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THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
August 2015

July 4th Instagram Winner



RHODA LARNER

Rhoda Lerner took this photo of her husband Adam and their son Noah to win the \$100 grand prize. The Orinda resident had stiff competition as 276 submissions were made in the Orinda Association's second annual Instagram photo contest.

Darlene Gee Appointed to City Council

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER
Staff Writer

Darlene Gee has been selected by the Orinda City Council to fill the council seat left vacant in May by former Mayor Steve Glazer, who was elected to serve District 7 in the California State Senate. Her term runs through December 2016.

Gee, selected from a pool of seven applicants, is a 26-year Orinda resident and is a consulting civil engineer with 23 years of executive level management experience. She is currently chair of the Orinda Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission on which she has served since 2011. Other Orinda civic engagements include participation as co-chair of the Measure L Sales Tax Campaign and member of the Acalanes Unified High School District Measure E Oversight Committee. Her stated priorities for Orinda include: improvements to roads and drainage infrastructure, balancing community interests in regards to residential and community development, maintaining fiscal responsibility and enhancing public safety.

"I believe the top priority is always to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Darlene Gee is Orinda's new City Councilmember.

maintain fiscal responsibility," stated Gee in her council application. "A city the size of Orinda has limited and fixed sources of revenue. Maintaining budgets and reserves is critical."

Gee and the six other candidates attended a July 15, special City Council meeting at which they had five minutes to make a formal presentation and answer Council member questions. In attendance was a full capacity crowd, many of whom spoke on behalf of and in support of the various candidates

Two of the seven were former City Council candidates whose names have appeared on previous ballots: Carlos Baltodano and

[SEE GEE page 4]

Ongoing Drought Results in Water Rate Hikes, More Surcharges

By CHARLIE JARRETT
Staff Writer

California's prolonged drought and low water storage levels, accompanied by diminishing snowpack, have prompted water officials to sound statewide alarms, calling for greater water conservation. The East Bay Municipal Water District (EBMUD) declared a Stage 4 drought, requiring strict conservation measures, rate increases for water and wastewater usage, and a 25 percent surcharge on over-usage

that went into effect on July 1.

The surcharge will help defray the costs of purchasing extra water, while the rate increases fund ongoing services and investment in the aging infrastructure – including maintaining and upgrading 4,200 miles of existing pipelines in five counties from the Bay Area to the Sierra Crest.

EBMUD's proposed budget for 2015 is \$739.5 million: \$595.1 million for water and \$144.4 million for wastewater. The 25 percent surcharge will apply until further notice.

EBMUD has set a 2015 goal to reduce water usage by 20 percent as compared to 2013 usage. For customers, this generally means using no more than 35 gallons per person per day indoors. Since conservation alone is not enough, EBMUD is also supplementing normal water supplies with water purchased from additional sources. Currently, all EBMUD's reservoirs are less than half full.

Over the course of the three-year drought, Governor Jerry Brown has issued a number of water-saving mandates for state and water agencies. In April of this year, the following mandates for individuals were issued:

[SEE EBMUD page 6]



DAVID DIERKS

Benny Beutner enthralled youngsters during EBMUD's educational magic show that uses entertainment to teach water conservation.

Swallows Return to Orinda



JOHN EHRENFELD

Cliff Swallows return to the Bay Area to breed.

By ILANA DEBARE
Contributing Writer

If you had just travelled 3,000 miles to start a family, you'd be hoping for a secure home and a warm welcome. And that's exactly what the Cliff Swallows of Wilder Park have received – thanks to new cooperation between the City of Orinda and the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

The two groups teamed up this summer on behalf of about two dozen pairs of Cliff Swallows that build nests in the eaves of the Wilder Park sports field restrooms. Audubon members Erica Rutherford and John Colbert have even created educational flyers and signs to teach Orinda families

[SEE SWALLOWS page 20]


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The Orinda Association

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

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

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A Message From the OA President

Enjoy Fourth of July? Become an OA Member!



Bill Waterman

The Orinda Association (OA) was proud to organize Orinda's Fourth of July parade and celebration for the 32nd year in a row. For the second consecutive year, you may have noticed some new things in the parade: lots of festive decorations on both sides of Orinda (including six large balloon arches), amateur and professional musicians and marching bands of all types (Brass Boppers, St. Gabriel's, Spirit of '29, ALMA Music Studio, East Bay Banjo Band, Lamorinda Idol, Peter Pan Foundation, Jonas the Bagpiper, Blue Devils C Corps and Orinda's Pick Up Marching Band) and pre-parade music by the Andrew Benzie and EFO bands.

Before the parade, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) orchestrated our flag-raising ceremony, Suzanne Tom

organized the Haley's Run for a Reason, and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary served up the pancake breakfast. The Community Center park was the focus of lots of food, music and fun: kids' activities (petting zoo, bounce houses, face painting, balloon twisters and crafts booths), food (Orinda Chamber, Baan Thai, Kettle Korn, Loard's and Genuine Goodness) and drink (Orinda Rotary and Tabor Sister City). Orinda's own band, The Bonafides, provided the entertainment, while local nonprofit groups dispensed information and interacted with the public. Even car lovers got in on the fun via the Classic Car Show. Altogether, it was another really meaningful day for all of us to gather together as a community – something we don't have the chance to do very often.

So how does this all happen? Only through the teamwork of many dedicated OA volunteers, various community groups (such as the Orinda Chamber and Orinda

Rotary, CERT and radio club volunteers), all backed by the financial support of generous foundations (Orinda Community Foundation and Orinda Park & Recreation Foundation) and many business and family sponsors (see the list of all sponsors on page 12). Our OA members also deserve much of the credit here – our membership provides additional essential funding needed to sustain and improve this wonderful event.

The bottom line is simple: If you love this event and want to see the OA continue organizing it, please renew your OA membership today. If you aren't currently a member, please join us – you'll be glad to know your support really makes a difference right here in Orinda. Plus, you'll be supporting the OA's other programs – such as this newspaper (published monthly by the OA and mailed to all Orinda residents and businesses), the Seniors Around Town ride program for Orinda seniors, and the OA office and Volunteer Center. Together with you, the OA can continue working to improve the quality of life in our lovely city. To renew your OA membership or join the OA is super-easy – just go to www.orindaassociation.org and, in a few minutes you can become an OA member! On behalf of the OA board, office staff and volunteers, thanks so much for your support!

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Cobras Invade Classic Car Show



JILL GELSTER

Drew Serb's CSX2357 Dragonsnake, one of two original factory Cobras made specifically for drag racing, is on display at Cobra Experience.

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Classic Car Show on Sept. 12 marks its 11th anniversary with a wonderful display of original Shelby Cobras. "The Cobras will be part of a special display of Cobras, Woodies and 1960's Thunderbirds as the theme this year is Fun Fun Fun ('til her daddy takes the T-Bird away)," said car show organizer Chip Herman. "The event will have lots of '60's Southern California Beach Party fun ... perfect for little Cobras, T-Birds and Woodies."

Cobra Experience – a non-profit museum in Martinez dedicated to the promotion, education and preservation of the cars produced by Shelby American – is sponsoring the Cobras' participation. "For the Car Show at 1 p.m., seven original Shelby Cobras are going to drive in as a special rolling exhibit," said Herman. The next day, the Cobras will be trailered to Sun Valley, Idaho, where they will take part in the 26th Annual Original Cobra 1,000 Mile Invitational Tour. This year's drive weaves through Idaho and Montana before returning to Sun Valley and lasts for five days.

[SEE CLASSICS page 7]

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Orinda Chamber presents

a "Sneak Preview" of films from
The California Film Festival

August 18
5:30 to 7pm
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Screened at Barbaccoa**

Watch previews of movies on the Bar TV Screens

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Orinda Motors Presents



The 11th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 11th, 6:00pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"

Saturday,
September 12th, 10am-3pm
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

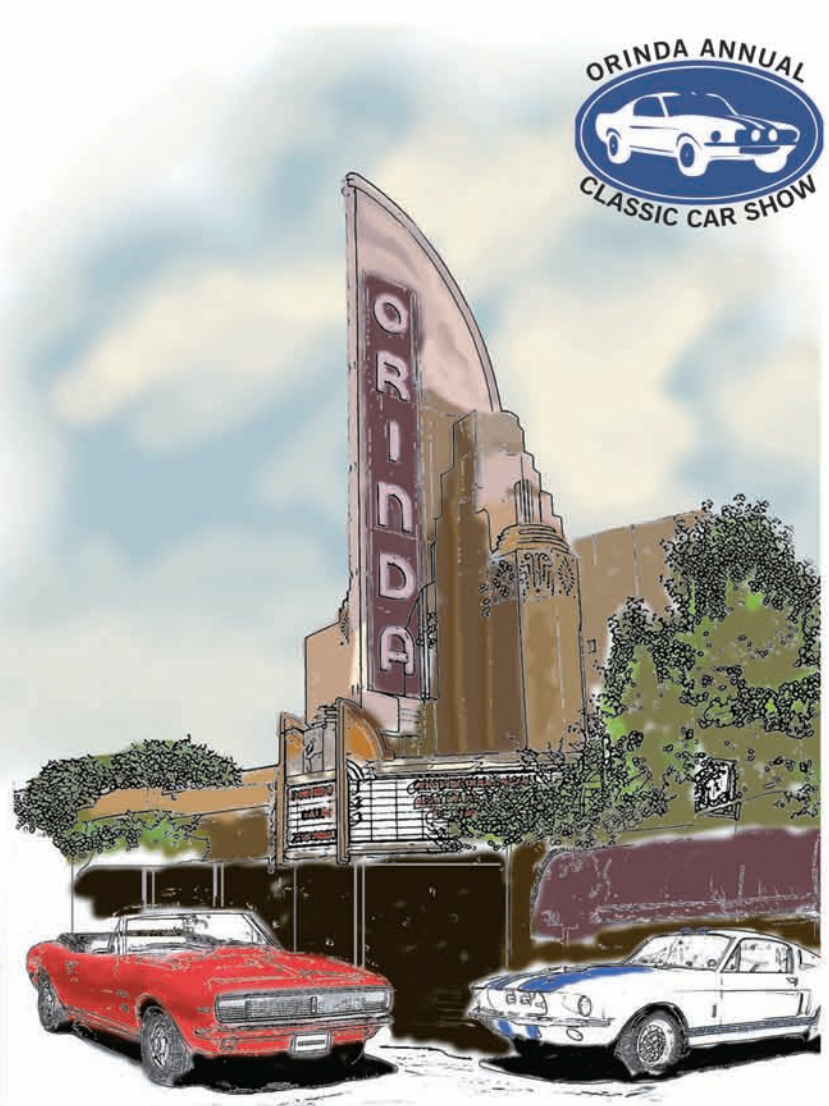


Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle!
Register online today!

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

Cruise in a Classic!

Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive.



Enter Your Car and Buy Party Tickets Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

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

Event Schedule

Friday, September 11th, 6:00pm

"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

The presenting sponsor for this great event is Clark Thompson - Village Associates.

FUN FUN FUN (till her daddy takes the T-Bird away)

This all-inclusive event is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser and will feature a totally awesome exhibit of Shelby Cobras. Along with other primo classic cars of the era. Tropical cocktails, a luscious menu, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the surf-inspired songs of the Beach Boys and Jan and Dean will have you ready to hang ten and shoot the curve! Reserve your tickets now!

Proceeds from this event benefit a variety of non-profits, including EFO, the Orinda Association, the Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Parks and Rec Foundation, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Orinda, which produces "Dancing with the Cars".

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

Saturday **Free Admission**
September 12th, 10am - 3pm

11TH 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.
- 200 Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- Arriving at 1pm, there will be an outstanding exhibit of original Shelby Cobras, which the following day will begin the 26th Annual Cobra 1000 Invitational Tour
- Shaded seating to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth
- Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Drive of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2015 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



See a 1 p.m. visit of
Original Shelby Cobras
about to begin their Annual
1000 Mile Invitational Tour!



"DANCING WITH THE CARS" PARTY SPONSORS



Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:

Breedlove Insurance Services, Brydon & Ives, Clark Thompson - Village Associates, Drakes Brewing, Gary Wong, CPA, Land Home Financial Services, Mechanics Bank, Oakland Zoo, Orinda Optometry Group

Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Orinda for producing this party!

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW SPONSORS



Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors: 92.1 KKDV, Aetna, Bay Alarm, Berry Bros. Towing, Bespoke Collections Wines, Clark Thompson-Village Associates, Cobra Experience, Dr. Jess Santucci, Fed Ex Office or other printer, Fox 2 TV 36, The Grubb Co., Hagerty Classic Car Insurance, John Muir Health, La Hermandad de Los Andes Vineyards, Lamorinda Weekly, Merrill Lynch, Pacific Business Centers, Piccolo Napoli, Recuerdo Wines. Richard and Kate Wiley, Safeway, SalesMuscle, The Orinda News

CLASSIC CAR SHOW WEEKEND PIT CREW

Dan Akol	Steve Corbitt	Jeff Joyce	Debbie and Wayne
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Editorial . . . Turning Adversity Into Action

If you're looking for inspiration, you would be hard pressed to find anyone who inspires confidence and that "can do" spirit more than Lucy Hupp Williams. The native Orindan, who now lives in Foster City, recently received recognition for her many years of volunteerism (she started at the age of 12!) and preservation of Orinda's history from the Orinda City Council. This adds to her many awards which include the Orinda Association's 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award and the San Mateo County's 2009 Women's Hall of Fame Award.

Lucy comes from a long line of over achievers. Her grandparents believed in giving back to their community and that everyone should leave the world a better place than they found it. Her parents, James and Lucy Hupp, took that to heart and were political activists for peace and social justice. They helped found the Mt. Diablo Peace Center, worked on prison reform, help for the homeless and Head Start programs. They also founded an alternative high school and taught organic gardening for 30 years.

When a 15-year-old Lucy was diagnosed with Polio in the 1950s, her family's indomitable spirit helped her cope with the many physical and emotional difficulties she faced. Rather than stay isolated at home, she let her horse be her legs as she roamed all over Lamorinda with her "best friend."

Lucy went on to hold many non-traditional jobs for a woman of that time including a Job Corps counselor, Department of Rehabilitation instructor and housing manager for Stanford University.

A tireless volunteer, Lucy was a founding member of the Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area and spent countless hours



SALLY HOGARTY
Mayor **Dean Orr** presented **Lucy Hupp Williams** with a certificate of appreciation at the July 7 City Council meeting.

collecting and organizing Orinda's history for the Historical Society Museum. She continued her work long after she and her husband Buzz moved to Foster City.

Now, health considerations – not to mention increased traffic on Bay Area roads turning her trek from Foster City into a two-hour plus trip – have forced Lucy to resign as president of the Historical Society. All of her efforts and hard work with the organization since 1998 will not be forgotten and, I'm sure, Lucy will manage that trip several more times to check in on her life-long friends and fellow volunteers.

Congratulations, Lucy, and thank you for helping make Orinda the lovely town it is today.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Correction . . .

