



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Draft Housing Element Takes Priority on City Council Agenda

By DAVID DIERKS and
SALLY HOGARTY
Staff Writers

On September 17, the City Council once again looked at the draft housing element for Orinda. This marked the sixth public meeting to review and discuss the often-controversial document. Approximately 50 people attended the September 17 meeting.

According to California law, every city and county must prepare a housing element as part of its General Plan. The housing element must include policies and actions addressing the housing needs of all residents, with a particular focus on lower income residents and persons with special housing needs, including seniors. At this time, Orinda is the only Contra Costa County community without a certified housing element for the current planning term of 2007-2014.

Major points of contention among residents involve the amount of very low and low income housing required, high-density housing, and height limitations.

At the City Council's August 20 meeting, city staff provided an update on the process and status of the Draft Housing element. After hearing public input, the council directed staff on specific edits. The revised 150-page Draft Housing document was released prior to the September meeting. Orinda Watch, a citizen's group opposed to many elements in the housing document, presented its own edits to the document for

[SEE HOUSING page 10]

Annual Lamorinda Preschool Guide



Children at **St. Mark's Preschool** in Orinda enjoy time in the fully-equipped playhouse. See pages 11-13 for directory.

SALLY HOGARTY

MOFD Firefighter Promotions and Firefighter Grant

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

On September 6, The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) honored six firefighters at a badge-pinning ceremony. Tim Williams and Clayton Hoover were promoted to engineer, Steve Gehling and Michael Lacy were promoted to captain, Kathy Leonard was promoted to fire marshal, and Jerry Lee was promoted to battalion chief. In many cases, the promotions have been in effect for months. Leonard's promotion to fire marshal took effect on July 1, but the badge-pinning ceremonies had never been performed. Interim Fire Chief Stephen Healy said he hopes to perform the ceremonies more frequently in the future.



DAVID DIERKS

Interim Chief **Stephen Healy** congratulates **Tim Williams** on his promotion to engineer while Williams' wife **Stephanie** looks on.

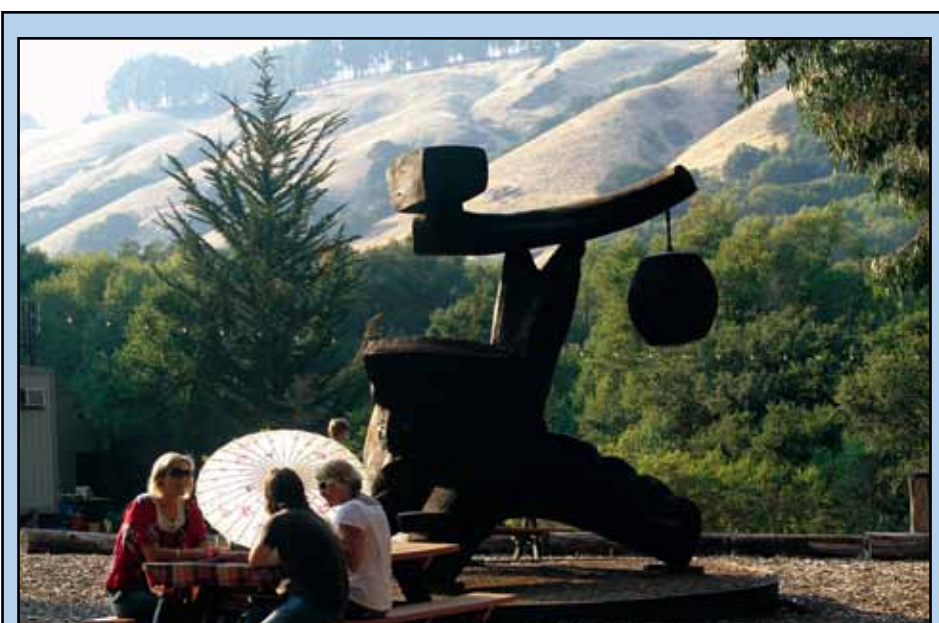
The ceremony took place at the Founder's Auditorium at the Orinda Community Center. The room was packed with family and friends of the firefighters. Chief Healy had a few words to say about each of the honorees and kept the ceremony brief in order to focus on the firefighters' accomplishments. During the ceremony, family members were brought forward to pin the new badges onto the firefighters' uniforms.

On July 12, 2013, MOFD received notification of an award of \$1,157,612 from the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER). The grant will be used to hire four firefighter paramedics to

[SEE MOFD page 20]

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STEFANIE KALEM

Stefanie Kalem's North Star Grove at Cal Shakes' Bruns Amphitheater won Best Overall Photo as well as Best Photo in the Gathering Places category in the Parks and Recreation Department's first photo contest. See page 15 for other winners.

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Lamorinda Arts Alliance Celebrates Open Studios at Library Gallery

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Gallery is proud to present the work of 35 artists from the Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA) for the entire month of October. The exhibit also functions as the central hub of LAA's Open Studios by displaying the work of 29 members who are participating in that event, which occurs two days after the artist reception. Open Studios offers the public a rare opportunity to experience what goes on in an artist's studio in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Their work will be on the auditorium wall and in the adjacent large glass case. Six other members of LAA are displaying their work on the library wall and in the small glass case. There will be a total of 72 2-D and 3-D works of art to intrigue and delight the public, especially those who may be unaware of this thriving art community right in their own backyard. Come and meet this eclectic group of artists at their reception on October 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served.

Donna Arganbright, president of LAA says, "We hope the exhibit and reception spurs people to learn more about us and encourages them to tour some of the Open



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carla Gelbaum's colorful acrylic on canvas, *The Artist At Work*, will be featured in October at the Library Gallery.

Studio locations on October 19-20 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m." The group is providing a display and take-away maps showing the nine Open Studios, three locations each in

Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette. Founded in 1994, LAA is a nonprofit group. At 130 members, their mission is to provide coordination, education and service to promote and increase knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts in the Lamorinda area and surrounding communities. Board members include treasurer Bill Klapproth, secretary Margaret Lucas-Hill, newsletter editor/webmaster Natalia Udaltsova and exhibit chair Lauma Johnson. Visit their website at www.laa4art.org for more information about the group, individual artists, or to explore membership.

Members travel to workshops, participate in Lafayette Studio classes and other classes. Many members participate in one or both of LAA's two co-operative art galleries, the Lafayette Art Gallery and the Moraga Art Gallery. JoAnn Lieberman organizes and hangs LAA shows at the Town Hall Theater in Lafayette. Members also exhibit their work throughout the United States. The six artists on the Orinda Library wall displaying their work include Pam McCauley of Lafayette (watercolors and charcoal drawings), Barbara Falconer of Lafayette (watercolors, monoprints, and photography), Roswitha M. Kress of Walnut Creek (conté crayon, charcoal and colored pencil drawings), Lorna W. Strotz

of Piedmont (encaustic paintings), Judy Feins of Orinda (photo collage, pastel drawings, watercolors and acrylic paintings) and Joanne Taeuffer of Berkeley (acrylic painting and pastel drawings).

To help people decide what kind of art they would like to explore as part of Open Studios on October 19-20, here is a list of the nine locations and the artist exhibitors at each site.

Studio A, Lafayette Art Gallery, 3420-A Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette – artists include Dalia Alekna (pastel/printmaking/jewelry), Garrison Broekma (acrylic paintings), George Ehrenhaft (watercolors), Nancy Hartley (oil paintings), Jill Landau (oil paintings), Geoffrey Meredith (oil paintings) and Lucy Tsang (clay works).

Studio B, Moraga Art Gallery, 522 Center Street, Moraga, - artists include Lucy Beck (photography), Marian Easthope (oil paintings), Kiyomi Kubo (oil and acrylic paintings/printmaking), Wendy Pyman (photography) and Kerima Swain (acrylic and oil paintings).

Studio C, 3082 Sweetbriar Circle, Lafayette – artists include Donna Arganbright



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lucy Beck keeps summer colors through the winter with her *Summer Garden*, a photograph on archival paper.

(pottery), Terry Blair (hand weaving) and Lauma Johnson (acrylic/oil /watercolor paintings).

Studio D, 81 Ashbrook Place, Moraga – artists include Joe Bologna (welded steel), Carla Gelbaum (acrylic/watercolors/printmaking/drawings) and Margaret Lucas-Hill (silk painting).

Studio E, 824 Moraga Road, Lafayette – artists include Stephanie Scott (etchings/engravings/watercolors/acrylic paintings), Karen Baden Thapa (paintings and ceramics) and Robert Wahrhaftig (acrylic paintings).

Studio F, 78 Coral Drive, Orinda – artists include Vivien Hart (fused glass) and Suzy
[SEE GALLERY page 20]

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SENIORS

Free Bus Service Back for Seniors



SALLY HOGARTY

Free mid-day rides for seniors on **County Connection** now available.

By **MAGGIE SHARPE**
Staff Writer

County Connection bus transit service is reinstating free midday rides for seniors. As of Dec. 22, 2013, people 65 and older can ride the bus for free on all routes between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"We had to eliminate the free service for seniors back in 2009 when we lost state funding," says Anne Muzzini, director of planning and marketing for the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCCTA) - better known as County Connection. "We also had to increase fares and cut service by 23 percent."

This year, with sales tax revenues up, CCCTA's marketing committee proposed reviving the free midday ride program.

"The transit board approved the proposal in September," says Muzzini. "Seniors will be able to ride free on all County Connection routes in our service area - which includes Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, San Ramon, Martinez, Concord and Danville."

Muzzini says seniors don't need a special pass, just proof - such as a driver's license or Regional Transit Discount Card (RTC Card) - that they are 65 or older.

Seniors also qualify for discount fares outside the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. timeframe.

"Seniors get a 50 percent discount," says Muzzini. "The regular bus fare is \$2, so seniors pay \$1." Seniors can also purchase a 20-ride pass for \$15.

Muzzini hopes that the free midday service will be an incentive for seniors to use the bus. "We like to keep seniors active and using our regular bus routes as long as possible," says Muzzini. "It encourages them to get out and be active in the community, instead of just staying home."

If seniors are unable to use the regular bus service, they can apply to use County Connection's door-to-door LINKS paratransit service which is geared for the frail, elderly and disabled, says Muzzini.

"LINKS is much more expensive to provide - and more expensive for seniors to use," says Muzzini. "A trip costs \$4 each way." She says seniors must go through an eligibility screening before signing up for

LINKS. Eligible seniors simply call up and schedule a pick-up and drop-off time. "Some of our seniors are subscription riders, which means they are picked up on a standing schedule for things like senior nutrition programs or regular dialysis appointments," says Muzzini.

Galina Furman, 77, who lives in the 150-unit Orinda Senior Village near downtown, says it's not the price that deters her from riding the bus, it's the schedule. She says the bus only stops at 26 Orinda Way, near her home, three times a day - and none of those times is convenient for her or her fellow residents.

The No. 6 bus that travels from Lafayette BART to Orinda BART via Moraga only circles down Orinda Way at 9:13 a.m., 2:12 p.m. and 3:48 p.m. "The times are not convenient," says Furman. "Nine o'clock is too early for old people who need a lot of time to get ready to go out. The afternoon buses are too late. We would like a bus that stops every hour, or at least one that stops around 10 or 11 a.m."

She says when the weather is not too hot or wet, she can walk to Orinda BART, which she rides to Walnut Creek to shop or for medical appointments. A free shuttle takes riders from Walnut Creek BART to

Senior Excursions for October/November

A variety of fun and educational trips are offered through Orinda Parks and Recreation Department.

Lamorinda Wine Country Day Trip

Thursday, October 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Taste wines at the Steven Kent Winery, Wente Vineyards and Garré Vineyard & Winery. Enjoy lunch on the Garré patio. Afterwards, challenge a friend to a game of bocce. Trip includes transportation, admission to the three wineries, tasting, lunch and bocce. Register by September 27.

Fees: \$65 (resident) \$75 (non-resident) Barcode: 15360

Orinda Historic Walking Tour

Thursday, October 17, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Learn little known facts about Orinda history and visit several fascinating places important to the city's heritage.

The one-hour tour features Orinda Village. An optional two-hour tour adds the Crossroads and features the Orinda Theatre and 1890's CA and NV Railroad Station. A member of the Orinda Historical Society leads the tour.

Fees: \$13 (resident) \$14 (non-resident)

Barcode: 15258

Monterey Bay Aquarium Behind the Scenes Tour

Wednesday, November 6, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Unlock the secrets with the special insider's tour and follow guides through staff-only doors. Learn about exciting research projects being conducted and how food is prepared for more than 10,000 animals. Lunch is on your own.

Fees: \$45 (resident) \$51 (non-resident)

Barcode: 15362

the downtown plaza. "When I go to Orinda BART by foot, I have to stop a few times along the way to catch my breath," says Furman, who doesn't attempt the walk in inclement weather. "Sometimes I feel like I'm living in a prison."

Eartha Newsong, 79, also lives at Orinda Senior Village. Like Furman, she would like to see hourly service at the Orinda Way bus stop. "I think it's marvelous that County Connection is going to offer free midday rides to seniors again," says Newsong, who coordinated the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town car shuttle service for many years. "However, money isn't the biggest issue - although free would be super as we're all low income. The big issue is the times the bus runs."

She says it's only a short walk to Orinda BART, but that many seniors have health problems such as arthritis or heart trouble that makes it impossible for them to get there without a bus or a ride from a friend or family member. She says if the bus to BART ran hourly, she and others would use it much more often.

Newsong says that Eden Housing is

planning to build another 67 units of low-income senior housing in Orinda. "That's a lot of people who need to get to medical appointments," says Newsong.

Muzzini says that County Connection has restored some of the cuts in service, but not in Orinda. "In the past year, we've added back a few trips, especially on overcrowded routes such as from Concord BART to Diablo Valley College," says Muzzini. "We haven't done much to restore cuts in service to the Lamorinda area."

Marie Waterman, co-coordinator of the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town, says the free shuttle service offers another - if limited - transportation option for seniors or those with a medical condition. She says the all-volunteer program is much more limited geographically than County Connection or LINKS and is only open to Orinda residents. It runs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[SEE BUS page 8]

Unlocking the Key to Cures for ALS, Parkinson and Alzheimer's Diseases

Wednesday, October 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Orinda Country Club, Dr. Paul Alan Cox will present a discussion on finding cures for neurodegenerative diseases. A resident of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Dr. Cox is director of the Institute for EthnoMedicine.

His current ethnobotanical research, in collaboration with renowned scientists around the world, is focused on neurodegenerative illness with the goal of discovering new therapies, prevention and cures for ALS (Lou Gehrig), Parkinson and Alzheimer's Diseases.

All interested in an update on this exciting research, current human trials, and background on what led the way to this innovative approach are encouraged to attend this free event.

Sponsored by Sue & Ralph Severson in partnership with the American Chemical Society, Science Night.

For more information on the October 2 presentation, email sseverson@gmail.com or call 254-1679. For more information on the Institute for EthnoMedicine, go to www.ethnomedicine.org.



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ANIMALS

Twenty Kittens Travel from Texas to California To Find a Home



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

These cuties are among the 20 cats that a local family hopes to place in good homes.

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Two Contra Costa women, Judy Michel and Michelle Wilson of Moraga, are the end of the line for 20 kittens and cats who escaped forcible removal from their caregiver's home in Texas by "the hair of their chinny chin chin." Michel's childhood friend Caren, from Texas, delivered them in late June after a three-day nonstop cross-country *Thelma and Louise* type trip in a Dodge Colt. Caren stopped only for gas and food. This desperate trip was necessary because through a reversal of fortunes due to health challenges, Caren was unable to continue caring for the cats she loved and the authorities in Texas were scheduled to remove them. By some miracle, the 20 felines behaved like perfect passengers because, as the car was too small to fit traditional cat carriers, they moved about freely in the vehicle during the trip. Not one

mishap occurred.

Judy Michel's friend and neighbor Michelle Wilson offered to help, and the two have been taking care of the lovelies ever since; Wilson's husband Chip has helped as well. They range in age from 10 months to five years and have all been neutered and had their shots. The kittens are living in a 300 sq. ft. house in a friend's backyard and doing fine, but need "forever" homes. The two women recorded a video to introduce the cat-loving public to their brood. Go to www.youtube.com and put the title, "Contra Costa Cats Need Homes Please Help," in the search bar. But be forewarned, they are adorable. If you are a cat lover, you will be tempted!

