



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
Volume 37, Number 9

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Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually  
September 2022

## The Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Returns with Vintage Makes, Modern Exotics and More

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Everything from American muscle cars to immaculately restored Jaguars and Mercedes sports cars from the 1950s as well as 1930's classics and more will be on display at the Orinda Classic Car Show. The automotive extravaganza takes place Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in and around Orinda Motors in the Village District of Orinda. Proceeds benefit The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town ride program and other local nonprofits.

With the theme Keep on Truckin', you can also expect to see some vintage pickup trucks as well as state-of-the-art electric cars and other modern exotics. And if that isn't enough, the Car Show Committee has arranged for original Shelby Cobra vehicles to make a special entrance at 1 p.m.

"One of the highlights of the show is having six to eight original Shelby Cobras

driven by their owners," said Car Show Co-Chair Bill Waterman. "These are outstanding examples of unusual and rare cars."

If you are not a car enthusiast, there is lots to enjoy with performances by the Lamorinda Idol singers, culinary delights from two food trucks – Bay Area Munchiez and Rosie's Mexican Food – as well as ice cream from Orinda's Loard's. The Orinda Association has a raffle featuring car-related items such as detail car kits, model cars, portable BBQ and other tailgate essentials. The grand prize is a 12V kids electric Jeep with 2.4G remote control, foot pedal modes and equipped with music, horn, MP3 player and headlights.

In addition, the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary will have a booth to showcase Cars2ndChance, a vehicle donation program that benefits Rotary and The Orinda Association. And the Orinda Historical Society will share information and pho-

[SEE CAR SHOW page 16]



DAVID DIERKS

Lawrence Siegel's 1948 Diamond T 201 One Ton Pickup appeared at the car show in 2014.

## Orinda's Candidates for Contra Costa County Election Announced

By ANDREA MADISON  
Staff Writer

The deadline for the Orinda City Council nomination period, which was on Aug. 17 due to lack of incumbents running for reelection, saw six finalized candidates in the running for the three vacant seats.

Candidate Brandyn Iverson, with her six-plus years on the Orinda Planning Commission, 20-plus years in commercial real estate and participation in downtown unification plan ConnectOrinda, emphasizes

the importance of incentives to help the current landowners find feasible projects for downtown sites. She also prioritizes the City's involvement with state housing policies and how best to respond to them, while bearing in mind the goals and vision of the Downtown Precise Plan.

City Council candidate Janet Riley, resident of Orinda for over 40 years, has served Orinda as co-chair of The Orinda Association's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and as president of the Sleepy Hollow Elementary Parents' Club, OIS Parents' Club, and Educational Foundation of Orinda. Riley is actively involved in the Social Justice Committee of the Church of Santa Maria in Orinda and cites the prudent allocation of the city's limited financial resources and the building of consensus and community involvement in Orinda as important issues.

Also in the running for City Council is [SEE ELECTIONS page 8]

### Orinda Candidate Forums

City Council Forum - October 6  
OUSD/MOFD Forum - October 13  
Library Auditorium

### Nation's is Moving



ANDREA MADISON

Nation's Giant Hamburgers' construction team is underway to move across the street from its current location to 65 Moraga Way, which was once Taverna Pellegrini. Nation's has occupied 76 Moraga Way since 1978. See article on p. 5.

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PERFORMING ARTS



COURTESY OF DAUOOD NAIMYAR  
Comedy returns to the Orinda Theatre with the 46th Annual San Francisco Stand-up Comedy Competition. Comic and third place past competitor, **Dauood Naimyar**, will emcee the Sept. 2 show, which begins at 8 p.m.

# 46th Annual SF Stand-up Comedy Competition Returns

By CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Editor-in-Chief

Laughter in a time of COVID is the theme of this year’s 46th Annual San Francisco Stand-up Comedy Competition (SFCC) produced by Jon Fox, with preliminary round one slated for Sept. 2 and round two on Sept. 9.

Held at the Orinda Theatre, 16 comics per night will perform their best five-minute sets, while judges determine which five comics per show will advance to the next round of competitions.

Producing these shows is Fox’s full-time job and passion in life. He does it for very specific reasons.

“We are able to supply them [comics] full houses, and there’s really an excitement in the air unlike a typical performance,” said Fox, who lives in San Rafael with his wife Ann. “There’s such an enthusiasm among show-goers and a real camaraderie that develops among the contestants. And for me. It’s very refreshing to be around people who are just breaking in, you know, people in their twenties. It’s like a fountain of youth actually!”

Dauood Naimyar, a 10-year comic, will emcee the Sept. 2 show, and comic Paul Conyers emcees Sept. 9. Both shows begin at 8 p.m.

Naimyar, who took third place in this competition in 2018, knows exactly what the comics will be going through.

“It was nerve-racking and stressful and the most fun I’d had doing comedy up to that point,” said Naimyar. “I had a day job at the time, and the SFCC was not just in the Bay Area, but all over California. So, I would be driving to Chico doing my set, and then driving back to Oakland to get

to work by 8 a.m. I met a lot of talented comedians with whom I’m still friends to this day. Overall, it was an unforgettable experience.”

Naimyar, a full-time comic for the last 10 years, currently lives in Hollywood, but grew up in San Ramon. He said the SFCC changed his life.

“The competition really changed the San Francisco comedy scene perspective of me,” he said. “Prior to that, I was not really known in the area and had trouble booking shows. But once my name started progressing through the finals, I started to get the recognition from my peers that I craved.”

Given the current dire world landscape in all arenas (political, economical, mass shootings, pandemic, environmental and equality set-back), Fox feels that now, more than ever, laughter is the best medicine.

“I think it’s much more important. We have a calling now that someone’s got to provide some relief. And people want to get away from all those things,” said Fox.

[SEE COMEDY page 9]

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# Cal Shakes’ Closes Season with Intriguing New Adaptation of *Lear*

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Cal Shakes’ closing show of the 2022 season is a bittersweet affair. While it marks another creatively innovative production directed by Artistic Director Eric Ting, it also marks Ting’s departure from the company.

Ting, who has been with Cal Shakes for seven years, will be moving back to New York, where his family relocated during the pandemic.

“The real testament to any endeavor is not how much you change a thing, but how much you are changed by it,” said Ting. “I leave Cal Shakes reshaped by its artists, staff, board, community and civic partners, patrons and funders, and above all, our audiences who I’ve had the great honor of



COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER  
Cal Shakes Artistic Director **Eric Ting**, shown here during a 2019 rehearsal at the Bruns Amphitheater, will leave the company following the September opening of *Lear*, the final play of the season.

being in company with these past seven years. I’ve learned what it means to truly serve a community through art.”

