



THE ORINDA NEWS

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City Council Candidates State Positions at OA Forum on October 6



Carlos Baltodano



Linda Delehunt



Dean Orr



Eve Phillips



Robert Thompson



Amy Worth

The Orinda Association will hold a forum for the six City Council candidates to discuss their positions on issues of concern to local residents. Moderated by the League of Women Voters, the forum takes place on Oct. 6 from 7-9 pm at the Orinda Library Auditorium. The four candidates for the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees will discuss their views at a forum on Oct. 16 from 7-9 pm at the Orinda Library Auditorium. Each set of candidates also answered a series of questions for *The Orinda News* in this issue – City Council candidates (pages 13-16) and School Board candidates (pages 17-19).

Orindans Want License Plate Readers to Quell Crime

By MICHAEL SAKODA
Staff Writer

Following an Aug. 28 community meeting on rising crime in Orinda, Police Chief Mark Nagel said citizens were very clear: They want license plate readers installed on the entrances to Orinda.

The meeting was called in response to the spike in burglaries in Orinda over the past two years. Between 2012 and 2013, the number of home burglaries rose from 56 to 86, a 53-percent increase.

In addition, Nagel stated that while in 2014 residential burglaries are down (28 as of August 2014), auto burglaries have been on the rise, a problem he believes is related to the 2011 passing of Assembly Bill 109, the Public Safety Realignment Act. AB 109 transfers nonviolent offenders from federal prisons to county jails. And with many of the county jails, like those in Contra Costa, overcrowded, inmates are released on parole without serving their full sentence.

Marcia Fick and other Orinda residents helped arrange the gathering using Nextdoor.com to address the problem.

"My family's story is similar to many Orindans," Fick said. "Burglarized, vehicles stolen and mail broken into, and additional attempted break-ins over the last

six years. Together, a few Orindans started exploring camera options ... our intention is to add an additional layer of safety to Orinda."

Nagel presented two options at the August meeting - Reconyx cameras or license plate readers.

The Reconyx cameras are motion-activated, cost about \$400 each, and would be placed on private homes overlooking the street.

"We would have a timeframe for a crime, and pull all the memory cards from the Reconyx cameras, trying to isolate a vehicle, trying to match a description," said Nagel. "That's how we would develop the lead."

On the other hand, license plate readers scan the plates of passing vehicles and enter them into a database that can be accessed by police. The readers would be mounted on the roof of police cruisers or on overpasses and poles on the way in and out of Orinda, but are significantly more expensive.

Both technologies have proven effective in Bay Area communities - Lafayette uses Reconyx cameras while Piedmont uses license plate readers, both to significant effect.

Nagel said that while he was expecting homeowners to be more interested in the Reconyx cameras, as they are a cheaper op-

tion and can be installed on private homes and hence do not require City Council or public approval, citizens were adamant in their desire for more stringent measures.

"I expected the group to say, 'Let's do the cheaper motion-activated cameras because we can do it right now,'" Nagel said. "To my surprise, most of them voiced the opinion of wanting license plate readers. It started to gather a lot of steam where people started saying, 'Where do I send my money; I'm ready to go.'"

Nagel said he and other officials at the meeting weren't prepared for this sort of response.

"We were kind of pushed back a little bit because the City Council and the board don't really know about the license plate readers," he said. "They haven't been approved, haven't been vetted, there's no policy in place and that's kind of where we're at right now."

While citizens at the meeting seemed enthusiastic about new security measures for Orinda, Nagel said there are still steps to take before getting any kind of system up and running.

"This meeting was just one particular neighborhood, but I've heard through the grapevine that there is opposition to the license plate readers," he said. "I think there are many steps that we need to take. City council would have to approve it, and citizens would have to vote on it."

The issue becomes having cameras on public streets. While Orinda residents are entitled to and encouraged by police to have cameras on their private property, public streets are another matter entirely.

"Having the cameras on public streets makes it a public system," he said. "If it's going to be on public streets, a public hearing needs to take place."

In the meantime, Nagel urges residents to trim back hedges and trees that might obscure any back entrance from sight and invest in a security system.

"I'm absolutely in favor of Reconyx boxes or any kind of home security systems," he said. "We can take images from the cameras and run with them, but as far as cameras on city streets, that's going to take a little while."

OA Candidate Forums

Oct. 6 - City Council Candidates
Oct. 16 - School Board Candidates

Both forums take place from 7-9 pm at the Orinda Library Auditorium. For more information, call 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.

A Spooky and Fun October

Local schools get into the fun of October with Halloween games, pumpkins and much more. Proceeds benefit school programs. See story on page 25.



LANI MACKENZIE
Camryn Hirst (L) and Peytonn Gray show off their face painting by Donna Pickthall at last year's Glorietta Fun Fest.

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October Gallery Exhibit: A Passion for *Plein Air* Painting

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Gallery features more than 40 paintings by artists from the Orinda Community Center's "Outdoor Landscape Painting" class taught by Hilary Mills Lambert, as well as works by local *plein air* painters. Some of those exhibiting are alums reaching back to the roots of the class, which began 25 years ago when the late Pam Glover brought her passion for *plein air* painting to Orinda. "Painting to me is the utmost pleasure – to be outside, with the changing of the seasons, each bringing their own beauty and excitement; that is what I try to capture," said Pam Glover. "On my journey to find new places, I can hardly wait to get my easel set up, to paint my painting." An artist reception with light refreshments will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

The outdoor painting class has been handed down, unbroken, first to Glover's daughter, Ann Marie Glover, next to Teresa Onoda, then to John Finger and now to Mills Lambert. "We go to many of Pam's spots and some new ones," says Mills Lambert. "I have a particular interest in gardens and great views of Mt. Diablo, so we go to a

private home horse ranch. The locations are a little more varied but always comfortable. The camaraderie between participants is legendary. People from all over (Thailand, New York, Canada, etc.) participate in the 12-week workshops because California *plein air* painting is so unique and varied." To find out more about the classes, visit www.cityoforinda.org, go to the current Orinda Activity Guide and look for "Outdoor Landscape Painting: Regional Sites."

Artists have always taken their easels, canvases and paints outdoors into the weather and the light - that's what the term *plein air* painting means. But ever since the 1870s, *plein air* painting has slowly become a movement. Over time it gained popularity in Europe, America and the rest of the world until now there are hundreds of thousands of *plein air* painters. When you view the works of these artists, you will see that *plein air* painting in California is, in a way, its own zeitgeist. While zeitgeist means "the defining spirit of a particular time," here it is used to mean that *plein air* painting in California creates its own defining spirit, due to the terrain revisited over and over and lineage of painters who share that experience. The river of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Karen Leoni captures the essence of the season in her oil painting on linen entitled *Spring Morning*.

artists through which it flows continually gifts us with an unbroken stream of beauty because so many are drawn to contribute to the flow of its waters.

Contributing artists include Lauren Biancardi, Rae Eckland, Booker Holton, Doris Kretschmer, Karen Leoni, Judith Mortenson, Lana Rak, Taki Tu and others (list incomplete at press time). Look for Leoni's *Fall in Full Bloom*, a 9" x 12" oil painting on board and *Spring Morning*, an 11" x 14" oil painting on linen. Leoni's work exemplifies what George Carlson,

another prolific landscape painter says: "Working outdoors or from life puts you in direct contact with the life force, not just the light and the landscape, but also the vitality of the world around you."

Mills Lambert says, "I hope those who view the exhibit see how beautiful a moment of time in nature can be; perhaps perceive how a glimmer of light on a grove of oak trees can make a good painting." As an art educator, she believes that if kids are allowed to experience the arts early on (visual, music, kinetic, etc.) they are able to be in the moment while doing something they love. Further, this experience becomes a valuable benchmark for the rest of their lives.

Sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council, the Library Gallery, 26 Orinda Way, is open during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm. Call 925-254-2184 for more information.

Echo Grove Charms



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jennifer Hayden designed two fun charms for ECHO Grove's October giveaway.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Theatre Square's unique gift shop, ECHO Grove, has launched a fun "thank you" promotion that is truly charming.

Custom designed and handmade exclusively by Jennifer Hayden for ECHO Grove, the charms reflect the local community. Suitable for backpacks, key chains,

[SEE CHARMS page 12]

New-fashioned Wisdom

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Lots to Appreciate Here in Orinda



Bill Waterman

Our fair city was “the place to be” in September. We started out with Lamorinda Idol’s finals on Sept. 7. Then, over the course of four days from Sept. 11 through 14, we had the California Independent Film Festival at the Orinda and Rheem theaters, the Dancing With The Cars dinner, followed by the 10th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show, then Speed On The Screen movies at Orinda Theater. To top it off, on Sept. 13, the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe presented Fandango, a fundraiser at the Buehler House, a wonderfully restored Frank Lloyd Wright home in Orinda. What a busy two weeks!

A common thread ran through all of these fine events, namely the committed efforts of many volunteers who blended their common passion for a cause with their many talents and skills. Look no further than the good folks in Orinda Rotary and the many volunteers who made the classic car show weekend possible. Barbara and Jack Bon-temps and their fellow Orinda Rotarians put on a fantastic dinner and Dance With The Cars event, supported by Village Starlight Players and Orinda Chamber members, who served the many guests with a smile,



DAVID DIERKS

Marie Waterman and Sylvia Jorgensen show off their dresses at Dancing with the Cars.

and spent countless hours orchestrating this fundraiser for Orinda non-profits.

Thanks also go to a very dedicated team of volunteers for the classic car show events, led by Chip and Carolyn Herman, Mike Robinson, Lindsay Lautz, Tom Steinberger and Henry Alfaro. Their irreplaceable creativity, energy and enthusiasm ensured the event’s great success. Backing up this team were Allen Pennebaker and John Vanek of Orinda Motors and their staff whose support has made the car show such a success over the past 10 years. Thanks also go to Orinda Country Club for generously opening the golf course to the show for several years, and the many sponsors and businesses that also support the show.

So, on behalf of the Orinda Association (OA) membership and the volunteer drivers and riders of the Seniors Around Town (SAT) program, we thank everyone who helped put these events together. The funds raised will help staff our OA office and operate our SAT program well into the future – as well as the Volunteer Center and this newspaper. We thank and commend everyone who supported and contributed to these community events.



DAVID DIERKS

Car Show attendees stroll among the Porsche exhibit on the Orinda Country Club’s 16th Fairway.

OA Sponsors Political Forums

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

In keeping with its mission to promote awareness and encourage dialogue among Orinda residents on issues of importance to the community, the Orinda Association (OA) will sponsor two forums in October.

The first forum, scheduled on October 6, will focus on the six candidates running for Orinda City Council. Each candidate will answer two or three questions posed by the OA on such hot button topics as: housing needs; Orinda’s aging infrastructure; and downtown revitalization. Candidates will then answer questions submitted by the audience.

On October 16, the four candidates for the Orinda Union School District (OUSD)

will convene for a similarly structured forum. Areas of concern addressed at this forum will include such topics as the new Common Core Curriculum and the new funding strategy out of Sacramento.

The League of Women Voters will moderate both forums with member Sharon Burke overseeing the City Council forum and Ann Flynn managing the OUSD forum. Both forums will take place at the Orinda Library Auditorium from 7 – 9 pm.

“At this time, we seem to be more polarized than ever over certain issues,” says OA president Bill Waterman. “I believe that the need for respectful dialogue has never been greater, and I hope that these two forums will contribute to that goal.”

For more information on the upcoming forums, call the OA office at 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.

The Orinda Association

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

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

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OA Candidate Forums



SALLY HOGARTY

City Council candidates with moderator from the League of Women Voters (far left) at the OA’s 2010 forum.

The Orinda Association will sponsor the following forums to promote awareness among voters.

Orinda City Council Candidates - Oct. 6 from 7-9 pm
OUSD School Board Candidates - Oct. 16 from 7-9 pm

Both forums take place in the Orinda Library Auditorium and both will be moderated by the League of Women Voters.

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



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Craft Cocktail Competition Benefits Local Arts Programs

By CHARLIE JARRETT
Staff Writer

Orinda Arts Council (OAC) is partnering with Orinda Theatre Square to host the first annual *Art of Mixology, Craft Cocktail Competition* on Saturday, October 25, 4:30 pm, in the Orinda Square Plaza. The event benefits OAC-supported art programs in Lamorinda.

The evening will feature some 20 craft cocktails prepared by top Bay Area bartenders competing for the Mixologist of the Year Award. Aspiring at-home bartenders can also compete for the award. The evening's top winner will receive a \$500 prize and trophy. Second- and third-place winners will receive \$200 and \$100 respectively. There will also be an Audience Choice winner.

According to Kal Deutsch, OAC co-chair of the event, craft cocktails are becoming a trend globally and they wanted the Orinda community to learn about innovative cocktails for private events and parties. While there are other types of libation and bartender competitions all around the country, including a Martini competition that has existed for 14 years, there does not appear



CHARLIE JARRETT
Kal Deutsch and Anny Montielh practice their cocktail creativity in preparation for the Mixology event.

to be "open-ended craft cocktail competitions" that allow bartenders to go in any direction they want, according to Deutsch.

Deadline to compete in the event was Sept. 25. Tickets are \$45 and include tastings, a souvenir shot glass and the opportunity to vote for your favorite drink or mixologist. Local sponsor BevMo will supply bulk ice and OAC will provide ice buckets. For competition applications, tickets and more information visit <http://OrindaArts.org/Mixology>.

Seasoned Shopper

Enjoy Late Season Shelled Beans

BARBARA KOBSAR



Shelling bean season is wrapping up but it's not too late to enjoy their creamy texture and earthy flavors in a soup, stew or side dish. Look for bins of fresh, speckled cranberry beans (known in Italy as *borlotto*) and black eyed peas (cowpeas). Others, like the pale green French *flageolet* and Italian *cannellini*, deliver a rich taste and texture definitely superior to their dried forms.

Shelling beans are at the in-between stage – mature enough to remove from the pods, but still tender enough to cook and enjoy fresh. These same beans eventually reach the "dried" stage when left to completely mature and dry.

Gather up your family and friends for the annual shelling of the shelling beans. It takes time and many hands to shell each bean for eating fresh or freezing. You should be able to feel the fully formed bean inside the leathery pod before splitting open the seam to pop out the beans. Shelled fresh shelling beans freeze exceptionally well. Lay the shelled beans in a single layer on a baking sheet and freeze until frozen through. Place in freezer bags and freeze for up to 6 months.

Fresh peppers offer a rainbow of colors to choose from and flavors to please every palate. All peppers are members of the capsicum family, and it's the amount of the heat compound capsaicin, not color, that determines their degree of heat.

Peppers are either sweet or hot. Confusion only surfaces when fresh peppers go through the drying process and then change their names. For example, poblano or pasilla peppers are called ancho when dried or ground, fresh Anaheim peppers become dried California peppers, and Jalapeno changes its name to chipotle when smoke-dried.

Best known of the sweet peppers are the bells – named for their shape. Virtually all are green in color at the "ready-to-pick" but immature stage, and turn to red, yellow or purple (depending on variety) as they ripen and mature. Other sweet peppers include Gypsy peppers, Hungarian wax and pimentos.

The heat of hot or chili peppers is concentrated in the interior ribs or veins near the seed heart – the seeds themselves taste hot only because they are close to the veins. These peppers range from the relatively

mild Anaheim and Poblano through to Jalapeno and Serrano to the extremely pungent habanero. The most commonly found cooking chili is the Anaheim or California green chili.

Roasted peppers take on unexpected flavors when added to pasta, salads and bean dishes. Chipotles and roasted red pepper are made by baking, broiling or simply spearing the fresh pepper with a long, wooden handled fork, and holding over a gas flame until blackened. Once charred, place in a heavy paper bag and seal to allow the pepper to steam. After 10 to 15 minutes, the pepper is cool enough to peel, stem and seed.

Enjoy and see you at the farmers' market. Barbara Kobsar, The Seasoned Shopper, can be reached at cotkitchen@aol.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fresh **cranberry beans** make for a colorful salad or side dish.

Sautéed Fresh Cranberry Beans

One pound fresh cranberry beans, shelled (about 1-1/2 cups)

- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 8 to 10 fresh sage leaves
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- Salt to taste

Cook beans in a pot of boiling water for about 20 minutes or until just tender. Drain.

Heat olive oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat and add sage leaves. Fry about 1 minute.

When sage start to get crisp, add the beans and sauté for a few minutes. Season with salt.

Add garlic and sauté until fragrant. Remove from heat, squeeze a bit of lemon over top, toss and serve. Serves 2 to 3.

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FUNDRAISERS

Dinner and Poker Party Benefit Local Foster Kids

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Barbacoa Restaurant in Theater Square and Blue Dog Poker are teaming up for an evening of food and fun October 11 in a benefit for Alternative Family Services (AFS). The Blazing Hearts Dinner Party and Poker Tourney benefits foster youth in the area. The event kicks off with dinner at 6 pm and tournament play commencing at 7 pm.

“Rookies and pros are welcome to participate in the poker tournament,” says Sam Salem of Blue Dog Poker. “Our dealers are friendly and support all levels of play. Anyone who likes to play cards or poker should give it a try. We even have cheat sheets to help novice players. Texas Hold’em is the tournament game and Visa gift cards of \$150, \$100 and \$75 will be presented to the top three winners. There will also be Blackjack tables.”

Barbacoa will serve a buffet dinner of slow-roasted carnitas, carne asada and chicken from their wood fired grill along

with beans, rice and all the trimmings. “We are excited to be helping Alternative Family Services,” says Rickey Dobbs, the restaurant’s new director of operations. “As a business and as members of the community, we are always on the lookout for ways to help. The services this agency provides are so important. It’s a privilege to be working with, and for, them – and I happen to love playing poker.”

The work of the agency is widespread. Jennifer Harper, director of development and marketing for AFS, says, “We are one of the largest foster care, mental health and adoption agencies in Northern California. We serve about 1,500 foster youth a year from tiny babies to age 21. We have helped thousands of youths since 1978, referred to AFS by the 17 counties we serve. Foster youths are one of the highest risk populations for becoming homeless or victims of violence, prostitution and human trafficking; of being incarcerated; or having chronic mental and physical illnesses.”

She says AFS strives to create a safe,



SALLY HOGARTY

Sam Salem (L) and Rickey Dobbs have teamed up to help foster youth through a fun poker tournament and dinner.

permanent home for every foster youth and helps them become independent members of their communities. “Donations and support from citizens and businesses are the only way many critical needs and services are met,” says Harper. “We hope that many in Lamorinda will come out to support this worthy cause.”

Dinner tickets (no poker) are \$48; tickets for poker, dinner and the tournament are \$100; VIP sponsorships are available at \$1,000 and \$500 levels. Early Bird prices and specials are available for those who register before Oct. 1. For tickets and more information, visit www.helpfosteryouth.org/Blazing-Heart-Event.html.

Students Wash Cars, Raise Funds for Education in Orinda

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

What could a 3rd-grade girl and a 12th-grade boy have in common? Quite a lot if they are family friends with a common vision for community service to benefit local schools. In this digital age, two young Orindans have started a non-profit business that brings in money for the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO). Migyu Kim, a Wagner Ranch student, and Alex Jang, a senior at Miramonte High School (MHS), have created a business that connects students, families, neighborhoods and local schools. Their website is called www.Lubble.com. Lubble volunteers wash people’s cars at their homes with proceeds going to the EFO. People simply go to the website and sign up for a car wash and the “Lubbers” arrive to wash the car. All checks are made out to the EFO.

Kim and Jang launched the website the week before school began and just over two weeks and nearly 30 cars later they have raised \$690 for the EFO. Their website shows Kim and Jang handing their first donation to Cara Hoxie, co-president of EFO. The site proclaims, “Service by your



BILL O'BRIAN

Migyu Kim (L) a student at Wagner Ranch and Alex Jang, a senior at Miramonte High School began a nonprofit to benefit Orinda schools.

neighbors, for your neighbors, for a great cause.” People are requested to pay \$20 for a small car and \$30 for a truck or SUV, but are offered the option of paying more as a further donation.

Asked how they came up with the name of the business, Jang replied, “Think love, think bubbles, think fun and light.” And

[SEE STUDENTS page 22]

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Corrections...

On page 7 of the September issue, architect Marshall Strabala's first name was listed as Michael. It is Orinda's own Marshall Strabala who is overseeing the final work on the 121-story Shanghai Tower in China.

On page 8 in the Library Gallery article for September, artist Krista K. Borst's name was misspelled and her website was incorrectly listed. Her website is <http://cargocollective.com/kristaborst>.



Marshall Strabala

NICK AIMASY PHOTOGRAPHY

Letters to the Editor

Water independence for Northern CA: It Can Be

The Delta has about 60 island farm-tracts with levees to keep rivers out. Forty are from 5-35 feet below sea-level; 12-15 are close to imminent breaching. The ground is peat-soil; great for growing stuff but it blows away after tilling. So the land sinks. These farms have been sinking one to three inches each year for 160 years while river bottoms have risen through sediment buildup. Continually raising river levels relative to land subsidence just yards away over dirt levees makes collapse inevitable.

This sinking land has always been deemed a liability. It should, however, be considered a great asset. We can realistically achieve full water independence, sans new Delta area dams or rationing, because of these fortuitous basins sculpted by these farmers.

How? Consider: Total runoff through our Delta is normally 30,000,000 acre-feet per year -- 23,000,000 acre-feet of that flows back to the Pacific. Of the remaining 7M, 5M is sent to our southern neighbors; 1.8M is used by Delta folks; and just a trickle (bad pun) 100,000 acre-feet (1.5 percent of the 7,000,000) is for Bay Area urbanites.

Essence of my proposal: Utilize these below sea-level - still sinking - tracts as commercial reservoirs, managed by the farm owners. Were just existing below river-level tracts to be so used, it would add literally more than enough capacity to California's existing water-storage, by themselves, to fill the yearly needs of 12-15 million people - without drawing on existing reservoirs or current supplies.

