

THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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Local Athletes Bring Home Gold

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Orinda residents Dr. Frank and Sev Schnugg experienced the thrill of a life time in August: watching their 19 year old granddaughter Maggie Steffens and her elder sister Jessica (25) bring home Olympic gold in Women's Water Polo.

The Steffen sisters were joined in the water by Orinda's Heather Petri, no stranger to the Olympic Women's Water Polo. Four years ago, the Steffens grandparents watched Jessica and Petri win silver in the Beijing Olympics.

"In 2012, Maggie and her teammates wanted to win the gold for those girls who had been denied and were still on the present team," said Sev, recalling Petri's initial struggle in the sport. Petri attended Miramonte High School, where she played on the boys' team before becoming a founding member of the high school's successful girls' water polo team.

A four-time Olympian, Petri was a member of the very first U.S. women's Olympic water polo team in 2000, paving the way for Steffen and other women. The Women's Water Polo team has medaled throughout Petri's Olympic career, garnering Silver (2000 and 2008) and Bronze (2004).

The Schnuggs, who have 13 children, enjoy a lineage which includes many athletes. "We have a large family, and many of them were athletes during their high school and college years," said Sev, adding her son "John Schnugg played for Cal when they won the NCAA tournament." Maggie and Jessica's aunts, Jane Allen and Patty Trenkwalder, are members of the award winning Soda Mom Women's Water Polo team (see page 9).

"Our son Peter (a Miramonte High School graduate) was on the National team during the years that President Carter was in office, but that was the year that the games were cancelled," Sev explained, adding that [SEE OLYMPICS page 8]



Maggie Steffens, the youngest member of the USA Women's Water Polo team, helped the team reap gold in London. GETTY IMAGES

Pulte Takes Ownership

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

On June 25, 2012 Pulte Homes took ownership of the old Pine Grove Middle School site. The next day the Orinda Union School District received a boost to its bank account totaling \$19.5 million. This major step in a transaction that began in 2004 will initiate major changes for the City of Orinda, the school district, and the citizens and students in town.

Asked if this property sale is a win-win situation, Supt. Joe Jaconette said, "I think so."

The City of Orinda will gain 73 new

homes on this 3.1 acre site – 65 detached single-family and eight duplex homes in a village atmosphere within walking distance of downtown and BART. Orinda Union School District will have the money to implement its "Master Facilities Plan" created three years ago to repair and upgrade its school campuses, and in 18 to 24 months will move in to a brand new two story district office building built by Pulte. The building is part of the purchase agreement and will be on the same site as the present offices. The new homes will increase the tax base for the City, and the schoolchildren and citizens will have a new athletic field [SEE PULTE page 24]

Classic Car Show Roars Into Orinda

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

September 22 marks the Orinda Classic Car Show's 8th anniversary of bringing classic and historical vehicles to Orinda's streets. There will be over 180 American and European classic and exotic vehicles displayed, as well as an exhibit of Ford

Model A's and a Carroll Shelby tribute display of Shelby Mustangs and Cobras. Vehicles will range from the 1920s through the classics of the '50s and '60s and will also include modern exotic vehicles. This free event is presented by Orinda Motors.

Chip Herman, the event founder, said, "This year's show will again display classics 'on the green' thanks to the Orinda Country Club's support opening its beautiful 16th golf fairway for displays. The [SEE CARS page 8]



Chip Herman welcomes a Shelby replica at last year's car show. DAVID DIERKS

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THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

TIME TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL



Tom Westlake

Growing up the month of September always had a pall surrounding it. It was that dreaded month that saw the end of summer vacation and the increase of Back-to-School sales. It was the month that saw the days of precious liberty slip away, day by day with the sure and certain knowledge that it would be replaced by a more regimented schedule. Classrooms, teachers of various temperament, books; these were the stuff of nightmares when compared with the rapidly diminishing days of leisure.

Such, fortunately, is not the case for those students who make film their course of study. For them, there is no vacation and many would eschew it were it offered. So let us look, dear students, at our curriculum for this month and please, feel free to take notes for there may be an exam later.

Starting off will be the two professors emeritus Efi Lubliner and JoAlice Canterbury with an offering that ties in with the recent Olympic fever, *Montevideo, Taste*

of a Dream. Set in the lovingly reproduced 1930s, this 2010 Serbian film is about soccer and the love and passion the game inspires, not only for the players but for just about everybody else. What might separate this film from all of the others of its ilk is that the time period itself almost serves as a character. Such things as electricity, automobiles, radio and, most especially, the music, serves as more than a mere backdrop; it completes the picture, making the struggles and conflicts all that much more convincing. Students are encouraged to immerse themselves in this world and can do so at the Orinda campus – I mean Orinda Theatre – all during the week of the September 14.

As long as we're traveling in time, let's go back to 1969 to meet up with *Buch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. This landmark film starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford breathed new life into the Western genre by making it very much a product of

[SEE REEL page 10]

Chinese Artists Look Forward/Backward Simultaneously

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Gallery is proud to present the works of "Three Eight Art Studio" during the month of September. The group formed five years ago when they discovered their shared Chinese heritage and love of art. Come meet them on September 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the artists' reception where light refreshments will be served. The entire gallery will be filled with diverse works including watercolors, acrylic paintings, calligraphy on mulberry paper, pastel paintings, ceramics and wood carvings.

Chinese artists like Cai Guo-Qiang have garnered world-wide attention. According to Ann Malherbe in her article "*L'art volcanique de Cai Guo-Qiang*," in *Artpress*, "One could also mention the artist's pyrotechnic contributions to the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing (*Five Olympic Rings*, and *Closing Rainbow*, an aerial of pink sprays)." Guo-Qiang sums up his bio thus: "I am eternally optimistic – I am Chinese."

Lucia Tsang, organizer of the show, says that "For Chinese artists, it's important to

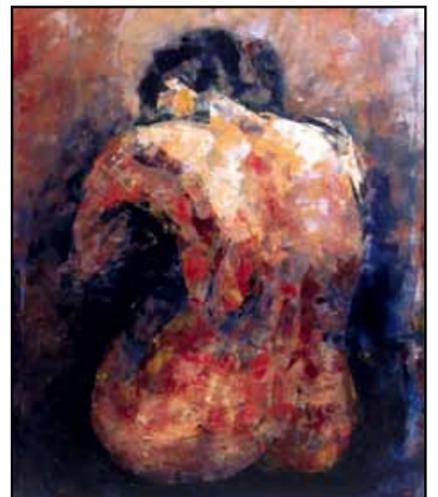


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Doris Chen's acrylic on canvas entitled "Blue Melody" will be shown at the gallery in September.

have three eyes wide open – two eyes looking forward to the future and one eye looking back at 5000 years of cultural heritage." Unlike previous shows where themes were carefully chosen, this time they decided to go "free in any direction." They meet monthly to share ideas and experiences and attend exhibits and shows together. At least once a year, they exhibit their work. Tsang lives in Walnut Creek, Doris and Wanghai Chen live in Berkeley, Shunghwa Chow lives in Antioch and Paul Fan lives in Sacramento. Several group members are professional artists, maintain studios, and teach art classes.

Members of the group will exhibit the following works, among others: Doris

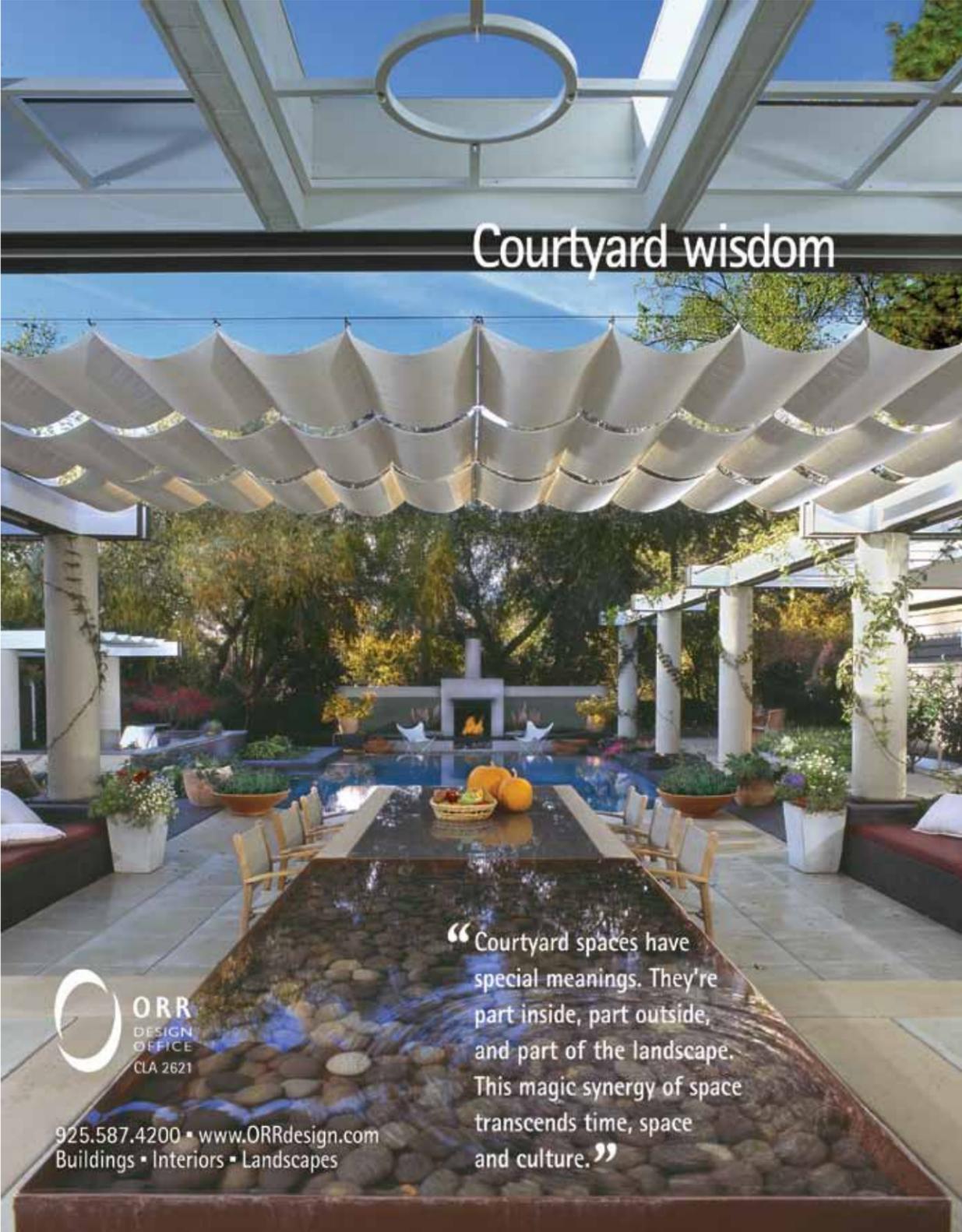


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Beichen Li will exhibit her acrylic on canvas entitled "Figure" for the September show.

Chen, *Blue Melody*, 12" x 16" acrylic on canvas and *Kitten*, 12" x 9" pastel on colored paper; Wanghai Chen, *Structure*, 16" x 20" acrylic on canvas; Lucia Tsang, *Blue Teapot Set*, 12" x 12" x 5" clay and *Green Teapot*, 5" x 7" x 10" clay; and Beichen Li, *Figure*, 24" x 30" acrylic on canvas. Other members contributing works are Paul Fan, wood carvings; Mei-Yu Lo, acrylic paint-

[SEE GALLERY page 10]



Courtyard wisdom

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President Support Orinda's Seniors and the OA at the Classic Car Show



Bill Waterman

September is here, and there are several events coming up that bear mention:

■ First, on behalf of the Orinda Association, I invite everyone to please drop by the 8th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show, on Saturday September 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Orinda Village. Admission to the event is free, and spectators can look over the more than 175 vintage and modern cars and motorcycles at Orinda Motors in the Orinda Village and on the 16th fairway of the Orinda Country Club. You may even ride in any of the vehicles as part of the "Parade of Classic Cars" at the conclusion of the event. But even if you aren't a car nut, your support of the Car Show is important: show proceeds benefit a number of Orinda non-profits, including the OA's "Seniors

community at the same time. Tickets are available online at the Chamber's website, orindachamber.org.

■ Finally, the OA will again sponsor a public forum for the three city council candidates – incumbents Steve Glazer and Victoria Smith, and challenger Linda Delehunt. Details and the date will be in the October issue, but it will be in the second week of October. Attendees can direct questions to each candidate that night. With the City's half cent sales tax on the November ballot and with downtown development a key issue, the council candidates will explain their respective positions on these and other significant issues.

See you at the Car Show!



DAVID DIERKS

This 1956 Ford Fairlane was in last year's Classic Car Show at Orinda Motors.

Around Town" driving program. What is the big deal about a seniors drive program you ask? Here are the numbers:

- ✓ Seniors Around Town (SAT) now provide rides to over 120 seniors each month;
- ✓ SAT currently has over 42 active volunteer drivers;
- ✓ SAT's volunteer drivers donate over 100 hours a month and drive up to 1100 miles in a single month!
- ✓ SAT has two part-time staff members that coordinate and administer the program.

So as you can see, your support of the Car Show provides the critical financial support needed to keep up with the ever-growing demand for the program's services.

■ Second, on Tuesday, September 18 please attend the Orinda Restaurant Tour, which runs from 5 to 9:30 pm. Your doing so is a win-win: you can try out new and established restaurants in one evening and support a big part of the Orinda business

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



Valerie Hotz first joined *The Orinda News* in 2000 as the Assistant Editor and news writer. After a hiatus, she returned as the Business Buzz columnist in 2004. Valerie is the executive director of the Cystinosis Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization that she and her family established in 1983 to serve individuals and families affected by this rare disease.

Orinda's #1 Source for News!

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

Your Membership in the OA Makes a Difference!

If you're not yet a member of the Orinda Association, please join us today. Your support helps the OA provide transportation for seniors (Seniors Around Town), volunteer opportunities for all ages through the Orinda Volunteer Center, publishes the free, monthly, in-depth coverage of news related to all Orindans with *The Orinda News*, presents the July 4th parade and celebration, and hosts public forums such as candidates night.

- Annual Membership categories include:
- Seniors \$30
 - Household \$40
 - Non-Profit \$50
 - Business \$75
 - Silver \$100
 - Gold \$250

It's never been easier. Simply go to www.orindaassociation.org and click the big orange button, or you can mail your check to The Orinda Association, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563.

Please consider becoming an OA member today and join hundreds of other Orinda families and businesses supporting the many programs and events offered by the The Orinda Association. The OA is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.



The Orinda Association

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Signs of Fall



BARBARA KOBSAR

If you look at the farmers' market very closely you'll see a change in the air. Summer's bounty of stone fruits, tomatoes and melons continue to fill the stands, but there are signs of fall tucked into the displays. Pears, peppers and apples are just some of the fresh picked new harvest produce you'll find arriving at the market.

A profusion of eggplants comes your way this month at the market including the stunning displays at the Ibarra and Ledesma Farm stands. Several different varieties join the large, pear-shaped deep purple eggplant found year round. All have the characteristic cream colored spongy flesh with tiny, brownish seeds, but the smaller versions offer a milder, less bitter taste and a tender skin.

Striking colors and intriguing shapes are eggplants most appealing virtues, but that sponge-like texture of the flesh lends itself extremely well to absorbing stronger flavors while providing a creamy base. Eggplant is an essential ingredient in Asian and Mediterranean dishes such as French

Ratatouille and Greek Moussaka, where it combines so well with onions, garlic, tomato, olive oil and herbs. Grilling is an excellent alternative – use small varieties of eggplant, prick with a fork or slice in half lengthwise, rub with a little olive oil and grill over medium heat for 10 to 12 minutes, turning once.

Small, narrow, slightly sweet tasting Japanese eggplant is now readily available. Other Asian types to look for are the Thai round purple, Chinese long white, and a small, bitter Asian orange eggplant that is appreciated in pickles and curries. A favorite European variety, Rosa Bianca, is prized for its particularly mild, tender flesh and its tear drop shape wrapped in a pinky-lavender to soft white colored skin.

Despite their sturdy appearance, eggplants bruise easily and deteriorate quickly. Use as soon as possible after purchase for the mildest flavor – they turn bitter with age.

Peeling or degorging the eggplant is not necessary when the fruit is young and fresh.

Xenophon Receives 100+ Rating from PATH



JIM PIRE

Tai Yong, with Xenophon walkers, recently took part in Xenophon's horse show. PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) recently visited Xenophon for its five-year accreditation and certification inspection. Xenophon passed with a 100+ rating for safety, facility setup, and quality of instruction. PATH even discovered new safety techniques utilized by Xenophon that it plans to implement with other PATH certified centers.