Ting acknowledges the challenges COVID has placed on the performing arts these past two years, forcing theaters to constantly adapt and find new ways to sustain the work.

“There are many, many challenges far beyond the plays you select,” said Ting. “Cal Shakes as an outdoor venue, which makes audiences more comfortable return-

[SEE CAL SHAKES page 18]

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the Board**

**Orinda Classic Car Show and Dancing with the Cars is Here!**

BILL WATERMAN



The Orinda Classic Car Show is coming fast! For classic and exotic car owners and fans, our Orinda show is a uniquely fun and exhilarating experience. The show is always free, and proceeds benefit the OA's Seniors Around Town (SAT) free seniors ride program. And for those less captivated by cars, please come check it out - just have fun and support worthy causes at the same time.

The show is Saturday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Orinda Village. This year's theme is Keep On Truckin' and we'll have vintage pickups, and other interesting transport vehicles, plus classics going back to the 1930s and beyond. You can see everything from true American muscle cars to impeccably restored Jaguars and Mercedes sports cars to modern exotics, including state of the art electric cars from Mercedes and other leading makers. And for special entertainment, be sure to catch the original Shelby Cobra cars driven into the show at 1 p.m., after the Lamorinda Idol singers perform. Go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) or [www.Orindacarshow.com](http://www.Orindacarshow.com) for details.

We also happily support the "Dancing with the Cars" party - Orinda Rotary's major annual fundraiser and kick-off to



COURTESY OF TOBBI TOYS

The grand prize in The Orinda Association raffle at the Orinda Classic Car show Sept. 10 is a **12V electric jeep**, large enough for two children. The fun "car" includes a 2.4G remote control, foot pedal modes, music, horn, MP3 player and headlights. Be sure and enter the raffle at The Orinda Association booth.

the Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend. The party theme is "A Night in Havana" and it takes place Friday, Sept. 9, from 6 - 8:30 p.m. at the outdoor Upper-Level Plaza of the Orinda Library. This festive evening features a Cuban-inspired buffet, mojitos, live Latin dance music, car display, and more. Tickets are \$90 per person through Aug. 20, and \$105 after Aug. 20. Purchase tickets by Sept. 2 at [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org) or contact [orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com).

Finally, here are a few facts and reasons to support this year's Car Show. In its 17th year, SAT continues to provide free transportation for our deserving and very grateful Orinda seniors. Did you know SAT has provided more than 714 rides so far this year and will provide 1200+ total rides by the end of 2022! That's approximately 20% more than last year. SAT volunteers have donated over 600 hours to date. And two of our Orinda City Council members have driven for SAT- Inga Miller and Dennis Faye.

SAT also operates the VESP program (Volunteer Emergency Support Program) where during an emergency - such as fire watch/warnings, power outages, shelter in place orders - volunteers are assigned seniors based on proximity to each other. During an emergency, volunteers contact seniors in person to see if they need anything - food, water, radio, flashlight and offer neighborly reassurance that they are not alone. And SAT volunteers even go shopping and deliver groceries to some seniors and have done this for two-plus years since the COVID outbreak.

I hope everyone will come and have fun at the show and pre-party and raise funds for worthwhile causes. The OA and staff, our dedicated Car Show Committee members and Orinda Rotary Club members all thank you very much!

Bill Waterman can be reached at [b.waterman354@gmail.com](mailto:b.waterman354@gmail.com).

**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  
(Library Plaza)  
Phone: 925.254.0800  
[www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org)

The Orinda Association  
P.O. Box 97  
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BART



# Bay Area Rapid Transit, "BART" Turns 50-Years-Old this Month



JEFF HEYMAN

It was 50 years ago, on Sept. 11, 1972, when the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) system welcomed its service to riders in the Bay Area. It's estimated more than 15,000 people showed up to ride the first day.

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

new regional transit system built in the U.S. in 65 years nailed its first trial. Celebrations were in order.

After 15 years of planning, eight years of construction and more than a billion dollars spent, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) opened for service Sept. 11, 1972. It's estimated more than 15,000 people showed up to ride the first day. Only 18 two-and-three-car trains ran that day along the first 28-mile section of track from the MacArthur Station to Fremont. The first

At each station between Fremont and MacArthur, BART personnel hosted a ribbon cutting with dignitaries such as San Francisco Mayor Joe Alito and Oakland Vice Mayor Frank Ogawa.

The *San Francisco Examiner* proclaimed, "BART Passes Its First Rush Hour Test," while a BART employee, Margie Benson, told the *Los Angeles Times*, "It's just like Disneyland."

Shirley Fisk was quoted as saying to the *Long Beach Press Telegram*, "This is the end of the automobile for me." Just 16 days after the system opened, President Richard Nixon visited the Bay Area to "marvel at the future of transportation," according to the Nixon Foundation.

Michael Healy, BART historian and former employee, said, "We had journalists from all over the world, close to 7,000 of them, in attendance. Most Bay Area residents and the world from the

[SEE BART page 18]

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NATION'S / POLICE



PATRICK MARASCO

(L-R) **Marcy Kerchal**, Nation's Senior Interior Designer; **Brad Ingham**, Nation's Maintenance Dept. Manager; **Brooke Cutter**, Miller Pacific, Inc. Project Superintendent; **Michael Mendoza**, Miller Pacific, Inc. Project Superintendent; and **Jennifer Toledo**, Nation's Facilities Project Manager at the Nation's Giant Hamburgers' construction site at 65 Moraga Way. The restaurant's new and larger home will feature a larger dine-in seating area and a vertical tower sign echoing the Orinda Theatre's 1940s landmark art deco-style signage.

## Orinda Nation's Restaurant Moving to Spacious, Updated Location

By ANDREA MADISON  
Staff Writer

Construction is underway on Nation's Giant Hamburgers' new Orinda location, just across the street from its current address at 76 Moraga Way, which it has occupied since 1978.

The project – in the works for over a year – will refresh the vacant space at 65 Moraga Way that has stood empty since the closure of Italian eatery Taverna Pellegrini. The building was built in 1947 and is a mixed-use, two-story structure. The plan was eligible for community and planning commission review.

"It's going to be significantly larger," said project architect Michael Hannah. Sole director of mihmic architecture inc. [lower case part of company branding], Hannah noted that the tower sign on the façade of the building, shown in the recently approved design, is "a nod to the Orinda Theatre sign."

