

THE ORINDA NEWS

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October 2016

City Council Candidates State Positions at OA Forum on October 6



Linda Delehunt



Darlene K. Gee



Bruce London



Inga Miller

The Orinda Association will hold a forum for the four City Council candidates to discuss their positions on issues of concern to local residents. The forum will take place from 7 - 9 p.m. on Oct. 6 at the Orinda Library Auditorium. The candidates for the Moraga Orinda Fire District and the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees will share their views at a joint forum on Oct. 17 also at the Orinda Library Auditorium. MOFD candidates will speak from 7 - 8:15 p.m. and OUSD candidates from 8:30 - 10 p.m. Each set of candidates also answered a series of questions for *The Orinda News* in this issue beginning on page 11.

Residents Voice Priorities for Downtown Development at Packed City Council Meeting

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

An overflow crowd attended the City Council meeting at the Orinda Library Auditorium on Sept. 6, when the main agenda item was the presentation of city staff's Downtown Planning Options and Community Engagement report. Presentation of the report was followed by more than two dozen speakers, all wanting to voice their opinion on downtown development, including the role of San Pablo Creek.

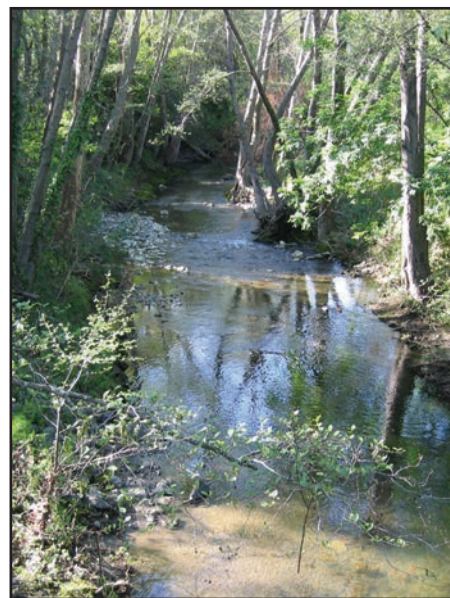
The evening also included a proclamation by the City Council recognizing Charles Swanson, director of public works

and engineering, who is retiring.

Planning Director Drummond Buckley used PowerPoint to outline the Downtown Planning Options report, giving a virtual tour of Orinda's commercial district, downtown office area and BART parking areas, as well as downtown planning options suggested by staff.

Items addressed included policies and regulations currently in place, potential priority development areas, existing surveys, studies and projects, the General Plan and the Downtown Parking Study. Buckley noted there have been over 200 communications from residents to the city in recent weeks, regarding downtown plan-

[SEE DOWNTOWN page 2]



CINDA MACKINNON

The discussion on downtown redevelopment included a possible restoration of San Pablo Creek, shown here at Manzanita Dr.

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Halloween Chills, Thrills and Spills With Creepy Hollow, Gopher Fun and Del Rey BooFest

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

It's fall and with it comes that most fun and frightful festival – Halloween. There's going to be some scary – and not-so-scary – stuff going on around town in October, so just be on your guard.

Take **Sleepy Hollow Elementary**, for example. It's not so much "sleepy" as "creepy" on Saturday, Oct. 22, when parents pull out all the stops for the Creepy Hollow Halloween Pumpkin Fest. It runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the community is welcome to join in the fun – if they dare!

Creepy Hollow co-chair Bridgette Thomas promises the legendary haunted house, pumpkin decorating, bouncy houses and a rock wall.

"We'll have a DJ playing music, an obstacle course and carnival games with prizes," says Thomas. "There will also be face painting and tattoos and two food trucks with sliders and Mexican food."



MARTINE NIEJADLIK

Glorietta Principal **Ron Langer** got into the spirit of FunFest last year by volunteering for the dunk tank.

Tickets are \$20 for children and \$15 for

adults. The school is located at 20 Washington Lane, Orinda.

Over at **Glorietta Elementary** on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Gophers will be out to play at this year's Halloween FunFest. Thrill to this year's haunted house, or dress up in your very best Halloween attire for a family portrait with Jamie Westdal Photography. ZooMobile won't be outdone in the Creepiness Department. They will have all kinds of

creepy crawlies visiting from the Oakland Zoo.

Heart not already racing from that visit to the haunted house? Then blow off some steam with carnival games for kids from preschool to middle school. Gophers will gobble up the chance to dunk Principal Langer in the Dunk Tank, try their luck at the FunFest Raffle (win toys, books, games and more) or stop by the Treat Boo-tique for Halloween goodies.

"My kids have been attending FunFest since they were in preschool," says mom Jackie Popper. "It is really a joy to them. There are activities for young and old. What a fun first impression of school!"

Everyone is welcome at FunFest. Free admittance, raffle and game tickets can be purchased at the fest. The school is located at 15 Martha Rd., Orinda.

There's a BooFest going on at **Del Rey Elementary School** on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. "It's a fun, fall carnival with a magic show, cake walk, bouncy house, food trucks, games and a DJ playing music," says BooFest co-chair Katie Sagundes. "Each classroom is doing a different booth, such as the fishbowl game and the witch hat. There's also going to be a dunk tank."

Parents pitch in by bringing homemade goodies for the bake sale and hungry Del Rey Dolphins can also catch some good-

[SEE HALLOWEEN page 5]

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◆ DOWNTOWN from page 1

ning. Staff also provided everyone present with a copy of the 21-page report.

Thirty-eight people signed speaker cards and most of them got to speak. Cinda McKinnon spoke in favor of work to restore San Pablo Creek and showed color photographs of the creek restoration and surrounding park in Ashland, Oregon, as an example of what could be created in Orinda to beautify and help the city economically. Elizabeth O'Shea also spoke in support of restoration of San Pablo Creek saying it "will contribute to the revitalization of the downtown area." Kathy Barrett explained how she had worked with children to "day-light" streams. Referring to the John Muir Land Trust, she said, "We do have friends and allies, and when they adopt a project, they provide a permanent commitment. Let's dream big to bring the community together."

Kirsten Larsen asked, "What is the story with downtown Orinda?" adding, "a vocal minority are against change." She said the Urban Land Institute and other groups would be willing to help develop the downtown and asked that a task force be created. "No effort has been made to engage the property owners, and I ask you to engage and incentivize the property owners to help revitalize Orinda," said Larsen, prompting cheers of support from the audience.

Ethan Elkind told how he had grown up and gone to Orinda schools and has returned to live here. "One of the things that has not improved is that downtown Orinda has a General Plan from 1987," said Elkind. "Orinda has one of the worst 'tailpipe revenues' in Contra Costa County, only Oakley being worse." He recommended the town use experts to get the biggest bang for the buck. "We need to get started, and I really encourage the council to act and get moving on outreach to the community; standing still is not an option."

One speaker suggested that if a big earth-

quake were to affect Orinda, city leaders should visualize how the town would be rebuilt. Another speaker said, "Traffic and inadequate parking are worse, and if we don't deal with this the results will not be positive." The next speaker observed that, "If we have absent landowners who do not want to develop their property, we should consider buying it."

Richard Colman said the City Council must be involved. "We have become a colony of Sacramento, and Governor Brown wants to control our town," said Colman. "Let's do it in a responsible and environmentally sound way."

Former Mayor Bill Judge pointed out that it's important to have the whole community involved in planning. "The community must be involved from the beginning, and you need experts to help the process," said Judge. Bruce Burrows sparked audience laughter with his comment. "Our downtown has regressed in the last 30 years to semi-rural 7-Eleven," he said. "Lafayette's plan encourages retail sales. I strongly urge you to engage property owners; they own your downtown. Unless you engage them, you get nothing."

Orinda Vision chair Tom Trowbridge told City Council, "Orinda's commercial property owners should use a set of rules that incentivizes them to revitalize. The Urban Land Institute can assist from towns as small as 4,000 in population to one million as in San Jose." Linda Delehunt, a 36-year Orinda resident, said immediate change was needed in the process, using collaboration and listening. "We need a true process that allows citizens to be heard," said Delehunt.

Orinda school board member Sarah Butler added, "Other cities have 'day-lighted' their creeks to great benefit."

One audience member seemed to sum up the feelings of many. "Shouldn't community pride of downtown be something we all strive for?"

Orinda Association Recognized for 70 Years of Service



DAVID DIERKS

The Orinda Association (OA) presented a short video of their history and received a proclamation from the Orinda City Council congratulating the OA for its 70th anniversary. (L-R) front row: OA president **Cindy Powell**, OA board members **Chris Laszcz-Davis**, **Kate Wiley**, **Joe Garvey** and **Joe Haughin**; back row: City Councilmember **Dean Orr**, OA board member **Tom Romaneck**, City Councilmember **Darlene Gee**, Vice Mayor **Eve Phillips** and OA board member **Bill Waterman**.

Longtime Dedicated OA Member: Holly Henkel

By CHELSEA PELCHAT
Contributing Writer

Each month, a family or individual member of the Orinda Association (OA) is profiled. We hope you enjoy getting to know your fellow Orindans, who are actively improving the quality of life in our community by their membership. This month meet Holly Henkel, a luxury Realtor, wife and mother of two. After a career in banking, not only did she set her sights on helping others buy homes in our area, but she dedicated her time to introducing them to the local community as well.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Holly Henkel has been volunteering in Orinda for many years from helping to keep Orinda clean to driving seniors to appointments and much more.

Can you describe your involvements in the OA?

I've been a volunteer for Seniors Around Town for eight years. It's been so fulfilling for me as I've enjoyed meeting these wonderful seniors and learning about their histories. This service is such a benefit to those who are no longer driving as they can stay longer in their treasured Orinda homes. I've been glad to give more support to the seniors than just giving a ride. For example, I've taken a senior to a medical procedure at 7 a.m., as well as visited an assisted living residence for another to reserve a room when time was of the essence. Additionally, I'm the current chairperson of the award-winning Orinda Action Day leadership team, following four years of holding the position of volunteer coordinator.

How has being a member of the OA impacted your life?

I've enjoyed my membership in OA,

knowing that it contributes to our community events and services which make Orinda a special place to live. As a Realtor, I enjoy telling my buyers about the advantages to living here and how our OA benefits all of us. Our annual Fourth of July Parade, which brings together neighbors, business owners and non-profit volunteers has been a highlight for my family for our 20 years of residence.

Why should other Orindans join/support the OA?

I strongly encourage all Orindans to join the OA, as this would provide a great

[SEE HENKEL page 10]

ORINDA LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

CANDIDATES FORUMS

ORINDA CITY COUNCIL FORUM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7-9 PM

Linda Delehunt Business Person	Darlene K. Gee Appointed Council Member/Engineer
Bruce Landon Retired Medical Doctor	Inga Miller Attorney/Business Owner

MOFD & OUSD FORUMS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7-10 PM

7:00 to 8:15 pm	8:30 to 10:00 pm
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Victoria Smith Craig Jorgens	Hillary Weiner Cara Hoxie Sarah Butler

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Autumn in Orinda



Cindy Powell

Autumn is upon Orinda. It is all about the foliage, fragrance and festivities.

We are lucky we are able to eat part of our landscaping, like the pears, apples, colorful squash, citrus and persimmon from our yards.

Oct. 1 is **World Vegetarian Day** to bring awareness to the health benefits of living a vegetarian lifestyle. Try it for a day.

Oct. 2 is **Orinda's Olive Festival** at Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Taste some oils, enjoy the activities and help fund our Environmental Education programs. We are so lucky to have this unique facility to teach archaeology, wildlife and fish biology, ecology and other disciplines in a historical context.

Glorietta's Funfest on Oct. 15, **Sleepy Hollow's Creepy Hollow** on Oct. 22 and **Del Rey's BooFest** on Oct. 29 make kids' favorite memories.

Oct. 3 begins the Orinda Garden Club's Highway 24 off-ramp beautification project. They will install **hay bales, pumpkins and scarecrows!** A BIG thank-you for their many hours of work donated to create this autumn tradition.

On Oct. 6, The Orinda Association, as part of its mission, will present a **City Council Candidates Forum** in the Library Auditorium. This is your chance to meet all four candidates and hear their answers to your questions.

Oct. 7, **World Smile Day** celebrates the ever-popular yellow smiley face created in 1963. Not exactly like the yellow emoji you have on your cell phone. The intent of World Smile Day is to do an act of kindness,

or help one person to smile. You can do it!

Oct. 8 is **Miramonte's Homecoming dance** for high-schoolers and the **Art of Mixology Cocktail Competition** for the over 21-year-olds. Sample 20 different cocktails (in safe and sane portions) to support the Lamorinda Arts Council as they support the arts in Lamorinda. To purchase tickets, go to www.LamorindaArts.org.

National Fire Prevention Day is Oct. 9 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed 300 people and destroyed about 2,000 acres in Chicago, Illinois. A loss of about \$4 billion in today's dollars. Compare that to the Oakland hills firestorm on Oct. 20, 1991. That fire killed 25 people and destroyed 1,520 acres. The loss has been estimated at \$1.5 billion. Check out www.MOFD.org and reduce your fire risk. Or head to McDonnell Nursery for fire-resistant plants and attend the **Home Composting for Busy People** in the morning (please RSVP) and pick up some colorful fall decorations and plants.

Oct. 10 is the **Vote By Mail** ballot mailing. If you have requested an absentee ballot it should arrive this week.

Oct. 10 is also **Columbus Day**. Columbus discovered the New World in 1492 for Europeans who, until then, believed the world was flat and ended somewhere in the Atlantic. Our neighbors in Berkeley celebrate Indigenous People's Day instead.

Oct. 12 is **Yom Kippur**, a Jewish holiday known as the Day of Atonement. Many people of Jewish faith in the United States spend the day fasting and praying.

On Oct. 17, The Orinda Association will

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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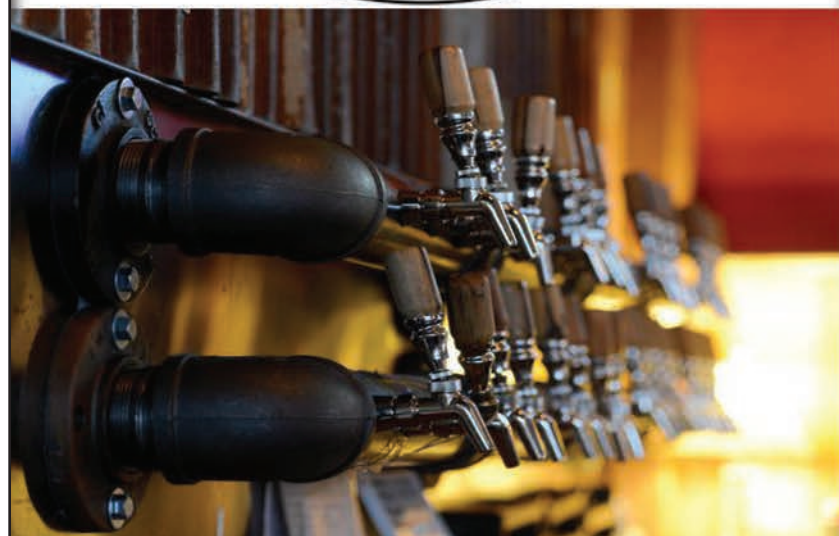
present the **MOFD and OUSD Candidate Forums**. The MOFD candidates will be on stage at 7 p.m. and the OUSD candidates will begin at 8:30 p.m. Please join us and get to know the candidates better.

This Oct. 22 millions of volunteers will unite to improve the lives of others and their community. In its 25th year, **Make A Difference Day** is the largest national day of community service.

On Oct. 27 expect to see your **Supplemental Sample Ballot** arrive in the mail. You may not be home because the **Hallow-**

een Parade for Tots at the Orinda Community Center Park will be the cutest event of the month. The toddlers in costume begin their parade and fun activities at 1 p.m.

Halloween, Oct. 31, the day before All Saints Day, is dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs and all the faithful departed. When the costumed traffic slows, it is my opportunity to visit my neighbors and say hello. Yes, they are startled to see a grown "trick-or-treater" but happy to catch up on the neighborhood news.



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LIBRARY GALLERY

Library Showcases iPhoneography, Paintings and Lamorinda Arts Alliance

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents Yoni Mayeri's iPhoneography, paintings and mixed media by Maya Kobashigawa and artwork from 28 members of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance during October at the Orinda Library Art Gallery. Join them at their artist reception on Oct. 2 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. when light refreshments will be served.

Yoni Mayeri of Orinda is showing over a dozen works of iPhoneography, which is defined as the act of creating images with an iPhone where the images have both been shot and processed on the IOS device. Photography has fascinated her since undergraduate school where she majored in fine art. "One of the things about photography that I love is how you can reinvent your focus (pun intended)," she says. iPhoneography became her métier when she was on a trip to Africa in 2009 and her big camera stopped working, so she used her iPhone

out of necessity. When she returned home and processed the shots, she was amazed at their quality. One shot she printed as a 4' x 6' image at Berkeley City College where she was teaching looked amazing. It was time for her to use the iPhone as more than a capture device.

Mayeri explains that the iPhone came out in 2007 and the app store opened in 2008 when developers started making apps for image creation and other things. These apps allowed anyone to use their phone as a camera and to process the image. Instagram was launched in 2010; as of 2016 there are 500 million active users monthly. Together with over one billion iPhones sold to date worldwide, that's a lot of people sharing photos.

For the past five years, Mayeri has been teaching people how to take photos on their mobile devices so their images look better. This fall she is teaching at Stanford through their Continuing Education department. Look for *Pollinator*, a 12" x 12" iPhoneography print where you can almost hear the

humming of the bee's wings, caught in a moment of stillness. She likes to quote her friend Chase Jarvis, who says, "The best camera is the one that is with you." See www.yonimayeri.com for more of her work.

Maya Kobashigawa of Lafayette has a passion for painting which was triggered by traveling with her family at a young age and seeing great works of art from museums around the world. She has a degree in art history and says the passage of time has not dimmed her appreciation for the works of Wassily Kandinsky and Jackson Pollock. Kobashigawa is exhibiting over 10 abstract works, a mixture of acrylics and mixed media pieces on canvas. Her use of vivid colors combined in a fluid, lyrical fashion help evoke an experience akin to being immersed in the natural world.

Springtime, a 60" x 48" acrylic painting, might pull you into a warm spring day amongst a riot of freshly sprouted leaves. When viewing her work, she hopes people see something that moves them because, "With abstract art, everybody sees something different. That is, I think, the most interesting thing about abstract art." Kobashigawa suggests that one way to learn what abstract art is all about is to read *Concerning the Spiritual in Art* by W. Kandinsky.

Area artists established the Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA) in 1994 to promote education and exhibition of the arts. "We have a lot of exhibit opportunities throughout the year," says Donna Arganbright, president of the group. There are 28 LAA members showing work in many media and different styles this month. Karen Thapa, curator of the show, hopes the work at the gallery will draw people to their annual art show and sale on Oct. 8 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All the



Orinda resident Yoni Mayeri will include her iPhoneography print entitled *Pollinator* at the October exhibit.

artists in this exhibit will be present to meet people at the show, which will feature art demonstrations throughout the day adjacent to the church grounds. Look for Mark Coffey's *Halcyon*, a 28" x 18" digital painting on watercolor paper. Thapa says, "I want viewers to see what a talented, dedicated group of artists we have in the Lamorinda area. I hope they can experience the passion and love the artists have for their work and the enthusiasm to share it with others." Visit their website at www.laa4art.org.

LAA members showing work include Zarmine Aghazarian of Orinda, acrylic paintings; Ted Arden of Walnut Creek, mixed media, photography, oil paintings; Donna Arganbright (porcelain), Tamsen Armstrong (oil paintings) and Karen Baden Thapa (printmaking), all of Lafayette; Garrison Broekema of Moraga, acrylic paintings; Ruth Kolman Prophy of Walnut Creek, paintings; Donna Brown of Alamo, woodblocks, etching prints and ceramics; Kelly Claussen of Walnut Creek, jewelry (gold, silver, stones, glass); Mark Coffey

[SEE GALLERY page 5]



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Stop By Lamorinda Arts Alliance Annual Show and Sale Oct. 8

Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA) invites the community to its annual art show and sale on Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Dr. The church is located in a wooded, rural setting next to the regional trail at the intersection of St. Mary's Road.

