

# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
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## “New” Orinda Library Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

Marking the 10th Anniversary of the “new” Orinda Library, The Friends of the Library have planned a variety of public events during October to celebrate. “This is a wonderful opportunity to thank the citizens of Orinda for helping the Friends raise \$5 million to build the library

Orinda contributed about \$3 million toward the library,” she adds.

A fun music program for children, ages one to six, and their parents is planned for Tuesday, October 4, at 2:30 p.m. Featuring Mariela, the presentation will be full of rhythms, stories, songs in English and Spanish, instruments and scarves.

On Wednesday, October 5, Steve Freeman and Brandt Williams, members of the



SALLY HOGARTY

The Friends of the Orinda Library book sales continue to be a popular and important source of revenue.

and for their ongoing support with book donations and volunteer help,” explains Susie Epstein, president of the group. “The Friends also owned the old library and received almost \$2 million for that building. The City of

Real Placebos and Orinda residents, will entertain. They will showcase American Roots music with a variety of instruments. Epstein says, “This music gets your toes tapping and

[SEE LIBRARY page 8]

## Four-Legged Officer’s Pink Slip Revoked

By PATTI HOFHERR  
Staff Writer

In 2006, Chef arrived from Denmark and set paws on American soil. Hired through the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s office and funded by private donations, Chef became the Orinda Police Department’s first canine officer.

Recent budget cuts, however, put Chef’s job in jeopardy. But, once again, the community came to the rescue. Thanks to the generosity of Orinda residents Bob and Maryett Thompson as well as other community members, Chef’s job is secure once again.

Officer Danny Vargas, Chef’s K-9 unit partner, couldn’t be more relieved to have his friend and partner reinstated. The two work and live together. Vargas even learned some Danish in order to give Chef commands. Even when off duty, it’s Chef’s job to protect Vargas, who said, “Chef doesn’t know he’s off duty. He’s a 24/7 partner.” They’re so close that when Vargas’ adrenaline starts pumping, Chef senses something’s wrong. Chef and Officer Vargas are partners on the streets of Orinda or wherever needed in Lamorinda and Contra



MICHAEL IRELAND

Chef has been helping local police officers keep Orinda citizens safe since 2006.

Costa County. With staff cuts, the two often work overtime providing invaluable protection for local residents.

Some of Chef’s rigorous instruction includes training on boats, being dropped from helicopters, and being in the line of fire. Chef

[SEE CHEF page 8]



SALLY HOGARTY

Colorful dragons welcomed the new library in October of 2001 as attendees enjoyed the traditional Lion’s Dance.

## Congressional Redistricting Places Orinda in New District

By BILL O’BRIAN  
Staff Writer

Orinda residents will have a new United States Congressman representing them starting in January of 2013.

Congressman John Garamendi, who won the election to replace Ellen Tauscher when she went to work for the U.S. State Department, currently represents Orinda. Due to the new congressional districts recently drawn by a bipartisan citizen commission, Orinda will come under Congressman George Miller, who has been a congressman since 1975.

Historically, the state legislature drew up the various district maps every 10 years, but in 2011, a voter approved initiative took the power out of the hands of legislators and gave it to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

According to Barbara Johnson, district director for Congressman Miller’s Concord, Richmond and Vallejo offices, the new redistricting caused more concerns in

Los Angeles where several communities were divided into different congressional districts. The only town in Contra Costa to have that problem is Martinez with Miller’s district including the area south of Highway 4, and Congressman Mike Thompson (Napa Valley) gaining the area north of the highway.

[SEE MILLER page 8]

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LIBRARY GALLERY

# October Gallery: "Like a Rolling Stone" and Birds of the Bay and Beyond

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Gallery's October exhibit features 40 art purses created by Chi Chi Brown – each inspired by a piece of music – and a series of watercolors by Rita Sklar entitled Birds of the Bay and Beyond. At the artist reception on Sunday, October 16 from 3 – 5 p.m., not only will both artists be present, but Sklar has invited representatives of the Golden Gate Audubon Society and Mt. Diablo Audubon Society to share their habitat restoration and conservation efforts and to answer questions about our Bay Area birds. The public is encouraged to join this interesting group while enjoying light refreshments.

Chi Chi Brown is the fourth generation of knitters and sewers in her family hailing from Istanbul, Turkey. She has designed and knitted thousands of garments since

she started in the '80s. Brown's 40 purses took seven years to complete. According to Brown, hand knitting involves transforming silk string into cloth and has become almost a lost art. "It's magical! I enjoy creating purses now rather than wearable garments as they are smaller and more intricate," Brown explains. "Each one opens and closes differently. I dream about them and can't stop knitting; I'm doing my best to save it from being a lost art." Brown's grandmother, who learned from her own mother, began teaching Brown knitting at age five; Brown's own mother was a sewing teacher.

Brown knits with a very thin yarn that is a little bit thicker than sewing thread – "fingering threads." While purses are accessories to a woman's outfit, these purses are small works of art. Designs with titles such as "Forever in Blue Jeans," "Autumn Leaves," "Black or White," "Paint it Black,"



RITA SKLAR

Rita Sklar's "Black Turnstones, a 15" x 22" watercolor, will be among her works at the Orinda Library Gallery.

"Dream On," "Born This Way," and "Like a Rolling Stone" exemplify her love of music. She believes that art brings a community together to create it, and, "We make history with art." Reading about the ongoing archeological dig in Turkey, she notes that the excavation unearthed Hittite art from 2000 years ago. What was once under the soil now inspires artists and designers all over the world. Her message to those who view her work is that she creates with love, devotion, passion and perseverance and hopes people realize that "Anyone can do anything, just start it! Do something you are drawn to and keep doing it!"

Rita Sklar has been painting with watercolors for 15 years and came to it in an unusual way. "My husband and I are very left brain people and realized we should do something right brained. We decided to try [SEE GALLERY page 18]



CHI CHI BROWN

Chi Chi Brown's intricately designed knit purses will be featured in the October gallery show. The one above is called "Like a Rolling Stone."

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President

Business District Changes? Don't Hold Your Breath



Mark Roberts

Thinking back a year, I recall how many Orindans were concerned about the report issued by the Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF) that suggested the adoption of 55 foot height limits for buildings in our business districts. Many residents were aghast at the possibility of such tall buildings being erected in our "semi-rural" community. (I hate to say it but Orinda has been a suburb – albeit a beautiful one – for 40-plus years.)

To be honest, while part of me was heartened to see so many people making their opinions known and taking active roles in promoting or denouncing the adoption of the proposed changes in the PPRTF report, the other part of me smiled and chuckled. While I am still a relatively new resident of Orinda (only 18 years), I've learned enough during that time to know that any

changes would not become obvious for a very long time.

Commercial real estate in Orinda is every bit as valuable a commodity as the residential variety. But while most of us own our own homes, only about eight individuals, families, partnerships or other entities own or control over 90 percent of the land and existing buildings in the business districts. For many of these owners, the rental or lease payments they receive from their business tenants are an extremely significant part of their income. The landlords, for the most part, work hard to maintain and enhance the value of their property and to keep good tenants.

I say "for the most part" because of a recent occurrence that really discouraged me. Trattoria Lupetti, the Roman-themed

[SEE PRESIDENT page 18]

New Orinda Association Board Member

Joe Haughin certainly knows his local community. A resident of Moraga for 13 years prior to moving to Orinda in 1977, Joe and his wife June (who celebrate their 60th anniversary this April) have raised their two children in the Lamorinda area and Joe was an insurance broker for 38 years with Allstate. "I had over 3,000 accounts, before I retired eight years ago," he says. "You definitely get to know the area

After retiring from Allstate, Joe decided he needed more to do and became an independent travel agent. "I really like it. I can work when I want and take time off when I want," Joe comments.

Joe's long-time membership in the Orinda Association led him to offer his services as a board member. "I know the city pretty well and hope that I can come forward with an idea or two," he says.



SALLY HOGARTY

Joe Haughin recently joined the Orinda Association board.

when dealing with so many local people."

Originally from England, Joe also lived in Ireland and Scotland and you can hear a bit of each country in his charming accent. He spent two years in the Royal Air Force as a tuba player in the RAF's band. Still involved with music, Joe plays in the Salvation Army Church band in Concord and is a member of Sacramento's Joyous Brass group.

**The Orinda Association**

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

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

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**The Orinda Association Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Awards are Coming.**

**Send in Your Nominations Today!**

The Orinda Association is currently accepting nominations for the 2011 Volunteer of the Year and the 2011 William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award winner. Please send your nominations to Orinda Association, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563 or email to [oa@orindaassociation.org](mailto:oa@orindaassociation.org).

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## Who is Your Volunteer of the Year?

People in Orinda are known for getting involved. Whether it is a meeting on the future of the downtown area (see box below for upcoming meetings), volunteering to keep Orinda beautiful as our four wonderful garden clubs do, or fundraising for a wide variety of worthwhile causes – including our local schools, local residents let their voices and actions be heard.

Now it is time to recognize those same community members for making Orinda a better place to live. The Orinda Association

is now accepting nominations for the 2011 Volunteer of the Year and the 2011 William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award.

The winners will be featured in the January issue of *The Orinda News* and honored at a gala dinner in January at the Orinda Country Club.

If you have someone you would like to nominate, send your nominee to the Orinda Association, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563 or email to [oa@orindaassociation.org](mailto:oa@orindaassociation.org).

## Letter to the Editor

### Correcting Position

I wish to correct a political position attributed to me in *The Orinda News* (September 2011 issue). The *News* reported that I believe that "Orinda is not the best place to build the senior housing." The article refers to housing for senior citizens -- housing that may be built at 2 Irwin Way in downtown Orinda.

I have always supported construction of the housing in Orinda. I do not support placing the housing in downtown Orinda. The *News* is correct when it quotes me as saying: "Building this project in downtown Orinda will just increase traffic and make

parking worse."

In an August 18, 2011, e-mail letter to Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith and City Manager Janet Keeter, I wrote: "Let me be clear: I support the construction, in Orinda, of housing for low-income senior citizens."

At the July 26 meeting of the Orinda Planning Commission, I stated the same position: the housing should not be built in downtown Orinda. Planning Commissioner George Miers asked me where the housing should be built. I replied that the City of Orinda knows more about the city's geography than I do.

– Richard Colman



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### Downtown Workshops at Local Schools

In an ongoing effort to obtain input from all segments of the Orinda community, the City of Orinda will hold a series of workshops on the future of downtown Orinda through October and early November.