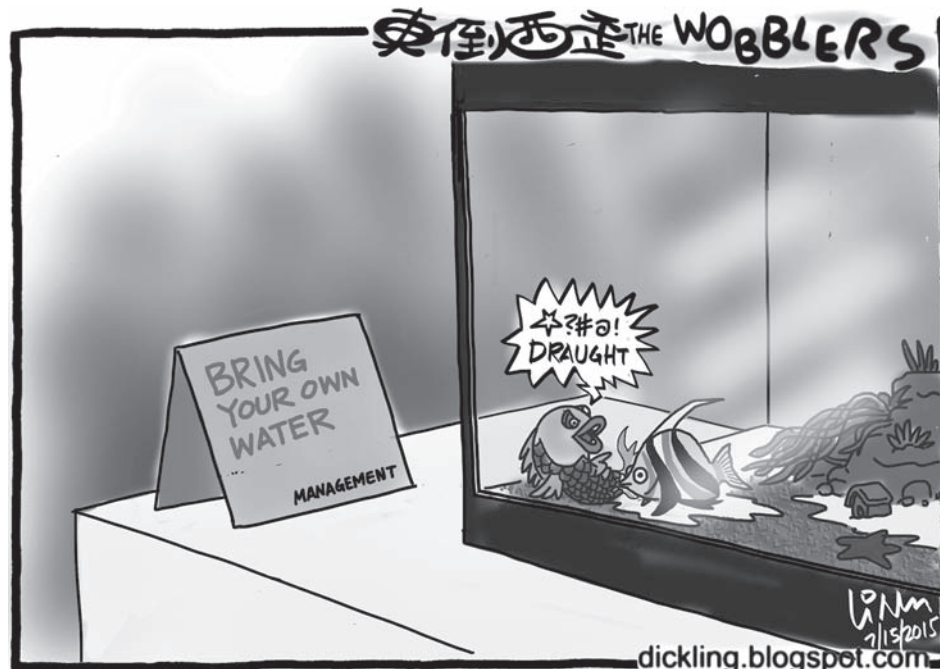
On page 8 of the July issue of *The Orinda News*, it was reported that Seniors Around Town provided 900 rides in 2014. The number should have read 542.

and recreation, and public works.

Hoxie has lived in Orinda for 37 years and is currently the co-president of the Educational Foundation of Orinda. A former corporate attorney, and past president and CEO of Rehabilitation Services of Northern California, Hoxie stated that traffic, downtown congestion, roads, and development and growth are some of Orinda's most difficult problems.

Kelly is an actuary, and a City of Orinda liaison to the Contra Costa County Library Commission. For key issues facing the city, he listed public safety, the need to increase the tax base, and an increase in vocational and volunteer opportunities.

Murphy, a spokesman for the Save Orinda community group and a three-year Finance Advisory Committee appointee, stated on his application a desire to "continue moving Orinda forward as a place where citizens can enjoy great schools, open spaces, safe homes and freedom to think great ideas."



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Pet Service			

Zenner is the director of government relations for Safeway, Inc., an Orinda Parks and Recreation Commissioner and is a 12-year Orinda resident. She stated on her application that "infrastructure remains a significant concern and should be a top priority of the community." As a professional in government relations and public policy positions for nearly 20 years, she said that she has "a very clear understanding of the responsibilities that government entities have to serve their constituents."

Gee stated that she was humbled and

honored by the appointment. "Each of the candidates was extremely qualified," said Gee. "As a longtime Orinda resident, I would have been perfectly happy for any of them to have been chosen to represent me." Gee added that she very much looks forward to serving the citizens of Orinda and hopes that the road program can be concluded in the next few years. "Then, I hope to move onto the next level where I can be involved in broader issues. I very much look forward to my service on the Orinda City Council."

◆ GEE from page 1

Bob Thompson. Other candidates included Cara Hoxie, Juan Kelly, Owen Murphy and Rachel Zenner.

Baltodano, a 2014 council candidate, is a building safety consultant with Interwest Group, Inc. He served as a member of the Orinda Planning Commission from 2008 – 2014, and was a member of the City of Orinda Road Improvement Committee in 2012-2013. His candidacy was spurred by his desire to provide stewardship for the "wonderful town that my family and I have had the privilege to live in for 23 years."

Thompson, a 23-year Orinda resident, and a member of Orinda's Finance Advisory Committee, placed fourth in the 2014 election. As a retired investment manager with a long and distinguished career in finance, he felt his strong business perspective would be beneficial to the issues the Council faces. His stated priorities included: police services, planning, parks

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. **Letters to Editor** for the September issue are due **August 8, 2015**.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the September issue is August 8, 2015.

POLICE / NATURE AREA



POLICE BLOTTER

June through July 15, 2015

Battery: 1 incident: Miramonte High School.

Burglary, Auto: 6 incidents: Hall Dr. (2), Wilder Rd., Bryant Way, Brookwood Dr. and Wilder/Hwy 24.

Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident: El Gavilan Rd.

Burglary, Residential: 12 incidents: Miner Rd. (3), El Toyonal, La Cresta Rd., Sleepy Hollow Ln. (2), Risa Ct., Estates Dr., Meadow View, Hall Dr. and Harran Cir.

Embezzlement: 1 incident: Safeway.

Petty Theft: 4 incidents: Wagner Ranch Elementary, Donna Maria Way, Theatre Square and Ichabod Ln.

Petty Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents: Irwin Way and Ironbark Pl.

Shoplifting: 3 incidents: Safeway, CVS and Rite Aid.

Traffic Collision: 1 incident: Moraga Way/Sanborn Rd.

Vandalism: 2 incidents: Brookwood Rd. and Starbucks.

Vehicle Theft: 3 incidents: Bank of America Parking Lot, Harran Cir. and Risa Ct.

Arrests

Drunk in Public Arrest: 1 arrest: Ivy Dr./Moraga Way.

DUI Arrest: 2 arrests: Altardinda Dr. and Moraga Way/Oak Dr.

Elder Abuse: 1 arrest: Southwood Dr.

Stolen Vehicle Recovered: 1 recovery: Brookwood Rd.

Traffic Stop Arrest: 3 arrests: Glorietta Blvd./Orchard Rd., Moraga Way/Oak Dr. and Hall Dr./Casa Reale.

Warrant Arrest: 4 arrests: Sunnyvale Ln., BART Parking Lot, Camino Pablo/El Toyonal and Robert Rd.

Orinda BART Station

No reported incidents.

– Compiled by Jeanette Bradfield
Orinda Police Department

Cameras, Plate Readers Up and Running

By FRAN ENDICOTT MILLER
Staff Writer

The Orinda Police Department's (OPD) motion-activated surveillance cameras and Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) are ready to roll, according to Police Chief Mark Nagel.

"The patrol car with the ALPR is outfitted, and we are waiting for the software to be loaded so that we can turn it on," says Nagel. "And we have rolled out a few of the Reconyx motion cameras in the city." By Aug. 1, all are expected to be out and operational. "As far as the locations, that's going to be fluid and will probably change depending on the views we get and hot spots for crime."

The new camera system will be used in combination with existing crime-awareness platforms such as high-tech neighborhood and private home surveillance systems and alert systems such as Nixle, Nextdoor and Outlook and will allow OPD to quickly recreate criminal events and find perpetrators when time is of the essence.

The ALPR system will instantly notify officers of stolen vehicles and the motion-activated cameras will be integral in providing suspect leads to investigators.

The eight Reconyx cameras and the ALPR are part of a one-year pilot program recommended by Nagel, who thoroughly studied the efficacy of similar systems in other towns. The same technology is uti-



SALLY HOGARTY

The **Orinda Police Department** has one vehicle equipped with the Automated License Plate Reader on its roof.

lized by the Lafayette Police Department (LPD) and has helped to drastically increase their crime-solve rate. In one recent month, the LPD was able to solve nearly 60 percent of home and automobile robberies in town. The state average for solved home and auto robberies falls in the 10-percent range.

The cameras will receive a one-year trial, after which Nagel will return to the council to report on the program's success. "I believe we have sufficient data from previous years to be able to do a proper analysis or a good before-and-after comparison," said Nagel. "With the camera technology and the increase in community involvement, the Orinda Police Department is committed to making Orinda a safer city."

For information on the Reconyx camera policy, visit www.cityoforinda.org.

Nature Area Friends Gear Up for Education and Olives



WILLIAM HUDSON

Fourth-graders from Wagner Ranch Elementary School listen intently as naturalist and teacher **Toris Jaeger** explains how Native Americans ground flour from acorns. It was such an important job that it was only entrusted to adults.

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area (FWRNA) are gearing up for the 5th Annual Olive Festival on Sunday, Oct. 4, from noon to 4:30 p.m. The event, which features samples of locally grown olives and olive oil, cooking demonstrations, arts, crafts and live music, is one of FWRNA's biggest annual fundraisers.

"The olive festival showcases the nature area and focuses attention on the wonderful programs for children such as Rancho Days, First Thanksgiving and Pioneer Days," said Katherine Barrett, FWRNA board secretary. "All the programs are tied in with the school district's social studies and environmental education curriculum."

The nature area, located at 350 Camino Pablo, next to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, is owned by the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) and features 18 acres of meadow, forest, ponds and streams, where all the district's third-, fourth- and

[SEE NATURE page 16]



presenting

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ROVING REPORTER

◆ EBMUD from page 1

Strict limits on outdoor watering: no more than two days per week, with no runoff; strict limits on times: water only before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m.; no watering allowed within 48 hours of measurable rainfall; no watering of ornamental turf on public street medians; no washing of driveways and sidewalks, except as needed for health and safety; use only hoses with shutoff nozzles to wash vehicles; turn off fountains or decorative water features unless the water is re-circulated; use of hydrant water outside of EBMUD service area is prohibited; and use a broom or blower, not water, to clean hard surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks, except as needed for health and safety purposes.

Other measures require that restaurants only serve water to customers upon request and hotels and motels give guests the option of not having their towels and linens washed daily.

On June 2, EBMUD held a community meeting in the Orinda library. Water Supply Manager John Hurlburt confirmed that this year is one of the driest rainfall years on record in California. "Our main source of water and water storage is the 577 square miles of the Mokelumne Watershed, along with the help of the Pardee and Comanche reservoirs," he said. "With little or no snowfall and subsequent snowmelt this year, the Pardee Reservoir is down by 51 percent of capacity, and the Comanche Reservoir is at only 25 percent of its capacity." EBMUD engineers estimate that at the end of 2015, the Bay Area will be at the second or third lowest storage reserves ever recorded.

EBMUD treasury manager Sophia Skoda noted that, while over 90 percent of water costs are fixed, income sources are more than 70 percent variable. The required 20 percent reduction of water use will cost EBMUD approximately \$29 million in

revenue while the cost of purchasing 80,000 acre feet of supplemental water supplies is estimated at \$65 million. The additional fees charged to customers who go over limits will add to revenues but an exact amount is impossible to predict. A tiered rate structure will be used with penalties amounting to as much as an additional 30 percent surcharge for excessive water usage, over and above the 25 percent over-usage charge.

EBMUD's Manager of Customer and Community Services Sherri Hong said EBMUD is re-convening its water savings patrol team to better show customers how they can conserve. "EBMUD personnel will be out in the communities looking for potential water wasters," said Hong. "To foster a broader community partnership in this process, we have established an anonymous water wasters hotline for customers to report flagrant water wasters. In addition, for those EBMUD customers not complying with the cutback, there is an excessive use penalty ordinance that can be utilized." EBMUD is also installing automated water leak detection technology to prevent additional water loss. A lawn conversion and irrigation upgrade rebate program is available that can provide up to \$2,500 per single or multi-family (four units or less) residential unit. Artificial turf does not currently qualify for a rebate but is being considered under an EBMUD pilot program. Customers can also save with free water-conserving faucets, aerators, showerheads and hose nozzles. To request these devices, customers must first complete a home survey. Surveys can be requested online or picked up at the EBMUD Administration Building, 375-11th Street, Oakland, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, email EBMUD at waterconservation@ebmud.com or call 1-866-403-2683.

Roving Reporter

What are Orinda residents and businesses doing to help conserve water in this drought?

Charlie Jarrett



Dave and Mary Roach are residents of Orinda for the past five years and have loved every minute of it. They say that they are trying many different ways to watch their water usage, but most of all they have embraced the new green, meaning that they are sadly watching their beautiful front and rear lawns turn totally brown.



CHARLIE JARRETT
Dave and Mary Roach embrace water conservation.

Tim Losee and Tania Celante have replaced all major plantings in their yard with drought tolerant plants. In addition, they are seriously looking into replacing all of their lawn with a Poly turf type covering, so they will have a soft green place for their children and dog, Stretch, to play. Tim was raised in this community, left for a while, and has been back with his family for six years now.

Sarah McDonnell of the McDonnell Nursery on Moraga Way, and her assistant Sandy Copeman, have set up a Garden Consultation program to assist EBMUD customers wanting to pursue the \$2,500 EBMUD Landscape Conversion and Irrigation upgrade rebates offered. McDonnell's



CHARLIE JARRETT
Sarah McDonnell of McDonnell Nursery assists homeowners with EBMUD rebate applications.

staff will come out to homes and assist owners in completing the applications required. Copeman is trained to know how to re-design landscape and sprinkler systems, manage drainage, water storage and preservation, and employ drought enhancing terracing and drought tolerant plantings. She also can explain what types of plants and lawn and drip irrigation equipment are eligible in EBMUD's landscape conversion program. McDonnell charges a flat basic inspection fee of \$150. If the customer uses McDonnell's highly trained staff in the process of converting their property into much more drought supporting landscap-



CHARLIE JARRETT
Orinda residents Lynn Ferrante and Ian Howells.

ing, \$50 of the initial \$150 inspection fee will be refunded to them.

Lynn Ferrante and Ian Howells have been residents in Orinda for the past six years and have been concerned for some time about the need for water conservation. Ferrante discovered the EBMUD website and the information on their potential rebate program for landscape conversion. She found the rebate applications and forms to be very difficult for a non-landscape person to understand readily or easily. She contacted McDonnell Nursery and Sandy

[SEE REPORTER page 8]



CHARLIE JARRETT
Tim Losee (L), son Andrew (on his lap), wife Tania Celante and son Corey with their rescue dog "Stretch."

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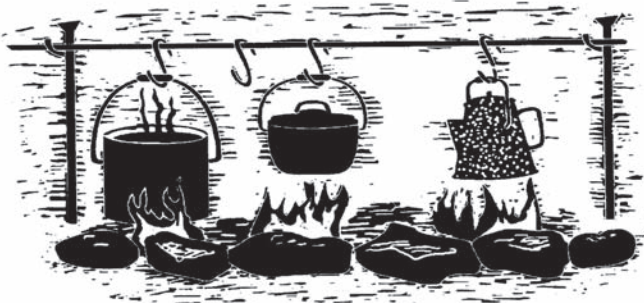
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CARS

CAR TIME

Beware Add-On Costs to Warranty Repair



By JOHN VANEK

Many car drivers have received a letter from an auto manufacturer indicating a recall or problem with their vehicle that requires a repair under warranty. There's usually some kind of defect so drivers expect the repair to be done at no charge.

