

# THE ORINDA NEWS

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SALLY HOGARTY

City planning technician Roscoe Mata (left) works with Contra Costa County senior plan checker Judi Kalaerman at the new planning department counter in city hall.

## Orinda Schools Welcome New Superintendent

By PAT RUDEBUSCH  
Assistant Editor

When Orinda's schools open their doors to the start of a new school year, it will be under the leadership of Joe Jaconette, Ed.D., the newly appointed superintendent of the Orinda Union School District. Jaconette comes to Orinda from McGraw Hill, a leading publisher of academic texts and multimedia materials for students and teachers. Previously, he served as superintendent of the Carmel Unified School District and the Pacific Grove Unified School District.

"In some respects, it feels as though I'm coming home," Jaconette says about his return to the school district setting. "I'm an educator first and foremost. Being around kids and teachers is my first love." In fact, he has spent 27 years working in schools. He describes his work in government relations at McGraw-Hill as an opportunity to gain new experiences and make a contribution to education on the state level. "I've been in school ever since I was in kindergarten," he muses. "When the opportunity to work at McGraw-Hill came along, it allowed me to answer my curiosity of how the rest of the world operates."



SALLY HOGARTY

Joe Jaconette is the new superintendent of the Orinda Union School District.

The McGraw-Hill experience may have added an arrow to his quiver, but Jaconette now looks forward to putting his broader repertoire to use in a school setting. "When I became aware of the opportunity in Orinda, it seemed like the perfect fit. I was attracted to Orinda's emphasis on achievement, collaboration, and community support," Jaconette continues. "I feel as though I can make an impact in a small district setting that wouldn't be possible in a larger district."

Jaconette found his passion for education as an undergraduate at UCLA where he

volunteered to tutor students in an inner city school. "I saw then the significant role that education can play in our society. That endeavor – education – seemed to be the most important thing we can do as a society," he explains. Jaconette went on to direct the UCLA tutorial project. Over the course of his career, he has been a teacher or administrator in districts as different as Los Angeles and Larkspur.

"As a superintendent, my proudest accomplishments have been in building the capacity for the community to participate in and improve their schools," he says. "A major challenge in education in California is providing the resources to achieve the goals we have set for our schools. In Orinda, you've managed to put it all together to provide the resources to meet these goals."

California's academic standards are widely acknowledged to be among the most rigorous in the nation. There is no such agreement, however, that the state's level of funding is sufficient to meet these standards. "The most powerful tool we have in education is alignment where we agree on what we're going to teach, support teachers, and then go back and evaluate what we've taught in a transparent way," Jaconette explains. "There is agreement on academic standards at the state level; the question for California is do we agree on that at the local level. Orinda has agreed and taken off with attaining these high goals."

"When the state's testing system was aligned with the curriculum we made many improvements," Jaconette continues. "Now we need to streamline what we're doing."

[SEE JACONETTE page 14]

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## Natural Products Make Orinda's City Hall Almost Good Enough to Eat

### Open house slated for August

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Conference tables composed of 90 percent sunflower seeds and desks made of wheat board may sound a bit strange, but it is just these types of materials that may help Orinda's new city hall obtain a Silver LEED certification. The certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system has been a goal of the city since architects Siegel and Strain began work on the facility over three years ago.

Designed with the environment and energy conservation in mind, Orinda's city hall features automatic faucets, dual flushing toilets, and waterless urinals to reduce water usage by 30 percent from traditional office buildings of the same size. The grounds were also landscaped with low water consuming plants.

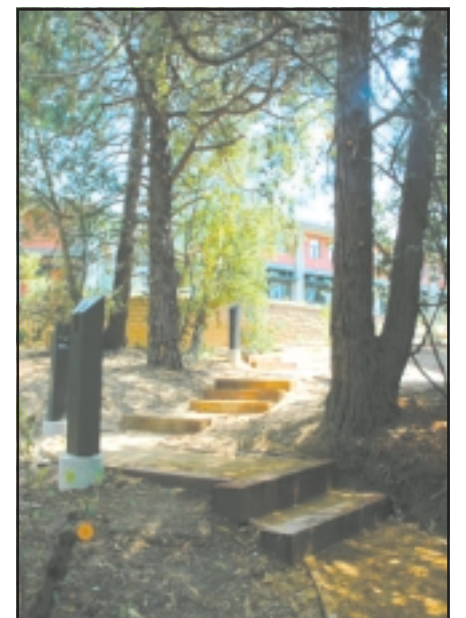
Energy usage is also predicted to be approximately 60 percent better than Title 24 energy standards for similar sized structures. Those savings in PG&E bills will be achieved through motion-sensor lights, optimized mechanical equipment, natural lighting, and cooling without the use of conventional air conditioning. "People basically manage the climate by opening and closing windows and turning on ceiling fans," explains City Manager Janet Keeter. Designed by Taylor Engineering, the system senses when temperatures are rising, which activates signs telling staff to open or close windows. The building was situated on the site in a way to take advantage of outside breezes, which are also circulated through a swamp cooler. The building was also designed with a narrow width to optimize opportunities for natural ventilation and daylight penetration.

The majority of materials used in the building comes from recycled and natural products as well and 20 percent of these originated from within 500 miles of Orinda to reduce the use of fossil fuels for transportation. Shredded blue jean material and recycled cellulose comprise the insulation in the walls and ceiling, recycled carpet tiles and cork are used in the floor, and conference tables and desks utilize sunflower and wheat board.

City personnel moved into the new building, located at 22 Orinda Way, on June 15. Local residents can tour the facility at an open house slated for August. The exact date will be announced in early August. Additional monthly tours are also planned. "The open house will allow the public to go behind-the-scenes and see how this wonderful new building functions and to meet the staff who work here," says Keeter.

Departments housed in the new facility

include public works, planning, police services, and administration. There is also a community meeting space with kitchenette available for rent that will also serve as the emergency operations center in the event of a disaster. Another feature that should provide additional convenience



SALLY HOGARTY

A wooded path leads from the Orinda Library to the new city hall.

for local residents is the inclusion of Contra Costa County building department staff. "This will eliminate residents having to travel to Lafayette or Martinez to deal with building permits," says Keeter. "It also allows us to increase the hours our planning/building department is open. We can now serve the public from 8 a.m. – noon and 1 p.m. – 4 p.m."

The price tag for the new city hall, including cost of the land, is approximately \$12 million. The city will receive \$87,000 annually in rent from Contra Costa County for the office space allotted to the building department. While critics feel the City of Orinda should have moved into the old library rather than build a new facility, Keeter says that the old library would not accommodate all the various departments that needed to be housed. "We would have had to build an addition or completely tear down the old library, which needs considerable remodeling to bring it up to today's standards, and build from scratch." According to Keeter, the city felt that the old library site would be better suited for affordable senior housing. "The site is perfectly located for seniors with easy access to shopping and other services," Keeter explains. "It just made more sense for us to take the money that the Wilder project had put aside for senior housing in Gateway Valley, which would be very inconvenient for seniors, and use it to purchase the old library from the Friends of the Orinda Library for affordable housing."

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The Orinda Association and the City of Orinda thank everyone who made this year's 4th of July celebration such a sizzling success!



**The Orinda Chamber of Commerce** won Best Overall and Most Clever Theme for their "cinema" entry which featured past president **Patti Camras** as Marilyn Monroe and current president **Keith Miller** as Groucho Marx.



**The Orinda All-Volunteer Pick-up Marching Band** won for Greatest Orinda Tradition.



**Buki the Clown's** creative face paintings were a big hit while **Twistyman** delighted youngsters with his wild balloon art.



SALLY HOGARTY

To see more 4th of July photos go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org)



Three-year-old **Anika Barre** had a great time watching the parade.

SALLY HOGARTY

## ★ Parade Winners 2007 ★

- Best Animal Group - Contra Costa Sheriff's Search and Rescue
- Best Antique Car - Orinda Arts Council
- Best Cheering Group - Miramonte Dance and Cheer Teams
- Best Church Group - Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
- Best Classy Car - Turrin Family
- Best Commercial Entry - Garden Lights
- Best Community Service Group - Orinda Rotary
- Best Costumes - Town Hall Kids
- Best Dancers - All That Entertainment
- Best Decorated Group Vehicle - K. Russi Boat
- Best Equestrian Unit - Four-Horse Hitch
- Best Family Group - Tool Family
- Best Flag Waving - Lamorinda Democratic Club
- Best Mascot - Smokey the Bear
- Best Musical Group - East Bay Banjo Band
- Best Old-Fashioned Float - Friends of Wagner Ranch
- Best Preschool - TOPS
- Best Spirit Group - Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis
- Best Young Group - Ivy Drive Neighborhood
- Largest Group - Cub Scouts
- Loudest Group - Miramonte Football Team
- Most All-American - Moraga Orinda Fire District
- Most Artistic - Friends of Orinda Creeks
- Most Clever Theme - Orinda Chamber of Commerce
- Most Informative Group - Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice
- Most Original Mode of Transportation - Beckwith Family
- Most Philanthropic - Haley's Run for a Reason
- Best Swim Club - Moraga Valley Pool
- Best Float - Orinda Park Pool
- Best Overall - Orinda Chamber of Commerce
- Greatest Orinda Tradition - Orinda All-Volunteer Pick-up Marching Band

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4TH OF JULY 2007

Thank you Miramonte Dance and Cheer Teams for decorating the community center so beautifully and to Boy Scout Troops 303 and 237 for all your help.



SALLY HOGARTY

Judges for this year's parade were new assistant to the city manager **Monica Pacheco**, Orinda Association board member **April Meagher**, and president of the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary **Shannon Fuller**.



SALLY HOGARTY

**Haley's Run for a Reason** had 320 participants and raised over \$22,000 between the run, the silent auction (\$4,100), and proceeds of Quencher's smoothies (\$600).



SALLY HOGARTY

This **1968 Corvette Stingray roadster**, owned by **Stefanie Pieshci**, will be in the Orinda Motors Classic Car Show on September 8, which benefits the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program.

4th of July Business Sponsors

A very special thank-you to the Orinda businesses and families who helped make this 4th of July Celebration possible.

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  - American Eagle Award**  
Sweet Dreams
  - Best Use of Merchandise**  
Cheryl's Closet and BBGear
  - Most Patriotic**  
Prudential California Realty
  - Grand Prize for the Best All Around**  
Orinda Optometry Group



SALLY HOGARTY

**Orinda Cleaners** won the "Cleanest Presentation" in the Orinda Chamber of Commerce's business decorating contest. For photos of other winners, go online to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).



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## Guest Editorial Go On a Carbon Diet Today!

By LAUREN FINZER

7:50 a.m.: It's rush hour on Moraga Way. SUVs and Priuses alike are mired at a standstill, but I'm strolling past, snacking on some blueberries and feeling smug about walking rather than driving - I'm doing the climate a service. Sure, the letters I write to Boxer and Feinstein help the climate on a larger scale, but it's also important to walk the talk.