The new signage, with subdued LED lighting and vertical lettering on a translucent background, will face the Moraga Way sidewalk and Northwood Drive and rise four feet higher than the building parapet, an exception to the Orinda sign code that was approved, and one that will help to "bookend and celebrate" the surrounding area, said Hannah.

Nation's Vice President of Business Development, Patrick Marasco, said the tower sign's design is "consistent with our desire to enhance the building."

Several Nation's customers called into the recent public meeting to voice their

support for the proposed project said Hannah. "The community was always shown every angle I could possibly give," he said, referring to his 3D imagery of the building's exterior design.

The yearlong project will also include a renovation of adjacent tenant Peet's Coffee & Tea's façade. The existing columns on the exterior of the building will be removed and a new treatment featuring vertical aluminum slats with a natural wood grain finish will be installed.

While originally these updates were planned for the Nation's side of the building and the second story above, the community review process and encouragement from the city led to a collaboration with Peet's that will see the coffee shop's exterior receiving a fresh look as well.

"We are delighted that Peet's Coffee was so willing to work with us," said Hannah.

An interior tenant improvement permit was submitted for the restaurant itself, as advised by mihmic architecture, to expedite the eatery's move into its new home.

"We're really excited to update a building that's ready to be improved," Marasco said Aug. 3, noting the new Nation's location will also increase the restaurant's kitchen grill space from five feet to nine feet in total.

The square footage of the establishment, 1,267 feet at its current spot, will be increased to 2,564 feet after the relocation. A tenant has been finalized for the restaurant's former location, Marasco said.

The Nation's Giant Hamburgers story began in 1952, with founder Russ Harvey opening a hot dog stand in San Pablo, CA, according to the chain's website. Harvey



## POLICE BLOTTER

July 16 through August 15

### Calls for Service

Accident - Property: 1 incident  
Adult - Missing: 1 incident  
Assault: 2 incidents  
Battery: 1 incident  
Burglary, Auto: 1 incident: Orinda Way  
Burglary, Residential: 1 incident: Crest View Dr.  
Civil Disturbance: 1 incident  
Court Order Violation: 1 incident  
Death - Non-Criminal: 1 incident  
Elder Abuse: 1 incident  
Failure to Obey Officer: 3 incidents  
Fraud/Forgery: 1 incident  
Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident: Irwin Way  
Hospitalization: 1 incident

Obstructing Executive Officer: 1 incident  
Outside Assist: 2 incidents  
Service to Citizen: 3 incidents  
Shoplifting: 2 incidents: Camino Pablo, Santa Maria Way  
Threats: 1 incident  
Vehicle Theft: 1 incident: Orinda Way

### Arrest

Contempt of Court: 1 arrest  
Driving with Suspended/Revoked License: 2 arrests  
Parole Violation: 1 arrest  
Receiving Stolen Property: 1 arrest  
Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests

– Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

found success after adding extra-large burgers to the restaurant's menu.

Future president of Nation's Foodservice Inc., Dale Power, a neighbor of Harvey's in Richmond, began his career with the fledgling restaurant chain in 1960. Power worked for 10 years as a maintenance person, janitor and manager until purchasing an unnamed Oakland restaurant in 1970 and suggesting to Harvey the building of a "little chain" of burger restaurants. The duo dubbed the chain "Nation's," and the Oakland location was the first to display the restaurant's new name.

Following Harvey's retirement in 1994, Power was president of the burger chain until 2015, when he became Nation's chairman of the board. Power's son Grant took over the position and serves

as the current president of the restaurant chain.

The new restaurant location opens for business this fall, with the exterior improvements expected to be permitted in late 2022 and construction to begin early next year.

"With this investment further into Orinda after 50 years at a smaller location, Nation's has committed itself to the future of the city," said Hannah.

"[We are] pushing hard to open the facility," added Marasco. "Our hope is to deliver a first-class Nation's for the community. [We are] also excited to extend that to the building overall."

Andrea Madison can be reached at [drea.madison.05@gmail.com](mailto:drea.madison.05@gmail.com).

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EDITORIAL / LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Editorial:

## Remembering a Beautiful Bay Area Human Being, News Anchor, Animal Activist and Bestie



COURTESY OF CHARLEEN EARLEY

(L-R) Charleen Earley, the late Leslie Griffith and the late Stacey Hartmann enjoyed dining out with each other, after becoming steadfast friends over 20 years ago. Griffith, a past reporter for KTVU Ch. 2 News for 22 years, passed away at her home in Mexico on August 10.

By CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Editor-in-Chief

The Bay Area, Tomball, Texas (a suburb of Houston) and family and friends were forced to say farewell to Leslie Griffith on Aug. 10. She was a former news reporter and anchor for KTVU Channel 2 News for 22 years.

I met Leslie over 20 years ago through a mutual friend, the late Stacey Hartmann (who was my editor at BAMB Media at the time). Hartmann, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and met Leslie at a wellness group, struck up a friendship and later invited her over for a family dinner at her home.

That's where I met Leslie, over margaritas and dinner in Danville. We hit it off and soon thereafter, the three of us made it our mission to go places together and

have fun – in between our busy “media” lives – Leslie still doing the *Ten O’Clock News* on KTVU, Stacey then working for the City of Danville, and me, writing for local newspapers and telling jokes on stages.

I can’t tell you how many times I drove past the Orinda Exit to the next exit, Fish Ranch Road, to drive to the top of the Oakland hills to visit Leslie.

Throughout our friendship, I got to know a generous, funny, intelligent and loving human being who had a mammoth heart for animals, children, nature and justice. An avid reader, Leslie had an insatiable passion for knowledge about practically every subject – literally any topic was open for discussion.

Neither of us were perfect, nor was our friendship. We had a four-month break from communication over an argument,

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but later patched it up because we both felt life was too short not to forgive. We moved forward, celebrating our differences of opinions.

She shared with me her investigative reporting experiences and many close calls with death, both local and in other countries. She shared her family with me – and I shared mine with her.

I still loved Leslie after she blurted out

(by mistake) one of my punchlines during a comedy show at Walnut Creek’s Leshner Center for the Arts. I stood on stage with a deer in headlights look on my face, flabbergasted. Stunned, it took me off guard, and I stumbled to regain the rest of my comedy set. During the break, she ran up the aisle to me to apologize profusely.

I simply got “even” during another [SEE EDITORIAL page 11]

## Letters to the Editor

### Support for Michael Donner for MOFD Board of Directors

I am writing to share my support for Michael Donner, incumbent for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors in District 4.