The workshops listed below take place from 7 – 9 p.m. In addition, the city plans on offering daytime workshops. Community members can also make comments through the city's website at [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

- October 3 - Wagner Ranch Elementary School
- October 5 - Sleepy Hollow Elementary School
- October 24 - Dey Rey Elementary School
- November 2 - Glorietta Elementary School

For additional information, call the City Planning Department at 253-4240 or go to the website at [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

## Nor Cal Strollathon Benefits Rett Syndrome Foundation

Ryan and Erica Robertson know first hand the tragedy associated with Rett Syndrome. The Orinda residents' young daughter Avery has the neurological disorder that becomes apparent after 6-18 months of normal development. It results in a regression that leads to lifelong impairments and is often misdiagnosed as cerebral palsy or autism.

"My daughter Avery was diagnosed with

Rett in November 2009, and I got involved with the International Rett Syndrome Foundation (IRSF) soon after because I want to do all I can to help fund the cure that is coming," Erica says. She is one of three regional representatives in California for the IRSF, concentrating on fundraising, awareness and speaking with newly diagnosed families.

Fortunately, the gene that causes Rett

has been identified and recent research shows an actual reversal of the disease in mice. "A newsletter was just sent to parents of children with this disease stating with confidence a treatment for Rett Syndrome will be available in three-five years. This gives us so much hope, and we need to raise funds more than ever."

You can help further this research so that one day humans can be treated as well by participating in the Nor Cal Strollathon taking place at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga on October 2.

For more information, go to [www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/jaime-roder/norcalstrollathon?fge=ask](http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/jaime-roder/norcalstrollathon?fge=ask).

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Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to [news@orindaassociation.org](mailto:news@orindaassociation.org). Letters to the Editor for the November issue are due October 5, 2011.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the December issue is October 20, 2011.

CAR TALK / EARTHQUAKE READINESS

CAR TIME

Repair or Replace?

by JOHN VANEK



Many motorists have no intention of replacing their vehicle any time soon. Buying a car is an expense that you may want to put off for a while. Like my dad always said, "if it's not broke don't fix it." Sometimes the situation may arise when the time to make a decision about the car's destiny will pick you. You can suddenly find yourself at a crossroad when the staggering cost of major car repairs meets the staggering cost of replacing your car. Unfortunately, we do not know if the vehicle may need additional repairs in the future or not. Sometimes when it's broke you really do need to fix it or replace it. Either way there is a decision to be made. A car that needs a major repair like a transmission or engine will have a low resale or trade in value. Either you dump the car for pennies on the dollar or invest more than the blue book value to make it a car again.

Now what to do? We must sit down, look at our options and make an educated decision. Exceeding the blue book value is not the end of the world if you decide that the car is worth keeping. It is usually not worth investing thousands into a used car and then turn around and sell it. You get a better value from your investment if you can get three to five more years of use out of your car. Your vehicle is an investment. When that major failure occurs, you are forced to invest in repairing it or invest in replacing it.

Is your car worth keeping? How much have you spent on your car in the last five years? Do you know the current condition of your car? Are there any "milestone main-

tenance intervals" coming up like a timing belt or spark plugs? How do you stand as far as tires, battery and struts? It may be a good idea to have a complete inspection done prior to making that decision. Consult with your car care provider and discuss the value of your vehicle. Sometimes multiple repairs combined with bad paint or interior will condemn a vehicle.

First, we must ask ourselves, how much do we like our current vehicle? Does it do what we need in a vehicle? Have you thought about what you would replace it with? It is good to do a feasibility study to see if you could really afford a new car. Remember that there are other expenses related to car ownership. The cost of insurance and DMV registration fees will go up drastically when updating your vehicle. If you finance the new vehicle, there will be interest fees that you won't get back. First, make a practical decision on a car that meets your needs. In today's economy, you may have to "dime down" your choice. The cost of replacing your Audi A6 with a Mazda 6 would be much less money compared to another Audi. Look at the total expenses including car payments, increased DMV insurance costs, and bank fees. Compare those costs to the estimate for major repairs on your current car. With higher insurance, DMV fees and interest on payment it will usually be less money to invest in your current car when compared over a five-year period.

Proper maintenance can help avoid major failures and new car decisions. Decide to take good care of your cars first.

Get Ready to Shake-Out With Annual Earthquake Drill

By BRUCE MACLERS  
Contributing Writer

Orinda's schools and emergency responders will again participate in the annual statewide Great California Shake-Out earthquake drill.

On October 20 at 10:20 a.m., it will be "duck, cover and hold" at Orinda Union School District campuses and Miramonte High School. Students and teachers will practice evacuating "damaged" classrooms. Teachers will check their emergency supplies, set up first aid areas, and prepare for mass shelter. They will drill on damage assessment, search and rescue, emergency communications, and site security.

At Miramonte, the students in the sports medicine classes will help with "victim" transport and first aid. Moraga Orinda Fire District will send staff and equipment to the campuses and provide assistance. The Orinda amateur ("ham") radio operators will set up communication stations from Wagner Ranch at the north end of the city to Orinda's emergency operations center at City Hall to MHS at the south end, and track activities.

This annual event finds seven million plus Californians dusting off their emergency plans and trying them out.

Are you ready? More information can be found at [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org).



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OLIVE FESTIVAL / BREAST CANCER EVENT

# Second Annual Olive Festival Scheduled for October 2

By FRAN MILLER  
Staff Writer

Toris Jaeger, naturalist and teacher for the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (FWRNA), is fairly certain she makes a difference in the lives of local students. She knows because they tell her. "One of the students expressed how being in the nature area made him feel at peace," says Jaeger. "He told me that after being in the nature area that he could go back to class and sit still again."

Jaeger was the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA) naturalist for the Orinda Union School District until budget cuts eliminated the position in 2009. The dedicated nature lover decided to retire from the school district and continue her work at WRNA through the Friends organization. She is currently preparing for the second annual Olive Festival scheduled for October 2.

For Jaeger, the festival brings the Wag-

ner's olive grove back to life. "It connects Orinda students to the Wagner Family who once lived on the land. Their fruit orchards, Monterey pines, Cyprus, eucalyptus and the beautiful redwood tree are their legacy to the students of Orinda," says Jaeger. "The olive grove speaks volumes about the foresight of the Wagner family, and today, with the help of FWRNA, we can once again bring the grove back to life by producing olive oil the same way the Wagner family did 129 years ago."

The free event celebrates the Nature Area's heritage olive grove, planted by California's first Surveyor General — Theodore Wagner in 1882. As symbols of peace and prosperity, olive trees provide a perfect theme for the day's festivities and living history.

Nadine Barroca, treasurer for the FWRNA since 2009, has been active in helping to plan this year's Olive Festival. "We will have cooking demonstrations by local chefs, a silent auction, a raffle of



BILL HUDSON

One of the many events at last year's Olive Festival was this "Pit Spitting" contest.

dinners and gift certificates from local restaurants and businesses, olive games, olive themed arts and crafts, olive tastings, and we are hoping to have demonstrations of the pressing of olives," says Barroca. "We'll also have music by Academy of Language and Music Arts (ALMA) and others, as well as local artists in the garden and more!"

FWRNA's Olive Festival fundraising goal is \$15,000 — to help replenish funds for the Nature Area programs and to preserve the 40-year tradition of teaching Orinda children about the environment and how their ancestors lived in close contact with nature. FWRNA provides to Orinda school students programs such as Pioneer Days, Rancho Days, Native American Studies, Animal Studies, and First Thanksgiving.

"The Nature Area is 18 acres of extraordinary natural and historic resources complemented by facilities and programs that build upon each other as students move through elementary school," says Barroca. "In addition to being the home site of Theodore Wagner, it has several different ecological communities, including grass-

land, pond, oak forest and riparian. It has numerous trails, areas where a teacher can gather the class, a kitchen and barbecues, and a permanent rain shelter. Programs tailored to the site are available to teachers of all grades. The Nature Area is an amazing and unique resource available to this community, and its history is important."

"The WRNA is the launching pad for many student's experiences in nature," says Jaeger. "Students will go on in life to have many more adventures in nature, but WRNA is special because it is in their community, and it represents a variety of flora and fauna for them to study. They learn to observe, to make connections to nature and to the other students around them. This process leads to a love of nature and a desire to protect for now and the future, WRNA, their nature area."

The Olive Festival is free to all and takes place Sunday, October 2, 1-4 p.m. at the WRNA, next to the Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda; 350 Camino Pablo, on the SE corner of Bear Creek Road and Camino Pablo.

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## October Event Highlights Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Dedicated to making strides against breast cancer, Orinda resident Dr. Tiffany Svahn and Diablo Valley Oncology will partner with the American Cancer Society, the Cancer Support Community, and AstraZeneca to present "The Many Faces of Breast Cancer." The free event will be held at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek on Saturday, October 15, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This educational event focuses on the unique needs and issues of survivors as

well as providing the latest information on breast cancer. Heather Quarterman from KKDV 92.1 FM will be the moderator with medical experts speaking on issues affecting survivors and offering insight into treatment options and lifestyle changes that can help with rehabilitation. While there is no charge for the event, seating is limited and reservations are suggested. Call 925-677-5041, ext. 260.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

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FIRE / POLICE

# Lamorinda Wildfire Forum Scheduled for October 12

By JONATHAN GOODWIN  
Contributing Writer

On October 20, 1991 Oakland, California suffered one of the most devastating fires in United States history. The fire began around 10:40 a.m. but could not be brought under control until the late afternoon. In the first hour, one home ignited every five seconds and most of the eventual 25 fatalities had occurred during the course of a desperate evacuation. By the time it was over, there were over 1,000 injuries, more than 3,000 residences were lost and the damage was estimated at \$1.5 billion in 1991 dollars.

That tragic event is a grim reminder that although fire fighting technology had advanced mightily up to that time and has further improved since, some fires in densely populated areas simply will not be susceptible to rapid fire suppression.

Since 1991, the City of Oakland, CAL FIRE as well as other agencies, municipalities and communities have taken steps to mitigate the potential damage of future catastrophic fires. Meanwhile, CAL FIRE has identified areas in Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga as being Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. What can Lamorinda learn from the efforts of these other groups? What mitigation actions are being undertaken in Lamorinda right now? What can you do to assist local fire mitigation policy formation and implementation

activities?

A panel of experts will attempt to answer these questions on Wednesday, October 12, at 7 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium. The evening begins with a commemoration of those who perished in the 1991 Firestorm — 23 civilians plus OFD Battalion Chief James Riley and OPD Officer John Grubensky. Speakers for the event include: CAL FIRE unit chief Steve Woodill and special assistant to Oakland Mayor Jean Quan; Sue Piper (Firestorm survivor); and a representative from the Berkeley Fire Department, who will discuss policy and implementation lessons, changes and remaining challenges they've been working on over the past 20 years. The program will conclude with Moraga-Orinda Fire Chief Randy Bradley presenting the initiatives the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has been undertaking to mitigate local hazards. The newly hired Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Dennis Rein, will also be introduced. Rein was formerly the fire chief for East Bay Parks.

