



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 33, Number 8

Published by The Orinda Association
Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
August 2018

Orinda Receives Its Own Stamp

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

On July 4 while Orindans paraded in honor of America's birthday, the United States Postal Service released a sheet of 20 stamps celebrating the country's vast natural beauty and grandeur, one of which includes a bright sunrise near Orinda. The "O Beautiful Forever" stamps feature majestic landscape photographs of the United States to visually represent one of the nation's favorite and most popular songs, *America the Beautiful*.

The stamps were dedicated in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 7:30 p.m. MDT in Memorial Park as part of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic's July 4th Event –

Summer Symphony.

"As we celebrate American's 242nd birthday, the United States Postal Service shines a spotlight on our country's unparalleled natural beauty with a pane of 20 stamps that corresponds with one of the nation's most beloved songs," said U.S. Postal Service Colorado Wyoming District Manager Kevin Romero. Each stamp features a photograph that helps illustrate one of five phrases from the song's famous first verse: "Spacious Skies," "Waves of Grain," "Mountain Majesties," "The Fruited Plain," and "Sea to Shining Sea." Each of the five phrases appears to the left of the row of stamps to which it applies.

According to the United States Postal [SEE STAMP page 16]



GARY CRABBE

The United States Postal Service released the "O Beautiful Forever" stamp sheet on July 4, including this one of the verdant Orinda hills at sunrise.

Gear Up Your Enthusiasm as Car Show Nears



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This 1972 Chevrolet B21 will be featured as part of the Vintage and Historically Significant Race Car exhibition at Orinda's Classic Car Show on Sept. 8.

By SALLY HOGARTY and
KEN HOGARTY
Staff Writers

On Saturday, Sept. 8 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Orinda will host its 14th Annual Classic Car Show. This free event, which continues to delight car fans of all ages, benefits The Orinda Association's "Seniors

Around Town" transportation service, the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and other local causes.

Over the last 13 years, the event has centered on efforts to raise more than \$525,000 for local charities. In 2005, Orinda resident Chip Herman and John Vanek, backed by Orinda Motors, partnered together to start the Orinda Classic Car Show as a way to bring together the local classic car community and to raise money for local charities.

An 11-year Orinda resident, Mike Robinson has always loved cars and feels helping out with the car show is a great way to share his love of cars with other enthusiasts while helping local nonprofits at the same time.

"I met Chip during the fifth year of the car show when I entered my car, a bright red 1970 Buick Grand Sport convertible, one of the classic muscle cars," Robinson explains. "I saw Chip scurrying around doing all kinds of things, and I asked him if he needed any help. I'm not sure I helped him much that year, but I did get a phone call the next year and have been involved ever since. It is neat how the show allows people to connect."

A highlight of this year's show is the Vintage and Historically Significant Race Cars. Coordinated by Orinda resident David Alvarado, the exhibit will include

[SEE CAR SHOW page 19]

Issue of Private Road Maintenance Hits Roadblock

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

At the July 10 City Council meeting, the council received a staff report on the formation of a Private Roads Task Force that would meet with residents and analyze alternatives in which the city might repair existing private roads. After review and hearing public comments, City Councilmember Dean Orr, Mayor Amy Worth and Vice Mayor Inga Miller voted to not proceed with the task force. City Councilmember Darlene Gee voted for the task force and City Councilmember Eve Phillips abstained because she lives on a private street.

The amount of money in staff and City

Attorney costs, as well fees associated with hiring a professional facilitator, were cited as primary reasons for not going forward. "The additional information in the staff report, makes it clear that this is beyond our very fragile budget," said Mayor Amy Worth. "I wish we could provide the additional services that people want, but our budgets don't even allow us to provide the public services we want to do. I encourage the staff to continue to work with residents of private streets who are interested in working within our existing policy."

Councilmember Dean Orr, who had previously been in favor of a task force, had hoped that "the staff report would come back with some way around the financial

[SEE MAINTENANCE page 3]

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The 14th Annual
Orinda Classic Car Show
Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 7th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"



American Graffiti

Our all-inclusive event kicks-off the Classic Car Show weekend and is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser. Special features include a display of cool cruisers and rad roadsters, souped up to drag the Main! Also enjoy signature cocktails, fabulous food, awesome auction items, and great music!

Space is limited so don't wait. NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.

tix: OrindaCarShow.com

Orinda Motors Presents



The 14th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

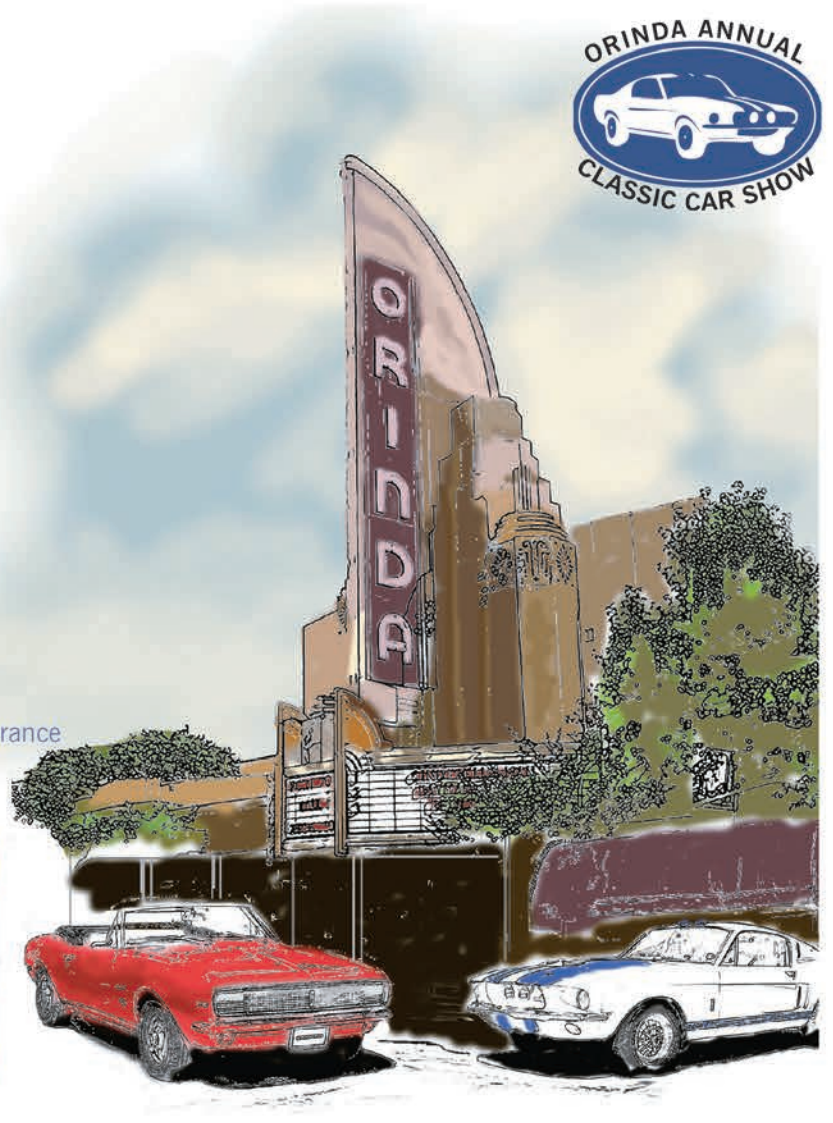
Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 7th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"

Saturday,
September 8th, 10am–3pm
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW Exhibitors' Sponsor **Alliant** Insurance

Entries by mail are now closed. Please go to www.OrindaCarShow.com for current entry information. Join us as a spectator – Admission is FREE!

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

Cruise in a Classic!
Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive.



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

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

Event Schedule

Friday, September 7th, 5:30pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

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

American Graffiti

Our all-inclusive event kicks-off the Classic Car Show weekend and is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser. Special features include a display of cool cruisers and rad roadsters, souped up to drag the Main! Also enjoy signature cocktails, fabulous food, awesome auction items, and great music!

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

Seating is limited, so don't drag your feet! (Drop this line if need room) Proceeds from this event benefit a variety of Orinda non-profits and projects including: the Orinda Association, the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), Orinda Parks and Rec, local arts and the Rotary Club of Orinda, which produces "Dancing with the Cars."

Saturday **Free Admission**
September 8th, 10am - 3pm
14TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

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

- The show will be held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way
- 200 Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- This year's show will feature a Special Exhibit of classic and historically significant race cars. This rare group of cars includes racers driven in competition by Jacques Villeneuve and Bobby Rahal. Car manufacturers will include Ferrari, March, Lola, McLaren and Chevron. There will also be cars from the race teams yet to be announced!
- 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 2018 Car Show T-Shirt

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Orinda Historical Society Museum, The Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation and other local charities.

See a Special Exhibit of Outstanding Classic and Historically Significant Race Cars!



"DANCING WITH THE CARS" PARTY SPONSORS
Presenting Sponsor:



Mechanics Bank

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

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CLASSIC CAR SHOW WEEKEND PIT CREW

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Dan Akol | Anthony Drewitz | Stu Kahn | Dayna and John Sayres |
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| Tom Brzezinski | Chris Hanlon | Tom Pearson | Michele Vasta |
| Betsy and Greg Chovanes | Steve Harwood | Allen Pennebaker | Marie and Bill Waterman |
| Steve Corbitt | Carolyn and Chip Herman | Vince Poehnell | Kate Wiley |
| Bill Cosden | Sally Hogarty | CJ Poloka | Matt Wilson |
| Bill Criswell | Ken Jew | Terry Ranahan | Gary Wong |
| David Dierks | Sylvia Jorgensen | Mike Robinson | Rick Woodward |

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Orinda in August; wish you were
here!



Cindy Powell

The Orinda Association's July 4th parade this year had about 10,000 attendees in my estimation. Our success is due to the support of sponsors and volunteers. Join me in saying "thank you" to our terrific support system!

On Aug. 1, **Startup Day** recognizes the ingenuity, creativity and passion small businesses put into new ventures. The day is a time for connecting entrepreneurs with lawmakers to create policies designed to promote small businesses.

Aug. 2 might be a perfect evening to "ditch the kids" to see *Kindly Keep It Covered* with **Orinda Starlight Village Players**. Swimmers, however, might go to bed early to get ready for the **annual OMPA Championship Swim Meet**, which will be held Aug. 3-5. The best part of the swim meet is all the painted and decorated family vehicles around town.

Aug. 3 is **International Beer Day**, started in San Francisco to celebrate the art and science of brewing beer. Participate by brewing your own beer.

Wrap up the weekend on Aug. 5 with **Friendship Day**. Winnie the Pooh was

named the world's Ambassador of Friendship 20 years ago to encourage acceptance of circumstances or customs of our local, national and regional communities

On Aug. 7, socialize with your neighbors at **National Night Out**, a campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. We have safe neighborhoods because we work together. Or head to the Orinda Park for the last of the summer concerts on Aug. 7 and 14.

