

Glorietta Neighbors Raise Objections to District's Proposed Solar Panels

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

Usually the installation of solar panels makes people feel good: the satisfaction of creating green energy, saving money from PG&E payments and doing one's part for the planet. Not so for some of the neighbors on Martha Road near Glorietta Elementary School in Orinda. Many of them are unhappy, not just with the solar panels recently installed there, but with how they were treated by the Orinda Union School

Solutions, Inc., an education consultation and service firm, presented a Facilities Master Plan Update to OUSD trustees. It included a recommendation from energy engineering consultants Newcomb, Anderson & McCormick that, "the district consider the installation of photovoltaic systems to offset the remaining campus electric load." In October 2014, the district held a series of community meetings to help establish priorities for district construction projects. According to the district website, "Solar energy for our schools was among



BILL O'BRIAN

This front view of **Glorietta Elementary School** shows one of two locations of new solar panels. Panels are also located in the upper parking lot.

District (OUSD) Board of Trustees. Since last November, the neighbors have attended school board meetings, written letters to the board, taken polls, sent emails and signed petitions. According to neighbor Susan Brady, "Basically, we were just ignored."

The genesis of the solar panel installation at the four Orinda elementary schools began in June 2013, when Total School

those projects that the community recommended."

In early 2015, the board approved a contract with solar energy consultants Terra Verde Renewable Partners to assist the district in "analyzing, evaluating and developing one or more alternative energy projects." The consultants helped the district qualify for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) to finance the project from PG&E savings at no cost to Orinda taxpayers. In August 2015, the board approved the project and authorized CREB financing. The following October, the board distributed leaflets and held community meetings at all schools to announce the solar project and garner feedback about location options. At a public hearing in October, the board approved a contract with Sun Light & Power of Berkeley for \$2,595,547 to be paid with CREB funds.

Some concerned Glorietta neighbors felt they were not well informed of the process from the outset and that the board did not listen to their concerns. The residents suggested the solar structures (Glorietta is the only school to have two solar locations) be moved out of view from the street. The district suggested planting trees in front of one structure but a neighbor said that would only hide the rest of her view of the hills. Another neighbor felt that since the solar structures at the other schools were away from neighborhood views of the hills, those at Glorietta should be moved out of view from the street. New OUSD Superintendent

[SEE SOLAR page 4]

This Year's Instagram Winner



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to this year's winner of the 4th of July Instagram contest. The beauty in this photo (she prefers to remain anonymous!) went all out to celebrate Independence Day.

Visions of a New Downtown Return to City Council Agenda

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Not many cities can boast of a freeway running through the middle of downtown dividing it into two very different business sections. Orinda has that honor. Attempts over the years to forge a better connection between the two sections and stimulate retail sales have divided the community as much as the freeway divides the city.

Now the topic comes front and center once again with the City Council placing the item on the agenda for its Sept. 6 meeting, which takes place at 7 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. "The goal of the

staff report is to present various options for downtown planning in terms of the output or 'product' (i.e., the type of planning and the subject matter)," says City Manager Janet Keeter. "The report will outline the study area, community and stakeholder engagement strategies, data collection and presentation/technical studies, environmental review, and staffing options."

According to Keeter, the staff report will also explain which city documents contain existing downtown regulations, plans and policies, and will summarize relevant existing studies and pipeline projects.

Discussions on various changes for downtown Orinda are nothing new. In 2007, [SEE DOWNTOWN page 17]

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THE ITALIAN JOB

The 12th Annual
Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 9th, 6:00pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"



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Our all-inclusive event is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser, featuring "Italian Job" capable Mini Coopers, molto belli Maseratis, not to mention favoloso Ferraris! Also enjoy Compari-infused cocktails, a hearty Italian dinner, an abbondanza of awesome auction items and dancing to the hits of (who else?) Dino!

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Four Women Who Create Nonstop Show Artwork

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council hosts an exhibit of paintings by Mariko Hibbett and Francesca Saveri, photographs by Gale Gettinger, and fabric creations by May Ho at the Orinda Library Art Gallery during August. Meet the artists at a reception on Aug. 6 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. "All of our knowledge has its origin in our perceptions," says Leonardo da Vinci. Likewise, Wei Wu Wei says, "There is no mystery whatever, only inability to perceive the obvious." All the work you will see in this exhibit is described within these two quotes because each artist's work speaks volumes about her particular perceptions.

Mariko Hibbett of Oakland has been making art her whole life – it is her first love. For practical reasons, she became an architect and worked at it for many years, painting in her spare time. "About five years ago, I took the plunge and started painting full time, mostly with acrylics," says Hibbett. "I love the creative process when it is going well. I lose myself and it becomes a meditation. I feel free to experiment and play without worrying about the outcome."

She will be showing about a dozen works

with a variety of images. Some paintings remind her of aerial landscapes, others are reminiscent of the subject of water where she first started exploring the use of an alternative perspective that only water can give. This is because water reflects the world above itself but also provides a glimpse of what lives below. Look for *Crossroads*, a 30" x 40" acrylic on canvas, where colors flow across textures, eddying in pools. She invites viewers to enter the world within her paintings, detach from the subject, and follow the feeling, mood or atmosphere she has created. Go to www.marikohibbett.com to see more of her work.

Francesca Saveri of Berkeley works in what she describes as "the fiery, magical medium of encaustics." She, also, has been painting all of her life and is showing 24 works. Encaustic painting involves using heated beeswax to which colored pigments are added. The liquid or paste is then applied to a surface – usually prepared wood, though canvas and other materials are often used. "Every day that I am in my studio with the high ceiling and sunlight pouring through the skylights, my dog Lila snoozing on the sofa, I am happy," says Saveri. "I recently donated all my black clothing; I invite people to try it – trade them in for

something brighter.

When you view *Backlight*, a 24" x 18" encaustic on board painting, you will be struck by the density of color. Maybe you will even ask, "How am I embracing color in my life, my garden, my home?" Saveri's travels in Brazil to learn samba and tango have been a visual feast of color, which shows up in her work. She says that abstract work asks the viewer to pause, because they can't find a label for what they see – she invites viewers to entertain a new idea about what they are looking at. For more of Saveri's work, go to www.francescasaveri.com.

Gale Gettinger of Orinda has been interested in photography since she was introduced to it for her high school yearbook. Later, she interned with photographers at *The Philadelphia Enquirer* and eventually decided she wanted her own studio. Over several decades, she has amassed a large and loyal clientele of families – newborn babies, seniors, graduations and more. Timeless portraiture is what she strives for. Using digital work, she incorporates painterly portraits into her repertoire.

Gettinger is exhibiting about 20 photographs, all in color, with themes of travel and nature along with some portraiture. She works with Photoshop, Corel Painter and Light Room. For *Nob Hill*, she climbed to the roof of the Fairmont Hotel and hung over the edge to get the shot. Gettinger is very moved by the beauty of the natural world and hopes viewers of her work are



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gale Gettinger's *Nob Hill*, a 40"x60" canvas wrapped photograph, appears in the Orinda Library Gallery August exhibit.

inspired to protect the environment. See www.galegettinger.com for more of her work.

May Ho of Orinda learned knitting from her mother as a teenager and has never stopped. That was five decades ago and she is still fascinated by the possibilities of yarn. New combinations of natural and man-made blends are always appearing; her favorite yarns are from Italy. Ho says, "Ideas just pop into my mind so I grab my needles and try to create from there. The yarn tells me what to do. I ask, 'what does it want to be?'" Seven years ago her daughter introduced her to the online site Etsy where she set up her own shop of hand-knit creations. Sometimes she adds beads or crystals to add bling to scarves and headbands.

She is showing about 10 creations - half a dozen sweaters, some scarves, infant hats and capelets. "I hope people will see that knitting is a creative way to express your unique style and can be an art form that is gorgeous, fun and functional. You can wear it everywhere," says Ho. Look for her *Black Swirl Sweater* (Merino wool, mohair, silk), which is made to envelope a woman's body like a summer breeze, gently floating around curves. Visit her Etsy shop at www.etsy.com/shop/ohmay to see more of her designs.

As to what value art is to the community, Hibbett says, "Whether by providing us with a different perspective or transporting us with a different mood or feeling, it broadens and enriches our lives." Saveri says, "Art opens up a different part of the

[SEE GALLERY page 14]

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May Ho's *Black Swirl Sheer Beauty Sweater*, which will be on display during August at the Orinda Library Gallery, is made of Merino wool, mohair and silk.

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Saturday,
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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, Lamorinda Arts Council and Seniors Around Town.

Event Schedule

Friday, September 9th, 6:00pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

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

The Italian Job

Our all-inclusive event is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser, featuring "Italian Job" capable Mini Coopers, molto belli Maseratis, not to mention favoloso Ferraris! Also enjoy Compari-infused cocktails, a hearty Italian dinner, an abbondanza of awesome auction items and dancing to the hits of (who else?) Dino!

This community-wide fundraiser benefits our schools, our seniors, the arts, our parks and recreation, and more!

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www.OrindaCarShow.com
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Saturday **Free Admission**
September 10th, 10am - 3pm
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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 vintage and modern Ferraris - including a 1965 275 GTB Competition.
- 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 2016 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 1p.m. visit of vintage and modern Ferraris - including a 1965 275 GTB Competition - driving into the middle of the show!

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 - Orinda Optometry Group
 - Oakland Zoo

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

A Message From the OA President
Thanks to All for Fabulous Fourth



Cindy Powell

I cannot let July pass without saying a big thank you to the volunteers, members and donors that made our July Fourth Home-town Parade the best ever! Hundreds of hours and \$30,000 added up to be a spectacular event! Thank you all!

As we pass into August, we slow down. Aug. 1 is **Girlfriend's Day**, a day for people to honor and celebrate their female friends. Call your friends and catch up or join a neighborhood party on Aug. 2 for **National Night Out** or go to the Aug. 4 Movie in the Park, *Inside Out*.

Aug. 5 is the opening day ceremony of the **Summer Olympics in Rio**. This year is the XXXI Olympiad. Aug. 5 is also **International Beer Day**, created in 2007 in San Francisco. Celebrate the art and science of brewing beer by trying a pint of a new flavor of beer.

Aug. 5-7 is the **60th Annual OMPA Championship** swim meet. A majority of the SUVs in our town will be decorated with fins, dragons and painted swimmer names for a week or two.

Aug. 7 is **Sisters' Day**. While sister is usually a female sibling, the term can be for members of social or religious organizations. I am attending Outsidelands with my sister to celebrate.

Aug. 9 is **Book Lovers' Day**, to encourage people to pick up a book and spend the day reading. Reading can help you reduce stress, keep your brain sharp and sleep better.

Aug. 9 is also the **Big Band (18-piece**

Big) Concert in the Park, thank you Rotary for sponsoring. On Aug. 10 buy a ticket and take a picnic to the **Cal Shakes** opening of *You Can Never Tell*.

Aug. 13 is **Left-Handers Day** to "raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages left-handers face." About 10 percent of the world's population is left-handed, but most equipment and day-to-day articles are designed for right-handed people.

Aug. 16 is **Free Beer at the Bruns** at Cal Shakes, with beer and food and special priced show tickets. RSVP on the Orinda Chamber website.

Aug. 19, **World Photo Day**, is the annual celebration of the art and science of photography. Take a real photo, not a selfie, and remember photography as an art form.

Back to school is on Aug. 22 for Miramonte and Aug. 23 for K-8th grades. Holden High begins on Aug. 29 and Orinda Academy on Aug. 31. In the olden days, we returned after Labor Day, with our abacus, uphill, both ways.

Pluto Demoted Day on Aug. 24 commemorates the day in 2006 when Pluto was downgraded from a full-sized planet to a dwarf planet. We had to change the textbooks for this one. Pluto was the solar system's ninth planet for 76 years.

Aug. 26 is **Women's Equality Day**. It commemorates the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

Aug. 26 is **Dog Appreciation Day**, a day to appreciate your best friend on four legs,

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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and raise awareness about dog adoption. Dogs were the first animals to be domesticated for guarding property, herding stock and for hunting. Today, dogs are considered to be a member of the family.

Aug. 27 is the **NorCal Kids Triathlon**. The events are appropriate for the age and ability of kids 6-14 years of age. To volunteer to help or sign up to participate, go to the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) website. In the evening is **Fantastic Fandango!** that celebrates the 175th anniversary of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. The festive evening will be held in a unique

Orinda home and feature authentic food and entertainment. Go to www.MoragaAdobe.org and get your tickets.

Aug. 28, **Bow Tie Day**, celebrates the elegant fashion accessory now worn by men and women as daily attire. Buy a bow tie and learn how to tie it, as they make a snappy accessory. Aug. 28 is also the first day of **2016 Burning Man**. The DaVinci art theme will be ablazing.

Orinda in August appears a bit calmer but there are still many events that need your participation. Pick a few events and have fun as summer comes to the end.

◆ SOLAR from page 1

Carolyn Seaton said, "Once committed to invest in solar energy at our schools, the district strived to identify and meet community concerns, but at this one location, it was difficult to achieve consensus on the panels' placement."

Following a June 2016 board meeting, district staff received numerous emails and phone calls from Glorietta neighbors expressing disapproval of additional lighting for the solar structures. The district scheduled a meeting at Glorietta on July 18 to gain neighbors' input regarding lighting for the solar project. Seaton, Director of Facilities, Stuart House, and two board members, Jason Kaune and Carol Brown, represented the district. Forty-nine neighbors attended.