Cut more mature eggplant into one half inch cubes or slices, sprinkle with salt and drain in a colander for thirty minutes. Then squeeze or press out the excess moisture-this provides a better base and reduces the amount of oil absorbed during cooking.

Okra is one of those love-it-or-not vegetables. Once cut, okra releases a viscous substance that's valuable as a thickening agent in Cajun gumbos but is also undesirable to some when serving it as a hot vegetable on its own.

What okra lacks as a vegetable to some it makes up for in garden appeal. Okra grows on large 4 to 5 foot, erect plants with tropical looking leaves and eye-catching yellow, hollyhock-like shaped flowers. Ridged, tapered okra pods appear where the leaf stem joins the main stem and are best harvested at the tender 2 to 4 inch stage.

To prepare okra for cooking, wash well and trim off the stem end carefully to avoid piercing the pod and releasing the juices. Drop in a large pot of gently boiling water and cook for 5 to 7 minutes, depending on size, or until just tender. Drain and top with a little melted butter and a squeeze of fresh

lemon or cool, cut into one quarter inch slices and combine with chopped tomatoes and cucumbers.

Other favorites to look for in September:

Grapes are also enjoying the spotlight this month – Thompson seedless, Summer Royals, Muscat and Crimson grapes are sweet and delicious.



BARBARA KOBSAR

Beautifully colored eggplant are plentiful this time of the year.

Fresh seafood is plentiful at the "From the Sea to You" stand. Check out the wild salmon fillets, snapper, sole, oysters and tuna.

Padron peppers from Dik Archer from American Canyon.

Pomegranates start to make their appearance.

Tomatoes are still plentiful and ready to enjoy while you can!

The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park and Rite Aid. For more information visit the website at www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

Barbara Kobsar, *The Seasoned Shopper*, can be reached at cotkitchen@aol.com.

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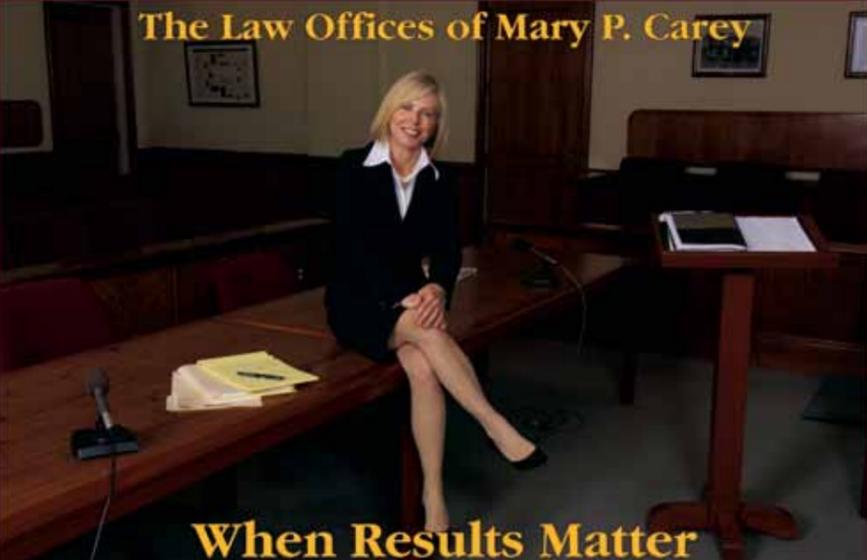
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CAR TIME / MOFD

CAR TIME

Avoiding Car Problems

by JOHN VANEK



We hear some interesting comments when cars get towed into our shop. We hear things like "This has ruined my whole day!" or "I could have been killed." Car trouble will disrupt your life and is very frustrating. Can it be avoided? It is true that some problems are unavoidable. Some components will not last the life of a car. Something to think about if your vehicle has 100,000 miles or more. Most failures, however, can be avoided.

The best medicine is the preventative kind. It is possible that early detection can prevent failure and eventual break down. Having your trusty car care provider inspect your vehicle regularly will help. At least once a year a thorough inspection should be performed. Under hood and under car inspections including belts, hoses, battery, brakes and suspension should be performed regularly. Often a small coolant leak can turn into a steaming mess if left undetected. Being part of the vehicle's car care process will help your ultimate success. The owner operator needs to pay attention to the needs of the car. Your vehicle will have an owner's manual that features a maintenance guide. This chart will outline the maintenance intervals as set by the manufacturer. Modern vehicles have long intervals between milestone maintenance like spark plug replacement. That does not mean that the vehicle gets neglected. There will be interval inspections listed that should be followed. Some manufactures even suggest replacing components like oxygen sensors and key fob batteries as a part of specific service intervals. The owner/operator of

the vehicle is the only one that can report problems noticed from the drivers seat such as noises, vibrations, smells and any dash warning light. The early detection process starts with the driver.

When a vehicle has high mileage, it is vulnerable to mechanical failures. It can be difficult to predict random part failures. There are some pattern failures on some vehicles that can be predictable. For instance, Chevy trucks like Silverados, Suburbans, Yukons etc. are known for fuel pump failures. Those GM vehicles with over 100,000 miles are subject to possible failure. Replacing components for preventative purposes will put you a step ahead for the reliability of your vehicle. A consultation with your car care provider is the first place to start.

Lastly, please do not drive around with a check engine light on for several months and bring the car in for a smog test the day before the smog is due. Check engine lights are there to inform you of a malfunction and should not be ignored. Please do not bring your vehicle in for a check up the day before you are going on vacation. It is always best to give yourself some cushion in case repairs and upkeep are required. Performing regular service on your vehicle and always giving plenty of time to do so will help eliminate the chaos associated with last minute car problems. Help your car care provider by bringing in your car as scheduled on time with gas in the tank. Make yourself available when your car is in the shop. Communication is crucial to swift repair.

MOFD Concerned about CCCFPD Station Closure

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) is closely monitoring the impact of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's (CCCFPD) temporary closure of Station 16. On June 20, CCCFPD closed Station 16 in Lafayette on Los Arabis Road due to a rodent infestation and possible mold contamination. The crew and engine from Station 16 were relocated to Station 15 at 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

MOFD and CCCFPD both participate in automatic aid agreements. This means that the closest resource from either agency will respond to reported incidents. MOFD Division Chief Stephen Healy said, "Auto-aid agreements are rarely equal in their distribution. They are created because political boundaries are irregular, fire station locations are not always distributed evenly, and the availability of resources is dynamic. To date, both agencies have always provided aid when the closest available resource is available to respond."

During the year from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, MOFD responded to CCCFPD events an average of 14 times per month. During that period, CCCFPD responded to MOFD events an average of 25 times per month. "The vast majority of CCCFPD's responses into MOFD were to fire alarms at St. Mary's College from Fire Station 17. In kind, the vast majority of MOFD's responses into CCCFPD were Battalion-4 and Engine-43 responding to a variety of calls in Lafayette, Walnut Creek, and Concord," said Healy.

Since June 20, 2012, the MOFD has responded to CCCFPD events an average of 16 times per month, an increase of 13

percent. During that same time, CCCFPD responded to MOFD events an average of 21 times per month, a decrease of 16 percent. Healy said, "Because the closure was recent, the data available to study this issue is limited, but the trend indicates that under the current agreement, MOFD will provide an increasing number of responses, while receiving less."

CCCFPD recently altered its agreement with the East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCE). CCE closed three fire stations, and CCCFPD modified the agreement to reflect "like resources." Therefore, CCCFPD will only send CCE up to three resources, which is equivalent to what they can now receive from CCE. "If MOFD alters it's auto-aid agreement with CCCFPD to a 'like resources' agreement, similar to the CCE/CCCFPD agreement, response times for greater alarm fires will significantly increase because the next closest resources will not be called to fill out the balance for the alarms," said Healy.

MOFD staff will continue to monitor the situation and make recommendations if the impact of the station closure warrants action. "The MOFD and CCCFPD have been good neighbors for many years, and this mutually beneficial agreement is worth protecting. CCCFPD will always be able to send more resources to the MOFD than the MOFD can send to them," said Healy.

For more information, visit www.mofd.org and www.cccfpd.org.

MOFD Board Meetings

September 5 at 7 p.m.

September 19 at 7 p.m.

Go to www.mofd.org for locations.

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Letters to the Editor

Rift Over Orinda Road Tax

A rift has developed between Gov. Jerry Brown and Orinda Mayor, Steve Glazer, according to the *Los Angeles Times* (July 30). The rift is significant because Glazer managed Brown's 2010 election campaign and is, according to the *Times*, Brown's "top fund raiser."

In the November 2012 election, Glazer is supporting a one-half percentage point increase in the Orinda sales tax. The Orinda City Council, which includes Glazer, voted unanimously on July 17 to put the Orinda sales-tax hike on the November ballot.

For the same election, Brown wants a one-quarter point increase in the sales tax. If both measures pass, the Orinda sales tax will go from its current 8.25 percent to 9.0 percent.

Apparently, Brown is worried that Orinda's tax measure will jeopardize the governor's own tax plan. According to the *Times*: "... Brown's clout apparently doesn't stretch to Orinda, where the City Council voted unanimously to ask voters to raise local sales taxes to help raise money for road improvements."

Currently, California has the highest statutory state-sales-tax rate in the nation. The Orinda and Brown tax plans will make the sale-tax tax burden even higher. The hike in the Orinda sales tax will go for the repair of Orinda's bad roads.

Brown's plan will give California the highest top personal state income tax bracket in the nation: 13.3 percent. Currently, California's current top bracket of 9.3 percent begins at an annual income level of \$48,000.

Orinda's roads do need repair, so the Orinda tax plan may produce higher home values. The Brown plan will only make California less competitive with such states as Texas.

Voters should soundly reject Brown's tax measure. Perhaps Glazer should tell the governor that California should be lowering taxes statewide to create more jobs and investment in the Golden State.

—Richard Colman

Let's Really Support our Merchants

Dave Sullivan made some good observations in his recent letter to the editor. I particularly share his interest in supporting Orinda's local merchants. I believe we can do much more as a community, however, to enable them to prosper and to provide Orinda's shoppers with a better experience. This does include encouraging our commercial property owners to offer more attractive, up-to-date store facilities that are sized appropriately for current tenant requirements. This can happen over time.

The view that all a property owner gets out of making improvements is a higher tax

bill is a commonly held misconception. A property that is attractively developed (or in Orinda's case redeveloped) can compete successfully for the more productive merchants in the area, even after a reassessment and resulting higher tax bill. Merchants looking for new locations love the demographics Orinda has to offer. What is missing is attractive space to lease. One Camino Sobrante was redesigned and redeveloped by a new owner, marketed and leased by a professional retail firm with rents at the high side of Orinda's market.

The financial model of a successful retail shopping center involves attracting more productive merchants that produce higher sales volumes and thus are able to pay higher rents that more than cover current real estate taxes and operating expenses. The merchant does better, the owner does better, the city does better in terms of sales and real estate taxes collected, and the patrons enjoy a better shopping and dining experience. Lafayette's La Fiesta Square and The Mercantile are prime examples of attractively designed projects, marketed by retail specialists under a coordinated leasing plan. These properties produce the highest sales per square foot at the highest rents in Lamorinda, with zero vacancy.

Leasing specialists tell us that Theatre Square's past struggles had nothing to do with rents that were above market. The real problem was previous owners' inability to qualify prospective tenants that fit into a merchandising plan necessary for an interior mall that Orinda shoppers originally found unappealing. The present owner has successfully produced an appropriate tenant mix combined with a successful marketing strategy. Theatre Square is now becoming a vibrant retail, restaurant and entertainment complex that draws from the greater Lamorinda trade area. Orinda is the better for it. Similar performance would be welcome on the Orinda Village side.

— Tom Trowbridge

Thanks For Support Of Downtown Vote

Thanks to all who wrote letters on behalf of my Op-Ed (*Orinda News*, June 2012); there were many supportive responses in the July and August issues.

Our 17,000 residents, not five city council members, should decide the direction and height of Orinda's downtown by public referendum.

Orinda Vision's Tom Trowbridge responded with an Op-Ed (*July 2012*). He stated the "great majority of Orindans" support his plans. Without a vote, how does he know this? He demeaned those who want to keep the height limit at 35'. (Is the city already in violation by approving Eden Housing at almost 50'?)

The Vision Group has been holding



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private meetings around town; it would be great if they shared their proposals with everyone in a public setting.

In his July letter to the editor, fellow Vi-

sion member Pete Hasselman ridiculed an audience member who might have shared incorrect information at the 3/27 council

[SEE LETTERS page 24]

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

RESTAURANT TOUR / GOLF

Orinda Chamber's Restaurant Tour Centers on Theatre Square This Year

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

San Francisco's East Bay area "Foodies" will have the opportunity to indulge in the epicurean delights of some of Orinda's best restaurants at the culinary event of the year, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce's 5th Annual Restaurant Tour on Tuesday, September 18, from 5-9:30 p.m.

"This is a terrific opportunity to assist a great cause," said Orinda Chamber of Commerce board member Sylvia Jorgensen, adding that money raised from the event is used in "supporting special programs and non-profits right here in Orinda."

According to Jorgensen, the Chamber is making some significant changes they

believe "will enhance the evening and bring many more potential customers to Orinda and bring networking and other positive exposure to our members."

"Overall, we are trying to make the event more fun and offer the people attending more diversity in food, wine and entertainment," said co-owner of Table 24 and Barbacoa, Victor Ivry, a board member for the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and chair of the Orinda Restaurant Tour (ORT). "The ORT will be centralized this year in the Theatre Square area of downtown Orinda to give the event a more cohesive feel."

According to Ivry, the event will feature a live band and a dance floor. Five wineries will be hosting wine tasting during the event. "We will also have a live cooking



SALLY HOGARTY

Theatre Square will be the hub once again for the Chamber's Restaurant Tour.

demonstration by a local chef," said Ivry, adding that the tour will also have "an art show featuring 30 local artists, free 10 minute massages and free valet parking."

Tickets for the September 18 event are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Educational Foundation of Orinda, a non-profit organization providing financial support for quality education in Orinda's public schools. Reservations may be made in at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce web site, OrindaChamber.org, or by calling 254-3909.

The restaurant tour is part of the Chamber of Commerce's "Celebrate Orinda in September" event series, which includes the Classic Car Show Weekend to be held

September 22. On Sunday, the Orinda Theatre will host "Speed on the Screen," with proceeds benefitting the Lamorinda Theatres Foundation. Screenings of *Bullitt* will be held at 5:30 and 7:45 p.m., and all tickets are \$10.

"The movie is perfect for the Orinda Classic Car Show," said Chip Herman, founder of the car show, explaining the film contains "fast cars and is San Francisco based and has Orinda references. A special exhibit of *Bullitt* chase scene cars will be in front of the theater that night."

For more information about the Orinda Classic Car Show, "Speed on Screen," or to register your car or motorcycle, go to www.orindacarshow.com.

Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament A Success

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

On July 23, the Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament hosted 88 local golfers and raised money for local charities. The Everyday Heroes honored this year were three Orinda teens: Hallie Pritchard, Anna Wemer, and Dylan Watson. Pritchard captured the "real estate burglar" on video, which lead to the arrest and recovery of stolen property. Wemer reported an in progress burglary in Orinda which lead to the capture of a prolific house burglar. Watson performed CPR on an elderly man he found in distress at the Lafayette Reservoir until paramedics arrived. The three teens were also honored at the August 21 Orinda City Council Meeting.

At the tournament, awards were given to the three top-finishing teams and the

last place (most honest) team. A multiple hole-in-one contest, sponsored by Heller Jewelers, gave players a chance to win a Rolex watch or a new set of clubs. Other contests included long drive, most accurate drive, and closest to the pin and long put competitions.

Proceeds from the event were donated to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF). Orinda 4th of July Parade, Orinda Idol, Spirit Van for Orinda Seniors, Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra, Orinda Art in Public Places, Youth Programs, Drama and Concerts in the Parks, and Orinda in Action Community Service Day are just a few of the community programs that the OCF helps.

For more information and to register for the tournament, visit www.everydayheroes.golfreg.com.



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FILM / AWARDS

1930's Glamor with Serbian Film *Montevideo: Taste of a Dream* at Orinda Theatre

By BEAU BEHAN
Contributing Writer

Serbia's entry to the most recent 84th Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film is *Montevideo: Taste of a Dream*, which is based on an entertaining book by Vladimir Stankovic. The film appeals to several different types of viewers: those who love 1930's glamor and sports fans who love to cheer on the underdog. Director Dragan Bjelogric has brilliantly captured the action and the time period by using sepia-tinted film resulting in mesmerizing camera shots.