To help place these beloved animals with people/families who will care for them, contact Judy Michel, 925-788-8675, email princessbunny@comcast.net or Michelle Wilson, 925-327-7519, email mdw442@sbcglobal.net.

Something to Howl About... Animal Tales Celebrating a World of Animals



Jennifer Conroy

In 1931, a group of ecologists gathered in Florence, Italy, and chose October 4 as World Animal Day as a way to focus attention on endangered species. Why October 4? And, why Florence, Italy? The date is acknowledged as the birth date of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, and Assisi is located just a short distance from Florence in Tuscany.

Today, decades after those enlightened scientists recognized the value of protecting animals, World Animal Day continues to be celebrated around the globe. One of the best sources of information about this day and about animal protection overall is the Ian Somerhalder Foundation at www.isfoundation.com. Ian Somerhalder, for you *Lost* television series fans, played the role of one of the survivors. He can currently be seen as, of all things, a vampire on television's *Vampire Diaries*. But this faux bloodthirsty fellow is a true lover of our planet and all the species that inhabit it. Take a look at his website to learn more.

Although considered an "unofficial" holiday, World Animal Day is recognized internationally and serves as a rallying point for a multitude of concerns, struggles and victories in the animal world. Issues that have been addressed are the commercial use of animals, the loss of animal habitats, animals raised for food, rights of companion animals, to name just a very few.

Here in the Bay Area, we are fortunate in having advocacy groups, rehabilitation programs and protection services that work hard to ensure the well being of domestic and wild animals. The Marine Mammal Center in Marin County, for example, is routinely called upon to help distressed sea mammals. The Lindsay Museum in Walnut Creek is a wonderful natural history museum with a wildlife rehabilitation program. International Bird Rescue in Fairfield has saved oiled and injured birds across the globe. These are but a few of the

excellent resources available not far from our own back yards.

Here in the United States alone, there are over 1,400 species recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered. To be placed on the endangered list means that an animal is at risk of becoming extinct, and we know what that means. It means gone forever.

It may feel overwhelming to take on a concern as huge as global animal protection but, in fact, it's not. Every small step you take is a meaningful one. You can enhance local animal habitats through native plantings. You can choose to adopt a companion animal from your local shelter and make sure to have it spayed or neutered. You can reject using products that are not labeled "cruelty free." And, of course, you can support whatever local or global animal cause that feels right to you, be it giant pandas or rare salamanders.

One need not be of any particular faith or, even, have faith at all to realize that this planet and its creatures are entrusted to us. If ever there was a time to acknowledge the humble virtues of the man who came to be known as St. Francis, this is it. Our nearby iconic city, San Francisco, is named after him and is the home of the national shrine to him, far from the small town of Assisi in Italy, but so very close to all of us who cherish the animals with whom we share this world.

Celebrate World Animal Day in whatever way is right for you. Take your dog to work with you. Make a special feast for your cat. Play an opera for your budgie. Get fresh plants for your fish tank. It's your world, and these are your animals.

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POLICE / FIRE

Open House/Pancake Breakfast



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Firefighters cooked up a pancake breakfast at last year's open house and are ready to man the grill once again.

To kick off Fire Prevention Week, MOFD is hosting an Open House and Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, October 5, 2013, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. (breakfast is served at 9 a.m.), at Station 41 – 1280 Moraga Way. Donations will benefit the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. Bring the entire

family. Have breakfast with the firefighters, meet Smokey the Bear, receive important fire prevention information, watch live demonstrations and learn how to use a fire extinguisher. There will be delicious pancakes, a bounce house, raffle prizes, child ID kits and much more.

Stand By Your Pan and Avoid Dangerous Kitchen Fires

By STEPHEN HEALY
Interim Fire Chief

How often has the doorbell rung or a child interrupted you while you were cooking, causing you to forget about the chicken you left sizzling on the stove - until smoke filled the house?

If this scenario or a similar one sounds familiar to you, you may want to think about it a little more because it's likely that you, a friend or family member has run the risk of having a dangerous fire. As interim fire chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, I often talk to people about the ways they can stay safe in their homes. Too often, we have that talk after they've suffered a damaging fire.

It's my hope that people reading this article won't have to learn the hard way. If I could give just one fire warning, I'd say, "Keep an eye on what you fry!"

Why? Because, according to the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), cooking is the leading cause of home fires. The latest statistics from NFPA say U.S. Fire Departments responded to an estimated annual average of 156,600 cooking-related fires between 2007-2011.

We're joining forces with NFPA and thousands of other fire departments across North America to commemorate Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, "Prevent Kitchen Fires." The theme reminds us that leaving cooking unattended and other unsafe kitchen practices are a recipe for disaster.

Often, when we're called to a cooking-related fire, the residents tell us they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. The bottom line is that there's really no safe period of time for the cook to step away from a hot stove. A few key points to remember:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you must leave the room even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.

- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.
- If you have a fire in your microwave, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. If in doubt, get out of the home and call the fire department.
- Always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, do not remove the lid until it is completely cool. **Never pour water on a grease fire.** If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.
- If an oven fire starts, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.

A cooking fire can quickly turn deadly. I have seen too many homes destroyed and people killed or injured by fires that could have been easily avoided. Please heed these simple safety rules. We firefighters would like to be in your kitchen, but only when you invite us for dinner.

Sky Lanterns Banned

The MOFD has prohibited the use of these popular airborne paper lanterns because of fire danger. Get more information on dangers and potential liability at www.mofd.org.



POLICE BLOTTER

August 2013

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 117 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon: 2 incidents on Hwy 24 offramp EB/Wilder Rd. and Knickerbocker Ln.

Burglary – Auto: 4 incidents on Rio Vista, Warford Terrace, Theatre Square and CA Shakespeare Festival Way/Wilder Rd.

Burglary – Commercial: 1 incident on Camino Sobrante.

Burglary – Residential: 7 incidents on Southwood Dr., Los Altos Rd., Moraga Way, Camino Del Diablo, Alice Pl., Santa Lucia and Miner Rd.

Driving Under the Influence – MISD < .08:

Petty Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident on Orinda Way.

Arrests

Driving Under the Influence – MISD < .08: 2 incidents on Camino Encinas/Moraga Way and Camino Pablo.

Driving Under the Influence – Felony < .08: 1 incident on Camino Pablo.

Drugs - Possession of Paraphernalia:

Felony Battery on a Police Officer: 1 incident on Ivy Dr.

Other - Misdemeanor:

Probation Violation: 1 arrest on Orinda Way.

Orinda BART Station

No stats available at this time.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

Additional Police Activity During August/September

- The Investigation Unit continued their investigation on a residential burglary ring. The detectives wrote a search warrant for a seized computer. The warrant will allow the detectives to examine the hard drive in hopes of finding evidence.
- The Investigation Unit packaged and prepared several cases for the District Attorney. They include a child molestation case and two elder abuse cases. They are also checking local pawnshops for possible stolen items. They are currently investigating a suicide that occurred on 8-21-13 and they are continuing follow-up investigations on recent residential burglaries.
- Orinda officers assisted the CHP on an officer involved shooting at Wilder Road near the Highway 24 off ramp. The suspect was taken to a local hospital for treatment. The Contra Costa Office of the Sheriff's Department is conducting the investigation.



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Letters to the Editor

Not Fit For Print

The vitriol and hysteria, the ad hominem attacks on City Council members and staff over Plan Bay Area, a regional plan to address future housing and transportation needs, hit a new low with the publication in the September edition of *The Orinda News* "Slum Housing in Orinda." The letter was inflammatory, had racist overtones, lent nothing to any intelligent debate, and furthermore, there was no truth to any of it.

In my opinion the letter had no redeeming qualities and was not fit to be printed.
— Valerie Sloven

Appalled by Letters

I am appalled by the sentiments expressed in several recent letters to the editor regarding proposed zoning changes that would allow for more affordable housing units in Orinda. In particular, I take exception to the cowardice by which some have used our schoolchildren as a shield for attitudes of bigotry, elitism and ignorance. Implying that affordable housing is bad for children because Orinda's youth will look down upon or ridicule those who are less fortunate does not reflect the values we have instilled in our children. Moreover, having served on the Orinda school board for 12 years, I can say with certainty that these attitudes are neither taught nor tolerated in our schools.

Students learn history, social studies, and literature to better understand the diverse world in which we live. They study science and math to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to recognize fact from hyperbole. Music, art, and theater classes help develop an appreciation for an array of cultural traditions. And, character education helps foster respect, responsibility, and compassion. The Orinda children I have watched grow into young adults have taken these lessons to heart and have come to understand that the net worth of one's family is not an indicator of character or intelligence. If others have forgotten those lessons, I suggest a return to school.
— Pat Rudebusch

Fear Mongering

Clyde Vaughn's "Slum Housing in Orinda" in the September issue is one of the most offensive letters that I have ever read in *The Orinda News*. No matter how one feels about this particular housing issue, his 15 uses of the derogatory word "slum" is fear mongering at its worst. Mr. Vaughn's inflammatory, unfounded generalizations about those who live in low-income housing, including their children bringing gangs and Oakland's murder rate to Orinda, are as ridiculous as asserting that every Orinda resident is without cultural or racial prejudice. Reading Mr. Vaughn's letter proves that

the latter is not true.

— Bill Wadsworth

Reputable Affordable Housing

It is an insult to the integrity and civic concern of the members of the City Council, who are Orinda residents themselves, to suggest that any affordable housing, of any age category, would ever be considered in Orinda except that which would be impeccably managed on site by the most reputable companies. There would be zero tolerance for gangs, illegal drugs, or weapons on site.

If in doubt, please familiarize yourself with the management of Orinda Senior Village, an Orinda establishment of 30 years, where I live, at 20 Irwin Way. The soon to be finished Eden Housing will also have the same standards and was only chosen from among the highest quality of contenders, after much open and transparent consideration by the City Council.

— Eartha Newsong

Giving Orinda Another Black Eye

While I recognize the importance of freedom of the press and the obligation of *The Orinda News* to print the opinions of all Orinda residents, I am disappointed that the editors allowed the thinly veiled racist rant "Slum Housing in Orinda" to be published. When that letter was read at the City Council meeting (Aug. 20), there was a very palpable feeling of discomfort throughout the packed Orinda Library Auditorium. I would hope that even the most ardent supporters of Orinda Watch were appalled at what they heard. While I applaud the passion and concern of those opposed to the DRAFT housing plan being considered by the City Council, many of the assertions made by the parade of Orinda Watch speakers seemed far-fetched. The city has continued to explicitly refute these assertions, and I have yet to see specific evidence to the contrary. I was astonished by the level of animosity displayed by some of the speakers with personal attacks against the mayor and others. Orinda needs to present a zoning plan to comply with state laws and that is what is being done.

Moreover, I am especially disturbed and saddened by these events as it is reminiscent of the "black eye" Orinda received almost 10 years during a similar controversy. Briefly, the compassionate city manager and City Council pursued the idea of opening the empty old library for a few months as a temporary winter homeless shelter for families suddenly displaced from another Bay Area shelter. A raging controversy developed and was reported by local media. Due to misinformation spread by a small but vocal minority, the shelter never opened. The *SF Chronicle* article ("Orinda slams the door on proposed homeless facil-



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ity" 1/16/04) suggested that Orinda was a town of selfish, rich people who turned their backs on those less fortunate. The story was even reported in *The New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/02/us/orinda-journal-debate-over-shelter-forces-town-to-confront-its-beliefs.html>). The article explained that The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County had planned to send intact families, the frail and the elderly to the old library building but opponents warned of Orinda being invaded by perverts

and drug addicts. It was heartening though to hear many residents explain how they wanted to set a good example for their children and to help those in need. The parallel to what is happening today is striking. How sad for Orinda.

— Jack Bookbinder

Letters Accusations Groundless

I am writing in response to letters from Clyde Vaughn and Richard Coleman. Both
[SEE LETTERS page 20]

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For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspensconsult.net. The deadline for the November issue is October 5, 2013.

ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
A Tribute to a Mentor



Bill Waterman

It's true we all need mentors and role models in life, and here in Orinda we are fortunate to have our share. I would like to give thanks to one of mine – Dr. Richard (Dick) Bahme, who lived for nearly 60 years here in Orinda with his lifelong partner and wife Anna, along with their two sons Bob and John. Dick passed away on August 30 at the age of 94 (please see his obituary on page 9).

Growing up in Orinda, I have early memories of Dick for he was my dad's best friend. He and my dad met at their beloved UC Berkeley and graduated together in the class of 1940. After the war, both continued

summer at their prune and walnut orchards near Red Bluff. So at age 15, I began my tutoring at "Bahme University," where my first job was to knock clumps of prunes off the trees using long bamboo poles, 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The next summer, I graduated to running the back-end of harvesting machines and driving tractors around the orchards. Dick was ever-present, checking to be sure I kept pace and stayed out of harm's way. The days were long, but the time passed quickly.

The following year, after I got myself into even more trouble, Dick had a solution – he invited me to spend my entire summer at



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Richard "Dick" Bahme (R) and Herb Waterman (L).

their studies there – my father attending Boalt Hall law school and Dick obtaining his Ph.D. in plant physiology. Their friendship carried over to our families, as Dick's wife Anna became my mother Betty's best friend. Growing up I spent many fall Saturdays at Memorial Stadium with Dick and my dad rooting on the Bears, while we kids played around in the stands. There were the holiday dinners, with Dick sporting the latest Cal neckties. And there were summer trips to Dick and Anna's largely hand-made rustic cabin on Lake Almanor, where our families went fishing, built campfires and enjoyed Dick's famous homemade fudge.

But it was when I began high school that Dick had the greatest influence on me. I had experienced some "bumps in the road" at that point, and my parents agreed with Dick's suggestion that I work during the

the orchards, this time doing everything necessary to prepare 160 acres of prune trees for harvest. That summer I learned about self-reliance, as I lived by myself at the orchards for six weeks. During harvest, Dick had me driving the flat-bed truck up busy Highway 99 loaded with tons of prunes – a lot of responsibility for a 17 year old. Thanks to Dick's willingness to take me on, by the end of that summer my sweat and hard work had yielded a nice dividend – my new-found sense of accomplishment and confidence. Under Dick's watchful eye, I learned many of life's lessons working at the orchards.

On behalf of all Orindans, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the entire Bahme family, and especially to sons Bob and John Bahme. We will never forget your dad.

Many Faces of Breast Cancer

October 12 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Leshner Center, Knight Stage 3
Walnut Creek

Sponsored by Diablo Valley Oncology, this event focuses on the unique needs and issues of survivors and provides the latest information on breast cancer, one of the most common cancers in women. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they offer insight into the latest data sur-

rounding treatment and explore key survivorship issues like lymphedema, psychological, fatigue and physical rehabilitation. Orinda resident Dr. Tiffany Svahn will moderate the panel. Program and breakfast complimentary, register by calling 925-677-5041 x272.

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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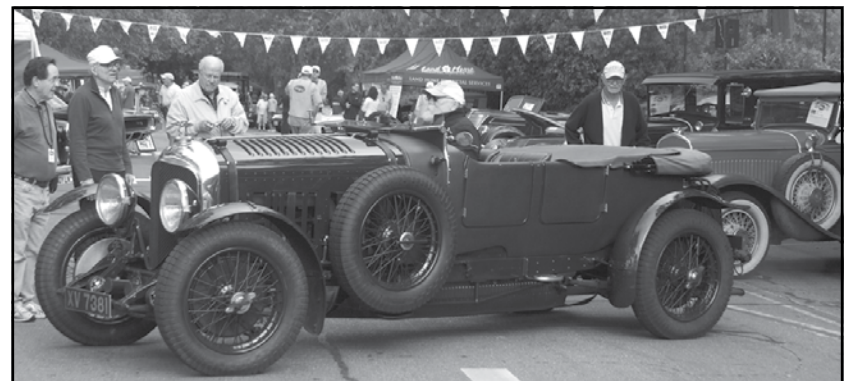
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DAVID DIERKS

Candy Kattenburg in her 1920's party dress poses with Jim Callahan's 1932 Stuz DV-32 LeBaron sedan at the Dancing with the Cars party.



DAVID DIERKS

Onlookers watch as Bruce Campbell backs his 1928 Bentley 4.5L Vanden Plas LeMans into its space at the Orinda Classic Car Show.

