



# THE ORINDA NEWS

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## Fire District Reviews Options for Station 43

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

With the announcement by Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (Con Fire) of the reopening of Station 16 in Lafayette, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) agreed at its Sept. 2 board meeting to terminate plans for a new joint Station 46 with Con Fire, while simultaneously investigating options to rebuild or move Station 43.

MOFD Station 43, at 20 Via Las Cruces in Orinda, has been in the planning process of being rebuilt since February 2012. Station 43 needs to be rebuilt because it does not meet seismic standards, modern fire apparatus barely fits in the apparatus bays and the living area does not adequately accommodate mixed-gender staffing.

Con Fire Station 16, at 4007 Los Arabis Ave., Lafayette, was closed in June 2012 because mold and rodents infested the station. At that time, the crew from Station 16 was relocated to Con Fire Station 15. In January 2013, the crew from Station 16 was eliminated due to budget cutbacks. At that time, Con Fire asked if MOFD would be interested in teaming up to build a new station with each district paying for half of the station. A station costs about \$2 million to run per year. A joint station would therefore cost each district about \$1 million per year to run, saving each fire district about \$1 million a year. The MOFD board told

[SEE MOFD page 6]

## 11th Annual Classic Car Show a Roaring Success



HARRISON ERNY

Miramonte High School junior, Harrison Erny, took this spectacular photo with his remote control helicopter with a small camera on the bottom. "I was just randomly clicking the camera button and hoping I was getting something," says Erny. "My friends and I really enjoyed the car show. It was an awesome way to see some great cars." Erny's unique camera managed to catch several of the original Shelby Cobras as they departed on the Shelby Cobra 1,000 Mile Invitational Tour.

## Local Schools Score Big on New Assessment Test

By BILL O'BRIAN  
Staff Writer

The State of California released the results of its inaugural Smarter Balanced Assessment System on Sept. 9. The test, formerly called Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR), was administered last spring. The transition to the state's new Common Core curriculum began in the 2013-14 school year and will continue for several years, until curriculum is aligned with tests

in all subject areas.

The Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) achieved some of the highest scores for high schools in Contra Costa County on the new test, with 85 percent of students meeting or exceeding the English language proficiency level and 70 percent meeting or exceeding the math standards for the district's four high schools. In the Orinda Union School District (OUSD), the elementary schools had 87 percent and 83 percent respectively in meeting or exceeding the standards for English and mathematics, among the highest scores in the county.

For the 3.1 million California students who took the tests, 44 percent met or exceeded the standards in English and 33 percent met or exceeded the threshold in math. These test results are generally lower than the previous STAR results. However, Tom Torlakson, state superintendent of public instruction, says it is unreliable to make comparisons with the tests because, "it's apples to watermelons."

Aida Glimme, director of educational services at AUHSD, oversees the Common Core curriculum and its testing component. She says the district analyzed the test results and presented them to the school board at its Sept. 16 meeting. "We are not fully aligned yet (curriculum to tests), and I would like to say the transition will take four to five years," she said.

One change already introduced ensures writing and reading is taught across the curriculum. The next step will be to implement the new Common Core science curriculum already adopted by the state. Starting in 2016, Glimme says, the state will revise

the social science curriculum.

Glimme says the district has been busy the last two years training its teachers for the Common Core curriculum with "different components." She says there are Core coaches at each school who are released from one period of teaching – full-time teachers teach five periods – to lead training and do one-on-one coaching of fellow teachers. Teachers also attend conferences, there is district- and school-wide training by administrators and teachers, and professionals are brought in to lead training.

The state gave the AUHSD funding of a little over \$1 million dollars over the

[SEE AUHSD page 18]

## Del Rey Students Raise Funds for Library



SALLY HOGART

On Sept. 11, Children's Librarian Lin Look presented a thank you card to the Del Rey students who put on a very special fundraiser for the library. The five enterprising youngsters performed in a neighborhood show that involved dancing, singing and playing the piano. Adults were charged \$1 and children \$.50. The event raised \$27.06 for the library.

Shown above are (L-R) **Indie Lee** (fourth grade), **Charles Lee** (first grade), **Amali Chatterjee** (fifth grade), **Josie Harnett** (third grade) and **Baila Portmann** (second grade). Children's Librarian **Lin Look** is in the back row.

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LIBRARY GALLERY / FESTIVAL OF TREES

# Chinese-American Artists Light Up Library Gallery

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents the work of seven Chinese-American artists who make up the Three Eight Art Studio. They are showing over 75 works at the Orinda Library Gallery during October. Their work encompasses a variety of genres: oil and acrylic paintings, ceramics, watercolors and Chinese brush ink works. Join them at an artists' reception on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 2 to 4 p.m., when light refreshments will be served. Beichen Li will play a traditional Chinese musical instrument, the guzheng, during the reception. It is a stringed instrument with movable bridges and can be described as a Chinese plucked zither, as musicians use picks of various kinds to play it.

The Three Eight Art Studio is a group of Chinese-American artists who share the same background and similar childhood memories. They use different media to create pieces that reflect a deep appreciation of their rich cultural heritage and have been meeting since 2007. At every stage of their lives, art has nourished each of them and fostered a belief that the beauty of artwork is a feast for the eyes; plus, they have fun

together. Paul Fan of Sacramento, a wood carver, is not showing work in this show.

Ricky Chang of Walnut Creek is exhibiting 11 watercolors, all of which are representational except for one. The *Pathos of Man* is a 12" x 16" watercolor that juxtaposes a Chinese terracotta soldier from Qin Shi Huangdi's tumulus (r. 256 – 210 B.C.E.) and a Greek warrior. Chang believes that man-made aggression leading to war, whether originating in the East or the West, is the source of mankind's pathos. He hopes viewers will walk away feeling surprised by the quality and professionalism of the artworks in the exhibit.

Husband-and-wife artists Doris and Wang Hai Chen of Berkeley have been operating The Channing Art Studio for the past 40 years. They teach children of all ages how to express their manner of thinking through drawing; along the way they develop the fine motor skills to paint what they observe. Look for Doris' work, *Foggy Night*, an 11" x 11" acrylic on board and Wang Hai's work *Yellow Impression*, a 10" x 14" oil on canvas. See [www.channingart.com](http://www.channingart.com) for more information.

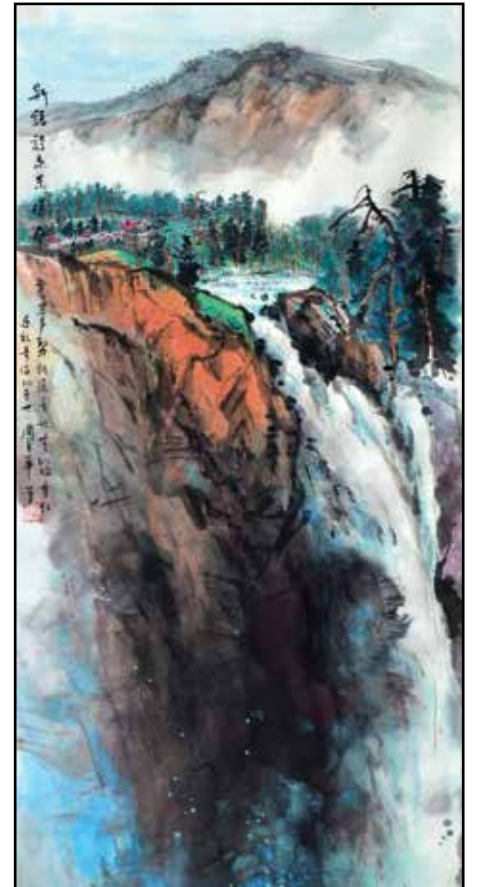
Shunghwa Chow of Antioch's most frequently used art medium is brush painting, but she is skillful and creative in other

media such as oils, pastels, watercolors and ceramics. She loves both traditional and contemporary works. Her philosophy is: Go with the flow. Enjoy her 25" x 25" *In the Shadow*, an ink-and-color piece done on rice paper with brush work. See [www.shunghwachow.com](http://www.shunghwachow.com) for more information.

Beichen Li of Oakland has taken thousands of photos that she uses as a source for her paintings. She likes taking the details of realistic images found in nature, still lifes or landscapes and converting them into abstract paintings. Her inspiration to become an artist came from her father, Rui Sheng Li, who is the artist-in-residence at the University of Shenzhen in China. Her paintings portray the way she views the world – draped in vibrant colors. Through the brush strokes she uses to put paint on canvas, she experiences passion that inspires her creations. "I enjoy creating whimsy and describing my own cultural background," says Li. She hopes viewers experience a small taste of Chinese art and culture and that the group generates awareness of a different culture and perspective. Look for *Geometric Light*, a 36" x 36" acrylic on canvas. See [www.beichenli.com](http://www.beichenli.com) for more information.

Mei-Yu Lo of El Cerrito is a landscape painter using traditional techniques of broad, loose brush strokes and ink washes. If the sea holds your interest you will enjoy her two 18" x 36" acrylic-on-canvas pieces, *Sea Shore with Clouds* and *Northern Sun Rise*. See [www.mei-yu.com](http://www.mei-yu.com) for more information.

Lucia Tsang uses clay and primitive fire methods to create figures and vessels that show her deep respect for her ancestors and her insights into history along the ancient Silk Road. Look for Tsang's 5" x 4" clay



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Shunghwa Chow's ink and color on rice paper entitled *Thundering – Snoqualmie Falls* will be shown during the October exhibit.

piece, *Tea Light*. "For Chinese artists, it's important to have three eyes wide open – two eyes looking forward to the future and one eye looking back at 5,000 years of cultural heritage," says Tsang. See [www.luciatsangceramics.com](http://www.luciatsangceramics.com) for more information.

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org).

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CHARLIE JARRETT

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

# Fun, Fun, Fun at Orinda's 11th Annual Classic Car Show

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Classic Car Show held its 11th successful event Sept. 11 and 12. This year the two-day weekend started with Friday's *Dancing with the Cars* followed on Saturday by the car show. Organized by event founder and longtime Orinda resident Chip Herman and hosted by Orinda Motors (they shut down business for two days to host the show), the weekend showcased more than 190 vehicles along Avenida de Orinda, Orinda Way and the Phairs parking lot and raised over \$60,000 for local beneficiaries and charities. "That brings the 10-year total to more than \$360,000," said Herman.

The ticketed party, *Dancing with the Cars*, had more than 230 attendees. The party gave guests a sneak peek of some of the cars before the show. This year's theme was *Fun, Fun, Fun, Till Daddy Took the T-Bird Away* and had a beach luau theme with wait staff provided by the Orinda Starlight Village Players and Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Three original Shelby Cobras



DAVID DIERKS

OA Board member **Tom Romaneck** poses with **Drew** and **Janet Serb's** 1966 Shelby Cobra.

stopped by the party as well as three Ford Thunderbirds and two Woodies.

Saturday was the main event with all the vehicles on display. The most anticipated part of the day was the arrival at 1 p.m. of eight original Shelby Cobras. Crowds lined the street to see these vintage vehicles drive into the car show. "Everyone had a great time," said Herman. "Between the dinner and the car show, we raised over

\$60,000 for local charities! We said when we got started 11 years ago, 'Let's have a little fun and raise a little money.' I think

[SEE CARS page 14]

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## A Message From the OA President Generosity On Display In Orinda



Bill Waterman

Over the past several weeks, our fair city has been home to many fun and worthwhile events - many of which have raised funds for our varied service and nonprofit groups. The list is quite long: the 11th Orinda Classic Car Show and *Dancing with the Cars* dinner; the 18th California Independent Film Festival; the 10th Lamorinda Idol singing competition and show; the Nor Cal Kids' Triathlon; the Middle Eastern Food Festival and the "Fandango" sponsored by the Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe, to name a few.

