



THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 36, Number 9

www.theorindanews.com
Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
September 2021

Serial ADA Lawsuit Filer Impacts Several Local Businesses

By KRYS SHAHIN
Staff Writer

Multiple Americans with Disabilities Act lawsuits have hit small Lamorinda businesses this year, causing Orinda's Genuine Goodness to postpone kitchen upgrades and the Moraga Garden Center Nursery to close early.

Meryl Pomponio, who filed 55 similar cases in the California Northern District Court this year, filed these local ADA lawsuits. These types of suits are not new and have only increased in recent years.

ADA lawsuits, citing Title III, have increased by 254% since 2015, and now make up 53% of all ADA lawsuits in America, according to Seyfarth Shaw LLP.

Diane Earnes, co-owner of restaurant Genuine Goodness, was served the summons and complaint earlier this year, citing there was "furniture in the handicap parking spot."

"After already being a small business and working through COVID to get what we saw was a pretty incorrect lawsuit served to us regarding things that were not relevant was, and is, a strong source of stress," said Earnes.

She is estimating that costs after this suit can be anywhere from \$500 to \$40,000 depending on what the judge rules, if it does not get settled outside of court.

This is in part because of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, which, as defined by the California legislature, is the promise that all Americans are "free and equal" no matter their age, race, disability, religion, etc.

Under the Unruh Act, plaintiffs are entitled to be paid damages for each violation they suffered "up to a maximum of three times the amount of actual damage, but in no case less than four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and any attorney's fees that may be determined by the court in addition

[SEE ADA page 12]



DIANE EARNES

ADA lawsuits have struck Lamorinda businesses, including Orinda's **Genuine Goodness**, resulting in temporary and permanent closures in the community.

Orinda Scouts Receive Coveted 2020 Mott Environmental Award



WADE BARRETT

Eagle Scout Arman Marchiel's Pond Turtle Reintroduction Project with protected turtle house. **Mr. T.** (above) enjoys his new home.

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor

Since 1957, Orinda Scouts have beautified areas around the city and enhanced the local environment. To recognize and honor these decades-long contributions, The Orinda Association (OA) chose Orinda Scouts to receive the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award for 2020.

The award presentation was scheduled as part of the Open House and Picnic Day at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area Sept. 26. Both events are canceled due to the increase

in COVID cases. The OA plans for an in-person ceremony and award presentation in the future.

The award, given in memory of 50-year Orinda resident William Penn Mott, Jr., is presented annually to an Orinda resident, group of residents or organization which has worked for the preservation, improvement, promotion or educational use of Orinda's environmental and ecological assets.

Often described as "Mr. Parks" and a "modern day John Muir," Mott worked 60 years to create tens of thousands of acres of

parkland at the national, state, regional and local levels. He headed the National Park Service (NPS), the California park systems, Oakland's city parks, the East Bay Regional Parks and the Moraga parks department.

At age 82, Mott was serving as a special assistant to the NPS, working on the conversion plans for civilian use of the Presidio of San Francisco, at the time of his death in 1992. Locally, Mott was a founding member of The Orinda Association and served as its first president.

To earn the Gold Award rank, Girl Scouts [SEE MOTT page 13]

OUSD Looks at Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

By TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY
Staff Writer

In 2017, the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Board of Trustees approved a set of strategic directions that continue to guide the district.

The directions list four values that OUSD teachers and administrators hope students will learn while at school, a "North Star" for district decision-making, according to Director of Curriculum and Instruction David Schrag.

One of those goals is to "cultivate ethical and respectful citizens." At a July 19 board meeting, OUSD took another step towards that goal by creating a new position in the

district: a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) specialist.

This employee will, among other respon- [SEE OUSD page 10]



COURTESY OF OUSD

As **OUSD** starts the new school year, it continues its work to improve equity and inclusion, trying to uphold its motto that "Everyone belongs here."

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CARS

Car Show Honors First Responders

By AMANDA BURNS
Staff Writer

After transforming into a virtual car tour in 2020, the annual Orinda Classic Car Show is back in person for the 17th year.

“It’s tradition that we hold it the Saturday after Labor Day,” said car show’s Co-Chair Bill Waterman. “This year that ended up being the 20th anniversary of 9/11, so we wanted to pay tribute to first responders.”

The organizers hope to have several vintage first responder vehicles on display to honor those who risked their lives on 9/11 and continue doing so every day. In addition, food will be available via a vintage fire engine-turned-pizza oven run by Orinda’s own Fourth Bore Tap Room

and Grill.

Though many local firefighters have been called away to fight the Dixie Fire, they, and all others who cannot attend the event in person, can watch the show via a livestream video. It will be accessible at www.orindacarshow.com. An edited video will be posted on YouTube following the event as well.

“We’re most excited to be having an actual show again,” said Waterman. “This is our 17th year doing it, and we’re happy to have a sense of normalcy again, though we’ll still be pretty careful.”

The car show, which in the past has featured vehicles ranging from 1920s and ‘30s vintages to modern exotics, will be Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held outdoors – spread across Orinda Way and Avenida de Orinda – but masks are still recommended.

Cars shown come from all over the Bay Area, not just Lamorinda, but all money raised by the event goes towards supporting The Orinda Association’s Seniors Around Town, an essential program that provides Orinda seniors with free door-to-door rides.

“There’ll be between 170 and 190 vehicles,” said Waterman. “We’ll have

[SEE CAR SHOW page 8]



DAVID DIERKS

Bill Merkel's 2005 Dodge Viper Copperhead Roadster appeared at the 2018 Orinda Classic Car Show.



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CAR TIME

FORMULA 1 HAS INFLUENCED YOU
WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT

XAVIER ESTRADA 

Do you follow Formula 1 racing? Maybe you don't, but that hasn't stopped it from influencing your driving life.

Formula 1 is the pinnacle of motorsport.

Manufacturers push themselves to beat their competitors by over-engineering and, in some cases, inventing industry-firsts to gain an edge. Because of that, it plays a crucial role in the auto industry, spurring and trickling down innovation to normal commuter vehicles.

Drive a vehicle with paddle shifters? Thank Formula 1 for that. Paddle shifters were developed by Ferrari in the late 1980s and by the early 1990s many racing teams adopted their use. They eliminate the need to have a shifter and clutch pedal, greatly reducing the loss of power transfer while changing gears.

Imagine gear changes that happen in a blink of an eye or even less, compared to how long it would take to change gears with a traditional manual shift with a clutch pedal.

Over the decades, this technology has massively improved, and since its conception, it's made its way to common vehicles by way of semi-auto and dual clutch transmissions. It is dual purpose; the primary goal in commuter vehicles is to help fuel efficiency while a performance feeling is its by-product.

Another widely adopted technology is variable valve timing. In the late 1980s, Honda reliably developed VTEC (Variable Valve Timing & Lift Electronic Control). While winning consecutive Formula 1

[SEE CAR TIME page 8]

Exquisite Secluded Happy Valley Estate on 4 Acres



NEW LISTING

3 Wellesley Court, Lafayette | \$3,875,000

This elegant contemporary designed estate has panoramic views of the Lafayette reservoir across the valley. This private and serene location is at the top of the Happy Valley Neighborhood above the Orinda Downs. Level entry with plenty of parking this residence features many flat areas for play, some fenced for dogs! A detached full in law unit adjacent to the garage complete with electric car charging outlets. The home flows to three levels of satin finished lpe decks to enjoy the beauty of the surroundings. The primary suite includes a huge walk-in closet and doors to fold open to the view and deck. There are two family rooms, a double office and a chef's arts and crafts kitchen perfect for entertaining. The home is one block from an unmapped entrance to the Briones trail network. The property features solar and two air conditioning systems.

Please view the virtual tour to appreciate this magnificent home and setting. www.3wellesley.com



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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA Board
Classic Car Show Rolls into Orinda
Once Again!



SALLY HOGARTY

While last year's Car Tour was certainly fun with its livestream of the tour, it just wasn't the traditional car show Orinda residents have come to love. Once again car lovers can see and touch these automotive beauties (if owners allow!). And if you're lucky, you might get permission to sit in one of your favorites – or, at the very least, get photographed next to it.

I love a good-looking vehicle. I'm old enough to remember the fun of cruising down the main street in town (Bakersfield) in my 1962 Chevy Impala convertible in high school or shocking people when, as a very pregnant young mother-to-be, I pushed my way out of the bucket seat of my Austin Healey Sprite. Then there was the 1940 Ford my husband and I completely rebuilt. The idea of gasoline and oil circulating in my newly detailed engine was hard to

take. By the time our second child came around, I drove a 1969 Chevy Camaro Z28 that had done us proud on the drag strip. Now, as a senior citizen, I prefer a Prius C for gas economy, something my Camaro, at nine miles to the gallon, didn't afford me.