But are my well-meant efforts naïve? Switching to a Prius, or even walking to school, doesn't automatically make my lifestyle climate-friendly. For evidence, take a look at the "Grown in Chile" label on my blueberry carton and the roast beef sandwich tucked in my bag — unassuming, but climatically devastating. The carbon emitted in shipping those blueberries from Chile and feeding the cows for that roast beef are probably far more than I save by walking to school.

It's great to walk to school. It's great to drive a Prius. But we're deceiving ourselves if we think that it's enough. Driving only makes up 10 percent of the average American's contribution to global warming, while household energy use, flights, and product consumption make up the rest. Less-obvious lifestyle choices such as diet, heating, leisure activities, products, clothing, laundry, etc. also contribute to the health of the planet. The biggest supermarkets in the United Kingdom recently decided to label all products with "carbon costs" in addition to calorie counts. "Carbon cost" labels make it easier for us to choose the "right things" for the planet. Until such labels become widespread, though, we'll have to

use common sense to estimate the climatic effects of the choices we make.

Going on a carbon diet means taking a comprehensive look at our lifestyles and identifying choices with high carbon costs for the planet. Did you know that you can do more to alleviate global warming by changing your diet than by driving a Prius? Two University of Chicago researchers recently found that the "effect of one's dietary choices on one's planetary footprint" is "comparable in magnitude to the car one chooses to drive." And things don't stop with diet - think of all the other goods we consume! Some goods are necessary, but others, like excessive heavily packaged toys or multiple TV's per household, might be something we can easily give up to help preserve environmental resources for our children.

Happily, the many lifestyle choices that make Americans use 5.3 times the amount of carbon the earth can support give us lots of opportunities to improve. For example, if every American household switched just one incandescent bulb to an energy-saving one, it would "save enough energy to light 2.5 million homes for a year" and "prevent greenhouse emissions equivalent to that from nearly 800,000 cars". Such energy-efficient choices are fantastic for your pocketbook as well as the planet. For example, each energy-saving compact fluorescent lightbulb you install can save you more than \$30 of electricity over its lifetime. At Stanford (where I'm a student), I've been helping distribute energy-saving bulbs to students. The administration is more than willing to cover the upfront price of the bulbs because of the amount they save in electricity costs. Similarly, academic



departments have switched to using recycled paper in response to the letters I've sent them. Cheaper recycled paper saves forests and limits carbon emissions from landfills. When we go shopping, buying bulk reduces carbon-emitting waste and saves money.

While not all climate-friendly choices are convenient or cost-effective, they almost all improve our individual well-being and health. A recent British Medical Journal article advises doctors that encouraging climate-friendly lifestyles "could be your most important contribution to your patients' health."

Why might that be? Let's take the decision to buy from the farmers' market instead of the local grocery store. Local fruits and vegetables taste better and are, of course, far healthier than the processed temptations in the supermarket aisles. Also, because they haven't traveled the 1,500 miles that the average American meal

travels from field to mouth, local foods are less likely to be contaminated and consume four to 17 times less oil in transport.

Essentially, it's great if you want to pass on Moraga Way traffic by walking to school. Just remember that walking and driving a Prius are just two of many healthy lifestyle changes that help save the planet. Perhaps more importantly, lifestyle change is only the beginning of the climate-saving contribution you can make. The East Bay is filled with opportunities to scale up the positive change you make through climate change activism (Step it Up and Focus the Nation, to name a few). Some will argue that this kind of political action is the only way to make a large-scale difference for the climate. But while we wait for a national climate policy, being climate-friendly here in Lamorinda will allow us to do our part to save our children's planet and be good for our health. Let's start the carbon diet here!

## Letters to the Editor

### New City Hall

1. Parking spaces. The ones on the east side are on the level and easy to use. The ones on the west have too many steps. The ones on the east are mostly used by the police and city vehicles. Solution: The police, city vehicles, employee, and city governmental officials should use the west side for parking. The visitors should use the east side. Let those who are responsible for the design and the young and healthy police officers use the steps.

2. Per one of your readers the building is not "green" as promised. Can not the city get part of its money back so the building can be remodeled into a "green" building? By the way, who originally said that the new city hall was to be a "green" building? Was this just a selling point?

3. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I find the building ugly. It may work on the inside, but I cannot understand how anyone can find this building beautiful. Can not

the city ask some of its residents what can be done to alter the outside appearance? I am not qualified but others who are can make suggestions.

4. Put the fate of new city hall up to a vote of the citizens of Orinda: Keep it as is, rent it out and move in to the old library, or sell the old library property to the highest bidder without zoning restrictions. Let the citizens make the decision for once.

— M. J. Boynton

### Disappointed in Fellow Citizens

As an Orinda resident I am deeply disappointed in my fellow citizens who could either not find the energy to get out and vote for our sorely needed road bond or could not bother to educate themselves on the issue. After speaking with hundreds of other Orindans over the past year regarding first Measure Q then Measure E, I believe that at least 90 percent of those who really understand the situation support a new tax to repair our roads. We are letting a small number of individuals turn our

community into something much less than it could be.

The question will rise again in the not too distant future as our roads continue to decay. I encourage every resident to truly educate yourselves on this problem and not be swayed by the vocal few who try to convince you that there are sufficient funds in the city budget, or even more speciously in the fire district's budget, to repair our hemorrhaging infrastructure.

— Steve Cohn

### Measure E's Demise

The stinging rebuke that Orinda's voters gave on June 5 to Measure E, the plan to fix Orinda's roads, is a message to the Orinda City Council to be fiscally prudent.

This is the second time in seven months that Orinda has rejected a road-repair measure. On November 7, residents voted down Measure Q, which was virtually identical to Measure E.

Orinda's roads do need to be repaired. One would hope that the Orinda City Council would produce a plan that would

cost no more than \$50 a year in property taxes. The plan should tell voters which roads would be fixed. The plan must also spell out a method of financing that gets the best results for the lowest price. The council must reject any plan that relies exclusively on overpriced labor. There must be no tax increase on senior citizens of modest means. The city should also consider selling the new city hall and the library. While these structures are nice, the city should focus on what is needed (such as roads) rather than prestige projects favored by a tax-and-spend crowd that seeks, through higher taxes, to impoverish residents.

— Richard S. Colman

### Correction

In the July issue of *The Orinda News*, Lauren Davis was listed as a senior at UC Berkeley in the "Post Senior! Day" article. She attends Loyola Marymount University.

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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, fax them to 254-8312, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to the Editor for the September issue are due August 5, 2007.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or send email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the October issue is August 13.

RESCUE ONE / POLICE BLOTTER

# Rescue One Foundation Celebrates its 30th Anniversary

By GORDON NATHAN  
Contributing Writer

The Rescue One Foundation, a non-profit community organization dedicated to the support of emergency medical services for the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District is celebrating 30 years of service.

The foundation was created in 1977 with a \$1,500 donation to the Moraga Fire

District by Marion Devin as a tribute to her late husband, former fire district commissioner Ray Devin. Devin, with long-time residents Yvette Nance, Don Anderson, Gerry Meyers, Linda Borrelli, and Fire Chief Don Skinner, then formed the Rescue One Foundation as a way to facilitate donations to the fire district.

Donations from generous residents of Moraga and Orinda have enabled the Rescue One Foundation to provide



GENE GOTTFRIED

Gordon Nathan (L) and Greg Reamis (R) of Rescue One deliver equipment to Fire Chief Pete Nowicki.

equipment and supplies worth over \$277,700, items not otherwise available through the normal budget process. The long list includes heart monitors and defibrillators, pulse oximeters, thermal

imagers, high-tech gurneys, practice mannequins and other training equipment. There is also a dedicated scholarship to enable firefighter/paramedics to attend advanced educational classes.



## POLICE BLOTTER

Compiled by Haleh Allen,  
Orinda Police Department  
June 2007

**False Residential Alarms:** Officers responded to 77 false alarm calls throughout the city.

**Auto Burglary** (theft from a locked vehicle): 7 incidents in the areas of Risa Ct., Camino Pablo, Camino Sobrante, Moraga Way, Tahos Rd., Orindawoods Dr., and Muth Dr.

**Petty Theft From Vehicle** (theft of less than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 8 incidents in the areas of Bel Air Dr., Sally Ann Rd., Martha Rd., Austin Ct., Las Vegas Rd., Los Dedos, and Meadow View Rd.

**All Other Petty Thefts:** 16 incidents in the areas of Camino Sobrante, Camino Encinas, Moraga Way, Tappan Ct., Tappan Ln., Sleepy Hollow Ln., Glorietta Blvd., Ridge Ln., Normandy Ln., La Cuesta, Berrybrook Hollow, Oakwood Dr., Miner Rd., and Altarinda Rd.

**Grand Theft From Vehicle** (theft of more than \$400 value from an unlocked

vehicle): 1 incident in the area of Southwaite Ct.

**All Other Grand Thefts:** 1 incident in the area of Southwood Dr.

**Vehicle Theft:** 1 incident in the area of Spring Ct.

**Residential Burglary:** 3 incidents in the areas of Miner Rd., Scenic Ct., and Camino Encinas.

**Commercial Burglary:** 7 incidents in the areas of Camino Sobrante, Camino Pablo, Miner Rd., and Village Square.

**Vandalism:** 6 incidents in the areas of Moraga Way, Valencia Rd., Southwood Dr., El Toyonal, Miner Rd., and Camino Pablo.

**Identity Theft:** 6 incidents in the areas of Dos Posos, Valley Ct., Irwin Way, Meadow Park Ct., Via Descansada, and Knickerbocker Ln.