All of these events have a common theme: they were organized by our fellow citizens working generously as volunteers, to put on events that benefitted most of our service-oriented nonprofits, also run by volunteers. Service groups receiving much-needed funds from these events included the Orinda Association (and our Seniors Around Town ride program), Orinda Community Foundation, Lamorinda Arts Council, EFO, Orinda Rotary Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Orinda Park and Rec Foundation, Orinda Historical Society Museum, the Orinda Starlight Village Players and others.

The Classic Car Show and *Dancing with the Cars* dinner were cases in point. The Car Show, in its 11th year, was spearheaded by a dedicated volunteer committee, and supported by Orinda Motors and a "Pit Crew" of another 50 Orinda volunteers. The show was a huge success - over 200 cars were entered and attendance was at an all time high. The Orinda Rotary Club's members organized the *Dancing with the*

Cars dinner, with support from several other groups including the Chamber, EFO and Orinda Starlight Village Players. Again well over 50 people volunteered to help out, and it too was a big hit - over 230 folks showed up.

Together these events have raised over \$300,000 for various nonprofits the past 11 years! All powered by the wondrous generosity of fellow Orindans. Let's continue to give thanks to the many people who donate their valuable time in service to others.

On a final note, I want to briefly change subjects. Recently, over the past few years, in public meetings or on blogs, I have seen people engage in personal attacks or attempt to mis-characterize and ridicule others. In my opinion, this only discourages most people from participating and has no place in our public discourse. The OA has not been a political organization for the past 15 years, but for almost 70 years our mission has included promoting awareness, discussion and dialogue about issues that matter to the community. Last month in this column, I suggested that our city leadership renew its years-long quest to enhance our business and downtown districts. I mentioned two ideas for consideration, in the spirit of promoting discussion. I hope that as we resume public discussion about this topic we all speak and act respectfully. I believe most of us share common goals for the community, including having a more vibrant downtown, and if we carry on with respect for our differing ideas and opinions, we will eventually come to agreement.

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### 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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# Letters to the Editor

## Leave Downtown Alone

I have lived in Orinda for 18 years, and I am amazed at how the City Council is trying to strong arm all this building. Please, stop!

—Alix Solomon

## Downtown Plan (if necessary) Requires Public Vote

In the September issue of *The Orinda News*, Bill Waterman, president of the Orinda Association, in his commentary "Time for a Fresh Look Downtown," advises that the Phair's building is an "eyesore in need of our attention," and suggests doing a "Downtown Specific Plan."

As a long term resident who served on the Planning Commission, Planning Process Review Task Force, and Finance Committee, my take is different. I'm skeptical of a "Downtown Specific Plan," especially one prepared or influenced by Waterman's recommendation of a global institution like the Urban Land Institute, which is dominated by developers, bankers and real-estate firms. Furthermore, I suggest the lack of developmental progress downtown is not for lack of a "Downtown Specific Plan," but rather City Councilmembers favoring big development irrespective of building codes and semi-rural stipulations in Orinda's General Plan.

Residents will recall two years ago, Montessori submitted a pleasant looking, comprehensive and code-compliant new building for a preschool at the vacant Phair's site. The proposal, after much discussion and significant public participation, was approved five to two in two separate Planning Commission (PC) hearings for (first) the appropriateness of a preschool downtown, and (second) the architectural, code compliance and operational aspects. Sadly, the City Council overturned the PC's approval in a three-to-zero vote in spite of many Orindans and young Orinda families' expressed favor for the Montessori proposal. Councilmembers Orr, Smith and Worth opposed the Montessori proposal. Councilmembers Glazer (absent) and Severson (recused because of a conflict of interest exposed by a public records request) did not vote.

The point is, we don't need a biased outside agency to tell us how to develop downtown, nor code or zoning revisions. We do need a City Council that is responsive to the wishes and needs of the majority of Orindans and not overly subservient to developers. The opportunity to elect two new City Councilmembers will occur in November 2016.

Most importantly, regardless of who is on the City Council, if the council moves forward on a rezoning of the downtown, the residents must have the right to vote on alternatives for any significant changes to the General Plan or a downtown portion

thereof. Ask around. What groups favor giving the residents the right to vote? What groups do not? Why are the con-vote groups against your right to vote? Where do you stand? Do you like the way Walnut Creek and Lafayette have been "developed"? Get involved; it's your community.

—Chris Kniel

## No Downtown Plan Without Citizen Vote

If you attended the Orinda City Council (OCC) meeting on July 21, 2015, you would have heard a presentation by Tom Trowbridge for a request of the OCC to grant Urban Land Institute (ULI) \$15,000 to offer an unbiased evaluation of supposedly obvious problems with our Orinda downtown. Obviously, there has been recent emerging opportunity to entice the appetite of preferred developers.

If you review ULI on line, you can figure out that the sustained membership group is made up of bankers, mortgage companies, commercial real estate corporations and banks. To obtain an unbiased opinion from ULI would equate to going to a liquor store to purchase a loaf of bread. They use progressive and persuasive buzz word patterns such as "less auto-oriented growth patterns," "shifting suburbs," "reinventing infrastructure," "compact development," and "vibrant walkable cities." All of these hardly echo obtaining an unbiased opinion about land use in a semi-rural environment.

Downtown Plan property that is in the crosshairs of a requested ULI opinion is private property and protected by private property rights of the owner; wherein the community has no rights. An owner can sell at a profit and a developer can finance the property through development and sell back to new owners as needed to recoup their investment. Working in Emeryville and Berkeley, we see many street-lined businesses with no setback from the sidewalks, leaving sterile concrete walkable paradises with no hint of autos. All cities are beginning to look alike. Should a developer want to challenge planning or zoning restrictions set forth within our General Plan in order to accommodate a Downtown Plan, I don't trust anyone to make that decision other than by vote by the citizens of Orinda. Orinda may not want a Downtown Plan so why would you assume we do.

—K. T. Jenkins

## Do you really want Densification and Urbanization in Orinda?

The September 2015 publication of *The Orinda News* included two Letters to the Editor requesting that the City of Orinda hire the Technical Assistance Panel of the San Francisco chapter of the Urban Land Institute to study our downtown for development possibilities. These requests, in addition to those during recent City Council



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meetings, were from citizens described as "folks in Orinda Vision" by the Orinda Association president, Bill Waterman, in his Message on page 2 of the same issue of *The Orinda News*. I appreciate Mr. Waterman's more tempered approach to downtown development, especially his emphasis on "preserving this unique character of Orinda," "much discussion and dialogue," and "some modest improvements."

Researching the Technical Assistance Panel at [sf.uli.org](http://sf.uli.org) reveals that Transit

Oriented Development is a top priority. The <http://uli.org> website of Urban Land Institute, an international organization, includes wording such as "Promoting Intelligent Densification and Urbanization" and "...to provide cost-effective housing for a rapidly increasing global population that is becoming increasingly urbanized."

Sure, Orinda is a city, but how much urbanization do we really want? While many of us would like a refreshed downtown, we

[SEE LETTERS page 16]

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For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the November issue is October 8, 2015.



POLICE / ROADS



**POLICE BLOTTER**

August through September 12, 2015

**Battery:** 1 incident at Altarinda Rd.  
**Burglary, Auto:** 12 incidents at Wagner Ranch Elementary (4), Ravenhill Rd., The Knoll (2), Moraga Way, Moraga Way/Bryant Way, Northwood Dr., Davis Rd. and Tara Rd.  
**Burglary, Commercial:** 1 incident at Moraga Way.  
**Burglary, Misc.:** 1 incident at Wilder Rd.  
**Burglary, Residential:** 2 incidents at North Ln. and Camino Encinas.  
**Forgery:** 1 incident at Williams Ct.  
**Grand Theft from Vehicle:** 1 incident at Camino Pablo.  
**Identity Theft:** 4 incidents at Warford Ter., Orchard Rd., Tappan Ln. and La Cuesta Rd.  
**Petty Theft:** 9 incidents at Orinda Way, Wilder Park, Bates Blvd., La Cuesta Rd., Moraga Way (2), Estabueno Dr., Beverages and More and Dalewood Dr.  
**Petty Theft from Vehicle:** 3 incidents at Donald Dr., Fiesta Cir. and Risa Ct./Ivy Dr.  
**Shoplifting:** 2 incidents at Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante.  
**Vandalism:** 2 incidents at Camino Encinas and Irwin Way.  
**Vehicle Theft:** 5 incidents at Sun-

nyside Ln., Bank of America, Tahos Rd., Monte Vista Rd. and Lombardy Ln.

**Arrests**

**Battery:** 1 arrest at Moraga Way.  
**DUI:** 5 arrests at Orinda Way, Birch St./Spring Rd., Rheem Blvd., San Pablo Dam Rd. and St. Stephens/Hwy 24.  
**Fight/Shoplifting:** 2 arrests at Safeway.  
**Petty/Shoplifting:** 1 arrest at Safeway.  
**Possession of Dangerous Drugs:** 2 arrests at Donna Maria Way/Sager Ct. and Camino Sobrante.  
**Probation Violation:** 1 arrest at Altarinda Rd./Santa Maria.  
**Stolen Vehicle:** 1 arrest at Shell Station.  
**Stolen Vehicle Recovered:** 1 recovery at Overhill Rd.  
**Theft/Under the Influence:** 3 arrests at Sundown Ter., Safeway and Williams Ct.  
**Warrant Arrest:** 2 arrests at Orinda Way and Rite Aid.

**Orinda BART Station**

No reported incidents.

– Compiled by David Dierks  
 Assistant Editor

**Repairs Underway on City's Roads**

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER  
 Staff Writer

Residents have likely begun to witness the repair of more residential roads throughout town, the result of the \$20 million Measure J bond passed in 2014. Repairs began in mid-September on some of Orinda's worst roads, with work generally starting at 8 a.m. and wrapping up by the rush-hour commute. "We've alerted all residents in affected areas," says Chuck Swanson, Orinda's director of public works and engineering services. "We've planned the work around school routes and are ensuring that everybody can get home at night."

In 2012, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission ranked Orinda's 92.5 miles of roads as fourth worst in the Bay Area. Roads are ranked based on a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) with 100 representing the best possible condition and zero representing the worst. A road with a PCI ranking of 72, for instance, will likely not require maintenance work for about six years. The majority of Orinda's public roads received a PCI ranking below 50, with residential roads ranking at 38. In

2012, the Orinda City Council approved the Road and Storm Drain Repair Plan, a four-phase plan to repair the city's streets.

While maintenance of Orinda's main arterial roads is funded by taxes, the county and other sources, residential roads are generally not covered. The passage of Measure J, together with sales tax income,

[SEE ROADS page 16]

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**City Celebrates 30th Anniversary of Orinda's Incorporation**

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER  
 Staff Writer

Orinda residents likely take for granted their city's origin, if they know the story at all. Thirty years ago, the Martinez Board of Supervisors governed Orinda. Attempts to incorporate as a city were twice thwarted, in 1950 and 1967, but a third attempt in 1985 proved to be successful. With 65 percent of Orinda registered voters backing Measure A, Orinda became a city, and its first city council was elected. Members included Bobbie Landers, Joe Harb, Bill Dabel, Aldo Guidotti and Mayor Richard Heggie.

Landers served on the Measure A public relations committee and recalls her group being featured in the *Wall Street Journal* for creating the first video used in a political campaign. "Copies of the 17-minute video were available for the public to borrow from Orinda's Video Store," says Landers. (The

video is available for viewing at Orinda's Historical Museum.)