But I still enjoy looking at great cars, and I intend to do exactly that on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., when the Orinda Classic Car Show rolls into town. Approximately 200 American and European cars ranging from the 1920s to the classics of the '50s and '60s, as well as modern exotics, will be on display in and around Orinda Motors on Orinda Way in the Village.

Since the event takes place on 9/11, the show will feature a tribute to vintage emergency vehicles as it honors first responders who risk their lives every day. A peek at the nightly news drives this point home as firefighters from across the country battle the wildfires engulfing our state.

Well-known announcer Steve Harwood, once again co-hosts a livestream broadcast of the show is scheduled to include interviews with many of the car owners. Jay Ward, Harwood's co-host, a creative director for the Cars Franchise at Pixar and often a judge at major Concours events, will bring a great deal of expertise to the show.

In case you get hungry, Loard's Ice Cream and Candy will be on hand as well as Fourth Bore's classic firetruck, which has been turned into a pizza oven!

This year the raffle committee has outdone itself, finding unique prizes, including a Kidzone 12V electric Lamborghini complete with a radio, USB port and personalized license. Other items include a tailgate party and custom car products. That program is also the major beneficiary of the car show. For more information, call 925.254.0800 or go to www.orindacarshow.com.

See you there!



KATE WILEY

Tyler Gade, age 3.5 years, tries out the Lamborghini remote car, one of raffle prizes at the Orinda Classic Car Show benefiting The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town transportation program.

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.

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way
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The Orinda Association
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Orinda Classic Car Show
2021



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EDITORIAL

Editorial

To Mask or Not to Mask: That is the Question

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

Why should it even be a question: To mask or not to mask?

To wear a mask until this pandemic is far behind us should not be a political “left” thing or “right” thing – it should be a “health” thing. Period.

I’m not a person who runs her life based on fear, but I am a person who runs her life based on reasonable precaution, empathy, concern for the greater good of the community and safety-first common sense.

Since the last thing I want to see happen is our communities (and world) going back into lockdown, the simple act of everyone collectively wearing masks again – vaccinated or not – should be a no-brainer. Keyword “should.”

I have bronchial asthma and year-round allergies – I have since I was a kid and I

will be 58-years-old in two months. I don’t enjoy wearing a mask, but I do so regardless, and not just per recommendation of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and the CDPH (California Department of Public Health).

Mask wearing is inconvenient, annoying and restrictive (especially on triple-digit heat wave days), but contracting COVID-19 or its Delta variant is a thousand times more intrusive and damaging.

As a communications major, I find wearing a mask impedes communication, but that just means one must speak up a little louder: Use those vocals and enunciate more.

Wearing seatbelts is inconvenient, annoying and restrictive – not to mention painful as doing so cuts into your neck while driving. The annoyance, however, is far outweighed by the “prevention” of death should I get into an accident.

Did you know that anti-mask wearers are nothing new? From the 1918 influenza epidemic to the SARS and avian influenzas, many people scoffed at mask mandates. There were those who considered wearing masks “wildly unpopular,” while others saw it as “an emblem of public spiritedness and discipline.” I see it as the latter. The history gets contextualized in “A brief history of masks from the 17th-century plague to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic,” found at www.theconversation.com.

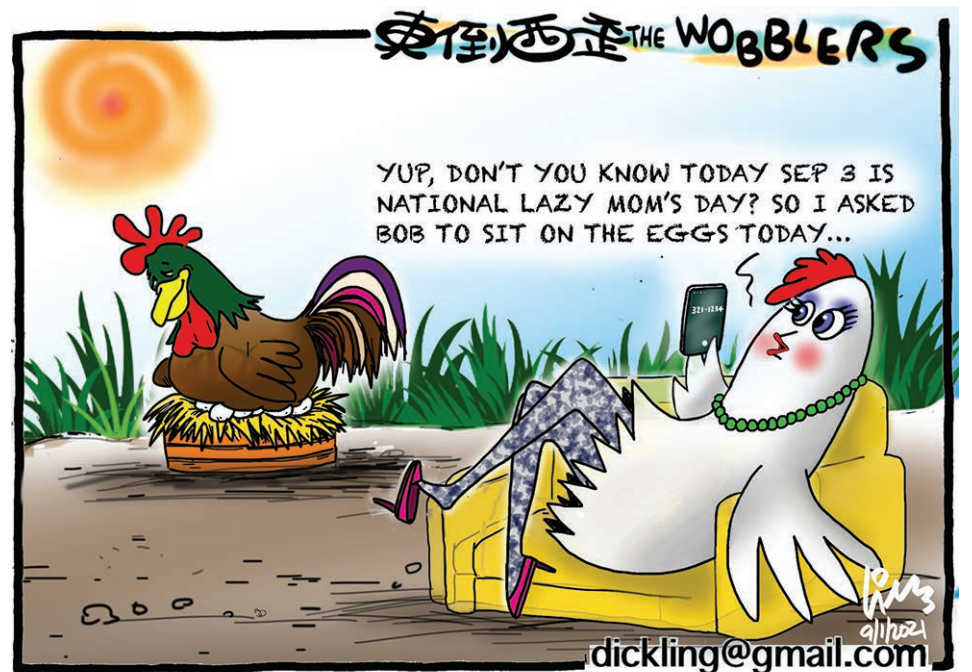
I don’t anticipate changing any anti-mask wearer’s mind on this issue, because I know it won’t. We’ve all read the growing data on the efficacy of wearing masks, and yes, we all hate wearing them. Perhaps it’s just my middlechildness (new word!) that wishes all would wear them as I hear my late mother’s words of encouragement lingering: “This too shall pass.”

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



CHARLEEN EARLEY

With significant and vetted data, wearing a mask is the healthiest thing to do, when it comes to the safety of our communities in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and its Delta variant.



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Letters to the Editor

Don't Let Our Children Be Used As Pawns

The selection of Aida Glimme to be the new superintendent of the Orinda Union School District raises the specter of our schoolchildren being used as pawns in a larger game.

As had been reported in *The Orinda News* and elsewhere, “She uses an equity lens to evaluate policies.” She places an “emphasis on inclusion.” Why were these the focus, rather than maintaining excellence?

This is the new Woke code for getting rid of merit. “Equity” means equal results, not equal opportunity. “Inclusion” means

proportional representation in everything, regardless of ability. Note: these principles do not apply to athletics.

Examples of “equity” include elimination of gifted and talented programs and putting students in “heterogenous” classes – top students along with English learners (which Ms. Glimme once was). Believers in “equity” support the proposed new math “Framework.” Here is an illustration from the Framework of what it means to look at policies through an equity lens: “In California in the years 2004–2014, 32% of Asian American students were in gifted programs compared with 8% of White students, 4% of Black students, and 3%

of Latinx students.” Conclusion: eliminate such programs because they are not equal across racial lines.

The proposed new math Framework is based on “A Pathway to Equitable Math Instruction” that lists the ways in which “white supremacy” is allegedly perpetuated in math class. According to the Pathway, examples of classroom actions that allegedly perpetuate white supremacy include asking students to show their work and getting the right answer.

Orinda schools in the OUSD are excellent. They don’t have an equity problem and don’t need an equity lens solution. Nor does the OUSD have an inclusion problem. Our children should not be used as pawns

in some perceived larger social justice movement favored by some on the Board of Trustees.

I could not find any public record of Ms. Glimme working as an administrator or teacher in a K-8 district or school. An administrative credential, unlike a teaching credential, is not limited to a range of grades. This is important because some subjects may be suitable for high school seniors but not for kindergarteners.

Keep an eye on the curriculum and keep this subject in mind when the school board members are next on the ballot. In Orinda, 2+2 equals 4 and always should. Getting the right answer matters.

– Nick Waranoff

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
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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer’s first and last name, signature and telephone number. Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com.

Letters to Editor for the October issue are due Sept. 8.

For advertising rates, contact Mimi Bommarito 925.818.7068, Kathy Enzerink at 252.626.2109 (kathy@theorindanews.com), Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net), Elana O’Loskey at 925.984.1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the October issue is Sept. 8.

FIRE / POLICE

Virtual Evacuation Prepares Local Residents for Fire Season

By KRYS SHAHIN
Staff Writer

In preparation for the ongoing fire season, the cities of Lamorinda teamed up with Contra Costa County to hold a practice evacuation to test emergency warning systems and to ready residents for the possibility of wildfire conditions that could necessitate the most feared response.