Narrated through the eyes of a crippled orphan, Stanoje (Predrag Vasic), the film chronicles the humble beginnings of future sports hero, Tirke (Milos Bikovic), from his working-class neighborhood to the heights of the prestigious national football (soccer)

team. Undeniably, the road to fame has its share of misfortunes, especially, when the Croats boycott the national team leaving the Yugoslavian football federation without any team representation in the 1930's World Cup in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The screenplay successfully captures the importance of harmony in a community as evidenced by the uniting of Serbian rivalries to pursue a national football team. The film also shows one character, an Orthodox Jew, becoming an important member of the community despite the growth of anti-Semitism throughout Europe at that time. Some might consider this film to be too long for its own good, but I beg to differ. I found this movie a delicious treat.

The International Film Showcase brings this delightful film to the Orinda Theatre the week of September 14. Go to www.lfef.org for exact dates and times.

Garden Lights Landscape Wins Sweepstakes Honor at Annual CLCA Chapter Awards

Steve Lambert of Garden Lights Landscape Development, received an award for six entries in this year's "Beautification Awards" presented July 13, 2012 in Walnut Creek by the CLCA's (California Landscape Contractors Association) East Bay Chapter. The awards earned by Garden Lights were for the following:

Award	Category	Project
Sweepstakes	Best of the Best Residential Design Build	McCaffrie Residence, Orinda
First Place	Large Residential Design/Build Installation	Mani Residence, Lafayette
Second Place	Large Residential Design/Build Installation	Sorenson Residence, Orinda
First Place	Custom Residential Design/Build	Wang Residence, Moraga
First Place	Renovation Design/Build	Glick Residence, Orinda
First Place	Special Effects Lighting	Sullivan Residence, Piedmont

◆ CARS from page 1

car show is part of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce 'Celebrate September in Orinda' event series including The Orinda Restaurant Tour on Tuesday, September 18; our pre-show party, 'Dancing With The Cars' on Friday, September 21; and 'Speed on the Screen' special-feature movie night at the classic art deco Orinda Theatre on Sunday, September 23 with two showings of *Bullitt* at 5:30 and 7:45 p.m."

Car show events begin at 7 p.m. Friday night, September 21, with the ticketed event "Dancing with the Cars." Avenida de Orinda will be tented for a sneak peek of the next day's car show. This year the pre-party will have a James Bond 007 theme including two shaken not stirred "Cartini" bars as well as a special exhibit of James Bond cars that were the most memorable from those classic 007 films. There will be hosted cocktails, dinner, music and a live auction. Attire is casual; Black Tie with shorts is optional. The presenting sponsor for "Dancing with the Cars" is Mechanics Bank. Proceeds of the event will benefit the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO).

The next day, the Classic Car Show will be free to view from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It takes place at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way, as well as on Avenida de Orinda. This year, the car show will again expand onto the Orinda Country Club's 16th fairway. Herman said, "There will again be the flavor of 'Pebble Beach' in Orinda." Owners will be on hand to answer questions about their vehicles and to explain what it takes

to keep a classic in tip-top shape.

Those who make a donation of \$10 will be able to ride in one of the cars during the parade at the close of the show. Proceeds benefit Seniors Around Town, a senior ride program sponsored by the Orinda Association. Last year's event raised \$45,000, which benefited Seniors Around Town, EFO, Orinda Historical Society, and other local charities.

On Sunday, September 23, the Orinda Theatre will host a special "Speed on the Screen" movie night with two showings of the classic Steve McQueen movie *Bullitt* at 5:30 and 7:45 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and proceeds of this event benefit the Lamorinda Theatres Foundation. Derek Zemrak of the Orinda Theatre will speak before each showing to point out what interesting elements to look out for in the film. A special exhibit of *Bullitt* chase scene cars will be displayed in front of the theater that night. "Everyone who enters a car in the car show will get a free ticket to the movie and tickets will also be sold at the door. Adult beverages will be served during the movie as a part of your ticket price. The movie is perfect for the Orinda Classic Car Show... Fast Cars, with SF based and Orinda references in it," said Herman.

For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com. Those interested in displaying a vehicle can register online. Registration fees are \$60 for cars and \$35 for motorcycles. Registration fees are tax-deductible and proceeds from vehicle registration benefit the Seniors Around Town program.

◆ OLYMPICS from page 1

Peter played at UC Berkeley with Maggie and Jessica's father, Carlos, "so when their daughters were growing up, they were introduced to the game."

Though it is her first Olympic competition, Maggie, the youngest player on the team, led all scorers at the Olympics with 21 goals in six games. She scored five of

the eight goals in the team's first ever gold medal win over Spain on August 9.

With a long line of athletes in the family, the Schnuggs may have other opportunities to cheer grandchildren, and great grandchildren on to the Olympics. Jessica and Maggie have "many cousins who have also played water polo," Sev said, concluding, "We are very blessed."

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WATER POLO / WRITING CLASS

Sign Up for OYA's Water Polo This Fall

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

"It's a family affair," says Orinda Youth Association (OYA) water polo coach Noel Murphy, who will be joined by son Max (a Miramonte High School freshman) and daughter Kelly in this season's coed water polo program. The brother-sister combo has coached for three years in the program, which was founded by Murphy and his brother Matt in 2004.

Murphy has been involved in the sport for most of his life. He excelled on the Miramonte High School water polo team and was recruited to UC Berkeley's team, where he went on to win the 1984 NCAA Championship. He then played a season professionally in Australia and for the past 25 years has been playing with the oldest athletic club in the USA, The Olympic Club, in San Francisco. There, he has won 12 USA Open & World Master Titles and been elected into the Olympic Club Hall of Fame in 2007 along with his brothers, Pat and Matt.

Along with Matt, Murphy founded the Orinda water polo program in 2004. It is

designed to teach the fundamentals of water polo to children from kindergarten through sixth grade.

Growing up in Orinda, Murphy enjoys "giving back to the sport that gave me so much. I do this for the love of the sport and local community," he said, adding, "What I have learned the past 25 years coaching water polo is that this is a team sport, where you need guidance, discipline, commitment, motivation, all while keeping it simple and enjoying the sport."

Playing water polo, young people have a chance to play a sport "that builds character, unity and teamwork. These unique traits will last forever and help you in the workplace later on in life. It takes a team sport like water polo to help a team complete a complex task or project. Water polo gives you these skills to succeed in life. Once you understand teamwork, then you will have the ability later on to be successful in any endeavor," he says.

According to Murphy, the Introduction to Water Polo class is one of "the most successful beginners program in the history of Lamorinda." He estimates that "over half the local girls/boys players who started in the program go on to play in high school and collegiate levels."

The clinics are on Sundays from September 9 to October 21. Third - fifth graders play from 4 to 5 p.m., while sixth - eighth graders play from 5 to 6 p.m. For more information on OYA's fall coed water polo program hosted at Miramonte pool, visit www.cityoforinda.org or contact Troy Faulk at 253-4204 or tfaulk@cityoforinda.org. The cost for Orinda residents is \$140 and for non-resident, the fee is \$161.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Noel Murphy, coach of OYA water polo, promotes the program at local events.

Mom's Water Polo Team Honored



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Orinda City Council honored members of the **Soda Moms Women's Water Polo Club** by naming a day after each of the championship winning team members from Orinda. Residents **Meredith Rosenthal** (August 5), **Ann Bundy** (August 4), **Ann Sharf** (August 11) and **Patty Schnugg Trenkwalder** (August 12) traveled to Italy earlier this Summer where they won a silver medal in the Women's 50+ division at the FINA Masters Worlds Masters Championship. Then, in July's USA Water Polo Masters Nationals Championship, team members brought home gold in the Women's 50+ division and the bronze medal in the 40+ division.

The women's team name is derived because they practice at the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School.

Local Author Teaching at Community Center

Local author and instructor Dr. Ann Thomas returns this fall to teach her popular course "My Family Stories" at the Orinda Community Center. "It's always been the job of the family elder to pass on the family's stories to the next generation," Dr. Thomas said. "This is the class that makes it possible and fun."

The class provides participants with direction and support to transfer the important stories of a family's history from dinner conversation onto paper. "I thought I wouldn't have much to say," one of last year's participants said. "Now, it's like I could write forever."

The six-week class meets on Wednesday mornings from 10 - 11:30 a.m. beginning October 10. Enrollment is limited. For more information, call 254-2445 or go to www.cityoforinda.org.

- Linda Dezzani, Recreation Manager

Kelly Hood, MD

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◆ GALLERY from page 2

ings and pastel paintings; Shunghwa Chow, watercolors and ceramics.

Three Eight Art Studio members hope that viewers will, "Feel the beauty of life

they portray in their work." As to the value of art in our community, Tsang says, "We think art brings happiness." Stop by and see what you think! Visit the gallery during normal library hours. Call 254-2814 for more information.

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OCF Accepting Grant Applications and Sponsoring Planned Giving Forum

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) will sponsor a forum to help Orindans learn about the benefits of planned gifts for themselves, their families and their community. Orinda Attorney Paula Leibovitz Goodwin will lead this presentation on Thursday, October 11. It will begin at 7 p.m. in the Sarge Littlehale Community Room on the upper level of City Hall.

Leibovitz Goodwin will describe the strategies that can help donors make sure that programs and events in Orinda that are important to them now can continue to receive their support far into the future. Some plans can reduce estate taxes while others can eliminate capital gains taxes and produce an income stream. Donors can work with their attorney, CPA or financial advisor to help them determine the most advantageous strategy to help them realize their specific goals. For more information, go to www.orindafoundation.org.

The OCF is also accepting applications for grants to be made at the end of calendar year 2012. Non-profit organizations that have received 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS are eligible to apply for funding from the OCF. Programs or events that will be supported by a grant must benefit the Orinda community and enhance the quality of life for the residents of Orinda. A total of 13 grants worth \$38,650 were made in 2011 to support programs, events and organizations.

These grants are made possible by generous donations to the OCF by individuals, families, business partners, and the proceeds of the Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament and the NorCal Kids Triathlon.

The grant application can be downloaded at www.orindafoundation.org. Completed applications can be mailed to the OCF at P.O. Box 21, Orinda, CA 94563. Applications must be received by October 15, 2012.

Cal Professor Discusses Fish Ecology and Conservation

Stephanie Carlson, a faculty member in U.C. Berkeley's Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management will present an overview of recent research on the ecology and conservation of California's inland fishes. Sponsored by Friends of Orinda Creeks, the program takes place September 19 at 7 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library.

A common theme of Dr. Carlson's research has been the importance of maintaining a diversity of aquatic habitats, even seasonally-available ones, as a strategy for conserving native fishes in the Mediterranean climate of California.

◆ REEL from page 2

the time the film was made. Both leads, as well as the lovely Katherine Ross, were at the peak of their careers (not to mention their heartthrob potential), and this was one of the first films to use a popular song (*Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head*) as a narrative device. It could be argued that that section of the film also served as a precursor to the music video. Add to that the superior direction by George Roy Hill and the sparkling screenplay – and wordplay – by William Goldman, and you have a sure fire recipe for a memorable night at the movies. This is offered by the CAIFF Classic Film Series and will be hosted by Pete Crooks, Senior Editor of *Diablo Magazine*. It will be shown at the Rheem on Saturday, September 15 at 7 p.m.

Also at the Rheem, as part of its Green Rheem Film Series, will be *Gasland*. This 2010 documentary might be noted as having two celebrities who could not be further apart in every way in the same film. Indeed, seeing Pete Seeger and Dick Cheney share billing is a little disconcerting; but not nearly as disturbing as what the film is actually about: namely, a hydraulic drilling practice called "fracking." All across America, as well as the rest of the world, this process is becoming more and more prevalent, as is the damage it causes. Anyone who is concerned about the only home we have and what we are doing to it (perhaps beyond repair), should attend this special screening. It will show at the Rheem

on September 18 at 7 p.m.

On September 19, the Moraga Movers will present *Rebecca*. This early Hitchcock film (and his first credited American one) stars Joan Fontaine, Laurence Olivier and Judith Anderson in a psychological drama about love, loss and dark secrets, not to mention bitter memories and what has to be the least helpful servant...ever! Being as Sir Alfred is at the helm, one can also expect suspense and a twist ending that, to this day, never fails to surprise. Showing in glorious black & white, it screens at 4 p.m. at the Rheem.

Returning to the overall theme of this column, I might have implied earlier that the three most unwelcome words nowadays might be "back to school." But, an even scarier set of words would be *Mars Needs Women* (1967). Yes, students, that most rebellious of our faculty, Vanessa, the Queen of the Rheem, is back in true form with this offering at her monthly Slumber Party. This movie, which generates a 2.8 on IMDB.com, has absolutely none of the elements for a nourishing evening at the movies, though it's hard to condemn any film that has Yvonne Craig (Batgirl on the *Batman* T.V. series) and someone called Bubbles Cash on the cast list. The Rheem will be screening this movie on September 21 at 9 p.m. This will *not* count as extra credit.

Be sure to check out www.lfef.org and www.orindatheatre.com for details. Remember, stay in the dark. That's where the magic happens.

Class dismissed!



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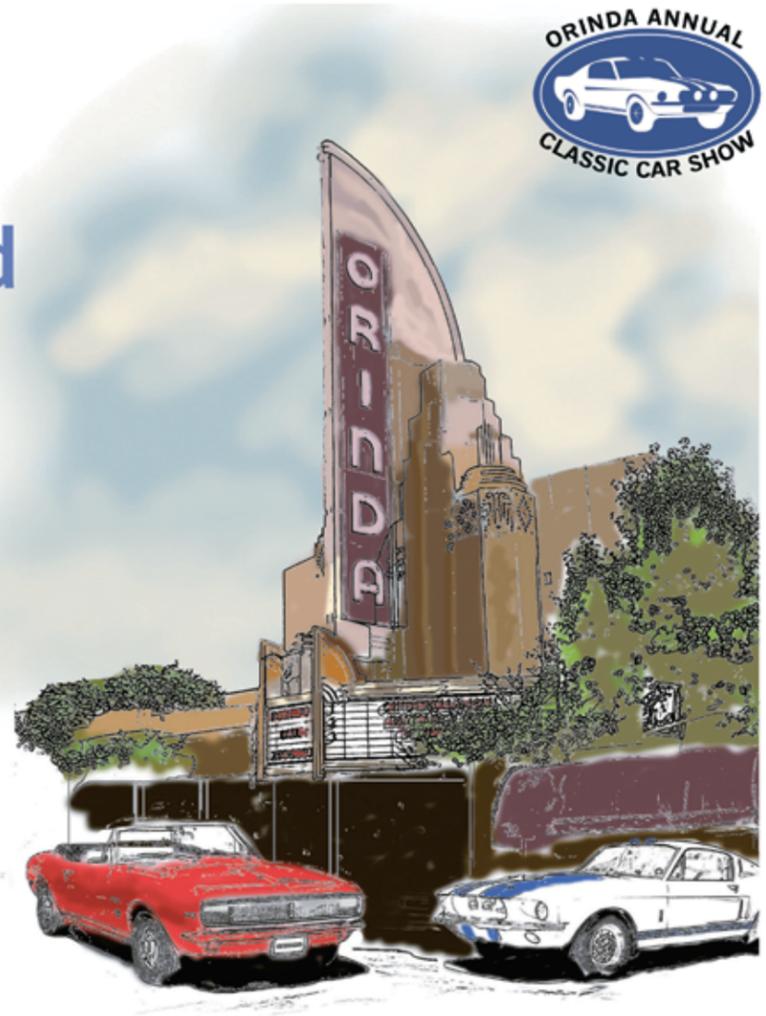


The 8th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 21st, 7pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"

Saturday,
September 22nd, 10am-2pm
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Cruise in a Classic!
Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the parade.
Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in Orinda Village on Orinda Way and the 16th fairway of Orinda Country Club
Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle! Register online today!



Enter Your Car and Make Party Reservations Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda, and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Arts Council, and Seniors Around Town.

Event Schedule

Friday, September 21st, 7pm

"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Mechanics Bank**.

Come party in the streets of Orinda--James Bond style

This year's "Dancing with the Cars" party will have a James Bond 007 theme including two shaken not stirred "Cartini" bars as well as a special exhibit of James Bond cars that were the most memorable from those classic 007 films.

Again, we will be tenting Avenida de Orinda for a fun-filled sneak preview of the next day's car show. The evening will feature hosted cocktails, dinner, music and a live auction. Proceeds of this event primarily benefit the Educational Foundation of Orinda.

Buy your tickets at:
www.OrindaCarShow.com
Space is limited so don't wait.
NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Saturday **Free Admission**
September 22nd, 10am - 2pm

8TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Orinda Motors**.

