 at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek. On October 18, John Muir Health Center will have "An Evening in Pink" that begins at the Women's Health Center and continues through downtown Walnut Creek. These are just a few of the events occurring in our community throughout the month. Whether you are a survivor, a loved one, a caregiver, or just one who cares, we hope to see many of you out there this month, supporting the cause!

Orinda resident Tiffany Svahn, MD is a Medical Oncologist and Hematologist with Diablo Valley Oncology. Dr. Svahn specializes in breast cancer. Diablo Valley Oncology's comprehensive cancer center is located at the California Cancer and Research Institute in Pleasant Hill. For more information call 925-677-5041.

◆ CITIZENSHIP from page 10

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Ambassador to the U.N.: leader of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations.

Council of Economic Advisers: advises

the president on matters of domestic and international economic policy.

Small Business Administration (SBA): (added January 2012) provides support to entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Vice President of the United States: A cabinet-level position.

Robert Etheredge is an Orinda resident

who recently published *The American Challenge, which details the United States government and significant events in the history of the United States. It is available at Orinda Books and other bookstores. Contact the author and publisher at bob@miravista.com.*

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Jason Lurie

for
Orinda School Board



"Orinda's public schools remain excellent during these difficult economic times. Our students, my children included, are the beneficiaries of a community that is committed to a first rate public education. I ask for your support so that I can give back to the community. If elected, I will bring a pragmatic and collaborative approach to serving our students and a spirit of cooperation with all stakeholders."

"Jason has a keen appreciation for Orinda's outstanding public schools. Jason is determined to build on this legacy of excellence to ensure that our students get the top notch education they deserve and our community expects."

– Sue Severson, Member, Orinda City Council (2006-present); Member, OUSD Board of Trustees (1993-2002)

"I have no doubt that Jason Lurie will bring diligence, fairness, and a collaborative approach to the school board. Orinda students will benefit greatly from his leadership."

– Pat Rudebusch, President, OUSD Board of Trustees (Member 2000-present)

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FILM

◆ TREES from page 1

Some are homeless, some are trapped in a cycle of deprivation, and some are unable to advance because they cannot read," she explained.

"The baskets all have a theme," said Rogan. "We have Italian baskets, wine baskets, and children's baskets, just to name a few. They are extraordinary. We also have beautifully decorated wreaths and handmade quilts, also to be raffled off."

According to Rogan, the club "raises thousands of dollars to support our various charitable works that benefit children and women in need, mostly in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This year, our major beneficiaries are the Girls Aftercare Program of the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary of Contra Costa County and the Winter Nights Shelter Program of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County."

The chairpersons added that the club also supports women through Community Service Scholarships, which allow women to return to, or continue, education programs.

Kling offered that sometimes, "These are all situations – a home, food and education – which we take for granted."

For more information on how you can help, visit www.orindawomansclub.org.


◆ OLIVE from page 1

Botanical Gardens Educational director who also worked at the Lawrence Hall of Science, Barrett says, "Environmental Education has been a passion of mine. The event benefits Orinda school children who attend programs in the Nature Area, and the many youth who contribute community service projects to improve wildlife habitat in the Nature Area," Barrett adds.

Last year's festival, also a fundraiser, attracted more than 400 visitors and 100 volunteers. Barrett reports that she was, "particularly impressed with the volunteers who commit to help. Students from OIS, and seniors from senior village, Miramonte students from the environmental area, Eagle Scouts, and Rotary are represented in the more than 100 volunteers that man the festival."


Barrett confirms that this year's festival will have about 20 activity stations. "Those attending can make craft projects to take home, test their skill at the olive dash, the olive toss, the olive regatta, and the olive pit spit. In addition to the shared fun that families experience, much learning takes place at stations such as the demonstration of grinding olives and pressing them for olive oil."

For more details, visit: www.fwrna.org.



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

A SPOOKY OCTOBER



Tom Westlake

It would be easy to concentrate solely on the month of October and what makes it notable – there are definitely enough cinematic scares to keep the demons on their side of the veil.

However, with the Green Rheem taking a brief hiatus and the Kids Movie Summer Camp over until next summer, there is less for the movie buff to choose from. But what's there is choice!

Appropriately, the Orinda Theatre is airing *Poltergeist* on Saturday, October 13. Made when computer-generated imagery was still several years away, this film delivers some genuine frights, some done with practical effects, others with a carefully timed camera move and a highly trained crew. You'll never look at your dinette set the same after watching this movie.

What makes this film truly unique is the unlikely teaming of Steven Spielberg, who made some of the most popular movies in cinematic history, and Tobe Hooper, who was most famous for directing *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. This unlikely collaboration produced one of the most memorable and original horror movies of all time.

Shown in cooperation with *Diablo Magazine*, it will screen at 7 p.m.

For more light-hearted fare, The Moraga Movers present *The Miracle of Morgan's Creek* at the Rheem on Wednesday, October 17 at 4 p.m.

Starring Eddie Bracken and Betty Hutton, this 1944 romp (voted one of the 100 funniest movies by the American Film Institute) is, on the surface, a simple tale of who did what to whom. But delving a little deeper, it turns out this film has something of a sordid history.

Its release was delayed for two years, mainly for its controversial story. (The Hays Code of ethics had strict guidelines against this sort of "miracle.") Producers had to make subtle changes to placate the critics but controversy or no, this is one delightful film.

