

THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 24, Number 8

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

12 Issues Annually
August 2009

New Public Art Work Coming Soon to Community Center and Library



SALLY HOGARTY

Patricia Vader uses old bicycle wheels to make her kinetic sculptures. A "Peacock" sculpture, similar to the one above which sits atop Vader's Martinez garage, will enhance the Library Plaza.

By EVA SASSON
Contributing Writer

Orinda's outdoor public art gallery – on the plaza adjacent to the library, community center and park – is flourishing. The Art in Public Places Committee (APPC) recently approved new art pieces for the sculpture garden. Eight pieces by six artists will be placed in the areas around the

Community Center and the Library Plaza. Their carefully selected work will be on display for one year and then available for purchase.

Among these new pieces is Measure of a Man by Keith Bush, which will be in the upper Library Plaza; The Creators by Joyce Clements, and Making Space for the Future by Gale Wagner, both will be found in the Library Plaza.

The APPC works to ensure that all of the pieces are innovative, exciting and add a new element to the exhibit every time the art is renewed. "A variety of metals, ceramics and colored stones have been used in the past, but this is the first time there will be unique clay pieces," says Todd Skinner, the Orinda Parks and Recreation Director. Nina Lyon, the artist behind these new clay structures, will have three pieces in the upcoming exhibit: Abide (upper Library Plaza); Traveler (library midway step landing); and North Coast Rider (Community Center's front plaza).

Although she was born in Canada, Nina Lyons resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is known for her use of subtle earth tones and opulent textures. Lyons says that her piece Traveler "holds a degree of mystery" and "emerged alongside a sense of ancient memory, perhaps linked to our shared migrations throughout human history" and that "the works tell a story of

[SEE ART page 14]



RICK KATTENBURG

Local architect Rick Kattenburg caught this beautiful rainbow over the Orinda Theater on July 11. The rainbow appeared after a brief, unexpected rain shower.

Wilder Project On The Move

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Gateway Valley's 1,600 acre residential development has faced lawsuits, criticism from a plethora of governmental agencies, and disgruntled residents since the previous owner, Pacific New Wave, applied for building approvals in 1991. Previously known as Gateway Valley, then Montanera, and now Wilder, the upscale housing development may soon become a reality. Somehow the tenacious developer (now Orinda Gateway, LLC) had managed to satisfy its various critics and prevail in court.

With erosion controls in place and some grading done, the project was scheduled to move ahead full steam this past April. A small snag known as the economy turned those plans to dust as the company found itself in receivership in late March. Fortunately for the developer, Farallon Capital

[SEE WILDER page 6]

Orinda Night Out Scheduled for August 4

Orinda's second annual "Night Out" takes place on Tuesday, August 4. Part of a national crime prevention organization, Orinda Night Out spreads awareness and strengthens local anticrime efforts. "One of the most important aspects is getting to know your neighbors," says Beccie Kunzman, an avid neighborhood watch and emergency preparedness volunteer.

Last year, more than 20 neighborhood groups in Orinda participated in Orinda Night Out, hosting barbecues, potlucks and ice cream socials. Members of the Orinda Police Department and the Moraga Orinda Fire Department stopped by many of the events giving various safety demonstrations. For more information on participating in this year's Orinda Night Out, contact Beccie Kunzman at rkunzman@comcast.net.

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
News	
City Budget	5
Police Blotter	6
Around Town	
Classic Car Show	7
Local Residents	8, 10
Orinda Idol	11
Performing/Visual Arts	9, 17
Schools/Students	10, 13-15
Backyard Getaways	12
Business Buzz	20
Calendar	17
Classified	18
Editorial	4
Home Sweet Home	16
Orinda Association/4th of July	2-3
Way to Grow	7

Escape to a Summer Resort in Your Backyard



Laura Abrams
Residential Real Estate
Orinda Estates and Luxury Homes

(925) 253-4611
laura@lauraabrams.com • DRE# 01272382



PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Orinda, California
Permit No. 4

Orinda Association's 4th of July in Pictures



Realtor **Mary Chatton Brown** showed her patriotism with her colorful outfit.



Colorful participants enjoyed the **Orinda Roadrunner's** pancake breakfast to start off the day.



The 4th of July parade was the place to be. Even **President Obama** attended.



The **Orinda All Volunteer Marching Band** kept the day lively.



Orinda Idol participants sang the National Anthem to begin the parade on the Village side.



The **Orinda Starlight Village Players** showed their theatrical side during the parade.



Chinese Fine Dining and Take Out

voted
Best Chinese Restaurant in
Contra Costa County
by S.F. Chronicle

Orinda Way - 253-9852 1

M-Th 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sun. 12 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Closed Tuesday



Dentistry with a woman's touch.

Mary H. Smith, D.D.S.
•
Cecelia Thomas, D.D.S.
925.254.0824

General dentistry done with a cosmetic emphasis to improve and enhance natural looking smiles. Our staff has many years of experience and training to take care of all of your dental needs. • Adults, Children, Nitrous Oxide, Implant Dentistry, Cosmetic Dentistry, Invisalign Certified • Complimentary Consultations



Ruby Lowe enjoyed one of the cute bunnies hopping around the petting zoo following the parade.




50-year Orinda residents **Lester and Ann Packer** enjoyed the parade with granddaughter **Gretchen**.

ALL PHOTOS BY SALLY HOGARTY

Lamorinda Tutoring is proud to introduce itself as an educational support service that specifically meets the needs of the area's aspiring K-12 student. Our program provides one-on-one tutoring in the privacy of your home by California credentialed teachers! For more information contact us at:

mleutza@lamorindatutoring.com
(925) 708-4213



Mathematics
General Math
Pre-Algebra
Algebra I
Geometry
Algebra II/Trigonometry
Pre-Calculus
Calculus

Science
General Science
Biology
Chemistry
Physics

English
General English
English I-IV
AP English Literature

Spanish
Spanish I-III
AP Language
AP Literature
Conversational Spanish



DRAGONFLY DESIGNS

garden & exterior designs

Expertise in:
- California Native Plants
- Mediterranean Gardens
- Draught-Tolerant Gardens
- Outdoor Furniture & Furnishings



SETTING ROOTS DOWN, ONE GARDEN AT A TIME

Kim Larsen
www.dragonfly-designs.org
925-788-2213

ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Hard Work Paid Off



Barnaby Beck

When I took the job of president of the Orinda Association, I didn't realize all the work it took to make the 4th of July event a success. **Kate Wiley**, who has done this event with **Jim Luini** for years, suggested that I call **Mark and Claire Roberts** and secure a great backup person like **April Meagher**. Following Kate's advice, I was able to save my marriage and assemble an amazing crew of people that literally moved mountains in a few short months

Susan Meyer was in charge of all the banner sales, decorations in the park, Community Center, and library as well as getting the banners placed up and taken down and securing the Bob Claire Orchestra to play in the park. **Cindy Powell** was in charge of all the music that was in the parade and in the park and library afterwards. Cindy rounded up our cleanup crew and was instrumental in getting all the little chores done. **Bill Waterman** was in charge of the non-profit booths and spent the morning helping get the parade staged and the afternoon doing whatever was needed.

Chris Laszcz-Davis was our super salesperson who not only sold seven banners but helped round up much needed volunteers. She also worked the entire day of the event. **Clay Deanhardt** was in charge of all the food booths in the park and the flurry of activity that happened to get them setup and taken down. **Mark Roberts** was the co-chairman of this event, and he held numerous meetings to plan this all out as well as raised over \$5,000 from various sponsors so we would have the money to pay for the event. In addition, he and his lovely wife

Claire Roberts worked all morning to get the parade entrants staged and ready to go. All of the sound systems were set up and provided by "The Voice of Orinda" **Steve Harwood** and he, as well as **Bill Cosden**, announced the parade from both sides of Orinda.

Jim Luini was in charge of so many jobs that it is difficult to recount them all. He staged the entire parade, set up banners announcing the parade, was in charge of the permits and insurance for the parade, and acted as a liaison with BART, the City of Orinda, and police and fire departments. **Steve Meagher** was in charge of being a human sponge and shadowing Jim Luini this year so that he can run all of the physical aspects of the parade next year. **Bobbie Landers** was in charge of several entrants in the parade and as always is a fountain of knowledge and information. **Sally Hogarty** was out the entire day photographing the parade and conducting interviews for *The Orinda News*. **Kate Wiley** guided me down the correct path and was always there when I had a question or needed advice. Kate was in charge of compiling all the list of sponsors, participants, food booths and non-profits, and kept us all sane during the months of planning and days of orchestrating.

April Meagher is the last person I would like to mention as she was the driving force behind this event! April put together all of the children activities in the park and worked tirelessly in meetings and behind the scenes in making this day a success. She was the first to arrive and always the

OA Says Thank You to Community

Thanks to a plethora of volunteer time, we had an outstanding 4th of July. A special thank you goes to our community where many multi-generational families, schools and businesses spent countless hours planning and implementing activities.

The annual parade and park festivities happen because of the abundant number of contributions (both sweat equity and financial) made by our community, as well as the communities surrounding Orinda.

The banners you see flying around town were sponsored by a number of families, community groups, and businesses. This year's \$300 banner supporters contributed greatly to covering the costs of the 4th of July event. Thank you so much to:

- Community Groups**
Orinda Association
Orinda Juniors
Orinda Rotary Club

Businesses

- Law Office of Clay Deanhardt
- LaCroixDavis, LLC (building & environmental forensics)
- Orinda Motors
- Mary H. Smith, DDS
- Mechanics Bank (sponsor of 2 banners)
- Diamond K Supply (Lafayette based)
- Cypress Golf Course (Colma, CA)
- McDonnell Nursery
- Orinda Shell Auto Care
- Oakwood Athletic Club

Families

- Beck
- Harwood
- Hinkamps
- Meyer
- Roberts
- Severson
- Westin

— Chris Laszcz-Davis

last to leave. I, and our committee, can't thank her enough.

And to the countless volunteers I haven't

mentioned, thank you for making the 4th of July a bright one for the City of Orinda.

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to:

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

P.O. Box 97
26 Orinda Way (Lower Level Library)
Orinda, California 94563
Phone: 254-0800 Fax: 254-8312
www.orindaassociation.org

OFFICERS

President	Barnaby Beck
Vice President	Steve Meagher
Treasurer	Jim Luini
Secretary	Tony Ratner
Membership	April Meagher
OPSAC Liaison	Bill Waterman



PIZZA CO.

presenting

- Regular & Chicago style pizza
- Fresh, high quality ingredients
- Gourmet specialities
- Pizza by the slice at lunch
- Salads
- Fast, free, on time delivery for lunch, dinner, parties and special events

1 Camino Sobrante, Suite 4

254-2800

Open 7 days 11-10 p.m. Monday - Saturday
11-9 p.m. Sunday



Home Consignments



"Hilton House Consign & Design, Inc. is recycling at its best!"

Cyndi Hilton, Founder

Hear From Our Customers...

"I love your store, because you never know what you will find at Hilton House!"
M.D. - Orinda, CA

"The unique way everything is displayed makes it easy to find perfect collectible treasures."
C.O. - Alamo, CA

"The quality is so great at Hilton House, I can't tell what is pre-owned and what is new!"
S.B. - Lafayette, CA

"I enjoy coming to Hilton House at least once a week to discover all the new and like-new collectibles."
G.F. - Walnut Creek, CA

21 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-1113
www.hiltonhousedesigns.com
Monday - Saturday 10:00 to 5:30ish

The Elements of A Great Mortgage Consultant

- always watching out
- creative abilities to design a program just for you
- clearly explains your choices
- carefully listens to your mortgage goals and needs
- lots of heart—really cares about your mortgage needs
- a steady and sure hand at problems if they arise
- eager to do all the necessary legwork to ensure smooth, trouble-free service
- sure footing so your mortgage starts off on the right step



Advantage Funding
Your satisfaction guaranteed!

Al Sanli
(925) 628-6200
al@advantagefunding.net

Real Estate Broker - CA Dept. of Real Estate - License #01378482



Alexander Gailas

"No one will work harder for you."

Alexander Gailas
Real Estate Broker/Owner
Certified Residential Specialist
Graduate of Realtor Institute
Notary Public

Office (925) 254-7600
Cell (925) 788-0229
www.AGRealty1.com
AG@AGRealty1.com

Fire Chief's Pension Receiving National Attention

Orinda is receiving national attention once again as *The Wall Street Journal* follows up its June 24 story on hefty government pensions, which mentioned Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Chief Pete Nowicki.

Nowicki's pension has been of concern to local taxpayers since his retirement at the end of 2008 and subsequent re-hiring as a consultant while the district searches for a new chief. As of press time, the district was still soliciting applications for the position through Avery Associates, listing an approximately \$185,000 annual salary with substantial benefits.

As a consultant to the district, Nowicki draws a salary in addition to his retirement pension, a pension that was increased considerably thanks to action by the MOFD board of directors in December. By allowing Nowicki to add unused vacation, paid holidays, and personal days to the total salary used to calculate his retirement pension, the former chief was able to

increase his annual pension from \$185,000 to \$241,000.