The Lamorinda Wildfire Forum is supported by the Canyon Fire Council, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission, the Orinda Citizen Corps Council and Lamorinda CERT. The purpose of the program is to provide a basis for future wildfire policy discussions in Lamorinda.

For more information on the October 12 forum, email CanyonFire@VFEmail.net.

# OCF Accepting Grant Applications



MARK ROBERTS  
Orinda Community Foundation board members: (L-R) **Richard Westin** (president), **Sue Severson** (founding trustee), **Susan Vandegrift** (secretary), **Carol Penskar** (treasurer), and **Dick Burkhalter** (vice president).

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) has been enhancing the quality of life in Orinda for the past two years. It supports a variety of community events including the Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament, Orinda In Action Community Service Day, and the NorCal Kids Triathlon. In addition, the OCF partnered with the Orinda Associa-

tion for this year's 4th of July parade.

The OCF is currently accepting applications for grants to nonprofit organizations. To obtain a grant application or to learn more about the organization, go to [www.orindafoundation.org](http://www.orindafoundation.org).

— Sally Hogarty, Editor



# POLICE BLOTTER

August 2011

**False Residential Alarms:** Officers responded to 123 false alarm calls throughout the city.

**Burglary – Auto:** 7 incidents were reported on Risa Ct., Orchard Rd. (2), Tahos Rd. (2), Camino Sobrante and Muth Dr.

**Burglary – Residential:** 4 incidents were reported on Ivy Dr. and Glorietta Blvd., Ravenhill Rd. and Keith Dr.

**Domestic Violence:** 1 incident was reported on Crestview Dr.

**Grand Theft – From Vehicle:** 1 incident was reported on La Cresta Rd.

**Petty Theft – From Vehicle:** 1 incident was reported on Via Hermosa.

**Stolen Vehicle:** 1 vehicle was stolen on La Cintilla.

**Vandalism – Felony:** 2 incidents were reported on El Nido Ranch Rd./ St. Stephens Dr. and Zander Dr.

**Arrests**

**Battery - Misdemeanor:** 1 arrest was made on Orinda Way.

**Counterfeit – Possession of Counterfeit Bill:** 1 arrest was made on Orinda Way.

**Domestic Violence:** 1 arrest was made on Crestview Dr.

**Drugs - Under the Influence:** 1 arrest was made on La Cresta Rd.

**Receiving Stolen Property:** 1 arrest was made on Orinda Way.

**Warrant Arrest:** 3 arrests were made on Moraga Way, Keith Dr. and Ardilla Rd. @ Camino Pablo.

**Orinda BART Station**

None

— Compiled by Jeanette Irving,  
Orinda Police Department



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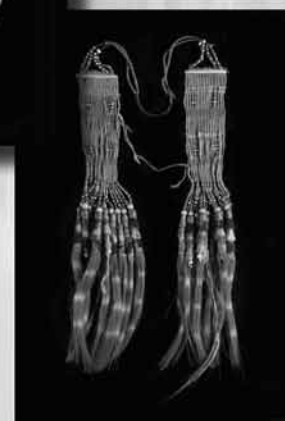
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## Sister City Foundation Hosts Nor Cal Conference

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

The Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation will host the 36th Northern California Sister Cities International Conference on October 28 and 29 at the Orinda Community Center. The keynote speaker is Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Gao Zhansheng.

"It will be an exceptionally great conference this year," says Foundation member Bobbie Landers. "Participants will be educated, informed and have some fun, too."

The conference begins with a beer fest and barbeque at Landers' home on Friday

evening, giving attendees a chance to meet and mingle. The conference begins on Saturday at 8 a.m. with a breakfast, followed by speakers at 9 a.m. In addition to the Consul General, a Hayward Sister City representative will talk about an Afghanistan success story, and Olympian Rink A. Babka and pilot Bud Burke will discuss motivational strategies. Workshops on fundraising, youth program opportunities, city problem solving will also take place as well as informational booths by the various sister city organizations participating.

For more information on the conference and a registration application, email Landers at [bobbilanders@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbilanders@yahoo.com).



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### ◆ LIBRARY from page 1

puts a smile on your face. Both these programs are chosen because of the popularity of their music in past performances."

The Friends will hold their regular monthly book sale on October 6 in the sorting room from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. but, in honor of the 10th anniversary, they have added a special sale of children's books on October 8 in the Book Shop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Book sales bring in an average of \$1,000," says Pam Pulley, who has headed up the sorting group since 2002. "I love it. It's fascinating to see the wide variety of books donated and to find a favorite book or author. We have all ages in the sorting room, and we have a good time together," she continues. "Gladys Siefert, our cookbook specialist, is 94 years old. In the Book Shop and at our sales, books are in categories so patrons can find them easily." Pulley adds that the group is always looking for more volunteers and encourages anyone interested to contact her at [pampulley@comcast.net](mailto:pampulley@comcast.net). Book donations can be left at the entrance to the sorting room located in the parking garage.

Anniversary activities actually began in mid-September and continued through the month as patrons were invited to visit the library and create messages in pictures or in words portraying "Why I Love the Orinda Library." The messages will be displayed at the library beginning October 1.

An exhibit of photographs entitled "Ten Years of Library Fun" will document the many activities that have taken place at the library since 2001. Caroline Gick, senior community library manager of the Orinda Library, says, "Look to find familiar

faces of friends, library staff, performances you've seen, or maybe even yourself. Three of our staff, Lin Look, Margott Abbott, and Dolores Mraz, have been with us since this building opened."

Services have expanded since the library opened in its new location, most significantly in the digital arena. There are now 23 computers and a number of printers for public use. "We have research capabilities for which you don't even have to come to the library, but may access with your Smartphone or iPhone," Gick says.

Programs have also been expanded with the summer reading series and the summer music series, which featured music from around the world. The Lamorinda Reads program is in its fifth year. Each year the three communities select a book that residents read and the local libraries plan events around. This year's selection is *Carter Beats the Devil* by San Francisco author Glen David Gold. Copies of the murder mystery set in the 1920s are available at Lamorinda libraries. A magic show on September 22 kicked off the reading program with the Neeley's Rhythm Aces performing 1920's tunes on October 19 at the Orinda Library. On November 1 at 7 p.m., author Glen David Gold will speak at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

The expanded services, programs and beautiful facility have certainly proven to be very popular with the community. The latest figures available, 2009 to 2010, show on average that 8,664 patrons visit the library each month, with 263,244 items checked out. According to library records, 73 percent of Orindans have library cards.

For more information on the 10th anniversary celebration, call the Orinda Library at 254-2184 or go to [www.cclib.org](http://www.cclib.org).

### ◆ CHEF from page 1

sniffs out the bad guys from high weeds and places difficult for Vargas to see. Chef is an important asset as he uses his abilities to track high-risk criminal suspects as well as missing persons, seek out evidence related to a crime, conduct building and area searches in an emergency or disaster, and offer extra protection for police officers in the field.

Chef's training has come in handy on many occasions including a recent report about a suspect breaking into garages and cars. When police arrived at the scene, the suspect ran away. The officers gave chase but lost the suspect in a large area with waist-high shrubbery. Chef continued the chase and tracked the suspect through the shrubbery. Upon locating him, Chef bit the suspect and held him until Vargas caught up and put the suspect in handcuffs.

When Chef waits for Vargas in their specially equipped car, and the temperature rises, the windows automatically close and the air conditioning starts.

In addition to his law enforcement duties,



ROGER CANADY  
Chef with Officer Vargas during training.

Chef is an important community relation's tool, often giving demonstrations at public education and safety events as well as local schools. To arrange for Chef and Officer Vargas to come to your event or school for an informative and fun K-9 demonstration, call 925-254-6820.

### ◆ MILLER from page 1

Johnson, who divides her time between Miller's three offices, says, "Folks are not shy about getting in touch with us. Citizen concerns arrive in the form of personal visits, emails, letters and phone calls." She adds that often people have problems dealing with various federal agencies and that Congressman Miller and his staff "work to improve communication" between the government and the people. According to Johnson, the congressman returns to his district "almost every weekend" to attend meetings, public events, and to talk with his constituents.

Congressman Miller's long tenure in

politics includes helping craft President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and being one of three committee chairmen who wrote and passed the Affordable Health Care for America Act. He is also the ranking member of the Education and Labor committees.

Back in 1973, democrat Ron Dellums represented Orinda, but when the district lines were re-drawn due to the census, republican Bill Baker won the seat. Ellen Tauscher defeated Baker, and when she moved to the State Department to work with Hillary Clinton, John Garamendi won her seat on November 5, 2009. Congressman Miller is up for re-election in November 2012.



SENIORS AROUND TOWN

# Dedicated Seniors Around Town Coordinator Retires



SALLY HOGARTY

(L-R) Orinda Association president **Mark Roberts**, Seniors Around Town staffers **Marie Waterman**, **Kate Wiley**, **Jen Villafane**, and retiring member **Eartha Newsong**.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

For the past six years, Eartha Newsong has greeted volunteer drivers and riders with a cheery hello as she diligently worked to secure seniors an all-important ride to medical appointments and other activities. Now, however, the former volunteer medical missionary to Pakistan and public health worker in the Bay Area has retired as the coordinator of the Orinda Association's (OA) Seniors Around Town program. But visitors to the OA office will still see Newsong's smiling face from time to time as she continues to volunteer for the organization.

"I have so enjoyed the senior transportation meetings I have attended over the years, and I especially enjoyed working with so many wonderful volunteer drivers," says Newsong. "They are always so willing to help – just a wonderful, devoted team of volunteers." Newsong says she loved matching drivers with particular riders as well. "We have so many Orinda seniors who rely on Seniors Around Town, and I would try and match up drivers and riders that I thought would also enjoy each other's company. Often, warm friendships would occur."

Newsong has left the program in good hands. Kate Wiley, who founded the senior rides program, continues as director with Newsong's fellow coordinator, Marie Waterman, also on hand to take care of riders needs. Joining the team is Orinda resident, Jen Villafane. A recent college graduate, Villafane began volunteering in the OA office last year and is also a volunteer driver for the program. In addition, Villafane has volunteered with Orinda's Winter Nights program and at the Crisis Center in Concord.

The Seniors Around Town program currently has close to 50 drivers and almost 100 riders. "We are always in need of new drivers as our program continues to grow," says Wiley. "We make the program as convenient as possible for our volunteer drivers. They tell us which days, times, locations, how often and even what types of rides they prefer to give."

The program is funded through various grants and the generosity of individual donors as well as fundraisers such as the Orinda Motors Classic Car Show. "We are really grateful to Orinda Motors and the other organizations and individuals who keep this vital program alive," Wiley adds. "This free ride service helps seniors live independently in their own home much longer, keeping them a vital part of our community."