The county's Community Warning System (CWS) texted and called Lamorinda residents Saturday, July 31. This large-scale test was planned to ensure the program was working as intended.

"The exercise was very successful and met our objectives of increasing interoperability between police and fire agencies in the Lamorinda area and providing an opportunity to test the CWS system at scale," said MOFD Fire Chief David Winnacker. "This is the third year we have run evacuation exercises and intend to continue them in advance of fire season in the future."

According to the Orinda Police Department, all three of Lamorinda's police stations worked alongside MOFD, ConFire, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and CWS. Other municipal bodies such as the parks and recreation departments were also involved.

The virtual evacuation consisted of these groups using applications such as ZoneHaven (<https://community.zonehaven.com>) to see what communities would be affected by this virtual fire.

Calls and texts were sent out to registered residents within Lamorinda in intervals that started from 9:30 a.m. to about



COURTESY OF MOFD
During the virtual evacuation the morning of July 31, 26 first responder representatives attended the field portion of the exercise and learned new tactics for delivering better service for the upcoming fire season.

11 a.m.

There were four main objectives in mind for this exercise, according to Dennis Rein, MOFD's emergency preparedness coordinator.

The first was testing communications between fire and law enforcement about evacuations; the second was testing the CWS on a "large-scale incident;" the third was testing how to use the ZoneHaven Evacuation interface from the field; and the last was to practice the "communications flow between fire, law, CWS and residents," according to Rein.

Communication was centered on smoothing out steps that happen prior to evacuating residents.

This drill "really focused on inter-agencies working together," said Julie Sparks, the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Registrar. "It will be really vital for this upcoming

[SEE EVACUATION page 11]



POLICE BLOTTER

July 15 through August 14

Calls for Service

- 911 Hangup: 24 incidents
- Abandoned Vehicle: 3 incidents
- Alarm, False: 85 incidents
- Accident Injury: 2 incidents
- Accident Property: 6 incidents
- Barking Dog: 1 incident
- Battery: 2 incidents
- Burglary, Auto: 2 incidents: Bear Creek Rd., Camino Sobrante
- Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident: Camino Sobrante
- Burglary, Residential: 1 incident: Windy Creek Way
- Civil Disturbance: 8 incidents
- Death Non-Criminal: 1 incident
- Disturbing the Peace: 1 incident
- Embezzlement: 1 incident
- Failure to Obey Officer: 1 incident
- Fire/EMS Response: 1 incident
- Fireworks: 1 incident
- Found Property: 1 incident
- Fraud: 1 incident
- Grand Theft: 1 incident: California Ave.
- Grand Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident
- Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident: Donna Maria Way, Wilder Rd.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 2 incidents: Camino Pablo (2)
- Juvenile Disturbance: 3 incidents
- Loud Music: 3 incidents
- Loud Noise: 1 incident
- Loud Party: 5 incidents
- Medical Hospital: 3 incidents
- Motorist Assist: 1 incident
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 2 incidents
- Ordinance Violation: 3 incidents
- Outside Assist: 21 incidents

- Panhandling: 3 incidents
- Patrol Request: 70 incidents
- Petty Theft: 4 incidents: Bryant Way, El Gavilan Rd., Ramona Dr., Orinda Way
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 3 incidents: El Toyonal, Amber Valley Dr., Bel Air Dr.
- Property Lost: 2 incidents
- Public Assembly Check: 3 incidents
- Public Nuisance: 1 incident
- Reckless Driving: 6 incidents: Calvin Dr., Moraga Way (2), Camino Pablo, Moraga Way, Glorietta Blvd.
- School Check: 11 incidents
- Security Check: 63 incidents
- Service to Citizen: 121 incidents
- Shoplift: 1 incident
- Shots Heard: 1 incident
- Terrorist Threats: 1 incident: Sycamore Rd.
- Threats: 1 incident
- Tow: 3 incidents
- Traffic Hazard: 8 incidents
- Trespass: 1 incident
- Unwanted Guest: 3 incidents
- Vandalism: 5 incidents
- Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents: Sunnyside Ln., Village Square
- Violation Custody Order: 1 incident
- Walk Through: 35 incidents
- Welfare Check: 23 incidents

Arrest

- Failure to Obey: 1 arrest
- Recovered Vehicle: 3 recoveries
- Warrant Arrest: 2 arrests

— Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

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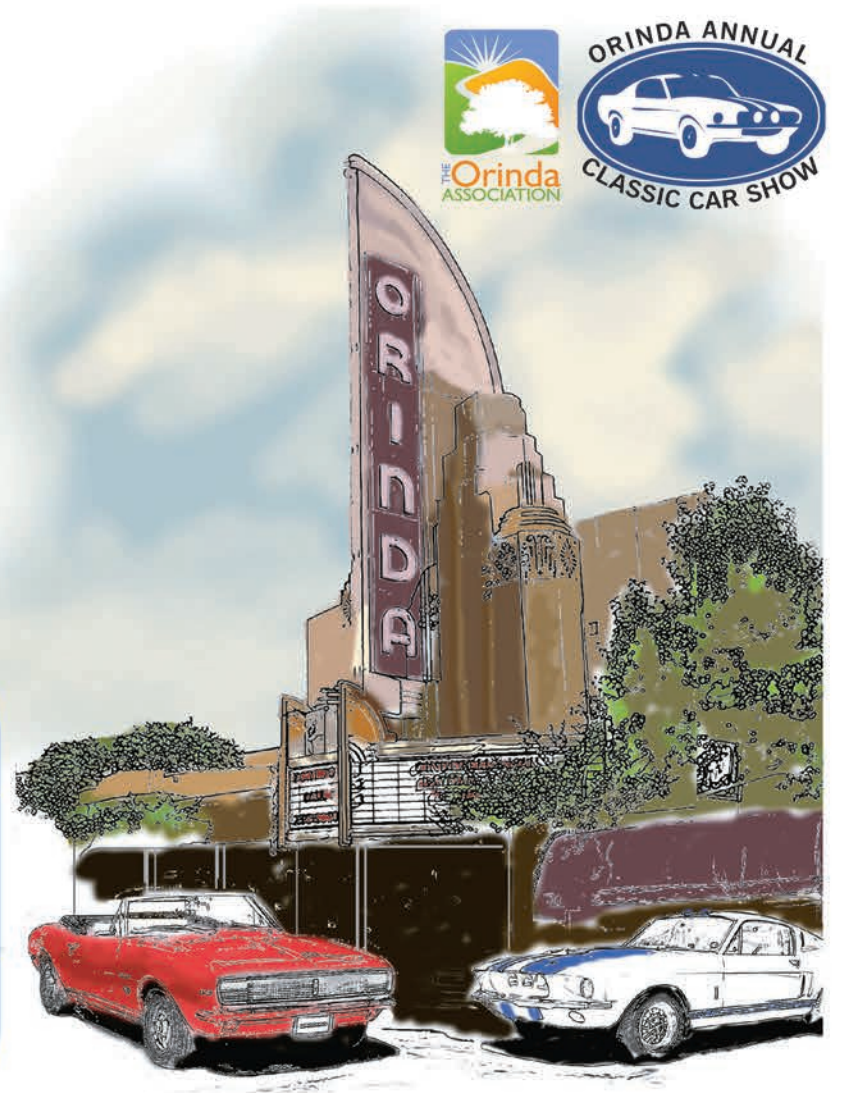
The 17th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show

Saturday,
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ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW SPONSORS



PERFORMING ARTS

Cal Shakes *The Winter's Tale* Sept. 1-26

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Excitement abounds as Cal Shakes returns to the stage for the Sept. 1 debut of William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* (TWT) adapted by Philippa Kelly and Eric Ting, who also directs. "I'm humbled to be joined by such extraordinary Bay Area artists as we navigate Shakespeare's profound examination of jealousy and love, friendship and suspicion, loss and reunion and the lengths we'll go to to avoid the hard-and liberating-truths. This is a grand collaboration, filled with music and dance and laughter and tears and maybe-just maybe-a codpiece or two," said Ting.

TWT famously explores the irrational, disastrous jealousy of King Leontes, its consequences and an eventual return to a new normal, literally ending in the renewal of spring. Resident Dramaturg Philippa Kelly said, "It brings up intriguing questions such as: What does it mean to repent? And, in order to be forgiven, does the transgressor need to understand the true meaning of their wrongdoing in terms of its impact on the person(s) offended? The extent of

the damage King Leontes does is partly due to his power, authority and influence."