Needless to say, many groups are angry about this additional burden on taxpayers, especially in these tough economic times. The United Professional Fire Fighters I.A.F.F. Local 1230, sent a letter to the MOFD board asking for more transparency in their actions and how they could sanction such an increase at a time when other district employees are accepting zero raises and no additional increase in benefits. According to the letter, the board's action will "cost the taxpayers tens of thousands of additional dollars from last year's budget. It will cost the employee's pension system hundreds of thousands of dollars in unfunded liability for years to come."

No one is quibbling about the former chief's abilities or commitment to providing Orinda and Moraga with the most up-to-date service available. The district's response time and ability to handle tough situations is laudable. But Local 1230 and



other concerned citizens bring up important points. Nowicki should certainly receive adequate payment for his services but loopholes, which allow the "spiking" of management pensions, need to be closed. The private sector has learned that caps on vacation accrual are necessary in order to

balance the books and the practice of selling back unused vacation has been stopped in many organizations. Local 1230 asks the MOFD why these practices still flourish in our district. Why indeed.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

Letters to the Editor

Vandals Pose Serious Threat

I have recently completed a month of performing in the amphitheater in Orinda Community Park. The Orinda Starlight Village Players built a beautiful set there for Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web*, and the show was a great success. There was one big problem – vandalism. The set stands alone during the week, unprotected except for a plastic fence, and vandals got in, kicked in some of the walls and made big holes, and broke glass out of the French doors.

One might put this down to mere mischief, perhaps by bored youngsters out of school for the summer. No one really knows. However, they moved from mischief to a more dangerous level this week when they set fires on the carpet, ruining a section with extensive burn marks. This isn't just annoying and expensive. The amphitheater currently holds a large set constructed of painted wood and canvas. It is being reconfigured for the next performance in July. If it should catch fire in earnest, the consequences could be grave. The theater is ringed by pine trees, is in close proximity to the Community Center and the Orinda Library on one side, and a senior citizen facility on the other, not to mention houses on the hill. I suggest that this vandalism be investigated, and if possible, prosecuted, with all due dispatch, and I encourage residents to contact the police department and ask that this be done.

— Marian Simpson

School Board Out of touch

It's sad that the mendacity, stubbornness and arrogance of the OUSD Board in

its determination to eliminate the district naturalist (DN) position at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area has led to the situation where a teacher will be laid off so that Toris Jaeger, the former DN can be reassigned to classroom duties. Because of Toris' seniority, her teaching salary will be far more than that of the teacher being laid off. This could have been prevented had the board accepted the donation of \$55,000 raised from the community to preserve the naturalist position.

The ostensible reason for refusing the donation was that it was "one-time" money, which they said couldn't be used to fund programs, but the board then allocated one-time reserve funds to continue the technology and other programs. The board clearly could have found a way to utilize the donated funds if it had any interest in listening to the nearly 1,000 Orinda parents, students and residents that registered their support for preserving the environmental education program. To add insult to injury, the board, upon adopting its budget, then awarded Superintendent Joe Jaconette a salary increase.

This board is clearly out of touch and must realize that, in order to maintain the community support necessary to sustain quality education in Orinda, it needs to reorient its priorities and listen to the constituents who elected them and to the citizens who pay the taxes in this community.

— Fred Smith

Trash Bins a Hazard to Bicyclists

As a cyclist who commutes from the Moraga area to Orinda via bicycle (to BART) five days a week, I've found my

self wondering, while dodging recycling and refuse bins left out blocking the bike lanes, whether or not there is a city ordinance requiring the bins to not be left out blocking the bike lanes? I take my life in my hands when I'm forced to swerve briefly into the streaming traffic on Moraga Way, and it doesn't seem right to be endangering my life as well as the lives of the motorists just because some people are sloppy or lazy. Sometimes the bins are left out for days on end.

If there is not an ordinance, perhaps there should be. It could be quite the revenue generator in these times of reduced sales tax and property tax revenues choking off and chipping away at our public services.

— Bill Thompson

Where Have The Statesmen Gone?

The 6/10/09 *Lamorinda Weekly* had a recap of state Senator DeSaulnier's meeting with the Orinda City Council regarding California's budget deficit. Senator DeSaulnier identified the state's "robust" initiative system and the need for a super majority vote to pass the budget as elements that impact the legislature's ability to manage the state's finances effectively.

Politicians complain that California cannot raise taxes as easily as they would like. They condemn the constitutional requirement that tax increases be approved by two-thirds of state legislators. They bemoan Prop 13, which caps the rate at which they can raise our annual property taxes. Most California politicians would like to pass measures to delete our few existing taxpayer protections.

Senator DeSaulnier has been in state

government for years, first as an assemblyman, and then a senator. While on his watch, government spending spiraled out of control, and California is close to bankruptcy facing a \$24.3 billion budget deficit. It is easier to blame something or someone for government mismanagement instead of taking responsibility for one's actions.

California used to have good roads, infrastructure and schools on one-half of today's tax levels. Now politicians want to borrow, spend and tax. This policy has created a state with record high levels of deficits, spending, and taxes resulting in poor roads, infrastructure, and schools. When will politicians of today learn that government cannot spend its way out of debt or recession?

Our representatives should be encouraged not to bow to the desires of special interest groups.

— Janet Maiorana

Orinda Is Not Palo Alto

Until reading the July 2009 edition of *The Orinda News*, I was unaware of the bizarre Planning Commission idea to replace the retail area comprising the block including Long's and Orinda Hardware with a

[SEE LETTERS page 16]

Correction

The article on "Painters With Fearless Brushes at Library Gallery," which appeared on page 12 of the July issue, accidentally credited a watercolor of several women in a field of flowers to Olivia Eielson. This is not her painting. Unfortunately, we do not have the painter's name. We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

The Orinda News prints 9,000 copies and is published 12 times a year by The Orinda Association. The office is located at 24 Orinda Way (lower level of the Library). All rights reserved. The publication is sent out by direct mail (Permit #4, Orinda Post Office) and distributed to key locations throughout the city.

Editor..... Sally Hogarty
Advertising Representatives..... Jill Gelster, Candy Kattenburg, Elana O'Loskey
Editorial Committee..... Barnaby Beck, Sally Hogarty, Jim Luini, Cindy Powell, Kate Wiley
Staff Writers..... Barnaby Beck, Dorothy Bowen, Bobbie Dodson, Janice Gatlin, Ian Heeterds, Valerie Hotz, Steve and Cathy Lambert, Elana O'loskey, Maggie Sharpe, Moya Stone
Contributing Writer..... Eva Sasson
Graphics..... Aspen Consulting: Jill Gelster & David Dierks
Printing..... Folger Graphics

The Orinda News

A Publication of
The Orinda Association
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 97
Orinda, California 94563
Telephone: 925 254-0800
Fax: 925 254-8312
www.orindanews.org



Opinions of *The Orinda News* are expressed on the editorial page. Views of writers and letters to the editor are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Orinda Association or of *The Orinda News*. Advertisements appearing in *The Orinda News* are not to be construed as endorsements by The Orinda Association or *The Orinda News*.

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, 2009.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the October issue is August 14, 2009.

CITY OF ORINDA

City Budget Includes Painful Cuts

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The City Council unanimously adopted a biennial budget for the first time at a special meeting in late June. According to City Manager Janet Keeter, "the budget is balanced precariously with assumptions and conditions that are subject to change." The adoption of a 2-year budget allows the city to forecast future operations and better prepare and plan service levels.

The new budget includes cuts of approximately one-half million dollars from original budget estimates but that might not be enough if the State of California takes up to \$500,000 from city property taxes to help balance the state budget this year. The City Council has sent two different resolutions to Sacramento opposing the taking of Prop 1A funds and the gas tax and local roads taxes.

According to Mayor Sue Severson, the city is currently negotiating with the em-

ployee union to include furlough days for staff. The city is proposing six unpaid days in the first year of the budget and 16 for the second. "We are trying to maintain our staff, which is already bare bones," says Severson. The hours that city hall is open may also be reduced to save funds. The mayor also noted that community funding will not be available in the immediate future, and funds that help support Orinda Idol, the 4th of July, Chamber of Commerce restaurant tour, and even the canine officer program may be cut. "We don't want to eliminate the canine program but may need public donations to help support it," says Severson.

Service levels to the public are expected to remain strong; however, there could be potential impacts to the public due to the anticipated work furlough days.

The adopted two-year budget retains a reserve of \$5 million, which is compliant with the city's adopted policy and may be used for funding an emergency.

Tireless City Worker Dies in Tragic Accident

Radha Wood had finally retired as the City of Orinda's Administrative Services Director, a post she held from 1998 - 2007. She had tried to retire several times eventually going to one-half time while multiple attempts to fill her position failed. Although no longer employed through the city, she continued her service to the community through her membership in the Orinda Rotary.

Finally enjoying her retirement, the 68-year-old traveled to the Caribbean for a holiday. On June 3, a scuba diving accident at Tunnel Wall off of New Providence turned tragic when Wood became disoriented and swam away from her instructor and the other students. Her body has not been recovered.

"Radha was a tireless worker and truly committed to the city organization and to the community," says City Manager Janet Keeter. "Her 'zen-like' presence and grounded approach to life will truly be missed in the Orinda community."

During her eight years with the City of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Radha Wood with her granddaughter Kayla at the opening celebration for city hall.

Orinda, Wood contributed to such projects as the construction of the new library and city hall as well as numerous other civic projects.

She is survived by her husband Larry, daughter Heather, granddaughter Kayla, sister Sharon, and father George.

Having a Party... Baby Shower ...Moving?

Let us help you with your Invitations
and Announcements!

In House Custom Printing now Available!

30 type styles to choose from...

Purchase your invitations from our
vast collection of designs from
Inscribe, Crane, Caspari, William Arthur,
Faux Designs, Kris-10's Creations
Socially Yours, Paper So Pretty,
Whitney English and more!

We can make it easy for you...
plus fast and beautiful.

Most Brands

"Order Today, Ready Tomorrow"

Hollyhock MADISON

220 Village Square
Orinda (925) 253-9950

3506 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette (925) 299-1024

School is NOW! Bargains are NOW!



The selection
is big and the
**PRICES
ARE LOW!**

Girls 3-6X

Boys 4-7

Girls 7-16

Boys 8-20 • Jrs

McCaulou's

250 Village Square Orinda (925) 254-3448
Monday - Saturday 10:00 - 6:00

Like Everything... Ripe Off the Vine!

Contra Costa Certified

Orinda Farmers' Market!



GOOD PICKINS AT THE

Orinda Farmers' Market

Saturdays 9am to 1pm

Orinda Way in Orinda Village

Market Hotline 925-431-8361 www.cccfm.org
Celebrating 27 Years in Contra Costa County



Coupon Clippers - Shop Locally and Save!

KIRBY CARPET

CLEANING

10% Off All Services

Call today!

925-254-2866

Advertise Your Business

Here. Just \$55.55.

Email for info.

news@orindaassociation.org

k.b. kolman landscape design

20% off consultation

and design services for the
months of August and Sept.

925.787.3261

kbkolman@comcast.net

POLICE BLOTTER



POLICE BLOTTER

June 2009

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 128 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Auto Burglary (theft from a locked vehicle): 7 incidents reported on Moraga Way, Brookwood Rd., 2 on Stanton Ave., Descanso Dr., Camino Pablo and Charles Hill Rd.

Petty Theft From Vehicle (theft of less than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 4 incidents reported on Underhill Rd., Via Floreado and 2 on Stanton Ct.

Grand Theft – From Vehicle (theft of more than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 2 incidents reported on Camino Pablo and Irving Ln.

Stolen Vehicle: 1 incident reported on Austin Ct.

Residential Burglary: 5 incidents reported on Quail Ridge Ln., Dalewood Dr., Rheem Blvd., Warford Ter. and Albo Ct.

Commercial Burglary: 3 incidents reported on Moraga Way and 2 at The-

atre Square.

Vandalism: 4 incidents reported on Stanton Ave., Barbara Rd., Orinda Way and Ravenhill Rd.

Vandalism Schools: 1 incident reported on Moraga Way.

Arrests

Drugs - Under Influence: 1 arrest made on Camino Sobrante.

Battery – Misdemeanor: 1 arrest made on Muth Dr.

Indecent Exposure: 1 arrest made on Ivy Dr.

Misdemeanor: 1 misdemeanor arrest made on Camino Pablo.

Loitering – Private Property: 1 arrest made on Tahos Rd.

Warrant Arrests: 6 warrant arrests made on Rheem Blvd, Camino Pablo @ Miner and Monte Vista Rds., Camino Encinas, Moraga Way and Van Ripper/ Van Tassel Lns.,

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

◆ WILDER from page 1

Management, LLC, who has had a stake in the project for more than a decade, purchased the note held by Merrill Lynch in late June and paid off all the liens on the property.

“Last year was a very difficult time for us,” says Brian Veit of Brooks Street. “All of us are working together to get back on track. Farallon has over-all control of the project with Brooks Street managing the day to day operations. We’re very glad to be back.”

And back they are. Earthmovers were on the job by the second week of July completing the grading around the quarry area. Black snake fences can be seen bordering the grading area, which allows snakes, especially the endangered Alameda Whip Snake a one-way door to get out of the construction area.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This 5,280 square foot, five bedroom “Orinda Ranch” is one of eight pre-approved styles for the Wilder development.