## Seniors Around Town

Seniors are encouraged to register for the Orinda Association's senior rides program, which provides door-to-door transportation for medical appointments and more. Volunteer drivers, who must be 25 years of age or older, furnish the rides using their own vehicles. Drivers are carefully screened and participate in an orientation and training program.

For more information on registering as a driver or a rider, call 925-402-4506 or go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) and click on Seniors Around Town.



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## Orinda Offers War, Vampires and... Armadillos?

By TOM WESTLAKE  
Staff Writer

The month of October is a transitory time and this is particularly true in Orinda, cinematically speaking. Efi Lubliner and Jo Alice Canterbury of the International Film Showcase, have done it again and discovered another unappreciated gem from their many travels to various film festivals. The nature of this month's film, however, differs from previous selections. Unlike *Loose Cannons*, an Italian "family" dramedy, and *Autumn Spring*, a Czechoslovakian film centering its theme on aging and not going gently into that dark night, the October selection is grounded in one of the darker periods in our history.

*The Man Who Will Come* (L'uomo che verrà) is based on the 1944 Monte Sole massacre in which more than 770 men, women and children were killed by the invading Germans. Told through a child's eyes, it is, despite its subject matter, a film about hope and continuance with none of the trappings of a typical Hollywood film. Lubliner and Canterbury are confident that viewers moved by such films as *Schindler's List* will find this latest presentation well worthwhile.

While the actual premier happens on October 21, a special event took place on September 22. At that time, a 6:30 p.m. screening was followed by a symposium entitled "The Man Who Will Come: A Conversation about Remembering the Monte Sole Massacre of 1944." Italian director/actor Germano Maccioni also spoke about his experience in the making of the film.

October also heralds the beginning of the holiday season. In the months previ-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Greta Zuccheri Montanari** portrays the young girl in *The Man Who Will Come* playing October 21 - 27 at the Orinda Theatre.

ous, holidays and celebrations were as rare as rain, but this new month begins (or in this case, ends) with the first in a series of notable events around the various festive days to come. Just in time for Halloween, the Rheem Theatre will screen the 1931 classic *Dracula* featuring the now iconic Bela Lugosi.

Did you know there were vampires before Joss Whedon and Stephanie Meyers-or even Anne Rice- made them a household staple or that armadillos are native to Transylvania? Fans of the genre will enjoy the historical significance, not to mention the relative naiveté that this early film represents.

*Dracula* screens on October 21. For more information on this film, as well as all the events planned at both the Rheem and Orinda Theatres (including Jan Wahl's Reel Series), go to <http://lamorindatheatres.com>.

## Orinda Hometown Dancer Cheers for Cal

Orinda resident Emily Swarts is one of this year's 16-member Cal Dance Team performing at UC Berkeley's football and basketball games. Due to construction at Memorial Stadium, Cal is playing all of its home games at AT&T Park in San Francisco this year.

Emily attended Glorietta Elementary, Orinda Intermediate School, and Miramonte High School before finishing high school at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts.

She started dancing at age four and studied at Lamorinda Ballet Center (formerly in Moraga) and the San Francisco Ballet School. The UC Berkeley dance team began eight-hour a day practices in late July and continues to practice nine hours a week during the school year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Emily Swarts**, who started dancing at age four, is a part of U.C. Berkeley's dance team.

## Orinda Jazz Festival Benefits Victims of Hurricane Irene



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Mads Tolling** (L), two time Grammy award-winner, performed at the first Orinda Jazz Festival. His guitarist and fellow band member **Mike Abraham** is on the right.

An impressive array of international, regional and local musicians came together on September 18 at the Orinda Theatre to help the victims of Hurricane Irene. The evening also included performances by Orinda Idol winners.

Proceeds from the event also benefited the Orinda Arts Council, which provides a plethora of arts programs in the local schools and community, and to upgrade the theater's sound and digital systems.


- Sally Hogarty, Editor



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**Fall Favorite Fifteen!**  
BARBARA KOB SAR

It's time to take stock of what Orinda's fall market has to offer – and it's plenty. There are still tables filled with strawberries, melons and summer squash but October brings with it **Fall's Favorite Fifteen** at the Farmers' Market.

Robin Pastor from Smith Farms in Knightsen got off to a late tomato season due to cool weather but that will hopefully extend the season of **fresh picked tomatoes** at the market. Black Russian, Brandywine, Green Zebra and Gold Jubilee are earmarked as some of the favorite heirloom varieties at Robin's stand along with Big Beef and Romas, but it's always a good idea to check in to see what's new for the week.

Visit Felipe at the Ruvalcaba Nursery stand for a custom made bouquet of **fresh cut flowers** or choose from more than a dozen different varieties he brings from their nursery in Prunedale (Monterey County). A bunch of roses adds charm and beauty to our homes, but this time of year be sure to take advantage of glorious gladiolas, sunflowers, calla lilies and marigolds.

The **information booth** is a great place to find free recipes, and complimentary *Edible East Bay* magazine. If you're looking for a sturdy shopping basket or reusable, washable cloth, EcoBags manager Janice Faust has a supply for sale at the booth.

**Padron Peppers** are one of the new stars at the market. Dik Archer from Groundsel's Westgarden is picking these mild flavored chile peppers from the 600 plants he tends at his gardens in American Canyon. Simple preparation is best – toss padrons (stems on) in a generous amount of olive oil, add to hot frying pan and stir while quickly cooking until blisters form on the skin and the peppers are light brown (about 90 seconds). Serve on a plate, sprinkle with coarse salt and hold by the stem to eat and enjoy! You'll also find delightful bundles of **fresh lavender**, and your favorite Halloween **pumpkin** at this stand!

**Cage free eggs** are available every week. Effie sells Great Valley Poultry white and brown eggs by the dozen and half dozen. She's happy to recycle the egg cartons too!

Dry farm practices produce intense-flavored fruits like the **Bartlett pears** from Alhambra Valley Farms in Martinez. The key to dry farming is cultivation – the soil

is turned about 1 inch deeper each time to bring the moisture to the surface. Visit Bill to get your supply of these luscious pears – choose from ready-to-eat pears to pears that will last the week.

**Apples** are at their best during the fall. Rainbow Orchards brings juicy, crisp Gala and Golden Delicious apples from their orchards in Apple Hill, a region of the Sierra Nevada foothills. They're also famous for fresh apple cider so stop by for a taste!

Jim McKeown from McKeown Farms



**Pomegranates** are one of the treats available at the Farmers' Market this fall.

brings hard-to-find **quince** to the Orinda market. The easiest way to cook quince is to bake them whole. Gently scrub off any remaining fuzz from the skin and remove the core. Place in a baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes or until tender. To serve sprinkle with a little cinnamon and cloves. Cooking rid the quince of its fibrous, dry astringent tasting flesh to offer a sweet, aromatic, delicate pink colored fruit. Jim's also featuring his shelled and unshelled new harvest **walnuts** this month.

Ledesma Farms continues to offer **freshly dug potatoes** and a variety of **peppers**. White and red variety potatoes come to market with a little of the earth still hanging on, just adding to the appeal of this favorite fall-time root vegetable – add to soups, stews or hearty salads.

Bunches of **grapes** are still sweet and crisp at the J & J stand. To keep grapes at their best be sure to store them in the refrigerator, unwashed in a plastic bag – they'll

keep for 4 to 5 days.

**Pomegranates** are a fall treat. Pomegranate juice may be sipped directly from the fruit. Roll the fruit on a hard surface, poke a small hole in the skin and insert a straw. If extracting the pomegranate juice to make jelly, cut the fruit in half crosswise and squeeze on a juicer. (Wear old clothes since the juice is indelible).

The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Center Park and Rite Aid. Market remains open every Saturday until November 19. For more information visit the website at [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

*Barbara Kobsar, The Seasoned Shopper, can be reached at [cotkitchen@aol.com](mailto:cotkitchen@aol.com).*

**Olive, Pomegranate and Walnut Salad**

- 2 large pomegranates
- 1 cup green olives, stoned and chopped
- Bunch of cilantro leaves, chopped
- 6 to 8 scallions, chopped
- 1 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped

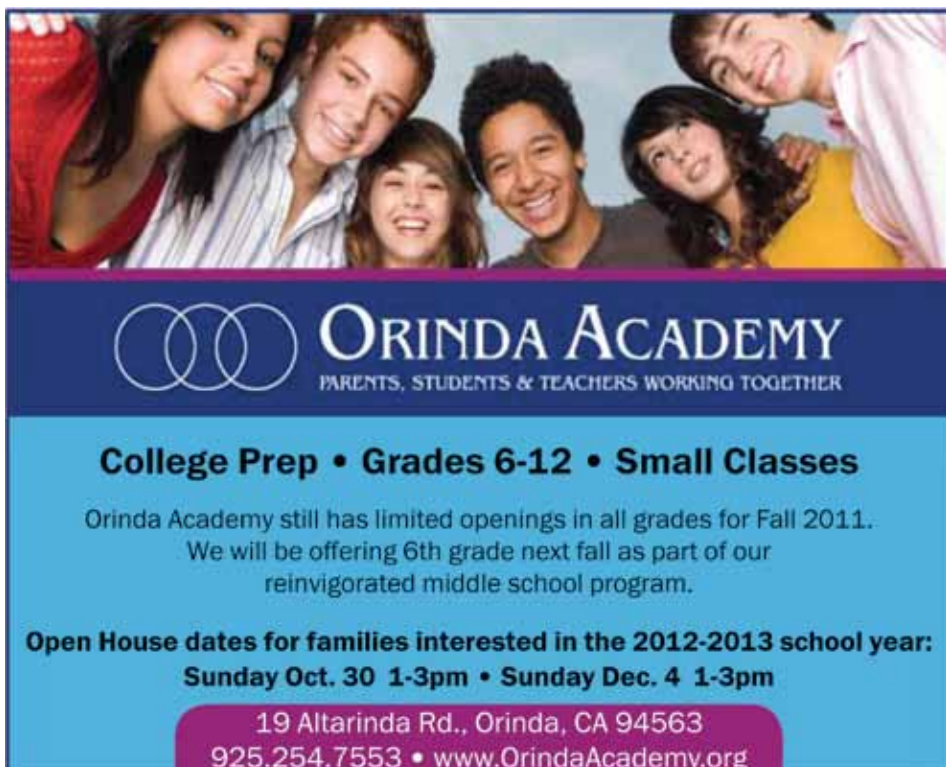
**Dressing:**

- One and one half tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- Pinch of pepper
- Salt to taste

Cut open the pomegranates and extract the seeds. Combine with the olives, cilantro, scallions and walnuts.

Make dressing by combining the remaining ingredients. Pour over the salad, toss and serve. Serves 4.





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## Move of the Month

### Lateral Crunch on Stability Ball



Place hip on stability ball. Anchor feet against wall if needed. Hands behind



head. Raise torso until parallel to floor and lower back down.