Lighting expert Steve Corbett of RAB Light presented his findings from an evaluation of the upper and lower solar parking lot structures. In his analysis he determined that the existing lighting would be suf-

ficient, and that the proposed additional lighting for the new structures would not be needed. Instead, he recommended making small adjustments to the existing lighting – at a savings to the district of \$16,979. The board scheduled a special meeting for July 20 to look at the lighting proposal, as well as other issues with the Glorietta solar project such as location and landscaping, and the possible need for further meetings.

"They didn't feel well informed or that their voices were heard, and we heard that loud and clear," said Seaton after the July 18 meeting. She suggested the district find better ways to reach out to neighbors who do not have children in the schools. To that end, House will meet with City Manager Janet Keeter to learn the process for notifying entire neighborhoods of construction or infrastructure work in their areas. Additionally, Seaton said, "the OUSD Board of Trustees has directed me to build and deliver fortified communication and community outreach efforts, and I look forward to achieving that goal."



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Solar panels at Glorietta Elementary School have been installed in two locations: the front parking lot and the upper parking lot.

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POLICE BLOTTER

May 29 through July 16 2016

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 21 incidents.
 Abandoned Vehicle: 3 incidents.
 Accident Injury: 2 incidents.
 Accident Property: 7 incidents.
 Alarm, False: 207 incidents.
 Animal Cruelty: 3 incidents.
 Barking Dog: 5 incidents.
 Battery: 1 incident.
 Burglary: 3 incidents.
 Burglary, Auto: 3 incidents.
 Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents.
 Civil Disturbance: 27 incidents.
 CVC Moving Violation: 164 incidents.
 CVC Non-Moving Violation: 111 incidents.
 Death, Non-Criminal: 4 incidents.
 Death, Suicide: 1 incident.
 Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident.
 DUI Misdemeanor: 6 incidents.
 Drunk in Public: 4 incidents.
 Fire/EMS Response Info: 13 incidents.
 Fireworks: 7 incidents.
 Found Property: 6 incidents.
 Fraud Credit Card: 1 incident.
 Fraud False Pretenses: 1 incident.
 Grand Theft: 1 incident.
 Grand Theft Bicycle: 1 incident.
 Harassment: 2 incidents.
 Hit and Run Misdemeanor: 11 incidents.
 Identity Theft: 7 incidents.
 Illegal Entry: 2 incidents.
 Indiscriminate Shots: 4 incidents.
 Juvenile Disturbance: 9 incidents.
 Litter: 3 incidents.
 Lost Property: 6 incidents.
 Loud Motorcycle: 1 incident.
 Loud Music: 1 incident.
 Loud Noise: 17 incidents.
 Loud Party: 9 incidents.
 Medical Hospital: 6 incidents.
 Motorist Assist: 6 incidents.
 Neighbor Dispute: 1 incident.
 Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 5 incidents.
 Ordinance Violation: 13 incidents.
 Outside Assist: 52 incidents.
 Panhandling: 1 incident.
 Parking Detail: 172 incidents.
 Patrol Request: 67 incidents.
 Petty Theft: 5 incidents.
 Petty Theft from Vehicle: 2 incidents.
 Petty Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident.
 Public Assembly Check: 1 incident.

Public Nuisance: 3 incidents.
 Reckless Driving: 21 incidents.
 Runaway Juvenile: 1 incident.
 School Check: 19 incidents.
 Security Check: 34 incidents.
 Service to Citizen: 255 incidents.
 Shoplifting: 1 incident.
 Shots Heard: 3 incidents.
 Suspicious Circumstances: 31 incidents.
 Suspicious Person Stop: 25 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 22 incidents.
 Suspicious Subject: 15 incidents.
 Suspicious Vehicle: 18 incidents.
 Threats: 1 incident.
 Tow: 11 incidents.
 Traffic Collision, Property Damage: 3 incidents.
 Traffic Hazard: 8 incidents.
 Trespass: 7 incidents.
 Uncontrollable Juvenile: 1 incident.
 Vacation House Check: 65 incidents.
 Vandalism: 7 incidents.
 Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents.
 Verbal Dispute: 8 incidents.
 Welfare Check: 11 incidents.

Arrests

Burglary, Residential: 2 arrests.
 Drunk in Public: 3 arrests.
 DUI: 2 arrests.
 DUI Misdemeanor: 1 arrest.
 Minor in Possession of Alcohol: 1 arrest.
 Possession of Controlled Substance: 2 arrests.
 Possession Stolen Property: 1 arrest.
 Shoplifting: 1 arrest.
 Stolen Car Recovered: 1 recovery.
 Warrant Arrest: 2 arrests.

BART Statistics

Battery: 1 incident.
 Burglary, Auto: 1 incident.
 Car Jacking: 1 incident.
 Drunk in Public: 1 arrest.
 Grand Theft: 2 incidents.
 Under the Influence of Narcotics: 1 incident.

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more incident details, visit
www.crimereports.com

District to Introduce Block Scheduling at Miramonte in Fall, 2017

By BILL O'BRIAN
 Staff Writer

About one year from now, when Miramonte High School students return to school from summer vacation, they will find big changes in their class schedules. At that time, all four high schools in the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) will begin using block scheduling for classes instead of the current 50-minute class schedule.

Whereas 50-minute classes meet five days per week, block schedule classes are longer but meet less than five days per week. Both schedules meet the state mandated requirements for instructional time.

The AUHSD established a 50-member task force comprised of teachers, staff, administrators, students and parents, who have been busy since last November studying various types of block class schedules and visiting schools to observe them in action. Task force members visited Piedmont, Gunn, Alhambra, College Prep, Heritage, De La Salle and Tamalpais High Schools, where they interviewed teachers, administrators and students.

The primary reasons for changing to a block schedule is the move to new California standards that require more in-depth learning and changes to instruction that are best supported by longer instructional blocks.

“We know that most of the higher performing schools in the state and country are in some form of block scheduling, supporting better instruction and curriculum delivery,” said AUHSD superintendent John Nickerson.

A secondary reason, expressed by parents and students and some staff, according to Nickerson, is that “block schedules are perceived to bring a calm to the high-stress environment in our schools. The pace of the day is less frenetic for students and staff, and there are fewer subjects and classes to prep for and complete homework for each day.”

Additionally, there was a strong interest in structural systems that better support students who are underperforming. Embedding tutorial and intervention periods during the regular schedule has been proven successful in providing such support.

Lastly, Nickerson says, “With all the change happening in education and our strong interest in teacher collaboration, there was an interest expressed to identify more time for such professional teamwork.”

The task force did its homework on block scheduling. Its May 18, 2016 report states that the studies are “inconclusive and conflicting about achievement measured by standardized testing (ACT, SAT, AP & NAEP).” The report notes that some research suggests the following gains from block scheduling: improved attendance and discipline; closer student-teacher connections; and higher student self-efficacy.

The next step is for the task force to work during August and September and make recommendations to the board in October about which exact block schedule to adopt. The May report suggests implementing trials with block periods during the upcoming 2016-2017 school year. The report cites numerous options such as four days of extended instructional block periods with

[SEE SCHOOLS page 7]

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Letters to the Editor ...

Thanking Those That Contributed to Measure L

Four Orinda residents -- Brad Barber, Bob Burt, Mark Roberts and Sue Severson -- thanked the Orinda community for "approving Measure L, a \$25 million bond to continue progress in repairing our roads and drains." (See letter to the editor, *The Orinda News*, July 2016 issue.)

These same four individuals should specifically have thanked other entities -- entities which contributed, as of May 21, 2016, \$35,325 to the campaign to fix Orinda's roads.

(More money may have been contributed after May 21.)

The dollar amounts cited below come from documents submitted to the Orinda City Clerk's office.

Other entities giving money to support Measure L and the sums they contributed are: a political arm of the California Association of Realtors (\$10,000); Bay Cities Paving and Grading (\$2,500); PG&E (\$2,000); and Garaventa Enterprises (\$2,500). PG&E is the utility serving Orinda and nearby communities. Garaventa Enterprises is in the garbage-disposal business.

Republic Services, the company that collects Orinda's garbage, gave \$5,000.

Current and former members of the Orinda City Council contributed funds to support Measure L. Sue Severson, a member of the Orinda City Council from 2006 to 2014, contributed \$1,000. Victoria Smith, a member of the City Council since 2004 (and currently Orinda's mayor) contributed \$200.

Darlene and Dennis Gee contributed \$200. Darlene Gee was appointed to the City Council on July 15, 2015.

Amy and Tom Worth contributed \$500. Amy Worth has been a member of the City Council since 1998.

Robert Thompson of Orinda gave \$1,000.

When supporters of a political measure give thanks, they should also remember to thank the entities that provided the money to help pass the measure.

– Richard S. Colman

Visions of Sugar Plums?

Given the many visions discussed at the wonderful July Fourth celebration in Orinda, one would think that "visions of sugar-plums" danced in our heads. Alas, on our Fourth there were no such visions. Rather, our visions were sparked by Orinda Vision's request to City Council to schedule a Sept. 6 discussion of their recommendations for Downtown, including wide-scale new construction following demolition of many old-time business buildings and a new plaza to re-routed San Pablo Creek.

In contrast, looking critically at Orinda after the Fourth, my wondering eyes saw opportunities for ways to reveal our

Orinda as more citizens participate in the Downtown discussions. A recent walk was on the (some say) horrible, curvy, hilly path between Orinda Way & the west end of Bryant Way, passing BART. There, real visions were of trash, layers of years'-old dirt and broken glass along the BART underpasses and dog poop. Walking along Camino Pablo's 40+MPH traffic, absent barriers protecting walkers' lives, lacked ambiance, e.g., child-painted murals expressing images crafted by Orinda's youths.

And, we now plan to spend \$100,000 to upgrade only the Mini Park, when for a fraction of that we could enhance that intra-city path using sturdy concrete planters, barriers against errant traffic holding beautiful thrillers and fillers, with spillers overflowing. That walk was also part of an evaluation of Orinda Vision's idea of a new bridge between the two parts of the city (from Theatre Square over BART, over Rt. 24 and its northern ramps, and over BART's eastern parking lot to the South end of Orinda Way).

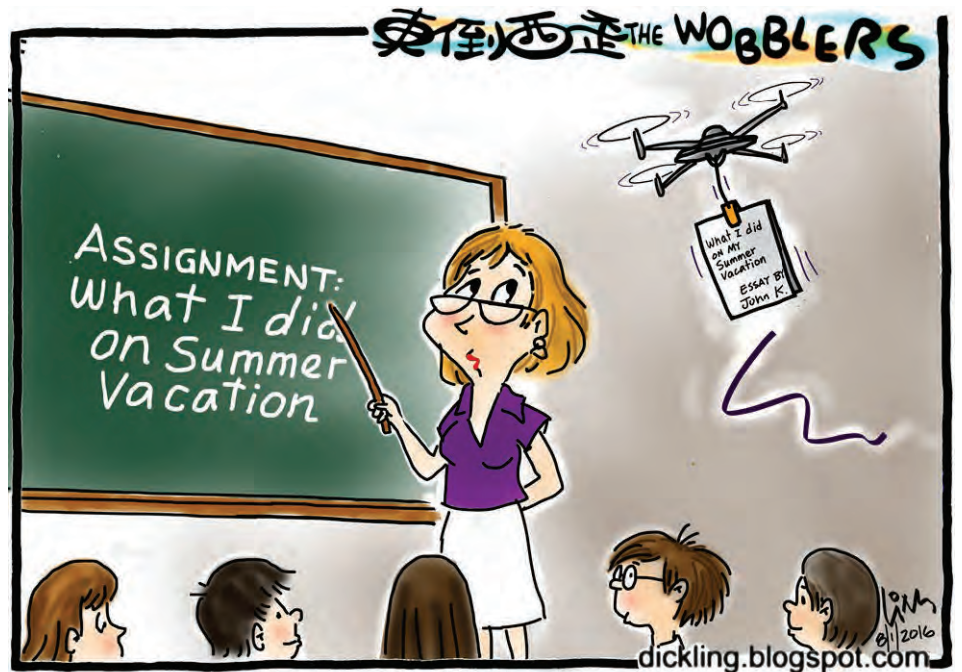
My conclusion? Instead of a "vision" of that bridge, costing millions, negotiating with BART, and years of construction; and instead of now redoing the Mini Park at big expense, let's clean up what we have. This approach all over downtown would not finalize downtown redevelopment proposals but would incentivize all of us to roll up our sleeves, don work gloves and energize our imaginations for downtown's future. By getting down and dirty, we would inherently be taking a closer, critical look at what we have and wish to preserve or change. Only then would we gain a realistic perspective for our enhanced downtown. Only by having our own bottom-up revitalization thoughts will further downtown planning be measurable against the correct criteria, ours. Orinda is not ready for yet-another consultant's message. Orinda is ready for all of us to become inspired.

– Chet Martine

Vote No on Prop 64

Californians are being asked a dark question in this November's election – Do we want to legalize the recreational use of marijuana in our state. Who's asking? It's not Democrats; it's not Republicans; it's the marijuana industry, which has been building since we legalized medical marijuana in 1996.