Residents in the Sunrise Hill area, one of the closest neighborhoods to the construction, will soon have additional landscaping completed. “We’re currently working with an arborist to see what we can plant and irrigate at this time,” Veit explains. “We’re very pleased that this project is back on again,” says Sunrise Hill resident Bob Thompson. “We need to stay engaged as a neighborhood and be informed of progress because we are directly affected.”

Representatives from Brooks Street planned to meet with the city’s subcommittee on the project in mid-July (after press deadline). “We need to move forward as quickly as possible so that the city can get much needed tax dollars from this project,” added City Councilmember Tom McCormick.

According to project spokesperson Jason Keadjian, lot sales should be up and running by August. The Ranch House, which will be used as the sales center, is finished and waiting for final city and county inspections.

When complete, the project will feature 245 single-family homes, an extensive network of trails and pathways, a private neighborhood swim and recreation center, 1,300 acres of protected open space, and five community playfields and a garden center to be owned and operated by the City of Orinda.

Prospective residents of Wilder can choose from eight luxury home designs that have already been approved by the City of Orinda or they can design their own custom home. Many of the designs include multi-level floor plans and charming private inner courtyards. The models range in size from the 2,380 square foot “Bay Area Cottage” with three bedrooms and three and ½ baths to the 5,970 square foot “Adobe Ranch,” which features five bedrooms, five baths, and two ½ baths.

For more information on the project, visit www.orindawilder.com or call 254-9900.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This 4,800 square foot “Spanish Colonial Revival” features 4 bedrooms, four baths, and two 1/2 baths.




Mary Chatton Brown
& Associates, Realtors

*Proven Personal and Professional Service
for All Your Real Estate
Investment Decisions*


Independent Local Real Estate Office Since 1983
12A Orinda Way, Orinda, California 94563

marychattonbrown.com 925•254•4994




She depends on you.

You can depend on us.



Alan Wong, R.Ph

The Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacy is 100% Pure PharmacySM – which means our pharmacists are dedicated to your family’s health. After all, life is full of boo-boos, sore throats and ear infections. Rest assured, there’s a specialist nearby



Pure PharmacySM 100%
www.medicineshoppe.com

Medicine Shoppe
Next to Hollyhock and McCaulou’s
Orinda Village Sq. • 254-1211 282
Medicine Shoppe International, Inc 2002©
A Cardinal Health Company



鹿其
鹿麟
飯店

SZECHWAN
RESTAURANT

CHINESE CUISINE

SZECHWAN - MANDARIN
LUNCH / DINNER / ORDERS TO GO
10% DISCOUNT ON
TAKE-OUT ORDERS
(Lunch Special Excluded)

Quality Food and Service
Serving Orinda Since 1980

Tues.-Thurs. 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 11:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Sun. 4:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Closed Mondays

Tel 925 254-2020 • Fax 925 254-4098
79 Orinda Way • Orinda



L. J. Wilson Construction

925 • 254 • 1884 office
925 • 818 • 1550 cell
larrywilson51@msn.com

Specializing in:

- ✦ Kitchen and Bath Remodels
- ✦ Decks
- ✦ Design

- ✦ Room Additions
- ✦ Structural Repairs
- ✦ and Much More

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP
LONGTIME ORINDA RESIDENT
OVER 30 YEARS SERVICING THE EAST BAY AREA

License #B 366563 www.ljwilsonconstruction.com

WAY TO GROW / CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Way to Grow in Orinda
How to Pick the Perfect Plants for your Plot

Steve & Cathy Lambert



There are numerous factors to bear in mind when picking the perfect plants for your plot. Whether you're starting a complete remodel of your landscape or just replacing a few plants in your existing garden, it's best to avoid the common mistake of simply choosing what looks great at the nursery.

Start by considering the following factors. First, consider the issue of size. When judging a plant by its size, consider its ultimate growth potential, including not just the height and width of the shrub or tree, but also the size of its roots.

Few plants do well when forced to fit their space by over pruning. Most prefer to be left to grow to their own genetic potential. If the ultimate size works well for the space, you should then factor in the plant's rate of growth. Consider how much time you're willing to wait for it to reach full size. This will help to determine what size container you should start with. Trees are generally available in containers ranging from one gallon pots to 36" boxes, while shrubs and perennials are available in pots ranging from four inches to 15 gallons.

Once you've decided on the container size, you can calculate the cost to determine if the plant is as good a fit for your budget as it is for your space. Not only does the price of the plant increase with the size of the container, but so does the installation cost. Most plants require a hole dug 20 percent larger than their container. For this reason, large shrubs and box trees require additional installation costs.

One last consideration regarding container size is scale. If your house and property are expansive, starting with all small trees and shrubs will look out of balance and require a lot of time to fill the space. If your budget won't allow you to start with all large plants, then mix it up and get some large and some small choosing plants with faster growth rates in the smaller sizes.

Maintenance is also a consideration when picking the right plant. Judge the amount of leaves, needles, berries and or seeds it may drop as well as the amount of pruning necessary. Plants near pools, ponds, driveways, walkways and those close to your home can require extra maintenance.

The third factor to think about is a combination of size and location as it relates to existing plant material. You don't want a shrub that grows so large that it chokes out or hides another garden favorite. Nor do you want a shade tree that will cast a shadow over your favorite garden sun lovers. Make sure you consider how your fence line choices will affect your neighbor's property. Blocking their best view, or planting a tree that will shade or drop leaves into their pool, or cast a large shadow over their vegetable garden will not get you invited over for a swim.

Here are some expensive mistakes to avoid:

1) A row of redwoods planted in a lawn inches away from a driveway. Ultimately, the roots and trunk of these trees will destroy both the lawn and driveway. Red-

[SEE GROW page 18]

Classic Car Show Entry Deadline Coming Up



SALLY HOGARTY

The Classic Car Show includes such beauties as this 1973 Mustang driven by Orinda Motors' John Vaneck in this year's 4th of July parade.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Classic Car Show founder Chip Herman is busy registering classic cars and motorcycles for the annual fundraiser sponsored by Orinda Motors. Scheduled for September 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the show benefits the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town transportation service.

"Each year, we have both classic cars in mint condition and others that are lovingly driven every day and show signs of great

times on the road," says Herman. "We get hot rods and other custom cars, race cars, and even the occasional vintage Air Stream camper."

Last year's event had more than 125 entries and raised \$16,000 for Seniors Around Town, which provides volunteer drivers for Orinda seniors who need rides to appointments and shopping.

Anyone wishing to register their car or motorcycle should contact Herman at chipherman@hotmail.com. The tax-deductible entry fee is \$50 for cars and \$35 for motorcycles.



Are you considering buying or selling your home? Do you want to know what your home is worth in the current market? Are you wondering what is happening to home prices in the area? Give me a call about your real estate needs.

Leila Schlein
925-899-7927
51 Moraga Way, Orinda
Leila.Schlein@PruRealty.com
www.LeilaSchlein.com



Motorists Duped into Dumping Dough at Dealerships

Federal Law states that a manufacturer cannot deny any warranty claim due to maintenance being performed by an independent

repair shop and in fact is illegal for any dealership to state or imply that your vehicle must be serviced by them to keep its warranty valid.

Recent repair shop comparison performed:

	Orinda Motors	Dealerships
Our Service Keeps Your Warranty Valid	Yes ✓	Yes ✓
Factory Trained Technicians	Yes ✓	Yes ✓
State of the Art Diagnostic Equipment	Yes ✓	Yes ✓
Access to Factory Repair and Service Info.	Yes ✓	Yes ✓
Tires and Alignment	Yes ✓	Some
Emissions Testing	Yes ✓	Some
On-Site Rental Service	Yes ✓	Some
Complimentary Vehicle Pickup & Delivery	Yes ✓	Some
Trust – Always Get What You Pay For	Yes ✓	Some
Excellent Customer Service	Yes ✓	Some
Green Business	Yes ✓	1 (in CCC)
Open Door Shop Policy	Yes ✓	No
Locally Owned/Family Business	Yes ✓	No
While You Wait/Drive Through Oil & Lube Svc.	Yes ✓	No
Access to Your Vehicle's Technician	Yes ✓	No
Conveniently in Your Hometown	Yes ✓	No
Local Community Support and Involvement	Yes ✓	No



Orinda Motors service keeps your warranty valid just like the dealer!



You can now make an appointment on-line!

www.orindamotors.com



Orinda Motors Inc., 63 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA., 94563 (925) 254-2012

THREE-QUARTER CENTURY CLUB /AVON WALK

Casa de Gracia - A Beautiful Home for the Elderly

- Intimate, quiet home with beautiful views
- 24 hour personalized care
- Enhanced social activities programs
- Dementia, Non-Ambulatory and Hospice services available
- Family Owned and Operated since 1998
- M.D. /R.N. Supervised



(925) 254-4535

Tahos Rd. • Orinda 458

License #075600243

Nurture your garden at
McDonnell Nursery

August is time to come in and shop with your McDonnell Bucks

This month only. Certain restrictions apply.

196 Moraga Way
Orinda

254-3713

– Open Daily –

www.mcdonnellnursery.com



Team Raises Over \$61,000 for Cancer Treatment



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Orinda loaded up on carbs the night before the beginning of the three-day walk. (front row L-R) Carol Whittaker, Melba Muscarolas, Laura Moran, and Kim Laughton. (second row L-R) Jane Katsura, Maria Solit, and Elaine Dathe.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Team Orinda, comprised of seven dedicated women, completed the 40-mile trek known as the Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Walk in mid-July. The San Francisco walk attracted more than 2,800 participants from 42 states, including 256 breast cancer survivors, and raised \$6 million to advance access to care and to finding a cure for the disease.

Team Orinda consisted of Elaine Dathe, Janie Katsura, Kim Laughton, Laura Mo-

ran, Melba Muscarolas, Maria Solit, and Carol Whittaker. Each woman walked in honor of family members who have battled breast cancer and, in many cases, died from the disease. The team held several fundraisers prior to the event, including selling delicious cupcakes during the 4th of July parade. By July 13, they had raised \$61,688 with donations still coming in. Their amount is the fourth highest in the San Francisco Bay Area. "We did lots of training walks to get into shape," says Muscarolas, who was walking in honor of her mother-in-law.

Three-Quarters Century Club Featured the Ghost of Mark Twain

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

While all the guests at the Three-Quarters Century Club luncheon were at least 75 years old, the speaker gave his age as 174. McAvoy Layne, who portrayed the *Ghost of Mark Twain*, captivated the audience, with his tales of life on the Mississippi, in the Nevada silver mines, and as a writer in California. Looking every bit the part, Layne, who is a 1961 graduate of Miramonte High School, has appeared as Twain for 21 years, now cruising all summer long on the Tahoe Queen.

The tenth anniversary of the Three-Quarters Century Club began with founder, John Fazel, as master of ceremonies, explaining he modeled this event on one in Iowa, which his grandmother and mother attended. "I like the idea of honoring the senior citizens of Orinda who have done so much to make it the wonderful community it is," Fazel remarked. Prudential California Realty, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and the Orinda Community Church, whose pastor, Rev. Frank Baldwin, gave



JILL GELSTER

Fred Nielsen and Bobbie Dodson were honored as the most recently married.

the invocation, sponsor the event.

Always a highlight of the luncheon is the crowning of the king and queen. Helen Vurek, who is 99, was given a standing ovation as the oldest woman and wore her crown proudly, as she said, "How lucky can I be. Thank you for everything. I'll be back next year."

At 94, Tom Deahl was the oldest man present. Runner up was Bud Hiestrer, 92. He was presented an "Older Than Dirt" ribbon. Eartha Newsong, who turned 75 last January, was the youngest member present.

Aileene and Tom Deahl have celebrated the most wedding anniversaries while Bobbie Dodson and Fred Nielsen, who celebrated their first anniversary June 21, were the most recently married.

A wait staff, dressed in black and white, from the sponsoring groups, served a bountiful chicken dinner. "I love giving back to the community this way" says Lisa Shaffer, who has participated for six years. "We all want to help each other, whatever the age." Each lady was presented a long stemmed rose as she left the hall.

If you wish to add your name to the list of guests for next year, contact John Fazel at 925-324-2017.



JILL GELSTER

Eartha Newsong won for youngest member.



Let our team put your team in a new home.

We focus on achieving your goals!

Your LaMorinda Home Team

just ask our clients

Virginia Varni-Ratto

Paul Ratto

(925) 253-6215

(925) 253-6227

vvarni@pacunion.com

pratto@pacunion.com

www.varni-ratto.com

www.fixup2sell.com



8 CAMINO ENCINAS #100

ORINDA, CA 94563

925-258-0090

GMAC Real Estate

see our open homes and many more listings with virtual & multi-media tours on pacunion.com

GET THE SERVICE YOU DESERVE...



Directors Kim Winter and Janet McGill

TOTAL CLEAN
HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE

Our Money Back Guarantee

If for any reason you are not happy with our work, we will reclean the area for free. And if you are still not pleased, you pay nothing.

Protecting You and Your Home Since 1985

Our employees are insured and bonded. Social Security and Workers' Compensation is paid and we assume absolutely all liability for our employees.

Top Quality Customer Service

We meet with each of our new clients, and we take the time to review each home and each customer's needs. Total Clean was recently rated "Top Quality" by a Bay Area Consumer Group, and we are dedicated to providing the highest quality of service possible.