**Credit Card Fraud/Forgery:** 2 incidents in the areas of Irwin Way and Valley View Ln.

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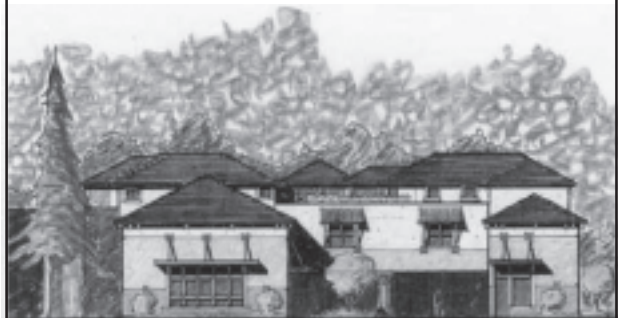
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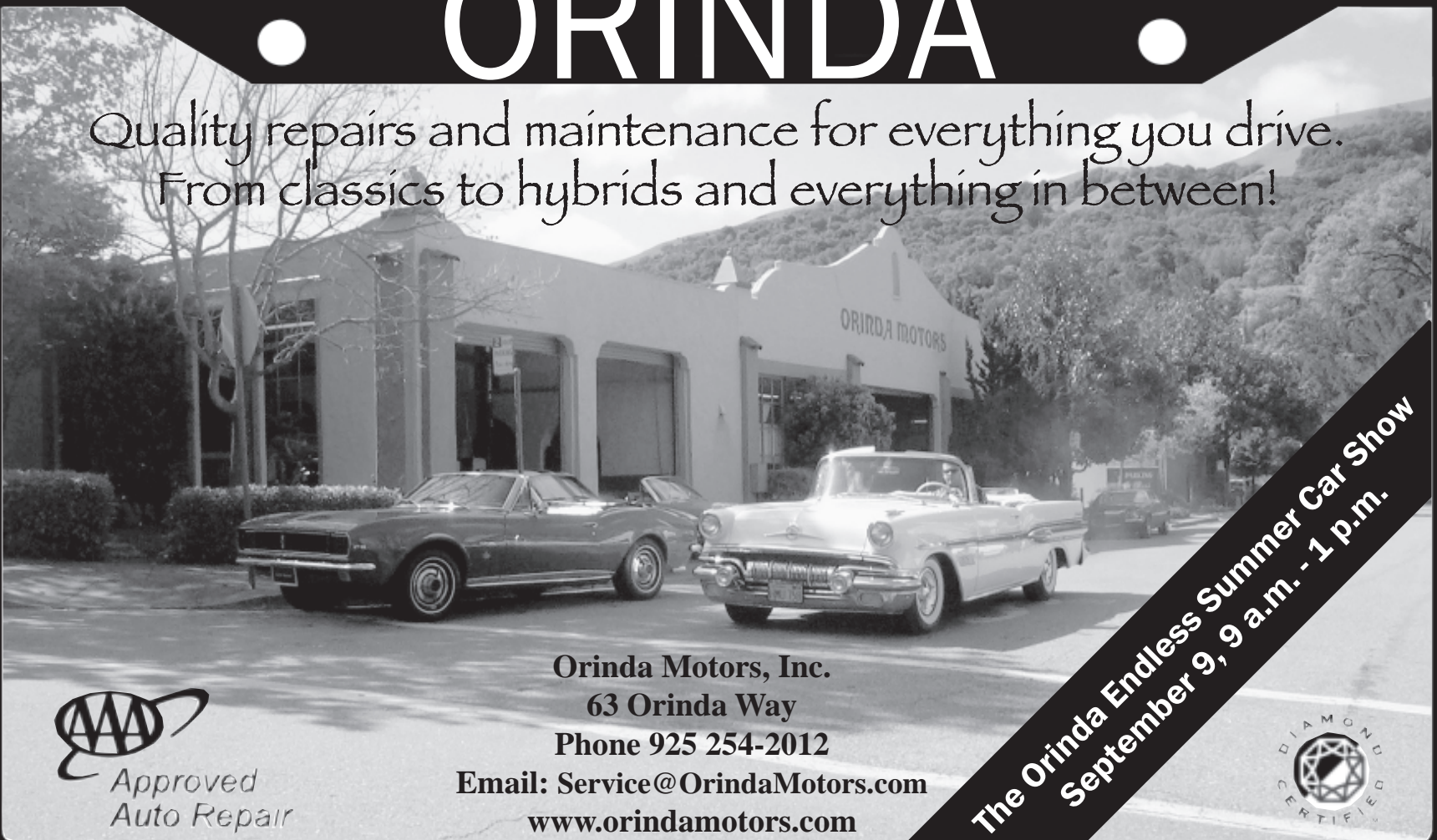
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**Between the Lines**  
Books for Locavores and  
*Omnivore's Dilemma Revisited*

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



Savoring stone fruits from Kashiwase Farms or carrying home bags of beautiful corn and Chinese greens from Vang's Produce, we Orindans relish our Farmers' Market in its new location. It is instructive to note that we are not only well fed but also part of an international movement. In Berkeley, the "Locavores," self-styled "concerned culinary adventurers," attempt to eat *only* food grown and harvested within 100 miles of San Francisco. This group of foodies is homegrown, but the "eat local" movement is truly worldwide, and there is a feast of new books that focus on what in England is called "eating the view." From the

Cotswolds to Korea, communities are recognizing the importance of sustainable agriculture. William Grimes in the *New York Times* writes that the UK's Marks & Spencer, who already label their food as to country of origin, are now labeling packages to indicate whether they have been air freighted to the point of sale.

Two families have turned their own "locavore" experiences into books this year. *Plenty: One Man, One Woman and a Raucous Year of Eating Locally* is Alissa Smith's and J.B. MacKinnon's story of how one Canadian couple lived for a year by the 100-mile rule. These two journalists have written an entertaining story of their struggles to make their "eat local" year work, covering the countryside often on bicycles to discover food sources they hadn't dreamed existed in the Vancouver area.

Barbara Kingsolver brings her superbly graceful writing skills to *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*, her story of eating only locally on a farm in Appalachian Virginia. As the first asparagus appears, in April, she and her family embark on a year of eating only produce from their farm and from local growers. This honest, informative, and entertaining book — there are some great recipes — is never polemical, though Kingsolver is passionate about the importance of changing how we buy food for our families.

Both of these Vancouver and Virginia "eat locals" pay tribute to the farmers — those dedicated individuals who have committed themselves to allowing us to look beyond the supermarket and recover some of the tastes of really fresh produce. To understand what the cost can be for these farmers, we, at Orinda Books, have long recommended David Mas Masumoto's *Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm*. In this beautifully written story, Masumoto tells how he turned the

bulldozers away from his family's orchards and vowed to save the delectable Sun Crest peach from becoming obsolete — a true tale of the struggle to save a family farm.

Everyone in the "eat local" movement pays homage to Alice Waters, whose *Chez Panisse* restaurant broke ground nationally with its emphasis on locally grown seasonal produce. In Thomas McNamee's new book, *Alice Waters and Chez Panisse: The Romantic, Impractical, Often Eccentric, Ultimately Brilliant Making of a Food Revolution*, although it is formatted as the story of Alice's restaurant, he highlights the impact that Water's culinary philosophy has had on home cooks as well as on the restaurant world.

Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, due in paperback at the end of August, follows each of the three food chains that sustain us: industrial, organic, and hunter-gatherer. Pollan actually prepared a meal from ingredients he had hunted, grown, or harvested himself and served it to some sympathetic and enthusiastic friends. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* gives us some painfully pertinent tools with which to inform our food choices.

In our own back yard, the principal dilemma for local omnivores is that our food choices are so extensive. Local markets tempt us with an international array of tastes and treats. Kenneth Kiple's *A Movable Feast: Ten Millennia of Food Globalization* points out that the global palate began expanding 10,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent when foraging gave way to farming. It's a long way from there to the pros and cons of genetically modified food, but early Persian agronomists may well have been protesting the influx of suspect crops from sub-Saharan Africa.

Where we get our food is indeed a hot topic — another title almost identical to Kiple's is due in November, *Movable Feasts: The Incredible Journey of the Foods We Eat* by Sarah Murray. Whereas Kiple's book is drawn largely from his 2,000-page *Cambridge World History of Food*, Murray has a much lighter and more anecdotal touch when she argues that globetrotting food was a fact long before the words "food-miles" had been invented.

Happily, in Orinda, our food-miles need take us no further than Orinda Way, as every Saturday through November we relish the wealth of summer produce from our friendly food vendors. Dip into some of the above titles for a little food for thought — and eat well!




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GARDEN CLUB

Garden Clubs Cultivate Civic Beauty



PAT RUDEBUSCH

Montelindo Garden Club members Katie Creighton and Trudi Garland (R) are assisted by Natalio Miranda's Landscaping.

By PAT RUDEBUSCH  
Assistant Editor

There's something about the fountain and garden at the Orinda crossroads that can instantly soothe nerves frayed on Highway 24. Every day, commuters heading home make their way over the Bay Bridge, or perhaps through the MacArthur maize, wait their turn through the Caldecott Tunnel and pass that landscaped corner of Brookwood and Moraga Way.

You may not give it much thought, but members of the Montelindo Garden Club do. That particular corner of the crossroads – the entrance to our town, if you will – is planted and maintained by members of the club. Drive or walk around Orinda, and you'll find other pockets of public property that are tended by one of the four garden clubs in town.

The history of the pocket garden at the crossroads goes back to the mid-1970's when the formerly dusty, desolate corner lot was first landscaped. According to Montelindo Garden Club president Katie Creighton, the initial effort was a joint project of various groups in town but her garden club assumed responsibility for maintaining it about 10 years ago. At least three plaques nestled among the plants chronicle the history of the garden; the fountain stands in memory of Ann Pollaczek who was an avid gardener and active volunteer.

"A garden only lasts about 10 years,"

Creighton says. "When our group assumed responsibility for this corner, the garden had really started to show its age. About two years ago, we noticed that the garden, once again, needed to be redone." Under the leadership of Trudi Garland and Marjie Hitzl, co-chairs of the civic beautification committee, the garden has been replanted with mostly California natives and Mediterranean plants. "This is a very harsh spot and one that is well-suited to plants that do well with a lot of sun and not much water. Many of the plants we have re-introduced were included in the original garden," she explains.

Across Moraga Way, right at the end of the Highway 24 exit ramp, sits a parcel of land that presents serious challenges to even the most tenacious gardeners. The land is under the control of CalTrans and currently receives no water. Orinda Garden Club members are working with the agency to devise a plan that would allow that area to be landscaped. According to Orinda Garden Club member Jane Zuercher, the club planted roughly 2,000 daffodil bulbs at the intersection several years ago; the bulbs were donated by Janet and Norm Pease.

The Orinda Garden Club also maintains the triangle at the corner of Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante, across from Orinda Motors. This area was also re-landscaped recently. Zuercher says that the new plantings are not only more drought-tolerant, but the design has also improved

[SEE GARDEN page 16]

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OUT AND ABOUT / MOVE OF THE MONTH

*Out  
and  
About* Pat Rudebusch



Having lived in the Midwest and on the East Coast for most of my life, I can say with some authority that, as far as weather is concerned, we are blessed to be living in the Bay Area. I was reminded of this recently while enjoying lunch outdoors with Nancy Kaible, who, among many other things, is the vice president of the Cal Shakes board of trustees. Let me say right off the top, that if you live in Orinda, and

haven't been to a Cal Shakes performance, you're missing the best cultural opportunity in town. Nestled in the hills on our side of the Caldecott Tunnel, the outdoor Bruns Amphitheater provides a gorgeous, albeit at times chilly, venue for theater and a picnic.

Cal Shakes' Orinda roots run deep. The company moved to Orinda in 1991 with the opening of the amphitheater. Previously,

Cal Shakes performed in Berkeley's John Hinkel Park. A fundraising campaign spearheaded by the late Orinda philanthropist Clarence Woodard brought the company to our back yard and gave them a home of their own. According to Kaible, a major focus of the Cal Shakes board in the coming years will be securing the funds necessary to upgrade and maintain this facility while maintaining its high environmental standards. While the Bruns Amphitheater provides a lovely setting for audiences, it's lacking in adequate facilities for the artists.