The manufacturer is taking steps to take care of problems with the vehicle they built. The dealership, on the other hand, is an authorized repair facility and the only ones that can do these repairs for free. The dealership is an independent agent authorized to perform warranty repairs for which the manufacturer reimburses them. However, the independent dealers will often perform an inspection on the vehicle to find additional repairs. The Bureau of Automotive Repair has laws forbidding repairs or service on a vehicle without the owner's authorization. However, a dealer may include an inspection on the original estimate when you sign for the warranty repair. Always read before signing. If you have a good relationship with the dealer and trust them, you may be okay with the

inspection.

Most dealership service advisers and technicians are paid on commission or bonus programs. This can lead to greed and greed leads to performing repairs that are not required, especially when there is a strong "push for profit" from the conglomerates that own the big dealerships. Sales goals sometimes trump honesty and integrity, so I always recommend getting a second opinion – about 50 percent of suggested repairs are bogus. As a good consumer of automotive repair, you should already have a handle on the condition of your car. You should also have a "go-to" shop that you trust to give you an honest second opinion.

Consumers have no choice but to take their cars to the dealer for warranty repairs. They do have the choice to pay attention to the warranty process. If a dealer tries to include an inspection along with the warranty repair, the driver should be able to understand if it makes sense or not.

You can reach John Vanek at John@OrindaMotors.com.

Orinda Classic Car Show By The Numbers
10 Years of Fun and Community Support

Years the Show had been running: 10
 Total \$ raised for local charities: over \$300,000
 Total \$ raised for local charities year one: \$1,500
 Total \$ raised for local charities last year: \$58,000
 Cars that have exhibited thru the years: 1,388
 Cars exhibited the first year: 21
 Cars exhibited last year: 221
 Lunches served: 3,472
 Number of accidents in the post show Classic Car "Drive": 1
 Consecutive years Orinda Motors has been the Presenting Sponsor of the Orinda Classic Car Show: 10
 "Pit Crew" volunteers that support the Car Show Weekend each year: 68
 Sponsors for the first year: 1
 Sponsors for this year's weekend events: 31
 Number of years the Lamorinda Idols have performed at the Car Show: 6
 Attendee's at last year's Dancing with the Cars party: 262 – A Sell Out!!!
 Consecutive years Clark Thompson has sponsored the Dancing With the Cars Party: 7
 Local charities receiving benefit from the Car Show Weekend events: 9
 Orinda community partner organizations working to make the Car Show Weekend successful: 8
 Number of bourbons consumed at Car Show Committee Meetings over the years: COUNTLESS

Dancing with the Cars party – Friday September 11th , 6 p.m.
 11th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show – Saturday September 12th, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Event, Entry and Ticket Information available at www.OrindaCarShow.com

◆ CLASSICS from page 2

"It's quite an undertaking given all these cars are 50 years old and worth a million dollars or more each," added Herman. The Cobra 1,000 Mile Invitational Tour is a chance for many Cobra owners to get their vehicles out on the road and let them roar.

The Cobra Experience, a creation of former Orindan Drew Serb, opened last

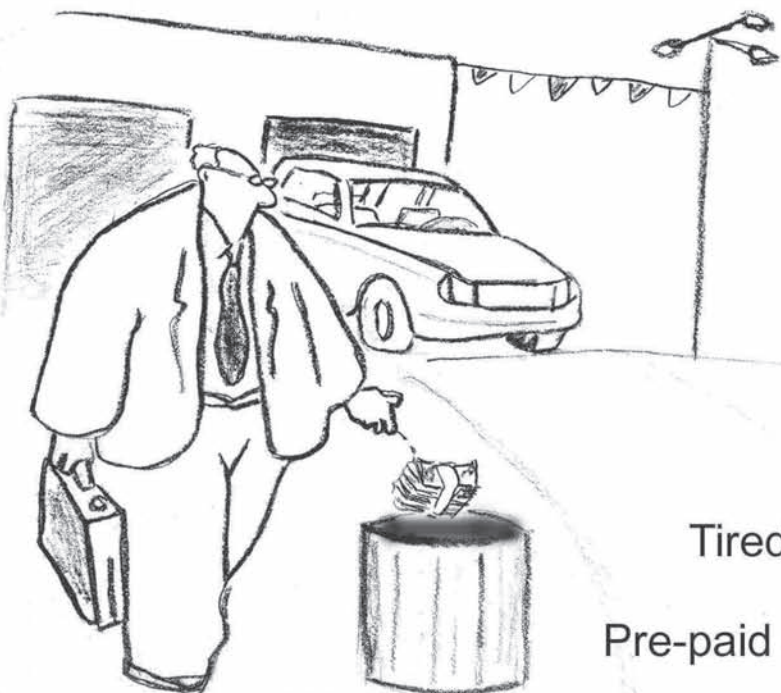
November in Martinez and is open to the public on the third Sunday of every month. "My dad is an avid Cobra fan," said Emily Serb, managing director of the Cobra Experience. "He has collected Cobra cars, paraphernalia, anything and everything to do with Cobra for over 40 years. The ultimate goal of the museum is to educate the next generation, because the younger generation has no idea about the history of

these cars." In 1961, Carroll Shelby convinced AC Cars of Surrey, England that he had a V8 engine from Ford and wanted to put it into one of their chassis. When they agreed, Shelby contacted Ford, told them AC was providing a chassis and that he needed an engine. Ford wanted to compete with Chevrolet's Corvette, and Shelby got their new 260 engine. "Shelby was a great salesman," said Serb. The Shelby Cobra was produced by Shelby American from

1962 to 1967. During its time, the Cobra won Le Mans in the GT class in 1964 and four times in a row from 1966 to 1969.

The museum has 25,000 square feet of Cobra exhibits, including memorabilia, original chassis, engines and, of course, more than 10 original Shelby Cobras. "We have a wheel display and an engine display – from the original 260 all the way up," said Herman. "It's a fun display, because

[SEE SHOW page 17]



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Three-Quarter Century Club Members Delight in Luncheon

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

About 130 guests, 75 years and up, attended the Three-Quarter Century Club annual luncheon in June. Now in its 16th year, the event is hosted by BH&G Mason-McDuffie Real Estate Orinda, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and Orinda Community Church, where the lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall.

"It's a big social event for me as we old people don't get out that much any more," said Molly Gravelle, who turned 100 on May 1. "It's great to come here and see people we've known many years. Turning 100 didn't make me feel any different. I still live in the house I designed and moved into in 1950." Gravelle's longtime friend Elva Rust, who was sitting next to her, also moved to Orinda in 1950 but is only in her 90s!

One of the highlights of the day was the selection of the Royal Court. Gravelle and Arline Pierre, who is 102, were crowned Queens and presented with a plaque, crown and an orchid plant. Pierre said she still sings with the Notables at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Ralph Tufts, who is 95, was crowned King. "I don't have a clue as to why I've lived so long except that my wife takes good care of me," said Tufts. The longest married couple, celebrating 70 happy years, was Blanche and Burt Brody, while the youngest guest was Barbara Perry, just 75. All received engraved plaques.

John Fazel founded the Three-Quarter Century Club, patterned after one in his mother's church in Perry, Iowa. Fazel, who looked dapper in his father's tuxedo, serves as master of ceremonies each year. This year, his wife Mary Lou surprised him by stepping up to the microphone and an-

nouncing that, since his 78th birthday was in two days, she had a present for him - a "senior" puppet who sang "Happy Birthday." It was actually Connie Doty's birthday so Fazel announced that the day was a great big party specially for her.

The Three-Quarter Century Club members enjoyed appetizers and wine followed by a traditional full-course meal and cake for dessert. "This is my second year, and I looked forward to the tasty meal - all free," said Ross Davis. "This is a very good deal." Behind him in the luncheon line were three ladies who discovered they were all named Betty. They agreed it was a very popular name 75 years ago, but one that is rarely given to a girl nowadays.

Andy Amstutz talked to attendees about Lamorinda Village, which is now up and running. "It offers many services to help the older people of our area to age in place," said Amstutz. "There are also many social events to provide an opportunity for our seniors to get out among their peers." For more information, visit www.Lamorinda-Village.org, phone 925-253-2300 or write The Lamorinda Village, P.O. Box 57, Lafayette, CA 94549.

John Muir also attended the Three-Quarter Century Club luncheon in the person of guest speaker Frank Helling. He delighted the audience with his authentic portrayal of Muir right down to his grungy mountain clothes, tin cup dangling from his pants, battered hat and walking stick. He recounted how Muir and Teddy Roosevelt went camping in Yosemite, which Roosevelt described as, "Here is heaven come to earth." He remarked, "This is bully" when he saw the giant sequoias but when they awoke in the morning to four inches of snow on their blankets, Roosevelt said, "This is bullier still."

Helling said he fell in love with Muir in 1972 after reading an anthology of his writings. He began performing as Muir in 1981 while teaching junior high school to motivate students to care for the environment. The first time he appeared as Muir his beard fell off. "After that I grew a beard, and I haven't seen my face for over 30 years," he quipped.

Muir's great-grandson, Michael Muir, was in the audience and complimented Helling on his accurate portrayal and splendid use of the flowery language Muir was apt to use in his enthusiasm for the beauty of nature. At the end of the festivities, each lady was presented with a long-stemmed rose.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
This year's Royal Court included (L-R) King Ralph Tufts and Queens Arline Pierre and Molly Gravelle. Master of Ceremonies John Fazel (standing).

Community Church Welcomes Artist-in-Residence

By HILLARD HOPPOCK
Contributing Writer

Nate Klug has joined the staff of Orinda Community Church (OCC) as pastor/artist-in-residence. Klug recently returned from a Midwest book tour for his poetry anthology *Anyone* (University of Chicago Press). Other publications include *Rude Woods*, a book of translations of the Roman poet Virgil, as well as poems and reviews in *Poetry*, *Threepenny Review*, *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, *Yale Review* and on National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition*. Klug looks forward to "balancing his time between two joy-filled vocations, parish ministry and writing." He is already weaving poems into his sermons, leading book groups and journaling sessions, and organizing outings to the Berkeley Repertory Theater and summer concerts in the park. He is planning scripture and current event studies and a congregational art show in the fall.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Author Nate Klug joins the staff at Orinda Community Church.

Despite a Yale Divinity School professor's admonition that being a poet and a minister won't work, Klug sees "really amazing ways that thinking about our faith and the whole other world of poetry intersect." He says poets try to match what they are saying about people's experiences with concrete observations that convey the sense of sight, sound, smell and touch. His poem "Mercy," completed while working

as a hospital chaplain in Bridgeport, Connecticut, ends with the image of a hospital television "sort of flickering endlessly." For the 29-year-old poet, there is grace and mystery in creating poetry. Surprises and insights materialize, "that you don't deserve or expect, yet they still come."

Klug's passion for poetry and his call to ministry converged at the University of Chicago. His mother is a published poet, a member of the Iowa Writer's Workshop and a first reader of his poems. Klug studied with poet and translator Jim Powell while earning his bachelor's in English and spent three years interning at *Poetry* magazine. He describes poetry as hard work, with the need to stay chained to a desk, waiting and writing, in the hope that the poem will resonate with readers.

Klug was raised "unchurched" in Wellesley, Massachusetts, by parents who felt he and his brother should make their own decisions about religion. During his college years, he began attending church, drawn by personal relationships and wrestling with unanswered questions, including the murder of his best friend's father. He married his high school sweetheart Kit Novotny and found support for his call to ministry from the local pastor of her church in Wellesley. In their early 20s, both Klug and his wife both applied to divinity school.

At Yale, Klug's choice of ministry was affirmed. As a chaplain in a trauma hospital, he was exposed to stabbings and gunshot wounds and learned to be a compassionate presence for families in the waiting room. "It felt like something I could do and the need was there," he said.

Klug became interim pastor in the college town of Grinnell, Iowa, for a congregation that included 18 retired ministers who took him under their wing. Then, during his service to the small farming community in Baxter, Iowa, he learned about building "community" from the 1,100 inhabitants who didn't often venture outside a 10-mile radius, but developed strong bonds and supported each other through life events.

[SEE PASTOR page 20]

◆ REPORTER from page 6

Copeman came out and provided them with some answers. Ferrante, however, felt that EBMUD should have a program that can be understood by the average homeowner instead of forms that really need a professional landscape architect to answer. Ferrante and Howells were initially told that EBMUD would respond to their application in about four weeks, but that time mark has come and gone. They are concerned that by the time EBMUD responds, it may be too late to do the planting of new drought tolerant plants and make the physical restructuring necessary.

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FUNDRAISERS

“Row With Champions” Regatta Promises Fun for Entire Family

By THOMAS BLACK
Contributing Writer

A one-of-a-kind sporting event and festival never before presented in the Bay Area is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 22, at San Pablo Reservoir in Orinda.

“Row With Champions” is open to the general public. It will put as many as 100 eight-person shells in the water between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in a variety of races that cover a distance of 250 meters. Winners receive medals.

Shells, measuring 60 feet in length, will be steered by members of the renowned Oakland Strokes, which has won national championships. A number of other boats will boast Olympic-experienced rowers and coxswains.

Two skilled rowers and a coxswain will be assigned per boat, leaving six seats available to the general public. No rowing experience is required, and anyone 12 years of age or older is eligible to participate.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary (LSR), in partnership with Oakland Strokes, sponsors this novel event. Proceeds benefit a variety of community service programs supported by LSR as well as inner-city youth scholarships offered by Oakland Strokes.

Seats are \$200 each. Entire boats consisting of six seats are \$1,000 – a perfect fit for business, organizational or personal

sponsorship. For those who want to spectate only, no rowing involved, tickets are \$20. For advance-sale tickets, go to www.rowwithchampions.org. Purchases are tax deductible as provided by law. All major credit cards are accepted.

Besides the rowing spectacle, the event provides on-site attractions for all ages including live music and games. Food trucks will offer a variety of fare.

“We are excited to be able to present what promises to be a unique day for entire families,” said Buddy Burke, past president of LSR. “To our knowledge nothing like this has ever been put on in the Bay Area, possibly anywhere. Even if you have never held an oar in your hands, it is an opportunity to get some physical exercise, have fun doing so, experience this exciting sport and know you are contributing to a good cause.”

Among programs the Rotary club sponsors are: Las Trampas, the well-known nonprofit in Lafayette that renders services to developmentally disabled adults; HOME Team, which provides no-charge minor home repairs for seniors; Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties; Garden Park apartments, open to families in transition; and to Rotary International projects, including ongoing efforts to eradicate polio worldwide. Shared proceeds to Oakland Strokes will fund its inner-city outreach programs.

Oakland Strokes’ Men’s Rowers Win National Championship



Men’s 4+ roster includes (L-R) **Luke Lawler** (Las Lomas HS), **Brandon Fluegge** (Miramonte HS), **Nikita Lilichenko** (Miramonte HS) and **Henri Illien** (Phillips Academy).

Oakland Strokes sent 23 of their top athletes to Sarasota, Florida, in June to vie for 2015 U.S. Rowing Youth National Championships. Over the course of three days Strokes crews competed against 162 high school rowing teams with 1,600 of the USA’s top youth rowers from 30 states in 18 events.

The Strokes’ Varsity Men won the gold medal in a marquee event, the Grand Final 8+, with a time of 5:51.813, beating second place Newport Aquatic Center (5:52.173) and third place CRI of Boston (5:53.950). Fellow Bay Area team Marin Rowing placed fourth (5:56.985). This particular triumph marks the first Men’s National Championship in the Oakland Strokes’ 41-year history.

