

THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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12 Issues Annually
April 2010

Curtain Call for Independent Film Festival

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

The curtain rises on the 12th Annual California Independent Film Festival at Orinda Theatre Square April 22-25. The four-day festival is a chance to see films by world-famous and local filmmakers, meet and talk with celebrities and, for budding movie-makers, take part in the Iron Filmmaker Contest.

"This season the California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) has expanded its global reach," says Beau Behan, program and promotions director for the Orinda-based organization. "We will highlight works from the Sapporo International Short

Film Festival, Monaco International Film Festival, and Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival. It's definitely a "must-see" event in everyone's playbook."

The weekend kicks off with an opening reception on Thursday, April 22, followed by a screening of *Expecting Mary* at 7 p.m. The just-released movie starring Elliot Gould and Linda Gray tells the story of young, pregnant Mary, a rich city girl who finds enlightenment while living in a poor trailer park in a small New Mexico town.

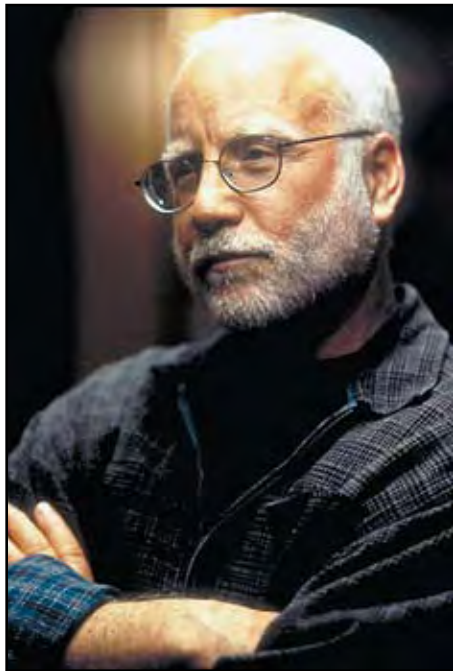
On Friday, the festival's screenings will include Orinda filmmakers Julie Rubio and Ramona Maramonte's thriller, *Six Sex Scenes and a Murder* and *Race to Nowhere*, a documentary by Vicki Abeles of Lafayette.

On Friday night, Academy Award winner Richard Dreyfuss will make a special appearance and answer audience questions before the showing of his latest film, *The Lightkeepers*.

The festival will also showcase a film-making contest. Aspiring or seasoned movie makers are invited to enter a 3-minute film in the Iron Filmmaker Contest. "This high-energy, zany competition is open to everyone from industry veterans to video prodigies," says the contest entry blurb.

The competition is limited to the first 30 entries which will be reviewed by a panel of judges. All entries will be shown at the Orinda Theater on Saturday, April 24. For more information on how to enter the contest, visit www.caiff.org and click on Iron Filmmaker Contest.

Saturday's festivities culminate in the Gala Night Slate Awards at 6 p.m. at the Blackhawk Auto Museum. During the gala, [SEE FESTIVAL page 8]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Richard Dreyfuss will answer audience questions during the 12th Annual California Independent Film Festival.

Two Tigers for the Month of April



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dash and Dottie are 2-year-old siblings that adopted the Peischl family. Ferals born in the hills off El Toyonal, they are now very affectionate and happy indoor tigers.

Summer Camp Issue Inside



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Campers at Roughing It Day Camp enjoy a mid-day snack. Information and listings on many local camps on pages 11 - 15.

Help Clean up our Corner of the Planet

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

Orinda activists spring into action April 17 to clean up and beautify their city. This year is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, a perfect time to help spruce up our corner of the planet.

"For the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, the world is in greater peril than ever, but there is also unprecedented opportunity to build a new future," it says on the 2010 Earth Day website. "Earth Day has the power ... to create change by taking small steps in our homes, our schools and our businesses that add up to an enormous collective action."

This is the second Orinda in Action Community Service Day, which will be headquartered at the Orinda Community Center and in the Rite Aid parking lot. It will include cleanup projects all over Orinda, a Goodwill truck for donations of clothes and useful household items, electronic recycling and donation barrels for the Contra Costa Food Bank.

Last year, 300 people helped with 19 different projects and organizers are hop-

ing for an even bigger turnout this time. "This year, we hope to not only have the same turnout, but exceed what was accomplished last year," says event co-chair Jessica Smith. "Our project list continues to grow as we look within our community for project ideas."

One project already in the works is [SEE ACTION page 8]

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FILM FESTIVAL

Documentary from Local Group Also Featured

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

What started as a letter to the editor about noisy leaf blowers became a group with a website (www.quietorinda.com) dedicated to banning the equipment, and now a documentary featured in the California Independent Film Festival. The film *Quiet Orinda* will be shown on April 24 at 9 p.m. at the Orinda Theater.

"We wanted a way to dramatize the problem and help galvanize the community," says Peter Kendall, who along with his wife Susan, wrote that first letter to the editor. "We plan to follow up with another video that will deal more with the medical effects," explains Peter. "Pregnant women are particularly susceptible to the dust, fecal matter, and other things being blown through the air. But there is also a stress component



SALLY HOGARTY
Susan and Peter Kendall hope to ban leaf blowers.

as the body reacts to the noise." [SEE NOISE page 20]

Local Filmmakers Featured in April Festival

By VALERIE HOTZ
Staff Writer

Orinda filmmakers Julie Rubio and Ramona Maramonte are blazing new trails for women in the film industry. With only four women directors in Hollywood – Nancy Meyers, Katherine Bigelow, Nora Ephron and Penny Marshall – they are making inroads as independent filmmakers, with their first full length feature film *Six Sex Scenes and a Murder* recently becoming available on Netflix. The murder mystery, set in the Bay Area with several scenes filmed in Orinda, will be screened at the upcoming California Independent Film Festival on Friday, April 23. Perhaps one of their greatest contributions, though, is their exquisite gift of friendship to one another. "I get inspiration from Ramona," says Julie. "I am inspired by Julie," smiles Ramona. Their energy and all-out enthusiasm is contagious.

Rubio points out that directing and producing is a new frontier for women. "It is very much a Wall Street atmosphere run by men. Our set was a different atmosphere from the typical set. We employed 72 actors, including extras, with a crew of 42. Our crew was evenly balanced between men and women. Several guys told me we had more women on our crew than any



VALERIE HOTZ
Filmmakers Ramona Maramonte (L) and Julie Rubio.

other crew they had seen," says Rubio. The two women prefer independent film because it provides a distinct voice. "There is a lot of freedom in independent production, because there is not a major studio looking over your shoulder. The filmmaker has 100 percent artistic control," Rubio goes on. "The thing I like about Julie is, she might be down for a second, but she always and without fail, finds a way around a problem," points out Maramonte. According to the duo, there are often numerous and incalculable problems that arise during shooting of a full-length motion picture.

[SEE FILMMAKERS page 8]

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President
Return on Our Investment in
Education**



Mark Roberts

When Claire and I were planning to move in 1993, we were attracted to the Lamorinda communities for many reasons: scenic beauty, homes on large lots, convenient commute location, and a friendly population that really values education.

For parents, the quality of schools is often a primary determinant in a home search. Even though Claire and I didn't have children, we still valued the quality of Lamorinda schools. Both of Claire's parents were public school educators and my sisters-in-law continue that family profession. We knew that high performing schools are the result of dedicated teachers and administrators, parents who are involved and truly care, students who are motivated to succeed, and a community that takes pride in its schools and the accomplishments of its students and graduates.

From a slightly less altruistic perspective, we also knew that great schools attract homebuyers and keep property values high relative to those in communities with lower performing schools.

In the ensuing 17 years, we've met countless families – most with school-age children but several without – who have moved to Lamorinda for the same reasons that we did. They all recognize the connection between desirable communities and great schools.

Measure A asks us to invest a little more in the Acalanes Union High School District – and specifically in Miramonte High School here in Orinda. Based on the return on investment I've seen over the years from my tax dollars that have gone to the district, I'm happy to increase my investment. The AUHSD is the top rated high school dis-

trict in the entire state. Unlike many other districts in the Bay Area, the AUHSD can prove that it puts funds to good use and gets superior results.

We see these results in extremely high graduation rates with nearly all students continuing their education. We see students who take full advantage of the opportunities afforded them – and who give back to the community in many ways as volunteers. We also see teachers in the district who are so committed to their profession and their students that they voluntarily gave up pay raises for next year.

Measure A doesn't provide increased funding to the district. It replaces vital funding being withheld by the state due to its continuing budget crisis. State funding to school districts in Lamorinda has always been low thanks to a nearly four-decade-old decision that I've never been able to understand or explain. Suffice it to say that per student state funding of our districts is among the lowest in the East Bay. It's been the appreciation of quality education by Lamorinda residents and their generosity that has provided the financial resources local schools need to excel.

Kudos go to voters who have passed parcel tax and bond measures, to donors to organizations like the EFO, and to parents who give their time, talent and treasure to schools' parents clubs. Together, these sources provide a very high percentage of the funding that schools have needed and put to good use. But now with the state providing less, we have to provide a little bit more to maintain the momentum.

I'm proud of our local schools and I'm proud to give my support to Measure A. I [SEE PRESIDENT page 22]

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.

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4th of July Parade at New Time

Since the 4th of July falls on a Sunday this year, the parade will start at 11 a.m. rather than the usual 10 a.m. to accommodate church services along the parade route. The Roadrunners' Fun Run and Haley's Run for a Reason will still begin at 8 a.m. Lots of park activities have been planned to keep everyone entertained before and after the parade, and the Roadrunners will continue serving a delicious pancake breakfast until the parade begins.

- 7:30 a.m. - Roadrunners' Pancake Breakfast
- 8 a.m. - Roadrunners' Fun Run/Haley's Run for a Reason
- 9 a.m. - Park Activities Begin
- 10 a.m. - Pick-up Marching Band Practice
- 11 a.m. - Parade Begins
- 12:30 p.m. - Music and Park Activities Continue

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Letters to the Editor

Help Preserve Quality Education

As the mother of two children now in 5th and 7th grades, it's disheartening to see what the state's fiscal crisis is doing to our schools. California schools have been falling further and further behind the national average, but I have always taken pride in the fact that Orinda's schools have maintained a standard of excellence. Just this December, Miramonte was identified as one of America's best high schools by *U.S. News & World Reports*. How troubling it is now to learn of impending teacher lay-offs and cuts to classes that will severely impact the educational opportunities available to our youth.

We can blame the state's fiscal woes on the economic downturn, our legislators, or the voters who sent them to Sacramento. But, we cannot blame our youth. Unfortunately, unless we can pull together to save our schools, it is our youth who will suffer.

This fiscal crisis undoubtedly will pass, but I fear not before my children and their classmates move on to high school. Please help preserve the quality education our community is known for by voting Yes on Measure A. It is a temporary measure that gives our high school a much-needed fiscal lifeline.

– Susan Rockwood

Parcel Tax Not the Answer

I am firmly opposed on any additional parcel tax regardless of its intended use or goal.

We live in a culture where we erroneously believe that we can "fix things" just by throwing more money at it. This misguided sense of entitlement is crippling our creativity and productivity. It stunts our entrepreneurial spirit and perpetuates a bail out mentality.

We have to do better. I would venture that if we had a CEO of a fortune 500 company run our school district, he/she would create a better product, with improved results, for less money.

We have to break this cycle of bureaucratic inbred conformity and recalibrate.

–J. Robert Long

Need Parcel Tax

We moved to Orinda because of the reputation of the schools. In the nine years since, my children have thrived from classes and teachers that engaged and challenged them to reach their potential. My daughter, now a college freshman back East, was able to pursue varied interests in history, public speaking, creative writing, psychology and advanced math. She got more than just a basic education and is able to succeed in a very competitive environment. I want the same lasting foundation for my 9th grader and for all our children in the district. Without Measure A passing,

50 plus teachers will be laid off, affecting programs and classes that enrich our children's lives and help them be successful in the future. I believe as a community we need to rally around our children. \$112 a year for five years seems a small price to pay to give them the tools to succeed. Please join me in voting Yes for Measure A.

–Susie Epstein

Support Measure A

We are so fortunate to live in the highest rated high school district in California. This tradition of excellence that spans over 55 years is now in jeopardy. If voters do not pass the \$112 parcel tax, important science, English, math and arts classes will be cut and students' hopes and dreams crushed. A solid education is never more important than in tough economic times. Let's invest this modest amount in our youth and create a better future for all of us.

– Sandra Breber

Vote No on AUHD Parcel Tax: Time for Creativity

I agree with Richard Colman about voting a resounding no on the upcoming request for yet another parcel tax increase for a school district that does not know how to be creative or just plain wait for better timing.

Just like Anthem Blue Shield the Acalanes Union HS District is tone deaf and behaving immorally and unethically.

Not only is there 12.3 percent unemployment in our state, there are tens of thousands more "under-employed" who can't possibly afford more taxes.

We over pay for schools already. We over pay for everything from the library to more sales tax to garbage to the parks and trails.

Homeowners can't be the automatic fall-back position for every dollar. It's offensive. It's a burden that should not be borne by every homeowner. This is becoming a penalty with consequences rather than a privilege to be a homeowner helping to educate young people.