Next up, the ever-popular *Vanessa*,

Queen of the Rheem, and her continuing crusade against quality in cinema. *Bela Lugosi Meets a Brooklyn Gorilla* (1952) has everything for the movie buff who doesn't know any better.

First off, there's Bela Lugosi in full mad-scientist mode. Next, there's the also-ran team of Mitchell and Patrillo who were to Martin and Lewis as the Ritz Brothers were to the Marx Bros. Add the usual wacky (and by today's standards insulting) racial stereotypes, and really bad gorilla costumes, and you have a movie that rates half a point lower than last month's *Mars Need Women!*

Those brave enough to endure this are half-heartedly encouraged to be at the Rheem on Friday, October 19, at 9 p.m.

Lastly, we come to the International Film Showcase. This month Efi Lubliner and Jo Alice Canturbury give us *Noodle*. This warm-hearted drama expands on the idea that "it takes a village to raise a child."

The 2007 Israeli film tells the story of a disillusioned flight attendant and her encounter with a lost Chinese boy. With very little in common and facing language and cultural barriers, something deeper and wiser starts to flourish.

Far more sincere and lacking in the cynicism that one might find in films from other countries, *Noodle* is another example of the quality of film that Efi and Jo Alice are glad to bring to our attention.

Noodle will have its Bay Area premiere at the Orinda Theatre during the week of October 19. For further information and showtimes, visit www.LFEF.org or www.orindatheatre.com.

That just about does it save for one other point: There are always surprises in store for the movie lover. Just last month I saw a screening of the Steve McQueen classic *Bullitt* and the documentary *To Catch a Dollar*. Keep checking the Lamorinda theatre websites for last-minute additions.

And remember to stay in the dark. That's where the magic happens.

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LOCAL AUTHOR / LOCAL DESIGNER

New Book Describes Minor League Life

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Katya Cengel, a 1994 graduate of Cam-polindo High School is celebrating. The University of Nebraska just released her book, which she will be signing at Orinda Books on October 13 at 12 p.m. Cengel is a freelance writer based in Richmond, California. A staff reporter for the *Louisville Courier-Journal* for eight years, she reported from the former Soviet Union, Europe, and Africa and has published in *Esquire* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Learn more about Cengel's feature, travel and humanitarian writing at www.katyacengel.com.

Forget the steroid-addled, overpaid, and unmotivated players: America's pastime is still alive and well and is still the heart-

felt sport it's always been – in the Minor Leagues. And nowhere is this truer than in Kentucky, whose rich baseball history continues to play out in the four teams profiled in this book. Following these teams through their 2010 season – the triumphs, struggles, and Big League hopes and dreams – the book tells the larger story of baseball in America's smaller venues, where the game in its purest form is still valued and warmly embraced.

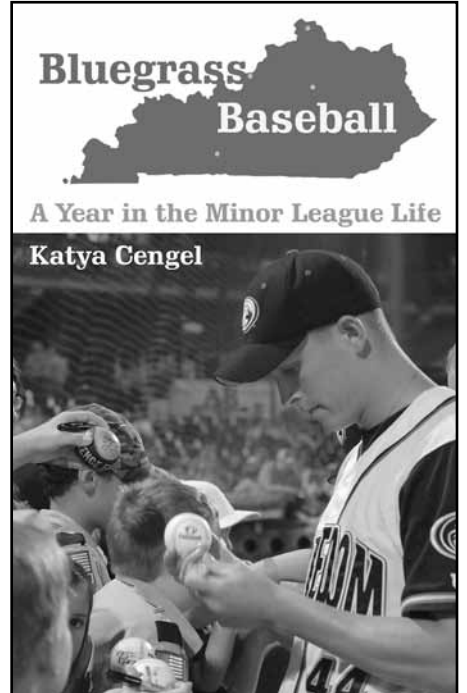
The story begins before the season with national-anthem tryouts in Lexington, then tags along with players, staff and fans, at home, in the office, and on the field, offering a rare glimpse of the unglamorous reality of Minor League ball. From the front-office staff in Bowling Green planning kooky promotions, to a trainer grocery shopping for a team on \$40 a day, to a new



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Katya Cengel will be signing her new book *Blue Grass Baseball: A Year in the Minor League Life* at Orinda Books on October 13 at noon.

wife coming to terms with her husband's transitory lifestyle, to a father struggling to make it back to the Majors and a Cuban defector blowing everyone away with a 100 mph-plus fastball, these are the people who live to make baseball happen, in all its nitty-gritty glory.



Local Fashionista Creates Fun Outfits for Toddlers

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Orinda mom, Kellee Bachour, uses her graphic and fashion design education to create fun clothing for children. "I love design. When my son Gideon started preschool, I found there was very little to choose from as far as fabulous clothing," says Bachour. "I began shopping children's boutiques, department stores, online sites, and even children's consignment stores." Eventually, Bachour began Good Boy Friday, a toddler boys-wear company featuring natural fabrics and sun-bleached colors.

Bachour grew up in Lafayette before go-

ing away to Parsons College in NYC. She met and married Fadi Bachour and, following the birth of their son Gideon, moved to Orinda in September 2011.

"I love the support of the Lamorinda community," says Bachour. "We did a recent photo shoot at the 100-year-old farmhouse of Tom and Karen Mulvaney in Lafayette. They graciously shared their home with us, and Lafayette Hen House proprietor and style guru Elizabeth Kirkpatrick filled the shoot with vintage accessories and her expert eye."