- The show will be held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way.
- This year's car show will expand again to include the 16th fairway at Orinda Country Club with food and beverages served on the fairway!!!
- 175+ Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Orinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- There will be a special Carroll Shelby tribute exhibit of Shelby Mustangs and Cobras
- Shaded seating will be provided for over 100 to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Boy Scout Food Booth featuring SAAG's sausages and the Orinda Country Club lunch offerings
- Loard's Ice Cream available
- Ride in the Parade of Classic Cars at 2pm
- Buy a 2012 Car Show T-Shirt

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society, and other local charities

See a special Carroll Shelby Tribute display of Shelby Mustangs and Cobras



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Special thanks to our host, Orinda Motors

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Presenting Sponsor:



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CLASSIC CAR SHOW WEEKEND PIT CREW

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Syd Anderson	Steve Harwood	Gwen McNeilus	Robinson
Bob Bishop	Carolyn and Chip	Jim Mitchell	Kevin Romak
Meredith and David	Herman	Jody Morrison	Betty and Bill Thompson
Blain	Cara Hoxie	Allen Palmer	Dayna and John Sayres
Barbara and Jack	Sue and Dave Howard	Sharon and Lou	John Vanek
Bontemps	Glenn Jackson	Parrague	Bill Waterman
Sheila and Scott Butler	Donna and Doug	Terry Ranahan	Kathie Wicker
Betsy and Greg	Johnson	Lynn and Paul	Kate Wiley
Chovanes	Stu Kahn	Randelman	

Pets of the Month



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lulu (L) and Wewe (Wayway) moved to Orinda just this summer and love their new home! They live with **Caroline Cholette** and **Kurt Buehring**, who only met because the pups became best friends while boarding last fall. Now, Lulu and Wewe get to hang out every day – wrestling, chasing turkeys, and asking neighborhood kids for treats!

Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales
All That Fur



Jennifer Conroy

Here it is almost fall and you're breathing a sigh of relief that you've gotten past the summer with all its heat, fleas, ticks, foxtails, and goodness knows what else. But wait, one feature of cats and dogs that knows no season is the shedding of their coats. The truth is that no matter how many times a day you sweep or vacuum or run that lint roller over furniture and clothing, if you live with a fur-covered critter, you will have to deal with that fur.

Are there any cats or dogs that do not shed? For those of you contemplating adding a dog or cat to your life and worrying about the influx of pet hair, the answer is yes. Well, sort of, yes.

Every cat or dog will shed. In fact, most all of us "shed." Every single day, you, me, your dog, my cat, we all shed skin cells. It's called "dander" and that is where the word "dandruff" comes from. Most dander is so miniscule that we don't see it at all but, trust me, it's there and even if you adopt a "no shed" breed of cat or dog, there will be some of that invisible shedding going on.

However, the poodle breed is relatively dander free and sheds essentially no fur. Poodles also rank among the most intelligent of dog breeds and might be a good fit for a family with allergies. In the cat world, there are a number of hairless cat breeds, including one aptly called the Peterbald breed.

Poodle lovers know that their dogs still need grooming and I'm sure you have seen the varieties of poodle cuts that are popular. The truth is that poodles do not read Doggie Vogue and really don't care if they have pom poms or not. Their coats do need to be

kept trimmed and neat to avoid matting and skin issues and with the proper grooming tools, home grooming is possible.

Hairless cats are another matter altogether for they really must be kept indoors as they have no fur to protect or insulate them. If such a cat is to your taste, take the time to investigate a good cat breeder and also visit cat shows to get an idea of the breeds that are available.

Now, let's get back to routine grooming needs that will help alleviate the flying fur problem. Both cats and dogs can get mats in their fur and those can be avoided by daily grooming. This does not have to be a full day spa session. It can be as simple as sitting with your cat on your lap in the evening and you taking a soft cat brush and running it through your cat's coat. A mat should be worked through gently with your fingers without tugging.

For dog owners, especially those with dogs that have undercoats – that fine down-like second layer of fur that lies right next to the skin – a rubber dog brush can be used in both directions on your dog's coat. Brush from tail to head and then from head to tail. By so doing, you will get in closer to the skin and help the oil on your dog's skin circulate throughout the coat.

Finish off grooming both cats and dogs by running a fine-tooth pet comb through their fur to remove any debris that the brushing has loosened. The next to the last step is to take a microfiber cloth and gently wipe it across your pet's coat. This will help give it a shine.

And, the last step? Well, that would be giving your cat or dog a small treat and telling them how beautiful they look.

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Wagner Ranch Student Making His Mark



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Austin Walker (2nd from left in photo), a fourth grade student at Wagner Ranch Elementary School, has a passion for golf. Over the summer, he hit a hole-in-one at Tilden Park (Par 4 Hole #4), placed fourth at a U.S. Kids Golf Tournament at Callippe Preserve, and, most recently, placed second at the U.S. Kids Golf Tournament at Blackhawk in Danville. The Walkers just moved to Orinda in March and Austin has honed his skills on public golf courses, mainly Lake Chabot Golf Course in the Oakland Hills.

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MURAL / ORINDA NIGHT OUT

Orinda Historical Mural Background

■ Dedication September 4 at 5:30 p.m.

By SUSAN GARELL
Contributing Writer

You can't miss the new Orinda Historical Mural on the kinder gym wall, made possible by a joint public-private partnership between the City of Orinda and the Orinda Community Foundation, The Orinda Arts Council, The Orinda Historic Landmarks Committee, and the Orinda Historical Society. Orinda Parks and Rec and the Orinda Community Foundation provided funding.

Commissioned by the Orinda Historical Society, the original mural was created by local artist, Lonie Bee, to depict Orinda's

historical sites and dedicated on the exterior BART wall on July 9, 1978. The mural was granted Historic Landmark status shortly thereafter.

A restoration of the mural through the efforts of local artists and members of The Orinda Arts Council occurred in 1995, but by 2011, it was in need of restoration again. It was determined that the mural would also be moved to a new location in the Orinda Community Park, where it is more centrally located in the community.

Bay Area Muralist Ellen Silva was commissioned to precisely replicate the mural and to keep any revisions true to Lonie Bee's style. The starting point for the 3rd Grade Orinda Union School District Orinda Historical Tours has long been at the original mural at BART, and they will now commence at the new mural in its new spot.



SALLY HOGARTY

Artist Ellen Silva replicated Lonie Bee's original mural of Orinda which is now located on the wall of the pre-school classroom in Orinda's Community Center park.

Ellen Silva has been an artist, illustrator, and designer for over 30 years and was selected due to her impressive and extensive mural work in San Francisco and other Bay Area communities

Be sure to take a look. And don't think

you're seeing double, as you'll also still see the deteriorated original Orinda Historical Mural at BART for a brief time.

A dedication ceremony will take place on Tuesday, September 4, at 5:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Park.

Celebrate "Orinda Night Out" September 20

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month and a good time to reassess your readiness to respond to an emergency. Orinda's beautiful topography is lovely to behold but also prone to wildfires, slides and earthquakes.

On Thursday, September 20, from 5 - 8 p.m., Orinda will celebrate its fifth Orinda Night Out. The annual event brings neighbors together in a social setting that fosters better relationships as well as ways to prevent crime and to help one another if a disaster strikes.

The Orinda Citizens Corps Council, which promotes the event, encourages residents to plan a party, a potluck, an ice cream social, a happy hour, a block party or a barbecue. Last year, 33 neighborhoods

sponsored 11 events. "Keep it simple and fun," says Corps Council member Rebecca Kunzman.

According to Kunzman, Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Preparedness groups help residents take concrete steps that make a difference in an emergency. She suggests that every family have an emergency supply kit and an emergency plan as well as a neighborhood communication plan. "When you get involved with local community efforts, anyone can ensure that everyone becomes safer," says Kunzman

If you are planning a neighborhood event for this Orinda Night Out and need help or want a representative from the Orinda Police Department, Orinda City Council, Moraga Orinda Fire District or the Orinda Citizen Corps Council to visit your event, call or email Kunzman at 254-1849 or rkunzman@comcast.net.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Virginia Varni-Ratto, MOFD Battalion Chief Sean Perkins, MOFD Chief Randy Bradley and Paul Ratto at the Glorietta One group potluck at last year's Orinda Night Out.

Coming to Orinda in November

Reuse and Clean-up Days*



"The vast majority of Orinda Citizens take advantage of these programs and we have dramatically reduced the amount of garbage going to the landfill. The "reuse" day in particular is a good way to properly dispose of reusable items."

—Victoria Smith
Orinda City Councilmember
www.voteforvictoria.org

- ▶ Reduce clutter
- ▶ Help the environment
- ▶ Save money
- ▶ Make room in your garage
- ▶ Convert your grown kid's room
- ▶ Get rid of things you don't need
- ▶ Create space for something else

For other ways to save money (like switching to a smaller garbage can) or for a list of materials that can be composted or recycled, go to www.wastediversion.org

*A service provided semi-annually by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority



Paid for by the Friends to Elect Victoria Smith Orinda City Council 2012. FPPC#1265558

Cal Shakes Ends Season with The Prince of Denmark

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

“The play’s the thing,” Shakespeare writes in one of his most performed dramas, *Hamlet*, opening September 19 at California Shakespeare Theater’s Bruns Amphitheatre.

International director Liesl Tommy will direct *Hamlet*, which runs through October 14 closing the company’s 39th season. The Cape Town, South African native has a prolific body of directorial work in the United States including stints at Yale Repertory Theatre, McCarter Theatre Center, The Public Theater, Sundance Theatre Institute, Dallas Theater Center and New Georges. She has taught at The Juilliard School, Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company MFA Directing Program and New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts.

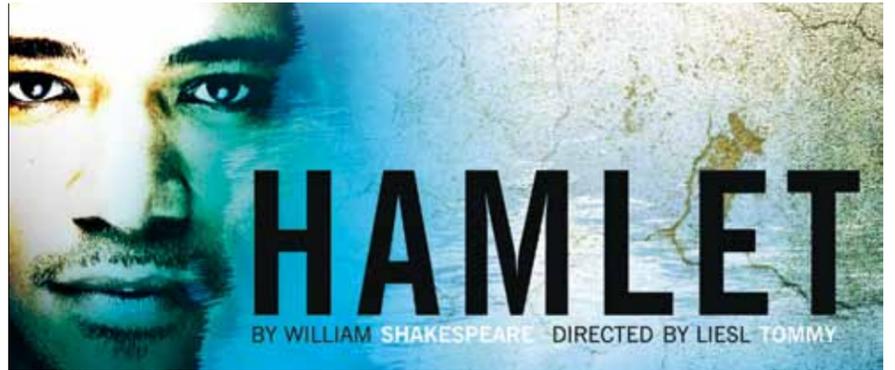
The Shakespearean tragedy, set in Den-

mark, revolves around Prince Hamlet’s revenge on his uncle, who, after murdering his brother, the king, takes his place as both ruler and husband to the queen. Actor LeRoy McClain takes on the title role in this tale of lies and betrayal.

McClain has appeared on Broadway in *Cymbeline* and *The History Boys* and off-Broadway in *Milk Like Sugar* and *Born Bad*. Screen credits include *The Adjustment Bureau*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* and *Guiding Light*. He holds an MFA from Yale School of Drama, and he also studied at London’s National Theatre Acting Studio.

Hamlet features Adrian Roberts, Zainab Jah, Julie Eccles, Dan Hiatt, Danny Scheie, Nick Gabriel, Nicholas Pelczar, Mia Tagano, Jessica Kitchens, Brian Rivera and Joseph Salazar. Set and costume design is by Clint Ramos, light design by Peter West, and sound design by Jake Rodriguez.

Cal Shakes will be holding a number of special events in association with *Hamlet*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hamlet will close California Shakespeare Theater’s summer season.

beginning with The Insight Scoop scheduled for Monday, September 10, at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Library. Audience members will learn about the director’s perspective, actors’ methods, and design ideas during the informal discussion with the director, actors and designers.

Nightly Grove Talks, held 45 minutes before each performance, provide audience members with a glimpse into the production and script. A special Insight Matinee exploring the world of *Hamlet* takes place on Sunday, September 30, following the 4 p.m. performance, and audiences can meet the artists, after the September 23 and October 7 performances. Teen Nights will be held Friday, September 28, and Thursday, October 4, at 6:30 p.m., and includes pizza and soda in the Upper Grove as well as a pre-show discussion with a Cal Shakes

Teaching Artist. An open-captioned performance will be held Wednesday, September 26, at 7:30 p.m.

In addition, the popular “Tasting Nights” will be held every Tuesday and Wednesday evening in the George and Sue Bruns Plaza, starting at 6 p.m. (previews excluded). Check the theatre’s website for more details on the events.

The Bruns Amphitheater is located at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. The grounds open two hours before curtain and the theater offers free shuttle service from the Orinda BART station as well as free parking on site. For information or to charge tickets by phone with VISA, MasterCard or American Express, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666 or online ticketing and information are available at www.calshakes.org.



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Everyday Changes

Avoid Overheating! – Keep it Cool with Pre-Fall Fashion Tips

Bonnie Waters



I was thumbing through the recent fashion magazines with all the new fall looks. I realized immediately that there is no way to wear these looks prior to November without overheating! So I posed this question to a fashion forward friend, “How can I enjoy these trends and still stay comfortable in the warm weather months of September and October?” Here are some of the new trends with her pre-season tweaking,

Put A Lid On It!

Statement hats made lots of, well, statements on the runway ranging from over-the-top i.e. “you’ve got to be kidding” looks at Louis Vuitton to the *Zoolander*-small fedoras at Donna Karan.

Pre-season tweak: Dress up your casual summer outfit with a small fedora. Make it totally fresh by pulling it forward to perch above the brow.

Are You Shining Me On?

Call it lacquered, patent, or just simply shiny — high-sheen is this fall season’s

all-star fabric. My favorite is a yellow coat that passes as a charming yet grown-up take on a classic rain slicker.

Pre-season Tweak: Think patent leather or lacquered accessories, i.e. purse, belt, shoes or hat. Add shiny boot when the fall-winter season really arrives.

Shiny hair is all the rage with the introduction of more and more shine products. These are not the heavy-handed, weighty oils of yesteryears. Fresh on the market is Bumble and Bumble’s Hairdresser’s Invisible Oil, a light, transformative blend that vanishes into thin or thick hair giving it a sublime softness and, of course, shine (with UV filters and heat protection...perfect for September and October in California).

The “Long and Short” of It!

As the casualness of summer fades, add glamour and polish to short or long locks. Hair extensions provide a great option. Change up your look, add volume or lengthen your hair. Look for “tape

[SEE FASHION page 22]



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MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Orinda Jazz Festival Keeps Things Hot in September



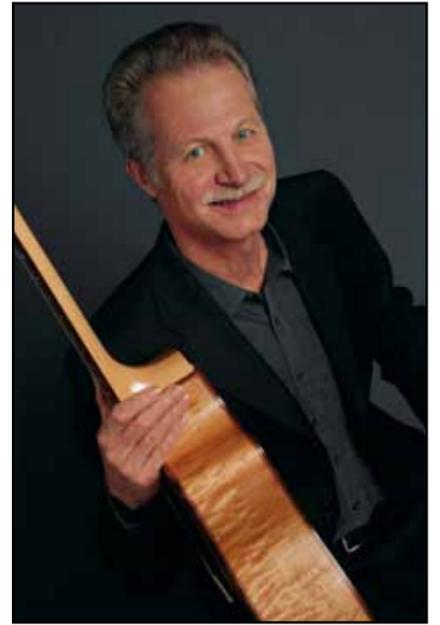
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Alban, Orinda resident and accomplished instrumentalist, is the co-organizer of the jazz festival.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Hot summer nights and cool jazz are on tap for Orinda this September as the Orinda Jazz Festival comes to the Orinda Library Auditorium on September 30. Two stages will be set up – one in the courtyard adjacent to the library auditorium and the other inside the auditorium.

Organizers Carol Alban and Beau Behan have scheduled some top performers to not only entertain but to also give free workshops on their playing styles and more. Alban (flute, vocals) has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Blue Note, Yoshi's, and the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood. She was principal flutist with the Bay Area Chamber Symphony and teaches privately in Moraga.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guitarist **Alex de Grassi** will headline at the Orinda Jazz Festival.

One of her colleagues, jazz guitarist Alex de Grassi, will headline the September 30 festival. Known for his innovative finger-picking style, de Grassi has influenced generations of guitar players. His musical pursuits encompass classical and world music as well as jazz. *The Wall Street Journal* called his playing "flawless" and *Billboard* cited his intricate finger-picking technique as having "an uncanny gift for melodic invention." He recently completed a book entitled *The Alex de Grassi Fingerstyle Guitar Method*, published by String Letter Publishing (details at <http://www.degrassi.com/books.html>).