Thank you to Orinda Motors and to Chip and Carolyn Herman for all their hard work putting on the September 21 Orinda Classic Car Show, which benefited the OA's Seniors Around Town program.

A very special thank you to Mayor Amy Worth, who won the gorgeous necklace donated by Morrison's Jewelers at the raffle during the Dancing with the Cars fundraiser on September 20. She promptly gave the necklace back asking the auctioneer to add it to the auction items. Her generosity added \$2,500 to the proceeds, which benefited the Educational Foundation of Orinda.



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BETWEEN THE LINES

Between the Lines

The Bookish Joys of Autumn

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



By mid-September and on into October, United Parcel Service and FedEx daily carry exciting cargo into Orinda Books. There are “Big” books, holiday books, calendars and luscious cookbooks. Sometimes, we have had a chance to read advance copies, or we have just been tantalized by pre-publication press and buzz, but always it’s like opening holiday presents to see the actual volumes in their shiny new dust jackets waiting to be shelved and — we hope — ready to excite our customers with the promises of pleasure these books offer in their pages.

This fall, some fine fiction from favorite authors will delight readers: Jhumpa Lahiri has a beautiful novel, *The Lowland* (Random House \$27.95), in which she chronicles the story of two brothers, born in Kolkata, West Bengal. One, an oceanographer, emigrates to the U.S. while the other brother becomes a political activist,

part of a sometimes violent war on poverty. The brothers’ stories span continents and generations — a truly accomplished work from this Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Amy Tan, another writer whose books cross decades and oceans, has turned her fictional attention to the lives of early 20th century courtesans in Shanghai in *The Valley of Amazement* (Ecco Press \$29.95 – Nov. 5). Her narrative moves between Shanghai and San Francisco and, as we expect from Tan, highlights poignant relationships between mothers and daughters.

In a more contemporary — and more local — vein, Dave Eggers new title, *The Circle* (Random House \$27.95 – Oct. 8), is probably the most “commercial” novel he has written. His protagonist, a young woman, is hired by “the world’s largest Internet company” — a touch of Google here. In the pre-publication material released by Eggers, the plot frames his concerns about

privacy, democracy and the limits of human knowledge. *The Circle* could not be more timely.

The art world forms a background for two much anticipated new novels from award-winning authors. In *The Goldfinch* (Little Brown \$30 – Oct. 22), Donna Tartt — readers have waited ten years between her novels — writes about a young boy’s loss, his mother’s death, and the mysterious painting that binds her to his memory. We follow young Theo to adulthood and his involvement with gangsters in the art world black market. It is emotionally satisfying reading. Artists and their world are front and center in Wally Lamb’s *We Are Water* (Harper \$29.99 – Oct. 22). Annie Oh, an avant-garde painter and collagist, leaves her psychologist husband after 27 years, to marry Viveca, her Manhattan art dealer. Told in the voices of Annie, her husband, and their children, this is a gripping and well-crafted domestic drama — on a big canvas.

I have been a fan of Martin Cruz Smith’s melancholy Russian detective, Arkady Renko, since *Gorky Park* in 1981 and was happy to find that Smith’s new novel, *Tatiana* (Simon & Schuster \$25.99 – Nov. 12), did not disappoint. The apparent suicide of an investigative reporter leads Arkady into the murk of the Russian mafia and to the site of a Cold War “secret city.” Smith writes with such verisimilitude about things Russian that it is hard to believe that he is a Marin County neighbor rather than a Muscovite.

Leaving fiction behind, one of the non-fiction biggies due on our shelves is Bill Bryson’s *One Summer* (Doubleday \$28.95 – Oct. 1). Whether it’s domestic interiors (*At Home*) or the Appalachian Trail (*A Walk in the Woods*), Bryson never fails to entertain and inform. In *One Summer*, he turns his attention to the year 1927 and captures so many larger-than-life figures – Lindbergh, Babe Ruth, Al Capone, Al Jolson are only a few – that it’s hard to believe that they were all on stage at the same time. A delight to read!

Stepping back a little further in time, Jill Lepore writes a touching biography about Benjamin Franklin’s youngest sister in *Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* (Knopf \$27.95 – Oct. 1). This is a memorable look at a woman’s life in the 18th century painstakingly reconstructed by a talented *New Yorker* writer. And a 19th century icon who was never at a loss for words comes front and center again when U.C. Press brings out *Volume II* of *The Autobiography of Mark Twain* (University of California \$45 – Oct. 5). Three years ago, *Volume I* was a major holiday gift. We trust home bookshelves are waiting anxiously

for *Volume II*.

Among the most anticipated October arrivals for home cooks is Alice Waters’s companion volume to *The Art of Simple Food*. Her new book, bound to be another kitchen bestseller, is *The Art of Simple Food II: Recipes, Flavors, and Inspiration from the New Kitchen Garden* (Clarkson Potter \$35 – Oct. 29). Also this month, Bee Wilson’s popular *Consider the Fork: A History of How We Cook & Eat* (Perseus \$16 – Oct. 8) is coming out in a paperback edition. This is a wonderfully entertaining and illuminating compendium of the evolution of culinary technology.

In October, younger readers are looking forward to the newest *Heroes of Olympus* adventures of Percy Jackson and his friends, left tumbling into the Underworld at the conclusion of *The Mark of Athena*. In *The House of Hades* (Disney Press – Oct. 8), Rick Riordan, master tale-spinner, will doubtless bring Percy and Annabeth to safety, but readers will be on the edge of their chairs wondering if Camp Half-Blood will be saved as well. And in early November, Wimpy Kid fans will be delighted to welcome Jeff Kinney’s *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck* (Amulet \$13.95 – Nov. 5) #8 in this wildly successful series. The hazards of growing up and surviving another school year are once again superbly brought to life in Kinney’s comic prose and clever and inimitable drawings. There is much to look forward to this fall — come see our overflowing tables! Happy Reading . . .

Orinda Books’ Upcoming Readings

- Oct. 12 - Katie Hafner
- Oct. 16 - Dianne Dixon
- Oct. 19 - Linda Peterson
- Oct. 26 - Karl Schonborn

For details, see Calendar on page 23.

◆ BUS from page 3


“Our volunteer drivers take seniors all over the Lamorinda area and to Walnut Creek, Oakland and Berkeley,” says Waterman, adding that medical appointments take priority over all other kinds of trips. “Seniors need to schedule a ride about a week ahead of time, since we always have more passengers than drivers.”

For information on County Connection, visit www.cccta.org or call (925) 676-1976, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information on Seniors Around Town, visit www.orindaassociation.org/seniors-around-town/ or call (925) 402-4506, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteer drivers can call 254-0800 to sign up.



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Random House \$26

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OBITUARY / CAR TIME

Richard Beale “Dick” Bahme

By ROBERT AND JOHN BAHME

Dick Bahme, 94, a long-time resident of Orinda, passed away peacefully on August 30.

A renowned international agricultural consultant, Dick had a strong love for his family and the University of California. He graduated from Cal with a BS in Forestry (1940) and an MS in Chemistry and PhD in Plant Physiology (1947-48). He taught at Cal briefly before going into lifelong private enterprises that included farming, real estate and agricultural consulting.

He and his wife Anna built and managed the very first Lair of the Golden Bear summer camp for which they were recognized with a service medal by the University and Alumni Assoc. Dick was a member of the Big C Society, ran track at Cal, and was a lifelong Sigma Chi. He was secretary of the class of 1940, continuing as such until his death.

Dick enlisted in the Army and served as an artillery officer during WWII in the campaigns and actions in the Aleutian Islands (Pacific) and the invasions and campaigns of North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He returned in 1945 as a captain and met his sweetheart and future wife Anna at UC Charter Day.

Born in 1918, Dick was a native Californian, a descendent of original 49ers, who drove horses and wagon trains three times from St. Joseph, MO, over the Lassen Trail into Red Bluff, CA. True to his heritage, Dick was a rugged individualist of the west who believed in self-reliance and that everything was conquerable. A man of indomitable energy, good cheer and many varied interests, Dick leaves behind many friends who will miss him.

Recently preceded in death by his lifelong partner and great love Anna, Dick is



Dick Bahme, a long-time Orinda resident, with his granddaughter **Anna**.

survived by his two sons and their families -- Robert H. Bahme and his wife Ann, John B. Bahme and his wife Diane, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

West Nile Virus Alert

Additional local birds, chickens and mosquitoes tested positive for the West Niles virus in September, including one bird found in Lafayette. Residents are urged to reduce risk of contact with mosquitoes. Go to www.contracosta-mosquito.com for more information.

CAR TIME

Protect Your Paint for Winter and Increase the Value of Your Vehicle

By JOE TORBATI



The first bone-chilling wind penetrates you to the core while your eyes notice an explosion of color in the trees. These are the first signals that winter is approaching fast. You'll prepare yourself by digging out your long sleeve shirts and warm jackets. What about your car? Winter can equal the hardest time of year for your vehicle. Between rain, constant temperature changes, and the "I'll wash it after the rain quits" mentality. You can set yourself up for needing some extensive work to get your ride back to that show room condition we all love so much.

At Orinda Auto Detail, we always suggest doing a winter prep to get you off to a good a start. Start by making sure your vehicle is really clean with a good wash. After that, to make sure the surface is completely free of fall out and contaminants, use a clay bar. A clay bar will safely remove imbedded grit from your paint. This is ideal for bonding with a wax or a sealant. The better the bond, the better chance that the

wax will stay intact to give your ride the protection it needs.

If you decide to tackle your winter car care yourself, don't be tempted by the easy "drive through" washes. These tunnels use very caustic non PH balanced soap that can strip away your protection when you need it most and they almost always scratch your car. If the thought of having to pull out a bucket and hose in the cold makes you cringe, you may want to invest in a rinseless wash kit. Rinseless washing is often used as a green alternative and works very well if the car is only a little dirty. The great thing about this is with some practice, you can do this in a garage in as little as 20 minutes. And it's far safer than a drive through. Orinda Auto Detail will happily order and advise you on the best kit for your needs, along with advice and training for the "DIYer's."

If all this seems a little overwhelming and like a lot of work, think about how [SEE CAR TIME page 20]

Are you considering buying?

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Nation's Giant Hamburgers -- A Popular Local Icon in Downtown Orinda

By CHARLIE JARRETT
Staff Writer

Nation's Giant Hamburgers is a restaurant well known in Orinda and has been serving its signature giant hamburgers, pies, fries and hearty breakfasts for many years at the same location, 76 Moraga Way.

The Nation's story started originally in El Cerrito, California, in 1952, when Russ Harvey traded in his 1948 Buick sedan for a 10 foot wide, six stool hot dog stand at 13296 San Pablo Boulevard. Purportedly, this trade became the best deal of his lifetime when he added hamburgers to his menu. Harvey's hamburgers were not just your regular sized hamburgers but giant sized hamburgers with many different toppings. Harvey wanted a hamburger that everybody would talk about, and the original Giant Hamburger was born.

Edwin Quenzel of Lafayette, now age 95, remembers vividly an occasion in the 1950s when he and one of his close friends and business partners, Paul Szopieray, told him that he would like to treat him to a surprise while they were in the El Cerrito area. He took Quenzel with him to that Original Giant Hamburger stand on San Pablo Boulevard. Quenzel says that he still remembers to this day how really good and special that hamburger was, and now, over 50 years later, he still visits a Nation's Hamburgers' restaurant at least once a month. He says he really likes the people who work there who are always very kind, and the food is



CHARLIE JARRETT
Connie Wang has been serving customers at Nation's in Orinda for over 19 years.

still great.

Jean Barnhart, an Orinda resident and frequent visitor to the Orinda Nation's Giant Hamburgers for the past 25 years, speaks very highly of their great food and excellent service. In fact, she specifically points out long time Nation's employee, Connie Wang, as a real treasure. "Every time I go into the restaurant, Connie welcomes me by name and makes me feel special," she says.

Nation's executive vice president Grant Power says that there are numerous comments left on their website or on recommen-

dation cards available in each of their 27 restaurants that praise Nation's employees. "This phenomenon is quite common," he says. Grant Power's father, Dale, started his life long career with Nation's Giant Hamburgers when he was hired by Harvey as a janitor while he was still in high school. Dale Powers continued to work for Nations as he worked his way through college and law school, eventually becoming a partner in 1970. Dale's son Grant subsequently joined the company and now even Grant's wife Aleona manages three stores and their pie production plant. The Power family now owns the very successful chain of restaurants that was originally started by former partner Russ Harvey.

According to Grant Power, this feeling of good will between employees, management and customers seems to be further demonstrated by the fact that they have a very high number of long term employees. Grant said that Rita, a Pleasant Hill employee, retired a few months ago after celebrating 30 years working for Nation's Giant Hamburgers. Such long term commitments between employees and management are quite unusual in the restaurant service industry in general. Also unique to their corporate culture is the fact that certain long time employees have even become minor investors in the company.

Orinda employee Connie Wang has worked for the Moraga Way Nation's restaurant for over 19 years. "I had previously worked in a larger family restaurant as a waitress after immigrating to the United States from China," she says. "But I wanted

more English speaking opportunities, so I decided to work for a smaller restaurant where I had more direct contact with English speaking customers." That decision eventually led her to Nation's Giant Hamburgers in Orinda. She says that she loves Orinda and her Orinda customers. "They are really nice people" she said, "all very patient with me while I am learning English."

Wang says that working for Nations also provided her with the necessary income to send her daughter to a private school. She felt that since her family was not fully affluent in the English language, that a private school would better prepare her for the future. The daughter has since graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Animal Science and now works in an animal hospital. Wang says her own brothers and sisters all live here in the Bay Area as well.

Wang's favorite hobby is gardening. She and a friend have a spot in a community garden in Albany where they grows lots of vegetables, such as summer squash. She loves flowers and grows roses at her home in Pinole. In addition, she has two dogs, three cats and a couple of parakeets at home (all of which belong to her daughter).

As to her longevity working at Nation's in Orinda, she says her continued contact with many of the same customers over the years has allowed her to get to know their names and even the names of their children. "I am thrilled to have been able to watch those same children grow up, mature and have families of their own, whom I'm now getting to know," she adds.

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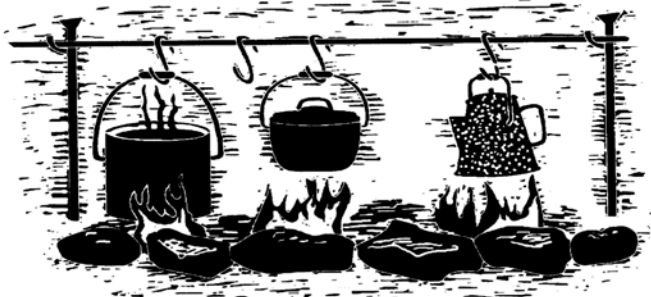
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◆ HOUSING from page 1

the council's consideration.

Chris Kniel, a representative of Orinda Watch, spoke at the September 17 meeting saying, "My purpose is not to review how we got to this point but to present a way forward that is acceptable to all -- a way forward that corrects the substantive deficiencies in the draft, applies to the state housing laws in every respect, reaches an amicable agreement with HCD [Department of Housing and Community Development], restores the public trust in the council, and, in this process, and, most importantly, respects the wishes of the Orinda community."

According to Kniel, the citizens' edits are the result of hundreds of hours of review, analysis, research and deliberation. "We believe it reflects, at the bare minimum, the viewpoints of at least 10 percent of the adult Orinda residents, corresponding to the 1,200 people who signed the Orinda Watch petition."

Housing advocate Valerie Sloven also spoke at the meeting saying, "There has been a lot of vitriol directed at the council

and staff. I am here to say that the City Council on the issue of the housing element has over the years been deliberate and responsible to the job that the majority of Orinda residents elected them to do. It is the council's job to plan for the future of our community, to balance and regulate its development, not to simply bury its head in the sand."

The City Council will consider the citizens' edits submitted by Orinda Watch and continue discussion of the revised Draft Housing element at its October 1 meeting.

For more information on the Draft Housing element and an audio recording of the September 17 meeting, go to www.cityoforinda.org. For more information on the citizens' edits proposed by Orinda Watch, go to www.orindawatch.org.

Next City Council Meeting

October 1 at 7 p.m.

Orinda Library Auditorium

Agenda and staff reports available at www.cityoforinda.org.