Orinda residents joining Kaible on the board include David Goldsmith, president, Sharon Simpson, Mike Ross, and Jim Roethe, as well as advisory committee members Wayne Canterbury, Midge Zischke, and Ellen and Joffa Dale. And, at 30 years and still going, Orinda Councilmember Victoria Smith, may very well hold the record for the longest season ticket holder.

Of course, as with any nonprofit group, volunteer opportunities abound. If you're looking for a way to get involved in the theater, but suffer from stage fright, why not consider volunteering at Cal Shakes. Volunteers fill a wide range of roles, from gardening and light construction work at Bruns to office assistance at its Berkeley offices. Volunteers also serve as ushers for

performances and assist the artistic learning department throughout the year at student matinees, summer camps, and various adult and youth classes. Roxanne Rhoades and her daughter Sarah have served as ushers for the past four seasons, and they enjoy the chance to volunteer together and watch the performance.

If your most recent memory of Shakespeare is high school English class, you should give the Bard another chance. There's a reason why Shakespeare's works have stood the test of time – and the Cal Shakes productions ensure that his timeless tales are relevant and accessible to today's audiences. Two productions remain in the current season: Peirre Marivaux's *Triumph of Love*, adapted and directed by Lillian Groag, and *King Lear*, directed by Lisa Peterson and considered by many to be Shakespeare's greatest work. *Triumph of Love* will be performed August 8 – September 2 and *King Lear* takes the stage September 19 – October 14. Tickets for both productions are generally available and, with the opening of the Cal Shakes satellite box office at Theatre Square, reserving seats has never been easier. For more information on Cal Shakes, visit the website at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org) or stop by the satellite box office at Theatre Square, Monday – Friday, 3 – 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon – 3 p.m.

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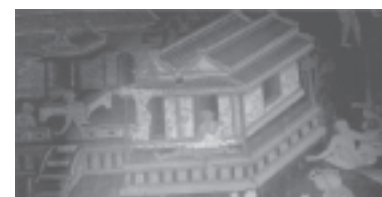
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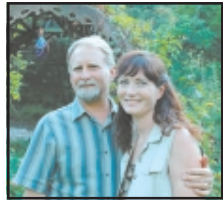


## WAY TO GROW

## Way to Grow in Orinda

*Garden Decorating to Reflect your Sense of Style & Personality*

Steve & Cathy Lambert



Garden ornaments add personality, style, and whimsy to your garden as an embellishment to existing natural materials or as a focal point of their own. Often, however, the first image that painfully pops to mind when you hear the words "garden ornaments" are the pink flamingoes that Uncle Phil proudly displayed or Aunt Louise's collection of garden gnomes. Just as people have different styles of home decor, tastes in garden accessories also vary greatly.

For centuries, gardens have been used as outdoor galleries for displaying collections of sculptures and other works of art. Adding ornaments to your garden allows you to express your artistic taste with art of your own creation or with found objects that have captured your eye and beckoned to be placed in your garden.



STEVE LAMBERT

This serene pond is watched over by two solid brass heron lights that actually act as a deterrent to wild life that might attack the fish swimming beneath these calm waters.

There are many styles of garden ornamentation, but the most common are natural, classical, modern/minimalist, Asian, and whimsical. All of these classifications have a wide variety of items from which to choose. When choosing a decoration for your garden, ask yourself, will it complement the plants and the theme of my garden? Does it fit with the style of my home? Combining too many styles can make your garden look like a poorly organized yard sale. It just won't work to have a classical fountain statue of a urinating boy placed next to your pond with

a Japanese pagoda sitting on the opposite side.

All types of garden décor are available at your local nursery, the garden section at Target, and in the multitude of garden catalogs, which provide lots of temptation for adding accessories to your garden. Here are some ideas, both old and new, for adding a unique personal touch to your outdoor environment.

Gazing balls are a popular choice to embellish your garden. Gazing balls work well in a traditional or English country style garden. They were very popular back east, where most gardens are of a traditional style, long before they started showing up in West Coast gardens. In fact, when Steve was young, his grandfather Ted had a silver gazing ball in the center of his extensive Connecticut flower garden. This mirrored globe reflected back a rainbow of color from hundreds of dahlias, gladiolas, and roses. As a child, this gazing ball added a kind of magic to the garden. Steve has fond memories of himself and his brother amusing themselves by making faces into the silver ball, which provided a funhouse mirror image.

In 1996 when we began creating our own Orinda garden, that magic was recalled with the addition of a rosy-purple gazing ball which has since sadly been lost to a hard-hit wiffel ball. Gazing balls are now available in many colors and materials including steel (a better choice if you have a Little Leaguer using your yard). There are even multi-colored, solar gazing balls that can be enjoyed by adding a whimsical glow to your garden after dark.

Gazing balls can be added to classical, whimsical, or modern gardens depending on the color and material of the ball and type of stand you choose. We once installed a grouping of stainless steel balls in varying sizes laid on a gravel pad in a modern, minimalist garden. We have also floated gazing balls in a very formal styled pond and added one to a child's fairy garden placed on an ornate wrought iron stand.

Adding an old, rusted antique object to your garden can give it an old-world feel and this works well with traditional or romantic garden styles. Antique objects add interest to the eye and serve as a great heirloom conversation piece.

One of our clients had been hauling around (through several moves) a beautiful rusted, wrought iron gate that he had

salvaged from a dumpster at a large Piedmont estate. His wife was threatening to have it hauled away until we mounted it to two 6 X 6 posts as a backdrop to their garden, and then planted two chartreuse elderberries behind it. The combination of the rusty, elaborately detailed gate with a background of bright chartreuse foliage is truly breathtaking, especially when lit up at night.

We have installed many antique lanterns for clients over the years. There is always a way to add new life to an old fixture with low-voltage wiring techniques. One client hung six old brass lanterns in the branches of an oak tree. Another returned home from Mexico with an old Christian cross lantern that we wired with several small lights instead of using candles. Some of the other more interesting antiques we have installed in gardens include: old millstones as fountains; a 300-year-old Buddha; an ornately carved Indian temple door, and a

large brass gong that hung at one end of a pool and could be enjoyed in the pool's reflection at night.

It's taken Steve years to admit that he finds some antique garden gnomes acceptable in certain gardens when appropriately placed. Gnomes have been placed around the garden since the 1400s.

Truth be told, we have two antique gnomes placed near our front door. We almost lost a client recently when we mentioned this fact. After completing her project, Steve snuck an antique gnome onto a rock in the center of her pond's waterfall. That gnome is now named Steve.

There are literally tens of thousands of different fountains available for today's gardeners. These garden ornaments can add both a focal point and the pleasurable sound of running water to your garden. One of our favorites fountains is a custom made, 14-foot hot tub with a glass tile back

[SEE GROW page 18]

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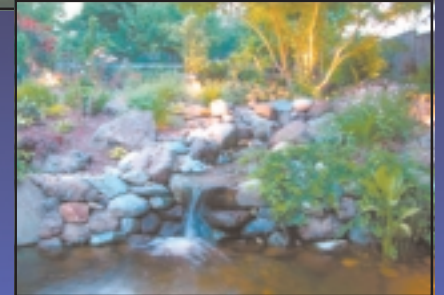
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HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

“Mixed Nuts” in the Orinda Community Center Park



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Bill Garvin**, vocalist/guitarist with Mixed Nuts was a former Orinda resident and Miramonte High School student.

The Orinda Community Center Auxiliary closes its 2007 summer concert season on August 7 with the band Mixed Nuts.

The concert takes place from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Community Center park. Bill Garvin (pictured), a former Miramonte student and Campolindo graduate, sings lead vocals and plays guitar with Dan Hertlein on drums, Paul Feia on bass, and Hershall Kennedy on keyboards. The eclectic ensemble plays hits from the 40's to the present including such varied styles as classic rock, Motown, funk, R&B, disco, modern rock, blues, jazz standards, and even country. "Our goal is for you to dance! If our music makes you move, then we're satisfied," says Garvin.

The Orinda House Features Jazz Thursdays Through Sundays



RICK KONLON  
 Renowned drummer **Pete Escovedo** (left) has appeared at The Orinda House as well as **Pete Yellin** and **Danny Brown**.



Voted the Best of the East Bay 2007 by *Diablo Magazine*, the Orinda House continues to program in great jazz and blues throughout August. Players in past months have included the incomparable Pete Escovedo, who dropped by to play the drums, and vocal dynamo Holly Penfield. A former Orindan, Penfield returned for a

second concert bringing along her husband, Ian Richie, the saxophonist for Pink Floyd! While the line-up for August was not available by press time, you can bet that Orinda House owner, Ron Bonner, will have plenty of swinging entertainment to accompany your dining experience. For more information, call 258-4445.

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**Joey O'Brien**



Starlight Players Revive British Wartime Farce

BY DOROTHY BOWEN  
 Contributing Writer

The Orinda Starlight Village Players end their summer season with the comedy *See How They Run*, playing August 24 through September 15 at the Community Center Park Amphitheatre.

The popular post-war play was first performed in London in 1947. Britain was just recovering from the ravages of World War II and needed a good laugh. "If you like outrageously contrived wartime comedy, you'll love this outrageously contrived wartime comedy," wrote the critic from the *Evening Standard*. Aptly put. Another critic went in thinking it was old-fashioned and hokey, but by intermission was cackling merrily along with the rest of the mostly elderly audience.

[SEE STARLIGHT page 16]



DAVID DIERKS  
**Heather McRobbie and Mark Holobetz** in the upcoming Orinda Starlight production of *See How They Run* opening August 24.



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HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

# Live Jazz at Shelby's in August

By MOYA STONE  
Staff Writer

It's been a year since Shelby's restaurant in Theatre Square started offering live music on Friday and Saturday nights and owner Arno Kober says it's catching on. "People seem to like it," says Kober. "Customers respond really well to the jazz music."

The local restaurant has a full lineup for August to tempt us out into the hot August evenings. The music takes place on Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

- August 3 and 4 – you can hear popular jazz keyboardist, Jack Eskridge
- August 10 – Jim Passard will play jazz guitar
- August 11 – Joe Livoti plays jazz standards on guitar with Mike Fritch on bass
- August 17 – Jo Seppela plays jazz standards on piano
- August 18 – Icarus Trio plays jazz
- August 24 – Jo Seppela returns
- August 25 – Joe Livoti returns with Gus Bogios on bass



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Jim Passard** will be playing with drummer **Fred Johnson** on August 10.

- August 31 – Jack Eskridge returns. Shelby's is located at 2 Theatre Square. For more information or dinner reservations, call 254-9688.