LAA is a group of artists and friends who reside or work in the area. Its purpose is to promote and increase knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts in Lamorinda. There are 28 artists participating, each of whom has a sample of their work in the Orinda Library Art Gallery during the month of October. The range of artwork includes ceramics, jewelry, silk paintings, prints, photographs, paintings and more. All artists will be on hand to discuss their work and several are demonstrating their techniques at 11 a.m., 2 and 4 p.m. at the show. Visit them online at www.laa4art.org.



Laura Abrams

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POLICE BLOTTER

July 31 through September 10 2016

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 16 incidents.
 Abandoned Vehicle: 4 incidents.
 Accident Injury: 1 incident.
 Accident Property: 13 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 156 incidents.
 Battery: 3 incidents.
 Barking Dog: 3 incidents.
 Burglary, Auto: 2 incidents.
 Burglary, Misc.: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Residential: 2 incidents.
 Civil Disturbance: 16 incidents.
 CVC Moving Violation: 215 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 146 incidents.
 Death Non Criminal: 1 incident.
 Disturbance, Domestic: 1 incident.
 Disturbing the Peace: 6 incidents.
 Drunk in Public: 1 incident.
 DUI Misdemeanor: 1 incident.
 Exhibition of Speed: 1 incident.
 Fireworks: 1 incident.
 Found Property: 6 incidents.
 Fraud Credit Card: 1 incident.
 Grand Theft from Building: 1 incident.
 Hailed by Citizen: 4 incidents.
 Hit and Run Misdemeanor: 2 incidents.
 Identity Theft: 8 incidents.
 Juvenile Disturbance: 5 incidents.
 Litter: 1 incident.
 Lost Property: 3 incidents.
 Loud Music: 3 incidents.
 Loud Noise: 6 incidents.
 Loud Party: 3 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 4 incidents.
 Missing Adult: 2 incidents.
 Motorist Assist: 4 incidents.
 Neighbor Dispute: 1 incident.
 Ordinance Violation: 7 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 30 incidents.
 Panhandling: 1 incident.
 Parking Detail: 180 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 99 incidents.
 Petty Theft: 3 incidents.
 Petty Theft from Building: 1 incident.
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 5 incidents.
 Possession of Controlled Substance:

1 incident.
 Possible Shots Heard: 1 incident.
 Public Assembly Check: 5 incidents.
 Public Nuisance: 5 incidents.
 Reckless Driving: 19 incidents.
 Road Rage: 1 incident.
 School Check: 31 incidents.
 Security Check: 36 incidents.
 Service to Citizen: 197 incidents.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 23 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 21 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 15 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 21 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 25 incidents.
 Traffic Collision Property Damage: 2 incidents.
 Tow: 10 incidents.
 Traffic Hazard: 12 incidents.
 Traffic Stop: 17 incidents.
 Trespass: 3 incidents.
 Unwanted Guest: 1 incident.
 Vacation House Check: 55 incidents.
 Vandalism: 1 incident.
 Verbal Dispute: 6 incidents.
 Warrant Service: 1 incident.
 Walk Through: 1 incident.
 Welfare Check: 12 incidents.

Arrests

Battery: 2 arrests.
 Battery on Police Officer: 1 arrest.
 DUI: 6 arrests.
 Petty Theft from Building: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Burglary Tools: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Controlled Substance: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Marijuana: 1 arrest.
 Threaten Officer: 1 arrest.
 Vehicle Theft: 1 arrest.
 Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incident details, visit
www.crimereports.com

◆ HALLOWEEN from page 1

ies from the Mexican and slider food trucks.

Tickets to the BooFest are \$10 (children two and under are free). The school is located at 25 El Camino Moraga, Orinda.

Wagner Ranch Elementary isn't holding its traditional Roundup! celebration this month. But don't be alarmed. Roundup! has just been postponed until spring. Meantime, students at Wagner will transform into pirates, princesses – and everything in between – for the annual Halloween parade at the school on the Big Day – Monday, Oct. 31.

Schools aren't the only ones getting in on the action this Halloween. On

Saturday, Oct. 29, kids 12 and younger are invited to a **Trick or Treat Walk** at Theatre Square, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., sponsored by Orinda Theatre Square and Lamorinda Moms. Children have to be accompanied by an adult. Participating businesses will hand out Halloween candy and treats, there will be face painting, as well as food and drink specials at local restaurants.

For younger kids, parents should mark their calendar for Thursday, Oct. 27, when Orinda Parks & Rec hosts a **Halloween Parade for Tots** from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Orinda Community Center Park. Youngsters are invited to come in costume, join in the parade with Glenda the Good Witch and check out Halloween-themed activities. Free and open to the public.

The Faces of Migration Today

By SALLY HOGARTY
 Editor

What is the status of migration in the world today and what can be done to alleviate the hardship of forced migration? These are just a few of the questions that the Orinda Community Church (OCC) hopes to explore at a forum on "Stories of Human Migration Today" on Oct. 23 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided at this free event.

Part of OCC's Lifelong Learning and Spiritual Formation/Mercy and Justice groups, the interactive event will be facilitated by Sue Boudreau, an Orinda Intermediate School science teacher and chair of OCC's Mercy and Justice Commission. It will begin with a panel of migration experts followed by an audience discussion.

The panel includes: Rev. Deborah Lee, a leading Bay Area activist in justice for immigrants, especially from Latin America; Steve Mullin, parish outreach manager, Refugee Resettlement Program for Catholic Charities of the East Bay; and Kathryn Winogura, volunteer services manager for Jewish Family and Community Services in the East Bay.

"We are looking at contemporary migration with the ultimate goal of supporting individuals and families," says Katrina Staten, a member of OCC's Lifelong Learning and Spiritual Formation. "We really need immigration reform, but the first step is to find out exactly what is going on," adds Eartha Newsong, a member of OCC's Mercy and Justice Commission. "We need information before we can act."

For more information, contact OCC at 925-254-4906.

District Three BART Board

Moraga resident Ken Chew, who served on the Moraga Town Council from 2006 – 2014, including two terms as mayor, will be on the ballot for District Three on BART's Board of Directors. District Three covers Orinda, Moraga and 11 other cities (some partial) in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. "Our BART system needs reform," he says. "For far too long, Bay Area tax payers and commuters have had to put up with a BART system plagued with numerous problems detrimental to the livelihood and well-being of residents in the San Francisco Bay Area."

Chew, the only Lamorinda candidate, will vie for the position against Worth Free-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Moraga resident **Ken Chew** is running for BART's board of directors.

man, Varun Paul and current BART Board Director Rebecca Saltzman.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

◆ GALLERY from page 4

of Orinda, digital paintings and photography; K. de Groot of Lafayette, jewelry; George Ehrenhaft of Moraga, watercolors; Carla W. Gelbaum, also of Moraga, acrylic paintings and art tiles; Steve Haggerty of Walnut Creek, oil paintings, jewelry, glass and metalwork; Kim Homes of Alamo, oil paintings, ceramics and functional ware; Olga Jusidman of Walnut Creek, ceramics and silver jewelry; Bill Klapproth of Moraga, photography; Elena Kushikova of Dublin, oil and acrylic paintings; Margaret Lucas-Hill of Lafayette, silk paintings; Pam McCauley of Lafayette, watercolor and oil paintings; Wenda Pyman of San Francisco, photography; Rashmi Rajesh of San Ramon, oil paintings; Paula Riley of Walnut Creek, oil and acrylic paintings; Maria SantoStefano of Orinda, oil paintings on canvas; Anne Shulenberger of Walnut Creek, sculpture; Hallie Strock of Berkeley, printmaking, paintings and mixed media; Diane Walterspiel of Orinda, jewelry, photography and abstract paintings; and Ken Young of Moraga, photography.

Regarding the value of art to the community, Thapa says, "The visual arts are a fundamental way that we express ourselves non-verbally, through color, shape, patterns and textures. They help each artist find their spiritual side and give us a way to put into a concrete form, our ideas and feelings." Kobashigawa says, "Art is important to the community, especially for children and students because they learn how to express themselves, explore ideas and get a better understanding of the world around them. For adults, art helps them become balanced and more rounded. Bottom line is art can, for example, give people joy." Mayeri says, "Art allows people to see something in a fresh way, to question, to discover, to appreciate the beauty in the world and to imagine the possibility of what's in their view of the world."

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Mon. through Thurs., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sun., 1 to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Oct. 12. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

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Letters to the Editor

Not in Favor of Class Change

I am very concerned about the recent announcement that Miramonte High School will go to longer classes in the fall of 2017.

I believe that this decision reflects an attitude of change for change's sake rather than the following of rigorous review of data, upon which the justification for change is both sketchy and controversial. It is a decision made by educators anxious to pad their resumes, not a decision that garners widespread support from the community's parents.

I urge the parents of Orinda schoolchildren to join me in writing to Superintendent Nickerson and express yourself on this topic. His email address is jnickerson@acalanes.k12.ca.us; his address is: John Nickerson, Acalanes Union School District, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, CA 94549-2623.

I am happy to leave the educating to the educators, but I don't believe this decision reflects the best interests of our children or the teachers that teach them. Nothing has happened yet: if you make your feelings plain, nothing has to happen in the fall of 2017.

– Chris Holton

Is the \$15 Minimum-Wage Racist?

Black youth 30+ percent unemployment-rate is double the rate of not only other youth groups, but any other labor-market group. These youngsters need learner-jobs to build lives not involving chronic unemployment - or prison. Nationally, Food-Service businesses provide most of those jobs at \$9-\$10 per hour. If these youngsters' skills do not warrant even these pay-rates, how, in heaven's name, does \$15 make them more employable?

Food-service industry labor cost is 30 percent of total costs. Net income averages three percent of revenues. \$15/hour (50 percent over the \$10 average), raises labor costs to 45 percent and total costs to 112+ percent of total revenue. Raising prices may well prompt customers, the only source of revenues, to say "Fuggetaboutit." The business will then be forced to reduce job numbers, eliminate a service, somehow make employees more efficient - which may reduce the need for employees, automate these tasks or die.

Laws mandating disparate adverse impacts on these vulnerable teens seem to equate to flat-out government-mandated racism. How so? Long-standing federal labor laws clearly state, "disparate impact holds that employment practices may be considered discriminatory if they have a disproportionate "adverse impact" on ... a protected class." How does making it so much harder to enter the job market not "adversely impact" these "protected class" young people? Simply declaring something "good" without considering predictable negative ramifications is socially irresponsible.

Congressional Business Office (CBO) warning: 500,000 jobs will be lost if Federal minimum wage rises to \$10. So, how does \$15 add jobs?

– Joe Moran

Solar Panels a Win-Win

Kudos to the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) for installing solar panels at the district's schools. The solar arrays accomplish the dual goals of saving on district electricity costs while teaching students lessons in financial and environmental stewardship. It's a win-win for

district taxpayers and district students.

–Reid Buckley

Martine's Clean "Update", While Ocf Stayed on its Own Path

Disregarding the egregious attempt at self-promotion (*Orinda News*, September, 2016) by the Orinda Community Foundation's (OCF) unidentified "Board of Trustees," I returned to the "horrible path" this Labor Day, seven months before OCF's next "Orinda Action Day" (OAD) in April, 2017. In inviting me to join them, they ignored that my wife Judy and I have worked with OAD volunteers.

Knowing that it was in the July 4, 2016 week when the "horrible path" had last been swept and scrubbed, why would I return there before the Foundation's customary April, 2017 date? Apparently unknown to those Trustees, but well-known to those who frequently use BART or walk there, that previously-cleaned path had returned to much of its earlier horribleness. On Labor Day, two deceased pigeons were at rest on the extensive overhead BART netting through which they, via pre-mortem pooping had again rendered the "path" no longer a "poop-free zone." Also found was a discarded soup container with a cup of partially-eaten soup, cigarette butts and much more trash. In the spirit of a new volunteer effort to promote frequent "CleanUpDowntownOrinda" action, I went to work. Walkers who stopped to chat agreed that the infrequency of the Orinda Action Days was unrealistic. However, the walkers were pleased that BART has been asked to permanently remedy the "pooping pigeons on the bridge" situation.

As to the Foundation's proposals that I organize and lead a project to clean up "this grungy path," that the Foundation "will provide a grant for materials" if a "mutually agreeable budget" is reached, and that "the Foundation will recruit volunteers to help," these would be steps in the right direction. However, reality is that many open questions might be barriers, e.g.: What entities own the various sections of the path? What is the process for getting approvals for such walkway-enhancing features as student-painted murals on various walls of the walkway?

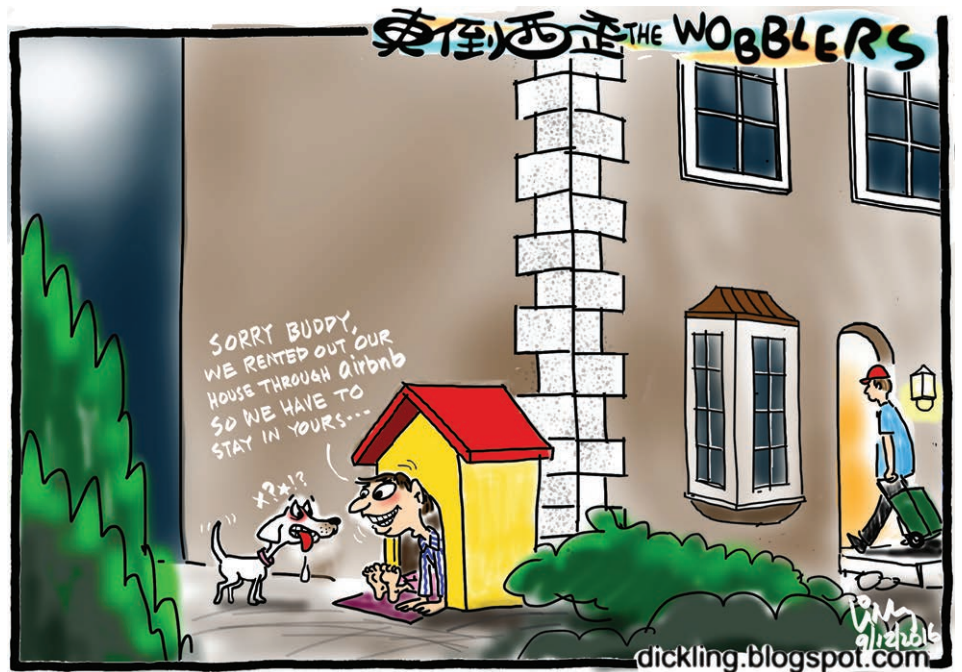
These could be topics for the Foundation to investigate, that would be consistent with its goals and results and could become part of the ongoing conversations about revitalizing Downtown Orinda.

As I plan for the next clean-up work and dealing with BART, the Foundation might also decide to enhance its own good work for Orinda, such as funding the newly-proposed Technical Assistance Panel of ULI, promoting more frequent community cleanup days and finding answers to the aforementioned open questions.

–Chet Martine

Thanks for Featuring Prop 64

Thank you for dedicating front page space of *The Orinda News* to this important topic - legalizing recreational-use marijuana in our communities. Voters are starting to understand how badly skewed Proposition 64 actually is toward the marijuana industry. With effectively unlimited advertising, a regulatory framework that provides for unlimited increases in use among all age groups and the resulting increase in DUIs from both of these, the tide is turning against Prop 64.



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I wanted to let you and readers know about a marijuana victim's rally on Oct. 4 at the State Capitol in Sacramento. Not only does a person get killed almost every day in California by a marijuana-impaired driver, tens of thousands are lost to marijuana addiction every year and families are left devastated. This rally, sponsored by MomStrong, recognizes the carnage that marijuana can leave.

If someone smokes or knows people that smoke without much incident or negative affect in their lives, they should simply feel grateful to be on the right side of the marijuana statistics.

Around 30 percent of users are negatively affected via addiction or the negative outcomes of heavy use.

Again, thank you for featuring this important topic.

–Debbie Berndt

Orinda Council Does Not Know and Does Not Seem to care

At the "Open forum" at the last City Council meeting on September 6, I informed the council

[SEE LETTERS page 8]

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CARS

CAR TIME

Self-Driving Cars Are Just Around the Corner

By JOHN VANEK



With all the mind-blowing automotive technology out there today, we wonder what could be next. Will full Internet connectivity make it over to our daily drive soon? Will we have voice-command Internet and self-driving cars?

Well, guess what? The cars of the not-so-distant future are being made today. Auto makers have been hard at work testing tech that will appear in the car of tomorrow, and we're seeing the results already. Next year, we can expect even more everyday technology features to come as standard equipment, notably online access. General Motors has been blazing a trail with its On-Star connectivity for decades. This can now turn cars like the Camaro into a roving 4G hotspot.

Further along the foggy path of time, it's clear that autonomous driving will be a part of our automotive future. What about sooner? As it turns out, many autonomous functions have already crept into our lives under the label of driver-assist features. Things like lane-keep assist, adaptive cruise control and self-braking systems. We've got cars that can stop, steer and accelerate independently already; why can't we simply network these functions to work together?

This thinking hasn't escaped many auto makers who are working on ways to do just that. Take Tesla's autopilot system, which uses all these systems to operate semi-independently. Drivers still need to remain responsible behind the wheel, but it makes highway commutes easier, keeping within the chosen lane and monitoring the cars around with an array of exterior sensors.

Autonomous cars, where we push the power button, enter a destination, and then open the newspaper, will still be a challenge by 2018. But driver-assist technologies will make our cars feel like they drive themselves. Auto makers like Audi and Mercedes-Benz believe that in 10 years, fully autonomous driving will be sophisticated enough for regular use. Even so, today's new tech will be old hat by 2021. In five years, the very idea of a car without a built-in Internet connection should be as absurd as buying a laptop without Wi-Fi today. And you'll speak to dumbfounded youths about songs coming on the "radio" while they remind you that cloud-based music libraries are available with a simple voice command. By 2021, the first-production self-driving vehicle should be for sale. In 2014, Elon Musk (Tesla) said fully autonomous cars should be on the road in five to six years. And the folks at Ford, Audi, Mercedes, Volvo, Google, Apple and other companies have made similar projections. The challenge, of course, will be communicating to other autonomous and human-piloted cars while on the road.

Does this technology worry me? Yes! The more complex today's vehicles are, the more difficult to fix. All the sensors and related components that make self-driving cars go can eventually fail. The question is, are we ready to really trust the technology?

The good news? We have the choice to keep our old cars. We will be working on those until they stop making gas.

You can reach Vanek at john@orindamotors.com.

Orinda's 12th Annual Classic Car Show Voted "Best Ever"

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The 12th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show held last month was voted a resounding success. The two-day weekend started with Dancing with the Cars on Friday night, followed by the Classic Car Show on Saturday. Organized by Chip Herman and hosted by Orinda Motors, the show featured 192 vehicles parked along Avenida de Orinda, Orinda Way and the Phairs parking lot. "It was the best show ever. More spectators than ever before," said Herman. "Orinda Motors was a fantastic host."

Dancing with the Cars, the ticketed party held at the Orinda Country Club (OCC) the night before the show and produced by Orinda Rotary, attracted 200 attendees. The party let attendees get a sneak peek at some of the cars before the show. This year's theme was inspired by *The Italian Job* movies, which feature Minis. Four modern Mini Coopers, two classic Minis, and a Ferrari joined the party – with the Ferrari parked in the OCC entryway. "The Orinda Starlight Village Players outdid themselves by managing the decorations, lights and costumes," said organizer Frank Darling. "Steve Harwood and the Lamor-



Attendees enjoy the cars and sunshine of the 12th annual **Classic Car Show**.

inda Arts Council produced the music and all of the sound." Last year, Dancing with the Cars raised \$35,000 for local charities. "I believe that we will be 25% higher this year," said Darling.

