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# THE ORINDA NEWS

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## 10th Anniversary Orinda Car Show Roars into Town



Members of the Orinda Rotary and Orinda Starlight Village Players will bring that '50's ambiance to Dancing with the Cars on September 12. (L-R) **Jill Gelster**, **Malcolm Cowler**, **Charlotte Cowler**, **Frank Brunetti**, **Jack Bontemps** and **Ken Sollazzo** with Brunetti's '56 Oldsmobile Super 88 Rocket.

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Classic Car Show returns for a weekend of cars, parties and movies the weekend of Sept. 12. This year's theme is the Rockin' '50s, so expect to see a wide selection of hotrods, rag tops and glass packs. The three-day event starts on Friday, with the *Rebels with a Cause* Dancing with the Cars pre-show party. On Saturday, Sept. 13, the car show will fill the streets around Orinda Motors and spill onto the Orinda Country Club fairway. The event will climax on Sunday, Sept. 14, with Speed on the Screen's double feature at the Orinda Theatre of *The Blues Brothers* and *Duel*.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the car show. John Vanek of Orinda Motors remembers how the show began. "We did a photo shoot for an ad, and we saw all the cars lined up. We thought it looked

like a car show." Vanek and Chip Herman put together the original car show the first year that included 22 vehicles. "The plan was to just have cars on the Orinda Motors lot, maybe raise a little money. Chip with his marketing skills developed it into the big community event that it is now. It just grew from there." Last year the car show had 210 entries. The show expects to have more than 225 entries this year.

Herman credits Orinda Motors for the growth of the car show. "With their help, the car show has raised over \$250,000 for local community organizations. Orinda Motors has become the community support leader. I'm glad to have them in this as our presenting sponsor." The day of the event, Orinda Motors closes for business and fills its lot and garage with vehicles for the show. Vanek said, "To us, it's a lot of fun and it's about cars and the community. We love old cars, and we love giving back to

the community. It's a great event to do that."

Herman credits the vehicle owners with the longevity of the car show, "To have a successful car show for 10 years is quite an accomplishment. The reason for that is that John and I are car people. We understand car owners. For our car show, the owners of the cars are really the heroes." Over 75 participants this year have displayed vehicles at the Orinda Classic Car Show five or more years. "People enjoy the event and repeat it because it's new all the time, and

[SEE CARS page 10]

## Four Vie For Three Seats on OUSD Board

By BILL O'BRIAN  
Staff Writer

Four candidates are running for three open seats on the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Board of Trustees in November's election. The board has five members with two - Sarah Butler and Matt Moran - in the middle of their four-year terms. The only incumbent running for re-election is Julie Rossiter. Carol Brown, Hillary Weiner and Jason Kaune are the other three candidates.

Julie Rossiter served as OUSD board president in 2013. She has worked as a lawyer in Seattle and Beverly Hills. She presently serves as a board member of the Friends of the Orinda Library and the Miramonte Parents' Club. From 2008-2010, she was annual fund treasurer at Del Rey Elementary School. Rossiter, the mother of three children attending Miramonte and Del Rey says, "It has been a great privilege serving on the school board, and I look for-

[SEE OUSD page 10]

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## A Field of Six Enter City Council Race

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Six candidates will vie for the three seats available on the Orinda City Council in the Nov. 4 election, including two incumbents. Mayor Sue Severson declined to seek reelection. A total of nine people had pulled papers with six of those actually filing.

The two incumbents are Amy Worth and Dean Orr with Carlos Baltodano, Linda Delehunt, Eve Phillips and Robert Thompson seeking their first term on the City Council.

**Amy Worth** led the effort to build the

[SEE COUNCIL page 6]

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### OMPA Swim Meet



SALLY HOGARTY

These young ladies wait patiently to line up for their race in the finals of the 57th Annual Orinda Moraga Pools Association championship. See results on page 25.

LIBRARY GALLERY

# Ceramic Sculpture with Attitude, Gnomes, and The Memory of Trees

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

“Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony,” or so says M. Gandhi. The work of the four artists exhibiting this month bespeaks the premise underlying this quote. Lisa Graham Lee, Geoffrey Meredith, Carey Carpenter and Krista Burst are happiest when creating, as you will observe when you view their work from Sept. 2 through the end of the month at the Orinda Library Gallery. Join them at their artist reception on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm to enjoy light refreshments and music.



*Hurry Up and Wait* by artist **Lisa Graham Lee** is one of several whimsical ceramic pieces on display in September. Lee's piece is 32" x 14" x 13".

Lisa Graham Lee lives in Pleasant Hill but grew up in Orinda. She has worked with ceramic sculpture since 1996 as an artist and educator; she exhibits nationally and her pieces are in many private collections. Lee worked with a lot of mediums until she touched clay – it came easily and naturally to her and that was it, she was hooked. Cen-

tral to her process is the idea that narrative sculpture conveys a wide range of thoughts, ideas and emotions. Often there is a bit of tongue-in-cheek thrown into her work. As her subject matter originates in day-to-day life experiences, she has come to view her pieces as a cumulative 3D journal. While her ideas may originate from personal

experience, they go beyond the personal in their impact. Look for *Hurry Up and Wait*, 32" x 14" x 13" and *Yoga Frog*, 17" x 12" x 16" ceramic sculptures among the 40 pieces she is showing in the large glass cabinets. She hopes viewers will see the humor in her work and crack a smile here and there – this brings her great joy. See [www.lisaleesculpture.com](http://www.lisaleesculpture.com) for more information.

Geoffrey Meredith of Lafayette grew up learning art from his mom, Helen Campe Meredith, an accomplished art educator and painter, and has been drawing and painting from his earliest memories – it's in his blood. What keeps him painting? "I'm trying to convey my insights about the world around me, the patterns I see in nature, how if you look at the details too closely, you miss the overall essence, how things are structured." He also wants to leave a legacy with his paintings and to challenge himself technically, "Can I do it? Can I be pleased with it? Is it exhibitable?" He usually begins by doing a *plein air* study of his subject and often will create a larger version in his studio. He feels he has to grab a sense of what he's looking at by being on site for quite a while; a photograph isn't enough - although he uses photographs. Most paintings begin representational, but then each painting takes on a life of its own. "There was an article about Diebenkorn where someone followed him for two and one-half weeks while he completed a painting. It began with a male figure sitting in a chair and six iterations later, it ended as a woman on a beach." Meredith often paints with Sandy Ostrau, and they think of themselves as contemporary versions of the Bay Area Figurative Movement (BAFM – 1950s – '60s), of which Diebenkorn was a member. "We are representational like BAFM was – not figurative, but abstracted from the representational aspect of BAFM."

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*Violet Hour* by artist **Krista Borst** is a 13" x 16" watercolor, ink collage that will also be displayed at the Orinda Library Gallery during September.

He hopes viewers will see something in a different way when they view his work, perhaps in a deeper way than they have seen before. "I want their experience to be pleasing," he says. See [www.hawkoakstudio.com](http://www.hawkoakstudio.com) for more information.

[SEE GALLERY page 8]

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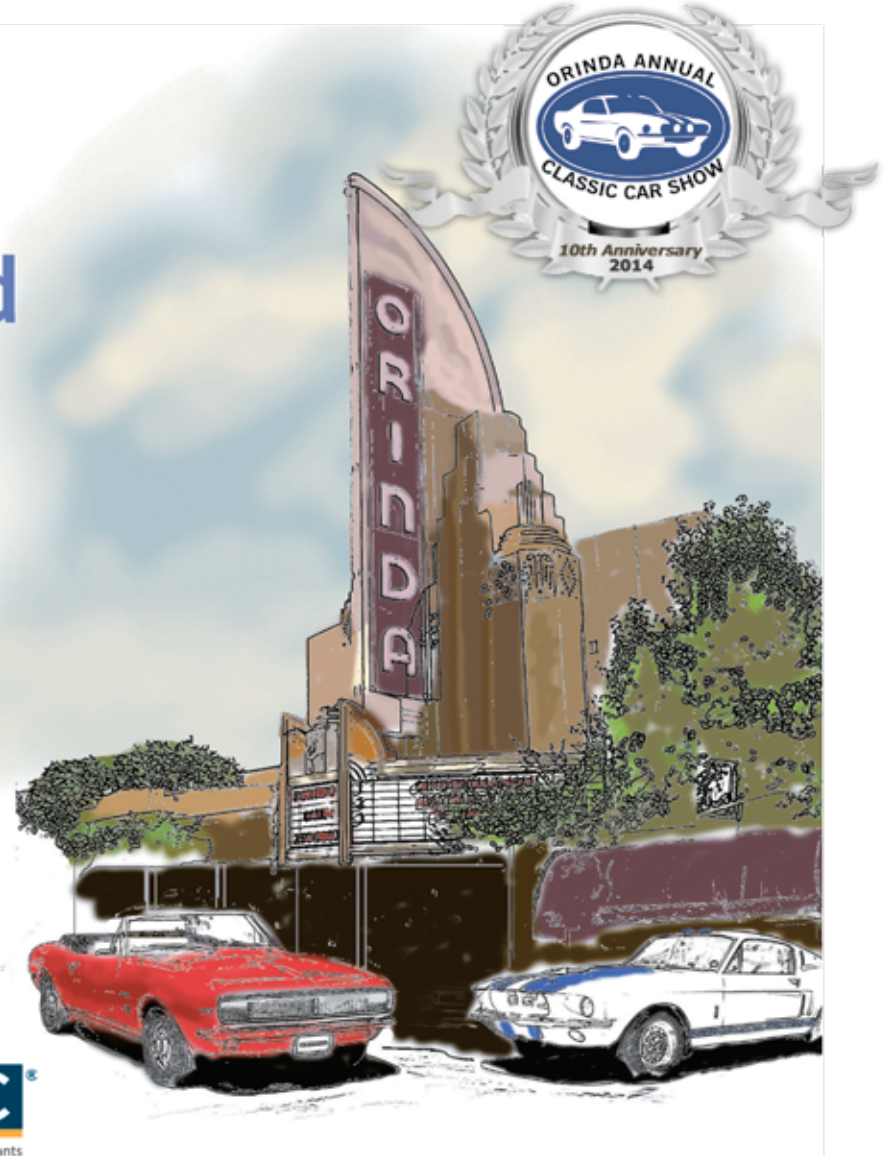
# The 10th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,  
September 12th, 6:30pm  
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"

Saturday,  
September 13th, 10am-3pm  
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Sunday,  
September 14th, 5:30pm and 7:45pm  
"SPEED ON THE SCREEN"

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](http://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 Museum, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Arts Council, and Seniors Around Town.

## Event Schedule

Friday, September 12th, 6:30pm  
"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY  
The presenting sponsor for this event is Mechanics Bank.

### Rebels with a Cause

This fantastic 50's party at Orinda Library Plaza includes a special retrospective car display of hotrods, ragtops and glass packs – plus liberal libations, a deluxe dinner menu from Shelby's, silent and live auctions and, of course, dancing! Reserve your tickets now!

Proceeds of this event benefit EFO, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and other non-profit community partners.

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

Saturday Free Admission  
September 13th, 10am - 3pm

10TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW  
The presenting sponsor for this 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!!!
- 200+ Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- There will be a special exhibit of outstanding Porsches from 1940 to today as well as a 50th Anniversary Corral of Mustangs
- Shaded seating for over 100 to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth and Orinda County Club Taco Bar
- Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Parade of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2014 Car Show T-Shirt

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

Sunday  
September 14th, 5:30 and 7:45pm  
"SPEED ON THE SCREEN" The Blues Brothers and Duel  
The presenting sponsor for this event is Flying A Gasoline.

Wrap up a great Car Show Weekend with two classics at the art deco Orinda Theatre! From the great shopping mall car chase in The Blues Brothers to the out of control trucker and in your gut fear in Duel. A great pairing. **Tickets available for \$10 for each showing at the Car Show or at the door. Or, buy online at OrindaCarShow.com for only \$8. Beer and Wine included.**

See a Special Exhibit of outstanding Porsches from the 1940's to today!



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## "SPEED ON THE SCREEN" MOVIE SPONSOR



Pre-Purchase Your Tickets at [OrindaCarShow.com](http://OrindaCarShow.com).

ORINDA ASSOCIATION

Public Forums in October



In its on-going effort to keep local citizens informed of issues, the Orinda Association will host two forums in October. These are tentatively set for:

- October 6 - City Council Candidates
- October 16 - School Board Candidates

Each forum will be officiated by the League of Women Voters and will take place in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Candidates will be given specific questions to answer as well as some impromptu questions from the audience.

More information and confirmation of dates will be in the October issue of *The Orinda News*.

The Orinda Association

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

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

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A Message From the OA President  
Dialogue - A Better Way To Reach  
Common Ground



Bill Waterman

As in years past, the Orinda Association (OA) will again sponsor two Community Forums this fall - one for the candidates running for City Council and one for candidates running for the OUSD school board. The dates are tentatively set for Oct. 6 for City Council and Oct. 16 for OUSD. These forums are in keeping with part of the OA's non-political mission, to "promote awareness and encourage dialogue among Orinda residents on issues of importance."

Why, some may ask, is "encouraging dialogue" important, particularly just ahead of important elections for council and school board? After all, isn't an election all about winning, not necessarily about creating a consensus on how to solve our city's varied challenges? At this time, perhaps we find ourselves becoming more polarized over certain issues than in recent memory. How to craft the city's updated Housing Element portion of our General Plan and how to go about creating a more vibrant downtown are just a few of the larger issues that come to mind. Some among us object to even the concept of established regional agencies like Association of Bay Area Governments

(ABAG) requiring cities to meet goals for low-income or affordable housing. Yet others feel strongly that the future viability of Orinda depends on having a more diverse population, in terms of age groups, income and ethnicity. Some want to strictly limit any sort of future commercial or residential development in the downtown area, while others wish to see some new buildings and businesses appear. Will these divergent viewpoints ever produce a satisfactory resolution?

I would submit that the need for dialogue has never been greater. One ingredient for successful dialogue is the respectful act of listening to another person's viewpoint and considering it without immediate reaction or disparaging remarks. A key benefit is that because others must listen, the speaker knows that his or her viewpoint is being heard, something we all need to experience. Thus, I hope that these two forums will contribute to actual dialogue. If we consider that the benefits of engaging in dialogue far outweigh any downsides, we all can hope that solutions to these larger city challenges are possible. Let's work to make that happen.

OA Board Member Maryam Asgari

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Contrary to popular belief, members of volunteer committees are not primarily retirees or stay-at-home parents. While this population forms an important part of such committees, volunteer groups also include those engaged with busy careers. For example, Orinda Association (OA) board member Maryam Asgari volunteers while also taking care of her growing family and demanding duties as a clinical assistant professor and a research scientist.

Asgari and her husband Marc, who serves on the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission, moved to Orinda four years ago. Their eldest son, Arman, attends Orinda Intermediate School while their middle son, Aydin, is a third grader at Del Rey Elementary. Their daughter attends the Growing Tree Preschool in Moraga.

"I joined the OA board to become more involved in the Orinda community," says Asgari. "The mission of the OA, namely improving the quality of life in Orinda and promoting awareness and encouraging dialogue among residents, resonates with me."

With an MD from Yale University's School of Medicine, Asgari also has a very busy professional life. She is a clinical assistant professor, Department of Dermatology at UC San Francisco and a research



SALLY HOGARTY

Maryam Asgari juggles her career as a doctor/research scientist with family responsibilities and volunteerism.

scientist for Kaiser Permanente Northern California. The author of numerous papers and a frequent speaker at medical conventions and meetings, Asgari's research focuses on epidemiology, etiology and prevention of skin cancer. She is currently involved in six research studies involving skin cancer and psoriasis.

For information on joining the Orinda Association or becoming a board member, call 925-254-0800 or email oa@orindaassociation.org.

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## HOUSING / MINER ROAD

## Three Potential Housing Sites Approved for Further Review

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER  
Staff Writer

With four months to go until final approval, alternative plans for the Fifth Cycle Housing Element continue to be researched and evaluated by the Orinda City Council and city staff.

The housing element, which is designed to meet projected housing needs for all economic segments of the community, is a state-mandated requirement. Failure to comply could lead to cuts in State grant money. In order to meet the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) housing mandate for the next eight year period, Orinda must allocate 227 units of housing in the following income levels: 84 very low; 47 low; 54 moderate; and 42 market rate.

Feedback from early public meetings led city staff to review alternative sites that meet the HCD's requirement. At the August 5 meeting, City Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu presented the staff report detailing a number of possible sites.

After council and citizen discussion, the

council agreed upon three sites for further study: 1) the Santa Maria ball fields at 40 Santa Maria Way; 2) church sites, which includes Orinda Community Church's upper parking lot at 10 Irwin Way, St. Mark's Church south parking lot at 451 Moraga Way and St. John's Church vacant land south of the parking lot at 501 Moraga Way; 3) portions of the Village Center site incorporating Rite Aid at 27 Orinda Way, a portion of the Orinda Community Church upper parking lot at 10 Irwin Way, and the martial arts studio/restaurant complex at 1 Orinda Way. Vice-Mayor Steve Glazer suggested 1 Orinda Way, citing fewer impacts. Councilmember Dean Orr concurred, noting significant citizen correspondence asking the site be included.

While citizen input at the August meeting did not reach the emotional and robust level of past public meetings, those who commented did echo previous concerns about increased traffic issues and a loss of small town charm, and appealed for council to thoroughly assess the sites – particularly the downtown Village area.

Mayor Sue Severson expressed her



SALLY HOGARTY

The building at **1 Orinda Way** was added to the potential alternative sites for housing. It currently houses a martial arts studio and restaurant.

personal desire that the Village area be left specifically to business and retail. Councilmembers felt that the three approved options provide a reasonable range of alternatives, offering both downtown and outside downtown alternatives. Council granted staff the discretion to seek replacement alternatives should certain constraints arise during further exploration of the three sites.

Vice-Mayor Steve Glazer reminded those in attendance that the Housing Element is meant to comply with state law and is not a visioning process. "We need to follow the rules and impacts in order to ensure that our work is blessed by the state," he said.