A clean house is just a phone call away. 376-1004

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

Happy Days Starring Marsha Mason Comes to Cal Shakes

By DOROTHY BOWEN
Staff Writer

Happy Days doesn't really sound like the happy play actor Cyril Cusack's wife asked Samuel Beckett to write. One critic has called it his most pessimistic play and that's counting *Waiting for Godot*, *Krapp's Last Tape*, and *Endgame*.

The main character, Winnie, played by Marsha Mason, is buried up to her waist in the first act, up to her neck in the second.

"So much relates to women," says Cal Shakes dramaturg, Philippa Kelly. "It's a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marsha Mason will play Winnie in Cal Shakes' *Happy Days*.

metaphor for the stasis imposed on women. We think of it as natural. She's unaware of the peculiarity of her situation."

Critic Kenneth Tynan, on the other hand, described it as a metaphor stretched beyond its capacity. In one of the saddest lines of the play, Winnie herself describes her situation: "To be always what I am, but so far from what I was."

Jonathan Moscone directs and plans to show the incredible humor in the play. Well known for injecting life and action into even very talky plays, Moscone has to work with a buried wife and a monosyllabic husband, played by Dan Hiatt, and the contents of her

purse: lipstick, sun screen, a comb, a nail file, a bottle of pills, and a revolver. The play runs for 90 minutes.

"We are all alone in the face of death, and all alone in the face of life," writes Kelly, in the program notes. "How can this be funny? In Moscone's hands, it is."

This is the first time Cal Shakes has done a Beckett play and the first time Moscone has directed one.

The star, Marsha Mason, is well known for her films, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Cinderella Liberty*, *Chapter Two* and *Only When I Laugh*. She has received four Academy Award nominations. The busy actress has also done the Broadway productions of *Happy Birthday*, *Wanda June*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Cyrano* and *A Doll's House*, among others. She just closed in *Impressionism* in New York City

Samuel Beckett was 55 when he wrote *Happy Days* in 1961. He had just married for the first time to a woman he met as a Resistance fighter in World War II. A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, he rejected teaching and moved to Paris where he was a friend and assistant to James Joyce for many years.

Beckett was influenced by the Existentialists and explained his bare bones style by saying, "Language is the veil the modern writer needs to tear apart if he wants to reach what lies beyond, even though it may be silence and nothingness. Writers have lagged behind painters and musicians in this respect." He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1961.

At the end of *Happy Days*, Winnie says, "This will have been another happy day."

The show runs from August 12 through September 6 at the Bruns Amphitheatre in Orinda. For tickets, call 510-586-9666.

Starlight Players Continue *Cyrano*

The Orinda Starlight Village Players continue performing Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* through August 15 at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheatre. Eddie Peabody portrays the larger-than-life hero born with a face only a mother could love. Take a trip back in time to a period when gallantry, romantic love, and moral honor were prized above all.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays in August at 8:30 p.m., Sunday, August 9, at 4 p.m. and Thursday, August 13, at 8 p.m. Call 253-1191 or go online to www.orsvp.org.



DAVID DIERKS
Eddie Peabody as Cyrano.

Theatre Square Summer Music

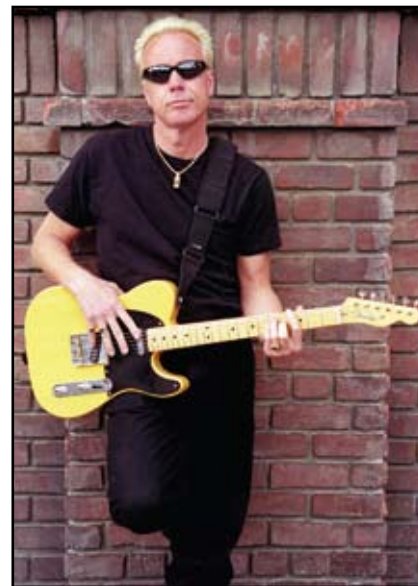
Theatre Square's summer music series continue through August and into September with lots of free music and fun. The bands play from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every other Thursday in the square. Enjoy the music, stay for dinner, and top off your evening with a movie!

August 6 - **747 Express** featuring **Ed McClary and Michael Hatfield** and playing everything from Nat King Cole to the Beatles to Arrow Smith.

August 20, **The Michael Robinson Band** with hot roadhouse blues and rock.

September 3 - **Surefire** featuring the jazz stylings of **Bob Athayde** and Friends.

September 17 - **Stone Soup** with plenty of classic rock.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Michael Robinson plays August 20.

World Harmony Chorus

Sing a cappella songs from around the world in luscious harmonies. Adults and youth. All levels welcome. Perform! No auditions or music reading needed.

Thurs. eves 6:30 – 8:30
Sept. 17 – Jan. 29
955 Moraga Way, Laf.
www.eastbaysings.com
510.387.4462



Authentic Cuisine of Thailand

- Family Owned
- 3 Generations of Thai cooking experience
- All sauces made fresh
- Full Bar

Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11-2
Dinner: Mon.-Sun. 4:30-9:00

23 F Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-1975

Computer SIMPLICITY

You have enough to worry about.
Let us take care of your computer and technology needs.
On-site help to get you back to work!

www.computersimplicity.com

(925) 265-8060

OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE

real experiences

MAGGIE
Margaret, an avid cyclist, suffered extensive injuries when hit by a car. After several surgeries, she transferred to our care and received intensive medical and rehabilitation services to help regain her ability to care for herself. Margaret is now back home.

ROGER
Roger had a double knee replacement. After the surgery, he needed physical rehabilitation before returning home. We helped him regain strength and endurance. Roger is home and golfing with his friends and family.

ManorCare Health Services - Tice Valley
1975 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94595
925-906-0200

ManorCare Health Services - Walnut Creek
1226 Rossmoor Parkway, Walnut Creek, CA 94595
925-975-5000

- Post-hospital acute care
- Rehabilitation therapies
- Skilled nursing

ManorCare Health Services

SWIM MEETS/UNWEDDING



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 650 swimmers from eight teams participated in the **Meadow Mini Meet**.

Local Swimmers Hit The Blocks for Championship Meet

By IAN HEETDERKS
Staff Writer

From August 7 until August 9, the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School will host the 53rd annual Orinda Moraga Pools Association (OMPA) championship meet. Nine teams from the Moraga-Orinda area will participate, with over 2,000 swimmers, ranging in age from 3 to 18, competing over the course of the weekend. The meet is the culmination of a short season, which begins the day after the school year finishes, and lasts just eight weeks into the summer.

The OMPA is one of the most competitive in the nation in terms of race times. It is also a venerable event, and indeed many of the parents who will be watching their kids compete swam in the meet themselves when they were young. As such, the championship meet is eagerly anticipated by competitors, coaches and parents alike. "This is one of the most exciting few days in their summer," said Brad Allen, head coach of the Orinda Park Pool team. "People see the history here, that collegiate swimmers come from here. There's potential, if they stick with it, to be the best of the best." The pressure is on over the course of the championship meet since swimmers are limited to participating in just three events. Many swim only one race a day, which is a dramatic change from regular meets, in which it is common to swim as many as five races in four hours.

However, part of the fun is that the competition always remains friendly. Steve Hoeffler, head coach of the Orinda Country Club team and a parent of a current OCC

swimmer, describes the OMPA as "one big, happy family." Since the majority of OMPA swimmers go on to attend Miramonte or Campolindo high schools and compete together, Mr. Hoeffler describes the OMPA as "everyone really working together to make our high school programs stronger. Kids that are friendly rivals right now over the summer will be teammates when they get to high school, and that's really something special." Campolindo Cabana Club, Miramonte Swim Club, Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, Moraga Country Club, Moraga Ranch Swim Club, Moraga Valley Pool, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Park Pool, and Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club will participate in the meet.

Another large local meet was just completed. The 39th Annual Meadow Mini Meet was held at the Meadow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda on Sunday, July 19. More than 650 swimmers from eight teams competed, with participation limited to swimmers who are 8 years old or younger. All competitors swam in their own age group, in order to give younger swimmers a chance to participate in some healthy competition. Some noteworthy athletes, who first started swimming at the Meadow Mini Meet, are Olympic swimmers Matt Biondi and Peter Rocca, and three members of the U.S. National Water Polo team, Kirk Everest, Colin Keely, and Rick McNair. Orinda Country Club, Orinda Park Pool, Moraga Valley Pool, Moraga Country Club, Campolindo Cabana Club, Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club, and Miramonte Swim and Tennis Club all participated. Meet results were not available at press time.



Mark Roberts

ROBERTS INSURANCE SERVICES

Orinda resident & volunteer since 1993

**Protection and Peace of Mind for You,
Your Family, Autos, Home & Business**

**Call me FOR A FREE FARMERS FRIENDLY REVIEW
OF YOUR NEEDS AND CURRENT COVERAGE!**

(925) 788-5239

Email: mroberts6@farmersagent.com

LICENSE # 0G60575



FARMERS

Bottomley Farm

Lessons and Training for Children and Adults.

Sign up for Fall Semester Classes Now.

dressage 🐾 horsemanship
lessons 🐾 training 🐾 boarding

10 minutes from Lamorinda

bottomleyfarm.com

1131 Bear Creek Road

925.228.3766



Orinda Couple Recite Vows on the Golden Gate Bridge



VICKIE ROZELL



KEN DUFFY

Ruth Kaiser and Dave Seabury declared their love for each other in a commitment ceremony that took place in the middle of the Golden Gate Bridge. Wearing a 1930's gown she purchased at the Oakland Museum's White Elephant sale, the bride walked from the Marin side of the bridge while Seabury, wearing a tuxedo from the same period that once belonged to actor Monty Woolley (*The Man Who Came To Dinner*) walked from the San Francisco side. On a future day when all have the right to marry in California, the happy couple plan to renew their vows at the courthouse.



Orinda Shell Auto Care

- Complete Auto Care -
- Scheduled Maintenance - Air Conditioning - Brakes and Suspension
- Electrical Repairs - Warranty Repair
- Smog Inspection - Wheel Alignments - Senior Discount - Free Shuttle Service - Walking distance from BART

**Celebrating Over 9 Years in Business
Thank You Orinda!**



Kathy Mitchell Owners Joey O'Brien
925 254-1486 • fax 925 254-8375
9 Orinda Way
e-mail orindashell@aol.com



BLUE RIDGE



LANDSCAPE Co.

LIC# 818633

Blue Jay Feldman

OWNER/OPERATOR
WWW.BLUERIDGELC.COM

- DESIGN
- INSTALLATION
- IRRIGATION
- DRAINAGE
- STONEMWORK
- CONCRETE WORK
- DECKS
- FENCES
- PATIOS
- LAWNS
- PONDS
- & CLEANUP
- HAULING
- COMMERCIAL
- MAINTENANCE

LICENSED
INSURED



**ORINDA
RESIDENT**

925-258-9233

ORINDA IDOL

Look out, Hollywood – Here Comes Orinda Idol

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

On Sunday, September 13, Orinda Idol will swing into Theatre Square for the fourth consecutive year. Once again, there will be lines around the block to hear kids sing their hearts out – and get a chance to win some fame and fortune.

“Since its inception, Orinda Idol has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase the singing talent among our community’s kids in a friendly and entertaining competition designed to be a growing experience,” says Susan Garell, who founded Orinda Idol with Petra Michel in 2006.

“This year’s crop of kids is perhaps our strongest ever, and we’re excited to have finalists from Moraga and Lafayette in our high school solo and group categories, our way of offering this experience to young performers in the broader Lamorinda community,” Garell adds.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Finalist Naimh Akazawa attends Glorietta Elementary School.

Chris Daughtry,” she says. “He has had an amazing career despite not winning the American Idol title. He’s an entertainer and fun to watch.”

She has taken a leaf out of Daughtry’s book and says her Orinda Idol performance will be “Life of the Party” from the musical *The Wild Party* by Andrew Lipa. “I want to do something entertaining and get people dancing,” says the young performer. “It’s a hard song to sing, but it will be a showstopper if I can sing it well.”

Another showstopper who entered in a younger category is Niamh Akazawa, age 9. She’s a student at Glorietta Elementary School and has a twin sister Malia and a little sister Fiona, 6. Niamh’s mother is from Ireland and her father is from Hawaii, so they always sing Celtic and Hawaiian songs around the house.

At her audition, Akazawa sang “Caledonia” from Celtic Women and has chosen “The Voice” from Celtic Women to sing at the Orinda Idol finale. “It’s really pretty and sounded good for my voice,” she says.

The young singer doesn’t take voice lessons, but she and her sisters love the Irish dancing classes they take in Walnut Creek. “I work with Niamh’s vocal techniques a little bit,” says her mom Catherine, “but she has a naturally good ear and voice for music.” While Akazawa loves to sing and would like to be a singer when she grows up, she also has another strong ambition: looking after reptiles.

Working hard to shine in the grades 6-12 “Sibling” category are brothers Nathan and Aaron Baum. Nathan is 12 and going into 7th grade at Orinda Intermediate School; his brother Aaron, 10, is leaving Sleepy Hollow Elementary for his first year at Orinda Intermediate School.

This is the second year the brothers have entered Orinda Idol. They made it to the final last year, although didn’t come away

with the prize. “I think we did pretty well last year, and we wanted to go back,” says Nathan. They’re planning on singing the Cole Porter classic, “Be a Clown,” made famous by Judy Garland and Gene Kelly.