As a resident and business owner in Orinda, I’ve invested time in joining CERT and getting our neighborhood certified through Firewise. I’d also like to make sure our Board of Directors in District 4 contains citizens that are passionate, knowledgeable and experienced when it comes to protecting our neighborhoods from fires and other emergencies.

Here are just some of Michael’s accomplishments while on the Board:

- Increased the fire prevention program.
- Supported and passed a fair labor con-

tract for firefighters.

- Negotiated the contract to keep our chief.
- Purchased Type 6 fire engines for wild-land firefighting.

Currently, Michael is working with the City of Orinda on the best way to spend Measure R money.

If you don’t already know Michael Donner from his work on the board, perhaps you know him from his thousands of volunteer hours in our local community, in addition to his 30-year career as an Oakland firefighter.

Michael continues to work tirelessly to help others. A dear friend of mine recently experienced a devastating house fire. Michael was the first person I called for advice on how to help. He not only gave me some

suggestions, but he also took time from his schedule to reach out to these folks (that he didn’t even know) to see how he could assist as they navigated through their loss.

– Amy Berryhill

### Psychology and Mental Health are Important

At first, psychology was not considered a science, but why? There have been many debates on whether psychology is an actual science or not. Many people debated over psychology, because it didn’t have that center body of knowledge that other subtopics of science have.

Personally, I think psychology is an actual science and psychology is a very important subtopic of science, because it explains why humans do what they do, and act how they act.

Do you ever wonder why you feel ex-

hausted and you don’t know why? It could be burnout or depression, but people don’t know it. Many people feel things and they can’t explain why they feel that way, but it’s all linked to psychology and your mental health.

Not many people know the major impacts of mental health issues and the affects it has on our body and minds if they are not treated.

I think everybody should be more aware of other people’s mental state and the things people might be going through. We may not know why people act the way they do, so we should never judge a book by its cover.

Psychology and mental health are very important to everybody, even though they might not know it, because it affects our lives everyday.

– Viviane Decareau

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 Photographer.....Jeff Heyman  
 Graphics/Layout..... Aspen Consulting: Jill Gelster, David Dierks  
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 The Orinda Association  
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For advertising rates, contact Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 ([jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net)), Elana O’Loskey at 925.984.1751 ([elanao@mac.com](mailto:elanao@mac.com)), or Trish Ward at 510.685.1437 ([trish@theorindanews.com](mailto:trish@theorindanews.com)). The deadline for the October issue is September 8.



## WILDFIRE RISK

# City's Draft Safety Element, Vulnerability Assessment Focuses on Wildfire Risk, Climate Stressors

By ANDREA MADISON  
Staff Writer

A draft of Orinda's latest safety element and vulnerability assessment was released for public review June 7, marking the first comprehensive update to this section of the City's General Plan since 1987.

According to the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, a local government's general plan serves as a blueprint for meeting the community's long-term vision for the future and requires the inclusion of a safety element that protects residents from unreasonable risks due to seismic events, landslides, flooding, urban and wildfires. The issue of evacuation routes within Orinda is another issue addressed by the draft safety element.

Orinda's vulnerability assessment, required under California's Senate Bill 379 calling for all cities and counties in the state to address climate change in their safety element, will aid the City in responding to climate change hazards and identifying which climate stressors, both primary and secondary, face the community.

Changes in air temperature or precipitation levels in Orinda are primary climate stressors named by the draft assessment that could potentially trigger secondary climate stressors or hazards, such as property damage or fatalities.

Orinda will be updating its safety element as part of its housing element, following the recent update in state legislation introduced by SB 1035. SB 1035 builds off SB 379 and requires the review and update of a jurisdiction's safety element to align with their housing element or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) revision, with the review and update mandated at least once every eight years.

Recent bill, SB 1241, has increased requirements for the flood and wildfire portions of safety elements for California jurisdictions.

Approved by the Orinda City Council in March, a contract amendment with

California-based planning, design and environmental firm PlaceWorks focuses on additional evacuation route analysis as a part of the updated safety element.

California Assembly Bill 747 requires cities and counties in the state to "identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety and viability under a range of emergency scenarios." The AB 747 evacuation analysis is funded through the City's Measure R add-on tax.

PlaceWorks also prepared the draft of Orinda's safety element, which, along with detailing the dangers of seismic events and hazardous waste and materials, states climate change is expected to impact precipitation in the area, with more years that could see extreme weather systems causing flooding or landslides. The destabilization of hillsides from wildfire can also contribute to landslide and mudslide.

The risk of wildfire in Orinda, "a hazard of very high concern" for the City, is addressed in the draft safety element, which notes that the hotter, drier weather and extended wildfire season brought on by climate change is "expected to lead to an increase in wildfires in the surrounding area and across Contra Costa County."

"Wildfire could result in evacuation of the entire community," City Manager David Biggs said. Regarding evacuation routes, fire is the main focus, Biggs said, calling the current draft of the safety element "fairly robust."

The results of the City's vulnerability assessment, as shown in a table within the draft safety element, scores the vulnerability of city populations and assets to various climate-related hazards such as extreme heat and severe storms. The scores, ranging from zero for no vulnerability to V5 for severe vulnerability, represent the severity of the impact that each hazard could inflict as well as the ability of a population or asset to resist and recover from the hazard, according to the table.

Seniors living alone in Orinda are determined to be highly vulnerable to climate-

ing: call or visit restaurants and businesses to gather auction items; help with event set-up, greeting guests, photography, cleanup or other activities at this Contra Costa Sustainability awards gala.

For more information or to ask about volunteering for this event, email [tyler@sustainablecoco.org](mailto:tyler@sustainablecoco.org).

Charleen Earley, Editor-in-Chief, can be reached at [editor@theorindanews.com](mailto:editor@theorindanews.com).



ANDREA MADISON

A drafted update to Orinda's safety element, as well as a vulnerability assessment focusing on evacuation route analysis within the city, were released for public review in early June. An informational guide sent out by the City divides Orinda into numbered evacuation zones and lists Camino Pablo to Hwy 24 as a major wildfire evacuation route from the north.

related hazards, as is the population of people experiencing homelessness.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD), which protects approximately 38,500 residents in a 42-square mile area, has a Moraga-Orinda Wildfire Action Plan/Moraga-Orinda Fire District Community Wildfire Protection Plan (MOFD CWPP) that serves as an appendix to the 2019 Contra Costa County wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The goal of the county wide plan, according to its description in the safety element, is to reduce wildfire hazards through increased information and education about wildfires and mitigation strategies.