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PRESCHOOL DIRECTORY

Lamorinda Preschools Create Wonderful Environments for Children

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

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

Contact the schools for further information on enrollment and cost. Also, visit www.eastbaypreschools.com and www.LamorindaMoms.com, both of which are handy resources for families researching preschool programs for their children.

Orinda

Fountainhead Montessori School

30 Santa Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-820-1343
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Children ages 2 to kindergarten; before and aftercare; summer school.
www.fms.org

Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-3429
9 a.m. to Noon, extended day until 2 p.m.

Ages 2-3, Tu/Th; ages 3.4-5, MWF Pre-kindergarten; ages 3.5-5, M-F; lunch bunch 12:00 p.m. - 2 p.m.
preschool@holyshepherd.org
www.holyshepherd.org



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kate Stewart (age 4) works hard on her sponge painting at the Lafayette Nursery School.

orindaafternoons@gmail.com
www.orindaafternoons.com

St. John Preschool

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

Ages 2-5, half day or full day, offered two, three or five days a week.
www.preschool@stjohnorinda.org
www.stjohnorinda.org

stmarksnurseryschoolorinda@gmail.com
www.stmarksnurseryschool.org

St. Stephen's Preschool

66 St. Stephen's Dr., Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-3770, ext. 19

Program for 2 year olds 9 a.m. - 11:30, Tu/Th; age 3 to pre-K, 9 a.m. to noon, MWF or MF, with optional lunch bunch till 2 p.m.
<http://preschool.ststephens.org>

The Orinda Preschool – TOPS

10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-2551
8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Preschool, ages 2-4; optional afternoon lunch bunch playgroup, ages 3-5; transitional kindergarten, age 5.
topsonline@sbcglobal.net
www.topsonline.org

Lafayette

Apple Seed Little School

Lafayette, CA 94549
925-979-9089
8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Preschool program for 2 - 5 year olds with extended child care.
www.appleseedlittleschool.com

Building Bridges Preschool

1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549

925-283-6792

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

The Child Day Schools

1049 Stuart Street, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-7092

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

Ages 2-6, minimum 3-5 days per week, twos, threes, pre-K, summer programs, developmental kindergarten.
Lafayette@tcdschools.com
www.tcdschools.com

Diablo Valley Montessori School

3390 Deerhill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-6036

7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Infants/toddlers, 3 months to 2 yrs., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; two's/transition 2-3 yrs., preschool/kindergarten 3-6 yrs., 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; morning program for 2-6 yrs., 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.; extended care 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for enrolled students 3-6 yrs.; summer program 3-6 yrs.
www.dvms.org

First Steps Learning Center

3201 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-933-6283

7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ages birth to 2; infant care, full time only, year-round.
info@first-steps-learning-center.com
www.first-steps-learning-center.com

French for Fun

3381 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite B100, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-9822

Moms and tots/tots at play / Friday circles, morning immersion for 30 months old plus.
Madame@frenchforfun.com
www.frenchforfun.com

Gan Ilan Preschool, Temple Isaiah

945 Risa Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-8453

Ages 2-5, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; extended care 8 - 9 a.m. and 1 to 5:30 p.m.

[SEE PRESCHOOL page 12]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ryan and Peyton hang out at The Nurture Preschool in Moraga.

Orinda Afternoons - Afternoon

Enrichment and Outdoor Adventure
Camp 103 El Toyonal, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-1974
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Transitional kindergarten and / kindergarten children.

St. Mark's Nursery School

451 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-1364

Age 3, Tu/Th, 9 a.m. to noon; age 4, MWF, 9 a.m. - noon; developmental kindergarten 9 a.m. - noon M-F; lunch bunch daily.

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Speakers: Anne Collier, Exec. Dir. of Net Family News, Inc.
Jason Brand, LCSW / Psychotherapist

Sunday, Oct. 13
6:00 p.m. Free childcare available with R.S.V.P.

Register today at LOPC.org
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette 925-283-8722 x250

PRESCHOOL DIRECTORY

◆ PRESCHOOL from page 11

www.Temple-Isaiah.org

Gymboree

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

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

Happy Days Learning Center

3205 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549
925-932-8088
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Age 2-5+, preschool, kindergarten up to 5th grade. Before and after school care ages 5-12.
info@happydayslafayette.com
www.happydayslafayette.com

Joyful Beginnings Preschool

955 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-1143

Age 2-3, Tu/Th, 8:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.; 4 year olds program, MWF, 8:45 a.m. -



George Gilbert (L) and his brothers, twins **Bentley** and **Grey**, along with **Chloe Chua** have fun with the toys at St. Mark's Preschool in Orinda.

SALLY HOGARTY

11:45 a.m.; pre-K program, M-F, 8:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.; lunch bunch, 11:45

a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
joyfulbeginnings@sbcglobal.net
joyfulbeginnings.blogspot.com

Toddler-parent class, Monday only 9 - 11:30 a.m.; preschool ages 2.5-3 yrs. (2 day); age 3-4 yrs. (3 day); age 4-5 yrs. (4 or 5 days), 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Extended Care available until 2:15 p.m.
www.Merriewood.org

Michael Lane Preschool

682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-7244

9 a.m. to noon with a lunch option from noon to 1 p.m., 2 yrs. 9 mo. to K.
www.michaellanepreschool.com

Nanny's House Child Care & Preschool

969 Acalanes Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-385-0129

Full time and part time programs, 6 weeks to 5 years old.
nannyshouse@ymail.com
www.nannyshouselafayette.com

Old Firehouse School

984 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-4321

[SEE PRESCHOOL 2 page 13]

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Lafayette Kid's Cottage

Downtown Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-6423

Preschool program 2.9 yrs. to 5 yrs., 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; after school program 2.9 yrs. to 10 yrs., 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
www.lafayettekids.com

Lafayette Nursery School

979 First Street, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-2448

Preschool program for 2 year olds, Tu-Th, 9-11:15 a.m.; preschool program for 3 year olds, MWF, 9-11:30 a.m.; 4 to pre-K afternoon program, M-Th 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
lafayettenurseryschool@mail.org
www.lafayettenurseryschool.org

Merriewood Children's Center

561 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-2121



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

These youngsters find themselves immersed in a science experiment at **Creative Playhouse Preschool** in Moraga.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art
October - December 2013
Opening Day Events With Artists
Sunday Oct. 20 - 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
2 p.m.: Judy Dater's slide-talk; 3:15 p.m.: Malcolm Lubliner's walk-thru; Public Reception: 3 - 4:30 p.m. Events Free

The Artist Revealed: Artist Portraits and Self-Portraits
On loan from the Syracuse University Art Collection, this exhibit brings together 50 works that examine both self-portraits of, and portraits by, artists. Included are works by Chuck Close, Edouard Manet, Barbara Morgan, Edward Steichen, Norman Rockwell, and Anders Zorn. Sitters include Ansel Adams, Berthe Morisot, Thomas Eakins, Charlie Chaplin, Alex Katz, C.S. Lewis, Le Corbusier, Paul Robeson, and James McNeill Whistler.

Chuck Close
Alex Katz
On loan from the Syracuse University art collection.

Judy Dater
Lennon Look-alike
Courtesy of the artist.

Malcolm Lubliner: The Automotive Landscape
Presents 25 color and black and white photographs, from rare Chalmers, Dino and Airflow to vintage Rambler, Dodge, Pontiac and Lincoln automobiles.

Malcolm Lubliner
1937 Airflow
SMC Collection, Gift of the Artist

Phone: 925-631-4379
stmarys-ca.edu/museum
Hours: Wed-Sun, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Museum Admission: \$5 Adults, K-12
Grades Free

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SOLD Craftsmen Styled Residence 21 Camino Del Diablo	SOLD Coveted Creekside Home 11 Overhill Ct, Orinda	SOLD County Club Traditional 424 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
SOLD Cozy Orinda Cottage 5 Cresta Blanca, Orinda	SOLD Truly Amazing Property 43 Dos Osos, Orinda	SOLD Orinda at it's Best 16 Evergreen Dr, Orinda

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PRESCHOOL DIRECTORY

◆ **PRESCHOOL 2** from page 12

8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Infants to pre-kindergarten (12 months to age 5).
www.oldfirehouseschool.com

Seedlings Preschool

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549
 925-284-3870
 9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
 Infant/toddler, preschool, pre-K, developmental kindergarten, extended care, ages 2-4 to 3:15 p.m.
seedlings@lopc.org
www.lopc.org

Tot Drop – Preschool by Appointment

500 St. Mary’s Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
 925-284-3999
 Any portion of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Ages 1-5, pay as you go, maximum 12 hours/week.
www.totdrop.com

Viva el Español

3451 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette, CA 94549
 925-962-9177
 Toddler, preschool and elementary school classes, flexible scheduling. Rolling enrollment.
info@vivaelespanol.org
www.vivaelespanol.org



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young explorers search for fossils during an outing at **Orinda Afternoons**.

Tiny Tots Preschool

at the Lafayette Community Center
 500 St. Mary’s Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
 925-299-3266
 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., 3.5 to 5+ yrs.,
 MWF; 9 a.m.; 11:30 a.m., 2.5 to 3.5 yrs.,
 Tu-Th; optional lunch bunch to 12:30 p.m.; pre-K 12 p.m.
www.lafayetterec.org

White Pony

A division of the Meher Schools
 999 Leland Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549
 925-938-9958
 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 Preschool, pre-K, kindergarten; also grades 1-5.
www.meberschools.org



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Washing the car is part of summertime water play at the **Happy Days Learning Center** in Lafayette.

Wirlybirds Treehouse

1085 Marguerite Court, Lafayette 94549
 925-310-4429
 Year round drop-in, part-time,
 and full time programs 8:30 a.m. - 5

p.m., M-F for toddlers, pre-schoolers,
 developmental kindergarteners and early
 school age children.
marty@wirlybirds.com
<http://wirlybirds.com>

Turning Memories Into Cherished Keepsakes

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

A unique birthday gift turned into a passion, not to mention a nonprofit corporation, for Miramonte senior Elena Wasserman.

"When my grandfather turned 88, I didn't quite know what to get the guy," says Wasserman. "I found all of these boxes of photos and decided to scan them and make a 10 minute video for him. Showing him the video and talking to him about the photos, he just lit up and seemed 10 years younger. I thought maybe others would like something like it as well."

Wasserman had been looking for a community service project since she started Miramonte her freshman year. "I picked up trash on the beach and volunteered at Glide in San Francisco," she explains. "But I wondered if there were some skills I had that maybe others didn't and how I could use those skills to do community service." She formed a 501(c)3 and called her company Living History. She contacted Aegis Assisted Living and soon had her first client, Barbara McQueen. More were to follow and soon the enterprising young woman found herself spending hours on her Mac computer editing videos with iMovie.

"I've always loved video editing," says Wasserman. My Spanish teachers at Miramonte, Señora Flores and Señora Unroe, always made us do videos. We'd write a script and record it. I'd always be the one doing the recording and editing."

Now, Wasserman finds herself doing keepsake videos for residents of several nursing homes and loving every minute of

it. She scans the seniors' photos, and if they are comfortable with it, interviews them on camera as well. "It's amazing to talk to people who have gone through the experiences that I'm studying in high school," she says. "I think it's important to give them time to talk about what they've done in their lives, how much they've contributed, and I love to watch them smile as they tell me about their sweethearts."

One of the senior residences, Atria Montego Heights Senior Living in Walnut Creek, had Wasserman put together a video to celebrate its World War II veterans as part of a "Spirit of '45" week they planned. "I interviewed about eight people and even a man who was a Holocaust survivor. Just amazing," she adds.

Wasserman, who refuses to take any money for her videos, works several jobs to help cover her technical costs. Thanks to the money she earns and contributions from her parents and friends, she has been able to upgrade from iMovie to Final Cut software and her "editing" room now boasts a 28" MacBook, a steady cam, audio recorder and much more.

"While my friends might ask for new clothes for Christmas or birthdays, I ask for another hard drive or a stack of DVDs," she laughs. Wasserman hopes to interest other Miramonte students to take over her nonprofit following her graduation in June. "Everyone is so busy, but I would hate for this to just die. It's so rewarding and means so much to the seniors."

Wasserman would like to work in film production or screenwriting when she graduates from college. "I started out acting but found out I really love production," says Wasserman.



Elena Wasserman works magic from her home editing studio.

SALLY HOGARTY

Swimmer Crosses Lake Tahoe to Raise Money for Women in the Congo

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

A chilly 14-hour swim by Keris Dahlkamp raised money to combat the abuses suffered by women in the Congo. "If it were my wife, mother or daughter being violated, I would hope that those who could do something would do something," said the Canyon resident, who established Congo Swim to raise funds for Friends of The Congo and Global Fund for Women. "We must launch out into the deep. Join me," he added.

And join they did. Swimmers from all over the world participated in the Congo Swim, from swimming laps in a community pool to joining Dahlkamp in Lake Tahoe. The ministerial staff of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Peter Whitelock, Judy Durff and Gerald Chinen, added to the effort. Dahlkamp's personal commitment was to swim the length of Lake Tahoe, 22 miles, which he accomplished in 14 hours.

A pilot boat and two kayaks accompanied Dahlkamp from the time he entered the water shortly after midnight. Because of a shoulder injury, he swam the first eight miles only kicking to maintain his shoulder strength for the last part of the event. The strategy worked, though a curious couple on a kayak nearly compromised his swim. The two had paddled their kayak toward the swimmer and became overwhelmed by the power of the waves. Unable to stop, they bumped into Dahlkamp's head. Fortunately, he was unhurt and a few yards later he waded ashore at Kings Beach, arms held high in triumph, where he was engulfed by well-wishers.

Carolyn Bauer, who was aboard the pilot boat, explained how they kept in close con-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Keris Dahlkamp (R) hugs Coco Ramazani as he finishes his 14-hour swim across Lake Tahoe.

tact with Dahlkamp, monitoring his condition and what he should eat. "We gave him hot water for core warmth, roasted potatoes for calories, salt capsules and regular water for endurance. She continues, "I jumped in the water and swam for a while. It gave me total respect for the 'real' swimmers who paced him for two hours at a time."

They began at 6 a.m. and the first in the water was the niece of Orindans Melissa and Gareth Creasey, Lonie Harris, who came from London to join the team.

"All of us became as one, working to ensure that Dahlkamp made it. It was a transformative experience for each individual on the team. I believe that this event will truly generate new energy to move the peace movement forward and the cause of bringing an end to sexual violence in Congo," Carolyn continued.

A touching moment came when, sitting in the pilot boat, Coco Ramazani, a survivor [SEE CONGO page 22]

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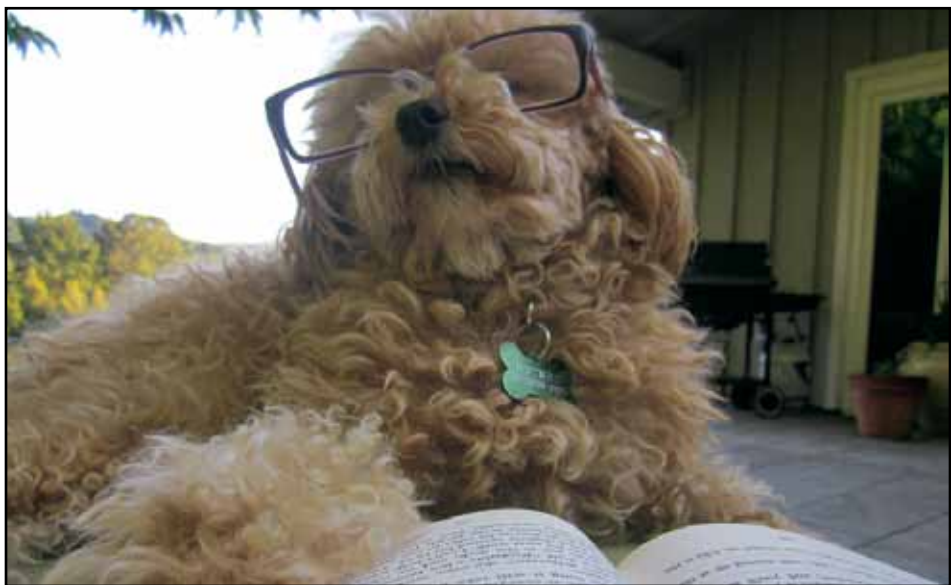
S. SADEGHI

In the Nature category, **S. Sadeghi** won for this photograph entitled *Life*.