Both brothers say they were inspired by Barrett Lindsey Steiner, who offers local musical and theater camps which the boys have attended. “Barrett first got us started in this kind of thing, with theater and parody – he’s funny,” says Nathan. They’re looking forward to going to another of Steiner’s camps this summer.

The siblings agree it’s nice to have your brother with you, whether you win or lose. “It feels like you have your brother to back you up,” says Aaron. “It’s nice to have your brother to support you, especially if you don’t do well.” Such brotherly love is worth any fame or fortune.

The judges for this year’s Orinda Idol include Michael Semanick, an Oscar-winning sound editor for *Lord of the Rings – Return of the King* and *King Kong*. Emcees will be Leslie Brinkley of ABC TV, Diane Dwyer of NBC TV and Bill Martin of Fox Channel 2.

Orinda Idol will be held on Sunday, September 13 at the Orinda Theater in Theatre Square from 11 a.m. to 7:15 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Brothers Aaron and Nathan Baum are in the finals for the second year.

Schedule by category is as follows: 11 a.m., Elementary, K-2 and 3-5; 1 p.m., Middle School; 2:45 p.m., High School; 4:30 p.m., Groups K-5 and 6-12; 6:15 p.m., announcement of winners.

Admission to Orinda Idol is free; audience members are advised to line up 30 minutes before the category they want to see to get a seat in the 750-seat theater.

Orinda Idol is sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council, as well as volunteers and local businesses. *The Orinda News* is the event’s media sponsor. For more information, visit www.orindaartscouncil.org/orindaidol.html.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Erika Henningson is a finalist in the high school division.

Contestant Erika Henningson, 16, of Moraga agrees. “It’s nice that they’ve created an opportunity for kids from elementary through 18 years old to perform for the community,” says Henningson. A senior at Campolindo High School this fall, she has her sights set on a career in musical theater. “That’s my passion, I hope to make a living out of it,” says Henningson.

But she throws in a dash of realism. “That’s the dream, but it’s a very difficult business to be in,” she adds. Erika has already laid the groundwork for her dream, playing Belle in Campolindo’s production of *Beauty and the Beast* and as an enthusiastic member of the American Conservatory Theater’s youth program, “Cabaret Ensemble.” Erika will continue to hone her skills this summer at the University of Michigan’s summer theater program. She says the 3-week program will be “intense training in singing, acting and dancing.”

Henningson watches the big daddy of Orinda Idol, *American Idol*, on TV. “I liked

LEARN TO DANCE

FREE CLASS COUPON
Learn to dance **SALSA** with **TOMAJ!**
No Partner Required! Bring this coupon with you for a **FREE CLASS!** Classes in:
Orinda, Walnut Creek, San Ramon
Schedule at: www.SalsawithTomaj.com
Info: 925-254-3459

Tom Romaneck Painting

15% off any Interior/Exterior

Meticulous preparation & finish work

Free Estimates Excellent References
Owner Operated

925-323-9908
TRomaneck@yahoo.com
Lic. #922081

CoreKinetics

PILATES
EXERCISE AND REHAB WITH
COREKINETICS
IN ORINDA

- PRIVATE AND SEMI PRIVATE SESSIONS
- EQUIPMENT AND MAT WORK
- RESISTANCE, NON-WEIGHT BEARING
- PROMOTES WELL-BALANCED, EFFICIENT MOVEMENT IN YOUR DAILY LIFE!

925-708-3279
50 Vashell Way #120

PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT



Orinda Idol 2009

Don't Miss Your Last Chance to Preview the Orinda Idol 2009 Finalists:

Orinda Farmer's Market
August 29th 10:30am

Join Us for the Orinda Idol 2009 Finals!

Orinda Theatre
September 13th
11:00am-7:15pm

Schedule By Grade Category:

11:00am	Elementary K-2 and 3-5
1:00pm	Middle School
2:45pm	High School
4:30pm	Groups K-5 and 6-12
6:15pm	Announcement of Winners

For a List of Finalists Visit www.orindaartscouncil.com

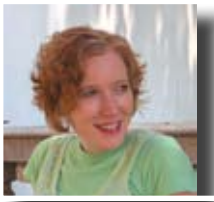
Major Sponsors:
Alain Pinel Realtors
Mechanics Bank
Orinda Orthodontics

Orinda Idol is developed and presented by the Orinda Arts Council

BACKYARD GETAWAYS

Backyard Getaways and Beyond
Philadelphia on the Other Side of the Road

Moya Stone



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is a city known for American History, The Liberty Bell, and Rocky Balboa sprinting up those steps. Perhaps not as well known are the art galleries, murals, theaters and ethnic restaurants. On a recent visit, I found the City of Brotherly Love to be abundant in the unexpected.

I arrived on a bright, crisp morning. Clumps of snow remained from a passing blizzard the day before and a frosty breeze cut right through my woolen layers. Ah ... winter, what a treat! It was early March and if you can stand the cold, that's a nice time of year to travel because no one else is! The red eye from San Francisco is the best way to go. SFO at 10 p.m. is super quiet as is the Philadelphia airport at 6 a.m., plus you have an extra day.

Traveling from the airport into the city is a snap on SEPTA. Located just outside baggage claim, the trains run every 30 minutes and get you to town in retro style for \$8.

I headed downtown on the R1and a mere 20 minutes later I got off at Market East Station and walked a few blocks to the arty neighborhood called Center City.

Philly is a delight for anyone who admires antiquity. Brick Colonial and Georgian buildings have an old-school, European feel. The city was established in 1682 by British expat and Quaker, William Penn. He named his city in Greek: *philos* meaning love and *adelphos* meaning brother, Philadelphia or Brotherly Love. At one time it was the largest city in the United States and after the American Revolution, it was the U.S. capital until Washington DC finished construction in 1810. It was the first industrial city, with textiles its largest industry.

Although there is a subway system and ample cabs, I say put on your walking shoes. The main drag in Center City is Broad Street, also known as Avenue of the Arts. Stretching eight blocks from City



MOYA STONE

One of Philadelphia's colorful and historic murals. This one is painted on the side of a fire station.

Hall (itself a beautiful old building and worth a visit) to South Street, Broad street is home to 23 arts organizations including three major theaters and three art schools. I recommend starting at City Hall and strolling Broad Street to South Street. As you go, check out what's playing at the theaters and make a reservation. Keep an eye out for the numerous free weekly newspapers and read reviews of local shows.

Head east on South Street for even more local flavors. This neighborhood is a mix of antique shops, boutiques, cafes, and home-grown art galleries. For a true local experience, pop into Harry's Occult Shop. Aiding folks with sorcery since 1910, Harry's is a tiny shop packed with candles, herbs, books and all array of amulets, guaranteed to cast (or dispel) a spell.

Philadelphia at one time had a bustling fabric district. Fourth Street between South and Catharine streets was known as Fabric Row. Though not what it once was, the area is still the local hub for textile-related business and many of the old businesses remain. In antique storefronts, shop after shop offer mostly drapery fabrics and upholstery, as well as notions. Some have vintage fabrics dating from the 1950s to the 1970s. Consider picking up a yard or two of vintage fabric for an unusual memento and/or a gift. My sister-in-law and I chose a cool 70's fabric and made a scarf for my mother.

Nestled among the old shops are newer boutiques and coffee houses. One place absolutely not to be missed is Essene

[SEE BACKYARD page 18]



animal house
PET & HOME CARE

**Summer fun taking you away?
Need help with your pets while
you are away**


Let me take the worry out of what to do with your home and pets while you are away.

- Pet Sitting
- Dog Walking
- Pet Taxi
- Home Watch/Security
- Collect Mail and Newspapers
- Water Plants
- Insured and Bonded

925-254-3677 Office
925-368-8978 Cell
animal-house@comcast.net

live better
live lean

body makeovers
by Living Lean



marty lenzi

Middle -age spread had me down. I felt sluggish, tired, was not sleeping well, not to mention the clothes were tight. On a good friend's recommendation I decided to try Living Lean 2 1/2 months ago. The results have been amazing: my percentage of body fat dropped from 27 to 20, I lost 12 lbs of fat and gained almost 3 lbs. of muscle. Losing fat while gaining muscle has revved up my metabolism. Best of all I have much more energy, sleep through the night consistently and have gone down almost 2 clothing sizes. Sheena's careful monitoring and her enthusiastic trainers make all the difference. Living Lean is a life-style change. It is fun and hard work with visible results!


—Marty Lenzi

living lean.

The Living Lean Program
Studios in Orinda and
Now in Montclair Village.
Call Sheena for reservations at
(925) 360-7051
Space is limited so call today.

Living Lean Move of the Month

Striking Reverse Lunge
glutes, hamstrings, quads, rectus abdominus, spinal erectors, lats

PHOTOS TAKEN AT AMOROMA'S BEAUTIFUL NEW RESTAURANT ON MORAGA WAY.

Grab a couple of soup cans (or light weights) and hold them straight over your shoulders at arms length as you stand with your feet shoulder width apart. Stride back with one leg into a reverse lunge position as you simultaneously thrust your arms back behind you. In this position your arms should be straight and your torso facing down over your front thigh. Pause for a second and then push down with the heel of your front foot as you step back into the starting position. Repeat with the opposite leg. That's 1 rep. Try 3 sets of 12 reps.

— Courtesy of Living Lean, 925-360-7051

Award winning
landscape &
pool development inc.

Garden Lights

Garden Lights is an Award Winning Landscape Design-Build Firm Offering Services in . . .

- Landscape Design & Installation
Planting - Masonry - Concrete - Carpentry
Outdoor Kitchens & Entertainment Spaces
- Low-voltage Landscape Lighting
Pool / Spa Design & Installation
- Water Gardens, Ponds & Waterfalls




We design & install with just one call.
925-254-4797 • www.gardenlightslandscape.com
Free Consultations



Serving the Lamorinda Area for 19 years. Bonded - Licensed & Insured License# 702845

SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Writing Contest Winners Honored by Friends of Orinda Library

By DOROTHY BOWEN
Staff Writer

Young writers ventured into the possible future; into lives far removed from their own; and into their own hearts. Winners of the Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library, are: Caety Klingman for the science fiction story "The Wall;" Katharine Yu for the short story "Birds of a Feather;" Bryan Ockzus for the epic poem, "The Long Journey Home;" and Lucas Ashby for the essay "Good Times, Bad Times (Mostly Bad Times)." Talia Gross won an honorable mention for her poem "Ginsberg's Flower" and Alexandra Seclow won an honorable mention for her poem "A Scar Forms."

Caety Klingman's "The Wall" was inspired by learning about the Berlin Wall last year in her 11th grade history class at Miramonte. She also thought of the wall between Israel and Palestine. Her idea was that although what happens in "The Wall" hasn't happened to us, it could still or could



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Caety Klingman won for her science fiction story.

have already, if history had turned out differently. In her story, people are terrified of everyone on the other side of the wall and when a child crosses over, exacting a terrible revenge. She has written two novels and has an agent for the first one. She is also working on a science fiction novel with a pen pal. Although she hasn't read anything by Poul Anderson, the Orinda science fiction writer for whom the contest is named, she plans to this summer.

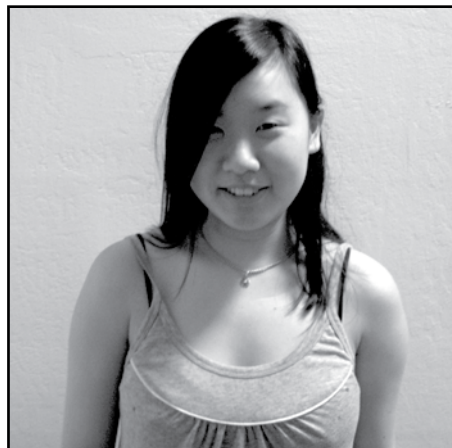
Katharine Yu won the contest last year for her post Apocalyptic science fiction story and won again this year for her short story

"Birds of a Feather." The story follows the relationship between a homeless man and a street musician – well out of the experience of a Miramonte 11th grader. She started writing the story at midnight the weekend before deadline. It was a work of imagination, she says. A senior next year, she plans to go on to college, maybe Stanford, for pre-med studies. "I should have taken more science classes," she says.

Bryan Ockzus' poem, "The Long Journey Home," is about the demise of the fishing industry. It was part of a project for Agate, an after school program at Miramonte. Among other things, the class took a field trip to Point Reyes where he met a commercial fisherman. Ockzus was inspired to use the metaphor of a sea voyage to write a eulogy for the dying industry by reading Walt Whitman's "Oh Captain, My Captain," about the death of Abraham Lincoln.

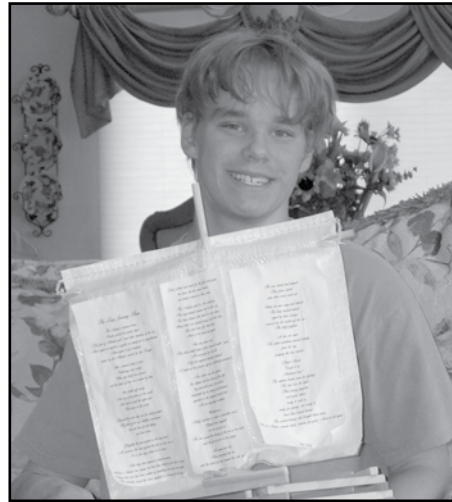
Ockzus did extensive research on fishing, which is included in footnotes embedded in the poem, but he wasn't inspired to write the poem until he saw "The Deadliest Catch" on TV and saw first hand how hard fishing could be. A senior next year, he also won an honorable mention last year in the contest.