Aug. 9 is **Book Lovers' Day**, to encourage you to pick up a book and spend the day reading. Reading can help reduce stress, keep your brain sharp and help you sleep better. Or head over to the cool Orinda Theatre for *The Wizard of Oz*, the good version from 1939, for free at 6:30. Maybe, you can grab some dinner from the Thursday night Food Trucks in front of the Community Center, especially if you choose to settle in for the Movie in the Park, *Wonder*, at dusk. Pace yourself on the popcorn!

Aug. 18 is the **NorCal Kids Triathlon**. The events are appropriate for the age and

[SEE PRESIDENT page 14]

◆ **MAINTENANCE** from page 1

obstacles, but instead it found even more problems so I'm not in favor of moving on with a task force."

Vice Mayor Inga Miller concurred adding "I don't regret that we have looked into this, but as a steward of the City, I can't support spending money on a task force when, at the end, I don't think we could do beyond what we are doing now."

Councilmember Darlene Gee, on the other hand, felt a "full-blown conversation" with residents of private streets was important. "I'm supportive of having a professional facilitator and minimize the number of hours for staff and the City Attorney," she said. "Twenty percent of our population lives on private streets, and I've been amazed by some of the very creative ideas and research of those residents. I understand the pitfalls, but this topic deserves the light of a bigger conversation."

Members of the public in attendance were frustrated by the staff report, some noting as one of the 1,200 families on private roads, they felt like second-class citizens. Joe Libove, a resident of Canyon

View (a private road) noted how in 1998, a culvert on Diablo View (a public road) clogged and eventually resulted in a large landslide that blocked Canyon View and caused extensive damage. "Instead of fixing it, the City wrote us letters saying we were at fault and demanded we fix it," recalled Libove. "It was only after we threatened to go to the Contra Costa Grand Jury that the City did anything. That wouldn't have happened if we were a public road."

For many months, residents living on private roads have appeared before the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Committee and spoken during the public forum at City Council meetings, urging officials to look at incorporating Orinda's 30.2 miles of private roads into the City's list of publicly maintained roads. Currently, the city maintains 93 miles of public roads. The City Council addressed the issue at its April 10 meeting where it requested staff to draft a framework for the task force. That report was presented at the July 10 meeting.

To view the staff report, go to www.cityoforinda.com, click on City Council and go to Archived City Council Meeting Information.

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.

P.O. Box 97
26 Orinda Way (Lower Level Library)
Orinda, California 94563
Phone: 254-0800
www.OrindaAssociation.org



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City Council Liaison Inga Miller

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Chris Laszcz-Davis
Jim Luini – Board Member Emeritus

BASU Donates Alarms for Seniors



SALLY HOGARTY

Kate Wiley (far left) and Cathy Goshorn (center left) of The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town (SAT) received a donation of personal alarms from the Orinda-based company, BASU. Shown with Wiley and Goshorn are BASU Associates Jessica Berkley (center right) and Libby Cha (far right). The personal alarms, which have a lifetime warranty, emit a piercing alarm when the pin is pulled to deter a criminal, as an animal repellent or as a rescue signal. Unlike Mace, it can be carried on airplanes. "These devices will be very helpful for the seniors we help with transportation needs through SAT," says Goshorn.

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Laura Abrams

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What's
On Deck
With
Parks &
Rec!

Aug. 6-10 – Space available in OK Camp, Incrediflix Camp, Mad Science Camp

Aug 7 – Free Concert in the Park, Little Dog 2, 6:30-8:30pm

Aug 9 – Free Movie in the Park, Wonder, begins at dusk

Aug 13-17 - Space available in OK Camp, Soccer Camp, Decoration Making Camp

Aug 13 – Deadline to Register for Orinda Youth Fall Soccer, for grades Pre-K through 8th

Aug 14 – Free Concert in the Park, Floorshakers, 6:30-8:30pm



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445
www.OrindaParksandRec.org
OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org
28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center
Administrative Office Hours – Monday – Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

Letters to the Editor...

Volunteers with Senior Ride Program Outstanding

Seniors Around Town is a valuable and greatly appreciated service to this nonagenarian and Orinda seniors who are no longer driving. The quality of service from this volunteer group is outstanding, along with their caring and helpful attitudes. The staff promptly and cheerfully responds to our requests for rides to destinations with varied timings that are sometimes challenging.

Seniors Around Town is almost unbelievable to not only we who ride but others who learn of this service for Orinda seniors. Volunteer drivers arrive at our residence on time, help us into their fine autos, caring for our safety, our canes or walkers, and other belongings and deliver us to our destination. There they accompany us or stand by, per our preference, and return us safely back to our home. All of this – their help, time, and expense – is kindly and freely given!

Added blessings are the visits and interesting conversations we enjoy with these willing and caring Orinda volunteers. On behalf of we who so need and appreciate this great help with our transportation, a big Thank You!

– Mildred B. Salmon

Everyone Needs to Find a Sabbath

In light of all the sadness in the world and the acute recent reminders that money and fame do not a happy person make, I encourage us to – find a sabbath.

Find a non-competitive community with folks of different ages. Find a time of reset. Find a time of rest. Rest from your devices.

I don't care if it is a yoga group, sufi za-wiya, temple, mosque, church or cathedral of trees. Find a sabbath. It can be any day of the week.

Find a time in which you are reflective, with no electronics around. And find a community – a non-competitive community with people of various ages to hang around with. (Better if it is not competitive, because we are so competitive every day anyway.)

It's helpful for perspective to have friends who are four and who are 94. With the displacement of families far from their families of origin, we need to connect to people of different generations – to grandmother our kids and support us like extra aunts. And to remind us that life does go on.

Just my two cents as we enter the season where parents of four year olds are puffed up at the pool. (I buy into this culture too.)

My sabbath includes singing, being Director of Women's and Youth Ministries at Orinda Community Church and gathering with Women of Spirit, a collective of women seeking connection on their spiritual journeys.

– Leslie Darwin O'Brien

Orinda's Unique General Plan

The experience of serving on a few Orinda commissions and committees over the years has provided a great respect and admiration for the volunteers and city officials who established our General Plan. Our city was incorporated July 1, 1985, and the General Plan was adopted shortly after on May 20, 1987.

The General Plan Committee was comprised of 23 individuals, all volunteers. There was also a liaison to the General Plan committee, along with the City Manager, Planning Director, City Council, and the Planning Commission, for a total of 52 individuals.

The General Plan is all about local control. It provides a policy framework for development, open spaces, and preserving "semi rural character." It emphasizes the importance of semi rural values. This feeling stemmed from a widely accepted desire to preserve the quality of the natural environment we enjoy in Orinda. The timing was crucial, due to the extreme regional pressure for more intensive development and re-development of the community.

We are fortunate the General Plan committee, other volunteers, and government officials were thorough and successful. Thanks to their efforts, we enjoy a wonderful community. The General Plan allows for limited development that is in harmony and in accordance with its policies. All of us have a responsibility to preserve, protect and enforce its policies. Further information can be found at: <https://www.cityof-orinda.org/153/Planning-Department>.

– Chris Kniel

A Huge Grant for Orinda

The Orinda City Council, on June 19, 2018, voted to award a large contract related to the city's Downtown Orinda Streetscape Master Plan. The contract was awarded the the Eisen/Letunic firm of Berkeley (*The Orinda News*, July 2018).

The contract provides funds for enhancing downtown Orinda.

The plan, according to Drummond Buckley, Orinda's planning director, "... will cost \$250,000, which comes from grant funding through CCTA [Contra Costa Transportation Authority] and BART [Bay Area Rapid Transit.]" Mr. Buckley added, "In addition, \$50,000 in matching funds by the City of Orinda will be applied toward some combination of staff time, contract staff and optional tasks." Buckley's comments came in a June 12, 2018, e-mail.

Voting for the Streetscape contract were City Councilmembers Amy Worth, Inga Miller, Darlene Gee and Dean Orr. Voting against the plan was Eve Phillips, also a City Councilmember.

A February 6, 2018, document from the City of Orinda states that Streetscape "... is a first step in a series of planning efforts



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intended to enhance downtown."

A key question is: Why are CCTA, BART and the City of Orinda spending \$300,000 (\$250,000 from CCTA and BART and \$50,000 from Orinda) for an enhanced downtown? Perhaps an enhanced downtown is needed. However, Orinda's residents may have other priorities.

Was the Streetscape-related contract awarded simply because grant money was available?

Why wasn't the \$300,000 given directly to Orinda for the city to use as it sees fit?

Another questions is: Why was \$300,000 collected from taxpayers in the first place?

Orinda has terrible roads. Several bal-

lot measures in 2012, 2014 and 2016 were passed to provide funds to fix the roads. The cost of road repair could have been lowered if all the money designated for the Streetscape contract were given directly to Orinda.

Alternatively, Orinda residents (and residents elsewhere), might have an extra \$300,000 in their possession if there were no tax collections providing the \$300,000. With some extra money in their pockets, Orindans might vote to tax themselves for needed city projects – projects involving the Orinda public schools or the Orinda Public Library.

[SEE LETTERS page 18]

The Orinda News prints 9,000 copies and is published 12 times a year by The Orinda Association. The office is located at 26 Orinda Way (lower level of the Library). All rights reserved. The publication is sent out by direct mail (Permit #4, Orinda Post Office) and distributed to key locations throughout the city.

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 Printing.....Folger Graphics

The Orinda News

A Publication of
 The Orinda Association
 Mailing Address
 P.O. Box 97
 Orinda, California 94563
 Telephone: 925 254-0800

www.orindanews.org

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to Editor for the September issue are due August 8, 2018.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the September issue is August 8, 2018.

ROADS / CAR TIME

OPINION

Orinda Roads - Part One

Introduction

Over the past few years, starting in 2012, the quality of Orinda's roads has increased dramatically. This was made possible by the taxpayers voting for \$75 million of new taxes, dedicated to rehabilitating Orinda's 64 miles of Publicly Maintained Residential Streets. What is missing from the story, however, is that there are another 30 miles of streets which the City has abandoned, forcing the residents on those streets to either maintain the roads themselves or allow them to deteriorate, just like the City allowed its own streets to deteriorate before 2012.

These 30 miles of streets, home to 1,500 Orinda families (20 percent of Orinda) are euphemistically called "Private" Streets. In reality, the only thing private about most of them is the source of funding for their maintenance.

When Orinda was developed, some roads were granted public status while others were not. In some cases one part of a road was given public status, and funding, while another part was denied the public benefit. Over almost 100 years of Orinda's development, there has been no consistent policy for how roads become public or not. These ostracized roads were labeled "private," which gives them an aura of exclusivity when, in truth, they are no different than their publicly funded counterparts. A better name for these streets would be Orphan Streets.

What are the differences between the Publicly Funded Residential Streets and the Orphan Streets? Virtually none.

- 90 percent (27 miles) of the Orphan Streets are cul-de-sacs providing access to the residents living on those streets, their service providers (including pub-

lic services like police, fire, ambulance, utilities, mail, etc.) and their guests.

- These are indistinguishable from the 27 miles of the Publicly Funded Residential Streets that are also cul-de-sacs or "loop" streets, providing the same access to the residents living on those streets.
- The residents living on the Orphan Streets and the Publicly Funded Residential Streets all pay the same taxes.
- The only difference between the two is that the residents of the Publicly Funded Streets receive the benefits of those taxes while the residents of the Orphan Streets receive none.