## Caffé Teatro Continues Summer Music Series



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Ace Batacan** brings his finger-style guitar to Caffé Teatro on August 12.

By MOYA STONE  
Staff Writer

The popularity of its summer concerts has led managers of Caffé Teatro to lineup a more extensive concert schedule for August with an eclectic mix of local bands to play on the library plaza on Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

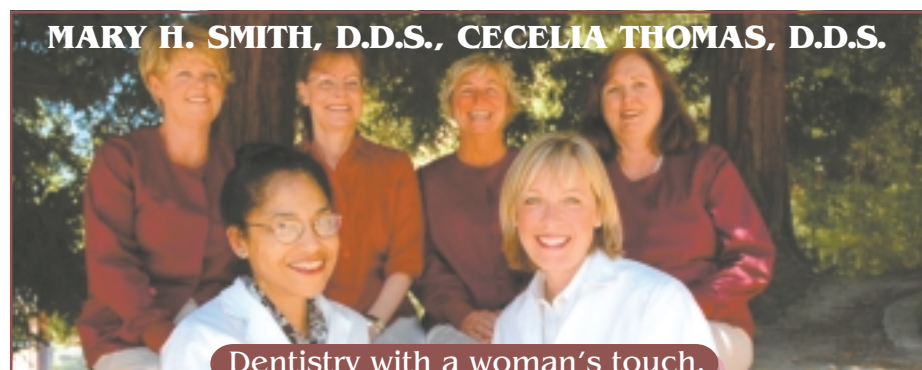
Starting off the month is pop and contemporary rock guitarist Chris Estes playing tunes by Dave Matthews, Ray Lamontagne, and John Mayer. Ace Batacan will play finger-style guitar the following Sunday. As opposed to flat-picking or strumming, finger-style uses the technique of plucking the guitar strings directly with fingertips, fingernails, or picks attached to fingers. The term is usually associated with

folk, country-jazz, and blues music. Originally from the Philippines, Batacan has also studied jazz guitar.

The following week, David Moore will perform in the same style. The month will end on a different note with the country blues sound of The Real Placebos. The band includes Brandt Williams and Steve Freeman on guitar and Raffi Minasian plays the violin and fiddle.

The schedule includes:

- August 5 – Chris Estes, pop rock, guitar and vocals
- August 12 – Ace Batacan, acoustic fingerstyle guitar
- August 19 – David Moore, acoustic fingerstyle guitar
- August 26 – The Real Placebos, acoustic blues and American Roots.




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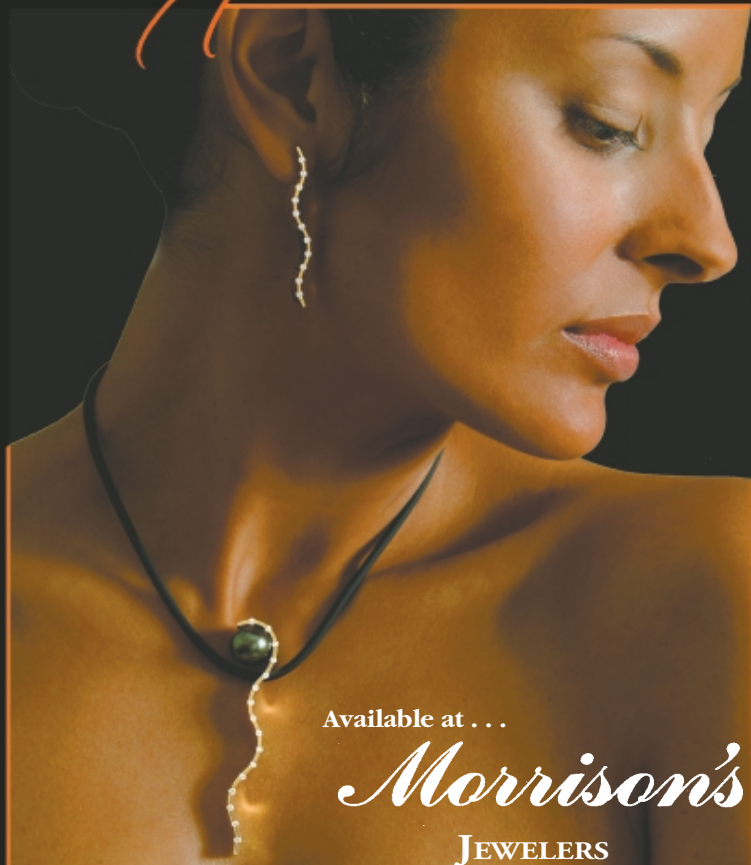
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**Bobbie Dodson**

Looking for something new to occupy your children's or grandchildren's days this summer? Adventure Playground in Berkeley, at the foot of University Avenue at the Marina, offers it.

On a recent Sunday, I watched children sawing 2 by 4's, hammering plywood pieces, painting pianos, riding the zip line, climbing on a hanging tire jungle gym, walking a thick tight rope, and clambering in and out of forts and towers other youngsters had built.

"It's unlike any playground I've ever seen," said staff member, Paul Ryan. "Kids are free to do pretty much anything they want. I love working here because they all have so much fun. They are uninhibited

and extremely creative."

Upon entering, after they have registered, youngsters must pick up either 10 nails, five pieces of trash, five wood splinters, or one "Mr. Dangerous," which might be a board with nails sticking out of it. Then they may choose one tool with which to work.

Collin Fisher, 6 years old, chose a brush and bright purple paint to spruce up an old row boat. He was there with his dad and brothers, who are 4 and 12. Father Kent Fisher said, "Really, it looks like a hazardous area, but somehow it all works and the kids have a great time. My boys can occupy themselves for hours. Sometimes they tear things apart; sometimes they build new structures."

Indeed, part of the area reminds one of a village of shanties as children have built forts, houses, and towers with plywood and other boards. Some are two stories tall, often with odd angles which no building inspector would approve. They have been painted and repainted resulting in a kaleidoscope of color on the walls. They stand until other youngsters decide to tear



A young builder is helped by staff member Paul Ryan.

BOBBIE DODSON

them down and start something new. A more artistic project was a bird, Mr. Big Bird perhaps, which stood about six feet tall.

Boys and girls can start out less ambitiously, just choosing three or four boards to hammer together, or saw into smaller pieces. "They are free to do whatever they wish, but we do urge parental supervision as often children haven't used these kinds of tools before. Nor have they had the opportunity to climb high on a tire jungle gym, or on a tire tower, or the various structures that have been built," said Patty Donald, who has been Recreation Coordinator of the Berkeley Marina for 28 years. She also suggested that children wear sturdy shoes rather than flip flops as there can be nails and boards on the ground. "Even though aprons are provided when children paint, it often gets on clothing so they should wear older clothes and/or bring their own paint shirts," she added.

The concept for Adventure Playground originated in Europe after World War II. A playground designer, in watching children play, discovered they preferred playing in the dirt and lumber of the post-war rubble rather than a conventional playground. He realized that children had the most fun designing and building their own structures. Following this concept, Berkeley's Adventure Playground was opened in 1978, covering an acre of ground.

There is a drop off program where kids 7 and older can stay for up to three hours for a charge of \$6 per child. Groups of five or more are required to make reservations. I saw a fifth grade Girl Scout troop from

Piedmont engaging in a variety of available activities. Kathy Laymon, mother of one of the girls said, "This seemed like a good and different place for the girls to have their year-end celebration. They're really enjoying it. When the playground closes at 5, we're having dinner at one of the adjacent picnic spots."

In fact, girls seem to like Adventure Playground just as well as boys. It was a favorite of my four granddaughters when they were growing up. They always called it "Nail Park" and still like to go see it now that they're college students. We usually took a picnic lunch as there are tables and a large grassy area outside the fenced area of the playground. There are also places to walk, and it's fun to watch the windsurfers and jet skiers on the bay, with a backdrop of the Oakland skyline and the huge cranes of the cargo ship loading area at the Port of Oakland.

**If You Go:** Adventure Playground is free for four or fewer children, accompanied by adults. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the summer it is open seven days a week, only on weekends during the school year.

Directions from Orinda: Travel on Highway 24, Interstates 580 and then 80 toward Sacramento, exiting on Powell Street. From Powell, turn right on the frontage road, following it to University Avenue. Make a left turn and follow the signs to the Shorebird Park Nature Center and Adventure Playground.

Donations of scrap materials are always welcome. For more information check the web at Marina Experience or phone (510) 981-6720.



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CASA ORINDA

# Mysteries of Casa Orinda, Solved and Unsolved

BY DOROTHY BOWEN  
Staff Writer

Whatever became of the neon cowboy roping a steer that galloped across Casa Orinda's roof at the Crossroads? Many longtime Orindans have wondered about that over the years. It was a spectacular light show, in living color, as the cowboy on horseback chased the steer, threw out his lasso and roped it as his horse reared back, night after night. The sign included a martini glass with a red cherry and "Casa Orinda, Fine Food," below.

opinion of people in Orinda mattered a lot to the supervisors." Weber said, "I rue the day that it came down."

Times change. Ironically, about the time of the removal of the offending sign, neon was becoming appreciated as an art form, not a civic blight. Somewhere, somehow, the cowboy is still roping and tying the stray steer.

The neon sign came down in October, 1972. It took about three hours to dismantle it and haul it away on a flatbed truck. It weighed 2,300 pounds and measured eight by 25 feet and stood 16 feet above the roof.

signs." Putnam concluded.

The western theme that the sign advertised was for real. The Casa was started by a real Montana cowboy, Jack Snow, who came to the Bay Area to work on the Caldecott Tunnel. He wanted to open a place where his pals could eat and drink. He brought his younger brother, Tommy, down to manage the operation.

"Jack was more social. He would have given everything away," said Goyak. The Casa has always been a watering hole for local cowboys who knew they could come in and get a good steak on Friday night. When the owners decided to do away with white tablecloths in 1967, they invited the cowboys to bring their branding irons down to stake out a claim on the wooden tables.

From the beginning, the Casa had a rotisserie in the back to barbecue the chicken and steaks that were a must on the menu. "If you mentioned lamb, you would have been thrown out," said Goyak. The hitching post in front was removed in 1967 when the sidewalks were redone. Before that, Orindans would often ride horseback down on moonlight nights to the Casa or the Round Up Saloon in Lafayette.

As often rumored, there was a room [SEE CASA page 19]



Casa Orinda proprietors (L-R) Charlotte Goyak Guppy, John Goyak, and Bill Staggs.

The curious got their answer from the owners of Casa Orinda, John Goyak and Charlotte Goyak Guppy, who spoke at the meeting of the Orinda Historical Society in May.

"It's probably intact, somewhere," said John Goyak. The demolition company agreed to do the work for free if they could keep the sign. "I was really upset at the time," remembers Goyak.