The council hopes to approve a final housing plan in January 2015. If they miss that deadline, they can ask for a 120-day extension to April 30, 2015. A draft Housing Element and EIR should be available for public review in September or early October. For more information, go to [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

## Council Drops Plan for Undergrounding on Miner Road

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER  
Staff Writer

What is the price of beauty? According to the Orinda City Council and many vocal community members, \$2.7 million is a bit too much. This is the estimated price tag for PG&E's proposed undergrounding of Miner Road overhead distribution lines per the Rule 20A Program – intended primarily to improve aesthetics. Citing too little bang for the buck, and too much traffic disruption for residents, the council voted in early August to postpone the project and work on identifying alternative sites that provide more public benefit.

Ratepayer fees fund PG&E's Rule 20A Program and are distributed to a city-held PG&E account for the sole purpose of undergrounding overhead lines. A selected project must be in the general public interest and must meet one of the following criteria: eliminating an unusually heavy concentration of overhead lines; the street is extensively used by pedestrian or vehicular traffic; the street adjoins or passes a civic or public recreation area or is of unusual scenic interest; the street is considered arterial. In 2004, the City Council determined that Miner Road would most benefit from the removal of utility poles – improving both safety and aesthetics in the area. However, lack of funding and questions about the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian trail in tandem with trench digging led to continued delays.

PG&E and the city began to revisit the issue this past year, but escalating costs and an error by PG&E regarding available R20A funds halted progress again. PG&E had previously mistakenly specified that the project could be fully funded prior to 2011 due to a "grandfather" clause that allowed Orinda to borrow more than the five-year credit limit. (If a particular project's costs exceed a city's available R20A funds, the city can borrow up to five years future allocation credits.) With the scope of the project now totaling \$4.7 million and the city having only \$2.2 million and being held to the five-year allocation credits, council



SALLY HOGARTY

Utility poles along **Miner Road** will continue above ground as the undergrounding project has been dropped.

members asked city staff to investigate modifications to the plan.

Cost-cutting options presented at the meeting included utilizing additional crews to minimize duration of construction, a variety of proposed road closures, and start and stop dates to minimize traffic congestion. None of these alternatives convinced council and most attending community members that the project was worthwhile. Councilmember Amy Worth reminded the audience that the plan originated with the idea of creating a walking path. However, PG&E's current design proposal entails undergrounding most of the utility lines in existing roadway pavement, which, while not impeding the feasibility of a walking path, does not allow for path work to be performed at the same time. The City Council's staff report on the issue states that "a standalone trail project will need to be authorized by the city and included in the Capital Improvement Plan since the PG&E project will not be able to provide substantial benefits toward a roadside trail." Mayor

[SEE MINER page 8]



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EDITORIAL

Editor's Note . . .

This November, Orinda residents will vote on two contested races: Orinda City Council and Orinda Union School District. To help residents better understand candidate positions, the Orinda Association will hold two public forums in October: Oct. 6 (City Council) and Oct. 16 (OUSD). Look for more information in upcoming publications of *The Orinda News*.

◆ COUNCIL from page 1

fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel providing Orinda residents with a safer and more predictable commute to work and other destinations. "The fourth bore is a monumental achievement that was delivered on time and under budget, almost unheard of for transportation projects," says Worth.

The longest-serving member on the council, Worth gained her seat in 1998 and won subsequent re-election in 2002, 2006 and 2010. Over the last four years, she helped balance the city's budget, maintained the city's solid financial footing, increased funding for local road improvements, improved local infrastructure and worked towards improving Orinda's downtown while maintaining its small town charm. Worth and her husband Tom, both UC Berkeley graduates, have three daughters.

**Dean Orr** was elected in 2010 and will complete his first term on the Orinda City Council in November. Orr states that he has a commitment to fiscal stability and to ensuring a balanced operating budget while maintaining the city's emergency reserves. He lists road and infrastructure repair as priorities and hopes to continue to seek the most efficient and cost-effective way to leverage Orinda's funding sources.

Orr, who is passionate about Orinda's schools, its natural environment, and the quality of life in Orinda, moved to Orinda 14 years ago with his wife Alissa. They have two children in Orinda schools. He is a principal at the firm of Jensen Architects.

**Carlos Baltodano** is a 22-year resident of Orinda along with his wife Josie and three daughters. "I love Orinda and am passionate about preserving and enhancing its quality of life," he says. His education includes a Bachelor of Architecture and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley.

Baltodano's public service includes six years on the Orinda Planning Commission, the last year as chair. Previously, he served 10 years as County Director of Building Inspection and helped develop an Orinda Building Inspection office to provide direct services to Orinda residents. Presently, he serves as a Building Safety Consultant. Baltodano plans a weekly open-door policy to listen to Orinda residents' concerns. "I will work hard to address the identified needs and priorities of Orinda," he adds.

Correction . . .

In our story on local author Ginger Wadsworth in the August issue, it was mentioned that her new book *Yosemite's Songster: One Coyote's Story* would be available at Yosemite Park bookstores. It is also available locally at Orinda Books. The publication was also noted as being published August, 2014. It has been out since August, 2013.

**Linda Delehunt**, Ed.D., has worked in various service capacities throughout her 34-year career. A fiscal conservative, Delehunt is currently employed as a lecturer at California State University, Monterey Bay. "In particular, my area of expertise lies with assisting entities in targeting and allocating their monetary and physical resources in a manner appropriate to their needs and consistent with their legal obligations," she says.

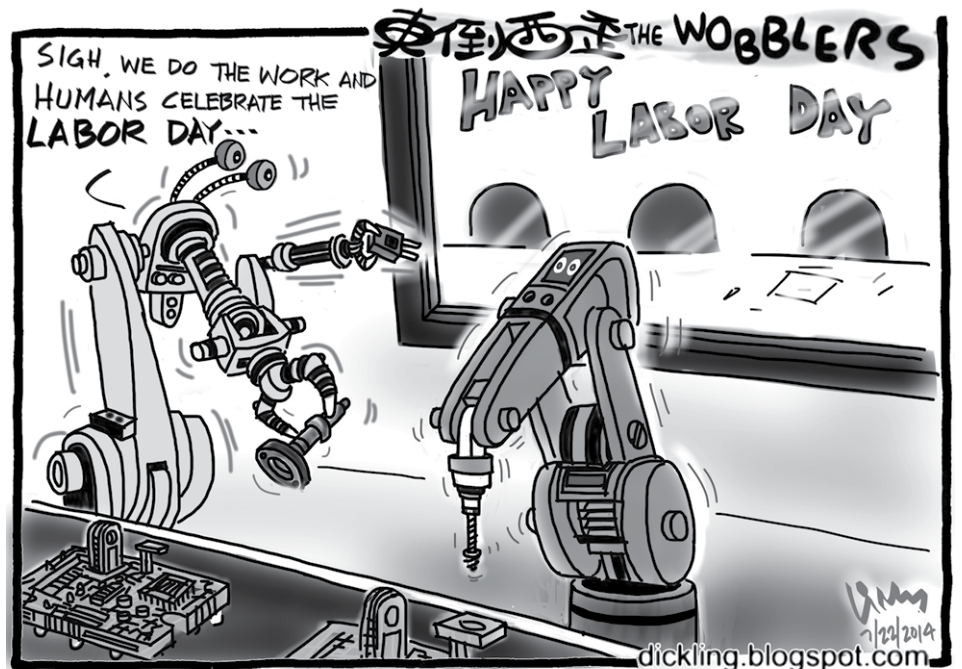
Delehunt and her husband have lived in Orinda for 34 years. She is currently a member of the Orinda Rotary, Cal Alumni Association, Toastmasters and the UC Berkeley Chapter of the Prytanean Honor Society and serves on the UC Berkeley-Osher Lifelong Learning board. She has also served on the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) board, the Glorietta Elementary and Orinda Intermediate School Parents' Club boards, and founded Orinda's first Girl Scout Daisy Troop.

**Eve Phillips** is an experienced technology entrepreneur and investor with expertise in assembling diverse teams to solve hard problems. She is currently CEO and co-founder of Empower Interactive, Inc., a digital health company. Prior to Empower, she held product and strategy roles in software businesses including Microsoft and Trilogy and was a venture capitalist at Greylock Partners. Phillips earned an MBA from Stanford and both bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from MIT.

Raised in Moraga, she was a valedictorian at Miramonte High School while captaining its track and cross-country teams. Phillips lives in Orinda with her husband, Kevin, and their rescue Siberian husky, Ginger. "As a City Councilmember, I will apply my experiences to enhance the quality of life of Orinda citizens," she says.

**Bob Thompson** is a native Bay Area resident who has lived in Orinda with his wife and children since 1993. He received both undergraduate and graduate (Economics and Business) degrees from Stanford and has worked for the last 37 years in the financial services industry, including the past 22 years at an investment advisory firm.

Thompson served in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear submarine officer between degrees and has been engaged in volunteer activities throughout his career, including board and committee work for United Way of the Bay Area, the Boy and Girl Scouts, pre-schools



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and the EFO. He is a past president of the CFA Society of San Francisco and has served on the City of Orinda's Finance Advisory Committee since its inception in 2008, currently as its chair.

The Orinda Association tentatively plans to hold a forum on Oct. 6 for City Council candidates to present their views to the public. More information will be available in the October issue of *The Orinda News*.

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CRIME/LOCAL RESIDENT

# Top Cop Proposes Motion Sensor Cameras on City Streets

■ Recent spike in crime prompts move

By MICHAEL SAKODA  
Contributing Writer

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel held a public forum on Aug. 28 to address a recent string of burglaries, as well as propose a controversial tactic for crime prevention.

Nagel, other public officials and community members gathered at St. Stephen's Church to discuss the possibility of installing motion sensor cameras on Orinda's streets.

"When a car comes along a street, the camera will capture the motion, and if there's a burglary, we can access the camera, the photos that were taken, narrow down the timeframe and start identifying the cars that were in the area at the time," said Nagel. "It's a chance to get leads where we haven't had them before."

Several Bay Area cities have discussed the matter, and while some say the cameras infringe on privacy, other cities, including Piedmont, have, in Nagel's words, "gone all out."

helped solve crimes.

The proposal is in response to the spike in residential burglaries in Orinda last year. In 2013, the number of break-ins shot up to 86, a 65-percent increase from the 56 in 2012. So far this year, Orinda has seen 28 residential burglaries, but Nagel says another problem is on the rise.

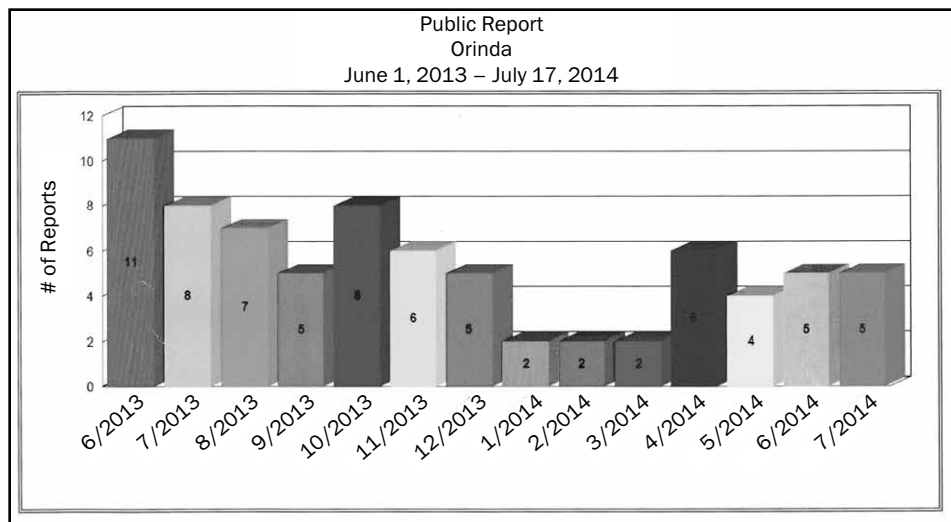
"Residential burglaries hit a high of 11 for the month of June in 2013 but have been on a downward trend since," said Nagel. "However, auto burglaries are taking their place."

Nagel, who took over as Orinda's Police Chief in February, believes the problem may be linked to the California Legislature's passing of the Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109) in 2011.

"There are several factors that contribute to the increase of crime, but what I believe, what many law enforcement officers believe, is that a large part of it stems from AB 109," he said.

The act transfers the responsibility of supervising certain low-level inmates and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to the counties, Contra Costa included.

"(AB 109) releases certain inmates from



"Piedmont was suffering the same problems with residential burglaries, so they installed license plate readers," said Nagel. "They're different than the motion-activated cameras. They're tied to a huge database, and the readers will know as soon as a stolen car, or a car used in a burglary, is viewed."

According to Nagel, "Piedmont has seen a serious reduction in crime." In addition, Nagel noted that Lafayette has installed 20 cameras, similar to the ones that have been proposed in Orinda, which have directly

the prisons into the county jails, but the county jails are so full that they release them to the public without serving their full sentence," said Nagel. "I think it's more than a coincidence that since this started the number of property crimes has gone up."

Fortunately, the community has yet to experience a rash of violent crimes, but Nagel fears the burglaries could lead to more serious problems.

"My concern, when a criminal breaks into a home, is what (might) happen if

[SEE CRIME page 20]

## Architect in Final Stages of Shanghai Tower



NICK ALMASY PHOTOGRAPHY

Raised in Orinda, architect Michael Strabala (R) is currently overseeing the final work on the 121-story Shanghai Tower (L), the world's second tallest building. Located in Shanghai, China, it is slated for completion in early 2015. Previously, Strabala designed the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. He currently heads 2DEFINE Architecture, a global architecture firm based in Shanghai. His family still resides in Orinda.



## POLICE BLOTTER

From July to August 8, 2014

**Burglary, Auto:** 9 incidents at Wilder Rd./Hwy 24, Brookwood Rd. (6), Dalewood Dr. and Camino Pablo/Los Amigos.

**Burglary, Miscellaneous:** 2 incidents at El Toyonal and Altarinda Dr.

**Burglary, Residential:** 5 incidents at Tara Rd. (2), Sunset Ter., Southwood Dr. and Moraga Way.

**Fraud Under False Pretenses:** 1 incident at Theatre Square.

**Grand Theft:** 1 incident at Lost Valley Dr.

**Hit & Run Misdemeanor:** 2 incidents at Whitehall Dr. and Lost Valley Ct.

**Identity Theft:** 2 incidents at Scenic Dr. and Dos Posos.

**Petty Theft:** 7 incidents at St. Stephens Cir./El Nido Ranch, Charles Hill Rd., Orindawoods Dr., Camino Sobrante, Hacienda Cir., Lost Valley Ct. and La Cuesta Rd.

**Shoplifting:** 2 incidents at Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante.

**Stolen Vehicle:** 1 incident at Donald Dr.

**Threats:** 1 incident at Brookwood Rd.

**Vandalism:** 1 incident at Lost Valley Dr.

**Arrests**

**Embezzlement:** 1 arrest at Camino Pablo.

**Fire & Ambulance Arrest:** 1 incident at Moraga Way/Oak Rd.

**Occupied Stalled Vehicle:** 1 arrest at Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.

**Suspicious Circumstance Arrest:** 1 incident at Tara Rd./Southwood Dr.

**Suspicious Subject Arrest:** 2 incidents at St. Stephens Dr./Tahos Rd. and St. Stephens Dr./Hwy 24.

**Traffic Stop Arrest:** 8 incidents at St. Stephens Dr./Tahos Rd., Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way, Moraga Way/Overhill Rd., Moraga Way/Camino Encinas, Brookwood Rd., Oak Hill Rd./Mount Diablo Blvd., Miner Rd./Camino Lenada, Camino Pablo/Miner Rd. and St. Stephens Dr./Hidden Valley.

**Welfare Check Arrest:** 2 arrests at Orinda Way and Orchard Rd./Moraga Way.

**Orinda BART Station**

**Identity Theft:** 2 incidents.

**Stolen Vehicle Recovery:** 1 incident.

— Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

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Updates on Orinda's Roads

Stay Tuned



Mark Roberts

As you read this column, the roads of Orinda are being improved. Credit the passage of Measure L, the half-cent sales tax increase passed by voters in November 2012, for the work that is now underway on several residential streets. While \$600,000 was the amount expected to be generated during calendar year 2013, the actual amount was almost \$1 million thanks to the improving economy and the residents who recognized the value of buying in Orinda and putting our sales tax dollars to work here at home.

According to City of Orinda Public Works Director Chuck Swanson, the projects currently underway or scheduled to begin in September are, in approximate chronological order are:

- Base failure repairs on Rheem Boulevard, Orindawoods Drive, El Toyonal Road and Tara Road;
- Mill and overlay on Tara;
- Slurry sealing on Rheem, Orindawoods and El Toyonal;
- Base failure repairs on Charles Hill Road;
- Mill and overlay on Charles Hill;
- Preparation work and utility adjustments on Lost Valley Drive;
- Full depth recycling (complete repaving) on Lost Valley.

The Charles Hill and Lost Valley projects are notable because segments of those two roads were identified as being among the worst in Orinda. Both had PCI (Pavement Condition Index) ratings below 25, considered "poor" to "failing." The residents on these roads will, I hope, exchange a couple of weeks of inconvenience while the work is being done for years of smooth travel in the future.

The best news is – these projects are just the beginning. Starting next year, the funds from Measure L will be boosted by those generated by the passage of Measure J this past June. The sale early in 2015 of the first tranche of bonds authorized by Measure J will provide approximately \$5 million in funding during each of the next two years. These funds will be used exclusively to renovate other residential roads in Orinda currently in poor to failing condition. If the funds generated by the Measure L sales tax remain consistent, that will mean a total of approximately \$6 million per year in 2015 and 2016 to fix Orinda's roads.

I will provide regular updates about projects planned or underway and about progress made in future issues of *The Orinda News*. In the meantime, check the city's web site, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org), for timely and accurate updates.

Residents Concerned About MOFD Response Times

Recent fires spark controversy over coverage

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

Recent fires have caused concern among residents about the response times of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) firefighters. A fire in Orinda on Tarry Lane in June and a fire in Lafayette on Monticello Road in July are prime examples of how time sensitive fire response can be and how the "no borders" policy between local fire districts helps provide coverage during emergencies.

