



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
Volume 37, Number 6

[www.theorindanews.com](http://www.theorindanews.com)  
Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually  
June 2022

## Local Help for Ukrainian Refugees: Orindans Reach Out

By DAVID FONSECA  
Contributing Writer

Ukraine is still under attack, but Orinda is part of the relief force. Through an international partnership of churches, Orinda residents Seung and Grace Paik are part of an effort to help the suffering Ukrainians.

Seung, and Pastor Sam Shin and Elder Dr. Thomas Kim from Wellspring Church in San Ramon, brought supplies to the war zone. Seung recently returned from the embattled nation after dropping off materials and supporting the effort to get refugees to safety in Spain.

Seung said at first the plan was to take supplies to a church in Romania for distribution there.

“We weren’t initially thinking that we were going to have to cross the border,” he said. “We thought everything was going to happen right outside of Ukraine in Romania. It wasn’t until we arrived, that we pivoted to making the trek into Ukraine.”

Entering southwest Ukraine, the three eventually got to their destination, about a one-hour drive from the war-torn city of Lviv. The city has recently become a refuge for Ukrainians escaping other areas of the



COURTESY OF GRACE PAIK

At SFO, **Grace Paik** and their four-legged family member sent her husband **Seung** off to begin his journey to help Ukrainian refugees.

country and is used as a transfer point on the way to Poland. The entire region also serves as a crucial military and humanitarian supply route.

Seung’s team delivered canned and

other non-perishable food, blankets, diapers, infant formula and even strollers. In addition to medical supplies, they also brought clothing, including jackets, socks and shoes.

After the drop-offs, some of the empty vans were then ready to be used for transporting refugees. Sadly, he said, there was a delay in the plan. At the time they were going to Poland, Seung and his pastor tested positive for COVID-19. Luckily, the project was jumpstarted again when another church aid organization stepped in and worked with them to get refugees to host families in Spain.

Eleven orphans and two elderly guardians were relocated to Vilafranca, Spain, where the local pastor and his wife opened their home. The children were between the ages of 8-18, are all part of the same orphanage near an area devastated by attacks. Seung said this is a long-term situation and means the refugees can live with their hosts indefinitely.

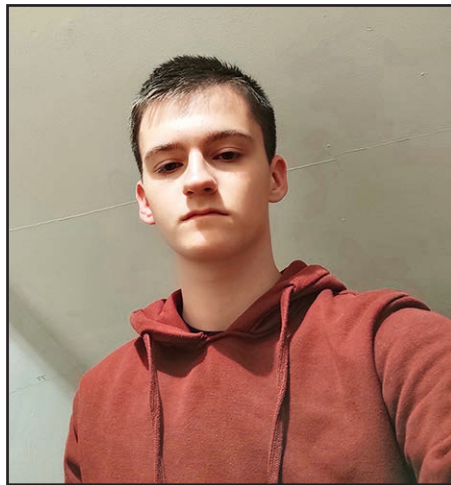
Eventually, 36 additional refugees made it to Spain to live with host families through the local church there.

Many of the children didn’t have toys or learning tools. Games and materials that

[SEE PAIK page 4]

## My Experiences Living in Ukraine During Invasion

By SASHA LEVIN  
Contributing Writer



COURTESY OF SASHA LEVIN

**Sasha Levin**, from Ukraine, writes about living in a war zone.

I am Alexander Levin, but I go by Sasha. I live in Chernihiv, a city in the north of Ukraine. I’m 16-years-old, finishing high school this year, and I plan to study journalism at a university in Belgium. I have doting parents and I also have a brother.

My final goal is to become a journalist in demand and to cover different geopolitical world events. I am passionate about gaining experience and walking up the career ladder.

I’m a student in the non-profit organization called ENgin with Miramonte student Nicole Guo and I’m writing about my ex-

periences in this Russian invasion against my country, Ukraine.

August 1, 1914. September 1, 1939. February 24, 2022. For more than 40 million Ukrainians, these dates now have the same meaning. I wouldn’t be honest if I said that everything happened suddenly on those invasion dates. In fact, the whole country was in anticipation on each occasion, and the stress was becoming more and more immense every day.

About a week before the current war started, my school received several fake messages of mining from Russia; the same thing happened with other educational institutions in the city.

On February 23, I was walking with my friend in a park, and we were discussing

[SEE LEVIN page 7]

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Find these stories and more on our website [www.theorindanews.com](http://www.theorindanews.com).

### Nominations Open for Orinda Citizen of the Year

Do you have a person in mind to nominate for outstanding community service in 2022 and/or over many years of lifetime service?

- Must be a current Orinda resident
- Must be someone who has given of their time, talents and energy as a community volunteer helping make Orinda better
- Must be someone who models excellence and good citizenship in everything they do
- Must be someone who brings our community together making us proud and promoting community spirit

Deadline for nominations is Sept. 2.

Nominations can be sent to [orindafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:orindafoundation@gmail.com) or mailed to Orinda Community Foundation, PO Box 21, Orinda CA 94563. Include your name and contact, along with the name and contact for the nominee.

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FIRST FRIDAY FORUM / CARTOON

# Timpte Talks About Effects of Pandemic on Children and Families

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic reached into all facets of our lives. First Friday Fo-

rum lecturer, Ryan Timpte, will explore one in his talk, "The Impact of the Pandemic on Children and Families," June 6 at 10 a.m.

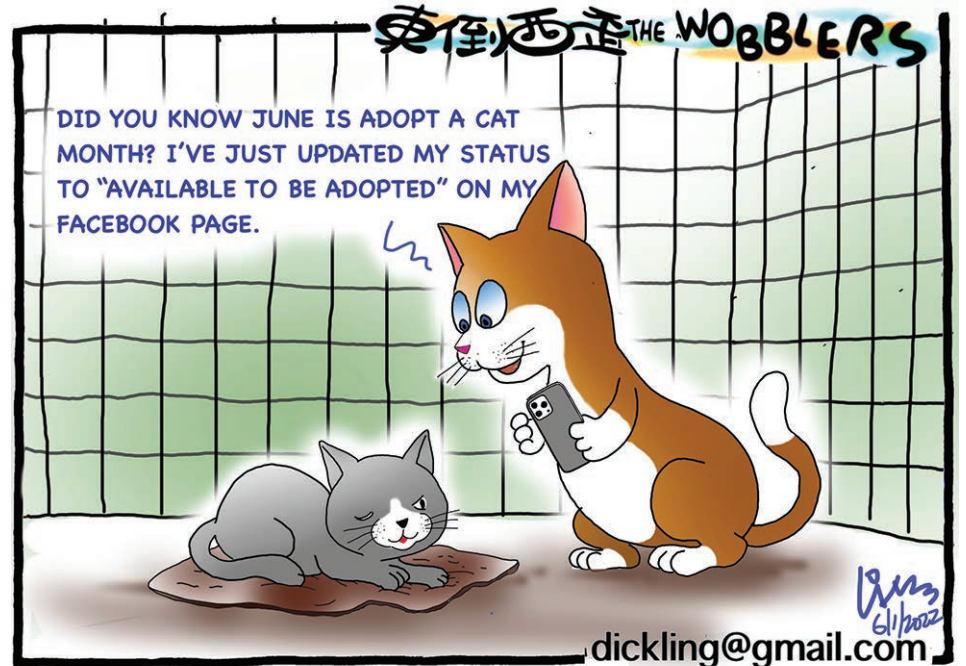
It is a webinar presentation with registration required.

Timpte said the pandemic has disrupted life for everyone in our society, especially young children and families.

"An interdisciplinary approach shows that the cracks kids have been falling through weren't created by the pandemic. Instead, the pandemic merely exacerbated problems already inherent in our systems," he said.

His talk will walk the audience through some of the key research that shows the cracks in our systems, as well as the questions parents, grandparents and concerned community members should be asking as our society moves forward in 2022.

"An example of what I'm talking about is the ways schools function in our society: instead of just being centers of learning, they function as food banks for kids who would otherwise go hungry, counseling centers for kids going through mental health crises and childcare facilities so that parents can work," said Timpte. "All three of those issues (food insecurity, mental health challenges and childcare) were greatly



exacerbated during the pandemic because schools were closed."

Timpte said it's worth asking some key questions: "Why has our society structured itself to place such a burden on schools? How can grandparents and the community at large, step up to alleviate some of that pressure? Why is our society structured to treat the issues facing children as 'burdens' in the first place?"

The former Director of Children's Ministry at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian

Church (LOPC), Timpte has served children in churches and other non-profits for over 20 years. He holds a Master of Divinity and an M.A. in Christian Education from



COURTESY OF RYAN TIMPTE

First Friday Forum lecturer, **Ryan Timpte**, explores "The Impact of the Pandemic on Children and Families," June 6 at 10 a.m. for the final webinar presentation of the year at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Princeton Theological Seminary. His primary job now is as a stay-at-home dad in the Bay Area for his two sons, ages 6 and 3. He said that job is "incredibly difficult and so much fun."

Sponsored by LOPC, register for this event at [lopc.org/first-friday-forum](http://lopc.org/first-friday-forum).

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at [bobbiedodson109@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiedodson109@gmail.com).

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA Board  
Summertime comes to Orinda!



Cindy Powell

**O**rinda Library Storytime is back in person at the Orinda Library, beginning June 1. Also, check out the library's **Summer Reading Festival**, open to all ages, and pick-up your reading passport. June 1 is also **Say Something Nice Day**, so when you are there, thank your librarians.

**Summer Concerts in the Park** begin June 2 with *The Real Thing*. Concerts are held Thursday evenings to accompany the **Thursday Night Food Trucks**.

The next evening, June 3, **The Starlight Village Players** kick-off their season with Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero* in Orinda Park's amphitheater. Support local live theater! Graduation at Holden High School and Orinda Academy is also June 3.

Remember to **Vote** on Tuesday, June 7. You can put your mail-in ballot in the official ballot drop box at City Hall and skip the postage. Don't forget the "I voted" sticker, which you should wear proudly.

June 14 is **Flag Day**, and Orinda looks great when we have our American flags flying. Thank you to our many flag sponsors and Orinda Public Works for hanging our American flags around town.

June 16 Concert in the Park is **Opera in the Park**, hosted by the Rotary Club of Orinda and Festival Opera. Bring a picnic or enjoy the food trucks again.

Take your dad to the Farmers' Market June 18 to get him a gift for **Father's Day**, June 19. Give fathers, whether biological, adopted or a father figure to you, recognition on this day.

Sing-Along with the movie *Hairspray* June 20 at the Orinda Theatre.

June 21 is **Summer Solstice**, the longest

day of the year. The sun's zenith will be at its farthest point north of the equator at 2:13 a.m. Pacific Standard Time. In terms of daylight, this day is 5 hours, 15 minutes longer than the December solstice.