The proposal would capture some of that 23 million acre-feet now reclaimed by the ocean. That water is not contracted to senior or junior water-rights holders and is thus outside the boundaries of water-preference claims. It would also give those tract owners a brighter economic future. And help us all, to boot. It would obviate the need for more Delta-area dams; several are proposed, costing billions.

Illustration: One levee on one farm, Jones Tract (Upper/Lower), breached in 2004. 160,000 acre-feet of water flowed in. Instant reservoir! That's enough water

to fully provide 800,000 people water for a year. Government 'experts' dumped it all and dried-out the farm (cost: \$100M) sinking continues. Eight years later, just 10 miles away, Los Vaqueros Reservoir was expanded to hold 160,000 acre-feet. Los Vaqueros cost \$600M; to fill the reservoir water was piped 20 miles from Antioch - took five months. California is strange.

- Joe Moran

Yet Another Reason for Downtown Planning in Orinda

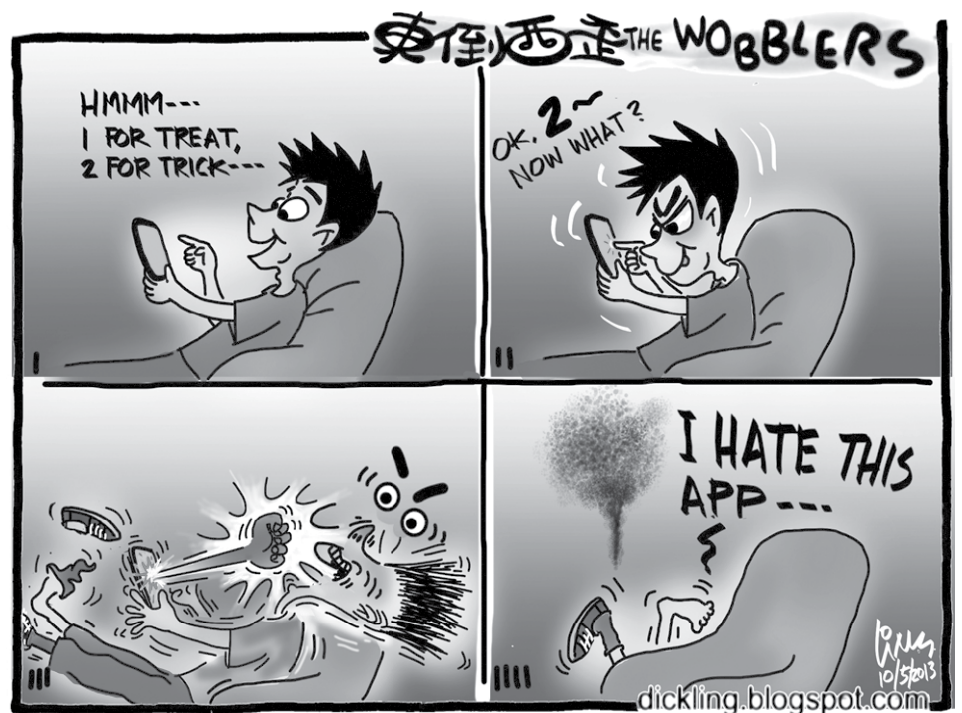
Images from the Napa earthquake remind us that a major seismic event is predicted for Lamorinda within the next 30 years. The City of Orinda has developed emergency preparedness plans for such an event. The city has no plans, however, for coping with the likely damage that would result to its downtown buildings or to bring its seismic building codes up to present day standards. An earthquake assessment of the buildings in its commercial districts would be a logical first step to take.

As an architect and planner, Orinda's Peter Hasselman was instrumental in the planning process for rebuilding in downtown Anchorage, Coalinga and Spitak, Armenia, following major earthquakes. The damage in and around Spitak resulted in some 25,000 deaths. The images of these devastated communities are still fresh in his memory.

Whereas Spitak sat astride a long overdue seismic fault, Orinda sits between two faults, both overdue for a major earthquake. Many of Orinda's downtown buildings are vulnerable. Loss of life as well as major property damage cannot be discounted.

How would our community respond? Would we simply hope for replication of buildings that were destroyed, without an overall plan for our downtown? It would be of some comfort to know the city is at least working on a downtown plan. Sadly, this is not the case. The City Council needs to allocate the necessary resources to enable downtown planning to occur. Orinda is way behind other cities in the Bay Area in this regard.

The vast majority of Orindans recognize the need for renewal of downtown. If renewal is to be done properly and with



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the necessary citizen input, professional planning assistance is needed. Will it take a major earthquake to get us to begin working on a plan? Would there be sufficient time in the aftermath of an earthquake to engage

in the kind of thoughtful process required?

We have the talent and resources within the Orinda community to address this issue now. For example, an Orinda resident

[SEE LETTERS page 8]

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OLIVE FESTIVAL / POLICE

Olive Festival at Wagner Ranch Nature Area Oct. 12

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Everyone is invited to attend the 5th Annual Olive Festival on Sunday, Oct. 12 from 1 to 4 pm. Set in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, with its 18 acres of forests including an olive grove, streams, ponds and historic ruins bordering San Pablo Creek, this popular fundraiser supports outdoor environmental education for children and youth. Last year over 400 people attended. The nature area is adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 360 Camino Pablo and Bear Creek Road in Orinda.

Liliana Spengler, public relations chair for the event, says, "Orinda's Annual Olive Festival is an event not to be missed. The setting is just lovely and its heritage is so rich. It makes for a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon and to support Orinda's beloved environmental education programs."

The only olive festival in the county, it celebrates the nature area's heritage olive grove, planted by California's first Surveyor General, Theodore Wagner, in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A group of young people enjoy making crafts at a recent Olive Festival.

1880s. The day's festivities include olive tastings, olive races, food, live music, arts and crafts for kids and adults, living history and more – admission is free. Ample parking can be found adjacent to the school, [SEE FESTIVAL page 12]

Senator DeSaulnier Held Orinda Meeting

Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D- Concord) held his September monthly mobile district office meeting in the Orinda Library Garden Room where he met with constituents. One constituent, James Soper, sought the senator's thoughts and input on several political concerns. "Senator DeSaulnier is the only politician I'm aware of concerned enough to hold monthly mobile meetings throughout his district," he said. "I'm extremely satisfied with DeSaulnier as my representative."

Future meetings in Orinda are planned. As the senator's meeting schedule rotates throughout his district, future dates were not yet available, but they will be posted



CHARLIE JARRETT
Senator DeSaulnier (L) with constituent James Soper

on his calendar at www.sdo7.senate.ca.gov.
– Charlie Jarrett, Staff Writer

Orinda Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament Returns October 13

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) presents the Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament on October 13 beginning at 10:30am at the Orinda Country Club. Be a hero and register for the tournament. Proceeds help support community events, programs, art and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

This year the tournament will honor all members of the Orinda Police Department. The tournament is a shamble format, shotgun start. Entry includes a buffet lunch, with contests, awards, raffle and after tournament fun. For more information, visit everydayheroes.golfreg.com.



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POLICE BLOTTER

August through September 6, 2014

Battery: 1 incident: Crescent Dr.
Burglary, Auto: 6 incidents: Wilder Blvd./Hwy 24, Beverages and More, Bobolink Rd., Orinda Starbucks, Orchard Rd. and Overhill Rd.
Burglary, Miscellaneous: 1 incident: Altarinda Cir./E. Altarinda Dr.
Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents: Sunset Ter., Patricia Rd. and El Gavilan.
Grand Theft: 1 incident at Spring Rd.
Identity Theft: 3 incident: Los Amigos, El Toyonal, and Counter Report at Orinda PD.
Petty Theft: 6 incidents: Orinda-woods Dr., Camino Sobrante (2), Hacienda Cir., Lost Valley Dr., and Tara Rd./Overhill Rd.
Shoplifting: 7 incidents: Orinda Safe-way (3), Orinda Rite Aid (2), Beverages and More, and Orinda Way.
Stolen Vehicle: 3 incidents: Van Ripper Ln., Wilder Blvd./Hwy. 24 and La Cresta Rd.
Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 1 incident: Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.
Threats: 1 incident: Fleetwood Ct.
Trespass: 1 incident: Frogs Leap Way.

Arrests
Drunk in Public Arrest: 1 arrest: Orinda PD.
Service to Citizen Arrest: 1 arrest: Orinda PD.
Subject Stop Arrest: 1 arrest: Moraga Way/Buena Vista.
Suspicious Circumstance Arrest: 1 arrest: Don Gabriel Way/El Camino Moraga.
Traffic Accident and Arrest: 3 arrests: Moraga Way/Oak Dr., Camino Pablo/Moraga Way and Hwy. 24/Fish Ranch Rd.
Traffic Stop Arrest: 8 arrests: Moraga Way/Camino Encinas, Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd., Brookwood Rd., Miner Rd./Camino Lenada, Orinda BART station and Hwy. 24/Fish Ranch Rd. (3).
Unwanted Guest Arrest: 1 arrest: Orinda Library.

Orinda BART Station

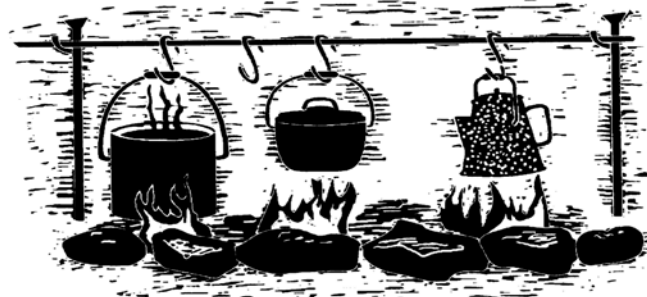
No reports.
– Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

Additional Police Activity through September 12

- On Friday, September 12, 2014, Orinda P.D. was dispatched to an unknown problem on the 20 block of Muth Drive which subsequently was determined to be a residential burglary in progress. Homeowners arrived home to find an unfamiliar bicycle in their driveway and upon entering the house through the garage found the suspect standing next to a broken window. The suspect fled on foot down Muth towards Hwy. 24. The homeowner and neighbors followed the suspect down Muth and were able to point responding officers in the direction of the fleeing suspect and a foot pursuit ensued. The suspect, later identified as Kyle Facchin, continued running on the bike trail adjacent to Hwy. 24 and upon seeing officers, he jumped the fence and proceeded to cross E/B Hwy. 24 lanes to the center median. An unmarked CHP car saw Facchin crossing lanes causing drivers to swerve and detained him. Orinda officers were able to stop traffic to cross Hwy. 24 and placed Facchin into custody. Facchin was searched without incident and was found to be in possession of several items from multiple homes.

Thirty year old Facchin was arrested for residential burglary, possession of narcotics, identity theft, and obstructing a Peace Officer. In addition, Facchin was wanted by Contra Costa County for burglary and by El Dorado County for robbery.

This arrest was successful in large part to citizens keeping an eye on the suspect as he was fleeing and providing updates to police as he moved. This is a very typical scenario of residential burglary and the vast criminal history of the suspects that commit these crimes.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

◆ LETTERS from page 6

who is a seismic engineer of international repute has offered to undertake a survey of Orinda's downtown buildings, at nominal cost to the city. Why not take him up on it?

Orinda needs to get on with creating a downtown plan. An earthquake assessment of our existing commercial and civic buildings should be part of the process. The Napa quake should be our wake-up call.

– Tom Trowbridge and Pete Hasselman

Throw out the incumbents

Orinda is at a critical point in its evolution and history, and Orindans need to seriously engage in the November City Council elections. Incumbents, Baltodano, Orr, and Worth (Baltodano from the Planning Commission), all supported the ugly, code violating, subsidized, four story monstrosity, Eden Housing, nearing completion across from Safeway. It pays no local taxes and the property, prior to being overturned by this City Council, was legally zoned for use by local residents, such as a library annex or a city park expansion.

The incumbents all opposed and defeated Montessori's well designed, attractive, two story, code compliant, pre school project that would have replaced the decades abandoned Phairs building and added vibrancy to our downtown. In fact, Baltodano was caught in an email exchange colluding with now Mayor Severson trying to influence Planning Commissioners against the Montessori project.

And if you think this council's approach to fixing our roads in our lifetimes through Measure J, passed in an off election with less than half of the voters participating, is going to work, think again. (Measure J passed with only 46 percent of the eligible voters voting, whereas in the 2012 General Election 86 percent of Orinda's eligible voters participated.) Their approach is lack-

ing the fundamental elements for a major project and, despite numerous attempts to enlighten, they remain entrenched in their day-to-day confused maintenance approach to a large capital improvement program. And then there is the Miner Rd. on again off again "not sure what to do" fiasco.

So, if you are concerned with the local government's (mis) direction over the past few years and not supporting the desires and needs of Orinda's taxpayers, its time to oust the conflicted incumbents Baltodano, Orr, Worth (and thank you but four terms really is enough already) and vote for those who value and understand Orinda's schools and will act to preserve its cherished semi rural uniqueness—and most importantly will listen to Orindans. Participate in protecting Orinda's future. Vote yes for Eve Phillips and yes for Linda Delehunt.

– Chris Kniel

Continuity Important on School Boards

As a former school board member in Orinda, I know what qualities to look for in a school board candidate: a focus on the best education for all students, past experience volunteering in the public schools, and an ability to collaborate well with other board members, with no personal agenda.

Being on a school board is hard work, especially when the state is always finding creative ways to cut school funding. I think it's important to have continuity on boards, as well as new ideas, because there is a steep learning curve, and it takes time to understand the many issues a board faces.

Julie Rossiter on the Orinda Union School District board and Susie Epstein on the Acalanes School District board have both done an excellent job. They are dedicated, collaborative and focused on students. I have known both of them for many years, both as school board members and on the Friends of the Orinda Library board.

I highly recommend both Susie Epstein and Julie Rossiter for re-election to their respective boards in November. They will continue to serve our communities well in maintaining excellence in our schools.

– Linda Landau

New Faces Are Needed In Orinda City Council

While the majority of Orindans were busy tending to their families and careers, our City Council intentionally allowed Eden Housing's Monteverde Apartments to exceed the 35-foot height limit delineated in our General Plan. In case you were wondering if this apartment building would solve a problem for Orinda's empty nesters, Eden is legally prohibited from giving preferential treatment to current Orinda residents in the renter selection process. I encourage you to look at this structure on 2 Irwin Way (across the street from Safeway) and decide for yourself if it conforms to the semi-rural character of Orinda described in our General Plan.

Meanwhile, Fountainhead Montessori Preschool, a respected and popular fixture in Orinda, had undergone an extensive Planning Commission review of its plan to relocate to the former Phair's building site. The plan was approved by a 5-2 vote, with the then-chairman one of the no votes. This approval was appealed by an Orinda resident and City Council overturned the Planning Commission's decision. A Public Records Act request by concerned citizens revealed numerous e-mails involving a developer and several Orinda decision makers regarding a future, large commercial development on this very property, including recommendations on raising the height limit without revising the General Plan so as to increase profitability.

This is all very consistent with the 4th Cycle Housing Element adopted by City Council in 2013 after considerable public turmoil due to its blatant pro-developer verbiage which remained in the final draft despite council and staff's pledge to remove it.

If you believe that a small group of influential insiders should not determine Orinda's future, that issues such as crime are more important than encouraging high-rise development, and that our semi-rural character is precious, please join me in voting for only Eve Phillips in the City Council Election.

– Bruce London

Meanings of words change.

Consider Webster's plans for a new definition of "literal," "figurative," in view of the prevalent misuse of the term.

When our country was founded, "public service" was a temporary sacrifice by otherwise-accomplished people.

A class of professional "public servants" has arisen, aspiring to wield (more) power. Subjectively, they may believe their use of power is good, and initially may have

sought public office for at least somewhat selfless purposes, but eventually those "public servants" obsess with preserving and growing their own power and that of government itself. This disease crosses party lines.

Amy Worth has become a career bureaucrat, seeking primarily to please the right special interests at the expense of Orinda electorate. Her vote for ABAG/MTC regionalization of planning and forced stack-and-pack housing (Plan Bay Area) cements her failure to represent the views and interests of Orinda citizens. Her vote for Monteverde subsidized housing – violating long-standing building height restrictions -- does not serve the interests of citizens of Orinda, who have no priority to live there.

Instead, Orinda schools face profound challenges, being shortchanged thousands of dollars a year compared with other schools. This funding inequity is made up by an average family donation of \$1200 per student. The introduction of hundreds of low-income housing units, occupied with students whose families cannot afford such a donation will spell the decline of Orinda schools. Amy Worth fails to address this issue.

Orinda, our state, and nation must return to electing those with a career or interests aside from bureaucracy. Then, after a limited time, they can return to or continue their prior professions or activities with our gratitude and live under the regime they created!

Eve Phillips and Linda Delehunt are two candidates who fit this mold. I urge the citizens of Orinda to set an example for other cities, and our state. Let's zealously guard the exercise of our rights. Yes, it's more work, and it means we don't look to the government to cure every problem. If we continue in the mold of Amy Worth, free-range chickens will have more freedom than we.

– Michael Garrabrants

Education Not Politics Key to School Board

Having served on the Orinda School Board for 12 years, I remain committed to ensuring that our students continue to receive a top-notch education. I believe our schools are best served by local leaders who eschew the partisan politics and gamesmanship that has paralyzed Congress and focus on educating our youth. I know that three of the candidates for school board have the strength of character and experience to rise to this challenge.

Julie Rossiter, Hillary Weiner and Jason Kaune each have children attending Orinda schools and are intimately familiar with the challenges and opportunities our schools face. They each have a track record of volunteering on behalf of the schools and the community-at-large. And, perhaps most importantly, they each bring an ability to

[SEE LETTERS 2 page 10]



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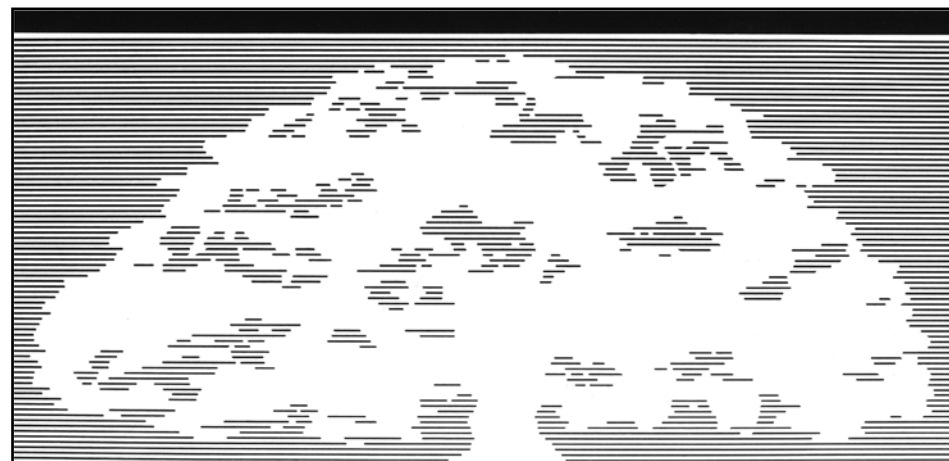
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CARS

CAR TIME

How To Improve Your Car Repair Experience



By JOHN VANEK

Nobody looks forward to taking a vehicle in for service. There is the inconvenience of being without a car, the unknown expectations of what the car may need and the stress of how much it may cost. However, owners have some control over the visit. How can you, the owner/driver, make the car care experience better?

It starts with bringing your vehicle in for service. If your vehicle is due for more than an oil change, it is recommended to schedule an appointment. Services will vary depending on the mileage. There are some milestone services that take more time and cost more money. Determine the nature of the visit before picking up the phone to make an appointment. Your car care provider can help you figure it out.

We have a large percentage of customers who make an appointment for a "service" but have no clue what that means. To compound the confusion we may not be the facility that serviced it last. An oil change service may take an hour or less. However, if the vehicle needs something like a 90,000 mile service, that may include a full inspection with spark plugs and timing belt. That job will take all day and cost significantly more than an oil change. Understand this information and plan ahead.

It helps to make the experience easy for your car care provider also. If it goes well for the service provider it will go well for you too. These are professional facilities that are in business to serve you but can do their job better with your cooperation. Let them know if you cannot make an appointment or will be late. Respond to any

phone or email messages. A repair facility cannot do repairs without your authorization. Waiting for you to call back will slow down the process and affect getting your car back the same day.

When you drop off your vehicle, give the service personnel enough time to check you in and discuss your needs. The Bureau of Automotive Repairs guidelines state that a repair order must be signed with the consumer getting a copy indicating the estimated price. Give them time to do their job properly.

Be aware of what is going on with your car so you can share that information with your repair shop. If your car has a check engine light on and you have an appointment for a "service" this will throw your shop off a bit. A check engine light indicates some kind of malfunction that will require diagnosis and repair. By the way, please do not bring your vehicle in with fuel light on! We do not want to run out of gas in your car nor do we want to spend extra time putting gas in your car.

It all starts with keeping up with maintenance. Understand what kind of service will be required next. The maintenance intervals are spelled out in the owner's manual. The manual will also describe the dash warning lights so you can give your car mechanic educated information to help the process. Be part of the car care process and make your life easier.

Thank You Orinda!
The Best Classic Car Show yet.

10th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Roaring Success



DAVID DIERKS

Attendees of the Orinda Classic Car Show enjoy the cars on the Orinda County Club's 16th Fairway.

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The 10th Orinda Classic Car Show, held Sept. 12 through 14, was deemed a roaring success. The three-day weekend kicked off with Dancing with the Cars, followed the next day by the car show and came to a close on day three with Speed on the Screen featuring *The Blues Brothers* and *Duel*. Organized by Chip Herman and hosted by Orinda Motors, the event showcased 220 vehicles along Avenida de Orinda, Orinda Way and the 16th fairway of the Orinda Country Club. The event raised more than \$60,000 for local charities. "That brings the 10-year total to more than \$300,000," said Herman.