Start with some more creativity. Maybe there's a layer at the top that can be lopped off. Maybe vendor contracts can be renegotiated for the next two years. Maybe a better volunteer force could be created for any number of jobs that don't require licenses and specific expertise. Maybe union contracts can be renegotiated or cancelled if there isn't enough money. Ask students how they can contribute to important cut-backs. Kids are smart and resilient. Maybe an entire catalogue of "electives" can be eliminated for one school year. Let's see a creative list of ideas – like taxing the rich, not people who are unemployed or under-employed. Just like income taxes.

Or tell me how I can eliminate another useless tax and pay this one.

I haven't seen one list of creative ideas or alternate solutions coming from any



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district.

The economy will get better slowly but surely. In the meantime, I don't spend for anything I can't afford. Being "clobbered" by additional taxes each year hurts. What do you suggest I eliminate? Food? Clothes? Gas? Health Care? Outings with the family? Something has to go for everyone. Schools are supposed to be staffed with educated people.

Prove it now.

– Susan Stafford

Measure A Necessary

I urge readers to take the time to get the facts on the fiscal pressures facing the Acalanes High School District and to learn how we can help save our excellent local high schools. Campolindo, Acalanes, [SEE LETTER page 22]

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For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the June issue is April 15, 2010.

FIRE / POLICE

Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Spring Open House

By GRACE SANTOS
Contributing Writer

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is hosting a Spring Open House on Saturday, April 10, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Station 45 – 33 Orinda Way, Orinda. The theme for this season's Open House is "Promoting Fire Safety in the Urban Interface Area of Orinda."

Bring the kids to meet the firefighters and see all the equipment. Kids and adults can learn water and bicycle safety, and how to do a home safety hazard hunt. A live simulator will be available for adults to practice how to use a fire extinguisher.

Representatives from community groups will provide information on injury, fall and burn prevention. Smokey the Bear has been sighted in the area and will be there to greet and pose for photos. There will be a bounce house, free popcorn and raffle prizes for the kids.

Summertime is a time of sun and fun around water. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District wants everyone to have a safe summer by learning and practicing these water safety tips:

Never take your eyes off children in the water - assign a child watcher to watch them, and to keep a phone handy in case



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Families enjoying last year's open house.

of an emergency. Always wear an approved life jacket while on a boat or participating in water sports. Don't rely on "water wings" or other inflatable toys for safety. Children can slip through them.

Teach children to swim when they are 4 years old.

Make sure children only swim in designated swim areas.

Teach children never to dive into oceans, lakes or rivers - depth or hidden obstructions can be hard to see.



POLICE BLOTTER

February 2010

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 71 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Auto Burglary (theft from a locked vehicle): 1 incident was reported on Via Floreado.

Residential Burglary: 2 incidents reported on Dos Posos and Glorietta Blvd.

Grand Theft (theft of more than \$400 value): 1 incident was reported on Evergreen Dr.

Petty Theft From Vehicle (theft of less than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 1 incident was reported on Stanton Ave.

Vandalism: 2 incidents reported, 2 on Lost Valley Dr. and Diablo View Dr.

ARRESTS

Alcohol – Drunk in public: 3 arrests were made at Moraga Way, Camino Pablo and Orinda Way.

Driving Under the Influence: 4 arrests were made on Camino Pablo & Hwy 24 E/B Orinda offramp, Crest View Dr. at Valley View Dr. and Camino Pablo at Camino Sobrante.

Shoplifting: 1 arrest was made on Camino Sobrante.

Other - Felony: 1 arrest was made on Moraga Way.

Probation Violation: 1 arrest was made on Hwy 24 w/b at St. Stephens. Dr.

Warrant Arrests: 4 arrests were made on Moraga Way, Orinda Way and Camino Pablo.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

Install a carbon monoxide detector aboard your motorboat.

Participate in a vessel safety check program offered free by the U.S. Coast Guard (uscgboating.org).

Learn how to be more prepared in case of an emergency. Assemble a basic first

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Neighbors Complain About Eyesore



DAVID COLLINS

This house at 83 Muth Drive caught fire in late 2008. Neighbors have been complaining to the city and county to deal with the eyesore and potential health hazard. They have been assured that demolition would take place shortly, but as of press time, the charred house still remains.

--- Advertisement---

What Should I Buy?

By EVAN CORSTORPHINE
Portable CIO

Now is a great time to buy a new computer. Prices have never been lower, computing power has never been so powerful or economical, and Windows 7 has been an undeniable success.

The best way for someone to buy a computer is to get informed, and then begin making choices. Below is a condensed set of our recommendations to help this process.

1. Manufacturer: We recommend Dell and IBM/Lenovo computer systems. Historically, systems from these manufacturers have lasted the longest, and, when there is a problem, their customer service tends to be better than some of the others. Apple computers also fall into this category but systems tend to be more expensive than PCs.

2. Operating System: We recommend Windows 7. Unlike Vista, this operating system works well. We recommend purchasing the 64-bit version of the operating system if it is available for the computer you choose and is compatible with the software and printer you plan to use. The 64-bit version is faster and enables you to use your memory more effectively.

3. Processor: For general use, we recommend the AMD Athlon Dual Core, Intel Core 2 Duo and Core 2 Quad. Whichever processor you purchase, we recommend the fastest speed available that you can afford, measured in gigahertz (Ghz). Do not buy a Celeron processor.

4. Memory: RAM is inexpensive and extremely important in how well your computer will function. For 32-bit operating systems, get 4gb of RAM. On a 64-bit system, buy 8gb of RAM. RAM is the cheapest and most effective upgrade you

can add.

5. CD / CDRW / DVD / DVDRW: It's good to have the ability to burn discs and also to watch movies. A DVD/RW drive has the capability of burning or playing CD's or DVD's. We recommend Blue-Ray DVD players if you plan on watching movies.

6. Floppy Disk Drive: Obsolete.

7. Keyboard and Mouse: We recommend optical scroll-wheel mice. Choose whatever keyboard you think serves your purposes based on features, color, touch/feel.

8. Hard Drive: If all you will ever use your computer for is email and surfing the Internet, a small (250gb) harddisk drive should be fine. However, if you take digital photos or videos or have a collection of music or other documents, get a 750gb or 1T (terabyte) drive. Remember, if you store it, you need to have a plan to back it up.

9. Wireless Card: All laptop computers now come with wired and wireless networking built-in.

10. Video Card: Unless you play intense PC-based games, 256mb to 512mb on your video card is ample. Consider whether you want dual-outputs for running two displays. If you're using an existing monitor, make sure the video card you buy has the right connector for the monitor you own.

11. Monitor: If you need a replacement monitor, buying it with your computer package helps to save money. Bigger is better.

To receive our full recommendation list, or if you would like us to review the configuration of a machine you are considering purchasing, please email helpdesk@theportablecio.com. It's our goal to ensure you have a smooth transition to your new equipment.

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Fire District Board to Appoint New Director

Wilson Retires From MOFD After 13 Years

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

Pete Wilson, who served on the Board of Directors for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) for 13 years, including two stints as board president, retired from his post in February.

At a special meeting on March 6, the board decided to appoint a new board member to replace Wilson, rather than hold a special election. The board also decided to create a Citizens' Advisory Panel to provide input on potential candidates. The new board member was named on March 25 (after the paper's deadline).

Wilson was honored for his service at the MOFD board meeting on February 17. He was presented with proclamations from the City of Orinda and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. MOFD also presented Wilson with a ceremonial ax, a symbol of service to the fire district.

Frank Sperling, current president of the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Director Pete Wilson.

MOFD board, has known Wilson since 1996. "I first met Pete when he and I were on the joint Orinda and Moraga committee to look into the feasibility of forming the new fire district," says Sperling. "It was clear that he was committed to doing as much as he could for the betterment of the community. That commitment and drive has continued on through his tenure on the MOFD Board of Directors. He has served his district well. Both Orinda and Moraga have benefitted from Pete's wisdom and years of service."

Tri-Agency Gets Earful on Future of Fire District

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

Drizzly rain didn't dampen interest in the Tri-Agency Committee meeting on March 3. About 100 people filled the Orinda Library Auditorium, including a panel of 13 from the Tri-Agency, which is composed of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD), Orinda City Council and Moraga City Council.

This was the first meeting of the Tri-Agency Committee to discuss the future of MOFD. The agency invited three parties to speak for 15 minutes, before throwing the meeting open for public comment.

The three parties who spoke were F.A.I.R. (Fire and Infrastructure Renewal), a group of Orinda citizens who advocate dissolving MOFD and replacing it with contracted fire and ambulance services through Contra Costa County and AMR, respectively; OrindaCARES, a group which formed in opposition to F.A.I.R., which wants to keep MOFD as is; and MOFD, represented by Fire Chief Randy Bradley.

Art Haigh, representing F.A.I.R., took the podium first. He was quick to comment on the name that OrindaCARES adopted. "OrindaCARES suggests they care and F.A.I.R. does not," said Haigh. "We care about why we're paying so much ... we have to look after every dollar. We want our elected local officials to start asking tough questions."

Haigh said F.A.I.R. is asking the Tri-Agency for a thorough financial review of its proposal. He said that money saved by dissolving MOFD could be used for "total community safety."

"We have a deteriorating infrastructure problem that is growing every day," said Haigh. "Access and water are also critical

components of emergency services." Haigh, who went well over his allotted 15 minutes, spoke in detail about how property taxes are a "windfall" for MOFD. "MOFD continues to enjoy increased revenue even in down times," said Haigh.

OrindaCARES was next to present its ideas. Speakers from OrindaCARES were Ellen Dale, Carl Weber, Pat Rudebusch, Dr. Gene Gottfried and Joffa Dale, who each addressed a specific aspect of F.A.I.R.'s proposal.

"We agree that money needs to go to fix roads, but it shouldn't come from our emergency services," said Ellen Dale. Rudebusch pointed out that Orindans voted in favor of forming MOFD in 1997. "We believe F.A.I.R.'s plan would nullify the wishes of the voters," said Rudebusch. Gottfried, a former MOFD board member, said he believes citizens are getting value for the tax dollars that go to MOFD. "The only standard for measuring MOFD is response time, which is 6 minutes or less, not the cost," he said. Gottfried also pointed to other services that MOFD provides, including fire safety classes at all elementary schools, inspections of commercial and public facilities, fire hydrant testing and first aid and CPR classes. OrindaCARES' final presenter, Joffa Dale, addressed the question of whether Orinda is paying more than Moraga for MOFD. "Is Orinda paying more than its fair share? No, it's not! Moraga is subsidizing Orinda," said Dale.

Fire Chief Bradley opened his presentation by emphasizing his experience with fire district consolidations. "I was the Alameda County deputy fire chief so I have had a lot of experience with consolidations," said Bradley. "I even recommended a district

[SEE AGENCY page 8]

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PRUDENTIAL / CAR TIME

Prudential Volunteers Plant More Than Flowers



FRAN MILLER

Prudential California Realty office employees volunteered their time at the Orinda Senior Village planting flowers and making new friends.

By FRAN MILLER
Staff Writer

Orinda's Prudential California Realty office has always been a solid community partner with their support of the Education Foundation of Orinda. In early March, the office increased its scope of community support with its participation in a two-state wide "Company Giving Day," as agents came together to give time and physical labor to help improve the Orinda Senior Village Horticulture Garden.

Orinda agents John Fazel and Lisa Shaffer developed the scope of the project with the assistance of the Orinda Senior Village Garden Club and the Orinda Community Church and brought Prudential agents, spouses, families and clients together to install an arbor, plant flowers, weed, remove brush and perform other related landscaping activities at the retirement community's garden.

Lupe Jimeno, a six-year resident of Orinda Senior Village and chair of the garden club, stressed her appreciation for the much needed physical labor. "We are overwhelmed with Prudential's offer to help us with our garden," says Jimeno. "We really needed these extra hands and simply couldn't accomplish so much without this help."

"It gives me great joy knowing I am helping our seniors with projects that they themselves can not do on their own," says Shaffer, who notes that her personal interest in volunteerism was inspired by her 88-year-old mother. "My mom always said that we need to be there for each other, for our family, our friends and our community - and our community is what it is today because of our seniors' past involvement. We need them as much as they need us!"

Pastor Frank Baldwin of the Orinda Community Church, on whose campus the

[SEE PRUDENTIAL page 8]

CAR TIME

Don't Let Your Battery Leave you Stranded

by VINCE POEHNELT



The automotive battery is often forgotten until it doesn't start your car. With the major addition of electrical devices in today's modern cars, the importance of a good, well-maintained battery has increased dramatically. When talking about modern vehicles, I refer to 1996 and newer cars. With older cars, the battery had the simple job of starting your car. Today's vehicles rely on the battery to start the car, hold massive amounts of computer memory, and work with the charging system to keep the vehicle operating. When a modern car battery goes dead, a simple jump-start may get you going, but many computers have lost memory and some require the use of computer scan tools to reset or relearn the systems.

Today's cars are very sensitive to low battery voltage. Corroded battery terminals can cause many issues, such as no-starts, check engine lights coming, power windows not working correctly on, and intermittent performance problems. You should have your battery checked, serviced, and load-tested at least twice a year. It is best to have your battery tested at the beginning of summer and the beginning of winter.