On June 23, return to the Orinda Park with your picnic, or buy dinner and listen to EP Sax, the **Concert in the Park**.

The Orinda Association 4th of July banners go up as our city readies for the Parade. We could not continue this tradition without our great sponsors, donors and volunteers. To be part of the celebration, volunteer or be a parade entrant, visit [www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org) and sign-up!

*Cindy Powell can be reached at [oa@orindaassociation.org](mailto:oa@orindaassociation.org).*

Staying Safe in Orinda

**Guidance from Orinda's Top Safety Officials and Orinda Wildfire Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Presentation are still playing on CCTV Staying Safe in Orinda** - Comprehensive Guidance From Orinda's Top Safety Officials (Rev. 2020). Visit Orinda Association on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/vAFsRvYXshw>.

Also, the **Wildfire Preparedness video** is steaming on the MOFD YouTube channel. Visit the Orinda Wildfire Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Presentation at <https://youtu.be/hh4X78wKQPw>.

Join the 4th of July Parade!

There is still time to enter the parade and celebrate the 4th of July in style. Just visit [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) and fill out the entry form. It's free!

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**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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All officers and board members volunteer their time.

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way (Library Plaza)  
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**10 a.m. Parade**  
**11:30 a.m. Concert**

Thank you to our  
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For more information or to enter parade, go to  
[www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org)

SEASONED SHOPPER

◆ PAIK from page 1

stimulate educational activities aren't just for fun; they're essentials for these traumatized refugees.

Owning a children's art supply business, Grace was not only able to contribute her own supplies for the children, but was able to network with vendors, distributors and partners of children's toys and art supplies.

"She energized these people that she has contacts and networks with in Europe, and they also began sending boxes and boxes of donations," said Seung.

A local news outlet in Spain got ahold of the story and gave the pastor equipment to record his story. They produced a short TV clip and aired it to millions, resulting in a deluge of offers for support, including a dentist offering to come all the way from Barcelona to give free dental care to the orphans.

"It's amazing how that happened because of what he our pastor decided to do for these refugees, and then how people responded as a result," said Seung.

Seung talked poignantly about the university students evacuated from Kyiv who helped unload and distribute supplies – all while anti-missile defense sirens blared and the occasional thuds of bombs were heard from miles away.

One student approached Seung and asked where he was from. He told the young man about the partnership of churches from the U.S., Spain and Romania. Overwhelmed by the international scope of the project, the student asked, "Why are you guys here?"

Seung assured the student there are people all over the world praying for and supporting Ukraine.

"We have a connection, and we had an opportunity to serve you," said Seung.

He said the student was obviously amazed by the effort and no doubt saw some hope amidst all the despair.

"When I left for Romania and Ukraine, I thought we were delivering supplies," added Seung. "When in fact, we were delivering hope!"

*Dave Fonseca can be reached at davef52@gmail.com.*



# Seasoned Shopper

## The Stinking Rose



BARBARA KOBSAR

Garlic is used with abundance in a myriad of dishes. Its relatives include onion, shallot, leek and chive, but garlic is, by far, the most pungent of the group.

Garlic is usually grown as an annual crop and propagated by planting cloves. There are two main types of garlic – softneck and hardneck. Softneck varieties produce numerous, smaller cloves and hardneck varieties produce fewer, larger cloves surrounding a stalk or "scape."

Scapes are removed as the garlic grows to preserve the bulb size. Don't miss out if you spot some scapes at the markets. These scapes are tender green, curly stalks prized for their delicate garlic flavor in pastas, soups, sauces and salads.

Elephant garlic looks like a giant clove of common garlic but is more closely related to a leek. The taste is slightly garlicky, but not pungent - making it more palatable when used raw. While conventional garlic heads are made up of 10 to 15 cloves, elephant garlic has around six, large yellowish cloves.

Does "stinking rose" sound familiar? Garlic is referred to the stinking rose because of its bud-like appearance and strong smell. How strong the garlic ends up, depends on how it is treated in the kitchen.

A head of garlic consists of several cloves, each wrapped in its own skin with all the cloves enclosed in a common outer skin. Whole, unpeeled garlic is the mildest, minced or sliced garlic is stronger and mashed garlic releases most of its potent juices to be the strongest.

A recipe like garlic soup requires several peeled cloves. Use the boiling water method to speed up the peeling process. Drop cloves into boiling water for 30 seconds, rinse under cold water, drain and peel. The skins come off easily.

To peel just a few cloves, set the cloves on a wooden board and place the flat side of a knife on one garlic clove at a time. Hit the knife with your palm to loosen the skin from the garlic. Peel and discard the skin, then cut the root off the clove.

Roasted garlic is creamy, sweet and



BARBARA KOBSAR

A kitchen and a cook should never be without garlic. Whole heads are easy to keep for several months at room temperature in a dry, dark place with plenty of circulation.

delicious when spread on warm toast or made into sauces and dips. Remove any extra layers of paper skin from the head of garlic. Cut 1/4 inch from the top to expose the individual cloves. Place each head, cut side up, on a piece of tinfoil (large enough to wrap the head in a parcel) and drizzle with a little olive oil. Wrap up each parcel and place on a baking sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes, until cloves are light brown and soft.

There are a few simple tricks to remove the lingering smell of garlic on your hands after peeling and chopping. Wash your hands with soap and water, then carefully rub your fingers on the flat side of a stainless steel blade. It neutralizes and diminishes the smell! Baking soda also helps to absorb the odor. Make a paste by mixing 2 teaspoons of baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt and a splash of water. Rub into your hands for 30 seconds and then wash with soap and water.

The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. For more information visit [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org), [facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket](https://facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) and Instagram at [OrindaFarmersMarket](https://Instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) or call 925.322.6228.

*Barbara Kobsar can be reached at [Barbara@cotkitchen.com](mailto:Barbara@cotkitchen.com).*

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NEWS BRIEFS / POLICE BLOTTER

# Orinda News Briefs: What's Happening Around Town

## Rotary Hosts Aida Glimme

The Rotary Club of Orinda will host OUSD Superintendent Aida Glimme Wed., June 15, who will present the new Mission Statement and Strategic Direction adopted by the OUSD Board of Trustees in May. The meeting starts at 12:30 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend via Zoom. For more information and a link to the meeting, email [rotarycluboforinda@gmail.com](mailto:rotarycluboforinda@gmail.com).

## Summer Concert Presented by Festival Opera and The Rotary Club of Orinda

Festival Opera and The Rotary Club of Orinda present the Club's 12th "Opera in the Park" free concert at Orinda Community Park, Thursday, June 16, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. It is an opportunity to hear Festival Opera's artists performing hits that span both opera and musical theater genres.

Festival Opera's artistic director and master of ceremonies for the concert, Zachary Gordin, said he's "thrilled to be taking opera to the people in a casual setting with no walls or barriers, where our communities can access a sampling of this incredible art form on their own terms."

Artists who have performed with some

of the world's most prestigious opera and symphony organizations, including San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, LA Opera, Opera San José and more, will perform. Pianist Chun Mei Wilson will accompany the singers.

Organizers said Festival Opera's mission is to take opera out of the theater and bring it to the people, introducing opera to children, friends who are *opera curious*, or people who have no idea that they already know and connect with so much of the music. People are encouraged to bring their entire families, blankets or chairs and a picnic. Viewers can also enjoy selections from the food and wine trucks. Free parking is available. Both organizations are grateful to the City of Orinda Parks and Recreation, Realtor Melanie Snow, Realtor Pablo Tiscareno and Village Associates Realty for their generous support. For more information on Festival Opera or the concert, visit [www.festivalopera.org](http://www.festivalopera.org) or e-mail [info@festivalopera.org](mailto:info@festivalopera.org).

## Miramonte Boys Varsity Tennis Wins Big at Tennis Tournament

The Miramonte Varsity Boys Tennis team took home trophies at a DFL Tourney



ANDREW LEE

Miramonte Varsity Tennis winners **Liam Sullivan** (left) and **Leo Cardozo** (center) won the Diablo Valley League (DAL) tournament in doubles, while **Nishad Elias** won the DAL tournament in singles.

April 29, with Nishad Elias winning the singles event and Leo Cardozo and Liam Sullivan winning the doubles event. In singles, (1 seed) Elias defeated (3 seed) Dibyam Dikhit (College Park) 6-4, 6-2. In doubles, (1 seed) Cardozo and Sullivan defeated (2 seed) Kiumars Koopah/Jake Hammerman (Campolindo) 6-7, 6-3, 10-6.

The Mats' mid-May record stood at 19-4, with highlight wins over arch-rival Campolindo, 7-2 and 6-3. Along with other Miramonte teams, the Boys Tennis team looks forward to spring semester post-league matches.


Compiled by Charleen Earley, who can be reached at [editor@theorindanews.com](mailto:editor@theorindanews.com).



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## POLICE BLOTTER

April 16 through May 16

<p><b>Calls for Service</b></p> <p>Armed Robbery: 1 incident: Los Altos Rd.</p> <p>Burglary, Residential: 2 incidents: Sunnyside Ln., Ravenhill Rd.</p> <p>Civil Disturbance: 2 incidents</p> <p>CVC Evading Police: 1 incident</p> <p>Death - Non-Criminal: 1 incident</p> <p>Forgery: 1 incident</p> <p>Fraud: 1 incident</p> <p>Grand Theft: 1 incident: Rheem Blvd.</p> <p>Grand Theft - Vehicle Parts: 2 incidents: Orinda Way, Estabueno Dr.</p> <p>Hit &amp; Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident: Moraga Way</p> <p>Hospitalization: 1 incident</p> <p>Identity Theft: 6 incidents</p> <p>Service to Citizens: 4 incidents</p>	<p>Shoplifting: 1 incident: Camino Pablo</p> <p>Tow: 2 incidents</p> <p>Vandalism: 1 incident</p> <p>Vandalism, Felony: 1 incident</p> <p><b>Arrest</b></p> <p>Driving Under the Influence of Drugs-Misdemeanor: 1 arrest</p> <p>Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1 recovery</p> <p>Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests</p> <p>Weapon Violation of Probation: 1 arrest</p> <p>Welfare &amp; Institutions Hold (5585): 2 holds</p>
---	--

- Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

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EDITORIAL

# Editorial

## America the Beautiful for All Who Live Here: Is This Just a Happy Thought?

By CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Editor-in-Chief

When I hear of the extensive and thoughtful preparations being made by the many volunteers for Orinda's annual 4th of July parade, it brings a smile to my face – I just love to see communities – such as this one – working together to create a beautiful, historic event for all to enjoy.

At the same time, my heart is crushed by the recent (so far determined) racially-motivated and targeted shootings we – as Americans – have experienced lately, from coast to coast: the May 14 Buffalo, New York mass shooting, with 10 dead, the May 15 Laguna Woods church shooting with one dead and five injured and the May 16 San Jose shooting, across from San Jose State University, with one dead.