De Grassi says that audiences can expect some original tunes as well as his own arrangements of jazz and folk standards. "I like to change songs around a bit – re-harmonize, change rhythms – basically find things that resonate with me," says the Grammy-nominated musician. "I don't really think of myself as a jazz musician. I do improvise, but I also play Gershwin and sometimes a Jimmy Hendricks tune."

While his music may change, de Grassi's preference for acoustical guitars (he plays many different guitars including an Alex

[SEE JAZZ page 24]

Juliana Athayde Headlines Gold Coast Chamber Concert

By KALYN JANG
Contributing Writer

Orinda plans to welcome Lafayette's finest classical ensemble, the Gold Coast Chamber Players, this September in a concert held at the Orinda Library. Audiences at Gold Coast concerts have been overflowing, with the ensemble playing to packed houses throughout the Bay Area. This concert, featuring cello quintets by Schubert and Glazunov, opens Gold Coast's 14th Season, and will be held at the Orinda Library Auditorium on Friday, September 21, at 8 p.m.

Gold Coast is excited to welcome a special guest artist, Juliana Athayde, concertmaster of the Rochester Philharmonic and daughter of local music educators, Bob and Julie Athayde. Gold Coast Chamber Players, which was named "Best East Bay Chamber Ensemble" by the *Contra Costa Times*, draws many of its musicians from the San Francisco Symphony, Opera, and Ballet orchestras, as well as ensembles throughout the U.S. and abroad. Artistic Director Pamela Freund-Striplen was lauded in *Scene Magazine* last year for her unique gift for pairing musicians with musical programs.

Juliana Athayde became concertmaster of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in 2005 at age 24, making her the youngest person to hold the position since the orchestra's inception in 1922. Athayde, who grew up in Orinda, once made an 11th-hour appearance on a Gold Coast concert as a high school student when their original violinist took ill. Freund-Striplen recalls, "Juliana came over to my studio and we sight-read a Mozart duet for violin and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former local resident **Juliana Athayde** returns to play at the Gold Coast Chamber Players' concert.

viola. She'd never heard the piece before, and sight-read it not only at a professional level, but with great maturity and artistic insight. I was amazed!"

At this concert, Gold Coast will also feature the superb artistry of Amos Yang, the associate principal cellist for the San Francisco Symphony. Yang, a San Francisco native, has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the U.S., the Far East and Europe, including performances at the Aspen Music Festival, the American Academy in Rome, Wigmore Hall, and Alice Tully Hall.

A reception following the concert will provide an opportunity to meet the musicians. Tickets are available at www.gcplayers.org and by phone at 925-283-3728. Limited seating, please reserve early.

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– Lisa Maglio Brown

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BACKYARD GETAWAYS AND BEYOND

**Backyard Getaways and Beyond
Ziplining and More at the
Age of 84!**



Bobbie Dodson

With the wind whistling in my ears as I ziplined over the verdant tropical landscape in Costa Rica, I thought, “This is awesome, and I probably wouldn’t have done it if I hadn’t been invited on this trip.”

As an 84-year-old grandmother, I wanted to keep up with my daughters, daughters-in-law and my 26-year-old granddaughter, who asked me to join them on an 11-day excursion to this small Central American country. This was my first real test. I’m happy to say “I passed.”

The day spent in the Monte Verde Cloud Forest at Selvatura Adventure Park was the most exciting of the trip for me as I’d never been ziplining before and approached it with some trepidation. We were outfitted with helmets and harnesses and heard a

lecture about safety procedures. Then, I climbed up the first tower. Not entirely confident in my ability to stop at the end, I chose the option of riding with one of the staff. With my arms clasped around his chest, we stepped off and went flying over the tree tops, coasting to an easy landing. I learned there is a mechanism to catch and slow you down as you approach each platform.

Selvatura Adventure Park’s Canopy Tour is billed as “one of the safest extreme adventures in Costa Rica” and considered okay for riders four years and up. You fly along 15 cables, which vary in length from 249 to 3,280 feet, and climb onto 18 platforms all of which takes about three hours. My advice, “Don’t miss it.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bobbie Dodson (far L) poses with her family in the tropical splendor of Costa Rica.

We ate lunch in the Hummingbird Garden where many feeders attract over 14 species of the brilliantly colored birds. There’s also a garden featuring some 50 kinds of butterflies.

Walking Selvatura’s swinging bridges was a snap after ziplining. There were eight wide spans ranging in length from 187 to 515 feet from which we looked down on scenes of trees, bushes, ferns and flowers, having more time to savor their beauty than on our morning zip rides.

Our white water rafting trip rivaled Selvatura in excitement and certainly in loveliness. From the town of Turrialba, we were driven to the Pacuare River’s edge where we were outfitted with life jackets and helmets. The 18-mile section we covered is rated as one of the top five rafting trips in the world. There are four class IV rapids and many class III’s and II’s.

With four paddlers sitting on each side of the raft, our guide knew every stretch of the river and aptly instructed us on our moves. We quickly learned to paddle “forward, back, left side forward, right side back” and so on, and gave happy “paddles up” after we successfully navigated especially difficult rapids. The canyons were spectacular with near vertical green walls of virgin rain forests towering over us with waterfalls cascading down their sides, including the Huacas, which had a 150 ft. drop into the river. A delicious lunch was served at a camp along the way. It was a wonderful, wet and wild day.

Our trip had begun in San Jose where we took off in our seven-passenger van for the Arenal Volcano area. Unfortunately, a tremendous rainstorm prevented us from getting even a tiny glimpse of the mighty mountain. With our next morning hike cancelled, we drove to the hot springs in the river at La Fortuna de San Carlos. If you want a luxury day, make reservations at the Tabacon Resort Park. Or, as we did,

just cross the road and make the short walk to the river. What a treat to soak in the hot pools.

Our day ended at Playa Conchal where we spent two days walking on the beach, snorkeling and watching the sunsets. Then it was on to the Monte Verde Cloud Forest. We took numerous hikes, the best being a night walk in the forest where we saw coatis, kinkajou, a huge tarantula and sloths.

Next stop was Quepo, located on the coast near the entrance to Manuel Antonio Park. After a day at the beach, where we rode the waves on boogie boards in pleasantly warm water, we hiked in the park. During lunchtime, white faced monkeys amused us with their antics and required us to keep a close watch on our food and belongings lest the monkeys steal them.

While I didn’t see as many animals and birds as on a previous trip to Costa Rica, we enjoyed good sightings. The people were just as friendly and gracious as I remembered. Their villages with houses painted in pink, blue, orange, green – all colors of the rainbow – set a happy tone.

We stayed almost entirely in hostels, another new experience for this grandma. Contrary to my concept of hostels, all our rooms had a private bath. Cooking some of our meals in the communal kitchens, we met people from all over the world, mostly young, but some gray heads among them. It’s a good place to get tips on places to see and activities to pursue. Our hostel in Quepo, the Wide Mouth Frog, even had a swimming pool. While I probably won’t choose hostels on my next journey, they worked out well for our crew and were economical.

What a treat it was to share all these experiences with the women of my family. If you get the opportunity, go for it. Who knows what exciting adventures may await you.

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RESTAURANTS

The 2012 Guide to Orinda Restaurants – Bon Appétit!

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Wondering where to eat in Orinda? Here's our annual list of hometown restaurants. Keep this section within reach or access it online (Sept. 2012 issue: www.orindanews.org). We've got you covered whether you're up for coffee/tea, healthy smoothies, breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, a little nosh, a glass of wine or beer, scotch, or just takeout. Skip the mess, treat the kids, and if time is limited, call ahead; most places can have your order waiting, some will deliver. Thanks to all who make hometown choices. Try out the brand new Barbacoa in Theatre Square and say hello to Heaven Sent Eats & Treats (formerly Orinda Deli). Keep the great food coming!

AMERICAN/CALIFORNIA CUISINE

Casa Orinda
20 Bryant Way
254-2981

www.casaorinda.net (check for online specials)

Hours: Open every day 4 p.m. – 10 p.m. Bar open daily until 11 p.m. except Sunday when it closes at 10 p.m.

The Casa is Contra Costa County's oldest continuously operating restaurant, celebrating 80 years! That's because of its prime rib, luscious fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and fresh fish such as calamari – classic home cooking. Longtime Orindans will recall the giant neon cowboy who once spun his lasso from the rooftop sign; 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.



SALLY HOGARTY

Shelby's Restaurant at Theatre Square specializes in California cuisine with a European flair.

Shelby's
2 Theatre Square
254-9687

www.shelbyseatbetter.com

Hours: Mon. – 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Tues. – Fri. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., dinner 5 – 9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun. brunch 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., dinner 5 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Voted Trip Advisor's #1 Orinda restaurant, you'll always find something to tempt you on the menu or daily special list. Popular for business breakfasts and lunches. California cuisine using the freshest ingredients with a European flair – vegetarian omelet, spicy huevos oaxaqueños, crab salad sandwich, mango chicken salad, croque monsieur, garlic fries, sweet potato chips, bistro salmon, NY steaks, and a host of pastas and salads. Desserts include bread pudding, crème brûlée, and a root beer float. Wine and beer. Feel like people watching? Try their outdoor seating in good weather; also dog-friendly.

[SEE RESTAURANTS page 18]

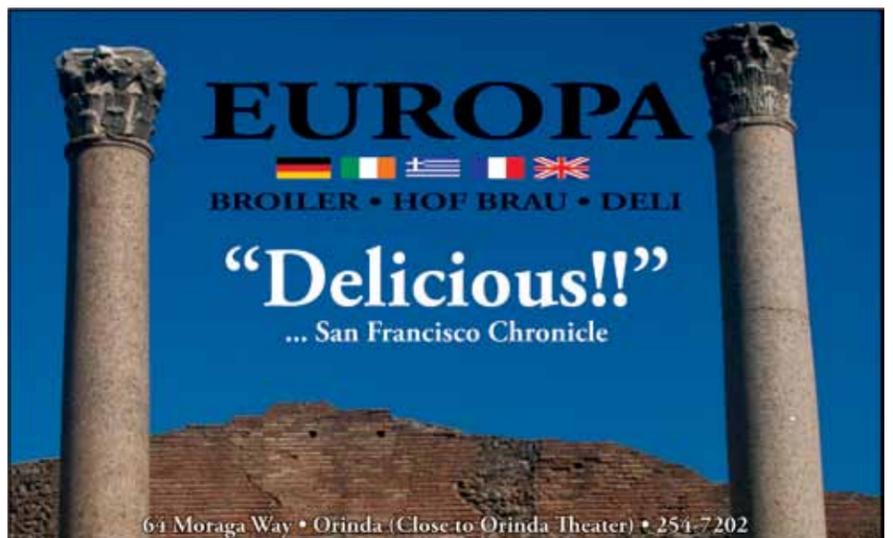
Nation's Giant Hamburgers

76 Moraga Way
254-8888

www.nationsrestaurants.com

Hours: Sun. – Thurs. 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 – for me, medium-rare with melted cheese, fresh tomatoes, onions and lettuce. I call them drippingly delicious! They'll do it just as fast and for takeout too. Try a java shake. Don't forget their pies, either by the slice or whole. Kids love this place and you won't break the bank.



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

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For more information please call the Orinda Chamber at (925) 254-3909

RESTAURANTS

◆ RESTAURANTS from page 17

Table 24
2 Theatre Square, Suite 153
254-0124
www.table24orinda.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sat. – Sun. brunch 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., dinner 3 – 9 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. Happy Hour 9 – 10 p.m.

For some neighborhood comfort food, this is the place. Family friendly, outdoor seating, a fire-pit and benches to enjoy dinner or drinks from their full bar. The food – clam chowder and French onion soups, mac and cheese, jalapeno corn bread, Niman ranch burgers, sweet potato fries, fried chicken sliders, just a few choices from their wood burning oven. Kids menu a local fave as is the salted caramel pudding and generous portions. Validated parking, wheelchair accessible, dog friendly.

CAFES

Caffe Teatro
26 Orinda Way (under the library)
254-5871

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

This inviting cafe features public art sculpture just outside the door, so sipping that Illy coffee is even easier. It is just below the Orinda Library and offers free Wi Fi. Fresh pastries from Artisan Bakers in Sonoma, as well as generously sized breakfast and lunch sandwiches (my fave is tuna on marble rye), salads, snacks and gelato. Try their Korean BBQ.

Geppetto's Caffe
87 Orinda Way



SALLY HOGARTY
Zamboni's is a favorite for delicious pizza and fast service.

253-9894
 Hours: Mon. – Fri. 6:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Closed Sunday.

Speedy drink service in the morning along with fresh pastries/bagels daily. This place is often crowded at lunch for a reason. The umbrellas outside offer a respite while enjoying delicious salads with your espresso. It's a nice place to eat alone or with a friend. Great soups (mushroom, Italian vegetable); sandwich favorites include chicken curry on sunflower wheat, chicken pesto and brie, veggie; salads like Chinese chicken, spinach and taco keep people coming back. Order by phone at lunch for quick service. Good bread selection for sandwiches.

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.

Peet's not only offers a dizzying array of coffee choices and expert baristas, but also an amazing variety of teas and good pastries as well. My faves of 30 teas are the ethereal jasmine, downy pearl and golden dragon oolong. Iced lattes a local fave. Free Wi Fi with each purchase; extra roomy seating inside with benches and tables outside.

Starbucks
2 Theatre Square
258-0476

www.starbucks.com
 Hours: Mon. – Sat. 5:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Sun. 6 a.m. – 6:30 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. Free Wi Fi, no purchase necessary.

Starbucks
One Camino Sobrante, #9
253-0447

www.starbucks.com
 Hours: Mon. – Fri. 4:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sat. 5 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sun. 5:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Friendly baristas who remember your name and order; outdoor seating. Free Wi Fi, no purchase necessary.

Village Inn Cafe
204 Village Square
254-6080

www.orindacoffeeshop.com
 Hours: Mon. – Fri. 5:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sat. 6:30 a.m. – 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, a country breakfast with freshly squeezed orange juice, or Belgian waffles. People come from miles around for their corned beef hash, always made from scratch. For lunch, sit at the counter and enjoy tortilla chicken soup, a veggie burger, BLT or grilled cheese sandwich. Generous portions. Breakfast served until 11:25 am Mon. - Sat. Local since 1986.

CHINESE
Szechwan Chinese Restaurant
79 Orinda Way
254-2020

Hours: Tues. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Lunch; 4 - 9:30 p.m. Dinner; Sun. 3:30 – 9:30 p.m.; closed Monday

Bright décor with a view of the golf course across the street. Recommended – hot and sour soup, egg drop soup, tea smoked duck, all their sweet and sour dishes – brown rice available. Eat in or order in advance for takeout (10 percent discount); return visits for lunch specials. Orders customized on request; if you want it spicy, tell them! Beer and wine.

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

www.loards.com
 Hours: Sun. – Thurs. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Fri. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 10 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 macapuno (young coconut) or ube (purple yam, taro root, coconut) ice cream. Or try one of the other 40+ flavors including old standbys like cookies & cream, peanut butter fudge, or chocolate mint. Catering available.

Chillers
21 Orinda Way, Suite G
254-3233

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Closed Sunday.

Power up with a tasty, healthy smoothie (15 choices) – or maybe it's time for some ice cream, a milkshake (generous amount of ice cream) or frozen yogurt (FroYo). Order to go or have a seat in a sunny spot; either way, your smoothie is made to order. Kids love the quick service and table and chairs sized just for them. Ample parking.

Republic of Cake
2 Theatre Square, #151
Orinda, CA 94563
254-3900
877-435-CAKE
http://republicofcake.com

Hours: Mon. - Thur. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.*; Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.*; Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

* Or until the display case is empty. Simply delicious! Using the best local ingredients for down home goodness. Featuring a mouth-watering selection of [SEE DESSERTS page 19]

RESTAURANTS

◆ DESSERTS from page 18

basic and not-so-basic cupcakes including Marzipan Chocolate, Blueberry Lemon, Very Cherry Pistachio, Smores, Banana Cream, Sam's Messy Chocolate. Frequent buyer card.

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 cabbage, oven roasted turkey, and burgers. You can also grab a stool or your favorite table to catch a game and have a beer on tap. Small playground in the back.

Kasper's Hot Dogs

2 Theatre Square, #103

253-0766

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

If you or your kids want a hot dog, this is the place. Try their extra spicy hot link or maybe a Kasper dog with cheese. Wash it down with thirst quenching crushed ice lemonade. Kids usually like them simple and plain, but you can contemplate the nacho dog, the chili cheese dog or even the double dog.