On June 23, occupants of a hillside house on Tarry Lane were awakened to the smell of smoke. Flames were seen coming through exterior decking in the backyard. MOFD sent five engines and one truck to the scene. Contra Costa County Fire District (Con Fire) also responded by sending an engine from Lafayette. When the first MOFD engine arrived, the house was engulfed in fire. Because of the steep, wooded terrain around the building, firefighters were forced to take a defensive approach and prevent the fire from spreading to nearby homes and into the nearby canyon.

At the time of the Tarry Lane fire, all MOFD's engines stationed in Orinda had been dispatched to a vegetation fire in the Berkeley hills. As a result, an engine was in transit, moving from Moraga to cover

Orinda. The first responder to arrive at Tarry Lane was an engine that was traveling down Moraga Way when it got the call. The response time was 7 minutes 31 seconds. MOFD Fire Chief Stephen Healy said, "Had Engine-45, the engine from Orinda Village, been in quarters, their travel time to Tarry Lane would have been about 6 minutes (data from Google Maps), plus getting dressed and out of quarters. So the time is about the same time."

On July 25, a home on Monticello Road erupted in flames. The three-alarm fire spread and burned about two acres of wildland before being brought under control. Nearby homes were threatened but not damaged during the blaze. The fire started about 6:20 pm. The house fire was contained by 6:50 pm and the brush fire in a wooded valley was under control by 7:15 pm. More than 45 firefighters were on the scene, 13 engines and two trucks from stations in Moraga, Orinda, Lafayette, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek.

During the Monticello Road fire, there was a gap in coverage in Orinda and Moraga. Chief Healy said, "When there are gaps in coverage, the computer in dispatch automatically triggers 'Move-up and Covers' to fill in the gaps. During the fire, San Ramon Fire moved in to cover Station-41 in Moraga and Con Fire's Engine from El Sobrante moved in to cover Station-45 in the Orinda Village."

For more information, visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org).

◆ GALLERY from page 2

Carey Carpenter of Lafayette creates what Paracelsus referred to as elemental embodiments or mythical beings called gnomes. They are the guardians of the earth's treasures. Carpenter calls them by name and will be exhibiting 30 of them divided between five vignettes in the small glass cabinets. Her grandmother taught her how to make pipe cleaner figures as a kid. The memory of those figures, combined with what she found on a nature walk, inspired her to take a little bit of nature and a little bit of craft to begin making her gnomes. "They are whimsical figures who entertain both my 105-year-old grandfather and the eight year olds in my family - they bring generations together," says Carpenter. She likes using bark, dried grass, acorn tops, pre-WWII handmade flowers from

Germany or Japan and all sorts of treasures she finds outdoors to create their environments. Many are the size of half a pinky finger and she swears they are, "always working for their own betterment or the betterment of others."

Krista K. Borst of Kensington grew up surrounded by science teachers, gardeners, woodworkers and naturalists so the world of plants and the landscape have always been in her work. Initially, her botanical illustration career garnered clients such as Taunton Press, Fine Gardening, Shepherd's Seeds, White Flower Farm, Rodale Press and Scholastic Press (*I Spy Spooky Night*). Now her paintings are a freer, more whimsical interpretation of the natural form including textures as well as forms. Her theme for this exhibit is *The Memory of Trees*. About half of her 15 works in the show are watercolors with colored pencils

and inks; the other half feature acrylic paintings. "I like the sparkle of the paper coming through the watercolor and how the texture and colors change as the paint dries. But I also paint with acrylics so I can layer thicker, richer colors." Her work evolves from and is inspired by the beauty and mystery inherent in plants and trees in all of nature. Look for *Violet Hour*, a 13" x 16" watercolor with inks, gouache and ribbon and *Gandalf's Tree*, an 8.5" x 10" watercolor with ink and collage. She hopes her paintings allow the viewer to experience the ineffable beauty of the natural world. See [www.littlebluefrogstudio.yolasite.com](http://www.littlebluefrogstudio.yolasite.com) for more information.

As far as the value of art to the community, Lee looks forward to seeing the ever-changing public art on display when she visits her hometown. "I hope more communities follow suit with colorful sculpture for all to see," says Lee. Meredith says, "Art invites us to slow down and contemplate something, to unplug from the noisy stimulus that surrounds us in our work and personal lives." Carpenter says, "Art makes a community full-bodied and brings a breadth of experience to the forefront." Burst believes being creative can be contagious. "Whenever art is included in a community it's possible for people's work to encourage others to try doing something creative," says Burst.

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, 1 to 5 pm. Closed Sept. 1. Call 925-254-2184 for more information.

◆ MINER from page 5

Sue Severson stated that traffic safety, not aesthetics, is the biggest concern on Miner Road.

Community concerns at the meeting focused on fears of major traffic congestion during the proposed nine months of construction and worry that Orinda businesses and retail might suffer if citizens avoided the roads altogether. Dean Orr asked whether the Miner Road utility lines are more susceptible to problems, and thus, in need of replacement. A PG&E representative responded that the area is on a very reliable circuit, leading council members to concur that the project at this time is mainly aesthetic, and that a \$2.7 million makeover is excessive.

Council voted to postpone the project and direct staff to bring R20A issues back during strategic planning in order to identify a new thoroughfare that meets the R20A criteria. PG&E representatives confirmed that R20A credits remain in a city's account until used.



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## PARK &amp; REC FOUNDATION / ST. STEPHEN'S

## Swim with the Stars at Wilder Quarry House

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation (OPRF) and Cal Athletics present a fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Wilder Quarry House and Pool, 8 Quarry Hill Dr., Orinda. The gracious hacienda is designed in the Spanish Colonial style with a clubhouse courtyard seating 300. The day begins with a gourmet box lunch with coaches and student athletes introducing the theme of the event, "Competitive Swimming Builds Character." Coaches will inspire attendees as to the long-term benefits of competitive swimming. Swimmers will share their Olympic and other championship experiences.

Unique raffle prizes and silent auction items include opportunities to be an assistant swim coach on the day of a meet in Berkeley; receive a private behind-the-scenes tour of Cal athletic facilities (the newly remodeled Memorial Stadium); get autographed swim gear, and more. Cal coaches and swimmers will be available for autographs and selfies. There will be video highlights of Cal swim competitions and gift bags for all attendees.

## New Rector Starts at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church has a new rector as of September 1. The Rev. Stephen Hassett replaces The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Hunter, who retired in May.

The Rev. Hassett comes to St. Stephen's from St. John's Church in Ross where he had been Associate Rector since 2008. Ordained as an Episcopal priest in 2006, he holds a Masters in Divinity and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry from Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. Prior to his calling to the priesthood, Rev. Hassett studied fine arts and worked in publishing and as a graphic designer for a small firm in San Francisco.

According to an announcement from St. Stephen's, the search committee and the Vestry were impressed with Rev. Hassett's "welcoming approach, spirituality, inspired preaching and his implementation of programs at St. John's to broaden participation and connections among families and youth."

Rev. Hassett is married to Clancy Drake, a freelance book editor. They have two sons, Elijah, 10, and Declan, 7. The family, who previously lived in Oakland, moved into the house provided for the Rector

After lunch, in-pool demonstrations of training techniques begin at the world-class 8-lane swimming pool. Guests will enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding oak-studded hills. Head Swim Coach Dave Durden will represent the 2014 NCAA National Champion Men's Team. Swimmers representing the team include Olympians and All Americans. Durden is entering his seventh year at Cal and, since 2008, has produced 18 individual national champions and has seen 12 relays win NCAA crowns. He guided Cal Swimmers to 32 Pac-12 titles and 17 conference relay titles. He has worked with Olympic swimmers including Nathan Adrian, who won three Olympic gold medals, among others.

The 2014 Pac-12 Champion Women's Team will be represented by Head Swim Coach Teri McKeever, 2012 Head Olympic Women's Swim Coach, and swimmers representing the team including Olympians and All Americans. McKeever was the first woman to coach a U.S. Olympic swim team; she just finished her 22nd season at Berkeley. She has coached some of America's greatest swimmers, including current Bears star Missy Franklin. At press time, coaches McKeever and Bob Bowman were gearing up for the U.S. women's and men's



TOM LAVIN

The beautiful courtyard at **Wilder Quarry House** will host a fundraiser for Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation. The event includes swimming demonstrations by local Olympians and All Americans.

teams at the Pan Pacific Championships on the Gold Coast in Australia (Aug. 21-25).

The OPRF, founded in 1975, will utilize 100 percent of the net proceeds from this event to further their mission, which is: "To aid and contribute to the City of Orinda's recreational and community service activities related to parks, open space, beautification efforts and community recreational improvements." The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization funds park and recreation facilities and activities enjoyed not only by members of the Orinda community but by families from surrounding areas

as well.

Thus far the organization has funded \$1.5 million in community projects in furtherance of its mission. See the OPRF website for details about past and present projects. Tickets are \$85 for all ages with 25 VIP "Swim with the Stars" tickets available for kids in seventh grade and under at \$200 each; all are available online. Visit [www.oprfoundation.org](http://www.oprfoundation.org), email [info@oprfoundation.org](mailto:info@oprfoundation.org) or call Carolyn Mills at 925-254-5292 or Bill Wadsworth at 925-963-0442 for information.

## OCF Sponsors Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) will sponsor the Fifth Annual Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament at the Orinda Country Club on Oct. 13. Everyday Heroes honors members of the community who uphold the values of a hero. This year the tournament will honor all members of the Orinda Police Department. "This event helps raise much needed funding for many important local events and services while paying tribute to our local heroes," said Allena Behnke, co-chair of the tournament.

Festivities start at 10:30 am with registration for the event and a complimentary buffet lunch. The tournament begins at noon. "The tournament format is a two best ball shamble," said Behnke. "In a best ball format (or sometimes called better ball

format), teams consist of two players each. The team records the better of its two scores on each hole. In a shamble, in order to speed play, each player hits their own drive, but second shots are moved to the best drive. From that point, each player plays their own shot until the hole is completed." Contests, food and treats await participants along the course. Following the tournament, there will be awards and appetizers.

Sponsorships are still available and start at \$250. Business sponsorships provide financial support that helps worthwhile local programs and gives businesses exposure within Orinda and surrounding communities. "Business and corporate sponsorships are available at multiple levels. In return, we promote your business. Contributions of prizes and raffle items or sponsorship of golf foursomes all make a difference to the

[SEE HEROES page 23]



SALLY HOGARTY

Rev. Stephen Hassett is the new rector at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. He and his family will be in residence as of Sept. 1.

adjacent to St. Stephen's Church.

"The boys are particularly excited about moving into the Rectory and having their own rooms," says Rev. Hassett. "And I won't miss my commute. One of my colleagues at St. John's in Ross noted that I was trading in my 45 mile commute for a 45 step commute -- quite a difference." In his spare time, Steve enjoys bike riding, jogging, and practices Capoeira, a Brazilian form of martial arts.



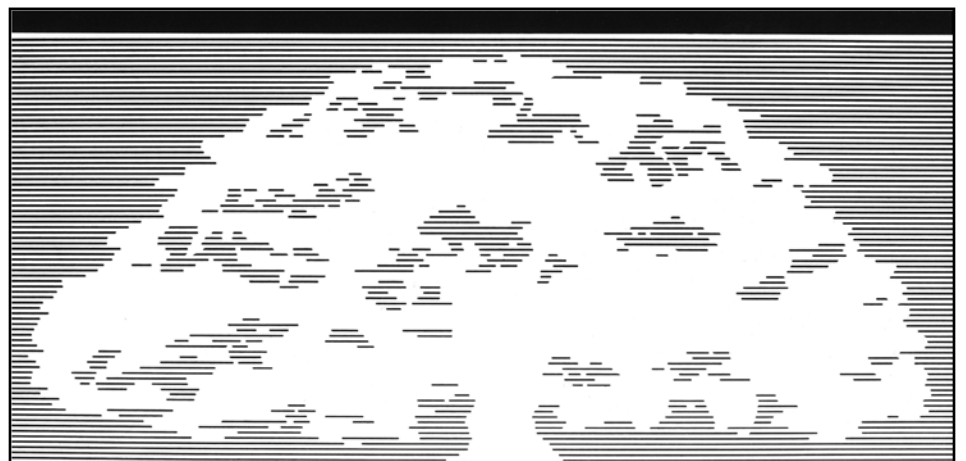
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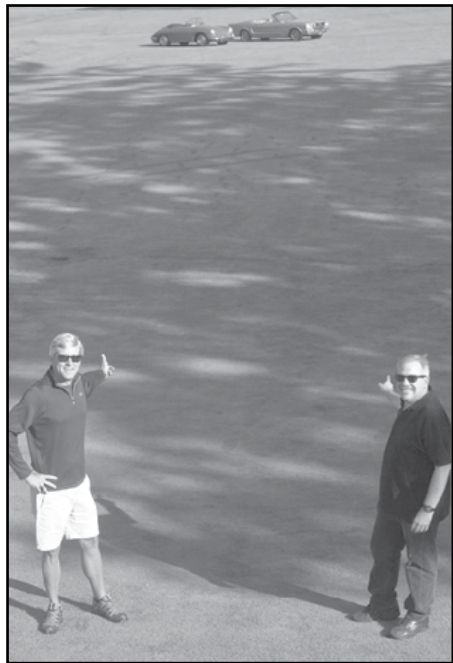
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CARS

◆ CARS from page 1

they get what they're looking for from the day in Orinda. We want to make sure that their experience at the car show is the best car show experience that they have during the year."

In addition to increasing the number of vehicles on display, the show has also attracted volunteers to help. Vanek said, "All these other local entities have a role in the car show. Chip brought in different groups like the Orinda Association (OA), the Orinda Rotary and the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO). As the car show has grown so has the staff, the involvement and the money that we've raised. People get excited and want to do something, something they're skilled at. That change has really helped the car show grow." Herman added, "Orinda Rotary is producing Dancing with the Cars. Orinda Historical Society Museum develops a distinct and new exhibit every year, just for the car show. The show has grown tremendously, not only in attendees and participants, but in the role it plays in the community. It is a cornerstone community event here in Lamorinda and is the second most attended event, second only to the 4th of July."



DAVID DIERKS

Chip Herman (L) and John Vanek on the Orinda Country Club's (mostly) empty 16th fairway. On September 13 it will be filled with cars.

Rotary Club of Orinda will again organize the Dancing with the Cars Friday night preview party on Sept. 12. Barbara Bontemps, who is organizing the event for Orinda Rotary, said, "Rebels with a Cause is going to be a lot of fun, and with the help of Orinda Motors we are going to have some fabulous classic 50s autos on display for the party – think *American Graffiti!*"

Chef Arno from Shelby's of Orinda will

be catering the event. "We've recruited Shelby's to do the food and will transform our big tent over the library plaza into Shelby's Diner for the evening where the Orinda Starlight Village Players will be waiting tables in vintage '50s garb. We're really gonna Shake, Rattle and Roll," said Bontemps. The party starts at 6:30 pm and features silent and live auctions, a deluxe dinner menu, liberal libations and dancing. "Our auctions will feature some fabulous getaways, fine dining opportunities, theme parties, family fun and more. The party itself will have live entertainment doing popular 50's rock and roll, a hula hoop contest and some line dancing," added Bontemps.

Tickets are available at [www.OrindaCarShow.com/enjoy-dancing-with-the-cars](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com/enjoy-dancing-with-the-cars). Proceeds from the dinner benefit local charities, including EFO, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and other non-profits. Bontemps said, "We are excited to be partnering with so many of our community organizations because we all bring something unique to the table for the benefit of the community."

The next day, Sept. 13, the free car show will take over the streets of Orinda from 10 am to 3 pm. Vehicles on display will range from the '20s to the '60s, with many modern exotic vehicles. Orinda Motors will have a special selection of vehicles on display. Vanek said, "We're celebrating the 10 years of great cars at Orinda Motors by having handpicked cars representative of those 10 years inside Orinda Motors." The show will again expand onto the Orinda Country Club's 16th fairway. Herman said, "The Orinda Classic Car Show would not be what it is if not for the generosity of the Orinda Country Club and their partnership in allowing us to use the 16th fairway for a portion of our show space. When they joined the effort four years ago it truly elevated the experience for participants and stature of the show making it one of the premiere car shows in the Bay Area. It is the only true car show in the East Bay on grass. Orinda Country Club's openness to the community and support of the car show has made this happen."

The event culminates on Sunday, Sept. 14 with a double bill at the Orinda Theatre. *The Blues Brothers* starts at 5:30 pm, followed at 7:45 pm by *Duel*. Admission is \$10 for each showing the day of the event, beer and wine included. Pre-order your tickets at [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com) and save \$2 per ticket. The Orinda Theatre will have a special introduction for the films.

For more information, visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).

CAR TIME  
Never Wax Again



by JOHN VANEK

When is the last time you waxed your car or thought about protecting the paint? Most people think about washing the car when it looks dirty and almost never think about waxing it until the paint is falling off or the car starts to show age. It is recommended that a car be waxed three or four times a year. That is a lot to keep up with! Luckily with advancements in technology there are new car coatings.

Car coatings like Opti Coat Pro outperform traditional wax or sealants by a long shot. The upfront time to apply coatings is much longer than the old wax-on-wax style protection, so visit a professional service such as Orinda Auto Detail to properly prep and apply this to your vehicle. After it is done, you don't have to wax your car or even think about it! Just wash when dirty and your investment will stay shiny and protected through all kinds of abuse that would normally degrade if not completely remove even the best wax. Pesky bird bombs that can etch paint are no match for the chemical resistance of the latest detail tech. Harmful UV rays that wear away wax very quickly just bounces off coated paint.

There are things to consider before coating your car. The prep work before

application is crucial. Make sure this is perfect because after the coating goes on it can be very difficult to remove. When picking somewhere to do the work, make sure they have experience. Having applied paint coatings to more than 1,000 cars, I know how difficult it can be to get the prep right. Check online reviews and car forums for reliable businesses such as Orinda Auto Detail.