I heard the words of prominent figures in our communities speak out on KTVU Mornings on 2, May 17, such as Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce President Carl Chan, who said, "We are all Americans together in this country. Remember, this is called U.S.A. Let's be United States of America – united is a keyword."

I also heard 81-year-old Rev. Amos Brown, pastor of the Third Baptist Church of San Francisco since 1976 and president of the San Francisco branch of the NAACP, speak on that same broadcast, referring to the Buffalo shooting, "It's evil, its un-American and it does not have a right to exist in a civilized society."

How can we stop racism? How can we learn from these shootings? How can we become more "American," or maybe the question is, how can we become more "united."

Are tighter gun laws needed?  
It's been published that the Bushmaster

XM-15 semiautomatic rifle the 18-year-old allegedly used in Buffalo at a Tops grocery store, was purchased legally, but in reports, the suspect said he illegally modified the gun, so he could use a high-capacity magazine.

I know the pandemic and the Russian war against Ukraine have heightened people's emotions. Depression is on the rise (significantly) and economic repercussions have hit many Americans – which is no excuse for taking innocent people's lives.

I understand the Buffalo suspect bought the rifle months after a psychiatric evaluation had been ordered – so do we need more counselors and therapists? Do we need to get to the root of the problem of these killers, to prevent future shootings?

I also understand fake news is at the core as well, and in a country where the First Amendment not only lives, but thrives, so does propaganda and what seems like, the lack of critical thinking and research into vetted sources that far too many Americans rarely invest in.

My hope is this – we as Americans do our part to research the facts and not what's posted on social media or Wikipedia. Also, instead of just giving lip service, we need to get more involved in issues by marching for a cause, donating to a cause and finding ways to make a positive difference.

Orinda's 4th of July parade is next month. It will be beautiful, entertaining, a patriotic celebration and fun for the entire family. It will remind me – since I seem to need reminding almost daily – that Americans DO care about one another and they do work together as a community for the enjoyment and celebration of all.

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.



# Pet of the Month!

Email a photo of your beautiful, amazing pet and *The Orinda News* Team will select and feature your pet in upcoming issues!

Email your pet's photo, name and info to editor@theorindanews.com

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## Letter to the Editor

### Devin Murphy for Contra Costa Clerk-Recorder

Representation and civic engagement do not start and end on Election Day and we need to ensure all communities in Contra Costa have the tools, resources and energy to make our voices center in our own future. In Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, this is especially important, as Lamorinda is overwhelmingly a family community of over 65,000 voters, and many young voters

of my own community that may very well be casting their first ballot in 2022, 2024 and beyond.

As a young voter myself, I have made it a goal to engage young voters in Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga in the many activities, community events and possibilities in our area!

This is why I so strongly support Devin, because he himself is a young, civically minded and engaged leader with a key

priority in transparency and community engagement. He believes our residents deserve to know what's going on in the Clerk-Recorder's office and in our county government.

He will prioritize having accessible avenues and platforms for residents to know the happenings of the office and will help educate our residents – especially our youth.

He will prioritize creating on-the-ground

efforts to promote civic education through a Civic Education Corps – focused on mobilizing and engaging Contra Costa County residents around the issues that impact them and how they are connected to their local government.

I wholeheartedly endorse Devin Murphy for Contra Costa Clerk-Recorder and urge you to support, donate money or your time and elect Devin Murphy.

– Cody Keller

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

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 Printing.....Folger Graphics

## The Orinda News

A Publication of  
The Orinda Association  
Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 97  
Orinda, California 94563  
Telephone: 925.254.0800

www.theorindanews.com



The OA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 250 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number. Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com. Letters to the Editor for the July issue are due June 8.

For advertising rates, contact Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net), Elana O'Loskey at 925.984.1751 (elanao@mac.com), or Trish Ward at 510.685.1437 (trish@theorindanews.com). The deadline for the July issue is June 8.

FIRE DISTRICT

# MOFD Recognizes Wilder as Shelter-in-Place Community

By S. K. GUPTA  
Contributing Writer

Years of planning and execution at Orinda's new subdivision, Wilder, has resulted in it being recognized as a Shelter-in-Place community. Wilder is the first community outside of Rancho Santa Fe, in San Diego County, to get this designation.

On March 16, Resolution 22-09 was adopted: "A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District of Contra Costa County Recognizing the Wilder Subdivision as a Shelter-In-Place Community."

The Shelter-in-Place designation is recognized by California's Department of Insurance as part of its 'Safer from Wildfires' framework. Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs researched and recommended seeking this designation.

"The ember resistant construction, road

widths, maintenance of vegetation and other design improvements, will greatly reduce the probability of wildfire loss in Wilder," said Isaacs.

Wilder has been a certified FireWise community since 2019, and the new community designation builds on its work to get and stay FireWise certified annually. Wilder is a member of the Orinda FireWise Council, led by Melanie Light.

The MOFD resolution recognizes, in addition to being a planned development, every home in Wilder was built to ember-resistant standards identified in Chapter 7A of the California Building Code. Additionally, the community has a Wildfire Hazard Assessment Plan (WHAP), which identifies vegetation management measures and greatly increases the odds of Wilder homes surviving a fire.

When completed, Wilder will have 245 homes nestled in what was once called the Gateway Valley.



S.K. GUPTA

Orinda's Wilder homes nestled in the old Gateway Valley, as seen from Hank's Hill. Over 200 of the 245 homes are completed and occupied.

As per the Department of Insurance website, a number of insurance companies are encouraging Californians to harden their homes by offering premium discounts. Currently, 13 insurance companies, representing 40% of the California marketplace, offer discounts for safer homes and commu-

nities, including those with FireWise certifications or Shelter-in-Place designations.

Many more insurance companies have also expressed interest. The full list is available on the CDI website: <https://bit.ly/37xsfTb>.

[SEE WILDER page 16]

## ◆ LEVIN from page 1

the probability of a full-scale invasion. I presumed that the possibility of that was about 30%, and we both agreed that it was quite a high risk.

The next day, several explosions woke me up.

We realized that we faced a real war with tanks, fighter jets and missiles.

First things first: Despite huge lines, we rushed to the nearest supermarket to buy provisions to be prepared for a humanitarian catastrophe. In the first 24 hours, we went to our friend's place with the whole family, because they had a private house with a cellar, whereas we lived on the eighth

floor in our building.

The next few days were similar. We constantly ran downstairs when the explosions were becoming too loud and left the basement when it got calmer. Then, we decided to return home, but on that exact day we saw buildings bombed right in front of our window.

We were forced to look for a new shelter. A huge concrete building in the city center and a massive bomb shelter beneath it had been designed to protect people from a nuclear warhead, so Russian artillery and air bombs were little threat to it.

Safety certainly was the main factor, but the conditions were unbearable: The big damp room sheltered hundreds of people.

It had many hard metallic beds. The heartbreaking cry of a young woman who just found out that someone whom she loved was no longer alive further poisoned the atmosphere and made the sterile surroundings even more depressing.

That day convinced us to flee. When the curfew was over, we left the building in the cold winter morning, seeing the dark, gray sky above us and feeling the smell of gunpowder in the air.

We packed our belongings and fled the city that day.

The only thing we could see in our future was uncertainty. We didn't know where we were going or for how long we were leaving our home. We weren't sure if we would ever

be able to return.

It took us three days to get to Lviv [in Western Ukraine], and during that time we had to stand in a two-hour patrol line and sleep in a church, but eventually we got to our destination.

Now, I am writing this article from a safe place in Europe. In these difficult times, the best thing you can do is to spread the word about all the atrocities being committed by the Russian army in Ukraine. Time will pass, we will win and the civilized world will say a sacred phrase – never again. Pray for Ukraine. Stand with Ukraine.

Sasha Levin can be reached at [sashalevinchernigov@gmail.com](mailto:sashalevinchernigov@gmail.com).



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CAR TIME

# CAR TIME

DO YOU STILL DRIVE OR OWN A MANUAL TRANSMISSION VEHICLE?



XAVIER ESTRADA

I highly doubt more than 20% of you will say yes to still driving or owning a manual transmission vehicle. And if you have no idea what I'm talking about, you are in that 80-90% pool of "no."

Manual transmission (MT) refers to a vehicle with three pedals (clutch, brake, accelerator) and a stick shift. You drive having to manually shift/change your vehicle's gears, as opposed to the car automatically doing it for you.

There was a time when manual transmission was referred to as "standard." In those days, most vehicles had manual transmissions, as opposed to the present demographic of automatic transmission (AT) ownership. If you wanted an automatic

back then, it cost you more to purchase because that option was considered a luxury.

Automatic transmissions didn't take off until the mid to late 20th century. Around that time, point A to B vehicles started adopting automatic transmissions as a convenience item for consumers. As those of us who know would attest, being stuck in traffic and having to push a clutch in and gently release it to move a few feet in traffic wasn't fun.

That's not to say driving manual transmission vehicles in general can't be fun. Doing so is especially engaging, having its own feel in a sports car. Still, it is a chore when you're stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

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### Pet of the Month



AMY MOROSINI

The Morosini family adopted **Winter** from the Berkeley Human Society December 2021, when she was 4-months-old and did a DNA test on her. "Turns out she is more Alaskan Malamute than Siberian Husky and apparently the mix is called an Alusky," said Amy Morosini.

As more vehicles filled the roads, congestion started getting worse and for a lot of people spending that extra money on an automatic just made sense.

From that point forward, manual transmission became more synonymous with sports cars. Automatics made life easier on the road, but they were still sluggish when compared with a sports car.

During the 2000s, Dual Clutch Transmissions (DCT), a type of manual automatic hybrid, became mainstream and offered better performance on sports cars by providing a quick shifting quality. Soon after, some conventional torque converter automatics were designed to shift almost as quick as DCTs.

Automatic transmissions today are a far cry from those first developed. Manual transmissions have become a dying breed. Nevertheless, many vehicles with a manual transmission are desirable and worth more than their automatic versions because driving one provides such a rewarding feeling.

If you know how to drive one, or even own a manual transmission vehicle, you are a part of an unofficial club. And you just might be familiar with the smell of a burnt clutch from someone learning to drive one.

Xavier Estrada can be reached at [xavier@orindaclassiccarcenter.com](mailto:xavier@orindaclassiccarcenter.com).