SOPHIE BUBRICK

Who could resist this sure winner under Exercise? Entitled *Down Dog*.



SOPHIE BUBRICK

The dog mentioned above takes to the books in *Professor Poodle*, **Bubrick's** winner in the Positive Spaces category.



HALLIE PRITCHARD

Hallie Pritchard's *Hair Flip* won in the Play category.

The Orinda Parks and Recreation Department recently held its first ever photo contest to honor the parks and outdoor spaces around Orinda. These photos, plus Stefanie Kalen's *North Star Grove* on page 1 represent the winners.



HALLIE PRITCHARD

Hallie Pritchard received Honorable Mention in the Nature category for a photo of a bee enjoying a sweet lunch.



S. OH

In the Forever - Valued Today and Always category, **S. Oh** won for *Eternity of Sunlight*.



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Lamorinda Idol Contestants Shine Bright at Orinda Theatre

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Wagner Ranch 3rd grader Amelia Chen says that singing in Orinda Idol was “a little scary in the beginning, but once I am out there, I just love to perform the song, and it feels really good.”

Chen was one of 60 young vocalists competing to be the next Lamorinda Idol champion on September 8 at the Orinda Theatre. She learned a valuable lesson while performing, “I had bronchitis during the performance so I had to work really hard to sing through that. Hard work really pays



NOLAN ENGLUND
Amelia Chen sang in the K-2 soloist category.

off, and if I set my mind to something, I can do anything.”

Catherine Wang said she saw noticeable improvement in her daughter Amelia after being chosen from the initial audition process. Amelia joined other contestants in vocal workshops and other performance opportunities.

“While she had pretty good command of the technical aspects of singing the song in the beginning, she really developed her stage presence through the performance workshops and summer performances,” Wang said, noting that “One of the judges even remarked about her great facial expressions and gestures that really enhanced the overall performance.”

Idol winner Tosca Maltzman (High School Category) said she felt “very lucky to be sharing the stage with such amazingly talented performers.” The Miramonte junior, who has competed in five Idol shows, rocked the house with her rendition of “House of the Rising Sun.” She credits her extensive rehearsals as well as her “great voice coach,” Ron Pickett with her win. “When I felt the energy from the audience, I was determined to put on a good show,” she said. “What a thrill when they called my name.”

Maltzman and the other Idol winners will perform at several events in the next few months, including the Orinda Classic Car Show, the Orinda Restaurant Tour



NOLAN ENGLUND
Mayor Amy Worth (L) with middle school group singers Lindsey Wallace, Arriana Glenn, Rachel Go, Malia Akazawa and Niamh Akazawa.

and the Orinda Arts Council Christmas Luncheon.

The contest, which was created and sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council,

is open to young people in kindergarten through 12th grade who either attend school or reside in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette.

[SEE IDOL page 24]

Multi-Cultural Family Welcomes Exchange Student From Tabor

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Hosting a foreign exchange student has been a learning experience for the Furtado/Ramirez family as well as for Roxana Rayová from Tabor in the Czech Republic.

Carla Furtado points out that the 17-year-old student from Orinda’s Sister City “is an extremely intelligent, insightful and observant person who also enjoys learning about the world. She provides us with an opportunity to challenge the way we think about ourselves as individuals, Americans and other countries.”

After Furtado and her husband Carlos Ramirez learned about the need for a host family at the Orinda 4th of July parade, they, along with their daughter Lauren Ramirez, a sophomore at Miramonte High School, decided to participate. “We thought hosting an exchange student would be an enriching and positive experience for our family and for the student,” says Furtado.

Rayová says it was “luck” rather than a decision to come to Orinda. The high school senior won the chance to be an exchange student through a competition from the Sister City Foundation. “I guess




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tabor student Roxana Rayová (L) with her host “sister” Lauren Ramirez.

my parents had a much tougher time with their decision to let me travel on my own to the other side of the world.” But Rayová’s desire “to improve my English and to gain experience of living in another country, away from home in totally different environment,” won her parents over.

The Furtado/Ramirez family had visited Czech Republic in 2012 and “thoroughly enjoyed our time in Prague,” Furtado said. “Since our household is culturally and linguistically diverse already, we consistently work through language and cultural hurdles. Adding a person from another country who speaks yet a different primary language has been very fun and informa-

[SEE TABOR page 22]



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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Eat, Drink and Be Scary at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School's Pumpkin Patch

By LIZA RODRIQUEZ
Contributing Writer

It's time again for Sleepy Hollow Elementary School's Annual Pumpkin Patch. The Parents' Club has planned a day of old-fashioned fun and games for the entire family on Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Located at 20 Washington Lane in Orinda, the Pumpkin Patch includes: haunted house; carnival games in the quad – balloon twisting, the lollipop pull, the duck pond and much more – fun and prizes for even the littlest guests; Jump, Climb & Bungee – bouncy houses, a rock wall and a bungee trampoline; Finishing Touch – face painting and tattooing; and Country Kitchen – home-made treats and ready-to-eat goodies available for purchase. Past favorites include English toffee, fresh preserves,



Three young participants at last year's Pumpkin Patch get into the Halloween spirit.

and an assortment of ghoulish cookies, spider web cupcakes and batty brownies; food – A little of something for everyone, including "The Melt" food truck, back

by popular demand, and Mexican food; cupcake walk; and cake decorating contest – creative cakes decorated by Sleepy Hollow's own students and celebrating

Other Fun October School Fundraisers

In addition to Sleepy Hollow's Pumpkin Patch, Orinda's other elementary schools also offer a variety of fun activities that benefit school programs.

October 19 – Del Rey Pumpkin Patch and Carnival, 25 El Camino Moraga, noon – 4 p.m.

October 19 – Wagner Ranch Round Up and Carnival, 350 Camino Pablo, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

October 26 – Glorietta Fun Fest, including a "Bootique," 15 Martha Road, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

the Original, Scary and Best Overall winners.

All Pumpkin Patch proceeds fund important school programs and activities at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.

NorCal Kid's Triathlon Makes Everyone a Winner

By CHARLES JARRETT
Staff Writer

The 5th Annual NorCal Kid's Triathlon event was held on August 31 at Miramonte High School in Orinda and was declared a huge success. With 291 athletes between the ages of 6 and 16 competing in this multi-discipline sports event, there were many competitors and winners that participated over the course of this two hour event. There were six different classes for competitors based upon their ages. The competition includes swimming, biking and running, with distances that vary

according to age groups. Named a Super Sprint Triathlon, it is very short to encourage new racers to participate and have fun.

Joel O'Camb representing the NorCal Kids Triathlon commented, "We cater to the first timer, or the nearly first time triathlete, and adjust distances according to age. We are one of the few triathlons dedicated to kids. Only two others exist that I know of in California. This race can be whatever your kids want it to be -- a chance to challenge themselves to do something they've never done before, an opportunity for healthy competition between friends and family, or

[SEE NOR CAL page 24]



Ten-year-old Sofie Cook shows her enthusiasm as she crosses the finish line in the running event.

2013 NorCal Kid's Triathlon A Huge Success!

On behalf of the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF), and the 290 competing triathletes (ages 3 1/2 - 16), we would like to acknowledge our generous Title and Champion Sponsors who's partnership makes this amazing event, and the mission of the Foundation possible, to encourage healthy lifestyle choices, support community-building and support a unique neighborhood gathering.



And to the core sponsors and volunteer organizations who's support of this event shows their concern for our kids and our community:

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Orinda Rotary
Orinda Teen Advisory Council
Orinda Woman's Club
Peef's Coffee, Orinda
Pretzel Crisps
Sharp Bicycle, Lafayette
Sports Basement, Walnut Creek
Sports Authority

All funds donated to this event flow directly back into the community in the form of grants for youth, senior and arts programs. To learn more about the OCF, or to contribute or volunteer, visit our website: www.orindafoundation.org.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project at Miramonte High School

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

On a warm weekend in July, Miramonte High School incoming senior Margot Odell assembled a group of volunteers to recreate the Miramonte High School garden. This project was Odell's Girl Scout Gold Award, which is the highest honor in scouting. Odell is a member of Troop #30040.

Originally started several years ago by another Miramonte student, the garden had fallen into disrepair until Odell decided to make it her Gold Award project. "I wanted an opportunity to improve my high school campus and provide easily accessible healthy foods to the students and faculty," says Odell.

With the help of Jan Carlson, the associate principal at Miramonte High School, the project was approved by the school district. Over the time of three months, Odell created a blueprint for the garden, chose plants for the garden, and designed and installed a new sprinkler system in the garden.

But, according to Odell, the project could not have been completed without the help of troop leaders Thama Brentano and Caroline Ramirez, and Don Odell and Allen Lescure, who volunteered their expertise and helped with the project.

The garden also features an outdoor classroom complete with bench seating as well as a new layer of bark chips thanks to East Bay Tree Service. Many of the new plants and trees were generously donated by Moraga Garden Center.

The high school garden, like many residential neighborhood gardens, is not immune to hungry local creatures, especially



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Margot Odell received her Gold Award for recreating Miramonte's organic garden.

deer. Since district rules did not allow a fence to be placed around the garden, Odell utilized structures already in place to protect the boxes from those lovely but often voracious deer. In only a few weeks following the garden's completion, plants began to blossom promising a bountiful harvest.

Barbara Denny's AP environmental science class and the special education class will maintain the garden. The special education students will also take part in harvesting the fruits and vegetables, which will then be made available to the students and staff at Miramonte High School.

"I want to say a huge thank you to all of the amazing volunteers that helped make the project a reality," says Odell. "This project would never have become a reality without volunteers like Alyssa Henderson, Jessie Osterman, Hannah Li, Kate Laugh-ton, Emma Patton, Andrew Rosenzweig, Evan McAvenia, Tori Wong, Jane Fessen-den, Colleen McCullough, Kady Richard-son, Miles Honens, Nick Solit, Annie Odell and Lizzie Odell."

Holiday Fashion Show Benefits Young Women

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) branch of AAUW presents a Holiday Fashion Show on October 15 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church Cultural Center, 1700 School Street in Moraga.

Proceeds benefit the AAUW Funds for Legal Advocacy that supports women in academia and the work place who encounter sexual harassment and unfair hiring and firing practices.

The event will showcase local entrepreneur Eliza Jamkochian of Glamorous Boutique in Lafayette. A selection of her formal wear, holiday and cocktail outfits plus scarves and accessories will be featured with several of the outfits available for purchase following the show. Creations by OML artisans will also be on display and available for purchase.



SALLY HOGARTY
Attendees at the 2013 Tech Trek event.

The \$20 fee includes the fashion show and a buffet lunch. For more information, go to www.aauwoml.org.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

Five Orindans on Winning Team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The winning Oakland Strokes team includes: (L-R) **Lizzie Pate** (Orinda), **Marie Johnson** (Orinda), **Gabby Simone** (Orinda), **Alanah Anderson**, **Tori Wong** (Orinda), **Alessandra Lucas**, **Elizabeth Hofinga** (Orinda), **Tenaya McCoy** and **Madelyn Prendergast**.

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Five Orinda girls were part of the Oakland Strokes Rowing team, which won the Senior Women's Lightweight 8+ race at the 131st annual Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in St. Catharines, Ontario. They were Lizzie Pate, Marie Johnson, Gabby Simone, Teri Wong and Elizabeth Hofinga.

Hofinga says, "Coming across the finish line first at such an amazing regatta was a great experience for me as a first year rower. Teams came from all over the United States and Canada, including some college teams, but we were all high school students. It was so exciting to stand in front of a huge audience while receiving our gold medals and having photos taken with our big trophy."

The girls have a rigorous practice

schedule, working out five days a week – six in the spring – two and a half hours on weekdays and six hours on Saturday mornings, beginning at 6:30 a.m. in the Oakland estuary.

"My favorite part of being on the crew team is the 'team' aspect of the sport," says Hofinga. "I have made so many friends since joining. I also like how rewarding it has been. We work and train so hard, but I know it is all worth something. When you win a gold medal, all of the hard work definitely pays off."

Established in 1974, Oakland Strokes welcomes girls and boys from across the Bay Area from grades six through twelve. Their boats consistently place and win at regional, national and world championships. To find out more or to register, go to www.oaklandstrokes.org.

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS / BUSINESS

Olive Festival at Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Early October

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The public is invited to attend the county's only Olive Festival, back for its fourth year on Sunday, October 6, from 1-4 p.m. adjacent to the Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo and Bear Creek Road in Orinda. Set in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area with its 18 acres of forests, streams, ponds, and historic ruins bordering San Pablo Creek, this fundraiser supports outdoor environmental education for children and youth.

It also celebrates the Nature Area's heritage olive grove, planted by California's first Surveyor General – Theodore Wagner, in the 1880s. Olive trees are symbols of peace, providing a perfect theme for the day's festivities of games, olive-tastings, music and art, cooking demonstrations, and living history; admission is free. There is ample parking adjacent to the school, playground and sports fields.

According to Kathy Barrett, secretary of the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (FWRNA) the public will be able to enter through the main gate by the school

entrance, the playground gate near the kitchen and the orchard gate. The orchard gate is off the entrance of Bear Creek Road, which was the original entrance to the old Wagner Homestead. Back then, carriages drove right down to Wagner's house by passing the olive orchard and going down the pathway edged with trees that continues to the old homestead.

At 12:50 p.m., the Dianna Condon Food Booth opens and young musicians from ALMA Music of Orinda herald retired school district naturalist Toris Jaeger's opening of the Festival at 1 p.m., followed by the honoring of Eagle Scouts. The Cory Peters Jazz Rock Fusion Band performs in the Olive Grove from 1-3:30 p.m. with guitars, bass, drums and tenor saxophone. Activities include olive races and games of skill, the olive pit spit challenge, olive pressing demonstration, guided tours of the olive grove and historic areas, chef demonstration by Kenneth Walker of the Orinda County Club, 50 silent auction items, 20 raffle prizes, *plein air* painters in the olive grove, crafts such as making olive wreaths and crowns, and lots more.

Educational activities at the site, which



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mary McCauley offers a variety of oils from the McCauley family olive groves in Brentwood.

is owned by the Orinda Union School District, provide a tangible link to the history of olive culture in California that will appeal to the entire community. All Orinda elementary school children attend educational nature camps there such as the two day First Thanksgiving and Pioneer Days for fifth graders; two day Native American Studies and Rancho Days for fourth graders; and two day Animal Camp for third graders. Kinder, first and second

graders extend their classroom outdoors to include gardening in the raised beds. Fundraising goes to support continuation of these activities.

The Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area invite anyone interested in volunteering to help with any aspect of the nonprofit event to call Kathy Barrett, secretary at 925-254-2224, to sign up. See www.fwrna.org for more information on the nature area and the upcoming Olive Festival.

Newly Opened Business in Theatre Square Believes in "Funding It Forward"

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Land Home Financial Services recently opened an office at Orinda's Theatre Square. While the company is certainly interested in helping local residents refinance an existing home or purchase a new one, the emphasis for the Orinda office differs slightly.

"Orinda is really the prototype for our philanthropic program – Funding It Forward," explains president Bradley Waite. "This is a very community-oriented city, and we want to reach out to the nonprofits and educational organizations that make it such a great place to live."

Through its Funding It Forward program,

Land Home Financial donates \$250 to a local nonprofit or educational organization for every loan funded. "The amount comes out of our profit margins and is sent in the customer's name," says Waite. "The customer decides which organization he or she wants us to send the donation to. We have a list of Lamorinda groups they can choose from or they can designate another charity that they are involved with."

While the Funding It Forward program originated some years ago in Chico, California, it had not been specifically highlighted in other Land Home Financial locations. "People used the program, and we donated anywhere from \$5,000 - \$10,000 over the last few years, but we really want to increase that number," Waite says.

When the space in Theatre Square became available, Waite felt the size and location would be a good fit to promote the donation program. "Our co-managers, Angela Warren and Parvaneh Poirier, are perfect for this," Waite adds. "They're already doing a great job reaching out to the Orinda community. You can come to Land

Home Financial get a competitive mortgage plus donate to the charity of your choice."

The \$250 donations per loan are just a part of the program. Land Home Financial also hopes to sponsor and participate in a variety of local activities. "We really want to become a part of this community and

[SEE LAND page 24]



SALLY HOGARTY

Parvaneh Poirier (L) and Angela Warren of Land Home Financial participated in Theatre Square's Back to School event in September.