Lucas Ashby won for his essay, "Good Times, Bad Times (Mostly Bad Times)," by analyzing a family crisis without knowing the full story. He was an 11th grader at Bentley School and wrote "Good Times" during a mini term class on memoir writing. "It's more focused on the emotional outcome than on a realistic description of the events," he says. He likes Bentley, "to the extent that you can enjoy school. There is a big difference between Bentley and OIS where I went before."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Katharine Yu wrote the short story "Birds of a Feather."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bryan Ockzus did extensive research for his epic poem.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Talia Gross won honorable mention for her poem "Ginsberg's Flower."

Ashby is reading the poetry of Jim Morrison and plays bass in the Bentley Jazz Band and the drums in another group. He has been reading Kurt Vonnegut and the philosopher Jean Baudrillard. "It's a real page turner, but you have to turn the pages slowly," he says. During the summer, he will be taking trips to Chicago and Washington D.C.

Talia Gross was inspired to write "Ginsberg's Flower" after reading Allen Ginsberg's poem "In Back of the Real" at Orinda Academy where she was a 10th grader. "I really liked it," she says. Her poem is about a teenage girl with a daunting self image. "It's about me, since I'm a teenage girl – enough said. It's the only reason I was able to understand that," she adds. Writing is one of her strengths. She has written short stories since she was 9 or 10 and now poetry as well.

Alexandra Seclow, sophomore at Miramonte, wrote "A Scar Forms" about the deterioration of a schoolgirl friendship and describes all too accurately the mean girl behavior. She has written other poems, inspired by assignments from her English teacher, Mrs. Lamberti. She liked one in particular, "Paint Me Like I Am." She has also been reading *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote and *The Kite Runner*.

She writes for the school paper, *The Mirador*, and hopes to write for other papers. This summer, she is playing Lacrosse and reading for Honors English as well as working for a non-profit group, Room to Read, that builds schools in undeveloped countries. They have raised \$3,000 so far and are aiming for \$25,000 through car washes and author talks. "In Orinda, we really focus on our schools, so we're really lucky," she says.

Learn, Grow, Create
HOLDEN HIGH SCHOOL
10 Irwin Way, Orinda (near BART) • 254-0199 • www.holdenhigh.org
Limited spaces available for the 2009-2010 school year.

- 40 students – creative, bright, independent
- 20+ staff members – teachers, musicians, learning specialists
- 4-12 students in each class-relevant, engaging, personalized curriculum
- 1 deeply rooted community culture

Celebrating our 40th year!




Orinda Academy

Parents, Students and Teachers
Working Together

"AN EDUCATIONAL JEWEL RIGHT IN ORINDA!"

Grades 7-12

Accepting applications now!

College preparatory curriculum
Small class size averaging 10 students
Sports, arts, clubs

Personalized college counseling
Educational Adventures Program
UC & WASC approved

CALL FOR A PERSONAL TOUR NOW.

**Fall Spaces Available
Contact the Admissions Office for an application packet.**

SERVING LAMORINDA SINCE 1979

Specializing In:

- Spot and Stain Removal
- Oriental and Handmade Rugs
- Upholstery cleaning
- Water damage
- Odor removal



We Clean for Health as well as Appearance

We Clean with Green T.L.C.

254-2866

RX-20
Rotary Jet Extractor

HYDRAMASTER
EQUIPPED TRUCKMOUNT CARPET CLEANING SYSTEM




John Kirby
Owner



ORINDA ACADEMY • 19 ALTARINDA ROAD • ORINDA, CA 94563

(925) 254-7553 ext. 305 • admission@orindaacademy.org

www.orindaacademy.org

CHARITABLE STUDENT

Computer Trouble?

Since 2001, Portable CIO has been quickly solving PC and Mac computer problems for small business and individuals.
How can we help you?



- Repairs • Upgrades • Networking
- Virus/ Spyware/ Adware Removal
- Office Moves • Internet
- Back-up Solutions
- Data Recovery Solutions
- Maintenance • Email Solutions
- Remote Phone Support
- Free Recycling

925.552.7953

www.ThePortableCIO.com

mention this ad for \$10 off your next service



Birthday Girl Asks for Donations Instead of Presents

Tiffany Shinn, a 9 year old who attends Sleepy Hollow School in Orinda, raised \$2,200 for the Make A Wish (MAW) foundation in Sacramento by asking friends and family to donate to MAW instead of buying birthday presents. But Tiffany did get to have a great birthday party on Sunday, June 29, attended by family and friends. The US Park Police Horse Mounted Unit from San Francisco came as well, Officers Kang and Raymos delivered a donation to the Make a Wish foundation on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police, SF. Tiffany was the model for the foundation's 25th Anniversary advertising campaign and decided to donate her wages after meeting the children sponsored by the group. When plans for her birthday began, she enlisted the aid of her parents and family to encourage others to donate to the foundation in lieu of a traditional party.



ELANA O'LOSKEY
(L-R) Officer Anthony Kang, Heather Shinn (6), Mike Shinn, Ghet Tran-Shinn, Officer Jason Raymos, Tiffany Shinn (9) sitting on Finnegan.

-- Elana O'Loskey, Staff Writer

The Bay Area's only **PRESCHOOL ON DEMAND!**

1-888-TOT DROP



YOU make your own schedule. 9am - 1pm
As little as 1 hour or up to 12 hrs/wk. **\$9/hr..**
YOU set your days and arrival & pick up times.
Come occasionally or weekly spots are available.
FREE cancellation when your plans change.

www.totdrop.com

DIAPER WEARERS WELCOME!

Never tried it? Come see what you've been missing!
Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill.

1 FREE hr. (\$9 value) New families Only.
One Free hr/family.



Ann Sharf



ANN SHARF

When you need:

- a strong negotiator
- proven results for both buyers & sellers
- professionalism & service
- a top producer

Call ANN at (925) 253-2525;

she comes highly recommended...

Website: www.annsharf.com

Email: ann@annsharf.com

93 Moraga Way, Orinda

I can help you navigate through this ever changing real estate market. Be certain your largest asset is in the hands of a professional who represents both buyers and sellers daily.



CASA ORINDA
RESTAURANT

Dinner served nightly from 4 p.m.

925.254.2981 ■ 20 Bryant Way ■ Orinda, CA 94563

◆ ART from page 1

our shared journey as we travel together in this world and the human relationship with nature." She chose to use clay because it is something from the earth that has existed for thousands of years. Her contribution of clay sculptures adds a level of novelty to the Orinda outdoor art exhibit, as does the work by Patricia Vader.

The sculpture entitled "Peacock" by Vad-



JOHN DENNING

Nina Lyon's "Traveler" will grace the library's outside staircase.

er will add a new dimension to the exhibit. A local physicist and artist, Vader's 14-foot art piece has kinetic and solar capabilities with wheels and extensions that catch the wind. Skinner believes that Vader's new

piece, in particular, is timely and "will draw a lot of attention." It will be situated in the plaza by a patch of rosemary near the corner of the library and the community center. "This statue represents the trends of being green, conservation and movement," says Skinner.

Alongside the seven new outdoor pieces, an indoor piece, "Surveillance" by Kent Roberts, will find a home in the rotunda of the library for the public to view and enjoy easily. Like the other artists featured, Roberts is a leading Bay Area sculptor and has also worked as an exhibition designer at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

The introduction of these new pieces to the Orinda scenery also means the conclusion of Jeff Downing's "Block Island Hangout" (the three dogs); Riss Urwell's "The Bird" and Vickie Jo Sowell's "Totem Poles," sculptures which have grown near and dear to many in Orinda over the past year.

The APPC is researching different ways to afford keeping other sculptures in their current locations. The artists currently loan their art work to the city for one year. The APPC would like to purchase particular pieces such as Gale Wagner's "Outta Here" (the frog in the fountain) and John Toki's "Spring time Whispers" and "Blue Motions," which are in front of the Community Center entrance.

Park dedication funds are collected from development in the city each year and used for parks and recreational facilities and open space. These funds may be used for supporting the acquisition of public artworks. On a recent survey of 230 people, 70 percent said they would support the use of park capital to purchase artwork; 51 percent said they would give private donations for the preservation of the sculptures as well.

The APPC is composed of representatives from the Friends of the Orinda Library, the Community Center, the Orinda Arts Council, the Public Works Department, The Aesthetic Review Committee and two other representatives, all serve on the council for three-year terms. "Many people on the committee are very familiar with local artists" says Skinner, "they know how to go out and look for talent."

These sculptures have played a pivotal role in the beautification of the town center, allowing residents to interact with art. Children have hugged the doggy totem poles and played around the sculptures. Coffee drinkers can be spotted working or reading amidst the artwork on a pleasant day. Of people surveyed, 96 percent said they look at the artwork and 88 percent of the people, who took time to view the artwork, said they enjoyed it.

IT'S TIME



FREE ESTIMATES

SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Fundraising Gala Supports Local Schools

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) will honor excellence in education at a benefit appropriately entitled "Pearls of Wisdom" on August 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. The event will take place around the pool. "We will be celebrating our 30th anniversary of providing the difference between a good and an excellent education for Orinda students by the funds we have raised. All Orindans are invited to attend," says Catherine Soso, chairman of the event. EFO has donated \$17 million to the Orinda Union School District and Miramonte High School since 1979. We want to continue helping our children in this way."

Building on a tradition of strong com-

munity support for Orinda's schools, EFO provides financial assistance to quality programs and for enrichment opportunities. "Music, rapidly-changing technology, drama, public speaking, counseling which is so necessary in the current collegiate admissions era, libraries with media resources, foreign language, mock trials, and art have a place in public education and thanks to our community and parent financial support, we have been able to provide Orinda students with these enrichment opportunities," Soso adds.

EFO president, Joan Kiekhaefer, explains, "The art and music programs are especially important to me and my family. EFO funds the salaries for the art and music teachers at the elementary and middle schools and, at Miramonte, we fund the mixed chorus and jazz band section as well as 90 percent of the budget for visual and



TED KLAUBER

The Bob Claire Orchestra (shown here at this year's 4th of July concert) will entertain at the gala fundraiser.

performing arts."

The need for private support to help our public schools has never been greater with the cutback in the state school funding. This year state funds will only cover 69 percent of the OUSD budget with the balance made up by the local parcel taxes, parent's clubs and EFO. "When you realize that California is 47th out of 50 United States in educational funding, the enormity of the situation becomes clear," Kiekhaefer says. "We invite parents and interested community members to gather for the ultimate

Back to School Night on August 29th," she continues. "No host cocktails, buffet dinner, a couple of games and dancing to the 13 piece Bob Claire Orchestra will make for a great evening," says Kiekhaefer. Come to enjoy all this among friends who make a difference for our children by helping to provide for their educational needs."

Tickets for the event are \$55 per person and may be obtained online at www.orindaefo.org or by sending checks payable to EFO 30th, to 21 Orinda Way #123, Orinda, CA 94563.

Teenager Encourages Others to Support Their Community

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

"Develop what you like and something you're good at and use it for your community," says Alex Chen, a 15-year-old student at Miramonte High School. The teen donated two paintings, *Bamboo* and *Red Peony* to the Miramonte Parents Club's Crab Feed and Auction this spring, sponsored by the Booster Club. The two paintings brought in over \$100 for the school's sports teams, helping make the booster club's total of \$4,166.87.

Chen, a member of the Class of 2012, began donating to school fundraisers at Valley View Elementary School in Richmond. He



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alex Chen's "Red Peony" was one of the pieces he donated to Miramonte Parents Club.

began brush painting at the age of eight and made his first donation when he was in fifth grade. By the time he entered Miramonte, he had already donated six paintings.

OFFICE SUPPLIES TREBLE STATIONERS

FULL LINE OF OFFICE PRODUCTS
PRINTING-BUSINESS CARDS & STATIONERY • COMPUTER SUPPLIES
OFFICE FURNITURE • LAMINATING • FAX • COPIES • COLOR COPIES

254-3643

MONTHLY
BILLING

Fax # 254-9720

19 Orinda Way

FREE
DELIVERY

EFO — Educational Foundation of Orinda —
wishes to thank its Business Partners for generously supporting Orinda schools
during the 2008-2009 school year. Return the favor. Do business with a partner!

For more information, please visit www.orindaefo.org/businesspartners/BusinessPartnerList.html.