Where are these taxes dedicated to the Publicly Funded Residential Streets spent and who pays for them?

- \$1 million annually from a special half-cent sales tax.
- \$3.3 million per year for the next 20 years to repay \$45 million in bonds.
- And starting in 2020, an additional \$1.5 million annually for maintenance.

That totals \$5.8 million per year. Every family in Orinda, including those living on Orphan Streets, pays \$800 annually to provide that benefit, but only those living on the Publicly Funded Residential Streets receive it.

It has been stated that it is proper that we all pay to support the Publicly Funded Residential Streets because we all use them. But this is not true.

- 27 miles, or 40 percent, of the Publicly Funded Residential Streets, are cul-de-sacs and loops which only serve the people living on them.
- 50 percent of the Orphan Streets feed directly into the City's Arterials and

[SEE ROADS page 12]

CAR TIME

Motorists Beware!



By JOHN VANEK

The world of auto repair is all about trust. When having your vehicle serviced, you want to be able to trust the people at the facility working on it. Trust that they have the skills and experience required. Trust that they will be honest and have integrity. Trust they will use the required effort to get your vehicle back in your hands with the most convenience possible.

It is not hard to find auto repair facilities that do not live up to these examples of trust. Small local family dealerships, for the most part, are gone and have been replaced with corporate conglomerates that own multiple facilities. They sometimes care less about customer relations and more about profits. Some of these businesses pay their service staff and technicians on commission, which can translate to dishonest business.

For years, I have heard from people who agreed to repairs that were not required. I have also had customers call and ask why another facility recommended they replace their brakes much sooner than seemed necessary. I've asked them to come in and let our technicians at Orinda Motors re-check the brakes and often found that the brake linings had 40-50 percent wear remaining.

Our goal at our shop is to keep our customers safe and their vehicles reliable. We like to let our customers know the actual urgency level and let them decide how it works for their budget. If there is an option, customers should know about it. Rubber bushings with minor hairline cracks are not urgent, but some repair shops try to sell the repair to the vehicle owner or recommend

a transmission replacement when only the correct fluid was needed.

Just remember that no licensed repair facility is supposed to perform any kind of service on your vehicle without your permission, regardless of whether the service or inspection is free. You are also in charge when you take your vehicle in for warranty work. Be aware of what is going on. They do not have the right to be doing inspections you do not want. Warranty work should not be the dealer's way of getting repairs that are not under warranty. Do not be afraid to question any repairs or service suggested. As usual, be a good consumer of auto repair.

You can reach Vanek at John@orindamotors.com.

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POLICE

Orinda Police Department Will Soon Have Public Safety Drone

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

While helicopters have long been used as an important tool by police and fire departments, drones are one of the latest devices currently being embraced by law enforcement and fire personnel.

“Drones are an essential component to helping our officers enforce the law and protect lives,” says Orinda’s Police Chief Mark Nagel. “Not only can a bird’s-eye view enable a police officer to gain a quick understanding of the scope of a situation, but drones are highly versatile. Stored in the trunk of a police cruiser, a drone can be deployed immediately and from just about anywhere. They can also access areas that helicopters cannot, and in the event of a fire or an active shooter situation, this is critical.”

To that end, Police Officer Joe Ladner recently received training as a drone pilot, and Orinda resident Ginny Hair launched a Go Fund Me account that netted the initial funds to purchase a drone. “We have an



Orinda Police Officer **Joseph Ladner** with his personal drone he uses for practice. Officer Ladner has completed training to become the drone pilot for the Orinda Police Department.

incredibly committed police department, and I wanted to help them get the gear they need to do their job in the most effective way possible,” says Hair, the mother of Police Cadet Adam Epstein, a senior at Miramonte High School.

Officer Ladner, who has been in law enforcement since 2001 and with the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Department since 2012, embraces the new technology.

“The helicopter is a great tool, and we’re lucky to have one in Contra Costa, but it’s at Buchanan Air Field in Concord. It takes time to get it in the air where we need it, and because there isn’t a pilot at Buchanan 24/7, sometimes you have to wait for someone to drive there as well,” Ladner explains.

He also notes that a helicopter costs \$4 million and an additional \$700/per hour [SEE DRONE page 16]



POLICE BLOTTER

May 27 through July 14, 2018

Calls for Service

- 911 Hangup: 20 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 2 incidents.
- Accident Injury: 2 incidents.
- Accident Property: 16 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 172 incidents.
- Animal Cruelty: 1 incident.
- Barking Dog: 4 incidents.
- Battery: 2 incidents.
- Burglary, Auto: 10 incidents.
- Burglary, Commercial: 2 incidents.
- Burglary, Miscellaneous: 2 incidents.
- Burglary, Residential: 1 incident.
- Civil Matter: 18 incidents.
- CVC Moving Violation: 203 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 124 incidents.
- Death Non Criminal: 2 incidents.
- Disturbing the Peace: 7 incidents.
- Fire/EMS Response Info: 1 incident.
- Fireworks: 3 incidents.
- Forgery: 3 incidents.
- Found Property: 1 incident.
- Fraud Credit Card: 1 incident.
- Fraud False Pretenses: 1 incident.
- Grand Theft: 1 incident.
- Grand Theft from Building: 1 incident.
- Health & Safety Violation: 1 incident.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 3 incidents.
- Identity Theft: 10 incidents.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 7 incidents.
- Litter: 2 incidents.
- Lost Property: 4 incidents.
- Loud Music: 6 incidents.
- Loud Noise: 9 incidents.
- Loud Party: 11 incidents.
- Medical Hospital: 12 incidents.
- Missing Adult: 1 incident.
- Motorist Assist: 2 incidents.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 6 incidents.
- Ordinance Violation: 22 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 50 incidents.
- Panhandling: 1 incident.
- Parking Detail: 179 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 79 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 5 incidents.
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 6 incidents.
- Phone Harass: 1 incident.
- Public Assembly Check: 12 incidents.
- Public Nuisance: 4 incidents.
- Reckless Driving: 34 incidents.

- School Check: 6 incidents.
- Security Check: 40 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 177 incidents.
- Shoplift: 1 incident.
- Shots Heard: 4 incidents.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 22 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 19 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 28 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 9 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 28 incidents.
- Tow: 10 incidents.
- Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 3 incidents.
- Traffic Control: 2 incidents.
- Traffic Hazard: 20 incidents.
- Trespass: 1 incident.
- Unwanted Guest: 2 incidents.
- Vacation House Check: 130 incidents.
- Vandalism: 5 incidents.
- Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 1 incident.
- Vehicle Theft: 4 incidents.
- Verbal Dispute: 3 incidents.
- Violation Restraining Order: 1 incident.
- Walk Through: 1 incident.
- Welfare Check: 26 incidents.

Arrest

- Battery: 1 arrest.
- Burglary, Commercial: 1 arrest.
- Burglary, Residential: 1 arrest.
- Drunk in Public: 1 arrest.
- DUI Misdemeanor: 3 arrests.
- Embezzlement: 1 arrest.
- Panhandling: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Burglary Tools: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Controlled Substance: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Stolen Property: 2 arrests.
- Shoplifting: 2 arrests.
- Warrant Arrest: 9 arrests.

BART Statistics

- Stolen Bicycle: 1 incident.

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

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SCHOOLS

Orinda Union School District Begins Classes Aug. 22

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

In an effort to keep parents and students up-to-date on the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) and the upcoming 2018-19 school year, *The Orinda News* sent Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Seaton a series of questions. Her responses follow.

Professional Development

Supporting and developing world-class instruction is a hallmark of OUSD. To that end, there are three professional development days available for all teachers prior to the start of school: August 15, 16 and 20.

On August 15 and 16, OUSD will be offering training for all teachers in a variety of areas including literacy, math, technology integration and other STEAM topics (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics). In addition, OUSD is providing a "New Teacher Boot Camp" to support teachers new to OUSD in understanding the district's signature practices for teaching reading, writing and mathematics.

Student Safety and Wellness

Orinda Schools are focused on educating

the whole child. Framing the district's work for the 2018-2019 year is the mantra "What You Do Matters." OUSD's Curriculum Committee has developed a more comprehensive and cohesive Character Education Framework that emphasizes strong character traits for all students throughout the school year. Also included in the focus on educating the whole child is a strong emphasis on promoting the health and safety of all students. OUSD thanks all four elementary school Parent Clubs for their partnership in funding K-5 counseling services in the upcoming school year.

As the safety of students is the OUSD's highest priority, all staff will participate in training on Aug. 20 focused on responding to an armed intruder on campus. OUSD Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Seaton and Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel are partnering to provide training that will incorporate resources from Sandy Hook Promise, a non-profit founded and led by family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012.

Another measure to improve the safety of our school campuses was the recent approval by the OUSD Board to purchase and install two water storage tanks, each with

Miramonte Students Begin Classes Aug. 20 – Registration Aug. 1

According to Amy McNamara, Associate Superintendent – Administrative Services for the Acalanes Union High School District, the district opens on Aug. 1 for registration and residency. "We are looking forward to a great 2018-2019 school year," she says. "Returning 10th – 12th grade students can now do online registration and residency verifica-

tion. Parents should visit their school's website for more information and detailed instructions."

Teachers report back to their sites for meetings and professional development on August 16, and school for all students begins on Monday, August 20.

– Bill O'Brian, Staff Writer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Glorietta Elementary School's new principal Tracey Lewis with her husband, Kerry Rooney, and sons Liam (left) and Kaelin (right).

nearly 10,000 gallons of capacity. Based on the recommendation of MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker, one tank will be placed at Sleepy Hollow Elementary, and the other at Wagner Ranch Elementary as these are the two schools at greatest risk for a wildfire.

Welcome Tracey Lewis to Glorietta

The OUSD Board of Trustees approved the hiring of Tracey Lewis to be the new principal of Glorietta Elementary School. The District held a rigorous interview

process that involved parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and included a visit to Glorietta classrooms. Lewis rose to the top of a competitive field of highly qualified candidates and joins Glorietta with glowing references from parents, staff and supervisors. It is clear from their feedback that Lewis is a passionate, thoughtful and collaborative instructional leader.