"The incorporation effort took a lot of folks to get the job done," says Landers. "We all contributed 1-1/2 years of our lives."

The group's efforts were celebrated recently at a 30th anniversary party at Orinda Community Park. The event brought together current and former council members and included an appearance by Marianne Aude, one of the original incorporation committee members. Mayor Dean Orr lauded the visionaries who led the incorporation effort that ultimately provided the city with its own local control and established a platform for local governance.

"Over the past 30 years, Orinda's challenges remain the same," says Mayor Orr. "Operating a city on a very small and lean budget that is largely based on property tax revenues; roads and infrastructure repairs

[SEE CITY page 18]

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GARDEN CLUB / CONTINUATIONS

Before and After - The Art of Transformation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sometimes the most challenging garden spaces are the ones that offer up the most spectacular solutions. Above Orinda landscape designer Shari Bashin-Sullivan transformed a small, confined space into a Parisian street scene complete with cobble stones and street lights. On Thursday, Oct. 22, the Orinda Garden Club invites the public to learn more about transforming their home gardens from Bashin-Sullivan. As president of Enchanting Planting, she has created unique gardens in the Lamorinda, Piedmont, Oakland and Berkeley areas and has an extensive knowledge of plants that are ideal for the Bay Area climate. Bashin-Sullivan's landscaping projects have been featured in *Sunset Magazine* nine times.

Admission to this enchanting program is free and takes place at the Orinda Library Auditorium at 26 Orinda Way. The 10:30 a.m. presentation is preceded by a social gathering at 10 a.m.

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◆ MOFD from page 1

staff to look into the deal and put the Station 43 rebuild on hold.

Six months later, a property was purchased at 1035 Lorinda Lane that would be the location of the proposed Station 46. There was much controversy over this plan. Many Orindans were concerned about the drop in service that would result from the closure of Station 43 and the opening of Station 46. The move from Station 43 to proposed Station 46 would increase MOFD response times for north Orinda by up to two minutes. "Those two minutes added to already too long response times in north Orinda are a serious, even reckless, degradation of service levels to an area designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the State of California," said concerned Orindan Ellen Dale.

All work on Station 46 stopped in August. MOFD Chief Stephen Healy said, "In January of 2013, MOFD staff was directed to determine the feasibility of the proposed partnership. That feasibility study, including data analysis and subsequent negotiations, were ongoing until Aug. 18, 2015, when Con Fire Chief Carmen was directed to explore the feasibility of reopening Station 16. Rebuilding Station 43 should be considered, as this was the priority prior to the Station 46 program." Orinda resident and former MOFD board member John Wyro said, "I feel that this is an opportunity lost by both districts."

MOFD staff recommended proceeding with the interrupted plans to rebuild Station 43. "The new station will have a larger garage. It'll have plenty of room for bigger equipment, and it won't fall down if we have a moderate to major earthquake," said Chief Healy. "We already have a contract with the architect, and he's already done the drawings. It will just be freshening up the drawings, cross-referencing them with the current standards." MOFD board member Fred Weil agreed. "We need to move forward on 43. We've waited a very long time. We've had this detour to Station 46. If the county came back next month and said 'let's go back to 46,' to me that would be more evidence of the fact that they're an unreliable partner." MOFD board member Steve Anderson agreed that Con Fire was an unreliable partner, but expressed concerns about the location of Station 43. "I have no problem initiating what the chief talked about, updating the plans. But it may not be the right location."

Other members of the board are concerned that Station 43 would better serve the community if a new location could be found. MOFD board president Alex Evans said, "We want to move deliberately on 43,

but I think we have some questions about whether or not that's the right location, what it will really cost to do, and what alternatives are to a full rebuild." Weil disagreed, saying, "We could take a look and see if there's an empty lot in Orinda we could build on, but good luck on that one. I think it's unlikely." Chief Healy agreed with Weil: "I feel that station 43 is in a good location. I don't feel that the district needs to go searching for another lot to purchase to move 43 to."

Now that Station 46 has been terminated, there are questions on what will happen with the Lorinda Lane property. "My recommendation would be to hang onto Lorinda Lane until we know 16 is really going to happen," said Wyro. "I fully expect that Con Fire will rebuild 16 and we'll rebuild 43, but until there's ink on some paper, we should keep our options open." Weil disagreed, saying, "I think we should be moving to dispose of Lorinda Lane as soon as we can." Evans was more neutral: "I'd like to hear what the property is worth and how we might go about disposing of it."

In the end, the MOFD board advised staff to look into two options with Station 43: rebuild as was proposed in 2012; and look into moving Station 43 to a spot that could better serve the community. "Your direction is clear," said Chief Healy. "Stop 46, get an alternative for 43, both with construction on site and verify that that is a good location and get some more data on the Lorinda Lane property." For more information, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org).

**Food Truck Social**

The Miramonte Parents' Club is holding its annual Fall Social Food Truck Festival on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 6-9 p.m. at the Orinda Library Plaza. The annual party allows people in the community, parents and donors to come together to celebrate the many achievements of the high school.

This year's food offerings include the Lobsta truck (featuring to-die-for lobster rolls) and Oakland's famous Fist of Flour pizza truck. Wine and beer will also be served. Cost is \$50 per person, which includes food from both trucks and two drink tickets. Extra drink tickets are available for purchase at the event. New this year will be a performance by the Miramonte Jazz Band.

Tickets can be purchased on the Miramonte website [webstore: www.miramonte.revtrak.net/tek9.asp?pg=products&grp=319](http://www.miramonte.revtrak.net/tek9.asp?pg=products&grp=319).

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CARS

# CAR TIME

Don't Neglect Your Teeth – Or Car Care!

By JOHN VANEK



Service your car is like going to the dentist. You really don't want to go but you know that you should. Do you have an idea what's in store with your teeth before you go? You really should! It is the same way when you take your car in for maintenance or service. Do you know what kind of service your vehicle is due for before you bring it in? Well, it sure helps if you do.

It will make it easier for you and your car care provider if there is a plan. Every day we have appointments for a "service," which can mean a lot of different things. On most occasions the person bringing in the car does not know what to expect. What maintenance is due based on service intervals, previous recommendations and previous service history? What was done last? Many motorists cannot tell us that. The maintenance intervals are based on the schedule in the owner's manual (not on a menu created by the dealership).

It also compounds the confusion if you bounce from shop to shop. You can't remember who did what. Keeping your automotive service at one facility helps eliminate confusion. If you have a facility that you like and trust, it makes sense to be exclusive. Being loyal to your shop will help you in the long run.

It is our goal at Orinda Motors to perform the correct maintenance and repairs, no more and no less. We don't want to repeat any service, but we don't want to skip any crucial inspections or maintenance either. We feel that servicing your car is a part-

nership between you and your shop. We will help figure out what needs to be done before you actually bring the car in. This will help you understand the potential cost and time frame. Below is a short but crucial list of items that will make life easier for your car provider and improve your overall experience.

1) Review your maintenance requirements and service history before bringing the car in. Have a game plan before bringing in your vehicle.

2) Let us know if somebody other than you is bringing the vehicle in. Making arrangements ahead of time helps eliminate confusion.

3) Be sure that you are available to take phone calls or return calls throughout the day. Waiting to talk to you only delays the process; communication is crucial.

4) Know the location of your wheel lock key. Do you have wheel locks? We will need the key before we can remove your wheels.

5) Be sure that your car has enough gas for us to perform road tests! This is the owner's responsibility. Having to put gas in your car also delays the process.

If you do these things, it will make it easier for your car care provider. If it is easier for your car care provider, it will be better for you! I am always available for automotive consultation.

*John Vanek can be reached at Orinda Motors, 925-254-2012, or by email at john@orindamotors.com.*

# Orinda Motors Teams Up to Help Family With Transport

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

Linda Geier, a long-time customer of Orinda Motors, contacted service manager John Vanek because she wanted to donate her van to charity. Orinda Motors, First Presbyterian Church of Richmond and Richmond Elks Lodge #1251 took the van, fixed it up, arranged for the DMV fees and presented the vehicle to Amanda Keoseang.

"Amanda had a car, but she got in an accident and her car was totaled," said Vanek, who attends the same church with Keoseang in Richmond. "She's a very spirited person. She's really outgoing and has such a great strength."

Keoseang suffers from kidney disease and takes care of her special-needs brother. "Her father died of kidney disease," said Vanek. "Amanda goes to dialysis three times a week, which makes it hard for her to work a job. She gets as much assistance as she can, and she also cares for her brother."

Orinda Motors' owner Allen Pennebaker said that Orinda Motors, Express Oil Change and Orinda Auto Detail donated work on the van. "John arranged to donate the van through his church to Amanda and for the Elks Lodge to contribute money for DMV paperwork."

Vanek said that Orinda Motors was just part of the process. "It started with Linda Geier, and it goes all the way through the Elks Lodge. Linda's family had this 1990 Plymouth Grand Voyager. They were looking to replace it with something that was more suitable for her husband who is suffering from a neurological disease. She didn't want to sell it, she wanted to give it to somebody who could really use it."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
John Vanek with Amanda Keoseang behind the wheel of her new van.

Once Keoseang was selected to receive the van, Vanek contacted Pennebaker about fixing up the vehicle. "I approached Allen and he was favorable to donating the services that it needed," said Vanek. The van was fixed and smogged but then a wrench got thrown into the works. "I got a message from Amanda saying that money was tight, and she might not be able to afford

[SEE VAN page 8]

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## OCTOBER SCHOOL CALENDAR

- 7 **Acalanes Union High School District** board meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m. Also Oct. 21. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us)
- 11 **Holden High School** information session, 10 Irwin Way, 1 to 3 p.m. Call 925-254-0199 or visit [www.holdenhigh.org](http://www.holdenhigh.org).
- 12 **Orinda Union School District** board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m.
- 16 **Miramonte High School** Theatre Performers For Progress, 750 Moraga Way, 7 p.m. Performances include music, dance, theatre, sketches and comedy, with proceeds benefiting charitable organizations. Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 for students. Also Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. Call 925-280-3930 or visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte).
- 17 **Glorietta Elementary School** Annual FunFest, 15 Martha Road, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., features cakewalk, pumpkin decorating, crafts, homemade goodies and more. Free and open to the public. Call 925-254-8770 or visit <http://gl-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary School** Annual Pumpkin Patch, 20 Washington Lane, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., features haunted house, carnival games, bouncy house, face painting, food and sweet treats at the Country Kitchen. Free and open to the public. Call 925-254-8711 or visit <http://sh-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 19 **Orinda Intermediate School**, 80 Ivy Drive, celebrates Diverse Abilities Awareness Week through Oct. 23, with an Open House on Oct. 21, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bay Area organizations that work with the disabled will disseminate information in the multi-purpose room; Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program will challenge OIS 8th-graders to a wheelchair basketball game in the gym. Visit <http://ois-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 24 **Holden High School** An Autumn Evening Celebration fundraiser at Foreign Cinema, 2534 Mission St., San Francisco, features music, small plates and open bar, 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets at [www.AutumnEvening.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://www.AutumnEvening.BrownPaperTickets.com).
- Del Rey Elementary School** Annual Pumpkin Patch, 25 El Camino Moraga, noon to 4 p.m., features carnival games, pumpkin contest, cake decorating contest and lots to eat! Call 925-258-3099 or visit <http://dr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- Wagner Ranch Elementary School** Annual Community Roundup! 350 Camino Pablo, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., features carnival games, pony rides, bake sale and cakewalk at the Country Kitchen. Free and open to the public. Call 925-258-0016 or visit <http://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.