Patrons (\$2,500+)

Cabellon/Kang Christmas Tree Lot
Mechanics Bank
Union Bank

Sponsors (\$500 - \$2,499)

Chase Bank (Washington Mutual)
Betsy Fischer Designs
Linda Friedman, Village Associates
Hudson and Axelrode Orthodontics
Innovative Marketing
Larkmead Vineyards
Barbara Llewellyn Catering and Event Planning
Moran Supply
The Olsen Team, Village Associates
Sherrie and Billy Perlstein, Prudential California Realty
Warriors & Cassandra Montgomery

Donors (\$100 - \$499)

Rick Carter, State Farm Insurance
Cheese Steak Shop
Concord Graphic Arts
East Bay Pediatrics
Zand Gee
Jill Gelster, The Orinda News
Diane Goldsmith, Square Moon Productions
Holly Henkel, J. Rockcliff Realtors
Jupiter
Earnest A. Kahl, D.D.S.
Mike Kang, Farmers Insurance
Lamborn Family Vineyards
Leibovitz Law Group Inc.
lewis-design
April Matthews, Village Associates
Allison McCrady
McDonnell Nursery
John Ogro, D.D.S.
Stephen P. Paddock, CFP
Prudential California Realty
Terri Riggins Photography
Mary Smith, D.D.S.
Village Associates

HOME SWEET HOME



Civil & Structural Engineering
 Earthquake Strengthening
 Foundation Repairs
 Retaining Walls
 Drainage
 Remodels
 Additions
 New Construction
 Licensed Engineers
 Leak Investigations
 Expert Witness
 Property Purchase Inspections

510 / 524-8058

◆ LETTERS from page 4

multistory senior apartment complex nor the Planning Director's public desire for Orinda's downtown to be "more like Palo Alto." Yet, I am not surprised.

First: Orinda Planning commissioners have normally been nominated by two city councilmembers and approved by the council without discussion. Several years ago, when I was physically able, I volunteered to serve on the commission. I had, and have, no developer connections, but I proposed that the city explore air rights development over BART and 24. This concept would've and likely still would qualify for significant non-city funding and promote sales tax revenue. Has the city's Revenue Enhancement reviewed the "razing" of businesses along Moraga Way?

Next: The planning director wanting Orinda's downtown to be more like Palo Alto. What is meant by this? Palo Alto's population is about three times that of Orinda. What are his proposals: that BART be relocated at street level so that we have multiple suicides and vehicular deaths, or that we just get a decent martini bar? Also note that the planning director was a proponent of the now defunct Wilder (Gateway) development which is now preoccupying many of our local government resources, and that he is also the zoning administrator, decides what information is provided to the Planning Commission and decides which noise control violations are enforced. If I had wanted to live in a "more Palo Alto like" community, I would not have chosen to buy in Orinda.

Lastly: Our city government is only now trying to address the dire conditions of tax funding for state and local government, apparently believing that our city was immune from the recession. Perhaps it's time for a public opinion poll of our city government's performance. Note that we are now scheduled for our third special election of the year in November.

Meanwhile, our decrepit streets remain to be adequately addressed.

- C. Burke Gordon

HOME SWEET HOME
 How to Find a Great Contractor



Janice Gatlin

There are several excellent and some not so good ways to find a great contractor. I'll start with the latter.

You've probably seen or heard ads for Internet-based referral services promising you that their contractors are prescreened or that they are "gold star" or other greatly reassuring phrases. The key thing you need to know about most of those is that the contractor himself or herself pays to be on the service. Some of those services do have ratings once the contractor has joined, but most rate the contractor based only on the references that he or she provided when he or she joined which, of course, would only be good references.

One of the tricky things about some of the sites is that you can't determine if they are charging the contractor or not. The site may say "free" to join, but then they charge the contractor for leads provided or charge a percentage of each job completed. The point is, those referral companies are making money from the contractor, so the more contractors they have, the more money they make, whatever the contractor's reputation.

In my opinion, any site that requires or allows the contractor to pay or essentially to buy their way onto the site won't provide you the most accurate picture of the contractor.

Most people feel that the Better Business Bureau is the gold standard for checking the reputation of a business. But what most people don't know is that the Better Business Bureau is not a government sanctioned or run company. It is not part of the state Consumer Affairs Department. In fact, the Better Business Bureau makes its money by

charging the businesses a fairly steep fee to be a member.

The Better Business Bureau calls contractors and other businesses regularly, soliciting paid memberships. Again, I don't think any business that requires its members to pay to be rated or receive approval is an unbiased source of information.

So, let's look at some sources that don't have those conflicts of interest. The best one is a personal referral. Ask people you already know and trust who the contractor is that they use. You can ask them direct questions and for honest opinions and know that they have no conflict of interest. Just be sure to ask: "how did you hear about this person?" If they say it's their relative or best friend, then you'll need to take that information into account.

A second choice: call a local real estate company and ask them who they like. Real estate agents frequently need to hire contractors or refer their clients to contractors. Most real estate brokers keep lists of their favorite contractors.

A third source: if you already have a contractor you like and trust, but need a different type of contractor, ask the contractor you now work with for his or her recommendation. I, for example, keep a list of other contractors and businesses that have been successfully used by my own clients to provide whenever we're asked about a trade or type of work that we don't do ourselves.

Before you call the contractor you've been given, go to the California State Contractor's License Board website: www.cslb.ca.gov or call them at 800-321-2752 to see if the contractor has a valid, active license and to make sure he or she has no complaints against his or her license.

Then call the contractor to chat and ask for some references at the end of the conversation. Any good contractor should be able to provide you at least four recent references immediately.

In my next column, I'll give you some great questions to ask the referrals that the contractor gives you that will shed a lot of light on what that contractor's reputation.

Janice Gatlin is the local owner of Always the Best Home Repairs & Construction. She can be reached at 925-254-9545.

SUSHI
 Your best catch is Orinda's
NIWA RESTAURANT
 S.F. Chronicle 1/4/2002

NIWA RESTAURANT
 Sushi Bar
 Japanese Cuisine
 &
 Chinese Cuisine

Mon.-Thur.: 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 4:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
 Fri.: 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 4:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 Sat: 11:45 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 Sun: Closed

(925) 254-1606
 1 Camino Sobrante #6
 (across from Safeway)

Try our VIP card to get \$30.00 off.

NO DOGS ALLOWED!
 Ever wonder why?

- Let's train our dogs to have manners.
- Sit quietly.
- No lunging or barking at other dogs.
- Calmly greet people in public and at home.
- Let me show you how to provide the leadership your dog craves.

A well behaved dog is always welcome.

Please visit www.italkdog.com for more information and other services.

Denise Collins
 TRAINING COACH

925-285-9194
denise@italkdog.com
www.italkdog.com

ONE-ON-ONE COACHING
 FOR THE ULTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR DOG

Handyman & Remodeling
 Serving Orinda for 28 Years
254-9545
atbRemodel.com
 References Proudly Given
 Small Jobs Welcome

Lic#760085 • Bonded • Insured
**Always the Best...
 Home Repairs & Remodeling**

The Law Office of Clay Deanhardt
 Experienced Service at Reasonable Rates
www.deanhardtllaw.com
clay@deanhardtllaw.com
 925-258-9079

- Business / Commercial Law
- Contracts
- Employment Counseling
- Business Buy / Sell Agreements
- Trademark and Copyright
- Business Litigation
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Technology Licensing
- Internet Law & Agreements
- Business Formation & Financing

17 Years Legal and Business Experience

A Hands-On Realtor Who Gets Her Homework Done

COLDWELL BANKER

For the 3R's of Real Estate

- Relationships
- Resources, and
- Research

MAUREEN WILBUR
 Realtor

Coldwell Banker
 Orinda, CA 94563
 925-253-6311 VM
www.MaureenWilbur.com
 DRE #01268536

An Upbeat and Rewarding Experience for Buyers and Sellers...
 ...Maureen was able to represent both buyers and sellers without compromising either side. She showed us that the many ways of advertising could make a big difference. The size and market penetration of Coldwell Banker was also a significant factor. Maureen served our needs admirably.
 - Fred and Judy Beernick, Sellers

CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 1 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents *Private Lives* by Noël Coward at 2 and 8 p.m.; also Sunday, Aug. 2 at 4 p.m. at Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, 100 Gateway Blvd., Orinda. For tickets, visit www.calshakes.org or call 510-548-9666.
- Orinda Starlight Village Players** present *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmund Rostand at Orinda Community Center Park, through Aug. 15. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 9 at 4 p.m., and Thursday, Aug. 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Box Office or email info@orsvp.org.
- Orinda Farmers' Market**, every Saturday through Nov., 9 a.m.-1p.m., on Orinda Way.
- 4 **Orinda Night Out**, neighborhood safety meetings and socials throughout Orinda.
- 6 **Orinda Theatre Square** 2009 Summer Music Series with 747 Express, 4-7 p.m. Visit www.orindatheatresquare.com.
- 8 **Orinda Books**, Cheryl Dumesnil will read from her new poetry collection, *In Praise of Falling*, 3 p.m., 276 Village Square, Call 254-7606.
- 12 **Second Wednesday Book Group**, will discuss *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, 3 p.m., 276 Village Square, 254-7606. The group meets monthly and welcomes new members.
- 15 **California Shakespeare Theater** presents *Happy Days* by Samuel Beckett, Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Saturday matinee at 2 p.m., Sunday matinee at 4 p.m., through Sept. 6 at Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, 100 Gateway Blvd., Orinda. For tickets, visit www.calshakes.org or call 510-548-9666.
- 20 **Orinda Theatre Square** 2009 Summer Music Series with Surefire featuring Bob Athayde and Friends, 4-7 p.m., free. Visit www.orindatheatresquare.com.
- 29 **EFO** fundraiser "Pearls of Wisdom," 5:30 p.m., Orinda Country Club, celebrate group's 30th year supporting Orinda Schools, www.orindaefo.org.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified.

- 1 **Paws Storytime**, a gentle and friendly dog will be at the storytime and available for petting afterward, for 3- to 5 year-olds and their families, 11 a.m. in the Picture Book area.
- 3 **Writing workshop** with creative exercises and writing tips for 3rd- through 5th-graders, 10:30-noon. Register at the library or online at <http://ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html>.
- 4 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for 1- to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, 10 a.m., repeats at 10:30 a.m. (Families with older siblings are welcome at toddler lapsit.) No registration, but participants are limited to one storytime a week. Also Aug. 5, 11, 12.
- Peek-a-boo Time**, rhymes, songs and bounces for infants through 1-year-olds (pre-walkers) and their caregivers, 11:30 a.m. Also Aug. 11.
- 6 **Writing workshop** with creative exercises and imagery for 4th- through 6th-graders, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Register at the library or online at <http://ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html>.
- 8 **Saturday Morning Live**, family storytime for 3- to 5 year-olds, 11 a.m. in the Picture Book area. Also Aug. 15.
- 25 **Orinda Library Summer Music Series** with The Real Placebos: American Roots Music. A Fireside Performance, 7-8 p.m. Real Placebos play an eclectic mix of American roots music.
- 27 **Storytelling for Adults**, sponsored by the Contra Costa Tale Spinners, features a storyteller each month and time for open microphone if you want to share your own stories, 7-9 p.m.

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

MEETINGS:

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District, first and third Wednesdays, district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m.
- City Council, first and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee, fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, public is welcome, for information, call 925-788-7323.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks, fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library. Call 253-1997.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District, third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees, OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road, 4 p.m.
- Planning Commission, second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 253-4210.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe meeting, May 18, 7:30 p.m. All interested in preservation of the landmark are invited to attend. For location, 254-8260.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, Postino's in Lafayette, 7 a.m. every Friday, 254-0440, ext.463.
- Orinda Rotary, Community Center, every Wednesday at noon, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association, Orinda Library, May Room, second Monday, 7:15 p.m., 254-0800.
- Orinda Historical Society, third Wednesday of the month, OHS Museum, 3 to 5 p.m., 254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters, first and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda Juniors community service and social meetings, the first Tuesday of the month (Sept.- June), 7 p.m. Contact Diane Petek and Ann Sullivan at orinda.juniors@yahoo.com for location.
- 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.
- Orinda Woman's Club, Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon; call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

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

Orinda Shoes and Service

Specializing in Orthopedic Corrections
Elegant Footwear

Since 1952



Avenida De Orinda Tel (925) 254-5088 19
Orinda, CA 94563 Fax (925) 254-4011

SPERRY
TOP-SIDER

August Gallery Show: Segmented Wood Vessels to Paintings at Library Gallery

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Gallery's August show begins on Sunday, August 2, and continues until Monday, August 31. Five diverse artists show work including finely wrought wood jewelry boxes, large atmospheric oil paintings, tableware made from local black acacia and elm wood, acrylic pop art pooches, and plein-air watercolors.

Jennifer Downey is an oil painter who lives and works in Alameda – her work has been exhibited in California and internationally. "The power I seek to portray is a quiet and implicit one; I find it in misty mountains, thin nighttime air and shadowy plains; I also find it in feminine energy," says Downey. Her finished pieces are executed in oil on canvas using archival materials and methods. The *Feminine Nature* series portrays figures inspired by particularly sublime or striking places. Titles include: Old Wise Limbs, Stormy Glow and A Melding of Land and Sky.

Ellis Sjoberg is showing wood jewelry boxes, ikebana type design vases and some free form pieces; he works with cherry, maple and walnut. Sjoberg always "... admired the skills of the carpenters and cabinet makers who worked for me [as a general contractor], and so when I retired I decided to get in on the 'fun' side of building." When he turns a piece of wood into a finished product, Sjoberg says its a thrill as well as a very rewarding experience. George Ehrenhaft of Moraga is showing about 30 watercolors on one entire gallery wall. Two-thirds are of California – locals will recognize Lafayette Reservoir, Tilden Park, Moraga Ranch – while others are of Sea Ranch and Yosemite with a small number of paintings from Lucca, Venice and Florence. He's lived in the area for over a dozen years, but has retained what he calls an "East Coast palette which is very subdued rather than colorful – but communicates a lot."