Heaven Sent Eats & Treats

(Formerly Orinda Deli)

19 F Orinda Way

254-1990

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed Sunday

Stop by and meet new owners Carol and Michelle who invite Lamorindans to sample their fresh homemade bakery items and choice-filled lunch menu. Gluten free items: cinnamon rolls, biscuits and scones baked fresh daily. Indoor and outdoor seating, or have a picnic in the park across the street.

Subway

2 Theatre Square, #108

258-0470

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

HAWAIIAN

Lava Pit Hawaiian Grill

2 Theatre Square, #142

253-1338

www.lavapit.com

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Sun. noon – 8 p.m.

Lots of Aloha, especially in the aroma of BBQ which floats out to meet you. Many votes for katsu moco but also fresh salads, pineapple slaw, and BBQ mixed grill plate. Yelpers like the BBQ chicken and chicken katsu. Both brown and white rice offered. Outdoor seating. They also deliver and cater; check online for promotions.

ITALIAN

Bonfire Pizzeria

2 Theatre Square, #144

253-1225

www.bonfirepizzeria.com

Hours: Sun. – Thurs, 11:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 11:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Try some Neapolitan style pizza – build your own from fresh ingredients only a foodie would appreciate. How about Yukon gold potatoes, caramelized onions, mozzarella and white truffle oil? Wash it down with a great selection of beer or wine. There's a TV for kids with their own channel and Etch A Sketches to keep them happy. Happy for you could be 50 percent off beer and wine from 3 – 5 p.m. Mon. – Fri. Outdoor seating (dog friendly, too), validated parking or delivery in the Lamorinda area.

La Piazza

15 Moraga Way

253-9191

Hours: Fri. – Sat. 5 - 10 p.m.; Sun. – Thurs. 5 – 9:30 p.m.

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, pastas, soups (vegetable, artichoke, squash), and the basket of fresh bread at your table. Sit at the bar and watch them make your BBQ shrimp, spinach calzone, gnocchi, linguine a la vongole or calamari steak. Chocolate ganache for dessert, a must try; kids love the pizza. Beer and wine.

Village Pizza

19 Orinda Way

254-1200

www.villagepizzaorinda.com

(check for online coupons)

Hours: Mon. – Fri. Lunch 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Dinner 5 – 9 p.m., Fri. to 10 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sun. 5 – 9 p.m. (take out 3 – 9 p.m.)

Family atmosphere in this casual spot, comfortable for everyone. Garlic chicken pizza, vegetarian pizza, mini pizza for lunch dripping in cheese, served with a

[SEE PIZZA page 20]



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Village Pizza Restaurant is a Landmark and continues to be a Lamorinda Favorite as it has been for the past 28 years.

Restaurant Hours:

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RESTAURANTS

◆ PIZZA from page 19

salad. Menu includes steak sandwiches and burgers (cooked on a grill), white bean soup and more. Beer and wine; best news yet – they deliver.

Zamboni's Pizza

**1 Camino Sobrante, # 4
254-2800**

Hours: Open Mon. - Thurs. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Fri. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

If you're on a budget, this is a great place for lunch or dinner. The only place in town that offers fast (and large!) pizza by the slice. You can eat in, take out, or they deliver. Try the cheese and garlic pizza (no tomato sauce). Beer and wine.

JAPANESE**Hanazen Japanese Sushi**

**87 Orinda Way
254-3611**

Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. Fri. – Sat. 5:30 – 10 p.m. Closed Sunday.

A wonderfully intimate restaurant with traditional dishes and a great sushi bar. 29 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? Killer spider roll, spicy tuna roll, super fresh, unusual fish such as: ocean trout, toki sake, buri, kelp mackerel. Also sake steamed clams, butterfly uni, sea urchin nigiri, Japanese squid. Takeout available. Only 18 seats in the restaurant so reservations are a must. Fantastic sake selection.

Niwa Restaurant

**1 Camino Sobrante
254-1606**

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; Dinner Mon. – Thurs. 4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.; Fri. until 10 p.m.; Sat. open 11:45 a.m. – 10 p.m. Closed Sunday.

Nothing fancy, just some outstanding sushi, more fish than rice. Here's why: tasty spicy tuna handroll with a great sauce, complimentary crab and cucumber salad with sesame sauce at the bar, spider roll/flower roll (shrimp tempura with avocado, lots of crab, moist), scallop special, spicy. They usually have fresh toro, yellowtail or salmon belly at reasonable prices. Check out the Special's board. Next to Starbucks; takeout available. Beer and wine.

Serika Restaurant

**2 Theatre Square, #118
254-7088**

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Dinner Mon. – Sat. 5-9 p.m. Closed Sunday.

If you want really fresh sushi in a charming, relaxing spot tucked away from the street, this is your place. At the sushi station in the center of the room, you can get unusual sushi not available in most places. Veggie shrimp tempura, yum. 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 and wine, with Kirin on tap.

Yu Sushi

**19 Moraga Way
253-8399**

Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 11 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.; Fri. until 10 p.m.; Sat. noon – 10 p.m. and Sun. noon – 9 p.m.

This small store-front operation has a great lunch deal: the Value Lunch Box with soup, salad and choice of entrees for \$6.95. The sushi is fresh, the staff is fast and accurate, making this a great place to eat for lunch or before a movie across the street. Takeout is ready in just 10 minutes. Other favorites include aegedashi tofu, miso, nigri, Orinda roll, butterfish (request the belly), chirashi bowl and great tempura. Beer and wine.

MEDITERRANEAN**Petra Café**

**2 Theatre Square, #105
254-5290**

Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 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 casual outside tables – a takeout favorite. Regulars swear by the lamb gyro with tzatziki sauce and warm fluffy pita. Check out their Greek salad wrap, calamari salad or spanakopita. Try the vegetarian options such as roasted vegetables, falafel, dolmas and baklava with ground pistachios on top. Greek beer and wine – try some retsina.

MEXICAN**Barbacoa**

**2 Theatre Square #130
254-1183**

www.barbacoaorinda.com

Hours: Open every day 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Orinda's first wood-fired Mexican grill, opened by the owners of Table 24. The pasilla/chipotle chili salsa and chips with Cojita cheese goes down well with a habanero Margarita or (nonalcoholic) homemade horchata. Yelpers recommend the sopa de lima, gluten free menu options, *Quelites y Requeson* (tacos with wilted greens and fresh ricotta), and barbacoa plate. Full bar with great seating to watch one of three flat screens. Indoor and outdoor seating with heaters for cool nights; dog friendly. Validated and valet parking.

La Cocina Mexicana

**23 Orinda Way
258-9987**

www.lacocinaorinda.com

Hours: Open every day 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Bring on the chips! This family-friendly restaurant has a large menu and a special kids menu. Try their chicken burrito, chicken enchiladas verdes, vegetarian burrito, sinaloa (burrito or bowl) or mole sauce. Dine in or use their takeout menu. Margaritas on the rocks or blended, beer and wine. E-club online specials.

Maya Mexican Grill

**74 Moraga Way
258-9049**

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Closed Sunday.

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MIDDLE EASTERN**Turquoise Mediterranean Grill**

**70 Moraga Way
253-2004**

www.turqgrill.com

(check online for coupons)

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

This Middle Eastern restaurant specializes in homemade Turquoise burgers, falafel sandwiches and chocolate baklava. Return visits for: grilled chicken sandwich with hummus, Greek salad, grilled kebob sandwich; many vegetarian items. Kids menu for \$4.99. Popular for takeout, order by phone; near BART. Voted one of 101 Best Bites in *Diablo Magazine*.

THAI**Baan Thai**

**99 Orinda Way
253-0989**

www.baanthaiorinda.com

Hours: Open 7 days: Lunch – 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Dinner Sun. – Thurs. 4:30 – 9:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 4:30 – 10 p.m.

Tucked away across from the Orinda golf course. Gracious surroundings and service, great for a date. Unique Thai brown rice – try it! Return visits for: papaya salad, avocado prawns, Thai crunch salad, pumpkin and panang curry, tofu spring rolls with peanut sauce. Lunch specials like Bangkok noodles, red snapper curry and Tom Yum. Extensive vegetarian menu and kids menu. Tell your waitress the level of hotness you prefer. Love the Thai iced tea and hot ginger tea. Coconut ice cream or fried banana with ice cream for dessert. For a group booking, you can order ahead using their online menu. Takeout popular and available, as is wine and beer.

Siam Orchid

**23 F Orinda Way
253-1975**

www.siamorchidorinda.com

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

A white tablecloth experience with a roomy full bar and good cocktails – try the mojito. Return visits for: shrimp spring rolls, crab puffs, crispy calamari, beet salad and tamarind shrimp. The pumpkin curry remains a popular dish. Lunch served with egg roll, ginger salad and steamed rice. Mon. – Fri., 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., \$10-\$15. Takeout available.

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LOCAL AUTHOR / LOCAL BUSINESS

Korean War Veteran Uses Experiences to Write Sci-Fi Thriller

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Born in 1927 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Orinda resident James "Ed" Kaune spent most of his working life as an officer in the U.S. Navy overseeing ship repair and maintenance for various shipyards. In 1956, he married Pauline Stamos - the couple has three children. He also served as the CEO of some of the nation's largest private and public sector shipbuilding facilities and laboratories. He began his career studying fatigue and stress of metals. These studies provided him the insight to formulate Bio-Lumber - structural strength plastic lumber, his entrepreneurial endeavor. The family moved to Orinda in 1980. Now retired, Kaune recently published *The Spiral Code*, a science fiction tale told through a sailor's eyes, set in the midst of the Korean War. Writing the novel vividly brought back the details of that conflict.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda resident Ed Kaune publishes his first book.

On June 25, 1950 North Korean forces invaded South Korea, initiating the first significant armed Cold War conflict. The newly formed United Nations (U.N.) passed U.N. Security Council Resolution 84 directing that U.N. members repel the attack and restore peace and security to the area. The Korean war is known as a "proxy" war because North Korea's invasion was sponsored by the People's Republic of China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; South Korea's defense was sponsored by a multinational U.N. force with the United States and the United Kingdom providing the majority of combat support. A total of 16 U.N. member-countries provided troops under U.N. Joint Command. According to the U.S. Dept. of Defense, there were 33,686 Korean War casualties; other sources list 100,000 wounded, and over 7,000 POWs. The cost of war was immense for the Korean people; more than three million were killed and millions

of Koreans were turned into homeless refugees. The war ended when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed on July 27, 1953 and the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) was established. The DMZ runs northeast of the 38th parallel and has since been patrolled by the North Korean People's Army, Republic of Korea's Army, United States and Joint U.N. Commands. According to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, as of November 2011 there were 1,711,000 living Korean War veterans.

After Kaune graduated from the Naval Academy, he served in the U.S. Navy on the USS Floyd B. Parks, Destroyer DD884, from 1950-1952 as the Assistant Gunnery Officer. The ship was assigned to be part of the shore bombardment and support group. Their job was to clear harbors in Korea so that our troops could use them to support Army and Marine Corps movement. This included providing forward observers to go behind enemy lines and rescuing downed pilots.

Kaune's duty occurred when his ship, the Parks, was clearing Wonsan Harbor, Korea. Kaune recalls that, "Forward observer groups consisted of 10-12 sailors who would go ashore behind enemy lines to observe the enemy's position and report it to the battleship. The battleship [guided by this info] would then fire big guns, often right over our heads, to the targets we designated to effectively interrupt enemy activities. We would then melt away from our positions and return to the ship. The destroyer would send out small boats to pick us up. It took about a day to get behind enemy lines and a couple of days to return. Sailors were often wounded going ashore; sometimes whole groups didn't make it back."

There were about 300 sailors on the Parks; when Kaune first boarded the ship there were 12 officers, when he left there were 27. Gunnery Officers directed fire from the ship. Destroyers like the Parks communicated between each other and the battleships using handset radios. Kaune recalls that, "Damaged Navy planes landed in Wonsan Harbor, and we would extract the pilots from the wreckage; many were wounded. Once on board, we gave the pilots medical attention, cleaned them up, fed them, and sent them on their way."

After leaving the Parks, Captain Kaune was sent to the Graduate Program at MIT where he spent three years and received a Professional Naval Architect Marine Engineer degree. He also earned a B.S. in metallurgy from Carnegie-Mellon University.

The Spiral Code is available at Orinda Books, 286 Village Square, 254-7606.

Care Indeed Spreads the Word at Annual Festival



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda's Care Indeed was one of the sponsors for Pleasant Hill's Blues and Brews Festival this summer. Care Indeed offers full-service home care for seniors. Pictured above are (L-R) scheduling coordinator **Geraldine Agoo**, community relations director **Amrita Sanyal**, and VP and COO for patient care **Vanessa Valerio**.

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BETWEEN THE LINES

Between the Lines
A Virtual Community of Readers

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



Best-selling author, Jonathan Franzen, spoke to an enthusiastic crowd at Walnut Creek's Leshner Theatre in June at a benefit for the Contra Costa County Libraries. He talked of us in the audience as part of a "virtual community of readers" – individual women and men with a passion for the written word. Those of us who work in bookstores or libraries cherish being a part of that "community." We delight in sharing our current enthusiasms, proselytizing for favorite titles, lobbying for beloved authors, or mourning the words "out-of-print." Franzen says that members of this community are "striking a blow for books" which is indeed what we readers are doing and will continue to do, whether as e-readers or clinging fondly to our familiar

printed pages.

In this virtual community, there are many for whom beloved literary guideposts frame our perceptions of worlds past and present. To us who treasure the written word, the horrors of war now so vividly documented on film may not be as painfully piercing as the words of poet Wilfred Owen when he wrote of those who "die like cattle . . . amid the shrill demented choirs of wailing shells" as "half the seed of Europe" perished in the trenches of World War I. On a happier note, whether our personal iconic lovers are Ron and Hermione, Natasha and Pierre, Bella and Edward, or Jane and Mr. Rochester, the authors who created these couples gave us an eternal rosy glow to serve as a touchstone for the possibilities

of a "happily-ever-after."

Each season in the publishing world brings new treasures to this reading community – books from writers we have loved as well as from authors making a big splash for the first time. Last season's *The Art of Fielding* was a delightful fresh voice in the world of books as was this summer's *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*. In October, a first-time Orinda author, Tamara Ireland Stone is bringing out a promising young adult novel, *The Time Between Us*, published by Hyperion, which combines elements that cannot fail to engage readers — time-traveling and young lovers. Another first-time author, James Edward Kaune (also of Orinda) recently published *The Spiral Code* (see story on page 21) which wraps the author's own wartime experiences in Korea into a novel that considers the spiritual dimensions in our moral code.

At the bookstore, our own community of readers will be happy this month to welcome several old friends when they appear on our shelves. Ken Follett's second volume in his 20th century trilogy, *Winter of the World* makes an impressive entrance (all 960 page of it) and again engages the reader in "big picture" history through the personal stories of five families—American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh — introduced in his previous *Fall of Giants*. On the lighter side, Jonathan Tropper (*This is Where I Leave You* and *The Book of Joe*) again turns his attention to the dysfunction and general messiness of contemporary family life. In his new novel, *One Last Thing Before I Go*, Tropper's wry humor entertains while his pointed observations on the way we live now resonate profoundly.

Perhaps because so many in our virtual community look to Dickens as the touchstone for the ultimate in urban fiction, London continues to be a particularly hospitable setting for considerations of

metropolitan life. Two distinguished British authors have brought out major novels about their city this season. In his new book, *Capital*, John Lanchester (*A Debt to Pleasure*) introduces readers to the people of Pepys Road, a neighborhood which has morphed from sturdy starter homes for an emerging middle class in the 19th century to wildly expensive real estate in the roaring '90s. Rich bankers, Muslim shopkeepers, a Senegalese soccer star, a Zimbabwean traffic warden, Hungarian nannies, and Polish renovators co-exist, interact, and pursue their dreams in Lanchester's penetrating and poignant short takes on contemporary life. Best-selling author Zadie Smith, in her prize-winning *White Teeth*, wrote about this same clash of cultures, and it is an underlying theme in her new book, *NW*, which follows the lives of four young people from a council estate who are now making their way in today's London. Her highly energetic and challenging prose will grab readers on page one and take them for a wild ride.

In a different vein altogether, the staff at Orinda Books (and particularly our children's book buyer Josie Kelley) knows that at this time of year high school students and their families are considering the future. Our reference shelves are well stocked with SAT test prep handbooks from College Board, Barron's, and Princeton Review. Josie recommends *Fiske Guide to Colleges* as one of the best overall volumes that looks both at academics and the extracurricular scene.