Dancing with the Cars, the ticketed party, had over 250 attendees. The party allowed guests a sneak peek at some of the cars before the show. This year's party theme was Rebels with a Cause and had a '50s dinner catered by Shelby's with wait staff provided by the Orinda Starlight Village Players.

Herman declared the car show the best

ever. "Beautiful weather and great crowds taking in all the sights and sounds; a record 220 entries; 13 outstanding Porsches in the special exhibit and 43 Porsches overall; and more than 35 Mustangs and Shelybs as part of the Mustang 50th Anniversary celebration." The show was followed by a parade in which some lucky attendees were able to ride in the classic vehicles.

Orinda Motors sponsored the event with generous support from the Orinda Country Club in opening its 16th fairway. "It was an outstanding job by all the great volunteers who made the show happen and a special thanks to our community partners," said Herman.

Organizations benefitting from the show include Educational Foundation of Orinda, Seniors Around Town, Orinda Association, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Orinda Historical Society Museum. For more information and to see a photo gallery of some vehicles in the show, visit www.orindacarshow.com.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

◆ LETTERS 2 from page 8

work cooperatively and fairly to ensure that our schools keep moving forward.

Each of these candidates are seeking a seat on the school board because they care about students, not because they see this as a springboard for another office or to carry a banner for special interests. I urge voters to join me in putting students first by electing Julie Rossiter, Hillary Weiner, and Jason Kaune to the Orinda school board.

– Pat Rudebusch

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Seldom have Orinda voters faced a more stark difference in City Council candidates. Nowhere is that more evident than in the case of Fountainhead Montessori, an institution that has served countless Orinda families for 40 years.

Last fall, after spending a year working with city staff, funding environmental impact studies and earning Planning Commission approval, Fountainhead Montessori sought to increase its capacity by 50 percent, while also providing brand new retail space, in an under-35-feet-high, mixed use facility, replacing the 12-years-vacant, Phairs building in downtown Orinda. Many citizens came forward with cogent points in

support of this proposal. But Amy Worth, Dean Orr and Carlos Baltodano (via minority vote on the Planning Commission) all voted no! And there's more.

Only weeks later, Ms. Worth, Mr. Orr and Mr. Baltodano snubbed Fountainhead Montessori yet again, by re-zoning the ball fields at Santa Maria Church for high density housing. These ball fields are adjacent to the facilities, currently leased by Fountainhead Montessori. Moreover, they initiated this re-zoning without permission of the property owner and without an environmental impact report. This lack of an environmental impact report subsequently cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in unbudgeted legal expense.

Actions speak louder than words. When faced with a real opportunity to increase downtown vibrancy, to rejuvenate a vacant downtown retail site, to demonstrate a real commitment for quality day care and education, Ms. Worth, Mr. Orr and Mr. Baltodano went in a different direction. They opened the door for high-density housing.

This Orinda election is all about irreversible, high-rise, high-density, residential real estate development, and its trigger for educational and environmental impacts. If you think that Fountainhead Montessori is an isolated case, follow the trail of how Eden Housing's Monteverde project, which was

initiated as a smaller scale, 44-unit project, was craftily manipulated into the 67-unit, 48 feet tall, 46 units-per-acre mountain, that is currently under construction on Orinda Way. Do you really want more of this?

There is an alternative. Miramonte valedictorian, Eve Phillips, has the pelts on the wall, the management experience and the commitment to do better. Eve Phillips is not beholden to real estate developers or political insiders. Learn more at www.evefororinda.com. Do it today. You will be glad that you did.

– Owen Murphy

Proven Experience for School Board

Julie Rossiter is running for re-election to the Orinda School Board. She is the candidate who has my vote. I encourage each and every voter in Orinda to vote to re-elect Julie Rossiter to the school board.

Julie has been a dedicated member of the school board for the last four years. As a returning trustee, the experience Julie Rossiter brings to the board will be invaluable.

Julie is dynamic, committed and honest. She truly values excellence in education and is passionate about public school education in Orinda. She uses her background as a former attorney to get things done. She is the mother of three school-aged children who have been attending Orinda schools for the last 10 years. She is incredibly knowledgeable about our school district.

Experience, unwavering commitment and the vision of a team that will work hand-in-hand with parents, teachers, administrators, students and the community are crucial. With Julie's strong, experienced leadership and perseverance, excellence will continue to be the standard for our district.

Endorsed by current and former school board trustees, all five city council members, as well as numerous education leaders, Julie Rossiter is the leading candidate.

I wholeheartedly support Julie Rossiter in her re-election to the Orinda School Board and ask you to vote for her as well.

– Kimberly Thomas

The Place We All Call Home

In our town, one can hear church bells ring the hour, be greeted on a first-name basis at a coffee shop, take the kids to a 25 year old family-run restaurant, attend a July 4th parade reminiscent of small-town America, and confidently enroll children in top-rated and small classroom schools. On a walk, the handprint of a child can be found in a concrete path to someone's family residence, and a live Oak in a park has a carved heart bearing initials of long-ago lovers.

There are few such towns left in California. You'll find a few like ours at the bases of mountains, blending into the landscape, unobtrusive of the scenery that surrounds them. They offer a respite from the frantic pace and unendurable traffic that comes with living in a metropolitan city where one can get lost and forget what matters. Towns like Orinda are filled with unpretentious people who care deeply and instinctively about what matters in their lives. They want to preserve what cannot be replaced for their children and grandchildren once forsaken for large-scale development. Such towns celebrate the sacredness of the land, the authenticity of family life, and freedom from bureaucratic intrusion.

Councilmembers Amy Worth and Dean Orr speak of the assets of the Orinda "community" in their statements for re-election to the City Council. But both candidates vote repeatedly against preservation of Orinda's character and family values. There is an unfolding story of drive and ambition slowly pushing Orinda toward a rising city of glass, metal and stone that contradicts the heart and soul of Orinda. Their association is with extortive outside interests whose objective is financial gain and/or ideological extremes. Their belief is that regional bureaucracies know what is best for our town, our schools, our way of living and thriving.

This November's election will be a decisive moment in the history of our town. Candidate Eve Phillips affirms that the direction of Orinda ultimately rests with the families that reside here. Her statements reflect citizens' ownership of Orinda with loyalty to the place where roots run deep. This new candidate deserves our support and our vote. If not, we will look back into a world of golden mountains that once sang in the sun and which was ours before we were complacent and unhappy.

– Charlie Brown

Hillary Weiner for School Board

Please support Hillary Weiner for a seat on the OUSD school board on November 4.

With children in school together for the past five years, we have admired Hillary's keen interest in education issues and her commitment to school volunteerism, most recently serving as president of the Glorietta Parent's Club. Hillary is a steady and thoughtful leader who thinks objectively and analytically. She understands that effective leadership requires an inclusive approach to building relationships with the school community and its many partners.

As a member of the board, Hillary will respect and value the views of her fellow board members and the governance pro-

[SEE LETTERS 3 page 23]



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Dianne Crosby

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BOOKS / AUTHORS

Orinda Books Hosts Launch of *How to Bake a Man*

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Jessica Barksdale Inclán was raised in Orinda, where she also raised her two sons. The prolific author of 13 books now lives in Montclair but took time last year to teach a writing class at the Orinda Library; plans are in the works for a repeat. A busy professor of writing, mythology and women's literature at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, she also teaches online and on-land writing courses through UCLA extension. She is excited about the launch of her new book, *How to Bake a Man*, at Orinda Books on Nov. 1 at 2 pm. "I'm bringing cookies to the launch since *How to Bake a Man* centers on baking," says Inclán.

Becca Muchmore, her protagonist, drops out of grad school and falls back on her baking skills to earn a crust. Despite her mother's disapproval, she creates a business hand delivering home-baked goods to law offices in downtown San Francisco, naming it Becca's Best. At times she is swept away by office politics, especially going toe-to-toe with the resident femme fatale (who happens to look just like her). Her neighbor Sal helps out with the business, while her best friend works to keep her off an emotional roller coaster. Can Becca conjure up true love along with Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies? Will she and her mother ever agree on anything? You'll have to buy the book to find out, and you'll be glad you did. See www.jessicabarksdaleinclan.com.

Inclán enjoys Jane Austen, John Irving and everyone she's ever read. "I get something out of everything I read, even if it's bad. I read a lot; that includes my students' work from terrible essays to pretty good novels at UCLA," she says. Each of her books takes a different amount of time to write. *How to Bake a Man* took about three years as it went through a lot of revisions, especially with the recipes. She's been able to produce a relatively clean draft of other novels in three months. The time difference isn't important to her as, "Some books just take longer."

Regarding the voice for each book, "I really felt like I was a 28-year-old woman desperately trying to figure out my place in the world when I was writing *How to Bake a Man*; it felt like the main character and I were one." She is currently writing something where one of the characters is an 84-year-old Native-American woman; the character's tone permeates the book.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Join Jessica Barksdale Inclán at her book launch for *How to Bake a Man* on Nov. 1 at 2 pm. She will be answering questions about her new book and dishing out cookies at Orinda Books.

In her earlier novels she says the voices were somewhat similar but now she is distinguishing the different voices of the characters, and so the current novels differ from each other dramatically.

Inclán's novels range from contemporary women's fiction, to romance to chick-lit. "Now we're adding food to the chick-lit category! All my tweets are about food now," says Inclán.

Join her at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Nov. 1 at 2 pm and sample her excellent writing along with her scrumptious cookies. Call 925-254-7606 for more information.

OCF Grant Applications

The Orinda Community Foundation is currently accepting applications from nonprofit organizations for its annual grant program. Nonprofit groups involved in enhancing the quality of life in Orinda through community events, programs, projects, visual and performing arts and community related partnerships in Orinda and surrounding areas are invited to apply. Information and application forms are available at www.orindafoundation.org.

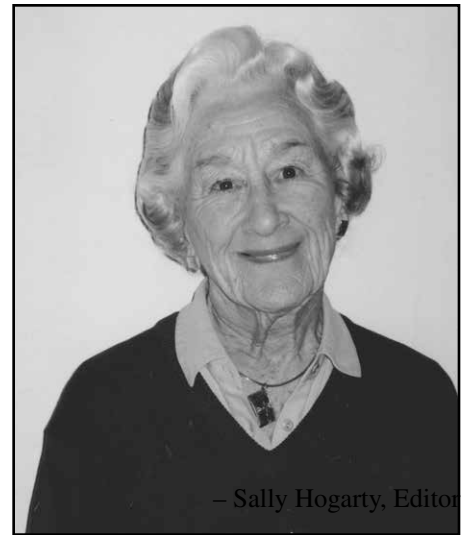
Orinda Books New Owners Join Chamber



DAVID DIERKS
Maria and Danny Roden, the new owners of Orinda Books, recently joined the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. (L-R) Candy Kattenburg, Roy Hodgkinson, Danny and Maria Roden, former owner of Orinda Books Janet Boreta, Sylvia Jorgensen, Bruce Burrows, Michael Walker, and Raya Walker were on hand for the ribbon cutting.

Local Author Reads from Her New Mystery Novel

The story of a young child growing up in a London orphanage sets the stage for Orinda resident Marie Wagner Krenz's latest mystery novel. *Death at Arbours* follows Emily Clayton, who eventually leaves the orphanage, marries and moves to the United States. Unfortunately, her young husband dies mysteriously and, after years of indecision, Emily returns to England to seek her heritage. Her search leads to a wealthy, reclusive family who invites her to Arbours, their country home in Kent. Is finding the answers to her heritage worth losing her life? Find out as Krenz reads from her novel on Oct. 29 at 4 pm at Orinda Books, located at 276 Village Square in Orinda. Call 925-254-7606 for more information.



Author Marie Wagner Krenz.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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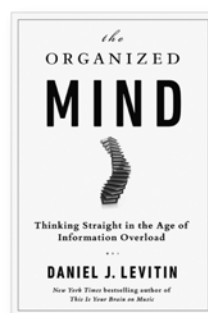
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REEL / RUNNER



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POLANSKI'S CLASSIC AIRS IN ORINDA



Tom Westlake

This month, the Film Classics Showcase has selected one corker of a movie in *Rosemary's Baby*. Directed by Roman Polanski, the film does exactly what a horror film should without jump scares, gore or mindless teenagers doing stupid things. Polanski has always made psychologically unsettling films, especially early in his career (*Repulsion* and *The Tenant* come immediately to mind.) *Rosemary's Baby* is no exception. Telling the story of a young couple (Mia Farrow, John Cassavetes) who find the ideal apartment, soon learn that a low rent is the good news. The bad news ... is something you'll have to find out for yourself. It will screen at the Orinda Theatre, for free, on October 9 at 7 pm.

Midway through the month, we have *Summertime*, a 1955 film starring Katherine Hepburn and Rossano Brazzi. Playing to type, Hepburn is a strong, directed woman finally getting to experience Venice for the first time. Though determined to be

independent, she soon succumbs to the romantic pull of this most romantic of cities by falling – twice: Once into a canal (an iconic scene in film history) and the second time for Renato de Rossi (Brazzi). This is one of those films where the city itself is a character and Venice has never looked so appealing, mostly due to David Lean's direction. His gifts to cinema also include *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Dr. Zhivago*. It is hard to tell what shines the brightest, Hepburn's performance or Venice itself. The movie shows on Oct. 15, 1 pm at the Rheem.

This is a short list of what's coming up at local theatres so keep checking www.LamorindaTheatres.com for more movie mavens. And, be sure and go to <http://internationalshowcase.org> to see what inspiring and entertaining film Efi and JoAlice will be showing this month.

Until we meet again, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

Heart Problems Don't Deter Marathoner Kent Grelling

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Kent Grelling overcame a congenital heart condition to realize his dream of becoming a marathon runner.

Runners from all over the world who manage a life-altering health condition with the aid of medical technology will hit the streets of Minneapolis-St. Paul October 5 to compete in the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon and Medtronic TC 10 Mile events. Each runner is living proof that a chronic health condition need not impede an active lifestyle. Dr. Kent Grelling of Orinda will be one of those runners.

Back in 1972, Grelling watched Frank Shorter win the marathon in the Olympics. His dream of becoming a marathon runner was born. At the time, he didn't know how he could possibly accomplish this because he was born with a congenital heart condition and running wasn't in the picture; but the dream persisted. Grelling's first open heart surgery occurred in his 20s. He did some running after that surgery but without training; unfortunately, he injured his knees and had to stop. At age 42, he underwent a second heart surgery after his cardiologist discovered an aneurysm in his aortic artery - not something either of them

expected to find.

After two years of recovery, Grelling decided to start getting in shape again. His knees had healed, and he joined a half-marathon training program sponsored by the American Heart Association (AHA). He wanted to give back to the AHA because he had benefitted from their research and treatment work. He was amazed that the training transformed how he felt about exercise.

"It went from something I forced myself to do out of a sense of obligation, to something I chose to do for pleasure," says [SEE GRELLING page 24]

◆ CHARMS from page 2

charm bracelets or wine glasses, the first two charms featured the Miramonte Matadors logo and the second charm displayed a small detail of the historic Orinda Union School. Subsequent charms will feature Orinda landmarks, events, people and other images that honor Orinda, its history and the community.

No purchase is necessary to receive a charm. Customers just need to utter the

secret phrase for that month. September and October's phrase is Orinda Rocks. Say the magic words in October and you will receive either a charm showing one of the beautiful outdoor sculptures in Orinda or a Mixology charm highlighting the Orinda Arts Council's October fundraiser.

The monthly phrase will be printed in various local media including *The Orinda News*. It will also be available at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and on the Echo

grove website at www.echogrovestore.com.

"Like our store, this is about having fun," says owner Dean Shutt. "This gives us a chance to thank the City of Orinda for the really mind-blowing welcome we've received. Our hope is that people get excited about collecting the charms, and we continue issuing a new design throughout 2015."

Echo grove is located at 2 Theatre Square, #112, just down from Starbucks.

◆ FESTIVAL from page 7

playground and sports fields.

Kathy Barrett, secretary of the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (FWRNA), invites the public to enter through the main gate by the school entrance, the playground gate near the kitchen or the orchard gate. The orchard gate is off the entrance to the old Wagner Homestead. In times past, horse-drawn carriages drove right down to Wagner's home, passing the olive orchard and continuing down the pathway edged with trees to his old homestead.

Win a prize by entering your creation in the first-ever Olive Recipe Contest in either the adult or child division (16 and under). Show up by 2:30 pm with your dish and recipe for the culinary judges to taste and vote on; prizes will be awarded on the spot. Support Orinda's environmental education for young people by checking out the tempting silent auction items or take a

chance on a raffle ticket or two.

The event begins at 12:50 pm when young musicians from ALMA Music of Orinda tune up for naturalist Toris Jaeger's opening of the festival at 1 pm when the Eagle Scout project will be honored. After this the fun begins: the olive pit spit challenge; olive race; guided tours of the olive grove and historic areas and arts and crafts (olive wreaths, olive crowns). Discover the work of three talented *plein air* painters from the Lafayette Art Gallery - Judith Feins, Jill Landau and Debby Koonce - who are demonstrating their techniques in the olive grove. See www.lafayettegallery.net/ for more information about their work.

All Orinda elementary school children attend educational nature camps at the site while the information about the history of olive culture in California will appeal to the entire community. Camps include 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 classrooms outdoors to learn gardening in the raised beds. The site is owned by the Orinda Union School District.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the nonprofit event is invited to call Kathy Barrett at 925-254-2224 to sign up. See www.fwrna.org for more information.



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CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Candidates for City Council Discuss Their Priorities for Orinda

Carlos Baltodano



Housing Element

Diversity of perspective is important to effectively formulate public policy in an open democratic society. As a member of the Planning Committee for six years, and as chair the past year, I have a deep understanding of the state requirements (5th Cycle Housing Element) and the city's plans to address them.

The Housing Element must be consistent with the city's General Plan. It is subject to official certification by the State Department of Housing and Community Development, which ensures that it complies with State law. If the Housing Element is not certified as compliant with state law, Orinda could lose state grant money to improve our roads. We must not let this happen!

There are two issues: 1) What constitutes compliance, and 2) How to address and incorporate public concerns. Compliance is providing opportunities to meet the goal of 227 units by 2023. The city has already made large strides to meet this goal. Over

The five members of Orinda's City Council are elected volunteers who set policy, give direction to City Staff and make budget decisions. Besides attending twice-monthly council meetings, each council member serves on several committees. They also interact with the various levels of government between the city and the state on issues such as transportation, housing and traffic. Their term is four years.

This November, six candidates (including two incumbents) will vie for three available seats. They were asked the following questions.

1. Many local residents have expressed strong opinions on the 5th Cycle Housing Element. What are your feelings about this state-mandated program and the potential loss of state grant money for noncompliance? How will you incorporate public concerns?
2. The changing face of Orinda's downtown continues to be a source of concern for many. What are your views on building height and density issues?
3. How would you rank, in order of importance, three areas of need in Orinda?
4. What leadership/management skills/experience do you possess that will make you an effective city councilmember?

half of the required units have been built and will count towards meeting the 5th Cycle Housing Element. Specifically, the 67 units being built by Eden Housing for low-income seniors will count towards the low-income housing requirement. The eight units in the Pulte project will count towards the goal for moderate income persons, and more than four second units will count towards meeting the low-income housing goal. The units being built at Wilder and Orinda Oaks more than meet the goal for market rate housing.

The housing needs of Orinda continue to be housing for seniors. More than one-third of Orinda homes have a head of a household 65 or older. There needs to be a continued high priority to meet the needs of seniors and to find opportunities for less expensive housing to enable a transition from larger homes in the community. In addition, there is a need to address housing for young professionals and locally-employed, lower-paid occupations.

It is crucial to incorporate local public concerns in this process. The City Council [SEE BALTODANO page 22]

Linda Delehunt



Housing Element

The City of Orinda's website states that

Orinda residents have strongly indicated that they want improvements to the quality and range of services and retail stores in both the village and Crossroads sides of downtown. Further, the website states that residents wish to preserve and enhance Orinda's unique small town character. My personal goals are consistent with the goals of Orinda residents.

In order to achieve these goals, the city's housing element must be consistent with the wishes of the residents of Orinda. In order to support the goals of the residents, then, the housing element should be advocacy neutral and only contain items that are absolutely necessary in order for the city to receive HCD certification.

The city needs to communicate with its residents so as to incorporate their ideas into the housing element. Town hall meetings should drive decisions. Everyone should have a voice. There are many concerned citizen groups that can effectively assist in guiding the process. Orinda is rich in that its citizens are concerned, knowledgeable and conscientious. The citizens of Orinda need a louder voice in the city's discussions and ultimate decisions.

Downtown Height and Density

The city's master plan for housing needs to be respected. The height limits for buildings are clearly stated in the city's master plan and are 35 feet. These height limits reflect the wishes of thoughtful, knowledgeable and wise Orinda residents. It is unacceptable that current city leadership has disregarded the wishes of residents and approved heights upwards of 20' in excess of limits stated in the master plan.

Similarly, density issues are of major concern to residents. Traffic patterns need analysis and must be addressed before [SEE DELAHUNT page 24]

FRESH IDEAS FOR ORINDA

Carlos Baltodano

For Orinda City Council



CARLOS BALTODANO

ORINDA FIRST!

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



Priorities:

- Improve communication between the City Council and residents
- Continue to improve and fix all Orinda residential roads
- Institute an open door policy to listen to residents
- Combat increasing crime rate
- Explore opportunities for smart and sustainable growth in downtown
- Enhance and support local businesses
- Partner with schools to increase opportunities for our children

www.carlosfororindacouncil.com

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

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Dean Orr



Housing Element

The Housing Element is one of several sections of Orinda's General Plan. The City of Orinda is mandated by the State of California to have a Housing Element that is updated on a regular schedule and certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Without this certification, the city is exposed to litigation that we have seen throughout the state to cost local jurisdictions hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees and time. We also risk losing transportation and planning dollars that are only made available to cities with certified elements that have been adopted by their City Council.