For more information on Good Boy Friday, go to www.goodboyfriday.com. You can also follow Bachour on her blog at www.thelipstickstudio.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gideon Bachour (L) and John David Kao wear Good Boy Friday clothing featured in the fall line.



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Endorsements from Elected Officials

Steve Glazer, Mayor of Orinda
Victoria Smith, Orinda City Council
Amy Worth, Orinda City Council
Dean Orr, Orinda City Council
Sue Severson, Orinda City Council

Pat Rudebusch, President, Orinda School Board
Chris Severson, Member, Orinda School Board
Julie Rossiter, Member, Orinda School Board
Riki Sorenson, Past member, Orinda School Board
Glenn Alper, Past member, Orinda School Board

Endorsements from Community Members

Larry & Julie Abramson
Dick & Julie Atkinson
Tom & Carol Ann Barber
John & Jeanette Broad
Randy & Shelli Brudzinski
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Mark & Shauna Simmonds
Carrie Smith
David & Nancy Smith
Jeff & Kathy Schwarz
Skip & Anna Tague
D.J. & Tina Tierney



EVERYDAY CHANGES

◆ LETTERS from page 6

than nothing.” It has been six years since the Infrastructure Committee identified our \$100 million infrastructure problem and so far no new tax has been passed to address it. But people should not be deceived that this sales tax will actually fix our roads to any great extent. The solution is still waiting out there for someone to uncover. Maybe the sales tax is a good start.

– Steve Cohn

Re-elect Steve Glazer

To say that Steve Glazer is eminently qualified for the City Council misses the point. Sure, he brings a keen understanding of how government should work, tireless energy, and an enviable capacity for building consensus. It’s his unwavering commitment to fairness and respect for the people he serves that makes him really stand out.

I hope you will join me in re-electing Mayor Steve Glazer to the Orinda City Council. We are fortunate to have someone of Mayor Glazer’s caliber serving our city, and we should keep him working on our behalf for as long as he’s willing to give freely of his time and talent.

– Pat Rudebusch

Support Glazer and Smith

We strongly support re-electing Steve

Glazer and Victoria Smith to the Orinda City Council. Steve and Victoria have both worked tirelessly to keep Orinda fiscally sound during challenging times, to move towards a more collaborative decision making process between the city and the citizens, and to strategically repair our damaged roads as much as possible with the limited funding currently available. Orinda is fortunate to have solid, dedicated leaders on the City Council that work well together, and we believe all of Orinda would benefit by re-electing Steve and Victoria.


– Glenn and Lynne Alper

Glazer for City Council

Compared with other California cities of all sizes, Orinda is in excellent financial shape. Credit for this belongs to the current City Council in general, and Mayor Steve Glazer, in particular. Orindans live in only one of three cities in the county that do not have a defined benefit pension plan. Our unfunded retirement obligations are exactly zero, in sharp contrast to the bankrupt and nearly insolvent public safety agencies and cities that surround us.

Orinda has maintained a balanced budget through a multi-year downturn in property tax revenues by closely matching staffing, the main costs, with services. Staff has been reduced in response to changes in city services needed, such as in the Plan-

Everyday Changes
Everyday Changes for Everyday Stress



Bonnie Waters

The kids are back in school and the holidays are soon upon us. Talk about stress! Stress is such a part of our lives today that it is hard to remember that the concept of stress was not even in our vocabulary until the 1950s. Since then, the concept has been wholeheartedly embraced even making headlines and driving movie characters to flourish or break down. It is a topic of songs and the plot of many sitcoms.

But what is stress, how does the stress response occur and what can we do about it? According to my favorite source, Wikipedia, “stress is a physical, mental and emotional response to a perceived threat.” If the mind perceives a threat, the body will respond with a physical response. Most of us are familiar with the fight or flight response. Knowing this is helpful, but you might be asking, “What can we do about stress?”

ning Department and the Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

For a city with just a ten million dollar budget, 40 percent of which goes to police, Orinda has been able to devote a surprising amount of money to try to maintain our awful roads, focusing on the ones most used. Mayor Glazer spearheaded a highly collaborative effort over the past 18 months to revisit a comprehensive plan for road repair and maintenance, and to gauge the public appetite for paying for this. The result was Measure L, on the ballot this fall, to begin to address our infrastructure issues. While not a complete solution, it is the best measure for these times, and Steve is to be applauded for pushing forward the first step of a solution.

The simplest, though not the easiest approach, is to be present in every moment. Moment by moment, we can choose to shift from the fight or flight. This can be aided by utilizing the 4 R’s. Hopefully, you will find these ideas helpful. They are culled from various experts in the field of holistic health and stress management.

Practice the 4 R’s

The intention of the 4 R’s is to improve self-awareness. What are you telling yourself? Is the conversation based on the past and projected into the future or is it based on your intention and a “present moment experience”?

So, please join me in voting for Steve Glazer. Let’s build on his legacy: his deep knowledge of the community; the strong financial management; and the inclusive approaches to seemingly intractable problems. Let’s move forward together to continue to keep our City enviably strong.

– Carol Penskar

Release – Release the fight response by learning to use “whole breathing,” mindfulness meditation, and identify and release old perceptions and emotions. There are many resources available on the Internet.

Renew – Renew by enjoying present moment experiences such as self massage, yoga, tai chi or time spent in nature.