The Women’s team won the silver medal in the Lightweight Womens 8+ Final with a time of 6:52.055, trailing first place Saugatuck by 3.8 seconds, but beating Princeton National Rowing Association’s Mercer Rowing Club (PRNA/Mercer) by .40 seconds. The Strokes’ Mens 4+ won the Petite Final in their event with a dramatic come from behind .08 second victory over second place Detroit Boat Club and third place Newport Aquatic Center.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary will pair skilled rowers with the general public for its fundraiser on Aug. 22.

Ace It! Raises \$11K for Breast Cancer Center

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Ace It! participants enjoyed a full day of fun while raising more than \$11,000 to support the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center at Alta Bates hospital. Eighty people took part in the 13th annual fundraiser June

round robin tournaments in the afternoon. Participants enjoyed a gourmet luncheon and this year’s raffle featured dozens of prizes. New this year was a silent auction and a special raffle prize for those who stayed for the post-tournament celebration. Al McCleod was the lucky winner of a dinner for eight, prepared by the Ace



LYNDA LAWRENCE

Participants in the 2015 breast Cancer fundraiser included: (L-R) **Steve Squire**, **Jim Coyne**, **Keith Wheeler**, **Patric Hermanson**, **Anna Marie Gamboa**, **Brad Rieser**, sports psychologist **Allison Rhodius** and **Joy Marquez**.

20 at Orindawoods, organized by Executive Director Keith Wheeler and committee chair Lysbeth McNeill.

“Orindawoods offers the place for the Lamorinda community to come together for a great cause,” said committee member Lynda Lawrence. “I am energized by the passion that our committee demonstrates to make this great day possible.” Other committee members include Corina Ninayahaur, Tessie Siegel, Danielle Signorella, Barbara Britto-Tang and Alisa Riahi.

Ace It! featured a full day of tennis-related activities, beginning with tennis clinics by local pros in the morning and

It! committee and preceded by time on the tennis courts.

Winners of the Round Robin Tournament of Champions who received trophies were: Women’s 3.0, Thea Smith/Nohemi Sanchez; Women’s 3.5, Asa Forman/Kris Hunter; Women’s 4.0, Maribel Barbers; Renee Hammond; Men’s 6.5, Denis Weil/Marty Aufhauser; Mixed Doubles 7.0, Chris Kline/Rich Overby; Mixed Doubles 8QB eckyR eiss/Nat Tayl α.

“We appreciate the spirit of giving that continues in the Lamorinda tennis community,” said Wheeler. “Your contributions have made a real difference in the fight to eliminate breast cancer.”

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deYoung Showcases Turner's Imposing Later Works

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The current exhibit at the deYoung Museum is the first major showing of J.M.W. Turner's work during his final period of productivity from age 60 to his death 16 years later. Dr. Colin B. Bailey, outgoing director of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF), who secured the show, says, "Turner was arguably the greatest English artist of the 19th century."

During this period, Turner continued to travel, explore novel – sometimes unpopu-

lar – subject matter, experiment with canvas formats and pioneer free and spontaneous techniques in both oil and watercolor. He articulated a radical vision of art that was heedless of public reaction, exploring themes such as the rise and fall of civilizations, the natural and industrial worlds and religious and cultural mythology. Thus he earned the moniker "the over Turner" to describe his penchant for innovation.

The dark walls and expert lighting set off nine rooms in the Herbst Exhibition Gallery, each themed with different work including one room that is all Venice. The show was organized by Tate Britain in asso-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Turner's *The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons* is one of 650 paintings on display at San Francisco's deYoung Museum through Sept. 20.

ciation with the J. Paul Getty Museum and FAMSF. Dr. Esther Bell, curator-in-charge of European paintings at FAMSF organized the exhibition..

A photograph cannot do justice to the experience of viewing the famed *Snow Storm – Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth*. How is it that Turner places us so adroitly in the vortex of a storm on a steamboat? After gazing at the painting for any length of time, be prepared to get a bit queasy. This is an 1842 oil painting, not the first row in an IMAX theater watching a 3D

film. Scholars have long debated whether the inscription on the painting relating that, "The author was in this storm on the night the 'Ariel' left Harwich," is genuine or not. Turner was 67 years of age when he painted this whirlwind; it is reported he was 5'5" with a 35-inch waist. Did he have himself strapped to the mast, as is claimed? I overheard a painter whisper, "I don't care if he made it up or not – who else could put us in the middle of such a storm – that's a touch of genius right there."

[SEE TURNER page 20]

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CC14 Brings *The Thrill of the Chase* to Library Gallery

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents 35 works from members of Contra Costa 14 (CC14) during August at the Orinda Library Gallery. Pablo Picasso said, "Different themes inevitably require different methods of expression. This does not imply either evolution or progress; it is a matter of following the idea one wants to express and the way in which one wants to express it." CC14 has expressed its theme, *The Thrill of the Chase*, through oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, mixed media, prints and ceramics. Join them to see what they've come up with at an artist reception on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. when light refreshments will be served.

CC14 is a critique group that began in 2002 with 14 charter members who lived in Contra Costa County. They met while taking art classes at Diablo Valley College and created the group to support each other as artists through critique, education and camaraderie while developing an art career.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ann Vestal's *Catch a Koi* is a 17"x16" whimsical ceramic.

Of the 40 current members, 26 are showing work; most of the original 14 members are still active. Randy Stansberry has been organizing the monthly meetings in recent years and all the members volunteer to get the job done when the group exhibits work. Webmaster TaVee McAllister Lee invites

[SEE GALLERY page 20]

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ENTERTAINMENT THIS AUGUST

Cool Happenings on Hot August Nights in Orinda



SALLY HOGARTY

Summer concerts in the park invite dancing and good times.

By KATHRYN G. McCARTY
Staff Writer

Beat the heat of hot August nights with cool entertainment in downtown Orinda. Whether you're in the mood for Big Band jazz, classic Shakespeare or a Disney Sing-A-Long, there's something to please the entire family.

The Orinda Library wraps up its Summer Reading Festival with a Summer Dance Party, Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 11 and 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Gallery Room. The free event is for children 0-5 years old, and "those who are young at heart." No reservations required, for more information call 925-254-2184.

From community to professional theatre, Orinda's outdoor stages are brimming with activity. Catch the award-winning California Shakespeare Theatre's production of *The Mystery of Irma Vep* by Charles Ludlam, directed by Jonathan Moscone, Aug. 12 to Sept. 6. See the story on page 17.



SALLY HOGARTY

Lead singers from the **Floorshakers** entertained at a July concert in the park.

Orinda Starlight Theatre will perform Louis Flynn's comedy *Madness on Madonna Drive* through Aug. 15. See the story on page 17.

Film aficionados can enjoy free movies offered at both the Orinda Theatre and Orinda Community Park.

Movies in the Park, presented by the Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation, with support from the Orinda Community Foundation, will show two movies at dusk in the Orinda Community Park. On Thursday, Aug. 6, the "Maleficent" (PG) will show. The action-packed family adventure stars Angelina Jolie and Elle Fanning in the tale of a vengeful fairy who curses an infant princess, then discovers she might be the person to bring peace to the forest kingdom. Thursday, Aug. 20, it's *Frozen Sing-Along*. The Disney show captured the hearts of many young movie-goers, as well as the 2014 Oscar for Best Animated Feature and Best Achievement in Music for the song that gets stuck in everyone's head, *Let It Go*.

Free Movie Night at the Orinda Theatre, sponsored by Orinda Theatre Square, is a chance to step back into history with classic movies shown in a classic Art Deco theatre, which opened Dec. 17, 1941. Aug. 13 at 7 p.m., shows *The Bridge Over the River Kwai* (PG). The WWII epic film, starring William Holden, Alec Guinness and Jack Hawkins, won seven Academy Awards in 1958, including Best Picture, Best Director (David Lean) and Best Actor in a Leading Role (Guinness). The fictional film draws inspiration from the construction of the Burma Railway, which the Japanese began building in 1942, and was built by forced laborers and Allied POWs.

Summer Concerts in the Park concludes its successful season with two diverse bands, so grab your picnic gear and

blankets and get in on the fun. The free concerts, sponsored by the Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation, with support by the Orinda Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Orinda and City of Orinda are held in the Orinda Community Park. Tuesday, Aug. 4, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Little Dog 2 performs Pop & Rock. According to the band's website, its music is influenced by Eric Clapton, Johnny Lang, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Jimi Hendrix, Billy Gibbons and Gordie Johnson. For a preview of why the band is called the "little blues band with a great big bark," visit www.reverbnation.com/littledog. Tuesday, Aug. 11, Cami Thompson, presents Big Band Jazz from 6 to 8 p.m. Thompson has opened for the Manhattan Transfer, Nancy Wilson, Mel Torme, Dianne Reeves and Lou Rawls. In the past 40 years, she has performed at venues across the U.S., Europe and Asia, in nightclubs, concerts, festivals and theaters. For a taste of Thompson's exquisite voice, visit camithompson.com.



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It Takes A Village to Make a Parade

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

July 4 dawned with a slight chill thanks to the summer fog, which kept the day at a much more reasonable temperature than in years past. Local residents and visitors alike staked out their favorite parade spots early as the Orinda Association's (OA) host of volunteers put the finishing touches on the festive decorations and reviewing stands for the annual 4th of July parade.

However, some lucky residents didn't have to worry about finding a good spot along the parade route or seeking shelter in the shade. These lucky souls had covered grandstands waiting for them.

The two grandstands provided comfortable accommodations for a total of 180 persons thanks to the generosity of Orinda Motors and First Republic Bank. "Everyone had a darn good time and loved the

location of the grandstands," said Orinda Motors' Jennifer Filzen, who coordinated the seating in their grandstand. "I had assigned seats ahead of time so that the seniors and veterans we had invited would be in the first three rows."

Filzen had a moment of terror, however, when several seniors asked for her by name and wanted to know where to sit. These seniors weren't on her list. "I panicked at first," she said. "Turning away someone in a walker wasn't something I wanted to do. But then I found out that the First Republic grandstand was also coordinated by a woman named Jennifer!" In fact, the OA had organized sign-up sheets at Orinda Senior Village and Monteverde and many of those residents took advantage of the First Republic grandstand.

Everyone, whether in the grandstands or not, could find relief close by thanks to the portable bathrooms and washing stations



Performers with the Peter Pan Foundation's Alice in Wonderland danced past the Orinda Motors sponsored grandstand.



Senior residents at Monteverde and Orinda Senior Village enjoyed the 4th of July parade from the First Republic Bank sponsored grandstand.

courtesy of Republic Services, who also took care of waste and recycling.

According to Filzen, the tight quarters in the grandstands allowed people to get to know one another. "Everyone was so gracious," she said. "At one point, a man cut his hand, and I asked if anyone had a Band-Aid and several women immediately produced Band-Aids and tissues. It just showed what a lovely, small town Orinda truly is."

Filzen, a Western swing dancer in her spare time, helped with that small-town atmosphere by leading some swing dancing before the parade began.

Orinda Motors not only boosted the parade with the sponsorship of a grandstand, they also found cars at the last minute to be in the parade. "I had more people than cars for some of our parade entrants," said OA treasurer Cindy Powell. "But Orinda Motors' John Vanek found the perfect vehicle for our grand marshal Jim Barnett. It was a specially made 1970's jeepster." Flying A

manager Tara Lauer also donated her truck so State Senator Steve Glazer, Cinderella and our junior Lady Liberty had a comfortable ride. "It is just awesome to sponsor and participate in this great family-oriented event. We love it," said Orinda Motors owner Allan Pennebaker, who has lived in Orinda since 1959.

Helping out at the 4th of July festivities is nothing new for Orinda Motors, which has been in business in Orinda since the 1930s. "I came to work here in 1972," said Pennebaker. "My wife and I ended up purchasing the business in 1996. We're very tied to this community."

Thanks to other local businesses stepping up as primary sponsors, the people in the grandstands and all along the parade route had lots to enjoy. "We had an expanded list of sponsors this year that enabled us to increase the number of bands and performing groups in the parade as well as the kids'

[SEE VILLAGE page 13]



The Orinda Association Thanks Our July 4th Sponsors



This year's July 4th parade and park celebration were made possible by the generous financial support of the following sponsors. Please join the OA in thanking each and every one!





























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4TH OF JULY



SALLY HOGARTY

Jim Barnett, the Golden State Warriors long-time announcer, was the Grand Marshal for this year's parade.

And The Winners Are . . .

- Most Patriotic Spirit - Orinda Pick-up Marching Band
- Best Youth Musical Group - Peter Pan Foundation
- Best Musical Group - ALMA Music
- Best Non-Musical Performance - Orinda Kids Karate
- Most Entertaining - Orinda Ballet
- Honorable Mention: Miramonte Latin Club



SALLY HOGARTY

Young dancers from Orinda Ballet showed their style and flair.



SALLY HOGARTY

Students from Orinda Kids Karate demonstrated their skills while walking in the parade.



SALLY HOGARTY

This year's parade judges were volunteers (L-R) Val Cook-Watkins from Coldwell Banker, Karen Norris from the Orinda Woman's Club and Widgie Hastings, a 50-year resident of Orinda.

◆ VILLAGE from page 12

activities in the Community Center Park," says OA president Bill Waterman. Land Home Financial sponsored one popular group, The Blue Devils C Corps Marching Band. The band and the young women twirling the tall flags are always a big hit. Breedlove Insurance and Casa Orinda also contributed funds to provide music in the parade.

Heading up the primary sponsor list again this year are the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF), the Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation (OPR), Village Associates Realtors, Coldwell Banker Realtors, and longtime sponsor, Mechanics Bank. "These prime sponsors provided over 60 percent of the necessary funding for the events," Waterman added.

"The Orinda Community Foundation takes a great deal of pride in being a financial partner with the Orinda Association so together we can keep Orinda's 4th of July Parade an on-going tradition in our community," added OCF President Richard Westin. "It is OCF's way of putting the funds we raise from Orinda's generous citizens back

into the community so kids from 2 to 102 can enjoy this special holiday right here in our home town."

"Orinda's 4th of July celebration is like no other in our community," says Bill Wadsworth, a member of the Park and Rec Foundation. "It brings together a huge, diverse group of ages. The pancake breakfast and fun run plus all the other festivities add to a wonderful day that the OPR is honored to support."

Other returning sponsors include the Orinda law firm of Gillin, Jacobson, Ellis, Larsen and Lucey; Orinda Junior Women's Club; A.G. Realty and the Harwood and Pease Families.

According to Waterman, the OA also owes a debt of gratitude to City Manager Janet Keeter and city staff members. "Our police officers, public works and community center staff always pitch in and provide invaluable support. They make everything run smoothly. We are so fortunate to have local businesses, public officials and residents who help us put on this parade every year," says Waterman. "It's really quite an undertaking and certainly proves that it takes a village to make it all come together."

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7th Annual NorCal Kid's Triathlon Takes Place Aug. 29 at Miramonte



PHOTOS BY SALLY HOGARTY

Participants in last year's swimming, running and bicycling triathlon held at Miramonte High School.