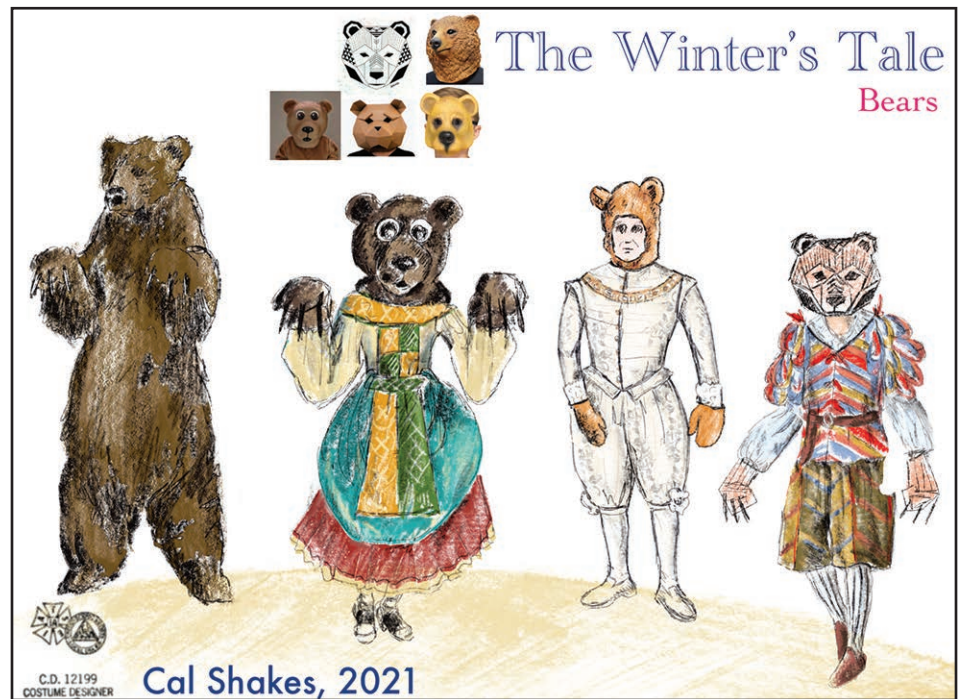
According to Kelly, Ting has been very much interested in staging characters who embrace imperfection. Since human beings are all imperfect, the premise of this adaptation is that, transcending reason, we all ultimately use love, hatred and jealousy to explore our experience.

TWT's early tragic overtures end, as only Shakespeare can manage, when events of the past lead to the merriment of young lovers and happily reunited elders. Reconciliation leaves us bathed in the renewal of spring.

Dating back to 1611, Shakespearean actors generally performed multiple roles and that is certainly true of Cal Shakes production with its nine actors portraying 16 characters. The cast for TWT features such well-known actors as Safiya Fredericks, Dean Linnard, Craig Marker, Regina Morones, Cathleen Riddle, Sharon Shao, Victor Talmadge, Dane Troy and Phil Wong.

Creative crew members tuning up for performances of their first and only five-act play in their 47th season include: scenic

[SEE CAL SHAKES page 9]



ULISES ALCALA

"Exit, pursued by a bear" is a famous stage direction in Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* taking place at the Bruns Amphitheater Sept. 1-26. Normally, a bear is never seen onstage but co-adaptors Director Eric Ting and Dramaturg Philippa Kelly had a different idea for Cal Shakes staging of this seldom seen work by the Bard. According to Kelly, the "infamous Bear comes to life in this production." As to why the Bear is wearing a dress in Costume Designer Ulises Alcala's sketch, you'll have to see the show to find out!

September Stories by Starlight

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) resume the Stories by Starlight series Sept. 10. The series features a different production each weekend in September, performed as reader's theater. Each production has three performances, Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater.

Reader's theater is a minimalist style of



MONICA BONNINGTON

Bruce Kaplan (L) and Kim Saunders performed in the first Stories by Starlight production, *Tartuffe*. Stories by Starlight continues Sept. 10 through Oct. 3.

performance without sets but with scripts openly used by the cast. OrSVP's productions feature costumes, lights and sound. Due to COVID-19 surges, OrSVP is requiring all audience members, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks.

First up, Sept. 10, 11 and 12, is *Don Quixote*, written by Matthew Garlin, directed by Amy Cook and adapted from the novel by Miguel Cervantes. This is a modern adaptation of the classic story with new windmills and quests. A man, estranged from his son, finds adventure worthy of the name "Don Quixote" with the help of his nurse and dearly departed wife.


Next up is George M. Cohan's *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, a mysterious melodramatic farce directed by Suzanne Loraine running Sept. 17, 18 and 19. A writer bets he can complete a novel in 24 hours and tucks himself away in a remote mountain inn. It seems the perfect getaway spot to write. Or, is it? "The crazy cast of char-

[SEE STARLIGHT page 15]

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SEASONED SHOPPER

◆ CAR SHOW from page 2

some outstanding, and certainly some unusual, if not rare, cars.”

John Anderson estimates he’s been involved with the car show for 15 years with his 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air sedan, named Emily. For him, it is an opportunity to connect with fellow car-lovers.

“She’s been with me for 45 years,” said Anderson. “But, I learn something new almost every show – about [her] or one of my other cars.”

This year’s show has been shortened to only one day, meaning no “Dancing with the Cars” fundraiser on Friday or Sunday car movies. But organizers, who have been preparing for the show since January, still have lots of fun planned.

The winners of Lamorinda Idol will perform live from 12 - 1 p.m. in a concert that is sure to be a blast. There will also be raffles, car show t-shirt sales, and Loard’s ice cream available for purchase.

Though there are different types of things to do at the show, the cars are the main event. Every car has its own fascinating history and unique qualities that owners are eager to share.

“Many of the car owners provided me with stories about their cars,” said Steve Harwood, who co-hosted last year’s car tour. “I was struck by the passion ... and the enthusiasm they had for all cars.”

The best part about the show, said Anderson, is “reminiscing with people about their first cars. I think almost everyone has good memories about their first car.”

For those interested, the show is still accepting vehicle registrations and donations to Seniors Around Town. Both donation forms can be found on the Orinda Classic Car Show website, www.orindacarshow.com. Any questions should be directed to Bill Waterman at billwaterman@orindacarshow.com.

Amanda Burns can be reached at amandakburns10@gmail.com.

925 254-1486 • fax 925 254-3427
9 Orinda Way
e-mail orindashell@sbcglobal.net

BARBARA KOBSAR

Sweet or savory? Breakfast or lunch? DJ from *La Crepe a Moi* is ready to create your favorite crepe at the Saturday Orinda Farmer’s Market.

DJ gathers local strawberries, spinach and tomatoes from the market stands to fill some of his freshly made crepes. Gluten free? Check out crepes made from organic, gluten free buckwheat flour.

Follow up by shopping for an abundance of fall produce now arriving at the market, including apples, pears, pluots, pomegranates, tomatoes, peppers, shell beans and squash. Be sure to include a few bunches of grapes in your basket to enjoy as a healthy snack or toss into salads.

The table grapes we see on market account for a relatively small share of the total grape harvest. The majority is made up of raisin and wine variety grapes, and I enjoy some from each category!

Thompson and Red Flame seedless grapes are the most common and offer a most desired crunch and flavor. As the weeks progress, look for the sweet Ruby and crisp, slightly tart Crimson to arrive. Worth the try are full flavored, old-fashioned seeded grapes such as Muscat and Tokay.

Grapes may be classified according to their color, by how they are used or by their skin type. All grapes in the pale yellow to green category are considered light, while dark types include grapes with pale red to deep purple-black skin. Those labeled as fresh, edible table grapes are considered low acid; wine grapes such as Cabernet are high acid and too tart to eat.

Color is the best indicator of mature, sweet grapes. Green grapes are sweetest when yellow-green, red varieties are best when all grapes are predominantly red and blue blacks are best when deep and richly colored. The dusty bloom on fresh grapes is produced by cells in or near the surface which forms a natural waterproofing to prevent the skin from cracking. Always buy grapes with bloom!

The Orinda Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. More information is available at www.cccfm.org, facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket and Instagram at [OrindaFarmersMarket](https://Instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket).



BARBARA KOBSAR

DJ shows off his expertise spreading batter at the crepe griddle.

ket, or call the market hotline at 925.431.8361.

Barbara Kobsar can be reached at Barbara@cotkitchen.com.

◆ CAR TIME from page 2

World Constructors Championships, the company kept pushing the envelope to beat the competition both on and off the track.

Honda implemented a clever way of having more power while being fuel-efficient. Its engine camshaft had different profiles. Depending on the RPM, the computer chose which profile to use.