## Miramonte Expands iPad Program

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER  
Staff Writer

Thanks to the Miramonte High School Parents' Club and the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), Miramonte High School students are increasingly on the cutting edge of education technology. This year, every incoming Miramonte freshman received a personal iPad for use in the classroom.

The Parents' Club and EFO helped fund Miramonte's iPad pilot program several years ago. Miramonte's former principal, Adam Clark, strongly believed in the use of iPads in the classroom as an effective learning tool and the wave of the future – a belief shared by current Miramonte principal Julie Parks. "Tech is hugely powerful," says Parks. "And the true power lies in our ability to maximize teacher collaboration through this technology."

"This technology was introduced very thoughtfully and carefully to ensure its effectiveness," say Miramonte Parents' Club presidents Jeanette Broad and Laura Traxler. "The teachers and the students needed to buy in and now it has turned the classrooms into dynamic learning environments where teachers across different subjects are able to collaborate and make use of the applications to enrich the students' learning."

For instance, English 1 and World History curriculums are paired via tech curriculum, allowing for teacher collaboration amongst a set group of students. "These teachers are sharing the same kids," says Parks. "And this allows for us to pay more attention to the needs of the kids. They become more visible to us."

This is the fourth year that Miramonte has participated in the student distribution of iPads. The small pilot program began within a few classes, and the program's success led to an iPad increase each year. This

◆ VAN from page 7

the DMV fees for the van." The Richmond Elks Lodge approached the group about donating funds for the DMV fees and agreed to donate \$300 to cover insurance and other expenses."

Subsequently, Barbara Vanek took Keoseang to the DMV, where she was able to complete the necessary paperwork and pay the fees. Barbara Vanek then drove Keoseang to Orinda Motors to take possession of the van.

For more information, visit [www.orindamotors.com](http://www.orindamotors.com), [www.pcrichmond.org](http://www.pcrichmond.org), and [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org).

year, all incoming freshman are provided iPads that are checked out to each student for the entire year, like a textbook. Though the iPads are equipped with a selected group of Google educational applications, the student is allowed to set up the device to meet his/her individual needs.

While parents might observe their children utilizing gaming and entertainment apps on their iPads at home, school administrators expect that students will primarily use the devices for their intended purpose. "Our students are helping their parents to understand what this technology looks like in the classroom," says Parks. "We are asking parents to trust us to put these iPads to good use and to help get their child prepared for college. Our program is powerful and transformative."

"After the first year using these devices, many students find they want to continue using them because they are so beneficial for research, note-taking, organization, presentations and so much more that they discover on their own," say Broad and Traxler. "The program really prepares them for integrating technology into their future learning and working lives."

Miramonte student Lauren Bond admits that she was at first reluctant to receive an iPad last year. "I don't consider myself a very tech-savvy person but, by the end of the year, I was totally hooked and used it for every class," says Bond. "Although it was assigned for chemistry, we were given the freedom to use it how we saw fit. I took notes on it, made graphs and flowcharts for AP Euro, drew a poster for drama, read *Macbeth* on it for English, made online flashcards for Spanish and collaborated on Google docs with classmates."

Whitney Pope, EFO's vice-president of communications, says that several, if not all, of Orinda's elementary schools are increasing their use of technology in the classroom as well. "Del Rey Elementary, for instance, instituted one-to-one laptops in all fourth- and fifth-grade classes last year," says Pope. "The Orinda Intermediate School's Parents' Club is also funding Chromebook computers in all core classrooms this year. There is also a district Technology Advisory Committee that has instituted standards/guidelines for technology at all schools."

EFO co-president Cara Hoxie is pleased that the iPad program was well-received and continues to expand. "We are excited to work with Julie Parks and the Miramonte Parents' Club to continue to invest in cutting-edge technology for students and teachers at Miramonte," says Hoxie.

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## SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

## Orindans Welcome High School Student from Sister City of Tábor

By Maggie Sharpe  
Staff Writer

Czech Republic student Karel Balogh, 17, who is studying at Miramonte High School for six months while living with a host family, says he “is living the dream.” Balogh, from Orinda’s sister city of Tábor, is staying with Orinda residents Markia Archuleta and Joseph Knox, whose 16-year-old son Will is also a student at Miramonte.

“Living and studying in the U.S. is a great opportunity to meet new people, explore new places and have experiences that you remember all your life,” says Balogh, who has already visited San Francisco, Lake Tahoe and Stanford University and is looking forward to seeing an A’s vs. Giants baseball game. “Studying abroad has been my dream for a long time.”

Balogh’s visit was organized by the Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation, which has been sponsoring high school students from Tábor in the Czech Republic for 14 years.

“All the students that we’ve hosted from our sister city of Tábor have been outstanding young people,” says former Mayor Bobbie Landers, who helped establish the sister city connection in 1997 and serves on the foundation’s board. She met Balogh’s family when she traveled to the Czech Republic earlier this year. “Karel’s mom was much happier after she met me as she was worried about him going so far away.”

Landers says that every year high school students in Tábor are invited to enter a competition for a chance to come to Orinda and study for the fall/winter semester. Students submit an autobiographical essay in English, which is judged by the sister city panel in Tábor, who then conduct face-to-face interviews in English with the top

candidates.

“They submit their top three picks to the Orinda foundation from which we choose the student,” says Landers, adding that Orinda usually concurs with their Tábor counterparts’ recommendation. “We like the student to have a good working knowledge of English.”

Landers says the student’s parents pay for air travel. However, that money is reimbursed to the family by the Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation.

Balogh says he is surprised by how great people are in Orinda and the sense of community. He also sees more differences than similarities between school here and back home. “The main difference is the teachers,” says Balogh. “The attitude of teachers here is much more friendly than I am used to in the Czech Republic, and I really appreciate it. Also, in the Czech Republic we do not have school sports and we have different subjects each day.”

He finds all his classes at Miramonte interesting but is most intrigued with a class on Law and Society, taught by social studies teacher Mike Rose. “It’s not the easiest subject for me, but the teacher is really great and I have always wanted to know about law.”

Balogh, a senior at Miramonte, also wants to play soccer. “I’m going to try out for the school soccer team in the winter and am training three times a week with my host brother’s club soccer team,” he says. “I’d also like to join one of the clubs at school.”

Host “mother” Markia Archuleta, a 16-year resident of Orinda who is hosting a student for the second time, says it’s great to be able to share our U.S. culture with others.

“We wanted to share the American lifestyle with a student from abroad so they



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Welcoming the latest exchange student from Tábor are (L-R) host mother **Markia Archuleta**, her 16-year-old son **Will Knox**, visiting 17-year-old Tábor student **Karel Balogh**, and host father **Joseph Knox**.

can experience our culture, and we can learn more about theirs,” says Archuleta. “It is also nice to see how a student from the Czech Republic compares his lifestyle there with our lifestyle here.”

Landers says that the Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation is always looking for host families in Orinda – preferably with a child in high school as it makes it more fun for the visiting student.

“We’re already looking for a host family for next year – our Tábor panel starts

their search in December,” says Landers, who has visited Tábor several times and always received the warmest of welcomes. “Anyone who can’t host is invited to make a financial contribution to the program.”

For more information, call Bobbie Landers at 925-254-8260. For a history of the Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation or to become a member, visit the city’s website at [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org) and search for “Sister City.”

## Miramonte Survey Reveals Students Feel Stressed

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

“The more things change, the more they stay the same.” The early 1800s’ French proverb still rings true as Miramonte High School’s Site Advisory Council confronts the challenges of student stress.

The June 1986 edition of *The Orinda News* also looked at the pressure, stress and anxiety encountered by students in Orinda schools and asked the question: “Are we putting too much academic pressure on our children?”

The on-going debate has been picked up year after year at the various grade levels

with Miramonte High School implementing a program it hopes will help – Challenge Success. Adopted by the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD), the program partners with schools and families to provide students with academic, social and emotional skills needed to succeed now and in the future.

Last April, students in the AUHSD took a survey that asked questions about academic worries, physical health, teacher support, parent expectations and more. Results from last year’s survey were shared with parents, students and faculty at the Sept. 3 meeting of the Site Advisory Council.

A sampling of the survey showed the

[SEE SURVEY page 13]



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# Fun Trumps Nerves at 10th Annual Lamorinda Idol

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

Performers at the 10th Annual Lamorinda Idol show vacillated between emotions as they approached the Orinda Theatre stage Sunday, Sept. 6 for the show's final rounds. They were in the spotlight for the final leg of a journey the young performers began in May when they auditioned with more than 180 vocalists from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette.

"During my song, I felt kind of nervous. At the same time, I was very excited," said nine-year-old Katie Welch, a student at Camino Pablo Elementary School in Moraga. Welch sang a duet of *Happiness* from *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* with her partner Natalie Schroeder, winning the K-5 group category.

Welch was one of 33 soloists and 12 groups who performed in the finals in grade-level categories from kindergarten

to high school. The show was emceed by ABC7 News' Amy Hollyfield and Laura Anthony and the vocalists were judged by a team of professional musicians: Amikaeyla, Deborah Eubanks and Aart de Geus.

Anthony has covered some of the biggest local and national stories in the past decades. She is a multiple-time Emmy nominee and a 1995 winner. As a Bay Area reporter, Hollyfield has covered an array of breaking news and high-profile crime stories and has received an Associated Press Award for her investigative reporting.

This year's judges included vocalists Amikaeyla, winner of eight Washington Area Music awards for Best Jazz, World and Urban Contemporary Vocalist, as well as the DC Mayor's Arts Award for Innovation and Best Female Composer. As a cultural arts ambassador in partnership with the U.S. State Department and UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency), she has been invited to perform in India by the Dalai Lama.

Eubanks is in her 12th year teaching voice and acting at Berkeley Repertory Theater and a faculty member at San Francisco Academy Art University.

De Geus is chairman and co-CEO of Synopsys, which provides the design software for most of the chips in the world. Since co-founding Synopsys in 1986, De Geus has been recognized with numerous awards for technology, business and community service. A blues fan, de Geus plays lead guitar in the Silicon Valley band Legally Blue, as well as a number of other bands.

Kate Gross, a seventh-grader from Orinda Intermediate School, said she was nervous too. "At first I was nervous, but then I finally realized 'I can do this!'" The 12-year-old won the 6-8th grade soloist award.

The performance taught Gross a valuable lesson. "I learned that if I put my mind to it, I can do anything," she said.

This is Jen McFarlane's third perfor-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The Happy Harmonies were among the winners in this year's Idol contest. (L-R) **Katie Welch** and **Natalie Schroeder**. **Lucy Berkman** (far R) from the group Naughty and Nice congratulates them.

mance in Lamorinda Idol. The Acalanes High School freshman says performing in the show is "a blast."

"It really isn't about winning, it's about meeting people and having fun," she said.

McFarlane, along with her partner Michaela Sasner won the 9-12th grade group competition. "All of the performers are amazing," said McFarlane, adding that the singers "had built a really supportive community over the course of the summer."

Both Gross and Welch enjoyed participating in the show. "I'd love to audition for the program next year and I had a lot of fun this year," said Welch.

The girls are not alone as they look forward to Lamorinda Idol 2016. "I will definitely audition next year," added McFarlane. "The people involved are just so awesome, how could I not come back?"

For a list of winners, go to [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org).

## School Notes

**Picnigate at Miramonte:** With an increase of approximately 100 students, picnic tables in the school's outdoor area are at a premium.