The sign was removed after the Orinda Association (OA) wrote a sign ordinance outlawing neon and also signs painted on the back of buildings, like chewing tobacco ads on rural barns. The ordinance, of about 1970 or 1971, was modeled after Pleasant Hill's because it was the only community that had one. But the OA had no power to enforce the ordinance. "We weren't smart enough to make an exception for the Casa as we did for the Orinda Theatre," said Carl Weber who was an officer of the OA at the time. "It was a most unusual and attractive sign."


Later, the county supervisors adopted a sign ordinance in 1972 and applied it to the cowboy at the Casa. "People just didn't want a neon sign," said Goyak, who was cooking in the kitchen at the time, "and the

Longtime Sun former editor Jane Putnam, a reporter then, documented the move: "There is darkness above the neo-Spanish roof these nights. And even those of us who are the strongest advocates of sign control must confess to missing the big neon sign with the martini glass and a flashing cowboy that was a landmark for over 30 years."

The sign went up in 1939, a year after Jack Snow opened Casa Orinda. The total cost was \$4,500 at the time, according to E. J. Dufour of Orinda who was a salesman for the Federal Sign and Signal Co. of Oakland that installed it. "Today, in 1972, it would be worth about \$15,000," he estimated.

Ivan Goyak, then owner of the Casa, didn't ask for a variance because of his former positions with the county. He was supervisor from 1951 to 1958 and member of the planning commission from 1964 to 1970. He didn't even ask for a two-year stay of execution that he was entitled to by the new law. "When I go to Vegas or some parts of Lake Tahoe, I realize how important sign control is," Goyak said. "It is fortunate that Jack Snow wasn't here to see it lugged off to wherever it is they take old

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Julie Vilardi before the Living Lean program.  
  
Julie Vilardi

I am a 45-year old mother of two that has worked out regularly for the past three years, attempting to stay in shape and combat the changes of middle age. I had a wake up call in January when at a regular check up my doctor said that I was fit, but fat! Somehow, I had let pounds creep on. I responded to Sheena's ad and began Living Lean in March. The program has been a complete awakening for me regarding how to focus my eating and exercise efforts to build lean body mass and burn fat. Sheena's delightful personality and depth of knowledge made this effort fun and inspiring. Sure, it has been a commitment, but it has not been difficult because I have been motivated by the excellent results. The best part is that I know the results are here to stay. In fact, I just got rid of all my fat clothes!

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THREE-QUARTER CENTURY CLUB

Three-Quarter Century Queen - and King - for a Day

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Contributing Writer

**H**elen Vurek, 97, was crowned queen of the Royal Court for being the oldest woman attending the Orinda Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon. Tom Deahl at age 92 was the oldest man. He and his wife, Aileen, also received the award for being the couple longest married, 67 years. Rounding out the court was Joyce Mann who had turned 75 most recently.

Deahl commented that he played tennis until last year, but has stopped because all of his tennis buddies had to give up the game.

"It seems like in our community the world revolves around the young people, which is good, but the older generation is pretty much forgotten," said John Fazel, who spearheads the yearly event sponsored by Prudential California Realty of Orinda, the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club, and the Orinda Community Church. "They are the ones who have made Orinda what it is

today. We pretty much close down our office so that the Prudential people can be here to prepare and serve the food. We also appreciate the Community Church offering us the venue in which to hold this yearly event."

Following the luncheon, Fazel introduced the keynote speaker, Michael Muir, great grandson of John Muir. Now 55, Muir was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis when he was 15. An avid horseman, he continued riding as long as he could, before switching to horse-drawn carriages. "It still gave that feeling of kinship between me and the horse," he explained.

When he could no longer compete in carriage races, Muir devoted his energies to enabling people with disabilities to enjoy nature by riding in carriages. The carriages are equipped with battery-operated lifts.

Muir says he is grateful for what his great grandfather did for the world in preserving nature areas and instilling a love of nature in so many people. "I feel privileged to carry on this mission in my particular way.

The Access Adventure Driving Program operates from April through October at the Rush Ranch in Solano County. We offer monthly carriage driving events on the Muir Heritage Land Trust and Solano Land Trust properties, giving disabled people the opportunity to tour the spectacular open spaces they otherwise would not be able to see. In addition, weekly recreational horse-drawn carriage driving is available. The program is open to anyone living with mobility challenges and is not limited to wheelchair users," he adds.

Access Adventures is staffed by volunteers drawn from Northern California equestrian groups. Not maintaining their own stable of driving horses, they depend on volunteers with suitably experienced horses to work when needed.

But Muir does more than this. In 2001, he led an international team of people with disabilities driving wheelchair-accessible horse-drawn carriages on a 3,000 mile, 10-month journey across America, from Mission San Diego to Washington, D.C. On the way, they visited hospitals where people were profoundly disabled. "I believe we gave them inspiration and hope," Muir adds.

At the conclusion of the program, each lady, 75-years old and older, was presented



PAT RUDEBUSCH  
Michael Muir, John Muir's grandson, spoke about Access Adventure.

with a red rose as a remembrance of this special occasion. Fazel invites any Orinda resident of the appropriate age to contact him and have their name placed on the list for next year's Three-Quarter Century Luncheon. Fazel can be reached at (925) 324-2017 or email runmtns@prodigy.net. To reach Access Adventure, phone (707) 432-0150, ext. 209, or visit www.access-adventure.org.



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◆ JACONETTE from page 1

Standardized testing has expanded, and the greatest tension in the system is at the high school level with state and local testing coupled with college entrance testing." Still, he believes that testing can be a valuable educational tool. "Technology has made a lot of things possible. We now have the ability to readily aggregate and disaggregate data and then take that data and use it in a way that becomes an instructional instrument. This allows teaching and learning to become a team approach between students, teachers, and parents."

At the same time, Jacquette appreciates the fact that good teachers nurture a love of learning. "With California's academic standards, we have the baseline. What's important is knowing how to support and nurture what's here. We can do all these things mechanically, but do we enjoy it?"

Orinda, he believes, has effective systems for teaching and learning. The challenge going forward, he says, is the budget. "In order to maintain what Orinda has built, we need to be cognizant of the limited resources. If we want to go further, we need to expand those resources. It's critical that we make effective and strategic decisions for the highest priorities that focus on what's best for kids."

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CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE / WATER POLO

# Triumph of Love Given a French Twist in World Premiere

BY DOROTHY BOWEN  
Staff Writer

*The Triumph of Love* is sometimes described as “a silly, goofy, sparkling piece of fluff” or “a beguiling trifle, a gauzy, teasing inquiry into the fungibility of emotions.” That’s not the way Lillian Groag sees it. “The playwright, Pierre Marivaux, can be diluted,” she says, “but it’s really a difficult play, not pretty, pretty. It’s very French, an analysis of falling in love. It’s not sentimental. It was written about the same time as *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. It dissects love and in the end, it leaves you pretty scared.”

Groag will direct the world premiere of her adaptation of *The Triumph of Love*, with a new translation by Frederick Gluck, for the third play in Cal Shakes’ 2007 season. The basic plot is about a princess who falls in love with a young man who is being raised by two elderly philosophers to avoid love and study philosophy. He is also the rightful heir to the kingdom. “She gets what she wants, but destroys two people’s lives,” says Groag. “It’s about the inherent cruelty of eros. The title itself is ironic.”

*The Triumph of Love* has similar elements to many of Shakespeare’s plays. The heroine, Leonide, disguises herself as a boy to get to the hero, Agis, as in *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*. The hero has given up on love, as in *All’s Well That Ends Well*, but there is less collateral damage. “She gets what she wants and rides away into the fairyland of happiness,” says Jonathan Moscone, Cal Shakes’ artistic director.

Marivaux was the theatrical darling of the glittering, hollow court of Louis XV. According to one critic, *Triumph* is steeped in the ideals of the period. The play was pretty much ignored until the late 20th Century. Berkeley Rep presented it some years back.

In Cal Shakes’ production, there will be some really funny clowning by Ron Campbell (last season’s Falstaff) and Danny Scheie, as servants. In the original production, Marivaux hired Italian actors from *Commedia del Arte* who improvised on stage so he didn’t write many lines for them.

Stacy Ross will play Leonide, the princess. She has frequently performed parts that required her to be disguised as a boy. “She has to be convincing to make the philosopher’s sister fall in love with her,” says Groag. Jud Williford will play Agis, the hero. A graduate of the American Conservatory Theatre (ACT), he recently performed in ACT’s *Imaginary Invalid*. Dan Hiatt will play the philosopher and Dominique Lozano, his sister. Catherine Castellanos is the princess’s servant, also disguised as a man.



Director Lillian Groag.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Before rehearsals began for *Triumph of Love* on July 10, Groag was directing Gluck’s opera *Orpheus* for the Glimmerglass Festival on the East Coast. It opened July 8 in the afternoon and that evening, she caught a flight home to Los Angeles in order to drive up to the Bay Area in time for rehearsals.

*The Triumph of Love* begins previews August 8 with opening night on August 11. It runs through September 2. For tickets, call (510) 548-9666.

## Fall Coed Water Polo Registration

The Orinda Youth Association will offer its coed water polo program again this fall. This program is designed to teach the fundamentals of water polo.

Miramonte pool will host the program, and head coach Noel Murphy will return to run the program. This season Murphy will be assisted by select members of the Miramonte men’s and women’s water polo teams.

The season will run on Sundays from September 9 to October 21. Third to fifth graders will play from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. while sixth through eighth graders will play from 5 to 6 p.m.

Fee is \$120 per participant and includes a water polo hat. Participants must provide their own swimsuit and goggles.

Registrations will be taken at the Orinda Community Center from August 20 through August 31. For further information, please call Jerry Johnston at 253-4204 or email [jjohnston@ci.orinda.ca.us](mailto:jjohnston@ci.orinda.ca.us).

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◆ GARDEN from page 9

the sight line for cars traveling through the intersection. The group also keeps the roses at the gardens at Heather Farms pruned year-round and, for the past 30 years, they have delivered 100 floral arrangements every month to the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center for patients of the county hospital (formerly Merrithew Memorial Hospital). Founded in 1937, the Orinda Club is an affiliate of Garden Clubs of America.

Every month, members of the Orinda Junior Garden Club meet to plant and maintain the circle at the turnaround at the end of Moraga Way and Bryant Way near Theatre Square. The Orinda Junior Garden Club, like the others, donates the materials and their services to the city beautification projects they undertake. Their good deeds do not go unnoticed, however. Garden club member Lisa Jorgens recounts how an anonymous admirer of their work has twice donated \$1,000 to the group to help defray the costs of plants and materials. Other members tell of passers-by bringing them cups of coffee from the nearby Starbucks when they're busily working in the circle.