High RPM equals high profile (more power), and low RPM equals low profile (fuel efficiency), manipulating how much air goes inside the cylinders. This innovation was quickly marketed and adopted to Honda’s vehicles, first to their performance lineup and later developed to better help fuel efficiency and emissions in the fleet’s common lineup as well.

Other manufacturers picked up on the improvement and created their own versions. BMW’s is known as Vanos; Toyota’s VVT, to name a few.

These are just a couple examples of many more innovations that have helped all consumers. The list would also include aerodynamics and hybrid power units in modern Formula 1 cars!

Xavier Estrada can be reached at service@orindaclassiccarcenter.com.

SENIORS

There's Magic in the Air for this Year's Three Quarter Century Club Meeting



COURTESY OF GEORGE HARDEEN

George Hardeen, Harry Houdini's grandnephew, will share stories about the most celebrated illusionist and escape artist in the world on Sept. 29 via Zoom, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

By **BOBBIE DODSON**
Staff Writer

Create the Magic is the theme for this year's Three Quarter Century Club's 21st meeting. George Hardeen, Harry Houdini's grandnephew, will share stories of arguably the most celebrated illusionist and escape artist in the world. The presentation will be held Sept. 29 on Zoom from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

"The event, open to everyone, celebrates Lamorinda seniors, age 75 years and over, with rich lives and stories to tell and community ties that enrich our lives," said John Fazel, who will serve as host.

Hardeen highlighted the focal point of his talk: "Even though Houdini died in 1926, he continues to be recognized as a master magician. It was in London, June 14, 1900, that Houdini became famous when he escaped from a pair of handcuffs at Scotland Yard Headquarters while thou-

sands watched.

"His other famous tricks included escaping from a sealed milk can with water in it, being buried alive and dangling upside down from the roof of a building while escaping from a straitjacket. I have many tales to tell about Houdini, who was the highest paid performer in the world at that time," said Hardeen.

The September program also includes naming the royal court (the oldest male "King," the oldest lady "Queen" and the longest married couple). Fazel will see to the delivery of their prizes.

Sponsors of the event are the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, Moraga Rotary, The Orinda Association, Lamorinda Village, Lafayette Seniors and the Lafayette Foundation, will give presentations.

To register for the event, visit www.create_magic.eventbrite.com.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbiedodson@comcast.net.

◆ CAL SHAKES from page 7

designer Tanya Orellana, costume designer Ulises Alcalá, lighting designer Wen-Ling Liao, sound designer Michael Kelly, resident dramaturg Philippa Kelly, movement choreographer Kendra Kimbrough Barnes, vocal/text coach Lisa Ann Porter, resident fight director Dave Maier, stage manager Cheryle Honerlah, assistant stage manager Michaela Byrne and music director Phil Wong.

The Winter's Tale runs Sept. 1- 26; cost is \$30-\$65. Evening performances are 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 4 p.m. and

select Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. Located at 100 Shakespeare Way in Orinda, The Bruns Amphitheater offers ample parking and ADA assistance to the outdoor theater and grounds. Warm clothes for evening performances are suggested. Theatergoers often show up two hours before a performance to enjoy a picnic on the outdoor tables. For more information, visit www.calshakes.org/Winters-Tale, email boxoffice@calshakes.org or call 510.548.9666.

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

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September 12

CALENDAR / CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

On the Calendar in September

Orinda Library is open to the public. With few exceptions, masks are required by the County for anyone not vaccinated. 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.; closed Sun. 26 Orinda Way, Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

Christian Science Church Prayer Garden open to all for Quiet Meditation. Pray, read, meditate. All are welcome anytime during daylight hours. 24 Orinda Way.

1 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** features artists Kath Balamuth, Lassie Cole-

born and Yuka Yoshi through Sept. 30. Meet the artists at their reception on Sat. Sept. 11 from 3 to 5 p.m. see article p. 14.

Art Gallery at Wilder virtual exhibit by Katie Korotzer through Sept. 30; see article p. 14.

Orinda Books Pat's Book Club will meet to discuss *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. 11 a.m. All are welcome. The book is available at Orinda Books. To attend, phone 925.254.7606 or email info@orindabooks.com.

2 **Taste of the World Market**, 5 p.m. Weekly food truck event features a different mix of trucks and entertainment. Visit

<https://bit.ly/3CW1ItZ>. Also, Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30.

4 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also Sept. 11, 18 and 25. See article p. 8.

9 **Orinda Books** Julie Lythcott-Haims discusses her new book *Your Turn: How to be an Adult*. This is a virtual event in cooperation with the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. To attend, visit and register at <https://givebutter.com/Lythcott-Haims>.

10 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents *Don Quixote*, written by Matthew Garlin,

8:30 p.m. Also Sept. 11 at 8:30 p.m. and Aug. 12 at 4 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. For reservations call 925.528.9225 or email info@orsvp.org. See article p. 7.

11 **Orinda Classic Car Show**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring classic vehicles displayed in and around Orinda Motors on Orinda Way in the Village. See article p. 2.

17 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents George M. Cohan's *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, 8:30 p.m. Also Sept. 18 at 8:30 p.m. and Sept. 19 at 4 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. For reservations [SEE CALENDAR page 15]

◆ OUSD from page 1

sibilities, assist in coordinating existing district DEI projects while also designing new programs as noted in the job description accepted by the board in July.

Specifically, the hire will collaborate with parent groups at OUSD schools, the Curriculum Committee and the Wellness, Inclusion, Student and Staff Equity committee, improving communication between and among these groups to develop a more consistent approach to equity districtwide.

"There is so much work that goes into all this thinking and planning and change,"

said Board President Liz Daoust. "It would be really helpful to have a more unified, systematic approach as a district."

Within Contra Costa County, a similar approach to combating racism and promoting equity was taken by county supervisors with the creation of an office of racial equity and social justice in November 2020.

The office proposal said the group would seek to achieve its goals through connecting existing county projects and initiating new ones.

Nationwide, more than 30 other municipalities have also established offices focused on addressing systemic discrimi-

nation at a local level according to a 2019 policy analysis prepared for San Francisco County supervisors.

For years, OUSD has been working to make itself more inclusive, with the specialist role being one of the latest developments in a series of ongoing initiatives, Schrag noted.

At the same July 19 board meeting, the district hired Aida Glimm as its new superintendent after Dr. Carolyn Seaton announced her retirement in May. While evaluating applicants for the position, OUSD looked at many qualities, including a commitment to equity and inclusion, according to the district's website.

As for curriculum changes, in June the board approved a resolution recognizing Pride Month. Beyond acknowledging the need for "safe and inclusive" schools, the statement said OUSD will commit to teaching students about LGBTQIA+ issues (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual) and offering professional development to staff.

"This was an incredible moment for us, to see that our district was showing another level of support for students," said Charles Shannon, an OUSD elementary school teacher and president of the Orinda Education Association.

By highlighting different perspectives and people in the classroom, students can

expand their worldview while becoming better critical thinkers, he added.

"We know that is part of a world-class education, for our kids to know that our world is made up of lots of different types of people," Shannon said.

OUSD has also worked with groups like the Anti-Defamation League and Epoch Education to advance its DEI progress, hosting anti-bias training sessions for teachers since 2019. For the 2019-2020 school year, the league recognized OUSD as a "No Place for Hate" district, a status the group gives to institutions who have made efforts to prevent discrimination and bullying.

Through these curricula and staffing changes, along with other activities that have taken place at OUSD, according to Schrag, the district wants DEI to continue to be a priority for the long-term future.

"Orinda students are future leaders, so teaching them early on in a K-8 setting the importance of acceptance and inclusion is a worthwhile pursuit for the district," he added.

"What we really want is well-rounded, thoughtful and empathetic human beings out in the world," Schrag said.

Tristan Shaughnessy can be reached at tristan.c.shaughnessy@gmail.com.



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(L-R) Lori, Kelsey and Grace Brown.

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Orinda Citizen Of The Year 2020 Nominations

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- Is a current Orinda resident;
- Gives their time, talents and energy as a community volunteer helping make Orinda better;
- Models excellence and good citizenship in everything they do;
- Brings the community together and promotes community spirit.

A celebration dinner will be held Sunday evening, Oct. 24 at the Orinda Community Center Founder's Auditorium to honor the award recipient. Deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, Sep. 3.

Send nominations to orindafoundation@gmail.com or mail to Orinda Community Foundation, P.O. Box 21, Orinda CA, 94563. Include your name and contact information, along with the name and contact of the nominee.

For more information, email orindafoundation@gmail.com.

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BIRTHIN' PAINS

MIMI BOMMARITO



My mother-in-law once described herself as an O.P. smoker, meaning she never purchased her own cigarettes, but occasionally enjoyed a puff of someone else's, creating the term "Other People's" (cigarette) smoker. I could stick that label on my attitude toward birthdays: I love Other People's birthdays, just not my own.