In this busy world, most people are thrilled to no longer have to change the oil every 3,000 miles, keeping those trips to the local Express Oil Change and tire center down to a couple of times a year instead of every two months. Now you can experience the same freedom with your vehicle's exterior. You can go longer without washing because stuff just does not stick to a coated finish as compared to an uncoated one. Washing time will be cut in half because everything just falls off the car with minimal contact. Best of all, in two years you won't look at your car one day and think ... why does my car look so old?

For more information about this or other car questions, email me at [Joe@orindamotors.com](mailto:Joe@orindamotors.com) or stop by the Flying A gas station.

◆ OUSD from page 1

ward to continuing to work collaboratively to accomplish the board's primary goal: providing Orinda students with the highest quality education."

Hillary Weiner has worked as a litigation attorney and now is a full-time mother of three children who attend Glorietta Elementary School. Her family moved to Orinda to experience the strong academic tradition of the Orinda schools. She is actively involved with the school community and recently served as president of the Glorietta Parents' Club. She has a three-point agenda: Advance our schools, Enhance the classroom experience, and Strengthen the community and district partnership. "I will draw upon my direct volunteer experience in the schools, my prior career as an attorney, and my full-time job as a mother to provide strong, collaborative leadership to the Orinda school board," said Weiner.

Jason Kaune is a partner in a law firm with a national practice in government ethics law. He and his wife have two sons at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. In last June's election he served on the Orinda Roads Committee and he is also past chair of the St. Stephens Church Board of Di-

rectors. "With new funding formulas and curriculum mandates, we need to focus on what best serves students and empowers our teachers and administrators to keep our schools so strong," said Kaune. "My priorities will include smart use of technology and increased civic engagement. We are a town with many strong opinions, but I hope to be a bridge among them on the school board."

After a long career in publishing Carol Brown joined a non-profit agency specializing in finding permanent families for children in the foster care system. Presently she volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate for children in foster care. She is the mother of five children and has six grandchildren. She says greater collaboration with the teachers will improve the quality of education for the students, and that children and parents deserve trustees who "genuinely listen, take concerns seriously, and take action to rectify problem(s)." Regarding fiscal responsibility, she adds, "We must develop priorities with stakeholders before spending millions. I will demand transparency."

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LOCAL EVENTS

# Fandango Supports Restoration of Joaquin Moraga Adobe



DAVID DIERKS

(L-R) Tania de Groot, Kelly Gilmore, Holly Burke, Bobbie Landers, Sylvia dos Remedios, Stephen dos Remedios, Gayle Larson and Teresa Long pose outside of the Buehler House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The home will serve as the site for the Joaquin Moraga Adobe fundraiser.

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) are hosting a contemporary fandango at the Buehler House on Sept. 13. Traditional fandangos were celebrations of music, dance and good company held during California's Rancho era (1769-1848). The equivalent of neighborhood parties, fandangos often lasted for days and drew guests from great distances. FJMA's contemporary fandango includes live music, traditional dance performance, tapas and drinks, as well as tours of the Buehler House, its gardens and teahouse. Frank Lloyd Wright designed the home, and Wright experts will be on hand to answer questions.

The Buehler House, which sits on 3.5 acres, was built in 1948 for Maynard and Kate Buehler. Henry Matsutani, who also

designed the Japanese Gardens in Golden Gate Park, the gardens and a Japanese teahouse. In addition to the house, Wright designed a number of furniture pieces that still reside in the home. The Buehlers lived in the home from the time it was built until 2010. The home was placed on the National Register of Historic Homes in 2006. The house was recently sold to Gerald Shmavonian, who offered the property as a venue for the FJMA fandango.

FJMA is a non-profit organization working to restore the family home of Don Joaquin Moraga. Built in 1841, the adobe is the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County. The adobe was placed on the California State Historical Landmark list in 1954 and became an Orinda City Landmark in 1995. Fandangos at the Moraga Adobe during Joaquin Moraga's time likely hosted families from Sonoma and the central valley. Proceeds from the

contemporary fandango will begin the restoration of the home. Future plans for the adobe include a museum and learning center.

Tickets for the fandango come in two tiers, \$100 general admission and \$300 guided tours. The general admission ticket gives access to the Buehler House grounds, garden and the fandango. The guided tour ticket includes all the benefits of the general admission ticket, as well as a guided tour of

the Buehler House and a champagne reception. Guided tours begin at 5 pm, 5:20 pm, 5:40 pm and 6 pm. Since there is no parking available at the Buehler House, FJMA is providing free parking and a shuttle service between several parking lots in Orinda: Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church and Glorietta Elementary School.

For more information, visit [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org) or call 925-254-8260.

# Lamorinda Idol Finalists Gear Up for September Competition

By KATHRYGN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

Popular television programs like *American Idol* and *America's Got Talent* have inspired arts groups across the country to feature young hopeful talent in similar hometown shows. On Sunday, September 7, 34 soloists and 11 groups will be featured in the Ninth Annual Lamorinda Idol show. The performers include students ranging in age from kindergarten through high school who reside in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga.

While the reality television shows tend to be high on the dramatics and competi-

tion, Lamorinda Idol offers a different type of environment. Publicity co-chair Esther Becker, whose daughter Elizabeth has performed in several Idol shows, points out the supportive behavior of the show's performers and staff, fosters a "learning experience," rather than being competitive.

The Orinda Arts Council, the founder and sponsor of the event, is supported by more than two dozen community members who make up the administrative staff for the show, along with several business sponsors including the Orinda Car Show, Alain Pinel Realtors, Mechanics Bank, Orinda Orthodontics and the Orinda Community

[SEE IDOL page 24]

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PETS



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Something to Howl About...  
Animal Tales

Celebrate Working Dogs This Labor Day

Jennifer Conroy



September kicks off with that end of summer holiday, Labor Day, which was started in 1882 by labor unions wanting to honor the social and economic achievements of workers. Historians give credit to several labor union leaders for the creation of Labor Day, including Matthew Maguire of the Central Labor Union and Peter McGuire of the American Federation of Labor. Whichever Maguire or McGuire gave birth to Labor Day, it has long been recognized as the end of summer, the beginning of the school year and back to work for most of us.

Labor is a concept common in the animal world as well and the dog, in particular, holds an important place in the animal working world. The reasons for this are many but boil down to several key canine factors. Canines, wild and domestic, are largely pack animals that live within a particular social order. Of course, instinct and breeding play important parts in the types of work for which the domestic canine is suited. By combining the dog's social nature, sense of pack order, instinctual behavior and specialty behavior derived from breeding, you end up with an animal suited for a vast number of tasks.

Consider the obvious canine professionals you might encounter while out and about – a guide for the blind, a mobility aid for a person in a wheelchair, a hearing partner for someone who is deaf or hard of hearing. These dogs, collectively known as “service dogs,” receive highly specialized training that equips them to perform life-saving tasks such as preventing a person who is blind from stepping into the path of a car or alerting someone who is deaf to the sound of a fire alarm. Dogs that assist with physical mobility are in especially high demand given the number of injured

veterans returning home.

Other common dog professions include search and rescue, law enforcement, drug and explosive detection, and, yes, in some places, the firehouse dog. The Dalmatian, long pictured beside a fire engine, actually began its career as a dog of war, racing next to charging chariots, in some cases, to ensure that the horses stayed on course. Today, you may find any breed of dog as a firehouse dog, and it is often used in school education programs to teach children basic concepts like “drop and roll,” something any happy golden retriever will gladly do as an example for the youngsters.

Dogs have always had a significant role in the military, serving as messengers, protectors, detectors and, alas, even as interrogators. At the Museum of the Dog near St. Louis, Missouri, one can touch statues of dog heroes, see paintings of dog hunters and views hundreds of years of dogs in history working beside humans.

Today, we have border collies keeping airport runways clear of birds. We have standard poodles that can detect cancer cells in a human. We have sheep dogs and cow dogs and bird dogs. They come in all sizes – some are purebred and some are mixed breeds. Some, like the Newfoundland are better suited to cold, wet climates and to pulling fishermen and their nets out of the sea. Others, such as terriers, are happy working on farms where they can keep barns and stables free of rodents and other unwelcome critters.

By using unique senses, dogs can far out-perform many other animals in tasks that require scenting, for example. The loyalty component of the dog that is rooted in pack behavior and social order is the

[SEE HOWL page 23]



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FILM



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

LAMORINDA THEATRES BLAZE A HOT SEPTEMBER TRAIL

Tom Westlake



There's plenty afoot for the movie buff this month. The 17th Annual California Independent Film Festival, which runs Sept. 11-14, always manages to surprise. It keeps getting better with age, with each year outshining the last. Stay posted at [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org).

In addition to the festival, our two stalwart theaters bring their usual excellent fare, including *Blazing Saddles*. There are movies that, when first viewed, leave such an indelible impression on the viewer, that they remember when and where they first saw it.

*Blazing Saddles* is one such film. In the early '70s, when it was released, Mel Brooks and Woody Allen were at a high point in their careers (Woody Allen's contributions around that time were *Sleeper* and *Love and Death*). Though much time has passed, this movie retains everything that made it revolutionary. Warnings are useless. If you have a thin skin, it would probably be a good idea to steer clear. However, even if you've only heard about it, you owe it to yourself to go see this. With one very notable exception, *Blazing Saddles* does not rely on revulsion or grossness to achieve its laughs. It comes by them honestly, via the writing and comic timing of its leads (Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder and Madeline Kahn). Can the same be said of comedies today? It will screen at the Orinda Theatre on Sept. 11 at 7 pm.

The International Film Showcase (IFS) is next on the menu with a film from Switzerland titled *Lovely Louise*. Directed

by Bettina Oberlie, who gave us another IFS favorite *Late Bloomers*, this falls into much the same genre. It deals with a man of middle age who leads a stilted, unremarkable life and still lives with his mother, a woman of note in more ways than one. When an American visitor enters their lives, he brings with him a startling secret that threatens to completely upturn everybody's life with equally comedic results. It will air at the Orinda Theatre for a week starting Sept. 19. To see previews check out <http://internationalshowcase.org>.

*Alexander's Ragtime Band* rounds out this month in a big way. Filled to the brim with music by Irving Berlin, this lavish musical tells the history of jazz (or, more specifically, ragtime) and the people who are caught up in its spell. It features Tyrone Power, Don Ameche and Ethel Merman as well as many familiar songs. This is one that'll have you dancing and singing out of the Rheem Theatre, courtesy of Moraga Movers, Sept. 17 at 1 pm.

Check out [www.LamorindaTheatres.com](http://www.LamorindaTheatres.com) for more information. Until next time, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

17th Annual Film Festival

September 11 -14  
Orinda Theatre and Rheem Theatre  
[www.CAIFF.org](http://www.CAIFF.org)

Local Movie Houses Host Independent Film Festival

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

The 17th California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) comes to Lamorinda and San Francisco Sept. 11 through 14, featuring world premiers, star appearances and special events. The festival begins with a gala opening on Sept. 11 at 5 pm at the Rheem Theater, 350 Park St., Moraga. Meet seven members of the cast at the world premier of *Evergreen Christmas*, along with the director, producer and director of photography. Another world premier, *Jerome's Bouquet*, a short, will also be on the program.

A new venue this year, the historic Castro Theater at 429 Castro St., San Francisco, will host a VIP reception on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. when Julie Newmar will be presented with CAIFF's Lifetime Achievement Award. Newmar has a cameo appearance in the featured film, *Too Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything*, a drag queen comedy, playing at 9 pm. On Sept. 12 at 6:15 pm, *Sixteen Candles* will screen as CAIFF celebrates the 30th anniversary of one of John Hughes' most celebrated teen comedies with guest appearances by cast members. Also at the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lee Meriwether (c) received the Life Time Achievement Award at last year's film festival. Also shown are CAIFF's Edy Schwartz (L) and intern Mareika Geiss.

Castro on Sept. 13 at 5 pm is a VIP reception with the cast and priority seating for the screening of *10 Years*. Also showing at the Castro are shorts: *Mobilize*, *Waiting in the Wings: the Musical*, *John Apple Jack* and the documentary, *Starring Adam West*.

*Mobilize* was filmed over three years and investigates the long-term effects of [SEE FESTIVAL page 24]

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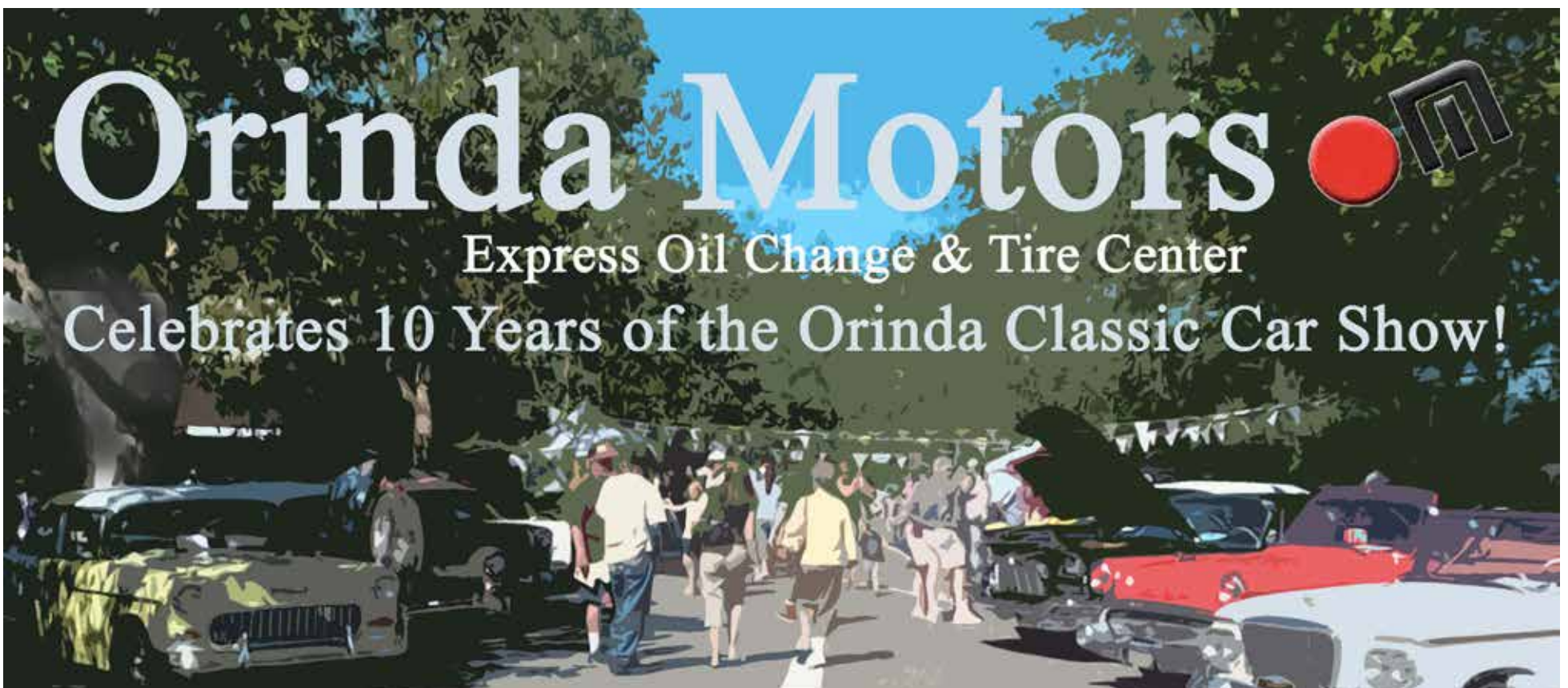
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Make your own yogurt parfait by mixing a spoonful of jam into a cup or two of plain, non-fat Greek yogurt. Add blueberries and sliced strawberries, mix gently

and top with a sprinkling of granola. Add some carrot and celery sticks, grapes and cherry tomatoes to lunch boxes or freeze bunches of grapes for an after school treat that kids love.

Melons are a good choice any time of the day. All types are relatively low in calories, and rich in Vitamin A, Vitamin C and potassium. You'll have two types of melons to choose from this month – muskmelons and

watermelons.

Muskmelons are a diverse group of netted and smooth-skinned melons that come in an array of shapes, sizes and colors. Netted varieties such as cantaloupe, Persian and Sharlyn are best when the netting is prominent over yellowish skin, the aroma sweet, and there's a slight give when pressure is applied with your thumb at the blossom end.

Smooth-skinned muskmelons like honeydew, Crenshaw and Juan Canary help round out this month's parade of melons. Most likely, one side will be "bleached" from where the melon has been in contact with the ground – no worries!

Watermelons are a must for those hot days. With an 85 to 90 percent water content, they help quench our thirst, but for some of us, muskmelons offer more texture and intense flavor.

Try combining cubes of your favorite melon with equal amounts of vanilla yogurt for a shake or cold soup. Or make a quick salsa by adding the fruit of 1 cantaloupe (such as Ambrosia) cubed, 1 red bell pepper diced, 2 chopped green onions, 1/2 to 1 minced jalapeno, 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice and garlic salt to taste.


Enjoy and see you at the market!

Barbara Kobsar, The Seasoned Shopper, can be reached at cotkitchen@aol.com. For market information visit the website at cccfm.org



BARBARA KOBSAR  
Luscious melons and heirloom tomatoes are plentiful at Orinda's Farmers' Market on Saturdays.

top with cantaloupe and figs. Sprinkle with almonds and drizzle with honey.  
Serves 4.



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**Orinda Farmers' Market**  
**Saturdays 9am to 1pm**  
**May 3 - November 22**  
**Orinda Way, Orinda Village**  
925-431-8361 • www.cccfm.org



**Melon, Fig & Blue Cheese Platter**

This platter is a nice beginning or finish to a meal with friends.

- 6 slices (about 1/4-inch thick) blue cheese
- 1 cantaloupe or Sharlyn or Persian melon cut into 1-inch wedges (skin removed)
- 8 to 10 fresh figs, halved
- 4 tablespoons slivered, toasted almonds
- Honey for drizzling

Place cheese slices on a small platter and

**Orinda's Coastal Cleanup Day**

Join Friends of Orinda Creeks at the annual beach and inland watershed cleanup on Sept. 20 at 9 am right here in Orinda.

Trash accumulates along San Pablo Creek in downtown Orinda and flows downstream to San Pablo Reservoir and beyond to San Francisco Bay.