MOFD's CWPP offers more detailed evaluation and recommendations that apply to the areas the district serves. The multi-year document aims to enhance long-standing collaboration between local agencies and organizations, as well as existing wildfire protection plans, to "create a coordinated effort to determine appropriate wildfire management actions."

Regarding the safety element, MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said, "We appreciate the work the City of Orinda is undertaking on this important project and

look forward to continued collaboration in areas where our shared responsibilities for public safety intersect."

The safety element is "an important issue for the community," said Biggs. "We're hopeful that residents will spend some time looking at the safety element online."

Andrea Madison can be reached at [drea.madison.05@gmail.com](mailto:drea.madison.05@gmail.com).

## Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge: Earn Dinner and Points through Volunteer Work

Earn points on the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge by volunteering at [www.cleanercontracosta.org](http://www.cleanercontracosta.org). The Sustainable Contra Costa's (SCOCO's) annual awards gala, where local sustainability heroes will be honored, is Thursday, Sept. 22. If one volunteers at least four hours before the event or day of, volunteers can earn a complimentary ticket to the awards gala, which includes locally-sourced food.

Volunteers are needed for the follow-



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CAR TIME

**CAR TIME**  
 WHAT DEFINES A FUTURE CLASSIC CAR?  
 XAVIER ESTARDA 

During this transition of ditching ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) for EV's (Electrical Vehicle), some may wonder what defines a future classic car? In many cases, they can be defined in two obvious categories.

The first is how a vehicle looks. For many, this is what draws both enthusiasts and casual goers. When a large population agrees on an appearance of a vehicle that is very well designed, it tends to draw demand. In some cases, it can be a design that symbolizes an era so well it can be a "timeless" look. But just because it looks good, doesn't always mean it drives well, or is built to last.

The second obvious answer – especially for enthusiasts – are vehicles that were built well. Is it reliable, does it have great driving characteristics or does it enjoy a combination of both? If it has all the above and looks good, a classic designation tends to be a foolproof description.

There are also cult classics, often overlooked vehicles or, in some cases, vehicles ahead of their time. These often have "a cool factor." These vehicles almost always have a pocket of followers online.

Just because something is rare doesn't equate to it being valuable. Rarity can mean multiple things. Something could be rare because so many people totaled or trashed said vehicles, making it harder to find one in good condition. It could also mean a manufacturer produced a limited number of them on purpose, or it could mean the car was so bad a manufacturer cut production.

It's hard to pinpoint what will be a future classic because in general there's an x-factor to getting that label. It is an irrational object that holds value to an individual, whether it falls in the categories above, is fun and has character or draws on nostalgia.

It is also very much a generational appeal. The market for vehicles from the 1980s to 2000s has shot up in value in the past five to 10 years alone. Some of those vehicles, when new, were overshadowed and sat in dealer show rooms collecting dust, and some were used bargains.

All of this is not financial advice. Cars shouldn't be investments; they should be used as intended to fulfill your vehicular needs. Rising values just means other people want a slice of that delicious pie, that classic car, that's no longer being made.

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

◆ ELECTIONS from page 1

Sunil Rajaraman, a tech entrepreneur, investor and executive who empathizes with the vital role of small businesses within Orinda and plans to work with owners to ensure their success. Rajaraman, a former UCLA adjunct professor, aims to work with the school board to maintain area schools' status as among the best in the state and holds experience in technology and the starting of multiple businesses in California.

Alex Drexel, a technology executive and 10-year resident of Orinda, prioritizes safe neighborhoods prepared for the threat of wildfire and a strong city infrastructure, with great parks and a better downtown. Drexel has served as a member of the Orinda Parks and Recreation Commission for over four years and holds an economics degree and MBA from UC Berkeley. He emphasizes Orinda's status as a community that is fair to everyone and aims to accomplish goals for the city while also protecting the unique character of the community.

Latika Malkani has been a member of Orinda's Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (SSTOC) since the beginning of 2021, working on ensuring the protection of Orinda families and community from the threat of wildfire. Malkani believes in the value of equity and inclusion within the City Council and sees the accountability and transparency of the council as priorities. Malkani has lived in Orinda for 18 years and is vice-president of The Orinda Association, and she prioritizes smart and sustainable growth and a vibrant downtown.

Stuart House, a former licensed general contractor, has lived in Orinda for 18 years and recently retired from his position as Director of Facilities for the Orinda Union School District. During his tenure, the district secured solar energy production with no expense to taxpayers. As a City Council Member, he hopes to be an advocate for the schools and aid in communication and collaboration. His long history of service within government includes the running of city departments and working with legislative bodies at every level. He is currently vice-chairman of the City's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

The Contra Costa County General Election candidate nominations for the Acalanes Union High School District Board, the Orinda Union School District Board and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District were finalized on Aug. 12, marking the end of the candidate nomination period that began on July 18.

The Acalanes Union High School (AUHSD) Board has three governing board positions open, with seven candidates in the running. Two of the candidates, Nancy Kendzierski and Christopher Severson, are incumbents, with Kendzierski joining the



COURTESY OF AMY WORTH  
 Amy Worth has served the Orinda community for many years. She was first elected to the Orinda City Council in November 1998. She completes her sixth term in December and will not run for a seventh term.

board back in 2013 and Severson joining in 2018.

Other candidates seeking governing board positions with AUHSD include Jennifer Chen, Mark Woolway, Renee Nowac, Clayton Gardner, and Gabriel Morris Ledeen. On their governing board webpage, AUHSD emphasizes their mission to "educate every student to excel and contribute in a global society."

The Orinda Union School District (OUSD) also has three open seats on its governing board, with five non-incumbent candidates vying for the available positions. Edda Collins Coleman, Eve M. Phillips, Michelle Chang, Linda Delehunt and Mary Kateri Shogan are this election's hopefuls for the OUSD.

Up for the position of District 3 Director for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) are candidates Steven Michael Danziger and Vince Dell' Aquila. Danziger is an incumbent, elected in 2018 and currently serving as District 3 Director, and served as MOFD president of the board in 2019 and 2020. He has been a resident of Orinda for 27 years and spent 20 years with the Oakland Fire Department.

Dell' Aquila spent 26 years in the athletics department at Miramonte High School, serving as an assistant coach, head coach and physical education teacher before spending 19 years in the position of athletic director at the school and retiring in 2017.