Saturday was the high point with all the vehicles on display. A special rolling exhibit of classic Ferraris was followed by a drive to Moraga and back, with some lucky attendees getting to ride in a classic car. "The partnership formed by all of the participating community groups put on a car show that Orinda and the East Bay can be proud of," said Herman. "The owners of the cars say that this is the best-run, most fun car show that they attend. They all want to come back next year!"

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

OCF Grant Deadline
Oct. 31

The Orinda Community Foundation is accepting grant applications until Oct. 31. For complete information and an application, go to www.orindafoundation.org.

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LETTERS

◆ LETTERS from page 6

that it was my understanding that the developer of 25A Orinda Way (the fenced in area across the street from the Orinda Library Plaza) wanted to start the project by July 2016. It is now September and nothing appears to be happening. The project is a commercial building with the entire lower floor dedicated to retail.

I informed the council that rumor has it that the developer was having issues with getting retail tenants which is a prerequisite to getting funding. I expressed my concern about this since the standing room audience in the Council Chamber was waiting to discuss potential Downtown Orinda Planning Options and that many of these people have written letters to the council asking for more retail such as restaurants, boutiques and family oriented activities. I specifically asked for one of the councilmembers to request a future agenda item which would invite the developer to present the current status and any problems that the project may have. Mayor Smith asked City Manager Janet Keeter what the status was of the project obviously not knowing. The City Manager responded that it was her understanding that escrow had not closed on the property.

Alas, none of the councilmembers seemed to care enough to take my suggestion and set up an agenda item for future review of the project status. After the council meeting, I asked the city manager if she knew whether or not escrow was hung up because financing was not secured. The city manager responded that she did not know.

Thus, the Orinda City Council does not know and does not seem to care.

– Daniel G. DeBusschere

Orindans Know What They Like

We all know that downtown Orinda could be better, but we worry about destroying the good while trying to address the bad. Will our city lose its soul, become generic, end up just ho-hum? Alternatively, can we help steer this redevelopment in order to shape a downtown with beautiful, fitting architecture and a cohesive aesthetic? I think that we can.

But how do we come to a consensus, how do we gather opinion and ensure that we're all

speaking with the same design vocabulary? The city should conduct a Visual Preference Survey. A VPS would present photographs of different design styles in communities comparable to Orinda and allow the public to vote on what images they like best through either a public forum or online process. This would provide a forum both for citizen involvement as well as education. Many people may not know the terms for the architectural styles that they like, but they know what they like when they see it. They also know what they do not like.

A VPS can provide a way toward consensus-building. We may find that our community gravitates towards the same things; after all, we have all decided to live in the same place.

Developers and business-owners want to appeal to the public. We just need to let them know what we like at the outset of the design process rather than providing feedback near the end when larger changes to an existing design may be cost-prohibitive.

If we want Orinda to be distinctive from its neighbors and maintain its historic character, we Orindans need to crystallize what Orinda means and what we want it to look like.

– Arran Schultz

Don't Dramatically Change Downtown

The discussion of revitalizing, refreshing, renovating downtown Orinda has been occurring since my husband and I moved here in 1977. The drive to incorporate was so Orindans could have a voice in local issues. The authors of the original general plan did a remarkable job constructing a blueprint for the city. Orinda can revitalize, refresh, renovate while maintaining the semi-rural values of original intent.

There are two concerns that would dramatically change downtown Orinda: height limitations and housing density. To increase height limitations would significantly alter the landscape of Orinda. Views of the hills and surrounding nature are critical. Increasing housing density in the downtown would only exacerbate existing problems, and unalterably change Orinda. There are studies from the 1960s and 1970s that show population density (not population per se) is one of the biggest stressors of modern life.

Consequently, I suggest we continue the discussions and actions, while trying to minimize environmental impact through current height limitations and housing density.

– Anne Marie Kniel

Revitalizing Comes Up Again

Apparently the city will be embarking on yet another discussion on "revitalizing" the downtown.

Like past efforts, the pro-development factions are insisting that the best way to rejuvenate downtown is by building mixed-use apartment buildings, with first floors of retail and/or restaurants below several stories of new condominiums.

As someone with experience in this area, I'd like to offer some advice to the developers and real-estate interests: why don't you just be straightforward with the public and say that your true goal is to build residential apartments in the downtown, without trying to hoodwink locals with empty promises these will bring hip new restaurants or upscale grocers?

The only place mixed-use buildings like this actually result in thriving retail and restaurants is big cities like Manhattan. Such developments dropped into the middle of little suburbs like Orinda invariably end up with first floors full of vacancies and "for lease" signs and perhaps a nail salon or a judo studio (if you're lucky). The retail in such buildings isn't even the developers' responsibility – that part is typically given to a management agency; all the developers' millions are entirely due to the condominium sales.

Thus, such projects often result in less-vital small towns – so it is a facade to try and sell them to the public in this fashion. And Orinda residents are just too sophisticated and savvy to fall for it.

So instead, I ask the developers, why not just drop the charade that you're trying to revitalize the downtown, and just be up front with the public? Tell people you think that it would be great to build an apartment complex in downtown Orinda, and cite the benefits of that?

I would be much more likely to support a developer who was honest and told us the real reason for their plans, rather than trying to pull the wool over our eyes. I think a lot of people would.

Please, developers, honesty is the best policy. You might find much better results if you're not always trying to trick the good people of Orinda.

– Frank Simons

Appreciate Efforts for Orinda's Rebirth

I wanted to express my support for What's Up Downtown and the re-visioning of Downtown Orinda. I was raised in the area and am fortunate to be raising my three children here. As we all know, most of the redevelopment and new commercial investment has headed to Lafayette. I don't know that we want to, or could, mirror Lafayette for a variety of reasons, but Downtown Orinda presents a special opportunity to create a center that brings together a city split by a large highway. With the right balance of housing, retail and open space, we could create a true "community center" that would encourage us to spend meaningful time downtown rather than driving through it or parking to shop for daily needs. I appreciate all of the efforts and look forward to supporting the rebirth of Downtown Orinda.

I would also like to encourage others to support Darlene Gee and Inga Miller in their pursuit of seats on the Orinda City Council. It is with their leadership, and that of all the councilpersons, that we can find a path to creating a

thriving Downtown Orinda.

– Drew Mickel

Constructive Tone at City Council Meeting

The Orinda City Council meeting on September 6 included public input on planning issues – I wasn't going to miss that! They told me it would be a full house. I was early, and in all those empty seats, I chose one right next to where one of the most applauded speakers was about to sit. A few minutes before seven o'clock people started squeezing by to remaining seats, and a nice lady sat next to me who introduced herself as Joanne.

Almost all the speakers addressing the council took a constructive and positive tone. It seemed to me much time could have been saved if speakers had not repeated what others had previously said. However, I wondered if this was a form of voting, if the council members take note of the number of people who advocate an idea? As I am new to this process and fairly new to this town, I may have missed some subtleties, however it seemed to me that there was general uniformity in the speakers. Several echoed the theme that without a plan Orinda will miss the opportunity to maintain an esthetic, improve traffic and pedestrian flow, and to incorporate any design element such as daylighting the creek or bridging the freeway.

When Joanna got up to speak, she identified herself as a property owner and spoke briefly of her roots and history in this community listing the schools she had attended ending with the fact that she was in the first class at St Mary's College to admit women. Her tone and demeanor assured the crowd that she seriously values the interests of the Orinda community. She was roundly applauded, and afterwards, she was circled by interested people.

My conclusion was that Orindans have reason to be hopeful. The important ingredients are there: respectful tone, uniformity of purpose and full range of stakeholder involvement. Now, of course, all that remains is for the parties involved to put divinity into the details of the plan.

– Jeffrey Violet

Victoria Smith Well Qualified

Victoria Smith, who will retire from the Orinda City Council in December, has made a significant contribution to Orinda over many years as a volunteer and elected official.

And she is not stopping there. She has announced her candidacy for Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Director for District 5.

Victoria is well qualified to serve on the MOFD board given her 12 years of experience in maintaining Orinda's fiscal health. Throughout her tenure, which included the Great Recession, the city created balanced budgets and produced cumulative operating surpluses that strengthened reserves and funded critical capital improvement projects.

MOFD needs the experienced fiscal oversight that Victoria Smith offers. I'm with her.


–Bob Burt

Craig Jorgens for MOFD Board

I support Craig Jorgens for Director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). Craig is a businessman and engineer with whom I served on the Orinda Roads Commission. Our service together gave me an opportunity to see him in action, and I have been impressed with his creative management and financial skills. These are skills the MOFD Board needs as it strives to ensure the safety of the public and the

[SEE LETTERS 2 page 10]

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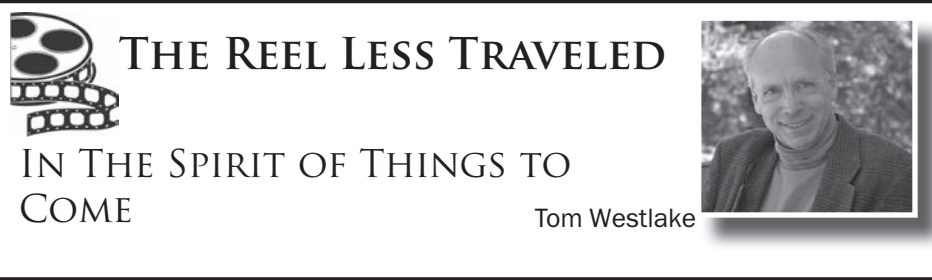

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THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

IN THE SPIRIT OF THINGS TO
COME

Tom Westlake



And so it begins: The season of revelry. With the beginning of this, the 10th month of the year, we see a geostatic uptick in our collective mood and there's no stopping it. What I'm really talking about is the constant bevy of movies we're treated to including the recent Independent Film Festival in Lamorinda. As rousing a success as it was, many cinephiles might be going through a minor withdrawal now that it's over. Never fear, dear readers. The festival was just a warm-up for what's to come. Though thinking about it now, maybe you should fear – just a little – but we'll get to that in good time.

Now with a lead-in like that, one would fully expect something about some sort of spook fest, but such is not the case as our first film of note comes to us through the good graces of the International Film Festival. Returning to our screens, Jo Alice and Efi bring us *Tanna*. Now, even though I recommend going to their site (<http://internationalshowcase.org/>) and watching the trailer, I would just as hastily warn against making the mistake of dismissing this film



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tanna is set on a remote Pacific Island covered in rain forest and dominated by an active volcano. This story of a sister's loyalty and a forbidden love affair is enacted by members of the Yakel tribe.

as the *Romeo & Juliet* for the National Geographic crowd! First off, it takes place on a small island in the South Pacific (itself a rarity - how many films take place at that locale?) and was made by two Dutch filmmakers whose background is primarily in documentaries. What is even more interesting, though, is that the film is based on an actual documented piece of native history, performed by actual members of the Yakel tribe. Add to this the lush scenery and an active volcano and you'll probably forget all about that Shakespeare guy. It will enjoy a one-week run at the Orinda Theatre starting on Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.

Okay, so now we get to the Halloween

stuff with, wait for it, *Halloween*. This is one of those trend-setting movies that has been copied and sequelized beyond all measure. But make no mistake, this is the 1978 John Carpenter original with Jaime Lee Curtis that set the tone for all mad slasher films that followed. Indeed, because of the skill that went into this movie, it almost brought a respectability to the genre that it hadn't had since Hitchcock's *Psycho*. And this is not even taking into account that this film, along with many others that came out around this time, was redefining cinema with its independence. The story is a simple one but the elements that went into that simplicity – elements that were the sole product of John Carpenter's mind and talent – come from a place of craft and general love of cinema. Carpenter, who made his name with this film, did what so many before him failed to do: He managed to put onto the screen almost exactly what he had originally envisioned. Again, based on the sheer amount of films that have copied *Halloween*, this one is not to be missed. It will show at the Orinda on Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. Admission free!

Returning to our festival mind-set, we have not one but two film programs that are tailor-made for this month. The first one is brought to you by the fine folks at the PsychoTronix Film Festival. Simply titled *Movies for Monsters*, this one looks like it has something for everyone. Possessed of a retro atmosphere, this program will feature far more than just movies of the season. There will also be cartoons, prizes and actual monsters present! To make it even more nostalgic, most of what will be shown will be 16mm film stock "The Vinyl of Video." Not much is known of what will be shown that evening. I suppose that's part of the mystery but it still promises to be an evening you won't forget. Festivities will start at 7 p.m. on Oct. 14 at the Rheem Theatre.

Even less is known about *Lord Blood Rah Day* save that it will also be at the Rheem on Oct. 22. But it's a safe bet that with Lord Rah presiding "unsettling" will be your watchword. My best advice to you, if you do not want to go into this wholly unprepared, would be to pay frequent visits to <http://lamorindatheatre.com> for updates.

So, you see, there will be something for everyone dead, un-dead or (shudder) alive. I would ordinarily leave you with my usual ending but, for this month at least, staying in the dark might not be such a good idea. So I'll simply wish all of you Good Luck. You'll probably need it!

The Founding Gardeners' British Author Speaks in Orinda

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Andrea Wulf, visiting U.K. author of *The Founding Gardeners*, will speak at the Oct. 21 meeting of the Montelindo Garden Club at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda.

Joan Reid, president of the Montelindo Garden Club (MGC), invites interested parties to attend a lecture by British author Andrea Wulf on Oct. 21. Wulf will speak about how the birth of our nation was founded on the principles of agriculture developed by our first four presidents. Her books *The Founding Gardeners* and *The Invention of Nature* were on the New York Times Bestseller List. She has written for *The Guardian*, the *L.A. Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. In 2014 she co-presented a four-part BBC TV garden series and appears regularly on the radio. The lecture is part of Wulf's American book tour.

The MGC invited Wulf to speak on *The Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature and the Shaping of the American Nation* because it looks at the lives of our founding fathers – George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison – and how their attitude towards plants, garden, nature and agriculture influenced the founding of our country. These men regarded themselves foremost as farmers and plantmen. Gardening, botany and agriculture were elemental passions, as deeply ingrained in their characters as their belief in liberty for the nation they were creating. From this perspective, Wulf will tell us how plants, politics and personalities intertwined in America's creation, adding depth and nuance to our understanding of the American experiment and providing us with a never-before-seen portrait of the founding fathers. For more about Wulf, visit www.andreawulf.com.

Amy Stewart interviewed Wulf for *The Kirkus Review* and asked, "I'm willing to bet that many Americans don't know about our early gardening history. So who are the Founding Gardeners?" Wulf answered, "For four decades, from the 1730s, John Bartrum sent so many seed boxes of American trees and shrubs to Britain that he completely transformed the English garden. He was a good friend of Benjamin Franklin. As I read on through letters, diaries and other manuscripts ... I realized that America's first four presidents ... had used nature, though in different ways, in their fight for America. They not only created the United States in a political sense, they also understood the importance of nature for their country. Golden cornfields

and endless rows of cotton plants became symbols for America's economic independence from Britain; towering trees became a reflection of a strong and vigorous nation; native species were imbued with patriotism and proudly planted in gardens, while metaphors drawn from the natural world brought plants and gardening into politics. But the greatest surprise for me was that James Madison is the forgotten father of American environmentalism. He regarded nature as a fragile ecological system that could easily collapse. Man, he believed, had to find a place within the balance of nature without destroying it – words that remain as important today as they did when he spoke them." See www.kirkusreviews.com/features/garden-rant-founding-gardeners/ for the full interview.

The event is free and all are welcome to attend by pre-registering at montelindogarden@aol.com. Refreshments will be served at 9 a.m. and the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Reid hopes that attendees will exchange information with existing MGC members and learn about the many activities available to members. Learn about MGC online at www.montelindogarden.com.

Wendy Constantine, publicity chair for the event, notes that up to Oct. 13, a variety of Wulf's books can be pre-purchased from Orinda Books at a 20-percent discount. Visit the store at 276 Village Square in Orinda, or call them at 925-254-7606 and mention the Montelindo Garden Club. All pre-purchased books will be available for pickup at the Oct. 21 meeting with options for author autographs at the event. Anyone interested in early American history is sure to find this a fascinating presentation.

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LETTERS

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financial stability of the district.

MOFD faces a number of complex problems where Craig's abilities, experience and creativity will be of major assistance. For example, despite progress in recent years, MOFD's unfunded pension liabilities and the poor emergency response times in much of northern Orinda remain significant and unresolved issues. Importantly, I would expect Craig to seek full understanding of these issues and to seek effective solutions without necessarily being bound to past practice.

Craig's skills as a manager and an engineer also will help to ensure that MOFD keeps us safe and stays on the cutting edge of firefighting technology. Among Craig's many accomplishments, he has led a business whose success depended on effective management of new technology. Craig demonstrated his leadership with regard to new business practices on Orinda's Roads Commission by identifying full depth recycling as a promising technology and asking the city to look into it. We now use full depth recycling, and the result is better roads at lower cost.

Craig Jorgens is a non-politician who will search earnestly for and promote the right solutions -- not those with the most immediate political appeal. Most importantly, Craig will listen to everyone, work to bring us together, think "out of the box" and be willing to take the actions required to keep MOFD financially solvent, effective and on the cutting edge of technology. We need him as a director. Please join with me in voting for Craig.

—Richard Nelson

Smith for MOFD; Gee and Miller for Orinda

Orinda is very fortunate to have three highly qualified candidates for the MOFD board and for Orinda City Council on the ballot this fall.

Victoria Smith (MOFD board), Darlene Gee and Inga Miller (Orinda City Council) are all very experienced, with years in leadership roles in Orinda government and civic activities. All are open-minded, dedicated to the ongoing enhancement of Orinda and emphasize fiscal soundness.

Victoria Smith has been on City Council for 12 years, and served as mayor three times. These 12 years were highly productive. Every city budget in that time was balanced while strong reserve balances were built up to protect Orinda from the kind of disaster that recently befell Moraga. Several hundred more housing units, from low to high end, were completed. Finally, after 35 years, Orinda has a roads repair program well on its way to completion.

Darlene Gee, also a current City Council member, is a rare combination: both a civil engineer and a Berkeley MBA. Gee has served for decades on such vital boards as the Orinda infrastructure committee and on the Acalanes bond oversight committee. She chaired the successful 2012 campaign for roads funding, and held many other positions in local schools and charitable organizations. Ms. Gee was and remains a driving force behind the design, financing and implementation of Orinda's sorely needed roads repair program. She is dedicated to finishing this program and to a positive action plan for revitalizing our downtown.

Inga Miller is a third generation Orindan, and an attorney specializing in real estate with a practice here in Orinda. She attended Orinda schools from nursery school through twelfth grade. Miller was a local newspaper reporter for nine years, covering Orinda. She was an Orinda Parks Commissioner and is on the board of Las

Trampas School. Her deep understanding of Orinda is without parallel.

Please join me in voting for these dedicated, experienced and talented women: Victoria Smith (MOFD board), Darlene Gee and Inga Miller (Orinda City Council). Orinda needs them for continued progress with our roads, our drab downtown and fiscal soundness!

—Carol Penskar

The Actual Facts

In her September Letter to the Editor in *The Orinda News*, "Full Disclosure needed from Evasive Colman," Carol Penskar suggested that money for political mailers opposing a bond measure might have been provided by "certain City Council candidates." As I am the only candidate mentioned by name, I assume she is referring to me. She, therefore, suggests that I am involved in a lie about the funding source. How would you, the reader, feel if someone called you a liar? I am extremely offended. I had no involvement with the mailers — financial or otherwise — but, if I had contributed, I would have freely said so. I had no idea they were even planned. I have always been out front with my opinions, either commenting during public meetings, writing signed Letters to the Editor or personally speaking with those who have opposing views. I signed the Ballot Opposition to Measure L, which specified my reasoning. Essentially, I stated that large amounts of tax revenue will be required to fix our poor condition roads, but this hastily approved, politicized ad valorem tax was ill-timed. It's the same rationale I presented at the February 16 City Council meeting. So, why would I possibly hide my financial backing for a mailer?