Lewis comes to Glorietta Elementary with 28 years of experience in public edu-

[SEE OUSD page 10]

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SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 1 Acalanes Union High School District open for registration.
- 15 Orinda Unified School District professional development day. Also, Aug. 16 and 20.
- 16 Acalanes Union High School District professional development.
- 17 Miramonte High School, Athletic Health Screening
- 20 Miramonte High School, first day of school.
- 21 Holden High School new student orientation.
- 22 Orinda Unified School District first day of school.
- 27 Holden High School first day of school.
- 28 Orinda Academy first day of school.
- 30 Miramonte High School, Back to School night.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net



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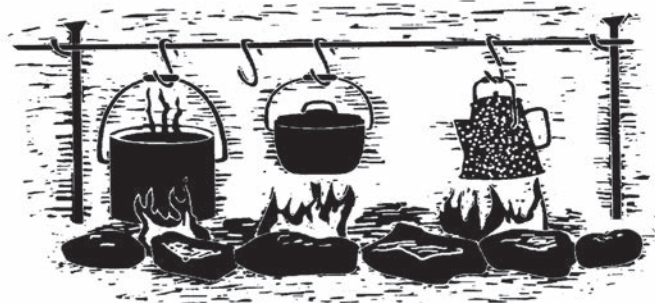
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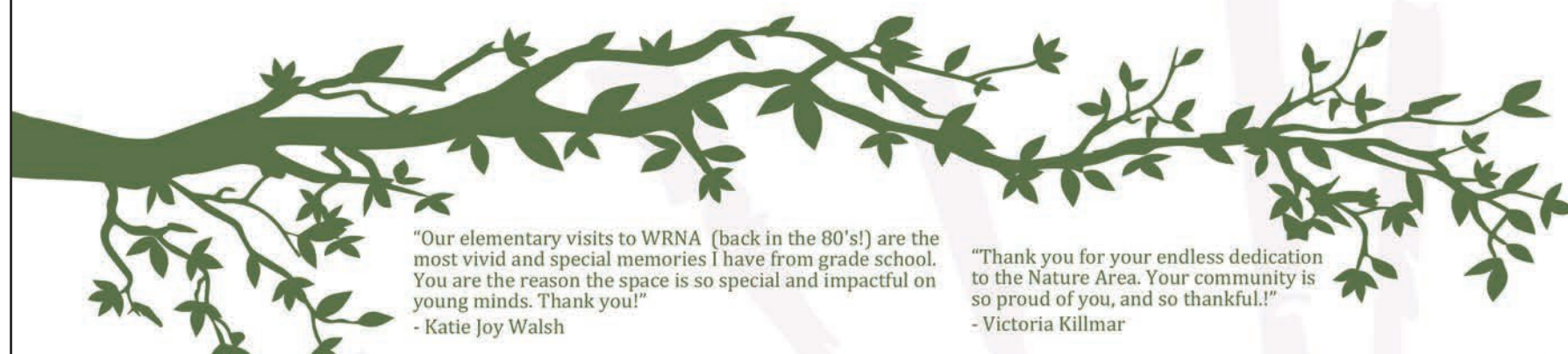


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"Our elementary visits to WRNA (back in the 80's!) are the most vivid and special memories I have from grade school. You are the reason the space is so special and impactful on young minds. Thank you!"
- Katie Joy Walsh

"Thank you for your endless dedication to the Nature Area. Your community is so proud of you, and so thankful!"
- Victoria Killmar

"Thank you for all you have done to create and nurture the nature area! I have wonderful memories from the 80s (!) and I'm so thankful to you for enabling and advocating for those experiences".
- Kersti Peter

"You truly deserve this honor. I also want to send a shout out to Sue Graf and Marty DeJonge who also made the Nature Area amazing and special!"
- Erik Andersen

"We have wonderful memories of doing field trips with you at Wagner Ranch. We're so lucky to have someone as passionate as you help take care of the nature area. Thank you!!"
- The Sherman Family

"You are such a passionate, inspiring human. Thank you for all your years of teaching us."
- Bria Moran

"Thank you for being the strength and vision of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. You have touched the lives of so many children over the past forty years. We are all forever grateful."
- Yasaman Lee

"Thank you for making such a positive difference in my life. The times I spent with you at Wagner Ranch (30 years ago now!) are some of my fondest memories of my youth and I will never forget them."
- Katherine Klabau

"Some of my fondest memories of elementary school were our trips to the Nature Area. I am so lucky my kids get to experience it, too."
- Amy Fischer

"Thank you for all your work making the Nature Area special. Spending time there while attending Wagner Ranch started me a lifelong appreciation of natural beauty."
- Eric Bain

"Thank you for devoting 40 years of your life to teaching so many children and parents about the importance of outdoor education and living history."
- Bekki Gilbert

"Thanks from Mark, Tiona, Ana, Mia, and Drew."
- Mark Lim

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Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 6:00 pm

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Join us as we celebrate Toris Jaeger's 40 years of service to our community as a teacher and volunteer at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. More than 10,000 Orinda children have experienced the hands-on environmental education and social studies programs led by Toris since 1978.

Speakers:

Alex Filippenko

U.C. Berkeley Astrophysicist and Contributor to History Channel's, *The Universe*

Dr. Carolyn Seaton

Orinda Union School District Superintendent

Catharine B. Baker

Assemblywoman, 16th District

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"You opened so many young minds—including mine—to the world outside! I have such fond memories learning from you!"
- Brian Tseng

"I will never forget how you helped us fall in love with adventure, the outdoors, respecting ourselves and the environment. From Native American football to camping, cooking, gathering, and hiking, YOU showed us the world from our backyard."
- Juliana Col

"Thank you for the memories."
- Caroline Cosby Shuford

"Thank you for all that you have done. I have so many wonderful memories of the Nature Area. I am so grateful my children were able to experience it as well."
- Bruce Burkhalter

"I have so many fond memories of my time spent at Wagner Ranch learning fun and non-traditional topics."
- Brian Donovan

"Your dedication to the Nature Area and educating generations of students is amazing. Thank you!"
- Rory Morrison Hunter

"Thank you. You are truly a difference-maker."
- Travis Riddell

"Thank you so much for the amazing learning experiences that we still recall today 30 years later. From the entire Wellington family."
- Stephen Wellington

"It's been 30+ years since we (my two sisters and I) were lucky enough to have you as an outdoor educator. You have left an indelible mark on everyone you've taught. Thank you!"
- Cathy Choi Enomoto

"Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to enriching the lives of children all these years. I will always cherish the vivid memories I have of spending time with you and my classmates at the nature area. Now, more than ever, children need to experience, connect with and learn from nature. I hope your legacy will live on in Orinda forever."
- Katie Windle McDermid

"Thank you for all you do for the Nature Area. Getting our kids into nature is an important part of their education."
- Krista Mahlberg

"Thank you so much for your years of service! You were such an inspiration to me as a child and I am so glad that both my girls were able to know you!"
- Sonya Ginsburg

"Thank you, Toris, for the lessons you taught me in the 5th grade. I am 26 now and because of your care, and the way you showed me how to value and respect nature, I've carried that wisdom throughout my life."
- Jo Anna Shotiveyaratana

"You are a very special Orinda treasure, and the Nature Area is an institution. I'm so very grateful my children and I have gotten to spend time with and learn from you!"
- Omar Rodriguez

4TH OF JULY

★ And the Winners Are! ★

Patriotic Spirit: Veterans Float
 Youth Musical group: Blue Devils
 Best Musical Group: Orinda Volunteer Marching Band
 Most Entertaining non-musical: Stilt Walkers
 Most Entertaining musical: ALMA Music Group
 Best Giveaway: Mechanics Bank
 Best Newcomer: Taiko Drummers
 Best Costumes: Peter Pan Foundation
 Cutest Float: Lamorinda 4-H Club
 Largest Float – A tie between: OCC & Meadow Pool

Judges: Jinny Rudd, Kathy Enzerink, Cara Cline

Thanks to everyone who entered the parade. You are all winners and together we put together The Best Hometown Parade Ever!



SALLY HOGARTY

These young attendees showed their Independence Day spirit as they cheered on the parade participants.



SALLY HOGARTY

Stilt walkers amazed the crowds with their incredible balance at this year's parade.



SALLY HOGARTY

The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club's annual pancake breakfast has become a favorite way for people to begin their 4th of July celebration.

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JULY 4th 2018

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(L-R) Boy Scouts from Troop 237 Cooper Stern, James Anthony, The Orinda Association Vice President Joe Garvey, Andrew Stern and Andrew Patten.

SALLY HOGARTY

Decorating With Style



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The **Orinda Community Center's Decoration Making campers**, taught by Melissa Karakash and Dora Chacon who were in charge of the 4th of July decorations, created a patriotic photo backdrop of painted stars.

Instagram Photo Winner



JOSSELYN O'NEILL

Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 8063 member **Gilbert Verdugo** became the subject for Josselyn O'Neill's winning Instagram photo, which also netted her a \$100 prize.

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◆ OUSD from page 7

She received her Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from U.C. Berkeley and worked in the San Leandro Unified School District as a teacher, reform coordinator and intervention specialist. Most recently, she was principal of Haight Elementary School in the Alameda Unified School District, where she did significant work with STEM/STEAM, social emotional learning, and building a school culture that supports all students to achieve at high levels. Under Ms. Lewis' leadership, Haight Elementary was named a California Gold Ribbon and Title I Distinguished School

in 2016.

To facilitate a successful transition, Lewis will be meeting with retiring Glorietta Principal Ron Langer this summer to tap into his knowledge and insights. We thank Mr. Langer for his years of leadership at Glorietta and appreciate his willingness to support these efforts.

Lewis lives in Alameda with her husband, Kerry Rooney, and their two sons, Liam and Kaelin. She will communicate with Glorietta staff and families in the near future regarding important information for the 2018-2019 school year and opportunities to attend a meet-and-greet event.



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PERFORMING ARTS

The War of the Roses Explodes onto Cal Shakes' Stage August 22

By Richard Schwab
Staff Writer

Danny Scheie, a favorite of California Shakespeare Theater audiences, will star in *The War of the Roses*, adapted from the historical tetralogy covering the lives of Henry VI and Richard III, directed by Artistic Director Eric Ting, running Aug. 22 – Sept. 15 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda.

The War of the Roses is a fast-paced drama, spanning four of Shakespeare's histories – the Henry VI trilogy and *Richard III*. It is the story of two powerful families, the Houses of Lancaster and York, and their decades-long fight for the throne, a dark period in British history also known as the Hundred Years' War.

Scheie's reputation at Cal Shakes has been principally in playing comic roles. He wrote his U.C. Berkeley dissertation on Shakespearean comedy and has performed in over 20 Cal Shakes productions. "I have been such a lucky actor to get a whack at the great "clown" roles in the Shakespeare canon here in Orinda, including Bottom, Dogberry, Feste, Puck," said Scheie, who describes the dramatic role of Richard III as "probably the largest role I have played."

Scheie notes, "The character couldn't

be more timely: an insecure privileged psychopath who sees himself as a victim and a genius con-artist who has a ruthless lust for power for its own sake and a violent suppression of empathy."

According to Ting, more than a decade has passed since Cal Shakes produced a history play (which traditionally is not as well attended as other Shakespearean plays.) Ting and his artistic staff pondered, "What would it take to make a history play of Shakespeare a must-see event?"

As Ting explored possible projects with Scheie, he contemplated an "amazing signature project" for the actor. Ting said that the company often turns to Scheie for comedy. "Great comic actors are master thespians. They master timing. They master tempo. They master texts, physicality – they have such immense control," enthuses Ting. Scheie's ability to incorporate those skills into dramatic roles gave him an idea and he approached the actor about *The War of the Roses*.

"It was clear that Richard III was a character that excited him, and the idea that Richard was a challenge for him excited me."

Ting discussed the adaptation with the company's resident dramaturg, Philippa Kelly, providing an arc of the tetralogy,

beginning with the death of Henry V and moving through the reign of Richard III. By adapting the individual plays, *The War of the Roses* offers context for the stories and characters in the Shakespeare works which are often performed separately," notes Ting. "What we're trying to do is to create an event that really delivers a richer, more nuanced, more complex understanding of Richard III."