Be the best you can be while having fun and raising money for nonprofits. What better way to spend a Saturday morning? From 8 a.m. - noon, 4 to 14 year olds will compete in a friendly, supportive triathlon that encourages young people to try new physical activities. Sponsored by the Orinda Community Foundation, proceeds benefit other nonprofits in Orinda

in the form of grants to youth and senior organizations.

It all takes place at Miramonte High School. Participants must register by Aug. 27. Go to www.norcalkidstri.org. Volunteers are also needed before and during the event. Contact Charlie Vollmar at 925-368-4181 or Charlie@eqicureanexchange.com.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



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Something to Howl About...

Animal Tales

Sweat, Sand, and Summer Safety



Jennifer Conroy



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It's hot outside! Or at least it is as I write this column. We all know that the heat affects our companion animals and, of course, we do our best to make them comfortable when that thermometer hits the red zone. But what do our cats and dogs do for themselves to stay cool?

One thing they do is to sweat. Cats and dogs sweat through their paw pads which is why, on a hot day when walking your dog, you may notice damp paw prints on the pavement in the wake of your dog's steps.

Paw pads of dogs, in particular, can take a real beating. On hot days, try to avoid sun-scorched pavement or tarmac that can burn paw pads. Take walks in well-shaded areas or in the early morning and evening when street surfaces have cooled down. There are commercial products that can be sprayed on paw pads to "toughen" them, but I don't recommend them. While they can protect from burns or scuffs, they also inhibit the animal's ability to sweat through its paw pads.

Checking the paws of your cat or dog on a regular basis is important and is essential with any unusual activity or temperature change. For example, if your dog accompanies you to the beach, be sure to remove all the sand from between the toe pads when you return home. If left in place, sand will cause irritation and can even lead to open sores. The best way to remove the sand is

to soak the entire paw in warm water and gently work the sand out.

Cats and dogs also cool down by panting, which is more common in dogs than cats. Panting can also be a sign of other types of physical distress in your companion animal and should never be taken lightly. If an animal starts to pant, move it to a cool shaded area immediately. Make sure fresh water is available but do not force the animal to drink. If panting continues, particularly if you believe heat is not the cause, take your animal to the veterinarian immediately.

What about other animals? Do they sweat or pant? Well, horses sweat, as do apes, bats and elephants. In fact, elephants not only sweat but also have built-in fans – the waving of those great big ears helps them cool down.

If left to its own devices, an animal will seek shade and shelter from the heat. However, when humans control their environment, it is critical that we ensure the animal has protection from the elements. If your dog or cat spends time in the yard, make sure there is shade for them. If the day is a scorcher, keep your animal indoors – and don't even think about bringing your dog along in the car if you decide to go out!

The safety and comfort of the animals in your life are in your hands, not only in the summer but all year round.

Orinda Community Foundation Presents:



NorCal KIDS Triathlon

TRI 4 HEALTH

Saturday morning, August 29

Miramonte High School in Orinda, CA

Register online today: www.norcalkidstri.org

SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Orinda Seventh Graders Learn Dancing and Social Etiquette



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Academy Announces 2015 Graduates and List of College Admissions



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Back row(L-R): **Ben Jaffin, Michael Livanos, Raina Arberry, William Burkhalter, Alex McSpadden, Torin Bakos.** Front row: **David Rios, Wilson Wan, Jae Sub Lee, Colin Mooney, Miranda Gill, Micah Sherman Raz, Tyra Rensch, Sairena Ramirez, Vicky Wang and Matthew Hildreth.**

Orinda Academy, a private day school for students in grades 8-12, celebrated its 33rd commencement exercise on June 12, 2015 as 16 seniors received their diplomas before a crowd of proud parents, family and friends. Leading the Class of 2015 was Valedictorian Michael Livanos, who will attend the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. He was the recipient of the \$30,000 Gold National Academic Scholarship by the University of Minnesota.

Orinda Academy's graduates represent

an international community. They will be heading off to the following public and private colleges and universities throughout the nation: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; Diablo Valley College; Hampshire College; Landmark College; Linfield College; Pasadena City College; San Francisco State University; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Willamette University; and University of Redlands.

This year, 240 Orinda seventh graders gathered for the 2014-2015 Orinda Country Cotillion season. The formal dance series has been a cherished Orinda tradition for over 40 years. Since 1978, the Orinda Country Cotillion has featured the services of Orinda resident Don O'Connell as its head dance and etiquette instructor. Seventh grade Cotillion members learn a wide variety of dance steps, from the Fox Trot to the Hustle, as well as social etiquette. Making it all come together were co-chairs Lisa Hoskins and Kerry Mein and committee members: Vanessa Bell, Barbara Boster, Shelli Brudzinski, Stephanie Catron, Cathryn Coons, Brook Forkas, Susan Jordan, Sheri Kelleher, Yosh Neugebauer, Mollie Ricksen, Mollie Van Stralen, and Heidi Vasconi. The new 2015-16 season will kick off in September. Go to www.orindacotillion.com for more information.



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STUDENTS



(L-R) Will Knox, Nick Millham, John Berg, Casey McGonigle and Nico Martinsen of Troop 237.

TRACEY MILLHAM

Troop 237 Welcomes Five Eagle Scouts

By SANDRA MCGONIGLE
Contributing Writer

Boy Scout Troop 237 conducted an Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, June 14, at the Orinda Community Church. Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen presented John Berg, Will Knox, Nico Martinsen, Casey McGonigle and Nick Millham with their Eagle awards.

The Troop 237 honorees are students at Acalanes High School, Bentley High School and Miramonte High School.

Sophomore John Berg built and installed owl houses for Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club leading to a safer environment at the Club. John is the son of Steve and Claire Berg.

Sophomore Will Knox collected used cleats for underprivileged children in Central America, supporting the Rogers Family Company Fair Trade Coffee. Will is the son of Joe Knox and Markia Archuleta.

Junior Nico Martinsen held a backpack drive, collecting backpacks, school supplies and donations for foster children of Youth

Homes in Contra Costa. Nico is the son of Nicholai and Cathy Martinsen.

Sophomore Casey McGonigle built a rolling, portable merchandise cart to transport Miramonte High School gear for school sports and events, supporting the Miramonte Boosters Club. Casey is the son of John and Sandra McGonigle.

Sophomore Nick Millham built barn owl boxes and installed them at the Lafayette Reservoir to encourage the nesting of owls and to reduce rodents in the area. Nick is the son of John and Tracey Millham.

Troop 237 is chartered by the Orinda Community Church and has been serving the Orinda community for over 62 years. It has recognized over 210 Eagle Scouts over its history. Eagle is the highest award that a Scout can earn. Each Eagle candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges and demonstrate leadership, outdoor skills and Scout spirit, plus successfully complete a service project that benefits the community to earn the Eagle award.

Orinda Aquatics Swimmers College Bound



(L-R) back row: Matthew Lennon, Will Gittings, Collin English, Jack Madigan, Mary Ashby, Will Inman, Coach Ron Heidary. Middle row: Coach Kevin Lai, Paul Cane, Matthew Cohen, Ryan Birdsall, Kylie Hahn, Katie Erickson, Lucy Faust. Front row: Coach Don Heidary, Margaret Hunger, Katie Lee, Maddy Spiering, Arianna Von Ehrenkrook, Erica Wolfram. Not pictured, Mackenzie Flath.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Aquatics has a long-standing tradition of accomplished swimmers and successful student-athletes. This year is no different as most of the graduating seniors have chosen to continue their swimming careers at the collegiate level.

The coaches and team are proud to announce the college commitments of the 2015 class:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Mary Ashby | Columbia University - Swimming |
| Ryan Birdsall | Colgate University - Swimming |
| Paul Cane | Georgetown University |
| Matthew Cohen | Brandeis University - Swimming |
| Collin English | Johns Hopkins University - Swimming |
| Katie Erickson | Harvey Mudd College - Swimming |
| Lucy Faust | Bates College - Swimming |
| Mackenzie Flath | University of Southern California - Water Polo |
| Will Gittings | Occidental College - Swimming |
| Kylie Hahn | Wesleyan - Swimming |
| Margaret Hunger | University of Washington |
| Will Inman | Chapman College - Swimming |
| Katie Lee | Indiana University |
| Matthew Lennon | Williams College - Swimming |
| Jack Madigan | Fordham - Swimming |
| Maddy Spiering | Santa Clara University |
| Arianna Von Ehrenkrook | San Diego State |
| Erica Wolfram | Cal Poly |

For more information about Orinda Aquatics, please visit the website at www.orindaaquatics.org.

◆ NATURE from page 5

fifth-graders get to study everything from daily life on an historic rancho to the current ecology of the red-legged frog that inhabits the pond. "Fifth-graders also enjoy our First Thanksgiving Day which honors Native Americans and the early pioneers," said Barrett.

While OUSD owns the land, which was originally part of a tract granted to Victor Castro in 1841 and subsequently donated to the school district by General Theodore Wagner, it does not fund the programs at the nature area.

"Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area raise the great majority of the funds through the olive festival and the Wildlife Earth Day Festival, which takes place in the spring," said Barrett. "We raise about \$25,000 through our fundraisers and generous donations, which pays the nature area staff's stipend. Parents also provide donations for food and consumable supplies. Parents have been very supportive over the years - they love the program."

Steve Gentry is the current FWRNA board president, a fourth-generation Orindan - and "the bee keeper in town."

"I have more than 300 beehives all over Contra Costa County," said Gentry, who sells the honey at local farmers' markets. "My great-grandfather farmed by the creek that runs through Wagner Ranch in the 1870s, and my grandfather farmed the land where St. Mary's College stands today from 1895 to 1906."

It's not surprising then that Gentry is a huge supporter of the nature area programs.

"Wagner Ranch programs provide kids with hands-on experience about growing

food and where our food comes from," said Gentry, adding that the garden area features 26 raised beds with drip irrigation as well as a \$70K greenhouse that was donated a decade ago. "Real education involves real experience - there's no substitute for getting your hands dirty!"

Gentry said the FWRNA has a lot of projects on the burner. "We want to install a roof over part of the kitchen and we need a proper bathroom," he said. "At the moment, we use the bathroom in the gym next door to the nature area, but it's a 12-minute walk away - I timed it!"

Gentry describes longtime teacher and naturalist Toris Jaeger as "an icon - she's the center of our programs - everyone knows and loves her."

Jaeger says the learning is meaningful and enjoyable for students, teachers, parents and staff alike. "The kids love the cooking, the hiking, the history and contributions of each culture they are studying," said Jaeger. "They love being outside for the school day and connecting with nature and each other." She lauds FWRNA for its fundraising work. "The programs at the nature area continue to be offered to teachers, students and parents because of the dedication of the Friends of Wagner Ranch. Their fundraising efforts provide a stipend to our staff. What also keeps us going is the dedicated time by our many volunteers. Wagner Ranch Nature Area is truly a jewel for the community of Orinda."

Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area formed in 2004 and acquired non-profit status in 2008. All donations are tax-deductible. Send donations to P.O. Box 821, Orinda, CA 94563. For more information, visit www.fwrna.org.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Madness Reigns at the Orinda Amphitheater

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players' (OrSVP) *Madness on Madrona Drive*, the second production of the summer, plays at the Orinda Community Park Amphitheater through Aug. 15.

The farce revolves around eccentric housewife Louise McHugh, played by Maureen Williams, who is delighted when she discovers that her neighbor is well-known racketeer Johnny Trovado. Three strangers appear at McHugh's doorstep, a telephone repairman, played by Ryan Terry,

a wedding consultant (McHugh's daughter is getting married soon), played by Betsy White, and the father of the groom (Ken Sollazzo). McHugh gradually realizes they are not who they say they are and is amazed and pleased when they hold her prisoner while they plant a bomb in Trovado's house. McHugh enlists the aid of her maid (Susan England) and her brother, the priest (Al Guaraglia) and together they employ several inept schemes to spoil the villains' plans, all spectacularly ineffectual. Virginia Blanco, Bill Chessman, Kelly Hansen and Tom Westlake round out the cast.

"The Orinda Starlight Village Players is



DAVID DIERKS

(L-R) Dan Phillips, Ken Sollazzo, Ryan Terry and Betsy White star in *Madness on Madrona Drive*.

Moscone Bids Adieu to Cal Shakes After 10-Year Tenure

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Jonathan Moscone completes an illustrious 15-year tenure as artistic director of California Shakespeare Theatre, directing *The Mystery of Irma Vep* by Charles Ludlam. The production opens Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Bruns Amphitheatre. It is the 22nd production Moscone has directed for the company. He called leaving his position at Cal Shakes "a very difficult decision" and added that he "will remain devoted to everyone here as an ardent fan and supporter." Moscone has accepted a position as Chief of Civic Engagement with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco and has plans to continue directing plays around the country.

Moscone teams with actors Danny Scheie and Liam Vincent in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, a campy comedy satirizing theatrical, literary and film genres, as well as pop culture. Ludlam's Obie-winning comic farce features Scheie and Vincent in an "unparalleled theatrical feat," according to the company's website. The actors will play eight characters, with 35 costume changes, in this comedic tour-de-force. The pair is well known to Cal Shakes' audiences. Scheie, a drama professor at UC Santa Cruz, has performed in 20 shows at Cal Shakes, most recently in *The Comedy of Errors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Vincent's long history with the company includes roles in *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Comedy of Errors*.

Ludlam's comic masterpiece takes place at a sinister estate near Hampstead Heath, where Lord Edgar and his new wife Enid find themselves haunted by werewolves, ghosts, a vampire and Edgar's mysterious ex-wife, Irma Vep. The play is a send-up



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jonathan Moscone directs *Irma Vep*.

of a medley of different styles and sources including Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, *Rebecca*, Emily Brontë's dark romance, *Wuthering Heights*, and Noël Coward's otherworldly comedy *Blithe Spirit*.

Cal Shakes hosts a variety of activities associated with its performances of *Irma Vep*, including Tuesday Tastings, (Aug. 18, 25 and Sept. 1), Teen Night (Aug. 18, 6 p.m.), open-captioned performance (Aug. 19), Meet the Artists (Aug. 16 and 30), InSight Matinee (Aug. 23) and Grove Talks (held 45 minutes prior to curtain).

Previews for *The Mystery Of Irma Vep* are Aug. 12 through 14. The show runs Aug. 15 through Sept. 6 at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheatre, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Performances are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. with a Saturday matinee on Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. 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 more information or tickets (\$20 to \$72), call the Box Office at 510-548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.

community theater at its best," said director Jill Gelster. "The group is totally volunteer with no one being paid. We count on the community of Orinda to help us with the show." Some examples are: Geppetto's Cafe donates coffee for the concession stands; Village Pizza donates food for the cast during the all-day rehearsals; Garden Lights donated a remnant of imitation lawn that has graced the stage on more than one occasion; and Casa Orinda donated empty liquor bottles to use as props for this production. "Advertising revenue and program printing is made possible through the help of some of *The Orinda News* advertisers buying ad space in our programs," said Gelster.

Gelster directed last year's production of *Wrong Window!* and employs a collaborative style of directing that her cast seems

to enjoy. Most of the cast from last year's production lined up to work with her again this year. "We work together to try and get the most creative ideas on the stage," said Gelster. "I am always open to suggestions. If someone has an idea, we try it out. If it works, we keep it. If not, we move on to something else. I find it brings the entire group together. OrSVP is a unique theater in that the cast is also the set crew and tech crew. If you join our group, you will learn not only how to act, but to build and do many other aspects of theater." An added bonus for OrSVP audiences is that, "on clear nights we bring out telescopes and view the moon and planets before the show and during intermission. Truly a starlight experience."