Help take care of our fragile marine environment by volunteering your time. Meet in the parking lot next to Vintage House (25 Orinda Way) at 9 am on Sept. 20. Bring sunscreen, gloves and wear long pants and sturdy shoes. All other equipment will be provided.

For additional information, contact Jim Luini at 254-6208.



A true friend of the Orinda Library:  
**Councilwoman Amy Worth**

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

**THE ORINDA LIBRARY: CHECK IT OUT!**

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

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

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Sunday: 1pm—5pm

VOTE TO RE-ELECT

[www.AmyWorth.org](http://www.AmyWorth.org)

*Amy Worth*

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

RESTAURANT GUIDE

# The 2014 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 ([www.orindanews.org](http://www.orindanews.org) - Sept. 2014). 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 these two recently opened home-town restaurants: The Refined Palate and MexCal.



CHARLIE JARRETT  
(L-R) Karen Jarrett, C. Rose, Michael Henny and Kathy Henny Kelly enjoy Casa Orinda's beautifully ornate bar.

to 9 pm, Bar 4 pm to 11 pm  
The Casa is Contra Costa County's oldest continuously operating restaurant, celebrating 83 years! That's because of their prime rib, luscious fried chicken (served with homemade biscuits), mashed potatoes, and fresh fish such as calamari – classic home cooking. Longtime Orindans will recall the giant neon cowboy who once spun his lasso on the rooftop; 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.

**Nation's Giant Hamburgers and Pies**  
76 Moraga Way  
254-8888  
[www.nationsrestaurants.com](http://www.nationsrestaurants.com)

Hours: Sun. – Wed. 6 am – 11 pm; Thurs. 6 am – 12 am; Fri. and Sat. 6 am – 1 am  
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, 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.

**Shelby's**  
2 Theatre Square, #152  
254-9687  
[www.shelbyseatbetter.com](http://www.shelbyseatbetter.com)  
Hours: Mon. – Fri. Lunch 11 am – 3 pm; Dinner Tues. – Thurs. 5 – 8:30 pm; Dinner Fri. – Sat. 5 pm – 9:30 pm; Brunch Sat. - Sun. 10 am - 3 pm; Sunday dinner 5 - 8 pm  
You'll always find something to tempt you on the menu or daily special list. Popular for business breakfasts and lunches. California, European and Asian cuisine using the freshest ingredients. Try their Chinese chicken salad, beef short ribs, burgers and a host of salads. Desserts include bread pudding, crème brûlée, poached pear and apple tart tatin. Wine and beer. Patio seating; also validated parking, wheelchair accessible and dog-friendly.

[SEE RESTAURANT page 16]

**AMERICAN/CALIFORNIA CUISINE**

**Casa Orinda**  
20 Bryant Way  
254-2981  
[www.casaorinda.net](http://www.casaorinda.net)  
Hours: Mon-Sat Dining 4 pm – 10 pm, Bar 4 pm to 12 pm; Sunday Dining 4 pm

**Laura Abrams**  
[laura@lauraabrams.com](mailto:laura@lauraabrams.com)  
[www.lauraabrams.com](http://www.lauraabrams.com)  
510-697-3225  
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Realtors are back from their vacations!  
The fall market is still very strong with low inventory and motivated buyers!**

*Please call for a market update.*

**A FRESH PERSPECTIVE FOR ORINDA**

**Carlos Baltodano**  
For Orinda City Council

- 22 year Orinda resident
- UC Berkeley Bachelor of Architecture, Masters in City and Regional Planning
- Six years on Orinda Planning Commission (Chair 2013-2014)
- Plans to improve communication between the City Council and residents
- Will continue to improve residential roads
- Will institute an open door policy to listen to residents
- Will partner with schools to increase opportunities for our children
- Will support and enhance Orinda merchant businesses

[www.carlosforindacouncil.com](http://www.carlosforindacouncil.com)

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\*Restrictions apply, call for details

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LLC

Blue Egg Farm offers fresh organic produce and seedlings at the Orinda Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings. Come down and support your local farmers and find some of the most delicious food in the East Bay.

Visit our website and discover what's new at  
[blueeggfarmllc.com](http://blueeggfarmllc.com)

RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ RESTAURANT from page 15

**Table 24 Neighborhood Comfort Food**  
2 Theatre Square, #153  
254-0124  
www.table24orinda.com

Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 11 am – 9 pm;  
Fri. 11 am – 10:00 pm; Sat. – Sun. Brunch  
9 am – 3 pm, Sat. Dinner 3 – 10:00 pm;  
Sun. Dinner 3 pm – 9 pm; Happy Hour 3  
pm – 5 pm daily

For 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 – burger selection including Matador (chorizo, avocado, salsa verde), Cowboy (bacon, cheddar, onion rings) and Gobbler (turkey, avocado, lettuce, tomato); open faced grilled eggplant sandwich; fish grilled with fresh veggies, just a few choices from their wood burning oven. Little's Menu for kids age 9 and under; Middle's menu for kids age 10-16. Validated parking, wheelchair accessible, dog friendly.

**BURMESE**



Europa Hof Brau offers a wide range of cafeteria-style entrees as well as a play area for children.

**The Refined Palate**  
19 Orinda Way, Suite F  
566-4877

www.refinedpalateorinda.com  
Hours: Lunch Mon. – Saturday 11:30  
am – 3 pm; Dinner 5:30 pm – 9 pm; closed  
Sunday

Co-owners Theodore Wang of Orinda and renowned Burmese chef William Lue

opened this now-popular lunch and dinner spot in February. Stop by and try something different such as the green tea leaf salad, which gets rave reviews. Other faves are the ginger salad, mango pork, coconut-chicken noodle soup, fish chowder, yam tapioca (dairy free), generous portions and no MSG. Chef Lue is a master of Burmese cuisine and has sourced his produce and fresh herbs from local growers whenever possible.

**CAFES**

**Caffe Teatro**

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

Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 6:30 am – 6 pm;  
Fri. 6:30 am – 5 pm; Sat. 8 am – 5 pm; Sun.  
8 am – 4 pm

Inviting spot under the Orinda Library with outdoor tables/umbrellas to enjoy rotating public art sculptures. Sip some Illy coffee made to order with fresh pastries from Artisan Bakers in Sonoma. Try a generously sized breakfast or lunch sandwich (tuna on marble rye for me), a salad, snacks or gelato. Kid friendly. Try their Korean BBQ or a thirst quenching Italian soda.

**Geppetto's Caffe**

87 Orinda Way  
253-9894

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 6:30 am – 5 pm; Sat.  
7 am – 3 pm; closed Sunday

Speedy drink service in the morning along with fresh pastries/bagels or a breakfast burrito. Locals often crowd the place at lunch for a reason. The umbrellas outside offer a respite so you can enjoy delicious sandwiches such as chicken curry on sunflower wheat, turkey club on

ciabatta, veggie, or chicken pesto and brie. Great soups (mushroom, Italian vegetable) or salads like Chinese chicken, spinach or taco keep people coming back. Try some gelato for dessert. Good bread selection for sandwiches. Order by phone at lunch for quick service.

**Peet's Coffee and Tea**

63 Moraga Way  
258-9328

www.peets.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 5:30 am – 8 pm; Sat.  
and Sun. 6 am – 8 pm

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

**Starbucks**

2 Theatre Square, #106  
258-0476

www.starbucks.com

Hours: Mon. – Sun. 5:30 am – 7 pm

What could be more convenient than this location – you know what's there. Coffee in every shape and form, fine teas, seasonal specials and tempting pastries. Also healthy snacks. Specials change often. Free Wi Fi.

**Starbucks**

One Camino Sobrante, #9

253-0447

www.starbucks.com

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 4:30 am – 7 pm; Sat.  
5:30 am – 7 pm; Sun. 5:30 am – 7 pm

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

**Village Inn Cafe**

204 Village Square  
254-6080

www.orindacoffeeshop.com

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

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

[SEE CAFES page 17]

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www.bartlettaia.com Laborare est Orare



RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ CAFES from page 16

hash, always made from scratch (half orders available). For lunch, sit at the counter and enjoy a house ground burger, veggie burger, tuna melt, or grilled cheese sandwich. Try a Cobb salad with bacon and blue cheese or house-made soup. Generous portions. Local since 1986.

**CHINESE**

**Szechwan Restaurant Chinese Cuisine**

79 Orinda Way (Village Square)

254-2020

www.szechwanorinda.com

Hours: Tues. – Sat. 11:15 am – 3 pm  
Lunch; Dinner 4 pm - 9:15 pm except  
Fri. – Sat till 10 pm; Sun. 4 pm – 9:15 pm;  
Closed Monday

Bright décor with a view of the golf course across the street, comfy booths. Recommended – pot stickers, Mongolian dishes, hot and sour soup, and spicy eggplant – brown rice available. Eat in or order in advance (see online menus) for takeout; return visits for lunch specials. Orders customized on request - if you want it no MSG or like it spicy, tell them! Beer and wine.

pm; closed Tuesday; Fri. - Sat. Lunch 11:30 am – 3:00 pm; Dinner 4:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Formerly in Lafayette, this family owned restaurant offers a 10 percent discount on takeout orders. Choose from an extensive menu including lunch specials, appetizers, salt and pepper calamari with jalapenos, soups and Kung Pao prawns, brown rice on request, Mongolian beef or lamb, hot and spicy tofu, mu shu dishes, chow meins, Hong Kong style pan fried noodles, sizzling platters, and egg foo young. All are cooked without MSG, at the level of spiciness you prefer and prepared dry wok at your request.

**DELICATESENS**

**Europa Hof Brau Deli & Pub**

64 Moraga Way

254-7202

www.europahofbrau.com

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 10 am – 9 pm, Sun 10 am – 8 pm

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, meats carved and sandwiches created right before your eyes. 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.

**Subway**

2 Theatre Square, #108

510-601-6400

www.subway.com

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7 am - 9 pm; Sat. 8 am - 9 pm; Sun. 9 am - 8 pm

This well-known chain is always good for soup or a sandwich, eat in or to go. Order sandwiches by the inch; vegetarian choices available. You pick the bread. Made fresh on the spot. Look for the Subway Mobile App coming in Oct. to save time.

**HAWAIIAN**

**Lava Pit Hawaiian Grill**

2 Theatre Square, #142

253-1338

www.lavapit.com

Hours: Sun. – Thurs. 11:30 am – 8 pm;  
Fri. & Sat. 11:30 am – 8:30 pm

Lots of Aloha, especially in the aroma of BBQ that floats out to meet you. Many votes for Katsu Loco Moco but also fresh salads, pineapple slaw, lunch specials and BBQ mixed grill plate. Yelpers like

the kalua pork and mini bowls, \$5.50 for chicken, steak or pork with steamed veggies and rice; brown rice available. Outdoor seating. They also deliver and cater; check in on Yelp and show entry to server for promotions.

**DESSERTS**

**Loard's Ice Cream and Candy**

230 Brookwood Road

254-3434

www.loards.com

Hours: Sun. – Thurs. 11 am – 9 pm; Fri. – Sat. 11 am – 10 pm

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. Sorbets include strawberry and lemon. Try one of the other 40+ flavors including old standbys like cookies & cream, pecan praline or chocolate mint chip. Sundae special of the week such as caramel toffee crunch or cookie monster



CHARLIE JARRETT

Diners can enjoy the lovely decor and delicious food at **Szechwan Restaurant** in Orinda Village.

milkshake. Catering available.

**Chillers**

21 Orinda Way, Suite G

254-3233

[SEE DESSERTS page 18]



SALLY HOGARTY

**Lava Pit** in Theatre Square offers delicious Hawaiian barbecue and much more.

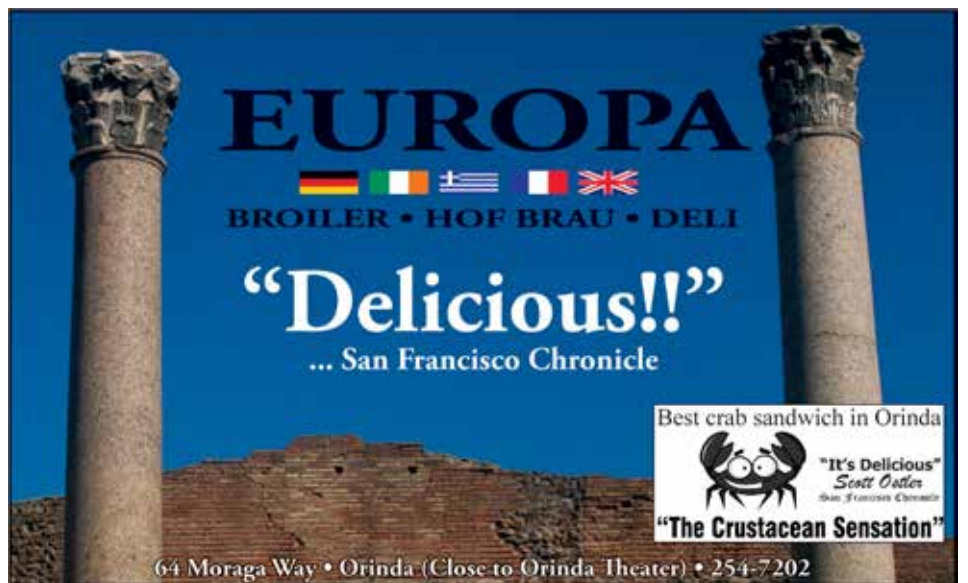
**Yan's Restaurant Mandarin and Szechuan Cuisine**

One Orinda Way, #1

253-9852

http://yansrestaurant.com/wp

Hours: Sun.-Mon.-Wed.-Thurs. Lunch 11:30 am – 3 pm; Dinner 4:30 pm - 9:00



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

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



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

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

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

## RESTAURANT GUIDE

## ◆ DESSERTS from page 17

Hours: Mon. – Sat. 11:30 am – 5:30 pm; closed Sunday

Power up with a tasty, healthy smoothie (22 choices) – or maybe it's time for some ice cream, a milkshake (generous amount of ice cream) or 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. Try the Italian ices: mango, cherry, sour apple, lemon, strawberry lemonade or blue raspberry flavors. Loyalty card, ample parking.

**Republic of Cake**

2 Theatre Square, #151  
254-3900

<http://republicofcake.com>

Hours: Mon. - Thur. 10 am - 6 pm\*; Fri. and Sat. 10 am – 7 pm\*; Sun. 11 am - 5 pm\*  
\* Or until the display case is sold out.

Simply delicious! They use the best local ingredients such as locally milled flour to keep a low carbon footprint. Basic and seasonal cupcakes including wheat free Black Velvet, Mexican Hot Chocolate, Strawberry Lemonade, Chocolate Peppermint, Lemon Meringue and Sam's Messy Chocolate. Ten percent of Monday sales go to local schools. Frequent buyer card.

**ITALIAN****La Piazza**

15 Moraga Way  
253-9191

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

Good food combines with a friendly staff and a cozy atmosphere, often busy during dinner hours as it is across from the theater. Try their brick-oven pizzas, freshly made salads, carpaccio, pastas, soups (vegetable, cream of 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, or linguine a la vongole. Tiramisu for dessert, a must try; kids love the pizza. Beer and wine.

**Piccolo Napoli**

2 Theatre Square, #144  
253-1225

[www.piccolo-napoli.com](http://www.piccolo-napoli.com) (check for specials online)

Hours: Wed. - Sun. Lunch 11:30 am – 4 pm; Dinner daily 4 – 9 pm except Fri. - Sat., 4 – 10 pm

Traditional thin-crust pizza to gluten free vegetarian choices and combos like prosciutto di Parma, sweet basil, and truffle oil. Local favorites include the gluten free meatball appetizer, prosciutto, pear and gorgonzola pizza and salty caramel gelato. Try their *Melanzane da Napoli*, a delicious



CHARLIE JARRETT

**Shelby's** offers a tantalizing mix of California, European and Asian cuisine at its location in Theatre Square.

eggplant Parmesan. House-made soups, pastas, salads, gelato, beer and wine (\$3 wine on Wed.) and cappuccino. Home delivery in Orinda till 8 pm. Bring in your used wine corks and contribute to their green sound-proofing project, Put a Cork In It.

**Village Pizza**

19 Orinda Way  
254-1200

[www.villagepizzaorinda.com](http://www.villagepizzaorinda.com) (check for online coupons)

Hours: Mon. – Thurs. Lunch 11 am – 2:30 pm, Dinner 5 pm – 9 pm; Sat. 11 am – 10 pm; Sun. Dinner 5 pm – 9 pm

Family atmosphere in this casual spot, comfortable for everyone. Garlic chicken pizza, vegetarian pizza, mini pizza for lunch dripping in cheese, served with a salad. Menu includes steak sandwiches and burgers (cooked on a grill), white bean soup and more. Wine and beer; best news yet – they deliver.

**Zamboni's Pizza**

One Camino Sobrante, # 4  
254-2800

Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 11 am – 9:30 pm;  
Fri. – Sat. 11 am – 10 pm; Sun. 11 am – 9 pm

Want pizza with fresh sauce made daily, cheese without fillers or additives? This is the place, also pizza by the slice. You can eat in, take out, or they deliver. Yelper says, "Made to order pizza is great." Wine and beer.