In Orinda, we are proceeding with the Ivy Drive Pavement Rehabilitation Project. The project will include: repair of localized base failures; repaving; new curbs and gutters; safety striping and ADA accessibility upgrades. These are major improvements to one of our heavily travelled roadways and supports our commitment to provide safe routes to schools. This project would not have been possible without grant funding in excess of \$500,000. Given our extremely constrained budget for road and infrastructure repair and the condition of our local

roads, I believe we must do everything possible to seek grant funding opportunities such as this and a certified Housing Element is one of the mandatory criteria that these grants carry.

Preparation of the 5th cycle Housing Element is now underway, and our planning staff has published a schedule that includes public workshops and numerous open meetings with both the Planning Commission and City Council. We have a dedicated link on our city website that posts all draft documents and correspondence received by the city.

In addition to the opportunity to comment and participate in the process through workshops, regular meetings and on-line submissions, the 5th cycle will also include a complete Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Before the EIR is adopted, a draft of the document will be circulated to all local agencies and made available for public comment. Our consultants and staff will document and respond to all comments in the final draft.

The 5th cycle Housing Element will only be successful if we have robust public participation. I strongly believe that we can develop a document that reflects the consensus of the community and enforces and supports the vision and goals of our original General Plan.

Downtown Height and Density

Our current maximum building height for the Downtown Commercial District (DC) is 35' and 2 1/2 stories. I believe that the current regulations as outlined in Chapter 17 of the Orinda Municipal Code have served our community well for many years. I do, however, also believe that planning is not stagnant and that building in any environment, whether it be rural, semi-rural or urban, should not be conceived under a one-size-fits-all zoning code.

Orinda, like most communities has a [SEE ORR page 16]

Eve Phillips



Housing Element

I believe the frustrations felt by the citizens around the development of the 5th Housing Element are due to the perception, that I share, that the current council is more interested in receiving approval (and funds) from the regional transportation entities than in the interests of the citizens of Orinda in shaping the future of their town. Our preferences as residents should take a much stronger role in this discussion.

The Housing Element debate is a manifestation of a much larger issue of local versus regional control over local planning and development. I am, in general, in favor of local control for Orinda over its planning decisions. While, of course, we must abide by state laws, the discussion we should be having first is on the costs and benefits of a certified Housing Element, which would require rezoning parts of our town for high-density housing to meet the various housing capacities levied on us by the regional planning organizations.

The presentations given thus far in Orinda on this topic appeared only to support creating a certifiable Housing Element and have not given the community a forum to discuss the trade-offs of engaging in that process. In addition, they have not offered an opportunity for the community to speak together or even ask public questions with public answers of the consultants

driving the process. Even should we, as a community, decide to move forward with developing a certifiable Housing Element, we need much more transparency and communication with citizens, property owners and local business in the selection of potential sites. We need this communication to rebuild trust and to create clarity around Orinda's future development plans.

Having a non-compliant Housing Element presents potential costs and risks, in terms of lost government incentives and the threat of lawsuits, but so does paving the way for additional high-density housing in Orinda. Regardless of the result, I believe the council can drive a much more transparent, inclusive process to address the frustration felt by many residents. I put my trust into the citizens of Orinda to work with their elected City Council to come up with a plan forward for Orinda.

Downtown Height and Density

Orinda is facing increasing pressure from state and regional groups to continue to develop high density housing, which frequently includes pressure to increase height limits. However, I believe such high-density, high-rise development violates our General Plan and is completely out of character with Orinda's unique, semi-rural charm for which most residents chose to live in this town. Such development projects rarely take into consideration the concerns and preferences of existing citizens.

In addition, Orinda must compete with other Bay Area towns and cities for families on the basis of quality of life, schools and scenic beauty. If we want to continue to be attractive to new residents and to protect our investments in our properties, we must preserve our town's character.

However, we can also not allow our downtown to stagnate. Redevelopment consistent with existing height limits and setbacks should be encouraged. Empty [SEE PHILLIPS page 22]

Robert Thompson
A FINANCIAL EXPERT
FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL

- 37-year career as an investment advisor
- Chair, Orinda Finance Advisory Committee
- President, Founding Boardmember, Bay Area Financial Education Foundation
- Boardmember, United Way of the Bay Area Finance Committee
- Chair, Investment Committee of the Girl Scouts of Northern California
- Past President, CFA Society of San Francisco
- Member, Finance and Investment Committees of St. Stephen's Church
- Member, Investment Committee, Episcopal Diocese of California



I'm Bob Thompson, and I'd appreciate your vote for Orinda City Council. My wife and I are proud to have raised our family in Orinda, and I'd like to give back and offer my financial experience as a different perspective on our city council. I've worked as an investment advisor for over 37 years, and volunteered my time and effort to maintain our community's incredible quality of life.

Please contact me at (415) 740-6807 with any questions about my background or any of my positions. Thank you!

-Bob



For more information about Robert Thompson, please visit his website at www.RobertThompson4Orinda.com

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

“MOST RESIDENTS AGREE THAT ORINDA IS WELL RUN, BUT OUR CITY COUNCIL WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT FROM SOMEONE WITH BOB'S FINANCIAL EXPERTISE. THAT'S WHY I'M ENDORSING HIM FOR ORINDA CITY COUNCIL.”
-Mayor Sue Severson

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Robert Thompson



Housing Element

We need to recognize that this is a decision that will have an impact for multiple decades and needs to be thoughtfully considered. While I am supportive of the current plan, I do have some concerns about the process, and I am open to hearing new information from anyone who has something to contribute.

There have been some very strong opinions about this, and I think this is partly because some feel disconnected from the decision makers in our community. And while I have concerns about state mandates, ultimately I believe we can incorporate the requirements into a plan that works for Orinda's specific character if we work together in a collaborative process.

In other words, doing this in a way that is transparent and allows everyone to feel heard needs to be a priority. In order to receive state funding, we need to accept that there will be some changes coming. However, I look at this as an opportunity to improve the downtown in ways that work for us.

The Housing Element decision needs to be made within a comprehensive plan for the commercial areas of the city. Such a plan should be developed with as many

affected participants collaborating as possible. I would like to start a task force (which would have a specific task and a time line) that would give all parties an equal chance to voice their opinions and concerns. This would include citizens, businesses, landowners, environmental advocates and the developers.

Downtown Height and Density

Rigid building height limits can make it difficult to develop a comprehensive, long-term plan for a commercial downtown, and I prefer to look at each project individually. Orinda is known for its beauty, and any project in our downtown has to fit into the existing charm of our city. I do not favor arbitrary height limits, but I will not support any project that I believe changes the "feel" of our city.

The density concern is going to have to be addressed as well, particularly if we are going to bring more residential facilities into what is now our commercial area. How this should be done is, again, a decision that needs to be addressed transparently, carefully, and, like the Housing Element, with input from a broad group of constituencies. If we work as a group, I think we can come up with a plan that allows for higher density residential development in certain areas while maintaining the qualities of Orinda that we love.

Areas of Need in Orinda

1. While our city has shown financial and budgetary prudence, we need someone on the City Council with a substantial financial background who can help ensure this continues for the long-term. My background will help us examine and possibly remedy the escalating cost of services, as well as find ways to fund the renovation and long-term maintenance of the road system.

2. The city needs to address the public safety concerns a number of citizens are

[SEE THOMPSON page 16]

Amy Worth



Housing Element

State mandates on local government are one of the biggest challenges that cities in California face. Working with the League of California Cities, Orinda advocates for the interests of our city in Sacramento. As an Orinda City Councilmember, I have worked actively to oppose and defeat state legislation that reduces our local control over land use decisions.

Under long standing state law, all cities in California are required to adopt a state-approved housing element. By not complying with state law, Orinda would lose significant funds for paving our streets and roads each year.

In developing a local housing element, it is essential that the housing plan reflect local community priorities. To ensure that our housing element reflects those local citizen priorities, Orinda adopts its state mandated housing element in an open and public process, encouraging public input and participation in the decision making process.

I believe that an open and public process is the way that we must conduct all City Council business. Resident input is es-

sential in decisions that the City Council makes.

To provide the opportunity for Orinda citizen participation in the 5th housing cycle, all council and planning commission meetings are conducted in public. All the information is placed on our city website so that residents can easily know the schedule for the housing element decision making process and read all of the supporting documents.

It is also important that the city continues to inform residents as we move through the months long process of adopting the housing element through various vehicles such as the Orinda Outlook, email updates and social media tools.

I believe it also must be convenient for residents to share their views and participate in local government decisions. To encourage public participation in the housing element adoption process, City Council meetings are broadcast on the web and a website has been set up to convey residents opinions on-line.

By adopting a local housing element, Orinda will be able to chart its own course as to how we plan for housing. We will also receive county, state and federal funds to repair our streets and roads. The loss of these funds would severely limit our ability to pave and improve our roads and pedestrian pathways. It is essential that we comply with this state-mandated program so we can keep our streets and roads safe and maintained for generations to come.

Downtown Height and Density

Orinda is a wonderful semi-rural community, and development in the downtown should reflect the character and feel that Orinda residents treasure. One of the main reasons the citizens of Orinda incorporated was to have local control of zoning and land use decisions. We need to continue to work to keep Orinda's downtown vital.

[SEE WORTH page 24]



A true friend of the Orinda Library:
Councilwoman Amy Worth

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

THE ORINDA LIBRARY: CHECK IT OUT!

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

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

HOURS:

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

VOTE TO RE-ELECT
www.AmyWorth.org

Amy Worth

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

ELECTION

◆ **ORR** from page 14

planning code with regulations that vary based on the zoning of the particular property. In addition to varying our zoning by property type and location, our current code also contains specific rules and regulations for granting variances and exceptions to various parts of the code.

Certain site conditions or other constraints on properties may require such amendments in order for projects to be realized or properties to be developed. Whenever such a request is made by a homeowner or developer, our Planning staff and Commission looks critically and very closely at each proposal for any impacts or other issues that the requested exception may create. It is only after very careful study and review that any variance or exception is even considered.

Areas of Need in Orinda

Budget – Our first priority must remain working under a balanced operating budget while maintaining our emergency reserve policy. One of our biggest liabilities is our deteriorating roads and storm drains. The Tarabrook storm drain failure resulted in a one-time fix that exceeded \$1.4M. These emergency repairs are costly and prove our need to maintain the levels of our reserve policy that the council has established.

Roads – We have new funding for our roads thanks to the passing of Measure L & J. But these two measures alone will not fix all of Orinda’s roads and storm drains. We need to continue searching for additional funding sources, working with our partner agencies like EBMUD, PG&E and Central Sanitary to leverage our dollars in joint projects and look to new means and methods for bidding and constructing our repairs.

Communication – The city has come along ways in improving communications with our residents. We need to do more.

Pros and Cons of the November Propositions

Getting overwhelmed and confused by the language of all the propositions on this year’s election ballot? Are you interested in more in-depth analysis than you can glimpse in a 30-second ad?

If you strive to be an informed voter, you will want to participate in the Oct. 21 program hosted by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW). At this meeting, the League of Women Voters will present the pros and cons of the propositions on the ballot and provide materials with more specific information about each issue. Small group discussions will also take place. The meeting is open to the public.

The Tuesday, Oct. 21, meeting takes place from 9:30 am to 11 am at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School Street in Moraga. See you there!

For further information, contact Diane Bell-Rettger at dbellrettger@gmail.com. For more information about the AAUW-OML Branch, go to <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/>.

Enhancing and increasing our communication efforts through streaming meetings, informative web pages, increased social media and emailed weekly reports can do much to keep our community informed and engaged in our current issues. All of these tools will also become important conduits of information for our emergency alert system, a key component in disaster preparedness.

Qualifications

Working with my colleagues on the council, the many volunteers that serve on our commissions and committees, and the citizens of Orinda has been a truly rewarding experience. With the community’s support, we have passed two funding measures to rebuild our roads and storm drains, opened new sports fields and outdoor recreation facilities, completed long-term infrastructure projects like the Manzanita Bridge replacement and most importantly, maintained a balanced city budget and emergency reserve fund.

I have witnessed the success of working in a collaborative and open manner and understanding that the process is as important as the outcome. I welcome the opportunity of working through tough issues and find-

ing the moments of consensus so that we can move the business of the city forward.

In my first term on the council, we have approved and managed two balanced budget cycles and negotiated two contracts with our employees. We have made tough decisions along the way in order to maintain fiscal stability while retaining the service levels that are expected by our community. I believe that this experience, during a much more difficult economic time, has been an invaluable experience. As revenues begin to rise, the perspective of the last four years will prove important as we move forward.

◆ **THOMPSON** from page 15

raising. I have a track record of transparency and responsiveness and can ensure that new ideas such as license plate readers (which track cars involved in crimes and alert police when they enter Orinda) are considered and well vetted.

3. We need transparency and collaboration in developing a long-range planning vision for Orinda, especially in the commercial downtown. While not everyone will agree on the final result, it is important that we try to reach a consensus that our city can be proud of for the future.

Qualifications

I have worked in the financial services industry for 37 years and have been an Orinda resident for 22 of those. I have served on numerous public and private boards, including:

- Chair of the Orinda Finance Advisory Committee;
- President and Founding Boardmember of the Bay Area Financial Education Foundation;
- Boardmember of the United Way Bay Area Finance Committee;
- Chair of the Investment Committee, Girl Scouts of Northern California;
- Past President of the CFA Society of San Francisco (Chartered Financial Analysts);
- Member, Finance and Investment Committees of St. Stephen’s Church in Orinda;
- Member, Investment Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of CA;
- Nuclear Submarine Officer, U.S. Navy.


Besides my financial skill set, I have a track record of collaboration, transparency and building consensus. I am responsive, generous with my time, and love working with people, even those I don’t necessarily agree with. My positions are not set in stone, and I am always open to being convinced of something if you can prove your case.

City Council Forum
 Oct. 6, 7-9 pm
 Orinda Library Auditorium
 Sponsored by the
 Orinda Association
 Call 925-254-0800

RE-ELECT

Dean Orr 2014

for Orinda City Council



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

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

Steve Glazer
Orinda City Council Vice-Mayor

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

Matt Moran
Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees

Selected Endorsements Include:

Elected Officials

Candace Andersen
Supervisor, District 2
Contra Costa County

Steve Glazer
Orinda City Councilmember

Sue Severson
Orinda City Councilmember

Victoria Smith
Orinda City Councilmember

Amy Worth
Orinda City Councilmember

Susie Epstein
Acalanes Union High School District Board

Matt Moran
Orinda Union School District Board

Julie Rossiter
Orinda Union School District Board

Chris Severson
Orinda Union School District Board

Community Members

Louise Adamson
Patt & Jim Aitchison
Greg & Shaun Ansel
Richard & Julie Atkinson
Steve & Marcela Austerfeld

Jack Babcock
Rich Bartlett
Brent Bates
Steve & Betsy Baus
Todd & Amy Berryhill
Kurt & Joy Marlow Braitberg
Kevin & Shauna Brennan
Shane & Monica Brun
Bruce & Barbara Burkhalter
Bruce Burrows
Robert Burt
Chris & Annette Butner
Kim & Kevin Coleman
Mike & Sara Curran
Cathy Cutler
Rebecca Dahlberg
Ruth & Dan Dashiell
Mary & Larry Del Santo
Bill & Andrea DeWitt
Joe Digirolamo
Chuck & Kirsten Engs
Mike & Janine Evans
Marc & Karen Evans
Joe & Hillary Fabian
Finola Fellner
Gus & Sugar Filice
Grant & Joyce Fine
Bob & Patty Frazer
Steve & Lynn Freeman
Mark & Lauren French
Shannon Fuller

Jon & Michele Gasparini
Dennis & Darlene Gee
Kevin & Tracy Gong
Dr. Eugene Gottfried
John Hall
Joyce Hawkins
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
John & Katharine Hawkins
Jeanie Hocking
Elle Hoffnagel
Paul Hollerbach
Monique Jasper
Bill Judge
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
Tom & Aileen Kelly
Dr. Michael & Sara Kim
Caroline LaVoie
Brad & Leslie Lagomarsino
Bobbie Landers
Former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year
Kenn & Gretchen Lewis
Dane & Robyn Lewis
David Libby
Alissa Lillie
Tom & Cinda Mackinnon
Brook & Alison Mancinelli
Mark & Mary Maxon
Deven & Kimberly Mays
Barbara & Chris McClain

Brock & Clare McDonald
Sally McKnight
Tracey & John Millham
Jeff & Staci Mills
Kyle & Lisa Mueller
Terry Murphy
Melba Muscarolas
Eartha Newsong
Brandi & John Pearce
Nancy Rothman
Pat Rudebusch
Mark & Teresa Sanchez
Mark & Shauna Simmonds
Dan Siri
Valerie & Larry Sloven
Troy & Julie Smith
Wick Smith
Riki & Andy Sorenson
Jack Sweitzer
D.J. & Tina Tierney
Ash & Christy Blackle-Taylor
Mike & Jennifer Vigo
Hillary Weiner
Doug & Julie Whitsitt
Brandt & Amy Williams
Peter & Amelia Wilson
Tom & Carole Wolfman
Tom & Katie Wood
Tricia & Bret Young
Rachel Zenner

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT CANDIDATES

Four Candidates for OUSD School Board Share Their Views

Carol Brown



New Funding Formula

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is the largest change in how we fund schools in over 40 years. It equalizes the base funding level for all schools across the state and grants additional funding for English language learners and the neediest students.

Funding for Orinda's schools will actually increase by a small amount under the formula; although, it is still insufficient to provide the quality of schools that our students and community demand and deserve.

The LCFF gives districts increased local autonomy over their funds but increases responsibility to account for our expenditures. The district must solicit input about the budget from all stakeholders, and then devise a spending plan to submit with the budget. All of these developments are positive for Orinda and its schools.

Funding the implementation of the Common Core Standards is especially important, and I am gratified that \$1 billion has been allocated for that purpose. I hope that the increase in funding under LCFF will allow us to give our teachers their first raise in years and bring back librarians and art and computer teachers, which will improve student learning in these critical areas.

The five-member Board of Trustees works with the superintendent to establish a long-term vision for the district as well as adopt policies, curriculum and budgets. Currently, one incumbent and three new candidates will vie for three open seats this November. The OUSD school board term is four years.

The candidates were asked to comment on the following questions.

1. California is now operating under a new funding mechanism for public schools. Adopted in June 2013, the Locally Controlled Funding Formula strives to give schools with the largest numbers of needy students more money and also more autonomy over spending. What do you think about the new formula and how will it affect Orinda schools?
2. How do you feel about the new "common core" curriculum and all the changes needed to implement it?
3. The OUSD school board faces many challenges in the coming years with a new curriculum to implement and a new funding mechanism. How will you work as a board member to reconcile competing interests both from the individual schools and other board members?
4. What are your qualifications that would make you an effective school board member?

Common Core Curriculum

The new Common Core State Standards were developed by educators to teach students critical thinking, problem solving and technical skills to better prepare them for 21st century careers. The goal is to teach students *how* to think critically as opposed to having them memorize formulas and isolated facts.

However, these new standards must be applied in a way that fits the local community and student population. We need to closely monitor our local implementation, especially of the middle school mathematics curriculum to make sure that we are providing advanced students with accelerated pathways to attain the high standards required by the best universities.

Common Core is a big change to the way our curriculum is delivered, and its successful implementation requires professional development and other resources for

[SEE BROWN page 19]

Jason Kaune



New Funding Formula

Overall, I think the move toward more local control is good for Orinda schools. We have the resources not only to maintain our academic excellence but to do better by setting more of our own financial priorities in a collaborative manner.

The Locally Controlled Funding Formula (LCFF) replaces a complex system of categorical requirements with a more consistent phased-in per-student formula that gives added flexibility to our district

and requires multi-year planning among local stakeholders. With more consistent funding and fewer Sacramento mandates, LCFF will allow us to engage in better long-range planning. We can end an era of emergency budgets, last-minute decisions and cutbacks that hurt students. We can consider how to restore cutbacks and invest in our infrastructure and technology.

Some suburban districts have opposed the formula because urban districts will receive increased per-student funding. We should be wary of backtracking from Sacramento's promise to give schools more financial freedom. We should resist a state proposal that would threaten our flexibility to hold reserve funds and divert tax dollars to a state fund, opposed by the association of school boards.

Even so, we should embrace the opportunity of LCFF to prepare for the next recession with prudent and farsighted budgeting that protects our programs, teachers, and financial stability.

Common Core Curriculum

Common Core has become a national flash-point. My feelings include skepticism, understanding and hopefulness.

I am skeptical of the one-size-fits-all approach. Our teachers need flexibility to innovate. In our district, we initially saw Common Core threaten the pathway to higher math, which was fortunately prevented. The transition has caused disruption and confusion. I also have concerns that it short-changes civic education and the arts. Finally, one of my priorities is to serve students of all abilities. A "common" core cannot lose sight of the fact that every child is unique. If it does, parents will find other options and this curriculum experiment will have failed.

[SEE KAUNE page 26]

ON NOVEMBER 4TH
PLEASE VOTE FOR

JASON KAUNE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

CITY LEADERS, PARENTS & RESIDENTS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES HAVE ENDORSED JASON. PLEASE JOIN US!