If you have to have your modern car jump-started, make sure it is done by someone who knows exactly how to do it right. We see a lot of cars with computer damage due to incorrect jump-starts, including damaged electric window or lock controls, which can result in expensive repair bills.

After your car is jump-started, take it to a shop you trust to have the battery charged, tested and to have the starting systems checked. Many times there is a problem

with today's complex charging systems that will cause the battery to not fully charge. When having a battery changed for maintenance, make sure the shop has the tools necessary to do the job right. This is especially critical on most European cars including Audi and Volkswagen but also applies to many other modern vehicles. If you are planning a trip into cold or hot climates, have your battery tested prior to going. Extreme temperatures are very hard on batteries, it may work fine around town but go to Tahoe for winter break, and you may find out your battery has a problem.

Battery problems are exacerbated when the vehicle is only driven short distances. The charging system can become incapable of fully charging and may fail during the first cold snap of the year.

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CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

◆ FESTIVAL from page 1

Dreyfuss and film producer Saul Zaentz will be honored with the Golden Slate Award. Zaentz is a three-time Academy Award winner for Best Picture – *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Amadeus* and *The English Patient*.

"This event is otherwise known as the Academy Awards in the East Bay," says Behan. Another star of the gala evening will be Orinda pianist Chloe Pang, who will perform excerpts from Prokofiev's *3rd Piano Concerto*, which was featured in the film, *The Competition*.

◆ ACTION from page 1

the Orinda BART station cleanup. "This project will include picking up garbage in and around the area," says Smith. "We will provide bags that are all designated for recyclable, hazardous waste, yard waste and trash."

Some of last year's projects included cleanup of downtown and Theatre Square; creek restoration; planting flowers at Orinda Intermediate School; preparing the community garden at Miramonte High

◆ FILMMAKERS from page 2

"We use creativity to work our way through the problem. That is really where magic and miracles come in," adds Maramonte.

"I am thrilled our film has been accepted by Netflix. It gives us legitimacy as filmmakers. It is empowering as women. You can truly change the world with film and it is a beautiful medium," says Rubio. The duo also produced a 12-minute narrative short, *Oakland B Mine*, which is viewed at baggage claim inside Oakland International Airport. "It is a love story about the City of Oakland told entirely through film without any dialogue. The lens takes the viewer to various Oakland neighborhoods. About

The closing night movie on Sunday, April 25, will be *Lovely Still*, featuring Martin Landau and Ellen Burstyn. It's the story of a lonely elderly bachelor who comes home from the store one day to find a beautiful woman in his house and finds love for the first time.

"Tickets to all festival events, as well as a complete line-up of showings, are available at www.caiff.org.

Behan says the festival tries every year to elevate awareness, transcend cultural differences, and address social changes. "The festival follows this tradition," he says.

School; and helping Orinda Senior Village with a garden project.

If you or your group have a project in mind, please email OrindaInAction@gmail.com. To volunteer, meet on Saturday, April 17, 8:30 a.m. at Orinda Library Plaza. Dress for work with sturdy shoes, long pants and long sleeves, and bring work gloves and tools. Refreshments will be served before and after the event.

Orinda in Action is sponsored by the City of Orinda. Visit www.cityoforinda.org or call 253-4200 for more information.

eight to 10 million people will see it as they travel through Oakland this year," explains Rubio. *Oakland Be Mine* was directed by Mateen Kemet.

They are currently working on their next film, *Masked Truth*. It is a psychological drama that takes place in Hawaii. Like *Six Sex Scenes and a Murder* you can be sure there will be some unexpected twists and turns in the plot. They both agree on some excellent advice for women who want to go into filmmaking and which may well be the best advice for any chosen field. "Don't give up. Don't listen to people who say no. Just move on and continue with your mission. There is room for women. Tell yourself to keep going."

Linda Landau Honored as Citizen of the Year

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Family, friends and colleagues came together on March 19 to celebrate the years of service that Linda Landau has given to her community. "This is such a big surprise," says Landau. "I'm really very honored."

With a strong commitment to community service, Landau has served as a board member for the Friends of the Orinda Library and the Orinda Association. She served for nine years on the Orinda Union School District Board, where her financial expertise as a C.P.A. proved invaluable. Landau was treasurer of the Friends \$10 million capital campaign to build the Orinda Library. She has also been president of the Miramonte Parents' Club and the Del Rey Parents' Club and volunteered with the Girl and Boy Scouts, Stanford University Scholarship Fund, and the University of California Botanical Gardens as well. "Volunteerism and civic contributions are in her DNA," writes Susan Karplus. "Our Orinda community has been a huge beneficiary of her



SALLY HOGARTY
Linda Landau, Orinda's newest Citizen of the Year, in the Friends of the Orinda Library bookstore.

many selfless endeavors."

Not one to shy away from challenges, Landau actively campaigned for Measure H, the parcel tax that would ensure longer library hours, and Measure E that extended the parcel tax as well as the various parcel tax campaigns for Orinda schools.

Landau and her husband Jim have lived in Orinda since January of 1980. They have three children – James (30), Liz (28), and Alex (22).

◆ PRUDENTIAL from page 7

garden is situated, is continually impressed with the altruistic spirit of the Prudential office. "They have done this time and time again in our community, making these community-minded offers to support various projects. It is very admirable."

Prudential's March 6 "Company Giving Day" was developed in order to demonstrate the company's commitment to the communities it serves. The particular date was selected in honor of Prudential presi-

dent Ed Krafchow's birthday.

"This was a debut program and, hopefully, the beginning of a meaningful annual event," says Fazel. "While our office has been a supporter of EFO and Prudential's Education Foundation, which recognizes and rewards outstanding local teachers, we wanted to improve our community further by volunteering our time with hands-on projects. We hope that this will stimulate other businesses to be more actively involved in improving our quality of life here in Orinda."

◆ AGENCY from page 6

consolidation in one case. But I've been in MOFD for four months, and I don't see the same thing."

Bradley reminded the audience of what Manuel Navarro, VP of AMR, said at the previous meeting of the MOFD board. "It's very important to remember that Mr. Navarro was adamant about not giving up those rights [local control]," said Bradley. "If you dissolve the district, those rights would be gone." He said that once local control is gone, decisions would be made in Martinez, not Orinda or Moraga.

Bradley also talked about service level reduction, should F.A.I.R.'s proposal be adopted. "As chief, I think you should look at that," said Bradley. He said that the oversight agency LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) is very interested in consolidation. "Be very careful what you

do," said Bradley. "There is a lot of interest in your fire department and using MOFD money to help the rest of the county."

After Bradley's presentation, the floor was opened to public comment. The Tri-Agency heard input from some 25 speakers, as the clock ticked closer to midnight. At the end of the marathon evening, the Tri-Agency voted to form a sub-committee, consisting of two members from each agency, to define how to go forward. "Since so much information was presented and we all need to absorb what was discussed, the sub-committee's first charge is to define what we want to accomplish," said Sperling. The first sub-committee meeting would probably be held within the next 30 days.

For more information on F.A.I.R. visit fairfororinda.org; for MOFD visit mofd.org; for OrindaCARES visit orindacares.org.

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DOROTHY BOWEN (APRIL 7, 1931 - MARCH 2, 2010)

Long-time *Orinda News* Writer, Local Resident, and Arts Advocate Leaves Lasting Legacy

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Dorothy Bowen, an Orinda resident for over 20 years and a long-time staff writer for *The Orinda News*, passed away peacefully in the arms of her husband, John, on March 2. She was just one month shy of her 79th birthday.

I first met Dorothy Bowen almost 25 years ago when I was busy pitching stories for local theater companies and other performing arts groups. She was the arts editor of the *Contra Costa Sun* (now called the *Lamorinda Sun*), and a must-know if you were a publicist.

It seemed fitting when many years later Dorothy began writing for me at *The Orinda News*. She wrote arts-related stories as well as kept us informed about the activities of the Orinda Historical Society and the Friends of the Orinda Library.

When I think of Dorothy, I recall her stopping by *The Orinda News* office, her hair still wet from her daily lap swim at Orinda Park Pool. Former *Orinda News* assistant editor Pat Rudebusch says, "I'll always remember her for her smile and warm, twinkling eyes."

as a girl could be and that I was going to marry her."

And so he did on June 21, 1951. "My mom said she picked the solstice for the wedding day because it was the longest day of the year," adds her daughter Kalya Summers. The young couple balanced each other well as Dorothy continued in journalism (even doing a stint as a DJ at KPFA), and John went on to become a chemical engineer.

The couple lived in Berkeley until the late 1980s when they moved to Orinda. Dorothy wrote for the Orinda Historical Society and even covered car crashes and safety articles for the CHP's newsletter before landing her position with the *Contra Costa Sun* in 1975.

"She really loved writing and her job at the paper. It was her heart," says daughter Kathy Perez. "It was fun for us too," adds granddaughter Angelina Bowen. "She took me to plays she was reviewing, and when she got tickets to a concert at the Chronicle Pavilion, I realized how cool she was."

Her son Michael remembers what a great mentor she was. "If mom saw something in you, she would do her best to bring it



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dorothy (center) prepares for her wedding day in 1951.

nalist but also believed in giving back to her community. She volunteered as a judge for the Orinda Library's annual creative writing contest named after science fiction writer Poul Anderson and was active with the Friends of the Orinda Library and the Orinda Historical Society.

"Dorothy was our poetry guru," recalls author Ginger Wadsworth. "We always relied on her to help us interpret the poetry submissions to the writing contest, and she was fabulous at analyzing what each young author was saying. We (myself, Sally Small, and Janet Boreta) will meet on May 17 at Orinda Books, as we have done on the third Monday in May for years, to judge the 2010 writing contest. It will be a sad day, but full of rich memories about our fellow judge, book-loving peer, and friend."

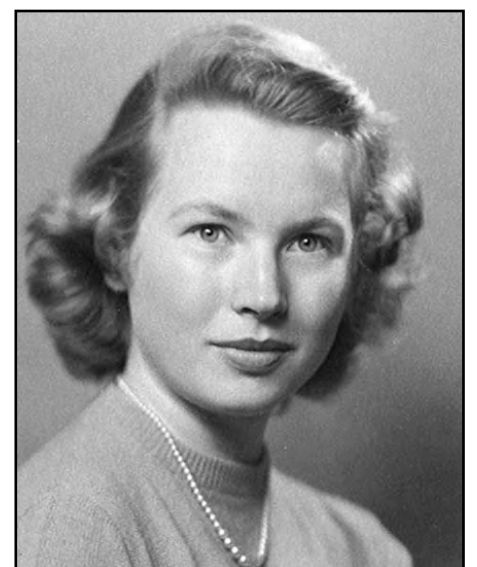
Janet Boreta will also miss Dorothy's presence at this year's contest. "Her gentle, humorous spirit was always with her, but underlying that was her strong intelligence and expertise. It was a quietly joyous time for each of us when we gathered together to judge these submissions. We will miss her terribly, but we will remember always her seriousness of purpose, integrity and love of her work and her community."

In between writing for *The Orinda News*, her involvement in local organizations, and spending time in her beloved Hawaii where her daughter Kalya and son David reside, Dorothy found time to write stories about her childhood. "For the past two years each Friday from 1-3 p.m. a small group of us gather to write together and then read to one another," says Pat Gallagher. "We have

all come from long careers that didn't allow much time for the personal writing we were hungry to do. We were all charmed by Dorothy's tales of her childhood."

Kalya, who has been reading through her mother's many stories, says she has a new appreciation for the woman she admired so much. "There is a depth to her writing and a passion that is helping me discover more about her," she shares.

Dorothy is survived by her husband John, daughters Kathy Perez and Kalya Summer, sons David and Michael, nine grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and her brother George Willis. Condolences can be sent to 23 Alta Vista Rd., Orinda, CA 94563.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dorothy Bowen, taken during her days as a student at UC Berkeley.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bowen Family 1st row (L-R) Granddaughter Angelina Bowen, daughter Kathy Perez, husband John, Dorothy, son Michael Bowen 2nd row (L-R) granddaughters Poloma Perez and Amelia Gonzales, daughter-in-law Amy Bowen, granddaughters Nikki Gonzalez and Caridad Rivera, and daughter Kalya Summers.

"Dorothy gave me my first opportunity to write for a newspaper," recalls writer Moya Stone. "It was the *Lamorinda Sun*, and I reviewed local plays. We worked together for about a year, and I appreciated Dorothy's good will and spirit. I will always think of Dorothy as a guiding angel who helped pave my way in journalism."

Journalism had always been an important part of Dorothy's life. She did her first radio show on a Los Angeles station during World War II when, at the tender age of 9, she spoke out against the internment of the Japanese-Americans.

Dorothy went on to college at UC Berkeley where she met her husband-to-be, John. Both were working at the school newspaper - Dorothy as a writer and John on the managerial side. He remembers sitting on top of a building on campus with a friend when Dorothy walked by. "I turned to my friend and said she was just about as pretty

out." Michael also marvels that his shy, self-effacing mom had no problem going after stories. "She found a way to get what she needed from people without being abrasive."