**Sugar off the menu at OUSD:** Superintendent Joe Jaconette hopes to have a leaner, healthier student population by limiting sugary food items in the district's schools. No more birthday cupcakes allowed!

**Miramonte student expands services:** Jack Jorgensen's Elite Bulletin, an online publication that connects teens with families to complete small jobs, has partnered with White Pony Express, a nonprofit devoted to picking up excess, unspoiled food from restaurants and delivering it to people in need. "We will be providing volunteers to drive, distribute goods and more," says Jorgensen.

# Stanford Tech Trek Camp Sparks Girls' Love of Science



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
These Tech Trek campers enjoyed a week-long camp at Stanford. (L-R) **Caroline Ruppert**, **Sam Swan**, **Maddie Wilson**, **Sophia Kofoed**, **Lynn Wolfe**, **Maddie House** and **April Lindblad**.

By JAN CUSHMAN  
Contributing Writer

Seven Tech Trek campers returned from a weeklong Stanford University Tech Trek Camp with glowing reports of fun, learning and new found camaraderie. Sponsored by the Orinda/Moraga/Lafayette (OML) Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, Tech Trek Camp is designed to inspire seventh-grade girls to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) through high school, college and well into their careers. The camp features numerous hands-on activities as well as a chance for the girls to meet "happening" professional women

in STEM fields.

This year, core classes included Computer Coding and Cyber Sleuthing for the first time, as well as Marine Biology, CSI forensics, 3D Math and Engineering Design. The girls took apart computers, wrote computer code, built functional robots, worked as a team to make a bi-plane from rolled up newspapers and built structures using only uncooked spaghetti and duct tape.

To donate to the AAUW OML Tech Trek scholarship program or attend the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk fundraiser for Tech Trek on Oct. 6, contact Jan Cushman at 925-253-1958. Visit [www.oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/](http://www.oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/) for more information about AAUW and Tech Trek.

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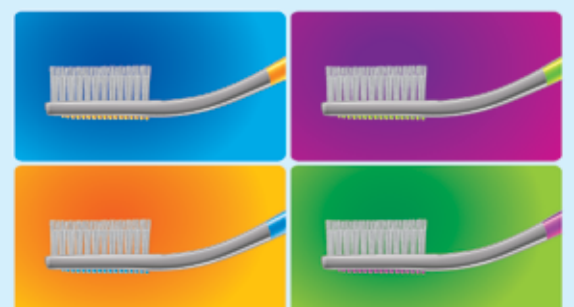
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## INSPIRATIONAL LOCALS

## Special Needs Daughter Inspires New Pathways for Mom

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

Stefanie Boggs-Johnson and her husband Eric experienced a parent's worst nightmare at the birth of their daughter Naomi.

"I had no issues during my pregnancy with my daughter, who is now 6 years old. No one saw any signs of medical trauma until the day I went to the hospital to check on the baby in my womb, who was normally very active but had stopped moving," said Boggs-Johnson.

Boggs-Johnson was seven months pregnant when doctors performed an emergency c-section. Their newborn daughter was placed on life support. When given the option to remove the ventilator, Boggs and her husband refused.

"A miracle." That's what Boggs-Johnson calls her daughter. "She has been a fighter and a survivor from day one."

In the womb, Naomi experienced a pediatric stroke, which caused Naomi to have cerebral palsy. According to Boggs-Johnson, between one in every 1,600 to 2,800 babies will have a stroke before they are 30 days old. She cites a need for more research to "determine how often strokes occur in this perinatal period."

Boggs-Johnson, who had previously worked for Wells Fargo for 17 years, said her special needs daughter "inspired me to take a new path."

"She is an in-utero stroke survivor and because of her tenacity, I strive to give back to others."

She also decided to write a children's book about her daughter. "The goal was to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Stefan, Eric holding Naomi and Stefanie Johnson. Naomi has cerebral palsy as the result of a pediatric stroke.

bridge that gap between special needs and mainstream children." The result, *Little Naomi, I See You*, explains a brain injury in simple terms. "When educating and teaching compassion you eliminate the fear in children and adults."

Naomi also inspired her mother to enroll in cosmetology school. After graduation Boggs-Johnson began For Every Season, a mobile, in-home beauty services for all clientele, including special needs, hospice and the elderly.

"My goal in getting my cosmetology license was to be available to people who couldn't get out of their homes," Boggs-Johnson said, adding she "saw a need within the community for hands-on profes-

sionals who can bring joy and comfort to the special needs and senior communities. "Boggs-Johnson also has a chair at Orinda Hair Studio, 41 Moraga Way, and said that clients who want privacy can make appointments outside of regular business hours. To schedule a cosmetology appointment, either in home or mobile, call Boggs-Johnson at 925-787-5817.

*I See You, Little Naomi* is available at [www.tatepublishing.com](http://www.tatepublishing.com) or at Barnes and Noble. The Railroad Depot bookstore, 650 Railroad Ave., Pittsburg will host a signing of Boggs-Johnson's book on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Boggs-Johnson said Naomi is "living proof that miracles do happen."

## Holocaust Survivor at Library

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

At 94, Dr. Dora Apsan Sorell values time. One of the few remaining Auschwitz survivors, Dr. Sorell spends her remaining years lecturing on her experiences surviving the Holocaust. Historians estimate between 2.1 and 4 million people were murdered in the Auschwitz camps and only about 200,000 people survived. Sorell is one of them.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Dora Apsan Sorell with James Phillip Wright.

She will speak about her experiences Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. The free lecture, which is open to the public, is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orinda, the Orinda Library and the Contra Costa County Library and is produced by James Phillip Wright, architect of the Old Yellow House.

Wright discovered Sorell's story while working on the restoration of the Old Yellow House on 209 Moraga Way with his

neighbor Ezra Nelson. "Ezra had lived on the land for over 91 years and was the caretaker, preserving the history of this unique property," Wright said.

While renovating the house, built in 1890, the pair discovered newspapers from WWII. It left a profound impact upon the men. "I had a realization of how uncanny and similar most of the political, social, cultural and religious headlines of the newspapers 78 years ago are to today," says Wright. "I felt it is important to share this with the world."

Shortly after completing the stair-hall where the newspapers were found, Wright read an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about Sorell. He said he felt compelled to contact her, inviting her to be the first guest after the construction.

"I asked her if she would sign the wall in the stair-hall, as permanent evidence in our modern times, of how recent the past is," says Wright.

Sorell was born in Sighet, Romania in 1921, where she lived until WWII broke out. In 1944, she was taken with 12,000 other Hungarians to Auschwitz where she remained until she was transferred to Weisserwasser, where she was liberated in May, 1945. Before the liberation, Sorell lost 40 relatives, including her parents and siblings, to the camps.

After the war, she returned to Romania and reunited with her boyfriend Tzali, whom she eventually married. She attended the Institute of Medicine in Timisoara, Romania before the couple immigrated to New York in 1964. There she practiced medicine and taught at the New York College of Medicine. The couple retired to California in 2001 to spend time with their three children and seven

grandchildren.

After the lecture, Sorell will autograph her 1998 memoir dedicated to her granddaughter, *Tell the Children: Letters to Miriam*. The book chronicles Sorell's experiences during the war and losses during the Holocaust in the form of letters to Miriam. It will be available for purchase at the event, or online at [\[grandchildren.com\]\(http://grandchildren.com\).](http://www.letterstomy-</a></p>
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Sorell has been a keynote speaker at many events. The energetic senior said she tells her story because she believes, "if the new generations would know, I think there is a way to learn the lesson and to prevent another genocide."

For more information, contact the library at 925-254-2184.

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## Sample and Celebrate Olives at Sixth Annual Festival

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Come explore the Sixth Annual Olive Festival on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., held adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo and Bear Creek Road, in Orinda.

Set in the 18-acre Wagner Ranch Nature Area amid redolent olive trees, streams, meadows, ponds and historic ruins bordering San Pablo Creek, the popular fundraiser supports outdoor environmental education for children and youth. Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area who administer the education programs and staff the event look forward to welcoming all visitors to the olive grove, which was planted by California's first Surveyor General, Theodore Wagner, in the 1800s. Admission is free and ample parking can be found adjacent to the school, playground and sports fields; over 400 people attended last year's event including 90 volunteers.

Highlights of the day include:

- 1) Chef demonstrations by Amphora Olive Oil Works of Lafayette;
- 2) ALMA music recital in main ranch gathering area;
- 3) Ukulele musicians in the olive grove;
- 4) Chemistry professor Danielle Philips from Los Medanos College speaking on the chemistry of olive oil;
- 5) Games for everyone including olive pit spit, olive toss, olive race and olive

structure building;

6) Crafts such as olive wreath and crown making, ceramic tile painting and botanical art sketching will be demonstrated and available for all to create;

7) Guided tours of the nature area including the garden, olive grove and pond;

8) Raffle and silent auction with all proceeds supporting outdoor, hands-on environmental science and social studies for K-5 students;

9) Olive oil vendors offering olive oil and vinegar tastings with freshly baked bread donated by Fournée Bakery of Berkeley.

All Orinda elementary school children attend educational nature camps at the site. 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. Kindergarten, 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.

"Local Boy and Girl Scouts who have recently completed projects enriching the nature area will be honored at the Festival," said Lilana Spindler, a teaching aide at the nature area. "Projects underway include a replica Miwok house, bat boxes, outdoor tables for the olive grove, gates for the pond enclosure and garden and a memorial sign honoring Eve Gentry." See [www.fwrna.org](http://www.fwrna.org) for more information.

### Pinocchio Visits Geppetto's Cafe



JILL GELSTER

Geotty Chapple, Laura Martin-Chapin, Geppetto's owner Peter Leou, Emily Joy Kessel, Susan Chapple and John Chapin at Geppetto's Cafe.

Pinocchio and friends came together last month at Geppetto's Café in Orinda to promote the Orinda Starlight Village Players' production of *Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio* and Geppetto's Cafe.

Pinocchio (Emily Joy Kessel), the Blue Fairy (Laura Martin-Chapin) and Geppetto (Geotty Chapple) performed excerpts from the musical, including original songs. "We were happy to do something with Geppetto's as they have been kind enough to donate coffee to the Starlight concession stand for the past eight years," said production manager Jill Gelster.

*Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio* runs through Oct. 3 with performances on Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m. and a performance on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 8 p.m. For information or to volunteer, visit [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org) or 925-528-9225.

### Something to Howl About...

#### Animal Tales

#### All Wrapped Up



Jennifer Conroy

Ah, it's that time of year again when pumpkins light up our windows, ghosts ring our doorbells and werewolves howl in the distance. Halloween! A lively time of year for vampire hunters, zombies and even a skeleton or two.

But, wait, what about mummies? Compared to other supernatural creatures, mummies may rank in first place in numbers alone. Earlier this year a catacomb site in Egypt revealed the mummies of over eight million animals.

While this discovery at a site south of Cairo was surprising for the sheer volume of animal mummies, the mummification of animals, both domestic and wild, was commonplace in ancient Egypt. This particular site contained mostly canine mummies but also included jackals, foxes and falcons.

Given that Anubis, a jackal-envisioned god, was a protector of the dead and a guide to the underworld, it was fitting for effigies of him to be included in funeral chambers and decor. Mummies of dogs served as companions to the deceased and as symbols of Anubis' presence. However, dog mummies were not merely spiritual objects. Dogs served as hunting companions, guards and pets much as they do today. A grieving human could honor a beloved pet dog with mummification upon its death.

Cats held similar positions of respect in ancient Egypt and the goddess Bastet was a protector of the home and of pregnant women. Cat cemeteries were common and cats were held in high esteem in households rich and poor. Special funeral wrappings and sarcophagi were made for family companions, some quite majestic.