Big Marijuana is the next Big Tobacco. It has a lot of money, an army of lawyers and lobbyists, has forged moneyed relationships with many Sacramento politicians and partners and is now trying to convince you and me to let them take over civic life in California. The Adult Use of Marijuana Act - AUMA (Proposition 64) is a 62-page initiative that Big Marijuana is counting on most of us to not read. This is the one



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that Gavin Newsom is "sponsoring." I've always like him, but Gavin has lost his mind with this topic. Even his wife was quoted a few weeks ago as being "scared as hell" about this initiative and what it means to life in California.

You'll hear that AUMA is going to protect kids, eliminate the black market and raise badly needed taxes. It does none of these. John Hickenlooper, the Governor of Colorado, has told everyone they are making no money on legalized pot, and they

can't spend enough in PSAs to make people understand how dangerous marijuana is, especially for 12-25 year olds.

They have failed so conclusively that youth use in Colorado now ranks number one in the nation, with 12-17 and 18-25 year olds sporting use 74 percent and 62 percent above the national average.

Not only does legalization wrongly lower the perception of harm, Prop 64 hurts kids through access, advertising and minimal

[SEE LETTERS page 20]

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For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the September issue is August 8, 2016.

CARS

CAR TIME

Who's at the Wheel?



By JOHN VANEK

In this country, we are blessed with the freedom to make choices. That freedom includes deciding who works on our cars and what work will be done. However, I have recently noticed that this freedom is being compromised by the automotive insurance industry in California.

If your vehicle is involved in an accident or is damaged, the first thing you do is call your insurance company. That is what you pay them for, right? The insurance company is going to suggest that you take the vehicle to its approved repair facility, which often delays the repair process and inconveniences the customer.

What does approved or preferred really mean? Does it mean they are better than other facilities not on the preferred list? No. It means that the facilities that are approved are willing to give a discount so the insurance company makes more money. So basically the insurer gets a cut of the repair in exchange for using the approved facility.

Claims personnel may intimidate customers and suggest that going to the approved facility is the right thing to do, even though the customer might prefer using his or her own regular car care facility. The approved shop is working at a discounted rate to fix your vehicle. Does that sound like the kind of job that you want?

The insurer often tells the consumer that the job will not be guaranteed unless the approved facility is used. In fact, the insurance company does not guarantee the job - the service facility does. The insurance company tells the approved facility how

to repair the vehicle, which means that the insurer defines the method, scope and cost of repairs. When the insurer has low cost as its primary objective, quality, safety and post-repair resale value suffer. "Steering" is the term used to describe how insurance companies attempt to direct the insured party away from specific repair facilities to their approved shops. Although it happens all the time, steering is illegal under the Policyholders Bill of Rights.

The bottom line is that you are in control. You decide who works on your car. Read your insurance policy and do some on-line investigating about your insurance company to clarify your rights. The insurance company has the right to specify what they cover, but they do not have the right to send you to any particular facility for the repairs.

As always, I encourage you to be part of the process. I am always available for automotive consultation.

You can reach Vanek at john@orindamotors.com.

◆ SCHOOLS from page 5

one traditional 50-minute class day, an intervention/tutorial period twice weekly, and expansion of teacher collaboration/meeting opportunities.

To view the full report, visit the AUHSD website at www.acalanes.k12.ca.us, click on Governing Board, Board Meetings and Agendas, 2016, May 18, View the Agenda, 10.08 School Day Schedule Task Force Report.

Watch Out! The Italians Are Coming to September's Classic Car Show



DAVID DIERKS

A few of the Ferraris from last year's car show, including Ed Peggs' 328 GTS (front).

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

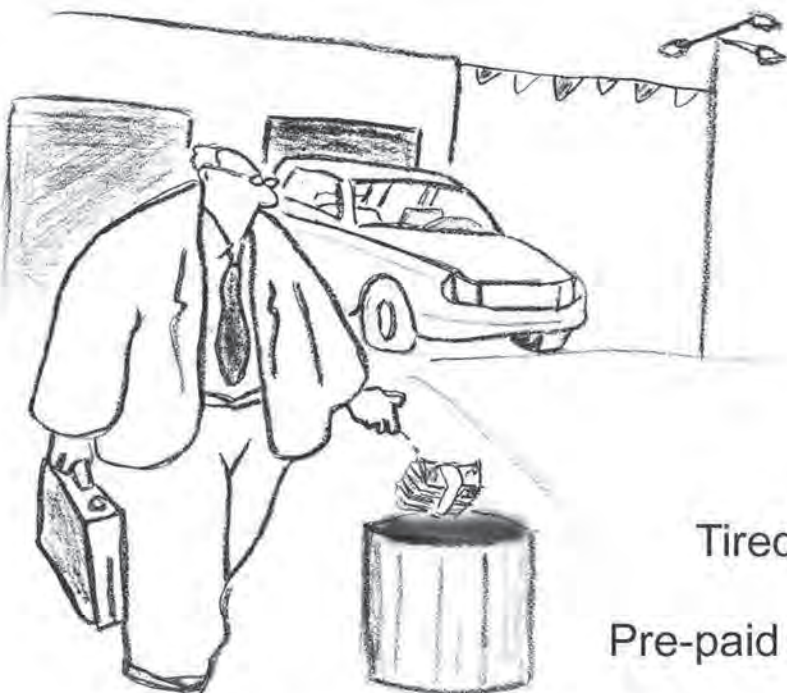
The Italians – cars, that is – are invading this year's Orinda Classic Car Show. The theme for the September show is *The Italian Job* and there will be Ferraris aplenty, along with Maseratis and Mini Coopers (they're not Italian, but they feature prominently in the movies). If you attended last year's show, you remember the rolling exhibit of original Shelby Cobras. This year it will be a rolling exhibit of Ferraris. The exhibit will include a 1965 275 GTB Competition as well as a Dino and a selection of 12-cylinder and 8-cylinder cars.

Orindan Ed Peggs has been attending the car show since 2008. This year, he's bringing his 1986 Ferrari 328 GTS. "Many people think this is the car made famous

on the TV series *Magnum PI*," said Peggs. "But it is actually the model that followed the car featured on the show, the Ferrari 308 GTS. While the 328's silhouette is very similar to the 308, almost all of the mechanical components are upgraded as well as having a more modern and ergonomic interior." Peggs has always liked Ferraris. "I appreciate the mechanical nature of the cars, the artistry in the design and the visceral driving experience." The last few years, Peggs has been helping to get more Ferraris displayed at the car show. "Primarily, this has been in the form of reaching out to Ferrari owners and asking them to attend," he said.

Peggs joined the Ferrari Club of America 10 years ago and has been on the board of directors for the last two years. "As a

[SEE CARS page 21]



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Dancing with the Cars Auction Features Warriors' Tickets and More

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Here's a chance to watch the "dream team" in action with floor seats to the Warriors, VIP parking, dinner in the VIP Club Lounge before the game – and help local non-profits at the same time.

Dancing with the Cars takes place Sept. 9 at the Orinda Country Club and benefits such local community groups as the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town transportation service, the Orinda Starlight Village Players, the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, the Lamorinda Arts Council, the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Orinda.

Produced by the Rotary Club with Mechanics Bank as the presenting sponsor, this year's fundraiser includes a plethora of inviting auction items including a "Christmas

with the Crawleys," a 1920's themed holiday party at Casa Azul. The historic Orinda home was built in 1926. If you prefer to travel, bid on a week in the Florida Keys at an oceanfront condo (includes an airfare subsidy up to \$500) or take the family to an Oregon dude ranch getaway. JetSuite, the private air travel company out of Concord, has also donated four round-trip tickets to Las Vegas or Burbank.

For the truly adventurous, a World War II fighter jet adventure with Col. Rich Perkins, USAF (retired), should do the trick. The item includes video and a souvenir flight suit. For something a bit more relaxing, try a luau with live entertainment for up to 20 guests.

Rotary member and auction chair Barbara Bontemps and her team (representatives from the Orinda Association, Orinda

[SEE AUCTION page 14]

Between the Lines He Didn't Throw Away His Shot

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



One of the delights of the summer at Orinda Books has been watching the stack of *Hamilton: An American Musical* CDs disappear from the counter as soon as we can replenish them. It has topped our music bestseller list for weeks. And not only has the CD been selling well, but the beautiful coffee table book, *Hamilton: The Revolution* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter, as well as the original Ron Chernow biography, *Alexander Hamilton*, on which Miranda based his rap and hip-hop libretto, are both consistent Orinda Books bestsellers this year.

There is even an older juvenile title, *The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr* that has had an unexpected and happy reemergence as a hot middle-reader non-fiction find. All of these books, as well as the marvelous cast recording, will be wonderful prep material for anyone lucky enough to score a trip to NYC to see *Hamilton* on Broadway or those waiting patiently for the San Francisco SHN production to open here next March.

Lin-Manuel Miranda recognized that the story of our Founding Fathers was an unusual and magnificent opportunity to hold up a mirror to the Norman Rockwell image of America by casting himself and other non-white actors as his protagonists. Jeremy McCarter, who co-authored *Hamilton: The Revolution* with Miranda, quotes Henry Cabot Lodge: "The dominant purpose of Hamilton's life was the creation of a national sentiment ... from the discordant elements furnished by 13 jarring States." In this summer of blistering racial and political tensions, now across 50 jarring states, McCarter's subsequent words are particularly apt. He continues: [*Hamilton* is] "the widely acclaimed musical that draws from the breadth of American culture and shows its audience [that] what we share doesn't just dramatize Hamilton's revolution: It continues it." Miranda has revolutionized our view of the beginnings of the United States by giving us a very contemporary take on the story of a "bastard, orphan, son of a whore and a Scotsman" who was Alexander Hamilton, utilizing a cast and a vernacular that speak to the United States today.

Hamilton, like his colleagues (friends and foes alike), was a man of words – the

American Revolution was a writers' revolution. Hamilton himself wrote more than half of *The Federalist Papers* (written in 1787 and 1788 to promote the ratification of the Constitution). It is interesting that his words, alongside those of Jefferson, Adams, Madison and Washington, are dissected and re-interpreted by scholars and students to this day.

Lin-Manuel Miranda has been able to take the essence of Hamilton's ideas, translate them into musical genres developed in the 1970s, and make them sing to audiences in 2016. A happy combination of 18th-century words has been transformed by late 20th-century music and the artistry of 21st-century musical theatre to bring new life to the face on the \$10 bill and make theatrical history. Miranda (like Hamilton) did not throw away his shot.

And, while we're in a musical theatre mode, it is important to note that the roots of four of the other productions rolling out in San Francisco in the new SHN season can be found on the bookstore shelves: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is a superb musical adaptation based upon the equally superb novel by Mark Haddon (a continuing Orinda Books' favorite since its publication in 2003); *The King and I* started out as *Anna and the King of Siam*, a biography by Margaret Landon about the remarkable Anna Leonowens, a proper Englishwoman who changed the course of Thai history; *Into the Woods* draws from the entire fairy tale book bag – Charles Perrault to the Brothers Grimm – ingeniously reworked with miraculous verbal and musical artistry by Stephen Sondheim; and *Finding Neverland* is a semi-autobiographical story about playwright James M. Barrie who, of course, was the creator of Peter Pan, Hook, and all the little Lost Boys.

What riches the page – and the stage – can bring us. Sometimes the combination of words and music will have a greater emotional impact than either can alone. Happy reading – and happy listening.

Orinda Books Events

- Aug. 1 - Bingo Reading Program
- Aug. 4 - Dog-themed Readings
- Aug. 30 - Chef Charlie Volmar

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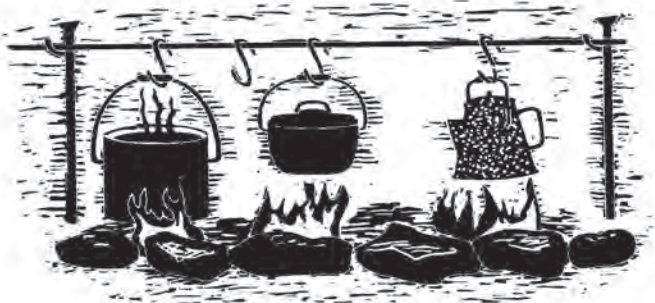


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4TH OF JULY



SALLY HOGARTY

The **BART** car won for Best Business in the 2016 parade.



SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda Ballet's tap routine tied with the Orinda Volunteer Marching Band for "Most Patriotic Spirit" in the parade. (L-R) **Lila Moss, Katherine Popper, Karena Eberts, Mina Lim and Katherine Eberts.**



SALLY HOGARTY

The **Orinda Volunteer Marching Band** tied for "Most Patriotic Spirit" in the parade. The dedicated musicians play before, during and at the end of the parade.

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Most Patriotic Spirit

TIE Orinda Volunteer Marching Band,
Orinda Ballet tap dancers

Best Youth Musical Group

ALMA -Academy of Language & Music Arts

Best Musical Group

Peter Pan Foundation with Leslie Noel

Best Non-Musical Performance

Orinda Kids Karate

Most Entertaining

Blue Devils

Best Orinda Theme

Orinda Association's 70th

Best Club

Miramonte Latin Club

Best Group

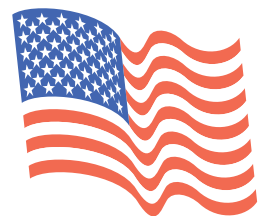
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Best Team

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The Murphy Team: Hillary and Karen of Village Associates

And, City of Orinda



SALLY HOGARTY

Once again, **Berry Bros. Towing and Transport, Inc.** showed its support of the 4th of July parade by donating two of their trucks and drivers for various parade entrants. "They were great – showed up on time, let us decorate their trucks and didn't complain when they had to listen to loud music as they drove them in the parade," says parade organizer Steve Meagher.