Fellow *Contra Costa Times* writer Carol Fowler also remembers Dorothy's gentle way. "She often had a slight, amused smile, and when she had a criticism, it was always delivered with a velvet glove."

Dorothy was not only a dedicated jour-

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ROUGHING IT / WAY TO GROW

Celebrating the Great Outdoors Without Really “Roughing It”

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

It all began at summer camp. Two young counselors hit it off while working at Kennolyn Camp in Soquel and, before long, decided to spend the rest of their lives together. “We loved the camp experience and hoped that someday we could provide a similar experience for our own campers,” explains Ann Woods.

That dream came true. Ann and her husband Hobie have been the enthusiastic owners of Roughing It Day Camp since 1972. Located at the Lafayette Reservoir, the camp offers a wide variety of outdoor experiences and adventures for campers from kindergarten through high school. “We are so fortunate to have this natural oasis,” says Ann. “When you’re here, it’s like civilization is a million miles away.”

While Roughing It has expanded over the years and now serves 200 campers a day, the camp’s philosophy has remained the same. “We try to teach our campers self-confidence, courage, a willingness to try new things, and the importance of teamwork and friendship,” Ann explains. She and her dedicated staff of 60 adult counselors help each camper embrace new experiences and be the best they can be. “It’s really exciting to watch young campers try something new and discover a different part of themselves,” Ann adds.

Sessions at Roughing It Day Camp run June 21- August 13 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with before camp and after camp hours available. A fun-filled day awaits campers with such activities as horseback riding, swimming, canoeing, fishing, arts and crafts, and much more. For the more serious equestrian, there is even a horse camp specializing in both English and Western riding techniques.

A unique feature of the camp is its 20-passenger buses that pick campers up in the morning and drop them off later in the day. “We began with just Lamorinda and then expanded through the tunnel,” says Ann. “Now, we have buses that pick up campers from San Francisco to San Ramon.” The highly trained drivers work for the various school districts during the year. “They are very much a part of our family,” Ann explains. “Camp really begins on the bus with the drivers and bus counselors who help the campers compete for the weekly bus spirit award.”

What began as a summer job so many years ago has become a way of life for Ann and Hobie Woods. “We raised our two daughters at Roughing It, and now we have a grandson who will soon be a camper,” Ann says.

For more information on Roughing It Day Camp, call 925-283-3795 or go to www.roughingit.com.

Way to Grow in Orinda Find Room to Grow – Outdoors



Steve & Cathy Lambert

If you’re feeling cramped indoors, why not expand your living space to the great outdoors? An outdoor room will give you and your family more space at a fraction of the cost of an indoor addition. It will also encourage your whole family to get out and stay out.

You may think the “outdoor room” is a new concept, but it’s actually existed for thousands of years, particularly in Europe. Historically, most Roman farmhouses and villas had courtyards. In Spain and Latin America, the courtyard was often built in the center of the home with the indoor rooms surrounding it.

An outdoor room adds more than just

on the room’s primary purpose. It’s also very important to take into account the following four fundamentals, wind, light, view and privacy. If your entertaining guest list often includes many generations, you may want to provide a separate kids’ space somewhat removed from the area where the adults will congregate.

Kitchens and dining spaces are among the most popular outdoor room additions. More and more cooking and entertaining products are being manufactured for outdoor use such as smokers, pizza ovens, warming draws, ice maker, wine coolers and so on. We’ve even installed an outdoor dishwasher. This is not as lazy as



STEVE LAMBERT

Increase your living space with an outdoor room.

square footage to your home; it becomes a connection or bridge from the indoors to the great outdoors. As our lives grow increasingly busier and more stressful, this connection with nature and the outdoors becomes even more vital by providing a natural place to unwind and de-stress.

Why is it then, that we spend so much time planning the design of our indoor space, and fail to consider the design of our outdoor space as well? A well designed outdoor room can be achieved quite easily with a little foresight and planning.

Outdoor rooms are free of many of the constraints and challenges of interior decorating. For example, there’s no need to design in windows or skylights for a view or extra lighting, and the floors don’t have to end at walls. Outdoor room design however, is not without its own challenges. One obstacle we face often is convincing the homeowner that their main patio doesn’t have to be right up against or even parallel to their house. Providing the right amount of shade can also propose a challenge. You may enjoy the open feeling of the sky for your ceiling; however, you’ll also need enough shade for a comfortable space in the heat of the summer.

Outdoor rooms can be designed to be the main view from inside your home drawing people out to enjoy it. Or, it can be a hidden respite, a place to have some quiet, alone time. Similar to interior decorating, outdoor rooms give people an opportunity to express their personal sense of style. Moods can be expressed through the use of color, and texture in both hardscape and plant materials. Art collections or found treasures can add flare and points of interest to your outdoor room.

The location of your outdoor room and its proximity to your home depends largely

it sounds since this client’s backyard and indoor kitchen were separated by three flights of stairs.

From a landscape designer/contractors point of view, one of the best outdoor kitchen and room products now available is the OLP building block. These 1.5” thick reinforced concrete blocks can be used to form the structure of your built-in grill, counter tops, bar seating, benches and even fireplaces. Prior to this product being available it could take weeks to build a concrete block or steel framed island. The advantage of the OLP blocks is they can be laid out in a few hours, but what we really love about this product is that now we can walk the homeowner through where each appliance and counter space will be before they become permanent.

Another recent product development that adds an indoor feel to the outdoor room is the expansion of outdoor fabrics such as Sunbrella and other weather resistant brands. These fabrics, which were originally used solely for shade umbrellas and awnings, can now be found in cushions, accent pillows, curtain panels and even some very cool rugs.

In Orinda, warm summer evenings are not all that common so adding a source of warmth to your outdoor room will ensure it gets used more often. Fire pits and fireplaces are a great gathering spot offering warmth, mesmerizing visuals, and a place to achieve lifetime memories of S’mores and Jiffy-pop. Modern fire pits can be filled with colored (fire resistant) glass and many different types of rock. There are also some very real looking artificial logs that can be lit with the flip of a switch giving you that authentic fire glow without the hassle or pollution of a real wood fire. Gas rings

[SEE GROW page 22]

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.

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CAMPS

Summer Camp Sign-ups Begin Now

By VALERIE HOTZ
Staff Writer

Even though the school year is nowhere near complete, parents are already signing up their children for summer camps. The variety is wide, from sports to science to just plain fun. Following is our annual listing of many local camps.

GENERAL CAMPS

Orinda Community Center
28 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA 94563
254-2445
www.cityoforinda.org

Camp Orinda (Ages 6-10) enjoy one adventure after another. Camp includes games, arts and crafts, hiking, skits, sports, special fun days, and field trips. One – two week, full and extended-day camps are offered.

Orinda OK (Orinda Kids) Camp (Ages 3.5-5). Crafts, music, sports, art, traffic town, fire department visit and exploring are all part of the fun. Week-long, half-day and extended day camps are offered.

Babysitting Camp (Ages 10-15) Learn skills needed to be a trusted and responsible babysitter. Camp covers child development, safety, bedtime strategies and ways to make babysitting fun. M.-Th. 6/21-24 10 a.m.-noon \$99-\$109.

Carpentry Camps (Grades K-8) Camps meet M.-Th. throughout the summer. 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. \$118-129.

Chess Camps (Ages 6-17) Beginning – Advanced level camps. 6/21-25, 7/12-16, 8/9-13, 8/16-20. M.-F., half-day camps. \$190-\$209.

Chinese Immersion Camps – Mandarin (Ages 7-14) Camp incorporates language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing), Chinese culture, and history through modern teaching method, role-playing, games and activities.

Mandarin I 6/28-7/9 9 a.m.-noon, Mandarin II 7/12-7/23 9 a.m.-noon, Mandarin III 8/2-8/13 9 a.m.-noon. \$290-\$319

Comic Book Kids Camp (Ages 5.5-11) Design your own comic book from start to finish. 6/28-7/1, M.-Th., 9 a.m.-noon, \$125-\$137.

Computer Camps, half-day computer robotics, game design, PowerPoint and many more computer camps offered.

Cooking Camps, variety of cooking camps offered during the summer.

Engineering, Erector, Lego, Snap Circuits, and Science Camps (Ages 3.5 – 15) Some of the exciting camps include: Crazy Chemistry, Engineering FUNDamentals (Legos), Future Geniuses, Journey into Outer Space, Secret Agent, and World Scientists. Week-long, half-day camps offered throughout the summer.

Jewelry Making Camps, Ages 8-14, June 28-7/1, 7/12-7/16, and 8/9-8/13.

Writing Camps (Ages 7-10), learn to write poetry, short story, and non-fiction. 6/21-25, 9 a.m.-noon, 7/26-30 1:00 - 4 p.m. and 8/16-20 9 a.m.-noon \$170-187.

Writing Camp – Creative Writing (Ages 10-15) Call for specific dates and times.

Camp Galileo and Galileo Summer Quest

25 Bay Area locations

7 East Bay camps

1-800-854-3684

www.galileo-learning.com

Camp Galileo (pre-K – 5th grades): Voted “Best Camp for Kids” in *Bay Area Parent* and the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, Camp Galileo is a summer day camp where kids enjoy art, science and outdoor programming every day. The hands-on curriculum is developed in partnership with The Tech Museum of Innovation, de Young Museum and Klutz. This summer, Camp Galileo is offering four exciting weeks of curriculum: Ocean Expeditions, Mission to the Moon & Psychedelic ‘60s, Amusement Park Engineers & Medieval Art, and Adventures in Flight & Egyptian Art.

Galileo Summer Quest (entering 5th – 8th grades): Summer fun designed with older campers in mind! Campers choose from such things as Fashion Design, Go-Karts, Video Game Design, Hip-Hop Dance, Science of Explosions, and Sports.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Academy of Language & Music Arts

(ALMA)

Dr. James Fiatarone, Director

99 Brookwood Road

Orinda, CA 94563

254-5056 or 254-5053

This camp offers a create-your-own [SEE CAMPS page 12]



Children from last year's OK Camp at the Orinda Community Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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◆ CAMPS from page 11

program featuring private lessons in music, including guitar, piano, voice, strings, wind instruments, and percussion; also, private and small group lessons in foreign languages (Italian, French, Spanish, Greek, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese & Chinese, etc.) and English as a second language. Special summer group classes include Guitar Ensemble, Classical Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Guitar, Rock Guitar Combo, Band Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Improvisation Clinic (all instruments); Theory & Musicianship (all instruments) Strings Clinic; Percussion/Drum Clinic (two levels), and Vocal Ensemble/ALMA Glee Club. New classes include: "Happy ALMA Feet" (Modern & Mediterranean Dance Class), "Acting up at ALMA" (Theater, Personality & Presentation skills), and Music Technology Class (Basic Studio Recording Techniques, creating/recording songs).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 Kids on Camera's Krista Fettke was recently cast in the new Pixar film *Play By Play*.

session for students in the San Francisco area; held at Saint Ignatius College Preparatory. Grades 6-12 only. Cost \$1200.

Orinda Community Center
 28 Orinda Way
 Orinda, CA 94563
 254-2445
www.cityoforinda.org

Art Camps (Ages 5-12), enjoy drawing, painting, and creating art projects. Weekly half-day art camps offered with different mediums and themes. Call for specific camps, dates, and times.

Dance Camp - Orinda Ballet Academy (Ages 5-14). Come learn ballet from the outstanding staff of the Orinda Ballet Academy. Call for specific dates, days, and times.

Dance Camps (Ages 5-8, 8-12) Ballet, jazz, hip hop and tap. Come and have fun experiencing and learning a variety of dances. The last day of camp includes a class demonstration. 6/21-25, 8/9-13, 8/16-20, M.-F., 9 a.m.-noon \$145-159

Dance Camps (Ages 3-5) Dance to the magical land of faeries, unicorns, flying horses and princesses, and journey across the seven seas to find hidden treasure in our week-long dance camps. Variety of themed dance camps offered throughout the summer, M.-F., 10 a.m.-noon and 9 a.m.-noon \$145-159.

Drumming Camp - Taiko & Caribbean Steel Drumming Camp. Experience the worlds of Taiko and Caribbean Steel Drums. Spend part of the day learning sticking, melody making, and the magic of making music on Caribbean steel drums and the other part experiencing Taiko

[SEE ART CAMPS page 13]



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 510-548-3422 ext. 127
www.calshakes.org

California Shakespeare Theater's Summer Shakespeare Conservatory offers five-, four-, and two-week sessions for students age 8-18. Each program culminates with a student performance. Campers receive free tickets to the Cal Shakes Main Stage season. Scholarships available.

Five-Week Conservatory, the most intense of the Conservatory offerings, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., June 21-July 24, Bentley Upper School, Lafayette. Cost \$1,350.

Two-Week Conservatories, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., July 26-Aug. 6 (Lafayette) and June 28-July 9 (Holy Names High School, Oakland), offer a condensed version of the five-week session for students new to the Cal Shakes summer programs, or those unable to attend the longer session. Cost \$500.

Four-Week Conservatory, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., July 12-Aug. 6, for the first time in San Francisco! The four-week program is a slightly condensed version of the five-week



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CAMPS

◆ ART CAMPS from page 12

through Japanese expressions. Camp concludes with a performance. Call for specific camp dates and times.