What about her suggestion of money from outside Orinda? How would any outside group possibly benefit financially from our city government not immediately collecting additional revenues? Contrast this with Carol Penskar's group, Orinda Vision, which has plans to entirely redevelop Orinda's downtown with a condominium, retail, restaurants, and office spaces. Could an outside group benefit financially from that?

Finally, do you agree with a City Council-appointed Finance Advisory Committee member writing that an Orinda resident sending mailers opposing a proposed new tax is "trying to disrupt our community decision making and collaboration"?

The November ballot will be a thick one. Please take the time to carefully select your choice for the Orinda City Council.

—Bruce London

London for City Council

Bruce London, M.D. would be a splendid member of the Orinda City Council. He is a candidate for one of two open city-council seats in 2016.

A 32-year resident of the city, Dr. London, a retired physician, has been an active participant in Orinda's public affairs and has developed a platform that would be beneficial to all Orindans.

In that platform, Dr. London states that he will fight to preserve Orinda's semi-rural and village-like character. He will support a refreshed downtown, meaning that he is in favor of giving downtown a new look as long as that look is compatible with Orinda's environment. He is an advocate of fiscal responsibility.

Dr. London supports a 35-foot height limit on Orinda's buildings. And he wants direct election of all directors of such regional governmental agencies as MTC (Metropolitan Transportation

Commission) and ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments).

From 2004 to the present time, Orinda has experienced what one can call a lost decade. Orinda has, in fact, been ruled by powerful real-estate development interests that have caused Orinda to lose its charm.

In 2015, Orinda passed the Fifth Cycle (version) of its Housing Element, a state-mandated plan to build hundreds of new homes in a city that is full. In 2012, the City Council approved the Monteverde/Eden Housing project, which put a 67-unit housing project in the heart of downtown Orinda. Monteverde is at 2 Irwin Way, across the street from an Orinda firehouse on Orinda Way. Monteverde blocks nearby residents' views of the hills.

Dr. London is opposed to Plan Bay Area, a high-rise, high-density housing scheme that will put skyscrapers in Orinda, making the city look more like Tokyo or New York City. On July 18, 2013, the directors of MTC and ABAG voted for Plan Bay Area.

Excessive real-estate development will lead to overcrowding in Orinda's schools. With extra pupils, the current high quality of the city's schools will be jeopardized.

To save the rustic beauty of Orinda and the city's excellent schools, please vote for Dr. London for the City Council.

—Richard Colman

No Longer Support Butler

A "No" vote on Sarah Butler is a "Yes" vote for our Orinda schools and kids. While a nice person in many ways, Sarah lacks the key qualities that make for an effective leader. Two of the four years I served on the OUSD board coincided with Sarah, I witnessed up close the deficiencies.

Everyone that has worked with Sarah no longer supports her candidacy including 1) all former and current OUSD board members 2) the Orinda teacher's union and 3) Parents' Club leadership both past and present. Sarah has difficulties making decisions with routine efforts to push votes down the road or abstaining all together. This is compounded by being late to meetings (22 and counting according to official board minutes) and on a few occasions yelling and abruptly leaving meetings.

One of the big decisions that we faced during my time on the board was how to best use the multi-million dollar facilities money that came from the sale of property. I, and the rest of the board, felt a Task Force to really study all the options, visit the school sites and meet with parents and staff would yield important recommendations. Sarah voted no on the formation of the Task Force which, ultimately, helped to prioritize how to best utilize the one-time funds.

I actually endorsed and voted for Sarah when she first ran for election but, after seeing her on the board, I feel it's important to let other Orinda voters know some of what I know and to say enough is enough. Sarah has already served on the OUSD board for the past four years, and our Orinda schools don't need another four. Please join me in voting for the very qualified alternatives.

—Christopher Severson

Weiner for School Board

We are former Glorietta Parents' Club presidents, and we would like to give our full support to Hillary Weiner for Orinda School Board. In our role as GPC presidents, we served on the OUSD Coordinating Council, listening to and participating in discussions that affected our district both on the local and state level. We know that to serve successfully on the OUSD Board an individual must possess more than just dedication. This person needs to have an intimate understanding of our parents', teachers' and community's needs.

Hillary's multi-leveled involvement within

OUSD distinguishes her as a candidate. Her personal experience as an OUSD parent, her community volunteerism and her leadership roles in education make her uniquely well qualified to take a seat on the Orinda School Board.

Hillary has three children attending OUSD schools, allowing her to be closely acquainted with the current educational issues our schools face and with the experiences of our children enrolled at those schools. She has a proven record of dedication to our schools and community through her willingness to, year after year, serve in whatever volunteer role was most needed. These volunteer roles allowed her to learn what parents, teachers and students value most in education. Hillary also has behind-the-scenes knowledge and leadership experience from having served as a Glorietta Parents' Club president. In this role, she proved that she can act as a strong voice advocating for our students and work at the district level to ask probing questions while thoughtfully considering varying opinions. Hillary currently serves on the boards of Children's Health Guild and the Educational Foundation of Orinda, continuing her dedication to the community and lending her expertise to important causes involving our youth. There could not be a more well-suited and well-prepared candidate to serve on the Orinda School Board.

We feel so fortunate to have a community member and OUSD parent like Hillary step forward to represent the best interests of our Orinda students, and we strongly encourage voters to elect her to the Orinda School Board this November.

—Darlen Destino and Julie Chinn

◆ HENKEL from page 2

amount of both financial and mental/physical support for our community organization. This would allow OA to do an even better job of providing services and events to all segments of our city. Maybe in these days of social media, OA can reach residents with their message and become more familiar to them as the primary source for improving life in Orinda! As it's been said, "It takes a village!"

What else do you believe the OA should accomplish in the near future?

OA has implemented a Volunteer Center enabling Orindans to team-up with a non-profit they wish to offer time and/or funds to. This is such a great service which I believe should be increasingly publicized in order to engage our community and gather a public opinion. Additionally, there's been some talk about revising the Newcomers' Club in Orinda, opening up a possibility for the OA to organize.

High School Students

Attention all high school students: Did you know that you can still participate in the Elections process... and make \$125? Contra Costa County offers high school students the opportunity to work on Election Day as poll workers.

Under the "Youth With A Vision" program, you can receive a stipend for assisting, along with fulfilling community service requirements and adding experience to your resume!

For more information, visit www.cocovote.us/get-involved/high-school-students.



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CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q & A

Candidates for City Council Discuss Their Priorities for Orinda

Linda Delehunt



Future of Downtown

I believe that the mission of true leadership is in encouraging all citizens to be leaders in their own right. My belief is that it is important for Orinda citizens to engage in an open discussion regarding the configuration of downtown and its consistency with the city's general plan. This plan needs to be done collaboratively, utilizing our best community thinkers.

I am running on a platform that embraces local control, respecting the current 35-foot height limit for new structures and the refreshing of downtown, while enhancing and retaining Orinda's semi-rural environment. There needs to be an improved process in place where collaboration allows all voices to be heard. My hope is that an improved process for planning and collaboration will achieve the best results for the city.

Downtown Businesses

I believe the decision to hire someone to attract new business to Orinda is not appropriate at this time and would be a financial burden for the city.

[SEE DELEHUNT page 12]

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

This November, four candidates (including one incumbent) will vie for two available seats: Linda Delehunt; Darlene Gee (incumbent); Bruce London and Inga Miller. They were asked the following questions:

1. The future of Orinda's downtown has many residents divided with some residents wanting little to no change, others wanting minimal changes and still others envisioning a significant reconfiguration of both the Village and Theatre Square areas. How would you reconcile these diverse views and still retain Orinda's "village character" and what role should current business owners play?
2. The City of Orinda has no economic development policy and no person working on attracting new businesses. Do you think this is something the city should have and, if so, what businesses would enhance Orinda's downtown area?
3. How would you solve the growing problem of parking spaces in downtown Orinda?
4. How would you rank, in order of importance, three areas of need in Orinda?
5. What leadership/management skills/experience do you possess that will make you an effective City Councilmember?

Darlene K. Gee



Future of Downtown

The first step toward reconciliation of views about downtown is to get professional assistance from an outside, objective

[SEE GEE page 12]

Bruce London



Future of Downtown

As we were reminded by our new Planning Director Drummond Buckley at the beginning of the well-attended Sep-

[SEE LONDON page 20]

Inga Miller




Future of Downtown

Orinda is the best small town in the Bay Area and changes to the downtown should reflect its history and charm. One of the leading forces for incorporating Orinda as a city was to save and reopen the then-shuttered Orinda Theatre, which now glows through the night as a beacon of our original leaders' commitment to preserving art and enhancing our gathering places.

We do not do enough to encourage the ongoing success of the Orinda Theatre and our other downtown gems. We are standing by passively while our downtown ages when we should be actively providing the guidance needed by our property owners and local businesses to propose upgrades and enhance downtown. We too often forget that the only people empowered to make significant changes to our downtown are our property owners.

We, as the city, are empowered under the law to place requirements on projects and, in some cases, to deny them. So our role as the city is to create requirements that allow and encourage improvements to the extent they retain the charm and character of the

[SEE MILLER page 24]




Inga Miller

for Orinda

City Council

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




"As a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, and a Native Orindan, Inga loves Orinda and understands the need to preserve our community feeling while increasing amenities and services for our residents. With her volunteer and Board experience, Inga will work together with the Council to move Orinda forward!"

— Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith

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

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



"In the increasingly politically chaotic world in which we find ourselves, Inga is a beacon of civility, centism and thoughtfulness. I have lived in Orinda for forty-four years and known Inga for a good portion of that time...I am convinced that Inga's youthfulness and sensitivity to doing what is best for Orinda will make us all better."

— Richard Westin, Co-founder and Current Board Member of the Orinda Community Foundation

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

— John Goyak, owner of Casa Orinda

SELECTED ENDORSEMENTS INCLUDE:

Currently Serving Elected Officials
 Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith
 Orinda City Councilwoman Amy Worth
 Orinda City Councilman Dean Orr
 Orinda City Councilwoman Darlene Gee
 Acalanes Union Board Member Susie Epstein
 Orinda School Board Member Sarah Butler
 BART Director for District 3 Rebecca Saltzman

Former Elected Officials
 Mayor Bobbie Landers
 Mayor Sue Severson
 Orinda School Board President Pat Rudebusch

Prominent Citizens
 Dave and Sandy Anderson
 Julie and Bob Athayde
 Ian Baird
 Sandy Barnett
 Bruce Burrows
 Karen and Robert Burt
 Darien and Don Destino
 Jessica and Ethan Elkind
 Jill Fernald
 Monica and Graeme Fitzsimmons
 Kevin Friedman
 John Goyak
 Paul Gilbert

Judy and Judd Hammon
 Tish and Steve Harwood
 Peter Hasselman
 Elle Hoffnagel
 Cara Hoxie
 Leslie Johnson
 Kathleen Kolman
 Larissa and Nick Kosla
 Kirsten and Craig Larsen
 Charles Levine
 Jason and Jennifer Lurie
 Laura McDowell
 Marilyn and Mark Morris
 Hillary Murphy
 Terry Murphy
 Nick and Laura Pavlovich
 Carol and Mark Penskar
 David Penskar
 Kersti and Bill Peter
 Pat and John Robertson
 Ralph Severson
 Pam and Chris Severson
 Jackie and Gordon Smith
 Wick Smith
 Lynn and Tom Trowbridge
 Joanna Truelson
 Rebecca Verity
 Bill Wadsworth
 Wilson Wendt
 Richard Westin
 James Phillip Wright

Find Out More at www.IngaForOrinda.com

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

CITY COUNCIL Q & A CONTINUED

◆ **DELEHUNT** from page 11

Parking in Downtown

Approval of future projects must take into consideration the need to provide off street parking. Additionally, project approval needs to take into consideration the limitations of parking and traffic flow in Orinda. The Orinda City Council needs to provide a forum for all concerns and then work towards the best solutions based on said concerns.

Three Areas of Need

My priorities are to improve Orinda by: Giving downtown a fresh, new look while preserving Orinda's semi-rural character and maintaining local control and public input in the process; Prioritizing public safety, parking and traffic gridlock solutions; Ensuring that local businesses thrive.

Qualifications

I am a CAL Alum, and hold a doctorate in Educational Leadership as well as a Master's Degree and several credentials including an administrative credential.

I have a long career history of leadership in the public sector/government and school arenas. In particular, my area of expertise lies with assisting entities in targeting and allocating their monetary and physical resources in a manner that is fiscally prudent and appropriate to their needs.

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

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

◆ **GEE** from page 11

resource that can help identify feasible alternatives for our staff and council under different scenarios. These scenarios will include the current General Plan and

zoning options, as well as ideas that will require changes to the General Plan. Most importantly, the scenarios must take into account marketplace reality and the community's desire to retain a small town atmosphere and the connection to our natural environment. I am in favor of requesting assistance from the Urban Land Institute or a comparable alternative to provide Orinda with top tier planning expertise for a modest financial investment.

Once feasible alternatives are identified, I would like to see robust public outreach/input from the community via workshops, public meetings, on-line surveys for all residents (with security identification to ensure each resident only submits one survey), and mail-in surveys for those without on-line access. We need more public input than ever before to fully understand the desired outcome of the majority of Orindans.

Once we have concept plans supported by the majority of our community, our planning department and outside professionals can advise on the policy changes needed to allow new and remodeled development, as well as the financial costs and timeline of required environmental clearances. Current business and property owners must also be fully engaged in the process. We need their input to understand business concerns and to gauge their interest/willingness to support the community's goals.

Ultimately, we will not be able to satisfy everyone's personal preferences, but I believe we can demonstrate both that we have given Orindans every opportunity to be part of the process and the direction the majority of residents favor.

Downtown Businesses

Yes, Orinda needs to add an economic development person to our city staff resources once there is some consensus on how the city plans to move forward with downtown. I see this as a natural complement to enacting revitalization efforts. Given the competitive Bay Area environment, Orinda will not be able to increase business interest in our community without someone dedicated to interfacing with property owners, proactively reaching out to business interests, and facilitating processes with city planning. The types of businesses that would most enhance our downtown are similar to those accessed by our residents in Rockridge, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek – a wider variety of restaurants, and specialty food shopping, boutique and specialty retail, and personal services.

Parking in Downtown

The first step will be to review the results and recommendations of our "Downtown and Affected Neighborhoods Parking

Study" which is expected this fall. Parking is a challenging balancing act, and there are only three possibilities – better parking management, reduced parking demand, or more parking supply. I support two near term focus areas: 1) encouraging parking turnover for those accessing downtown businesses by shortening parking times and increasing enforcement and 2) controlling BART parking that impacts our residential neighborhoods through residential permits and enforcement. In both cases, parking fines would most likely be utilized to pay for the extra enforcement. Unquestionably, these actions will affect BART patrons unable to obtain parking within the station, but I believe the current impacts to certain neighborhoods are extremely unfair to our residents. Additionally, future downtown plans and redevelopment of the blocks currently housing CVS and BevMo could provide more underground parking similar to Theater Square. The topography lends itself to such a design without significant height impacts.

Three Areas of Need

Our primary area of need is the effective oversight of the \$45+ million of taxpayer funding for the first three phases of our Road and Drain plan. We must have quality construction and deliver maximum value for our residents' investment in repairing our city's infrastructure. We must also obtain funding for the last two phases of our road program and complete rehabilitation efforts until our entire community has roads rated as "good" or better.

Secondly, we must bring together community input and professional expertise to define a process to revitalize our downtown and provide access to more desired businesses, while preserving our small town charm and natural environment.

The third area is the need to maintain our current excellent level of fiscal responsibility. We must continue to provide needed and desired local, public services while still maintaining strong reserves to protect the city against emergency situations.

Qualifications

I have served on the City Council since July 2015 giving me an immediate, up-to-date understanding of the city's issues and pending actions. Prior to the council, I served four years on the Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission. During these combined five years of city service, I had extensive input into our Road and Drain plan and gained a deep understanding of the background, status and remaining needs for completing our road rehabilitation.

As a civil engineer with nearly four [SEE GEE 2 page 20]


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for Orinda City Council 2016
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"The City Council is so fortunate to have Darlene bring her professional expertise to the rehabilitation of Orinda's roads and infrastructure. As a consensus-builder and committed City and school volunteer, Darlene will continue to provide the leadership that Orinda needs!"

— Victoria Smith, Mayor of Orinda

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

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CARA HOXIE

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OUSD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE Q & A

Orinda Unified School District Board Candidates Address Major Challenges

The five-member Board of Trustees work with the superintendent to establish a long-term vision for the district as well as adoption of policies, curriculum and budgets. Board members serve for four years. Currently, two of the five board positions are up for election. Three candidates will vie for the available seats: Sarah Butler (incumbent); Cara Hoxie and Hillary Weiner.

The Orinda News asked the candidates the following questions:

1. What are the major challenges for our public schools in the next five years?
2. How do you measure success and effectiveness?
3. With an influx of young families, class sizes seem to be at or near the 20:1 ratio for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) -3rd grade and 28:1 ratio for grades 4-8. How will you address this situation as enrollment grows?
4. If elected or re-elected to the school board, what strengths, skills or special qualities do you bring to the position?

Sarah Butler



Major Challenges

In Orinda, we are fortunate to have strong financial support for our schools thanks to our local funding, including our parcel tax and parent and community donations through our Parents Clubs, and EFO and other groups. However, with that said, funding remains one of our school district's overall challenges since our state funding is not what it should be. As a current School Board Member, I have the fiscal and legislative experience needed to guide our district through the next several years. I currently

[SEE BUTLER page 14]

Cara Hoxie



Major Challenges

Funding is and will continue to be a challenge. OUSD relies on privately-raised funds through the Educational Foundation of Orinda, Parents' Clubs and parcel taxes for 33 percent of its budget. Our schools need to be good neighbors to maintain the financial support of our community. Hiring and retaining excellent teachers and staff for our schools also depends on our ability to maintain and increase our funding. We need to innovate in our classrooms increasing project-based learning and making our

[SEE HOXIE page 14]

Hillary Weiner



Major Challenges

Orinda schools will face major challenges in the following areas:

Funding: OUSD remains one of the lowest funded districts in one of the lowest funded states in the country. Our schools are funded using the state's Local Control Funding Formula. Under this model, Orinda schools receive lower funds than other districts in California with higher percentages of English learner, low-income and foster youth families. As a result, adequate funding continues to be a challenge. OUSD

[SEE WEINER page 24]



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RE-ELECT
SARAH BUTLER
for Orinda School Board

Experienced Leadership in Orinda Schools!

I am proud to have served the past four years on the Orinda School Board! During that time, I have listened and collaborated with all stakeholders to ensure that we provide an exceptional education to all students in our Orinda schools.

Successes during my tenure: *All OUSD schools received CA Distinguished Schools Awards, *Outstanding CAASPP test scores again this fall *Technology infrastructure upgrades accomplished *New Superintendent in place with a smooth transition - an exciting time in our district!

My experience, proven leadership, dedication and collaborative approach with all stakeholders will ensure the success of our schools, which contributes to a strong community and maintains our property values.


Priorities:

- Providing an exceptional educational environment and a supportive and safe school climate for all students, teachers, and staff;
- Improving communication, transparency, and collaboration among all stakeholders; parents, students, staff, and our community;
- Monitoring our budget process, for fiscal stability and accountability, and to attract and retain quality staff, while ensuring long-term financial health.

Experience matters! I respectfully ask for your VOTE.

Sarah Butler,
SarahGButler@hotmail.com
www.SarahGButler.com

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



HILLARY WEINER

Orinda School Board

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR ENDORSEMENTS OF MY CANDIDACY.