The Orinda Junior Garden Club also plants the hanging baskets of flowers that adorn Irwin Way in the summer. Jorgens notes McDonnell's Nursery is instrumental in helping her group research appropriate plants and assemble the materials to create

about 20 baskets, "It's difficult because the flowers are exposed to harsh summer conditions, and we don't control how often they're watered." (Once hung, the City of Orinda maintains the flowering baskets for the season.) "McDonnell's helps us with the assembly by storing the materials and then letting us come in after-hours to work. They also supply things such as water retention pellets that come in bulk. We couldn't do it without them."

Jorgens says that her group, along with the three other garden clubs (including the Orinda Valley Garden Club), also takes turns supplying the bouquets of fresh-cut flowers that adorn the circulation counter and reference desk at the Orinda Library. "Each club is responsible for three months, so that makes it very manageable."

Orinda's garden clubs recently have started meeting as a group with Mayor Steve Glazer to discuss other ways in which they can work together to help boost civic pride in our city. One idea that emerged from their first meeting was to sponsor a "Garden of the Month" designation. The idea came from discussions around the newly created Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture, Landscape, and Environmental Design. "Nancy Chenoweth came up with the idea," recounts Creighton. "The Mayor's Award will most likely recognize projects by professional landscapers. Nancy thought it would be a good idea to also give recognition to the hobbyist gardeners who work hard to make their yards beautiful."

As you travel around town this summer, be sure to take time to enjoy the flowers. And if you like what you see, take a minute to tell one of the hard-working, dedicated gardeners maintaining their plot. They do it for the love of gardening...civic pride.

Information on the Montelindo and Orinda Garden Clubs can be found online at [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com) or [www.orindagardenclub.org](http://www.orindagardenclub.org).

◆ STARLIGHT from page 10

Starlight's Geotty Chapple directs a cast of actors familiar to the Starlight stage and some newcomers. Familiar faces include Bill Chessman, Carolyn Kraetsch, Mark Hollbetz, Richard Smith, and Malcolm Cowler. Newcomers are Heather McRobbie of Alameda and Christy Scott, a psychologist who deals with sexuality issues who will play a man-hungry maid.

The comedy is a farce of mistaken identities — purposeful and accidental — in a small English country village. Feelings are bruised when a newcomer arrives on the scene — an American actress who marries the vicar, even though her uncle is a bishop. In order to take a friend to the theater, she steals the vicar's second-best suit, which is then stolen by an escaped German POW. Confusion ensues until a practical Irish cop resolves the situation.

The Orinda production will be set in the 1940s, as the script calls for, but won't include sandbags around the seats as in the London revival. Memories of the Blitz just don't have the same resonance in Orinda as in London. The farce will include the famous scene of the vicars running around in their underwear. "If it's too cold in the outdoor theater, we will just use longjohns," says Chapple.

To get in the mood, London productions have included sing-alongs of wartime favorites, "We'll Meet Again" and "White Cliffs of Dover," which some Starlight audience members might remember. "I'd love to put a little music in," says Chapple. "We did that in *I'll Leave It To You*, and it's one of my favorites." And of course, for the Noel Coward play of last season, *Fallen Angels*, Starlight's Jill Gelster discovered the playwright's forgotten song, "Even Angels Fall in Love," and included it in the show.

On stage, there will be a white piano box built by the late Jim Kula, Starlight's Poirot from the company's Agatha Christie mysteries. A tribute to Kula will be included in the program as well as to Ralph Miller, who was in the first Starlight show and also in the first show Kula did with the company. Other recent losses to the company include Brett Harte, Peggy Rising, and Fran Wenrich. "We've been around long enough to lose some," says Chapple.

*See How They Run* performs August 24 through September 15 on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, September 9 at 4 p.m. and Thursday, September 13 at 8 p.m. There will be no performances on Labor Day weekend. Tickets are \$10 general or \$7.50 for students and seniors.

No reservations are required, says Chapple. For information, call 253-1191 or e-mail [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net).

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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## AUGUST

- 3 **Orinda Starlight Village Players**, *My Three Angels*, Fridays and Saturdays 8:30 p.m. at Orinda Community Park Amphitheater. Ends August 4. For information call 253-1191 or email [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net).  
**Shelby's** restaurant presents concerts on Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. throughout August. See page 9 for listings.
- 4 **Orinda Farmer's Market**, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., on Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid. Fresh fruits, vegetables, pastries and more. Continues each Saturday. Visit [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) for vendors.
- 5 **Caffé Teatro** features concerts each Sunday in August from 1-3 p.m. See page 9 for listings.
- 7 **Community Center Auxiliary** Concerts-in-the-Park, Mixed Nuts, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Community Center Park.
- 8 **California Shakespeare Festival**, *Triumph of Love*, preview. Opening night August 11, continues through September 2. Starting times vary, with 4 p.m. Sunday matinees through the month and some evenings at 7:30. For tickets, call (510) 548-9666.
- 11 **Kids 'N Dance**, *Guys and Dolls*, presented by Orinda Ovation Children's Theater at Lafayette Dance Center at 11:15 a.m. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$7 for children 10 and under. For information, call (925) 284-7388.
- 18 **Kids 'N Dance**, *High School Musical*, noon, presented by Orinda Ovation Children's Theater at Lafayette Dance Center. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$7 for children 10 and under. For information, call (925) 284-7388.
- 20 **Water Polo Registration**, for Orinda Youth Association's Co-ed basics program for third through eighth graders. Through August 31 at Orinda Community Center. Call 253-4204 for more information.
- 21 **Orinda Owls**, 7 p.m. at Orinda Books. Reading and discussion of *White Ghost Girls* by Alice Greenway. Monthly meetings welcome new members.  
**Page by Page Book Group**, 7 p.m. at Orinda Books. Reading and discussion of *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky. This group meets monthly the same night as Orinda Owls, and also welcomes new members.
- 24 **Orinda Starlight Village Players**, *See How They Run*, a wartime comedy, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. through September 15. For information, call 253-1191 or e-mail [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net).

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events open to the public and are free unless otherwise marked.

- 1 **Get A Clue**, reading program throughout the summer. Librarians available to recommend summer reading for all ages, from babies through adults. Check [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org) or visit the library for details.
- 4 **Saturday Morning Live!** 10 a.m., family storytime for 3- to 5-year olds. Repeats August 11 for the last session of summer.  
**Death Gets a Red Card**, a participatory murder mystery for middle and high school students who want to solve a CSI-like crime, 2 p.m.
- 7 **Toddler Lapsit**, 10 a.m., stories, songs, and bounces for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers. Repeats at 10:30 a.m. Continues August 8, which is the last session for the month.

For more information on library programs, call 254-2184.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**, Postino's in Lafayette, 7 a.m. every Friday, 254-0440, ext.463.
- Orinda Lions Club**, Europa Restaurant, 64 Moraga Way, every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m., 254-0482.
- Orinda Rotary**, Community Center, every Wednesday at noon, 254-5537.
- Orinda Association**, Orinda Library, May Room, second Monday, 7:30 p.m., 254-0800.
- Orinda Historical Society**, third Wednesday of the month, OHS Museum, 3 - 5 p.m., 254-1353.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**, fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.
- Friends of Orinda Creeks**, Orinda Library, May Room, fourth Wednesday, 8 a.m., 253-1997.

## CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

## Acalanes Union High School District

First and third Wednesdays, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m.

## City Council

First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.ci.Orinda.ca.us](http://www.ci.Orinda.ca.us).

## Historic Landmarks Committee

Fourth Tuesday, 3 - 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, public is welcome, for information, please call 788-7323.

## Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

**Orinda Public Safety Advisory Commission** meets the second Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., Community Room, City Hall.

## Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees

Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road, [www.orinda.k12.ca.us](http://www.orinda.k12.ca.us).

## Planning Commission

Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 253-4210.

## Parks and Recreation Commission

Second Wednesday, 7 p.m., Community Center, room 7, 254-2445.

CALENDAR BY CHRIS LAVIN

Send calendar items to [chrislavin@earthlink.net](mailto:chrislavin@earthlink.net)

## Group Show at Orinda Library Gallery



WENDA PYMAN

Wenda Pyman's "Moon over Mt. Diablo," a limited edition photographic print, is part of the Oakland Art Association's group show exhibited through August 17 at the Orinda Library Gallery. The show includes paintings, drawings, photography, collage, etchings, small sculpture, and woodcuts.

## 51st Annual Swim Meet

The Orinda Moraga Pools Association will host the 51st OMPA Championship Swim Meet August 3 - 5 at the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School in Moraga. One of the largest recreational swim meets in the country, the 2006 championship had over 4,000 entries and over 1,650 swimmers competing from 10-member swim teams.

For more information, contact Charlie Luecker at [cluecker@lincolnaquatics.com](mailto:cluecker@lincolnaquatics.com).

## Solar Seminar to be Held at Library

Thinking about going solar? The Orinda Public Library will host "Solar 101 for Homeowners" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 15, in the Gallery Room.

Homeowners will have an opportunity to learn how solar technology works, whether or not it makes sense, and how to go about constructing a solar project.

The seminar is free, and will be sponsored by NorCal Solar.

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◆ GROW from page 9

out of which flows an 18-inch wide sheet of water spilling down into the tub below. At first glance it appears to be a beautiful tile fountain until you later notice that it is the backdrop for a hot tub. Another fun installation was a solid copper, vanishing edge, curved fountain that added magic to a third-story deck.

Statues are another common choice to adorn a garden. It's always fun when we're asked to landscape around statuary or a sculpture. An artist client whose medium was large-scale bronze had us design a

garden around her two, 9-foot tall bronze ballerinas. These sculptures came to life with a planting of dogwoods behind them and the addition of amber up-lights. Kinetic sculptures have also found their way into many of our projects. This choice in garden art adds another dimension of movement to the garden when the wind blows.

Birdhouses are another popular garden accoutrement. Cathy has an affinity for interesting and rustic birdhouses and dressed up our boring back fence by using her collection to top the fence posts. The beauty of adding a birdhouse to your yard is that you can find one to fit any style of garden.

Ponds provide a perfect spot to add some well-chosen garden decor. Steve often says of our ponds, "build it and they will come." They bring frogs, birds, and garden ornaments. We cannot recall a pond that has lasted more than a week or two without the introduction of stone otters, frogs, mermaids, turtles, or standing crane statues. Next to our recently built pond we have installed two solid brass heron lights. Yes, the light actually does shine out of their tail feathers. Aside from being beautiful and giving the pond a nice glow at night, these brass herons reportably act as a deterrent to the live fish-hunting variety. We shall see if this proves true.

A word of warning: Because ponds tend to attract ornaments, remember there is such a thing as too many hotchokys to take away the focus from the pond altogether. You must decide if it is the pond you want to embellish or if the pond is there to create a setting for your ornaments.

When shopping for garden art, consider the following. Do you want something for ornamental purposes only, or does it need to fulfill a specific function, too? Think about the object's size and shape. How well does the ornament fit with the overall scale or flow of your garden? Contemplate its color. Does the color of the object blend with or add a complementary contrast to the colors of your garden and/or your home? What type of material (wood, iron, concrete, metal, stone, etc.) would best blend with your garden theme and other existing objects? Take into account how the weather or nearby sprinklers might effect your chosen object. Will the ornament be able to withstand the elements without fading or chipping or will additional weathering enhance its look and appeal?