Rejuvenate – Choose experiences, environments and relationships that nurture and, therefore, rejuvenate.

Remember – Remember to mentally surrender anything that no longer serves you. Do this by creating enjoyable rituals. My favorite is very simple (and easy!).

Before your feet hit the floor each morning develop the ritual of completing the following statements:
Today I will release _____.
(Concerns, fears, clutter, etc)
In this moment, I am grateful for _____. **(People, things and experiences)**

I want to say that today I am grateful for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you, and I am grateful that you have chosen to take the time to read them!


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Support Victoria Smith

Victoria Smith possesses important qualities which have made her a superb city councilmember. They include having good judgment, a judicious and even-handed approach, a strong work ethic, knowledge of issues facing Orinda, and most importantly having experience dealing with those issues. Victoria has spent almost ten years closely involved in Orinda’s local government, first as a planning commissioner and then as a councilmember and mayor.

I know from first-hand experience that Victoria has done an excellent job in all [SEE LETTERS 2 page 24]



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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 1 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* through Oct. 14 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theatre Way (formerly Gateway Boulevard). For tickets, visit www.calshakes.org or call 510-548-9666.
- 5 **Orinda Books** Holiday Sale features work of ceramic artist Gerry Wallace, 286 Village Square, 10 a.m. Call 254-7607.
- 6 **Sisters (and Brother) in Crime** Jonnie Jacobs, Janet Dawson, Pat Morin, Tony Broadbent and Simon Woods will discuss and sign copies of their latest mysteries, Orinda Books, 286 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7607.
- 7 **Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church** The Plight and Potential of Africa's Heart. A luncheon with the President of the Presbyterian Church of the Congo and presentation. Noon, \$10 for lunch, presentation is free. Call 925-283-8722 or visit lopc.org.
- 9 **Orinda Books** presents author Gail Tsukiyama who will discuss her new novel, *A Hundred Flowers*, 286 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7607.
- 13 **Sleepy Hollow Elementary School's** annual Pumpkin Patch includes haunted house, carnival games, pumpkin carving, face painting, country kitchen and food for sale, 20 Washington Lane, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Del Rey Elementary School Pumpkin Patch and Carnival, 25 El Camino Moraga, noon to 4 p.m. Public is welcome.
Glorietta Elementary School annual Fun Fest, 15 Martha Road, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Public is welcome.
Wagner Ranch Elementary School Round Up and Carnival, 350 Camino Pablo, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Public is welcome.
- Orinda Books** presents Campolindo grad Katya Cengel who will discuss her new book, *Bluegrass Baseball: A Year in Minor League Life*, about baseball in America's smaller venues, 286 Village Square, noon. Call 254-7607.
- Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church** Divorce Options Workshop explains the legal, financial, psychological and social issues of divorce, 49 Knox Drive, Room 201, 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$45 per participant, cash or check. Repeated second Saturday of each month. Contact Collaborative Practice of the East Bay at www.cpeastbay.org, 943-7456 or divorceoptions.eastbay@gmail.com.
- 16 **Orinda Books**, Book Club Forum, hosted by Ron Shoop of Random House, benefits Project Second Chance, the adult literacy program of the Contra Costa libraries. Shoop will feature current book selections as well as recommendations for book groups, 286 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7607. The store will donate 20 percent of book sales during the event to Project Second Chance.
- 17 **Orinda Books** presents author Victoria Zackheim who will discuss her book *Exit Laughing: Or How to Take the Sting Out of Death*, 286 Village Square, 10 a.m. Call 254-7607.
- 19 **The International Film Showcase** presents the Israeli film *Noodle* through Oct. 25 at the Orinda Theatre. Daily showings at 1:30, 4 and 6:30 p.m. with additional shows Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. For details, visit www.lfef.org or www.lamorindatheatres.com.
- 25 **Halloween Tot Parade**, 1 p.m., at the Orinda Community Park. Sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary.
- 26 **Holden High School** Cabaret features music by jazz ensemble The Heard and Joel Weber and his accordion, dessert buffet and information about the school, Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Call 254-0199.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 2 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop-ins welcome, but limit attendance to once per week. Also Oct. 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17.
Peek-A-Boo Time with songs, stories, rhymes and rhythm for newborns through 1-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also Oct. 9 and 16.
- 6 **Saturday Morning Live**, family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also Oct. 13 and 20.
Book Sale sponsored by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and Sorting Area, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 15 **Storybook Election**, kids cast their ballots for their favorite storybook characters at the Information Desk through Oct. 22.
- 16 **Humanities West's George Hammond** presents a preview of the seminar, American Expats in Paris, Fireside Room, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 **Screening of These Amazing Shadows**, a 2011 Official Selection of the Sundance Film Festival, explores the history of the National Film Registry, 6 p.m. Garden Room, open to teens and adults. Q&A following movie.
- 19 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss *Gaudy Night* by Dorothy Sayers, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult program, drop-ins welcome.
- 23 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent talks about the theatre's latest production, *An Iliad*, which brings the ancient tale to life with contemporary wit and wisdom, Fireside Room, 7 to 7:55 p.m.
- 25 **Talespinners of Contra Costa**, storytelling for adults with a featured speaker every month, Garden Room, 7 p.m. Share a story or just come to listen.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Moraga-Orinda Fire District Conference Room, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**, every third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, September through May, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., www.montelindogarden.com. This month's speaker is Dustin Strobel, manager of Sloat Nursery in Danville, who will talk about fall and winter color in the garden and how to maintain your garden in winter.
- Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September to June, 7 p.m. Contact Julie Mercer or Charlene Robinson at info@orindajuniors.org or www.orindajuniors.org.