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or [www.thelivingleanprogram.com](http://www.thelivingleanprogram.com).

## Orinda Resident Conducts Musica Sacra

Music director and Orinda resident John Kendall Bailey leads the Walnut Creek-based Voice of Musica Sacra in a concert celebrating the centenary of French composer Jehan Alain. The group performs at Saint Mary's College Chapel in Moraga on October 22 at 2 p.m. and at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Walnut Creek on October 23 at 2 p.m.

This year marks Bailey's sixth season with the community chamber chorus. The October concerts will also feature such local professional musicians as soprano Christa Pfeiffer, flutist Priscilla Essert, cellist Margaret Moores, organist John R.S. Walko, and timpanist John Gilbert as well as high school string players from the Oakland Youth Orchestra, where Bailey is the associate conductor.

For more tickets to the concerts, call 800-838-3006 or go to [www.brownpaper-tickets.com](http://www.brownpaper-tickets.com).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
John Kendall Bailey directs Voices of Musica Sacra.

## Contra Costa Children's Chorus Now in Lafayette



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Advanced Performing Chorus of Contra Costa Children's Chorus.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor


Local resident Martin Benvenuto certainly keeps busy. He is the artistic director of the popular WomenSing and begins his first year as the artistic director of Contra Costa Children's Chorus (CCCC).

Now in its 28th season, the organization provides choral music education to children, ages 7-18, in Contra Costa County and performance opportunities throughout the Bay Area and beyond. The talented

young singers have performed at the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York and the opening ceremonies of the 2008 summer Olympics in Beijing, China.

In September, the chorus relocated to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. "For the past 19 years, we were at the Acalanes Adult Center in Walnut Creek," says CCCC's finance manager Kathy McCann. "But that site is being demolished so we have moved to Lafayette. We are very excited to share our love of vocal music

[SEE CHORUS page 16]



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## STANFORD WOMEN'S CLUB

## Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay Active in Orinda

By VALERIE HOTZ  
Staff Writer

One of the oldest of the Stanford University alumni clubs, the Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay (SWCEB), is recognizing its 90th anniversary this year. With a focus on community building and raising funds to provide scholarship opportunities for East Bay women to attend Stanford University, the group is open to women friends of the university, as well as its alumnae.

"The thing that means a lot to me is that this group of women is interested in what is going on in the world, and they are interested in you as well. It is very inclusive and very welcoming of new people. It is not necessary to be affiliated with Stanford to become a member. Our meetings are coordinated to accommodate working people," says current president Joan White, a longtime Orinda resident.

A passion for lifelong learning is a common denominator among all the members, with continuing education being the focus of various special interest groups that include the Travel Group, various Book Groups, the Foodies Group, the Bridge Group and the Women's Group. Christie Batterman Jordan hosts the Women's Group monthly meeting in her Orinda home throughout the year, featuring a special speaker series on topics related to women in transition. "I have discovered that many women are going through major transitions in their lives these days. The speakers in this series offer thought-provoking issues for consideration," says Jordan. The Foodie

group is activity based and meets monthly. This year's activities have included a sushi making demonstration, cookie baking, and excursions to Cowgirl Creamery in Petaluma and Bill Niman's private ranch in West Marin. SWCEB is diverse, with the oldest member at age 94 and the youngest in her early 20's.

The organization hosts annual fall and spring luncheons featuring faculty speakers on a wide range of fascinating topics. On October 12, Tom Andriacchi, a professor of biomechanical engineering and orthopedics will deliver his presentation, "The Biomechanics of Movement," which should be of special interest to weekend warriors. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and is hosted at the Claremont Country Club. Reservations may be made online at [www.alumni.stanford.edu/goto/swceb](http://www.alumni.stanford.edu/goto/swceb).

"Earlier this year Larry Diamond, MA, PhD, Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute and the Hoover Institute, and Professor of Political Science and Sociology, spoke on emerging democracies in today's world, with a perspective on democracies developing after internal conflict. He gave an excellent presentation," adds White.

While the Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay comes under the umbrella of the Stanford Alumni Association, membership is open to individuals who are not graduates of the university. "We are an inclusive organization. Mothers and spouses of students, and friends of the university are welcome," says Barbara Ward, former president and Orinda resident. It is one of the oldest, largest and most active of the Stanford alumni groups. "The alumni



Past president **Corinda Barbour** (L) passes the gavel to current president **Joan White**, both long-time Orinda residents. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

association appreciates our emphasis first and foremost on building community. Raising funds to enable East Bay women to attend Stanford is the icing on the cake. For the 2010-11 academic year, \$87,199 was awarded in scholarship funding to three different East Bay students to enable them to attend Stanford," adds Ward. Since 1952, SWCEB has provided 180 scholarships to 165 undergraduate women.

The annual SWCEB "Books on Re-

view" event, slated for Thursday, January 26, 2012 at the Shadelands Art Center in Walnut Creek, is usually a sellout, with 100 percent of the profits supporting the scholarship program. "It is a book lover's dream," says Linda Landau, SWCEB treasurer. "Each year we invite four great authors to speak about their book. We work with Janet Boreta, owner of Orinda Books, who stocks the books at the luncheon and

[SEE STANFORD page 18]

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## Restaurant Walk for AAUW Tech Trek Camp Scholarships

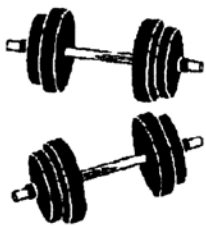
On Tuesday, October 11 from 6-9 p.m., enjoy a delightful evening stroll while sampling the delicious foods from 23 Walnut Creek dining establishments. Gather your friends for a great night out and do a good deed for Lamorinda girls. Taste substantial treats from the following restaurants: Massimo, Salvatore, Buckhorn Grill, PF Chang's, Walnut Creek Yacht Club, 1515 Restaurant and Lounge, Lift Lounge and Grill, McCovey's, Babalu's Mediterranean, Silk Road Mediterranean, Kacha Thai Bistro, Lettuce, Modern China Café, Tiki Tom's, Skipolini's Pizza, Tomatina, The Pizza Place, Hubcaps, Home

of Chicken and Waffles, Walnut Creek Baking Co., San Francisco Creamery, Coco Swirl, and Peet's Coffee and Tea.

The cost is \$30 per ticket (\$15 from each ticket is tax-deductible), and proceeds of AAUW ticket sales will send Lamorinda 7th grade girls to AAUW (American Association of University Women) Tech Trek Science and Math Camp, a week-long, residential camp on a California college campus. Last year's campers attended Stanford or UC Davis. For tickets call N. Kornfield 376-7387, or send your \$30 check payable to AAUW-OML to N. Kornfield 21 Ashbrook Place, Moraga, CA 94556.

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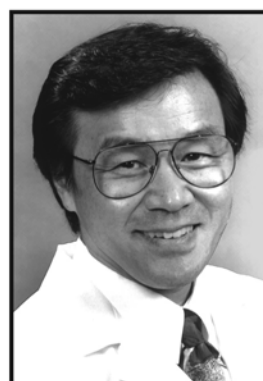
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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

CYO Thanks Athletic Director for Years of Service

After 10 years of service and commitment, Mike Pietrykowski is stepping down as the athletic director of Orinda's Santa Maria's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball league. "Thanks to the vision of Mike and other past and current senior board members, Santa Maria's CYO presence has grown to 34 teams, including several Diocese championship teams, and includes 332 girls and boys from 3rd to 8th grade," says Chris Lang.

"We want to thank Mike for his time and his energy and, most importantly, for his commitment to the youth of Orinda through his appreciation for team sports, and especially the sport of basketball," Lang adds. "In no small part because of Mike, our kids have grown



**Mike Pietrykowski.** physically, emotionally and spiritually as members of the CYO family."

Pumpkin Patches and More at Local Schools

It's that time of the year again when Orinda's elementary schools put together their annual Pumpkin Patches, Fun Fests, and Round-Ups. Not only are these events a lot of fun, they also raise needed funds for local schools.

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School's Pumpkin Patch takes place October 15 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and features classic carnival games, bouncy houses, a rock climbing wall, bungee trampoline, and even a dunk tank, to name just a few of the fun activities planned. "Of course, we have our popular 'spooktacular' haunted house and this year it will feature some zombies," says Lisa Rodriguez. There will also be a cake walk, face painting, lots of good food and, of course, lots of pumpkins.

Del Rey Elementary will also hold its Pumpkin Patch on October 15, noon - 4 p.m., and Glorietta is busy preparing for its Fun Fest on that date as well from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. On October 22 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wagner Ranch Elementary will present its Round Up Carnival, full of lots of fun activities.

All of the above events are the result of each school's hard-working parents club. For more information, go to the district's website at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org) or call the individual schools at the following numbers: Del Rey (258-3099); Glorietta (254-8770); Sleepy Hollow (254-8711), and Wagner Ranch (258-0016).

- Sally Hogarty, Editor

Orinda Girls Sing Their Way Through Denmark

By DANUSIA ZARODA  
Contributing Writer

Vest meets West: this was the slogan for the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir tour to Denmark and Sweden this summer. Two Orinda girls, Lucy Baker and Alina Whatley, traveled to Herning, Denmark with 40 other young singers from all over the East Bay. There they continued a friendship with the MidtVest Pigeekor (Midwest Girls' Choir) that has been built up over regular exchange between California and Denmark, beginning three years ago at the Golden Gate Choral Festival, an international children's and youth festival and competition hosted by the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir.

Though the choir tours extensively, with destinations as varied as Finland and Estonia, China and Singapore, Slovenia and Italy, and are often hosted by other children's choirs, Whatley notes that this tour and week long stay in Herning was particularly special. "This is the closest we have gotten to a sister choir, because we were able to spend more time with them. They were eager to share their lives and to show how Danish people live. It was so nice to find kindred spirits so far away." The two choirs learned songs in each other's languages so that they could sing together, performing music in Danish, Swedish, English and Finnish. Baker added that she was looking forward to hosting MidtVest Pigeekor when that choir comes to California during their October school break.

Both girls agreed that the highlights of the trip included visiting the oldest and largest Legoland, singing in the Cathedral in Viborg, Denmark, and performing in Blido Church on the Island of Blido in Sweden. Musical performances are a tradition during the summer, and the girls noted "it was so awesome to sing before a crowd of people who really appreciate music and who really got into our performance."

Whatley, who attends Bentley School in Lafayette, has sung with the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir for over seven years, and Baker, a Miramonte student, has sung with the choir for over six years. They both positively bubble over with enthusiasm about their choral experiences. "You get to work with some of the best vocal coaches in the Bay Area," says Whatley. "Also, you get a general appreciation of music that you wouldn't experience in school or musicals or even other children's choirs. We sing both modern and traditional pieces. We have pieces commissioned especially for us, and we get to hear from the composer what they were thinking when they were



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Alina Whatley and Lucy Baker** traveled to Denmark and Sweden singing with the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir.

composing. That is a really cool experience."