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **LETTERS** from page 6

of these gentlemen are associated with Orinda Watch.

I found Mr. Vaughn's letter particularly offensive and full of unfounded assertions about Oakland slums, murder rates, and gangs coming to Orinda. While his letter is rambling and somewhat incoherent, the racial overtones are clear. This letter serves no purpose other than to alarm people with groundless accusations and a racial subtext that should be rejected by all fair minded members of the Orinda community.

Mr. Coleman is apparently also opposed to below market rate housing in Orinda. He cites a number of facts but is unable to come to any conclusion. At the moment, Orinda Watch, which is a late arrival to the development of the city housing element of the general plan, is petitioning the City Council to conduct a new review process.

It is worth a moment of your readers' time to reflect on who is behind Orinda Watch and other similar groups in the Bay Area. Most of the research, and Orinda Watch has a prodigious amount of "research" on its website, comes from the Reason Foundation in Los Angeles. The Reason Foundation is financed by none other than the Koch Foundation and David Koch, who famously provided the seed money for local Tea Party groups all over the country after the 2008 presidential election.

One associate and frequent contributor to the foundation's research and periodicals is Wendel Cox. Mr. Cox is a staff member of the Heartland Institute, whose primary purpose is to question and undercut climate science and, of course, is founded and financed by the likes of the Koch Foundation and David Koch, as well as Exxon Mobile. Mr. Cox established his reputation based on his opposition to all modes of mass transportation, rail in particular. This puts

accusations made by Orinda Watch about the MTA, ABAG and plans for transportation and BART centered housing into perspective. You see, Exxon Mobile and Koch Industries (primarily oil and gas related) want us all to drive more and burn more fuel so they can continue to reap profits.

Orinda say no to Orinda Watch, say no to a revision of the housing element of the general plan, and yes to development of housing around the BART station. Let's give others who work in Orinda and have to commute here, including teachers, fire fighters, nurses and medical staff in local offices, a chance to live and work here.

– David Finkbeiner

Getting the Facts Straight

The recent letters to the editor about Orinda's housing element have been classic examples of exaggeration, innuendo, and fear mongering. Letters have claimed that Orinda will be inundated with poor people coming to live in city-built, low-income "stack and pack" housing and that the quality of life in Orinda will be destroyed. The truth is that virtually all property in Orinda is owned by private citizens or corporations. If they wish to build low-income housing, they would apply to the Planning Commission and City Council, and go through the same (infamously lengthy) planning process that current projects have to go through.

The Pulte project, now under construction on a former school site, was declared surplus by the school district in 1999. Fourteen years later, construction is finally underway, and plans were repeatedly revised by the city over those years. Wilder has been on the drawing boards for literally decades — it has gone through numerous developers, as the city repeatedly rejected plans. Homeowners who build or rebuild a house can tell you it's hard to build here.

When I was on the school board and we sold the Pine Grove property to Pulte, one of our goals was housing in Orinda that our teachers could afford. In the mid-80s, nearly every teacher lived in or near Orinda. Those baby-boomer teachers have since retired, and our new teachers commute: from Pleasanton, Vallejo, Antioch. Our first responders live far away also, and those who are off-duty won't be here quickly in case of a major earthquake or fire. They just can't afford to buy a house here.

The Pine Grove project will have a grand total of eight below-market, moderate-income units. Moderate income in our county for a family of four, as of 2011, is \$110,750. A family where both parents are Orinda teachers could easily fit this definition. "Lower income" is \$64,950. "Very low" is \$46,150. Low and moderate-income housing is not Section 8 subsidized housing. These low-income residents buy the house, make mortgage and tax payments, and have restrictions on resale.

The horrible comments being made by a few city residents, and by our very own "outside agitators" from as far away as Marin County, are distressing and embarrassing. We're now supposed to be the second-friendliest city in the country. Let's welcome new residents to Orinda. I think we could use some new neighbors, and certainly some friendlier attitudes.

– Linda Landau

◆ **GALLERY** from page 2

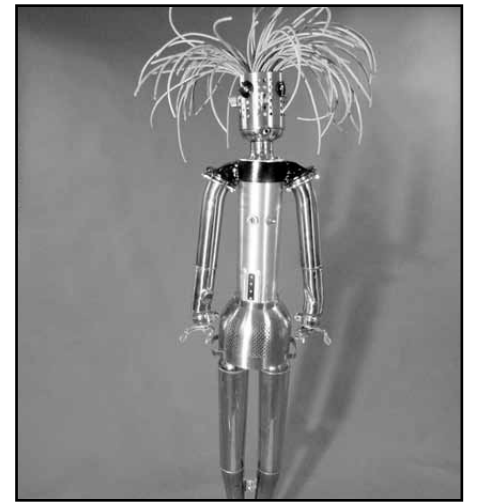
Wear (photo-imaging/drawings).

Studio G, 629 Crossridge Terrace, Orinda – artists include Zarmine Aghazarian (acrylic paintings), Pamela Howett (oil paintings) and Dee Tivenan (mixed media).

Studio H, 76 Lynwood Place, Moraga – oil paintings by Martha McLaren.

Studio I, 125 Canon Drive, Orinda - collage, assemblage, sculpture and on-site installations by Karen Wyse.

Regarding the experience viewers will have in the gallery and at Open Studios, Carla Gelbaum hopes that people will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe Bologna recycled motorcycle and cooking equipment for his 5'8" piece entitled *Sue Zuki III*.

be transported from their daily lives into the whimsically tranquil landscape of her imagination. Joe Bologna wants folks to immediately smile when they view his work, especially after they discover what he makes his sculptures from! Lucy Beck says, "What ones experiences in viewing an art work is very personal. Some feelings people may have in viewing my flower photographs are joy, lightness, brightness, beauty and maybe wonder."

As far as the value of art to our community, Donna Arganbright says, "Art is the soul of the community, not just the visual arts but all of the arts — theater, music and dance. The Arts define a cultured and refined community, one that is interested in the basic question of who we are as people." Lucy Beck believes, "We've all had moments when we view something beautiful, or heard beautiful music, and we feel an emotion that is difficult to articulate, but we know it brings us closer to our better selves. We absolutely need that as individuals, communities, and nations."

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

◆ **CAR TIME** from page 9

much more a car that has been properly taken care of is worth over one that has paint issues. Sure this might take you four to five hours to prep and half an hour every 10 days to maintain. You'll thank yourself when you go to sell or trade in your ride! If you need consultation on your paint job, feel free to give me a visit at Orinda Auto Detail. Remember it pays to keep those vehicles clean!

◆ **MOFD** from page 1

prevent service reductions based on current and forecasted budgetary constraints. The SAFER grant will provide full salaries and benefits for the firefighters for a two-year period. After the two-year period, MOFD is not required to continue employment of the firefighters. Costs for training and personal protective equipment are not covered by the grant. During the pinning ceremony, Chief Healy credited Battalion Chief Lee for pursuing and winning the SAFER grant for the district.

For more information, visit www.mofd.org.



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POLIO

Historical Society's Lucy Hupp Williams Discusses the Challenges of Polio

By Charles Jarrett
Staff Writer

Lucy Hupp Williams, a long time former resident of Orinda and the current president of the Orinda Historical Society, now lives in Foster City, but is proud of her long time association with Orinda and her family's community involvement that helped turn Orinda into the fine city of today.

Driving from Foster City to Orinda several times a week, Williams works tirelessly to help preserve Orinda's history. She enjoys continuing her involvement in a community that has become known as a thriving circle of influence among other Bay Area cities, a city known for its good schools that also attracts citizens from around the world.

Williams' typical childhood in Orinda changed drastically when she contracted polio at age 15. In describing her own difficult personal history with polio, she shed additional light on the fact that even today, after the Salk vaccine program was declared successful, polio still takes a devastating psychological and medical toll on hundreds of thousands of Americans every day.

She explained that while most people in this country believe that the threat of polio and its painful aftermath is in check, in reality it is not, and in fact, there is a huge community throughout the nation that is living daily in the dark shadow of their disability brought on by polio. That group is known as the Post-Polio Survivors and is estimated to be over 20 million people world-wide and growing.

Dr. Richard Louis Bruno, who has studied and treated nearly 6,000 polio survivors and is considered to be the world's leading expert of Post-Polio Sequelae (PPS), appeared on many prime news broadcast shows such as "Good Morning America," "The Today Show," and the "CBS Evening News," in an attempt to re-awaken our nation to the perils of vaccination avoidance, and the failure of the medical profession to educate more doctors about the long term problems that post-polio victims deal with every day. In his television appearances, Bruno expressed great concern that "the polio vaccine has been a victim of its own success. Today, parents think that polio is gone and vaccinations are no longer needed. Every American child must receive all four doses of the injectable, inactivated (Salk) polio vaccine. America's next polio epidemic could be just a plane ride away."

"At the same time, there is another vitally important need that is almost being



CHARLIE JARRETT
Lucy Hupp Williams takes a break from her duties at the Orinda Historical Society Museum to discuss her difficulties as a polio survivor.

completely overlooked by the medical community," says Williams. "Those already stricken with polio are experiencing a resurgence of unexpected and often disabling symptoms, including overwhelming fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, cold intolerance, and difficulty swallowing and breathing. The cries from post-polio victims for help with these health problems and the accessibility to resources through Medicare to supply durable medical equipment (such as walkers, crutches, scooters, supine standers, etc.) to assist with these disabilities, now seems to be falling on deaf ears or no ears at all." According to Williams, there are practically no doctors aware of or even being trained to handle the aftermath of polio problems coming to light today. With so many doctors who were trained to work with polio in the 1960s and 1970s retiring, this void of knowledgeable and trained physicians has become a severe health care management problem in itself.

In a recent search for a new practitioner to replace her retired medical doctor, Williams' medical group sent her to a doctor who was supposed to be a physical rehab specialist and knowledgeable about the physical rehabilitation problems of post-polio victims. After she was examined, she was told she was going to be referred to a "dementia specialist" where she would be expected to take a three-hour long dementia test. When she asked why, the doctor said she must be having memory and other mental problems because everyone knew that polio had been eradicated. When Williams asked if the doctor was aware of the post-polio syndrome studies, she said no

and went on to say that she did not believe in polio or that it was creating ongoing problems.

With respect to the post-polio syndrome, Dr. Bruno says, "these late onset health problems occur in 75 percent of paralytic and 40 percent of non-paralytic polio survivors on or about 35 to 50 years after the initial poliovirus attack." Mainstream medicine seems to rationalize that for the most part, polio has been cured, when actually, it has only been put on hold by available vaccines, but never cured or fully understood.

Williams sheds a greater light on the disease by first describing her personal experience. "In the spring of 1954, I had just turned 15 when I was suddenly stricken. I was a very quiet and shy teen. I weighed approximately 100 lbs. I looked around at my friends and how scared everybody was of having anything to do with me, and I thought to myself, I survived this stuff, and with their attitude, they might not have survived it. My two hospital roommates, one five, the other nine, were afraid they would die, and sure enough, they did; first the five year old and then the nine year old."

In the 1950s, a polio patient remained in quarantine or isolation for six weeks. They also ran a very high fever that sometimes caused nervous system or brain damage. "I was in an iron lung for the first six weeks," recalls Williams. "In fact, almost everybody spent time in an iron lung because you lose your breathing abilities. You received little individual assistance with breathing

training until you had survived the first six weeks. If you did survive, they would wean you off the iron lung and helped with learning to breathe in a certain way."

When released from the hospital, Williams' doctor and physical therapist told her that family and friends afraid of contracting the disease would shun her. "They said that no one would want to date or marry me. All this was simply dumped on a 15 year old. Can you imagine how depressed and freaked out that made me feel? I didn't even want to go home. Unfortunately, it was true, it was painfully true."

Before polio, the active 15 year old loved to ride her horse. "After polio altered my

[SEE POLIO page 24]

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FILM

◆ CONGO from page 14

of sexual abuse in Congo, wrote on a rock words about what she had endured then threw the rock into the water as a way of releasing her pain.

Interestingly, while it was feared the smoke from the Yosemite Rim fire would hamper the swim, Dahlkamp said, "Having the lake shrouded in smoke actually helped me focus. Last year, when I completed this swim for Congo, the sheer distance of the far shore made it seem quite daunting toward the end when my energy stores were depleted. This year, I couldn't see the shore until I was almost upon it and it looked easy to finish."

Rena, Dahlkamp's wife, was in one of the support team kayaks. Their two children watched their dad take off near midnight, rode on the pilot boat for a while, and were at the shore to greet him.

Dahlkamp's mother Maria Rosales who swam a short distance with her son in the chilly waters of Tahoe said, "It gives me goose bumps to think of the memories my grandchildren will have of the Congo Swim. Certainly they will be proud of what their father accomplished for the very needy in the Congo. Hundreds of thousands of women and children in eastern Congo have endured sexual violence. It is a tragedy of epic proportions," Rosales explained. "So, along with raising money, those involved with the Congo Swim want to bring awareness of this problem to the general public. Hilary Clinton, former Secretary of State, has said that the atrocities in the Congo are truly one of mankind's greatest cruelties. This country has witnessed humanity at its worst. Our Congo Swim team wants to make things better."

Donations may still be made to Congo Swim by sending a check to Friends of the Congo-Congo Swim, 1679 K St., NW Suite

300, Washington, DC 20006.

Tell This to My Mother by Joseph E. Mwantuali is based on Coco Ramazani's true story and available through Amazon Books.

◆ TABOR from page 16

tive," she adds.

Since arriving two months ago, Rayová says she has enjoyed the experience of meeting new people and traveling to new places. "I loved the weekend at Tahoe, visiting San Francisco, and a football match in Berkeley." The teen says her host family is "very open-minded, nice and supportive. They are making my stay here interesting for me. They made me try so many new things, showed me awesome places," she adds.

"I feel like Alice in Wonderland. Every single day here brings me something new, unknown, interesting," Rayová says, adding that with her new school and activities "I am not really homesick. Thanks to the Skype video-chats I don't lose contact with my family either."

Rayová says that Miromonte is different from her school back home. The biggest difference, she said, is that at home the school is only an "academic institution. We don't have clubs and sports. We also can't choose our subjects. Our class schedule varies every day. We have 12 subjects. Our school is based on self study and teachers are interested in the test results."

Rayová says that high schools in the Czech Republic are chosen according to the student's focus, rather than his/her home address. "There are artistic schools, academic schools, and industry schools," she said.

Another big difference that Rayová notes, "We don't have homework."



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

ON HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

Tom Westlake



Instead of concentrating on the holiday this month is usually known for, I call your attention to the simple fact that the three films being shown this month represent a consensus, of sorts; namely, that two of them represent the finest of their particular genre and the third has the very real possibility of joining them.

This is not to say that the month of October is not without its scares, but, at least this year, with Vanessa still M.I.A., you might have to initiate your own preferences as far as the spooky is concerned.

Starting with the aforementioned scares, The Classic Film Showcase proudly presents *Alien*. Aside from the obvious, this 1979 film was responsible for quite a lot that we take for granted today. Noteworthy for its cinematography (a Ridley Scott staple) and truly unnerving *Alien* design (thanks to the Oscar winning contributions from HR Geiger), the palpable dread that surrounded the release of this film was only matched earlier by *The Exorcist*. It also introduced Sigourney Weaver, playing a part that was originally written with a man in mind, leading the way for strong female roles ever since. It will screen at the Orinda Theatre on October 10 at 7 p.m. To make it even more enticing, admission is free.

Singin' in the Rain is next, and, whereas *Alien* may represent the best in horror films, there can be little doubt that *Rain* holds the same position when it comes to big splashy Hollywood musicals. This one has it all. Gene Kelly at his most dashing, Donald O'Connor at his most manic and comedic, and somehow managing to hold her own against these two legends, new-comer Debbie Reynolds, who went through quite a baptism of fire for this movie. Seeing this on the big screen is a must for any cinephile, especially for the opportunity of seeing the final, slightly surreal dance number featuring the sultry Cyd Charise. This is one not to be missed and if you're anywhere near the Rheem Theatre on October 16 at 4 p.m. and don't go... Well, what can I say!