<p>CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE* Steve Glazer Senator for the 7th Senate District</p> <p>ORINDA CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS* Victoria Robinson Smith Mayor Eve Phillips Vice Mayor Dean Orr Amy Worth Darlene Gee Sue Severson (former) Bobbie Landers (former)</p> <p>ORINDA SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS* Julie Rossiter Mayor Carol Brown Vice President Jason Kaune Matt Moran Pat Rudebusch (former) Linda Landau (former) Riki Sorenson (former)</p> <p>Acalanes Union High School District* Susie Epstein Board Member Craig Cheslog Member Elect</p>	<p>ORINDA COMMUNITY MEMBERS (partial list)</p> <p>Carolyn and Greg Anderson Rebecca Bauer-Kahan Meighan Baldwin Stephanie and Scott Barmmer Lindsay and Jordan Beck Courtney Bennett Amy and Todd Berryhill Renee Bertenthal Cheryl Bjornson Karen and John Boccabella Mimi Bommarito Wendy Bond Sue Boudreau Andrea Brown Dean Burnick John and JoAnn Cahill Julie and Dan Chinn Darien Destino Lisa and Paul de Paschalis Ali Drasin Corrine and Travis Dugan Will and Jessica Fairbourn Meredith Friedman Naomi and Paul Greenstone Sonya Grover Michelle Holcenberg Micheline Insalaco Molly and Gregg Johnson Jodi Kaelle</p> <p>Grace Kan Rachel Zenner Kane Kirsten Larsen Susie LaCour Amy and Ben Loos Alissa Lillie Jennifer and Jason Lurie Laura McDowell Julie Mercer Becca and Lev Moltyaner Lexi Morrissey Lee O'Haver Jennifer and Tom Parker Monica Patel Laura Pavlovich Meredith Peterson Whitney Pope Kelly and Brian Roy Libby Sagara Ralph Severson Shauna Simmonds Valerie Slovin Molly Smith Aimee and Craig Stevens Katie and Kevin Thomson Alexis Thompson Suzanne Tom Molly Wilson Margo and Jay Zimmerman</p>
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For additional endorsements and other information, please visit

HillaryWeiner.com

Paid for by Hillary Weiner for Orinda School Board 2016, FPPC Committee #1386751

The ONLY candidate with children currently attending OUSD schools.

*Titles and affiliations of each individual are provided for identification only

SCHOOL BOARD Q&A CONTINUED

◆ BUTLER from page 13

serve on the CCCSBA as the VP of Legislation, and as the OUSD board representative to our local LTCC Legislative Team (for Lamorinda).

Another challenge we have is our aging school facilities. We have been fortunate to have facilities funds for maintaining our schools and making some improvements and upgrades, but we will need to continue to monitor and plan for this. My degree in Environmental Planning and Management and my past professional experience helps me to be an asset to our district in this area.

Measuring Success

All our schools have been recognized for educational excellence, receiving CA Distinguished Schools Awards, during my tenure on the board. As a school board, it is critical that we constantly monitor our

success and our effectiveness. Our state CAASPP scores show that the Orinda Union School District remains one of the highest performing school districts in the state, with 87 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards in ELA and 86 percent in mathematics on the 2016 CAASPP assessments. Our amazing teachers also do other academic assessments during the school year, which they use to guide their instruction, and collaborate across grade levels and for long range planning to ensure we are constantly monitoring our success and effectiveness.

Another way we are successful is ensuring a safe and supportive school climate at all of our schools. Our "Think First" program teaches students character education skills, and helps students with socio-emotional development. KidPower Workshops are scheduled as parent education at every elementary school this fall, and our Local Control Accountability Plan identifies additional ways that we ensure student success for all students. As a school board member, I will continue to prioritize an exceptional educational environment for all students in Orinda schools.

Class Sizes

It is great to have so many families moving to Orinda, just as our family did when my daughter was five. Enrollment growth in general is helpful for the school district since our state funding is allocated per pupil. Our school board has continued to prioritize small class size and maintained a 20:1 ratio for TK - 3rd grade, even though almost all other California school districts have increased their class sizes in K-3, and even the State of California only expects 24:1 in K-3. Our superintendent and director of business services carefully monitor our class sizes to maintain our 20:1 ratio in TK-3, and no more than 28:1 in grades 4-8, and when enrollment growth warrants it, we would hire additional staff, and create

an additional class(es).

Qualifications

I will bring to the board not only my personal qualifications, but also my experience as an incumbent, over the last four years. I have the experience and historical knowledge and perspective which is important on the board. Additionally, my strengths include a strong knowledge of the district budget and the fiscal outlook for state funding. From my past experience as a member of our Parent Clubs and EFO board and as a School Site Council member, I am experienced in listening to and collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure that we provide an exceptional education to all students in our Orinda schools. My experience, proven leadership, dedication and collaborative approach with all stakeholders will ensure the continued success of our schools, which contributes to a strong community and maintains our property values. I would look forward to the opportunity to serve you for another four years.

◆ HOXIE from page 13

classrooms more accessible to all types of learners. We need to make our schools more inclusive by addressing social issues directly.

Measuring Success

Test scores are one measure of success. High test scores have a direct impact on our property values in Orinda. Additional measures of success are what percentage of school-age students in Orinda attend Orinda schools, and, more importantly, when students are attending private schools or are being homeschooled, we need to know why? We need to survey all stakeholders and engage in a district-wide strategic planning process. I had the privilege of participating in the search process for our new superintendent. The company conduct-


ing that process noted that our district has not engaged in any comprehensive strategic planning. Engaging all of the stakeholders in a comprehensive strategic planning process and developing a five-year plan would definitely be a measure of success!

Class Sizes

I asked our new Superintendent Carolyn Seaton about enrollment projections in our district. She told me that we have an increase of 10 students district-wide this year, and the district projections do not show a large increase of students. Occasionally, a new student will need to be redirected from one elementary school to another to maintain our 20-1 class size target for TK-3 grades. Growing enrollment is a positive, economically, for the OUSD. Currently, the OUSD Board has been researching new portable classrooms for Glorietta to replace the very old portables that are currently on site. This has been a solution we have used in the past.

Qualifications

I have had the honor of being the Co-President of the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) for three years. I also ran a large non-profit organization for 12 years. I have served on the Board of Directors of many organizations including EFO, the Crowden Music Center, Rehabilitation Services of Northern California and the Contra Costa Workforce Development Board. I attended Orinda Schools, my kids attended Orinda schools and my mom taught at Orinda Union School. I am a leader who can listen to many different points of view and build consensus. As EFO Co-President, I worked with the Miramonte and OIS Parents' Clubs to develop the "It Takes Both" campaign creating a joint funding message for the first time. I understand our community and our schools, and I am committed to working to make our schools and our district a beacon of excellence in education.



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Craig Jorgens


Businessman Engineer

Fire District – MOFD

- Retired President of an operating satellite company
- BS in Engineering/Economics; MBA
- HOA President (100 acres of open space)
- Former Management Consult and Investment Banker
- Introduced City to new paving method that improves road lifespan by 50% over old method.

Contact Craig:
925-386-0040
www.VoteJorgens.com
craig.jorgens@gmail.com



I'm Craig Jorgens and I'd appreciate your vote to represent North Orinda on the Fire District Board (MOFD). As a retired business executive and 24-year Orinda resident, I would be privileged to offer my skills to the community where my wife Lisa and I raised our two daughters. My educational and work background will allow me to bring a fresh perspective and creative insights to aid in solving MOFD's complex pension and logistical issues. Please contact me with questions about my background or to discuss my positions. Thank you!

– Craig

“MOFD would benefit from Craig's experience, knowledge, insight, thoughtful vision and action.”

Carol and Andy Amstutz

Paid for by Craig Jorgens MOFD Board 2016

MOFD CANDIDATE Q & A

Moraga Orinda Fire District Board Candidates Address Citizen Concerns



Craig Jorgens

Expertise

As a retired business executive and 24-year Orinda resident, I have the time and desire to give back and serve our community. Our family was raised here and attended Orinda's public schools. Drawing from my broad experience in engineering, finance and operations, with degrees in engineering/economics and an MBA, I bring a fresh perspective and creative solutions to MOFD's complex pension and logistical issues. I am experienced in the public sector, having worked with both U.S. and foreign governments on enhancing emergency preparedness utilizing cellular and satellite communications systems. As a member of the Orinda Infrastructure Committee, I demonstrated my ability to add value by introducing a new road construction method that lowers the initial construction costs while increasing the useful life of Orinda's

The Moraga Orinda Fire District has a five-member board of directors. Charged with providing strategic leadership, policy and direction and fiscal oversight, the directors are elected to a four-year term and represent a specific district.

Incumbent Alex Evans of District 5 (North Orinda) has decided not to run for re-election. *The Orinda News* asked the two candidates vying for his position – Craig Jorgens and Victoria Smith – the following questions:

1. Why are you running for the MOFD District 5 board position and what expertise will you bring to the board?
2. Half of District 5 is designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Currently, MOFD's plan is to reduce vegetation fire load by encouraging annual weed removal by residents. How will you influence MOFD to mitigate the fire dangers to District 5?
3. Currently most emergency calls to the Sleepy Hollow/Orinda Downs area (around 600 homes in District 5) have response times in excess of the MOFD benchmark of six minutes. How would you go about fixing this discrepancy?
4. Approximately 35 of the district's fire hydrants were rated "grossly inadequate" in 1995. Of the 19 inadequate hydrants in District 5, 15 are in areas designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. How will you help MOFD to upgrade these hydrants?
5. Whether or not Orinda taxpayers pay more than their fair share of MOFD's expenses has been a hot topic for many years as well as unfunded pension liabilities. How would you address these financial concerns?



Victoria Smith

Expertise

My goal as an MOFD member is to provide excellent emergency medical and fire services to our residents, while at the same time ensuring that we plan for a strong financial foundation, in order to ensure that every call for service is answered. During the 12 years that I have served on the Orinda City Council, and as mayor, I have been the liaison to the fire board, and I worked with the fire board to create the Lamorinda Emergency Disaster Plan, a blueprint for self-sufficiency. I have served as the liaison to the East Bay Regional Park District, on the board of the Solid Waste Authority, on several regional transportation committees, and as chair of the Mayor's Conference of Contra Costa County. I have a proven track record of working closely and cooperatively with local and regional agencies

roads by 50 percent over previous methods. All Orinda road construction in 2016 will use this new technology.

Fire Dangers

Many of us moved to Orinda, in part, for its forests and the hills. These beautiful areas and our adjacent regional parklands contribute significantly to high fire risks, especially in times of drought. Proactive prevention is "worth a pound of cure." To prevent another firestorm, we need to allocate more MOFD resources to targeted abatement in addition to the current weed programs.

Through detailed satellite mapping, we can identify "hot spots" with a goal to target and minimize combustible material. The currently used State Fire Risk Maps provide insufficient detail for this analysis.

Besides timely weed abatement notifications to residents, in the critical hot spots where fires could escalate quickly, MOFD should communicate and actively manage house-by-house plans to reduce fuel loads. Independent studies of Sleepy Hollow identified critical roads that could be closed by hot spots, which underscore the priority.

Abatement involves minimizing certain highly flammable species, trimming up low branches and eliminating underbrush. There may be government grants available to perform the analysis and begin abatement, especially in the 50 percent of our district outside the city limits of Orinda and Moraga. For our open spaces, various abatement approaches can be evaluated for cost effectiveness ranging from goats to rototilling.

[SEE JORGENS page 22]

[SEE SMITH page 22]

Victoria Smith for Moraga-Orinda Fire District



www.VictoriaforMOFD.com

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

Endorsed by:

Elected officials:

- Mark DeSaulnier, Congressman
- Steve Glazer, State Senator
- Candace Andersen, Contra Costa County Supervisor
- Karen Mitchoff, Contra Costa County Supervisor
- Robert Campbell, Contra Costa County Auditor-Controller
- Gail Murray, BART Director
- Alex Evans, Director, MOFD
- Kathy Famulener, Director, MOFD
- Fred Weil, Director,

- MOFD Gene Gottfried, Former President, MOFD
- Brook Mancinelli, Former Director, MOFD
- Richard Olsen, Former Director, MOFD
- Pete Wilson, Former President, MOFD
- John Wyro, Former President, MOFD
- Darlene Gee, Orinda City Council Member
- Dean Orr, Orinda City Council Member
- Amy Worth, Orinda City Council Member
- Laura Abrams, Former Mayor, City of Orinda
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- Matt Moran, Board Member, OUSD
- Juliane Rossiter, President, OUSD
- Nancy Kaible, Former President, OUSD
- Linda Landau, Former President, OUSD
- Riki Sorenson, Former President, OUSD
- Pamela West, Former President, OUSD
- Mike Metcalf, Mayor of Moraga
- Dave Trotter, Moraga Vice-Mayor
- Teresa Onoda, Moraga Town Council Member

- Terry Murphy, Chair, Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission
- Carol Penskar, Finance Advisory Commission
- Bob Burt, Former Commissioner, Finance Advisory Commission
- David Libby, Commissioner, Traffic Safety Advisory and CCTA
- Dick Burkhalter, Commissioner, Public Works Aesthetic Review Commission

Community members:

- Laura Abrams and Joel Sheiman
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Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales

Scaredy Dogs and Cats



Jennifer Conroy

Halloween. Scary time. What about our companion animals, and I don't mean dressing them up and taking them trick or treating. I mean, do they get scared. The answer, of course, is yes!

Without realizing it, we may scare our animals with sometimes terrible results. Consider the dog that is a fear biter. This is a dog that reacts to approach or touch by lashing out with snarls, barks and teeth. This poor pooch is typically the product of ineffective or insufficient socialization. It may also have experienced significant trauma that causes the fight aspect of flight or fight to ignite.

And then there are dogs that are simply seriously flawed for whom we have no knowledge of trauma or poor socialization. An example of this is "Springer Rage," a frightening syndrome that affects some Springer Spaniels. Not all, certainly, but some are victims of this syndrome that displays itself by a normally calm and pleasant dog suddenly becoming aggressive for a period of time and then settling back into the "good dog" persona.

But, back to socialization and trauma issues – it is important to learn the history of any animal you bring into your home. How did it interact with littermates? Was it handled by humans? A dog raised in isolation without the benefit of canine or human contact may have a tough time feeling comfortable or trusting in the company of others – dogs or folks. It requires a lot of patience to give this type of dog the confidence and security it needs to develop into a well-behaved companion.

The same applies to a dog that has been traumatized. Try to discover the type of trauma the dog experienced. Loud, startling noises? Thunder and car backfires are great examples. Accidental injury such as getting a paw caught in a door. You can help your

dog lose some sensitivity to recurrences of the initial trauma by providing reassurance and comfort. Canine massage therapy can be helpful in supporting your animal to recover from traumatic experiences. In all cases, an animal behaviorist may be your dog's second best friend (next to you), and there are many qualified ones throughout the Bay Area. Check with your veterinarian or local animal shelter for referrals.

But what about cats? Can they be scared? You bet. The things that scare cats may not be as easy to identify or understand as with dogs. My own best cat, a lovely tabby, would always wait inside the front door for me to return home from work. One early evening I came home, opened the door, and my cat did one of those cartoon puffed up kitty screech and run routines. I was shocked. I ran inside my flat to find her, with arched back, hissing at me, in the kitchen doorway. On the wall next to the kitchen entryway hung a mirror. I glanced at it and in a moment of enlightenment realized what caused my beloved cat to go crazy. I'd just had my hair permed! There I stood all short curls when my cat was expecting her straight-haired human. I turned and rummaged through the closet until I found my A's cap, an item I often wore when cleaning house or heading out to a ballgame. I put it on and slowly walked back to the kitchen doorway. She stood there, a bit more relaxed but wary, her green eyes peering at me. Finally she relented, walked over to me and did her figure eights between my ankles. Whew! And, nope, I never got another perm, and my cat lived a long, blissful life.

So yes, your dogs and cats can get scared and, once we figure out why, we can overcome fear with love and, sometimes, a baseball cap.




Dr. Laurie Langford and Dr. Amelia Ausman invite you to come check us out at Theater View Veterinary Clinic.

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CA 94563

RESTAURANT GUIDE

The 2016 Guide to Orinda Restaurants – Bon Appétit!

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Here's our annual list of hometown restaurants boasting six new choices. Options include coffee/tea, healthy smoothies, breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, a little nosh, a glass of wine or beer, scotch or just takeout. Enjoy Happy Hours at Cine Cuvée, Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill, Piccolo Napoli and Shelby's in Theatre Square; also at Taverna Pellegrini on Moraga Way. Skip the mess and treat the kids. Thanks for making a hometown choice. Keep this section or access it at www.orindanews.org, October 2016.

AMERICAN/CALIFORNIA CUISINE

Casa Orinda
20 Bryant Way
254-2981

www.casaorinda.net

Hours: Mon. - Sat. Dining 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Mon. - Thu. Bar 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. Bar 4 p.m. to midnight; Sun. Dining 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Bar 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Casa is Contra Costa County's oldest continuously operating restaurant, celebrating 84 years! That's because of their prime rib, luscious fried chicken (served with homemade biscuits), mashed potatoes, and fresh fish such as calamari - classic home cooking. Inside are historical photos of rodeo dudes and cowgirls plus antique firearms. If you've never been, stop by to sample the menu or the full bar at this local gem - a place out of time. Reservations recommended.

Cine Cuvée
2 Theatre Square, #103
386-0125

www.cinecuvée.com

Hours: Tue. - Thu. 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 3 p.m. - 11 p.m.; Sun. 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.; Happy Hour Tue. - Fri. 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Do wine and movies go together? They do at Orinda's first wine bar. Lounge on a red leather banquette while tables made of old film reels complete the theme as you watch films projected silently on the wall. You can sip wines at the bar from such names as Emilio Estevez, F. F. Coppola or Dan Aykroyd. There's enough wine, beer and cider to please anyone. Keyboard players Sunday and Tuesday evenings with drop-in singers. Try their charcuterie or cheese platters, lobster sliders, or Vicolo pizza. For dessert, cake with raspberry sauce, toffee, biscotti and madeleines - French press coffee to go with. Outdoor seating, check website for special events such as \$8 bottomless sangria on Sundays.

Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill
2 Theatre Square, #130
254-1183

www.thefourthbore.com

Hours: Mon. - Wed. 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Thu. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Fri. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Happy Hour Mon. - Fri. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. to close

Orinda's very own tap house sporting 28 craft beer rotating taps, wine list and a full bar. Spacious seating to look over the menu with starters, salad selections, burgers and more from their wood fire grill. Enjoy watching sports on eight flat screens. Large outdoor seating with fire pits and event deck to listen to live music most Thursday - Saturday evenings. Check online for specials and changing events. Dog friendly, validated parking.

Nation's Giant Hamburgers and Pies
76 Moraga Way
254-8888

www.nationsrestaurants.com

Hours: Sun. - Wed. 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Thu. 6 a.m. - midnight; Fri. and Sat. 6 a.m. - 1 a.m.

Late at night and starving? Fast-food joints have nothing on these big, juicy burgers cooked just how you like 'em. They'll do it just as fast and for takeout too. Breakfast served all day. Pies, so many, either by the slice or whole. Kids love this place and you won't break the bank.



CHARLIE JARRETT

Patrons enjoy the Casa Orinda's beautiful bar.

Reem's Steaks
70 Moraga Way
253-2004

Hours: Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Reem Masarweh, wife of Azmi "Alex" Masarweh, the owner of nearby Petra Café, opened this sandwich shop to fill the Philly cheese steak gap in Orinda. Try her traditional Philly cheese steak sandwich or fish and chips, burgers, salads and daily special steak menus. If you like French-inspired desserts, go for the Nutella crepes. Kids menu.