<p>Matt & Molly Wilson John & Jodi Kaelle Chris Severson Branislav Yaich Rene & Anna Marie Gamboa Jim & Sue Breedlove Yasaman Lee Charles & Janice Legge Ted & Whitney Pope James & Kathrine Riewerts Le Tran-Thi & Jay Solmonson Ward & Ruth Sangren Thomas & Merlon Williamson Jason & Haidee Wong Charles Yeomans & Desiree LeClerc Brad Zwahlen Richard & Daphne Bertero Corrine & William da Cunha Joffa & Ellen Dale Bill Quinn & Chipp Ferguson Trevor & Mary Katherine Kienzle Gary & Kristine Kushner/Jing</p>	<p>Orinda Educators' Association Charlene & Michael Robinson Brad & Cindy Barber Pat Rudebush Mark & Sara Nelson Richard & Janet Cotter Alexander & Vanessa Imberg David & Joyce McCaulou Allan & Barbara Resnick John & Mary Dodge Jackson & Jennifer Mosher Roy & Kim Scheingart Colleen Sullivan David & Noel Twist Steve Cassriel Dave DiFranco & Kim Anderson Ed & Barbara Flinn Jillian & John Esopa Catja & Trent McDonald Ray & Audrey Miskelley David & Carolyn Schiller Alan Smith & Lisa Fass Harold & Diane Hill Jonathan Tomasco Tom & Marianne Aude</p>
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PRIORITIES:

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

Scott & Stephanie Barmmer	Mike & Elaine Meyers	Robert Burt
Patrick & Marci Dunne	Matt Moran	Riki Sorenson
Al & Marijane Walburg	Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert	Don & Connie Bentley
Peirce & Jo Ann McKee	Thomas & Jeanie Finch	Fran Swanson
Chris & Virginia Hanlon	Douglas & Ruth Fortune	Ali & Liu
Charles & Marty Froese	Phil & Nancy Placier	Toraby-Moghadam
Dianne Schneider	Pete & Diana Hutchins	Joseph & Pamela Wiley
Susan Wisk	Jim & Carol Brovelli	Steve & Darla Lucas
Bob & Maryett Thompson	Mark & Nicole Meredith	Frans Martono & Maria Rachmat
George & Beverly Webb	Scott & Roxanne Rhoades	PARTIAL LIST

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE NAMES AND ADD YOURS!

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND "COFFEE HOUR" DATES PLEASE VISIT: www.JasonKaune.com

PAID FOR BY JASON KAUNE FOR ORINDA SCHOOL BOARD, FPPC #137069, PO BOX 1907, ORINDA, CA 94563. JASONKAUNE@GMAIL.COM

SCHOOL DISTRICT CANDIDATES

Julie Rossiter



New Funding Formula

The new funding formula, while not ideal, is an improvement for the Orinda School District because it does result in increased funding for our schools. The intent of the Locally Controlled Funding Formula (LCFF) is to provide an equal base for all California school districts and then to give additional funding to those districts with higher needs, defined as those districts with high proportions of English Language Learners, free and reduced lunch students and foster youth.

While I agree with the underlying goal of LCFF – to try to target funding to districts with the most need – the new funding formula ignores the fact that the Orinda School District remains one of the lowest funded districts in one of the lowest funded states in the country. Until California gets serious about adequately funding education, Orinda will have to continue to rely on the incredible generosity of our local community, and the parcel taxes and donations to the Educational Foundation of Orinda and school Parents' Clubs that our community supports.

Common Core Curriculum

I think the idea behind the Common Core curriculum is a good one. The Common Core curriculum is based on the idea that going deeper into subject matter and focusing on understanding the reasoning behind concepts rather than just memorizing facts will result in greater knowledge and provide students with a stronger framework to build on in their lives.

I have three concerns regarding the implementation of the Common Core. First, our school district must ensure that our teaching methods align with the Common Core in a way that enhances our students' learning experience. Our teachers have been receiving intensive training and professional development in this regard, but we must make sure that they get the ongoing support they need. Second, we must make sure that the students in Orinda have the ability to take accelerated classes, particularly in math, so that those students who are capable can take the highest levels of math offered at Miramonte. Our board recently revised its board policy with regard to math instruction to ensure this result. Third, we must make sure our community understands that it may take the state some time to best align the standardized tests with the new curriculum.

Reconciling Competing Interest

As a board member these past four years, I think the key to success is being an active listener. I welcome input from every member of our community: parents, teachers, staff and students. The more feedback we receive as board members, and the more voices we hear, the better we can truly reflect the needs of our community and make good decisions on behalf of our students.

As trustees, we must always collaborate closely together and work constructively toward continuing to improve our already

[SEE ROSSITER page 26]

Hillary Weiner



New Funding Formula

Adequate funding continues to be a challenge for Orinda schools. The district partnership with the Parents Clubs and EFO remains essential to continuing Orinda schools level of educational excellence. Simply put, we rely on contributions and the volunteer efforts of the Orinda community to fill in financial gaps and provide other programming, technology and special services (e.g. art, class-size reduction, music).

The Local Controlled Funding Formula (LCFF) focuses on improving outcomes for students, especially those with greater challenges. Under LCFF, funds are allocated to school districts in a manner that grants local communities fiscal autonomy over education programs, but proportions the amount distributed upon the percentage of English learner students, low-income families and foster youth families.

Because Orinda schools have a low percentage of English learner students, low-income families and foster youth families, the funds available to Orinda schools are

proportionately lower than other districts in California with higher percentages of those students and families. As a result, while the district is able to fund most of the core content and services to meet the State's expectations, Orinda schools have to rely on the broader community to meet our financial goals.

Common Core Curriculum

The overall concept of Common Core is good – teaching children to think deeply. The implementation of Common Core, however, is a work in progress and community members have expressed concerns about long-term implications for Orinda students. One of my goals is to address these concerns, make sure we communicate effectively with the community and ensure local implementation that fulfills the academic needs of all Orinda students. The following are examples of how I will accomplish this:

(1) Parent Education: Communication about the goals underlying Common Core, how the standards are being implemented and how the schools are retaining accelerated pathways for Orinda students is essential to making Common Core successful in Orinda schools.

(2) Local Control: One of the challenges the school district faces is retaining local control over curricular decisions. One of my priorities is ensuring that the district retains local control over academic standards and offers accelerated pathways in all curricular areas.

(3) Resources and Teacher Education: Teachers and students require additional resources to maximize the implementation of Common Core standards. From technology needs to textbooks to teacher education, I will work with the entire Orinda community to ensure that the necessary resources and education are provided.

[SEE WEINER page 19]

re-elect
JULIE ROSSITER
 ORINDA SCHOOL BOARD

accomplishments
 All five schools in district recognized as California Distinguished Schools
 Maintained small class sizes and electives during budget crisis
 Orinda students' test scores consistently among highest in state

experience
 President of the School Board in 2013
 Board Member, Friends of the Orinda Library
 Board Member, Miramonte Parents' Club
 Long-time school volunteer
 Three children attending Orinda schools
 Attorney experienced in employment law and business litigation

endorsed by
current and former school board trustees:
 Chris Severson, President, Orinda School Board
 Matt Moran, Vice-President, Orinda School Board
 Susie Epstein, Acalanes Union High School District Board Trustee
 Pat Rudebusch, former Orinda School Board Trustee and Citizen of the Year
 Linda Landau, former Orinda School Board Trustee and Citizen of the Year
 Glenn Alper, former Orinda School Board Trustee
 Riki Sorenson, former Orinda School Board Trustee
 Jack Bontemps, former Orinda School Board Trustee

current and former Orinda City Council members:
 Sue Severson, Mayor
 Steve Glazer, Vice Mayor
 Amy Worth, Orinda City Council Member
 Victoria Smith, Orinda City Council Member
 Dean Orr, Orinda City Council Member
 Joyce Hawkins, former Mayor of Orinda and Citizen of the Year

education leaders:
 Joan Kiekhaefer, former EFO President
 Yosh Neugebauer, former EFO Co-President
 Jeanette Broad, Miramonte Parents' Club President
 Shannon Fuller, former OIS Parents' Club President
 Shauna Simmonds, former Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club President
 Heather Biles, former Del Rey Parents' Club President
 Wendy Bond, former Glorietta Parents' Club President
 Katherine Dureault, former Del Rey Parents' Club President
 Danya Stehr, former Del Rey Parents' Club President



"Julie always does her homework. You can count on her to bring an **impartial, well-informed sensibility** to her decision making and to do what's best for students. I wholeheartedly endorse her re-election to the Orinda school board."

–Pat Rudebusch

"Julie has been an **invaluable member of the school board**. Her experience as an attorney, a parent, and an active member of our community makes her a fantastic member of our board."

–Matt Moran

"As a member of the Orinda school board, Julie **continues to recognize the need for change** when necessary, and makes informed decisions to help guide the district forward."

–Yosh Neugebauer

www.julierossiter.org

Paid for by Re-Elect Julie Rossiter to the Orinda School Board 2014, FPFC#1369145

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

◆ BROWN from page 17

teachers so they can deliver the curriculum effectively. Additionally, we must keep our technology up to date to successfully conduct on-line assessments, and track our progress.

We have all the right ingredients in Orinda — great teachers, leaders and parents — and I am confident that we are up to the challenge.

Reconciling Competing Interest

As a trustee, my highest priority will be to listen to and collaborate with all stakeholders — parents, teachers, students, other board members, and the community at large. It is critical that the Board's policies and practices reflect community values.

Greater collaboration with teachers will improve the quality of education for our students. Greater collaboration with parents and community members will engender trust and confidence that the board is committed to serving the interests of our students and community.

Our aging infrastructure — especially at Del Rey, Sleepy Hollow and Glorietta and OIS — and out of date portable classrooms are going to be a particular challenge in the near future. We will need an open community dialogue on priorities and funding mechanisms.

Finally, I will also encourage our board to plan time for public meetings and workshops, when appropriate, to get community input on specific topics such as facilities, Common Core, our budget process and Local Control and Accountability Plan.

Qualifications

The five major responsibilities of a school board are to:

- Set the direction for the community's schools;
- Establish an effective and efficient structure for the school district;
- Provide support to the superintendent and staff as they implement the direction of the Board;
- Ensure accountability to the public;
- Act as community leaders.

The most effective boards involve all stakeholders in developing a common vision for the district, which is focused on learning and achievement.

Throughout my career, I have been a leader and have collaborated with people whose opinions were in conflict. I have broad knowledge of teamwork, collaboration and consensus building. As a trustee, I will listen to all stakeholders, be responsible and work to find solutions when problems arise, and insist on transparency

with the community's money.

My entire professional life required teamwork to reach the goals of the organizations I have served. Currently, as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), I work along with attorneys and social workers to advocate in Superior Court for children in the foster care system.

Before that, as program director for a non-profit adoption agency, I developed public/private collaborations for the State of California's adoption exchange system. Ultimately, I became the Secretary of the Board of Directors of that agency.

I also have considerable experience in consensus and team building from my work as a book editor, where I was the leader of the publishing team working with multiple departments. Together, we developed a shared vision of how to make the book a success when it came to market.

I will draw on my skills and professional experience, as well as my experience as an Orinda parent to be the trustee you deserve. I hope I can count on your vote on November 4.

◆ WEINER from page 18

Reconciling Competing Interest

At its core, the School Board serves to best represent the interests of the entire Orinda community. For OUSD to maintain the strength of its schools and remain focused on student learning, leadership at the district level needs to be effective, collaborative and transparent. The district has a vested interest in maintaining high academic standards, outstanding programs and a strong community bond. Success of the School Board depends upon the strength of its members and their ability to work together to advance Orinda schools in partnership with the superintendent, teachers, principals, district staff and the community.

To best serve Orinda, we need governance and collective leadership that work together to make the best decisions for our students and broader community. If elected, I will approach my role on the School Board with a strong spirit of collaboration and open communication. I will work with my fellow board members to build upon OUSD's tradition of educational excellence and strong community support to provide a clear vision for programming and academic standards that will inspire and challenge each student. I will encourage transparency and collaboration among the board members, and between the district and the community.

Qualifications

Four years ago, my family moved from San Francisco to Orinda to experience

the strong academic tradition of Orinda schools. I am an attorney by trade, and practiced law in San Francisco for more than ten years before becoming a full-time mother. I am the proud mother of three children at Glorietta Elementary (Kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grades).

I am very active in the school community, most recently serving as co-president of the Glorietta Parents' Club for the 2013-2014 school year. My experience as co-president of the Glorietta Parents' Club provided me with invaluable insight into the programming at each school site, the essential partnership between the district and the Parents' Clubs, and an understanding of the changing needs for each school relating to facilities, technology, and Common Core curriculum. I have developed strong community relationships with other education leaders, teachers and administrators in the community — at EFO, Del Rey, Sleepy Hollow, Wagner Ranch, Glorietta and OIS. I have also worked closely with current and former School Board members to identify outstanding needs and goals for Orinda schools.

I have served on the site council and finance committee for Glorietta for the past two years. I also participated in monthly district coordinating council meetings for the past two school years. I have served on the technology advisory committee at Glorietta, with the goal of identifying current and future technology needs, both in relation to Common Core and ongoing technology needs for Orinda schools.

My volunteer experience has given me a hands-on understanding of our district's needs. I have provided strong leadership for the Glorietta community and look forward to bringing my experience, my passion and my love for learning to the Orinda School Board. I'm excited to serve the Orinda community for many years to come.

OUSD Forum
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 Call 925-254-0800

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Carol Brown For Orinda School Board

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HILLARY WEINER

Community Leadership Strong Schools

For Orinda School Board

SELECT ENDORSEMENTS:

CURRENT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS	COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS (partial list)	
Sue Severson Mayor, Orinda City Council	Ellie Attwood	Micheline Insalaco
Steve Glazer Vice Mayor, Orinda City Council	Rebecca & Darren Bauer-Kahan	Molly & Gregg Johnson
Dean Orr Orinda City Council Member	Courtney Bennett & Rich Caballero	Jodi Kaelle
Victoria Robinson Smith Orinda City Council Member	Amy & Todd Berryhill	Junaid & Sarah Kahn
CURRENT & FORMER OUSD TRUSTEES	Renee Bertenthal	Jason & Jennifer Lurie
Chris Severson President, Orinda School Board Trustee	Karen & John Boccabella	Lani & Ian MacKenzie
Matt Moran Vice President, Orinda School Board Trustee	Mimi & Guy Bommarito	Laura & Josh McDowell
Pat Rudebusch Former Orinda School Board Trustee	Shelli Brudzinski	Becca & Lev Molytner
Riki Sorenson Former Orinda School Board Trustee	Randy Burastero	Steve & Stefanie Murphy
	Julie & Dan Chinn	Whitney Pope
	Scott Cohen	Nicole Radlow
	Sharyl DeBusschere	Sauna Simmonds
	Don & Darien Destino	Molly & Daron Smith
	Shannon Fuller	Craig & Aimee Stevens
	Amber Gates	Noel Twist
	John & Kendall Glynn	Molly & Matt Wilson
	Diana Honig	Kim Younger
		Rachel Zenner

For additional endorsements and other information, please visit
HillaryWeiner.com
 Paid for by Hillary Weiner for Orinda School Board 2014. FPPC Committee #1368663

STUDENTS / PETS

AAUW Scholarship Fundraiser – ACT-SAT StartUp

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of AAUW and the Princeton Review will offer a new two-hour assessment called StartUp. This test combines question types from the ACT and the redesigned SAT. This test is intended for boys and girls graduating in the Class of 2017 and beyond.

The test will be offered on Saturday, October 25 at Miramonte High School, 750 Moraga Way, in Orinda at 7:45 am. Check in at the College and Career Center. The cost is \$25. For more information and to register, go to <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/sat-act>.

A second session will be held for students and parents on December 11 at 6:30 pm in the Miramonte High School Theater. At that time, parents will receive a personal score report that highlights the student's strengths and area of focus for each test. Individualized programs that help students prepare for the colleges of their choice will also be discussed.

The OML branch of the AAUW has been offering scholarships to local young women from the three Lamorinda high schools and St. Mary's College for over 45 years. All proceeds from the StartUp program will go towards these scholarships. For more information about the branch, go to <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/>.

Something to Howl About...

Animal Tales

Blessing Of The Animals



Jennifer Conroy

Each year, typically in early October, an event occurs across the world known as the Blessing of the Animals. Originating as a Christian salute to St. Francis of Assisi, it has become an accepted celebration, crossing religious lines, beliefs and non-beliefs. St. Francis no longer belongs to one faith but has come to epitomize the traits of compassion, tolerance, simplicity and humility.

The blessing often takes place on the date of St. Francis' death, either October 3 or 4, the exact date being somewhat in question. What is known for certain is that he was born in Assisi, Italy, to a well-off cloth merchant who expected his son to continue in the family business.

As a youth, Francis probably did not seem any different from his companions. He wore fine clothes. He enjoyed good food, drink, music and even dancing. At age 20, he joined in a fight between Assisi and Perugia, two of many warring city states, and was taken prisoner and held captive for a year. Certainly imprisonment gave the young man time to reflect and, once freed, he experienced a number of life-changing events. He encountered lepers, beggars and many others down on their luck. He questioned extravagance and wastefulness, ultimately building a small hut in which to live in seclusion close to nature.

There are many stories of how Francis became attached to animals – healing an injured bird, protecting an abused donkey. What is certain is that St. Francis became immortalized through literature and art as a symbol of kindness to all, especially to animals. The Frick Museum in New York City is home to the marvelous Bellini painting, St. Francis in Ecstasy, which in itself is worth a visit.

It is in the realm of animals, however, that the legacy of St. Francis is fully anchored. A member of a religious order need not necessarily perform the blessing. It can include sprinkling an animal with holy water and always includes the recital of a prayer acknowledging the respect and love due each animal. Animals can be blessed individually or in a group. Some locations even provide drive-through blessings so the companion animal does not have to leave the confines of the car.

There are many versions of the blessing, including those established by religious orthodoxy. In general, the blessing invokes a universal power that inspired St. Francis to call all animals brothers and sisters. It acknowledges the example set by St. Francis and asks for his protection in watching over them. People can also create their own special blessing for their animals.

Today's world is even more precarious for animals as we deal with earthquakes close to home, displacing pets and their families, and war-ravaged cities across the ocean that leave dogs and cats roaming ruined streets. Keep your own animals safe and protected through good care, healthy diet and companionable exercise, and, whenever possible, extend the hand of kindness to other creatures less fortunate.

Volunteers Needed

The Orinda Historical Society Museum needs volunteers to staff the office/museum located in the Library Plaza. Call Lucy Hupp Williams at 650-349-3382 or email rkwilliams0872@comcast.net.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Ensemble Ari Concert Honors Korean Culture and History

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Orinda residents Dr. Jean Ahn and Sharon Lee Kim realized they had much more in common than being parents of Del Rey Elementary students. The pair, who met at St. Mary's College where Kim teaches, shares a passion for music. The duo started Ensemble Ari, which will hold its inaugural concert on Saturday, Oct. 18, 7 pm, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco.



SALLY HOGARTY

Sharon Lee Kim (L) and Dr. Jean Ahn founded Ensemble Ari, which holds an inaugural concert on Oct. 18.

"When Sharon and I founded this ensemble, we wanted an ensemble that honors Korean history and culture," said Ahn. "The first thing that came to our minds was the Korean War, especially since there will be a memorial built in the San Francisco Presidio to commemorate the war. This fit our vision."

According to Ahn, nearly 40,000 Americans died in action in Korea, and more than 100,000 were wounded. The Ensemble has invited many Korean War Veterans to its inaugural concert, a benefit for the Korean War Memorial Foundation, which plans to build a memorial at the Presidio next year.

"Orinda is often known as a very conservative place," said Ahn, adding she thinks that as a city, Orinda is "far from multi-cultural." While she sees Orindians as "open-minded," Ahn feels they don't have many opportunities within Orinda to experience various cultures."

Ahn and Lee hope to change that. Ahn said that while attending neighborhood block parties, "I am surrounded by elders who would love to talk to me and ask about Korean culture and Korean history."

Ari, Ahn explained, "is a Korean word with several meanings: big river, wisdom, and beauty."

"The mission of Ensemble Ari is to build a bridge between Korea and other world communities with Western musical instruments, while honoring Korean history and culture," said Ahn, who was born in South Korea, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Seoul National University, and her doctorate from UC Berkeley.

Remembrance, composed by Ahn, is Ensemble Ari's first project. The composition is dedicated to the Korean War Memorial,

Dracula Continues to Haunt Orinda

The Orinda Starlight Village Players continue their production of *Bram Stoker's Dracula*. Revisit the story of the vampire Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England and the battle that ensues between a band of heroes led by Van Helsing, who seek to thwart the monster.

Performances run Friday and Saturday nights through October 11 at 8:30 pm at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. There will be one matinee performance on Sunday October 5 at 4 pm and one performance on Thursday October 9 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$16 for adults, and \$8 for those over 61 and under 19.

For more information, visit www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225. The theatre always needs volunteers to help with box office, lights, sound, or stage



JILL GELSTER

Dracula (Tom Westlake) and his brides, (L-R) Shay Geraghty, Isabella Hermelin, and Sara Geraghty are waiting for you.

management. For information email info@orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225.

– David Dierks, Assistant Editor

in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the war. Ahn said *Remembrance* "is about remembering the past but yet singing about hope." The performance will also feature music by Barber and Shostakovich.

Lee has high hopes for the ensemble. "I hope that Ensemble Ari becomes known as a Korean-American classical ensemble within the Bay Area Korean communities and throughout California. I hope these concerts will bring communities together and educate young and old about quality classical music."

Lee is passionate about arts education as she believes many children in public schools do not get an opportunity to learn about music. "As a new Del Rey EFO [Educational Foundation of Orinda] representative, I've learned how special we Orindians are," said Lee. "I am thankful for the EFO

which helps to fund special programs for our children."

Other members of Ensemble Ari include Sarah Hong, cellist (Julliard), Joo Won Kang, baritone (San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow), Ju Yeon Moon, violinist (Joon-gang University Faculty), Jae Hee Jeong, violinist (ChoongNam University Faculty) and Evelyn Kwark, violinist (Berkeley Symphony).