I used to love my birthday. The moment the calendar flipped to July, I felt butterflies in my stomach and the countdown commenced. And not because of the presents, or the cake. My presents were typically very practical items; and, shockingly to those who know me only as an adult, I didn't even like birthday cake as a kid, unless it was manufactured in a factory and stamped with a Hostess logo. It wasn't about the attention either. Anyone with old-school summer birthdays knows; they were a non-event. You were lucky if one or two neighborhood pals were rounded up to sing off-key as you blew out all your candles.

Despite these issues, childhood birthdays were magical, encapsulating the sheer joy of advancing in age. The body and mind shape-shifting in ways that were fascinating rather than disturbing. Reluctant to admit you were only nine; searching for any excuse to boast you were now 10. The implication being that with every advancing year, you were a new and improved version of your former software.

The opposite of this syndrome occurs today. The older I get, the fonder I grow of the special number I'm forced to abandon. This year I would rather not swap 56 for 57. Friendly and well-rounded, 56 is the product of one of my favorite multiplication equations as well as a popular Bingo number. The prime number 57 is an odd, awkward loner, giving me a long, uncomfortable stare from across the room. But sure enough, by this time next year I will have decided 57 is not creepy after all -- just introverted, and far preferable to 58.

"Birthdays are better than the alternative," my father-in-law, who lived to be 96, would often proclaim. And I grudgingly admit, he was spot-on. So, if I believe this wisdom to be true, then why the angst? Why the dread? Why is the day after my birthday the most soothing day of the year because it's officially the longest wait be-

fore I have another?

The irony in this situation is rich: growing older is truly filled with a lot of pluses. Take, for example, parenting your youngest child. You are often the oldest adult in the parental friend group. This can be intimidating, as most of the younger necks have enviable elasticity; but it can also be uplifting, to possess the confidence and knowledge to play the role of the parental prophet, comforting the younger, fretful, less-experienced parents with "this too shall pass" advice. "Let us not mire ourselves in the battles of our children," sayeth the wizened old mother of her third or fourth child, "childhood friendships, like the tides, ebb and flow. Besides, I am so over-eth this, so can we go forth and drinketh wine together instead?"

Once we start to notice the cosmic hourglass, to mind the meter, to watch the odometer rack up the nines — not only will young people not understand this example, but they may never realize they were deprived of watching some very cool moments take place, when non-digital odometers, reminiscent of our ancient clock-radios, slowly crept forward into a fresh numerical realm — once we witness Ma Nature glancing at her watch and writing something on her clipboard, suddenly there's some pressure. Instead of dawdling and meandering down life's merry way, we feel we should maybe pay a little more attention to where we are going.

When the actual birthdate arrives, it's our senses to the rescue. SEE a friendly face or a funny text; HEAR a message of love on voicemail — or better yet — in person, even if it's an off-key rendition of Happy Birthday that makes you squirm; FEEL an old school birthday card in your hand, or the embrace of a loved one; SMELL the scent of your favorite treat, flower or of birthday candles once they've been extinguished. And of course, the most important sense to the aging averse: TASTE. Nothing compares to the taste of our favorite meal and dessert of choice on our special day. Our senses bring us back to the present moment, reminding us to savor the past, plan for the future but LIVE for today.

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at Editor@theorindanews.com.

◆ EVACUATION from page 5

ing fire season if and when things get crazy."

Streamlining the evacuation process, according to Sparks, will help everyone involved because the fire departments cannot evacuate residents, but only give suggestions to evacuate to law enforcement who then can contact CWS and send out those notices.

While the goals for this exercise were mostly set on behind-the-scenes improvements, 33-year long resident of Orinda, Gail McIntyre was happy to take part physically in the exercise.

After purposefully planning a busy morning to ensure she was surprised when a call came to evacuate, McIntyre was ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.

She made the decision to "actively participate and do everything I could to act like it was real," after hearing the notice about the drill.

McIntyre kept her phone unavailable through her morning and was genuinely surprised when the alert to practice evacuating came through later than she had anticipated.

"I went upstairs, got my to-go suitcase and Manila envelope with my things I

needed. I had dog and cat carriers ready, got pets in and stuck them into the back of my already packed-up SUV," she said. "It took me all of about 8 to 10 minutes total."

While she admits she is not sure how she would react in a true emergency and wondered if 10 minutes was fast enough for evacuation, she was "pretty happy with that."

This year's drill allowed her to rethink some of the prep she had in place from last year.

"Last year the evacuation drill notified my phone when I still had it off [from the night before]," McIntyre said. "So, I connected my landline to the CWS in case it came at night."

This year's drill increased sign-ups to CWS significantly. In the City of Lafayette, 418 people registered; in Moraga 273; and in Orinda, 476.

To register your landline or cellphone to CWS, visit <https://cwsalerts.com> and press "sign in" to either make an account or view your current account information. Any issues with your account, call CWS directly at 925.655.0111 or email cws-staff@so.cccounty.us.

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CLASSIFIEDS / CONTINUATIONS

◆ ADA from page 1

thereto,” according to the Civil Code § 52(a).

The uncertainty of how much this suit will cost the self-representing business owners has put a hold on upgrades to their kitchen.

“[It] doesn’t allow us to grow in any way. We wait to see if we can invest \$40,000 into our business or pay the plaintiff,” said Earnes. “This makes me question whether or not I would open another small business.”

The Unruh Act has been criticized by many ADA defense attorneys, cited as being a “clumsy, poorly conceived ADA law” by Moraga attorney Lawrence Pines.

Pine is an advocate and affected by ADA

litigation. His eldest son is a T-6 paraplegic, giving him a perspective many attorneys do not have in these cases.

“The law tries to – well the intention was to – create a one size fits all with things like door size, switch, counter and table heights, and path of travel slopes and turning areas, etc.,” said Pines. “The remedy is oftentimes overinclusive and underinclusive. If the only tool in your toolbox is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.”

Businesses get no warning before they are served with the summons and complaint, resulting in being blindsided in most cases.

“The minute they’re served, they’re in too deep,” said Pines.

Other defense attorneys agree and go as far to say ADA laws in their current forms

are “nuisance claims” and that courts do not “put the hammer down on these cases consistently,” said attorney Philip Stillman, who represented Lafayette Park Hotel and got a complaint dismissed.

“No one wants to be anti-disabled. Everyone supports the idea that businesses and hotels should be accessible to people with disabilities,” said Stillman. “[But] what needs to be done is disincentivize these serial plaintiffs’ lawyers from profiting on these cases. This has just turned into a cottage industry of suing. They make hundreds of thousands of dollars; this is their job.”

Some disagree with these opinions and believe that ADA laws as written allow “individuals who are disabled or have medical conditions to more fully participate in society,” said ADA attorney Daniel Malakauskas, who represents Pomponio in many cases.

“The values of our country can only truly be realized when we allow all members of our society to fully participate,” said Malakauskas. “We should strive to allow all individuals in society, at all ages, and with any medical conditions, to be welcomed into our American family.”

Along with suits about the physical location of a place not being ADA compliant, a new trend of suing over website accessibility is making its way through the courts, according to attorney Cris Vaughn, who

represented Lafayette’s Diablo Foods in a suit from Pomponio.

“Twenty percent of these lawsuits in federal court are website cases,” said Vaughn. “We’re seeing a higher frequency of contact of people claiming that their website is not accessible.”

Moraga Garden Center Nursery owner Kenny Murakami was planning to retire by 2022 due to family health issues and getting older, but the ADA lawsuit just accelerated it. He took it as a “sign from the universe that it was time to retire,” and plans to close the nursery in October.

While Murakami admits his building is not in compliance because of its gravel pathways, he believes some people take advantage of the law and that it should change.

“I don’t think that small businesses have been given much support; we’re left to do it on our own,” said Murakami. “We’re scrambling to do what we do, and those things are pushed on the back burner. The help that comes to small businesses comes after we’ve been sued.”

Residents are disheartened by the news of planned closings and the reasons behind them.

“I almost cried when I heard the news. We have had this house for 30 years and we’ve been going to the nursery every week,” said Zoreh Malek, a 30-year Moragan. “He is part of the community. It’s a sad thing.”

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FILM



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TOM WESTLAKE

I remember from long ago the dread I felt as September approached. Like some harbinger of doom, the calendar would gleefully display the days of freedom left before I had to return to the ordinary Monday-through-Friday grind of lessons, stuffy classroom and enforced sociability.