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2016 July 4 Celebration Volunteer Team

Work planning and preparing for our wonderful parade and park festivities begins many months in advance. Without the tireless work of our dedicated volunteers, this popular annual event would never take place. A very big Thank You! to the following residents who made it all possible:

- Chair:** Andy Radlow
- Parade:** Steve Meagher
- Music:** Cindy Powell and Steve Harwood
- Marketing and Public Relations:** Monica Fitzsimmons and Bill Waterman
- Park Activities:** Bret Young
- Nonprofit Groups:** Jim Luini
- Logistics and Equipment:** Jim Luini, Tom Romaneck and Bret Young
- Announcing:** Steve Harwood and Bill Cosden
- Volunteers:** Andy Radlow, Tricia Young and Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church
- Food and Beverage Booths:** Clay Deanhardt
- Decorations:** Dora Chacon and Melissa Karakash of Lemon Blossom Creations
- Fundraising:** Bill Waterman and Andy Radlow
- Web Design:** Lisa Burlini
- Social Media:** Monica Fitzsimmons and Bryce Radlow
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4TH OF JULY

We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

By KATE WILEY
OA Membership Chair

Putting together the 4th of July parade and celebration takes so many dedicated individual volunteers and local businesses. A very special thank you to those listed below and a heart-felt apology to anyone accidentally left out!

Lisa Burlini – photos, OA tear drop banner, IT help.

Cathy Goshorn – helped package cookies and coordinate OA and SAT bleacher guests.

Steve Harwood – provided sound system on OA float as well as setup and take down and coordinated Idol singers for float.

Bill Hinkamp of Rockridge Builders – assisted with float transportation, donated truck and drove in parade.

Lamorinda Idol Singers: Nejla Ackdoe-Pagey (8th grade at OIS), Amelia Chen (6th grade at OIS), Kate Gross (8th grade at

OIS), Natalie Schroeder (4th grade at Head Royce), Katie Welch (5th grade at Camino Pablo) and Leah Woodcox (senior at Miramonte) – performing on the OA's 70th Anniversary float.

Chris Leary – designed and built OA float.

Pamela Manning – helped coordinate OA and SAT bleacher guests.

Gail McIntyre – arranged and donated flowers for Hospitality tent and staffed it all day.

Susan Meyer – design, fundraising and execution of street pole banners, planning and implementation of Hospitality tent and hired caricaturist.

Republic of Cake – provided discounted pricing for cookies at Hospitality tent and use of its facility.

Sonya Schroeder – coordinated Idol singers and accompanied them on float.

Bill and Marie Waterman – helped plan OA float and Hospitality tent as well as fundraising for street pole banners.



SALLY HOGARTY

The **Orinda Association** celebrated its 70th anniversary with a large birthday cake float topped off with Lamorinda Idol singers.



SALLY HOGARTY

Face painting was once again a popular activity in the park following the parade.



SALLY HOGARTY

Piccolo Napoli provided refreshments in front of Theatre Square on 4th of July. Shown above: staff member **Jessica**, **Alex Eberle** and his friend **Lucy** and owner **Maria Eberle**.




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Health Guild Starry Night Gala Benefits Children's Hospital

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Orinda residents April Bowers, Alexis Thompson and Hillary Weiner are committed to bettering medical care for children in the Bay Area. To that end, they have become very involved with the Children's Health Guild (CHG). The three, along with many other dedicated volunteers, produced a fundraising gala, Starry Night, held at the Claremont Resort and Spa in Berkeley in May. About 320 guests enjoyed the sold-out event, which featured cocktails, dinner, live music, dancing and both a live and silent auction.

Items offered by generous sponsors and donors included unique sports memorabilia from the Golden State Warriors and the San Francisco Giants and bucket-list travel, such as an African safari and exclusive tropical destinations. Morrison's Jewelers of Orinda donated sparkling diamond

earrings.

Funds raised support UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland and George Mark Children's House in San Leandro. George Mark, founded in 2004, is the nation's first freestanding pediatric palliative care center serving children, young adults and their families. Children aged newborns to 25 with complex medical conditions that may result in a shortened life expectancy receive palliative care which is compatible with treatments that are meant to cure. This care is offered irrespective of ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, religion or socio-economic status.

Since its inception in 2012, CHG (a non-profit organization) has raised over one million dollars for these worthy beneficiaries. Speakers at the event shared courageous and emotional stories about the care their children received from each beneficiary.

For information about CHG or its beneficiaries, visit www.childrenshealthguild.org.



SHORENA GRIGOLIA

(L-R) Children's Health Guild members **Hillary Weiner**, spring auction chair, **April Bowers**, president and **Alexis Thompson** spring event chair at their gala, "A Starry Night," on May 14. The event, held at the Claremont Resort and Spa in Berkeley, raised funds to support UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital of Oakland and George Mark Children's House in San Leandro.

LOPC Mission Team Helps Rebuild Town of Weed After 2015 Fire

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

"We are so grateful" were the words homeowners in Weed, California, said over and over again to the Mission Team from Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) which spent a week in Weed helping with rebuilding efforts. In a devastating 2015 fire, 150 homes were burned to the ground along with the Catholic and Presbyterian churches, the library and community center. An elementary school and the last remaining wood products mill were damaged. A huge amount of work still remains to be done in this economically depressed town of 3,000.

Orindan Rich Lewis, who headed up the project, said he was glad to help people in our home state. This is his 12th year of leading church Mission Team trips. Previously, teams have worked in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Oklahoma, where tornadoes have struck.

In Weed, the 31-member team was assigned five clients. Some had already begun building, but lacked funds to complete the work as they were not adequately insured. The team worked with the Weed Long Term Recovery Group, formed by town citizens after the fire.

One of the houses was a Habitat for Humanity home where the Mission Team worked on the foundation. Shannon Kennedy, who had just purchased her home three days before the fire, had no insurance. She was reduced to tears when Lewis told her they had money for materials for a fence to keep her dog safe. Volunteers Marty Lewis,

Gladys Schaible and Alexandra Lamoureux, her teenage granddaughter, moved 10 yards of topsoil into Kennedy's garden.

Weed resident Cookie Reynolds has two teenage daughters and was also delighted to get a fence to keep out intruders. Work on another house for the DeValt family included installing siding, exterior trim paint, interior stairs, and laying out ceiling joists. Team member Bruce Kronmiller worked on the electrical installation at the Groppis' home.

Along with labor, LOPC donated a large cross to the Weed Presbyterian Church, which they will install after rebuilding. LOPC members Carol and Tom King were downsizing and asked if the Weed church wanted their organ. Carol played it for them over the phone after which Weed church members gladly accepted the offer, as they had never had a church organ. LOPC was also in the process of purchasing new Bibles so were able to donate used Bibles to Weed Presbyterian.

LOPC member Judy Kronmiller learned that the new library needed children's books. She rounded up two boxes, courtesy of the Friends Corner Book Shop at the Lafayette Library. Ann Loar donated five new handmade quilts. Weed resident Tiffany DeValt was thrilled to have the quilt as she'd lost one in the fire that her grandmother had made.

Weed started as a mill town, founded by Abner Weed. In 1897, Weed bought the Siskiyou Lumber and Mercantile mills for \$400 along with 280 acres of land. At one time the lumber industry had 1,200

[SEE LOPC page 20]

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LAMORINDA **arts** COUNCIL

Lamorinda Idol Finals

Sunday, September 4, 2016
Orinda Theatre

K-2 SOLOISTS
Lilah Anders
Shawn Smith
Roxie Tarantino

3-5 SOLOISTS
Callie Barber
Amelia Chen
Janie Mullerbach
Alec Howe
Mia Lim
Claire O'Connor
Mia Polichio
Sadie Rouse
Amy Schuchter
Hayden Schroeder
Alexandra Van Der Poel
Katie Welch

6-8 SOLOISTS
Nejla Acköke-Peggy
Lleyton Allen
Grace Bärmer
Elizabeth Becker
Zerulde Chaparral
Jenni Coletta
Kiera Glenn
Juniaux Maeder
Nicole Prozan
Mari Sitzmann
Grace Sjoberg

9-12 SOLOISTS
Evan Gabrielson
Ariana Glenn
Emily Gray
Avery Hansen
Claire Levinson
Samantha Martin
Lauren Ramlan
Michaela Sasner
Max Tatem
Leah Woodcox

K-5 GROUPS
BOOGIE WOOGIE BUGLE GALS
Mina Lim
Lila Marx

DYNAMIC DUO
Mia Polichio
Katie Welch

LUCKY CHARMS
Lucy Foss
Kaylin Ishizu
Ann Jacuzzi

THE SINGING SIX
Callie Barber
Claire Brevint
Sarah Hawkins
Janie Mullerbach
Cami Lowell
Elle Rodriguez

6-8 GROUPS
AISLINN & ELLA
Ella Susibordava
Aislinn Welch

DUO
Nejla Acköke-Peggy
Grace Bärmer

LILESA
Malessa Hasler
Lily Jensen

9-12 GROUPS
AVERY & GRACE
Grace Girzadas
Avery Hansen

DYNAMIC
Kate Gilbert
Gracie Gulchard
Claire Levinson
Lauren Ramlan
Michaela Sasner

SWEET HARMONY
Ariana Glenn
Kiera Glenn

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

11:00 - 12:30 PM	GRADES K-2 AND 3-5 SOLOISTS
1:00 - 2:30 PM	GRADES K-5, 6-8 AND 9-12 GROUPS
3:15 - 4:30 PM	GRADES 6-8 SOLOISTS
5:00 - 6:15 PM	GRADES 9-12 SOLOISTS
7:00 - 7:30 PM	ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

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FUNDRAISERS

Help Restore Moraga Adobe for Future Generations

By BOBBIE LANDERS
Contributing Writer

Isabella Chow stands outside a construction fence. She stares at a graffiti-strewn building, imagines it restored to its old grandeur and dreams of visiting some day in the near future with other schoolchildren. The structure dates back to 1841 and is the oldest adobe building in Contra Costa County.

Joaquin Moraga came to this land grant to establish a home and family on 20,000 acres. Despite its many alterations through the years, the original Adobe has survived and is awaiting renovation. A 501(c)3 organization, The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, is raising the funds to create a Learning Center and Museum of the Rancho Period in California.

Restoration money must be raised to match the developer's investment. Eleven-

yr-old Isabella has raised \$360 on her own by selling eggs from her own chickens and doing odd jobs. She and her family often hike up the long driveway to enjoy the fabulous views and imagine living the pioneer life over 175 years ago in this amazing place.

The third annual *Fantastic Fandango* will be part of The Friends fundraising efforts. It will be held in a unique Mexican hacienda-style home in Orinda's Sleepy Hollow neighborhood on Saturday, August 27, beginning at 6 p.m. An evening of fun and surprises, there will be tasty food and lots of music and dancing - an event worthy of the famous fandangos of Joaquin Moraga's day.

Help Isabella and the Friends realize their dream. Visit www.moragaadobe.org, purchase tickets, donate and learn more about the historical Joaquin Moraga Adobe in Orinda.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isabella Chow raised \$360 for the Moraga Adobe by selling eggs from her chickens and doing odd jobs.

Ace It! Tennis Tourney Raises \$15K for Cancer Research and Services

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

More than 90 people took part in the 14th Annual Ace It! Tournament held at Orindawoods Tennis Center. The day of tennis, complete with gourmet lunch, raised more than \$15,500 for Better Health East Bay (BHEB), which helps fund cancer research and provides breast cancer services to low-income women.

A huge check replica was presented to BHEB's Victoria Caldeira. She explained that the Carol Ann Reed Health Center now has an office in Lafayette, making it easier for women in need of services to access them. Since the beginning, Ace It! has raised almost \$200,000.

Seventy-five players competed in the afternoon Round Robin tournaments. Winners were: women's doubles, 3.0, Janice Gauthier/Sue Danner; women's 3.5-4.0, Corina Ninayahuar/Julie Baker; mixed doubles, Cindy Barber/Denis Weil; and men's doubles, Alfredo Quiroz/Bill Minikel.

A gourmet lunch was served at noon, prepared by members of the tournament committee. The committee also organized a raffle with 41 prizes for lucky winners.

Russ Barretta, who moved back to Orinda, said it was his first time at the event. "I really like how Ace It! is supported area-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cindy Barber and Denis Weil won the Mixed 7.0-8.0 doubles at the Ace It fundraising tournament.

wide," said Barretta. "It takes many people to raise this kind of money in one day."

Committee member Lysbeth McNeill said, "Every year for the last 14 years, those attending bring such energy and caring as they continue to 'play for the cure.' The tennis community of our area is truly committed to this meaningful cause."

The morning play was devoted to tennis clinics. Pros who donated their services were: Keith Wheeler, Patric Hermanson and Anne Marie Gamboa from Orindawoods; Jim Coyne, Sleepy Hollow; Steve Squire, Chabot Canyon; and Michael McCollom, head tennis coach at Miramonte High

[SEE CANCER page 20]

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- Questions? e-mail us: oaklandstrokes@gmail.com
- Middle school: registration is limited and on a first come first serve basis. The program fills up quickly and is now open for registration.