Lee says she and Ahn want the ensemble concerts to support Korean-American organizations. A portion of the ticket proceeds from the Oct. 18 concert will be donated to the Korean War Memorial Foundation.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is located at 1111 O'Farrell St, San Francisco. Tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/846214.

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CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

◆ **BALTODANO** from page 13

needs to be open and diligent in seeking divergent viewpoints and making them part of the Housing Element. In addition, the council has to own the process and take a leadership position in every meeting, rather than having staff or consultants take the lead. Leading in an open environment will go a long way to address the community's concerns. My weekly open-door policy should help as well.

Downtown Height and Density

The downtown in Orinda is a precious area that reflects our history and serves as an important shopping, dining and professional center. But our local businesses need to be enhanced and supported, and for that, we must address the issues of congested traffic and parking for patrons and workers. My view, on the Planning Commission and now, is that we should look for opportunities for smart and sustainable growth. Any new construction must provide adequate additional parking. Several vacant parcels downtown may present opportunities that could enhance the quality of life in the community, while retaining its unique character.

There is no reason to increase height limits generally in the downtown. But we might consider a limited exception if a project provided substantial additional parking. Most of all, we need a measured process that seeks opportunities to increase the vitality of the downtown!

Seven years ago, Orinda began to look at its downtown. There were numerous meetings with the Planning Commission and City Council, plus several community meetings. Then, two years ago, the process came to a halt. We must re-engage the community again and hold a public meeting or workshop to discuss this important issue.

Areas of Need in Orinda

As 22-year Orinda residents, my wife and I cherish our local history and charm. We raised three daughters here and want to help preserve its uniqueness. The three areas of need in Orinda are:

1. To improve communication between City Council and residents.

As a Councilmember, I would have a weekly open-door policy for residents to express concerns. This would help all issues in Orinda, including finding opportunities for smart growth to enhance local business and address downtown traffic.

2. To continue to improve and fix all Orinda residential roads.

I would try to work collaboratively with residents for an acceptable Housing Element to obtain state grant funds for roads. We must continue the progress already made.

3. To combat the increasing crime rate.

Safety is of paramount importance. All Orindans know of our dramatic increases in burglaries and theft. Indeed, many residents moved to Orinda for its relative safety, but that has lately been shattered. I would work to enhance resident safety. I support Chief Nagel's efforts, along with community members, to develop anti-crime cameras and other measures for safety. We should also encourage use of Nextdoor, more neighborhood disaster preparedness and CERT trainings.

Qualifications

I have worked as a public administrator for over 30 years and much of that time was in leadership capacities. I attended the University of California, Berkeley and received a Bachelor of Architecture and a Masters in City and Regional Planning. I began my career as a planner for the City of San Francisco. Since then, I have served in management and executive level positions at the City of Hayward, City of Berkeley and the County of Contra Costa where I served as the Director of Building Inspections for 10 years. In these roles, I had the pleasure of helping formulate public policy and help guide the development of these jurisdictions. This involved interacting with key stakeholders, the general public, affected communities, elected officials, consultants and professionals from a variety of public agencies (such as HUD, Caltrans, HCD). My ability to forge good working relationships with stakeholders and representatives at all levels of government will help me make good policy decisions for Orinda residents.

In my position with the county, I supervised a staff of 146 employees with a budget of \$11 million. I was responsible for budget development, preparation and the monitoring of the budget to ensure all funds were spent well. During this tenure, we provided contract services to fourteen of the nineteen cities in Contra Costa County. This meant working closely with cities, and partnering with the City of Orinda to develop a Building Inspection Office in City Hall to provide more direct services to Orinda residents.

Land use issues are important to Orinda residents. My 30+ years of professional experience in the land-use arena and management has provided me with a set of skills that will be useful as a Councilmember as we grapple with difficult land-use choices and budget management issues.

◆ **PHILLIPS** from page 14

buildings harm all our local businesses and appropriate, realistic proposals should be welcomed. I have heard many suggestions from residents for organizations that could fill our downtown: a boutique hotel, specialty grocery, co-working space, schools. While each presents trade-offs, I support a discussion about what could thrive in our town and improve our quality of life.

Areas of Need in Orinda

First of all, I believe we need new voices on the City Council that can rebuild trust and communication with the citizens of Orinda. The last several years have been marked by an increasing disconnect between the Council and the residents on important issues like planning, downtown development and roads. Many residents have lost confidence in the public process.

Second, Orinda needs to make some hard decisions about local versus regional control over its planning and development future. The choices will be felt for generations to come and thus we should carefully consider the type of environment we are creating for the families of the future.

Third, we need a real comprehensive plan to fix and maintain our roads, not just a funding plan. The piecemeal approach has

led to bills like Measure J that only address a portion of the issue and lack appropriate safeguards for the funds. Road repair is not cheap, and this approach increases the odds that the future funds are not allocated. In addition, we must be realistic about the funds required to maintain our roads on an annual basis to avoid falling into the "fixing" trap yet again.

Qualifications

I have spent my career evaluating industries and processes to look for opportunities for improvement via the use of technology. In my current role as CEO & co-founder of a digital health startup, I have assembled a diverse team of doctors, designers, engineers, and business people to develop products that can increase access to high-quality, lower-cost behavioral health solutions. In this company and elsewhere in my career, I led the creation of our business strategy and managed the development of the products that fulfilled that strategy. My educational background (engineering at MIT, MBA from Stanford) has also enabled me to hone strong analytical and team-based problem solving skills.

Through each of my leadership and management roles, I have established a capacity for learning, listening and coming up with creative yet practical solutions that I think will be very well suited to solving the challenges faced by Orinda's City Council.

For each issue, whether roads, safety, the Housing Element, or others, I would seek citizen input and work to understand the motivations behind various viewpoints and trade-offs amongst various solutions. My motivation to run for this position is my passion for Orinda, and to provide excellent stewardship for the charming, unique town that I had the privilege of going to high school in, and where my family and I have chosen to live.

I am a strong believer in the role of the citizen serving their community. For me, this position is not a career but an opportunity to serve the community that I care for deeply. In that vein, if elected, I will voluntarily pledge to limit my tenure on the Council to two terms as I believe we are best served by citizen leaders with our community's interests at heart.

◆ **STUDENTS** from page 5

you get Lubbley. Jang said his experience as president of the Public Speaking Club at MHS helped him sell the service idea. Kim's father has experience in the web world connecting people looking for work with employers, so the father/daughter team also worked well to develop the idea. Kim has prior experience gathering money and donating it to charity. She said on her seventh birthday in January she and others "collected money and sent it to an orphanage in Korea." She and her friends give Lubbley flyers to friends and neighbors to advertise the business. The Lubbers also plan to have a table at the schools' back-to-school nights to further promote the business. Kim says she, "wanted to help our neighborhood and also help our schools."

Jang conferred with members of the MHS Environmental Club to make sure all the car washing is properly green. He says the Lubbers comply with all environmental laws, use nozzles on the hose so no water is wasted and buy biodegradable soap at Costco. He adds he's working to make the business a club at MHS and, if they have enough success locally, "our designs are to expand further into the Lamorinda area." Presently there is a pool of about 30 Lubbers with a core crew of 10 to 15 washing cars regularly. Visit www.lubbley.com to volunteer or sign up for a car wash. As the site says, "building a stronger community, one neighbor at a time."

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ LETTERS 3 from page 10

cess. Hillary's temperament and attitude will enable her to find common ground and build bridges on controversial and contentious issues. She will govern pragmatically and with an appreciation for the limited human and financial resources available to the district. Most importantly, Hillary's overriding concern will always be the best interests of all OUSD students.

Our family will have three children in Orinda schools for years to come. We hope that our children will be fortunate enough to have Hillary serving on the OUSD school board.

– Jason and Jennifer Lurie

Eve Will Be the Dawn of a New Day in Orinda Leadership

Eve Phillips is an exciting and compelling candidate for the Orinda City Council. She brings so much talent to the position, with a keen intellect and a stellar educational background, and she is a proven, successful entrepreneur in a 21st-Century industry while still at a young and energetic age. And as a Miramonte graduate who has been around the world, she can bring both global and local perspectives to the challenges facing our community.

But one thing has really impressed me about Eve and that is her commitment to the 18,000-plus of us who presently call Orinda home. While so many others recently have been stressing what we should do for undefined potential "future residents" of Orinda, she has defined her candidacy around what is important to the people who are here now. And indeed, representing Orinda citizens, not the enigmatic concerns of outside special interests, is what we all should want in our city council members.

I hope you will join me in voting for Eve in November.

– Scott Zeller

Teachers Voice Support for Candidates

Orinda teachers are endorsing school board candidates for the first time in our association's history. We are clear that the board, management and teachers should be united in promoting the best interests of our children, which is why we have not had to do this in the past.

Times have changed. Teacher morale is at an all time low, and while we make every effort to ensure this never leaks through to our students, it is time to include teachers in district decisions that affect instruction.

Teachers know what helps children love learning. Orinda Union School District's distinguished school awards, and the amazing test scores (even compared within similar demographic schools), are largely determined by the quality of teachers.

The Orinda Educators' Association is endorsing two candidates from across the political aisle who both understand that teachers in classrooms are where the rub-

ber hits the road: Carol Brown and Jason Kaune.

Please take the time to vote for Carol and Jason.

– Sue Boudreau

Two New Candidates for OUSD Bring Much

After four years on the OUSD Board of Trustees and as current president, I have decided to not seek re-election. In large part, this came about by my knowing we have two great, new candidates who have stepped up to serve on this important board.

Jason Kaune, an Orinda native and now Sleepy Hollow parent, has the talent and the independence to be a valuable member of the OUSD board. He is fiscally minded and brings a tremendous amount of collaborative energy. Most recently, he has been helping Orinda tackle the tough problem of improving our roads.

Hillary Weiner has a passion and enthusiasm for Orinda schools and education. As an OUSD board member, she will bring valuable experience coordinating efforts as a parent club president between students, parents, school staff, EFO and the broader community.

Despite difficult constraints and decreasing funding from the state of California, Orinda has remained outstanding in student education. This excellence draws families to the area and maintains home values. Julie Rossiter has served with me on OUSD's board since 2010 and has been everything I had hoped for in a team member. Under this board's direction, we have increased communication and transparency, hired many new excellent teachers, principals and staff, and provided superior education all without raising taxes.

I encourage you to join me in voting for Jason Kaune, Hillary Weiner and Julie Rossiter as the best candidates to lead our Orinda schools into the future.

– Christopher Severson

The City You Protect Will be Your Own

The 2014 election for City Council is the most important City Council election since Orinda became an incorporated city 30 years ago. Orinda was such a great place to live then. Residents did not have to worry that our city government would pass regulations that would destroy our semi-rural environment. Now, we have Monteverde towering over North Orinda because our building height limits were ignored by the current City Council. What's next?

Is living in Orinda better or worse than four, eight or 10 years ago? For the city's residents, a more appealing Orinda is vital. Eve Phillips and Linda Delehunt, both candidates for the Orinda City Council in 2014, will help assure that Orinda – again – becomes a great place to live.

Orinda needs new leadership. Ms. Phillips and Ms. Delehunt, if elected to the City Council, will protect the quality of

Orinda's schools, help end the intolerable parking and traffic conditions that bedevil the downtown area, protect residents' views of the scenic hills, fix the roads and enforce Orinda's 35-foot height limit for buildings.

When casting your ballot for City Council, please vote for Eve Phillips and Linda Delehunt. The city you protect will be your own.

– Sandra Wooten

New Majority Needed On City Council

For too many years, most of the same people have remained on our City Council. We need a fresh group of involved, concerned residents who will bring new thinking and expertise.

I am an independent resident, not aligned with any groups. For years, I attended nearly all the downtown meetings of the City Council. They seem to have an agenda – raising the height limit in Orinda which is currently 35'. Yet, across from the fire department stands Eden Housing, almost 50' high; the structure steps up the hill and covers the entire lot. Is massive development their goal for our downtown? (Google Orinda Vision's newsletter where 100 condominiums are proposed.)

For these reasons, I endorse Eve Phillips (a technology expert who was valedictorian of her 1995 Miramonte class), Robert Thompson (who served on the financial advisory committee for Orinda), and Dr. Linda Delehunt (a longtime resident and educator).

I do not endorse the two incumbents. Amy Worth, a likeable person, has been around since 1998 for four terms. She was called on a possible conflict of interest. As chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which voted for Plan Bay Area, she led the City Council on the same vote. Dean Orr fully endorsed raising the height of Eden.

Restaurant Walk Benefits Local AAUW Scholarships

The 17th Annual Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk takes place Oct. 7 from 6–9 pm. Ticket sales benefit the AAUW Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch. More than 25 restaurants will provide samples from their menus during the evening.

For more information, go to oml-ca.aauw.net or call 925-631-0668.

I do not support candidate Carlos Baltodano, a former planning commission chair. *Contra Costa Times* reported that he, along with our then vice-mayor (not running for re-election) and a co-chair of the task force's downtown plan, circulated private emails; only official emails can be used for city business. The City Manager and Planning Director were aware.

The emails were to have Mr. Baltodano "educate" his planning commission (PC) to vote against the Montessori School project; the PC approved the project anyway. (A member did question Orinda Vision about blocking viable projects to make way for their hypothetical ones.) The vice-mayor recused herself and apologized to the community. Amy Worth, Dean Orr, and a third councilmember voted down Montessori.

Orinda voted for incorporation in 1985, mainly due to the California Supreme Court finally stopping a local developer. The City Council recently appointed him as another co-chair of the task force's downtown plan. At Public Forum in meetings, citizens are given three minutes to present. City Council/officials are not required to respond – ever.

We have a city government which seems intent on controlling, instead of listening and leading with consensus building. Residents deserve a new majority.

– Ann O'Connell-Nye

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **DELEHUNT** from page 13

construction is approved. Town hall meetings that allow all voices to be heard must be at the center of the decision making process so that Orindans can preserve their charming city.

Areas of Need in Orinda

- Orinda's charming community must be protected and maintained.
- Traffic gridlock cannot be tolerated.
- Local businesses must thrive.
- Crime patterns need to be addressed and crime thwarted.
- All roads must be repaired using the most prudent and fiscally conservative approach.
- Orinda's current 35-foot height limit on buildings must be preserved.

Qualifications

I hold a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of the Pacific, an undergraduate degree from CAL and received my Master's Degree from Cal State East Bay.

I have a long career history in the leadership capacity in the public sector/government and school arenas. In particular, my area of expertise lies with assisting entities in targeting and allocating their monetary

and physical resources in a manner that is fiscally prudent and appropriate to their needs.

On a personal level, one of the biggest challenges leaders in all sectors face is having a deep enough commitment and personal well of courage to stay firm in their convictions. I have a track record of personal integrity and can assure the public that their faith and confidence is well placed in my leadership ability.

Orindans cherish their excellent schools, and I am the only candidate running for City Council that has expertise as an educational leader. As such, I possess the skill base required to work effectively with the local school districts with the goal of keeping Orinda schools "top notch."

I believe that the mission of true leadership is in encouraging all citizens to be leaders in their own right. My belief is that it is important for Orinda to engage in an open discussion regarding the delivery of city services to residents. We need a process by which we craft an acceptable and viable general city plan and detailed downtown plan that respects the unique nature of the community, budgets funds appropriately and prioritizes our critically important infrastructure work. This plan needs to be done collaboratively, utilizing our best community thinkers.

◆ **WORTH** from page 15

Because we have local control of our zoning decisions, we can work together as a community to achieve consensus for our downtown. Through continued open, public discussions we can develop plans for our downtown that will result in its revitalization while maintaining the charm and character that a local serving downtown offers for residents.

I believe that height of building as well as their design and density should reflect the character of our downtown, which we love. Trees dominate the landscape, and places like the library and the park are treasured resources that can be linked with local serving businesses through convenient pedestrian sidewalks and convenient parking.

We need to improve our business district in a manner that preserves the essence of Orinda, and we need a tailor-made downtown that is vibrant and serves our community needs. The plan that Orinda adopts will be one that is the result of extensive community discussion, input and consensus.

Areas of Need in Orinda

Because the state continues to take money from cities, maintaining the financial security of Orinda will continue to be the greatest challenge for our city. Although we have prudently and carefully managed our city tax dollars, we need to continue to manage our resources frugally to be able to sustain the important services like police protection and improving our roads.

Orinda's excellent schools are a foundation of our community, and we must work together to protect and maintain the excellent educational opportunities that our children receive. State cuts in education dollars continue to threaten local educational excellence. Our community maintains its excellent schools through both public and generous private dollars from the community. We must continue these important and necessary efforts.

Maintaining a safe and comfortable community is an important priority for Orinda. We must continue to maintain and enhance Orinda's safety and security. Through allocating financial resources and utilizing technology, we can ensure high quality police, fire and paramedic protection for Orinda's residents.

Underlying all this is the prudent fiscal management of the cities resources so that we can continue to provide our residents with these vital services.

Qualifications

I am honored to serve on the Orinda City Council because of the opportunity it affords me to work on behalf of our citizens.

As an Orinda City Councilmember, I have been able to contribute my time and abilities to bring people together to solve problems and to accomplish projects in our community.

I have worked to secure long term funding for our library, roads and schools. I care deeply about making decisions based on consensus and thoughtful discussion, whether it be at a City Council meeting or a community process like building a new library.

There are two projects in particular where I was in a position to lead that I'm most proud of: building and operating the Orinda Library and building the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel.

As Orinda's transportation representative, I will continue to work hard to ensure that the needs of Orinda residents are met in the improvement of local freeways and BART.

These accomplishments in Orinda are not mine alone, but the product of many dedicated volunteers working together to

improve our community. My role is often to bring people together to solve problems and advocate for Orinda.

Much of what we are able to accomplish in Orinda is by working in partnership with the Orinda School District, the Fire District and Orinda's community groups. I will continue to serve as an active partner with these organizations to improve the quality of life in our community.

I will continue to share my knowledge of transportation, and my commitment to public safety and fiscal prudence on the City Council to ensure that Orinda's residents are well served as we work together for the Orinda community.


◆ **GRELLING** from page 12

Grelling. At this point, he has completed a series of triathlons. He currently runs anywhere from 15 to 35 miles per week, road bikes and swims. He hopes his participation raises awareness that having an artificial valve or taking blood thinners need not limit one's physical accomplishments. Also, that modern science has progressed to treat many heart conditions that previously were untreatable; his grandfather died of a likely related heart condition in his 50s that probably would be treatable today.

One of the attractions of running in the Medtronic race for Grelling is that they award money to an organization of each participant's choice. Grelling is donating his share to UC San Francisco's Office of Developmental Primary Care because he knows that people diagnosed with developmental conditions often have concomitant physical health conditions that need attention. The unit also trains providers in the community to work with people with these diagnoses. If you would like to contribute to this nonprofit organization, see <http://odpc.ucsf.edu>.

Grelling is a psychologist with a local practice focusing on assisting people of all ages with developmental disabilities such as Asperger's Syndrome and related, sometimes overlapping, conditions such as autism spectrum disorder and learning disabilities. For more information, see www.drgrelling.com, call 925-215-8694 or drop by Grelling Psychology Associates at 61 Avenida de Orinda, #110, in Orinda. He is also part of an organization called New Directions for Young Adults that provides training in transitional independent living skills for young adults who have been unable to thrive on their own. For more information, see www.ndfya-ca.com. For more information on the marathon, visit www.tcmevents.org/events/.

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Diverse Abilities Awareness
 OIS Awareness Week includes open house on Oct. 22, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at OIS and a wheelchair basketball game.
<https://ois-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>

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SCHOOLS/STUDENTS

October Spells Frightful Fun for Kids, Family and Friends

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

It's October; Halloween lurks around the corner and that means time for some fun and games at local elementary schools, with everyone welcome to join in.

Glorietta Elementary School will host its annual fall FunFest on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 am to 3 pm. Kids of all ages will enjoy the famous cakewalk, rock climbing wall, pumpkin decorating, dunk booth, go-karting and a whole lot more. Delicious food will be available all day. Don't forget to take a break from all the good food and fun to visit the *Bootique* where creative crafts and home-baked goodies will be for sale. The school is located at 15 Martha Road.

Sleepy Hollow's Annual Pumpkin Patch offers traditional fun and games for the entire family on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 am to 3 pm. The Pumpkin Patch includes a not-so-very-scary haunted house, carnival games, bouncy house, rock-climbing wall, a bungee trampoline, as well as face painting and tattooing. Nobody will go hungry



LANI MACKENZIE

Camryn Hirst (L) and **Peyton Gray** show off their face painting by Donna Pickthall at last year's Glorietta Fun Fest.

– food and refreshments will be for sale or swing by the Country Kitchen to purchase tasty homemade treats. Past favorites include English toffee, fresh preserves and an assortment of ghoulish cookies and cupcakes. The school is located at 20 Washington Lane.

Del Rey's traditional Pumpkin Patch will be on Saturday, Oct. 25, from noon to 4 pm. This year features a *Costume Bootique*, cake decorating contest and a pumpkin contest for the biggest, prettiest, ugliest and roundest pumpkins! The family fun day will also feature food, ghoulish – and traditional – carnival games and inflatable slides. The school is located at 25 El Camino Moraga.

Wagner Ranch Elementary plans its annual community Roundup! for Saturday, Oct. 25, from 11 am to 3 pm. Activities include: carnival games such as ring toss and balloon burst; pony rides; a bake sale and cake contest at the Country Kitchen; and Kiss the Pig – yes, it's a real baby pig! The school is located at 350 Camino Pablo.

Admission to all events is free and open to the public. Proceeds benefit school programs.



LINDA CRAYTON

Abby Evans enjoys one of the many games at last year's Glorietta Fun Fest.