Baker agrees. "Choir really broadens your musical horizons. Music speaks to me now in different ways because of coming up through the choir, learning a lot of music theory along the way." Whatley adds, "Choir promotes the development of good singing habits from day one and developing your choral voice helps with stage presence. It's more fun than voice lessons because you have to learn to listen to and blend with others, and besides, you are singing with friends you have had for years!"

Indeed, the friendships made with girls from all over the East Bay are often cited as being as important as the music itself. "In choir," says Baker, "you make life-long friends, and life-long memories, often with girls that are really different from you. It's like a brain explosion! There are no boring people in choir!" Both girls cite the supportive and creative environment, and working intensely with a common purpose as bringing so much satisfaction to their experiences.

"The choir is a great experience for anyone who wants to learn about other cultures, and themselves, and music - all at the same time," states Whatley.

Started in 1982 by artistic director Robert Geary and founding executive director Susan Rahl, the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir has established itself as a leading force in international choral activities. The choir has performed with the Oakland East Bay Symphony, Berkeley Symphony, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Volti, The Mark Morris Dance Group, and more. Its comprehensive music curriculum offers students age 4-18 the chance to progress through a series of training choirs to professional-level performing groups. For more information on the choir, go to [www.piedmontchoirs.org](http://www.piedmontchoirs.org), or call 510-547-4441.

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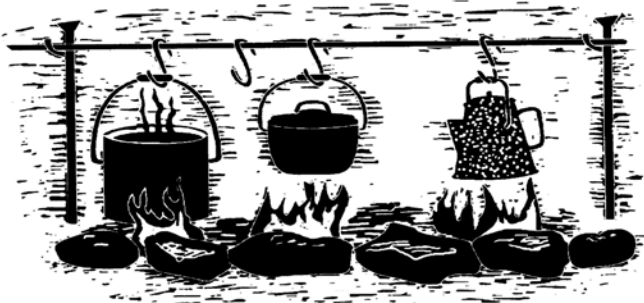
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STUDENTS

Orinda Baseball Association Pony Fall Ball



EMMA BARR

Opening day for the Pony Fall Ball league was September 11. What better way to commemorate those who gave their lives that date than by enjoying America's favorite pastime: (L-R) **Tim Tague**; **Nick Foster**; retired Marine **Fred Matteson**, who sang an acapella version of the *National Anthem*; **Nolan Brown**; and **Casey McGonigle**.

Orinda Idol 2011 Winners Were Selected at Entertainment Extravaganza

More than 200 students from across the Lamorinda area auditioned for Orinda Idol this year. The much anticipated competition is sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council. The finalists had their chance to shine at the Orinda Theatre on September 11, treating the packed theater to an amazing depth of talent. At the end of the long, exciting day of competition, the winners were announced.

Orinda Idols for 2011 are the following: Grades K - 2 Soloist Category – Sophie Lurie (Glorietta Elementary School); Grades 3 - 5 Soloist Category – Michaela Sasner (Stanley Elementary School); Middle School Soloist Category – Ellie Glade (Orinda Intermediate School); High



JOANNE DEPOLO

**Samantha Martin and Jennifer McFarlane** make up the Topaz Girls, who won in the K-5 Group Category.

School Soloist Category – Katie Marino (Campolindo High School); K-5 Group Category: *Topaz Girls* – Samantha Martin (Happy Valley Elementary) and Jennifer McFarlane (Lafayette Elementary School); and Grades 6-12 Group Category – *Maritza and Katie*: Maritza Grillo (Miramonte High School) and Katie Marino (Campolindo High School).

"We thank the community for the great support of this program and look forward to auditions for Orinda Idol 2012 next spring," says OAC's Britta Glade. For more information on the event, go to [www.orindaartscouncil.org/orinda\\_idol\\_winners.php](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org/orinda_idol_winners.php).

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



JOANNE DEPOLO

**Katie Marino** won in the High School Soloist Category.

Summer Writing Students Post Work on Webzine

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Students from local elementary and middle schools showcased their work through an Online Creative Writing Webzine. The webzine was part of a summer creative writing course sponsored by Orinda Parks and Recreation.

According to instructor Kathryn G. McCarty, students worked at their own pace in a variety of genres. McCarty, a published playwright, said she is always amazed "at the level of skill of these young people (who range in age from 9-11)."

McCarty has been teaching the class for a number of years and enjoys working with young writers.

"I like to write because it is a great way to communicate to the world, and I have a lot to say," said 11-year-old Liza Chooi who graduated from Wagner Ranch Elementary School and is now at Orinda Intermediate School. Ten-year-old Del Rey student John Mark Holbrook adds, "It helps me get my imagination on paper."

According to McCarty, going into a classroom and returning to the basics of writing serves to remind her of the joy her chosen profession brings. "I see young people discovering new ideas that I have been using for years without thinking; it's as if the children shed a new light on them. We all grow," McCarty says.

When McCarty's two-hour summer class finished each day, she would receive emails throughout the day from students who just couldn't stop writing.

To get a glimpse of the next generation's creative endeavors, go to [Orindacreative-writing.homestead.com](http://Orindacreative-writing.homestead.com).



SALLY HOGARTY

The above graphic greets visitors to the Orinda Creative Writing website.



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**Everyday Changes**

**Nail Glam - A New Economic Indicator?**

Bonnie Waters



When budgets are squeezed people substitute small luxuries for large extravagances. The term “The Lipstick Effect” was coined during The Great Depression when the U.S. economy went into convulsions and sales of lipstick rose 25 percent. Some say lipstick sales can even be an economic indicator!

The mortgage crisis has taken its toll on luxury spending. In the midst of the recession, however, lipstick sales actually declined, while nail polish sales have soared.

Beauty experts say that the increase in part is due to a multitude of new product launches in the nail industry such as the salon hybrid nail service “Shellac Manicure” that extends a manicure up to 14 days or more.

When a full day of pampering isn’t in the budget, women are opting for spa manicures and pedicures as mini-indulgences. Professional manicures have in some cases

become a “need-to” rather than a “nice-to.” The competitive jobs market has brought the need for a professional appearance back into focus. A recent survey showed three-quarters of women and half of men believe chipped or bitten nails create a bad overall impression.

Did you know that nail polish was developed during the Great Depression? Women would wear a translucent pink polish to give a subtle bit of color.

Today’s “Nail Glam Effect” is anything but subtle! To quote *The Washington Post* in 2009, “When the current depression struck America, the women’s finger-nails were the first things to go in the red.”

And “the effect” has anything but paled! Current nail trends are heavily pigmented, textured with lots of bling... think crackled polishes and chunky glitter.

At the Video Music Awards, singer Katy Perry had each nail showcase a tiny image of a record symbolizing the five hit singles from her “Teenage Dream” album that propelled Perry into music history. Perry is the only woman in the history of *Billboard* to have five songs from the same album at No. 1 on the Hot 100. Michael Jackson is the only other artist with this achievement.

*“When the current depression struck America, women’s finger-nails were the first things to go in the red,” The Washington Post*

Women of all ages and persuasions are finding their own adaptations of the “The Nail Glam Effect.” This was evidenced recently when Sarah Palin launched her Midwest bus tour with her toenails painted black and decorated with tiny white polka dots.

Want to dip your toe (or pinkies) in the new trends but don’t know where to begin? A well-trained nail technician can “hold your hand” during the process.

Need well-groomed nails with a touch of glam? Try the uber-popular “Shellac Manicure” and extend the life of your manicure up to 14 days or more.

Feeling down and need a mini-indulgence to pick up your spirits? Enjoy a pampering but affordable “Express Pedicure” with a chunky glitter polish. You can always conceal your “Nail Glam” with closed-toed shoes when duty calls.

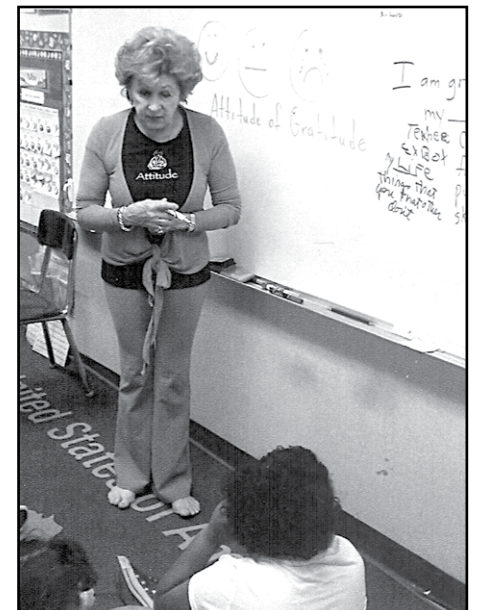
**Local Resident Takes Yoga and Gratitude to Inner City School**

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Jeanne Dowell, popular local yoga instructor, recently traveled to Los Angeles to bring the healing properties of yoga and an attitude of gratitude to a third grade classroom in Los Angeles.

Dowell and her daughter Dana are the co-founders of Green Buddha, an apparel and accessories store that also emphasizes the importance of gratitude in one’s life. “Scientific studies have proven that practicing gratitude can enhance longevity, build self-esteem, and help us cope with stress,” says Dowell. “We have more energy when we practice being grateful rather than living with negativity.”

When Dowell asked one third-grade boy what he was grateful for, he answered, “I am grateful for my life.” Living in an area riddled with crime, he and his fellow students were quick to grasp the idea of gratitude. “They shared how they were grateful for their families, their pets, and their teacher,” Dowell says. “I came away with an appreciation of the sincerity and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Jeanne Dowell at a third grade classroom in Los Angeles.

kindness that these children had expressed towards me for just being there. The love they showed me will forever be in my heart.” See [www.thegreenbuddha.com](http://www.thegreenbuddha.com) for more information about gratitude.

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**Faithful Forever Friends**

By ROBIN JONES  
Contributing Writer

What started as 16 women getting together in a neighbor’s living room over 30 years ago has resulted in over \$400,000 in donations for Hospice of the East Bay.

They call themselves Friends of Hospice Orinda. And they have proven themselves to be just that – a friend, supporter and patron to Hospice. From managing the Orinda Tree of Lights to sponsoring luncheons, fashion shows, book signings, author presentations, speakers, bridge tournaments, and a yearly root beer float table in front of the local Safeway – they

faithfully dedicate all their endeavors to the East Bay organization that provides support and comfort to families and their loved ones through the final stages of life.

Presently there are 35 “Friends,” many of whom remember the first living room meetings long ago. Through the years, committee members that have been interested in volunteering more of their time for Hospice have sat on committees and boards.