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BASEBALL / SEASONED SHOPPER

Orinda 8U All-Star Team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Orinda 8U All-Star team bested the undefeated San Bruno Green Summer Tournament team, 6-4, to win the Dale Wilson 2016 4th of July Tournament in San Bruno on July 4. Great defense combined with tremendous hitting propelled Orinda to a perfect record of 6-0, despite having faced strong travel and all-star teams from several Peninsula and South Bay cities. Shown above (L-R) bottom row: **Theo Destino, Casey Yung, Dylan Scott, Graham Jenkins, David Roman**; middle row: **Wyatt Feusier, George Gilbert, Carlito Pearce, Augie Martinez, Noah King, Will Leibowitz, Ian Hughes**; top row: coaches: **James Jenkins, Don Destino, Brett Gilbert, John Martinez and Carlos Roman**.

◆ GALLERY from page 2

brain so it has the ability to reach people in nontraditional ways. Artists are often at ground level and pick up on things; their expression needs to get out." Gettinger says, "Art is a way to share common humanity, express our feelings and beautify our community." "The value of art is the way it makes you feel," says Ho, "In our small community in Orinda, art is everywhere you go – the community center, library and

downtown. It lifts everyone up." The artists hope that viewers will move towards Paramahansa Yogananda's prescription for viewing art and the world: "Those persons who have perceptive eyes enjoy beauty everywhere." 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 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

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Ballet 3A (Ages 8 yrs+), Ballet 3B (Ages 9 yrs+)
Ballet 4A (Juniors, Ages 10 yrs +), Ballet 5 (Intermediate, Ages 12+ yrs)
Ballet 6-7 (Advanced, Ages 14 yrs -18yrs)



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Seasoned Shopper
August Spells Time for Nightshade Veggies



BARBARA KOBSAR

August brings with it a delicious group of vegetables belonging to the so-called nightshade family. Most common are tomatoes, eggplant, potatoes and all kinds of peppers. While the vast majority of shoppers have no problem with nightshades, they can cause problems for anyone with an autoimmune disease or a sensitive digestive system.

Nightshades come in many shapes and sizes – tomatoes topping the list. Each tomato season introduces more old-fashioned, heirloom varieties bred for superb flavor rather than shelf life. Shop early for best picks of Cherokee Purples, Brandywines and Green Zebras just to name a few. Choose cherry tomatoes for a quick snack or the popular San Marzano for the perfect pasta sauce. Most important for any tomato is to ripen and store at room temperature.

Appearances can be deceiving when judging eggplant's handling and storage qualities. Large pear or oval-shaped globe varieties bruise just as easily as the smaller Asian and Japanese types. All are very perishable and become bitter with age. Cutting larger eggplants into cubes or slices to sprinkle with salt helps rid the fruit of excess moisture before cooking (smaller varieties do not require salting).

Rosa Bianca eggplants are particularly appealing, with a teardrop shape and pinkish lavender to soft white skin. Like other small types, it's mild and tender and great on the grill.

There's nothing like fresh dug "new potatoes" to wrap up and toss on the grill or cook up for your favorite potato salad. New potatoes are simply the first harvest of any variety that comes directly from the field instead of being stored. They are low in starch and high in moisture with a waxy texture and thin skin that requires no peeling. All other potatoes fall into the thick-skinned group (like Russets) or thin-skinned group (such as reds, whites, Yukon Gold and Peruvian Purple).

Bell and chili peppers make beautiful displays and are sure to please every palate. They arrive in abundance ready to be stuffed for a favorite summer side dish or to give a little kick to homemade salsas.

Enjoy and see you at the market.

The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on

Orinda Way. For more information visit www.cccfm.org.

The Best Classic Potato Salad

- 3 pounds baby red or white potatoes (about 2 inches in diameter), scrubbed clean
 - 3 hardboiled eggs
 - 1 half-cup mayonnaise
 - 2 tablespoons white or champagne vinegar
 - 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
 - Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
 - 2 green onions, thinly sliced
 - 2 tablespoons parsley, chopped
 - 1 celery rib, cut into ¼-inch dice
 - 4 or 5 radishes, sliced
 - Paprika (optional)
- Cook potatoes in lightly boiling water (about 10 to 12 minutes), drain and cool. In a large bowl, whisk together mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper. Stir in green onions, parsley, celery and radishes. Cut the potatoes into quarters and large dice the eggs. Stir into the dressing. Serves six to eight.

Sprinkle with paprika if desired.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The **Orinda Farmers' Market** offers everything necessary to make a great potato salad.

◆ AUCTION from page 8

Chamber, Rotary and Educational Foundation of Orinda) have been putting together the auction items and promise many more surprises the night of the event.

"There will also be a raffle so anyone who wants to give a little back to the community will have an opportunity to do so," says Bontemps.

Tickets are \$110 if purchased before Aug. 15 and \$125 after that date. They can be purchased through the Classic Car Show (which takes place Sept. 10 and benefits even more community groups) website at www.orindacarshow.com or through the Rotary website at www.orindarotary.org.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Orinda Starlight Village Players Perform 'Aria's' Under the Stars

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players continues its Northern California premiere of Robert Merrill's *Aria's*, which runs through Aug. 13 at the Community Park Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way.

"This romantic comedy is a heart-warming look at how change affects our lives," said Merrill. Director Jill Gelster added that when she first read the play, "it struck me as being charming and poignant as well as funny."

The play centers around an Italian restaurant, named *Aria's*. Marie, played by Susan Chapple, struggles to keep the family business and live her own life after her husband's unfortunate – though comic – death. Her son, Little Mike, played by Akash Wason and Genevieve DiNatale (two young actors who trade weekends doing the part), deals with an emptiness that he is still

too young to fully articulate. Marie's sister, Jake (Kelly Hansen) questions her vagabond lifestyle as she realizes excitement is not a synonym for fulfillment.

Stranger in town Bill, played by longtime Starlight Village actor Malcolm Cowler, re-thinks his life after being suddenly dumped by his wife. Scheming low-life Stan (Ken Solazzo), on-the-take petty bureaucrat Baranski (Al Guaraglia) and head waiter Karl (Tom Westlake) provide comic foils while Virginia Blanco, the company's artistic director Geotty Chapple, D. Facer, Sara Geraghty, Caroline Rising and Betsy White round out the cast.

Since they are the Starlight Players, the company regularly sets up telescopes on clear nights for viewing of celestial objects. This year, audience members have been treated to great views of Jupiter and her moons, as well as glimpses of Saturn's rings and the earth's moon. The telescopes are usually available during intermission



JILL GELSTER

(L-R) Al Guaraglia, Susan Chapple and Virginia Blanco perform in *Aria's* through August 13.

and after the show.

Aria's runs Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 13 at 8:30 p.m., with one Sunday matinee on Aug. 7 at 4 p.m., and one Thursday performance on Aug. 11 at

8 p.m.

For tickets and information, call 925-528-9225 or visit www.orsvp.org. Patrons are reminded that this is an outdoor venue, so dress appropriately and bring a blanket.

Cal Shakes Presents George Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Obie Award winner Lisa Peterson calls herself a "Shaw Geek." A nationally-recognized interpreter of the works of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elizabeth Carter plays Mrs. Clandon in Cal Shakes upcoming production of *You Never Can Tell*.

George Bernard Shaw, she will direct George Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*, the third production of California Shakespeare Theater's season, performing Aug. 10 through Sept. 4 at the Bruns Amphitheatre.

Among the Shaw productions she's helmed are *The Philanderer* at Canada's Shaw Festival, and *Major Barbara* and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* at the Tony Award winning Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. Peterson returns to Cal Shakes for the first time since her Cal Shakes' critically acclaimed direction of *King Lear* in 2007.

"Shaw took every opportunity to infuse his work with his uniquely radical take on the battle of the sexes and the class structures of the day. The play is delightfully funny, with dark tones and complications lightly threaded throughout; it's definitely a romance that feminists can

love," said Peterson, who will stage the play in a California seaside town, reminiscent of the Santa Cruz boardwalk. "I've always loved the challenge of doing his plays in a style that allows you to hear and see them in a new way."

You Never Can Tell is a comedy of errors offering a witty take on marriage and the modern woman. A sharply-observed take on feminism, class distinctions, and romance, the script was written in 1896 and is one of Shaw's "Plays Pleasant" trilogy, along with *Arms and the Man* and *Candida*.

Actress Elizabeth Carter makes her Cal Shakes debut in the turn-of-the-century

romantic farce as Mrs. Clandon, a world-famous feminist author and lecturer, who returns after years abroad only to be accidentally reunited with her estranged husband in this comedy infused with highly-improbable complications involving mistaken identities, dentistry, lawyers, landlords and a "perfect waiter" named Walter.

A Teaching Artist at Cal Shakes, Carter is well known to Bay Area Theatre goers. Her work includes Aurora Theatre's productions of *The Heir Apparent* and *Wittenburg* as well as performances for San Francisco

[SEE SHAW page 17]

Yappy Hour at Fourth Bore Launches New Pet Care Co-op

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Kristina McCann of Alain Pinel Real Estate is hosting a Yappy Hour in the outdoor patio at the Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill in Orinda on Thursday, Aug. 4 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. The event is the launch of Lamorinda Pet Care Co-op, a new service where pet owners exchange pet sitting with people in their neighborhood. So bring Fido, Fluffy and Brutus for a meet-and-greet.

McCann and Christine Bhatkar met at an East Bay meeting of The Mamahood. Both are moms and animal lovers. McCann lives in Lafayette and moved here three years ago from Santa Cruz. Bhatkar also lives in Lafayette. She moved here four years ago from Santa Barbara. As neither has family or friends nearby, they both felt they couldn't keep asking the same neighbors to pet sit when they went out of town. They also traded stories of how much they paid pet sitters when traveling. As their pet-sitting bills added up, they decided to do something about it.

The two friends did some research and found that in Lamorinda prices range from \$30-\$70 per day for pet sitting. On a recent trip to Canada, Bhatkar paid \$300 to a pet service which included two trips a day to her home to feed her two cats, replace their water, etc. Thus, Lamorinda Pet Care Co-op

was born. Pet owners in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are invited to go to the website, www.lmopetcarecoop.com, and register, then join an Interest List for their pet. "We want to introduce owners of big dogs to other people with big dogs or match cat breeds," says McCann, adding that there are no fees to join and no monies exchanged for pet sitting. Once registered, members email and phone each other to arrange pet sitting. There are plans for reservoir walks, pack walks and more Lamorinda Yappy Hours.

According to GeekWire, "If you look at the existing pet-sitting market, it is anywhere between \$7 billion and \$12 billion." Ashton Kutcher's A-Grade Team made news when he invested in Rover.com, a popular dog-sitting service based in Seattle. Lamorinda Pet Care Co-op offers a community-building alternative to pricey pet-sitting services. So it's safe to say, we've let the cat out of the bag for local pet owners in these dog days of summer.

Call Kristina McCann for more information at 925-567-4328.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L to R) Christine Bhatkar and Kristina McCann can't decide who is top dog in their new venture, Lamorinda Pet Care Co-op. They're grinning like Cheshire cats because their first Yappy Hour is at the Fourth Bore patio, 2 Theatre Square, Orinda on Aug. 4 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Something to Howl About... Animal Tales

Growing Old Together



Jennifer Conroy

At what point are we too old to add a companion animal to our lives? For those of us of a "certain age," this is a question that can only be answered by asking and answering more questions.

What is our own state of health? Do we count animal lovers among our close friends and relatives? Are we in a financial position to provide for another mouth to feed? Can we handle the physical tasks of animal care – walking, cleaning, feeding, watering? Whether it's being able to scoop out a litter box, change the shavings in a hamster habitat or take the dog for several daily walks, these are a few of the questions that come to mind.

The expense to provide a quality life for a companion animal cannot be discounted either. According to an NBC news report, Americans spend over \$60 billion per year on their pets. Frankly, I believe that to be an underestimate. I'm not suggesting frivolous expenditures but I do know that companion animals, well kept, do take a chunk out of your budget.

So, what is one to do if you are of a "certain age" and know that you have reasonable resources and physical abilities to care for a new animal companion? The first step is to consider an animal that is also of a "certain age." The Internet abounds with websites offering potential adoptions of senior animals. They may be pets whose owners have passed away or, sadly, animals with special physical or medical needs that previous owners did not want to support. Whatever the reason, these are animals that desperately need loving homes and special attention.

Animal shelters throughout the Bay Area are excellent places to search for such companion animals. Some shelters have separate adoption programs for older animals with special needs. And, if you are not quite willing to make a full commitment, there is always the option to provide a foster home. That type of arrangement can serve as a trial period during which you might learn that adjusting to life with a senior animal is exactly what you needed.

If you plan on moving forward with either adoption or fostering an animal, let your neighbors and family members know of your decision and also what your new companion's unique needs may be. Having a conversation with your veterinarian before finalizing your commitment will be helpful as well. Many veterinarians now offer senior rates to senior clients (the people) with senior patients (the animals). Local humane societies and animal shelters may have funds available to help with any emergency situations. And, it wouldn't hurt to check in with your own doctor before making the final decision about pet adoption to learn if there are any medical issues of your own to consider.

There has been extensive research on the value of adding a pet to one's life. The additional exercise, the ability to focus on another's needs, the emotional rewards from the additional companionship – these are all assets that can make aging happier and healthier.