Moraga Valley Kiwanis Gives to EFO



SALLY HOGARTY

The **Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club** (MVKC) presented the **Educational Foundation of Orinda** with a generous donation of \$5,000 in September. "This gift helps to fulfill our club's mission by recognizing the EFO's contribution to Orinda's children and by also recognizing the support the Orinda community provides to the MVKC's fundraising efforts," says MVKC president Jason Evans. Shown above (L-R) are **John Nickerson** (Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent), **Joe Jaconette** (Orinda Union School District Superintendent), **Jason Evans** (MVKC President), **Cara Hoxie** (EFO Co-President), **Dean Burnick** (EFO Co-President) and **Julie Parks** (Miramonte Principal).



Subscribe to the Orinda Outlook and City Email Notifications

The Orinda Outlook provides a look ahead for activities and events in the community. To subscribe to the Orinda Outlook, go to www.cityoforinda.org, add your email address to the yellow box and follow the instructions.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Tonya Gilmore, Public Information Officer at 925-253-4291 or tgilmore@cityoforinda.org

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Thank You for Making Lamorinda Idol Another Huge Success!

On September 7, 34 solo vocalists and 11 groups sang their hearts out at the 9th Annual Lamorinda Idol Finals held at the Orinda Theatre. These finalists were chosen from over 200 singers who auditioned in May.



Congratulations to this year's winners:

K-2 soloists: Natalie Schroeder

3-5 soloists: Neijla Ackdoe-Pagey

6-8 soloists: Jennifer McFarlane

9-12 soloists: Lucy Clearwater

K-5 groups: Rainbow Harmony (Amelia Chen, Kaitlyn Roach)

6-8 groups: Team Voce (Gianna Capozzi, Isabella Capozzi)

9-12 groups: Maritza & Tosca (Maritza Grillo, Tosca Maltzman)

Audience Award: Grace Barmmer

The incredible journey from auditioning to final performance could not have been accomplished without the help of our community volunteers and business sponsors. The Orinda Arts Council would like to thank the following:

Sponsors:

Orinda Car Show
Alain Pinel Realtors
Mechanics Bank
Orinda Orthodontics
Orinda Community Foundation

Emcees:

NBC Bay Area's Diane Dwyer and
Amy Hollyfield from ABC7 News

Judges:

Marilyn Levinson
Ira Marlowe
Chad Runyon
Bert Keely

CLASSIFIED / SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

◆ KAUNE from page 17

That said, I have had the opportunity to observe publishers and software companies that are creatively helping to implement Common Core. Change has provided opportunity to innovate, use new technology, update materials, and rethink how we prepare our children with critical thinking skills for a rapidly changing world. Having attended OIS in the 1980s, I understand that curriculum cannot be stuck in the age of "The Breakfast Club." And, we cannot instill excellence by teaching to a test.

So, I am hopeful that our teachers and administrators can use Common Core as an opportunity to adapt and innovate, giving our kids the best education possible.

Reconciling Competing Interest

My top priority is to improve communication among all stakeholders. Our administrators, parents, teachers, residents, local leaders and students all need a voice and need to engage in the process of finding common ground and solutions to new challenges.

Our administrators, especially principals, must balance competing interests. After an era of budgetary crisis, they should welcome renewed dialogue about our long-range goals. Parents have a keen interest in cooperation so that each school can employ its resources to the maximum benefit. Teachers, like parents, deserve to be heard. They bring the unique perspective of being on the front lines with our students. All residents need to be a part of the effort. The decisions of local leaders impact our schools and vice-versa. Finally, our children are never too young to start learning that civic engagement is at the heart of being a responsible citizen.

If elected, I would see my role as bringing together all these stakeholders. A board member must be a mediator who encourages cooperation and the honest expression of perspectives, differences and approaches.

Qualifications

As the parent of two children in the district, and as a product of the Orinda schools, I've watched the OUSD for a number of years. I can help the board as an informed consensus-builder who ensures an open environment.

My service started back when I was at Miramonte. I served as the student member of the Acalanes Unified High School District board, where I initiated the district's first student survey to provide two-way communication between students and administrators. I went on to earn degrees that focused on the working of government.

In my career, I have helped guide an established law firm through critical changes in the law and marketplace, adopting new technologies and innovating with new ways to help clients.

I served on the successful Fix Orinda Roads committee. We recognized that Orinda voters were reluctant to trust local government and instead had misinformation about infrastructure challenges. So we brought together a broader coalition, listened to the community, made the case for a prudent bond, and urged the city to explain its plans in a clearer way.

I have served on the boards of nonprofits, a statewide professional association and a business start-up, each time finding ways to make meaningful improvements. For example, as chair of the board of directors at St. Stephens Church in Orinda, I pushed for the full disclosure of a capital debt, led the drive to retire it, and founded a legacy fund with oversight to ensure planning and fiscal stability.

I am proud that so many individuals of different age groups, organizations and political persuasions have endorsed me. They can tell I am not afraid to take on a challenge and find creative solutions. They know that we will not always agree. But I will be straightforward in my views, always willing to listen, and even able to change my mind if proven wrong!

discussions as a board and listening to both the people in our community and each other are key.

I'm not beholden to any special interest group. I am truly here to represent the students of Orinda and to do what's best for them. I have one over arching goal: to provide the best possible education for our students. As long as that goal is always kept in mind, then good decisions will be made and our district will continue to thrive.

Qualifications

As the only incumbent running for reelection, I do think that experience matters. While it is always good to have fresh ideas and new perspectives, the institutional knowledge and perspective provided by more experienced board members provides an important balance.

I am passionate about public education and ensuring Orinda continues as one of the best school districts in California. It has been a great privilege working with so many talented and committed people on the school board, at the schools and in the community, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work collaboratively to accomplish the board's primary goal: providing Orinda students with the highest quality education.

I have three children currently attending Orinda schools – a son who is a junior Miramonte, a daughter in her freshman year at Miramonte, and a daughter in third grade at Del Rey. I have been a long-time volunteer at their schools, and my family has actively participated in many community and sports organizations. I am also on the boards of the Friends of the Orinda Library and the Miramonte Parents' Club.

I am an attorney and practiced as a employment lawyer and business litigator

for seven years before my son was born. My legal background constantly helps me in my role as board member, whether it's interpreting a contract, advocating a position, negotiating, or building consensus to obtain results.

We have had some great accomplishments during my first term. All five schools in the district were recognized as California Distinguished Schools. We maintained small class sizes and electives during the budget crisis. Our students' test scores are among the highest in the state. I'm proud of all that we've accomplished and look forward to serving for another four years. Additional information about me can be found on my website, www.julierossiter.org.

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Help Wanted

The Orinda Historical Society needs volunteers to staff the office/museum and to help with administrative tasks. An appreciation for local and county history is helpful.

The Society maintains a museum that is open to the public at 26 Orinda Way in the Orinda Library Plaza. For an appointment or more information, contact president Lucy Hupp Williams at 650-349-3382 or via email at rkwilliams0872@comcast.net.

Instruction

Flute, Piano, Guitar, Uke & Voice lessons in your home now being offered. Carol Alban. 510-542-7517. Beginners welcome.

Pet Care

All Ears Pet Sitting Services - Expert pet care in your home. A.M. & P.M. visits, midday dog walks, Orinda resident. No overnight services available. Call 925-253-8383 or visit allearspetcare.com.

Services

Rain gutter Cleaning. Roof cleaning, overhanging branches trimmed. Charles (h) 254-5533 or (c) 925-528-9385.

Wanted

I buy 1950's Furniture. Danish modern, Herman Miller, Knoll wanted. 1 item or entire estate! Call Rick at 510-219-9644. Courteous house calls.

◆ ROSSITER from page 18

great school district. One board member alone does not have any power – it is only through a consensus that decisions are made. Therefore, working to find common ground on issues, having meaningful

Are you considering buying? Do you want to know what your home is worth in the current market? Are you wondering what is happening to home prices in the area? For current information, give me a call about your real estate needs. LEILA SCHLEIN 925.899.7927 Leila@LeilaSchlein.com www.LeilaSchlein.com

2014 Publication Schedule

Table with Issue and Deadline columns: November 2014 (October 5, 2014), December 2014 (November 5, 2014)

Orinda News classified ads ...

Your ad in The Orinda News reaches 9,000 households and businesses in Orinda!

Ad rates are \$5 per line - \$10 minimum

Categories

- For Sale Cars Musical Instruments Sports Equipment Miscellaneous • Help Wanted • Household Services Caregivers Domestic House-Sitting • Instruction Music Lessons Tutors Miscellaneous • Pets • Pet Care • Rentals • Services • Vacation Rentals/ Home Exchanges • Wanted

There are 32 spaces per line. Count each letter, punctuation mark, and space between words.

Name _____ Category _____

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Write your ad in the boxes below with one letter, space or punctuation mark in each box. Cost is \$5 per line: \$10 minimum.

Grid for writing ad with 10 columns and 12 rows.

Enclose your check payable to The Orinda Association and mail to Orinda News, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563. We reserve the right to reject any ad. Classified ads must be prepaid. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 1 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents *Bram Stoker's Dracula* through Oct. 11 at the Community Park Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 pm, Sunday, Oct. 5 at 4 pm and Thursday, Oct. 9 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and \$8 for seniors/minors. Visit www.orsvp.org, call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org.
- Moraga Art Gallery** presents *Alergia – Happiness and Art*, featuring acrylic and watercolor paintings by Angelica Samame and ceramics by Cuong Ta, through Oct. 25, Rheem Shopping Center, 522 Center St. Hours are Wednesday-Sunday, noon to 5 pm. Visit <http://moragaartgallery.com>.
- 2 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents *The Great Tragedies* through Oct. 12 with renowned monologist Mike Daisey, who will explore Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Visit www.calshakes.org or call 510-548-9666.
- Orinda Books:** Former dancer and educator Andrea Pflaumer and wardrobe consultant Hella Tsacomas talk fashion, 7 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for 2- to 4-year-olds, Thursdays, 10 to 11 am, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- 7 **A Taste of Walnut Creek 17th Annual Restaurant Walk**, featuring 25 restaurants, 6 pm, benefits the Orinda/Moraga/Lafayette American Association of University Women's Tech Trek camp scholarships. Tickets are \$30. Send checks made out to AAUW OML Community Outreach Fund, Inc. to Gail Chesler, 2914 Fyne Drive, Walnut Creek, 94598. Add \$2 if you want tickets mailed. Call Sandy at 925-631-0668 for information. See article p. 23.
- 9 **Orinda Books:** Adam Plantinga, Moraga resident and a sergeant with the SFPD, discusses his book, *400 Things Cops Know*, 7 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- Orinda Books** sponsors *Project Second Chance: An Evening of Mystery*, 6 to 8 pm. *Note:* This is an off-site event; tickets are \$15. Call 925-927-3250 or visit www.ccclib.org/psc for details.
- 11 **Blazing Hearts Charity Dinner and Poker Tourney**, benefiting Alternative Family Services and foster youth, Barbacoa restaurant, Orinda Theatre Square. Buffet at 6 pm, tourney at 7 pm. Visit <http://www.helpfosteryouth.org/Blazing-Heart-Event.html>. See article p. 5.
- Divorce Options Workshop** (repeated second Saturday of every month), Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Room 201, Lafayette, 9:15 am to 12:30 pm. \$45 per participant, cash or check only. Presented by non-profit Collaborative Practice of the East Bay. Visit www.cpeastbay.org.
- 12 **Olive Festival**, Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo at Bear Creek Road, next to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 1 to 4 pm. Olive/olive oil tasting, chef demos, silent auction/raffle, family crafts and games, free. See article p. 7.
- St. Mary's College Guild Italian Night**, St. Mary's College Soda Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, 5:30 pm. Tickets \$35. Proceeds benefit the college scholarship fund. Call Cynthia at 925-388-0437.
- WomenSing** Blue Note Café Gala and auction, 4-7 pm, Lafayette Event Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. www.womensing.org.
- 13 **Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament**, 10:30 am, Orinda Country Club. Sponsored by Orinda Community Foundation and honoring members of Orinda Police Department. See article p. 7.
- 14 **Orinda Books:** Author and neuroscientist Daniel Levitin discusses his book, *The Organized Mind*, 7 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- 17 **Orinda Books:** *Gerry Wallace Exhibition and Sale* features her ceramic art, 10 am to 5 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606.
- 21 **Pros and Cons of Ballot Propositions**, presented by League of Women Voters, Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School St., Moraga, 9:30 to 11 am. Contact Diane at dbellrettger@gmail.com. See article p. 16.
- 22 **Orinda Intermediate School's** Diverse Abilities Awareness Week Open House, 80 Ivy Dr., 6:30-8:30. Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program will attend for the wheelchair basketball game. Email tague6@gmail.com.
- 25 **Art of Mixology Craft Cocktail Competition** for professional and amateur bartenders, presented by Orinda Arts Council, Theatre Square, 4:30 pm. For tickets or to enter the competition, visit <http://orindaarts.org/mixology>. See article p. 4.
- 29 **Orinda Books:** Orinda resident Marie Wagner Krenz discusses her new thriller, *Death at Arbours*, 4 pm, 276 Village Square. Call 925-254-7606. See article p. 11.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- Note:** In observance of National Food Day on Oct. 24, there will be a Food Bank barrel at the library during October. Donors of nonperishable items have the chance to win Oakland Zoo tickets.
- 2 **Teen Book Club**, a bi-monthly club where teens chose the books, 4 to 5 pm. Also Oct. 16. **Special Monthly Book Sale**, hosted by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and sorting room, 10 am to 1 pm.
- 6 **Karl Marlantes** reads from his book *What It Is Like to Go to War*, 7 pm. Marlantes is a Vietnam veteran, Rhodes scholar and author of best-selling novel *Matterhorn*.
- 14 **The Puppet Company** presents *Perez & Mondinga*, in which Mondinga tries to find the perfect husband, but all her suitors are unsuitable – until Perez, 10 to 10:40 am.
- 17 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss *The Remorseful Day* by Colin Dexter, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 pm. Adult program.
- 21 **Humanities West's** George Hammond gives a preview of the upcoming performance of *The Roman Republic*, 6:30 to 8 pm. Visit www.humanitieswest.org.
- 23 **Talespinners of Contra Costa** features adult storytelling and a guest speaker, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 pm.
- 21 **Peek-A-Boo Time**, songs, stories, rhythms and rhymes for infants to 16 months, Gallery Room, 11:30 am.
- 22 **Magic Show** with Ash K, for preschoolers and younger, 10 to 10:30 am.

CLUB MEETINGS

Diablo Star Chapter #214, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 pm. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 pm, Gallery Room, Orinda Library,

Added Production Concludes Cal Shakes' Season

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

California Shakespeare Theater ends its season in style with the world premiere of *The Great Tragedies: Mike Daisey Takes on Shakespeare*, running October 2 – 12 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda.

"I love the way Mike takes aspects of our culture on – he's fearless, fiercely articulate, but like a jazz musician working on a theme – in this case, Shakespeare and wrestling with it with the entirety of his wit and intellect, right in front of our eyes," says Cal Shakes artistic director Jonathan Moscone.

A master storyteller and monologist, Daisey weaves together autobiography, gonzo journalism and unscripted performance to tell hilarious and heartbreaking stories that expose secret histories and unexpected connections. He has created over 20 monologues and performed on five continents. His controversial work *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs* received acclaim from audiences and critics



URSA WAZ
Mike Daisey takes on Shakespeare's greatest tragedies Oct. 2-12 at the Bruns.

across the United States.

Now, Daisey focuses his unique talents on the genius of Shakespeare and what the Bard can teach us today. Performing on four consecutive nights, Daisey turns his considerable intellect on *Romeo and Juliet* (Oct. 2 and Oct. 9 at 7:30 pm), *Hamlet* (Oct. 3 and Oct. 10 at 8 pm), *Macbeth* (Oct. 4 and Oct. 11 at 8 pm), and *King Lear* (Oct. 5 and Oct. 12 at 7 pm).

Special discounted package prices are available for patrons seeing all four shows. For tickets, call 510-548-9666 or go to www.calshakes.org.

www.moragaadobe.org.

Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 am, May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 am, Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.

Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 am, free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.

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

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Every Friday, 7 am, Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com/> or 925-283-8288. Oct. 8 speaker is Shari Blindt, executive director of Project Hope; Oct. 10 is Meredith Meade, president of Lafayette Partners in Education; Oct. 17 is Hans Florine, athlete and adventurer; Oct. 24 is Janet Keeter, Orinda City Manager.

Lamorinda Toastmasters. Every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.

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

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

Orinda Junior Women's Club community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 pm, www.orindajuniors.org.

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

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

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

Orinda Historical Society Museum. Third Wednesday, 3 pm, 26 Orinda Way, 925-254-1353.

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

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

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

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

Walnut Creek Garden Club. Second Monday, 9:30 am, Camellia Room, Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek, <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/walnut-creek-garden-club> or mittle44@gmail.com. This month, Lindsay Museum member will talk about bats and how to sustain the bat community.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission. Second Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Sarge Littlehale Room, City Hall. www.cityoforinda.org.

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

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

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

Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. Second Monday, 6 pm, 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 pm, Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 1 **Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD)** Governing Board meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 pm. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us. Also Oct. 15.
- 13 **Orinda Union School District Board Meeting**, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 pm. Visit www.orindaschools.org.
- 15 **Miramonte High School Parents Club** meeting, 750 Moraga Way, 9:30 am.
- 18 **Miramonte High School Parents Club** hosts a Food Truck Fest at the library plaza, from 6 pm to 9 pm, 750 Moraga Way. Public welcome (adults only).
Glorietta Fall FunFest, 10 am to 3 pm, 15 Martha Road. Public welcome.
- 19 **Orinda Academy Open House** for interested parents (8th-12th grade), 1 to 4 pm, 19 Altarinda Road. Visit www.orindaacademy.org.
- 25 **ACT-SAT StartUp**, offered by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Princeton Review is a two-hour assessment that combines question types from the ACT and the redesigned SAT, Miramonte High School, 8 to 10 am, register at the College and Career Center by 7:45 am. There will be a follow-up session with students and parents on Dec. 11, 6:30 pm, in the school's theater. Visit <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/sat-act/> to register and payment information. All proceeds go to local scholarships for young women. Program intended for those graduating in 2017 and beyond.
Sleepy Hollow Annual Pumpkin Patch, 10 am to 3 pm, 20 Washington Lane. Public welcome.
Del Rey Pumpkin Patch, noon to 4 pm, 25 El Camino Moraga. Public welcome.
Wagner Ranch Roundup!, 11 am to 3 pm, 350 Camino Pablo. Public welcome.



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Theatre Abuzz As Idol Finalists Vie for Titles

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Theatre buzzed with excitement the first week of September as dozens of young hopefuls vied for titles in the 9th Annual Lamorinda Idol show. A total of 34 solo vocalists and 11 groups eagerly awaited the final round in the annual event, sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council.

The September finalists were chosen from some 200 singers who auditioned in May. The student performers, from Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga, ranged in age from kindergarten to high school. Finalists performed before a panel of celebrity judges including Bay Area television journalists Diane Dwyer and Amy Hollyfield and performers, teachers and producers Deborah Eubanks, Marilyn Levinson, Ira Marlowe and Chad Runyon.

Winners in each category received cash prizes, and all finalists received gift certificates. The winners also performed at several area events including the Orinda Car Show, the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival and, they will perform at the Orinda Arts Council's Holiday Luncheon.

"Lamorinda Idol is always a highlight of my year," said Miramonte High School (MHS) senior Maritza Grillo, who has performed in several Idol shows. "I am always blown away by the talent in this area. The younger performers have never ceased to amaze me."

Grillo performed with fellow MHS senior Tosca Maltzman. The duo sang the James Brown blues song *It's a Man's Man's Man's World*, garnering screams of enthusiasm and a first-place win in the high school student group category.

Maltzman, who has performed in both solo and group categories for six previous Idols, identified the experience as "one of the highlights of my senior year. It was so



Amelia Chen, along with her partner Kaitlyn Roach (not shown), won in the K-5 Group category.

much fun to finish off my Lamorinda Idol career singing a great song with my friend."

Grillo and Maltzman are experienced performers with local theatre credits. Maltzman is performing through Oct. 19 as Wednesday in *The Addams Family* at Contra Costa Civic Theatre. She will join Grillo and others in *Performers for Progress* at MHS on Oct. 23-25. "Not only is the talent incredible, but it raises money for a good cause," said Grillo.

Grillo and Maltzman have shared many positive experiences working on Idol, including the mentorship of Idol Chairman Steve Harwood. Harwood is Orinda's 2011 Citizen of the Year, and a long-time administrator for the show. Grillo calls Harwood "a surrogate grandfather" and believes many others feel the same way.

Maltzman adds that Harwood is "an amazing and inspirational man. He has an unbelievable amount of enthusiasm and unflagging support. He works tirelessly to make the program as wonderful and professional as it is."

Grillo says Harwood is the glue that holds the program together.

"The look on his face when any kid performs always makes me smile, and he always puts so much into these events to make sure they are great for everyone," said Grillo.

Lamorinda Idol 2014 Winners

- K-5 Groups: Rainbow Harmony, featuring Amelia Chen and Kaitlyn Roach
- 6-8 Groups: Team Voce, featuring Gianna Capozzi and Isabella Capozzi
- 9-12 Groups: Maritza & Tosca, featuring Maritza Grillo and Tosca Maltzman
- Audience Award: Grace Bammer
- K-2 Soloist: Natalie Schroeder
- 2-5 Soloist: Neijla Ackdoe-Pagey
- 6-8 Soloist: Jennifer McFarlane
- 9-12 Soloist: Lucy Clearwater



Neijla Ackdoe-Pagey was the soloist winner in the 2nd - 5th grade category.



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STUDENTS

Orinda Rock Baseball Competes with 104 Teams in New York

By MICHAEL SAKODA
Staff Writer

The Orinda Rock baseball team got more than its share of competition at the Cooperstown Dreams Park in New York this summer.