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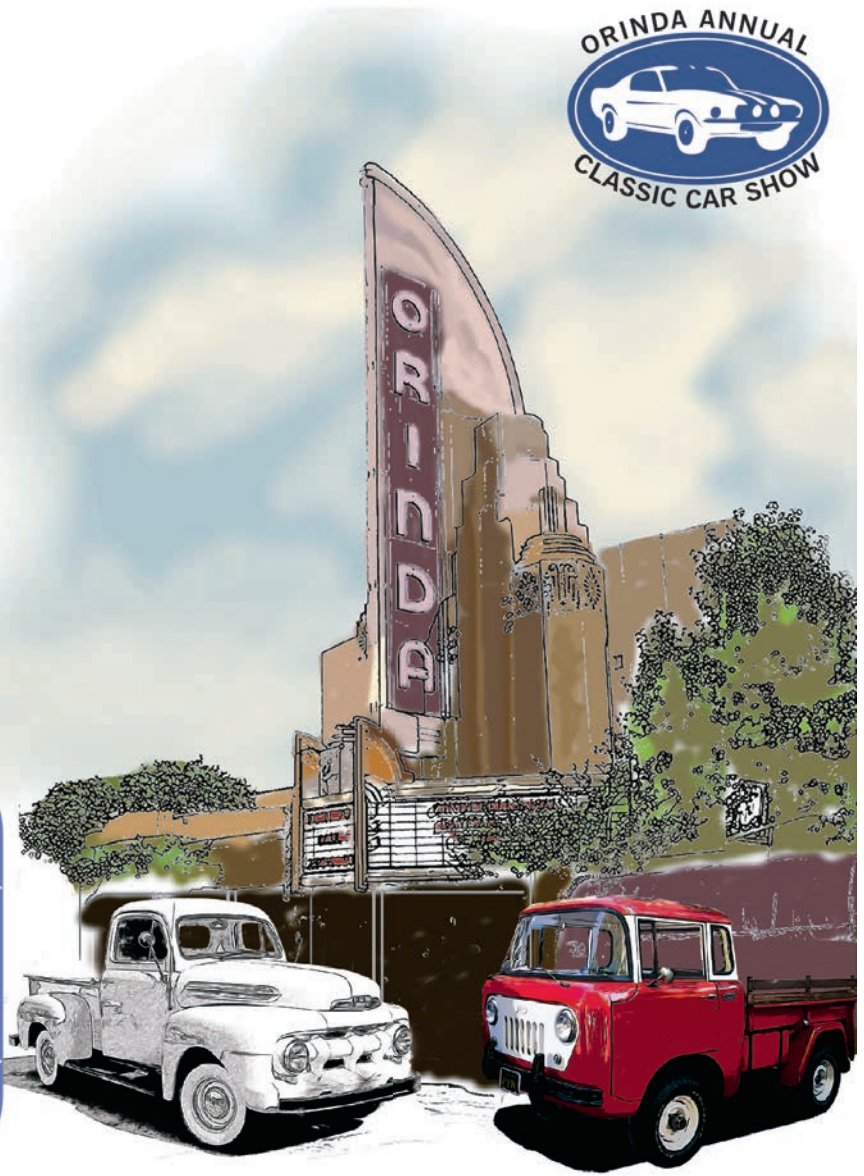
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ART SCENE

Orinda Art Scene

JUNE IN THE ART GALLERIES AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY AND WILDER

ELANA O'LOSKEY



Art Gallery at the Orinda Library Oakland Art Association – A Few Good Artists

Maya Angelou said, "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." Members of the Oakland Art Association (OAA) fulfill this creative promise because they "keep using it." The Lamorinda Arts Council presents artwork from many of the 50 creative OAA members during the month of June in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Meet the artists from 3 – 5 p.m., Saturday, June 4, where light refreshments will be served.

The OAA is celebrating 65 years as a non-profit organization funded by its members and patrons. Its two-fold mission offers public venues for members to show and sell their art while also supporting art education in the East Bay.

The show's curator, Jenifer Kolkhorst, is excited about the Orinda venue.

"This is our favorite place to exhibit, and everyone is excited to be here," she said. "We really value our opportunity to show here; it's a real gem in Orinda."

The Board of Directors meet monthly, and pre-pandemic, they held a yearly member potluck at the Highland Country Club. At press time, the list of artists showing work was incomplete, but it will include Rohilah Cohen, Marie Cotter, Jenifer Kolkhorst, Julia Montrond, President Rick Nelson, S. Newman, Rosemary Therkelson and Nancy Vachani.

This juried show includes 2D and 3D artwork, encompassing genres such as

ceramics, portraits and figurative and abstract paintings. Therkelson's 22" x 30" "On the Windowsill" watercolor breathes spring bulbs and flowers into life.

Kolkhorst joined OAA in 2007 after seeing its show at the Orinda Gallery.

"I had a favorite artist in that show, saw how great the gallery was and the work from the Oakland group inspired me to join," she said.

To learn more about OAA, visit [www.oaklandart.org](http://www.oaklandart.org), call 925.989.0183 for art sales information, or email Kolkhorst with general questions at [jkolkhorst@comcast.net](mailto:jkolkhorst@comcast.net).

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, visit [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org). This exhibit runs June 1 through 30 during library hours in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 925.254.2184 for more information about the library or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org). Email the curators with questions at [galleries@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:galleries@lamorindaarts.org) or call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

Art Gallery at Wilder: A Proclivity for Positivity and Community Collage

The Lamorinda Arts Council hosts Carrie Vanhouten as the featured artist at its solo Art Gallery in Wilder from Sunday, June 4 to Saturday, July 9. Meet the artist Sunday, June 19, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. where light refreshments will be served, and an interactive Community Collage demo will take place.

In the first two years of the pandemic, Vanhouten learned how to transform salvaged pieces from many sources into whimsical works of art. Her collages portray hidden positive messages combined with magical creatures. In the first few months of COVID-19, she began learning more about healing and decided to become a Reiki practitioner. Reiki is a Japanese form of alternative medicine featuring hands-on healing.

At the same time she was learning Reiki, she was learning how to create collages.

"My healing practice and my art are intertwined," she said.

Flea markets and thrift stores, where she finds frames, mirrors, buttons and vintage books, inspire her.

"The joy is in the hunt!" she said, "I find it very satisfying to rescue a rusty-dusty old frame, bring it to my studio and give it a full glam-squad makeover! I only make ready-to-hang [framed] art."



COURTESY OF CARRIE VANHOUTEN

Carrie Vanhouten's *How are You Different?*, a 12" x 15" framed collage, boasts an intriguing mixture of semi-precious gems, including lapis lazuli and amethysts. Vanhouten said, "Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"



COURTESY OF ROSEMARY THERKELSON

Orinda Art Association member Rosemary Therkelson's 22" x 30" watercolor, *On the Windowsill*, breathes life and color into spring bulbs and flowers.

Vanhouten is showing 25 artworks within her theme, "Positivity."

"I have come to believe that everyone has healing gifts of some kind," she said. "Just as I believe everyone has an inner artist."

She said her Interactive Community Collage demo will help people of all ages get in touch with their playful side.

This playfulness is reflected in some

of her collage titles such as, "The Fluffy Gourmet," a 20" x 20" vintage collage; "How Are You Different," a 12" x 15" collage with semi-precious stones such as lapis lazuli, amethyst and citrine; and "Cozy Gnomes," a 3' x 5' unframed painting on canvas depicting the underground habitats of gnomes.

[SEE GALLERIES page 14]

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STUDENTS



**Jackson - congratulations on your 5th grade graduation.**

**You have great potential and you are poised to do amazing things in life. We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments thus far - we cannot wait to see what you do next!**

**Love, Mom, Dad & Sam**

**Youth Ink and Poul Anderson Writing Contest Winners Announced**



BELLA SHIRIN

Writers and their families gathered for the Youth Ink awards ceremony May 15, sharing their winning submissions. The three proud winners were (L-R) **Kaia Bonham** (1st place, "The Light You've Shown Me"), **Stella Ciarlantini** (3rd place, "For Mara") and **Vinny Yu** (2nd place, "Gifted").

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Earlier this year, many local, young writers were busy activating their creative juices and sharing their thoughts in a variety of genres as they entered one of the two local writing contests. Now, the wait is over as both, The Orinda Junior Women's Club and The Friends of the Orinda Library, announced this year's winners.

Youth Ink, sponsored by the Orinda Juniors, is a contest for middle school students who attend Orinda schools or live in Orinda. This year's prompt was Cup Half Full, though entrants could write on the theme of their choice.

The judges for Youth Ink were Paul Greenstone, Marlene Marshall, Maya Shweiky, Marcy Stoeven, Tamika Thompson and Kathryn Turner.

This year's Youth Ink winners are First Place - Kaia Bonham "The Light You've Shown Me;" Second Place - Vinny Yu "Gifted" and Third Place: Stella Ciarlantini "For Mara."

Honorable mention goes to Raunav Agarwal "The Mind Of Me;" Mia Dhingra "But At Least;" Rory Gaarder-Wang "The Magic Of My Fears;" Leela Grimaud "My Baby Girl;" EJ Ho "A Fuller Family;" Clare Lenny "The Cup On The Counter;" Trisha Madannavar "Dreamer;" Nura Mohiuddin "Flower Hill;" Sasha Obnial "There Is No Failing;" and Hana Shukairy "A Little Boy With Blue Shorts."

The first, second and third place recipients receive cash prizes of \$250, \$125,

and \$75 respectively. Honorable Mention recipients receive gift certificates to Orinda Books.

The Orinda Juniors thank all entrants for sharing their talents as well as the volunteer judges and the community sponsors who gave their financial support. Sponsors included Friends of the Orinda Library, Orinda Community Foundation, The Intuitive Writing Project and Lamorinda Arts Council.

High school students entered their literary endeavors in the Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by The Friends of the Orinda Library. The contest pays homage to the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident. The prolific author wrote fantasy and historical novels as well as short stories.

In this contest, students competed in science fiction/fantasy, essay/memoirs/bio, poetry and short story. A total of four first place prizes were awarded, each carrying a cash prize of \$500.

Judges for this year's contest included Sally Hogarty, Anne Lowell, Sora O'Doherty and Susan Williams.

Congratulations to first place awardees Miramonte 10th grader Hannah Shagan "Floating City" (science fiction/fantasy); Miramonte 11th grader Eloise Anagnost "Chased by Darkness" (Short Story); and Miramonte 9th grader Emma Wong, who won two awards "American or Not" (poetry) and "A New Homeland" (short story).

Honorable mentions went to Camplindo 9th grader Chiara Sponzilli "Fake"

[SEE YOUTH page 16]

**Congratulations George!**  
We are incredibly proud of you. Keep making a difference.  
Love Mom, Dad, Bennett, Theo & Louise



**Congratulations Oliver Bui for graduating Del Rey Elementary!**  
Love from Dad, Mom, Caleb and Logan!



**Congratulations Megan!**

We are so proud of you and all you have accomplished! You are an intelligent, confident, and compassionate young woman and we know that your future will be bright. Enjoy life's journey, but always remember the way back home!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Claire, and Sarah

**Leo Cardozo, congratulations Miramonte grad! We are so proud of you and grateful for you.**

**Always enjoy the journey!**

**Love, Mom, Dad, Sadhana and Keshini**



STUDENTS

# Fourth Grade Students Head to Odyssey of the Mind World Finals

By JILL GIBSON  
Contributing Writer

May we serve you a bacon pie? Sounds delicious and creative, as seven Wagner Ranch fourth graders will be serving bacon pies in the jungle at the May World Finals Odyssey of the Mind competition in Ames, Iowa.