Do the research. Check with professionals and then follow your heart and consider opening it to a companion you can continue to grow old with.

Senior Citizen Symposium

Aging by Design

Aug. 6 8:30 a.m. - noon
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VISUAL ARTS



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED



CRIME BEAT

Tom Westlake

What, crime reporter? No, I haven't taken over another column. We're still going to talk about movies (not that there's all that much to talk about this month), but I always try to find common themes and August, it would appear, is all about the less savory aspects of the human condition – although it should be noted that, were we all angels, we would be a lot poorer, cinematically speaking.

On Thursday, Aug. 11, Orinda Theatre will present *On The Waterfront*. This classic is famous for Marlon Brando's flawless performance as Terry Malloy and infamous because of its director Elia Kazan. Of the former, one can only offer this as a Master Class in what screen acting should be all about. (The taxi scene in particular is usually what's referenced most.) Of the latter, Mr. Kazan will always be remembered for his role during the McCarthy trials. I'm glad to note, however, that his directorial work on *Waterfront* overshadows that more often than not. Either way, what you will be seeing is history in the making and,

◆ DOWNTOWN from page 1

a Planning Process Review Task Force formed to provide recommendations to the city. Clark Wallace, speaking as a member of the task force, stated in 2009, "Our goal is to create a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented village with a mix of retail, residential, cultural and office uses." Task force recommendations resulted in some design and zoning changes.

Various citizen groups also formed around the downtown revitalization topic such as Orinda Vision. Formed in 2010, this group, several of whom have engineering and architectural backgrounds, believes Orinda needs a "well thought-out plan" for downtown renewal that replaces older commercial buildings and creates a new village feel with sidewalk cafes, boutiques and much more. While many residents object to the ambitious vision proposed, which includes a pedestrian bridge over the freeway, others have embraced the possibilities.

More recently, a handful of young families formed What's Up Downtown Orinda to advocate for conditions that will attract retail options, restaurants and other "lifestyle amenities." A gourmet grocery store is high on the list. The group now boasts over 500 members.

For more information on the Sept. 6 City Council meeting, go to www.cityoforinda.org.

better still, it won't cost you a dime. It will screen at 7 p.m.

Next, we have the welcome return of the International Film Showcase. Determining that it's safe to come out, now that the glut of summer movies is over, Jo Alice Canterbury and Efi Lubliner bring you a 2015 Argentinian film called *The Clan*. Based on a true story, it tells the story of a (on the surface at least) stereotypical family: A caring father, a mother who divides her time between teaching and housekeeping and five children, all of whom are well behaved and pleasant. It soon becomes clear, though, that there's much more going on than the outward appearance of respectability and that a darkness prevails. (Just watching the trailer provides more than a clue about that!) In truth, there's a sense of ruthlessness present, and we soon find out the true nature of the Puccio family. Part *Sopranos*, part *Family Plot*, this crime thriller will have you looking askance at your neighbors and leave you wondering how innocuous they really are. For more information, check out <http://internationalshowcase.org/>. The movie will have a one-week exclusive engagement at Orinda Theatre, starting on Friday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m.

Wishing I had more to report, I'll conclude by urging you, as usual, to check out <http://lamorindatheatres.com> for any last-minute additions but also, this time, I'll add <http://moragamovers.org> to the list. It has been their custom to show the very best of past cinema at the Rheem on the third Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m., and I see no reason why they should break tradition now. I just don't know what it'll be for August, though I'm certain you won't want to miss it. So until next time, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

◆ SHAW from page 15

Shakespeare Festival, Magic Theatre, Word for Word, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, San Jose Stage and TheatreWorks.

You Never Can Tell also features actors Anthony Fusco, Danny Scheie, Sabina Zuniga Varela, Khalia Davis, Lance Gardner, Michael Torres, Matthew Baldiga and Liam Vincent. The creative team includes set designer Eric Flatmo, costume designer Melissa Torchia, lighting designer York Kennedy, and sound designer James Paul Prendergast.

For tickets and information, visit calshakes.org or call 510-548-9666.

The Dave Alt Big Band Performs Aug. 9



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 18-piece **Dave Alt Big Band** will have attendees at the Orinda Community Center Park swinging to favorite jazz tunes.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Thanks to the Orinda Rotary, some of the Bay Area's best jazz musicians will be performing in the Community Center Park on Aug. 9 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Recently Rotary's director of music Dick Marchick and board member David Pierce attended the group's weekly rehearsal. "As a former big band musician, I love their interpretation of works by artists such as Gershwin, Porter, Ellington, Basie, James and Miller," says Pierce. "Both Dick and I agreed that this year's performance will be the best ever."

The Dave Alt Big band has been per-

forming since 1993. Thanks to trombonist/librarian Jim Jensen, the band has over 2,000 big band arrangements from the 1930's to today. According to Pierce, singer Janese Powell's alto tone and song styling is reminiscent of Judy Garland, Patsy Cline, Anita O'Day, Jo Stafford and Sade all rolled into one.

The Orinda Rotary is the perfect organization to sponsor the annual Big Band concert as not only Pierce but also new president Gary Wong (trumpet player and current member of the U.C. Berkeley Alumni Marching Band) and vice president Barbara Bontemps (former big band singer) all have musical experience and will perform at the August concert.



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SCOUTING

Celebrating Girl Scouts Service to Others in Our Community

By YUKA AKERA
Contributing Writer

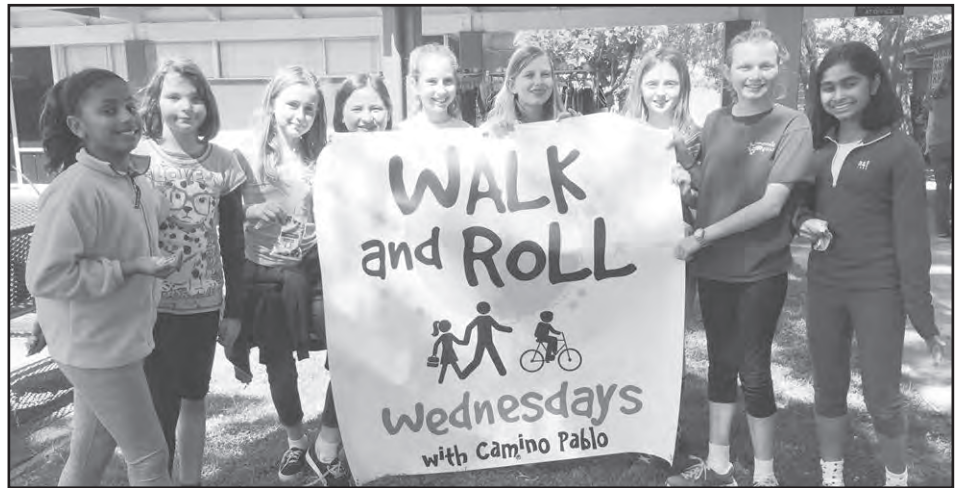
On May 22, the Orinda/Moraga Girl Scouts Service Unit celebrated the accomplishments of local Girl Scouts at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda. Awards were presented by Service Unit Leaders Mary Friese and Lori Sherman. Presentations of Gold Awards were by Jan Cushman, Girl Scouts NorCal Award Coordinator, Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, and Moraga City Council Member Teresa Onoda, along with the girls' troop leaders.

Beginning the ceremony, Girl Scout Junior Troops 30764, 32450, and 32974 received their Bronze Awards for service to our community. Bronze Awards are done as a group, requiring a minimum of 20 hours involved with the project.

Junior Girl Scout Troop 30764's Bronze

Award project titled "Walk and Roll to School on Wednesdays" encourages the Camino Pablo Elementary School to increase exercise, reduce carbon footprints, and promote community bonding through environmentally conscious methods of commuting to school. The girls formed walking groups around the neighborhood, as well as created a kit for the principal to continue the program for years to come.

Fifth grade Junior Girl Scouts at Del Rey, Troop 32450, used their Bronze Award project to enhance the Del Rey Elementary school campus. The girls installed chain



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Troop 30764 from Camino Pablo Elementary School received their Bronze Award. (L-R) **Aria Donthineni, Kalina Vangelov, Gracyn Roake, Catherine Peach, Kylie Williams, Maddie Maestre, Maggie Doolittle, Ellery Stankus and Neha Ravikumar.**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) **Kenna Sherman and Iman Sigman** earned their Gold Awards.

link fence art displaying their mascot, white and grey dolphins, as well as a prominent "DEL REY" sign. As they graduate from Del Rey, Troop 32450 hopes to inspire Del Rey school spirit and encourage others to continuously add on to the fence and maintain the legacy.

Troop 32300 had several Girl Scouts who earned their Silver Award. Chantal Hummel's project "Mosaic Stairs" designed and installed a mosaic tile display on the stairs at Orinda Intermediate School. Incoming sophomores Makenna Ferguson and Stephanie Friese used their project to benefit the Animal Refugee Response in San Pablo. They organized a weekend work party to clean and paint the indoor dog kennels, as well as designing and building cat towers.

Annie Hillhouse, an incoming sophomore at Campolindo, designed her Silver Award Project to provide toiletries for the homeless. Hillhouse oversaw the collection,

packaging, and distribution of the items.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can earn and must include a project that reaches beyond the Girl Scout organization and provides lasting benefit to the larger community. Girls generally spend at least 100 hours creating and executing their projects. Since last May, two girls in the Orinda/Moraga Service Unit earned their Gold Award: Campolindo students Kenna Sherman and Iman Sigman.

Sherman, a junior, created a mentoring program at a local homeless shelter, pairing teens from the Moraga area with children at

[SEE SCOUTS page 20]

Three Orinda Scouts Achieve Eagle Rank



MARCI NELSON

(L-R) **Michael Sorenson, Will Richardson and Andrew Johnston** are Troop 249's latest Eagle Scouts.

Boy Scout Troop 249, based in Moraga, recognized three new Eagle Scouts who have achieved Scouting's highest rank. Orinda residents Michael Sorenson, Will Richardson and Andrew Johnston were honored on Saturday, July 16, in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Scoutmaster Craig Anderson presented the awards.

Johnston, a 2016 Miramonte High School graduate, along with Troop 249 and some classmates, prepared and distributed emergency supply buckets to all classrooms at the high school. The buckets included food, water and minor first aid supplies. Johnston is the son of Jackie Moreau and John Johnston.

Richardson, a member of Troop 249 since seventh grade, is also a 2016 Mi-

ramonte graduate, and will attend U.C. Davis in the fall. Richardson directed the building of a food preparation table for Today's Youth Matter Summer Camp at Lake Tahoe where Richardson volunteered as a counselor in 2015. Richardson is the son of Kacy and Dave Richardson.

Sorenson also graduated from Miramonte in June, the 12th Sorenson family member to do so. He will attend U.C. San Diego in the fall. Sorenson, along with members and leaders of Troop 249, trekked to the Sierras to construct a new deck at Rucker Lake's Girls' Camp facility. The troop also refurbished the barbecue, rat-proofed the kitchen and improved camp walkways. Sorenson is the son of Riki and Andy Sorenson.

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 1 **Orinda Library Gallery** presents *Four Women Who Create Nonstop*, including paintings, photographs and hand knit creations by local artists through August. Meet the artists at a reception on Aug. 6 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. when light refreshments will be served. See article page 2.
- Orinda Books** hosts a Bingo Reading Program through Aug. 22 to encourage children to read different genres. Pick up a Waldo passport at 276 Village Square. Visit www.orindabooks.com or call 925-254-7606.
- 2 **Tuesday Summer Concerts in the Park** features the soul, funk, rock and R&B sounds of Spill the Wine, with food available from Streetdogs, Chicago-style hot dogs, Orinda Community Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- 4 **Summer Movies in the Park** features *Inside Out*, shown at dusk, Orinda Community Park. Free. Visit www.cityoforinda.org.
- Orinda Books** invites people of all ages to meet Salem, a lovable companion dog, with doggy-themed stories for all ages, 276 Village Square, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Visit www.orindabooks.com or call 925-254-7606.
- Yappy Hour** hosted by Lamorinda Pet Care Co-op's Kristina McCann. Learn how to trade pet sitting with your neighbors, Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill, 2 Theatre Square, No. 134, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Call 925-567-4328. See article page 16.
- Story Hour with Cathy Goshorn** for children 2 to 4 years, with reading, songs and games, every Thursday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m.
- 5 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents *Aria's* by Robert Merrill at Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 8:30 p.m. Also Aug. 6, 12 and 13 at 8:30 p.m.; Aug. 7 at 4 p.m. and Aug. 11 at 8 p.m. Call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org. See article Page 15.
- 6 **Eighth Annual Senior Symposium**, "Aging by Design," sponsored by Lafayette Community Foundation, Lafayette Elementary School, 950 Moraga Way, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Event features 40 local vendors offerings senior services and nonprofits that serve the community.
- 9 **Tuesday Summer Concerts in the Park** features the jazzy sounds of the Dave Alt 18-Piece Big Band, with food available from Kenny's Heart and Soul food, Orinda Community Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. See article Page 17.
- 10 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents George Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* through Sept. 4 at Bruns Amphitheater, Orinda. Visit www.calshakes.org or call the box office at 510-548-9666. See article Page 15.
- 11 **Classic Film Showcase** presents a free screening of *On the Waterfront*, starring Marlon Brando, Orinda Theatre, 7 p.m.
- 12 **International Film Showcase** presents *The Clan*, directed by Pablo Trapero, for a one-week engagement, Orinda Theatre. Visit www.orindatheatre.com for details.
- 16 **456 Club** (for fourth, fifth, and sixth-graders) reads *Duke* by Kirby Larsen, Orinda Books, 254 Village Square, 11 a.m. Buy the book at 10-percent discount and come prepared for a lively discussion.
- Beer at Bruns**, hosted by Cal Shakes and City National Bank, Bruns Ampitheatre, Upper Picnic Grove, 100 California Shakespeare Theatre Way, Orinda. Meet for Happy Hour and socialize with local community members and business owners, 5 to 7 p.m. Space limited; RSVP by Aug. 10, 510-548-3422, ext. 118, or visit www.calshakes.org.
- 18 **Summer Movies in the Park** features *Good Dinosaur*, shown at dusk, Orinda Community Park. Free. Visit www.cityoforinda.org.
- 27 **NorCal Kids Triathlon**, Miramonte High School, 1st event starts at 9 a.m., go to www.norcalkidstri.org for complete info and registration.
- Fantastic Fandango** to raise funds to restore the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, private home in Sleepy Hollow, 6 p.m. Location given when tickets purchased. Go to www.moragaadobe.org. See story page 13.
- 30 **Orinda Books** presents Chef Charlie Volmar of Epicurean Exchange in a cooking demonstration and luncheon, 11:30 a.m. For reservations, call 925-254-7606.