It was not all bad, of course. There were bright spots. Ironically, it was at school – junior high, to be specific – that I first caught the cinema bug, and from then on, my outlook on life became viewed through a filmic lens. Immersed, it became impossible for me *not* to make some cinematic connection with real life. Such is it with this month as well.

As it has become woefully apparent, our way back to some semblance of normalcy has been slowed somewhat, meaning that the Orinda Theatre has had to curtail some of its special events, even though there are several “school” related films that would be a perfect for a retrospective or festival: *Animal House*, *Back to School*, *Goodbye Mr. Chips* (either version), and many others too numerous to mention. With that said though, I would like to call your attention to my favorite school film, *Horse Feathers* (1932).

This, also my first exposure to them, is the perfect Marx Brothers film. Of their first five films, this one, their fourth, is the most cohesive. It follows the usual zany pattern, but there are actual themes scattered throughout, not the least of which is the song (*Everyone Says I Love You*) that all four of the brothers (Yes, Zeppo is in this one, as the romantic lead no less!) perform.

It also displays Groucho’s talent with the guitar, something that faded somewhat when weighed against Harpo’s beautiful harp solo and Chico’s comical and rousing piano pieces. There is also a stronger narrative line throughout, making the whole thing seem less like a series of skits and more like a classic three-act story.

The film takes place at a fictional Huxley College, and the central story revolves, not around academia, but sports, namely the Huxley football team and the upcoming, all-important game. I’ll leave it to you to imagine all the ways the Brothers put their own anarchic spin on things, but suffice to say, you have never seen a football game like this. All in all, I can think of no better film to

mark this month when school used to start and now locks students into an academic year.

Some surprises still surface from the Orinda Theatre, even in these times. On the fourth Saturday of every month, Derek Zemrak hosts The Chiller Diller Theatre. As its name suggests, it features a wide variety of films that, were you to look them up on Rotten Tomatoes, would rate somewhere in the lower register.

Indeed, August’s selection was *The Green Slime* which had the all too generous rating of 17%. This month’s “classic” will be *Queen of Outer Space*, starring Zsa Zsa Gabor, also with an RT rating of 17%! It will screen on Sept. 25 at 9:15 p.m. Check out the Orinda Theatre Facebook page for additional information.

Finally, we come to the International Film Showcase. It too is following the September school theme with an entry from China, *Better Days*. Compared to what many students go through educationally overseas, even those like me without the fondest school memories should count ourselves lucky.

In this film, the pressure not only to succeed, but to excel is drummed into everyone who goes to school, and so prevalent is this attitude that all other considerations, such as kindness, fairness and even humanity, are often exorcised.

Students themselves in the film can also be every bit as cruel. Such is it for Chen Nian (Dongyu Zhou), who has dreams of going to a good school and, if possible “protecting the world.” It soon becomes clear that she is the one in need of protection which comes in the unlikely form of a mysterious, tuggish fellow who takes it upon himself to watch over her, but to what end? And will it be enough? This film will premiere at the Orinda Theatre Sept. 17. For additional information, please go to internationalshowcase.org or orindamovies.com.

As the calendar unfolds gradually darker days, plenty of light can still be easily found if one knows where to look. That is why I always encourage you to look to those flickering images for that’s where the reel magic lies.

Tom Westlake can be reached at poppinjay@earthlink.net.

◆ MOTT from page 1

spend a minimum of 80 hours on their projects and demonstrate extraordinary leadership in developing sustainable solutions to local, national and global challenges. The organization’s site said, “Gold Award Girl Scouts don’t just change the world for the better; they change it for good.”

To earn scouting’s Eagle advancement rank, boys and girls must fulfill requirements in leadership, service and outdoor skills, in addition to completing at least 21 merit badges and organizing and leading a service project for the betterment of the community.

Samples of Gold and Eagle Scout projects benefitting Orinda and the WRNA include the following:

Evan Draeger planned and built a 16’ x 4’, ADA-compliant footbridge over Wagner Creek to provide equal access to mobility-challenged individuals.

Liam Glynn refurbished a stairway and railing at Orinda Oaks Park with the assistance of 12 Scouts who contributed more than 160 volunteer hours.

Caitlin Goldsmith created a Picture Ex-

change Communication System (PECS) for Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center in Orinda to assist the utilization of horse therapy for children and adults with non-verbal disabilities.

Claire McCoullough spearheaded the renovation of the watering system for a WRNA pond and installed a camera trap to document wildlife using the pond.

Elizabeth Odell made a large mason bee habitat and held “Build Your Bee Box” seminars for scouts to promote habitats for native bees and to educate the community.

Cindy Powell, with The Orinda Association, contributed to this article. Kathy Enzerink can be reached at kathy@theorindanews.com.

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VISUAL ARTS

Library Gallery: Paintings and Lace Tatting Demo by Yuka Yoshi

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents Kath Balamuth and Lassie Colebourn's paintings and lace tatting by Yuka Yoshi in the virtual and in-person Art Gallery at the Orinda Library from September 1 – 30. View their work online at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/. Meet the artists at a reception in their honor

Saturday, Sept. 11 from 3 to 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. At 3 p.m., Yoshi will give a demonstration of lace tatting, assisted by her daughter Aki.

Balamuth, who lives in Orinda, has always loved creating. While studying art at Diablo Valley College, the community of fellow students enabled her to “finally find my passion,” said Balamuth.

“I still love to create [in her eighth decade]. I make an effort to paint every day. The discipline required keeps me grounded, and the process of art brings me joy. I can't imagine not doing art,” said Balamuth.

She is showing about 20 artworks with the theme, “Old Soles,” because images of old shoes allowed her to explore painting ordinary objects as art. She thought about how we are all like shoes as we age: “We become old souls and shoes become old soles, but we are still loved.” View more of Balamuth's work at www.kathbalamuth.com.

Walnut Creek's Colebourn is part of the eight-member group, Bay Area Studio Artists (BASA), who paint together, work together, challenge each other and have their own shows during the year. Colebourn's normal style is influenced by her floral design business, beautiful garden and greenhouse.

Her theme is “Beyond the Garden” for her show of 16 artworks. BASA presents her with a challenge because other members paint figuratively and she did not; but she likes the challenge. So far she's done a painting of Georgia O'Keefe inside a flower



COURTESY OF LASSIE COLEBOURN

Lassie Colebourn's *Sea and Sky* 24" x 36" acrylic painting delights the eye with its strong focal points where ocean spray and clouds meet each other, layers of sea and sky colors echo each other and dramatic changes fly in all directions.

and a portrait of her mother with plans to paint her granddaughter for a show next year. “My work is all about patterns and color. You will see a lot of plants but also some collage-type paintings,” said Colebourn. Visit www.bayareastudioartists.com/925-2/ for more of her work.

Yoshie, who also lives in Orinda, defines lace tatting as a form of looped and knotted lace needlework made from thread, a form of lacemaking. Tatting can be used to make lace edging as well as doilies, collars, accessories, earrings, necklaces and

[SEE LIBRARY page 15]

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Wilder Gallery: Open Ended Paintings Explore the Unexpected

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view a virtual exhibit of paintings by artist Katie Korotzer during the month of September in the online Art Gallery at Wilder at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.

Korotzer, of Orinda, a candidate for the Certificate in Painting at UC Berkeley

Extension, has been doing art since childhood. “Art has always been a way for me to express myself. I'm always experimenting when I'm in the studio, and through my art I can bring forth my fears, my joy, my thoughts and feelings,” she said.

During the COVID-19 quarantine, she created paintings on very large (5' x 5') pieces of unstretched raw canvas. Her theme, “Open Ended,” explores the fact that despite our best plans, life throws the unexpected in our paths.

“During the pandemic I traveled back and forth to Georgia to help out with a family member who had been ill. The sense of distance, the loss of control over my daily environment during such a dangerous time and the feeling of entering into the unknown territory of illness gave me a lot to process when I was able to paint in my studio,” Korotzer said.

She uses pastels, acrylic paint on a brush and sometimes paints with her hands directly on the canvas. “The most important thing about my artwork is that it is emotionally expressive through the use of mark-making, related to writing, and especially through the use of color,” said Korotzer. If you examine the thin red elongated lines and

[SEE WILDER page 15]



COURTESY OF KATIE KOROTZER

Katie Korotzer's 60" x 60" acrylic on canvas painting *Open Ended VIII* is part of a series of large works she completed during COVID-19 quarantine. She used elements of writing and the soaking method of paint application invented by artist Helen Frankenthaler to complete the piece.



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ROTARY

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary HOME Team Volunteers Back in Action

By TOM BLACK
Contributing Writer

After 18 months of forced hibernation, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's HOME Team is back in action, according to Hays Englehart, the Team's founder and a long-time Rotarian.