Hamlet Closes Cal Shakes 39th Season

KEVIN BERNE

(L-R) Zainab Jah as Ophelia, Dan Hiatt as Polonius, LeRoy McClain as Hamlet, Julie Eccles as Gertrude, Adrian Roberts as Claudius, and Nick Gabriel as Horatio in Cal Shakes' production of *Hamlet*.

by DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Cal Shakes closes its 39th season with Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Directed by Liesl Tommy, this production marks the latest return of *Hamlet* to Cal Shakes stage in over a decade. Tommy said, "I'm mainly interested in exploring feelings of loss and grief in my work; the idea of ancestors and their spirits are fascinating to me. In *Hamlet*, I'll be able to do that by focusing on the family drama as the heart of the story. For me, this is a memory play, a haunting within a haunting; the story of this family is by turns poetic, absurd, romantic, violent, and sad. The world of the play becomes its own character; the room and the objects in it hold the secrets and memories of what took place there. In essence, the structure

has outlived its inhabitants and is now a haunted place."

This production features LeRoy McClain as Hamlet, Adrian Roberts as Claudius, Zainab Jah as Ophelia, Julie Eccles as Gertrude, Dan Hiatt as Polonius/Grave Digger, Danny Scheie as Player King, Nick Gabriel as Horatio, Nicholas Pelczar as Laertes, Mia Tagano as Player Queen, Jessica Kitchens as Rosencrantz, Brian Rivera as Guildenstern, and Joseph Salazar as Bernardo. McClain, Roberts, Jah, and Rivera are making their Cal Shakes debuts with this production, while Eccles, Gabriel, Hiatt, Kitchens, Pelczar, Scheie, and Tagano will be familiar to long-time patrons.

Performances run Tuesday through Sunday until October 14. For more information, visit www.calshakes.org.

Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 254-2222.

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

Orinda Hiking Club. Hikes every weekend and the first Wednesday of the month. Visit www.orindahiking.org for weekly schedule or call Ian at 254-1465.

Orinda Historical Society. Third Wednesday, 3 p.m., Historical Society Museum, 26 Orinda Way, 254-1353.

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

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

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

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

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. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.

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

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

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ORINDA IDOL

◆ CAMBODIA from page 17

ways, it could be even worse as the kings of old at least maintained an extensive network of irrigation channels. Whatever progress might have been made was totally obliterated by the insane experiment of the communist Khmer Rouge, that managed to bring the country back to the stone age, after first killing two million of their own people.

It is easy to spot some of the ex-soldiers among the bare chested farmers in the villages as they are tattooed with magical tattoos that protected them from the bullets. The young children, too, are dressed minimally. Many run around practically stark naked, except for newborn babies (and their freshly delivered moms) who are dressed and covered with hats and wrapped in extra blankets on the hottest of days. The houses are built on long bamboo poles to allow for flooding and the walls are made of flimsy palm fronds. The kitchen is a small ceramic charcoal burner and water is brought in pails from the stagnant pond or rice field -- unless you are one of the over 500 families who got a water well built by the Friends of Cambodian Child's Dream. But that also means you are one of

in rice and fish that their mothers cook at school early in the morning so the children can learn. Many of the kids are stunted in growth because of a lack of adequate nutrition since birth.

The Tooth Fairy Project

There is a small clinic in the commune that deals with regular bouts of dysentery and malaria in children, but there is no dental clinic that would fix their teeth. In fact, the children and their parents have never even heard of a dentist. No wonder, as the Khmer Rouge killed all but a handful of dentists and doctors, and anyone who wore glasses.

Shockingly, each of our school children on average has six rotten teeth. There isn't even a village barber who would pull those out. Knowing very well how difficult it is to sleep, eat or learn when your teeth hurt, we are organizing the first ever dental clinic at our schools. We are teaming up with One-2-One Charitable Trust in New Zealand. They train dental assistants and nurses in Cambodia and volunteer dental students and professors from University of the Pacific Dental School in San Francisco. A dental mission to Cambodia is planned for March 2013. If you are a retired dentist



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A young boy learns to brush his teeth. Dentists and oral hygiene are practically unheard of in the area.

the poorest of the poor: a widow, a mine survivor, or a rice worker without your own land. One could get depressed about the state of the villages, but visiting the recipients of the wells is always such a positive experience. The gratitude, warmth and generosity of these hard working people is overwhelming.

Schools

As the schools operate in two shifts, I can visit the classrooms in the afternoon as well. There the small non profit I volunteer with hires English teachers, stocks libraries, helps grow vegetable gardens, serves breakfast and brings in volunteers from the United States and beyond. The children, as everywhere around the world, melt your hearts. They smile shyly or boldly take your hand, but they all revel in individual attention. With sometimes 60 children per classroom and 10 siblings at home, you can see attention is at a premium – as are food, notebooks, toys, or even soap and toothbrushes. The school in Cambodia is free to the extent that you can afford to buy a school uniform and school supplies to be accepted into the classroom. In many schools, the teachers supplement their meager income by demanding small fees from children every day or at the time of exams. To prevent this early introduction into bribery and graft, we give extra salary allowance to all Khmer teachers in the schools we work in. We give out scholarships to hundreds of children, provide bicycles so they can get to school, and bring

or a capable volunteer, please join us. If you can help us secure dental equipment or materials, please let us know. If you want to sponsor a dental visit for a child, chip in \$10. The money goes towards a portable dental clinic, generator, amalgam and such. Volunteers, who will pay their own way, will do the work.