What do pies have to do with the jungle? As one of two parts in the competition, the team must solve a long-term problem with many requirements. The fourth graders set out in October 2021 to create an environ-

mental climate change threat (bacon pies) and a solution. The team met for more than 80 group work hours (560 hours collectively) over five months to complete this production.

The creative process includes brainstorming and teamwork to build the various pieces of an environmental scene. They hand painted boxes to build the jungle. As animals are an essential part of a jungle, the team created monkeys, a polar bear, penguins, a flamingo, a squirrel and a worm. They sing! While flamingos, penguins and polar bears are not usual in the jungle, it's



SCOTT CAMPBELL

The Wagner Ranch Elementary team was excited to compete in their handmade costumes at the Nor Cal State Competition March 26, where they placed third. (L-R) **Connor Volk, Anya Parikh, Coach Leslie Volk, Ryan Gibson, Drew Alameda, Elise Nguyen, Coach Maggie Wang, Stella Schmitt and Gianna Campbell.**

# Young Punk / Metal Band Member with Audio Engineer Aspirations



COURTESY OF NICK MOROSINI

Local, young band members of Hell Bound Pound (L-R) **Nick Morosini** (bass, behind pillar) and **Alex Hernandez** (guitar) perform free concerts at Orinda Community Park. Morosini has career goals to become an audio engineer.

By CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Editor-in-Chief

Orinda resident and bass player, Nicholas Morosini, loves everything about the punk and metal music scene, which is one reason why he joined the Hell Bound Pound band and wants to become an audio engineer.

"The band got organized a few months before I started," said Morosini, who attends Orinda Academy. "My band mates, Alex Hernandez (guitar) and Marcos Hernandez (drums), were initially just a guitar and drums power duo. After I saw them at a show in San Jose, I asked them whether they wanted a bassist or not."

He tried out and after their first gig together in May 2021, the duo band turned trio.

Hell Bound Pound performs free concerts at Orinda Community Park, and Morosini has nothing but gratitude after having their

park rental and insurance papers approved in March.

"I just want to say thank you to the Orin-  
[SEE BAND page 14]



**Erin-** You have such a bright future ahead. Congratulations on your accomplishments. Treasure every moment at Boston College. We love you!  
Mom, Dad, Peyton, Ally and Trent

all part of the creative process and to meet the requirements of at least two animal characters, original songs and the use of Arm & Hammer Baking Soda.

Students Drew Alameda, Gianna Campbell, Ryan Gibson, Elise Nguyen, Anya Parikh, Stella Schmitt and Connor Volk all worked together in the second part of the competition -- spontaneous problem-  
[SEE ODYSSEY page 14]



**Ally-** We are so proud of you! We look forward to your continued success at UC Davis and your future. Enjoy the journey. We love you!!  
Mom, Dad, Peyton, Erin and Trent

**Congratulations Ellie Shandalov!**  
Congratulations Miramonte  
Class of 2022!



Ellie, We love you and are so proud of you! You are such an amazing daughter, sister and friend. Always follow your heart and balance that with your love for our planet! Your journey is just beginning and we will always be here cheering you on! Have a great time at UC Santa Barbara! We love you so much!  
Mom, Dad, Alex, Anika, Cody and Hallie

## ALEXANDRA BARDSLEY

**Congratulations, Alex!**

We are so proud of you and look forward to seeing you take on the world! Always follow your heart and never, ever limit your dreams.

Carpe diem!

~Love, Mom, Dad, Helena, and Lola xoxo



**Sadhana Cardozo, congratulations UCLA grad!**  
We are so proud of you and grateful for you. Enjoy your next chapter - may it keep you engaged and happy!

**Love, Mom, Dad, Keshini and Leo**

**Charlie, congratulations on graduating!**

Always remember:

Behind you, all of your memories.  
Before you, all of your dreams.  
Around you, all who love you.  
Within you, all you need.

**We are so proud of you, son!**  
**Love, Mom, Dad, & Teresa**

COMMUNITY

# Summertime Events for the Entire Family to Enjoy at Orinda Park

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

Grab a pen to fill your calendar with dates for concerts, movies and live theater in the Orinda Community Park, now through October. Remember to highlight July 4 for the “Best Hometown Parade” and Sept. 10 for the 18th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show. All events are free and everyone is welcome. Thursday concerts are 6-8 p.m., and Friday movies begin at dusk.

June 2 - *The Real Thing* – concert  
June 16 - *Opera in the Park*

June 23 - *EP Sax* – concert  
July 8 - *E.T.* – movie  
July 14 - *Lamorinda Idol*  
July 15 - *Raya & the Last Dragon* – movie  
July 28 - *Juke Joint* – concert  
Aug. 4 - *West Grand Blvd.* – concert  
Aug. 19 - *Jungle Cruise* – movie  
Aug. 25 - *Grateful Bluegrass Band* – concert  
Aug. 26 - *Bolt* – movie  
Sep. 8 - *925 Band* – concert  
Oct. 7 - *Coco* – movie

Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) present Agatha Christie’s *Towards Zero*,



COURTESY OF THE ORINDA PARK AND RECREATION FOUNDATION

Presented and supported by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, the Orinda Community Foundation, the City of Orinda and the Rotary Club of Orinda, there is a plethora of free, family-friendly events scheduled through October at the Orinda Community Park.

June 3 – July 2, followed by L Frank Baum’s *The Marvelous Land of Oz* July 22 – Aug. 13. The final performance is *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw, Sept. 9 – Oct. 1. Visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) for the complete schedule of dates and times. OrSVP productions receive support from the Orinda Community Foundation.

Want to save on utility bills? Simply stop by a local restaurant or cafe for snacks or a picnic-style meal to enjoy before or during an event. Another choice is the Taste of the World Market food trucks, which are in front of the

Community Center, Thursdays from 5-8 p.m.

The movies and concerts are presented by the Orinda Parks & Recreation Foundation with support from the Orinda Community Foundation and the City of Orinda. The concert series is also supported by the Rotary Club of Orinda. All event dates are published in *The Orinda News* Calendar, in print and online at [www.theorindanews.com](http://www.theorindanews.com).

Kathy Enzerink can be reached at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com).

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**Orinda Action Day**

JEFF HEYMAN

Orinda Action Day was held April 23, where many community members of all ages helped clean and beautify Orinda from 10 a.m. to noon. (L-R) **Mina Lee, Diana Mullen, Emmet Mullen, Jordan Mathews, Rocklyn Reasoner, Brenden Lee, Owen Lee and David Lee**, were among many to volunteer their time. To register for next year's Orinda Action Day on April 22, 2023, visit [www.orindafoundation.org](http://www.orindafoundation.org).

**What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!**

**Sign Up Now for 2022 Youth Summer Camp Sessions, June 6 - Aug. 5**

**Thursday Night Concerts in the Park 6 - 8 p.m. Community Park**

June 2 - *The Real Thing*  
June 16 - *Opera in the Park*  
June 23 - *EP Sax*

**Accepting Facility and Picnic Area Rental Requests Under Current Health Guidelines**

**Food Trucks are Back! Every Thursday, 5 - 8 p.m. Community Center**

**Please Continue to Stay Safe by Following All Health Recommendations**

Orinda Parks and Recreation Department  
925-254-2445  
[www.OrindaParksandRec.org](http://www.OrindaParksandRec.org)  
[OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org](mailto:OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org)  
28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center  
Administrative Office Hours – 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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PERFORMING ARTS

# Starlight Returns with Agatha Christie Thriller *Towards Zero*

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) return for their 38th season at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, opening the season with Agatha Christie's murder-mystery *Towards Zero*. Directed by Beth Sheridan Hooper, performances run weekends June 3 through July 2.

The action takes place on the terrace of Lady Tressilian's cliffside house where N. Strange is caught between the old wife, Audrey, and new flame, Kay.

"The characters are so very interesting. Each one has a past that informs their actions in the play. Each character is complex and nuanced in their relationships and needs," said Hooper. "The characters seem to sense something will happen to them, but they and the audience are kept guessing

through almost two acts."

There are two versions of the *Towards Zero* play, one adapted by Christie and Gerald Verner in 1956 and this lost version, written by Christie in 1945 and rediscovered in 2015. There are many differences between the two, most notably that this version takes place on the back terrace of the house, while the 1956 version takes place inside the house.

"This is Agatha Christie's writing and her vision of a house set on a cliff with a path to a huge rock and a window that drops 40 feet into the sea," said Hooper. "I like that it's not the inspector who solves things, but this unusual figure who has no connection to the others, Angus McWhirter."

Performances of *Towards Zero* run Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m., with a Sunday performance June 26 at 4 p.m. and a Thursday performance June 30 at 8 p.m.

OrSVP is completely volunteer-run, and



DAVID DIERKS

Some of the suspects of Orinda Starlight Village Players production of Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero* (standing L-R): **Kim Saunders, Veena Kumari, Kenny Silberg, William Sponberg, Patrick Atkinson,** (seated L-R): **Monica Bonnington, Marian Simpson and Maya Rath.**

no one at the theater is paid. Anyone interested in any aspect of theater who would like to help is encouraged to contact the group at [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) or 925.528.9225.

"The passion of this group that not only puts on plays every summer, but builds the entire theater from scratch, is really inspir-

ing," said Hooper. "There's a theatrical magic in performing under the stars."

For more information, visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org).

David Dierks can be reached at [david@theorindanews.com](mailto:david@theorindanews.com).

# Orinda Filmmaker Brings Story of Jazz Age Artist to the Screen



COURTESY OF JULIE RUBIO

Orinda filmmaker, **Julie Rubio** (right), works to bring her new film *Tamara* to the screen. The film will showcase the lifestyle and aura of Jazz Age artist Tamara de Lempicka.

By DAVID FONSECA  
Contributing Writer

Orinda filmmaker Julie Rubio has yet another story to tell. *Tamara De Lempicka* promises to be a visually striking and sweeping feature documentary tracing the life and adventures of the celebrated painter Tamara de Lempicka. It follows her rise to international fame in 1920's Paris, her move to the United States escaping anti-Semitism

in 1940 and finally the revival of her reputation in today's art market.

Long fascinated by the paintings and life of de Lempicka, Rubio is excited to bring her story to the screen as the writer, producer and director of this definitive documentary.

"Her work truly speaks to you. It's completely recognizable. And if you love her artwork, it penetrates and goes deep

[SEE RUBIO page 19]

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **BAND** from page 11

da Community Park for letting events like these happen and extend a special thanks to Todd Trimble for helping us organize it," he said.

Morosini also thanks his parents for their ongoing support and musical influence.