In addition to their high value as representatives of gods and goddesses, animals were treasured for their intrinsic values as companions and workers. The spiritual and emotional significance of animals was an important part of funeral rites. During religious ceremonies, priests wore headpieces depicting Anubis, Bastet and other animals to invoke protections and to show respect.

The list of mummified animals is as diverse as it is long and includes hippopotamuses, crocodiles and gazelles. So many animals were mummified that most leading museums include specimens in their Egyptian collections. The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago actually has an "Animal Mummy Database" on its website that lists the type of mummy, the type of wrapping and the museum in which it is located.

The deep British interest in ancient Egypt that led to many expeditions and excavations resulted in collections of animal mummies throughout the United Kingdom in museums ranging from the British Museum in London to others scattered throughout the country. Locally, one can travel to the Rosicrucian Museum in San Jose to view a mummified cat.

If the idea of mummified animals is disconcerting, consider how these mummies give us a peek into the relationships humans had with animals in times long past. While you may not find a mummy on your doorstep this Halloween, you may want to give your cat or dog a special and safe treat in recognition of the time when they held rank as goddesses and gods.



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Orinda resident **Shaheen Tonse**.

“I think there is a lot of confusion over the new program and some people don’t have a good idea of what the new rules are for waste recycling,” said Orinda resident Shaheen Tonse. “In San Francisco they’ve gotten really strict and the garbage guys will actually look in your container. If you have the wrong things in it, they won’t pick it up. We even put meat and food in the organics container now but many people don’t know that yet. I know you can put some plastics bags in, but I don’t think you can put all plastic bags in the containers.”

“I love the new containers as they are fresh and clean and my old containers had holes in them and were all scuffed up,” said Carolyn Hopkin. “And, these new containers roll out to the curb much easier.” Caro-



CHARLIE JARRETT

**Cassie & Carolyn Hopkin.**

◆ SURVEY from page 9

following student answers:

69 percent said they had too much homework;

91 percent participated in extra-curricular activities;

46 percent reported 0-40 minutes of free time on weekends;

50 percent said they had at least one adult at school that they could go to for help;

82 percent said they were often stressed by school work;

42 percent suffered from exhaustion, headaches or had trouble sleeping.

Only seven percent reported not cheating

lyn was not aware that small plastic bags could now be placed in the large recycling cart as long as they are tucked together inside another plastic bag and tied securely. She was also not aware that residents could put old cell phones in a sealed plastic bag and leave it on top of the recycle container for pickup.

Orinda resident Kristina Merschat had a question about fluorescent bulbs. While the flyer mentions CFL bulbs, she wasn’t clear if Republic would take the long fluorescent tubes. Her husband Chad added, “I have a bag of batteries in the garage and think Republic did a great job by letting me know through their mailer that all I have to do is put them in a bag on top of the recycle



CHARLIE JARRETT

**Kristina and Chad Merschat** with sons **Caiden (L)** and **Zander**.

container.” However, he was disappointed when he came home and found them still in the bag, lying in the street. “The new features are wonderful, but they’ve got to execute their plan!” he said. “Are we supposed to call Republic first, before we put the batteries out?” Kristina inquired.

“It’s great that they will pick up batteries,” said Orinda resident Kim White, who didn’t know about the new cell phone recycling service or the small composting bin available for the kitchen. “There seems to be a problem with the containers being knocked over,” she continued. “However, a couple of weeks ago another smaller truck

in any way in the past year

The average number of hours of sleep per night was six and one half.

The words that appeared the most in the survey were “stressful,” “competitive” and “challenging.”

The Site Advisory Council plans to meet on a monthly basis to continue discussing the results of the survey and how to support students and parents. Many will attend a conference before the next meeting where they hope to learn ways to implement change. For more information on the council meetings or the survey, go to [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte).



CHARLIE JARRETT

**Leila and Kim White.**

was trailing behind the big truck with someone jumping out and righting the containers after they had been dumped on the ground. So far, we really like the service.”

When advised about the battery, oil and oil filter pickup, cell phone pickup and kitchen composting container, Orinda resident Alex Rogin said, “I don’t really change my oil any more, but those are good things to know.”

Fourth generation resident Steve Gentry



CHARLIE JARRETT

**Ethan (L) and Alex Rogin.**

has been doing a lifetime of business in Orinda as Steve’s Bees. Steve said he was thrilled with the new Republic service. “I don’t really see anything that needs to go into the landfill container, as just about everything can be recycled,” said Steve at the Farmer’s Market. Steve liked that Republic uses vehicles that are half the size of the trucks that formerly picked up waste



CHARLIE JARRETT

Fourth generation Orinda resident **Steve Gentry**

on his very steep and narrow street. “They always stopped at the same spot, bouncing the trucks up and down as they attempted to empty the containers – they actually created a pothole in front of my home.”

For more information, visit [www.recyclesmart.org](http://www.recyclesmart.org) or call 925-685-4711. For paints, pesticides and other toxic products, call Central Contra Costa County Sanitary District’s Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Facility at 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez 94553, go to [www.centralesan.org](http://www.centralesan.org) or call 800-646-1431.



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**THE REEL LESS TRAVELED**



**A SPOOKY OCTOBER**

Tom Westlake

October is always a special month -- the time when the veil between this world and the next is at its thinnest. So, of course, it's the perfect month to introduce a new member to the Lamorinda cinematic firmament.

Lord Blood-Rah's Nerve Wrackin' Theatre begins on Oct. 3 with four classic genre films from the 1950's Sci Fi era. First up is *It Came From Outer Space* (1953) followed by *The Thing From Another World* (original 1951 version) starring James Arness (of *Gunsmoke*), *Forbidden Planet* with Leslie Neilson, and, lastly, *War of the Worlds*. It all starts at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 3 and a mere \$30 affords you the opportunity to see these films so full of historical value at the Rheem Theater.

Now on to the Grand Poohbah of contemporary horror films, *The Exorcist*. In many ways, this is the genre's *Star Wars*, and I remember well when it was released. The sense of dread surrounding this film seemed to permeate outside of whatever theater that happened to be playing it. Indeed, there was not a single element about this film that did not have some sort of controversy surrounding it, from the content of the film to the many "behind the scenes" stories and rumors. It is a credit to director William Friedkin that he was able to infuse this film with such an oppressive air that one cannot help but shudder when the lights go down. Moreover, the talent on the screen is atypi-

cal of a horror film with Ellen Burstyn, Max von Sydow and newcomer Linda Blair. To make matters worse, according to the ads, this is the director's version meaning that some of the scenes that were cut during its original release have been put back in. It will screen at the Orinda on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. Admission free.

Veering away from the fearful, The Moraga Movers will be featuring *The Searchers*. Now anyone who has even a passing knowledge of film would most likely be able to tell you that the word "influential" would not begin to describe this movie. The stars aligned perfectly to make a film that would be borrowed from liberally since its release in 1956 to the present day. It also features John Wayne, of course, displaying acting chops that many did not realize he had. This film is far more than just another Western, with its social conscience worn on its sleeve, the always reliable John Ford at the helm, and the usual vistas that make these films eye candy, this is one not to miss -- and if you show up at the Rheem on Oct. 21 at 2 p.m., you won't.

Be sure and go to [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com) to make sure you don't miss any last-minute Halloween treats.

Before I go on, I must apologize for misidentifying the film *Class Enemy* in last month's issue. It is not an Italian film but rather Slovenian.

This month the International Film Showcase takes a rare detour into the uneasy with *Marshland*. If you liked the first season of television's *True Detective* this is the movie for you. Taking place in the 1980s, the story revolves around the grisly murders of two young girls and the two police detectives that are sent to put a stop to it. Complicating matters are the town's own recalcitrant populace, the detectives' ideological differences and the unstable political climate. Filled with some beautiful aerial photography, a Gothic atmosphere and gold standard performances from its two leads, this is a fully engrossing mystery that is sure to keep you guessing right to the end. It will have a one-week engagement at the Orinda Theatre starting on Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. For a preview of the film, check out [www.internationalshowcase.org](http://www.internationalshowcase.org).

And, remember to stay in the dark because... Boo!

◆ CARS from page 3

we accomplished that." The show ran from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., culminating in a drive to Moraga and back when some lucky attendees were able to take a ride in a classic car. "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, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Orinda Historical Society Museum. For more information about the show and to see a photo gallery of vehicles that were in the show, visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).



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PERFORMING ARTS

# Eric Ting Debuts as Cal Shakes' Artistic Director

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

Eric Ting is a man in the midst of a year of changes. This summer he and his wife Meiyin Wang welcomed the birth of their first child Francis, and this fall Ting will help usher in California Shakespeare Theater's 42nd season as its new artistic director. He officially begins in November. During October, he'll direct *Appropriate* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.

How have the first nine weeks of fatherhood changed Ting? "Frankie has made me a wiser person," he said. "And I appreciate sleep more than ever before!"

Ting reflected on the similarities between fatherhood and theater. Producing new works, he said, is "like giving birth." Like fatherhood, the idea of birthing someone into the world requires responsibility.

Ting speaks highly of finding inspiration in his predecessor Jonathan Moscone's sense of innovation and the way Cal Shakes is working with different communities to ensure that Shakespeare is accessible to all.

"I come from a theater which has a long history of new work and revitalizing modern classics. I have immense passion for works of Shakespeare," said Ting, who recently spent 11 seasons as the associate artistic director of Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven, Connecticut, where he was recognized as an advocate of new plays. While there, he also worked with the classics, co-adapting and directing the company's production of Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea* as well as Shakespeare's *Macbeth* set during the Vietnam War.

"When we speak of plays that capture the most sublime moments about theater, Shakespeare is a prime example," said Ting. "He uses language to create vivid theatrical worlds and transports audiences to so many different places, to tap into the deep common wisdom of the world. To share that? I can't imagine anything better."

Ting says theater is a celebration of what it means to be human. "Of all the classic art forms, it is the most humane. The currency of theater is human stories. They are performed by the human voice, the human body. Like parenthood, theater celebrates and connects us to the experiences that we all share.

Cal Shakes board of directors' president Jean Simpson said Ting, an Obie award-winning director, has "extensive credits at some of the top theaters in the country" as



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eric Ting takes over the reins at Cal Shakes.

well as experience in institutional leadership gained from his tenure at the Long Wharf. Simpson added that Ting also possesses a "demonstrated vision and passion for arts education and community engagement." A multiple-grant recipient, Ting was recognized as one of 25 forward-thinking artists in *American Theatre Magazine's* 25th anniversary edition.

While Simpson acknowledges the seven-month nationwide search for Moscone's replacement netted "some extraordinary candidates," she said Ting "ultimately rose to the top."

Ting is excited about Cal Shakes' upcoming season and, like his predecessors Dakin Matthews (1983-1987), Michael Addison (1987-1995), Joe Vincent (1995-1999) and Jonathan Moscone (2000-2015), looks forward to the time he will spend at the Bruns Amphitheater.

"I am profoundly honored to join this remarkable organization whose mission and programming both on and off stage so thoroughly embody what I believe a theater can and must be today," Ting said. "I am eager to see what the future holds for Cal Shakes and so very excited to be a part of it."

"There's something special out there in the glens – at the picnic tables, in breaking bread with loved ones, sitting at those tables under that sky and sharing a well-told story," Ting said. "A lot of times we get caught up in the day-to-day. There is something about Cal Shakes that demands you take a breath."

Cal Shakes' final show of the current season, *King Lear*, runs through Oct. 11 at the Bruns Amphitheater. For more information, call 510-548-9666 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).