Annie Mathew is showing dog portraits done in acrylic – a departure from her usual oil painting because of her recent pregnancy. She finds painting animals requires an almost Zen-like philosophy, "You need to find a way to get rid of the layers of your ego – animals and for that matter, babies, don't have that." Mathew believes art slows people down so they may live in the moment and take notice of what's around them. At her website, www.studio-rasa.com, you'll find landscapes, works incorporating her Indian ancestry, semi-abstract impressionist work, and work exploring more realism.



ANNIE MATHEW

Annie Mathew's recent pregnancy inspired her to work in acrylics rather than oil.

George Lucido says "it's fun to make something from a fallen tree that would otherwise wind up in someone's fireplace." Lucido wants people to see what urban trees can yield and enjoy an art form that is somewhat out of the norm. The segmented vessels he creates are extremely time consuming and difficult to create. In this show he will exhibit Southwest Indian design segmented vessels mainly used as art objects in people's homes and several utilitarian pieces such as platters and salad bowls made from local urban trees such as walnut, eucalyptus, elm and black acacia. Lucido is a volunteer teacher at Campolindo High School in Moraga.

Orinda Creeks New Website

For the past 19 years, the Friends of Orinda Creeks have:

- restored, monitored and protected the creeks of Orinda;
- involved residents and young people in restoration activities;
- educated students on how healthy creeks mean a healthy water supply;
- and given workshops for homeowners about caring for creeks near their homes.

Please check out our new website: www.orindacreeks.org.

Don't you wish
all Realtors
treated their
clients like
Royalty?



Billy Perlstein
Realtor Associate
(925) 383-1477

Prudential
California Realty
51 Moraga Way,
Orinda, Ca 94563

Call for a FREE Market Analysis
billy.perlstein@prurealty.com
www.prurealty.com/theperlsteins

BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 20

munity Center sessions and receive 30 percent off, or attend on a drop-in basis if you are so inclined for just \$15 per class.

"If you want to learn salsa, sign up for ongoing progressive series of classes. The best way to learn is to take a series of classes two nights a week and you will progress faster," advises Trenda, who earned a Master's degree in dance education at Evergreen State College in Washington. "It is important to learn the structure of dance in an ongoing way and eventually you will build up a bank of information," he adds. A series of instructional DVD's that go along with the class is available for purchase from Trenda, who points out it is important to see how the dance steps are broken down and emphasizes it is very helpful to see the dance steps done at home. "This process helps one to retain the sequence long term and to ultimately become a good dancer," says Trenda.

A real estate broker with Better Homes Realty in Lafayette by day, Trenda teaches group lessons three nights a week and reserves Thursday evenings for private lessons. "Most of us spend our working days in a stressful and sedentary job, which makes it all the more important to get out and dance and have fun meeting new people," claims Trenda.

The secret to becoming a great salsa dancer is having someone to practice with and sticking it out over a period of time. Some of Trenda's more advanced dancers have been taking lessons with him for five years. "Being part of a group that does fun things motivates a person to go out dancing and to improve. Not only is it a great exercise, but this is also a wonderful way to meet new people," he adds.

One ingredient that makes Trenda's group lessons so much fun is his excellent sound system. At one time in his life, he worked as a disc jockey. He enjoys setting up his sound system and letting it rip with salsa music for a packed room at the Orinda Community Center. "At our classes, we rotate partners. I encourage everyone to connect with someone so they can practice together." When not taking a lesson, one can dip into one of the numerous salsa clubs in San Francisco such as The Glass Cat and Cocomo's, Shabam in San Ramon and Montero's in Albany.

Visit the website at www.SalsawithTomaj.com For more information, email Trenda at tomaj@SalsawithTomaj.com or give him a call at 925-254-3459 or 925-284-9500, ext. 234.

Shelby's In Theatre Square

Step into Shelby's Restaurant and you will feel transported to an exotic faraway land where clientele are treated like royalty by proprietor Carlos Rangel. The deep terra cotta walls are handsomely accented with an abundance of indoor plants, with beautiful palms gracing the entryway. A couple of Allison McCrady paintings grace the walls and Andrea Bocelli sings softly in

the background. The small bar offers beer on tap including Blue Moon Hefe Weizen, New Castle Brown Ale and Stella Artois and overlooks a large picturesque magnolia tree in full bloom.

Rangel's business partner, Arno Kober attended cooking school in his native Germany and this influence is experienced here, especially throughout the dinner menu. In fact, a group of Germans come to Shelby's on a regular basis just so they can savor the taste of authentic food from their homeland. Lunch selections remain focused on excellent salads, including the signature Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad with balsamic vinegar, avocado, tomato, chicken and garlic, or the Chicken Mango Salad as well as sandwiches and wraps. Brunch is served every Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 to 2 p.m. There is also a variety of fresh seafood offerings available during the evening.

Clearly conscious of customer preferences, Shelby's offers a special Living Lean menu, approved by Sheena Lakhotia. "We understand people are watching their weight and take care of their health, so we like to stay as healthy as possible in our offerings. To that end, we always buy fresh produce that is in season. We change the menu every four times a year in order to maintain variety and serve seasonally fresh food," says Rangel.



VALERIE HOTZ

Shelby owners Arno Kober and Carlos Rangel.

Shelby's works with the community and caters lunches for Del Rey School and Orinda Intermediate School. A longtime supporter of local public education, Rangel also regularly donates to fundraising auctions, as well as Miramonte High School's Grad Nite event. "We appreciate the Orinda community and how they continue to come to Shelby's, despite the economy. They know who we are and what we are about," adds Rangel.

This summer Rangel participated in the Aids Ride, raising \$3,300 to help further Aids research. From February through May, Rangel did 90 minute spin class two days a week and rode his bike 30 to 107 miles every Sunday. "I had a blast. It was an unbelievable life changing experience for me. Every town we rode into, no matter the size, people would come out and cheer us on. I discovered people at their

Chamber Welcomes Pizzeria Amoroma



SALLY HOGARTY

Chamber of Commerce members welcomed Pizzeria Amoroma at a ribbon cutting ceremony and party. (L-R Rick Kattenburg, Amoroma's private dining manager Libby Havlicek, Amoroma's Mariam Lavecchia, Amoroma's Hamid Haidari, Candy Kattenburg, Amoroma's Michele Lavecchia, Keith Miller, Sue Martin, Sylvia Jorgensen, and Sue Hurrell.

best, and I learned to take this with me and share it with others," says Rangel. His epiphany was so inspirational that he is already signed up to do the Aids Ride again next summer.

For more information, please visit the website at www.shelbyseatbetter.com or call Carlos Rangel at 254-9687. Shelby's is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.



Baan Thai RESTAURANT
Eat Healthy, Live Healthy

ORGANIC SALADS MADE FRESH DAILY.

MANY VEGETARIAN OPTIONS.

WE COOK FROM FAMILY RECIPES.

FOOD TO GO, CATERING & GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE

Open for Lunch:
Mon. - Sun. 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Dinner: Sun. - Thurs. 4:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Fri. - Sat.: 4:30 - 10:00 p.m.
99 Orinda Way, Orinda
(925) 253-0989



Should your family follow you to Cal?

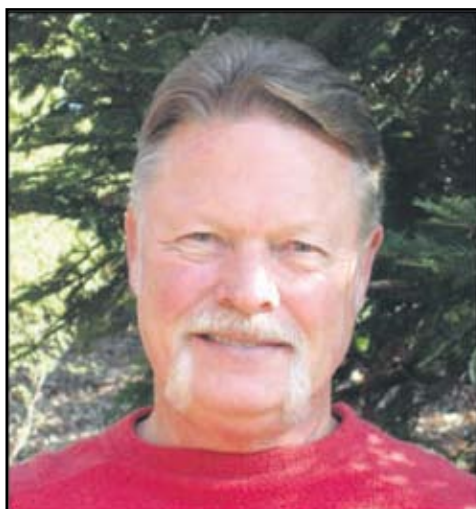


Of course. Every time they need an eye exam.

The University of California Eye Center is an integral part of the top-rated UC School of Optometry, and we're here to offer you complete vision care for your kids, for you, and for your parents. We're also the ones to see for Lasik surgery and contact lenses. (Our Eyewear Center has all the big names in frames!) We take most insurance plans, and major credit cards. When it comes to your eyes, go blue!



Open to the Public 7 Days a week www.caleyecare.com 510.642.2020
Free parking with appointments. Walk over or use our free shuttle!



Residential and Restoration Painting Services

Meticulous attention to detail
37 years of satisfied customers

David Collins, Orinda

925-254-6882

BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on the Face of Business

Valerie Hotz



To send items for consideration, email Hotz at v.hotz@att.net.

Baan Thai Celebrates 5th Anniversary

Proprietors Kim and Jim Phoonpiram place special emphasis on preparing their dishes with the freshest organically grown ingredients at Baan Thai Restaurant, located between Geppetto's and the Orinda Village Horse Shop at 99 Orinda Way. The lunch and dinner menus include extensive offerings, including a special vegetarian menu. The homemade curry selections are pumpkin curry, as well as red, green and yellow curry.

"We offer a fusion of Thai curry with fresh California vegetables, such as a zucchini that is not found in Thailand. I think original Thai food sometimes uses vegetables that are not as beneficial as California offerings. For example, our chicken salad includes an organic spring mix salad rather than the traditional Thai cabbage," explains

Kim, who manages this family business, while husband Jim serves as chef and oversees all additions to the menu. Every three months new offerings are introduced, incorporating fresh seasonal produce.

When you enter Baan Thai you will be impressed with the pleasant ambience. Thai jazz music plays softly in the background. "We want our customers to feel relaxed and as comfortable as if they were in our own home," says Kim. The décor projects serenity, with soft peach painted walls and silk pillows and wall hanging accents. The subdued lighting is conducive to relaxation. "Many of our customers come in on a regular basis, and we take good care of them, as if in our own private dining room," she adds. In fact, Kim has visited customers at their home in the past.

"We have always been grateful to our loyal customers for their support and are especially appreciative during this challeng-



VALERIE HOTZ

Kim and Jim Phoonpiram of Baan Thai with son Nathan.

ing economic time," says Jim. Even during this economic downturn, the Phoonpirams continue to maintain excellent quality and have not cut back on portions. New offerings recently introduced include fresh ginger tea, excellent for digestion, and herbal tea. The focus here is on healthy, with many menu selections approved by Sheena Lakhota's Living Lean program. "I come in as often as I can and I have never had a dish that I don't love. The people here are always friendly," says Barbara Whittingham, whose favorite is the Thai Crunch Salad.

Originally from Thailand, Jim's family came to the Bay Area when he was in third grade and Kim relocated here 10 years ago. Their son, Nathan, will be celebrating his second birthday soon. Kim and Jim give back to the community by donating to local schools, including Miramonte High School's Grad Nite event.

A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Baan Thai is open for lunch at 11:30 a.m. seven days a week and dinner from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday dinner is served from 4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. For more information or to make a reservation, please call 253-0989.

For the socially inclined, it is time to shake it up, get out there and salsa. Tomaj Trenda has been teaching salsa for 12 years and currently offers classes at the Orinda Community Center, as well as other East Bay locations, including Allegro Ballroom in Emeryville. His enthusiasm for this fast paced, exciting dance is contagious. No partner is required to attend his group classes. Register early for the Orinda Com-

[SEE BUZZ page 19]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tomaj Trenda is a Realtor by day and teaches salsa at night.

IT'S APRIL IN ORINDA

In Lafayette and Moraga too!

Orinda Schools Appreciate Your Help,
Please Donate Today, www.orindaefo.org



APRIL MATTHEWS

dreamhomelamorinda.com

www.villageassociates.com

925.253.2147

aprilmat@comcast.net



Kristin Walker M.D., Inc.
General & Cosmetic Dermatologist
89 Davis Road, Suite #180
Orinda
(925) 254-1080

Dr. Walker, board certified dermatologist, offers care in general adult and pediatric dermatology, laser surgery, skin cancer surgery, and cosmetic dermatology. Her friendly and supportive staff can assist you with diminishing the effects of nature to reveal the real you underneath. Dr. Walker and her caring staff can help return the glow to your skin with the most advanced skin care lasers and technologies. Dr. Walker is proud to announce the addition of a Nutritionist and Aesthetician to her practice.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE OFFICE:

IPL-Photo Genesis Rejuvenation Treatment for Rosacea, Sun Damage, Fine Lines
Laser Hair Removal
Microdermabrasion
Waxing

COSMETIC PROCEDURES AVAILABLE:

Botox Cosmetic Restylane Sclerotherapy
Collagen Peels

AVAILABLE SKIN RESTORATION SYSTEMS:

Procyte Jan Marini
MD Forte Glyquin

Salsa with Tomaj!

Pascal Lacroix



The Ultimate
in
Diamond Bangle Bracelets
... Available at

Morrison's
JEWELERS

MORRISON'S JEWELERS SINCE 1923
OPEN 10:00-5:30 TUE-FRI, 10:00-5:00 SAT
MORAGA WAY, ORINDA • ACROSS FROM THEATRE SQUARE • (925) 253-9227 35