HOME Team sends volunteers into the community to assist elderly homeowners in making minor repairs. The Team is well regarded throughout Lamorinda. That all services rendered are free of charge enhances its public appeal.

Shut down by pandemic restrictions in March last year, the Team will begin making house calls on Sept. 25. Englehart said because of the extended hiatus, there are "quite a few in queue." House calls are scheduled bi-monthly. Although there is no income ceiling, the services rendered must involve a home (no rentals).

HOME Team is Lamorinda Sunrise's signature community service program. It proved so popular, more than 30 rotary clubs – one as far away as suburban Chi-



COURTESY LAMORINDA SUNRISE ROTARY
Leander Hauri, of Lafayette, makes a repair as a member of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's HOME Team, which resumes service Sept. 25.

cago, adopted it.

Service calls are by appointment only. Homeowners may request a visit through church or synagogue, senior center, online at www.rotaryhometeam.com, email info@rotaryhometeam.com or call 1.888.204.5573.

Tom Black can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

◆ CALENDAR from page 10

call 925.528.9225 or email info@orsvp.org. See article p. 7.

17 **The International Film Showcase** screens Chinese film *Better Days* at the Orinda Theatre. Check the theatre website, www.orindathatre.com, for ticket and screen time information. See article p. 13.

23 **Orinda Books** partners with Macmillan for a virtual discussion and live Q&A with authors Kristin Hannah (*The Four Winds*) and Christina Baker Kline. Register at: <https://bit.ly/3yZaKDY>. Purchase the book at Orinda Books before Sept. 30 and the store will donate to Shoes That Fit, to benefit school children in Salinas.

24 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents

A Familiar Visage, written and directed by Eddie Peabody. 8:30 p.m. Also Sept. 25 at 8:30 p.m. and Sept. 26 at 4 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. For reservations, call 925.528.9225 or email info@orsvp.org. See article p. 7.

25 **Orinda Theatre** presents *Queen of Outer Space*, starring Zsa Zsa Gabor 9:15 p.m. See article p. 13.

29 **Three-Quarter-Century-Club** Meeting with George Hardeen, Harry Houdini's grandnephew on Zoom, from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. To register, go to https://create_magic.eventbrite.com. See article p. 9.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net.

◆ STARLIGHT from page 7

acters will tickle and shock you," said Lorraine.

The final production of the month, running Sept. 24, 25 and 26, is *A Familiar Visage*, written and directed by Eddie Peabody. A 19th century American writer and journalist, reeling after a personal tragedy, accepts an overseas assignment working with the world's first detective. They collaborate to unlock a seemingly interwoven and increasingly macabre mystery.

The last production in the series, Sheri-

dan Le Fanu's *Carmilla*, adapted and directed by Malcolm Cowler, runs Oct. 1, 2 and 3.

In the past, OrSVP provided blankets and jackets to attendees who forgot to bring their own. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, OrSVP will not be doing so this year.

For more information and reservations, contact info@orsvp.org or visit www.orsvp.org.

David Dierks can be reached at david.dierks@theorindanews.com.

◆ LIBRARY from page 14

decorative pieces. Four years ago, passing Berkeley's LACIS Museum of Lace and Textiles, she was attracted to lace tatting's delicacy. She attended classes there.

During the pandemic shutdown, she learned further through books and YouTube. Her theme is "Tatting Symphony" because she is also a piano, viola and violin teacher: "I like making original 2D or 3D designs with musical inspiration." Seventy pieces of Yoshi's lace tatting will fill two cabinets for the exhibition.

Her "String Octet Doily" exemplifies her theme – a perfect combination of a musical term and lace. See more of Yoshi's lace tatting at www.etsy.com/shop/jazzyclef and

Instagram @jazzyclef. She is also available as an instructor.

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to www.lamorindaarts.org. This exhibit runs Sept. 1 through 30 during normal Library hours in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way. The Library is closed Sept. 6 for Labor Day. Hours are Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., closed Sun. Call 925.254.2184 for more information about the Library or visit www.ccplib.org/. Email curators Maggie Boscoe and Bill Carmel with questions at galleries@lamorindaarts.org.

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

◆ WILDER from page 14

green marks in "Open Ended VIII," a 60" x 60" acrylic painting on canvas, you will see the calligraphic marks she references.

For more about Korotzer's paintings, visit www.katiekorotzer.net, follow her on Instagram @katiekorotzer or view her work at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery in Lafayette.

For more information about the Lamorinda Arts Council, visit www.lamorindaarts.org. The Art Gallery at Wilder is virtual because the Gallery is closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Contact Curators Denise Nomura and Aniston Breslin at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org.

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BUSINESS

Tot Drop Preschool Takes A Different Approach to Childcare

By TRISTAN SHAUGHNESSY
Staff Writer

As a preschool teacher in the '90s, Orinda resident Ruth Kaiser started to question how the schools at which she taught were run.

She would see parents stay outside the night before registration, waiting to secure a spot for their child. But when Kaiser would teach, there would often be empty seats in her classroom, seats school policy did not allow her to fill.

Kaiser sees separation as a big issue for children, yet, she observed young students were often immediately put into classrooms for hours on end, giving them little time to adjust to new surroundings, a recipe according to Kaiser "for tears and anxiety."

"We need to rethink the whole idea of young children separating from their parents. It truly is the bravest thing most will have done in their entire short lives," Kaiser said.

With all of this in mind, she created Tot Drop Preschool in 1994, an on-demand classroom, meaning parents choose the hours they want their child to attend.

At one point, there were seven Tot Drop locations across the Bay Area. Now, after

choosing to downsize for personal reasons, Kaiser and her fellow teachers help run the original preschool site out of the Lafayette Community Center.

Beyond letting parents decide their child's schedule, Tot Drop Preschool is a multi-age environment, accepting kids ages one to four, something Kaiser believes is a strength of her program.

"It's really quite loving to see when you put kids of different ages together. When they are all the same age together, they are kind of looking around and comparing themselves to their peers – there is almost a built-in competition," Kaiser said. "It goes away in a multi-age program."

Students are engaged with different forms of curriculum, including art and other activities to challenge them intellectually, she noted. And if parents want to stay with their child and observe how the child is doing, teachers at Tot Drop encourage them to do so.

"It's really cool that they are all co-existing together, kind of like a family. Whenever I dropped in, nobody was being ignored; they were all being taken care of," said Amy Humann, a parent whose child attends the preschool.

Tot Drop Preschool will reopen in the near future based on COVID-19 cases in Contra Costa County, and appointments can be made at www.totdrop.com.

"We believe kids are developmentally who they are, and that we should bend the school's rules to make them able to be successful," Kaiser said about her teaching philosophy. "It's just a more sympathetic approach."

Tristan Shaughnessy can be reached at tristan.c.shaughnessy@gmail.com.



RUTH KAISER

The Tot Drop Preschool has been around for more than 20 years and will be reopening in the near future for in-person classes.

FINANCIAL NEWS

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DAVID BORN, CFA, CFP



An initial public offering (or IPO) is the act of a company or its existing shareholders selling some of the company's shares and then allowing the general public to buy, sell and hold their shares freely.

Share price comparisons from one company to another are often made by stock hobbyists. They might say, "Beyond Meat is worth \$130 per share. Impossible Foods has a better product and outlook so if they IPO, won't one of their shares be worth more?"

Not necessarily.

Shares are like equally-sized slices of a pizza. The size of the slice depends on the overall size of the pizza and the number of slices it's divided into. Similarly, the overall value of a company varies as does the number of shares outstanding.

While every Zamboni's large has 12 pieces, every large company has a different number of shares.

Valuing a company can be likened to valuing real estate. Just as an established apartment building earns rent, an established business earns profits. Both values are determined by the amount an owner expects to earn.

And just as a plot of land has value for the rent-earning building that can be constructed on it, an unprofitable growth

company has value for the profits it might earn in the future.

Whether it's real estate or a publicly-traded company, successful investors typically care about how much they will make this year and further into the future. The more certain and sooner the earnings, the more an investor will pay for them.

All of this applies to how traditional professional investors value public companies. But sometimes, the professionals are not in control.

2021 has seen a huge increase in non-professional day traders who have different ideas about valuation than what is described above. And so far, it's worked, as more and more retail investors climb aboard.

Does their success disprove the traditional valuation approach? Maybe in the short-term, but not in the long run. Real estate speculators might have paid a high price compared to the rent for a home in 2005, but they looked like geniuses when they flipped it.

Early success often convinces others to join in, or double down. As long as you can find a greater fool, your investment can be a success.

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