Shelby's
2 Theatre Square, #152
254-9687

www.shelbyseatbetter.com

Hours: Mon. - Fri. Lunch 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Dinner Tue. - Thu. 5 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; Dinner Fri. - Sat. 5 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Brunch Sat. - Sun. 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Dinner Sun. 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.; Happy Hour Tue. - Sat. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Popular for business breakfasts and lunches. Try their chicken and mango salad, salmon bistro style, grilled Caesar salad or their famous pasta Arrabiata. Desserts include crème brûlée, chocolate Charlotte and apple tart tatin. Full bar, patio seating great for people watching. Validated parking, wheelchair accessible and dog-friendly.



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Delivery in Orinda
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www.piccolo-napoli.com

Lunch Wed-Sun 11:30 am - 5:00 pm
Dinner Nightly 5:00 - 9:00 pm
Fri-Sat 'til 10:00 pm
2 Theatre Square, #144 Orinda
(925) 253-1225

Table 24 Neighborhood Comfort Food
2 Theatre Square, #153
254-0124

www.table24orinda.com

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 9 or 10 p.m.; Sat. - Sun. Brunch 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sat. Dinner 3 p.m. - 9 or 10 p.m.; Sun. Dinner 2 p.m. - 9 or 10 p.m.; Happy Hour 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. daily

Family friendly, outdoor seating, a fire pit and benches to enjoy dinner or drinks from their full bar. The food - custom-built burgers from in-house chuck, pizza Margherita, tacos, baby back ribs, French fries - just a few choices from their wood-burning oven. Kids menu. Validated parking, wheelchair accessible, dog friendly.

CAFES

Caffe Teatro

26 Orinda Way (under the Orinda Library)
254-5871

Hours: Mon. - Thu. 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Fri. 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Inviting spot under the Orinda Library with outdoor tables/umbrellas to enjoy public art

sculptures. Sip some Illy coffee made to order with daily fresh pastries. Try a generously sized and reasonably priced breakfast or lunch sandwich, a salad or snacks. Thirst-quenching Italian sodas. Kid friendly.

Genuine Goodness
21 Orinda Way, Suite G
254-3233

www.gengoodness.com

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; closed Sun.

Stop by to meet Donna Pickthall and Diane Eames who are busy creating delicious, fresh and handcrafted smoothies, soups, salads and goodies made from all-natural, high-quality products. They seek organic, local and seasonal ingredients and provide gluten-free options when possible. Ample parking, outdoor seating.

Geppetto's Caffe
87 Orinda Way
253-9894

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.; closed Sun.

[SEE CAFES page 18]



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Best crab sandwich in Orinda
"It's Delicious"
Scott Ostler
San Francisco Chronicle
"The Crustacean Sensation"

64 Moraga Way • Orinda (Close to Orinda Theater) • 254-7202

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Collagen Peels

AVAILABLE SKIN RESTORATION SYSTEMS:
Procyte Jan Marini
MD Forte Glyquin

RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ CAFES from page 17

Speedy drink service in the morning along with fresh pastries/bagels or a breakfast burrito. Locals often crowd the place at lunch for a reason. Outside umbrellas offer a respite so you can enjoy delicious sandwiches such as chicken curry on sunflower wheat, turkey club on ciabatta, veggie, or chicken pesto and brie. Great soups (mushroom, Italian vegetable) or salads like Chinese chicken, spinach or taco keep people coming back. Try some gelato for dessert. Good bread selection for sandwiches. Order by phone at lunch for quick service.

Peet's Coffee and Tea
63 Moraga Way
258-9328

www.peets.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Exceptional beans freshly roasted and served up by expert baristas. Extensive variety of teas and tasty pastries. Try the ethereal jasmine downy pearls tea. Open access Wi-Fi; extra roomy seating inside with benches outside.

Starbucks
2 Theatre Square, #106
258-0476

www.starbucks.com

Hours: Mon. – Sun. 5:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
What could be more convenient than this location – you know what's there. Coffee in every shape and form, fine teas, seasonal specials and tempting pastries. Also healthy snacks. Specials change often. Free Wi-Fi.

Starbucks
One Camino Sobrante, #9
253-0447



SALLY HOGARTY

Taverna Pellegrini features dining inside and out.

www.starbucks.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 4:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Sat. 5:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Sun. 5:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Friendly baristas who remember your name and order; outdoor seating. Coffee in every shape and form, fine teas, seasonal specials and tempting pastries. Also healthy snacks. Specials change often. Free Wi-Fi.

Village Inn Cafe
204 Village Square
254-6080

www.orindacoffeeshop.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri. Breakfast 5:30 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.; Lunch to 3 p.m.; Sat. Breakfast 6:30 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.; Lunch to 3 p.m.; Sun. Breakfast menu only 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

This family-friendly, no-frills diner-style spot is just right for sitting down with friends over fresh hot coffee and some Belgian waffles or eggs. For lunch, sit at the counter and enjoy an avocado-turkey-bacon club; add a big basket of fries for 50¢ more or try the house-made soup. People love their corned beef hash because it's always made from scratch (half orders available). Selection of coloring books for kids. Generous portions. Local since 1986.

CHINESE

Szechwan Restaurant Chinese Cuisine
79 Orinda Way (Village Square)
254-2020

www.szechwanorinda.com

Hours: Tue. – Sat. 11:15 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lunch; Tue. – Thu. 4 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Dinner, except Fri. – Sat. till 9:45 p.m.; Sun. 3:30 – 9:15 p.m.; closed Mon.

Bright décor with a view of the golf course across the street, comfy booths. Return visits for their outstanding hot and sour soup. Recommended: Singapore noodles, mu shu, Mongolian beef, curries, Kung Pao prawns, lunch specials and Szechwan dishes. Brown rice is available. Eat in or order in advance (see online menus); 10 percent discount (excluding lunch) on takeout orders; all orders can be customized on request - if you don't want MSG or like it spicy, tell them. Beer and wine.

Yan's Restaurant Mandarin and Szechuan Cuisine
One Orinda Way, #1
253-9852

www.yansrestaurant.com/wp

Hours: Sun.-Mon.-Wed.-Thu. Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Dinner 4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Dinner 4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.; closed Tue.

This family-owned restaurant does a big take-out business (10 percent discount). Extensive menu including lunch specials, appetizers, salt and pepper calamari with jalapenos, soups and Kung Pao prawns, brown rice on request. Locals like Mongolian beef or lamb, hot and spicy tofu, mu shu dishes, chow meins, Hong Kong style pan-fried noodles, sizzling platters, and egg foo young. All are cooked without MSG, at the level of spiciness you prefer and prepared dry wok at your request.

DELICATESSENS

Europa Hof Brau Deli & Pub
64 Moraga Way
254-7202

www.europahofbrau.com

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

A spacious cafeteria-style family restaurant with a play area, slide and video games for the kids, flat screens for adults. This popular spot is known for delicious corned beef and mash with cabbage, meats carved and sandwiches created right before your eyes. You can also grab a stool or your favorite table to catch a game and a beer.

Subway Sandwiches
2 Theatre Square, #108
510-601-6400

www.subway.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

This well-known chain is always good for a sandwich on the run. They carry soup as well. Sandwiches can be ordered in sizes – they come by the inch and you pick the bread. It's all made on the spot.

DESSERTS

Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
230 Brookwood Road
254-3434

www.loards.com

Hours: Sun. – Thu. 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

This all-time Orinda favorite is the perfect place to stop before a game, after a movie or anytime you are in the mood for a generous scoop. Choose waffle or sugar cones or order an ice cream birthday cake. Sample the butter brickle, chocolate showers, macapuno (young coconut) or ube (purple yam, taro root, coconut) ice cream. Sorbets include strawberry and lemon. Try one of the other 40+ flavors including old standbys like cookies and cream, pecan praline or chocolate mint chip. Sundae special of the week such as caramel toffee crunch or cookie monster milkshake. Catering available.

Republic of Cake
2 Theatre Square, #151
254-3900

<http://republicofcake.com>

Hours: Mon. – Thu. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.*; Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.*; Sun. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.*
* Or until the display case is sold out.

Simply delicious! They use the finest local ingredients such as fresh produce and locally

[SEE DESSERTS page 19]

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5:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Breakfast Until 11:25

Saturday
6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Breakfast Until 11:25

Sunday
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Breakfast Only All Day

RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ DESSERTS from page 18

milled flour to keep a low-carbon footprint. Basic and seasonal cupcakes including wheat free options; flavors change monthly.

HAWAIIAN

Lava Pit Hawaiian Grill
2 Theatre Square, #142
253-1338

www.lavapit.com

Hours: Sun. – Thu. noon – 8 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. noon – 8:30 p.m.

Lots of Aloha, especially in the aroma of barbecue that floats out to meet you. Many votes for Katsu Loco Moco but also lunch specials and barbecue mixed grill plate. Yelpers like the fried shrimp and mini bowls, \$6 for chicken, steak or pork with steamed veggies and rice; brown rice available. Outdoor seating. They also deliver and cater; check in on Yelp and show entry to server for promotions.

ITALIAN

La Piazza
15 Moraga Way
253-9191

www.lapiazzaorinda.com

Hours: Mon. – Thu. 5 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.; closed Sun.

Good food combines with a friendly staff and a cozy atmosphere, often busy during dinner hours as it is across from the theater. Try their brick-oven pizzas, freshly made salads, carpaccio, mussels and rigatoni, soups (vegetable, cream of artichoke, squash) and the basket of fresh bread at your table. Sit at the bar and watch them make your barbecue shrimp, spinach calzone, petrale sole or linguine a la vongole. Tiramisu for dessert, a must try; kids love the pizza. Beer and wine.

Piccolo Napoli
2 Theatre Square, #144
253-1225

www.piccolo-napoli.com (check for specials online)

Hours: Wed. – Sun. Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Dinner daily 4 – 9 p.m. except Fri. – Sat., 4 – 10 p.m.; \$6 Cocktail daily

Traditional thin-crust pizza to gluten-free vegetarian choices and combos like prosciutto di Parma, sweet basil and truffle oil. Full bar, Happy Hour beer and wine specials and all-day, every-day \$6 cocktail specials. Local favorites include the gluten-free meatball appetizer, prosciutto, pear and gorgonzola pizza and salty caramel gelato. Try their house-made soups, pastas, salads, gelato and cappuccino. Home delivery in Orinda 5 – 8 p.m. Bring in your used wine corks and contribute to their green soundproofing project, Put a Cork In It.

Taverna Pellegrini
65 Moraga Way
258-4200

www.tavernapellegrini.com

Hours: Dinner daily 4 – 11 p.m.; Happy



CHARLIE JARRETT

Baan Thai features a quaint decor and delicious entrees.

Hour 4-6 daily

You'll find a trattoria setting with three dozen pizza and pasta choices, all made from scratch using owner Derek Hadjian's recipes. There's a wood-fired oven, full bar, and locally sourced produce. People come back for the arugula salad with lemon-infused dressing, gnocchi with lamb ragu, pork chop with gorgonzola sauce and sea bass. Good wine list and a chef who is sensitive to those who need to dine gluten free. Dessert favorites include tiramisu, profiterole, flourless chocolate cake, cannolo Siciliano, lemon custard tart with pine nuts; cappuccino available.

Village Pizza
19 Orinda Way
254-1200

www.villagepizzaorinda.com

Hours: Mon. – Thu. Lunch 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Dinner 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sun. Dinner 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Wide variety of pizza options from vegetarian to chicken, sausage, pepperoni or tuna. In a hurry? Try a mini pizza for lunch dripping in cheese, served with a salad. Menu includes steak sandwiches and burgers (cooked on a grill), soups and more. Wine, beer, best news yet – they deliver. Local since 1984; family-run.

Zamboni's Pizza
One Camino Sobrante, # 4
254-2800

Hours: Open Mon. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Want pizza where everything is made fresh daily, nothing is frozen or microwaved, and the cheese has no fillers or additives? This is the place where your pizza is built to order; also pizza by the slice and salads. You can eat in, take out or they deliver. Return visits for one quarter of a very tasty pesto pizza – three slices – with plenty of garlic, cheese and basil (\$5). Wine, beer, soft drinks.

JAPANESE

Hanazen Japanese Sushi
87 Orinda Way
254-3611

www.myhanazen.com

Hours: Mon. – Thu. 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Fri.

5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.; Sat. 5:30 – 9 p.m.; closed Sun.

A wonderfully intimate restaurant with traditional dishes and a great sushi bar. Yelpers say, "The freshest, best sushi in the East Bay." Chef Kenji Horikawa prepares every dish while his wife Coco (who holds a sake sommelier license) serves the guests. What makes people rave? Instead of a fixed menu, there are daily and seasonal specials. Kenji's sushi rice is "flavorful and tender." Takeout available. Only 18 seats in the restaurant so reservations are a must. Fantastic sake selection.

Niwa Restaurant
One Camino Sobrante
254-1606

www.niwarestaurant.com

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Sat. 11:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; Dinner Mon. – Thu. 4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Fri. 4:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. and Sat. 3:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.; closed Sun.

Nothing fancy, just some outstanding sushi, more fish than rice. Here's why: lunch specials, tasty spicy tuna hand roll with a great sauce, complimentary cucumber salad, hamachi and sake toro, toro uni, saba, Judy's handroll, saba nigiri, hamachi, amaebi, scallops. Check out the Specials board. Next to Starbucks; takeout available; order online. Wine, beer and sake.

Serika Restaurant
2 Theatre Square, #118
254-7088

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Dinner Mon. – Thu. 5 – 9 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 5 – 9:30 p.m.; Sun. 5 – 9 p.m.

If you want really fresh sushi in a charming, relaxing spot tucked away from the street, this is your place. Yelpers like the miso, tuna sashimi, aegedashi tofu, and lunch specials. The chef provides information about the freshest fish, and the subdued atmosphere will melt away the

day's stress. Children are always welcome, and you will find plenty of kid-friendly food. Beer, wine and sake, Kirin on tap.

Sushi Island
19 Moraga Way
253-8399

www.sushiislandorinda.com

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Dinner Mon. – Thu. 5 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.; Dinner Fri. – Sat. 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.; closed Sun.

Yelpers praise the high-quality fish. Known for its extensive menu including seaweed salad, chirashi, spicy California roll and spicy tuna roll, miso soup, tempura, and Orinda roll. Bento lunch box specials \$8.50; a la carte sashimi; kids menu. The owners are committed to serving real crab meat to keep customers happy. Order takeout online. Beer, wine and sake.

MEDITERRANEAN

Petra Café
2 Theatre Square, #105
254-5290

Hours: Mon. – Thu. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Petra gets top marks from its online fans and makes the most of its tiny interior and outside tables – a takeout favorite. Regulars swear by the chicken or lamb and beef gyro with tzatziki sauce and warm fluffy pita. Check out their lemony avgolemono soup, moussaka or Troy salad. Vegetarian options such as roasted vegetables, falafel, spanakopita, dolmas, hummus, or roasted eggplant wrap. Baklava with ground pistachios on top. Greek beer and wine, retsina.

MEXICAN
Baja Cali Taqueria and Grill
23 Orinda Way, #H
258-9987

[SEE MEXICAN page 22]




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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 1 **Orinda Library Art Gallery** presents iPhoneography, Paintings and Lamorinda Arts Alliance through October with an artist reception Oct. 2 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. when light refreshments will be provided. See article p. 4.
- Orinda Books** hosts local author J. Scott Donahue talking about his new book, *50 Ways to Save the Honey Bees (and Change the World)*, 276 Village Square, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Visit www.orindabooks.com or call 925-254-7606.
- California Shakespeare Theater** presents *Othello* through Oct. 9 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. For information or tickets (\$19 to \$87), visit www.calshakes.org or call 510-548-9666.
- Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents Van Zandt and Milmore's *Love, Sex and the I.R.S.*, Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$16 regular, \$8 for seniors and children. Call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org.
- 2 **Orinda Olive Festival**, Nature Area at Wagner Ranch, 350 Camino Pablo, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., features olive oil tastings, arts and crafts, food and music and cooking demonstrations. Presented by Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area.
- 4 **Orinda Books** hosts Storytime with author Jon Agee who will read from his book *Lion Lessons*, 276 Village Square, 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.
- 6 **Story Hour with Cathy Goshorn** for children 2 to 4 years, with reading, songs and games, every Thursday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m.
- Yappy Hour** hosted by Lamorinda Pet Care Co-op's Kristina McCann. Learn how to trade pet sitting with your neighbors, Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill, 2 Theatre Square, No. 134, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Call 925-567-4328.
- Family History Month** at Orinda Books features presentation and Q&A with a panel that includes Orinda resident Tish Harwood, sharing a book created from letters written between her parents during the war, and Linda Harms Okazaki, president of the California Genealogical Society, 276 Village Square, 7 p.m.
- 7 **The International Film Showcase** presents *Tanna*, a love story set on a remote Pacific island, for a one-week engagement at Orinda Theatre. Show times will be available on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at www.lamorindatheatres.com.
- 8 **Lamorinda Arts Alliance Art Show and Sale**, Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Dr., Lafayette at St. Mary's Rd., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. See www.laa4art.org.
- Third Annual Art of Mixology** craft cocktail competition and sample tasting, with gourmet finger foods and music, Theatre Square, 4:30 p.m.
- 11 **Orinda Books** hosts Chef Charlie Vollmar in a cooking demonstration and luncheon featuring Greek cuisine, 276 Village Square, 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. For reservations call 925-254-7606.
- 12 **The Second Wednesday Book Group** will read and discuss *Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. The group meets monthly and welcomes new members.
- 13 **Free movie night** at Orinda Theatre features *Halloween*, 7 p.m. Free movies are screened the second Thursday of each month. Visit <http://lamorindatheatres.com/>.
- 14 **Orinda Books** Gerry Wallace Ceramics Exhibition and Sale, 276 Village Square, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 21 **Montelindo Garden Club** hosts British author Andrea Wulf who will talk about her book, *The Founding Gardeners*, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda. Refreshments are at 9 a.m., meeting at 9:30 a.m. Free to all, reservations required at montelindogarden@aol.com. See article p. 9.
- 22 **Orinda Books** hosts Vanessa Hua discussing her debut collection of stories, *Deceit and Other Possibilities*, 276 Village Square, 4 p.m.
- 26 **Orinda Books** hosts Daniel Levitin discussing *A Field Guide to Lies: Critical Thinking in the Information Age*, 276 Village Square, 7 p.m. Admission is \$35, which includes a copy of the book (\$40 for a couple includes one book). Space is limited. RSVP to 925-254-7606.
- 27 **Saint Mary's College Guild**, bus trip to San Francisco Symphony rehearsal, 7:45 a.m. catch bus at Moraga SMC campus, 375 Rheem Blvd., arrive in SF for talk by symphony personnel, rehearsal at the symphony followed by lunch at Cadillac Bar and Grill before returning to Moraga around 3 p.m. Total fee is \$79. Send to SMC Guild c/o Patricia Wiegmann, 39 Carr Dr., Moraga, CA 94556. Call 925-254-3645 or 925-376-6088.
- Maria's Book Group** will discuss *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 11 a.m. The group meets monthly and welcomes new members. Call ahead to 925-254-7606 if you plan to attend.
- Halloween Parade for Tots**, Orinda Community Center Park, 1 p.m., with costumes and activities.
- 29 **Trick or Treat Walk at Theatre Square**, sponsored by Orinda Theatre Square and Lamorinda Moms, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., for children 12 and under. Children do need to be accompanied by an adult. Halloween candy and treats, face painting, and food and drink specials at participating restaurants.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Note the library will be closed Oct. 12 for a staff workshop. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit <http://lccclib.org/>.

- 3 **Lamorinda Kids Read**. Friends of the Orinda Library purchased copies of *Secrets of the Circus* to give away while supplies last. Related activities through October.
- 4 **Toddler Lapsit**. Stories and songs for one-to three-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required, but attendance limited to once a week. Also Oct. 5, 11, 18, 19, 25 and 26.
- Peek-a-Boo Time**. Rhymes and rhythms for infants and pre-walkers (16 months) and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 a.m. Families with older siblings are welcome. Also Oct. 11, 18 and 25.
- 5 **Free Tutoring**. AP physics and math tutor for middle, high school and college students, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tutoring held in half-hour increments. Also Oct. 12, 19 and 26. Register at library.
- 6 **English as a Second Language Conversation Circle**. Volunteer teachers lead informal group discussions, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also Oct. 13, 20 and 27.
- 13 **Pig Races** (part of Lamorinda Kids Read). The pig race is a pivotal point in *Secrets of the Circus*. Try your luck at the pig racetrack, 2 to 3 p.m.