"My parents are very supportive. My dad has been playing the drums since he was 11. It helps to have a parent with a big musical background supporting me," said Morosini. "My Mom is very supportive as well, even if she doesn't like all the bands that come over to record sometimes."

By "record," Morosini is referring to his recording studio in his parent's Orinda home called, "Trez Rek Studios."

His father, Tony Morosini, explains how his son's recording studio got started.

"I had a very small recording studio in our prior home in Moraga, and I taught Nick how to use Pro Tools, which is software used for recording and mixing music," said Tony. "Nick took to it immediately and started playing bass guitar and recording himself. He now plays bass, drums and guitar and has started a business recording local bands. Most of the bands at their festival in March have released music on Spotify, which Nick has mixed and recorded. He has over a dozen engineering credits so far."

Tony has credits too, since he's played

guitar and drums on nearly half a dozen albums, including with the Mineral Kings, Trez Rek 500 and his solo act, Morosini, from the early '90s.

"We are very proud of Nick and the passion he has for music and recording," said Tony.

Morosini said his band practices in an art and storage rental place in Richmond, usually about two to three times a week. His long-term goal is to head to Nashville.

"I've committed to Belmont University in Nashville, and I plan on sharpening my skills with sound and music production for the next four years," he said.

His mother, Amy Morosini, approves: "We are very proud of Nick. Not just for his music ability, but also for his passion for

the business side of music," she said. "He started taking bass guitar lessons when he was in middle school. His instructor at the time was the husband of the Orinda School District's Superintendent."

Amy said Nick gets his musical talent from his dad.

"Tony also played in a band in high school with Dave Grohel from Nirvana and Foo Fighters' fame," she said. "I, on the other hand, being tone deaf, take no credit whatsoever!"

She also attributes the pandemic to Nick's growth and education in producing music.

"Tony taught Nick about recording when COVID-19 hit, and because of all the social distancing restrictions, Nick spent much of

his free time in our garage learning everything he could about music technology," she said. "He spent hours on YouTube and offered to record young bands for free, just so he could learn how to do it. As much as we all hate COVID-19, I don't think Nick would be as adept as an audio engineer and producer as he is if the pandemic didn't imprison us. Nick definitely used the isolation time to his advantage."

The band's next performance is in Santa Cruz, June 4, location to be determined. Visit Hell Bound Pound on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/FYf9RzHpk-k> or Instagram @hellboundpound.

*Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.*

◆ **ODYSSEY** from page 11

solving.

Based on scores from both parts, the team placed first in their division at San Francisco Bay Regional and third in the California state competition, where the top three continue to the World Finals.

The team's coaches, Leslie Volk (Wagner's Innovation Lab leader) and Maggie Wang, both enjoyed the team's bond.

"There is a unique chemistry among this team, and we coach them to bring their individual strengths to collectively make the teamwork creative, think outside the box and have fun! This helps to foster the pace during the competitive elements of problem solving," said Wang.

Volk described the team's unique process.

"I like how our Odyssey team works together to compromise on a solution that is both funny and creative."

The final production will yield the use of baking soda, kept secret until the team competed May 26-28.

Odyssey of the Mind was born out of an industrial design class by founder Dr. C. Samuel Micklus in 1978, who challenged his students to solve unique problems with creative solutions.

Competitor Nguyen talked about their trial and error results.

"I like how our team works together," she said. "Some of our solutions surprised us, but we tried things out and learned from our experience. Seven heads are better than one!"

To get the students to the World Finals in Iowa, the team raised approximately \$18,000 to register, ship all life-size, student-built props and cover transportation and housing during the competition.

Donations are welcome to cultivate innovation, critical thinking, diversity and inclusion and how to overcome technical and team challenges.

Visit [www.oneorinda.org](http://www.oneorinda.org), under "Community Giving," and note in the comments, "Donation for Wagner Ranch Odyssey of the Mind."

While the bacon pies seemed funny

at first, they became the lynchpin of the production and led to the uniqueness and creativity for this project. Eastward ho, to Iowa they go!

*Jill Gibson can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.*

◆ **GALLERIES** from page 9

To view more of Vanhouten's artwork, visit [tinyurl.com/yc5a4nvk](http://tinyurl.com/yc5a4nvk).

The Wilder Art and Garden Center is located at 20 Orinda Fields Way. The exhibit runs June 4 through July 9 and is in-person on the reception date, but virtual the rest of the month because the building is not open due to COVID-19 restrictions. Viewings by appointment with Curator Aniston Breslin can be arranged by request at [anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu](mailto:anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu). For more information, call Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.


*Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.*

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CALENDAR / CLUBS

# On the Calendar in June

- 1 **Orinda Library** is open to the public. All events are currently online only. They can be viewed at: <https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events>. Open hours are Mon. through Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 26 Orinda Way, Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>. Storytimes relaunches June 1 and will occur every Wednesday, 10:30 - 11 a.m.  
**Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** - Oakland Art Alliance "A Few Good Artists" fill the entire gallery with artwork in many genres through June 30. Meet the artists at a reception in their honor Sat. Jun. 4 from 3 - 5 p.m. See article p. 9.
- 2 **Orinda Books** presents Pip Williams reading and discussing *The Dictionary of Lost Words* 2 p.m. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3JIGEt0>.  
**Taste of the World Market** food trucks Orinda Community Center parking lot from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Also, June 9, 16 23 and 30.
- 3 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** present Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero*. Fridays and Saturdays through July 2, 8:30 p.m. Also, June 30 at 8 p.m. and June 26 at 4 p.m. Orinda Com-

- munity Center Park Amphitheater. See article p. 15.
- 4 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also June 11, 18 and 25. See article p. 4.  
**Art Gallery at Wilder** - The Lamorinda Arts Council presents "A Proclivity for Positivity," a solo exhibit of Carrie Vanhouten's whimsical collages during June and invites you to join her at a Community Collage event at her artist reception on June 19 from 2:30 - 5 p.m. See article p. 9.  
**Concerts-In-the-Park**, with The Real Thing, 6 - 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park.  
**Orinda Books** presents Debbie Chinn discussing her new memoir, *Dancing in Their Light*, 2 p.m., RSVP to <https://bit.ly/3sFFLvU>
- 6 **First Friday Forum** presents *The Impact of the Pandemic on Children and Families* with Ryan Timpke. 10 a.m. See article p. 2.
- 11 **Orinda Books** presents *Surviving the Unimaginable*, Expressing the Inexpressible: A conversation about grief and healing with

- Pascale Vermont & Mike Bernhardt. Vermont is the author of *Surviving the Unimaginable: Stories of Coping with Pregnancy & Infancy Loss*. Bernhardt is a Certified Grief Educator and is trained as a facilitator in Poetry as a Tool for Wellness. 3 p.m. For more info., contact the store: 925.254.7606 or email [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com)
- 16 **Opera in the Park** - presented by Orinda Rotary from 6 to 8 p.m. in Orinda Community Park, 28 Orinda Way. This free event features Festival Opera singing and Broadway music. Visit [orindarotary.org/](http://orindarotary.org/) for more information. See article p. 5.
- 18 **Art Embraces Words Live Event** - Missing your creative tribe? The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to join emerging authors reading their work and local artists displaying their artwork. Also, July 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. Visit [www.lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words) to sign up or for more information.
- 21 **Orinda Books** presents Diablo Writers' Workshop 5 year celebration, 6 p.m. Diablo Writers' Workshop has taught over seventy classes to writers of all ages and experience, offering inspiration and guidance to

- discover and tell their stories. For more info, contact the store: 925.254.7606 or email [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com)
- 23 **Concerts-In-the-Park**, with EP Sax, 6 - 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park.  
**Staying Safe in Orinda** - Orinda's Top Safety Officials and Orinda Wildfire Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Presentation Visit Orinda Association on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/vAFsRvYXshw>
- 24 **Rock the Plaza Concert Series**: Lamorinda Idol Singers 6 - 8 p.m. - Lafayette Plaza Park, corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd. <https://lamorindaarts.org/idol-2/>. Lamorinda Idol is part of the Lamorinda Arts Council.  
**Wildfire Preparedness video** is steaming on the MOFD YouTube channel. Visit the Orinda Wildfire Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Presentation at <https://youtu.be/hh4X78wKQPw>.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at [calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:calendar@aspenconsult.net).

# Club Meetings in June

Some clubs are meeting in person, while others still offer Zoom meetings. Use contact for more information.  
**American Association of University Women**-Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML) general meeting June 21 at 9:30 a.m. Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>.  
**Community Gentle Yoga**, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at [gcmozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmozee@gmail.com).

**Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Kent Long for Zoom link at [kentlong@moragaadobe.org](mailto:kentlong@moragaadobe.org). [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).  
**Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday. 3 p.m., 925.408.1840. [www.orindacreeks.org](http://www.orindacreeks.org). or [info@orindacreeks.org](mailto:info@orindacreeks.org).  
**Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m. 925.687.8844, ext. 227. <https://bit.ly/3egD3EZ>.  
**Lamorinda Meditation Community**. Mon-

days and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:25 a.m., . All levels and philosophies welcome. Contact Gaby Mozee at: [gcmozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmozee@gmail.com).  
**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated**. Third Thursday. For more information, visit. [www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org](http://www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org).  
**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Weekly meetings conducted in hybrid format - in person & Zoom, are recorded. General public can access at no charge. 7 - 8:15 a.m. [SEE CLUBS page 16]

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CLASSIFIEDS

◆ CLUBS from page 15

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205>. Meetings held at Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Visit: [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com). Meetings: June 3: Major Kristin Wolfe, USAF - First Female F-35A Demo Team Commander; June 10: Jumbo Jim Eakins, Retired American Pro Basketball Player; June 17: Melissa Allen, RotaCare Concord; June 24: Wendy Leonard, founder of TIP Global Health.

**Montelindo Garden Club**, membership open to all. For additional information visit the website at [montelindogarden.com](http://montelindogarden.com).

**The Orinda Association**. First Monday 7 p.m., Zoom meeting. 925.254.0800 or [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

**Orinda Chamber of Commerce** Contact Kristen Southworth for zoom link at

[president@orindachamber.org](mailto:president@orindachamber.org).

**Orinda Garden Club**, PO Box 34, Orinda, [www.orindagc.org](http://www.orindagc.org), 925.257.0668.

**Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, Ian at 925.254.1465 or [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org).

**Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925.254.1353 email [information@orindahistory.org](mailto:information@orindahistory.org), <http://orindahistory.org> for times and location of meetings and appointments.

**Orinda Junior Women's Club**. First Tuesday, 7 p.m., [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org). Contact Erika Rosenberg at 415.867.3065.

**Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM**. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925.254.5211. <https://orindalodge.org>.

**Orinda Rotary**. Virtual meeting Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m., [cmroeder@comcast.net](mailto:cmroeder@comcast.net) or [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org) for zoom link. Presentation June 15, Aida Glimme to present the new Mission Statement and Strategic Direction

adopted by the OUSD Board of Trustees in May. The public is invited and encouraged to attend via Zoom. For more information and zoom link email, [rotaryclubforinda@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubforinda@gmail.com).