Madness on Madrona Drive was written [SEE MADRONNA page 19]

◆ SHOW from page 7

most of the time you don't get to see these. Guys stop at the engine display and can't believe that it's all here." The museum owns one of the cars, the rest are on loan. The cars on display change often. "My dad got started with Cobras when he saw one go flying down the freeway in 1968 on I-80 in Albany," said Serb. "He thought it sounded so fantastic – better than anything he had heard. He had the opportunity to buy one, and grandpa said uh-uh. In 1971, he was able to buy one that was wrecked and fixed it up. That was the beginning."

Three Cobras will be on display at the pre-show Dancing With the Cars party on Friday, Sept. 11. Tickets for the Dancing With the Cars pre-show party are available at www.OrindaCarShow.com/enjoy-dancing-with-the-cars. General seating tickets are \$100. Reserved seating tickets are \$125. The Fun Fun Fun event will have

an amazing exhibit of Cobras, along with a display of T-Birds and Woodies. Also included are tropical cocktails, A SoCal Luau menu, silent and live auctions and dancing to the surf-inspired songs of the Beach Boys and Jan and Dean. Proceeds from the dinner benefit local charities, including Educational Foundation of Orinda, Rotary Club of Orinda, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Starlight Village Players, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and other non-profit community partners. "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," said party organizer Barbara Bontemps. "I guess you could say that Dancing With the Cars and the Car Show are your one-stop shopping way to support the entire community."

For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com and www.cobraexperience.org.

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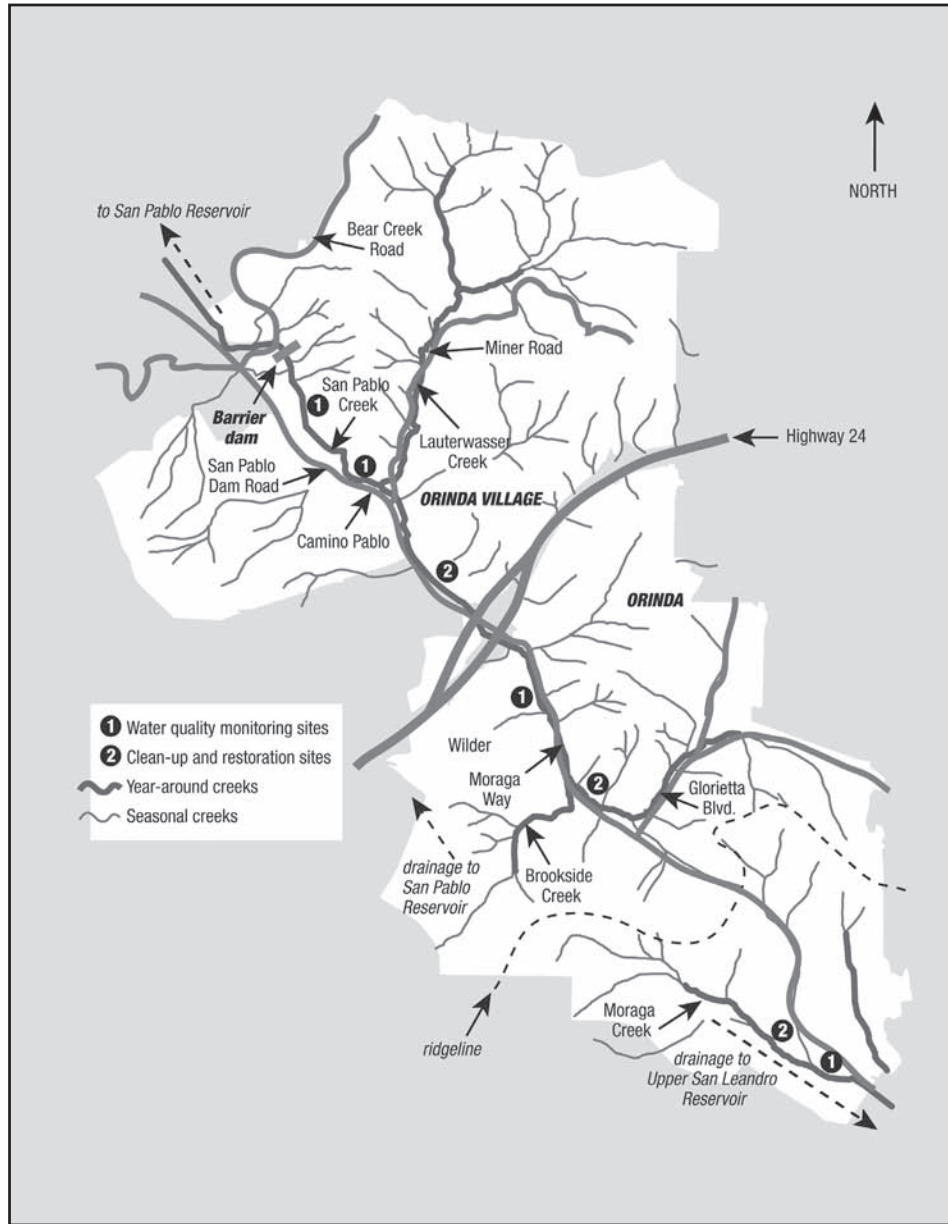


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Giving Dreams an Address

Orinda: Did You Know a Creek Runs Through It?



By ADRIANE BOSWORTH
Contributed Article

Did you know that several creeks run through Orinda? San Pablo Creek, one of Orinda's biggest, flows from the Glorietta neighborhood, through both sides of downtown Orinda, all the way to Wagner Ranch Nature Area, and into San Pablo Reservoir.

But did you know that 30 to 40 years ago, Orinda's watershed was home to rainbow trout as well as many other creek-loving critters like deer, bears, raccoons, rabbits, mountain lions, fox, coyotes, frogs, salamanders, birds of all types and plenty of fish? Creeks help give Orinda its natural beauty and have historically provided wonderful habitat for abundant wildlife. C.S. Owen, an early settler, noted in 1880 that, "In those days fishing was very

good in the San Pablo Creek, where one caught trout, and also salmon three feet long."

Do you think wildlife and nature give Orinda some of that special quality that we love so much?

Our organization, Friends of Orinda Creeks, needs your help to restore and maintain the natural health of our watershed so that these critters will come back to our creeks. There are many ways to help. If you are a boots-on-the-ground type of person, you could participate in our annual events such as trash clean-ups, invasive plant removals, and native plantings. If organization and leadership are more to your liking, join our board!

Learn more about us. Let us know about you. Go to our website at www.orindacreeks.org or contact us at info@orindacreeks.org

THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

THE RHEEM REPRIEVE

Tom Westlake

Despite reports that the Rheem was going to close at the end of June due to a rent increase, it seems the theater has earned a reprieve (as has this column!) and is marking the occasion with a series of films that are not only keeping with current trends, but reflect the old saying, "You can't keep a good man (or theater) down."

Zombies have been all the rage for some time, and on Aug. 1 at the Rheem you'll be able to get a crash course in their cinematic history with an *All Zombies, All the Time* film festival with movies from 1968 to 2009 – though be warned, they won't be shown in chronological order. *Fido* will screen at 4 p.m. Set in a sort of alternate reality, the film stands apart by the simple fact that the zombie is not so much a danger but rather like a wild beast that is manageable enough to be thought of as a pet. Since Billy Connolly plays the zombie, it almost goes without saying that there are more than a few comic elements scattered throughout.

Next, at 6 p.m., we have *Zombieland*. This is another comedy combined with a road picture. Starring Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone and Woody Harrelson, it centers on a disparate (and sometimes desperate) group of people all with reason to get from Point A to their individual Point B, all while navigating through a landscape populated by zombies. Look for a show-stopping cameo by Bill Murray whose scenes alone are worth the price of admission. Then, at 8 p.m., there's *Shawn of the Dead*. In many ways, this movie lays the groundwork for all the movies that were shown before. Again starring an actor known for his comic talents (Simon Pegg), *Shawn* presents the zombie menace in a slow, almost insidious fashion. Indeed, we're not even sure what's happening at first and Pegg's character seems to be even slower on the uptake. Notable for its use of a cricket bat, this movie has garnered more praise than any similar film before or since.

Lastly, there's the film that started it all - *Night of the Living Dead*. Initially regarded as little more than a drive-in movie, this film has steadily gained in popularity. George R. Romero will forever be known as the man who brought zombies into the mainstream and this is the film for which he'll always be remembered (although much of his other works are well worth looking into). This will screen at 9:30 p.m. by which time those that have stayed through the entire program will probably be more like *The Walking Dead*. For more information and advance tickets, go to <http://lamorindatheatres.com>.

Then on August 13, we have *Bridge Over the River Kwai*. Aside from the catchy signature tune, this is one of the great early examples that war movies can be poignant. It is also another example of the perfect

storm of movie making and movie makers. With David Lean at the helm, you are already pretty much guaranteed that you will be seeing a noteworthy film but when you add Alec Guinness and William Holden to the mix, it turns into a sure thing. To sweeten the pot even more, as this is part of the Film Classics Showcase, the Orinda Theater will be throwing the doors open to this film at absolutely no cost to you. It will screen at 7, p.m.

Next on the agenda is the welcome return of the International Film Showcase with *Closer to the Moon*. This is a film about a heist followed by another heist (only the second time it's a film being made about the first heist). This probably sounds a little confusing, especially when it's not really about the heist but more the oppressive atmosphere in Romania in 1959. There is a very real sense of fatalism here, as the principals already have a pretty good idea that the path they're on can only have one outcome. However, given the political climate, the reasoning is it's better to go out on a solid message than accept the status quo. Starring Vera Farmiga (*Bates Motel*) and Mark Strong (*The Imitation Game*), the film packs a powerful punch and features some striking cinematography. It will have a one-week engagement at the Orinda Theatre starting on Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. For more information, go to <http://internationalshowcase.org>.

Back to the Rheem again on Aug. 15 at 7 p.m., when they're showing *My Brother's Shoes* a film that was actually shot there – great publicity for the struggling theatre. It tells the story of two brothers (Pete Stringfellow, Jacob Ellis), one is a successful business man and the other is openly gay. The two manage to switch places. Think *Freaky Friday* mixed with *La Cage aux Folles*. Comic misunderstanding ensues in this slapstick comedy, and you lucky residents of Orinda and Moraga get to be on the ground floor. What's more, you're able to see Rheem's own Derek Zemrak front and center, doing publicity for the film. Go to <http://mybrothersshoes.com> to see an interview he did with the stars of the movie.

Lastly, the Moraga Movers brings us *The Band Wagon*. This is on the list of perfect storms when it comes to movie musicals. All I have to do is mention Vincente Minnelli, Fred Astaire, Cyd Charise and Oscar Levant and my work here is pretty much done. If this doesn't entice you to get to the Rheem on Aug. 19 at 2 p.m. then all I can tell you is that you're off my Christmas Gift list. I mean, if you're going to turn your nose up at this gift, what point is there?

So there you have it. The Rheem persists, The Dude abides and I can continue to encourage you to stay in the dark (especially the dark that the Rheem provides) for that's where the reel magic lies.

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BOOKS

Between the Lines READING FOR THE LAST DAYS OF SUMMER

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



It's almost time to shelve those paperbacks covered with pastel covers, beach umbrellas and watery backgrounds and hunker down with some solid new fiction for fall. At the bookstore, it is always fun to place onto the shelves some of our favorite writers, as well as some bright new literary voices waiting for the discovery they deserve. Here are a few new titles to pique your curiosity.

Paula McLain's previous novel, *The Paris Wife*, brought her international acclaim for its fictionalized account of the life of Hadley Hemingway and Paris in the 1920s. Now, in *Circling the Sun* (Ballantine \$28), McLain re-introduces us to Beryl Markham, Kenyan-born aviatrix and international femme fatale. Many Orinda Books readers will remember *West with the Night*, Markham's terrific memoir that Hemingway himself called "bloody wonderful." McLain has enlarged the canvas and, with the freedom that fiction offers, paints a brilliant picture of Markham's Kenyan childhood, her life in the air and her famous affairs with Denys Finch-Hatton and a British royal, among others. Great fun to read!

A new novel from Jonathan Franzen is always a publishing event. He is one of our most lauded, thoughtful and sometimes controversial writers (*Corrections*, *Freedom*). His new book is *Purity* (Farrar Straus Giroux \$28) and promises to be a reading adventure that offers more action than his previous titles. There is a murder and a conspiracy plot, all told, as always, with Franzen's acute commentary on contemporary life.

If Franzen is at times controversial, the forthcoming thriller, *The Girl in the Spider Web: A Lizbeth Salander Novel* (Knopf \$27.95), is bound to be supremely so. Stieg Larsson, who wrote the runaway bestselling Swedish thrillers that began with *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, died suddenly in 2004, before his first novel was published. His literary estate was a tangled mess as his partner – she herself has criticized this new project – was pitted against his family. David Lagercrantz, a former Swedish crime reporter, was given the blessings of the Larsson estate to write a new novel with Larsson's original stars, Lisbeth Salander and Mikael Blomkvist. While we certainly hope that this new author can keep up the twisting and turning momentum of the original trilogy, the publishers are betting heavily that he will. They will have 500,000 copies in print in this country alone. (It's due out Sept. 1).

Totally without controversy will be the Aug. 25 publication of Sue Grafton's 24th Kinsey Milhone mystery. Readers will wish there were more letters in the alphabet, as Grafton releases *X: Kinsey Milhone #24* (Putnam \$28.95). Her fictional town of Santa Teresa (think Santa Barbara) is familiar ground to her fans but each new novel intrigues with juicy criminal twists. Grafton's new story is set against the background of the drought of 1989, making it timely reading for we water worriers of 2015.

Another set of sleuthing adventures embraced by local readers are Louise Penny's brilliant Inspector Gamache novels. The reader is taken far to the northeast coast of Canada to the little village of Three Pines, just outside Quebec City. Here, Armand Gamache was head of homicide for the Surete' de Quebec. A few years ago we were told that Gamache's retirement meant the end of the series, but happily this did not happen. Readers who have not discovered Gamache and the inhabitants of Three Pine can start with *Still Life* (#1 in the series) but Penny's fans will be happy to greet *The Nature of the Beast: Gamache #11*, due out on Aug. 25 (Minotaur \$27.99).

Leaving behind scenes of criminal investigation on either coast, first-time novelist Elizabeth Egan has written an engaging book that is sure to appeal to Lamorinda readers. *A Window Opens* (Simon & Schuster \$26) is her first novel, but Egan is no stranger to the book world. She is the books editor at *Glamour Magazine* and has long exposure to the New York literary scene, writing for the *Huffington Post*, *People*, as well as doing reviews for many national publications. Using the publishing world she knows so well as background, she introduces us to Alice Pearse, wife, mother and part-time editor. When her attorney husband doesn't make partner and must hang out his own shingle, Alice takes on a full-time job with a young hip publishing startup in Manhattan. What follows is delightful and thoughtful reading, bound to appeal to all of us who are, or have been, caught between demands of career, family, parents and life in general.