MOFD's District 1 election candidates include Greg Hasler and Christopher Young. In the running for MOFD District 4 are Mike Roemer and incumbent Michael Donner.

The Orinda Association has reserved the Library Auditorium for two dates in October for political forums, during which election candidates will answer questions from the Association, the League of Women Voters and the general public. City Council candidates will have the floor on Oct. 6, while OUSD/MOFD candidates will answer questions on Oct. 13.

Andrea Madison can be reached at [drea.madison.05@gmail.com](mailto:drea.madison.05@gmail.com).

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PERFORMING ARTS

# Pygmalion Finishes the Orinda Starlight Village Players Season

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players will close their 38th season in the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater with George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, directed by Amy Cook.

"I'm so excited to be directing this show," said Cook.

Iconic playwright Shaw premiered *Pygmalion*, the basis for the 1956 musical *My Fair Lady*, in 1913. The musical was released as a movie in 1964, starring Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison.

"Even with many years of acting and directing in community theater, I was not familiar with *Pygmalion*," said Cook. "I read it immediately and was struck by how modern this play feels. I had always had a love-hate relationship with *My Fair Lady*. I loved Audrey Hepburn, I loved the music and the costumes, but I hated that Eliza goes back to Higgins in the end."

Cook was surprised to learn that was not Shaw's original ending.

Cook sees striking parallels between Shaw's criticism of women's lack of rights and the current political landscape.

"Shaw's original 1913 work is about Eliza's desire for independence as a woman," said Cook. "In this moment, when half the women in this country have had their rights to bodily autonomy taken away, this play speaks directly to a woman's right to make decisions for herself. Unfortunately, the experience of being overlooked, unappreciated, or mansplained happens all too regularly, and I think many women will connect with Eliza as she strives to raise herself up and fulfill her own potential."

Cook also thinks the play's criticism of



COURTESY OF AMY COOK  
Amy Cook directs OrSVP's production of George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

class discrimination is still relevant.

"Shaw is making some very strong statements about classism and the way the poor are treated," she said. "Unfortunately, the descriptions of the 'underserving poor' echo today."

In addition to Shaw's biting social commentary, "this play is also funny and heartwarming with some dysfunctional families and great costumes," said Cook. "The cast is wonderful, and it is a joy to work with them to bring this relevant play to life."

Performances run Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m., Sept. 9 through Oct. 1, with a Sunday matinee at 4 p.m. on Sept. 25 and a Thursday performance at 8 p.m. on Sept. 29. For more information, visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) or call 925.528.9225.

David Dierks can be reached at [david@aspenconsult.net](mailto:david@aspenconsult.net).

## ◆ COMEDY from page 2

"They want to have some fun and laugh. That's our job."

Fox added, "It's been especially hard because we had to forego doing the event in 2020. We were walking on eggshells last year because of restrictions."

He said last year there were two attempts by venue managers saying their performers had to perform with masks on, but Fox's team managed to convince them otherwise.

Fox encountered an experience which solidified how important his job of making people laugh is right now.

"I was sitting in the audience at Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa behind this couple. Obviously, the husband did not want to be there at the beginning of the show, and the wife was encouraging him to stay," said Fox. "By the end of the show, they were kissing, hugging and laughing and I was like wow, this is what I'm meant to do."

This isn't the first time the SFCC has been at the Orinda Theatre, and Fox always gives the comics advice about the Orinda audience.

"This audience has seen a lot in life. They're successful and they know 10-times more than what you think you know," said Fox. "And you better respect that, or you're gonna fall flat on your face!"

The 32 contestants are mostly seasoned, veteran comics looking for that next leg up – not to mention some extra money in their bank accounts.

"They're not amateurs. They're professionals and this is the next step on the ladder for them," said Fox. "But the event does have a great reputation because some of the alumni that we've had, included Robin Williams, Dana Carvey and Ellen DeGeneres. And so, it will open doors."

He added, "It's also right for a normal workshop. I tell them, you know, we are giving away \$20,000 here, but you can't

fail because whether or not you get any prize money out of this, it's going to force you to come to terms with your act. You're going to have to trim it down to its bare essence."

Naimyar, who can be found on Instagram at @dauoodn, is looking forward to hosting, but he's also excited about the Orinda audience support.

"I really appreciate the audience and fans who keep coming back every year and bringing new friends because they help mold these future stars," said Naimyar. "Without their positive and sometimes negative feedback, these competitors wouldn't be able to grow."

Tickets are \$30 for the first five rows and \$25 for rows 6 through 13. For more information, visit [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com).

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

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# Mike Roemer

Fire Support Volunteer  Attorney  
Moraga-Orinda Fire District

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- "Mike Roemer has uniformly been greatly respected in the legal community for his integrity, work ethic, and legal skills for all of the 40 years I have known him." Judge Thomas Rogers, retired, Moraga.
- BA in Politics and Economics/ JD in Law
- Fire Support Volunteer for 12 Orinda and Moraga prescribed burns
- Data Collections Lead for 3 Practice Evacuation Exercises in Orinda and Moraga
- CERT Volunteer and HAM/GMRS Radio license holder trained for emergency communications



*I'm Mike Roemer and I'd appreciate your vote to represent Central Orinda on the Fire District Board. As a retired prosecutor and community bank board member and 30 year Orinda resident, I would be honored to offer my skills to the community where my wife Julie McCormack and I raised our son Conor and daughter Erin.*  
– Mike



[www.mikeroemer4mofd.com](http://www.mikeroemer4mofd.com)