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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

- 1 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents William Shakespeare's *King Lear* through Oct. 11 at Bruns Amphitheater. Visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org) or call the box office at 510-548-9666.
- Orinda Library Gallery** showcases the works of the Three-Eight Art Studio through October. A reception for the artists will be Oct. 3, 2 to 4 p.m., when Beichen Li will play the guzheng, a traditional Chinese instrument. See article p. 2.
- Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents Malcolm Cowler's stage adaptation of *Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio* through Oct. 3. Performances at the Community Park are Oct. 1 at 8 p.m., Oct. 2 and 3 at 8:30 p.m. and Visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) or call 925-528-9225.
- Moraga Art Gallery** presents *Color, Clay and Fire* through Oct. 24, at 522 Center St., Moraga. Visit <http://moragaartgallery.com>.
- Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for children aged 2 to 4, every Thursday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 925-254-7606.
- Orinda Books** hosts Jules Bonjour discussing his new novel, *War & Betrayal: From Manzanar to Dachau*, 276 Village Square, 7 p.m.
- 4 **Olive Festival** at the Wagner Ranch Nature Recreation Area, 360 Camino Pablo, Orinda, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free family event features everything about olives, plus crafts, food, music and tours of the 18-acre olive grove. Visit [www.fwrna.org](http://www.fwrna.org). See article p. 12.
- Orinda Books** hosts Jan Stites discussing her new novel, *Reading the Sweet Oak*, 1 p.m., with live bluegrass music. See article p. 18.
- 7 **Orinda Books** presents Annie Barrows at the Orinda Library in a program featuring *The Truth According to Us*, *Magic in the Mix* and her *Ivy and Bean* series, 3:30 p.m.
- 8 **Free Movie Night** at Orinda Theatre features *The Exorcist*, 7 p.m. Visit [www.lamorinda-theatres.com](http://www.lamorinda-theatres.com).
- 10 **Art of Mixology Competition and Tasting** in Orinda Theatre Square, 4:30 to 7 p.m. Must be 21 years of age or over. Sample 20 craft cocktails, vote for your favorite drink and support the arts. Visit [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org). See article on this page.
- 11 **Italian Night**, Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 6 p.m. Sponsored by Saint Mary's College Guild and benefiting the scholarship fund. 925-376-6088. See p. 19.
- 14 **The Second Wednesday Book Group** will discuss *Sea Lady* by Margaret Drabble, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m.
- 17 **Orinda Books** hosts Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff discussing her new book, *The Missing Kennedy: Rosemary Kennedy and the Secret Bonds of Four Women*, 3 p.m.
- Miramonte Parents' Club** fall social Food Truck Festival, 6 to 9 p.m., Orinda Library Plaza. See article p. 6.
- 22 **Orinda Garden Club** presents landscape designer Shari Bashin-Sullivan, Orinda Library Auditorium, 10:30 a.m. See article p. 6.
- Orinda Books** hosts Afternoon Tea with Linda Lee Peterson to introduce her new San Francisco mystery, *The Spy on the Tennessee Walker*, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m.
- Holocaust survivor Dr. Dora Apsan Sorell** talks about her experiences, Orinda Library Auditorium, 7 p.m. See article p. 11.
- Orinda Chamber of Commerce Mixer**, Land Home Financial, 2 Theatre Square, Suite 146, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- 28 **Random Readers**, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. The readers meet monthly and welcome new members.
- 29 **Halloween Parade for Tots**, Community Center Park, 1 p.m. Come in costume and follow Glenda the Good Witch in a stroll around the park, then enjoy Halloween-themed activities.
- Orinda Books** hosts Rick and Wendy Walleigh discussing *From Silicon Valley to Swaziland: How One Couple Found Purpose and Adventure in an Encore Career*, 7 p.m.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org). Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way.

- 1 **Monthly Book Sale**. Hosted by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and sorting room, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- English as a Second Language Conversation Circle**. Practice English in an informal, small-group setting, Tutoring Room, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also Oct. 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- 6 **Toddler Lapsit**. Stories and songs for children aged 1 to 3 and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required, but attendance limited to once per week. Also Oct. 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21.
- Peek-A-Boo Time**. Storytime for children ages 0 to 5, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also Oct. 13 and 20.
- 7 **Paws to Read**. Children in grades K-5 practice reading with a friendly dog, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call or visit the library to register. Also Oct. 14, 21 and 28.
- 16 **Mystery Book Club**. Members discuss the latest mystery of the month, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 p.m. Adult program.
- 20 **Humanities West Fireside Chat**. George Hammond offers a preview of the upcoming production of *Dawn of the Italian Renaissance*, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adult program.
- 22 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**. A monthly story swap keeping the oral tradition alive, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Gallery Room, Orinda Library, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com/> or 925-283-8288.

## Craft Cocktail Competition Supports the Arts

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council and Orinda Theatre Square co-host the second annual Art of Mixology Craft Cocktail Competition and Tasting on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in Orinda Theatre Square Plaza. All proceeds support the council's many art programs throughout Lamorinda. The event is open to all professional East Bay bartenders who will vie for the coveted "Mixologist of the Year" award and cash prizes. A distinguished panel of judges will award prizes totaling \$850. There is also a "Top Amateur Mixologist" contest and a new contest, "The Art of Table Staging." The table-staging contest gives the competing bartenders an opportunity to create a tasting table so enticing it wins a prize. The contest is sponsored by J. Rockcliff Realtors, who will be awarding the prize (TBA).

The \$45 ticket (must be 21 years of age or older) gets you a coupon book so you to sample 20 craft cocktails, a souvenir shot glass, two coupons for finger food and a chance to vote for your favorite drink or bartender. Additional food coupons are \$2 each to nosh on tasty small bites from Dianna Condon Catering, La Piazza, Piccolo Napoli and Table 24. Over 200 people attended last year's kick-off event. "With beautiful weather and the pleasant surroundings at Theatre Square, we can't wait to see what this year's competitors have in store," says Kal Deutsch, co-chair of the event. "Last year no one could take their eyes off of the mixologists as they entertained us while creating craft cocktails we couldn't wait to sample."

The event funds the council's mission to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Joe Cleveland of the Cooperage mixes up a tasty concoction at last year's event.

ignite and sustain artistic expression and appreciation for all ages through contributions to the arts such as: Lamorinda Idol, high school Visual Arts Competition, Art in Public Places, Orinda Library Gallery monthly exhibits, school musicals and much more. Visit [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org) for more information or to become involved.

The event is sponsored by top-shelf sponsor Lamorinda Theatres, along with PG&E, Republic Services, *Diablo Magazine*, Beam Suntory, Don Q Rum, Table 24, Piccolo Napoli, La Piazza, Dianna Condon Catering, Lafayette Park Hotel, J. Rockcliff Realtors, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Safeway, Echo Grove and Why Not Girl PR. To keep the evening safe and sane, event staffers have taxis at the ready for a ride home - just ask.

- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org/>
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 a.m., September through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com). This month's topic is "Water Wisdom, Drip by Drip," presented by Roxy Wolosenko, landscape designer and owner of Roxy Designs in Moraga.
- Orinda Garden Club**. Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.
- Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 925-254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Tuesday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org) or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or [www.orindawomansclub.org](http://www.orindawomansclub.org).
- Walnut Creek Garden Club**. Second Monday, 9:30 a.m., Camellia Room, Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek, <http://californiagardenclubs.com/content/walnut-creek-garden-club> or [mslittle44@gmail.com](mailto:mslittle44@gmail.com). This month's topic is "Keeping Your Garden Habitat Friendly in the Drought" presented by Andrea Hurd, horticulturist and stonemason of Mariposa Gardening & Design in Berkeley.

## CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesdays of the month, 7 p.m. Visit [www.mofd.org/board/meetings](http://www.mofd.org/board/meetings) meeting location will be posted on the agenda.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 6 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda, CA 94563. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

Send calendar items to Maggie Sharpe at [m.sharpe66@gmail.com](mailto:m.sharpe66@gmail.com)



## Move of the Month

### One Arm Tricep Extension on the Bosu



- To begin, stand up with a dumbbell held in one hand. Your feet should be about shoulder width apart from each other. Now fully extend the arm with the dumbbell over your head. Tip: The small finger of your hand should be facing the ceiling and the palm of your hand should be facing forward. The dumbbell should be above your head. This will be your starting position.
- Keeping your upper arm close to your head (elbows in) and perpendicular to the floor, lower the resistance in a semicircular motion behind your head until your forearm touches your bicep. Tip: The upper arm should remain stationary and only the forearm should move. Breathe in as you perform this step.
- Go back to the starting position by using the triceps to raise the dumbbell. Breathe out as you perform this step.
- Repeat for 12 repetitions.
- Switch arms and repeat the exercise.

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or [www.thelivingleanprogram.com](http://www.thelivingleanprogram.com).

### ◆ CITY from page 5

remain the top priority while maintaining the excellent levels of services that our community demands. Our small staff of employees does an amazing job, and they are supported by a huge number of volunteers that serve on our various commissions and committees and other various

volunteer positions. We are so fortunate to live in a community that has no shortage of people who will step up to serve their city. While the population and demographics of Orinda are largely unchanged since 1985, some new developments have occurred that provide great opportunities for seniors and new residents to enjoy our city."

## Orinda Books Spotlights Local Author

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, welcomes Jan Stites reading from her new novel, *Reading the Sweet Oak* on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 1 p.m. The launch party includes live music, refreshments and a raffle of prizes from bookstore gift cards and theme-related T-shirts to delicious treats.

Stites' newest work is "the story of five Ozarkian women who find their lives transformed by books." *New York Times*' Susan Mallery described Stites as "a charming new voice in women's fiction," who "writes from the heart about friendship, love, and what it means to find where you belong."

Stites grew up in Missouri. "The Ozarks are definitely in my blood, and I'd long wanted to set a novel there but didn't have a story. Then a friend asked me to interview several Ozarkian women to record their stories before they died. That's what gave me the idea for a romance novel book group."

As Stites began her work on *Reading the Sweet Oak*, she started reading romance novels as research on the books her fictional group could discuss. Prior to her work on the book, Stites said she'd only read one romance novel in her life. "When I began reading the romances, I found myself responding almost immediately as the characters. This character would think this about that passage; another character would think that. It was amazing and a terrific way to get to know both characters and story."

*Reading the Sweet Oak* is Stites' second published book. *Edgewise*, her first book, was called "courageous, heartfelt and unforgettable" by author Wally Lamb (*I Know this Much is True* and *She's Come Undone*). *Edgewise* is "a somewhat dark and autobiographical story set in an inner-city Oakland psychiatric hospital," Stites said.

Stites spent much of two years in an outpatient hospital very much like the one depicted in *Edgewise*. The novel was written with purpose.



GRETCHEN GARLINGHOUSE

Author Jan Stites reads from her latest novel on Oct. 4.

"I wanted to show that there is help available for mentally ill (including depressed) people if they seek it out. Stites is concerned over the "the economics of the health care industry." Government budgets have closed down a lot of such facilities. That enrages me because such help can make all the difference. It certainly saved my life."

The difference in "writing such a dark novel to a much lighter one is a story of my own healing," said Stites, adding, "that healing resulted from the amazing professional help (in therapy and in writing) that I was lucky to get, and the very loving man who became my husband."

Writing, the author said, has "been both therapy and escape, a potent combination."

Stites said that writing helps her in many ways. Creating well-rounded characters, for instance, has helped her "get inside the heads of people different from myself." Another benefit was being able to see the world from others' points of view. "I often found myself able to empathize because I had learned to do that through writing."