This year at the Heart of Hospice Gala scheduled for November 5, Hospice will thank the Friends of Hospice Orinda for all their years of dedication and hard work with the presentation of the Sue Bruns Award for Philanthropy.

◆ CHORUS from page 12

with the Lamorinda community.”

The group also has a new associate director Laryssa Sadoway, who will conduct the training choruses, and a new apprentice director Julie Fischer, who will assist Sadoway.

CCCC has five levels of chorus: Levels 1 and 2 are training choruses; Level 3 is an intermediate chorus; Level 4 is the advanced performing chorus; and finally an Honors Women’s and Men’s Ensemble.

Several winter concerts are already scheduled including December 10, 10 a.m., at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 1601

Mary Drive, in Pleasant Hill and December 16, 7 p.m., at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Avenue, in Walnut Creek.

Many of CCCC’s members are from Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga and the group hopes to audition even more local singers. “This is the year we plan to expand our ranks,” says McCann. “We believe that quality music education is a goal of this area’s parents, and we know we can meet and exceed their expectations.”

For more information on CCCC, call 925-945-7101 or go to [www.childrenschorus.org](http://www.childrenschorus.org).

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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

- 1 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents the final show of Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid* at Orinda Community Park, 26 Orinda Way, 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$16 general and \$8 seniors. For tickets call 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org. Dress appropriately for the outdoors and bring a blanket. Visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org).
- California Shakespeare Theater** presents Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* through Oct. 16 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Way. Tickets are \$35-\$66, with discounts for seniors, students and groups. Call 510-548-9666 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).
- 2 **Hearst Art Gallery** presents the "Comprehensive Keith: A Centennial Tribute" through Dec. 18. Opening Day Keith Lecture by Dr. Kevin Starr. "Masks and Costumes Ethnographic Art" and "Reflections in Time: Photographs by Stanley Truman," Scott McCue, guest curator. Call 925-631-4379 for reservations and information.
- Second Annual NorCal Strollathon** benefitting the International Rett Syndrome Foundation, Rancho Laguna Park, Moraga. Registration at 1 p.m., stroll at 2 p.m. Refreshments, face painting, entertainment and raffle. Visit [www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/jaime-roder/norcalstrollathon/event](http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/jaime-roder/norcalstrollathon/event).
- 12 **Second Wednesday Book Group** will discuss *Seduced by Madness* by Carol Pogash, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- Lamorinda Wildfire Forum** hosts a remembrance of 1991 Oakland Firestorm victims and presents information on wildfire mitigation at the state and local level, Orinda Library Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- 13 **Orinda Books** hosts Julia Glass, author of *Three Junos*, discussing her new novel *The Widower's Tale*, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 15 **Glorietta Elementary School Annual Fun Fest**, 15 Martha Road, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Public is welcome.
- Del Rey Elementary School Pumpkin Patch and Carnival**, 25 El Camino Moraga, noon to 4 p.m. Public is welcome.
- Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival** at 20 Washington Lane, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Public is welcome.
- Diablo Valley Montessori School Oktoberfest** features food, fun for kids, prizes and games, 3390 Deer Hill Road, Lafayette, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Call 283-6036.
- California Independent Film Festival** presents Albert Hitchcock's *Psycho*, 7 p.m. the Rheem Theatre.
- 22 **Wagner Ranch Round Up and Carnival**, 350 Camino Pablo, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Public is welcome.
- Voices of Musica Sacra** presents choral, organ and chamber works of Jehan Alain, St. Mary's College Chapel, Moraga, 2 p.m. Also Sunday, Oct. 23, at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1101 Keaveny Court, Walnut Creek, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and \$20. Visit [www.vmschorus.org](http://www.vmschorus.org).
- Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237**. New Scout Camping Overnight for interested 5th and 6th grade boys and parents are invited too. For more information, email Stephanie Catron, [stephaniecatron@comcast.net](mailto:stephaniecatron@comcast.net)
- 25 **Orinda Books** hosts Therese Smith discussing her new novel, *Wax: A Novel of World War II*, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified.

- 1 **Saturday Morning Live**, story time for 3- to 5-year-olds and their caregivers, Picture Book Area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also Oct. 8, 15 and 22.
- 2 **Computer Help for Adults**, free hour-long sessions with a volunteer on basic computer skills, 1 to 3 p.m. Call or visit the library to sign up. Also Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30.
- 4 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for 1- to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop-ins welcome, but limit attendance to once per week. Also Oct. 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19.
- Peek-A-Boo Time** with songs, stories, rhymes and rhythm for newborns through 1-year-olds and their caregivers, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also Oct. 11 and 18.
- 5 **Paws to Read**, children in grades 1-5 can practice reading with a friendly dog, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Also Oct. 12, 19 and 26. Register at the library or call 254-2184.
- The Real Placebos** play folk, blues and American roots music in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Orinda Library, 6:30 to 7:25 p.m.
- 7 **Computer Help for Adults**, free hour-long sessions with a volunteer on basic computer skills, 10 a.m. to noon. Call or visit the library to sign up. Also, Oct. 14, 21 and 28.
- 11 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre Docent** will talk about the theatre's new play by Bill Cain, *How to Write a New Book for the Bible*, Fireside Room, 7 p.m.
- 16 **Humanities West's** George Hammond discusses Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris, Fireside Room, 6:30 to 7:25 p.m.
- 19 **Neeley's Rhythm Aces** with Carla Normand plays the hot jazz that made 1920s' San Francisco roar, 6:30 to 7:25 p.m.
- 21 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss their favorite genre, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. This month's book is *Carter Beats the Devil* by Glen David Gold.
- 27 **Tale Spinners: Storytelling for Adults**, share your own story or just come to listen, Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center, 9 Altarinda Rd. Orinda. Contact Karen Seaborn, 254-5211.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Moraga-Orinda Fire District Conference Room, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**, every third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, [www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net](http://www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net).
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com). Gary Gragg speaks on "Tropics by the Bay."
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Please visit our website at [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org) or call 253-2465 for schedule of upcoming hikes.

## Philanthropist Challenges Cal Shakes as Season Winds to a Close



KEVIN BERNE

Erica Sullivan is Katherine and Slate Holmgren is Petruchio in Shana Cooper's production of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

In the name of a challenge worthy of Petruchio's taming of Katherine, a loyal California Shakespeare Theater supporter has issued an interesting proposition to the theater company: Attract 250 new donors this season, and the philanthropist will donate an additional \$10,000 to California Shakespeare Theater.

According to the theater's development director, Jim Huntley, the challenge is valid until October 31, two weeks after the company closes out its 37th season with one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies *The Taming of the Shrew*. Other productions this season have included *Titus Andronicus*, *The Verona Project*, and *Candida*.

"The patron who made the challenge was inspired because she knows the future of the theater depends on broadening our base of donors. That means acquiring new donors at whatever level of gift," Huntley said, reporting that in the first month of the challenge, "We've brought in 84 new donors in the first month."

According to Huntley, the \$10,000

challenge grant is unrestricted and will be used for the general operations of the theater. "Fundraising is crucial to the non-profit theater company," explains Huntley. "The price of a ticket only covers half of our true costs."

The company has recently completed the first phase of its "Building the Future Campaign," exceeding its original goal of \$8.2 million by raising more than \$8.7 million to be used for improvements to the Bruns campus in Orinda.

"When we began this project more than two years ago, we knew we were taking a bold step to ensure that Cal Shakes had a viable home for the future," said campaign co-chair and former board president Jim Roethe. "The success of this campaign ensures that future generations will be able to experience and enjoy world-class theater in one of the most beautiful places imaginable."

Campaign co-chair Sharon Simpson added, "Cal Shakes is a Bay Area treasure; our supporters were with us every step of the way to create a permanent, sustainable place for artists and audiences alike, and

[SEE CAL SHAKES page 18]

**Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday, 7 to 9 p.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 254-1353.

**Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 283-7176.

**Orinda Juniors** community service group. First Tuesday, September to June, 7 p.m. Contact Diane Petek and Amy Campbell at [orinda.juniors@yahoo.com](mailto:orinda.juniors@yahoo.com) for location.

**Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).

**Orinda Women's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

## 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](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

**Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.

**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. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).

**Planning Commission**. Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

Send calendar items to Maggie Sharpe at [m.sharpe66@gmail.com](mailto:m.sharpe66@gmail.com)

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CLASSIFIED

◆ CAL SHAKES from page 17

for that, we are deeply grateful." Launched in September 2009, the "Building for the Future" campaign has an emphasis on sustainability and ecological sensitivity. The renovations at the theater include the Sharon Simpson Center, a 7,850-square-foot patron and artist center

...classified ads

Computer Services

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Also included in the site improvements are a re-grading and landscaping of the Bruns Amphitheater complex featuring native and drought-resistant plants; the Sue & George Bruns Plaza, the addition of the Carol Ann Read and Family Garden and Pathway; a wheelchair-accessible path between the plaza and the theater's upper seating area; installation of up-to-date electrical and other infrastructure throughout the complex to support future renovations to the amphitheater; and working capital to provide fiscal stability.

The Taming of the Shrew runs through October 16. An informal dialogue with the production's dramaturg will be held on Sunday, October 9, following the 4 p.m. matinee. Shows are held Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. Located at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way in Orinda, the Bruns Amphitheater grounds open two hours before curtain. Complimentary Shuttle Service from Orinda BART begins 90 minutes prior to curtain. For more information or to charge tickets (which are \$35 to \$66) by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666. Additional information and online ticketing are available at www.calshakes.org.

◆ STANFORD from page 13

there is a book signing session," says Landau. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. To register in advance for "Books on Review," contact Margaret Garms at margaret.eleanor.garms@gmail.com. Arrive at 9:15 a.m. for coffee and refreshments. The event gets underway at 10 a.m. and concludes at noon.

"SWCEB provides a social connection and a connection back to Stanford University as well as a continuing liberal arts education. Of course men are welcome to attend any of the SWCEB events as guests of a member," adds White.

For more information about the Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay, please contact the current president Joan White at JoanGWhite@comcast.net.

◆ PRESIDENT from page 3

restaurant opened by owner Michele Lavecchia just a couple of years ago at 65 Moraga Way, closed on July 31. From my understanding, Michele had sought accommodations from the landlord in the amount of his monthly rent. Apparently, the two parties couldn't reach an agreement and the restaurant closed its doors - again.

I say "again" because my wife and I are virtually certain that six restaurants have come - and gone - at that site over the past 18 years. Now I know that opening and running a restaurant is a risky proposition, especially over the past few years. But somehow it seems that none of the restaurants that have been at that site - some that we've really enjoyed, others not so much - have been in existence long enough to really have had a chance to succeed. Most assuredly, some of the fault lies with the restaurant owners who didn't properly cater to Orinda diners' demanding tastes. But I also have to think that a lack of flexibility on the part of the landlord contributed to their demise.