For more information on the Orinda Tooth Fairies, go to www.friendsofcd.org/donate.asp or contact Ksenija by phone 925-708-0770 or email at Xenija@aol.com.



PETRA MICHEL

Sabrina Chaco, Isaac Taylor and Bella Johannessen of Urban Flare won in the Group Category for 6th - 12th grade.

Orinda Idol Finalists Raise the Bar, Again

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

The air was full of excitement as the winners of the 7th Orinda Idol Finals event were announced at the September 9 competition at the Orinda Theatre. Besides prizes, the competition offered invaluable insight to the young performers.

Tosca Maltzman, who won the Audience Award (based on votes by those attending) learned a lesson for her future. "My experience in Orinda Idol this year clarified in my mind that I want to pursue music throughout my life," she said.

"I think it's incredible that people have the guts to get up and put themselves out there for everyone to see. It really shows you something about courage," added Maritza Grillo, who won as a soloist in the high school category.

According to members of the Orinda Arts Council, which sponsors the event, this year's 10 winners were chosen from among 200 performers who auditioned, ranging in age from 5 to 18.

The final round of competition featured nearly 40 singers performing an eclectic array of music including musical

theater, American classics, jazz standards and pop hits.

"This is the seventh annual Orinda Idol competition and the talent is through the roof. Every year, we're so impressed with the budding talent in the Lamorinda area. From the littlest kindergartner to the most seasoned high school student, there are some great singers in our midst," said Idol chairman, Steve Harwood.

"We were extremely excited!" said Isabelle Johannessen, a member of the winning trio Urban Flare, adding that it was more than a prize the group received – "any chance to perform is a great experience."

And the Winners are....

Grades K-2 Soloists: Lucy Berkman; Grades 3-5 Soloists: Malia Akazawa; Middle School Soloists: Eleanor Roeder; High School Soloists: Maritza Grillo; Group Category K-5: Sweet Harmony (Arriana Glenn, Kiera Glenn); Group Category 6-12: Urban Flare (Sabrina Chaco, Bella Johannessen, Isaac Taylor) Audience Award: Tosca Maltzman.

For more information on The Orinda Arts Council and the Orinda Idol Finalists, visit www.orindaartscouncil.org.

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California Magic Soccer takes Runner-Up in North vs. South Tournament

By GREG DAVIS
Contributing Writer

The newly formed California Magic Soccer Club traveled to San Luis Obispo the weekend of August 11 and 12 for their first tournament and brought back the runner-up trophy. This team/club is comprised of community kids who simply love to play soccer.

The girls' Under-13 California Magic played four games in the 24th Annual North vs. South Summer Tournament hosted by San Luis Obispo Soccer Club. More than 180 teams from across California took part in the single-elimination event.

All weekend the girls played amazing soccer, individually and collectively. They attacked, defended and kept their worthy opponents off balance with indirect play throughout the four games.

"This weekend our players excelled in playing more than one position, and they continued learning the many different ways to compete in soccer as well as in life" said Coach Haris Obic.

In the opener, the Magic took on Clovis Crossfire in a very physical match, where the Magic prevailed 2-1. "This game set a high bar for the rest of the tournament," said Magic's Obic. "The physical play and type of defense they played was something we don't usually see, and we had to adjust."

The Magic next took on host San Luis Obispo Storm with California Magic posting a 3-0 win to advance to the second day of competition. "Today, we had to adjust to the Southern California physical play," said Obic. "It was good because we had to organize much quicker ... so this allowed us to grow as a team." Magic prevailed in this contest to end the first day's round of

competition with a record of two wins and no losses.

On day two's opener, the Magic dominated Orchard Valley Clash to move on to the championship.

Then, in the final matchup for the championship, the Magic faced the Camarillo Eagles. The Southern California team was fast and physical, but the Magic kept them on the run and played excellent soccer to the end, despite coming up a bit short with a 3-1 final score. "Getting to the finals was very rewarding," said Obic. "It was a very successful weekend. We are much stronger as a team on the field and much closer as a team off the field."

California Magic Soccer Club is a community-based club whose mission is to educate, inspire and empower youth in a positive way through the beautiful game of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
California Magic Soccer Club, for girls under 13, competed at the 24th annual North vs. South Summer Tournament in San Luis Obispo.

soccer. This small and select club is committed to high achievement in all aspects of soccer while the whole child is considered

during the course of development in Magic soccer training.

Annual Orinda Halloween Parade for Tots on October 25



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A participant from last year's Halloween Parade prepares for the annual stroll through the park.


Once again, the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary (OCCA) and the City of Orinda will sponsor the Halloween Parade for tots around the Community Center Park. Preschools are encouraged to come in their favorite costume and enjoy the parade, music and fun. It takes place on Thursday, October 25, promptly at 1 p.m.