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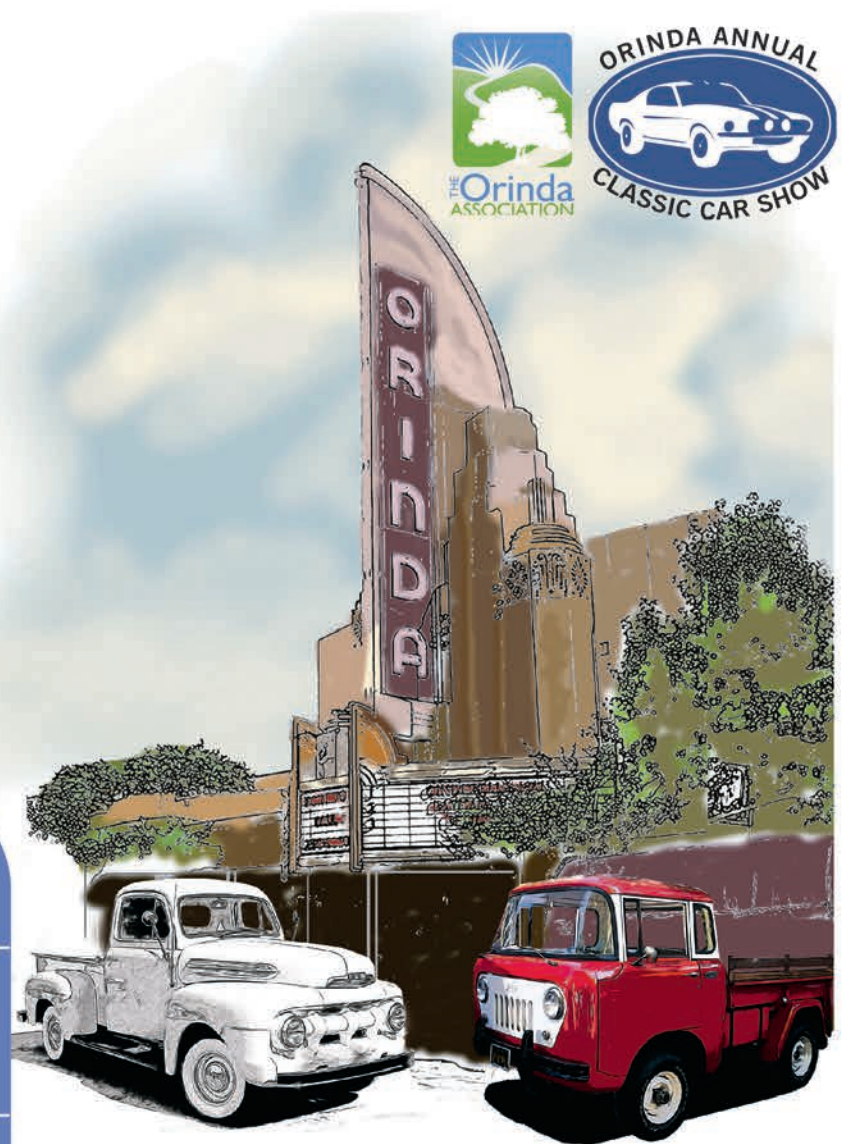
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[www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org) for tickets and information - Car Show entrants receive a discount!

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DANCING WITH THE CARS

# Dancing with the Cars is Back

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

It will be a night to remember when the community gathers for “Dancing with the Cars,” Friday, Sept. 9, on the Upper Level Plaza of the Orinda Library with a Cuban inspired buffet, mojitos, music and car displays.

There are silent and live auctions, with proceeds to benefit community projects sponsored by Orinda Rotary. Auction items include golf outings, jewels, dinner parties, firehouse dinner with Moraga-Orinda Fire Department, wine and more.

While this party offers so many things to enjoy, the real dessert for everyone is knowing they are improving people’s lives through projects supported by Orinda Rotary, which include Opera in the Park, Spring Egg Hunt, Teacher of the Year Awards and Miramonte High School Academic Scholarships.

Some of the local charities receiving proceeds are Meals on Wheels, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, tutoring programs in Oakland and Tom Fitch Fishing Day for the Oakland Boys and Girls Clubs. The current international project is

the Zambia Eye Clinic Solar Power Project. Orinda Rotary, now in its 74th year, is proud to belong to the world’s largest community service organization.

Rotary thanks Todd Trimple, Director of Orinda Parks and Rec, for securing the venue and sponsors and donors, including gold level sponsors Mechanics Bank, Davidson Home and Park Place Wealth Advisory. Event sponsors are Casa Orinda, Engeo Inc., Future Hyundai of Concord and Orinda Optometry Group.

Rotarian Clay Deanhardt is happy to see this event after the pandemic hiatus.

“It’s great to be able to have Dancing with the Cars this year,” said Deanhardt. “I am personally excited because I think it is the first citywide party since the pandemic started, and a fantastic way for us all to celebrate together outdoors while supporting many good causes.”

He added, “This year is to be a real Dancing with Cars. We are proud to have authentic Cuban, Latin and Salsa music from Los Boleros, an amazing band that plays at festivals and events all over the Bay Area. For folks who may not have danced the Salsa for a while, Los Boleros will have a quick class



DAVID DIERKS

Sponsored by the Orinda Rotary, Dancing with the Cars’ “A Night in Havana” event (photo taken 2018) is slated for Friday, Sept. 9 from 6 to 8:30 p.m., to be held on the Upper Level Plaza of the Orinda Library.

during the show.”

The Rotary thanks its many Advisors: Silver level sponsors Ivan P. Hwang, MD, Muir Ophthalmology and California Eye Clinic, Old Republic Title Co., Orinda Medical Group: Brian J. Candell, MD, Yenjean S. Hwang, MD, Shawn S. Rosen, MD, and Jessica Tsuei, MD; Orinda Shell

Auto Care, and realtor Rodney Lal.

Tickets are \$105 per person or \$840 for a table of eight. Purchase by visiting [www.Orindarotary.org](http://www.Orindarotary.org) and scrolling down to Dancing with Cars.

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

◆ EDITORIAL from page 6

show she attended, where before my set, I held up a roll of duct tape and said to her in the audience, “Leslie, this is for you! Just in case you feel the need to yell out my punchlines again!” We both laughed about it.

We shared a ton of laughter over the years – but tears as well, over family issues, health problems and disappointments life handed us. Both she and Stacey attended my mom’s funeral in 2007. I will never forget her unending support throughout our friendship.

I helped her move from her Oakland home to a yearlong pit stop in Mendocino, then onto Jacksonville, Oregon, snuggled between Ashland and Medford. I did not follow her to Mexico, because the pan-

demid had hit, and I could not secure a passport at that time.

So, we kept in touch via phone calls, emails and texting.

Hundreds of photos and memories later, I’m still in shock-mode that she truly is gone. I know she’s hanging out with my mom and Stacey right now, but the selfish part of me wants her here on Earth. Stacey passed at age 49, mom passed at age 63 and Leslie was 65. In my heart, they left too soon.

It’s the beautiful memories I cherish and hold onto. I’m just so honored to have met and known such an amazing human being. My dearest Leslie, ... thank you.

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

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## Former Miramonte Teacher Passes Away after Battle with Cancer

By SALLY HOGARTY  
 Executive Editor

Some girls learned how to use tools, others card playing or camping skills from their fathers, but Barbara Hayek Denny learned the love of science from her dad Art, an inventor and engineer. From him, she discovered science could be fun and girls could prosper in the field, which she certainly did. Her mother, Delores, supplied faith and a love of God consistent with science.