The historical tetralogy is the foundation for *Game of Thrones*, Ting claims, professing many parallels between Shakespeare's characters and story and the popular HBO series: "Anyone who loves that kind of story will love *The War of the Roses*. The play is larger than life, filled with much intrigue and humanity and all of its flaws. It's political intrigue. It's epic; it's a love story with a trail of betrayal; it's war. This



KEVIN BERNE

Aysan Celik, Danny Scheie and Aldo Billingslea perform in Cal Shakes' *The War of the Roses*, which spans four of Shakespeare's history plays.

piece will be one of the most ambitious evenings of Shakespeare ever seen at the [SEE ROSES page 16]

It Takes a Village...

by DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

We all know the saying, "it takes a village to raise a child." Well, the Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) philosophy is the same about community theater. Susan Chapple, wife of Artistic Director Geotty Chapple says, "You cannot do community theater alone."

"OrSVP is run completely by volunteers who work tirelessly to put on high quality live theatre here in Orinda," says OrSVP Administrative Director Jill Gelster. "We get support from local businesses like Gepetto's Caffe who donates all our cof-

fee for concessions. Peter Leou, owner of Gepetto's and now Village Inn Cafe has been a tremendous help to us."

Another long-time supporter of OrSVP is Village Pizza. They have donated all the food for the cast dinner on the all-day rehearsal leading up to opening night of each production. "Adrian Adme, owner of Village Pizza, has been very generous with this donation. In the past, each production's director had to pay for this meal," says Gelster. "This has been a great help to these tireless volunteers."

OrSVP members have also been instrumental in supporting the theater during the discussions of the proposed changes to the Orinda Community Center Park. "We are very grateful for the support of OrSVP members Steve Andersen and John Cahill who came to the City Council meeting to speak for the needs of OrSVP," says Gelster. "With the support of Laura Abrams, among others, OrSVP's needs were addressed in the future plans for the park." Through their generous donations, OrSVP's members keep the theatre alive. "The actors, stagehands, designers and production personnel freely donate their time and talents so that you may continue to enjoy live theater here in your own backyard," says Geotty Chapple. "The only revenue we generate is from donations and ticket sales, which does not bring in enough to meet our operating costs."

Several years ago, OrSVP became involved with the Orinda Rotary Club and the Dancing with the Cars fundraising event. "The Starlight Players organization is an

[SEE STARLIGHT page 16]



JILL GELSTER

Araceli Sotelo, co-owner of Village Pizza donates pizza dinners to OrSVP.

Return to '62 (Where Were You?) with Dancing With the Cars

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Classic Car Show returns in September for its 14th consecutive year. The ticketed pre-party, Dancing with the Cars, is Sept. 7 at the Orinda Country Club, with the main event free car show on Sept. 8 in and around Orinda Motors.

Tickets for Dancing with the Cars, which sells out each year, are \$125 per person. Sponsoring a table for 12 comes to \$1425 with table sponsors acknowledged in the event program and featured in the sponsor slide show during dinner.

Produced by Rotary Club of Orinda, the pre-party raises funds for several community charities and services. "It's the major fundraiser for Rotary and helps us provide programs like Opera in the Park, Field Day for the 4th-6th graders and Miramonte Scholarships," says party organizer and Rotarian Ken Jew. In addition to Rotary, other organizations that benefit from Dancing with the Cars include Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Community Foundation, The Orinda Association, Orinda Historical Society and Orinda Starlight Village Players.

The Dancing with the Cars party features dinner, liberal libations, music, dancing and a preview of exotic cars at the Orinda Country Club. "We plan to have music by the Miramonte Jazz Band," says Jew. This year's theme is American Graffiti and John Vanek of Orinda Motors is working on getting some of the movie's iconic cruisers and roadsters, including Suzanne Somers '56 white T-bird, together for the party. The party starts at 5:30 p.m. with plenty of time to socialize and see the cars before dinner starts at 7 p.m.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive dressed in early '60s ("Where were you in '62?") attire. Think bouffant hairdos and bows for the ladies and chinos and crew cuts for the men. "This party that kicks off the Car Show is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser, benefitting our seniors, our schools, the arts and more," says Rotarian Barbara Bontemps. In addition to ticket sales, proceeds are raised through silent and live auctions throughout the evening. "There will be plenty of unique parties/experiences and getaways offered," says Bontemps.

For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com. Get your tickets early since they sold out quickly last year.



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OBITUARY

Fitness Tip of the Month

- Increasing lean body mass (muscle) and decreasing fat mass will change your body.
- Muscle is denser than fat so you can gain weight while you are building it.
- The scale is useless and will keep you from "Getting Back in Shape."
- Without a good way to measure your success, you will likely not be motivated to continue your efforts. It is too hard to tell if anything is happening. Body Fat Measurements are the best way.
- You need an eating plan that works and is sustainable for life.
- Movement stops being exercise once your body gets used to it.



The good news is that most people can become MORE fit, regardless of their age or condition.

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

Adored Physical Education Teacher Passes Away Much Too Soon

Orinda resident Karen Semenza Fazio was born Oct. 22, 1970 in New Jersey and earned her angel wings on June 20, 2018. She passed away at John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek at the age of 47 with her family by her side. She fought a valiant battle against ovarian cancer for over 3-1/2 years and was an example of strength, resilience and determination. She earned the nickname of Wonder Woman by her amazing oncology nurses at Diablo Valley Oncology. This caught on and eventually everyone was calling her Wonder Woman.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Beloved Orinda teacher **Karen Fazio**.

Born in Rahway, New Jersey, Karen moved to Martinez in 1983 with her family. There she attended Valley View Middle School and graduated from College Park High School in 1988 where she was a star athlete playing basketball, softball and track. Inducted into the College Park Athletic Hall of Fame, a banner recognizing her athletic abilities still hangs in the College Park gymnasium. She received her bachelor's degree in 1992 and teaching certificate in 1993 at St. Mary's College, where she also played and excelled in softball. She married the love of her life Steve Fazio in 2003.

Karen started her teaching career in the West County School District before moving to the Orinda Union School District. She taught in the classroom for a number of years at Glorietta Elementary School before transitioning into being a physical education teacher for both Glorietta and Wagner Ranch Elementary Schools. Karen truly loved teaching and all of her students. She made physical education fun and her students adored her.

Those left to honor Karen and remember her love are her husband Steve Fazio, parents Anthony and Shirley Semenza, mother-in-law Angie Fazio, sisters Cheryl Semenza and Lori (John) McDonald, stepdaughter Michelle (Brandon) Hanson, stepsons Nick and Alex Fazio, niece Kylee McDonald, and the light of her life, her granddaughter Julia Hansen. Karen was preceded in death

by her father-in-law Giobatta Fazio. She is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins in New Jersey. Karen was a beautiful, funny, kind, loving, courageous person. Her passing has left a void in the hearts of so many.

The date for her celebration of life had not been announced by press deadline.

◆ ROADS from page 5

Collectors so they do not use any of the Publicly Funded Residential Streets.

- And yet, the Orphan Street homeowners pay a full share of the cost of repairing and maintaining the Public Residential Streets even though there is no reciprocal support of the Orphan Streets.

How much would it cost each of us to maintain all of Orinda's streets and how would we raise those funds? Those questions are the topics of Parts Two and Three of this series which will be published as advertisements paid for by members of the community as a public service.

For more information on this topic, visit www.OrindaRoadFacts.info

– Steve Cohn

Citizens for Fair Road Funding

Those with opposing views should send their Open Forum or Letters to the Editor to news@orindaassociation.org.

Orinda Woman's Club Awards Scholarships



EMILY MARLEY

Miramonte graduates **Sienna Marley** and **Janet Lee** were each awarded \$1,250 in educational scholarships from the Orinda Woman's Club. Both students will be attending U.C. Berkeley in the fall.

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STUDENTS

Norcal Triathlon On The Fast Track

By RICHARD SCHWAB
Staff Writer

Grab your sunscreen and bicycles and get ready for the fun athletic activities at Orinda pools, Del Rey Elementary and Miramonte High School as part of the Orinda Community Foundation's 10th annual Norcal Kids Triathlon on Aug. 18.

Participants, ages 4 to 14, will participate in swimming, bike and running events, with distances varying according to age. Pre-registration is due by midnight on Aug. 15. There will be a late fee charged for participants who sign up the day of the event.

More than 300 kids from the Lamorinda community are expected to participate in the Triathlon. Each child receives a participation medal, and the top three performers in each division are awarded trophies. The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the life of all Orinda residents, hosts the event.

Sue Stevenson, current OCF president, started the event with Richard Westin in 2008 "to create a unique, healthy opportunity for kids to try something physically

for competitive sports and staying healthy throughout their lives. It teaches courage, perseverance, fortitude and good sportsmanship."

Young swimmers may even use a kickboard, life vest or "floaty," but swim fins and hand paddles are not permitted. Training wheels on bicycles are also allowed. The course map is on the Triathlon's website, and participants should familiarize themselves prior to the event if possible and also be sure and stay hydrated during the activities.

Check in for the Aug. 18 event is at 8 a.m. The triathlon begins at 9 a.m. with high school students starting first, followed by middle school and then elementary students. An awards ceremony for each category begins near the Miramonte High School football stadium shortly after the last participant for that category crosses the finish line. All participants should be finished by 1 p.m.

Stanaro attributes the success of the event to volunteers and sponsors Kaiser Permanente, Morgan Stanley, The Kidder Ergen Group at Morgan Stanley, Land Home Financial Services, John Muir Land Trust, Orinda Parks and Recreation, Living Lean,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants from last year's Norcal Kids' Triathlon eagerly await the swimming portion of the annual race.

challenging that was a new experience." They wanted to inspire young people to get out, get active, and learn to compete in a fun and safe environment that challenges them in running, swimming and cycling.

"This event is a superb opportunity for kids as young as four to experience competition in a safe and encouraging setting," says Richard Stanaro who co-chairs the 2018 event with Carrie Korth. Stanaro adds that the young athletes "feel proud to be a part of it and proud of themselves for jumping in and trying. It will likely give them and all the kids a solid inspiration

Mechanics Bank, Oakwood Athletic Club, Diablo Foods, Cozy Earth, Orinda Fitness, Orinda Aquatics, Miramonte's Track Team, Steve Harwood, Orinda Woman's Club and Contra Costa Farmers' Market.

Stanaro notes that in past events he has seen "courage, joy, excitement and satisfaction in the faces of the kids who compete. Even those that struggle ultimately find satisfaction in seeing it through and finishing. The kids gain a sense of real accomplishment and confidence in meeting a challenge and succeeding."

For more information or to register, go to www.orindafoundation.org.