**JAPANESE****Hanazen Japanese Sushi**

87 Orinda Way  
254-3611

Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 5:30 pm – 9 pm; Fri. 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm; Sat. 5:30 – 9 pm Closed Sunday

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

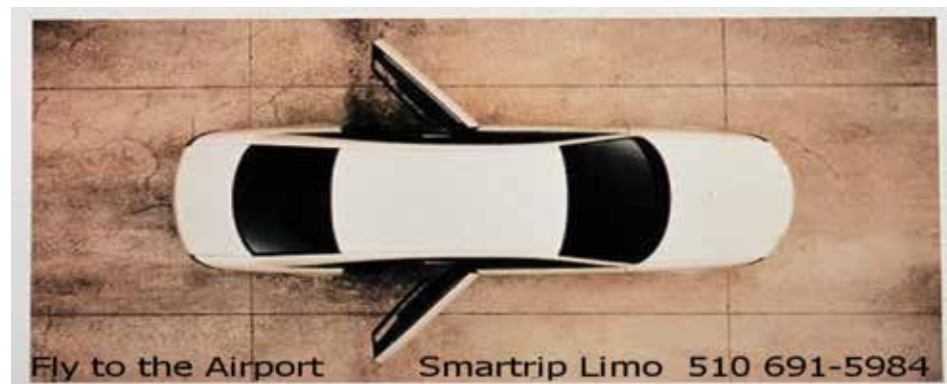
**Niwa Restaurant**

One Camino Sobrante  
254-1606

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Sat. 11 am – 2:30 pm; Dinner Mon. – Sat. 4:30 pm – 9:30 pm; 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, hamachi and sake toro, toro uni, saba, Judy's handroll, saba nigiri, hamachi, amaebi, scallops. Check

[SEE JAPANESE page 19]



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General & Cosmetic Dermatologist  
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Orinda  
(925) 254-1080

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e-mail [orindashell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:orindashell@sbcglobal.net)



RESTAURANT GUIDE

◆ JAPANESE from page 18

out the Specials board. Next to Starbucks; takeout available. Wine, beer and sake.

**Serika Restaurant**

2 Theatre Square, #118  
254-7088

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11:30 am – 2 pm; Dinner Mon. – Sat. 5 - 9 pm; closed Sunday

If you want really fresh sushi in a charming, relaxing spot tucked away from the street, this is your place. Yelpers like the miso, tuna sashimi, aegedashi tofu, and lunch specials. The chef provides information about the freshest fish, and the subdued atmosphere will melt away the day's stress. Children are always welcome and you will find plenty of kid-friendly food. Beer, wine and sake, with Kirin on tap.

**Sushi Island (formerly Yu Sushi)**

19 Moraga Way  
253-8399

www.sushiislandorinda.com

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Sat. 11:30 am – 3 pm; Dinner Mon. – Thurs. 5 pm – 9:30 pm; Dinner Fri. – Sat. 5 pm - 10 pm; Closed Sunday

Yelpers like the seaweed salad, chirashi, spicy California roll and spicy tuna roll, miso soup, tempura, Orinda roll. Bento lunch box specials \$7.50-\$8.50; a la carte sashimi; kids menu. The owners are committed to serving real crab meat to keep customers happy. Order take out online. Beer, wine and sake.

**MEDITERRANEAN**

**Petra Café**

2 Theatre Square, #105  
254-5290

Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 11 am – 9 pm; Fri. and Sat. 11 am - 9:30 pm; Sun. 11 am – 8 pm

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

**MEXICAN**

**Barbacoa Mexican Comfort Food**

2 Theatre Square, #130  
254-1183

www.barbacoaorinda.com

Hours: Sun. - Thurs. 11 am – 9 pm; Fri. – Sat. 11 am – 10 pm

Orinda's first wood-fired Mexican grill.

The hot chips and salsa, enchiladas, burritos and nachos are made with the best fresh local ingredients. Locals recommend the tortilla soup, gluten free menu options, steak, chicken or shrimp fajitas. Full bar with great seating to watch one of three flat screens. Indoor and outdoor seating with large fire pits for cool nights; dog friendly. Validated and valet parking.

**La Cocina Mexicana**

23 Orinda Way  
258-9987

www.lacocinaorinda.com

Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 11 am – 8:30 pm; Fri. – Sat. 11 am – 9 pm; Sun. 11 am – 8:30 pm

Bring on the chips! This family-friendly restaurant has a large menu and a special kids menu. Customers return for taco salad with grilled chicken. Try their chicken burrito, chicken enchiladas verdes, vegetarian burrito, sincoa (burrito or bowl) or mole sauce. Dine in or use their takeout menu. Full bar, margaritas on the rocks or blended, beer and wine. E-club online specials.

**Maya Mexican Grill**

74 Moraga Way  
258-9049

Hours: 7 days, 11 am – 8 pm

Maya offers many traditional Mexican dishes based on family recipes – busy at lunchtime. People come back for: Burrito Maya, crispy tacos (shrimp, chicken), fish tacos, tacos Maya (grilled steak). Smoking good hot sauce; salsa bar. Takeout available, as is beer and wine. Cash only.

**MexCal Fusion Cuisine & Bar**

65 Moraga Way  
253-7777

www.mexcalfusioncuisine.com

Hours: Open 7 days a week: Mon. thru Thurs. 11:30 am – 9 pm; Fri. 11:30 am – 10 pm; Sat. 8 am – 10 pm; Sun. 8 am – 9 pm



CHARLIE JARRETT  
A customer reads the extensive menu at **Baan Thai** restaurant in the Orinda Village.

This spacious spot opened last December; brightly painted chairs liven up the decor. Known for thick, house-made tortillas and chips plus margaritas made with blue agave tequila and fresh lime juice. Free coffee with breakfast. Kids will enjoy burritos sized just for them from the kids menu. Votes are in for savory chile rellenos, lamb shanks, cochinita pibil (pork in mole sauce) and flan.

**MIDDLE EASTERN**

**Turquoise Mediterranean Grill**

70 Moraga Way  
253-2004

www.turqgrill.com (check online for coupons)

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 11 am – 7 pm; Closed Sat. - Sun.

This Middle Eastern restaurant specializes in homemade Turquoise burgers, falafel sandwiches and chocolate baklava. Return visits for: salmon wrap, Greek salad, grilled kebob sandwich; many vegetarian items. Kids menu. 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 am – 3 pm; Dinner Sun. – Thurs. 4:30 – 9:30 pm; Fri. and Sat. open until 10 pm

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: red duck curry, beef salad, pumpkin and green curry, lamb sauté, tom kha gai soup, chicken satay with peanut sauce and cucumber salad. Lunch specials like Bangkok noodles, red snapper curry and Tom Yum. Extensive vegetarian menu and



CHARLIE JARRETT  
**Siam Orchid's** dark woods and beautiful art work enhance the dining experience at this popular Thai restaurant with full bar.

kids menu. Tell your waitress the level of hotness you prefer. Refreshing Thai iced tea and steamy hot ginger tea. For a group booking, order ahead using their online menu. Takeout popular and available, as is wine and beer.

**Siam Orchid**

23 Orinda Way, No. F  
253-1975

www.siamorchidorinda.com

Hours: Lunch Mon. – Fri. 11 am – 2 pm; Open for Dinner Daily 4:30 – 9 pm

A white tablecloth experience with a roomy full bar and good cocktails – try their Thai sunset cocktail. Return visits for: panang beef, chicken satay with peanut sauce and cucumber salad, Orchid fried rice with tofu, Singapore noodles, green curry with chicken, fried rice with pineapple and prawns. The pumpkin curry and special ginger salad remain popular dishes. Lunch is served with egg roll, ginger salad and steamed rice. Takeout available.

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## Between the Lines Fall Boosts Bestsellers and Mouth-Watering Cookbooks

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



Pages turn as leaves fall. Publishers wait for the fall months and the holiday season to introduce titles of which they are most proud, hoping these books will not only delight the reading public but end up on the “10 best” or “100 best” lists that dominate year’s end.

In *Lucky Us* by Amy Bloom (Random House, \$26), a succinctly powerful 233 pages, Bloom has created a novel of incredible depth and humor. We follow half-sisters Iris and Evie, their memorable father, Edgar, plus unconventional friends and lovers through the defining decades of the 20th century. The half-sisters’ adventures take us from small-town Ohio to Hollywood in the 30s, to New York, London, and (courtesy of a boyfriend) to Germany after the war. This is a “family” novel not to be missed.

Another lucky read is Jane Smiley’s *Some Luck* (Knopf \$26.95, 10/7/2014). Smiley returns to the Iowa farmland of her Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Thousand Acres*, but without the high drama of the King Lear in the cornfields storyline. In what is the first book of a planned trilogy, she introduces us to the Langdons, a farm family whose lives we follow from the 1920s into the 1950s. Each chapter marks a year and is told through the voices of Rosanna and Walter Langdon as well as their children with the narrative broadening as the children grow up and move away from home. Like Bloom’s *Lucky Us*, this is a family saga - but such a different family. Jane Smiley is an astute observer of American lives and the family traditions that are part of Midwestern roots.

Matthew Thomas, in his fine debut novel, *We Are Not Ourselves* (Simon & Schuster, \$28), brings the soul of an Irish working-class family front and center. We follow the fortunes of the Learys from the early 1940s in Queens to a hoped-for better life in the suburbs. Eileen Leary is a memorable creation; her love for her husband shines through the pain of his early onset Alzheimer’s and the strength of her struggle redeems their son as he fights through the stress of his father’s slow decline. Matthew Thomas, who has already received pre-publication praise, will be at Orinda Books on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Call the bookstore

for more information (925-254-7606).

Ken Follett, whose conclusion to his massive Century trilogy, *Edge of Eternity* (Dutton, \$36) will be on bookstore shelves in mid-September, continues to dramatize the sweep of the 20th century through every major historical event in Europe and America. Pegging the high points of these years to the lives and fortunes of four families - German, British, American and Russian - makes Follett’s superb research not only accessible but extremely palatable. His fictional characters are usually standing just beside the newsmakers of each decade and are privy to the challenges of their momentous decisions, giving readers a sense of being inside the corridors of power.

Any fall book list must include new offerings from some favorite cooks. Ina Garten has been an Orinda Books bestseller since 1999. Her new title is *Make It Ahead: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook* (Clarkson Potter, \$35, 10/28/14). We all try to make it ahead, but Garten guarantees that it will taste fresh and wonderful when we follow her lead. Israeli-born (and London-based) Chef Yotam Ottolenghi follows his previous bestsellers, *Plenty and Jerusalem*, with *Plenty More* (Ten Speed, \$35 - 10/14/14). *Plenty More* moves vegetables from side dish to main course and will be ideal for the vegetarian home cook. Locally, Charles Phan of Slanted Door fame has taken his San Francisco restaurant empire from modest beginnings - a small restaurant in the Mission in 1995 - to its current reincarnation at the Ferry Building where it is an extremely hard-to-get reservation. If you can’t book a table, Phan’s new cookbook, *The Slanted Door* (Ten Speed, \$40 - 10/7/14) is almost as good as being there. So whether or not the chefs in your family want to create Phan’s seared scallops with Vietnamese beurre blanc, Ottolenghi’s Alfonso mango and curried chickpea salad or Garten’s decadent (and gluten-free) chocolate cake, these books will be a pleasure to browse through, licking lips as one turns the pages.

### Orinda Books New Look

Drop by to see the store’s new decor  
276 Village Square

## Community Solar Project Heats Up in East Bay

By APRIL GILBERT  
Contributing Writer

I’ve been thinking of “going solar” for years. I even got quotes from two different companies but never felt ready to pull the trigger. I wanted to be sure I would be in my home longer than the time it would take to pay off the system (it turns out this isn’t something to worry about) and, also, I couldn’t decide if I should buy it, finance it or sign a PPA (Power Purchase Agreement). With a PPA, the property owner does not own the installation, and, therefore, need not pay any upfront costs, but instead agrees to buy the electricity it generates at a set per kilowatt-hour rate, that is typically lower than what you pay to the utility. The whole thing was a bit complicated and, to top it all off, the two companies I had bids from suggested significantly different sized systems.

Then, a few months ago, I got a flyer on my front porch from a young fellow in my neighborhood who is spearheading the East Bay Community Solar Project (EBCSP) and was looking for interested folks. His plan was to do what has been done successfully in other communities around the country where an organizer - an individual, an organization or even the city or state - gets competitive bids from several solar providers who offer a volume discount based on the number of residences (or businesses) that participate. The aim of these projects is to encourage rooftop solar by demystifying the process and helping homeowners and businesses get the best rate possible.

These projects routinely get 50 to 100-plus participants to go solar. While many solarize programs operate on a rolling basis,

doing a campaign or two a year, the Bay Area hasn’t had a large solarize project in years, since One Block off the Grid (originally based on the solarize model) grew into the Travelocity of solar. There have been some projects with very limited geographic reach. EBCSP is the first of its scale to target the East Bay in particular and will benefit in terms of access to community networks as a result of its non-profit, grassroots structure (the contractor was selected by a committee of potential participants, of which I was one).

When first approached, the model intrigued me. Not only did I like the idea of lower prices (in my case nearly \$5,000 or a 25-percent discount at least), I was hopeful that by volunteering to be on the contractor selection committee, I would understand the details well enough to choose the best approach and get the best deal. I have an MBA and a PhD in business, and I don’t like making financial commitments without being sure I understand the numbers.

As a member of the selection committee, I participated in a three-month process of deciding on criteria for evaluation, reviewing the five bids we received, selecting and interviewing finalists and finally choosing the company we felt offered the best balance of price, quality and social responsibility, a process we completed recently. As a former business professor with first-hand experience on the obstacles to completing a solar installation, I think the model makes a lot of sense. I encourage anyone who would like to go solar, but has been deterred by the complexity and hassle of the process, to take advantage of the bargaining leverage, expertise and due diligence the project offers. Visit [www.ebcsp.org](http://www.ebcsp.org) for more information.

### ◆ CRIME from page 7

they confront a homeowner, what (might) happen if someone confronts them,” said Nagel. “Then you have a whole different ball game.”

The police have yet to make any arrests, but Nagel said that thanks to the community, they are making progress towards apprehending some suspects.

“There have been two incidents recently where neighbors have called and reported a burglary in progress, which has led to pursuits,” Nagel said.

During one of the pursuits, police officers followed the suspects to the freeway, where the criminals drove westbound into eastbound traffic, forcing law enforcement to back off. “It was simply too dangerous,” Nagel said.

In the second instance, investigators

caught a break. After working in a joint effort with Lafayette police, officers located the suspects’ vehicle, abandoned in the Orinda hills.


“Cell phones were left in the car ... we obtained warrants to search the cell phones, and we’re chasing all these leads,” said Nagel. “I’m optimistic that we know who they are. We just want to get our ducks in a row.”

For the time being, Nagel advises Orinda residents to invest in security systems, security cameras (advise your neighbors you’re doing so), and to try to cut back plants and trees that may be blocking the rear of your house from view.

Also, “Know your neighbors; work with your neighborhood; know your streets, so when you see something out of the ordinary, you can take note of it,” said Nagel. “We’d rather show up and discover all is well, than miss any potential threat.”

**Love Your Local** **A Literary Double Header at Orinda Books!**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 11:30 AM**




**We Are Not Ourselves**  
Matthew Thomas  
SIMON & SCHUSTER \$28

**Author Event**

A presentation of new and recommended titles for book groups will be offered by Orinda Books staff followed by a conversation with **Matthew Thomas**, author of one of fall fiction’s most acclaimed novels, **We Are Not Ourselves**. Join us for lunch with the author at 12:30. Reservations are required (numbers limited). Call 925-254-7606 for details.

Destined to be a classic, this “powerfully moving” (Chad Harbach, *The Art of Fielding*), multigenerational debut novel of an Irish-American family is nothing short of “a masterwork” (Joshua Ferris, *Then We Came to the End*).



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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## September

- 3 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream* through Sept. 28 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org) or call 510-548-9666.
- 4 **WomenSing** holds auditions for its East Bay ensemble for experienced female singers. Also by appointment. Email [audition@womensing.org](mailto:audition@womensing.org) or visit [www.womensing.org](http://www.womensing.org).  
**Orinda Books Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for 2- to 4-year-olds and caregivers, Thursdays, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 am. Call 925-254-7606.
- 6 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, Orinda Way, Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm.
- 7 **Lamorinda Idol Finals**, featuring group and solo performers in grades K-12, Orinda Theatre from 11 am to 6:15 pm, with an awards ceremony at 7 pm. Sponsored by Orinda Arts Council. Visit <http://orindaarts.org/lamorinda-idol>.
- 11 **17th California Independent Film Festival** runs through Sept. 14 (see article page 13) at Orinda, Rheem and Castro (SF) theatres. Visit [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org) for films, tickets and how to volunteer.
- 12 **Dancing With the Cars: Rebels With a Cause**, pre-party for the Orinda Classic Car Show, with dinner and dancing. Visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com) and click on Pre-Show Party.
- 13 **10th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show**, Orinda Village and Orinda Country Club fairway, 10 am to 3 pm, with vintage cars, food and refreshments and a chance to cruise in a classic car (\$10), benefits Seniors Around Town. Free admission. Visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).  
**Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe** Fandango at the Frank Lloyd Wright Buehler House in Orinda. See article page 11. Visit <http://fandango.from-ca.com>.
- 14 **Speed on the Screen** wraps up Orinda Classic Car Show with screenings at the Orinda Theatre of *The Blues Brothers* (5:30 pm) and *Duel* (7:45 pm). Admission is \$10 for each show. Visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com) and click on Movie Night. See article page 1.
- 16 **Orinda Books:** The World Affairs Book Group discusses *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America* by Colin Woodard, 276 Village Square, 3 pm. Call 925-254-7606. The group meets bi-monthly and welcomes new members.
- 17 **Orinda Books:** Literary Double Header, an overview of recommended titles for book groups followed by a conversation with Matthew Thomas, author of *We Are Not Ourselves*, 276 Village Square, 11:30 am, then lunch with the author at 12:30 pm. Reservations required. Call 925-254-7606.
- 18 **Seniors Trip to Levi Stadium**, 8:30am-3:30pm, tour sponsored by Orinda Parks and Rec. Call 925-254-2445.
- 19 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** present *Bram Stoker's Dracula* through Oct. 11 at the Community Park Amphitheatre, 28 Orinda Way. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 pm, Sunday, Oct. 5 at 4 pm and Thursday, Oct. 9 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and \$8 for seniors. Visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org), call 925-528-9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org).
- 27 **Middle Eastern Festival** at St. John the Evangelist Church, 501 Moraga Way, Orinda, 10 am - 8 pm on Sat. and 11 am - 7 pm on Sun., Middle Eastern food and entertainment. Call 925-258-4255.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. The library will be closed Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor Day. For more information, call 925-254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html).