Kids on Camera TV/Film Acting School
www.kids-on-camera.com

Lights, camera, action and fun for ages 4-13. Includes comedy, scenes, puppets and improvisation. Students build social skills, expand their creativity and improve listening and speech. Video feedback makes learning fun. Success stories include many speech tournament winners, Lafayette's Krista Fettke, co-star of the Pixar film, *Play By Play*, Bridget Mendler, Star of the Disney series, *Good Luck Charlie*, John Morris, the voice of Andy in *Toy Story 3*, and Yasmine Morales, a model for *Brides Magazine*.

8/9-8/13, M-F, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$290-319. Camps conclude with review.

Music - Rock 'n' Roll Band Camps
(Ages 8-12, 12+)

Introduction to Rock Band, Classic Rock, Music of Guitar Hero, Music of the Beatles, and Rock Jam camps.

7/19-23, 7/26-30, and 8/2-8/6, half-day camps. \$260-\$285.

Orinda Little Theater - Introduction to Musical Theater (Ages 4-8)

Jungle Book, *Snow White*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Sound of Music*. Half-day programs. Camps conclude with a show in the theater. \$255-\$247.

Orinda Youth Theater - Musical Theater Camps / Productions (Ages 6-10, 7-14)

Willie Wonka, *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Wicked*, *High School Musical*, *Grease*, and *Sound of Music*. One-two week camps. Half- and Full-day programs. Camps conclude with a production. \$280-\$385.

Summer Drama Camp
P.O. Box 6145
Moraga, CA 94570
925-300-8337

www.afterschooldramaclub.com

Students in grades 2 through 9 will work with professional directors and choreographers for three weeks to learn singing, dancing and acting, culminating in a production of the fun musical *Dear Edwina, Jr.* Camp to be held at Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Ave., Moraga, from July 5 - 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. The performance takes place on July 23 at 7 p.m. Cost \$515 with 10 percent discount for siblings. Tuition includes cast T-shirt, DVD of performance, and keepsake script.

Youth Theater

Shadelands Art Center
111 N. Wiget Lane
Walnut Creek, CA
925-943-5842

www.YouthTheatreCompany.org

Summer Production, for ages 7 to 14 from 1 to 4 p.m., and ages 5 to 6 from 2:30 to 4 p.m., June 15-July 2. This year's production is *Alice in Wonderland*. Call for fee. Performance to be 7 p.m. July 2. Students will work together for 3 weeks in all aspects of theatre learning music, dance and acting from the YTC staff and teen interns.

Willows Theatre Company
636 Ward Street
Martinez, CA
925-798-1300

www.willowstheatre.org

Willows Theatre Company Youth Conservatory's SummerStage is open for students in grades 1 to 12. For half of the day, campers receive instruction in acting, music, singing, movement and dance followed by afternoon rehearsals. Classes will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. SummerStage Junior runs June 21- July 18 and SummerStage for High School runs June

[SEE THEATER CAMPS page 14]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two young dancers from the **Orinda Community Center** program.

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- June 21 - 25
- July 12 - 16
- July 19 - 23
- August 2 - 6
- August 9 - 13

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Sunday, April 11, 2 p.m., Soda Center
Panel discussion moderated by art critic Robert Taylor, featuring Wesley Gibson and Warhol film professor Dan Leopard.
Reception to follow.

Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m., Soda Center
Lecture by David E. James, USC film professor, Academy Scholar, Getty Fellow
Hearstartgallery.org - 925.631.4379

Dolly Parton, 1985
Polacolor ER, 14/1 4 x 8/3 3
© The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

CAMPS

◆ THEATER CAMPS from page 13

28 – August 8. The high school camp will perform *Footloose* while the Junior Campers will perform *Once Upon A Mattress*. Cost \$500-\$800. Registration available online at www.willowstheatre.org or by phone 925-798-1300.

SCHOOL-RELATED CAMPS
Fountainhead Montessori School
30 Santa Maria Way
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Holy Shepherd Preschool
433 Moraga Way
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925-254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org

Fun in the Sun for ages 2.5 to entering first grade; enjoy summertime activities in a small class environment; songs, games, cooking, arts and crafts, and water play; various dates throughout summer, 9 a.m. to noon with option for extended care until 2 p.m.

Orinda Academy
19 Altarinda Road
Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-7553
www.orindaacademy.org

Open House for interested families on April 21, at 7 p.m.

Orinda Academy offers fully accredited (W.A.S.C.) academic classes for high school students. Classes meet state requirements and are U.C. approved. Two sessions offered: June 21 - July 13 and July 15 - August 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Academic courses offered for high school credit include algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry, U.S. history, and English literature for students in grades 9 to 12; students may take two semester classes or one full-year class.

Middle School Prep: Reading, math, English, study skills (Grades 7 & 8)

High School Prep: Reading, math, English, study skills (Grade 9)

Summer Music Instruction: Learn to play guitar, bass, piano, flute, drums and sing! Choose a full hour lesson in the instrument of your choice, or combine one half hour of instrument instruction with one half hour of theory instruction. Offered second summer school session only: July 15 – August 6.

Saklan Valley School
1678 School Street
Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-7900
www.saklan.org

Located on the Saklan campus in Moraga, Camp Saklan is open to the public and offers 9 weekly sessions, June 14 through August 13, with half day and full day options. We offer two age groups;

Mini Campers, ages 3-5 and **Explorers**, ages 6-10. Saklan campers enjoy a camp experience filled with fun, new friends and opportunities to discover! Every week is carefully designed to incorporate our mission to expand the heart, mind and character of every child. Our camp programs and ac-

tivities are lead by a well-trained, dedicated staff in a caring, safe environment.

Mini Campers enjoy a day balanced between time spent indoors and out, including time spent in our well-equipped play yard with shaded areas, a wading pool, sandbox, trikes, climbing structures, swings, and lots of room to run around. Children enjoy activities such as swimming, art projects, circle games, field trips, special guests/shows, and story time. Weekly themes include Circus Circus!, Viva Espanol!, ART-is-tic!, Animal Action and much more!

Explorers enjoy theme-based activities during the morning session, Monday thru Thursday, and the afternoon session includes activities such as swimming, sports, games, crafts and much more. Explorers take part in weekly field trips every Friday! Weekly themes include Detective Science, Circus Arts, Lego Engineering, Movie Effects, Kids in Show Biz and more!

Camp Hours: Full Day is 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Half Day is 8:30-12:30, Extended care is available M-F, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. for an additional fee.

Visit our website today to register!

SPORTS-RELATED

Orinda Parks & Recreation
Orinda Community Center
www.cityoforinda.org
(925) 254-2445

Basketball (Ages 7-14) Camp of Champs, 7/12-16, 9 a.m.-noon. \$155-\$170.

Flag Football (Ages 6-12) Skyhawks Flag Football Camp, 6/21-25 and 8/2-8/6, 9 a.m. – noon. \$163-\$179.

Golf-Beginning (Ages 5-8) Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-noon. 7/12-16, \$168-\$185.

Skyhawks Flag Football Camp, 7/12-16, 9 a.m.-noon. \$168-\$185.

Soccer (Ages 5-15) Half-day soccer camps offered by Challenger British Soccer, EuroSoccer, Skyhawks.

Challenger British Soccer 8/2-8/6, 8/9-8/13, 8/16-8/20, \$166-182; EuroSoccer 6/25-7/2 and 7/6-7/9, 9 a.m. -noon or 1 p.m., \$135-149; Skyhawks 7/19-7/23, 9 a.m.-noon \$163 – 179.

Orinda Multi-Sports Camps (Ages 4-12)

Mini-hawks, ages 4-7, (Baseball, Basketball, Soccer) 6/14-18, 7/26-7/30, 8/16-8/20, 9 a.m.-noon \$163-\$179; Full-day Skyhawks 8/16-20, 9 a.m., 3:30 p.m., \$258-283; Sports Camp (Don Menez) 6/28-7/2 and 8/2-8/6, full and half-day options.

Tennis Camps (Ages 7-12). Week-long tennis clinics offered throughout the summer Monday – Thursday, \$115-\$126, 10:30 a.m.-noon and 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

[SEE SCHOOL CAMPS page 15]



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Lynn Hogan (r) with trainer Dan Mejia


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Lynn Hogan

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CAMPS

◆ SCHOOL CAMPS from page 14

Bottomley Equestrian Center
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925-228-3766

www.bottomleyfarm.com

The intent of Bottomley Equestrian workshops is three-fold: to dramatically increase skill level through intensive exposure; to teach riding, handling and husbandry skills that cannot be taught in regular lessons due to time constraints; and to have a fun and fabulous experience.

Your seat and your horse's feet. April 5-7, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lunging and driving, April 9-11, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Intro to horses and horsemanship, June 21-23, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Intro to competitive dressage tests/show strategies, July 5-7, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Kids workshop-intro to horsemanship, August 2-4, 9 a.m. to noon

Intro. to horses and horsemanship, August 2-4, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Kids workshop-intro. to horsemanship, August 9-11, 9 a.m. to noon

Intro to horses and horsemanship, August 9-11, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Adult workshop-intro to classical dressage: Your seat and the horse's feet, August 20-22, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Oakland Strokes
115 Embarcadero East
at Oakland Estuary
510-652-6445

www.oaklandstrokes.org

Summer Rowing Camps are designed to introduce beginning rowers to the sport of crew while providing experienced students conditioning and continuing classes. The camp provides training in rowing techniques, fitness and teamwork. Participants must be 12 to 18 years old and capable of passing swimming tests; morning (9 a.m. – noon) and afternoon (1-4 p.m.) sessions beginning in June and lasting through the summer. Sessions are \$210 each if registered by mid-April; \$260 per session thereafter. The optional conditioning session during weeks one and two only is an additional \$50.

St. Mary's Athletic Camps

St. Mary's College
1928 Saint Mary's Road
Moraga, CA 94575
925-631-4FUN.

Click on "summer camps" at www.smegaels.com.

This marks the 40th year that St. Mary's College of California will offer athletic summer camps to children between the ages of 6-18. Overnight and day camps include All Sport, Baseball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Golf, Lacrosse, Rowing, Rugby, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Softball,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bottomley Equestrian Center offers fun riding experiences.

Tennis, and Volleyball. Prices range from \$150 to \$525. The camps run from June 14 through August 6.

Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club
1 Sunnyside Lane
Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-1126

email: shstc@comcast.net

www.SleepyHollowLegends.net

Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club is dedicated to providing excellent recreational opportunities in an environment that fosters legendary pride and spirit. Our swim team is for kids ages 4-18; our Mini Legends swim program is designed for kids ages 4-6; and our Learn to Swim program is for kids ages 3.5 and up. Our tennis clinics, private lessons and tennis team are available to kids of all ages. Our young members also enjoy spending fun in the sun at Legendland, a supervised drop-off day camp.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
1931 First Avenue
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
(925) 627-2926

www.wildlife-museum.org

Summer Science Camp offers new adventures with live animals, indoor and outdoor games and songs, science experiments, and more. Camper to counselor ratio is 3:1 in the camps for ages 4-9. The camp uses Lindsay Wildlife Museum's large community room, two private classrooms, and adjacent Larkey Park. Camp shirt, snacks and drinks are included.

Counselor positions for 12- to 17-year-olds for all camps. Mandatory training sessions for counselors on June 25 or July 18. Full details available at website. Cost \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members.

Dino-Mania Camp, ages 4 to 6, 1 to 3:30 p.m. June 28-July 2 or 9:30 a.m. - noon August 9-13. Cost \$100 for museum members, \$125 for non-members. Meet some of the closest living relatives to the dinosaurs which roamed the earth. Play games and do activities that teach about these fascinating animals.

Animal Senses Camp, ages 6 to 9. 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., July 12-16. Cost \$125 for members, \$150 for non-members. Explore a new sense each day: sight, sound, touch, smell and taste, through games, experiments and animal introductions.

Body Shop Camp, ages 9-12, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., July 26-30. Cost \$125 for members, \$150 for non-members. The bodies of different species of animals have many similarities, but they also have some very interesting differences. This camp will investigate some of the ways animals are rehabilitated and released at Lindsay Wildlife Museum through games and lots of fun activities.

CSI Detective Camp, ages 6-9, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., August 2-6. Cost \$125 for members, \$150 for non-members. This special camp will have a different museum mystery each day. Using scientific tools, fun clues and animal observations, campers will make discoveries and work together to solve the puzzles. The camp will include games, science experiments and art projects.

Oakland Zoo
P.O. Box 5238
Oakland, CA 94605
510-632-9525

www.oaklandzoo.org

The Oakland Zoo offers week-long camps, with second-week camps available. Campers from age 4 through 12th grade learn about nature and animals through hands-on experiential learning, as well as puppet play, games, craft projects, science activities and of course, animals. Zoo members may register online starting March 15. Non-members may register starting March 22. Need-based scholarship applications available on the website. Extended care also available. Full information available on the website.

Pre-K: Children need to be 4 by the start of the first day of camp, 9 a.m. to noon, June 14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 5-9, July 12-16, July 19-23, July 26-30, August 2-6, and August 9-13. Cost is \$196 for members, \$216 for non-members.