Students "JAMM" at OCC



LESLIE DARWIN O'BRIEN

Squeals of laughter poured out of Orinda Community Church fellowship hall as 25 kids gathered for JAMM (Joy, Art, Music and Mindfulness) Camp last week. In celebration of the wonders of nature, the kids took bouquets (in jam jars, of course) to Orinda Senior Village. In addition, they prepared toiletry kits for parents of children who are at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital. The themes for the week were: Monday - You Be You, Tuesday - Neighbors (Who is my neighbor? Everyone!), Wednesday - Courage, Thursday - Awe, Friday - Gratefulness. The kids also made soap and tie dyed t-shirts. Tween/Teen counselors volunteered their time to serve the campers who were ages 4-12. The camp was a joint project of Orinda Community Church and Mindful Littles and was open to all children.



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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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VOLUNTEERS

Locals Help Fire Victims Recover

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Adult Mission Team, 23 volunteers strong, recently returned to Lake County to aid 2015 fire victims, still struggling in California's poorest county, through the auspices of Habitat for Humanity.

The fire season in Northern California is here with a vengeance and earlier than ever. The County Fire in Napa and Yolo Counties, the Pawnee Fire in Lake County, the Shingle Fire in El Dorado County, the Kalamath Fire in Siskiyou County, and a huge blaze in Goleta which has destroyed a number of homes have already marked 2018 as worrisome. A number of state-wide areas have already had evacuation alerts.

Paul Ullrich, a climatologist at UC Davis says, "I wouldn't be surprised if this fire season is among the worst on record." Through early July, Cal Fire has responded to 2,625 fires, 260 more than this time last

year according to agency spokesman Scott McLean.

Many people are still without housing from previous infernos. In Lake County, nearly 2,000 buildings were destroyed, including 1,322 homes, in the 2015 fire. Much still needs to be done.

Owners whose homes had been destroyed expressed happiness that they weren't forgotten since, as one County resident expressed, "people tend to forget about fire victims after the television stops showing pictures of the fire devastation." LOPC sent a very experienced team of builders to Lake County and accomplished a great deal. Gail Parker-Marshall heard from a Habitat for Humanity official, "We have never seen the likes of any volunteers like those from LOPC. They knew what they were doing."

Parker-Marshall, who has been on many of the adult mission trips, starting in the aftermath of Katrina, found it hard to believe that she was to work in an area so hard hit



Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Adult Mission Team, **Terry Gleason, Keith LaHonta, Bruce Johnson, Ralph Olsen, Larry Carstensen and Jim Marshall** rebuilt homes damaged in 2015's Lake County fires.

in California: "Our group's assignment was the new home of Cindy and Mike Galley and daughter Aralyn. We painted the exterior, most of the interior and a small barn. Plus, Tom Roberts and Jack Champlin built an awesome deck. Cindy came by and helped paint. We learned, as with all Habitat projects, the home owners are obligated to give 500 hours of 'sweat equity.'"

Sally Roberts observed, "I can't begin to explain how genuinely grateful Cindy was. She couldn't say thank you enough. We became close friends with her and were just a little teary eyed as we gave our last hugs. It was five days of hard work, climbing on ladders, cleaning paint brushes, mixing and pouring a concrete slab, but also five days of tremendous satisfaction for what we accomplished."

Orindan Rich Lewis, was overall team leader again. He and his wife, Marty, have led a trip almost every year since 2006. Of this crew he explains: "three are in their 80s, 10 in their 70s, eight in their 60s, and one 58, another 49." He says, "It was a pleasure to travel with this crew with the shared goal of helping others." Lewis also praised the homeowners for bringing the workers lunch every day, which saved them the time of going to a restaurant while providing such treats as homemade chili and pulled pork sandwiches.

A story Lewis likes to tell is that of Cecilia Nelson, her daughter, Zayann, 10, and son, Axel, 8. They lost everything in the Valley Fire except for two dolls Zayann grabbed when they ran out of their home. "They barely escaped with their lives," he says. "Terry Gleason's crew got Cecilia's new house framed, wrapped in Tyvek, and installed some of the windows and electrical boxes. We presented them with two of the quilts LOPC member Ann Loar made for the fire victims. Cecilia and Zayann share a bed. That night Zayann told her mother she was ready for bed, and when Cecilia went in Zayann's child-themed quilt was neatly made up on her side of the bed." In the past three years, Loar has made and donated 15 quilts. Richard Birk, president of Habitat, couldn't believe they were hand made. He notes, "What a pleasure it has been to present them to the homeowners on behalf of Ann. Every homeowner loves them."

Lily and Chewy Lopez and their three

children, ages three years, two years, and eight months, will be moving into their rehabbed mobile home within the next few months. When Lewis was showing Chewy through the house, as they walked into one of the bedrooms Chewy became very quiet and he could not talk as he had so many tears. Then he said, "I can't believe you are doing this for me and my family."

In explaining why he comes on the mission trips, Lewis says, "It is always moving to see the love and appreciation on the faces of the families we help put their lives back together." Parker-Marshall adds, "We all enjoy the camaraderie; the love of doing what God has called us to do, and the feeling that our team of 23 worked hard and accomplished a lot for our families. Another year to be blessed and to be a blessing."

◆ **PRESIDENT** from page 3

ability of kids 6-14 years of age. To volunteer to help or sign up to participate, go to norkalkidstri.org, or the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) website.

The Best Show in Town is the **Lamorinda Idol Finals** on Aug. 19 at the Orinda Theatre! (see page 19) And it's FREE!! Audience members vote for their favorite singer and past recipients affirm, "Every year the talent seems to get better."

On Aug. 21, celebrate the twentieth year of **National Senior Citizens Day**, honoring our elderly population for the value and contributions of that age group to our society. Help our *Seniors Around Town* program by driving once a month.

Aug. 25 is **Fandango!** to celebrate the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. The festive evening will be the first event at our new Art & Garden Center at Wilder. It will feature authentic food and entertainment. Go to MoragaAdobe.org to get your tickets.

Aug. 26 is **Women's Equality Day** to commemorate the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which granted women the right to vote. The day is also **Dog Appreciation Day**, a day to celebrate your best four-legged friend while raising awareness about dog adoption.

August is a great time to enjoy Orinda. Send a letter to somebody elsewhere "Wishing you were here" and add your new Orinda postal stamp!

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 2 **Orinda Books**, 10 - 11 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for 2-4 year-olds and their grown-ups. Also, Aug. 9, 16, 23 and 30. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.*
- Taste of the World Market**, 5 p.m. Weekly food truck event features a different mix of trucks and entertainment. To see which food trucks will be present, visit www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style/. Also, Aug. 9, 16, 23, and 30.
- Orinda Starlight Village Players**, 8 p.m. present Dave Freeman's *Kindly Keep It Covered*, Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. For tickets, visit info@orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225. Also, Fridays and Saturdays 8:30 p.m. through August 11, See article page 11.
- 4 **Lafayette Community Foundation**, 8:30 a.m. - noon, Annual Senior Symposium, "Aging By Design," at Acalanes High School. Register in advance at www.lafayettetcf.org. See article page 17.
- Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m., Orinda Way, Orinda. Also, Aug. 11, 18 and 25. See article page 17.
- Orinda Books**, 4 p.m. Find Waldo in Orinda Scavenger Hunt ends – celebrate at a pizza party at Orinda Books.*
- 5 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library**, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Artist reception with light refreshments for members of the Oakland Art Association at 26 Orinda Way, 925-254-2184. See article page 18.
- 7 **Concerts-in-the-Park**, 6:30 p.m., featuring Little Dogs 2 (Pop/Rock); Orinda Community Center Park. See article this page.
- 8 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Chef Charlie of Epicurean Exchange takes us "Under the Tuscan Sun" in another of his popular cooking demonstrations/luncheons, this one featuring classic, peak-of-summer Tuscan recipes using the best of California produce! \$35.00 – Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation.*
- Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. The Second Wednesday Book Group will read and discuss *Transit* by Rachel Cusk. 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.*
- 9 **Movie-in-the-Park**, begins at dusk, *Wonder*, Orinda Community Center Park.
- Orinda Theatre**, 6:30 p.m. Free Movie Night showing *The Wizard of Oz*. For more information, go to lamorindatheatres.com.
- 10 **International Film Showcase**, showtimes will be available around Aug. 7 at: www.orindatheatre.com, with the Japanese film, *The Third Murder*. It is a crime/drama/mystery and has won six Japanese Oscars including Best Picture.
- 14 **Concerts-in-the-Park**, 6:30 p.m., featuring The Floorshakers (Funk/Soul); Orinda Community Center Park. See article this page.
- 15 **Orinda Community Foundation**, Norcal Kids Triathlon registration begins. See article page 13.
- California Shakespeare Theater**, 6 p.m. presents First Look Rehearsal, *The War of the Roses*, through Sept. 15. Additional information and online ticketing are available at www.calshakes.org. See article page 11.
- 19 **Lamorinda Idol**, 11 a.m. finals, Orinda Theatre. See article page 19.
- 24 **Rechic 101**, 11a.m. - 7 p.m. is hosting a special shopping event with a fresh floral pop-up by locally owned MMC Floral Studio. Cocktails will be served from 4-7 p.m. Please RSVP to maureen@rechic101.com.
- 25 **Orinda Books**, 11 a.m. Llama, Llama Story Time—we are expecting a very special visit from Llama Llama! Plus crafts, activities and refreshments!*
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**, 6 p.m. Fandango at the Art & Garden Center at Wilder. Go to: http://moragaadobe.nationbuilder.com/fandango_2018.
- 27 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Our Literary luncheon series continues with Vanessa Hua who will introduce her new book, *A River of Stars*. \$12 includes a light lunch and Q&A with the author. Call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation.*
- * **Orinda Books** is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

AT THE LIBRARY

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

- 1 **Toddler Stay & Play Meet**, visit & enjoy gentle play in the Gallery Room while Toddler Storytime is on break. Storytime returns on Aug. 7, 10 and 10:30 a.m. in Gallery Room.
- Travel Adventures** 1 - 2 p.m. in the Garden Room with Road Scholar Ambassador Mary Ann Irwin shares her travel experiences and information about Road Scholar, a trusted, well known travel program geared towards solo and couples travelers over the age of 50.
- 2 **Computer Docent Help**, 1 - 2 p.m. or 2 - 3 p.m. Free Computer help for beginners from a knowledgeable volunteer. Please sign up online for a one-hour session or call 925-254-2184. Also August 9, 16, 23, 30.
- ESL Conversation Circle**, 1 to 3 p.m. For adults, practice and improve English conversation skills in a small, informal group. Registration not required. Also August 9, 16, 23, 30.
- 6 **Maker Monday**, noon-2 p.m. Whether it's Legos, Minecraft, crafts or Coding, creative fun happens every Monday afternoon at your library. Also Aug. 13, 20, Aug 27 at 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the Gallery Room.
- 7 **Toddler Lapsit**, 10 and 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and early literacy learning for new walkers (approx. 18 to 36 months) and their caregivers. No registration required; please attend only one toddler storytime each week. Also Aug. 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29.
- Peek-a-Boo Storytime**, 11:30 a.m. Lapsit storytime for newborns/pre-walkers (0 to roughly 18 months) and their caregivers. Early literacy advice. Families with older siblings please attend toddler storytime. No registration required. Also August 14, 21, 28.
- Orinda Library Writers Group**, 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment to motivate, critique and inspire one another. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group. Also August 21.
- 17 **Mystery Book Club**, 3 - 4:30 p.m. Join us as we uncover and discuss the new mystery book of the month. This month's selection is *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova. Meetings every third Friday of the month.
- 20 **Computer Docent Help**, 11 a.m. - noon or noon - 1 p.m. Free Computer help for beginners from a knowledgeable volunteer. Please sign up online for a one-hour session or call 925-254-2184. Also August 27.
- 22 **College Funding Parent Workshop** 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Room. The College Funding

Music and a Movie Top Off Summer in the Park

High-energy live music will be coming to the Orinda Community Center Park this August with the last two performances of the park's summer concert series. Little Dog 2 will take the stage at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 7, with a mix of pop and rock to get the crowd's toes tapping. Then on the evening of Aug. 14, The Floorshakers will bring "funk, soul and rock n' roll" to the park with songs ranging from classic rock to R&B to Top 40 hits. This popular group features a 10-piece band, including a three-piece horn section and three lead vocalists.