Annual Olive Festival at Wagner Ranch Nature Area on Oct. 2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It will be fun and games and all things "olive" at the annual **Wagner Ranch Nature Area Olive Festival**.

Back for its seventh year, the Olive Festival takes place on Oct. 2 from 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Nature Area's 140-plus-year-old Olive Grove. Free for the entire family, the day includes learning about and tasting a variety of olives, olive oils and products, including Berkeley Olive Groves with its organic products (and UC Berkeley history), local favorite Amphora in Lafayette, and others.

There will also be a cooking demonstration, speakers talking about "all things olive," food, music and docent tours through the historic ranch and olive grove. Lots of olive games and nature crafts will keep the younger attendees interested. Baby Olive Trees (direct descendants from the Wagner Ranch family) will be available for a small donation.

For more information, go to www.fwrna.org.

- 18 **Scavenger Hunt** (part of Lamorinda Kids Read). Solve the clues and find the pigs to figure out the secret word. Finishers get a chance to win tickets to Playland-Not-at-the-Beach. Runs through Oct. 22.
- 21 **Mystery Book Club**. Meets every third Friday of the month, 3 to 4:30 p.m. This month's book is *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie King. Adult program.
- 22 **Exploration Station: Rad Tech**. Flying drones, robot builders and virtual reality experiences for children five to 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 24 **Illustrator M. Sarah Klise** (part of Lamorinda Kids Read). Klise, who illustrated *Secrets of the Circus*, will discuss the *Three Ring Rascals* and other collaborations with her sister, 6:30 p.m. in the Library Auditorium.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Gallery Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com/> or 925-283-8288.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 a.m., September through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, www.montelindogarden.com. October features Andrea Wulf talking about her book, *Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation*.
- Orinda Garden Club**. Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub/>.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

CONTINUATIONS

◆ JORGENS from page 15

Response Times

Response times are directly related to the distance between the responders and the incident. Since over 90 percent of Code Three incidents are medical emergencies, and each minute of response time decreases the likelihood of survival by 10 percent, this issue is critical. Orinda View and Orinda Downs response times will improve by one-two minutes when Station 16 in Lafayette returns to service in 2018. Until then, and for Sleepy Hollow and much of El Toyonal, the most fundamental way to decrease response times is to locate responders closer to the areas of need during predicted peak demand times as some other communities do. We can immediately help cut response times by proactively implementing programs targeted specifically at both these remote homes and homes we identify of higher risk residents, those under six and over 65, using data analysis. One step MOFD can take is to research monitored emergency alarm systems and encourage/incentivize these residents to install them in their homes. Monitored systems eliminate one call transfer after dialing 911 and could significantly shorten the detection time of fires when no one is home.

Fire Hydrants

According to MOFD, fire hydrant capacity is more important in fighting wild fires than structure fires. Low flow, low pressure hydrants, fire trucks and a 3,000-gallon tanker truck are usually adequate for

a structure fire. When there is a wildfire, MOFD calls on CalFire, Confire and surrounding agencies from other counties to assist. Within an hour, 135-150 emergency responders and helicopters and airplanes are dispatched to the scene.

The sequential cluster of “grossly inadequate” hydrants near Charles Hill Road is the most critical issue since lone hydrants can be bypassed and pumped around but clusters cannot. It costs more than \$300,000/hydrant on average to replace the old water pipes and EBMUD pays only 10 percent. Orinda voters have twice voted against funding a full solution so we must target our resources to the most severe situations. Again, a proactive, targeted fire prevention program can help address much of this issue before a long term solution is reached. EBMUD replaces aging pipes at their own expense on a 100-year schedule. When we do replace pipes, we also need to plan ahead and coordinate with our road replacement projects.

Financial Concerns

I believe public entities always need to listen to the community’s issues and ideas and present any analysis of issues and decisions openly. On fairness, I would concur with the three current board members who at a recent board meeting agreed that as long as the issue remains unresolved in the eyes of numerous taxpayers, it deserves to be addressed. I understand there was never a public document disclosed by the Orinda City Council, any committee or LAFCO that quantified the analysis of the [SEE JORGENS 2 page 25]

◆ SMITH from page 15

to provide fiscally prudent, high-quality essential services to our residents.

Fire Dangers

The fire danger is real, and it is the downside to the choice that we have made to live in a highly vegetated, beautiful natural setting. We must prepare for fire danger, and our current plan to reduce vegetation is a good one. It’s also important to recognize that the majority of calls for service are not for fire but are for emergency medical services. Given that my 92-year-old mother-in-law lives in District 5, I am highly aware of the need for excellent medical emergency services and very supportive of the MOFD’s ambulance and paramedic services. One of the factors affecting response time in either a fire or medical emergency, is our narrow, winding, and formerly, badly-repaired roads. I am very thankful, that with the support of the residents, while I have been on the council and serving as mayor, we are now well on our way to fixing our roads, which will make it far easier for our emergency personnel to respond quickly and effectively to all emergencies. It’s also critical, and I will work to strengthen, our regional relationships with neighboring fire districts, so that when an emergency occurs in Orinda, we have swift back-up from our neighbors.

Response Times

It is a real concern that residents in parts of North Orinda are experiencing response times in excess of six minutes. Response

time is driven by the distance from the responding fire station to the resident’s home. Newly-repaired Orinda roads should improve response time to North Orinda from Station 43, in addition to Station 45. We can also look forward to a quick response to Sleepy Hollow and the Downs from our neighbors in Lafayette, the personnel stationed at Station 16, after that fire station rebuilds and reopens. Finally, if the budget permits, the board should consider whether it is fiscally responsible and possible for the district to add back staffing to Station 45, which was cut during the recession, to assist in better response to North Orinda.

Fire Hydrants

Inadequate fire hydrants have been a concern for Orinda residents for many years. In 2006, I worked with North Orinda resident and fire hydrant-advocate, Pat Dunn, to advocate to EBMUD the replacement of fire hydrants on an expedited schedule. Ultimately EBMUD, who owns the water delivery system, retained its current policy, which means that the water delivery system is upgraded according to scheduled obsolescence, and not in order to increase water flow for fire purposes. Pat and I, current MOFD District 5 Director Alex Evans, and many others, worked together on a 2007 ballot measure for revenue to upgrade the fire hydrants; however, the measure was unsuccessful. With the passage of time, we have seen and will see more of the pipes and hydrants replaced by EBMUD. In the meantime, the district responds with five engines to every fire, so that firefighters [SEE SMITH 2 page 27]

◆ MEXICAN from page 19

www.facebook.com/BajaCaliTaque-riaGrill

Hours: Sun. – Thu. 10:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Under new ownership, same friendly staff. Yelpers like the chicken tamale and tortilla soup; others like the carne asada, carnitas and chorizo tacos. Check out their menu, including special kids section. Try one of their shrimp dishes. Dine in or order to go. Beer and wine, free Wi-Fi.

Maya Mexican Grill
74 Moraga Way
258-9049

Hours: Mon. – Sat., 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; closed Sun.

Maya offers many traditional Mexican dishes based on family recipes – busy at lunchtime so order to go. People come back for: mole sauce, any version of carnitas or chicken and burrito Maya. Smoking good hot sauce; salsa bar. Tuesday Taco Special. Beer, wine and soft drinks.

THAI

Baan Thai
99 Orinda Way
253-0989

www.baanthaiorinda.com

Hours: Open 7 days: Lunch – 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Dinner Everyday 4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Tucked across from the Orinda golf course. Gracious surroundings and service. Unique Thai brown rice (almost purple) – nutty and tasty. Return visits for: Thai crunch salad, papaya salad, grilled eggplant with chicken. Great tom kha gai (chicken soup with coconut milk and lemongrass). Lunch specials like mango curry with choice of tofu, chicken, prawns, scallops or calamari. Extensive vegetarian menu. Takeout popular and available, as is wine and beer.

Siam Orchid
23 Orinda Way, #F
253-1975

www.siamorchidorinda.com

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Dinner Mon. – Sun. 4:30 – 9 p.m.

A white tablecloth experience with a roomy full bar and good cocktails. Return visits for: Chiang Mai chicken soup, vegetarian cashew and pineapple fried rice, chicken satay with peanut sauce and cuke salad, Orchid fried rice with tofu, Singapore noodles, green curry with chicken, and many noodle dishes. The pumpkin curry and special ginger salad remain popular dishes. Lunch specials are served with egg roll, salad and steamed rice. Takeout available.



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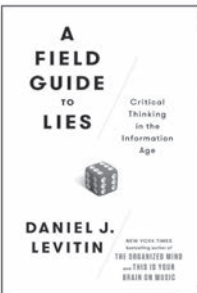


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Sat: 11:45 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
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BOOKS

Between the Lines

Childhood Reading Leaves Lifelong Legacy

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



One of the most heralded picture books of the fall season is *A Child of Books* (Candlewick \$17.99), the breathtaking celebration of children's literature from the creative minds – and hands – of children's book author/illustrator Oliver Jeffers (*The Day the Crayons Quit*, *Stuck*, *This Moose Belongs to Me*) and book artist Sam Winston.

In this spare and dreamy story, a young girl leads her new friend through a typographical landscape created by Winston's designs using texts from the classics of early children's literature in combination with Jeffers's rich and whimsical paintings. Imagine ocean waves wrought from *Gulliver's Travels* and *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, or mountains of make-believe sculpted from Peter Pan – and that's only the beginning. What the artist-collaborators suggest is that so many of the images that shape our adult imaginations come from the books that entertained us as children.

A brief poll of colleagues, friends and family indicates that children's classics remain important touchstones for all of us. They moved and amused us when we first discovered them as children and then again when we read them to our own children and grandchildren. These books become part of the mental and moral furniture of our lives. If we raised families, it was hard not to have the images of Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* clan nudge us into appropriate familial behavior. My memories go back even further to one of my mother's childhood classics, *The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew*. When my not-so-top-of-the-line cooktop annoys me, I remember poor little Polly Pepper who had to patch her stove pipe with a piece of old boot. And of course in *Little Women* the ever-determined Jo March continues to challenge every young girl to be a better person.

At the bookstore, several of us highlight Mary Norton's *The Borrowers* series among our youthful top 10 reads. Even today, when a needle goes missing, one can fancy that a member of the Clock family – Homily, Pod or Arriety, those enterprising three-inch-high people who live beneath the floorboards – have taken it for some useful purpose. And in another wonderful domestic interior series written at about the time, *Amelia Bedelia* still makes members of my family laugh when we think of Amelia "dusting" the furniture or "dressing" the chicken in a manner quite contrary to what her long-suffering employers had intended.

So many childhoods continue to be brightened by A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-*

Pooh. The adventures of Pooh and his friends in the Hundred-Acre Wood are certainly memorable, and I like to think that, as Milne concluded, "in that enchanted place on the top of the forest a little boy and his bear will always be playing." It is no wonder that the set of four books – the two "Pooh" books and *When We Were Very Young* and *Now We Are Six* – are still popular gifts for babies and as starter libraries for the very young.

The other classic titles that came up when I queried my bookstore buddies about their childhood reading included another bear book, *A Bear Called Paddington* (the first in Michael Bond's appealing series); Leo Lionni's *Swimmy* (who can forget the little black fish who taught us the values of cooperation?); and Ludwig Bemelmans's *Madeline*. That old house in Paris all covered with vines may have established for many of us what a French city looks like. And when one of my colleagues first read *Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard and Florence Atwater, she knew right then that she wanted to be a reader!

The magical collaboration between author and illustrator in children's books is often what creates a masterpiece (as our lead-off pairing of Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston has done). Winnie-the-Pooh is not really on his native heath, for me at least, when he has been colorized and Disney-fied out of his original E.H. Shepard pen and ink. And Shepard's same pen drew what are, for many of us, the iconic images of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Mr. Toad in Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. Garth Williams, probably best known as the illustrator of E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little* (both high on bookshop staff reading lists), was also a major factor in the success of the *Little House* books. In fact, there was a mini-flap in the children's publishing world a few years ago when talk of updating those classic Williams' illustrations to make them "more relevant for today's readers" was broached. *Little House* fans reacted vehemently and stated that Garth Williams and the Ingalls family were inseparable as far as they were concerned.

Of course, when writer and illustrator are one and the same like Ludwig Bemelmans, Leo Lionni, Maurice Sendak or Louise Fitzhugh (a bookstore popularity poll winner for *Harriet the Spy*) to name a few, they have complete control of their story and how it is presented to the world – quite a creative challenge. One of the most consistently successful author/illustrators of

[SEE LINES page 27]

Orinda Author's First Novel Reflects Work in Africa with Jane Goodall

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Orinda author Gregg Chavaria's first novel, *My Journey to Meet Jane Goodall*, is a fictionalized story of Chavaria's excursions from refugee work in Croatia to the forests of Tanzania's Gombe National Reserve, where he had the opportunity to work with Jane Goodall, considered the world's foremost primatologist.

Before the novel was released earlier this year, its pages sat idle in Chavaria's childhood home. He penned the novel on an old Royal typewriter after he returned from Africa in 1993. At the time, he said he "knew it was a special story."

Chavaria's parents discovered the manuscript while packing to move, and encouraged their son to dust it off. After reading through the pages, his father called Chavaria with advice: "You need to get this published."

Chavaria had no intention of becoming a writer when he graduated from UC Berkeley in 1992. He had his life mapped out to become a lawyer. However, that course was altered when Harvard Law School rejected his application. Chavaria soon found himself en route to Africa to work with refugee children who were living in camps in Zagreb, Croatia.

The protagonist in *My Journey to Meet Jane* mirrors the adventures of Chavaria's travels. While in Croatia, Chavaria met a young woman who enticed him to travel with her to Africa for the summer, and work with Goodall's Tanzania Roots and Shoots, Jane Goodall Institute's international volunteer program.

"When I returned from my journey that summer, I knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience." Chavaria was "interested in preserving the details still fresh in my mind. Initially it was a log of my journey, but slowly started to take the shape of a book."

Chavaria said the novel "is a brisk and scenic tour through Africa with glimpses



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Orinda resident Gregg Chavaria with Jane Goodall in 1993.

into the human condition. Fellow travelers will enjoy the book's insights, both the gritty and the compassionate, along with the main character's growing wisdom and journey toward love."

"My main technique for the task of writing was inspired by Jack London," said Chavaria, who met London's daughter Becky in the late 1980s. "She told me her father would not do anything else until he wrote 1,000 words a day. Remembering this, years later, served as my primary inspiration."

Chavaria learned a lot through the opportunities he had after altering his original career choices. "When something goes wrong, don't discard it. One door closes, and five more open."

In addition to his writing career, Chavaria worked for 14 years as the development director for Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc (CASA) and is currently the development officer at Diablo Valley College Foundation. Both jobs reflect his passion for helping others, discovered along his own personal journey.

"Everyone has a great story to tell. I hope that, in some small way, those who read my book will be inspired to write their own."

My Journey to Meet Jane Goodall is available on Amazon and will be available in local bookstores later this year.



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COLDWELL BANKER

CONTINUATIONS

◆ LONDON 2 from page 20

of my department, such as a patient (not involving medical malpractice), hospital employee or other physician. This really required good listening and interpersonal communication skills.

At the same time, being department chief entitled me to a seat on the Medical Executive Committee, comprised of every department chief in the hospital. This is the governance committee of the medical staff, which adopts and enforces policies, procedures and rules. Not infrequently, I had to stand my ground and verbally defend my position in order to best represent my patients and my department.

◆ MILLER from page 11

community. By encouraging improvements consistent with the collective foresight of our community, our property and business owners have the tools to do their part: to propose enhancements that meet these guidelines as to retention of historical characteristics, respect for our small-town character and selection of materials that are harmonious with our natural surroundings.

We have a duty, not only to these property and business owners, but to our entire community to provide the guidance necessary to encourage this vitalization so that we provide a significant opportunity to our community to dine, shop and utilize our local services in Orinda.

Downtown Businesses

A core function of every incorporated community, no matter how small, is to generate opportunities for its residents to do business together to both keep tax dollars local and to enhance the sense of community engendered by shopping and dining locally.

The fact that Orinda's sales tax revenue is the lowest per capita in Contra Costa County (only Oakley is lower) is an objective signal that Orinda needs help attracting business and is not providing residents a significant chance to do business locally. I wholly support assigning this role to a city staff member or, if expertise cannot be found on staff, hiring someone for this function – even if part-time initially – to seek out businesses like bakeries, bicycle shops and cafes that support our local residents and that our local residents will be proud to support.

Parking in Downtown

Earlier this year, Orinda embarked on a study of downtown parking. Parking is a growing issue for both businesses on the Crossroads (or Theatre Square) side of downtown and for residents who live

in neighborhoods bordering downtown, particularly near and on Muth Drive, Bates Boul., Davis Road and Brookwood Road.

Preliminary findings from the study provide food for thought. One is to improve enforcement of time limits through the hiring of another code enforcement officer whose compensation would be paid through citations. Another proposal is to reduce four-hour parking limits to two hours and another yet is to issue permits for residences and employees.

I see the solution in a mixture of these tools. Our time limits are relatively generous – up to four hours in some spots – and by reducing these limits coupled with adequate enforcement, we should be able to address the issue until new improvements are built downtown, which improvements will need to provide for a sufficient number of additional spaces to accommodate new businesses. It will be important to partner with residents and employers to determine an adequate number of permits for each home and business.

Three Areas of Need

Roads. We have hit important milestones in our journey to fix our Orinda roads but have a few more miles to go. Some choosing Lafayette over Orinda have pointed to better home appreciation rates based on Lafayette's better roads. We must finish what we have started by approving the last two phases of our five-phase Road and Drainage Repair Plan.

Downtown. Downtown deserves our attention. We need to bring a balanced approach to improve amenities and opportunities to shop and dine in Orinda while retaining our downtown charm. Providing direction to property owners while supporting initiatives like expanded access to and visibility of our treasured San Pablo Creek is part of such a balanced approach.

Education and Public Safety. Fiscal accountability and oversight is key to maximizing our resources available for public safety and making Orinda a place where art and education thrive.

Qualifications

Nine years as a journalist followed by law school and finally, operating a law practice in Orinda and serving on the board of directors for both Las Trampas School, Inc. and CREW East Bay has equipped me with two skills above all others for effective leadership and management: listening followed by consideration of each perspective presented.

I am dedicated to bringing a balanced, thoughtful and objective ear to each issue the city faces because that is how good decisions are made.

◆ WEINER from page 13

relies heavily on the broader community to fill financial gaps and provide supplemental programming, technology and special services.

Facilities: Orinda schools have aging facilities that need to be updated. A strategic plan needs to be developed prioritizing facilities upgrades, replacement and renovation. This needs to be done for each school site, with community and teacher input.

Technology: While the district has made great strides with technology in the schools, there is still no long-term plan for technology upgrades, funding and training.

Curriculum: California schools are still in the process of rolling out Common Core and Next Generation Science curriculum standards. Successful implementation requires professional development and other resources for teachers, as well as parent education about local efforts to retain accelerated pathways.

Measuring Success

The question is: Are we meeting and exceeding the needs of our students? We need high-quality schools, a cohesive school board, and an open communication process with the community to succeed in creating exceptional educational experiences for our children.

The quality of our schools is not measured by test scores but by producing engaged learners. We need to work together as a community to ensure that our teachers and staff have the resources needed to create an incredible environment for all students in Orinda to become lifelong learners.

Success of the school board depends upon the strength of its members and their ability to work together to advance Orinda schools. It is critical that board policies reflect collaboration, transparency and communication among the board members, and between the district and the community.