And, although high school students are looking ahead, their past years as members of a virtual community of young readers – remember Harry Potter, the Penderwicks, the *Miraculous Benedict Society*, Katniss Everdeen and the *Hunger Games* – will stand them in good stead as they enter their last years of high school . . . and beyond.

Happy Reading!

The 2nd Annual
Orinda Jazz Festival
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Gala Concert and Reception
Sunday, September 30 4pm-7pm

Orinda Library Auditorium (and adjacent courtyard)
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3pm - Free Community Music Workshops
4pm - Reception with Refreshments
5pm - Concerts

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(Flute/Vocals)

and others!

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www.OrindaJazzFestival.org Phone: 925.255.5164 e-mail: OrindaJazz@gmail.com

Orinda Starlight Village Players
Present

THE SPECKLED BAND
Sherlock Holmes

by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

September 7 through September 29
Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m.
Sundays, September 16 & 23, 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 27, 8:00 p.m.

At the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater
28 Orinda Way (Across the street from Rite Aid and the Orinda Post Office). Two blocks from BART.
Regular admission \$16, Discount admission \$8

www.orsvp.org
Tickets at Box Office or call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org

Starlight Dinner Theater Offer
Bring the receipt from an Orinda restaurant to the theater and get two regular theater tickets for the price of one.
(Restaurant receipt must be from the same night as the performance. One discount per party.)

◆ FASHION from page 14

in" technology, a healthy option with the natural hair being "sandwiched" between the extensions.

"Eye-Eye Captain"

The smoky eye is like a little black dress – you just can't go without it in the cooler months. You can dress it up or down, layer for added intensity and drama, or make it basic and neutral to create some intrigue. Like the LBD the SE looks good on every face — if it's done right, of course.

Pre-season Tweak: As summer morphs into fall, create something more adventurous and experiment with colorful shadows. The rule here is to pick one color and

stay with tonal variations, i.e., if you pick purple, stay with purple.

What Do You Pre-Fur?

The controversy still rages "fur versus faux fur" and whatever you "pre-fur" (pun intended) — the furry touch is still the rage! Designs include fur accents to a hat, a peplum on an evening sheath and elbow length fur cuffs on a coat. I'm overheating just writing about it!

Pre-season Tweak: Add a whimsical touch of faux fur to a headband or handbag. Update your summer cardigan or sheath with a furry broach.

Stay cool and have a fun, fashion pre-season.

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Cal Shakes** presents Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* through Sept. 2 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way. Call 510-548-9666 or go to www.calshakes.org.
- 4 **Orinda Historical Mural Dedication Ceremony**, Orinda Community Park, 5:30 p.m.
- 7 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents *The Speckled Band* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle through Sept. 29 at Orinda Community Park Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, Sept. 16 and 23 at 4 p.m.; and Thursday, Sept. 27 at 8 p.m. Call the box office at 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org. This event is outdoors, so dress warmly.
- 9 **Orinda Idol** finals, for students in grades K-12, Orinda Theatre, 11 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., with awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Visit www.orindaartscouncil.org.
- 14 **International Film Showcase** presents *Montevideo, Taste of a Dream*, through Sept. 20, based on the formation of the Serbian soccer team which competed in the first World Cup in 1930 in Uruguay, Orinda Theatre, daily at 1 p.m., 3:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. with additional shows on Friday and Saturday at 9:10 p.m. Visit www.lfef.org or www.lamorinda-theatres.com.
- Santa Maria Church**, International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima arrives at 2 p.m. and leaves at 9:15 a.m. on September 15. Call 254-2426 for scheduled activities.
- 15 **Murder in the Valley**, a magical mystery tour through four vine-themed novels that "Sisters in Crime" Penny Warner, Ann Parker, Staci McLaughlin and Carol Price will publish in September: *How to Dine on Killer Wine* (Warner); *Mercury's Rise* (Parker); *Going Organic Can Kill You* (McLaughlin); and *Twisted Vines* (Price), Orinda Books, 286 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7607.
- 18 **World Affairs Book Group** will discuss *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander, Orinda Books, 286 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606. New members welcome.
- 19 **Cal Shakes** presents *Hamlet* through Oct. 14 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way. Call 510-548-9666 or go to www.calshakes.org.
- 21 **Dancing with the Cars Party** with a James Bond theme, features two "shaken not stirred" Cartini bars, an exhibit of James Bond cars, dinner, music and live auction, Orinda Motors, Avenida de Orinda and 63 Orinda Way, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$100, casual attire. Visit www.OrindaCarShow.com.
- 22 **Orinda Classic Car Show** (see story page 1), benefits Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town transportation program and other charities. Visit www.OrindaCarShow.com.
- 23 **Speed on the Screen** presents two screenings of the classic Steve McQueen movie *Bullitt* at 5:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and proceeds benefit Lamorinda Theatres Foundation. Visit www.OrindaCarShow.com.
- 25 **EFO/Chamber of Commerce Dine Around Town** restaurant tour features fine food and performances by Orinda Idol winners and finalists at Orinda Theatre Square, 6 to 8 p.m. Visit www.orindaartscouncil.org.
- 30 **St. Mark's Nursery School**, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, 50th Anniversary Ice Cream Social, 2-4 p.m. Call 254-1364 or email stmarksnurseryschoolorinda@gmail.com for info.
- Second Annual Orinda Jazz Festival**, jazz workshops from 3 to 4 p.m., reception from 4 to 5 p.m. and concert from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium. Food, wine, with proceeds benefiting local schools' arts and music programs.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html. Please note that the library will be closed on Sept. 2 and 3 for Labor Day.

- 12 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop-ins welcome, but limit attendance to once per week. Also Sept. 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26.
- Dinosaurs Rock!** Display of dinosaur bones and other fossils; kids can touch a Tyrannosaurus Rex and an 8-foot long mammoth leg; plus dinosaur eggs and tracks; Garden Room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- 15 **Saturday Morning Live**, family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also Sept. 22 and 29.
- 18 **Peek-A-Boo Time** with songs, stories, rhymes and rhythm for newborns through 1-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also Sept. 25.
- Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent talks about the theatre's latest production, *Chinglish*, from the Tony Award winner David Henry Hwang, Fireside Room, 7 to 7:55 p.m.
- 19 **Paws to Read**, children (K-5) practice their reading skills with a friendly dog, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call to register for a 25-minute session, Picture Room. Also Sept. 26.
- 21 **Mystery Book Club** members will discuss *Strange Affair* by Peter Robinson, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult program, drop-ins welcome.
- 22 **Weekend Paws to Read**, children (grades K-5) practice their reading skills with a friendly dog in 15-minute sessions, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call to register.
- 27 **Talespinners of Contra Costa**, storytelling for adults with a featured speaker every month, Garden Room, 7 p.m. Share a story or just come to listen.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Moraga-Orinda Fire District Conference Room, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**, every third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, September through May, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September to June, 7 p.m. Contact Julie Mercer or Charlene Robinson at info@orindajuniors.org or www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Hikes every weekend and the first Wednesday of the month. Visit www.orindahiking.org for weekly schedule or call Ian at 254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday, 5 p.m., Historical Society Museum, 26 Orinda Way, 254-1353.

Sherlock Holmes Comes to Orinda Starlight Village Players

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) brings Sherlock Holmes to the stage in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Speckled Band* in September. The show is directed by Charles Guitron. Guitron said, "For over a century Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has captured the imagination of millions with Sherlock Holmes. What better way to continue that time honored tradition than bringing it back to the local level. This is a very talented cast, and I'm extremely lucky to be working with them for my directorial debut."

This year, Guitron performed as Phillip Lombard in *And Then There Were None* and as Leo Davis in *Room Service*, the first two shows of Starlight's season. "I have found that a collaborative rehearsal process with the cast and open discussion has really been integral in helping each actor to understand not only their character but each other's, as well as to make the show come alive," added Guitron.

Doyle wrote *The Speckled Band* in 1910. Doyle had leased the Adelphi Theatre for performances of *The House of Temperley*, which was losing money every week. Since Doyle was locked into an agreement with the ruinously expensive theatre, he decided to cash in on Holmes' popularity and adapted his short story *The Speckled Band* to save the situation. Doyle wrote, "I shut myself up and devoted my whole mind to making a sensational Sherlock Holmes drama. I wrote it in a week and called it *The Speckled Band* after the short story of that name. I do not think I exaggerate if I



DAVID DIERKS

Director Charles Guitron.

say that within a fortnight of the one play shutting down, I had a company working upon the rehearsals of a second one, which had been written in the interval. It was a considerable success." The play differs from the short story in some details, such as the names of some characters.

The cast includes OrSVP newcomers Jesse MacKinnon as Sherlock Holmes, Ryan Terry as Dr. Grimesby Rylott, Amy Sloan as Enid Stoner, and Ann O'Connell as Mrs. Staunton. OrSVP regulars include Mark Barry, Artistic Director Geotty Chapple, Jim Fritz, Kelly Hansen, Ken Sollazzo, Tom Westlake and Vicki Zabarte.

Performances run September 7 through 29, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m., with matinees on September 16 and 23 at 4 p.m. and a Thursday performance at 8 p.m. on September 27.

For more information, visit www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225.

- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 283-7176.
- Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

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◆ LETTERS from page 6

meeting. Hasselman, usually gracious, could have just clarified his group's approach to the person.

Because nothing definitive has come forth for residents to ponder, rumors and reactions abound.

It appears the two entities, Orinda Vision and the City, have consulted. When BART proposed solar panels in its Orinda parking lot, the two groups halted the project to make way for possible future development (a transit hub?).

The mayor stated the process should be transparent. Yet, isn't the city speaking privately to downtown property owners? Trowbridge added, "They [the buildings] are likely to change hands soon." What information does he have?

A city-hired economist already told the council there would be little increase in revenue if they uprooted Orinda. Trowbridge's projected monetary figures for city coffers or the schools are questionable

The city keeps collecting "public input" with no obvious change in their stance. A committee to produce an amended General Plan could be in the works. Trowbridge stated the Vision's structures would have a scale "not very different from the present scale." Anyone who has seen the drawings knows this is not probable.

Perhaps it is time for an independent panel, with no city involvement, to present at a local venue. This might include alternatives with actual proposals for artful and vibrant beautification, bringing both sides of Orinda together, and updating store fronts.

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An informed community would be the result. If the city tries to raise the height and density of our downtown, it should trigger a ballot initiative. That would be a true consensus by and for residents.

- Ann O'Connell-Nye

Regarding the letter by Frank Simons in the August issue of the Orinda News

I also dined at Theatre Square on the "beautiful early summer evening" which he so enjoyed, and saw the outdoor tables full of happy diners, strolling couples, and families, and felt the similarity to a European plaza. On an earlier visit, I even spotted a local celebrity, in London for the Olympics, as I write this.

But I strongly disagree with his conclusion that "Orinda has been doing a good job of revitalizing itself." It has taken about twenty-five years, an entire generation, to achieve what could have been accomplished long ago.

The recent transformation is largely attributable to the owners of Table 24, Barbacoa and Republic of Cake. They have catalyzed a tenant group to come together to address long-simmering issues such as the extensive misuse of Theatre Square parking for BART parkers. This problem is why Orindans complain about parking in the area.

These owners have also provided the creative spark for the outdoor spaces.

Orinda could enjoy more such "alive" public spaces. Leaving things to chance has held us back. Many properties will change hands in the next few years. Change is coming. Let's actively harness it for the better.

- Carol Penskar

◆ JAZZ from page 15

de Grassi Signature Model Lowden) and finger-picking remains. "I find that finger-picking allows you to hear different elements in the music. You can have a baseline, a melody and some inner voices," he explains. "With this approach, one can orchestrate whatever - hear different elements in the music, and as a solo performer, you need that variety since you're your own drummer and bass player."

Although primarily performing solo at the Orinda Jazz Festival, de Grassi hopes to also jam with Carol Alban and Orinda local Marc Levine, a jazz bass player also on the program. De Grassi will also offer a workshop prior to his performance where he'll demonstrate some of his techniques. A highlight of the festival will be two-time Grammy Award-winning violinist Mads Tolling. The star-studded program also includes musicians Simon Russell, Ben Flint, Josh Workman, Aaron Germain, Deszon Claiborne, and others.

Workshops, which take place from 3 - 4 p.m., include: Alex de Grassi (guitar); Mads Tolling (violin); Ben Flint (piano); and Deszon Claiborne (drums).

A reception with the performers is slated for 4 p.m. with performances beginning



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grammy award-winning violinist Mads Tolling is on the September line-up.

at 5 p.m. Proceeds from the event benefit the Orinda Arts Council. Major sponsors include the Orinda Community Foundation and the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, which will provide the wine at the reception.

For tickets, call 925-255-5164 or go to www.orindajazzfestival.org.

◆ PULTE from page 1

built on the northwesterly corner of the project site. And of course, some people will get to move into brand new homes.

The money the school district received for the parcel is restricted to capital projects such as buildings, facilities, equipment, restoration, etc. State law restricts the money from being spent for ongoing expenses. The school undergoes an annual audit required by the state by an outside auditor chosen by the district.

The school district administrative and maintenance offices will be temporarily located on the second floor of the Vintage Building at 25 Orinda Way, Suite 200, which has been leased by Pulte for the district.

Pine Grove School was a middle school closed in the 1970s. The school district offices have continued to be located at the site until the recent move to temporary quarters

on July 21. JFK University occupied some of the buildings for several years until they completed a new campus and moved into it in Pleasant Hill. Now the old school buildings and district offices will be torn down, and the new construction will begin. The new school district building will have offices and meeting rooms on the first floor for the maintenance people and the rest of the district staff will have offices and meeting rooms on the second floor.

Jaconette explains that some of the proposed uses for the money will be at the school sites for air conditioning, painting school buildings, repairing wood rot, and classroom upgrades.

All of the school improvements will be "large expenditure" items, and the school district simply has not had the money to do them prior to the sale of Pine Grove. He says, "This is a tremendous opportunity for the whole community because everyone gains."

Pilgrim Statue at Santa Maria Church
The International Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be at Orinda's Santa Maria Church on Sept. 14. Since 1946, the pilgrim statue has traveled throughout the world. A series of events are planned beginning with the statue's arrival at 2 p.m. Call 254-2426 for schedule of events.

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ORINDA IDOL

Talented Young Artists Sing Their Hearts Out at Orinda Idol

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Geeks and American Idol fans will enjoy the young Orinda performers seeking stardom in the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Orinda Idol competition. Vocalists will have their chance to shine in the final competition, emceed by television news anchors Diane Dwyer and Amy Hollyfield on Sunday, September 9, 2012, at the Orinda Theatre.

According to Orinda Idol founder and Orinda Arts Council member Petra Michel, about 1,400 young people have auditioned for the vocal talent competition since its inception seven years ago.

High school student Tosca Maltzman, now performing for the fourth year in Orinda Idol, says that winning is not the most important part of the competition. "I aim for putting on a good show," she said, adding, "I think that's really what counts." Maltzman says she enjoys the opportunity to perform with students from throughout the Lamorinda area. "I'm really excited because I've always loved to perform, and Orinda Idol is such a wonderful and fun opportunity to do so! This event is such a special opportunity for kids to perform. When the Orinda Arts Council first put this competition on in 2006, it was only open to Orinda kids. It's now open to all of Lamorinda, and it's amazing to see the level of talent in our community," she says.

According to Michel, Orinda Idol is a singing competition open to young people who either attend school or reside in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette. Singers, who may perform solo or with a group, range in age from kindergarten to seniors

in high school. Winners in each category are selected via a combination of audience vote and professional judges scoring, and winners receive cash prizes up to \$500.

"The objective of Orinda Idol is to provide an avenue for young people to pursue their love for singing, to bring joy to the community, and to have fun!" says Michel. Since the inception of the show, she adds, "Orinda Idol has helped many students pursue a path in the performing arts."

Finalists are narrowed down from around 200 entries during the school year, Michel explains, then, during the summer, "they work on preparing their final song, learning how to present themselves on stage, focusing on perfecting their performance. However, every year we observe that though there is, of course, competitiveness amongst the finalists, their supportiveness is still in the foreground.

Judging, says Michel is done by "a combination of voting and professional judges. However, the audience prize is only determined by the audience, which is awarded to that solo finalist who receives the highest percentage of audience votes and who is not a winner in a soloist category." Celebrity judges are Joe Goldberg, artist manager, Zeitgeist Artist Management; Lois Grandi, musical director; Ira Marlowe, singer/songwriter; Dyan McBride, education director, 42nd Street Moon; Lisa Van Ploeg, singer; and Mark (Mooka) Rennick, recording engineer.