For a quieter night in the park, grab a picnic blanket and watch the movie *Wonder* under the stars. Based on the best-selling young adult novel, this heart-warming film tells the story of August Pullman, a 10-year-old boy with facial differences who enters mainstream school for the first time. *Wonder* will play on Aug. 9 at the Community Center Park, beginning at dusk.



ROSALINDO CARILLO

The Floorshakers will perform at the Orinda Community Center Park on August 14.

Call the Orinda Community Center at 925-254-2445 for more information.

Coach® is here to advise parents on how to pay for college and still have enough of their hard earned money to be able to retire.

- 23 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**, 7 p.m. Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month. Garden Room.

CLUB MEETINGS

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)** General meetings third Tues., <http://oml-ca.aauw.net> or email Marty Schimbor at mgschimbor@comcast.net.
- 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., Garden Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda 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**. Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 328 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Aug. 3, First State of the Club address. Aug. 10, a powerful force for good, human dynamo Jill Buck launched a campaign which took off like a rocket in schools. The GoGreen Initiative has captured the energies of schools across the continent.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.
- Orinda Garden Club**, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, www.orindagc.org.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM**. First Thursday every month, except holidays, at 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center, Orinda. Family Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org. Aug. 17, Lamorinda Idol - Rotary assisting the organizers. Aug. 18, Nor-Cal Kids Triathlon, Miramonte HS - Rotary assisting Orinda Community Foundation.
- 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 www.orindawomansclub.org.

CITY/FIRE/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., Orinda Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net

SEASONED SHOPPER / WILDER RUN



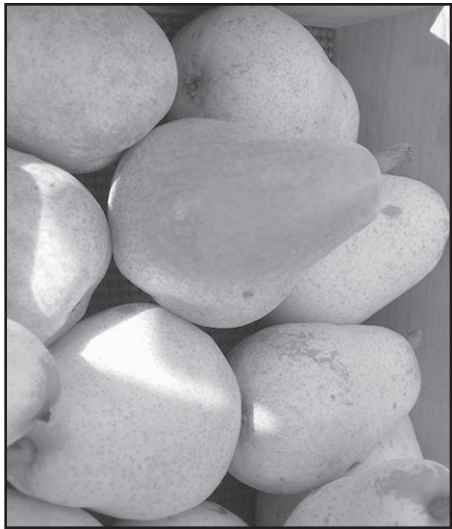
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BARBARA KOBSAR

Every week there are dozens of farmers' markets set up in numerous cities, but where and when did the first farmers' market open in Contra Costa County? Opening day was July 9, 1983, at the corner of Taylor and Morello in Pleasant Hill. The idea was conceived by a small group of Master Gardeners and horticulture students from Diablo Valley College. Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market Association (CCCFM) was inspired by the local food movement and driven by the desire to bridge the gap between food producers and consumers. In June, 1984, the Walnut Creek Sunday farmers' market opened as the demand for fresh produce increased. In July, 1997, CCCFM welcomed Orinda as its newest member.

Loyal customers and newcomers are still drawn to the market on Orinda Way in Orinda Village by the sound of music and greeted by farmers and artisan food purveyors offering a bounty of fresh, seasonal, locally grown produce, baked goods and specialty products.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pears are just coming into season at the Farmers' Market.

The Orinda Farmers' Market is a "certified" market where certified California farmers sell fresh products they have grown and harvested themselves to sell directly to consumers. You may have noticed banners at the stands with "we grow what we sell" proudly printed in large letters.

This month is the midway mark for Orinda's 2018 farmers' market season. It also coincides with "peak" season – the weeks where there are typically the most choices of in-season fresh produce. Shoppers can load up on favorites that include juicy peaches, sweet corn, heirloom tomatoes and first-of-the-season pears and apples.

Pears are divided into two distinct categories – European and Asian. European pears include both summer and winter varieties, and you'll find several at the market. Look for the familiar bell-shaped Bartlett's to French Butter pears, Comice and d'anjou. These pears are firm when picked and must be allowed to ripen off the tree or they become soft and mushy. Asian pears are available late summer through fall and will be picked ripe and ready to eat!

Apples vary in flavor from sweet to spicy to tart but all should be crisp, crunchy and juicy. Apple season is the opportune time to do some comparative tasting to find one that suits your taste. While most apples are suitable for eating out of hand, certain varieties such as Granny Smith, Rome Beauty and Pippin are better suited to cooking because they hold their shape.

Enjoy the bounty and see you at the market!

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park and Rite Aid. For more information, visit the website at www.cccfm.org where you can also sign up for market specials to be sent right to your phone. Market Hotline: 925-431-8361.


Lafayette Community Foundation Presents 10th Annual Senior Symposium

Lafayette Community Foundation's 10th Annual Senior Symposium, "Aging By Design," will take place on Saturday, Aug. 4, from 8:30 a.m. - Noon at Acalanes High School, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette.

Attendees will hear from a variety of experts including Dr. Alan D. Brast, a medical/mental health professional for more than 40 years. In addition, many vendors and non-profit agencies will have booths at the Symposium's Resource Fair provid-

ing information about their products and services. Free admission.


Please register in advance by visiting www.lafayettecf.org to fill out the attendee registration and to have your name included in the raffle drawing. If you are a vendor/sponsor and would like to have a booth at the Senior Symposium, you will find the sponsor application on the website. If you have questions, email LCF at info@lafayettecf.org.



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Run on the Wilder Side Coming

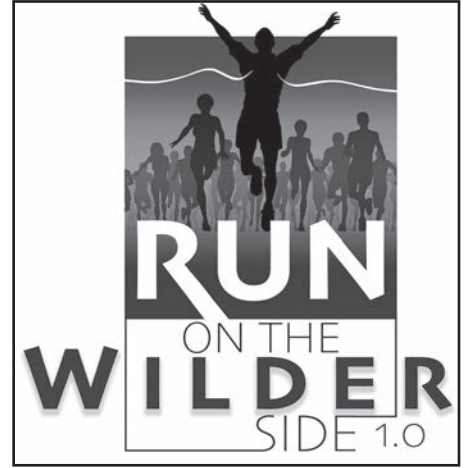
By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Come out Sept. 3 to "Run on the Wilder Side" and help fund critical renovations of the Orinda Community Center Park. The all-ages 5K and one mile run/walk is sponsored by the Orinda Parks & Recreation Foundation (OPRF) and starts at the Wilder Art and Garden Center. The 5k run begins at 8 a.m. and the one mile run at 8:40 a.m. "This is our first annual run, and it's kicking off a fundraising drive for the Community Center Park renovation," says OPRF president Carolyn Mills. Sponsors include Safeway, Diablo Foods and GU Energy Labs. To register for the run, visit www.oprfoundation.org.

Plans for renovating the Community Center Park are in development. They currently include adding new restrooms, expanding existing restrooms, rebuilding the gazebo into a larger bandstand, relocating the toddler and junior playground areas and adding senior exercise equipment near the tennis courts.

OPRF has raised \$2 million for Orinda Park and Recreation facilities and services since starting in 1975. "This year we've granted funds to 21 different organizations for 30 different activities and purposes totaling \$57,400," says Mills. "Most of our funds come from members of the foundation." Some of OPRF's past projects include Community Center improvements, raising \$600,000 to purchase 111-acre Orinda Oaks Open Space Preserve, raising funds for the Lamorinda Skate Park, purchase of public art through the Art in Public Places Committee, Wilder Sports Field electronic scoreboard (in collaboration with

[SEE WILDER page 18]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Join the first annual **Run on the Wilder Side** on Sept. 3.



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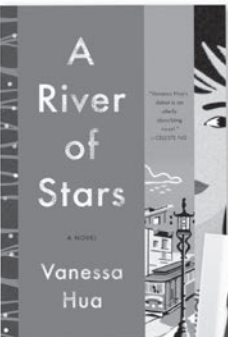
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Oakland Art Association Fills Gallery with Color and Light

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council will exhibit a wonderful and diverse show from the Oakland Art Association (OAA) during the month of August at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library. You can meet council members at the artist reception for this show on Sunday, Aug. 5 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. when light bites will be served.

The OAA is a nonprofit group of over 55 artists and art supporters from Alameda and Contra Costa counties. They are an important part of the Bay Area's vibrant art community because they support each other and, together, offer a full range of artistic activities and participation levels to their members. For example, every year they exhibit in at least 10 locations.

Media represented in the show includes

watercolors, oil paintings, photographs, collage, acrylic paintings, pastels, ceramics, drawings and prints, including etchings, aquatints, etc. Over 80 works in genres from portraiture, landscapes, abstraction, still life and figurative will be on view. To learn more about OAA go to <https://www.oaklandart579.org/>.

Jenifer Kolkhorst, organizer of the show, says, "We hope viewers see an example of a community group that accepts all types of artists and, fueled by volunteers, promotes the sharing of art throughout the year." She says John Greenleaf Whittier's poem sums up how art can feed the soul of a community: "If thou of fortune be bereft, / and in thy store there be but left / two loaves, sell one, and with the dole, / buy hyacinths to feed thy soul."

John Henry of Albany is showing an 18" x 24" photograph, *Flight - Punta Allen*.



Birds take flight off the coast of a small Mexican fishing village in **John Henry's** 18" x 24" photograph, *Flight - Punta Allen*, on display in the gallery this month.

It transports one to the largest village in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve at the end of the remote Boca Paila Peninsula in Mexico. Punta Allen, a small fishing village, is located in the Tulum municipality of the state of Quintana Roo. Famous for bone fishing, it also boasts an iconic 72' lighthouse - complete with a view of Belize - that puts you almost level with the flock of soaring white streaks in his photo. The pristine Biosphere Reserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Centre covering over 400,000 hectares.

Walnut Creek resident Tina Nelson's *Chicks* is a 13.5" x 18.5" graphite drawing of a child in a state of wonderment while cradling baby chicks. Jenifer Kolkhorst

of Orinda uses abstraction to spread out symbols and references to her 30" x 23" watercolor's eponymous title, *Steampunk*. Rounding out the genres, George Ehrenhaft of Moraga takes us to Italy to view *Tuscan Market*, his 20' x 16" watercolor. If you've ever been to Italy, the vista of a hill town towering over colorful market umbrellas will be easy to recall. All of the works described above are prize winners from area art shows.