Kindergarten: 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m., must choose one. June 14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 5-9, July 12-16, July 19-23, July 26-30, August 2-6, and August 9-13. Cost \$196 for members, \$216 for non-members.

Grades 1 to 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June

14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 5-9, July 12-16, July 19-23, July 26-30, August 2-6, and August 9-13. Cost \$291 for members, \$311 for non-members.

Roughing It Day Camp
P.O. Box 1266
Orinda, CA 94563
925-283-3795

www.RoughingIt.com

Celebrating 38 years! All-outdoors summer day camp located at the Lafayette Reservoir for ages 4.5 to 16. Instruction for all abilities in horseback riding, swimming, fishing, canoeing, rowing, kayaking, sports, hiking, adventure and outdoors. Four-and-eight week sessions build friendships, teamwork, skills and confidence. Transportation provided from home and central pick-up locations. Extended care programs, teen leadership, and Junior Counselor programs also available. ACA accredited. 2010 sessions run June 21-August 13. Roughing It also offers specialty English and Western horse camps and one week programs. Visit www.roughingit.com for more information.



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Orinda Idol Competition Expands

By BRITTA GLADE
Contributing Writer

Orinda Idol 2010 auditions will take place May 13-15 at Orinda Intermediate School. New this year, all categories of the competition are open to all students and residents from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette. In the past, soloists in the K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 grade levels needed to be Orinda residents. With this expansion, organizers expect more than 220 soloists and groups to audition over the three day period.

"We've got a wonderful activity going in Orinda Idol, and we wanted to open the participation in all categories to provide the opportunity to a greater number of young people to get involved," explained Steve Harwood, chair of Orinda Idol.

Harwood, currently in his second year as chair of the event, has also been an Orinda Idol audition judge for the last two years. His commitment to Orinda Idol and the value that it offers to the youth of the community is clear. "The Orinda Idol experience continues a 60-year tradition of programs organized by the Orinda Arts Council for the benefit of the community. Orinda Idol is a gift to the young people, their families and friends and the community as a whole. The young people participating are given an outlet for their talents and the opportunity to grow. Their families and friends are given the opportunity to be supportive, and all are given the opportunity to share in the joy of the performances."

Past participants in the event agree that it is a positive experience for all involved. Vicki Grillo, audition co-chair, shared, "My daughter has participated in Orinda Idol for four years. As a mother of three girls, this has been something that she and I share together. It has been a wonderful bonding

experience, and she has become a beautiful, confident young woman as a result of participating in Orinda Idol."

Harwood encourages all young people in the Lamorinda area to come and audition. "Before the audition you'll have the challenge of preparing yourself," he said. "Then you'll be on the spot, performing before three judges. When you walk out, you can say to yourself, 'Well if I can do that, I can do anything'...and you can."

Category Audition Date & Time:

Soloists K-2, May 12, 4 to 7 p.m.
Soloists 3-5, May 13, 4 to 7 p.m.
Soloists 6-8, May 15, 9 to 11 a.m.
Soloists 9-12, May 15, 11 a.m. to noon and 4 to 5 p.m.
Groups K-5, May 15, 1 to 2 p.m.
Groups 6-12, May 15, 2 to 4 p.m.

At the audition, students should bring background music of their choice on a CD or iPod and sing for a maximum of two minutes. Audition judges will be music and performing arts teachers and professionals in the community. Up to 10 finalists in each category will be selected to sing at the Orinda Theater on September 12 to compete for cash prizes and recognition.

The registration form and relevant documents are available online at www.orindaartscouncil.org/orindaidol.html. Registration begins April 1 on a first-come, first-served basis. It closes April 21. Registrants will be notified of their audition time within one week of registration closing.

"When I watch the young performers in the finals put themselves on the line in the Orinda Theater, which is packed full of smiling, enthusiastic, cheering fans, I say to myself, 'This is the good stuff of life,'" Harwood added.



Tosca Maltzman (R) was among last year's Orinda Idol finalists who entertained at various community events.

Czech Exchange Student Needs a Host Family

This fall, we will welcome 17-year-old Martin Matejcek from Tábor in the Czech Republic. As with all the students in the Orinda/Tábor program, he went through a very competitive, thorough evaluation. Matejcek has had nine years of English, five years of German, and some Spanish.

His many interests including volleyball, soccer, historical fencing, theater and science fiction. During his stay in Orinda, this gregarious, adventurous young man hopes to try baseball and American football.

The Orinda/Tábor Foundation encourages you to consider hosting Matejcek for the Fall/Winter term at Miramonte. Call Bobbie Landers at 254-8260 for more information.



Martin Matejcek from Tábor.

eScrip Summit at Miramonte High Focuses on Awareness

By CHRISTINE TEMPLE-WOLFE
Contributing Writer

Coordinators from the top 10 eScrip fundraising schools/organizations and eScrip management joined forces in February for the first annual eScrip Summit at Miramonte High School. The group brainstormed on ways to improve the fundraising program that has helped so many schools.

"We have to raise \$70,000 with eScrip to support our site programs each year," said Miramonte Parents' Club vice president of fundraising Jackie Moreau. "Our key objectives were to identify what challenges we have getting our families signed up with eScrip, managing their own accounts, and using the online mall."

A for profit organization, eScrip secures online and traditional brick and mortar merchant agreements with businesses that agree to donate a percentage of each transaction to the patron's designated nonprofit organization. Each eScrip member can designate up to three organizations. New members register at no cost at www.eScrip.com.

Awareness is key to the program's success. "About half the registered users aren't updating their grocery card renewal and

debit/credit cards or shopping online," said Miramonte eScrip coordinator Josie Kelley. "We need to get the word out."

With continuing state budget cuts for the Acalanes School District alone, the Miramonte fundraising team faces huge challenges for the 2010/2011 school year. Their efforts include operationally adding accounts, solving link problems with grocery Club Cards, updating email and telephone numbers to better service accounts, pulling reports and completing analysis, and marketing the program through weekly family communications, and community press work.

Safeway Corporation is the largest contributor to the Miramonte eScrip program, donating 1 percent back to Miramonte for school programs, which resulted in \$56,479 in 2009. The eScrip payments provide one quarter of the Miramonte Parent's Club budget. "Without Safeway's generous donations, we would not have a lot of the wonderful educational opportunities we have here in Orinda," said Kelley. "Unfortunately, due to statewide budget cuts and declining percentages given back to the schools over the last few years, we will still face the challenge of cutting classes, programs and opportunities for our kids," she said.

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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

It's a "Hard Knock Life" at OIS This April

By CATHERINE SOSO
Contributing Writer

The Bulldog Theater Company at the Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) has been in rehearsal since January for its Leapin' Lizards spring musical *Annie*. With two complete casts (actors and technical crew), the production involves 105 students. The process requires quite a commitment from the students as they rehearse after school two to three days per week. All parents of cast members volunteer for the many facets of the production, in order to successfully bring the musical to the stage April 21 – 24.

Beyond putting on a good show and gaining theater skills, students learn to respect one another and develop a good work ethic. With *Annie*, kids explore the depression era as they work on character identification. Given the state of our current economy, parallels are likely to be drawn. Teamwork is reinforced during the rehearsals and a real sense of community is established. Performing and participating in the theater often mixes middle school kids in a different way, as they pursue a common interest outside the classroom.

A veteran leadership team is in place to help the students to the stage. This is director Clive Worsley's seventh production with the OIS Bulldog Theater Company. He is also the artistic director of the Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette, and an associate artist

with the California Shakespeare Theater. He has been teaching "Shakespeare in the Classroom" to OIS 7th graders, for the past eight years. Now on her sixth play at OIS, show producer, Kathy Simon, is responsible for supporting the cast and crew. She oversees sets, props, costumes, make-up, backstage, tickets, publicity and house operations. Her ability to match parent volunteers with the production duties and her organizational skills are extraordinary. Music director Yvonne Fuhrman, technical manager Aubyn Severson and choreographer Emily Morrison round out the fine leadership team.

One of the world's best-loved musicals, *Annie* has been produced in many countries, toured nationally, and won the Tony Award for Best Musical. "Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard-Knock Life" are among some of the show's best known songs.

The Bulldog Theater Company is sponsored by the OIS Parents' Club, the Orinda Arts Council and California Shakespeare Theater. Performances for *Annie* are April 21 and 22 at 4:30 p.m., April 23 at 5 and 8 p.m., and April 24 at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$6 for the Wednesday and Thursday matinees (open seating) and \$10 (premier seating) and \$8 (standard seating) for the other shows. Call 925-258-3090 for more information. Tickets are available online at www.orindaschools.org/ois. The box office will be open one hour prior to performances.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Julia Meckes (L) and Maritza Grillo (R) alternate in the role of Annie.

Peter Pan At Glorietta Elementary School



Over 90 4th and 5th grade students are participating in Glorietta Elementary School's upcoming musical. Directed by **Ron Pickett**, J.M. Barrie's popular tale will come to life with dramatic fight scenes, spectacular choreography, innovative sets, and opulent costumes. Performances take place at the Glorietta Elementary School Multipurpose Room on Friday, April 30, at 4 and 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets go on sale April 19 on the Glorietta website (www.orindaschools.org/glorietta) and are \$10 (premier) seating and \$6 (standard) seating.

Willy Wonka a Hoot at Sleepy Hollow



MAHBOD ZABETIAN

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School 4th and 5th graders did a rousing presentation of *Willy Wonka Jr* in early March. Talented performers include: 1st row (L-R) **Vivian McGowan, Bella Kelly, Kai Otsmaa,** and **Kari Jensen**; 2nd row (L-R) **Bryn Linderman, Casey McGonigle,** and **Will Haughey**.

AUTHOR EVENT Thursday, April 8, 4 pm



MAHBOD SERAJI



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—San Francisco Chronicle



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BACKYARD GETAWAYS

**Backyard Getaways and Beyond
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Bobbie Dodson



About this time of year, when we're weary of cold weather, we brighten up at the prospect of our yearly visit to Palm Desert, California. After just a seven hour drive, we arrive where sunny days provide the perfect backdrop for a wide variety of activities - or to just relax by the pool with a good book.

My husband and I are fortunate to have a group of 16 tennis friends from the Lamorinda area who've made the trip for about 10 years. We're also lucky that several of them own timeshares so we can all get condo lodging at Desert Breezes, where there are five tennis courts. However, Palm Desert and the surrounding communities of

on the endangered species such as Grey's zebra or the Arabian oryx. Hours vary for their animal shows. The museum is located at 47900 Portola Avenue.

We especially enjoyed a tour through Andreas Canyon led by an outstanding American Indian ranger. Or there are hikes in other Indian Canyons such as Taquitz Canyon, with a wonderful waterfall. Check out the Internet for a wide variety of hiking opportunities. Along with hiking, the Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains National Monument offers various special events including a Wildflower Bus Tour, Photographing the Desert, and monthly evening Star Parties. Phone 760-862-9984 for fur-



BOBBIE DODSON

Desert Breezes is a great place to relax while staying in Palm Desert.

La Quinta, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, Cathedral City, and Palm Springs have a multitude of housing options.

After a morning of tennis, there are many choices for another activity. Most consider the Living Desert Museum in Palm Desert a "must see." It's a one-stop opportunity to explore the great American deserts, learning about their plants and animals. Two hundred acres accommodate a zoo, botanical garden, and natural history museum. With more than 430 species of desert animals, the museum allows visitors to delight in seeing mountain lions up close and personal, watching a bald eagle eat, or glimpsing one

ther information. There are also road biking trips, hot air balloon rides, jeep tours, and many golf courses to play. Contact the Palm Desert Visitor Center, 760-568-1441 for further information.

To cool off, take the Palm Spring Aerial Tramway. Last February, after our 8.5 minute ride to a height of 8,516 feet on the world's largest rotating tramcar, we stepped off into snow. In fact, it was so slippery we didn't venture out onto any of the trails, but the views were outstanding and the restaurant's hot chocolate hit the spot.

We must not leave out shopping. The [SEE BACKYARD page 20]

Partners Put Their Trust in Education



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Budd MacKenzie (center) with children from Afghanistan.

By **MAGGIE SHARPE**
Staff Writer

Budd MacKenzie and Nabi Tawakali are sowing the seeds of progress in Afghanistan. The two men are partners in Trust in Education, a Lafayette-based foundation that funds schooling and farming programs in several Afghan villages.

MacKenzie spoke about their efforts at a recent meeting of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga. MacKenzie said he was first inspired by an article he read in 2003 about Greg Mortenson, founder of Pennies for Peace, and an activist for education in Pakistan and Afghanistan. "The article was about how Mortenson fights terror with books," said MacKenzie. "I made the fatal mistake of becoming involved!"

MacKenzie launched Trust in Education in 2003 and began raising funds to build a school in the village of Lalander, 15 miles southwest of the capital of Kabul. The school opened in 2005. Funds raised through the organization have also paid for a soccer field at the boys' school, playground equipment and a volleyball court at the girls' school.

He described the constant battle to educate and liberate girls and women, against the dictates of the Taliban. "In 2002, Amnesty International published figures showing 90 percent of women are beaten for such things as giving birth to a girl or cooking a bad meal," said MacKenzie. "Any male member of the family can kill a woman if it is to restore honor to the family. In Pakistan, it is estimated that there are about 1,000

honor killings every year."