- 4 **Special Monthly Book Sale**, hosted by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and sorting room, 10 am to 1 pm.  
**English as a Second Language Conversation Circle**, practice English conversation skills in an informal, small-group setting, Tutoring Room, 1 to 2:30 pm. Preregistration required. Also Sept. 11, 18 and 25.
- 6 **Saturday Morning Live!** Family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11:30 am. Also Sept. 20.
- 8 **Road Scholar Presentation** by Ann White discussing the non-profit travel organization's high-quality, affordable and educational worldwide travel opportunities for older adults, 2 to 3 pm.
- 9 **Toddler Lapsit** features story time for 1- to 3-year-olds and their caregivers. No registration required, but attendance limited to once per week, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 am. Also Sept. 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24.
- 11 **Paws to Read**. First- through 5th-graders practice reading with a friendly dog, Gallery Room, 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Call or visit the library to register. Also Sept. 17 and 24.
- 15 **Code Busters Club** for children 7 to 11 years. Learn secret writing and how to send hidden messages with Penny Warner, author of award-winning *Code Busters Club*, 4 to 4:40 pm. Register by 3 pm same day.
- 16 **Peek-A-Boo Time**, songs, stories, rhythms and rhymes for infants to 16 months and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 am. Families with older siblings are welcome at Toddler Lapsit.
- 19 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss *The Secret Keeper* by Kate Morton, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 pm. Adult program, new members welcome.
- 25 **Talespinners of Contra Costa** features adult storytelling and a guest speaker, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 pm.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 pm. Orinda Masonic Center. Call Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 pm, Gallery Room, Orinda Library, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 am, May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 am, Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room, 22 Orinda Way. Call 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 am, free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 am to 1:30 pm, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Call Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 am, Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-8288. Sept. 5 speaker is CJ Coolidge, author of *The People-Drive Business: 4 New Rules to Increase Profits and Create Sustainable Competitive Advantage*; Sept.

## Festival of Trees Fashion Show and Luncheon



CHARLIE JARRETT

(L) Patti Camras and other locals modeled in last year's fashion show.

On Nov. 20, The Orinda Woman's Club will host its annual Festival of Trees fundraiser at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel. Helen Lyall's clothes will be featured and Dan Ashley, co-anchor of Channel 7 News, will be master of ceremonies. Major beneficiaries this year are Contra Costa County Court Appointed Special Advocates, Holden High School in Orinda and the Orinda Woman's Club Community Service. Tickets are \$90 each. For information, contact Janet at 925-451-0559 or [www.orindawomansclub.org](http://www.orindawomansclub.org).

12 speaker is John Coleman, Director, EBMUD, talking on *Water Usage and Its Challenges*; Sept. 19 speaker is Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk talking on *Lafayette - Its Community Future and Promise*.

**Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, [www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net](http://www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net).

**Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, 9 am, September through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive. Robert Kourik will discuss *Roots Demystified, Change Your Garden Habits to Help Roots Thrive*. Visit [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com).

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

**Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 pm. Contact [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

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

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

**Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday. Visit [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org) or call Ian at 925-254-1465.

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

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

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

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 pm, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).

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

## CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

**Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission**. Second Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Sarge Littlehale Room, City Hall. [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

**City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

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

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 pm. Visit [www.mofd.org/board/meetings](http://www.mofd.org/board/meetings); meeting location will be posted on the agenda.

**Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Second Monday, 6 pm, OUSD Conference Room, 25 Orinda Way, Suite 200, Orinda, CA 94563. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).

**Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 pm, Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

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

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### School Calendar

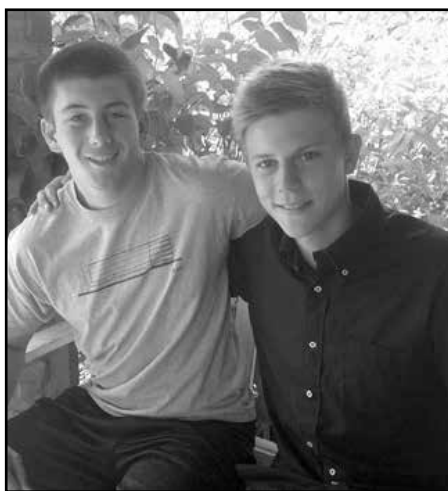
- 13 **Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD)** Governing Board meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 pm. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us). Also Sept. 17.
- Holden High School** Parent Potluck and Orientation, 10 Irwin Way, 6:30 pm. Visit [www.holdenhigh.org](http://www.holdenhigh.org).
- 4 **Del Rey Elementary** Back to School Night, 25 El Camino Moraga, 6 pm. Visit <http://dr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 8 **Orinda Union School District** Board Meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 pm. Visit [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).
- 10 **Holden High School** Parent Advisory Committee Meeting, 10 Irwin Way, 7 pm. Visit [www.holdenhigh.org](http://www.holdenhigh.org).
- 11 **Miramonte High School** Back to School Night, 750 Moraga Way. Visit [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte).
- 18 **Wagner Ranch Elementary** Back to School Night, 350 Camino Pablo, 6 pm. Visit <http://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.
- 22 **Holden High School** Information Night, 10 Irwin Way, 6-8 pm. Visit [www.holdenhigh.org](http://www.holdenhigh.org).

## Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation Sponsors Young Czech Student

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER  
Staff Writer

When exchange student Marek Fencí landed after an 11-hour plane ride from the Czech Republic, he commented that his eyes hurt. "I asked him if he had been facing the sun, or if he had been reading without the light on," said his host mom Beth Marks. Turns out, Marek hadn't closed his eyes for the entire flight (his first ever), opting to look down on the scenery from his window seat. In fact, he was awake for the entire 19-hour door-to-door journey. "I really wanted to see Greenland, and then I was so excited that I just couldn't stop looking," said the 17-year-old who arrived in Orinda in early August.

Marek, who is from the village Jarošov nad Nežárkou, earned his spot in the Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation exchange program after writing a five-page essay about himself and why he desired a



FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER  
Orinda/Tábor Sister City exchange program student **Marek Fencí** (R) with his host "brother" **McClain Marks**.

six-month sabbatical in the U.S. Tábor selects one student each year to visit Orinda, [SEE TABOR page 23]

## Local Boy Scouts Hike New Mexico Wilderness



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
(L-R) Back row: **Craig Stewart, Jack O'Melveny, Tucker Fife, Will Lyons, Brian O'Melveny and Dan Lyons**. Front row: **Soren Faulkner, Nicholas Kim, Griffin Ansel, Daniel (Ranger), Connor Stewart, Will Fehrstrom and Thomas Boneysteel**.

By DAN LYONS  
Contributing Writer

A crew of teenage Scouts and their leaders went on a life changing summer trek through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Philmont covers

214 square miles of vast wilderness with trails that climb from 6,500 feet to as high as 12,441 feet. During their trek, the Scouts from Orinda's Troop 237 hiked 55 miles over 6 days.

The group of Scouts and their advisors carried everything they needed to survive [SEE SCOUTS page 23]

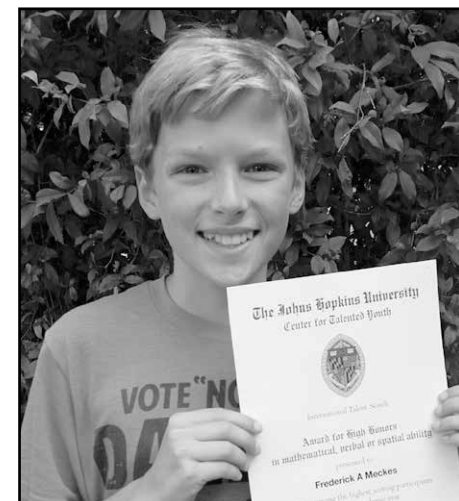
## Orinda Students Receive High Honors from Johns Hopkins

By WENDY MECKES  
Contributing Writer

Eight Orinda residents were included in a select group of students from the U.S. and around the world, honored as some of the brightest young students in the world.

Thomas Boneysteel (The Seven Hills School), John Mark Holbrook (OIS), Alex Meckes (Wagner Ranch Elementary), Manu Prabandham (Sleepy Hollow Elementary), Chinmai Srinivas (OIS), Gautum Srinivas (OIS), and brothers Jeffrey and Jerrae Schroff (Home School) all earned High Honors for their exceptional performance on an above-grade-level test as part of the 2013-2014 Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY). Students receiving High Honors scored exceptionally high and were invited to a special Award Ceremony.

More than 38,000 second-through-eighth graders representing 50 states and 42 countries participated in the 2013-2014 CTY Talent Search, which identifies and recognizes the academic capabilities of advanced students around the world. The tests offered include CTY's School and College Ability Test (SCAT), CTY's Spatial Test Battery (STB), and the SAT and ACT.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Alex Meckes** from Wagner Ranch Elementary was among the eight Orinda residents who received awards.

Students earning High Honors qualified for CTY's residential summer programs, online classes, and family academic programs.

A global leader in gifted education since 1979, CTY is focused on recognizing academic talent in exceptional K-12 students and supporting their growth with courses, services, and resources specifically designed to meet their needs. For more information about enrolling in the CTY Talent Search, go to [www.cty.jhu.edu](http://www.cty.jhu.edu).

## Orinda Starlight Village Players

Present

### BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA

Adapted by  
**Malcolm Cowler**

Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. September 19 through October 11  
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At the Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park,  
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Regular admission \$16, Discount admission \$8

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**Starlight Dinner Theater Offer**  
Bring a 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.)

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CLASSIFIED

◆ SCOUTS from page 22

during the trek on their backs while hiking from camp to camp. They participated in back country programs along the way including roping, vintage black powder rifle shooting, branding and milking goats. "Shooting our hats with the black powder rifles was really fun" according to Will Lyons, one of the Scouts using his hat for target practice.

The trek included a conservation project where the Scouts learned and participated in reducing and managing fuel for forest fires by cutting down and clearing dead trees. Along the trek, Scouts endured tough challenges including backpacking in bear and mountain lion territory, steep climbs and descents and afternoon thunderstorms.

"They may meet only one other group of Scouts on the trail in an entire day of hiking," according to Backpacker Magazine. "Even in the most crowded destinations, each Scout group camps in isolation, out of sight and sound of all other groups." The crew made what amounts to a Scouting pilgrimage with their trip to Philmont. Philmont Scout Ranch is the Boy Scouts of America's premier high adventure camp and the largest youth camp in the world serving nearly one million participants since 1938.

◆ TABOR from page 22

and the competition, promoted by positive word-of-mouth from previous participants, is fierce. Those who have been fortunate to partake in the program are a tight-knit group, as are the families who host them.

It was a previous Orinda host family who recommended to Beth and David Marks that they open their home. Having had a series of exchange students over the years, they were good candidates who knew the drill. However, their 17-year-old son McClain was looking forward to finally having the house to himself during his junior year at Miramonte while his 19-year-old sister Meghan studies in Paris. Beth, who grew up with six sisters, enjoys a houseful and was able to coax McClain into agreeing. "It's actually really great having Marek here," said McClain. "He's a great kid, and it opens up your eyes to how much we have here in California, and in America. It makes you appreciate what you have and it's a great feeling to be able to share with others."

Marek arrived with a wish list of to-do items, several of which he has already achieved. He has been camping in Yosemite, has seen a rock concert at San Francisco's Outside Lands and has impressed his friends at home with a photo of himself in front of the Transamerica building - a

Auditions for Piedmont Children's Choir



The award-winning Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir will hold placement auditions for boys and girls on Sept. 6 beginning at 9 am at the Veterans' Memorial Building, 401 Highland Ave., in Piedmont.

Last season, the choir included over 300 students in 12 different choirs who came from throughout Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, San Francisco and Marin counties.

For registration information, call 510-547-4441 or go to the website at www.piedmontchoirs.org.

◆ HEROES from page 9

success of our event," said Behnke.

Proceeds from past tournaments have helped the OCF donate to Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Lamorinda 4th of July Celebration, Lamorinda Idol, Concerts and Opera in the Park, Orinda Jazz Festival, Spirit Van for Lamorinda Seniors and the Wilder Sports Field scoreboards. For information or to register, visit www.everydayheroes.golfreg.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A golfer from a previous tournament shows his form.

Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament  
October 13  
www.everydayheroes.golfreg.com

landmark well-known to his buddies by its appearance in a favorite flight simulator game. The Marks family will likely spend Thanksgiving in Las Vegas in order to check that locale off Marek's list. They have plans for a Los Angeles trip (in conjunction with McClain's rugby schedule), where Marek hopes to have an Emma Watson sighting.

While Orinda might be vastly different from the village in which he lives, Marek says that the teens he has met so far are not so different from his friends at home. He has bonded with his cross-country teammates and looks forward to a full schedule of classes at Miramonte. He understands English very well and is working on his speaking skills, though his appreciation was easily understood. "I am very impressed so far with Orinda and the Bay Area," he said. "It is absolutely beautiful and very peaceful."

Marek will be in Orinda until February. Once he returns home, the Marks family will regard him as one of its many extended family members around the world. "It's a great experience to host an exchange student," said Beth. "Everybody should do it at some point."

For more information about the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation exchange program, email Bobbie Landers at bobielanders@yahoo.com.

◆ HOWL from page 12

glue that makes the human-canine bond stick together. Dogs like to work and keep the "top dog" in their partnership or family happy. Some of the most troublesome behaviors that companion animal partners complain of are due entirely to the fact that their dog is bored.

You need not find your dog a job to keep it happy, but it will serve you both well if you understand your dog's origins and instinctual interests. If you have a terrier, it will probably like to dig. If you have a border collie, it will probably try to herd you. Just like us working humans, every dog deserves a day off, a day to hang out with its person and have its tummy rubbed.

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

Italian and French Conversation Classes are starting in the fall at the Orinda Community Center. CityofOrinda.org. Tel (925) 254-2445.

OrindaTennis.com. Family lessons. Go online for more information.

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2014 Publication Schedule

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

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

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

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

## PERFORMING ARTS

## ◆ IDOL from page 11

Foundation.

Miramonte junior Maritza Grillo, has been performing in Idol since it began in 2006, the show's inaugural year. She calls the show a "community highlight," adding "from the first year it started people have been raving about it and today it's no different."

Grillo sees the contestants as being "a part of something bigger," and points out that whether or not Idol performers continue to perform in the future, the students gain many things from the experience, including self awareness and confidence. "I know many people that have continued to perform after Idol, but I know just as many who have not, yet both groups reap some benefit no matter what they choose to do."

According to Tosca Maltzman, who will perform in her last Lamorinda Idol this year, Idol Finalists and Runners-up,

## ◆ FESTIVAL from page 13

six billion cell phones worldwide. It will be screened at the Rheem on Friday, Sept. 12 at 1 pm, and there will be short subject programs at Orinda and the Castro theaters.

On Sept. 12 at 4 pm, catch *Liv and Ingmar* at the Rheem (or a short in Orinda), a documentary about the 42-year relationship between legendary actress Liv Ullmann and master filmmaker Ingmar Bergman. Also Sept. 12 at 7 pm the world premier of *Citizen Hearst*, covering the 125-year history of the Hearst media empire will be at the Orinda, with shorts at the Rheem. Especially for families, *Mom, Murder and Me*, a comedy/mystery will be shown in Orinda on Sept. 14 at 4 pm.

Volunteer Caroline Wood says she enjoys the excitement the festival brings. "You also see films you wouldn't normally see," said Wood. "They may stretch you out of your comfort zone and I like that aspect. Independent films can open a whole new world. When you volunteer you'll also see more movies in a weekend that you usually would."

chosen from some 200 singers who auditioned in May, have performed at a variety of area festivities including Orinda's July 4th Parade and a July concert at the Orinda Community Center Park. The winners of this year's Idol will perform at the Orinda Car Show, the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, Orinda Theatre Square and the Orinda Arts Council's Holiday Luncheon.

Finalists from each category will perform from 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. on September 7. Performance times are K-5, 11 am – 12:30 pm; Groups K-12, 1 pm – 2:30 p.m., Soloists 6-8, 3:15-4:30 pm and Soloist 9-12 5-6:15. Awards for all grades will take place from 7 – 7:30 pm.

Lamorinda Idol's panel of celebrity judges include Bay Area television journalists Diane Dwyer and Amy Hollyfield and performers, teachers and producers Deborah Eubanks, Marilyn Levinson, Ira Marlowe and Chad Runyon. For more information, visit <http://orindaarts.org>.

Ellen Bean, also a volunteer, says she loves the diversity of films offered. "In past years my job has been welcoming people as they come in," said Bean. "It's wonderful to see people streaming in to fill the theaters. I think it gives our Lamorinda residents an opportunity to come together, creating a real sense of community."

Moraga's Edy Schwartz, director of community marketing for the festival, says this year's films have a theme of relationships and the lighter side of life.

"If people have never been to a film festival this year's offerings would be an excellent place to start," said Schwartz. "Look ahead and plan on going to at least one showing or maybe a full-length film and another of shorts. Sometimes the shorts are made by local filmmakers. A short shown here could be the genesis of a full-length movie. I encourage everyone to go on the web site. Many of the offerings will have a trailer so one can get an idea of what the movie is about. It's a real plum that our rather small towns can be hosts to a film festival of this caliber."

Closing night will be Sept. 14 at 6 pm at Orinda Theater, starting with a cocktail hour with light appetizers and drinks. *Putzel* closes the festival, a hilarious tale about Walter Himmelstein, heir to a famous Manhattan smoked fish emporium. He is content to live his life without leaving his Upper West Side neighborhood until he meets Sally, a girl from out of town.

"It's a happy way to close a weekend of attending the movies," Schwartz said.

Visit [www.caiff.org](http://www.caiff.org) for a listing of films, ticket prices, how to purchase tickets, information about CAIFF and ways to volunteer. Volunteers get a free pass to Saturday and Sunday film screenings and the opportunity to meet people in the industry. Special ticketed events are not included. To volunteer contact Derek Zemrak, email [derek@caiff.org](mailto:derek@caiff.org) or 925-388-0752.

## Dracula Stalks Orinda Park



MALCOLM COWLER

Charlie Guitron (L) and Tom Westlake rehearse for *Bram Stoker's Dracula* opening September 19.

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) bring *Bram Stoker's Dracula* to life this month. The new adaptation is the inspiration of longtime OrSVP actor/director Malcolm Cowler. "I've always been a big fan of Gothic horror, and this is the novel that's top of the list in this genre. It's an exciting challenge to produce it in such a way that it will appeal to, and satisfy, our audiences," said Cowler.