Perhaps the landlord believes that yet another restaurant will be attracted to the property by the inviting façade, intimate bar and warm interior. But until then, what

does the landlord and Orinda have? The answer is simple -- a vacant storefront that is generating no rent for the landlord and no sales tax revenue for the city. That sure seems like a lose-lose situation to me.

In my opinion, the owners of commercial real estate in Orinda feel they have a golden goose, and they're not going to do anything to jeopardize the golden lease eggs that it lays. It will take a great deal of cooperation and goodwill on their part to even consider any of the more significant changes contained in the PPRTF report - or the visualizations contained in the artist's renditions produced by the members of Orinda Vision, whose thought-provoking ideas on what is possible in our business districts had no connection whatsoever with the task force report, although many folks believed otherwise.

In the future, the property owners, who have the most skin in the game, so to speak, may consider the overall enhancement of our business districts collectively. But I'm not going to hold my breath - and I'm not going to lose any sleep worrying that a 55-foot-tall building is going to be erected on Moraga Way or Orinda Way tonight or any night.

That's my opinion. I'd appreciate learning about yours.

◆ GALLERY from page 2

art lessons and signed up at Studio One in Oakland; I liked it more than he did, so I kept going." Her mother was an oil painter and her paintings were all over their home growing up. She started Sklar painting at about age 10. Sklar loves experimenting with papers like tyvek and yupo, with gesso and collage; she attends workshops and master classes to add to her skills. Nutall Woodpecker, 22" x 15," is a mixed media with collage. She was excited to be a finalist in the BBC Wildlife Artist of the Year 2011 Competition and has received over 25 awards in recent years. Her paintings have been featured at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Oakland Zoo, and the Tilden Park Education Center.

Why birds? Sklar finds them beautiful, diverse and interesting. "Their bills are unique to what they eat; their legs, feath-

ers and forms are intriguing to paint." She often chooses to paint bird species at risk to emphasize their beauty and to remind us that diminishing populations are not only a loss to us, but an urgent warning about the health of our environment. She named her series "Birds of the Bay and Beyond" to highlight the vanishing birds of the San Francisco Bay Area. Of the many works in the show, titles include "Black Turnstones," watercolor on paper, 15" x 22," and the endangered native "California Thrasher," watercolor on paper, 15" x 22." The California Thrasher is known as a modern day nightingale, as its song recalls the haunting trills of nightingales of old. See www.rita-sklar.com for more information.

Visit the gallery during normal library hours - Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 254-2814 for more information.

2011 Publication Schedule

Table with Issue (Nov 2011, Dec 2011) and Deadline (Oct 5, Nov 5)

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 20

in making a move. The office serves both Contra Costa and Alameda counties. I believe there are opportunities in the market all the time. Sometimes the market is up, and sometimes it is down. Today, it is challenging, and it is more of a buyer's market with prices being deflated and favorable low interest rates," points out Miller.

Most recently Miller served as vice president and managing broker for Pacific Union's Contra Costa County offices. "Certainly in Lamorinda, we have enjoyed a degree of immunity from the bursting of the housing bubble because our public schools perform at consistently excellent standards with high test scores," Miller adds. "There is always a lot of activity in the local residential real estate market with plenty of opportunity throughout the entire year. I bring a wealth of sales, marketing and management experience to benefit my clients while looking out for their best interests," remarks Miller.

Mortgage guidelines have been rewritten since the financial crisis of 2008, putting in place more stringent qualifications standards for potential buyers. "It is challenging with the new standards. However, there are plenty of excellent mortgage brokers who are skilled at maneuvering clients successfully through the system," says Miller.

Keith's wife, Vickie Miller, manages Macy's furniture division nationwide and is in charge of product development for upholstered furniture. The couple has two adult children, Ryan and Jessica. In his spare time, Miller enjoys fishing offshore for Pacific salmon, is a serious amateur photographer, and also enjoys playing the guitar. He is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, serving as president for three years and he continues to serve on the board of directors. Miller gives back to his community by volunteering to organize the Orinda Restaurant Tour and the car show.

For more information about East Bay Residential Realty, contact Miller at 925-216-8046. You may also visit the website at [www.ebresidential.com](http://www.ebresidential.com) or email Miller at [keith@ebresidential.com](mailto:keith@ebresidential.com).

**Europa Hofbrau Welcomes Families**

Husband and wife team Harry and Lori

Bokus, along with Harry's brother George Bokus, have been proprietors of this Orinda dining establishment since 1996. Previously known as Ottino's, Europa emphasizes the traditional family hofbrau experience with an emphasis on a relaxed, casual atmosphere. Located at 64 Moraga Way, the hofbrau is a far cry from the former deli.

While the traditional hofbrau in Germany is mainly a beer hall, Europa Hofbrau features roasted Norbest turkeys, baron of beef, corned beef and real mashed potatoes and gravy made from scratch in their kitchen every morning, just like your grandma used to do. "We roast six 32 pound turkeys and 50 pounds of corned beef daily," adds Bokus. "St. Patrick's Day is our busiest day of the year. We do our own corned beef, grinding and bringing it in house for our customers." If you are more American than Irish, Europa serves up fresh ground ½ pound char-broiled burgers that are freshly ground daily. Seven different beers are on tap and a house red and white wine selection.

"We created a children's play area section and installed glass windows so parents could watch their children play while enjoying a glass of wine together. We brought in games that are reminiscent of those you probably played at the carnival. The kids win tickets and redeem their tickets for prizes," says Harry Bokus. The children's play area makes Europa Hofbrau the ideal place to host the next soccer or baseball team party or even birthday party. Three large screen televisions adorn the dining area, making it a great place to watch your favorite sports team and enjoy a delicious meal while the kids burn off some energy after their meal.

You may see a familiar face behind the cash register as Europa Hofbrau employs several Miramonte High School students, providing local teenagers with their memorable first job experience. Harry and George Bokus grew up working in their parents' restaurant, the White Knight, which was located in El Cerrito. With the restaurant business being a 24/7 proposition, it isn't often that Harry and Lori can get away. But when they do, they enjoy riding their dirt bikes off-road with their sons, Patrick and Alexander. In the past year and a half, the family opened Grille One, the first hofbrau style restaurant in Montclair.



VALERIE HOTZ

(L-R) George, Lori and Harry Bokus are the proud owners of Europa Hofbrau.

Harry, Lori and George like to give back to Orinda by supporting local public schools when they host EFO (Educational Foundation of Orinda) Nights and school nights. Twenty percent of the proceeds from

these events are directed to the local public schools. Europa Hofbrau is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and is open daily, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 254-7202.

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**Flower Arrangements Workshop**

Floral instructor and international floral designer **Anne Patrick** will offer a workshop at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church on October 28 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. The morning session features a lecture by Patrick with croissants and coffee followed by a light lunch and a hands on floral workshop. For tickets, email [bev@lopc.org](mailto:bev@lopc.org).



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BUSINESS BUZZ

## Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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

### Epicurean Exchange Delivers Culinary Awareness and More

Charles Vollmar is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy and an experienced chef, having trained at Chez Panisse and Wente Vineyards. He is currently on staff at the French Culinary Institute in the South Bay. In 1999, he established Epicurean Exchange out of his Orinda home. The business specializes in dynamic cooking events for businesses in an open, and stimulating environment. In addition to his Corporate Wellness program, Vollmar offers Kitchen Fitness, private cooking par-

ties, and insider tours involving interactive, behind-the-scenes tours of local specialty markets. Vollmar's vision inspires individuals to bring a sense of balance, empowerment, well-being and enjoyment to their lives by providing educational culinary experiences and adventure.

"Food and cooking are a major part of life, part of our maturing process. We use food to nurture and celebrate our life, gathering friends and family together and what we eat matters. I spent six years teaching cooking to patients who were ill with cancer, and after that experience I changed the way I taught," says Vollmar. He became aware of the nuances of diet and lifestyle choices that people make every day and

so often, they are unaware of the impact these decisions have on their health. The Kitchen Fitness class is a personal training program for the kitchen that may include the entire family.

"Clients learn proper eating habits that include appropriate portion, quality, and frequency of meals to help maintain proper metabolism. With this comes proper weight management, and it is transformative," he adds. A typical program of three sessions, each three hours long, includes an in-home assessment involving an evaluation of equipment, pantry, meal-planning and organization, a neighborhood market visit where clients are exposed to unfamiliar foods and an emphasis is placed on the



VALERIE HOTZ  
**Chef Charles Vollmar** specializes in dynamic cooking events.

variety of foods and finally, a hands-on meal preparation session integrating the knowledge learned. Clients enrolled in the course receive a binder with 60 recipes. After the conclusion of the course, Vollmar sends follow up messages with additional recipes.

Each of Vollmar's recipes provide a learning element such as intricate knife skills, sauce making, cooking techniques, pastry or finishing and presentation. "My philosophy is that embracing the day's routines and rituals with both greater awareness and commitment improves our quality of life," points out Vollmar. A pioneer in his own right, he uses the team-cooking concept as a vehicle for corporate team building. In the kitchen, work groups organize teams around work style differences, with each small group preparing one of several courses to enjoy together at the end of the session. In a comfortable and stimulating environment, culinary activities are provided that mirror workplace challenges, bringing out the best in everyone to achieve excellent results.

Categories of the "Companies in the Kitchen" program include management and departmental outings, staff appreciation, client entertainment, and holiday parties. Over 300 companies have enrolled in "Companies in the Kitchen" over the past 12 years.

Orinda residents since 1993, Charles and Doaa Vollmar met in college and are celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary this year. The couple's 9-year-old twins, Aidan and Amelia, attend the 4th grade at Wagner Ranch Elementary School. "What I love about cooking is that it encompasses art, history, design, farming, math and science – it is all there – and it is an excellent interactive educational tool for children," adds Vollmar.

This fall and winter Orindans may enroll in "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" with Vollmar at the Orinda Community Center. All classes are based on Julia Child's book by the same name. Students will learn how to navigate the book, which was formatted with unique referencing methods. For more information about Epicurean Exchange, visit the website at [www.epicureanexchange.com](http://www.epicureanexchange.com), email [Charlie@epicureanexchange.com](mailto:Charlie@epicureanexchange.com), or call 925-368-4181.

### Keith Miller Establishes East Bay Residential Realty

With a vast business background that includes a 23-year career in senior management and sales positions with high fashion designer leather goods companies and 13 years in local real estate, broker Keith Miller recently established East Bay Residential Realty. Miller has been a resident



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Keith Miller** recently opened East Bay Residential Realty.

of Lafayette for over 30 years and knows the territory well.

"It is a good time for me to establish my own brokerage firm. I am very excited and actively pursuing clients who are interested

[SEE BUZZ page 19]

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