The public is invited to attend the event. The performance schedule is Solos (K-2 and 3-5, from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Groups K-5 and 6-12 from 1-2:15 p.m.; Solo performers Middle school (6-8th grade) 3:15 - 4:30 and High School (grades 9-12)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Idol Finalists from 2011 take to the Orinda Theatre stage.

from 5-6:15. A ceremony to announce the winners will be held at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre.

Finalists are: Soloist K-2: Callie Barber, Lucy Berkman, Amelia Chen, Bridget Mills, Claire O'Connor; Soloist 3-5: Malia Akazawa, Elizabeth Becker, Isabel Fine, Malin Glade, Taylor Johnson, Jennifer McFarlane, Grace Mesenbring, Jackie Patton, Nicole Prozan, Lindsey Wallace; Groups K-2: Monday Blues, Rising Starz, Simply Sisters, Sweet Harmony; Groups 6-12: Frank and Annie, Applause Theatre Com-

pany, Sophie & Emma, Fine & Sassy, J n J, Urban Flare; Soloists Middle School: Grace Baer, Poppy Bovoso, Lucy Clearwater, Nathan Correll, Mia Lineweaver, Jocelyn Purcell, Kendall Roberts, Eleanor Roeder, Michaela Sasner, Leah Woodcox; Soloists High School: Sophie Belinn, Sarah Cain, Mariette Ebarle, Julia Elliott, Maritza Grillo, Tosca Maltzman, Carolyn Moore, Amrita Newton, Paige Powell, Hannah Witbeck.

For information on the Orinda Idol competition, visit www.orindaartscouncil.org.

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September 9th
11:00 am - 7:30 pm

from previous Orinda Idol Finals:



Schedule By Category:

11:00 am Elementary K-2 and 3-5
1:00 pm Groups K-5 and 6-12
3:15 pm Middle School
5:00 pm High School
7:00 pm Announcement of Winners

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COOKING SCHOOL

It's Back to the Table for Three Orinda Cooks

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Orindans Barbara Weikert, Liza Scaff and Thama Brentano have signed on with Back To The Table Cooking School and Production Kitchen which opened its doors in Lafayette this summer. All three are cooking instructors who bring their lifelong passion for cooking and entertaining to their classes. They all agree that, "The name of the school -- Back To The Table -- is what hooked us. That and Leslie's [Pease] classroom, it's just like her home, warm and inviting." They believe that sitting at the table with family and friends is time to cherish these days, not the norm. Their goal is to teach others how to do just that, without spending hours in the kitchen or breaking the bank. When asked to describe

what goes on in their classes they all agreed, "It's like going to your best friend's house, who has a wonderful kitchen, with room for everyone to play and learn."

Barbara Weikert grew up in Orinda and attended U.C. Berkeley, majoring in economics. After a career in HR, she now juggles the demands of work, home management, school volunteer commitments, and four kids. She has mastered the trick of preparing homemade dinners in 15-45 minutes, depending on the menu. "I go grocery shopping once a week for six people. I plan a list, take my time, go through my recipes, and always know ahead of time what I'm going to cook." Weikert believes that, "A lot of moms in my generation don't cook because many are working, too busy chauffeuring kids everywhere, or they don't know how so they don't like it." She loves being a mom and doesn't want to look back and say, "I wish we had more family dinners, vacations and camp-outs." Her recipes are fussy kid tested, nutritious, and easily adaptable (recyclable) to other menus. She insists that, "Everyone can create a lovingly prepared meal in minutes with a well-stocked pantry and a little planning."

Liza Scaff traces her love of cooking to her mother's kitchen in Berkeley. "We took daily trips to the store together, headed home and started cooking. Julia Child's TV show was a favorite growing up and inspired my mother's fearless combinations of local, fresh ingredients," she says. Scaff sliced and diced vegetables in Alice Water's kitchen at Chez Panisse in high school and worked her way through college at some of the best restaurants in Berkeley and San Francisco. She says that working in those restaurant kitchens made her realize that for her, the kitchen is where the real fun can be had. A 15 year career in event planning (15 to 1,000 people) has infused her with levels of experience that serve her well as an instructor. She dubs herself a "maker of exceptional sauces." Those who have



(L-R) Barbara Weikert, Thama Brentano, and Liza Scaff help make Back to The Table Cooking School the place to be.

sampled her Romesco sauce atop Yukon gold potatoes and Wasabaiyaki sauce with lean roast beef on baguette can confirm the moniker. She agrees with Weikert and Brentano that "family time is precious these days." Scaff says she reads everywhere that "something magic happens when you sit down and behold each other during dinner at least once a week." She refers us to Madeline Levine's book *The Price of Privilege*, as to the "value of spending time with your kids, uninterrupted by their or your technology."

Thama Brentano obtained her commercial baking certificate from the hotel and restaurant management program at DVC. She has worked in the kitchens of Tourelle in Lafayette, Oakville Grocery, Paula Le Duc Catering, and Barbara Llewellyn Catering. Brentano has also developed recipes for Safeway and Now We're Cooking, an easy-meal prep company in Danville. Her mother loved to cook and passed her passion along to her daughters. "My sister's family and my family spend hours talking about the big family dinner we plan; we slice and dice that meal even though we've been doing it for 20 years!" Her favorite pastimes are teaching, trying new recipes, and reading cookbooks or food-related magazines.

Here's a *soupeçon* of tips these knowledgeable instructors shared:

- it doesn't have to be all or nothing – use some prepared ingredients like cut up squash or mushrooms – use the time you save for being with your family;
- create a well-stocked pantry – a big time saver;
- multi-tasking – break the meal down into small chunks of time; you can return a phone call while boiling water for pasta;
- take that left over chicken, grate it, and put it in a peanut sauce with noodles – your

kids won't know the difference;

- if your kids learn ordinary table manners at family dinners, later in life they will be able to go to a dinner table anywhere in the world, whether in a home or not, and know how to conduct themselves;

- ask your kids to help you prepare dinner when you are busy – give them discrete, simple tasks;

- learn about substitutes for ingredients you don't have on hand instead of passing by recipes where you are missing something;

- holiday times can be special when all family members get involved in the kitchen; you hear things there you wouldn't hear elsewhere.

At the opening party on June 12, there were outdoor tasting tables including *amuse bouche* portions of: melon/shrimp/cilantro gazpacho; watermelon slices with shaved Manchego cheese and balsamic vinegar; roasted vegetable/cheese focaccia; rice with roasted salmon, julienned carrots/cabbage and a delectable peanut sauce, just to name a few.

Sisters Leslie Pease and Lisa Evaristo opened Back To The Table to "bring people back to what we grew up with, sitting down at the table for a family dinner." Their state of the art production kitchen is upstairs to serve those brave souls who need a legal kitchen to create and prepare delicious food for their home-based businesses. It is open 24/7 at hourly rates with cold storage available. There are 170+ classes to choose from including some designed specifically for entertaining, for middle and high schoolers, college age, and classes featuring food from all over the world. Visit them in their downtown Lafayette cottage at 271 Lafayette Circle, and for more information, call 925-284-1120 or go to www.backtothetablecookingschool.com.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 28

Sal.” The family has a long association with Orinda. His maternal grandmother was Ms. Graham who came to Orinda in 1925 and leased riding stables from Edward de La-veaga where she offered equestrian lessons to the locals. His mother, Peggy Graham, was one of the first 1,000 people to travel through the newly opened Caldecott Tunnel in 1937, and she did it on horseback. More details of the early days in Orinda are revealed in Muir Sorrick’s book, *History of Orinda*.

As summer draws to a close and children return to school, it is time to call Kirby Carpet Cleaning at 254-2866 and schedule service. Visit the website for more information at www.kirbycarpetcleaning.com. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

Bonfire Pizzeria at the Crossroads

Celebrating two years since the 2010 grand opening, this pizzeria offers a casual family dining experience in Theatre Square, located across from Republic of Cake. General Manager Nancy Giovannoni, a 2001 graduate of the California Culinary Academy, oversees the preparation of pizzas, piadinas, calzones and salads seven days a week. Owners Adam Sall and Ryan Mason are investment bankers who always wanted to have a pizza parlor, and Bonfire Pizzeria is their dream come true.

Bonfire Pizzeria features three wide screen televisions tuned to the local professional teams this fall. The counter offers a comfortable spot to watch your favorite team and enjoy a beer with pizza. A wide variety of beer is available on tap including Speakeasy Big Daddy, Firestone Union Jack, Trummer Pils, Fat Tire, Blue Moon, Widmer, with Stella Artois and Guinness by the bottle. A popular chardonnay here is Cupcake, and the house red is Darcie Kent Pinot Noir. “Our beautiful sangria is served with fresh citrus fruit. It packs a



Nancy Giovannoni is the general manager of Bonfire Pizzeria.

wallop with 15 percent alcohol content,” says Giovannoni.

The most favorite specialty pizza is the Number Two. This pizza features no sauce, with a thin layer of Mozzarella, caramelized onions, thinly sliced potatoes, white truffle oil and chives. The Number Five pizza features a crème fraiche sauce as the base, with Mozzarella, goat cheese, sautéed spinach and chives. Giovannoni’s favorite salad is the spinach, made with baby spinach. Customers favor the Caesar salad and the Greek salad is also very popular.

With concrete floors and bare tables, Bonfire Pizzeria is very casual and welcomes families. Paintings by local artists grace the walls inside, made possible through a partnership with nearby neighbor Allison McCrady Gallery. The current exhibit features Bernard Westin. “We are open to customers’ suggestions. It is important to us to serve our customers’ needs,” says Giovannoni. “Our major local charity is Orinda Baseball Association. We offer a special every Monday for dine in or take out customers of two large specialty pizzas for only \$20.”

In her spare time, Giovannoni enjoys listening to live music performances, es-

Dr. Junaid Khan Awarded Heart of Gold from American Heart Association

By KATHERINE CONRAD
Contributing Writer

Cardio-thoracic surgeon Dr. Junaid Khan was honored as the 2012 Heart of Gold Medical Honoree at the American Heart Association’s Heart of Gold Ball in June at Wente Vineyards in Livermore for his years of work to improve the heart health of the Bay Area community.

The Orinda resident is one of the physicians who led California’s battle to ban trans fats in restaurants.

Dr. Khan arrived in the Bay Area in 1989 to begin his medical residency at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center. He graduated cum laude from the University of California-Riverside and then graduated with honors from the Department of Surgery at the University of California-Los Angeles. Dr. Khan performed his residency in both surgery and cardiac surgery at the UCSF Medical Center. He has served as staff surgeon for the San Francisco Veterans Affairs since 2010 and was assistant clinical professor



Dr. Khan honored by Heart Association

at UCSF in 2011.

Since 1998, Dr. Khan has served as the managing partner of East Bay Cardiac Surgery in Oakland. In addition to his role as Thoracic Cardiac Surgery Services Chief with Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Dr. Khan serves as vice president of the Summit Medical Staff, where he specializes in endoscopic (minimally invasive) valve repair surgery. He was president of the American Heart Association Board of Directors from 2006 to 2010 and still serves on the board today. He also coaches both his sons in baseball, basketball and football. He is currently working with the American Heart Association to install automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at the sports fields in the Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda area.

“I am humbled to be selected as the honoree, particularly looking at the great pioneers who have received the honor before me,” said Dr. Khan.



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The caregiver who came daily, reduced my mother’s stress considerably, and by all reports--from my siblings and my mother, too--was absolutely wonderful.

In fact, we are going to try to make permanent arrangements for Amy to come to my mother’s house. My mother enjoys the walks and company very much, and as long as the benefits are positive, we’d like to keep her coming!

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BUSINESS BUZZ

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Village Pizza is Lamorinda Tradition

The mainstay of family dining in these parts continues to be Village Pizza, located at 19 Orinda Way, across from the Orinda Library. Established by Joe Di Sano 27 years ago, this casual restaurant was recently acquired by husband and wife team Adrian Adame and Araceli Sotelo, who hail from Italy.

Adame and Sotelo are excited to take on the responsibility of maintaining and increasing the Village Pizza tradition of serving delicious pizza and many other dishes including barbecue ribs, pasta, hamburgers and salads without raising prices. Di Sano's time honored recipes are prepared by Morgan Gunn, who has been the chef there since 1993, with an occasional break over the years. "Morgan's therapy is making meatballs, which take nearly two

days to prepare. He is always feeling good when preparing meatballs," smiles Adame.

Everything served here is homemade – soups and sauces for pizza and pasta, and tiramisu and apple pie for dessert. A wide selection of red and white wines is available, in addition to beer and soft drinks. There are regular customers who come in every day and, of course, Joe Di Sano still comes by at least once a week. "This is a very big and important place for Orindans. Joe is a tremendous teacher," says Adame.

Vintage photos of San Francisco's Cliff House and old California adorn the pine walls of this cozy restaurant, along with vibrant posters of *Italia*. Adame and Sotelo replaced the carpeted floor with hardwood laminate and the tables are decked with colorful red and white check tablecloths. The floor to ceiling windows along the west side overlooks a bank of bay and pine trees, and the dining room is well lit by hanging stained glass light fixtures. By customer

request, three plasma televisions will be installed soon.

Adame and Sotelo have a background in restaurant management, having previously owned and operated a pizzeria and coffee shop in Mexico City. They relocated to the Bay Area seven years ago. The couple has been married 13 years. Although the restaurant business is a 24/7 proposition and is their second home, when they have some free time they enjoy watching movies together and eating pizza. "Araceli enjoys romantic movies, and I prefer action films. The same goes for pizza. I like meat pizza and she loves veggie," laughs Adame.



SALLY HOGARTY
Adrian Adame (L) and Araceli Sotelo are the new owners of Village Pizza.

Village Pizza gives back to the community by sponsoring Orinda Youth Association sports teams and donating to the 4th of July celebration. A longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, under new ownership there is an emphasis on incorporating Village Pizza into the community. Sports teams are encouraged to host their end of season party at the restaurant and children's birthday parties are sure to be a success here.

Open 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and open until 10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, and 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Village Pizza offers delivery beginning at 5 p.m. To place an order, call 254-1200.

Kirby Carpet Cleaning Celebrates 33 Years

On any given day, a Kirby Carpet Clean-

ing crew will be working in Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette and Rossmore. Applying the state-of-the-art Hydramaster truck mounted carpet cleaning system that utilizes hot water extraction to renew and refresh carpets for their longtime clientele, this system provides a deep cleaning, leaving carpets literally squeaky clean. Owned and operated by native Orindan John Kirby, also a certified Oriental rug cleaning specialist by the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration (IICRC), this small company goes the extra step to deliver supreme customer service.

Kirby takes pride in leaving zero residues behind, providing for a baby safe carpet. The pre-conditioner applied is certified green by the Carpet and Rug Institute. "We have a highly competent, polite and well trained staff. We respect and care about our clients' homes and feel strongly that their home is their castle. Neighbors talk to each other in Orinda. Our business is based on word of mouth referrals from satisfied clients," says Kirby. "We remain informed about new developments in carpet care by participating in continuing education and apply the rigorous standards in our work," he adds. If clients deliver their area rug to the Kirby Carpet Cleaning facility in Pleasant Hill, a 40 percent reduction in price is offered.

In addition to cleaning carpets and area rugs, this company also cleans home and office furnishings, which, when done on a regular basis, extends the useful life of such furnishings. "We are an IICRC certified firm and adhere to a pledge to conduct business honestly and maintain the highest standard of workmanship and service," says Kirby. At the area rug cleaning studio, Kirby goes the extra step to thoroughly clean any kind of area rug, including handmade Orientals, Pottery Barn rugs, and the like.

Kirby is married to Shellie, a realtor with Coldwell Banker specializing in Orinda real estate. The couple has been married 28 years and has two adult children, Lindsey and Chris. In his spare time, Kirby enjoys playing the drums in his band, "Laughing

[SEE BUZZ page 27]



VALERIE HOTZ
L-R: Rick Broussard, Juan Huerta and owner John Kirby pride themselves on treating clients' homes with respect.

Orinda Florist

Local Boutique Flower Shop

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Dr. Walker, board certified dermatologist, offers care in general adult and pediatric dermatology, laser surgery, skin cancer surgery, and cosmetic dermatology. Her friendly and supportive staff can assist you with diminishing the effects of nature to reveal the real you underneath. Dr Walker and her caring staff can help return the glow to your skin with the most advanced skin care lasers and technologies. Dr. Walker is proud to announce the addition of a Nutritionist and Aesthetician to her practice.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE OFFICE:
IPL-Photo Genesis Rejuvenation Treatment for Rosacea, Sun Damage, Fine Lines
Laser Hair Removal
Microdermabrasion
Waxing

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Collagen Peels

AVAILABLE SKIN RESTORATION SYSTEMS:
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