Finally, there's the International Film Showcase offering of the month, *Touch of the Light* (*Ni guang fei xiang*). Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign

Film, it is based on the true story of Huang Yu-Siang, who plays himself in the film. It tells the story of a young piano prodigy who overcomes Sisyphusian obstacles, not the least of which is the fact that he is blind. Add to this that he found himself competing against musicians who are sighted as well as a blossoming love story, and you have an inspirational story that will leave you fulfilled and enriched. It will screen at the Orinda during the week of the October 18 at 7 p.m.

And, finally, I would be remiss if I did not make some additional mention of Halloween – namely, several recommendations for some late night frights. As a long time movie-goer, there are several films that have stayed with me and genuinely unnerved me and most are notably, not contemporary. Not being a fan of the "mad slasher" genre, I tend to find atmosphere and subtlety to be far more frightening and to that end I recommend *Black Sabbath* (1963). It's an anthology film with three stories, all of which will really creep you out, especially *The Drop of Water*. Directed by Mario Bava, it also features Boris Karloff. Along the same lines, another anthology piece would be *Dead of Night* (1945). Educational insofar as many of the clichés we take for granted had their start in this film, it also has one of the most insane finales in movie history. Keep a tight rein on your own sanity. After seeing this movie, you'll need it, and, lastly, I cannot encourage you enough to see *Repulsion* (1965) directed by Roman Polanski. Featuring Catherine Deneuve, it is as accurate representation of encroaching madness as any that's been committed to celluloid. Polanski would later direct a companion piece to this some years later called *The Tenant* (1976) casting himself in the lead, but *Repulsion* is far more effective mainly due to its sound design and black and white photography. Make sure all outside influences are silenced for this one... and you might also want to switch to digital clocks afterwards.

Until then, I leave you to fend for yourself on the upcoming All Hallows Eve and remember: Stay in the dark. That's it... Just... Stay in the Dark.





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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

October

- 1 **Story Hour** for 2- to 4-year-olds and their caregivers, Tuesdays, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 254-7606.
AAUW (Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch) Benefit for Tech Trek Camp scholarships, "A Taste of Walnut Creek" 16th Annual Restaurant Walk, 6 - 9 p.m. Over 25 restaurants provide mini meals/samples of delicious fare. \$30 ticket helps young girls attend science camps. Call 925-631-0668.
California Shakespeare Theatre presents William Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale* through October 20, various times, Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theatre Way, Orinda. Call 510-548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.
- 3 **Orinda Books** - Sally Small discusses and signs copies of her new memoir, *Pear Season*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606 or visit www.orindabooks.com.
Lamorinda Wine Country Day Trip for Seniors includes transportation, visit to three Napa Valley wineries, tasting, lunch and bocce, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See story page 3.
- 6 **Olive Festival at Wagner Ranch**, 1-4 p.m. Fundraiser for youth programs. See story p. 19.
- 9 **The Second Wednesday Book Group** will read and discuss *The House of Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. www.orindabooks.com.
- 11 **American Red Cross City Blood Challenge**, blood drive, Orinda Community Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walk-ins welcome.
- 12 **Orinda Books** - Katie Hafner discusses and signs copies of her new memoir, *Mother, Daughter, Me*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606 or visit www.orindabooks.com.
Italian Night, a fundraiser for St. Mary's College scholarships, features Italian buffet and accordion music by Gene Falcone, 6 p.m., Soda Center, St. Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Call 376-6088.
- 15 **Learn to Skype for Seniors**, Community Center, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$10 residents; \$11 non-residents. Lunch and refreshments provided. Call Parks & Recreation at 254-2445.
AAUW (Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch) presents a Holiday Fashion Show and luncheon, Holy Trinity Serbian Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. See Story page 18.
- 16 **Orinda Books** - Dianne Dixon discusses and signs copies of her new novel, *The Book of Someday*, 276 Village Square, 10 a.m. Call 254-7606 or visit www.orindabooks.com.
- 17 **Orinda Historic Walk for Seniors** by the Orinda Historical Society, a one-hour tour that includes Orinda Village, with an optional two-hour tour of the Crossroads. 9 to 11:30 a.m. See story page 3.
Orinda Chamber of Commerce Mixer, Land Home Financial, 2 Theatre Square, #146, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Call 254-3909 or email info@orindachamber.org. Free and open to new members.
Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill at 10:17 a.m. in Lamorinda schools and city offices. Visit www.shakeout.org/california.
- 18 **Orinda Books**, Gerry Wallace's Ceramics Fall Exhibition and Sale, 276 Village Square, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 254-7606 or visit www.orindabooks.com.
The International Film Showcase presents *Touch of the Light*, based on the life of Taiwanese pianist prodigy Huang Yu-Slang, who plays himself in the film, through October 24, Orinda Theatre. Visit www.lamorindatheatre.com for show times.
- 19 **Orinda Books** - Linda Peterson discusses and signs copies of her new mystery, *The Devil's Interval*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606 or visit www.orindabooks.com.
Del Rey Elementary School Pumpkin Patch and Carnival, 25 El Camino Moraga, noon to 4 p.m. Open to the public.
Wagner Ranch Elementary School Round Up and Carnival, 350 Camino Pablo, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open to the public.
- 23 **Lamorinda Tri-Chamber Mixer** kicks off the California Independent Film Festival, Orinda Theatre, 2 Theatre Square, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Visit www.orindachamber.org/events.htm or call 254-3909.
- 25 **Orinda Chamber of Commerce** luncheon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, noon. For reservations call 254-3909 or visit www.orindachamber.org/events.htm.
- 26 **Orinda Books** - Karl Schonborn who discusses and signs copies of his new memoir, *Cleft Heart*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606 or visit www.orindabooks.com.
Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Annual Pumpkin Patch, 20 Washington Lane, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open to the public.

AT THE LIBRARY

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

- 1 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop-ins welcome, attendance limited to once per week. Also October 2, 8, 9, 15 and 15.
Peek-A-Book Time, songs, stories, rhythms and rhymes for infants to 16 months old and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 a.m. Also October 8 and 15.
- 3 **Book Sale** sponsored by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and Sorting Area, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Creative Writing Workshop, a 6-week series for all writers, whether at the idea or in-progress stage, Gallery Room, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Registration required.
- 5 **Town Hall Meeting**, residents are invited to share their ideas on how the library can better serve the community, Founders Auditorium, Community Center, 10:30 a.m. to noon.
Saturday Morning Live features story time for children 0-5 years, Picture Book Area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also October 12 and 19.
- 9 **Paws to Read** for 1st- through 5th-graders who can practice reading skills with a friendly dog in a 25-minute session, Gallery Room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Also October 16, 23 and 30. Registration required.
- 15 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent discusses the upcoming production of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Christopher Durang, Fireside Room, 7 p.m.
- 18 **Mystery Book Club** members read and discuss *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley, Tutoring Room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Adult program.
- 19 **Weekend Paws to Read** for children of all ages who can practice reading skills with a friendly dog or listen to a story with a favorite adult while cuddling a furry friend, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- 24 **Orinda Garden Club** sponsors A Feast from the Forest and Fields, with author, teacher and foraging expert Kevin Feinstein, auditorium, 10 a.m. coffee, 10:30 a.m. presentation.

Events at Orinda Theatre Square



SALLY HOGARTY

The Harrington family enjoyed watching Mad Scientist Katie Fischte make "goop" at Theatre Square's "Back 2 School" event in September.

The Square will host its annual Haunted House October 26 - 30 with proceeds benefiting the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. The Lamorinda Moms Halloween Trick or Treat Walk takes place at Theatre Square on October 26 from 10 a.m. - noon.

For details on the above events, go to www.orindatheatresquare.com.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

Visit www.orindagardenclub.org. See article p. 27.

Talespinners of Contra Costa, tell a story or just come to listen, featuring a special storyteller, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m. Adult program.

- 29 **Verdi and Risorgimento in Italy**, a preview of Humanities West's upcoming series, presented by George Hammond, Fireside Room, 7 p.m.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Call Karen Seaborn, 689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Better Homes and Garden Mason-McDuffie office, 51 Moraga Way, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Sirs for retired men**. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Celia's Mexican, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 a.m., September through May, St. Stephen's Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive. Visit www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Garden Club**. Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. (See At the Library listing for this month's event.) Visit www.orindagardenclub.org.
- Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m. Contact Thama Brentano at thamascout@gmail.com or www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday. Visit www.orindahiking.org or call Ian at 254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday, 5 p.m., Historical Society Museum, 26 Orinda Way, 254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 283-7176.
- Orinda/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. Email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881. Visit <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub>.
- Walnut Creek Garden Club**. Second Monday, 9:30 a.m., Camellia Room, Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. General meeting, coffee, refreshments followed by speaker at 11 a.m. Visit <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/walnut-creek-garden-club>.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Orinda Owners Bring Edgy Chic Boutique to Lafayette

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Julie Rubio, her husband Blake Wellen and entourage kicked off the opening of J. Colleen Boutique with a red ribbon cutting ceremony following a hip-hopping fashion show on a balmy Saturday night in downtown Lafayette.

After Carl Orf's stirring cantata *Carmina Burona* called the crowd of 100+ to attention, local designer Lucid Dawn began the show by ripping off each of the volunteer models' voluminous vintage dresses, freeing their inner fashionistas to strut down the raised runway. Underneath the discarded pomp and pouf frocks were up-to-the-minute outfits. Eenor Wildeboar pumped up the music while the models moved in syncopated rhythms. The show ended on a sultry note, with models sporting barely there swimsuits by Vitamin A and not much else. According to *The New York Times* in its September 5, 2013 edition, "Some of the most successful working models of the moment have an unconventional twist," and each of J. Colleen's models played to his or her own distinction.



JILL GELSTER

Elijah Stavena sang a song from his demo CD *The Introduction* at the opening of J. Colleen Boutique.

The event MC was *Diablo Magazine* senior writer/editor Pete Crooks. He ably guided guests through the evening which began with "Life's About Individuality," a compelling vocal from Rubio's son, Elijah Stavena, off his demo, *The Introduction*. Next up was the bodice-ripping fashion show with accompanying dramatic music. After that, two trailers were premiered. One is from a short film Rubio, her husband Blake Wellen and her son produced – *Everything is Temporary*. It was projected outdoors onto the back wall of the boutique. Next, the trailer from another film Rubio is producing, *East Side Sushi*, was screened together with commentary from the award-

winning filmmaker Anthony Lucero.

Meanwhile, Sichico Hudson, an impeccable Sushi Master from Serika in Orinda, turned art into substance by serving up endless trays of delectable spicy tuna rolls, hand rolls, salmon rolls, California rolls, seaweed and cucumber salad. The Wine Thieves filled wineglasses (no plastic here) with Two Vines cabernet sauvignon and Carmenet chardonnay while a vintage water cooler was re-purposed as a frosty margarita dispenser. There was a tiered display of elaborate cupcakes shaped like women's slippers, and another with Lottie's Cookies for those who like it sweet.

Owned by longtime Orinda residents Julie Rubio and Blake Wellen, J. Colleen Boutique (JCB) features upscale clothing, jewelry, gifts and art. JCB also operates an upscale consignment program, accepting ready-to-wear, designer, and casual/contemporary apparel and accessories for women. The display window on Lafayette Circle features a cream colored Vespa and a crystal chandelier. Once inside, the large wood and glass cases in the front room, circa 1910, display Divinity jewelry by Los Angeles designer Michelle Mirkovich, all made with real gems. Pieces from jewelry designer Zina Koa of Berkeley, who works in reclaimed silver, can also be found. Quirky gifts, pillows, hats, bags, shoes and fragrances abound. Contemporary art surprises you as you walk through the boutique, with works from John Felix Arnold III, who blends comic illustration with structural clutter and Cannon Dill who wraps motion in bold lines. Rubio uses loads of re-purposed and natural materials throughout the store including vintage fabrics.

The large main room contains a 10' wide ornate mirror with a heavily gilded frame acquired from Jessica McClintock's former showroom. It is filled with a selection of unique women's clothing from designers such as Alexander McQueen, Alice + Olivia, Brunello Cucinelli, Diane von Furstenberg, Eileen Fisher, Kate Spade New York, Lafayette 148 New York, Michael Kors, Milly, Stella McCartney, Indah (from Bali), Press, Dani Naturals, Tart and Calvin Klein. Off the dressing rooms, Rubio has created an outdoor tête à tête sized patio ringed by lavender, shaded from the sun, with lounge chairs that beckon one to enjoy a quiet moment.

The back room is not without interest – upscale vintage clothing and accessories from Versace, Prada, and Gucci can prove quite a tease. Stepping out the back door, two huge murals on canvas, also obtained from McClintock's former showroom, lend an old-world feel as Michelangelo's famous Sibyls peer down at you from their lofty



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Jessica McClintock's ornate mirror shows the main room in new Lafayette boutique.

perch. They seem to be keeping an eye on the boutique and its parking lot.

The evening ended with Rubio thanking the people who filled the night with energy and talent: her husband Blake Wellen and son Elijah Stavena; JCB Manger Mandy Schroeder; JCB Assistant Manager, Jacquelin Everhart; Art Director Juls Kobelin; Clothing Designer (and bodice ripper) Lucid Dawn; Sound Engineer Ronee Eenor Wildeboar; Seriko Sushi Master Sichico Hudson; the Wine Thieves; Oven Loven cupcakes; Lollie's Cookies; Make-up Artists Leesa Travis and Cameron Person; and last but not least, the 15 models who tore up the runway: Tessa Hanson, Bella Kelly, Colette Toubba, Lani Jenkins, Raven Calhoun, Heather Ivanac, Beverly Jane Peatross, Daniella Burnett, Julia Wood, Liz Mac, Lali Wilde, Cheryl Schroeder, Annette Everhart, Ben Fowler, and Montana Dunn.

J. Colleen Boutique at 261 Lafayette Circle is open Tuesdays – Fridays 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturdays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday. Phone 925-258-0300, email jcolleenboutique@yahoo.com, www.jcolleen.com; check out their Facebook page, where Jessica McClintock herself is one of J. Colleen's peeps.

Films Featured

Everything is Temporary will be presented at the Mill Valley Film Festival on October 5 and 8. See www.mvff.com and <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2776940/> for more information. Rubio and her husband Blake Wellen directed, wrote and produced the short; her son Elijah Stavena produced and did voice overs; Jack Niehaus is the producer/cinematographer with editing by Alexander Neil. The three-minute short is a window into a non-traditional art world, which memorializes a Bay Area building abandoned by the world but long touted as the Sistine Chapel of the graffiti art world.

The trailer from *East Side Sushi*, written and directed by Anthony Lucero, introduced Juana, a working-class Latina single mother who strives to become a master sushi chef against all odds. The film has been submitted to Sundance. Rubio produced the film, with associate producer Vicki Wong and director of photography Marty Rosenberg. See <http://eastidesushifilm.com/> for more information.



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Casa del Sueño, an Estate Filled with History

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Casa del Sueño, one of Orinda's largest colder estates, is a 35-room Spanish style estate built by Frank and Jessie Fageol in 1924. When Jessie Fageol couldn't find an architect that shared her vision, she drew up her own plans and supervised the construction of their home. The site, next to the 9th fairway of the Orinda Country Club, was chosen because Frank Fageol admired it from the golf course. The house includes three apartments that Jessie built for her family. "My house was built around a loving family. My three boys were about to be married, so I made separate apartments for each to have when they came with their families to visit, that way we could see each other but still have privacy," said Jessie in a 1969 interview.

Frank Fageol, along with his three brothers, William, Rollie and Claud, were productive inventors and held 125 U.S. Patents between them, many of which were used in the development of early trucks and buses. The Fageols were responsible for manufacture of the Fadgl road train,

Fageol automobile, Fageol motor truck, Fageol tractor, Fageol Safety Coach, Eight-Wheel Motor bus and truck, and the Twin Coach bus and Twin Coach/Fageol line of delivery trucks.

The Fageol brothers were born in Iowa. Frank moved to San Francisco in 1904, and shortly thereafter, moved to Oakland. On April 18, 1906, the great earthquake struck San Francisco. Jessie Fageol was in the city when it happened. Frank Fageol sped to the city to check on his wife's welfare, where he was conscripted by a United States soldier and spent 72 hours using his automobile to help rescue injured survivors. A few months after the earthquake, Frank Fageol bought the Oakland Rambler distributorship at 37th street and Telegraph Avenue.