**Orinda Satellite Rotary Club**. Second Wednesday. Call Sylvia at 510.224.8548.

**Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting via Zoom. For more information, 925.254.8260.

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council** for information, email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at [mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org](mailto:mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org).

**Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Garden Room of Orinda Library. Email Jean Barnhart [jeanr.barnhart@gmail.com](mailto:jeanr.barnhart@gmail.com) to

confirm location.

**Road Runners**. Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepettos 87 Orinda Way), Thursday (SiSI, 910 Country. Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem). Contact John Fazel [runmnts@prodigy.net](mailto:runmnts@prodigy.net).

**Sons in Retirement (SIR)** Lamorinda Branch 174, the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. For info, call Tyler at 925.963.5741 or Bill at 925.963.0442 or [www.branch174.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch174.sirinc2.org).

Send club listings to Jill Gelster at [calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:calendar@aspenconsult.net).

◆ WILDER from page 7

Fire Chief Dave Winnacker, however, who presented the resolution to the MOFD Board, offers caution to residents: "Wildfire residents must be prepared to evacuate in case of a wildfire, and early evacuation is highly recommended," he said. "Preparing for wildfires before they happen is the best defense against the flames."

Wildfire resident and HOA Board President Scott Honeychurch added, "We appreciate the partnership with MOFD to keep our residents and property safe."

S. K Gupta can be reached at [sk.gupta.us@gmail.com](mailto:sk.gupta.us@gmail.com).

◆ YOUTH from page 10

(poetry); Miramonte 10th grader Indie Lee "Smile, you're on camera" (poetry); and Miramonte 11th grader Jonathan Su "City of Blues" (science fiction/fantasy).

"Reading these entries is like peeking inside the minds of the teens in this town and it's a privilege to have access," said Lowell, who has been a judge for several years.

Winning entries for the Poul Anderson contest will be posted on The Friends of the Orinda Library's website: <https://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/>.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF GABRIELA MOZEE  
Celebrating their 10th anniversary, the **Lamorinda Meditation Group** is back to in-person meetings.



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**Orinda Volunteer drivers needed** for one ride per month. Call SAT at 925-402-4506 to set up an appointment.

**Unwanted Eye Glasses** are collected for Lions Club at The Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

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RESIDENTS

# Lilia Ibabao Celebrates 95th Birthday at Santa Maria Church

By ANNABELLA BOOTH  
Contributing Writer

Residing in Orinda for over 50 years, Lilia Ibabao is celebrating her 95th birthday at Santa Maria Church in Orinda, June 25.

“I’m so grateful. Our life here is temporary, and we just have to make the best out of what God gave us for our life,” said Ibabao. “We have to make the most of it.”

Ibabao was born in 1927 in Manila, Philippines, where she lived with her mother, father and nine younger siblings.

In 1952, she graduated from medical school at the University of Manila. One year later, she had a one-way ticket to travel by boat to the U.S. It took her 21 days, stopping in Hong Kong, Japan and Honolulu. Arriving in San Francisco, she took a train to Cleveland to begin her journey as an obstetrician-gynecologist, later switching to practice as an anesthesiologist.

Taking Route 66, she and her husband drove from Cleveland to escape the cold weather and made their way to sunny California.

“The first winter in California was like springtime. I could not believe it,” she said.

After continuing her practice in Pinole, while residing in Orinda and having a family, she retired when she was 70-years-old.

“If you are retired, what do you do with

your life? So I looked around and I said, ‘I am going to the Orinda Community Center’ and I enrolled in the art classes and dance classes to keep my brain busy,” said Ibabao.

Ibabao does watercolor paintings, many of which fill her home, at the Orinda Community Center. She also takes dance classes and is learning to march in the Orinda 4th of July parade.

She said she’s loved living in Orinda with all the friendly people, the schools in the area, raising children, having a lot of friends and having so many things to offer like the community center and the library.

“Orinda feels safe and always quite like a little village,” she said.

A member of Santa Maria Church, she’s celebrated her 25th, 50th and 60th wedding anniversary Masses. This month she celebrates again – her 95th birthday – with a Mass and a celebration afterwards.

“There is nothing impossible if you try. Get your way up to the stars,” said Ibabao.

Ibabao is excited to celebrate with her family and friends.

“You have to see the world, before you leave the world,” she said. “Your time on Earth may be short, may be long; you have to try to see everything you can see in the world.”

Annabella Booth can be reached at [annabellabooth@gmail.com](mailto:annabellabooth@gmail.com).



JEFF HEYMAN

Orinda resident for 50 years, Lilia Ibabao, is excited to celebrate her 95th birthday with her family and friends at the Santa Maria Church in Orinda, June 25.

# Orinda Woman’s Club Selects Familias Unidas as Major Beneficiary



SALLY HOGARTY

Last year’s Festival of Trees silent auction included table top trees and a variety of other seasonal gifts. The 2022 fundraiser takes place Nov. 17 with tickets going on sale in June.

By SUZANNE MURILLO  
Contributing Writer

The Orinda Woman’s Club has a long history of identifying local organizations who are delivering important services to communities in need. Their annual Festival of Trees, held each year for the past 35 years, raises funds for one or more major beneficiaries, focusing on organizations that help women, children and families in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

This year’s Festival of Trees, which will be held on Thursday, November 17 at the San Ramon Marriott, will offer a luncheon and fashion show, as well as a silent auction, destination drawing, and raffles for beautiful gift baskets, trees and wreaths. The fashion show will feature three local fashion houses: Harper Greer and J. McLaughlin in Lafayette and Chicos in Danville. All proceeds will go to Familias Unidas of Richmond and the Orinda Women’s Club.

[SEE FESTIVAL page 18]

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VOLUNTEERS

# Appleton Receives Volunteer of the Year Award from Lamorinda Village

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

It was a happy surprise for Andrea Appleton when she was named Lamorinda Village Volunteer of the Year at the group's Afternoon of Gratitude event.

At Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church March 31, Don Jenkins presented the award and showed where Appleton's name was inscribed on the Perpetual Volunteer Award

Plaque. The plaque honors the memory of Ed Stokes, founder of Diablo Foods and famous for his community volunteering.

President of Sunrise Rotary, Jamie Textor, added an award from her club as well. "The Rotary motto 'Service Above Self' describes Appleton's devotion to service," she said. "She has amassed an amazing number of recorded service hours, 1163 to be exact."

Accepting the award, Appleton acknowledged she was caught off guard by the announcement and deeply honored.

"The Village is a great resource for older citizens of our three communities," said Appleton. "I think it's a lifeline for seniors, especially during the pandemic."

Executive Director of Lamorinda Village, Kathryn Ishizu, said Appleton began volunteering for them during the height of the pandemic, May 2020.

"Since then, Andrea has done over 406 shopping services," added Ishizu. "In 2021, she worked at our Vaccine Clinic, which vaccinated over 570 seniors. She now volunteers in our office weekly and has taken on managing the check-in program for our more vulnerable members."

But her volunteer work doesn't stop there. Appleton lists 19 other non-profits

where she gives her time. She is especially fond of working with the National Charity League for which she volunteers with her daughter, Allie.

"Allie and I have shopped together numerous times to provide food for those unable to do this task," said Appleton. "I'm delighted she has learned the joy of volunteering as a way to aid those who need a helping hand."

Ishizu explained that Lamorinda Village is a non-profit organization in which residents from Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda and beyond, may join. There is no brick-and-mortar establishment – it is a virtual village.

Ruth McCahan spearheaded the establishment seven years ago, and prior to the pandemic, there were 100 members; it now boasts 200. There are over 100 such Villages in the United States.

"Think of it as a 'concierge service' where a phone call can connect the caller with one of our many services," said Ishizu. "These include transportation, computer help, meal preparation, handyman and professional repair services, home health-care, medical equipment, physical therapy, exercise activities, continuing education, social activities and personal legal and financial services."

Founder of the organization, Orindan Andy Amstutz, talks about the impact the pandemic had on the non-profit: "The pandemic caused us to double in size, both with members and volunteers, because we were ready to offer grocery shopping for many who were sheltered in place." Amstutz continues, "Homebound students became volunteers, eager to drive and shop to support us. The need for connecting became even more important, and we found ways to help members avoid isolation. Our services and ability to connect have matured into a real community of support for Lamorinda."

Orindan Dr. Larry Toy, the current President, opened the meeting. He recognized numerous volunteers who have given their



JEFF HEYMAN  
**Andrea Appleton, with Dr. Larry Toy, President of Lamorinda Village, wins Lamorinda Village Volunteer of the Year at the group's Afternoon of Gratitude event March 31 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.**

time and praised the critical role they play in the success of the organization. Another Orindan, Sharon Iverson, is President-elect.

Toy offered information for those interested in joining the Village: "We accept members from Lamorinda (and immediate adjacent areas) who are 60 or above. Almost all members are between 70 and 100, with the average age in the early 80s."

He said dues are \$1 a day, \$360 a year, or \$600 a year for a couple. There are subsidized memberships for lower income members.

"Forty percent of our budget comes from our dues, and 60% come from donations and grants," Toy added. "Our goal is to keep our members living in their own homes as long as they wish by giving free volunteer-provided services, providing engaging social events and activities to combat social isolation and offering a warm, welcoming community."

*Bobbie Dodson may be reached at bobbiedodson109@gmail.com.*

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◆ **FESTIVAL** from page 17

an's Club Community Service Committee.

Familias Unidas was founded in 1979 with a mission to improve the wellness and self-sufficiency in Latino and other communities throughout West Contra Costa County. It is a family-oriented organization dedicated to delivering quality counseling, advocacy, and information and referral services. The organization will use the funds raised at the 2022 Festival of Trees to focus on youth who have been victims of violence and are exhibiting mental health symptoms and violent behaviors. Visit their website at [www.familias-unidas.org](http://www.familias-unidas.org).

The Orinda Woman's Club Community Service Committee makes a number of smaller donations to support additional

local organizations and projects. Funds from the 2021 Festival of Trees were donated to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) of Contra Costa County, Holden High School in Orinda, Infant Mental Health Program in Richmond, Project Second Chance of Contra Costa County, Renaissance Scholars of Cal State East Bay, Seniors About Town in Orinda, the START Program at Diablo Valley College, Sweet Beginnings of Contra Costa County and UC Berkeley Hope Scholars. Educational grants are also distributed for the further education of young women leaving the foster care system and underserved women re-entering the work force.

For more information, visit [www.orinda-womansclub.org](http://www.orinda-womansclub.org). Tickets go on sale in June for Festival of Trees.

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WHAT DO WE REALLY LEARN IN COLLEGE?