Cowler has been involved with OrSVP since 1995 and this marks his third production as director. He is known for his unique blend of live theatre, video projections and soundscapes, which he plans to use generously in this production. Cowler has acted in 34 productions with the company. "I wrote this adaption, so it's my very own interpretation of one of my favorite novels," he said. "You can't include everything from a 600-page novel in this kind of production, but I've tried to make it the most authentic adaption possible for the stage. The word 'camp' is banned."

Starring as Dracula is Tom Westlake, *The Orinda News*' film columnist. Westlake has been involved with OrSVP since the 2009 production of Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web* and is excited to be involved with this production. "Malcolm is trying to follow the original source material, something that no stage or screen version has yet done with any success," said Westlake. "Dracula is not sexy or romantic or redeemable in any way. He is a monster who is only interested in survival, caring little who or what he hurts along the way." Cowler added, "It's a battle of good versus evil, where the evil is relentlessly free of all morals and the good are valiantly heroic. Yet the line between the two is so fragile."

One of the challenges of working at OrSVP is rebuilding and tearing down the sets every year. "Building the sets from scratch every season – I'm getting a bit old for that – and working with a limited budget for each show are the hardest hurdles," said Cowler. Westlake says it's the same thing that plagues any artistic endeavor, especially in America – money. On the other hand,

the group of volunteers involved makes up for all the hardship. "It's very much a repertory atmosphere," Westlake said. "There are a handful of regulars so there is a welcome familiarity that makes things seem to run smoother." Cowler agrees. "In addition to the outdoor summer environment for rehearsals and performances, it's the camaraderie of the wonderful group of actors that over and over again grace our stage that I enjoy the most," he said.

The cast also includes longtime OrSVP actors John Chapin, Jim Fritz, Jill Gelster, Charlie Guitron, Mya Guitron, Isabella Hermelin, Ken Sollazzo, Claire Stevenson, Ian Williams and newcomer Dan Phillips. *Bram Stoker's Dracula* runs Friday and Saturday nights, Sept. 19 through Oct. 11 at 8:30 pm with one Sunday matinee on Oct. 5 at 4 pm and one Thursday performance on Oct. 9 at 8 pm.

For more information, visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) or call 925-528-9225. The theatre always needs volunteers to help with box office, lights, sound, set construction or stage management. For information email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org) or call 925-528-9225.

## It's Time to Sign Up for Emeritus College Fall Session

DVC Emeritus College provides affordable classes for people 50 and over. Courses are held at JFK University, Rossmoor and Diablo Valley College. The 2014 fall session is packed with interesting, thought provoking classes starting the week of September 15 on a wide variety of subjects including photography, astronomy, writing, history and philosophy to name just a few. Tours of the Niles Silent Film Museum, the USS Hornet and a History of Walnut Creek walking tour are also available. Emeritus is the place to expand your mind without the stress of homework and tests. To receive a brochure by mail, call 925-969-4316 or you can view the entire 2014 fall brochure online at [www.dvc.edu/emmeritus](http://www.dvc.edu/emmeritus).

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PERFORMING ARTS / SWIMMING

# Mike Daisey Takes on The Bard at Cal Shakes



URSA WAZ

Michael Daisey ends Cal Shakes season with one of his unique one-man shows.

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY  
Staff Writer

It's no wonder that the *New York Times* has hailed Mike Daisey as "the master storyteller" and "one of the finest solo performers of his generation." His transcript of *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs* was downloaded more than 100,000 times the week it hit the Internet. It has had more than 50 worldwide productions and been translated into six languages.

Since 1997, Daisey has created more than 20 monologues which have been performed in an array of venues spanning five continents. Television appearances include *Real Time* with Bill Maher and *The Late Show* with David Letterman. His writings have been published in *The New York Times*, *Harper's Magazine* and *Vanity Fair*, amongst others. He is also a contributor to NPR and the BBC.

Daisey returns to California Shakespeare Theatre's Bruns Amphitheatre with his show *The Great Tragedies: Mike Daisey Takes on Shakespeare*, Oct. 2-12. The show, a surprise addition to the company's 40th anniversary celebration, will follow the classic William Shakespeare comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which runs Sept. 3-28.

According to the theatre company, Daisey will "explore the nature of our theatri-

cal genetics by wrestling with the genius that penned *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and *King Lear*." Daisey explores the meaning and influence of Shakespeare in modern times and reveals how the prolific playwright's gifts have much to teach audiences.

*The Great Tragedies: Mike Daisey Takes on Shakespeare* will run Oct. 2-12, with performances Thursdays (*Romeo and Juliet*) at 7:30 pm, Fridays (*Hamlet*) and Saturdays (*Macbeth*) at 8 pm and Sundays (*King Lear*) at 7 pm. Cal Shakes describes the performances as "unique" and added that the shows can be "viewed independently, for a total of four World Premieres."

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Shana Cooper, with movement by Erika Chong Shuch, runs Sept. 3-28, with performances Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, and Sundays at 4 pm. There will be a Saturday matinee on Sept. 13 at 2 pm.

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 (beginning 90 minutes prior to curtain) as well as free onsite parking. For information or to charge tickets (which are \$35 to \$66), call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

## 57th Annual OMPA Swim Championship



SALLY HOGARTY

Young swimmers get ready to start the finals in the butterfly.

Records and hearts were broken in mid-August at the Orinda Moraga Pools Association's annual swim championship held at the Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga. Team results were: 1st place Orinda Country Club; 2nd place Sleepy Hollow; 3rd place Orinda Park Pool; 4th place Moraga Country Club; 5th place Meadow Swim Club; 6th place Moraga Valley Pool; 7th place Moraga Ranch; 8th place Miramonte Swim Club; and 9th place Campolindo Cabana Club. For individual results, go to [www.ompaswim.com](http://www.ompaswim.com).

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Paid for by Hillary Weiner for Orinda School Board 2014. FPPC Committee #1368663

## Garden Lights Wins Landscape Awards



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local landscape architect **Steve Lambert** won seven "Beautification Awards" presented by the California Landscape Contractors Association: one Sweepstakes award for sustainable landscape, five first place awards in a variety of categories and one second place award for large residential design. The Davidge residence in Orinda (above) won first place for Small Residential Design.

Orinda Community Foundation Presents:

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I recently transferred to the University of Oregon and struggled with maintaining my weight. I fell into a pattern of eating when I was stressed before a test, eating when I was bored, and not planning my meals accordingly. The weather in Oregon is rather grim so it was easy to cover up and forget about my body. I came home for summer and my mom suggested I try Living Lean. I couldn't be more happy I did!

Sheena sat down with me and helped me build a workout and meal regimen that I can also use when I go back to school!

So far, working with Sheena for about 4 weeks, I have already lost 10lbs of fat and gained 3 pounds of muscle! My favorite workout to do with Sheena is boxing, it makes me feel strong and its a great workout!

—Lauren Barkan

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by Sheena

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## Everyday Changes Look Who's Turning 30

Bonnie Waters



If you're turning 30 this year, you're in good company. Enjoy this stroll down the "Turning 30" memory lane.

**This man made answering with a question famous - Who is Alex Trebek?**

Canadian quizmaster Alex Trebek ushered in a new era of *Jeopardy!* in 1984.

**These adolescent reptiles love Italian food and hate wrongdoers - Who are the TMNT?**

The first *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* comic book was so popular that it led to cartoons, movies, video games, pizza and an empire worth millions. They are back 30 years later with a box-office blowout.

**This '80's men's hairstyle coined the term "Business in Front, Party in Back."**

**What is The Mullet?**  
The mullet is defined by hair that is left very long in the back and cut short in the front, on top and the sides. David Hasselhoff, David Bowie, Michael Bolton, Joan Jett and Billy Ray Cyrus all wore the mullet. Versions of the mullet have been trying to make a comeback. Let's hope it doesn't.

**This trendy ladies' hairstyle of the '80s is defined by a stiff vertical incline over the forehead - What are "Mall Bangs"?**

In case you missed it, Mall Bangs was the popular hairstyle from the 1980s where young ladies would use a whole can of Aqua Net hairspray to tease up monstrously tall bangs. Visualize a dude sporting a mul-

let arm-in-arm with a "mall-ie" (one who spends excessive time at the mall) on the escalator of the local mall - or not!

**These two innovations of the same name changed industries on opposite spectrums - computers and cosmetics - What is MAC ?**

The Makeup Art Cosmetics, a.k.a. MAC, was born 30 years ago and immediately became a cult classic combining bright face colors and colorful celebrity inspiration.

Apple introduced the Macintosh with the promise to put the creative power of technology in everyone's hands. Per the Apple website: "It launched a generation of innovators who continue to change the world."

**This five-day conference combines technology, entertainment and design - What is the TED Conference?**

While technology, entertainment and design are everlasting, the first TED conference was held in Monterey, and it was almost the last. Its birth was not well received, and it wasn't revived until 1990. Since then, people with relatively big wallets gather once a year to hear smart people give short talks, creating "ideas worth spreading."

**A trendy Walnut Creek salon and day spa turning 30. What is Changes Salon and Day Spa?**

[SEE CHANGES page 27]

## Move of the Month

### Oblique Crunch on Stability Ball

#### Preparation

Sit on exercise ball. Walk forward on ball and lie back on ball with shoulders and head hanging off, and knees and hips bent. Gently hyperextend back to contour of ball.

#### Execution

Flex waist to raise upper torso. Bring left knee up and rotate torso leading with the right elbow, towards it. Return to original position. Repeat with right knee and left elbow.

Perform 12 repetitions on each side.

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



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BUSINESS BUZZ

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full-service hair salon - for example we do not cut, color or perm hair - we definitely specialize in jewelry and ornaments for hair that give clients that special look," she said. Matching necklaces and earrings coordinating with beautiful combs and tiaras that are on display are arranged in the center of the shop.

"I provide every customer a style consultation about how to use their new hair accessory with each purchase," says Soo Kim. "There are literally six or seven hairstyles that can be created with any one accessory. I like the fact that I can help women make themselves beautiful using hair ornaments as accents that complement their appearance. For any length of hair, there is a solution and for women with thinning hair, there are ways of making hair look fuller."

Sparkly tiaras and everyday wear accessories are available. Soo Kim overflows with enthusiasm about the new jaw clips, headbands and barrettes made of non-toxic cellulose acetate. "These are lightweight and great for everyday wear." In-home adult hair accessory parties (with incentives for the hostess) are available, as well as birthday parties for children. Each young guest receives a tiara to take home.

While Soo Kim manages the boutique, offering demonstrations on various ways of creating attractive hairstyles, Steve Kim serves as the creative talent, traveling abroad and locating special designs for customers. When visiting Hello Tiara, note Steve's favorite quote on the wall, "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Hello Tiara is open Tuesday through Thursday, 11 am to 8 pm, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 9 pm and on Monday by appointment only. For a private consultation regarding full cranial prosthesis, call Soo Kim at 925-549-7695. For more information about this or hair extensions, go to [www.moreehair.com](http://www.moreehair.com). For information about Hello Tiara, visit [www.hellotiara.com](http://www.hellotiara.com) or call 925-253-5050.

**Hilton House Consign and Design is a Shopper's Emporium of Delights**

When remodeling her own home and wondering what to do with valuable household items that she no longer needed, Cyndi



VALERIE HOTZ

Cyndi Hilton's home remodeling project gave her the idea to start a consignment shop.

Hilton Girgis had a brainstorm to open a consignment shop filled with high-end new and like-new home décor. Located at 21 and 19 Orinda Way, across from the Orinda Library, Hilton House is an interesting treasure hunt that continually beckons. The Orinda Chamber of Commerce named it Business of the Year, and the Contra Costa Council honored Hilton House with its annual Small Business Award.

"Our emphasis has always been on brand names and high quality home décor," said Girgis. "You never know what you are going to find here. We receive consignments from all over the Bay Area and as far away as Beverly Hills. Our customers visit us online and by clicking on 'consign' they can communicate with me within two hours. We encourage customers to email photos or pack up their items and bring them to the shop."

Literally everything for the home may be had, from beeswax candles and potpourri to fine jewelry and elegant crystal. Visit the website at [www.hiltonhousedesigns.com](http://www.hiltonhousedesigns.com) and view samples of the thousands of items available in the two showrooms. If online shopping is your preference, you may purchase décor items online using the shopping cart. Peruse the china, rugs, mirrors, tables, dressers, sofas, lamps, wall décor, chandeliers, lamps – you name it and you might just find it here. Antiques are mixed in with mid-century modern furniture as well as elegant evening handbags.

"We encourage clients to consign at this time of year, ahead of the holiday shopping season," said Girgis. "We have found husbands like to come in and find something really special. Clients will find fine jewelry including diamonds, gemstones, gold and yellow gold as well as sterling silver pieces.

We also carry costume jewelry and one-of-a-kind items."

Looking to furnish that new vacation home in Tahoe? Hilton House is definitely worth the trip, especially if you enjoy browsing an emporium of eclectic items. Many customers enjoy dropping by to listen to the soft jazz music piped in from satellite radio as they shop for bargains.

A longtime Orinda resident, Girgis is married to Magdy Girgis, a physician. The couple has two adult children. Daughter Tiffany is a Bikram yoga instructor in San Juan Capistrano and son Zack works at Qualcomm. Girgis volunteers for Opera in the Park and is a member of the Orinda Rotary Club. She is an avid Oakland Athletics fan and the entire family goes to the park together.

Open Monday through Saturday from 10:30 am to 5 pm, Hilton House Consign

and Design is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit [www.hiltonhousedesigns.com](http://www.hiltonhousedesigns.com) or call 925-254-1113.

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In honor of 30 years in the business of beauty and wellness, Team Changes is celebrating for 30 days. Visit Changes Oct. 1 through 30 to enjoy special offers, events and be entered to win one of 30 spa-tacular prizes.

**Final Jeopardy:** The date to party like it's 1984, enter to win 30 prizes worth more than \$3,000 and eat birthday cake - What is Oct. 30. Join Team Changes in an evening of photos and festive libations. Visit [www.changessalon.com](http://www.changessalon.com) or RSVP to [rsvp@changessalon.com](mailto:rsvp@changessalon.com) by Oct. 24 to reserve your spot. Mall bangs and mullets optional.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

## Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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### Zamboni's Pizza Celebrates 20 Years in Orinda

Magid Aboutalebi assumed ownership of Zamboni's Pizza, across from Safeway at 1 Camino Sobrante, in 1996 after owning restaurants in Pleasant Hill for several years. Offering 20 different specialty pizzas in four sizes with more than 25 ingredients to choose from, customers may select deep-dish Chicago style or paper-thin crust.

The key is that everything on the menu is made fresh daily. "Customers order the crust they prefer, and we make their pizza to their specifications," says Aboutalebi.

"Nothing is pre-made for dinner and for lunchtime, we have pre-made crusts because the lunch hour is so busy. We guarantee freshness in everything."

Zamboni's is a traditional small and friendly neighborhood pizza joint, complete with wall décor featuring sports memorabilia from Bay Area athletes and personalities. With seating for just 20, be sure to come by early. The dining room features cloth tablecloths in festive green, red and white and a mural of the largest pizza you have ever seen adorns one wall.

For busy people on the go, pizza may be ordered by the slice from 11 am to 4 pm. One slice equals one-quarter of a 16-inch pizza. "Most of our customers enjoy our

excellent calzone which we offer at a great price and salads. We prepare garden salads, mixed greens and Caesar salads, along with a selection of tomato sauce, creamy Alfredo or pesto sauce for pizza topping. We enjoy offering our customers a paper-thin crust or if they prefer, deep-dish pizza," says Aboutalebi. The 20 specialty pizza offerings range from spicy pepperoni and jalapeno salsa to two different vegetarian selections.

Originally from Persia, where he was a staff member in the prime minister's office for more than 12 years, Aboutalebi also served 18 months in the foreign ministry office until the revolution in 1979, and shortly thereafter, he immigrated to the United States. When not overseeing Zamboni's, he enjoys watching football and other sports events. Aboutalebi's main hobby is running – he runs an average of seven miles daily. On weekends, he enjoys the outdoors, hiking local trails, visiting friends and taking care of his family. "I enjoy supporting our local public schools," he adds.

"Our customers usually hear about us by word-of-mouth," says Aboutalebi. "It is a pleasure serving our many loyal customers over the past 18 years. My wonderful staff has been working for me 10 to 12 years, and our delivery people are local. They deliver very promptly so customers get their pizza hot and fresh."

Zamboni's Pizza is open Monday through Thursday from 11 am to 9:30 pm, Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 10 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 9 pm. To place a take-out order, call 925-254-2800. Delivery is available every day at no extra charge and

Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

### Hello Tiara Features New Offerings

This quaint boutique shop located in Theatre Square features not only hair ornaments of all types and for all ages but also offers coordinating jewelry to match the attractive tiaras, combs, jaw clips and various other hair accessories. Owners Soo Kim and Steve Kim - no relation, but



VALERIE HOTZ  
Soo Kim and Steve Kim (not related) are the owners of Hello Tiara in Theatre Square.

longtime friends - established the shop 18 months ago and have added additional services that include full cranial prosthesis and hair extensions.

After being greeted by Rocky, Soo Kim's Eskimo Papillon dog, step inside a wonderland of tiaras with matching necklaces and take in the novel hair accessories offered. You are sure to find something special for your next outing. A marble floor reflects the bright lighting and indoor plants grace the showroom.

"Full cranial prosthesis is a medical term for a lace wig that fits the head very comfortably," says Soo Kim. "It is designed for individuals with certain conditions such as trichotillomania and alopecia and individuals coping with chemotherapy. Often the full cranial prosthesis may be covered by insurance. We invite people to come in for a free consultation, and we will help determine insurance coverage. Every piece is custom-made for adults and also children."

A graduate of the Academy of Art in San Francisco, Soo Kim has an eye for design and thoroughly enjoys demonstrating the myriad of ways a hair accessory can be used to create a different style for clients. "Everything that is hair related we have here at Hello Tiara. While we are not a

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Magrid Aboutalebi took over the ownership of Zamboni's Pizza in 1996.

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