Effectiveness within the community is measured by being trusted neighbors. It is essential that the district and the school board communicate with and be responsive to all stakeholders in the district. We need to develop a communication process that provides community members ample time to voice concerns, share ideas and contribute in a meaningful way to the board's decision-making process and future of our schools.

Class Sizes

Keeping class sizes small is a priority for our families and our teachers. We need to create a long-term plan for growth of our student population. In the short term, total enrollment at Orinda schools is down

by eight students in 2016-2017 (2535 students in 2016-2017 vs. 2543 students in 2015-2016), however, enrollment at two elementary schools increased. (Del Rey: 434 students in 2016-2017 vs. 415 students in 2015-2016; Glorietta: 456 students in 2016-2017 vs. 438 students in 2015-2016). One 3rd grade class at Sleepy Hollow exceeded the 20-student size, requiring additional aide time.

Growth determinations are uncertain while Orinda is attracting numerous new families to our community, OUSD has not conducted a demographic study since 2013, and we have no estimates for long-term growth. We need to start there – conduct a new demographic study to update enrollment projections, determine where the district will grow, and inform facilities and budget evaluations.

We must also engage the entire Orinda community in future growth plans. And we need to assess whether we are at risk of losing the annual subsidy from the state if the state's reduction requirements aren't met. We must put a solid, long-term plan in place.

Qualifications

I am the only candidate with children currently attending Orinda schools (my three children are in 2nd and 4th grades at Glorietta and 6th grade at OIS). I have a current pulse on our schools' educational needs because I spend my time not just on school committees but in the classroom and on campus, engaging with students, parents, teachers and staff in a way that only a parent with children in the schools can.

I practiced law in San Francisco for more than 12 years before staying home with my children. I have proven leadership experience in the community, serving as Parents' Club President for Glorietta, board member for EFO, commissioner on the Parks & Rec Commission for the City of Orinda, K-5 parent representative on the Fiscal Advisory Committee for OUSD, and auction chair for Children's Health Guild. I am a critical thinker, great listener, and a collaborative leader.

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The Farmers' Market is visibly in fall mode. Mounds of beautiful peppers, bunches of crunchy grapes, glistening eggplant, piles of persimmons and lots and lots of squash.

During the next few months you'll find many members of this cucurbit or gourd family at market stalls. The flavors of winter squash range from mild and sweet to nutty; textures are creamy smooth to fibrous. All types may be baked or steamed and used interchangeably in recipes.

Mini to monster-size pumpkins prevail as Halloween approaches, but there's so much more to explore. Just be sure to choose the variety of winter squash that best fits its purpose.

The full, sweet flavor of butternut squash makes them perfect candidates for pie, cake and bread making. Butternut squash is prized for its sweet, creamy, nut-flavored flesh and easy-to-remove skin. Large banana or hubbard squash are sometimes found pre-cut and wrapped in smaller pieces for the convenience of the shopper. Other squash to watch for include turban, Delicata and chayote.

Although not one of California's leading commercial crops, Brussels sprouts top the list in the nutrition department. These "little cabbages" are a good source of vitamins A and C, and folic acid, and four medium-sized sprouts have only 30 calories. Sprouts' flavor is mild and delicate when picked young, but their bad rap comes from eating overly mature sprouts that are tough and strong tasting. The best sprouts are fresh with tight-fitting dark green outer leaves and paler inner leaves.

The majority of Brussels sprouts are sold in bulk. Choose those of uniform size for even cooking. Stalks with sprouts still attached are a popular item at the market – just remove the sprouts and prepare as needed.

Think of fresh Brussels sprouts when creating your next salad. Cook, cool and slice sprouts into quarters. Marinate in an oil and vinegar dressing for a few hours. Toss with red and yellow bell pepper strips



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Butternut Squash and Apple Soup.

and a few cherry tomatoes. Delicious! Enjoy and see you at the market!

The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday through Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way. More information is available at www.cccfm.org.

Winter Squash and Apple Soup

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped carrot
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 butternut squash, peeled and chopped
- 3 cups chicken broth (or vegetable broth)
- 1 cup water
- Pinch nutmeg and paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Chopped parsley (optional)

Melt butter in medium-size pot over medium heat. Add onion, celery and carrot and sauté five minutes. Add squash, apple, broth and water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer about 30 minutes or until squash is soft. Cool slightly. Work in three batches to puree soup in blender. Add spices, salt and pepper. Serve and garnish with chopped parsley.

Serves four.

◆ **JORGENS 2** from page 22

situation including current and anticipated capital expenditures and operating expense allocations.

We currently have more than \$50 million in unfunded liabilities at MOFD. I am concerned that our pension fund manager's

(CCCERA) rate of return projections are optimistic given their portfolio makeup and historical returns. A small decline in their projected returns can dramatically increase our liability. We need to fully understand the potential outcomes and plan accordingly.



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Fitness Tip of the Month

Fitness Myths That Keep Us From Reaching Our Goals

- 1. Strength training and muscle will make me bigger not thinner.**
Muscle takes up less space than fat because its denser so if you reduce your fat and increase your muscle you will be leaner and thinner.
- 2. Eating less will make me leaner.**
Not necessarily. You may lose a little fat and a little muscle but then it stops once you have lost enough muscle to decrease your metabolism.
- 3. There is no such thing as spot reduction. I can't lose fat in certain areas of my body.**
There are ways to increase the blood flow to certain areas of your body in your workouts and stimulate fat loss in those areas.



For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or www.thelivingleanprogram.com.

Orinda Woman's Club Hosts 30th Anniversary Festival of Trees

By SUSAN DOMINGOS
Contributing Writer

Orinda Woman's Club celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Festival of Trees with a luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 10:30 a.m. at the San Ramon Marriott. "Pearls" is the theme of this year's event.

Helen Lyall of Napa will present her beautiful fashions, the Marriott will cater lunch, and there will be several full-service bars. Dan Ashley, co-anchor at Channel 7 news, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

Some of the items in the silent auction include a beautiful pearl necklace, a plane ride over San Francisco Bay, an Italian dinner prepared by a member, an Oregon getaway at Lake Creek Lodge and an Epicurean Experience.

There will also be a trip raffle, a gift basket raffle and small Christmas tree raffle. Attendees can win a one-week stay at Poipu Kai Beach Kauai, Hawaii, or a one-week vacation at a condo resort at the destination of their choice (the registry collection includes the U.S. Canada, Mexico, Portugal, Italy, Austria, United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand).

The Orinda Woman's Club is a non-profit organization, benefiting women



CHARLIE JARRETT

An Orinda Woman's Club member takes to the runway in last year's **Festival of Trees** fashion show.

and families in need. This year the money raised at the Festival of Trees will benefit Monument Crisis Center, which helps provide education, assistance and referrals to families, youth, seniors and individuals in crisis. Orinda Woman's Club's community service committee will also donate funds to local and international nonprofit groups as well as education grants for women and families, and young adults aging out of the foster care system.

Tickets to Festival of Trees are \$90. RSVP to Janet Nelson at 925-451-0559 or visit www.orindawomansclub.org for tickets and information.



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SCHOOLS

50th Reunion for Campolindo Baby Boomers



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Reunion Committee (L-R) **Don Schrader, Sandy Ivy Landin, Valerie Smith Brousseau, Bill Smedley, Gwen Reid Lundmark, Bruce Van Voorhis** and (not shown) Judi Steen Carmona.

The class of 1966 from Campolindo High School has a weekend full of fun activities planned for Oct. 14-15, including a varsity football game against Miramonte!

“I grew up in Orinda attending Glorietta, Inland Valley and Campolindo,” says reunion committee member Bruce Van Voorhis. “Because Orinda was growing so rapidly then, I found myself being in the highest class of a brand new school from the sixth grade to the twelfth grade. When the Acalanes School District built Campolindo, our class of freshmen established the constitution, the mascot, the school colors – everything. Our Class of ‘66 was unique.” For more information on the reunion and who is attending, go to www.campolindoreunion1966.com.

Lamorinda Idol Winners for 2016

Following an extravaganza of talent displayed at the Lamorinda Idol Finals Competition on Sept. 4 at the Orinda Theatre, judges had the unenviable task of selecting the winners.

As the master of ceremonies for the two morning sessions, I can attest to the plethora of talent from kindergarten through high school that graced the Orinda Theatre stage. When all was said and done, the following emerged as the winners:



KELLY CANNON

Fourth grader **Natalie Schroeder**, who won in the grades 3-5 soloists division for her rendition of "Corner of the Sky."

- Shawn Smith (Grades K-2 Soloists)
- Natalie Schroeder (Grades 3-5 Soloists)
- Jenni Coletta (Middle School Soloists)
- Leah Woodcox (High Soloists)
- Lucky Charms – Lucy Foss, Kaylin Ishizu, Ava Jacuzzi (Group Category K-5)
- Aislinn and Ella – Ella Dunderdale, Aislinn Welch (Group Category 6-8)
- Sweet Harmony – Arriana Glenn, Kiera Glenn (Group Category 9-12)

Lleyton Allen (Audience Award)

Congratulations to everyone who competed and shared their prodigious talent with the community.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please forward school calendar listings to m.sharpe66@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER

28 Miramonte High School community discussion groups will be held several times this year with the goal of reducing stress for families. The first topic: How do we define success for our children? How does our community define success? Select one meeting to attend from the following locations. Location details will be sent after registration. Dates by neighborhood: Sept. 28, 9:30 to 11 a.m. for Orinda Downs; Also, Oct. 1, 10 to 11:30 a.m. for Glorietta/Del Rey; Oct. 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m. for Orinda Village; and Oct. 11, 1 to 2:30 p.m. for St. Stephens. For more information, email julia.stenzel@comcast.net.

OCTOBER

- 3 Holden High School** Information Night for interested new families, 6 to 8 p.m., 10 Irwin Way. Call 925-254-0199 or visit www.holdenhigh.org.
- 5 Acalanes Union High School District** board meeting, 7:30 p.m., 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Also Oct. 19. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us.
- 8 Food Truck Festival**, Orinda Library Plaza, 6 p.m. Miramonte High School sponsors food trucks while students attend the homecoming dance. Anyone who donates \$1,000 or more gets two free event tickets.
- 10 Orinda Union School District** board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Visit www.orindaschools.org.
- 14 Miramonte High School** presents Performers for Progress, School Theatre, 750 Moraga Way, 7 to 9 p.m. Also Oct. 15. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte.
- 15 Glorietta Elementary School**, Halloween FunFest, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 15 Martha Road. See article, page 1.
- 22 Sleepy Hollow Elementary School**, Creepy Hollow Halloween Pumpkin Fest, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 20 Washington Lane. See article, page 1.
- 23 Orinda Academy** hosts Open House, 1 to 4 p.m. Meet administration, parents, students and teachers, tour the campus and hear a short presentation. The academy, located at 19 Altarinda Road, is for students in grades 8 through 12. Call 925-254-7553 or visit www.orindaacademy.org.
- 29 Del Rey Elementary School**, BooFest, 12:30 to 4 p.m., 25 El Camino Moraga. See article, page 1.

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



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 28

human resources consultant and son Davin is a project manager for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Davin served two years in the Peace Corps in Nairobi, teaching biology, chemistry, physics and math to deaf high school students there.

An active community volunteer, Lal has been very involved with the Antioch Historical Society and his church. He prefers reading about investments and current events. Earlier this year the couple enjoyed a trip to Fiji, the first time Lal has traveled there since immigrating to the United States at the age of 17.

Lal points out that the property values in Orinda are among the highest of all the Bay Area communities. He attributes the desirability of Orinda to the city infrastructure, well-planned, safe neighborhoods and the good people who live here. "We feel as if we are living in the country, yet San Francisco is very close and easily accessible," he says. "We enjoy attending Warriors games, as well as the 49'ers and the Giants home games."

For more information about Prime Vintage Realty, visit the website at www.orindahomes.net. Lal can be reached at 925-366-8077 or email him at RodneyLal@primevintagerealty.com.

Tree Sculpture Specializes in Residential Tree Care

Established in 1965, this comprehensive tree care and landscape management company has been owned by the Lundin family since 1972, when current president and CEO Craig Lundin bought the company from John Britten. Originally focusing on residential tree management, including pest and disease diagnosis and treatment and high-quality aesthetic pruning to promote tree health, their motto was, "A sculptured tree is a balanced and healthy tree."

Tree Sculpture has expanded with the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tree Sculpture president and CEO **Craig Lundin**.

addition of Terra Landscape, a division specializing in comprehensive landscape management service for homeowners' associations, commercial properties, office parks, local governments and municipalities. "We specialize in corrective and clearance pruning, selective thinning, as well as aeration and fertilization, root crown excavation, surgery, cabling and bracing and the removal of hazardous trees," says Cassidy Lundin, son of the CEO.

A Davidson College graduate – Stephen Curry was a classmate – Lundin worked on Capitol Hill for Congresswoman Barbara Lee before moving into management consulting. He took advantage of an opportunity to join his father's tree care business while taking a leave of absence from his consulting role and has not looked back.

"Our crews work throughout Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties and understand the various microclimates that is enjoyed here in the Bay Area," says Lundin. "We encourage homeowners to go about tree management thoughtfully. The optimum season for pruning depends on each individual species and we can help homeowners as they make these decisions."

Tree Sculpture takes into consideration wildlife habitats. "We are very mindful of

wildlife," explains Lundin. "It is important to monitor trees to prevent disease infection or pest infestation. We work with clients to develop multi-year plans to maintain tree health and safety."

A self-described outdoorsman, Lundin spends time hiking, cycling and skiing. His wife, Alessandra, is in urban planning and design. The couple rescued Kona - a German Shepherd - from the Tony La Russa Animal Rescue Foundation, and they especially enjoy hikes with Kona.

Members of California Landscape Contractors Association and International Society of Arboriculture, Tree Sculpture and its division Terra Landscape are both fully insured. For more information, call 925-254-7233 or email contact@treesculpture.com.

◆ LINES from page 23

books for the very young seized that challenge when she took pen and watercolors in hand and, in 1901, created *Peter Rabbit*. Beatrix Potter's superb series of small books for small hands happily engages youngsters a century later. Continuing comfort is offered to little people when they learn that though Peter was a bit bad, his punishment was only being put to bed with a dose of chamomile tea.

Life lessons – how they linger with us when we have grown up as children of books! Do keep on reading.

◆ SMITH 2 from page 22

bring a total of 2500 gallons to each fire, 500 per truck. The district additionally brings another 2500-gallon water tender to a fire as needed. While we have never experienced a fire in Orinda where water availability was insufficient, we must continue to push EBMUD to upgrade our water delivery system.

Financial Concerns

The most significant financial issue is the unfunded pension liability. It is imperative to plan for the payment of all debt in order to maintain excellent services and a financially sustainable District. Currently, the MOFD has unfunded pension liability of \$29 million. The district has done well in creating an irrevocable Health Insurance Trust to pay off the retiree health insurance obligation. Now, the board is discussing a Pension Stabilization Fund to pay unfunded pension liability and to offset future increases in pension costs and I fully support that. On Oct. 19, the board will determine whether Orinda and Moraga taxpayers pay fairly for district expenses and expects to resolve the issue at that time. I believe that the most important financial decision, in order to ensure that every call for help is answered, is to direct that all available funds be used to pay the unfunded pension liability.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

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Genuine Goodness Opens Storefront Cafe

After a month of renovations, Orindans Donna Pickthall and Diane Eames recently opened the doors to their charming café located at 21 Orinda Way, across from the Orinda Library and adjacent to Natural Life Foods. It is a one-of-a-kind experience featuring all-natural and handcrafted foods with the menu changing daily. You will find yourself dropping by each day to peruse the butcher-paper poster menu listing dishes the duo has prepared.

“Each day is completely different, which makes it fun for us and for our customers

to try new things,” says Eames. “We use ingredients that are fresh, in season, and as much as possible, organic. We prepare each dish on-site every morning. Being career cooks at home for our families, we are two people who love cooking.”

Just looking at the Genuine Goodness menu makes one’s mouth water. In addition to smoothies and Tara’s organic ice cream, offerings include a variety of salads such as Orzo Orinda, made with orzo, garbanzo beans, feta, red onion, olives and olive oil in a vinaigrette dressing, the Farro and the Feta, consisting of farro grain, feta, dried blueberries and fennel topped with tart green apple dressed in a fresh lemon vinaigrette and many others.

A different soup is featured each day, such as Thai Veggie, Chorizo and Garbanzo Bean, Tomato and Basil or Lentil. Cookies, cakes, granola and bread are baked fresh daily, in addition to a sandwich or wrap offering such as Ham and Swiss on Rye. Appealing delectables from England include Naim’s crackers and gluten-free biscuits, Mrs. Darlington’s Preserves, Elegant and English tea cookies and teas from the London Tea Co. are to be had here.

“It is an enjoyable process for us to create a comfortable space for our friends and neighbors to enjoy fresh, nutritious and delicious food in a great atmosphere. The idea of having this space is so people can bring their kids and enjoy a great meal together,” says Pickthall, who also volunteers as secretary for the Orinda Farmers’ Market.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Diane Eames (L) and Donna Pickthall recently opened the café Genuine Goodness in the former Chillers location.

“We buy from Orinda Farmers’ Market as much as possible and also obtain veggies from Imperfect Produce Company in Emeryville. We carry Voila Juice Company, which is based in Oakland.” Having obtained a cottage food operator’s license, Pickthall previously sold her baked goods at the Orinda Farmers’ Market under the name, “Something for the Weekend.”

Before establishing Genuine Goodness, Eames was in advertising and marketing, and has always been passionate about cooking. Eames’ husband, Hap, is in marketing and the couple has two children. Tate attends the eighth grade at Orinda Intermediate School and Archer is a fourth-grader at Glorietta Elementary School. “We are a big baseball family. Both of our sons play baseball, and the Giants are our team,” says Eames.

Pickthall originally hails from England, previously working with disadvantaged children in her home country. Her husband, Rob Smith, is an engineer. They have two children. Their eldest Joe attends the seventh grade at Orinda Intermediate and Edie is a fourth-grader at Glorietta. Donna established the first Little Free Library registered in Lamorinda at her home and Genuine Goodness offers another Little Free Library on-site.

“I like the fact that everything is fresh and organic here, as well as the variety of offerings,” says Orindan Jenifer Balducci. “With the menu changing every day, it is always a fun experience. It is nice to have to-go food that is healthy.”

Genuine Goodness offers group catering with 48 hours advance notice and local delivery. Open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit the web site at www.gengoodness.com. Pickthall and Eames can be reached at 925-317-3348 or by email at donna@gengoodness.com.

Prime Vintage Realty

After establishing Prime Vintage Realty in 2007 - specializing in Lamorinda real estate and offering property management services – owners Rodney and Ursula Lal moved to their Orinda home in 2008. Today, the firm has an additional five real estate



VALERIE HOTZ

Rodney Lal established Prime Vintage Realty in 2007 along with his wife Ursula.

agents serving clients.

“As a local agent and real estate broker, I enjoy helping clients enhance their property before marketing it,” says Rodney Lal. “This includes making minor repairs and helping to stage the residence so they can get top dollar for their property. I am able to refer them to reliable vendors who specialize in home repair.”

Lal first became a broker in 1989, affiliated with Great Western Real Estate. He previously owned a franchise of Prudential California Realty in Pittsburgh before establishing Prime Vintage Realty. During this time, he worked in fixed asset accounting for Chevron, taking an early retirement in 2000 after 20 years with the company.

“I enjoy working with investors who are interested in purchasing properties and help manage the property so they have a positive cash flow,” says Lal. “One of my strengths is the fact that I have investment property and can help clients save money when undertaking repairs, from foundation to roof.”

Lal maintains it is a good time to take advantage of low interest rates and invest in real estate. “The market in Lamorinda has stabilized and it is a great time to buy,” he says. He also maintains an office in Antioch.

Both originally from Fiji, the couple has been married for 34 years. They have two adult children. Their daughter Nicole is a

[SEE BUZZ page 27]

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