“Cooperstown has been around for about 20 years,” said Orinda Rock coach, Dennis Wong. “They have three months set aside, broken up week by week, and they bring in 104 teams each week to compete.”

Invitations to the tournament are passed down. To get an invite, your team has to have been there from the start or have an invitation passed along by another team. Orinda Rock has had an invitation for four years now and Wong said it’s a culmination for the 12-year-old age group.

“Walnut Creek and Lafayette have teams too,” he said. “And here, people know that when you’re 12, you can compete for a spot to play against 103 other teams.”

A handful of kids, all from Orinda, made this year’s team - Dominic Davidson, Zachary Donner, AJ Fraser, Campbell Hoskins, Nico Hsu, Bennett Millham, John Ricksen, Chris Watson, Nick Watson, Stevie Wilder, Nicholas Wong and Tanner Zwahlen – and had what Wong describes as an experience that’s larger than baseball.

“The place was pretty antiquated,” Wong said. “Normally when a team travels, they stay in hotels and eat at restaurants, but here they stayed in dorms that felt like army barracks.”

The Wi-Fi didn’t work and a dress code was enforced for players and coaches at all times in keeping with the philosophy of the man running Cooperstown, described as “a traditional baseball fanatic.” The players had two things to focus on - baseball and each other.

“In this age where technology dominates, it really took a backseat, like the clock rewind,” said Wong. “The kids played cards and traded pins and talked baseball. Everything was old school, you play until someone wins, wear the same thing, and it really purifies the sport.”

Each team at Cooperstown is required to bring its own umpire. Orinda Rock’s umpire was Mike Heller, a coach from the

Orinda Pony league.

“[Mike] would come over to the dorms to do a trivia session about baseball rules, and he had some things to give away, baseballs and things, and the kids would eat it up,” said Wong.

In Pool Play, Orinda Rock faced six teams - the Whitman Panthers from Massachusetts (25-1 win), the Cyclones from Hawaii (18-13 win), the South Lyon Thunder from Michigan (11-8 win), the Upper Saddle River Teel Ravens from New Jersey (5-9 loss), the Yorktown Huskers from New York (24-2 win), and the Beaver Valley Black from Pennsylvania (7-8 loss).

Orinda Rock earned the 39th seed (and a two round bye) in the single elimination playoff. They faced and defeated NorCal Mission from San Mateo 21-5 in the third round before falling to the 26th seeded South Brunswick Vikings from New Jersey 3-4 in the fourth.

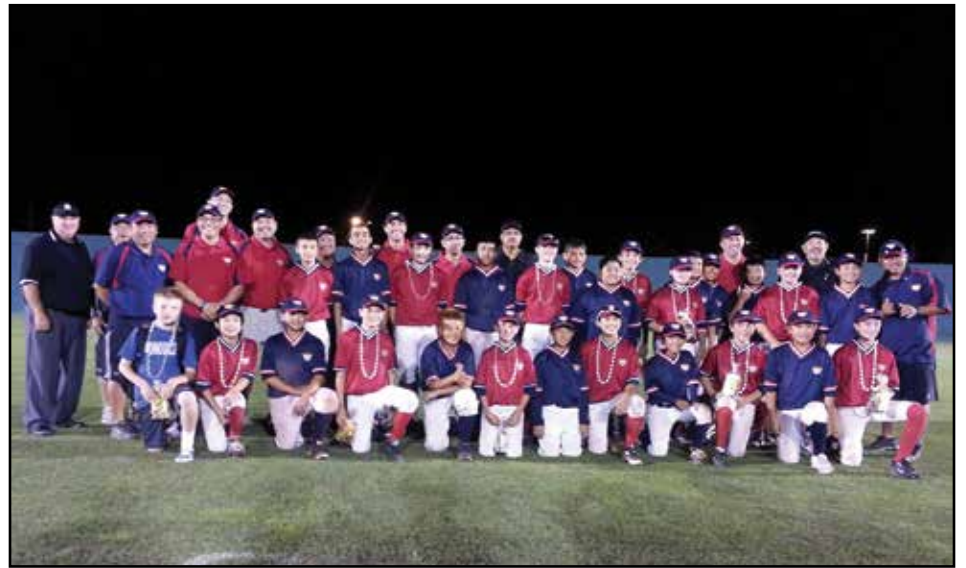
It was all bigger than baseball because the memories that stand out from Orinda Rock’s pool play have nothing to do with the scoreboard - it was the kid from New York, who couldn’t play because of a heart condition, throwing out the first pitch in Orinda Rock’s game against the Yorktown Huskers; it was the gift exchange and joint team photo with the Cyclones from Hawaii; it was cheering on Normal Mission as they came back to win after trailing 9-1 with one out to go.

“Those were the highlights,” said Wong. “It wasn’t about what we did in the games. It was what our kids did on their own, going and cheering for another NorCal team, trading pins. That was the thing about the whole week. It was the little things that kept happening.”

Even Wong’s lineup reflected it. Rather than sticking with a set batting order, Wong rotated, picking up each game where he left off.

“I wanted them to play as a team, instead of as individuals,” he said. “Whoever we left off in the lineup would lead off the next game.”

While this gave a certain tactical advantage, surprising pitchers with home runs out of the ninth spot, it more reflected the purity of the sport Wong said made Cooper-



SHIRLEY WONG

Rock players and coaches are in red jerseys and the team members from Hawaii are in blue jerseys. Orinda players (L-R) bottom row: **Tanner Zhwalen** (blue shirt), **Nicholas Wong**, **John Ricksen**, **Bennett Millham**, **Nico Hsu**, **Zach Donner**, **Stevie Wilder**. Top row: **Greg Hsu** (coach), **Drew Fraser** (coach), **Dennis Wong** (manager), **Dominic Davidson**, **Dan Hoskins** (Coach), **Nick Watson**, **Michael Donner** (coach), **A.J. Fraser**, **Matt Meredith**, **Campbell Hoskins**, **Don Davidson** (coach), and **Chris Watson**.

stown a special experience, and his overall philosophy as a coach.

“I wanted everyone to get a fair number of bats,” he said. “We’re not in the Majors

yet; we’re not even in high school yet. For some kids, it could be one of the last times they play baseball, and it should be about having fun and competing.”



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Fall into Fashion



Bonnie Waters

October flings open the door and invites fall into our lives and our closets. Living in California we can't wait until the weather cools, the rains begin (hopefully), and we can don cozy sweaters, buy new boots and pull out our fall/winter wardrobe favorites. The fall 2014 runways were full of great, warm trends that included textures, prints, head-to-toe knit ensembles and bold, electrifying colors.

For more than 20 years, Pantone, the global authority on color, has surveyed the designers of New York Fashion Week and beyond to curate the season's most important color trends. According to The Pantone Color Institute, "This fall is a season of untypical colors – more reflective of imagination and ingenuity, which makes for an artful collection of colors and combinations not bound by the usual hues for fall." In other words, as it relates to color, there is a new freedom for fall as anything and everything goes!

Head-to-toe fiery, monochromatic red is the definitive HOT hue this season. Toast the fall/winter season with Sangria, an exotic tone reminiscent of faraway places or enjoy the glamour of the heavenly, sophisticated Aurora Red.

If you are not quite ready to rock an all-red ensemble, you can definitely enjoy the variety of red lacquers for nails and luscious lip treatments ranging from bold, sensual blood reds to rich, regal wines. "Thank Glogg It's Friday" from the OPI Nordic Collection or the soon-to-be-released

"Red Fingers and Mistletoes" from OPI's Gwen Stefani Collection look great on all skin tones.

If you grow tired of seeing red, take the plunge and enjoy a dark, romantic Midnight Swim with CND's Shellac. This inky-blue polish has a shimmery, metallic finish.

When it comes to eye makeup, go dramatic and moody with splashes of color, or glamorous and sensual with the overstated cat-eye. You can also tone it down with neutrals and naturals.

Those of us who fondly remember the Mods and Rockers of the '60s couldn't be happier with the re-introduction of trends we helped put on the map. Retro Mod fashions include bold blocks of colors, straight sheath dresses and, of course, go-go boots. Faves of the Rockers include (P)leather and faux fur vests and mini-skirts modified to make a comeback in living colors such as buttery yellow and electric neon blue.

Hair fashions this season also hail back to the '60s. Throwbacks such as the deep side part, side swept swoosh bangs, knots and twists, subtle teasing and bodacious braids impart a decidedly retro feel.

Schedule time to clean out your closet and your makeup drawer. If something doesn't inspire you, put it into retirement. Whether it's a new purchase or a re-interpretation of an existing favorite, this season you can mix and match to your heart's content. Most importantly, have fun with fashion and if you want to rock a trend you have to make the look your own.

Orinda Woman's Club Hosts Festival of Trees Lunch and Fashion Show



SALLY HOGARTY

Beautiful trees and beautiful fashions along with a gourmet lunch make the Orinda Woman's Club's **Festival of Trees** a popular annual event.

By **MAGGIE SHARPE**
Staff Writer

The Orinda Woman's Club (OWC) will host the 28th Annual Festival of Trees Benefit Luncheon and Fashion Show at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, on Thursday, Nov. 20. Dan Ashley, co-anchor of Channel 7 News, will be Master of Ceremonies for the day.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., attendees will have the opportunity to review an array of raffle items including decorated small trees, trips to Puerto Vallarta and Hawaii, wreaths, gift baskets and more. Lunch follows at noon, after which models take to the runway to showcase unique fashions designed by Helen Lyall.

Major beneficiaries of the fundraiser include the Contra Costa County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Holden High School in Orinda and the

Orinda Woman's Club Community Service Committee. CASA has been "the child's voice in court" for 32 years by providing trained community volunteers to advocate for the needs of neglected or abused children so the court can make timely and informed decisions in the best interests of the child. Holden High School, a private school in Orinda, has been offering "innovative education" to Bay Area students since 1969. OWC's Community Service Committee donates to local and international nonprofits and awards education grants to improve the lives of women and families.

Tax-deductible tickets for the gala event are \$90 each. For more information, call Janet at 925-451-0559 or visit www.orindawomansclub.org. Founded in 1953, the Orinda Woman's Club is a non-profit organization that helps women and children in need.

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- angle the leg which lies on the ball and pull it in direction to the hip
- the gym ball rolls in direction of hip, too
- pull the leg forwards until it is vertical to the ground
- the ball is under your foot in the final position, hold it for a bit
- stretch the leg out again and roll the ball back into the starting position
- the upper body is stable and straight during this exercise
- repeat this several times, also with your other leg



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BUSINESS BUZZ

The Refined Palate: Exotic Tastes

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Earlier this year Theodore “Ted” Wang and chef William Lue opened The Refined Palate at 19 Orinda Way because they wanted to offer something unique on this side of the Caldecott – Burmese cuisine. Their rating on Yelp is four out of five stars - not bad for a start-up. Wang and his family moved to Orinda two years ago from New Jersey while Lue has a several decade career in the Bay Area as a Burmese/Southeast Asian restaurateur. Since they make a point of hiring local you may be served by one of three young men from Orinda: Micah, Daniel or Spencer.

Chef Lue, like any good chili-head, knows that the *Guinness Book of World Records* lists the Carolina Reaper as the world’s hottest pepper at 2.2 million Scoville heat units, closely followed by the

Trinidad Scorpion at 1.2 million Scoville units. Left in the dust is the Ghost pepper or Bhut Jolokia at 462,400 units; not even close is the Scotch Bonnet at 200,000 units. Lue uses all these organically grown chiles to make intriguing sambals (sauces), which are served alongside menu items; sometimes they’re used as main ingredients. The world of sambals he creates is a wide one – fresh chiles in season with a variety of ingredients such as shallots, ginger, Gilroy garlic, tamarind, sugar cane, dried shrimp and rice vinegar. Further, his sambals, all made on the spot, might be diced by hand or blended in a mortar and pestle. They could be smoky, salty, crunchy or they might clear your sinuses. The chiles could be fresh, smoked, steamed, dried, toasted, powdered, fried or burnt (on purpose) depending on the recipe.

Lue is a deft hand at turning exotic ingredients into mouth-watering dishes; try his



SALLY HOGARTY

Chef William Lue (L) takes great pride in his chili peppers. Shown with him is his partner in The Refined Palate, **Theodore Wang**.

green tea leaf salad, ginger salad (mixed at your table) or dairy-free yam tapioca. He sources from local farmers who grow the produce and herbs he likes to use such as: fresh kaffir lime leaves, young hibiscus

(roselle) leaves, opo, pea sprouts, fresh lemon grass, watercress, sesame leaves, snake or long beans, okra leaves and shiso leaves. One of his favorite things to pickle are young garlic tips. In short, the menu is not dumbed down to blend in with chain restaurants – it is authentic, interesting and off the beaten track for your taste buds.

Ted Wang, his wife Sheila, and their two sons have enjoyed becoming part of the Orinda community. The restaurant is also joining in by being a sponsor of the Arts in Bloom Festival in the park, participating in a food recycling project, and being a sponsor of the Orinda Baseball Association. “While the menu is Burmese, you’ll find we use ingredients and draw inspiration from world cuisines,” says Wang.

If you haven’t already visited, stop by for lunch, dinner, takeout or catering, 19 Orinda Way (close to Village Pizza), 925-386-0362. Hours: lunch daily 11:30 am – 3 pm; dinner daily 5 – 9 pm, closed Sunday. See www.refinedpalateorinda.com for menu and more information.

◆ BUZZ from page 32

munity and support local public schools. I volunteer with the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, and I am a member of the Orinda Rotary Club. The community has supported Shelbys, and we like to give back and support the community.”

An avid cyclist and runner, Rangel has raised nearly \$13,000 over the past six years for the AIDS LifeCycle event. Next year will be his seventh year riding his bike the 545 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in support of this charitable cause. “I train throughout the year to stay active for the ride, but I am looking to spend more time at home in the future. I am finding a new vision and look forward to expanding to new things,” explains Rangel.

Shelbys is open for lunch seven days a week, from 10 am to 3 pm, and dinner is served from 5 to 9 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. On Saturday and Sunday, brunch is served from 10 am to 2 pm. For more information visit www.shelbysseatbetter.com or call 925-254-9687. Shelbys is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

Orinda Cleaners Provides Special Care

In their own very thoughtful and friendly way, Anna and George Wahbeh have been providing dry cleaning, laundry and alteration services to Orindans for the past 28 years. This small family-owned and operated business is located smack in the middle of the Crossroads at 37 Moraga Way, between Canetti’s Bookshop and Morrison’s Jewelers. One of the older businesses in town, there has been a dry cleaning establishment situated on these premises since the late 1950s.

“All dry cleaning is performed on-site using our new equipment that is environmentally friendly and rated Green by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,” says Anna. Laundry services are performed off-site and the turnaround time satisfies customers’ needs. “I know every customer by name and actually recall specific garments they are picking up,” she says.

George’s day begins at the shop at 5 am. By the time 10 o’clock rolls around, he ventures out for his daily coffee break with the Coffee Grinders, a group of friends who discuss art, politics and current events over their favorite brew.

George likes to point out how people tend to incorporate special rituals around their clothing and stresses the importance of how proper care lengthens the life of fine garments. “We have cleaned and preserved wedding gowns for a few customers and have enjoyed the experience of having their daughters bring the same gown back for cleaning (and sometimes alteration) for their own wedding. It is a pleasure to see this family heirloom being passed down to a new generation and to be part of that process,” says George.

Over the years, the Wahbehs have come to know the Orinda community very well. “Clothes can be an icon for many people,” says Anna. “What they wear is a statement about them. I notice that some customers are very attached to their clothes. We respect this and take very special care of their garments. If someone has a complaint, we listen to our customers and their needs.”

Services range from the cleaning and preserving of wedding gowns for brides to cleaning area rugs, as well as performing alterations. Even new ties can be purchased for a reasonable price.

Natives of Sweden, the Wahbehs arrived in the Bay Area in 1986. “I am trained as a civil engineer and with a young family, we were looking for a business that did not require travel and would allow us to be

at home with our children,” says George.

When not working, the Wahbehs enjoy taking long walks together. George is an oil painter and especially enjoys painting landscapes and old buildings. His work has been exhibited at the Orinda Library. Anna does beautiful needlework. An example of her artistry is a patriotic American piece hanging above the counter at their shop. After completing her workday, she travels home to tend to her garden of dahlias and roses.

Orinda Cleaners is open Monday through Friday, 7 am to 6 pm and Saturday from 8:30 am to 4 pm. A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce since 1986, Orinda Cleaners is also a member of the International Fabricare Institute and the California Fabricare Institute. For more information call Anna and George at 925-254-5155.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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BreatheMoveBeWell Pilates Launches Near the Crossroads

This past spring Bridget McCarthy and Gaby Diskin established their holistic Pilates center – BreatheMoveBeWell – at 1 Northwood Drive, behind the Union 76 Station at the Crossroads. These two friends met 10 years ago at the Lafayette Health Club and realized they shared a passion for wellness and practicing Pilates to attain a sense of health and harmony from within.

The studio space is conveniently located with plenty of two-hour and four-hour street parking available within a short walk. Shoes are left at the door when clients step inside onto newly installed hardwood flooring. A large picture window affords a scenic view of the tree-studded hillsides. Pieces of equipment utilized during sessions include

the Allegro Reformer, the Spinal Arc, the Chair, the Cadillac – all designed by Joseph Pilates – as well as the CoreAlign, which is new generation and not designed by Pilates.

Both Diskin and McCarthy come from dance backgrounds. Diskin has scoliosis and began practicing Pilates as a hobby to help strengthen her spine, becoming certified with Body Arts and Science International in 2002. She balances her career as a Realtor with Green Key Real Estate with co-managing the BreatheMoveBeWell studio and serving as an instructor there. Nutrition and health coach Dawn Preisendorf teaches a detox program at the studio this month and is available for consultations.

“I specialize in back care and instructing people who have scoliosis and other imbalances,” says Diskin. “Most people have imbalances, they just are not aware of it. I participated in an intensive training program in Scolio Pilates with Karena

Thek Lineback, who wrote the book on how people with scoliosis can exercise in optimal alignment. I also incorporate some yoga poses in my Pilates instruction which clients appreciate.”

McCarthy literally grew up dancing. From ages five to 18 she studied ballet, modern dance, Korean, African and Persian dance. At 16 she studied at the New York City School of American Ballet. While managing an independent living skills program at East Bay Services for the Developmentally Disabled, she realized that despite the many services offered for these adults, there was no health program available.

“I got certified as a Pilates instructor and developed a specific Pilates program for developmentally disabled adults and expanded to teaching at the Lafayette Health Club,” says McCarthy. “During my travels throughout India and Thailand last winter, I realized I wanted to establish my own studio and teamed up with Gaby.” She believes through practicing Pilates the body, mind and spirit are integrated and ultimately elevated together in spirit. “It is important to convey the essence in using the breath to engage the core to move the body in a graceful and effortless way,” adds McCarthy.

Diskin enjoys her practice because it improves concentration and the time goes so quickly. “Pilates gives a person the chance to breathe into their day and helps us to be one with ourselves,” she says.

The principles of this physical fitness program outlined by founder Joseph Pilates include breath, core, control, fluidity,



VALERIE HOTZ
Bridget McCarthy (L) and Gaby Diskin teach Pilates at their studio BreatheMoveBeWell.

precision, concentration, imagination and integration. “With all this is a sense of moving, of the whole being as one. With breath being our first and last act of life, Joseph Pilates believed in the importance of learning to breathe correctly,” says McCarthy. “The fact that this regimen is non-weight bearing makes it ideal for people undergo-

ing rehabilitation. It is great for any age and every ability level.”

When asked about favorite pastimes, both Diskin and McCarthy share with a smile that they like to eat and support local businesses. The art and culture scene in the Bay Area is of special interest. “Orinda is such a nice community. We love the great energy here and like being part of this community,” says McCarthy, who is also a certified Breema practitioner.

For more information about BreatheMoveBeWell Pilates or to sign up for a class, visit www.breathemovebewell.com or call Gaby Diskin at 510-290-3428.



VALERIE HOTZ
Chef Arno Kober (L) and Carlos Rangel of Shelbys in Theatre Square. The two shut down the restaurant for one night in order to cater “Dancing with the Cars,” an Orinda Rotary fundraiser benefiting the Educational Foundation of Orinda.

Shelbys – An Orinda Institution

Originally established 20 years ago by Orindan Carol Fario, Carlos Rangel took over the reins of this delightful Theatre Square restaurant in 2005, which features the talents of chef Arno Kober. Preparing and serving California cuisine with a European influence, bistro food remains Kober’s favorite. “These foods represent the most important kinds of cooking because they are deeply rooted in tradition,” Kober says.

While using the freshest ingredients and purchasing organic produce every other day, Kober, who is originally from Germany, brings a vision to the Shelbys’ menu that incorporates a special emphasis on fresh salmon dishes. “We change our menu seasonally, guaranteeing fresh and flavorful selections,” says Rangel, who makes it a priority to be engaged with the community. “There is a lot of activity in Theatre Square these days which is exciting. Shelbys does numerous events with the Orinda Theatre and participates in the annual Orinda Chamber of Commerce Restaurant Tour,” he adds. Shelbys also catered the recent Orinda Film Festival.

The inviting décor is decidedly Country French with a California twist, reminiscent of Napa eateries. Mexican paver tiles cover the floor and bright tomato red walls are adorned with modern paintings. Floor-to-ceiling windows allow plenty of natural light and afford an angled view of the Crossroads. Outside seating in the Square is available and in demand on warm afternoons and evenings.

Wine tasting on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 pm is Rangel’s latest venture and more events are being planned in conjunction with the Orinda Theatre. “Our catering business is growing,” says Rangel. “Most recently, we catered the Rotary Club’s Dancing with the Cars event. It is a pleasure to be involved in the Orinda com-

[SEE BUZZ page 31]

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