Writing, the novelist said, has "helped me to process difficult emotions." It has also made her laugh. "What better goal than giving smiles to others?" she asked.

"Above all," Stites said, writing is "just plain fun."

### ◆ AUHSD from page 1

last two years to pay for teacher training, materials, supplies and texts. The state is continuing financial support to the district this year with around \$400,000 for further training and development of the curriculum.

While there has been controversy regarding the new Common Core standards adopted by 42 states, Glimme says, "the workplace and the world are changing, and we would be doing a disservice to our students if we did not prepare them."

Asked about parents and the new curriculum, she says, "We've done a lot of parent outreach via the schools and their back-to-school nights. Our parent nights which were site-based were highly attended."

In an email to parents and guardians the

day following the release of test results, Superintendent John Nickerson said that, while the data represents only one measure, it is an important one. He wrote that staff will disaggregate and analyze the results to "better understand our district, school and student strengths and weaknesses and how we can better prepare each of our students for their post-secondary endeavors."

His statement concluded: "While we are happy with the district and school results (the AUHSD is the top performing high school district in the State), we are determined to bring improvement. We believe as we further align our instructional practices and curriculum with the new State curriculum, all students will demonstrate higher achievement."

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**Seasoned Shopper**  
Ride the Wave of Orange



BARBARA KOBSAR

Welcome to fall and the wave of orange. Before the arrival of navel oranges, there are a host of other "orange" fruits and vegetables to check out. Peppers and tomatoes (of all colors) are winding down their season but carrots remain a market staple. Sweet potato choices are in full swing waiting for their star status during the upcoming holidays.

Both the acorn-shaped Hachiya and tomato-shaped Fuyu persimmon boast a beautiful, rich orange color inside and out when ripe. However, their textures are distinctly different. Hachiyas become pudding like and Fuyus remain crisp like an apple.

Hachiyas generally come to market firm and ready to relax on the kitchen counter – allow five to six days to fully ripen the Hachiya at room temperature. Even a slightly under-ripe Hachiya contains enough tannin to pucker your mouth! If you can't wait to sink your teeth into a Hachiya, just pop the hard, unripe fruit in the freezer overnight and then let thaw – it becomes ripe, juicy and non-astringent. Prepare by slicing off the top to scoop out and enjoy the jelly-like flesh or use in puddings, cakes, cookies and candies.

Fuyus are firm, smooth-skinned and topped with a fresh, green calyx. These are non-astringent and edible immediately after harvest. Rinse before eating out of hand or slice crosswise to use as a garnish or in salads and pies.

Pumpkins abound in October. Many are meant for carving and some beautiful heirloom varieties such as the scarlet Rouge Vif d'Etampes and blue-green Jarrahdale are perfect for decorating doorsteps and tabletops.

All pumpkins are edible but some are much better candidates than others to make

◆ **BUZZ** from page 20

in the restaurant business. "All our dishes are made to order for each customer," says Stonework. We offer the full range of Mexican dishes including tomases and enchiladas and our customers are especially fond of our burritos. A visit to La Cocina is like visiting your mother's or grandmother's kitchen. When you come to us you are getting a gourmet meal. We are looking to make people happy by serving them a delicious meal and we love having families and friends come in."

A full beer and wine list along with mango and strawberry margaritas are available. "Everyone who has a library card will get a free small soft drink with their meal upon presentation of their library card. We are fans of the public library system," says Stonework, who is a member of Rotary International and an active volunteer with the organization.

A member of the Richmond Rotary Club, Stonework is enthusiastic about the organization's efforts since 1986 to eradicate polio. "Today polio exists in only three countries, Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. There are only 250 cases remaining on earth," he reports. A lifelong runner, Stonework is also an avid reader and says he is a regular customer at Barnes and Noble and patron of the public library system.

La Cocina is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information and to review the menu visit [www.lacocinaorinda.com](http://www.lacocinaorinda.com). Phone in your to-go order at 925-258-9987.



BARBARA KOBSAR  
Pumpkins and apples brighten up the Farmers' Market.

into creamy pies, soups and baked goods (substitute some of the butter in brownies with cooked pumpkin). Baby Bear or Jack Be Little mini-pumpkins and Sugar Pie pumpkins do not have coarse fibers and cook up quickly. For a stronger flavor, the Cinderella pumpkin works well.

To prepare, cut pumpkin in half lengthwise (cut off the stem first to make it easier). Place cut side down on a baking sheet in a 350-degree oven for 30 minutes to one hour (depending on size) or until tender. Cool and scrape out flesh. Puree flesh in a blender until smooth and add to remaining ingredients in your favorite pumpkin pie recipe.

Hint: A two- to three-pound pumpkin yields about 1-1/2 cups pulp, enough to make one pie. Enjoy and see you at the market!

**Italian Night at Saint Mary's College**

Lovers of all things Italian won't want to miss Italian Night on Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. in the Soda Activity Center at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. Sponsored by the Saint Mary's College Guild, the evening includes live Italian music and, of course, great food. Tickets are \$40 with the proceeds going to the Saint Mary's College Scholarship fund. Make checks payable to Saint Mary's College Guild and send to Pat Wiegmann, 39 Carr Drive, Moraga, CA 94556. For further information, call Wiegmann at 925-376-6088.

**Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe Dance the Night Away**

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Bathed in moonlight, the Quarry House at Orinda Wilder formed the perfect setting for the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) fundraiser – Fantastic Fandango, held on Aug. 29.

The delicious aroma of Israel Mercado's freshly made churros greeted guests while Lance Beeson and his band filled the air with traditional Mexican music, reminiscent of the days when the Joaquin Moraga Adobe held Fandangos (a lively Spanish dance) for neighbors. Beeson also entertained attendees with his authentic stories of days gone by in the Quarry House's picturesque library.

A highlight of the evening was Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno, whose brightly costumed dancers amazed with their fast-paced intricate dance moves. For those who wanted to do more than just watch, Trio Sol de Mexico and salsa master Hebert Aguilar had the crowd on its feet learning the fun dance steps. Picante's catering gave guests the strength to keep on dancing.

KGO's John Hamilton of *On-the-Go* kept the action moving as he reminded the crowd to "buy a balloon" for the fun prizes hidden inside. The festive balloons popped throughout the night as supportive monies flowed into FJMA's coffers to help rebuild the original Joaquin Moraga Adobe.

Built in 1841, the adobe is the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County. Recognized as a California State Historic Landmark since 1954, the FJMA is dedicated to preserving the building, located above



STEVEN DOE REMEDIOS  
Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno performed at this year's Fandango

Del Rey Elementary School in Orinda, and providing community access.

For more information on the Joaquin Miller Adobe, go to [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org) - and mark your calendars for next year's Fandango on Aug. 27, 2016.

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### Tomaj Trenda Joins Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Drysdale Properties

After six years serving as an independent broker and co-owner of Better Homes Realty in Lafayette, Tomaj Trenda has joined the Orinda office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Drysdale Properties as a broker associate. The firm is located at 8 Camino Encinas.

"The market reach for selling homes is fantastic owing to the fact that we have over 32 offices in the Bay Area alone," says Trenda. "This allows us to have deep



Tomaj Trenda is now with Berkshire Hathaway.

market reach with an extensive network available to our clients. I chose this company because Berkshire Hathaway has a huge national and international presence helping me to best serve my clients."

Trenda covers both Alameda and Contra Costa counties, delivering exceptional customer service with the backing of a high-quality company. "It is a priority for me to understand my client's preferences and help people with their housing needs," he explains. "Currently, the housing market is very strong, and it is an excellent time to own investment property because rents are so high," according to Trenda.

"We are seeing a high percentage of all-cash buyers, even with higher asking prices, as well as low interest rates," says Trenda, who is a member of the Contra Costa Association of Realtors, California Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. "This phenomena, combined with multiple offers, makes it a hot real estate market. It is a great time to buy property."

An Orinda resident since 2009, Trenda enjoys salsa dancing and for the past 10 years has been teaching a weekly class at the Orinda Community Center. He has helped many students buy and sell homes over the years. "I have been an active member of this community for so long and my roots are here," he says.

Highly committed to community service throughout the year, Trenda volunteers at

the Orinda Classic Car Show, the Fourth of July Parade, Lafayette Art and Wine Festival and the Save Mount Diablo Gala and Auction. His work for the Surfrider Foundation – an organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the world's oceans and beaches – is probably closest to heart. "I took up surfing at age 50 as a hobby. I am still a beginner, but riding the waves in the ocean with dolphins, seals and fish is really incredible," he says. Every September Trenda participates in Beach Clean Up Day hosted by the California Coastal Association.

For more information, visit [www.tomaj-trenda.com](http://www.tomaj-trenda.com), call 415-505-3536 or email [homes@tomajtrenda.com](mailto:homes@tomajtrenda.com).



Orinda Academy's Head of School and Founder Valerie Hotz, Ron Graydon and Admissions Director Laurel Evans.

### Orinda Academy Hosts Open House Oct. 25

Founded in 1982 by Head of School Ron Graydon, Orinda Academy is a non-profit college preparatory school serving grades eight through 12. After earning his baccalaureate degree and teaching credential at UC Berkeley and serving a stint at a private school, Graydon envisioned a small private school offering small classes, personal attention and excellent qualified teachers serving students with mild to moderate learning differences.

"Our program is multi-sensory," says Graydon. "We utilize teaching methods that adapt to a student's learning style and with the low student-to-teacher ratio of 8-to-1, we are able to accomplish this with success. We find it keeps everyone engaged and works for all learners. For example, a class may have 15 minutes of lecture, 15 minutes of discussion and 15 minutes of hands-on activity which is a departure from the traditional teaching style."

Admissions Director Laurel Evans points out that all students work at grade level and about half of the student body have special learning styles. "Public schools often have an average of 30 students in each class and sometimes teachers can't address the needs of every student in class," says Evans. "At Orinda Academy, we have eight in each

class. This low student-teacher ratio enables us to help students work to their fullest potential." Previously a first-grade teacher, Evans moved into the role of admissions director in order to help families find the right school for their child.

"We offer a well-rounded program where academic needs are met and emotional needs are addressed," she says. "For example, two counselors from Coyote Coast, a youth and family counseling agency, help with our mentor program by mentoring older students each year. Students may take advantage of counseling services on a drop-in basis when feeling stressed out or involved in a conflict."

As a college preparatory school, Orinda Academy has college counseling services to help students find the best match for their future in terms of college selection. Upon enrollment a student is assigned one advisor who assists through graduation day. "Our graduates have enrolled at MIT, Brown, Carnegie Mellon, Claremont McKenna, all the University of California campuses, Georgetown and other noted universities," says Graydon.

Drawing from a very diverse population, current enrollment includes students from China, Korea, Czech Republic and Russia. Application season begins in October with a deadline of March 15. Orinda Academy hosts its annual Open House on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. To schedule an interview and tour of the school, call Laurel



Contributed photo of Chef Jorge Garcia (L) and Owner Michael Lee.

Evans at 925-254-7553. More information is available at [www.orindaacademy.org](http://www.orindaacademy.org)

### La Cocina Offers Authentic Mexican Fare

If you are looking for traditional and authentic Mexican food, stop by this conveniently located eatery at 23 Orinda Way, across the street from the Orinda Library. Chief chef Jorge Garcia, a native of Mexico, is supported by eight staff members and serves up his own salsa and guacamole recipes made fresh each day.

Michael Lee took over ownership of La Cocina (The Kitchen) in 2009 and delegates daily operations to general manager Stoney Stonework who has 30 years experience [SEE BUZZ page 19]

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