Looking ahead, be sure and mark your calendar for November 3 when the Orinda Holiday Bazaar will take place from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The bazaar features over 60 exhibitors of specialty holiday items

plus live entertainment. Also sponsored by the OCCA and the City of Orinda, the bazaar is currently accepting applications for vendors. Go to www.cityoforinda.org or email occabazaar@yahoo.com for exhibit information. Funds raised by the bazaar help support such events as the Concerts in the Park and the Halloween Tot Parade as well as equipment for the Community Center and park.


- Linda Dezzani
Parks and Recreation Supervisor

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art
New Fall Exhibitions:
October 6 - December 16, 2012




Missions of Will Sparks

The mission paintings of Will Sparks (1862-1937) are admired for their rich color and air of mystery. This rare complete series of the 37 Alta and Baja California missions once belonged to Alma de Bretteville Spreckels. On loan from Trotter Galleries, Carmel and Pacific Grove.




The Art of the Cross

An overview of the many forms and functions the cross has taken over the centuries by such masters as Jacques Callot, Tiepolo, Émile Bernard, Marc Chagall, Georges Rouault, Bernard Buffet, Otto Dix, Salvador Dali, as well as a 5th c. Constantinople coin, a 15th c. allegorical Memento Mori woodcut, Orthodox icons, and an elaborate silver and gilded Ethiopian Christian processional cross. The objects have been selected from the collections of Christians in the Visual Arts (civa.org), based on the East Coast, and Saint Mary's College.



Nyame Brown:
John Henry's Adventures in a Post-Black World

Inspired by bedtime stories told by the artist's father, Brown weaves the tales of folk hero John Henry into a series of fantastic paintings and drawings. Brown is a member of the art faculty at Saint Mary's College. He holds an M.F.A. from Yale University and a B.F.A. from The School of The Art Institute of Chicago.



Museum Hours:
Wednesdays - Sundays, 11 AM - 4:30 PM
Free admission for Museum members,
youth through 12th grade,
Adult admission: \$5
Free Guide By Cell tours
stmarys-ca.edu/museum, 925.631.4379

If you plan to attend the Museum's opening day programs, please check yearofthegacl.com to learn more about the October 6 SMC Sesquicentennial events schedule and satellite parking and shuttle information.

Elementary Schools Celebrate Halloween With a Number of Events

It's time again for the annual Pumpkin Patches, Fun Fests and Round Ups to take place. This year, the various elementary schools have scheduled these seasonal treats on the same day, Saturday, October 13.

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School starts things off with its annual Pumpkin Patch from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The fun event features old-fashioned fun and games such as a haunted house, country kitchen (with lots of homemade treats including English toffee, Ghoulish Cookies, Spider Web Cupcakes, and Batty Brownies), lots of carnival games, bouncy houses and even a rock wall and bungee trampoline. And, of course, it wouldn't be Halloween without a pumpkin growing and carving contest.

Glorietta Elementary School will hold its Fun Fest from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. with Del Rey Elementary holding its Pump-



kin Patch festivities from noon - 4 p.m. Wagner Ranch gets into its own Western version of Halloween with a Round Up and Carnival from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Sally Hogarty, Editor

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
So many pumpkins, so little time! **A young attendee** at Sleepy Hollow's pumpkin patch tries to choose his favorite.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 28

common core education standards established by the State of California.

“Orinda Afternoons is intended to be a link between home and school. The curriculum includes gardening, life cycle, math, science and language. We incorporate elements of our organic garden into our daily meals. We are a nut free environment, in order to safeguard against peanut allergies,” says Van Voorhis-Gilbert. The day is broken into 20-minute increments to make good use of a child’s attention span. “Play is vitally important to a growing child’s healthy development. Abundant outdoor time and free play is integrated into the program, with an emphasis on social skills.”

Van Voorhis-Gilbert converted her children’s playroom into a classroom to accommodate up to eight children. Sunlight streams in through the large floor to ceiling windows and the white oak floors reflects the abundant natural light throughout. A dedicated backyard space accommodates the well-equipped art program, with a spacious play area and room for tricycles. “Kindergartners come with such variation. Some are able to read and write and others unable to identify all letters in the alphabet. I follow the California common core standards and teach ‘Handwriting without Tears,’ a way of teaching writing that is developmentally based. Children continue their math curriculum through ‘Math Made Real,’ a kinesthetic approach to the subject. By providing individualized attention, nurturing their abilities, and providing extra support where needed, success is achieved. It is important that fun be integrated,” adds Van Voorhis-Gilbert.

Extended care is available until 6 p.m. at additional cost. In addition to the classroom program throughout the academic year, kindergarten through 3rd grade students may enroll in camp holidays oriented to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert operates an afternoon program for kindergartners.

celebrating each particular holiday.

An East Bay native, Van Voorhis-Gilbert grew up in Orinda. In fact, her mother, Karen Wacker, attended Glorietta School beginning in 1950. Her grandfather’s work on the second bore of the Caldecott Tunnel brought the family to Orinda. She is married to Neil Gilbert, a professor in the School of Social Welfare at U.C. Berkeley. The couple has been married 18 years and their two children, Nathaniel and Nicole, attend Orinda Intermediate School.

Prior to establishing Orinda Afternoons, Van Voorhis-Gilbert was an active volunteer at Wagner Ranch School. “There was not a day that I was not at Wagner Ranch over the past 10 years.” As a professor of Sociology at C.S.U. Hayward, she taught parenting and behavior. She enjoys playing the guitar, gardening and taking the family on hikes.