Another "family" novel of a far different sort is *We Never Asked for Wings* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh (*Ballantine* \$27) arriving at Orinda Books on Aug. 18. Diffenbaugh made so many friends with her moving *The Language of Flowers* and we are happily anticipating this new title. Diffenbaugh is strongly concerned with social issues and she brings front and center a migrant

Bestselling Author Daniel James Brown to Appear in Lafayette Aug. 1

By THOMAS BLACK
Contributing Writer

Daniel James Brown, author of the critically acclaimed, national bestselling book *The Boys In The Boat*, will appear in person on Saturday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., in Lafayette.

The event is presented by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, which not coincidentally is hosting the first annual "Row With Champions" regatta Aug. 22 at San Pablo Reservoir in Orinda.

Tickets at \$30 each are obtainable in advance online at www.rowwithchampions.org. Brown will be available to sign books after the talk.

The book, hailed by one reviewer as the "nautical version of 'Chariots of Fire'," has ranked high on national bestseller lists. Since its publication two years ago, it has garnered a handful of prestigious awards. In fact, it has attracted so much attention that it is being made into a motion picture.

The tome chronicles the almost-unimaginable true saga of nine men who during Great Depression days rowed competitively for the University of Washington. All were hardscrabble, blue-collar types who despite all odds – and to the mortification of Adolph Hitler -- went on to capture gold at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. In doing so, remarked another reviewer, they "provided hope ... that the ruthless might of the Nazis would not prevail over American grit, determination and optimism."

En route to Berlin, the no-name, unheralded rowers defeated long-established powerhouse crews attending elite Eastern schools.

Born in Berkeley, Brown now resides with his wife and two daughters outside Redmond, Washington. He attended Diablo Valley College before enrolling at UC Berkeley, where he earned a baccalaureate degree in English.

After adding a master's in English at UCLA, he taught writing at San Jose State University and at Stanford University before becoming a technical writer and editor.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Daniel James Brown will speak on Aug. 1.

He later turned his attention to writing full time, specializing in historical nonfiction narratives.

Daniel James Brown

Aug. 1 at 7 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Bldg.
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd,
Lafayette, CA

◆ MADRONNA from page 17

by local community theatre stalwart Louis Flynn in 1959 – the show was originally titled *The Orchid Sandwich*. Flynn wrote *The Orchid Sandwich* as his thesis at Catholic University in Washington D.C., where he completed his master's degree in playwriting. Flynn revised the play in 1977 and re-titled it at that time. "The 1970s were visually a comic period so we decided to do the show in that time period. I hope the set and costumes alone will get a chuckle," said Gelster.

Performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m. with a Sunday matinee on Aug. 9 at 4 p.m. and one Thursday performance on Aug. 13 at 8 p.m. For more information visit www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225.

family. Letty Espinosa is a young mother whose parents have cared for her children but now they must leave for Mexico, leaving Letty to juggle jobs, child care and housekeeping in a very contemporary Los Angeles story. Both this novel and Elizabeth Egan's are centered on a woman's

struggles to keep it together, though Letty's problems make Alice Pearse's pale in comparison.

Again, the book world offers so many choices – this is just a tiny sample – come in and explore our shelves for your end-of-summer reading!



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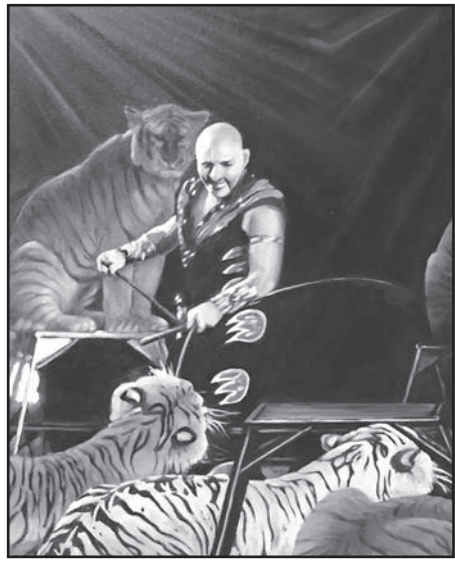
CLASSIFIED

◆ GALLERY from page 10

people to visit www.tavee.us/CC14 where people can link to their Facebook page for member postings.

As to the origin of the theme for the show, Kath Balamuth said, "I think the viewer should walk away with some new ideas on how the artists in this group are so different. We all submitted ideas for a theme and voted to pick the favorite. Since there are so many members, there was not a clean majority and many artists didn't like the theme. However, each participant took the challenge and came up with work that shows a unique vision of what The Thrill of the Chase means to them." Look for The Tiger Man, a 36" x 24" oil on canvas painting by Renee Bradshaw, and Catch a Koi, a 17" x 16" ceramic piece by Ann Vestal.

All members of the group have been working 10 years or longer and exhibit in a variety of galleries throughout Northern California. Jim Jordan keeps his work fresh by "going to as many galleries and museums as possible. I am finishing a road trip where I visited museums all over the country." Organizations the members belong to include the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, Gear Box Gallery in Oakland, Gallery 621 in Benicia, Arts Benicia and The aRt Cottage in Concord. CC14 members showing work include Anastasia von Allen, Pleasant Hill, acrylic painting; Cindy Baker, Martinez, acrylic/mixed media and folded paper; Kath Balamuth, Orinda, acrylic painting/ceramics; Flora Baumann, Walnut Creek, oil painting; Renee Bradshaw, Oakland, oil painting; Jules A. Campbell, Lafayette, acrylic painting/mixed media/digital; Walter Crew, Pleasant Hill, acrylic painting/mixed media; Aiko Damrow, Walnut Creek, acrylic painting; Marina De Silva, Danville, acrylic painting; David Fitzgerald, Concord, acrylic painting; FROgard, Concord, graphite and colored pencil/monotype; Pamela Jameson, Pleasant Hill, acrylic painting; Jim Jordan, Pleasant Hill, acrylic painting; Donnie Lemone, Benicia, ceramic; TaVee McAllister Lee, Benicia, mixed media; Terry McBriarty, Walnut Creek, oil painting/mixed media; Joan McCarthy, Concord, mixed media; Ruth McMillin, Pleasant Hill, watercolor; Georgia Pack, Hollister, mixed media; Judy Rohrer, Concord, mixed media collage; Randy Stansberry, Pleasant Hill, acrylic painting/ceramic; Keiko Stong, Pleasant Hill, oil painting; Helen Troxel, Granite Bay, acrylic painting/ceramic; Ann Vestal,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Renee Bradshaw's The Tiger Man, an oil on canvas, is part of the August exhibit.

Clayton, mixed media/ceramic; Jane Way, Orinda, ceramic; and Mike Yashar, Clayton, oil painting.

CC14 members have a lot to say about the value of art to the community. FROgard says, "Without art I believe a community is dead." "Art is the life of the community," says Balamuth. "It's a way to bring people together, a way to share talents and ideas. It's a way for people to express their story and hold the community together." Campbell says, "Art adds to the enjoyment of life; it can make you think and some art makes you laugh."

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit http://ccclib.org.

◆ SWALLOWS from page 1

about the birds.

Cliff Swallows are migratory sparrow-sized birds with streamlined bodies developed for fast acrobatic flight. They're easy to spot swooping through the air over the Wilder sports fields. They winter in Central and South America and return to California to breed from late March through September. Natural recyclers, the birds will re-use the same mud-pellet nest if it is in good shape.

As swallows dart about at high speed feasting on mosquitoes and other annoying insects, they provide a natural pest-control service for free.

"The City of Orinda has been a great partner," says Audubon executive director Cindy Margulis. "They understand that this is a prime opportunity to teach people about the beneficial wildlife that lives in this community."

For more information on Orinda's Cliff Swallows, to http://goldengateaudubon.org.

◆ PASTOR from page 8

This spring Klug and his wife moved to the Bay Area, where Kit serves as associate pastor at First Congregational Church of Berkeley and Klug landed his new role at OCC. He was attracted to the church's tradition of valuing the arts and its history of

◆ TURNER from page 10

On a corner of Harley Street in Turner's London house was topped with a glass roof so he could manipulate the light using tissue paper held by ropes. The walls were Indian red. He loved traveling and used hotel rooms as his studio. He also outlived many of his patrons. To protect himself while traveling, he had an umbrella with a blade. He kept one fingernail long to scratch out paint. All his life the sea beguiled him. In his estate, he left land and funds to create an almshouse for indigent artists (it never happened). These are reasons enough for art lovers to visit these spacious rooms draped in the wonderment of his 65 oil paintings and watercolors.

If you have seen Mike Leigh's 2014 Mr. Turner, whether you vote yeah or nay, come see the real deal. Exhibition hours through Sept. 20 are: Closed on Monday; open Tuesday through Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. Frequent docent lectures and docents in the galleries. Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, de Young, Golden Gate Park, 60 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, S.F., 94118, 415-750-3600, www.deyoungmuseum.org.

outreach through parenting classes, youth camps, service opportunities and forums on contemporary issues. Klug's mindset is that "all good art is inherently hopeful in its power." He encourages anyone interested in exploring spirituality through the arts to contact him at revnateklug@gmail.com.

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2015 Publication Schedule

Table with 2 columns: Issue, Deadline. Rows for September 2015, October 2015 and August 5, 2015, September 5, 2015.

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 1 **Orinda Library Gallery.** CC14 exhibit all month; reception Aug 8, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. See article p. 10.
California Independent Film Festival presents *Zombie Day*, featuring four classic movies, Rheem Theater, 350 Park St., Moraga. Visit <http://www.caiff.org/#!events/c17as>.
Orinda Starlight Village Players presents Louis Flynn's *Madness on Madrona Drive* through Aug. 15. Performances at the Community Park are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., Aug. 9 at 4 p.m. and Aug. 13 at 8 p.m. Visit www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225.
Author Daniel James Brown talks at 7 p.m., Lafayette Veterans' Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Tickets and information at www.rowwithchampions.org. See article p. 19.
- 4 **Summer Concerts in the Park** features Little Dog 2, playing pop and rock, Community Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free.
- 5 **Orinda Books** hosts luncheon at the store for debut authors Val Brelinski and Julie Lawson Timmer, 276 Village Square, noon. Call 925-254-7606 or visit www.orindabooks.com.
- 6 **Story Hour** with Cathy Goshorn for children aged 2 to 4, Thursdays, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 925-254-7606. Also Aug. 13, 20 and 27.
Kids Club at Theatre Square. Music at 11 a.m., stories at 11:30 a.m., sponsored by Republic of Cake, for children ages 0 to 5.
Chamber of Commerce Mega Mixer with appetizers, networking and raffle prizes, Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Drive, 5 to 7 p.m. Call 925-687-0700 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/phmegamixer> for reservations.
- 8 **Orinda Books** hosts Jane Juska discussing her new novel *Mrs. Bennett Has Her Say*, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m.
- 9 **Movies in the Park** features *Maleficent*, Orinda Community Park, 28 Orinda Way, begins at dusk. Free.
- 11 **Summer Concerts in the Park** features Cami Thompson Big Band Jazz, Community Park, 6 to 8 p.m. Free.
- 12 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents Charles Ludlam's *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, a comedy featuring vampires and werewolves, through Sept. 6 at Bruns Amphitheater, Orinda. Visit www.calshakes.org.
Seniors' Trip to Charles M. Schulz Peanuts Museum, hosted by Recreation Department, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$15 (residents), \$17 (non-residents.) Visit www.cityoforinda.org or call 925-254-2445.
The Second Wednesday Book Group will discuss *Divisadero* by Michael Ondaatje, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. New members welcome.
- 13 **Puppet Show With Jungle Joe**, Orinda Theatre Square, 10 a.m.
Free Movie Night features *Bridge Over the River Kwai*, Orinda Theatre, 7 p.m. Co-sponsored by *Diablo Magazine*. Visit http://www.lamorindatheatres.com/index_orinda.asp.
- 15 **Live Jazz Series** at Rheem Theatre, 350 Park St., Moraga, 7 p.m. Admission \$20 general; \$15 seniors and children. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com/index_newrheem.asp.
- 20 **Movies in the Park** features *Frozen Sing-Along*, Orinda Community Park, 28 Orinda Way, begins at dusk. Free.
- 21 **Founders Night** features California Independent Film Festival's best movies, Rheem Theatre, 350 Park St., Moraga, 7 p.m. Admission \$7. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com/index_newrheem.asp.
- 26 **Random Readers** discuss *Me Before You*, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. The readers meet monthly and welcome new members.
- 27 **Maria's Book Group** discusses *Euphoria* by Lily King, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 11 a.m. Call 925-254-7606. The group welcomes new members.
- 29 **Nor Cal Kids Triathlon**, for kids 4 to 14, with sporting events, food and music, Miramonte High School, 750 Moraga Way, 8 a.m. to noon. To register, visit <http://www.norcalkidstri.org/norcalkidstri/hub>.

AT THE LIBRARY

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

- 1 **Saturday Morning Live!** Story time for children aged 3 to 5, Picture Book area, 11 a.m. Also Aug. 8.
- 4 **Toddler Lapsit.** Stories and songs for children aged 1 to 3 and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required, but attendance limited to once per week. Also Aug. 5.
Peek-A-Boo Time. Storytime for children ages 0 to 5, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m.
English as a Second Language Conversation Circle. Practice English in an informal, small-group setting, Tutoring Room, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also Aug. 13, 20 and 27.
Monthly Book Sale. Hosted by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and sorting room, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 8 **Weekend Paws to Read.** Children practice reading with a friendly dog, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call or visit the library to sign up.
Discussion on Individual Investments. Library Garden Room, 7 p.m. Email michaelskinner984@gmail.com.
- 21 **Mystery Book Club.** Members discuss the latest mystery of the month, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4 p.m. Adult program.
- 27 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners.** A monthly story swap keeping the oral tradition alive, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m. .

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214,** Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe.** Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Gallery Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks.** Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition.** Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Birdwatching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.

Friends of Adobe Host Fandango Fantastico

By CHARLIE JARRETT
Staff Writer

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) will host its annual Fandango Fantastico fund-raising party and silent auction in the Quarry House at Wilder in Orinda on Saturday, Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. There will be authentic Spanish food, such as tapas and bebidas, music, salsa dancing and Mexican cooking demonstrations. FJMA's ultimate funding goal is \$1 million, \$500,000 of which will be used to acquire and restore the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Marilyn Merlino and Lance Beeson will enliven the Fandango with a performance of Hispanic music. Beeson's great-great-grandmother, Gomacinda Moraga, was born in the Joaquin Moraga Adobe.