He says the Taliban closed the girls' school in Lalander, but that girls continue to attend classes in private homes, which is considered safe. MacKenzie told the AAUW about another outreach program that is helping get "Kabul's slumdogs" off the streets and into school. "Street children can make \$2 per day, begging or selling gum or shining shoes," said MacKenzie. "That's more than their fathers can make."

Trust in Education has teamed up with the nonprofit organization, Aschiana, to find sponsors for the street children. Sponsors provide \$20 per month to a street child, which enables the child to leave the streets long enough to attend school.

Nabi Tawakali grew up in Lalander but moved to the United States with his wife Zorah in 1979, following the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. They first settled in New York, and subsequently moved to Walnut Creek.

Tawakali owns the Pacific Seed Company and donates many of his high-quality vegetable seeds to the farming communities in Lalander and other villages. "We send tomato, onion, turnip and radish seeds," says Tawakali. "The farmers also want us to send wheat seeds for making bread."

Trust in Education also gives the farmers fertilizer, has planted 23,000 fruits trees and helped rebuild the aqueducts that take water to the farms. "The seeds and fertilizer are tripling and quadrupling the farmers' productivity," said MacKenzie.

Zorah Tawakali also addressed the AAUW. She talked about happier times [SEE MACKENZIE page 20]

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VISUAL ARTS / MOVE OF THE MONTH

Orinda Artist Exhibits Unique Wildlife Paintings

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

When viewing painter Andrew Denman's work, one is almost fooled by the photographic qualities of the piece. A closer look reveals fine brush strokes rather than lens work. Denman's unique work, which blends hyperrealism with stylization and abstraction, has earned the Orinda artist national recognition.

Denman hosts his first ever studio show from April 24 through May 8 at his Orinda studio. With the exception of a public reception on Saturday, May 1 from 4-7 p.m., the show will be available for viewing by appointment only April 24 - May 8.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Artist Andrew Denman in his studio.

Denman explains that in hyperrealism, the artist does research on the subject matter and paints something that "looks very real but shows you more than you see in a snapshot." According to Denman, during the process of creating the painting, a distinct stylization occurs, and then an abstraction "where you lose sight of what the subject was within a background that is somehow suggestive or complimentary to the animal subject."

The spring exhibition includes up to 20 new works featuring a variety of wildlife subjects including local and exotic birds, big cats, marine mammals, and even primates.

Denman, who is renowned for his wildlife paintings, has gained national attention with his work featured in such publications as *Southwest Art*, *American Artist*, *Wildlife Art*, and *The Artist's Magazine*, among others.

Considering himself "an animal person," Denman has had a lifelong affiliation with animals. "I strive to tell a story with the

paintings," said Denman, who spends much time studying the animals he paints. "As a natural by-product, the real experience behind the painting ultimately informs the manner in which I portray the subject." Frequent trips to Wyoming and a lot of time in Yosemite and the Grand Tetons, as well as the local vistas of Point Reyes, Mt. Diablo State Park and Black Diamond Mines, provide Denman with inspiration for his work.

"You can judge a society by how it treats its animals," reflects Denman. "When people disrespect nature and wildlife, when they treat the world about them with disregard, it speaks volumes as to how we treat the rest of our society. I think there is nothing that brings out the inherent goodness in people like watching, nurturing and spending time with something more fragile than we are - or that we perceive to be more fragile than us. The bottom line is that when you treat anything with disrespect it has a cumulative effect."

Denman says that he enjoys reflecting upon what others might not see. "An artist is an ordinary person who pays attention," he said. "It is a real joy to me to somehow make people take notice through my paintings."

Denman has participated in exhibits at the Bedford and Hearst Galleries, and the Oakland Museum. His work has toured nationally with *Birds in Art* and the Society of Animal Artists, which has honored Denman's work with awards of excellence for two consecutive years. Denman's work can be found in the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wisconsin, and numerous private collections across the country.

A preview of Denman's work, which features a variety of wildlife subjects including local and exotic birds, big cats, marine mammals, is available on the artist's website at <http://andrewdenman.com>.



ANDREW DENMAN

Artist Andrew Denman's fine brush strokes result in an almost photographic likeness of his wildlife subjects.

Move of the Month

One Legged Bosu Squat with Weights



Holding light weights by your side, step onto the center the bosu with both feet or one foot, for a more advanced move.

Squat down by bending both or one knee, bend forward slightly from the hips, and do not allow your knees to go past your toes. Stand back up to the starting position. Perform 3 sets of 12 reps.

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LIBRARY GALLERY

◆ BACKYARD from page 18

mile-long El Paseo is known as the "Rodeo Drive of the Desert." There's a mix of shops and over two dozen restaurants. Newest of the large shopping venues is The River at Rancho Mirage. The river, fountains and cascading waterfalls provide a cooling atmosphere while you're checking out the shops. In downtown Palm Springs, walk along Palm Canyon and Indian Canyon Drives where majestic palm trees are continuously lit with a wrapping of sparkling lights. Shops, boutiques and art galleries vie for your attention. The Palm Springs Art Museum has outstanding special exhibits. Every Thursday evening admission is free. That's the night of the Villagefest, held along Palm Canyon Drive where more than 200 booths offer art, hand-crafted items and unique food. Hours there are 6 to 10 p.m. October through May, and 7 to 10 p.m. June through September.

Members of our group wouldn't miss the College of the Desert Street Fair where bargains abound. Some 360 merchants display wares from paintings and jewelry, to sunglasses, banners, clothing and a wide variety of crafts. A high school friend of mine, who was dean of the college, began the street fair in 1981 to raise money for scholarships. Making \$400 the first day, the event now raises over 1.5 million dollars each year. So, your shopping helps keep a worthwhile project going. Held on campus at the corner of Monterey and Magnesia Falls in Palm Desert, the street fair is open Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Also who would want to miss a production of the "Follies"? Held in the Plaza Theater, 128 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, it features music, dance and comedy of the '40s, '50s, and '60s. Being "of an age" to appreciate this era, we all marvel at the long-legged lovelies. One

would never guess these beautiful ladies range in age from 56 to 86. They dance up a storm and still kick their heels as high as their heads. The variety acts provide lots of laughs. Check their website or phone 760-327-0205 for reservations.

The whole area is a mecca for the gourmet. Asking two friends from Palm Desert for their top restaurant picks, they came up with La St. Germaine, Jillians, Ormandos, Ruth Chris Steak House, The Willows Golf Club, and Causeia Café. Our group always gathers one night at the Fisherman's Market Grill. It's inexpensive and the fish is outstanding. Check out any of these online to make your selections.

But maybe you did choose to come to the warmer clime just to rest. The Palm Desert to Palm Springs area offers a profusion of flowers that bloom in the winter months against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains making it the perfect retreat.

◆ MACKINZIE from page 18

growing up in Kabul before the Russian invasion and the subsequent rise of the Taliban to power in the mid-1990s. "It was different then, it was a happy life for boys and girls," said Zorah Tawakali, who was born in 1956. "Boys and girls went to school together, and we had both men and women teachers."

She said education was very important, especially in Kabul. However, when the Taliban took over, everything changed, especially for women. "My mother and grandmother never wore a burka," said Tawakali. "The Taliban are extremists, they think women shouldn't exist."

Tawakali, who has two children, went on to describe how her university education allowed her to succeed when she came to the United States. "When I took a job at American Savings in Walnut Creek, I went from teller to supervisor to bank manager," she said. "I was always successful."

Much of Trust in Education's work is about outreach and fundraising to support the work they do. On March 25, Afghanistan's Ambassador to the United States, Said T. Jawad, spoke on "Afghanistan - From the Inside Looking Out" at a fundraiser at Diablo Country Club.

MacKenzie has numerous local speaking engagements in April and May that are listed on the organization's web site. "I never guessed I'd be in this ideological and theological war, but I'm in it and I'm not giving up," said MacKenzie. "What wins hearts and minds is food, shelter and education, not the end of a gun."

For more information on Trust in Education, visit www.trustineducation.org, email info@trustineducation.org or call 299-2010. For more information on the American Association of University Women, visit www.aauw.org, contact Elaine Gallagher by email at eeegal@pacbell.net or call 254-3618.

Youthful Art at Orinda Library Gallery in April



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Annie Hecker of Del Rey Elementary School stands next to her artwork from last year's exhibit.

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Fourth Annual Arts Ambassadors Exhibit at the Orinda Library Gallery begins on Friday, April 1, and runs through the end of the month. An artist reception is planned for Wednesday, April 14, from 4 to 6 p.m. The event is generously sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council's (OACs) school committee, which advocates strong arts curriculum in all Orinda schools.

The non-juried exhibit includes the heartwarming artwork of over 85 students in grades 1st- through 8th. Each child who participates in the exhibit is named an "Arts Ambassador" and receives a ribbon in recognition of their participation.

Students from Del Rey Elementary, Glorietta Elementary, Sleepy Hollow Elementary, Wagner Ranch Elementary, and Orinda Intermediate School, who exhibit their work, are invited along with their families and friends (and the general public) to attend the artist reception.

District visual art teachers - Linda Kam, Hillery Paterson, Susan Weiss and Susan Zib - are devoted to these young artists and appreciate the ongoing support of the community. "Art programs have been

cut everywhere, and this is one of the last programs still in place," says Hillery Paterson, Del Rey district art coordinator. Many people in our community value the arts as a part of core curriculum.

2010 marks the OAC's 60th Anniversary. Their purpose is "to stimulate, support and advocate for the visual and performing arts in the community ... and in the schools." For information as to how they accomplish this, or to become involved, see orindaartscouncil.org. Jane Greenthal, VP of Communications, reminds us that the OAC 60th Anniversary Celebration is planned for June 16 at the Orinda Country Club. If you know any past member volunteers, please contact secretary Lisa Johannessen at oac@bluestar.com.

A big thank you is also due to the Education Foundation of Orinda for its fundraising efforts, which support arts and music programs in Orinda K-12 schools. See orindaefo.org for more information.

The Orinda Library Gallery is open during normal library hours - Monday - Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 254-2814 for more information.

◆ NOISE from page 2

The Kendalls found professional videographer Jeremy Williams from Danville to put the film together. Williams interviewed a variety of Orinda residents and captured their concerns about leaf blowers. "Our first job is to educate people," explains Susan. "We've talked with our own neighbors, many of whom have gardeners who use leaf blowers when they're not home, and they just didn't realize the health hazards or disruptions it was causing for others." Peter

added, "It's amazing what an effect it has on your daily life. One of our neighbors, Maya McBride, has a beautifully landscaped yard that will be featured in *Better Homes and Gardens* yet she can't enjoy it because of the noise and pollution. We have another neighbor who is an artist but can't open up his home gallery because of the noise."

For more information on Quiet Orinda or to see a trailer of the film, go to www.quietorinda.com.



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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

APRIL

- 1 **Friends of the Orinda Library** Book Sale, book shop and sorting room, 26 Orinda Way, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Orinda Starlight Village Players April Fools Party and Auditions, 925-528-9225.
- 3 **Orinda Rotary Club** Free Easter Egg Hunt for toddlers through second graders, Orinda Community Park, 11 a.m. sharp. Bring a basket or bag.
- 5 **California Shakespeare Theatre** Spring Break Shakespeare Players, a class for 6th-through 8th-graders, Lafayette Library, 9 a.m. to noon daily, 510-809-3293 learn@calshakes.org.
- 8 **Orinda Books** presents Mahbod Seraji who will discuss and sign copies of *Rooftops of Tehran*, his semi-autobiographical novel set in Iran before the revolution, 4 p.m. 254-7606.
- 9 **First Friday Forum**, *The Economics of Climate Change*, 1:30 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 925-283-8722.
- 10 **Moraga-Orinda Fire District**, Station 45 Spring Open House, promoting fire safety in the urban interface area of Orinda, 33 Orinda Way, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 11 **California Shakespeare Theatre**, Shakespeare from the Actors' Perspective, a class for adults, Lafayette Library, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 510-809-3293, email learn@calshakes.org.
- 13 **Cal Shakes Literacy Society** every other Tuesday at Lafayette Library, 7 to 9 p.m., to explore the four plays for the upcoming season, *Pastures of Heaven*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Macbeth* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. 510-809-3293 or email learn@calshakes.org.
- 14 **OUSD Art Ambassador Exhibit** reception for the artists, Orinda Library Art Gallery, 4 to 6 p.m. The exhibit runs from April 1 to 30.
- 15 **P.O.I.S.E. (Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education)** presents the movie *Autism, The Musical* at Glorietta Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, 15 Martha Road, 7 p.m. Free. Contact oisliaison@orindapoise.org.
- 17 **Orinda Citizen Core Council** (formerly OPSAC), Neighborhood Block Captain appreciation workshop, 1-4 p.m. The Equipment Bay of MOFD Station 45 (downtown Orinda).
- Orinda Books** hosts Bill Raney who will read and sign copies of *Letters to Zerky: A Father's Legacy to a Lost Son and a Road Trip Around the World*, 3 p.m. 254-7606.
- 21 **Orinda Intermediate School** presents *Annie*, at 4:30 p.m., also 4/22 (4:30 p.m.), 4/23 (5 and 8 p.m.), and 4/24 (3 and 7 p.m.). Call 258-3090 or go to www.orindaschools.org/ois.
- 22 **12th Annual California Film Festival**, through the 25th, event featuring world-famous and local filmmakers, a movie contest, an appearance by Richard Dreyfuss, gala dinner, Orinda Theatre Square. A preview of the event is on pages 1 and 2.
- 27 **Orinda Books** hosts Brenda Hillman reading poetry from her latest collection, *Practical Water*, 276 Village Square, 5 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 30 **Glorietta Elementary School** presents *Peter Pan*, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., also 5/1 at 3 and 7 p.m., Go to www.orindaschools.org/glorietta.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified.