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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◆ WILDER from page 17

Orinda Rotary Club and Orinda Community Foundation - OCF), Creek restoration projects and summer concerts and movies in the park. Current OPRF projects include spearheading the purchase and installation of defibrillators at all outdoor sports fields, upgrading park signage, renovating athletic fields and creating a mini-park at Orinda's entrance.

Mills invites Board participation: "It's not a time-consuming effort, but we're always looking for folks who would like to be involved in helping us direct where our monies are going." OPRF funds support The Orinda Association's 4th of July parade and festivities, Doggone Fun Fest,

programs for teens organized by the Orinda Teen Council, Pacific Chamber Symphony weekday performances at Orinda schools, field trips for seniors organized by Orinda Seniors, Miramonte Music Department (choir and jazz band), music programs at the Lamorinda Adult Respite Care facility, and OCF's Norcal Kids Triathlon. OPRF also supports Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Junior Women's Club, Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation, Orinda Library's Summer Reading and Paws-to-Read programs and four garden clubs in Lamorinda.

For more information and/or to register for the run, visit www.oprfoundation.org or call Mills at 925-254-5292. The OPRF Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Visit the calendar on the group's website for location.

◆ LETTERS from page 4

Grant money can be a means to control the actions or policies of a local government.

It's a shame that Orinda's taxpayers did not have an opportunity to do what they want to do with taxpayers' money.

- Richard S. Colman

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LAMORINDA IDOL

◆ CAR SHOW from page 1

pre-war racers to 1960s-1990s vehicles. The March Formula car Bobbie Rahal raced in the 1976 Formula Atlantic season will be among those displayed as well as a 1976 March 76B, 1973 Chevron B21 Formula racer, a 1963 Lotus 23B, a Ferrari 308 and a 1963 Shelby Cobra LeMans 289.

“We try to shake it up a little,” says Robinson. “There are a couple things about this show that are unique. Somewhere between 30-40 percent of the cars each year are cars new to the show. People get wind of the show and want to participate and others, who have acquired different cars, want to show them off too. We have people coming from all over the East Bay.”

Robinson has a special fondness for the drive component of the Car Show, which he coordinates: “Guys sit around all day at other shows looking at each other’s cars and that’s it. On the other hand, we end ours with a drive of cars where people get to show them off a little and others get to see these great classic cars in motion.”

The route of the drive will take the classic cars down Orinda Way, over to Moraga Way to Moraga and then over to Rheem Boulevard and back to Orinda. “The Police Departments help us by keeping those intersections open. It’s a nice jaunt for everyone through the main part of Orinda and Moraga while smiling and waving to the people they pass. We get quite a number of people standing along the side of the road looking to see what cars show up,” Robinson explains.

Robinson, who applauds Orinda Police Chief Nagel for his help in making every-

thing work smoothly, proudly trumpets another unique touch Orinda has added to its car show: “We raise a little bit of money by allowing people at the show to ride in one of the cars during the drive for a small donation. Maybe it’s the car of their dreams. This is an interesting twist, benefitting local charities, that I haven’t seen at any other car show.”

Robinson’s duties preclude his participation in the middle of the drive, but he still finds a way to participate in what he loves: “Since I’m so busy organizing and getting everyone ready, I don’t have a chance to take people in my car except for my kids. Usually at the end, I hop in my car and follow along. But I’ve talked to a couple of young people – teens and younger – who have done the ride, and their reviews have been great. The drive allows them to actually ride in a car they saw at the show that interested them. The drivers are always very gracious, and their passengers come back with big smiles on their faces.”

The vintage racing cars won’t be in the drive since they aren’t street legal. Robinson points out, “Those aren’t vehicles you want rolling through streets. Still, the exhibit around Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante will be really special.”

Robinson cautions that the show, “a great event which has a small town feel to it, has sold out a week or two in advance the last few years and is on track to do that again.” If you want to register your car, you need to do so immediately at www.orindacarshow.com. Robinson concludes, “Watching kids, like my girl and boy, look at the cars with big smiles on their faces that are full of wonder, you can sense that they are dreaming about being behind the wheel.”

◆ BUZZ from page 20

the advice shared with clients about their changed circumstances and how to navigate through them is enough. This type of work brings each of the partners a deep sense of satisfaction. Because family is important to all three, they treat clients in a familial way, which is why they opt not to wear suits. Thank you notes from clients are propped up on their desks as a reminder of why they are in practice.

Their advice to anyone facing circumstances such as those noted is simple: Plan while you can and memorialize your wishes while you are able to articulate them. The time you invest in this process can avoid

tragic consequences. Experience tells them that clients who plan ahead tend to preserve harmony rather than discord.

Southworth, Chavez and Day-Seiter is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at One Northwood Drive, Suite 2, in Orinda near Mechanics Bank. Anyone with elder law and estate planning questions or concerns is invited to stop by or call 925-252-8320 to set up an appointment. Visit them online at www.scdlegal.com.

Lamorinda Idol Finals This Month

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Young singers throughout Lamorinda are busy polishing their songs and routines to prepare for the Lamorinda Idol Finals Performance on Aug. 19. Sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Council, the all-day event takes place at the Orinda Theatre. It begins at 11 a.m. with the awards ceremony at 7 p.m.

The August performance is the culmination of months of preparation beginning with May auditions followed by workshops and multiple performance opportunities. Soloists compete in four categories by grade, while groups compete in three categories by grade. Each performer receives immediate feedback from a panel of three professional judges. Winners are determined by a combination of the audience vote and the judges vote – each weighed equally. Winners receive cash prizes. Also, one soloist with the highest number of audience votes, who is not also a category win-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mina Lim, a 2018 Lamorinda Idol finalist in the 6-8 Soloist group, will perform with her fellow competitors at the Orinda Theater on August 19.

ner, receives an Audience Award cash prize.

The schedule for the day is: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Soloists from Grades K-2 and 3-5; 1-2:30 p.m. Groups K-5, 6-8 and 9-12; 3:15-4:30 p.m. Soloists from Grades 6-8; 5-6:15 p.m. Soloists from Grades 9-12 and 7-7:30 p.m. award ceremony.

While entrance to each of the performances is free, donations are appreciated.

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Living Lean Moves to One Orinda Way

Longtime Orinda resident Sheena Lakhotia, founder of the Living Lean Program, recently moved from her Theatre Square location to a brand new state-of-the-art-gym at One Orinda Way. The bamboo flooring and spacious floor plan make it easy to focus on your workout – ring boxing, spinning, TRX, circuit and/or weight training. With ample parking, the gym is near BART and the freeway for easy access.



KRISTEN HESBY

Sheena Lakhotia of Living Lean Personal Fitness and Training invites people to stop by her new location at One Orinda Way, Suite 3A.

The Living Lean (LL) goal is to help you be as happy and healthy as you can be so that you are physically strong and fit. Because after age 30 everyone experiences both loss of muscle mass and a slower metabolism, weight control has to change. But the aging process can be slowed down. Lakhotia, who works with people age 7 to 85, is an Aerobics and Fitness Association of America certified personal trainer and sports nutritionist. She has designed a unique three-point fitness plan which focuses on individual needs rather than what she calls the “one size fits all” approach in most gyms.

First, LL sees personal training as primary with all fitness levels tailored to each individual’s body. Does your present workout give you the results you want? LL will target your fitness routine not only to get results you want, but to ensure you like it. There are many ways to accomplish this in Sheena’s fully equipped gym, including group classes.

Second, LL will design a custom eating plan with nutritional counseling. Most people believe they are eating healthy. The question, according to Sheena, should be, “Are you getting the results you want from how you eat?” If not, it’s time to change. “It’s easy to make poor food choices,” says Sheena, “but when you connect desired results to good food choices, all that can change.” She promises the eating plans she designs have delicious recipes for the most discerning foodie.

Third, LL provides accurate tracking of

your progress with a weekly comprehensive body-fat measurement. This also includes tweaking both the fitness training and the eating plan so that you are forming new habits that you like since, if you don’t like something in either plan, you won’t do it.

As a busy mom, wife and business owner, Sheena deals with the same issues many people face: how to stay fit when traveling; what food to choose on the road; how to stick to a routine that works. With 10-year’s experience working in fitness, nutrition and motivation, Sheena brings a lot to the table. But she doesn’t do all this alone. LL has a staff of professionally certified trainers to help: Jack Prettyman, Shannon Schmitz, Philadelphia Tse and John Soto.

LL donates gift certificates to local schools for fundraisers and other projects such as the Kids Triathlon as well as contributing to both the Orinda Community Foundation and The Orinda Association. Her monthly Fitness Tip appears in *The Orinda News*.

Call Sheena at Living Lean, 925-360-7051, for an appointment to explore personal training or visit online at www.livingleanprogram.com.

Southworth, Chavez and Day-Seiter LLP – Estate and Elder Law

Kristen Southworth, Nola Chavez and Kathleen Day-Seiter met when they served on their children’s lacrosse club board to secure its nonprofit status. After working so well together on the nonprofit board, they decided to have tea one day. The topic was exploring what would happen if each left their existing practices and formed an LLP (limited law partnership). Their new practice would focus on estate planning and elder law. They all agree that the way the whole partnership came together was unusual because everything just clicked into place.

Their decision was made in October, 2012, and by January, 2013, their office opened in Berkeley. They did well. In 2015, they moved their practice from Berkeley to Orinda when Southworth’s daughter informed her mom she wanted to return to Joaquin Moraga. Southworth, who lives in Oakland, had lived in Moraga for many years. The three partners all knew Lamorinda well and liked the idea of an office in the area. “The first office I looked at is the one we are in; it’s perfect,” says Southworth. Two of the partners have dogs they take for walks around town, and each really



ELANA O’LOSKEY

(L-R) Nola Veganes Chavez, Kristin Southworth and Kass Day-Seiter with Orinda Chamber of Commerce President Roy Hodgkinson as their law practice is officially welcomed to Orinda.

enjoys the welcoming “hellos” from locals. The reverse commute to Orinda is a breeze.

The field of elder law, a branch of trust and estate law, has been a unique specialty for about 30 years. Chavez, who lives in El Cerrito, says it is a field with job security. All of them volunteer to speak at various local groups and do *pro bono* work as their schedules allow.

Seiter is a board member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and has an MSW in Ageing Services from UC Berkeley. After a career as a social worker, Seiter, who lives in Oakland, went to law school so she could go further in meeting people’s needs. Both Chavez and Southworth had much experience as litigators. They were ready for a change from the high stress environment that comes with litigation work.

As estate planning and elder law attorneys, the three see their role as (1) understanding what their clients want to achieve; (2) discerning how their clients want to be remembered; and (3) facilitating and preserving family harmony while working through decisions which at times can be difficult. Often, they work with parents pondering how to provide for young children in case disaster strikes or empty-nesters realizing they need an estate plan or that their decades old estate plan doesn’t reflect their current lives. Sometimes, adults have suffered the loss of a spouse or a family is in crisis because of a loved one’s illness or disability.

Any one of those scenarios present challenges, but the women work with their clients until the clients are at peace with their decisions. Documents they prepare may memorialize those decisions. Or, perhaps,

[SEE BUZZ page 19]

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