MIMI BOMMARITO



After attending my first frat party in 35 years, it turns out I don't miss the collegiate social scene. At all. I might grouse about the high price of a specialty cocktail, but as long as the glass is clean and the contents don't double as hand sanitizer, I gladly accept my current situation.

I'm no party pooper. I had a blast, fully appreciating the warm welcome from the fine young men of the Cal Poly Sigma Nu chapter. They hosted my daughter's sorority, the Sigma Kappas and their moms at a backyard barbecue for Mother's Day weekend. My youngest daughter finally relaxed once a basic ground rule was established – when your male friend is speaking to me, if I am the listener and not the talker, I have not cornered him into an insufferable conversation. Hence, he does

not need "rescuing."

I learned muscle memory applies not only to riding a bike, but also to shotgunning a can of Coors Light, a contest I agreed to only at my daughter's insistence. Unsure if I should be proud or ashamed to state I "out-gulped" her by a half-second, I also suspect she let me win, counting it as my Mother's Day present.

My daughter is very happy at Cal Poly, and this has her parents heaving a huge sigh of relief.

Many differing paths lead to post-high school fulfillment. My role here is to encourage newbie parents to enthuse for all of them, since our community has an especially high rate of following only one: college. The ensuing angst, most notice-

◆ RUBIO from page 13

and is completely soulful," said Rubio. "There's no one quite like her. Her story is one of resilience. She was self-made and truly a survivor. The world needs more stories like hers, especially focused on women."

De Lempicka was a foremost Art Deco painter. She worked hard to maintain the legendary status she enjoyed in Europe, using Hollywood star system techniques such as: glamorous photos by famous photographers, courting the press and hosting lavish parties. But the method that worked in Roaring Twenties Paris failed in post-war America.

Using an all-female crew, Rubio's documentary attempts to solve the mystery about why it took so long for the U.S. to appreciate what European art collectors and historians had already known about de Lempicka, the painter whose work is the world's third most valuable among females.

Rubio is an award-winning Latina film producer, writer, director and actor. She is the director of business for Women in Film SF Bay Area. She launched East Meets West Productions in 2002, through which she produced the multiple award-winning feature film *East Side Sushi*, winning awards at 16 film festivals. *East Side Sushi* is distributed through Samuel Goldwyn and HBO.

Multiple films of hers have been picked up and distributed extensively as well as being featured in domestic and international festivals.

Among her many other films, Rubio also

wrote, directed and produced the feature film *Too Perfect*. Orinda residents will feel at home seeing scenes in it that were filmed at Theatre Square.

"My son and many of his friends acted in the film, and many extras came from our community," she said. "It's so special to me. Even though it's just a kid's film, it just meant the world to me with the whole community getting behind it."

Rubio added, "That's why I made it at Theatre Square. At that point, Theatre Square was completely shut down and many of the stores were vacant. It was kind of scary. It was like a ghost town 'downtown Orinda.' In the movie, I wanted downtown to be a place for kids to see movies together, hang out by the fountain, eat ice cream at Loard's and get cupcakes at Republic of Cake. I wanted to see my town alive. I wanted the kids to have a safe, fun place to go and a downtown that was fun and welcoming for them. It didn't exist except in my mind, and then a whole community jumped in and helped manifest my dream.

"Orinda can come across as pretty perfect, but there's a lot of people that are hiding behind being perfect. That's why I called it *Too Perfect*. The last line of the movie is 'But hey, no one's perfect'. Isn't that the truth?"

Want to contribute and be a part of Orinda's filmmaking history? Visit <https://bit.ly/39nQ6pk>.

Dave Fonseca can be reached at [davef52@gmail.com](mailto:davef52@gmail.com).

able at this time of year as weighty choices are made prior to graduation, is palpable. Tension permeates the air, like invasive pollen or the offensive contributions of my older dog.

If a kid is reluctant to go away to college, don't waste time and money forcing it. Follow the sensible wisdom of studying two years at a California junior college and transferring seamlessly into a UC by junior year. I don't provide clinical research here, unless by research you mean chatting at a book club or dinner party. But I have visited with enough of my fellow parents over the years to know this process works beautifully and is not an urban myth.

Gap years are becoming more common, a rare upside to the pandemic. Trade schools are vastly underrated, especially around here.

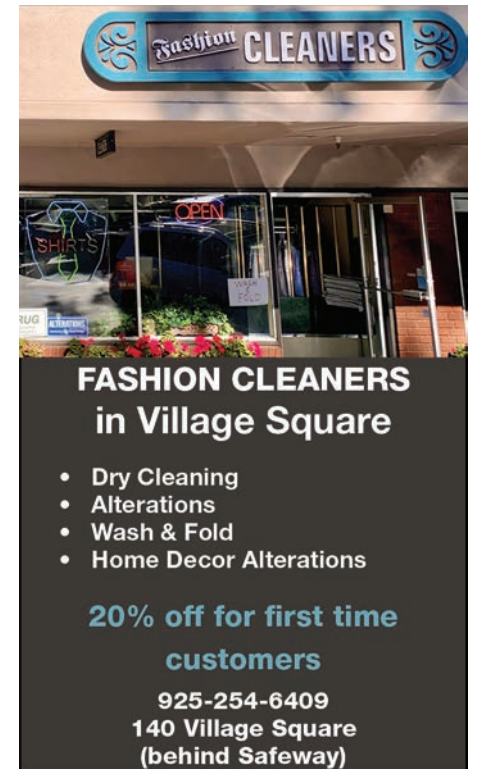
Many credible options are underrated because Lamorinda consistently yields high numbers of gifted athletes, brilliant scholars and insanely talented artists. But Stanford "ain't got" room for all of us. Stanford's the moon, and my kids weren't astronauts. Fine by me. This world needs a variety of skill sets. Imagine an astronaut cafe. Eggs Benedict in a squeezable pouch? Pass.

Often a graduating senior must choose between several options, all of them good, creating its own unique set of stressors. If your kids don't love their choices after the first couple of weeks, they might agonize over making the "wrong decision." Don't panic. Instead, take deep breaths and urge them to give it one calendar year. It's astounding how much a poten-

tially bleak situation improves after winter break.

We've romanticized our college years, remembering only the cumulative effect rather than daily challenges. Like my frat party example – epic memories of attending frats and formals in my youth. But when the DeLorean pulls up in front of my house, I shall not be setting the flux-capacitor to 1986.

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at [editor@theorindanews.com](mailto:editor@theorindanews.com).



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BUSINESS

# Dr. Jenkins and Dog Make a Great Team at Dental Office

By MIMI BOMMARITO  
Staff Writer

Do dental appointments rattle the nerves?

If so, check out the practice of Jasmine Jenkins, DMD and her canine sidekick Kenzie: Critters for jitters at a cheerful practice where “Take Your Dog to Work Day” is a regular occurrence. Although Kenzie is not allowed to roam the office, a

quick peek at this shy little “mystery mix” curled up in her doggy bed under Jenkins’ desk, should soothe potential angst. “Seasoned adults” compare Kenzie to Benji, a popular canine film star of the 1970s.

Jenkins took over the dental practice of Ernest “Ernie” Kahl, DDS in February of 2021 when the well-known and beloved Orinda dentist retired. Longtime Orindans may recall James Wasley, DDS, whose downtown Orinda office was established

in 1949, over what is now La Piazza Pizzeria Trattoria.

Kahl took over Wasley’s family dental practice in 1973. Kahl’s second-floor office, located at the corner of Camino Pablo and Orindawoods Drive “was a brand-new building in 1973,” Kahl said. “I was one of the very first tenants.”

The practice continues to thrive in this same location nearly 50 years later.

In a “double retirement” of sorts, Kahl also decided the time was right to leave his longstanding professorship at the UCSF School of Dentistry, golf happily filling the void. He and his wife Phoebe are delighted to have found “a perfect fit,” as they describe it, in Dr. Jasmine Jenkins’ approach to dentistry. Although multiple contenders vied for the keys to this solid, local practice, “We feel blessed to have found Dr. Jenkins – the best way I can explain it,” Kahl said.

In her spare time, Jenkins, a native Californian raised in San Jose, enjoys – among many other artistic endeavors – hiking and outdoor activities, and spending time with Kenzie, her beloved rescue, acquired from a shelter in Orange County about four years ago.

After attending the University of California, Los Angeles for her undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in molecular biology, Jenkins obtained her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Tufts University in 2015.

She completed her residency at Boston University where she later taught. She and Kahl share a love of teaching – as well as practicing – dentistry, Jenkins tacking on a few extra years in Boston teaching at BU before returning to the Golden State. Although she thoroughly enjoyed her years on the East Coast, she was happy to return to the Bay Area to be closer to her mother and sister.



MIMI BOMMARITO

Dr. Jasmine Jenkins, DMD and her loyal canine home and dental office companion, took over the practice of retired Orinda dentist Ernest “Ernie” Kahl Feb. 2021.

Jenkins’ practice welcomes the entire family, meaning children as well as adults. She explained how, at a very young age, some children might be more comfortable with a pediatric dentist. But if the child can participate in more of an adult setting, like a young teenager for example, the practice is happy to include the youngster.

“When I’m treating an entire family, often predispositions reveal themselves and preventative action can be taken,” said Jenkins.

A solo practitioner, Jenkins firmly believes in going the extra mile for her patients. If a dental emergency arises after hours, patients can reach her on her cell phone. She has a staff of five, six if you count her canine sidekick: Roxana Trutner, Lisa Alva, Adrienne Holland and Julie Fletcher, dental hygienists and Lisa Martinez, office administrator.

The office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., located at 6 Orinda Way, near City Hall. New patients are welcome. Schedule a check-up today 925.254.2318.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

### SECURE ACT 2.0 PROMISES MORE WAYS TO SAVE

DAVID BORN, CFA, CFP



The Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022 looks likely to become law after passing the House in a resounding 414-5 vote. More familiarly known as the SECURE Act 2.0, the legislation will alter the existing retirement savings landscape in many of the same ways the original SECURE Act did in 2019.

One notable proposal gradually changes the begin date for Required Minimum Distributions to age 75 by 2032, which was changed in the original SECURE ACT to 72 from 70.

The later age gives workers more years to earn money before realizing potentially large taxable income from distributions. Paired with Social Security, those distributions historically could push workers into a higher tax bracket, making work less financially rewarding.

The later age change could also help some earlier retirees. The later distribution start date would give more flexibility for

low or no earning retirees to make advantageous tax moves, like realizing capital gains or making Roth conversions in low tax years.

Employer contributions would also gain the flexibility to be made as Roth, versus the current pre-tax-only system. Roth contributions can be attractive for those temporarily in lower income tax brackets or those that are unlikely to ever see a lower tax bracket. The latter may become more prevalent for the highest earners working through age 75, assuming they resist the charm of Incline Village.

The new rules would also help those in need of a nudge to get started saving for retirement by mandating automatic enrollment for 401(k) participants and offering small businesses new incentives to set up retirement plans.

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