- 6 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and finger plays for 1- to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required but attendance limited to once per week. Also April 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28.
- 7 **Paws to Read** for 1st- through 5th-graders. Sign up for a 25-minute reading session with sociable dogs, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Register at the library. Also April 10, 14 and 21.
- 10 **Saturday Morning Live!** Family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11 a.m. Also April 17 and 24.
Weekend Paws to Read for 1st- through 5th-graders. Sign up for a 25-minute reading session with sociable dogs, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Register at the library.
- 14 **Drawing Class for Young Children**, Geanie Choy leads a creative drawing class for K through 2nd-graders, Tutoring Room. Sign-ups start at 3:30 p.m., class 4 to 5 p.m.
- 20 **Tell It: Tales for Preschoolers**, a storyteller tells traditional myths and legends about dragons, adapted for 3- to 5-year-olds, Tutoring Room, 1 to 1:30 p.m.
- 26 **Little Kids, Little Music, Flute Sweet and Tickletoons** presents music for 1- to 5-year-olds, 10:30 to 11 a.m.
- Adult Programs**
- 14 **Peace of Mind in Earthquake Country**, Peter Yanev will discuss his book and provide insight on preparing for the next quake, Garden Room, 7 to 9 p.m.
- 21 **Berkeley Rep Docent Program** presents a trained docent speaking on the theatre's current production of *Girlfriend*, Gallery Room, 7 to 8 p.m.
- 27 **A Fireside Chat** with Humanities West about its upcoming program, *The Florence of the Medici: Commerce, Power and Art in Renaissance Italy*, Fireside Room, 7 to 8 p.m.

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

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 the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda www.moragaadobe.org
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library. Call 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino's in Lafayette 254-0440, ext.463.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday of the month, 9 a.m., . The April 16 meeting will be at Heather Farm Gardens, 15 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday at noon, Community Center, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Hike every Wednesday, 9 a.m., old library parking lot on Irwin Way. Call Steve at 253-0131 or visit www.orindahiking.org.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday of the month, 3 to 5 p.m., OHS Museum, 254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda Juniors** community service group. First Tuesday of the month, September to 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 Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday of the month, 4 p.m., Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon; call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.
- Second Wednesday Book Group** 3 p.m. Will discuss *The Bridge on the Drina* by Ivo Andric, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square. Call 254-7606.
- World Affairs Book Group**. 3rd Tuesday every other month, 3 p.m. Will discuss *Power Rules: How Commonsense Can Rescue American Foreign Policy* by Leslie Gelb, Orinda Books, 254-7606.

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

The Annual Orinda Rotary Club's Spring Egg Hunt



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The annual egg hunt for toddlers through 2nd graders takes place Saturday, April 3, at the Orinda Community Center's Park at 11 a.m. sharp. There will be a special area for toddlers thru K. Bring a basket or bag, and please be on time as the eggs and prizes go fast. The Orinda Rotary Club has been providing the egg hunt to the community for over 50 years.

Novel Approach to Climate Change at Next First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Questions about climate change abound. First Friday Forum speaker, Maximilian Auffhammer, will offer some new perspectives in his presentation, *The Economics of Climate Change*. Plan to attend on April 9 (please note change to second Friday) in the sanctuary at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 1:30 p.m., 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

The University of California, Berkeley (UCB) professor, says, "Understanding and addressing the sources and consequences of climate change pose formidable challenges to policymakers and the societies and ecosystems affected by it. I plan to address how we know that climate change is actually happening (detection) and what fraction of it can be attributed to human activities," Auffhammer says.

"While there is a general sense that something should be done to address climate change, recent efforts at the international level, such as the Copenhagen meetings, and at the national level fall short of what is required to stabilize climate at a level which avoids dangerous consequences. In my talk, I will outline how economists think about meeting the challenge, while

minimizing the costs of doing so. I will present a novel approach to addressing the problem at a global level," explains Auffhammer.

Environmental economists have attempted to gain a better understanding of past, current and future greenhouse gas emissions by studying emissions from developing versus developed countries. Auffhammer will discuss how they can predict and comprehend the impacts of climate change.

An assistant professor of agricultural and resource economics and international and area studies (ARE), Auffhammer earned his Ph.D. at UC San Diego and joined the UCB faculty in 2003. In 2009, he received Berkeley's Distinguished Teaching Award and is given credit for revitalizing courses in the ARE department, turning them into some of the most popular and successful courses in the graduate program. Students and faculty alike praise his teaching ability. His colleagues state, "He's an incredible mentor and an incredible teacher."

Come with your questions, and bring a friend to this free event. Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For further information, call 925-283-8722 or click on www.lopc.org.

Auditions Scheduled for Orinda Starlight Village Players 2010 Season

Would you like a part in a play? And a part-y to go with it? Come to the Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) auditions at 6:30 p.m. on April 1, 6 and 11. To celebrate the kickoff of the 2010 season, OrSVP is combining the April 1 audition with an April Fools potluck and costume party.

Impress the directors with your favorite costume and finger food recipe (not required but would be greatly appreciated)! Be a fool, be dramatic, be risky—do a monologue (2 minutes, please) or read from the scripts.

Auditions and party are held at the Orinda Community Center Room 3, 28



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tom Westlake and Edwin Peabody duel in last years production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

Orinda Way, Orinda. For more details, call 925-528-9225.

MEETINGS:

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, public is welcome. 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**. Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 253-4210.

BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

“It has been quite a journey. What is really special about this hospital is the exceptional quality of the people who work here. They demonstrate respect for our patients and skillfully provide care. The very high ratio of the day shift of one Certified Nurse’s Aide to every five patients and one to eight on the evening shift, allows us to focus on individual care,” explains Cronin.

Catherine Barnett, RN is the director of nurses at Orinda Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital and has been with the hospital for 30 years. “The in-house therapy we provide makes all the difference for our patients. I am pleased with the wonderful stable philosophy of providing excellent patient care that has been so enduring,” says Barnett. Alternative modalities for pain therapy such as infrared and light wave therapy and electro stimulation therapy are available. Ultrasound for wound and pain healing may be employed. The hospital utilizes the services of three therapy dogs.

“We are a stand alone, independent company and there are not many operations like ours left in California. We have 66 full-time employees on staff, do all our own laundry on site and operate an excellent kitchen. The food is wonderful and that is the work of Marie Day, who is a registered dietician,” explains Cronin. The high ceiling dining area features a fireplace and a lovely view of the Berkeley hills. Outside the dining room is a large deck and adjacent solarium which breathes in the greenery of the outlying hills.

The social calendar displays numerous activities occurring daily such as cooking sessions with the activity directors, a full program of musical performers, and a weekly wine social. “The Sensory Program is special. For those who have experienced more impairment, this program takes place in a dark room and has many activities including smells, music, film and it is really quite magical,” says Cronin. “It is an extraordinary group of people working here. I have all the respect in the world for the nurse’s aides and orderlies. They are amazing people,” he adds.

The Orinda Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. For more information or to schedule a tour, please call 254-6500 or visit the website at www.OrindaConvHosp.com

Dragonfly Designs is Setting Roots Down, One Garden at a Time

Kim Larsen spent the first part of her career as an in-house trial lawyer for a national real estate company. But, when she married and relocated to Orinda nine years

ago, she asked herself whether she wanted to continue practicing law or create a new career. Always passionate about gardens, it did not take long for her to decide to build her own landscape design business. “My plants don’t argue with me. The only things I fight with are gophers and deer,” laughs Larsen. She still practices law, advising clients on property line disputes, city and county permits, and set back requirements, but her primary focus is on creating beautiful outdoor spaces.

Larsen expanded her horticulture education at Merritt College’s horticulture department, San Francisco Botanical



VALERIE HOTZ

Kim Larsen began her landscape design business after a career as a lawyer.

Garden, and Strybing Arboretum. Creating designs unique to each client’s particular needs, Larsen has a keen eye for detail and is committed to planting California native plants, Mediterranean and edible gardens. “You can quote me that lawns are ridiculous,” says Larsen with a laugh. She enjoys utilizing the East Bay Municipal Utility District’s water savings program and encourages homeowner’s to remove water thirsty lawns.

“Children enjoy gardens, including vegetable gardens, which are far more sensible than lawn maintenance,” claims Larsen. In addition to full design services, Larsen also specializes in helping a client select everything from appropriate garden furniture, garden art, to water features. Her garden designs have been included on the California Native Garden Tour in the



Tai Chi Classes at In Forma and Orinda Community Center

past and this spring on May 2 her garden design for Maryette and Bob Thompson will be included in the Moraga Juniors Garden Tour.

Probably her most challenging assignment was working an attractive garden design around an in-ground swimming pool. “We had to camouflage the fact that the pool rose about eight inches above the

ground, so I designed a slate patio area and planted no-mow fescue. It is a great lawn alternative,” she explains.

Kim Larsen is married to Bob Larsen, an occupational psychiatrist. For more information about Dragonfly Design, visit the website at www.dragonfly-designs.org, send an email to kim@dragonfly-designs.org., or call 258-5756.

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Business Buzz

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Med EstheticsRx Opens Orinda Studio

Step inside the new Med EstheticsRx studio at 50 Vashell Way, Suite 230, and you will receive excellent and soothing treatment at the hands of certified medical esthetician Elizabeth Buddington. The reception area features handsome handmade furniture by Buddington's husband, Doyle, a furniture maker by trade who specializes in custom upholstered furniture. Abundant natural light floods the reception through floor to ceiling windows in this comfortable space.

Med EstheticsRx is results driven and focuses on addressing clients' needs. The supervising physician for Med EstheticsRx is Dr. Lauren Eskanzi. "I ask clients about

their goals, and we work on the identified goals together as a team. They need to follow up with a skin care regime at home after receiving a treatment. I offer four different treatment packages that include Peels, Skin Care 101 (which is designed for young adults), Express Cleansing Treatment, and Healthy Glow. Additional treatments focus on specific areas of the body such as the Back Micro-Peel, Spot-on-Body Glow Treatments, and the Blushing Bride Series, which is a special package of three Health Glow treatments prior to a client's wedding day," explains Buddington. A variety of skin care products are available here including elta MD, AFA Skin Care and Skinceuticals

Utilizing ultrasound to hydrate the skin, Buddington points out this treatment is healing to skin. "Ultrasound sends impulses

of sound waves, and I use it to effectively penetrate products into the epidermis. I use this method to apply high strength Vitamin C, which is a great antioxidant for skin. Hyaluronic acid penetrates and locks in moisture," she adds. The Healthy Glow treatment is customized to fit a client's specific needs and includes microdermabrasion, derma-planing, extractions if necessary, as well as eyelash tint, and brow arch. Buddington employs the Clarisonic



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Elizabeth Buddington recently opened the skin care spa Med EstheticsRx.

brush to gently and thoroughly cleanse the face. Made by the creators of the Sonicare toothbrush, Clarisonic's soft gentle brush oscillates more than 300 times per second resulting in smaller pores and soft, radiant skin.

"My continuing education in skin care really makes all the difference. I recently attended the Skin Disease Education Foundation conference in Las Vegas, and I am a member of the Society of Dermatology Skin Care Specialist and National Coalition of Estheticians, Manufacturers/Distributors and Associations," says Buddington. "This industry is ever changing, and I love learn-

ing the latest and greatest treatment for skin care. I enjoy improving skin conditions and helping people prevent premature aging," says Buddington.

A native Californian, Buddington and her husband Doyle have a daughter, Miranda, who is a sophomore at the University of California, San Diego. For more information about Med EstheticsRx, visit the website at www.Med-EstheticsRx.com. To schedule an appointment, call 258-0055 or email ebuddington@earthlink.net.

Orinda Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital-Respecting the Individual

John and Selma Cronin established this family-owned business in 1967. John was a Registered Nurse and Selma, a public health nurse, both obtained an administrator's license in order to build a skilled nursing hospital that would provide a superior standard of care for residents. Today the hospital continues to be independently owned and operated by their son, David Cronin.

Located at 11 Altarinda Road, the Orinda Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital is licensed for 49 patients and features in-house physical therapists serving patients' needs featuring an interdisciplinary approach, with rehabilitation methods and goals individualized for each patient. The program includes services of Restorative



VALERIE HOTZ

David Cronin keeps Orinda Convalescent Hospital a family business.

Nurse's Aides six days per week helping with intermediate and maintenance levels of daily physical therapy needs.

Cronin began working here in 1968. He started out as an orderly, helped with janitorial and physical therapy activities and has really done just about every job.

[SEE BUZZ page 23]



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