For more information about Orinda Afternoons, visit the website at www.orindaafternoons.com. You may email Van Voorhis-Gilbert at orindaafternoons@gmail.com or call 254-1974.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce Welcomes New Business Members



DAVID DIERKS

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce recently had a festive ribbon cutting ceremony for new member, Care Indeed. The Orinda-based business provides caregivers to help elderly residents remain in their homes. (L-R) **Candy Kattenburg, Jonathan Doyle, Sue Hurrell, Tom Romanack, Dee Bustos (Owner), Keith Miller, Apryl Ryder, Amrita Sanyal, and Geradine Agoot.**



DAVID DIERKS

Friends of Wagner Ranch and members of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce met at the Orinda Community Park Gazebo for a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Friends, a non-profit group dedicated to the nature area adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, sponsors a variety of public service and education events at the site.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

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Orinda Shoe Repair

Serving our community since 1952, Orinda Shoe Repair is a small family business owned by Torre Major and his wife, Sherry. Their son, Tyler, works in this friendly and efficient shop located around the corner from Orinda Motors at 19 Avenida de Orinda. Torre learned the business during high school and college from his stepfather, Jim Pinkney, who established it and, then, subsequently bought the store



VALERIE HOTZ
Torre Major takes pride in the quality work of Orinda Shoes

in 1991.

Offering complete and full service shoe repair, Orinda Shoe Repair's services include specialized orthopedic correction, re-finishing Coach handbags and dying shoes or a handbag to match that special dress.

"We do pretty much everything for shoe and boot repair. We build shoes up on the outside when a customer has a leg length discrepancy of a quarter of an inch to half an inch. These referrals are from podiatrists and orthopedists," explains Torre Major.

What sets Orinda Shoe Repair apart from other businesses is the fact that only the absolute best products are used. Individuals who enjoy investing in fine shoes will want to take them to Orinda Shoe Repair when the sole and heel need replacing. High quality materials from Italy and Germany increase the cost of repair by 10 to 15 percent simply because the leather quality is very fine. "We know the repair is going to last and buy only super prime Italian leather or JR leather from Germany. It is very good quality, waterproof, and provides a good wearing sole," adds Major.

An authorized Alden and Sperry Top-sider dealer, Major is looking to expand his



VALERIE HOTZ

(L-R) Optometrists Kristine Eng, Jeffrey Lewis and Kelly Shintani now combine their practices.

space at 19 Avenida de Orinda in order to increase the offering of new shoes available for purchase. In the meantime, this shoe repair service is exceptional with same day service available, depending on the work involved. If a customer is on the way to the airport, Major has been known to replace heels on the spot. Typically replacing soles on shoes requires a two-day turnaround.

Major enjoys flying airplanes in his spare time and is a pilot for Z Line Designs, a company headquartered in San Ramon. He flies aircraft out of Livermore Municipal Airport.

Orinda Shoe Repair is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 254-5088.

Orinda Optometry Group and Orinda Optometric Vision Center Merge

The combining of these two optometry practices promises to bring increased convenience and a high standard of eye care to Orindans effective October 1. After years of friendship and realizing they share many patients, the proprietors agreed a merger would deliver better service to the community. The practice is permanently located at 20 Orinda Way, a well staffed and recently remodeled, state of the art facility. Continuity of care is guaranteed, with patients' records seamlessly combined.

Jeffrey Lewis moves Orinda Optometric Vision Center to this convenient location, offering more exam availability with expanded hours and convenient parking. Optician Ronnie Garcia, with 25 years experience, is joining Lewis in the new practice, as well as Nancy Leung. "I see many patients with eye disease that left

them with some low vision and help them to see better, including individuals with macular degeneration and glaucoma," explains Lewis, who in his spare time is an avid surfer and gardener.

"We do a lot of contact lenses as well as multi-focal contact lenses, offering many different lens choices. More people are able to wear contact lenses than ever before. My specialty is screening infants as young as six to twelve months of age. We feature an in-house optical laboratory where we have a machine that cuts patterns for lenses. This speeds up the process for getting prescribed lenses to our patients faster," explains Kristine Eng.

State-of-the-art service includes the "gentle puff" tonometry to screen for glaucoma. Digital retina photos are available and recommended for all patients to better examine eye health. A digital eye chart includes identifying graphics, in addition to the traditional letter chart. "We feature video clips that explain procedures to patients in order for them to better visualize the process they are undergoing," adds Eng.

"We have combined over 40 years of optometric experience that we bring to the Orinda community, with a strong collaborative team. We get along great and are patient oriented," says Dr. Kelly Shintani, who continues in the merged practice. When not examining patients, Shintani enjoys serving in a local senior services organization, J-SEI and spends time in her kitchen trying new recipes.

The team manages patients through refractive surgery such as LASIK and cataract surgery. "We now have additional contact lens options available that patients need to be informed about," explains Eng. "Excellent eye care is available to a whole range of patients from infancy to advanced age." Appointments may be made online and expanded office hours accommodate hectic schedules. Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Both optical practices have been longtime members of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 253-1320.

Orinda Afternoons Offers Supplemental Kindergarten Program

Featuring an afternoon program for kindergartners that extends the school day from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert welcomes six to eight youngsters to her Orinda home with a curriculum that supports a child's development in an academically enriching environment. Orinda Afternoons is licensed by the State of California, #073407526, and follows

[SEE BUZZ page 27]

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