FJMA began meeting in 2008. Members discovered that the 174-year-old adobe structure located on the border of Orinda and Moraga (which at that time was vandalized and in a rapid state of decline) needed a savior to step in and restore it. The com-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spanish musicians will entertain guests once again at the Adobe Fandango.

munity, as well as J&J Ranch Partnership Project, embraced the restoration idea. J&J is planning to build a housing development on the adjacent property at 24 Adobe Lane in Orinda and purchase the adobe and the 2.3-acre plot of land on which it sits. The idea is to eventually sell it to FJMA when they have raised sufficient funds. The purchase cost, including renovations, is [SEE FANDANGO page 22]

- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary.** Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com/> or 925-283-8288.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters.** Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org/>
- Montelindo Garden Club.** Third Friday, 9 a.m., September through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Garden Club.** Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary.** Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 925-254-2222.
- Orinda Association.** Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club.** Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society.** Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters.** First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation.** Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council.** Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club.** Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub/>.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

- 10 **Orinda Union School District** board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, 6 p.m. Visit www.orindaschools.org.
- 12 **Acalanes Union High School District** board meeting, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m. Visit www.acalanes.k12.ca.us.
- 17 **Information Session,** Holden High School, 6 to 8 p.m. Fall semester begins Aug. 24. Visit www.holdenhigh.org
- 18 **Miramonte High School,** welcome new frosh parents, Theatre/Art Classroom, 8:30 to 9 a.m. Visit <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/miramonte/>
- 20 **New School Orientation,** Orinda Intermediate School, Room 36, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Visit <http://ois-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com/>
- 23 **Kindergarten Picnic,** Glorietta Elementary School, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Visit <http://gl-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>
Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Kindergarten & New Family Picnic, Dalewood Park, 200-232 Sundown Terrace, 5 to 7 p.m. Visit <http://sh-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>
- 24 **Miramonte High School,** fall semester begins.
- 25 **Jumpstart,** Wagner Ranch Elementary School, new families 3 to 4 p.m., returning families 4 to 6 p.m. <http://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>
- 26 **Orinda Elementary and Intermediate schools,** fall semester begins.
- 28 **Miramonte High School.** Welcome Back Dance, Gym, 8 to 10 p.m.

CITY/FIRE/DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District.** First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council.** First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee.** Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District.** First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.. Visit www.mofd.org/board/meetings meeting location will be posted on the agenda.
- Planning Commission.** Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

Move of the Month

Tricep Kickback in Plank

Get on the ground in a plank position with your arms fully extended.

Take a weight in one hand and bring that elbow back, balancing all your weight on the opposing hand. Do regular triceps kickbacks with the arm holding the weight. Keep your hips down in line with your body while doing the exercise.

Try to do 12 reps.

Repeat on the other side.



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

◆ FANDANGO from page 21

estimated at about \$500,000. FJMA has already made a down payment and is now awaiting approval from the Orinda Planning Commission before finalizing the purchase and turning the adobe into an educational center for the community.

Tickets to Fandango Fantastico are \$75. For reservations and information, visit

www.moragaadobe.org or call 925-254-8260. Donations to the silent auction are welcome. To donate, call the number above. The Quarry House is the recreational and social heart of Wilder, Orinda's newest home development. The gracious hacienda was designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style and is nestled into the hillside, surrounded by landscaped pathways and pastoral valley views.

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- Anna Alvarado

Everyday Changes

I Am So Happy – August is Happiness Month!

Bonnie Waters



"We all want to be happy, and we want the people we love to be happy. Happiness means feeling good about our lives and wanting to go on feeling that way.

Unhappiness means feeling bad and wanting things to change"

Lord Richard Layard

Founder, Action for Happiness

Did you know that the month of August is Happiness Month? I am so happy because in order to write this article, I had the opportunity to focus on the topic of happiness! As I looked into the topic, I began to realize how little I really knew about the subject. I do know that the "pursuit of happiness" is near and dear to Americans. We are promised the right to pursue happiness in the U.S. Declaration of Independence as one of the "inalienable rights" with which all human beings are endowed.

Happiness is not just a state of mind. Most of us have heard of the mind/body relationship. There are many studies that point to the fact that happier people have better overall health and live longer. Happiness is relative, very personal and can be illusive. It is relative because there are so many variables that contribute to happiness

or the lack thereof. It's illusive because there isn't a set formula that guarantees one's happiness. And while it's personal, most of us don't really cultivate our own brand of happiness. In our culture, our beliefs about happiness are frequently inherited or dictated by others while growing up and then reinforced through the power of advertising.

In my pursuit of information, I found The Secret Society of Happy People, a website devoted to the pursuit of happiness. What I learned was that, although we can't be happy all of the time, we can be happy most of the time. The more limited we are in our definition of happiness the more limited we are in our experience of it. The good news is that we can increase our happiness quotient.

To help you expand your definition of happiness, Pamela Gail Johnson, the founder of The Secret Society of Happy People and the author of *The Secret Society of Happy People's 31 Types of Happiness Guide* identified 31 types of happiness: amused, joyful, anticipation, kindness, awestruck, lively, balanced, love, blessed, mellow, celebrate, motivated, cheerful, nostalgic, confident, optimistic, content, peaceful, enthusiasm, playful, giving, relieved, helpful, satisfaction, honorable, social, hopeful, spiritual, humor, thankful and inspired. To help you recognize more happiness in your life, she created a simple tool that focuses you on instances where the 31 types of happiness occur in your life. Visit www.sohp.com to access the Happiness Counter.

Increasing your happiness is in your hands. One of the most important thing that you can do is to help others increase their Happiness Quotient.

Here are some ways to begin:

Work – Build a positive environment at your workplace.

Family – Do things to help your nearest and dearest thrive.

Community – Connect and spread happiness in your local area.

World – Be a Happiness Activist. Be a force for positive change in the world.

Everyone's path to happiness is different. But the latest research points to 10 keys that tend to make people's lives happier and more fulfilling. Together they spell "GREAT DREAM." To help get you started, you can download a free guidebook on creating more happiness in your life when you visit www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys-guidebook.

Have a happy August and remember, "Happiness is an Inside Job"!

Local Girl Makes Good



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to former Miramonte graduate **Dominica Tarica**, who recently received her Master's in Special Education from San Francisco University. She has been working in special ed for over three years and currently works as an Inclusion Specialist supervising five to six intervention aides.

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Juicy stone fruits, heirloom tomatoes, sweet corn, avocados, glistening eggplants, colorful peppers and Bartlett pears are just part of why we celebrate National Farmers' Week Aug. 2-8. At the end of 2014, there were more than 8,200 farmers' markets in the U.S. – 50 percent more than just five years ago. The Orinda market is in its 19th season and proud to be an innovator in the farmers' market scene.

The Farmers' Market Coalition is celebrating by highlighting the different ways that farmers' markets are benefitting our communities: preserve America's rural livelihoods and farmland; stimulate local economies; increase access to fresh, nutritious food; support healthy communities; promote sustainability.

This month the cucumber bins are filled with several intriguing varieties of a very

"cool" vegetable. Cucumbers are about 96 percent water with the inside temperature capable of being up to 20 degrees cooler than the outside temperature. It's no surprise we associate cucumbers with the cool crispness of summer salads, salsas and sandwiches.

Field or standard cucumbers are available year-round, but it's the summer months that bring out different sizes, shapes and colors that may be smooth, ridged, rough or slightly spiny. The smaller pickling cucumbers, with their thin skins, make them ideal – you guessed it – for pickling. The virtually seedless English and Persian cucumbers are two of the mildest tasting.

Lemon cucumbers resemble lemons in color and shape only – when ripe their flavor is that of a mild cucumber. Long, green, curving Armenian cucumbers are actually

a ribbed melon with hints of cucumber flavor. Japanese variety cucumbers are best at about the four-inch size when they also make an excellent snack.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

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



BARBARA KOBSAR

Lots of veggies available at **Orinda's Farmers' Market.**

One-quarter teaspoon salt

Mix all ingredients together in a medium-size bowl. Cover and refrigerate for a few hours to meld the flavors. Serve at room temperature for best flavor. Makes 2 to 3 cups salsa.

COOL CUCUMBER TOMATO SALSA

2 cups seeded diced tomatoes – choose your favorite variety

1 small, peeled, seeded cucumber, chopped – some varieties need no peeling or seeding

1 tablespoon minced red onion

1 tablespoon fresh lemon or lime juice

2 tablespoons minced cilantro

1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced

◆ BUZZ from page 24

gengoodness.com.

Geppetto's Cafe Changes Hands

Moraga native Peter Leou assumed ownership of this popular gathering spot, Geppetto's Café, this summer when founder Sue Fitzsimons retired after 14 years of operations in Orinda. Fitzsimons launched the original Geppetto's in Lafayette in 1984 with business partner Donna Fassio. When Starbucks moved in, Fitzsimons moved the breakfast and lunch eatery to its present location on Orinda Way, next door to Baan Thai.

"We want to keep the tradition of European ambience alive. We are here for the Orinda community and our friendly and energetic staff is staying. I promised Sue it would remain the classic joint," says Leou, who comes from a restaurant background. His parents, Simon and Gina Leou, own Szechuan Restaurant, just a few doors down. Leou attended the Cordon Bleu Culinary Academy in San Francisco and subsequently worked at Chez Panisse and Yoshi's in Oakland.

"I have been looking for a long time to open my own establishment in the Bay Area," says the 31-year-old Leou, a 2002 graduate of Miramonte High School. "When Sue shared that she was retiring, I immediately knew this was what I had been looking for."

The menu remains mostly the same, retaining the classics the regulars have come to rely on. The East Bay Road Runners meet here every Wednesday morning and



VALERIE HOTZ

Peter Leou is the new owner of Geppetto's.

cyclists drop by routinely. A full water bowl is maintained outside for dogs, with treats a few steps away. Leou keeps the pastries and coffee flowing, along with the sandwiches, soups, salads and gelatos Orindans have enjoyed over the years.

"Going forward the plan includes putting in a kitchen and preparing a full breakfast menu next year. We continue to serve local coffee, local bread, local gelato and most of our produce is local," says Leou, who can't praise his friendly staff enough. "They know everyone and know what they want before they walk in here, especially Callie Driskell. They are amazing," he says. Leou likes to spend his free time cooking new recipes, going to movies and spending time in the great outdoors.

A longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Geppetto's Café is open Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 925-253-9894.



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Baan Thai Celebrates 10th Anniversary in Orinda

Stepping inside this charming restaurant at 99 Orinda Way feels like returning to an old friend's home for a delightful evening. When opening their doors in 2005 with the goal of delivering a genuine Thai dining experience – one feels one has entered a private home in Thailand – husband-and-wife team Jim and Kim Phoonpirom have achieved just that.

Jim personally selects produce at the Oakland market and organic vegetables from Monterey Market in Berkeley. Coming from a restaurant family - he grew up cooking beside his grandmother and working at his father's Bualuang Restaurant in Albany throughout high school - Jim creates delicious tried-and-true dishes.

"We are committed to high standards and deliver fresh flavorful dishes for our customers," says Kim. "We use Thai basil because it is highly pungent and special Panang curry, which is a delicious red curry from Thailand that has a richer taste than the other curries." Popular dishes with loyal customers include Mango Curry and Meang Kum, a unique appetizer of dried coconut, shrimp, lime, ginger and peanuts in a peanut sauce and wrapped in lettuce leaves. Don't miss the Thai Crunch Salad and the moist and chewy Brown Rice that



Kim and Jim Phoonpirom, owners of Baan Thai, and their son Nithan.

appears almost purple. Different menus are offered for lunch and dinner and gluten-free dishes are available.

The two dining areas feature granite tables, Thai antiques adorn the premises and a flower motif dominates, especially lotus, lily. "I love flowers and enjoy decorating with them," says Kim. "When visiting Thailand, I keep an eye out for interesting art so we have something new for our customers. Every time a customer comes in I want them to experience Thailand." The interiors are fresh, vibrant and beautiful, with indoor plants, including exotic Bird of Paradise. A close look at the framed black-and-white photographs reveals the

present King of Thailand playing golf with his mother observing (this is Kim's favorite photograph), as well as photos of the fifth King of Siam, known to Westerners through the popular Broadway musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein, *The King and I*.

Jim and Kim listen to customer opinions and try to integrate suggestions whenever possible. "We make everything by order," says Jim. "If a customer wants a dish more spicy, they can request that and we will accommodate. If original Thai is preferred, we serve that as well."

Kim says they love Orinda. "Over the years we see many families, have regular customers who begin dating, have a baby and bring their children here to dine. We like Orinda so much that we moved here," she says. The couple has one son, Nithan, who attends Wagner Ranch Elementary School. Managing two popular restaurants – they opened Bangkok Jam in Berkeley in 2010 – does not leave much free time to pursue hobbies. "I mostly stay home when not working because it is so beautiful. I really enjoy the weather here in Orinda and like to garden at home," says Jim.

Baan Thai is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and sup-

port South Africa and the United Kingdom respectively – sharing the same values about good nutrition and 80s disco music.

"We make healthy foods by blending fruits, vegetables and super foods such as Flax, Maca and Echinacea, and folding them into treats such as banana muffins and chocolate-coconut muffins," says Eames. "For example, we include beets in order to reduce the amount of refined sugar. We try to give kids something they know they like that actually has healthy ingredients. Our pizza roll has the taste of pizza with six different vegetables. The only fat is in the cheese and the result is high fiber and lower fat content, yet a delicious and popular snack for children." All items are hand-made and delivered directly to Glorietta Elementary and Orinda Intermediate schools.

"We live in a community that as a whole is more aware about good nutrition, and we are inspired to teach kindergarten through fifth-grade children about how easy it is to prepare nutritious and delicious meals," says Pickthall. "We delivered a curriculum to kindergarteners at Glorietta school with the goal of having them look at including five fruits and vegetables each day and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Diane Eames, Candi Brooks-Williams and Donna Pickthall of Genuine Goodness.

ports local public schools by donating to the Educational Foundation of Orinda as well as parents' clubs. Open seven days a week, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., you may phone ahead for take out orders at 925-253-0989. For more information, visit www.baanthaiorinda.com.

Genuine Goodness

A desire to educate youngsters about preparing healthy fresh foods brought three Orinda mothers together, Diane Eames, Candi Brooks-Williams and Donna Pickthall, to establish Genuine Goodness, a smoothie, soup and goodies catering concern operating out of their commercial kitchen in Lafayette. The trio hales from different parts of the globe – the U.S.,

invited each student to create their own smoothie. This resulted in 21 different recipes from the students which we prepared in our kitchen and delivered to each class." Added Eames: "The resulting smoothie recipes included kale, spinach, broccoli, apple, raspberry, mango, carrot, pineapple, strawberries and other fruits, with no sodium, no preservatives, no added sugar and no syrup. The feedback from parents has been tremendous."

One of Genuine Goodness' biggest goals focuses on partnering with the community. Eames, Brooks-Williams and Pickthall are grateful to Shannon Tagg at Orinda Intermediate and Lisa Karp at Glorietta for their support. "They are a pleasure to work with and we appreciate their enthusiasm for our food and our mission to give children more nutritious choices," says Eames.

"It is really about achieving a balance of healthy foods for children when often the whole diet may be based on processed foods," says Brooks-Williams. "I have to say 'delicious' is the word used to describe our offerings as proven with taste tests done by the students. We provide a tomato and basil soup one day a week at Glorietta school, and we sneak in spinach and carrots as well which they like."

They key to the success of Genuine Goodness is educating and providing offerings crafted with all-natural fruit-and-vegetable combinations. "The feedback from all teachers has been how beneficial and motivating our approach is for kids," says Pickthall.

Genuine Goodness is available to partner with school lunch programs, sports teams, children's camps and other organizations. For more information visit www.gengoodness.com or email Diane Eames at diane@

[SEE BUZZ page 23]



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