In 1915, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition was held in San Francisco to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal and showcase San Francisco's recovery from the 1906 earthquake. The exposition covered 638 acres, from Fort Mason to Chestnut Street. Frank and Rollie Fageol contacted the directors of the fair and proposed a form of transportation for ferrying fairgoers around: a small tractor,



Casa del Sueño, a beautiful Spanish style estate, sits next to the Orinda Country Club's 9th Fairway.

using a Model T engine, that towed a small trailer. The directors were so amused by the idea that they awarded the brothers the fair transportation concessions. Each trailer held 20 passengers and was built at Frank Fageol's auto agency. The auto train was named Fadgl, a phonetic spelling of the inventor's name because of fears that customers would have difficulty pronouncing Fageol.

The success of the passenger train let Fageol Motors Co. build a factory in Oakland and move into the production of heavy trucks and also create the Fageol 100, at the time the most luxurious and expensive car ever made. The car was powered by the same engine used in the heavy trucks, a Hall-Scott aviation motor, which could provide 150-horse power. The car entered production in 1917 and listed at \$12,500. According to publicity literature of the time, it included "eider down cushions, plush lined top and body, polished mahogany flooring, glass panel instrument board, and ivory-mounted handles on doors. The car has adjustable front seats, which slide back and forth to suit the occupants. It is fitted with a Victoria top lined with silk plush. The outside of the top is mohair. The floor coverings are also of silk plush over the mahogany floorboards."

By 1922, Fageol's focus had shifted to bus and motor coach construction, and their factory had grown to 105 employees. Buses started to replace streetcar systems, and Fageol sold them to cities as far away as Everett, Washington, San Antonio, Texas,

and Janesville, Wisconsin. During the summer of 1925, the Goodyear Blimp landed on the Orinda Country Club's 6th and 9th fairways as part of a publicity stunt for Fageol Motor, Truck and Boat Company.

The original wrought-iron fixtures and accessories in the house, including the front door hardware, hinges and knocker, were manufactured at the forge in the back



The organ sits on the balcony overlooking the living room.

yard. In 1929, Jessie Fageol had a pipe organ installed on the balcony overlooking the sunken living room. The organ was built to Jessie Fageol's specifications and "has every instrument and also plays music rolls. My boys loved turning it on from any of three floors of the house," said Fageol. The organ has a turbine in the basement, a Spencer Orgoblo, manufactured by Spencer Turbine Company, which Ira Hobart Spencer founded in 1892. Spencer invented water-powered hydraulic motors to pump air, and sold many of these motors to churches for their organs. Still in business, Spencer Turbine continues to furnish spare parts for some of the early Orgoblo's that it produced.

The basement also features a walk-in vault manufactured by Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Company. The vault lists San Francisco as its origin, but it was probably built in Hamilton, Ohio. The company had sales offices in most major cities and painted on their location as a means of advertising. Diebold bought Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Company in 1959 and operated it until its closing in 1991.

The living room has 20-foot ceilings that are supported by massive timbers. Each of the beams has a corbel carved in the shape of a different monk. The apartment wing surrounds the main house as well as a swimming pool, terraces, porches, Victorian style green house, front garden with fountain, and a rear water garden which incorporates four ponds, three fountains, and streams.

For more information, visit www.12elsueno.com or call Joanna Truelson at 925-708-1672.

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LOCAL EVENTS

Local Foraging Expert to Speak at Library Auditorium

By PAT RUDEBUSCH
Contributing Writer

Ever since Chez Panisse opened its doors in 1971, the culinary epicenter of America shifted west. With an emphasis on fresh, local ingredients simply prepared, the food movement that was begun in the 1970s has reached a fevered-pitch in recent years. With ubiquitous retailers such as William Sonoma launching a line of agrarian products that includes everything from mushroom growing kits to chicken coops, the locavore food movement has become mainstream. And, perhaps at the apex of the local food movement, sits the forager.

Later this month, the Orinda Garden Club will sponsor a free talk by local foraging expert Kevin Feinstein at the Library Auditorium. When it comes to food, Feinstein is poised on the cutting edge of all things fresh, local and sustainable. His talk in Orinda will focus on the healthful and sustainable benefits of edible native plants that grow in the natural spaces throughout the East Bay.

Feinstein, or Feral Kevin, as he's commonly known, is attracting a substantial following of Bay Area food lovers and plant enthusiasts, many of whom share his concern for sustainability. Among Feinstein's many fans is Jane Zuercher, an Orinda Garden Club member and Orinda native. Zuercher has been on five foraging trips in the Lamorinda area with Feinstein. "I learn something new each time I go out with Kevin," Zuercher said. "I grew up in Orinda and never knew that so many of the plants that I thought of as weeds are not only edible, but taste amazing."

Wild radish, mustard, oat grass, purslane, and mulberries are just a few of the foods Zuercher has found on Feinstein's foraging trips. She notes that while the food you'll find while foraging varies by the season,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Foraging expert **Kevin Feinstein** will speak at Orinda Garden Club's October 24 event.

some of what she has found growing in the wild is sold at such trendsetting spots as San Francisco's Ferry Building Farmer's Market. "Many of these foods are coveted by some of the best chefs in the Bay Area, and they are growing unnoticed all around us. Many of these edible plants are higher in antioxidants than kale and blueberries."

Considered a local foraging expert, Feinstein has been profiled in both national and local media. In addition to leading foraging trips, he is a popular speaker and author of two books on foraging. Orinda Garden Club president Janet Riley says that her organization is pleased to bring Feinstein to an Orinda audience.

"The purpose of Orinda Garden Club, which was founded in 1937, is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening. To further this educational purpose, Orinda Garden Club is hosting an educational program for its members and the public at large on Thursday, October 24," Riley said. Admission is free and available on a first come, first-served basis. The talk begins at 10 a.m., with refreshments served at 9:30 a.m.

Holiday Bazaar Returns to Community Center

The 37th Annual Holiday Bazaar takes place at the Orinda Community Center on November 2 from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Community Center Auxiliary, the event features a plethora of arts and crafts, jewelry, clothing and more just in time for the holidays. Proceeds from the event, which is free to the public, benefit Community Center programs and park facilities.

Applications for vendors are currently being taken. For more information, go to www.cityoforinda.com or call 254-2445.

◆ BUZZ from page 28

while enjoying salsa dancing together. I have helped a lot of my students buy their homes," smiles Trendera, who also enjoys hiking in the East Bay, especially the upper trail around the Lafayette Reservoir and Briones Regional Park. An avid surfer in his spare time, his favorite spots to catch a big wave are Pacifica and Santa Cruz. He also enjoys gardening and cooking, but his favorite activity is dancing.

"I run a huge party every third Saturday of the month at the Allegro Ballroom in Emeryville with a live salsa orchestra. I started this dance party nearly two years ago, and it has grown to be the largest salsa party in the Bay Area with 500 to 600 in attendance," says Trendera.

27th Annual Festival of Trees

The Orinda Woman's Club Festival of Trees Benefit Luncheon and Fashion Show will take place November 21 at the San Ramon Marriot Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. Helen Lyall's clothes will be featured with Dan Ashley, the co-anchor of Channel 7 News, acting as Master of Ceremonies. There will be a raffle of wreaths, trees, and bountiful gift baskets as well as a raffle for a trip to either Kauai or Puerto Vallarta. Reservations are \$85 per person. For more information, call 925 254-4900 or visit



SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda Chamber of Commerce Executive Director **Candy Kattenburg** and **Sandra Landburg** enjoyed last year's Festival of Trees luncheon.

the website at www.orindawomansclub.org.

Wildlife in Contra Costa County

By ADRIANNE BOSWORTH
Contributing Writer

Learn about the wildlife in Contra Costa County from well-known zoologist, Doc Hale. This free public lecture sponsored by Friends of Orinda Creeks takes place on Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Garden Room at the Orinda Library.

Dr. Hale will give a presentation on the Wildlife of Contra Costa County and link it to his research and his involvement with various organizations. He will talk about how the area is a unique bio-geographical region and begin his presentation with a brief prehistoric Native American cultural perspective of the region.

Dr. Hale has been a professional vertebrate zoologist, wildlife biologist, ecological consultant and ethno-biologist since

1972. He lectures and leads natural and cultural history interpretive hikes throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and California. He also writes a monthly front-page article on wildlife and Native American culture for the *Valley Sentinel*.

His local research is focused on mountain lion ecology of the East Bay, salmon and steelhead of the Walnut Creek Watershed, and Native American cultural sites in the East Bay. He is consulting for the Rumsen Ohlone tribe for the acquisition and development of an Ohlone Cultural Center. He has also rescued orphaned, displaced and injured wildlife for more than 40 years for Lindsay Museum Wildlife Hospital, law enforcement agencies, Animal Services, Marine Mammal Center, International Bird Rescue, Wildcare, Cal Fish & Wildlife, USFWS and other agencies.

For more information, call 925-254-6208.

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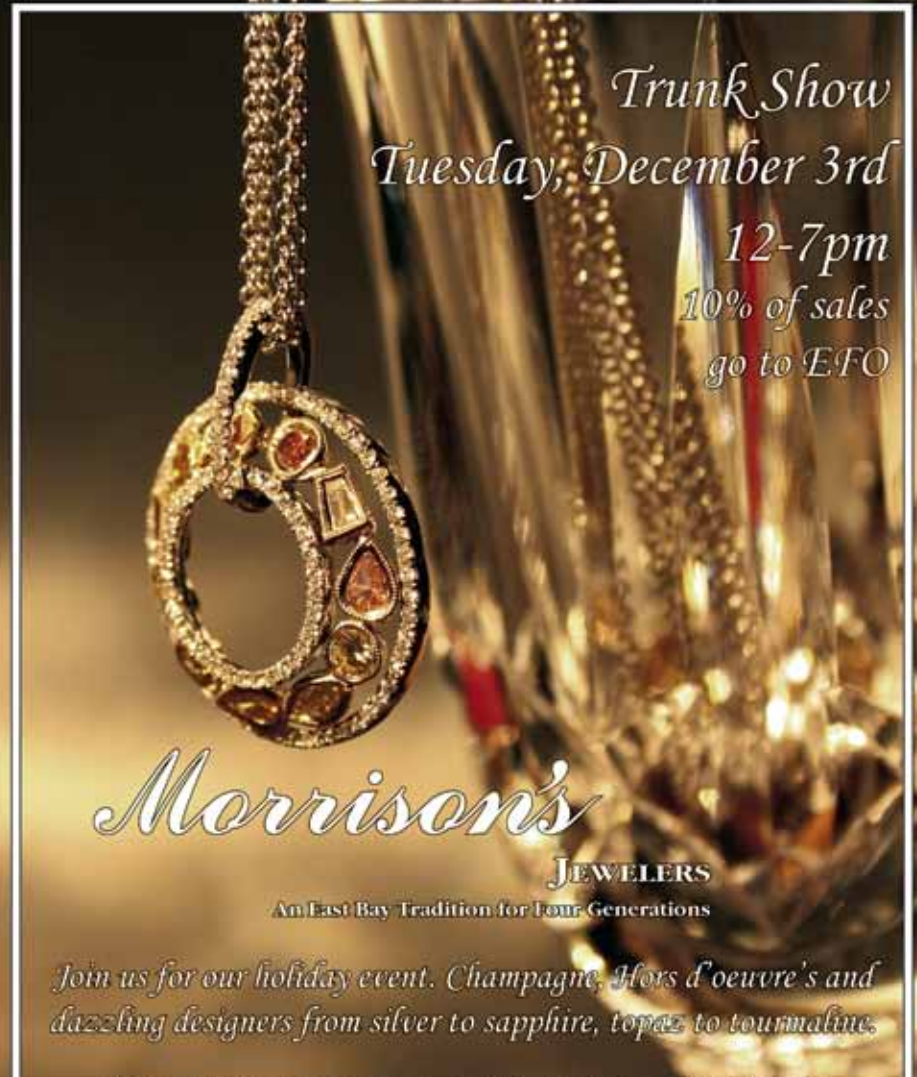
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BUSINESS BUZZ

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Arbonne Available in Lamorinda

Pregnant with her first child and searching for a skincare product that would not impact her pregnancy, Orinda resident Robyn Selva located Arbonne, a green company that develops and manufactures personal care and nutrition products. Selva was so impressed with Arbonne that she became an independent consultant this year, working from her home office, alongside her career as an executive strategic account manager for a leading life science and molecular diagnostics company.



VALERIE HOTZ

Robyn Selva of Arbonne, a personal care and nutrition company.

"I am trying to help people get healthier from the inside out with Arbonne nutrition and skincare. This company combines nature and science in all their personal care products. There are no mineral oils, animal products, parabens, synthetic dyes or form-

aldehyde-donating preservatives," explains Selva. "All products are botanically based and free from harmful chemicals. Nutrition products do not contain artificial colors, flavors or sweeteners, animal products or by-products, cholesterol, trans fats or gluten," she adds.

Arbonne, established more than 30 years ago in Switzerland by Petter Morck, follows a stringent internal safety policy and standards set by various agencies including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.K. Food Standards Agency, European Commission Cosmetics Directive, among others.

The array of products include skin care, bath and body, hair care, makeup, fragrance and nutrition. There is even a line for children aptly named ABC, Arbonne Baby Care. "The skin care products do not have toxins and do not clog pores. You feel the amazing difference," says Selva, who also uses the ABC Arbonne Baby Care line for her toddler daughter.

The anti-aging RE9 Advanced line incorporates a five-step process containing soothing botanicals that deliver antioxidants and vitamins to hydrate and soften skin. "It is nice to have something safe and effective and the results are immediate. The new plant based retinoid 'Genius' is suitable for ages 12 to 60+. It improves skin moisture, firmness and elasticity without the drying and peeling side effects of traditional Retin A," says Selva.

The Arbonne Essentials nutrition line provides pointers on how to have better nutrition and is based on a 30-day feeling fit program that includes vegan based protein shakes on the menu and either one or two meals a day integrating the healthy living concept. The system may be modified based on an individual's needs and encourages exercising at least 30 minutes daily. "Arbonne Essentials promotes eating healthy grains and healthy fats. It is a very simple and easy to follow system. The Energy Fizz stick replaces coffee. The key ingredients here are green tea, ginseng, guarana, and B vitamins, promoting alertness and enhancing cognitive performance," says Selva.

Selva adopted the Arbonne Essentials nutrition program after her daughter was born in order to lose the extra weight she had gained during pregnancy. She is pleased with the results and is comfortable now at her pre-baby weight. "Sixty percent of what you put on your skin is absorbed into your blood stream, so it is incredibly important to know what ingredients are in your skincare products. I found when I started using Arbonne and adopting a better diet, I was able to release fat and maintain weight as a result," says Selva.

Selva is passionate about photography. She and her husband, Matt, enjoy as much time as possible with their daughter Aubrey and walk the Lafayette Reservoir whenever they get a chance.

A Discover Arbonne event is slated for Wednesday, October 9 at 7 p.m. Champagne and cupcakes will be served. To RSVP for the event or for more information about Arbonne, give Robyn a call at 510-693-6263 or email at selva.robyn@gmail.com

Tomaj Trenda – Better Homes Realty Lafayette

Broker and co-owner of Better Homes Realty in Lafayette, Tomaj Trenda specializes in residential real estate in the East Bay with expertise in short sales, foreclosure,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tomaj Trenda of Better Homes Realty in Lafayette.

trust sales, as well as commercial real estate transactions. With 10 years of experience in the Lamorinda residential market, he knows the lay of the land. The office is located at 3701 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

"There is more inventory in Lamorinda than there has been in awhile, which I think is a very good thing. May, June and July of this year have been crazy, with prices rising very fast and now things have slowed a bit, giving us a much more balanced market than we have seen in a while," points out Trenda. "Currently, we are seeing sellers getting their asking price."

Better Homes Realty offers tremendous experience and expertise, with many of the brokers having been in the business for 30 years. "We are an all broker office, a very different business model in that everyone in our office is a broker and co-owner of the business," says Trenda, who reports that investors are still strong in the local real estate market, with short sales falling off and almost no foreclosures in this area.

For the past nine years, Trenda has taught salsa dancing to a full house every Monday night at the Orinda Community Center. "People make new friends in my classes

[SEE BUZZ page 27]

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Orinda Chamber Welcomes Piccolo Napoli



DAVID DIERKS

Chamber of Commerce members join with Piccolo Napoli owner Peter Eberle (center) to officially open the latest restaurant in Theatre Square. The Italian eatery is owned by Peter and his wife Maria – their four children work at the restaurant as well.

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