There are no real hard, fast rules when it comes to decorating your garden — only guidelines that you should feel free to break. It's your garden, and how you choose to decorate it should be based on what pleases you. But before placing that Volkswagen Bug-sized pink rabbit in your

front yard (one really exists in Piedmont), you might ponder whether you prefer the pink rabbit to your neighbors.

For more information on garden decoration or to suggest a topic for a future "Way to Grow" article, contact Cathy and Steve Lambert at GardenLights@comcast.net.

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2007 Publication Schedule

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## BUSINESS BUZZ

## ◆ BUZZ from page 20

who is a junior in high school. A multi-talented man, Major enjoys flying jets when he is not repairing shoes. He attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and earned his commercial license in 1980. Major has worked in the past for Cal West Aviation and today he flies private corporate jets. When you bring your shoes in, ask him about all the celebrities he has run into, from John Travolta to Steven Spielberg, while hanging out at the Lear jet area of airports.

Orinda Shoes and Service continues to be a family business to this day, with Major's aunt, Sandra Allen, making calls to every customer to let them know their shoes are ready. "Customers really appreciate it when Sandra calls them to remind them to pick up their shoes. People get so busy they often forget that they brought their shoes in for repair," says Sherry Major. There is a sign prominently displayed inside the tiny shop letting the customer know exactly where the buck stops: "If your repair work is a rush job, an extra charge will be made if not picked up."

## ◆ Cheryl's Closet Consignments

Bright and airy with rows of color-coordinated fashions, Cheryl's Closet Consignment is a must for the clothes horse and the sensible shopper. Inviting Irish pine furniture bedecked with beautiful floral displays puts one immediately at home, while racks of greens, jades, purples, blues, oranges, reds and of course classic black, are neatly arranged and provide a feast for the eyes. The shop is located at 21 Orinda Way, between the UPS Store and Quenchers.

"When I was in college I did windows for a lot of stores in the Bay Area, and I worked as an area sales manager for Kelly Services. I dealt with a lot of company owners and executives, and they inspired me to be an entrepreneur," says Cheryl Buscaglia, owner of Cheryl's Closet Consignments. "I took a lot of interior design classes while majoring in business, with a minor in home economics. I focused on marketing textiles, and I began to think about redistributing clothing that people purchase and then rarely wear," she continues. Her husband, Richard Buscaglia, encouraged her to open the clothing consignment store as a way of doing something good for the environment.

"With our world starting to run out of vital resources, the idea really evolved, and I opened the shop 11 years ago. Many people who place items on consignment often do not take the proceeds from the sale of their clothing, but instead prefer that I donate the proceeds to their favorite charity in their name," adds Buscaglia, a Bay Area



SALLY HOGARTY  
Cheryl Buscaglia helps customer Barbara Ward at Cheryl's Closet.

native.

The Buscaglias have lived in Orinda for 18 years. Richard Buscaglia owns B & B Grading and Paving in Concord. Interestingly, his grandfather's ranch was located on what is now Boundary Oaks Golf Course.

Everything from black tie to casual apparel can be found at Cheryl's Closet. Brand names such as Karen Kane, Dana Buchman, Eileen Fisher, St. John's, and even Versace can be found. "Close to 50 percent of our inventory is made up of new items that have never been worn, including most of the jewelry and purses. The new items are samples that the designers have made available," explains Jill Kissinger, a very helpful sales clerk at the shop. Not only clothing, but shoes, elegant beaded evening bags, and sunglasses are in stock. "We do estates and if a customer is elderly or ill, I can come to their home to do business," says Cheryl, who is responsible for encouraging Cyndi Hilton to open her successful Hilton House Furniture Consignment nearby.

Cheryl's Closet carries Lavender Dreams aromatherapy items that include Zum Bar goat's milk soap (the frankincense and myrrh is wonderful), Wee Bar (goat's milk baby soap in lullaby lavender), and Zum Hug (a bare hug with jasmine and goat's milk).

A fun variety of soaps and candles are available that make really special gifts. For more details about Lavender Dreams selections, please call Marianna Sucher at 254-1122.

This is a place where people drop by all the time and connect with one another. It is a place where Cheryl Buscaglia's philosophy of making the world a better place through recycling is really happening. For more information, please call Cheryl at 254-4442. The shop is open Tuesday through Friday 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## ◆ CASA from page 13

upstairs at the Casa for gambling. "Yes, it's true," said Guppy. Slot machines were downstairs, except when the sheriff phoned and warned of an impending raid. Then it was bartender Joe Roundtree's job to move them upstairs and out of sight.

It was gambling, probably, that led to the other unsolved mystery surrounding Casa Orinda. Tommy Snow was deeply involved in gambling. One night in 1965, he was found murdered in his car between Casa Orinda and his home in Pleasant Hill. He had closed the restaurant and a waitress, Fran Scott, had helped him load some chicken in the back seat to take home. No one else was in the car. He was found in his car off Acalanes Road, near Taylor Boulevard shot in the head, but not robbed, the passenger door stood open, the motor still running, and the chicken in the back seat still warm. The crime was never solved, even though his brother Jack offered a \$25,000 reward. Jack speculated that it was done by a hit man from out-of-town because of Tommy's gambling debts. "We think it's true," said Guppy.

Jack Snow was devastated by the tragedy and sold his brother's half of Casa Orinda to Ivan Goyak in 1967. With it came the collection of western art Snow had commissioned, copies of Remingtons, Clymers, and originals by the son of the mayor of Oakland, as well as a gun collection and some bridles that were once owned by the Moragas. Ivan's son John, who had started working there as a bus boy, was brought in to manage the restaurant. He had just graduated from UC Berkeley and planned to be a teacher. That was 40

years ago. Guppy joined the partnership about eight years later and worked as hostess. Ivan retired about then, but still maintains a keen interest in and an apartment at the Casa, even though he is retired and living in Calistoga.

Goyak remembers that his duties once included butchering a moose that his father shot in Wyoming. He enlisted the help of Bill Staggs, who was a cook at the time. The hind quarters alone weighed about 800 pounds. The moose head is mounted above the fireplace in the Casa.

The Casa was the regular lunch spot for the county supervisors on Tuesdays. Today the Orinda City Council continues that tradition, according to former Mayor Amy Worth.

The Casa has had only five chefs in 75 years, so the menu has stayed the same to the delight of 2regulars who complain of any changes. "It's a place where families go every week, but also where some people go to meet people they shouldn't meet," said Guppy. "We could write a book, but, of course, we couldn't use people's names."

At the Orinda Historical Society (OHS) dinner, Clark Wallace said his mother loved having breakfast at Casa Orinda. And OHS president Lucy Hupp Williams and her husband, Buzz, relived their courting days in 1959 when they had dinner at the corner table by the fireplace.

And perhaps the sign saga can come full circle. The green semicircular ORINDA sign is languishing in the OHS archives because no one can give it a home. Goyak told Williams that he would be happy to display it on the roof of Casa Orinda. "But I don't know if the city would allow it," he laughed.

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### Penny Lane There Is a Barber

Potted camellias and purple pansies, a silver water bowl for dogs, and a comfortable wooden bench adorn the entrance to Penny Lane Hair Salon at 105 Orinda Way, between Orinda Village Antiques and the Orinda Village Horse Shop. It is located at the quiet end of Orinda Way, near the historic 1920 San Pablo Creek Bridge. This microcosm of Orinda has the charm of Carmel.

Owner Brenda Mosher loves her work and it shows. Mosher established this cozy, good-vibe hair salon 12 years ago and today she is going on, stronger than ever. Just as

one might think, the name of the salon is taken from the Lennon/McCartney song, *Penny Lane*. "Penny Lane there is a barber showing photographs of all the heads he's had the pleasure to know... Penny Lane is in my ears and in my eyes..."

Five experienced stylists are available, providing highlights, color, permanents, both men's and women's haircuts and styles. Jeanne Stevens, Susan Kozak, Irene Lafayette, and Dan Ferreira join Mosher working extended hours, and there is always a stylist available for early morning and evening appointments. "I was very excited to open in 1995, and it has been great. I am thankful to have been able to get in the profession and to meet all our wonderful clients," smiles Mosher. "We



Penny Lane Hair Salon personnel (L-R) owner **Brenda Mosher, Susan Kozak, Jeanne Stevens, Dan Ferreira, and Irene Lafayette.**

continue to learn new cutting techniques to add to what we already do," she continues. Depending on what type of cut you prefer, prices are in the \$30 to \$50 range. Only the Nicolas line of hair products is available at Penny Lane.

"There are 185 years of hairdressing experience between all five of us here at Penny Lane. We really make it a point to have a good time throughout the day," says Susan Kozak.

Decorated with warm earth tone colors of moss green and adobe, clients immediately settle in to relax, gazing across the quiet street to the bucolic Orinda Country Club. Mosher's husband, Rob Mosher, designed the colorful and whimsical motif furniture inside. He is a controller for Home Depot and enjoys building furniture in his spare time. His work is shown in the Bay Area.

Local artists' creations are available for sale inside, including TAXI wallets at \$49. These attractive wallets are made from fine Italian leather and come in a variety of vibrant colors as well as the traditional brown and black. Mosher likes to showcase young artists and provides a platform for their work to be seen.

For more information or to book an appointment, call 253-8414. The hours of operation vary and all stylists work to accommodate a client's schedule.

### Orinda Shoes and Service Has Old World Charm

For 55 years, Orinda Shoes and Service has been serving several generations of Orindans. This gem of a shop, located at 19 Avenida de Orinda since 1957, was originally established in 1952 by James Pinkney. True to old-world custom, Pinkney learned the trade from his own dad, and then he passed on his skills to his

stepson, Torre Major. Major continues to run the business today. What you might not recognize at first glance is that Orinda Shoes and Service is also a shoe store. An authorized dealer for Sperry Topsider, Major carries a complete selection of men's and women's styles. He also stocks Alden shoes for men and designer, high-couture shoes are about 50 percent off year round. This is the place to buy shoes before heading out to the yacht on a Saturday morning.



Torre Major carries on his stepfather's old-world tradition of fixing fine shoes as well as selling Alden shoes for men and designer brands for women. In his spare time, he flies jets for a variety of corporate clients.

"We are a complete shoe repair shop, including cowboy boots, men and women's dress or casual shoes. We dye shoes for weddings and repair duffel bags. Generally, we handle any soft leather goods that need repair. Customers often bring saddle and tack items in for repair, particularly harnesses for horses," explains Major.

Major is married to Sherry, a homemaker. She enjoys helping out at the shop on a regular basis. The couple has one son, Tyler,

[SEE BUZZ page 19]

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