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.

- 2 **Toddler Dance**. Put on your dancing shoes and celebrate the end of summer. Geared for 1- to 5-year-olds, but all ages are welcome, Gallery Room, 10 to 11 a.m. Also Aug. 3.
- Seasons of the Bear and other Yosemite tales**. Orinda author Ginger Wadsworth will discuss her newest children's book, *Seasons of the Bear*, and share facts about the largest mammal in Yosemite National Park, Gallery Room, 2:30 p.m. One lucky child will receive a free book, courtesy of Friends of the Orinda Library.
- Teen Coloring Club**. The library provides age-appropriate coloring books and colored pencils; teens provide inspiration and creativity. Free and open to all teens in middle and high school, 4 to 6 p.m. Also Aug. 9, 16 and 23.
- 4 **Kids Club at Theatre Square**. Free story time for children 0 to 5 years, every Thursday in summer in front of Republic of Cake, 11:30 to noon.
- English as a Second Language Conversation Circle**. Practice English in an informal, small-group setting, Study Room A, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration not required. Also Aug. 11, 18 and 25.
- 6 **Saturday Morning Live**. Family story time for children 3 to 5 years, Picture Book Area, 11 a.m.
- Weekend Paws to Read**. Children in grades 1 to 5 practice reading with a friendly dog, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call the library to sign up.
- 19 **Mystery Book Club**. Members (18 and over) discuss *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie R. King, 3 to 4:30 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.

Local Author Gives Family Talk at Orinda Library

Ginger Wadsworth will speak about the National Park Service's anniversary, Yosemite National Park, bears and her newest book *Seasons of the Bear, a Yosemite Story* at Orinda Library on Aug. 2 at 2:30 p.m.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, Wadsworth's 32-page picture book for children tells of a mother black bear and her cubs in Yosemite National Park. A long-time Orinda resident, Wadsworth has published 30 award-winning books for young readers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

- Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Meditation**. Every Monday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, 7:15 p.m., Career Wisdom Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga, Suite 100. Meditate in silence for 30 minutes, \$5 donation. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmoozee@gmail.com.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, <http://www.lamorindasunrise.com/> or 925-283-8288.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org/>.
- Orinda Garden Club**. Fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon, September through May, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.
- Orinda Juniors Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 925-254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society Museum**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or <https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub>.

CITY/FIRE DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- 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

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CLASSIFIED

◆ LOPC from page 12

employees but that number is now 150. The Roseburg Forest Products Company is the only wood product company left. Today, the town relies mostly on tourist travel along Interstate 5 for revenue.

Weed found that the strong winds in the area, which is at the foot of Mount Shasta, were beneficial in drying out lumber. Unfortunately, those same strong winds made the 2015 fire spread more quickly through the drought-impacted area.

Construction coordinator Pat Olson was grateful that LOPC choose Weed as its mission project this year. "I can't believe the work you accomplished," said Olson. "You are the best volunteer crew we've ever had here."

Lewis said he and the volunteers feel fortunate and want to give back. "Many of our workers have been involved in the construction industry so that's an advantage," said Lewis. "I never find any grumbling or complaining even though we work long, hard days. The team always says we definitely get more out of it for ourselves than we have given. As the Bible says, in Acts 20:35, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

◆ CANCER from page 13

School.

Joy Marquez, who is majoring in sports psychology at John F. Kennedy University, presented a workshop. She concluded with a nod to the tournament's title, urging players to truly Ace It: A for Awareness, we can't make change unless we are aware; C for Choice, decide what to do with the information gained, and E for Execution, now execute it.

Committee members who hosted the event were: Tess Seigel, Danielle Signorella, Lynda Lawrence, Corina Ninayahaur, Alisa Riahi, Lyseth McNeil, Barbara Britto-Tang and Keith Wheeler, Orindawoods' executive tennis director.

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Wanted

I buy 1950's Furniture. Danish modern, Herman Miller, Knoll wanted. 1 item or entire estate! Call Rick at 510-219-9644. Courteous house calls.

Unwanted Eye Glasses are collected for Lions Club at the Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

◆ LETTERS from page 6

finer for sales to minors. Prop 64 allows marijuana advertising in all mediums and among almost all programming. You and your kids will see pot advertised everywhere - bill boards, bus boards, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Internet banners, TV, radio, magazines.

Municipalities will not be allowed to ban mobile delivery of pot inside its boundaries and marijuana will be growing everywhere. For all its lies, the worst is "unregulated home grows." Prop 64 claims to control, regulate and tax marijuana, but at its very foundation, allows every homeowner in California to grow six plants without a license or any kind of acknowledgement to a state agency or law enforcement.

Six marijuana plants can produce conservatively, at 60 joints/ounce, 6,000 joints over the plants' life time creating a massive new black market and public safety night-

mare. AUMA's fine for selling marijuana to minors is \$500 - this is insulting. Our kids won't be safe anywhere.

Don't vote for Big Marijuana - Tobacco 2.0. They got it wrong again in Prop 64. Questions about Prop 64 or marijuana in general, can be sent to CALMeastbay@gmail.com.

- Debbie Berndt

Despite Winter Rains, Fire Risks Remains Real

Despite the wetter winter, firefighters in California are gearing up for another active fire season. Why? Because of all the dead trees.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, 29 million trees have died in California due to historic drought and bark beetle infestations. That means we have 29 million good reasons to focus on preventing wildfires.

And that's why PG&E has partnered with

local California Fire Safe Councils for a third consecutive year. We're awarding \$2 million dollars for wildfire prevention projects in high-fire risk counties.

Here in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, PG&E provided \$100,000 to the Diablo Fire Safe Council for hazardous fuel reduction, chipping and dead tree removal in Berkeley, Canyon, El Cerrito, Kensington, Oakland, Orinda, Sunol and Walnut Creek to make the area more fire-safe.

Local partnerships like this are essential, but they're only part of the solution. We all have to take an active role in protecting our families, homes and communities. Learn more by checking out http://www.diablofiresafe.org/ or http://www.cafire-safecouncil.org/. Together, we can prevent and prepare for wildfires.

- Cheryl Miller, Diablo Fire Safe Council Vic Baker, Senior Manager of PG&E's Diablo division

◆ SCOUTS from page 18

the shelter to stimulate positivity. After the summer program, Sherman created a club at Campolindo High School and carried out the program again during the winter break. She plans to continue the club through her senior year.

Sigman, a senior, worked with Loaves and Fishes, an organization focused on providing aid to the homeless, to create a summer swim program for Mustard Seed

Elementary School. As a swim coach, she helped students become more confident and able in the water, as well as creating pamphlets instructing parents on how to avoid aquatic accidents. To further help the Mustard Seed community, she organized a swimsuit and goggle drive with her local summer swim team.

Service is built into all aspects of Girl Scouting with the hope that all Scouts will carry a commitment to serving others into their adult lives.

Orinda Businesses Recycle Smart

Congratulations to Orinda businesses who reduced waste and recycled. Parker Thatch won the Bronze Award for retail and Baan Thai took the Gold in the restaurant category.

Kudos to all who took part in the Orinda Association's 4th of July celebration. Recycle Smart stats show that 86 percent of waste was recycled!

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2016 Publication Schedule

Table with Issue and Deadline columns: September 2016 (Aug. 5, 2016), October 2016 (Sept. 5, 2016)

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

Grid for writing ad: 10 columns by 10 rows.

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

WRITERS

Local Author Christine Sunderland Releases New Novel, *The Fire Trail*

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Author Christina Sunderland grew up in Orinda and Lafayette in the 1950s, graduating from Acalanes High School in 1965. Her father, Rev. Carl Thomas, was a founding pastor of Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. "What a wonderful community to grow up in, a great experience," says Sunderland. She graduated from San Francisco State University cum laude with a B.A. in English Literature and now lives in Alamo and works in Berkeley as the managing editor of an Anglican publishing house.

Sunderland has a keen interest in history, the ability of one individual to change events, and the power of belief. In her



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Author **Christine Sunderland**, who grew up in Orinda, will read from her suspense story *The Fire Trail* at Orinda Books on Sept. 17 from 3-5 p.m.

stories she strives to bring to life the effect of the past on the present, the puzzle of perception and the mystery of time. Her latest novel, *The Fire Trail* (ELECTIO Publishing, 2016), is a suspense tale that unfolds via a love story containing elements of key cultural crises she observes in American culture. Issues she focuses on include threats to free speech, freedom of religion, the rise in terrorism and crime, as well as her thoughts on the sexual revolution.

The main characters in *The Fire Trail* are U.C. Berkeley grad students Jessica Thierry and Zachary Aguilar. Jessica walks the fire trail in the Berkeley hills and witnesses a shocking event. As Zachary falls for her, he tries to keep her safe from danger. Zachary's mother, Anna, is the steward at Comerford House Museum. Jessica meets Anna when she visits the site to research her history dissertation. Father Nate is an Armenian priest who is the caretaker for Comerford's historic chapel. Lurking in the background is the sickening fear that violence could be repeated as Jessica and Zachary walk the fire trail.

In researching her story line, Sunderland discovered the Presentation Sisters (a Catholic women's religious order founded in 1775 in Ireland) had a pivotal role in Berkeley's early educational history. They founded St. Joseph Convent in 1878 and went on to offer free education to the poor. Today's Sisters were a great help to her research.

Sunderland will read from her new novel at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square (925-254-7606) on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 3 to 5 p.m. *The Fire Trail* is carried by Orinda Books, Rakestraw Books in Danville, Amazon and the Berkeley Historical Society. Author proceeds from all her novels are given to charities including Children's Hospital of Oakland. Visit www.Christine-Sunderland.com for more information.

◆ CARS from page 7

member of the board for the Ferrari Club of America, Pacific Region (FCAPR), I help recruit members to attend," said Peggs. "I include advertisements for the event in our FCAPR newsletter and website. I live in Orinda and enjoy supporting charities benefiting our residents."

Peggs likes the Orinda car show because, "there is a great variety of cars from classics, muscle cars, exotics and motorcycles. It's not too big and not too small." One of the benefits of attending the car show is meeting with vehicle owners. "The event attracts a lot of folks from the East Bay who are interested in seeing the cars as well as

asking questions," said Peggs.

The weekend kicks off on Sept. 9 with a pre-party dinner at the Orinda Country Club produced by Orinda Rotary. The main event of the car show is Sept. 10 in Orinda Village starting at 10 a.m. and taking over the streets around Orinda Motors. The rolling exhibit of Ferraris will be arriving at 1 p.m.

Founded by Chip Herman and presented by Orinda Motors, the Orinda Classic Car Show is not to be missed. "The show would not happen without Chip's leadership," said Peggs.

Registration is still open. To register, visit www.orindacarshow.com/bring-your-classic-to-the-show. For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) **Megan Lewis, Veronika Pisten, Charlotte Houston** and **Loryn Nieto** will be seniors this fall at Miramonte High School

Writing Program Helps Teen and Tween Girls Find Their Voice

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Loryn Nieto, a 17-year-old student, says the Intuitive Writing Project has affected her in many amazing ways. "I've learned to be true to myself and to know my worth," says Nieto. "As a teenage girl, things can be pretty tough and confusing. This class teaches you how to get clarity through writing."

Elizabeth Perlman, who founded the program in Orinda in 2013, says that outcome is what she strives for. Perlman started the program as a non-profit and has developed a 12-week module for high school girls to "find their voice."

"The Intuitive Writing Project facilitates

curriculum-based empowerment programs for teenage girls," explains Perlman. "We teach leadership from the inside out, creating a safe space for girls to tell their story, speak their truth and realize the value of their own intuitive voice. Through the experience of writing, sharing and connecting with their peers, girls develop their confidence and discover their strengths."

Perlman says that during her teens and beyond she felt pressure to conform to those around her. It took her many years to find her unique strengths and value herself. She wants to pass along how it came about — through writing. "We focus on creative writing. Girls tell me this is the only place they feel safe to be themselves and that

[SEE IWP page 23]

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Everyday Changes 2016: The Year of Ageless Beauty

Bonnie Waters



Here we are in August and two-thirds of the way through 2016. Your personal odometer is, or will soon be clicking over another year. Let me wax poetic as I ask, "What is age but a number when it comes to beauty?"

According to award-winning beauty blogger Fiona Klonarides, 2016 is the Year of Ageless Beauty. Mature faces are gracing the ads for many major beauty campaigns. Susan Sarandon, the face of L'Oreal Paris, makes 69 years look youthful. And also, who can refute the ageless beauty of Sophia Lauren for Dolce and Gabbana? I agree with Klonarides when she says that the older woman has gone from invisible to iconic.

Some changes of aging are inevitable. Others are not and necessitate a diligent skincare regime. Ageless beauty is not necessarily effortless beauty.

Believe in the Supernatural – When it comes to anti-aging products, botanicals are the supernaturals in the skincare arena.

What's Old is New Again – Botanicals have been in use since the beginning of time, from therapeutic and medicinal purposes to cosmetics and skincare. Various plants used in medical treatments in ancient

civilizations are still used today in cleansers, moisturizers, astringents and other skin care products to support the health, texture and integrity of the skin.

What's Old is Young Again – Even if you were a sun goddess in the past, with all the breakthroughs in facial treatments, skincare products and cosmetics, it is almost possible to turn back the clock on aging.

Team Recommendations for Ageless Beauty – I polled our knowledgeable esthetics experts for their suggestions for ageless beauty. Without exception, these lovely ladies agreed that staying uber-hydrated, eating a healthy diet and using a customized skincare routine, including sunscreen, were the most important factors in attaining ageless beauty. They also agreed that Cosmedix Radiance is an ageless beauty favorite and includes a plethora of supernatural ingredients to rejuvenate damaged, maturing and menopausal skin.

Don't be Invisible, Be Iconic – Get going, get educated. Update your beauty regime and remember that ageless beauty is its own reward. Here's to a beautiful last one-third of 2016. May your life be beautiful in every sense of the word.

Fitness Tip of the Month

Things Either Click or They Don't

Having the best teacher or coach and having the best plan or approach to reaching your goals is only half of what you need to actually achieve them.

We can follow all of the instructions and do everything we are supposed to do but until we convince ourselves that this is the best way....we are only going through the motions.

Keep practicing while consciously recognizing what "following the plan and the coach" is doing for you, and one day, hopefully, it will just CLICK.



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

Lamorinda Idol Winners – Where Are They Now?

Over the last 11 years of Lamorinda Idol, there have been many very special performers. Many local residents have asked, "Where are they now?" Here's an update on some of the past winners and finalists.

Elliot Taylor, high school winner in 2006, pursued an acting and singing career.

Ben Freeman, high school winner in 2007, graduated from Tufts where he majored in musical composition, and then headed off to New York City with the career goal of cabaret singing combined with teaching. In 2015 he released his album, *Providence*.

Sarah Ames, high school winner 2008, made it to the Hollywood round of American Idol and then pursued her singing career in Nashville.

Suvi Gluskin, group winner in 2008, attended Carnegie Mellon majoring in classical voice.

Erica Henningson, high school winner 2009, in 2015 was cast as Fantine in *Les Miserables* on Broadway.

Neris Newton, winner in various categories in 2007, 2009 and 2010, graduated from NYU in 2016.

Jacqueline Garell, winner in various categories in 2006, 2009 and 2010 graduated from USC in 2015, where she was a member of the a cappella group, *Troy Tones*, and is working in Los Angeles.

Isabelle Johannesen, as a member of *Urban Flare*, was the winner in the

grades 6-12 group category in 2012, and has toured with *Zendaya* as a back-up singer.

Sabrina Chaco and Isaac Taylor, also members of *Urban Flare*, appeared on *The Sing Off* in December 2013 as members of *Vocal Rush*.

Amrita Newton, winner in various categories in 2007, 2009 and 2010, is currently a junior at UCLA and is musical director of *Scattertones*, a UCLA a cappella group.

Maritza Grillo, winner in various categories in 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013 is now a junior at Yale where she is on the soccer team.

Tosca Maltzman, winner in various categories in 2012, 2013 and 2014, is in the home of great American music, New Orleans, where she is a sophomore at Tulane.

Paige Powell, group winner in 2010 and multi-year Finalist, is now a junior at USC, where she is studying music industry and writing as a music journalist for *LA Entertainment News*.

Lucy Clearwater, winner in the high school category in 2014, is pursuing her career as a singer/songwriter in Los Angeles.

Eleanor Roeder, winner in 2012 and Idol Finalist for many years, is a freshman at Northwestern University, where she is double majoring in theatre and chemistry.

Jesse Epstein, multiple-year Finalist, is a freshman at Pace University majoring in musical theater.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

how they are received.” Catering and special events are available at Reem’s Steaks.

Masarweh earned a doctorate in chemical engineering in his native Jordan, where he served as chief inspector of public health in that country before immigrating to the United States. “With my background in food processing as a chemical engineer, we have very high standards in our restaurants,” he points out. “As a first generation immigrant, we work very hard for our children.”

Married to his wife Reem for 16 years, the couple has two daughters, 15-year-old Natalie and 11-year-old Nicole. Previously a restaurant manager herself, Reem is a full-time homemaker with Alex managing the family’s restaurants, a 24/7 proposition.

Reem’s Steaks is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information or to



Jeff Brody at his Orinda shop, The Jeff Brody Collection.

◆ IWP from page 21

this is the only time during the week they don’t feel stressed out about school,” says Perlman. “The Intuitive Writing Project is their creative refuge.”

Sarah Inouye says she was “pretty unconfident” for the first 12 years of her life. “I had no idea I could be who I was, but Elizabeth showed me how,” said Inouye. “The most atom-splitting, volcanic explosive thing she has done for me, and all the girls, is to give us a voice.”

Parent Rachel Fields says her daughter looks forward to the class all week. “It is making a real and huge difference in her life,” said Fields. “It’s remarkable how she’s found her voice. She is forever changed and expanded.”

Girls read their stories at a recent fundraising event. “Parents were moved and inspired, saying it was powerful and that they were all blown away by the honesty and eloquence of the writing,” says Perlman, who uses the Amherst Artists and Writers method in her classes. “It emphasizes that every person is a writer and every writer deserves a safe environment in which to experiment, learn, and develop the craft. Within the structure of an unconditionally positive, supportive environment, girls gain the courage and clarity they need to develop their talents and plot their own path.”

The writing classes are held at the Educational Boutique, 2 Theater Square, Suite 135, Orinda. There is also a “tween” program for girls aged 11 to 13 and a class for women.

“This offers women the time and space they need to connect to their hearts and find their own answers,” says Perlman. “For all ages, we believe in the transformative power of telling your story and having it heard.”

For information, including class times and how to sign up, visit www.intuitivewritingproject.org.

order take-out, call 925-253-2004.

The Jeff Brody Collection, An Old Time Coin Shop

Native Orindan Jeff Brody has returned to establish his own coin shop, located at 31 Moraga Way, across the street from the Orinda Theatre and adjacent to Bank of the West. Offering free appraisals, Brody buys and sells coins, silver and gold bullion and silver jewelry. Coins are available here as low as 25 cents for children who are collecting.

“In this hobby, knowledge is power. If a person collects in a knowledgeable way, then it is an investment. I have the largest collection of numismatic books in Northern California,” says Brody. “*The Coin Collector’s Survival Manual* is a publication a bright 11-year-old child will appreciate.” Other titles available include *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, commonly referred to as *The Red Book*, *Counterfeit Detection Guide* and many others. Silica gel dehumidifiers are available here as well. “Humidity is bad for coins,” Brody points out.

“Coins are a lot like antiques in that its condition is very important. If you refinish an antique, it loses its value and the same is true with coins that have been cleaned. You never want to clean a coin because it loses value as a result of the cleaning,” says Brody, who has had an interest in coins since 1957 when he first noticed the difference between a Buffalo nickel and a Jefferson nickel in his weekly allowance. Brody is a fountain of knowledge about American coins and is happy to be a resource for his customers.

“It was 1857 when coin collecting took off in the United States, concurrent with changes in coinage. In 1858, the U.S. mint started making proof sets as a result,” he says. Previous to starting his own business, Brody was with Don Rinkor Rare Coins in Santa Rosa. You can check out reviews about Jeff Brody on Yelp. “I believe customers are always right, especially when they are wrong,” smiles Brody.

A 1969 graduate of Miramonte High School, Brody served on the Board of Directors of the Orinda Association during



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Sutter Urgent Care Ribbon Cutting



DAVID DIERKS

Dr. Jeffery Leinen cuts the ribbon at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony for Sutter’s new urgent care facility in Orinda. Located at 12 Camino Encinas, the Urgent Care Center is open Monday - Friday from 5 - 9 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

the early 1980s, supporting the preservation of the Orinda Theatre and the Fourth of July Parade, among other activities. He is a motorcycle enthusiast, having ridden his BMW motorcycle extensively throughout every state in the United States except Hawaii. His journeys included riding nearly every paved highway in Alaska. “Over many years time I collected roads and visited Indian reservations, national parks

and barbecue joints,” he says.

The Jeff Brody Collection is open Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Brody is available Monday through Wednesday by appointment only. For more information, email Brody at thejeffbrodycollection@gmail.com or call 925-257-7080. You may reach Brody on his cell phone at 707-666-5963.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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Smiley Nail Spa

Deena Bui and her husband Linh opened their charming family business this spring, offering nail care, waxing and tinting, as well as shoulder and back massage services in a serene, relaxing environment. Located adjacent to Supercuts at 81 Moraga Way, Suite B, there is ample free parking in the back of the building, which is accessed via Northwood Drive.

Stepping inside Smiley Nail Spa one immediately notices the bright spaciousness of the salon – floor-to-ceiling windows provide abundant sunlight, with hardwood flooring and indoor plants creating clean lines that contribute to good feng shui. Clients may select from green or ginger tea, coffee, water or hot chocolate refreshments.

“The four-step Aroma Deluxe Pedicure

process features organic Voesh spa products, with seven different scents to choose from, including Ocean Refresh, Lavender Relieve, Green Tea Extract, Tangerine, Lemon, Virgin Olive and Pink Grapefruit,” explains Deena Bui. Clients may select either a 10- or 15-minute massage as part of their Aroma Deluxe Pedicure.

“After soaking feet in salt water, we clean the cuticle, then apply a mud masque from the knee down. Then we wrap legs and feet with a hot towel. This process smoothes and heals cracked skin, especially around the heel area. Next, we apply the green tea extract scrub on top of the mud masque, massaging from knee to feet. After that, we wash lower leg and feet clean and massage lotion in.”

Other offerings include Aroma Candle Light Pedicure with either a 10-minute or 15-minute massage, full-service waxing menu and even a kids’ menu of services for



VALERIE HOTZ

Deena Bui owns Smiley Nail Spa with her husband, Linh Bui.

children age 10 years or younger.

A wide selection of nail polishes is available here, including Zoya, OPI and essie, not to mention designers Chanel, Burberry and Dior, which are an additional \$5. Schedule your appointment for Wednesdays, and there is no extra charge for these designer polishes. “With a Natural nail manicure, we add gel polish that lasts 20 days ... and for the birthday special we provide services at half price,” says Bui. On Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bui gives a 10-percent discount.

A native of Vietnam where she grew up on a farm with her grandmother, Bui is an avid gardener and cultivates lemongrass, lettuces and ginger. Deena and Linh have two children, Jack and Jessica. “I enjoy going to the movies and the library with our children at every opportunity,” she says. Previously, the couple owned a salon in Marin before relocating to the East Bay.

Call ahead to schedule an appointment at 925-257-7068. Walk-ins accepted if scheduling permits. For more information, visit the website at www.SmileyNails.net. Smiley Nail Spa is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (the last appointment is at 6:30 p.m.), Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

dishes. “I have known Orinda for a while and really appreciate this community,” says Masarweh. “I have been wondering what was needed here in terms of a new restaurant. Since I did not want to compete with myself, a focus on Philly cheesesteak sandwiches, made with 100 percent sirloin, was the answer.”

The menu also offers Original Chicken Philly, made with 100 percent breast meat, along with Buffalo Chicken Philly, Teriyaki Chicken Philly and Ultimate Chicken Philly, not to mention gourmet hamburgers. Alternative dishes include Fish and Chips, Shrimp and Fish, Caesar Salad, Shrimp Louie Salad and Cranberry Walnut Salad.

“Our plan in the near future is to experiment a little and offer new dishes on the menu to see what our customers prefer,” explains Masarweh. “For example, adding rice and vegetables and some wraps to see

[SEE BUZZ page 23]

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Reem's Steaks Opens at the Crossroads

With Orinda home to numerous excellent restaurants serving everything from American to Italian, Thai, Chinese and Mexican dishes, the one thing missing was a great Philly cheesesteak offering. Enter Reem's Steaks, located at 70 Moraga Way, next door to Edelweiss Cleaners. Recently established by Alex Masarweh, you will find the Original Philly cheesesteak sandwich, along with several other mouth-watering variations.

Masarweh is a longtime owner of what has become an Orinda icon, Petra Café, offering classic Greek and Mediterranean



VALERIE HOTZ

Reem's Steaks at 70 Moraga Way offers an Original Philly cheesesteak sandwich plus much more.

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