Barbara, who was born May 3, 1953, passed away July 30, surrounded by family and friends.

As a young woman, Barbara not only excelled in science, she also played the church organ and mastered the accordion.

“She even played the accordion at our wedding reception,” her husband, William Denny, fondly recalls.

After earning her BA degree in 1975, Barbara worked as a med tech at Greenwich Hospital in Connecticut and later at St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco.

Barbara married William Denny in 1987 and the couple moved to Orinda in 1991. They have two adult children, Brendan (35), who works for Safeway, and Kathleen (30) a third-year medical student in Portland, OR.

Discovering a desire to teach and wanting to foster a love of critical analysis, Barbara began working at Miramonte High School in 2001, where she taught biotech and environmental sciences, eventually becoming the AP Environmental Science teacher.

While at Miramonte, the enthusiastic



COURTESY OF THE DENNY FAMILY

Well respected Miramonte science teacher and environmentalist **Barbara Denny** passed away in July. She loved introducing young people to the wonders of science and was so proud of her many students who went on to advanced degrees and careers in the field.

teacher added faculty advisory for the Nature Club to her activities. She helped secure a \$5,000 garden grant from the California Department of Education to revitalize an unused vegetable garden site at Miramonte – a site which became certified as a National Wildlife Schoolyard Habitat and a Bay Friendly Garden.

[SEE DENNY page 14]

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

**2022 Fall Activity Guide is Online!**  
 Go to [www.orindaparksandrec.org](http://www.orindaparksandrec.org).

**Thursday Night Concerts in the Park 6 - 8 p.m.**  
 Community Park  
 September 8 - 925 Band

**Senior Trips and Wisdom Workshops are back!**  
 Check “Senior Programs” in the online activity guide.


**Food Trucks Every Thursday, 5 - 8 p.m.**  
 Community Center Parking Lot

**The Orinda Teen Advisory Council (OTAC) is accepting members. Check the online Activity Guide.**

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



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department  
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[www.OrindaParksandRec.org](http://www.OrindaParksandRec.org)  
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### Florence Weber



COURTESY OF THE WEBER FAMILY

**Florence (Flo) Weber** passed away July 13, 2022. A celebration of her life will be held Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. Both Flo and her husband **Carl**, who passed in 2017, were extremely active in the Orinda community with both serving on The Orinda Association Board, campaigning for Orinda's incorporation as a city and much more. Flo's obituary will be in the October issue of The Orinda News.

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PIGS, PEARLS AND PLAYS

MIMI BOMMARITO



Finally, the year I don't struggle with my "How I Spent My Summer" essay. I co-wrote a play, *Of Pearls and Swine*, which debuted on stage in July. A labor of love that did not involve maternal self-sacrifice. What a novel concept. And I'm here to tell you, it felt great. Optimism abounds for empty-nesterhood.

As a fledgling Thelma, I needed a Louise to make this endeavor happen. Mine appeared in the form of my cousin Barbara, who lives in the Midwest and shares my untamed passion for ancestry and roots research.

Barbara clipped an advertisement in the local newspaper of her hometown of Fremont, Nebraska, for a playwright's competition to be held at the town's Opera House, a gorgeous architectural relic built in 1888 and in need of massive renovation.

Neither of us had written a stage play, but as the mother of three students who participated in numerous Glorietta and OIS theatrical productions, I had seen more than my fair share of scripts. Plus, nobody knows me in Nebraska. I could accept a humiliating failure – if it came to that – provided I could remain simply "Barb's weird cousin from California."

It was actually a no-brainer landing on the topic. Since we are first cousins and share a love of family history, we decided to weave together two stories we often heard our grandmother tell.

The main storyline involves Pearl, as our young grandmother, and her relatives

as adolescent farm kids, taunting a mean old pig right before a family wedding. You know, the homespun, "vintage" farmhouse-style weddings we pay ridiculous bucks to replicate today.

To clarify, Barb, who is older, often heard Gram Pearl tell this pig story. I never did. I was grandchild number 25, the caboose, so I think our exhausted matriarch was way over with storytelling by the time I came along – a humorous point that is brought up in the play when past and present collide.

The additional plot line woven throughout involves this same pig four years prior, when a Catholic priest insists our newly-widowed Great Great Grandmother Theresa tithe him as "charitable" restitution for conducting her husband's funeral. Theresa, a devout but fierce widow, would not be pushed around, and Barb and I are proud to descend from her. Moral of the story: don't mess with ornery old pigs or ornery old women.

Short story long, our script won the playwright's competition in June, 2021. We received valuable critiques so we could revamp and improve the momentum over the winter months, resulting in a three-day performance run in Fremont in July.

All the actors were either Midland College drama students, recent Midland grads or involved with Fremont's community theater scene. One of the actors was another cousin. The role of the mean old pig was played by a delightfully animated



JOYCE DIXON

First cousins **Barbara Perry Dahlhauser** of Omaha, NE (left) and Orinda News columnist **Mimi Bommarito**, pose with a childhood photo of their grandmother, Pearl Schaal, the main character in a lighthearted "comedy with a message" script that was recently performed in Fremont, Nebraska.

fifth grader named Piper. And, stay with me here, one more cousin, Barbara's older brother who is an artist and musician, wrote and performed two original songs, which really made the whole shebang feel quite professional.

Community theater means the actors were not paid, and I still grow a bit weepy remembering the heart, energy and enthusiasm each one of them threw into their performance.

To see actors take words you wrote on a piece of paper and breathe life, personality and soul into your characters? Let's just say Barb and I will be chasing this high for a really long time. And yes, we do hope to shop it around and find another life for it. But first, I pause to savor the presence of my youngest daughter before she heads off to study in Madrid.

Tell the stories, and ask to hear the

stories – before it's too late. I always thought the "Elder Reports" required of the OIS students in eighth grade were one of the most valuable assignments ever issued.

Our script was written during the pandemic. I often reflect on the way we, as humans, resorted to stories to comfort us during those trying times.

As children, we relied on stories to set us at ease before the lights went out at bedtime. As adults who felt as vulnerable as children during lockdown, we relied on stories once again – perhaps in the form of novels, or other times in the form of binge-watching HBO.

Become your family's collector of stories, the best inheritance you will ever receive.

*Mimi Bommarito can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.*

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# Shelby's and AAUW-OML Unite to Support Local Scholarships



COURTESY OF AAUW-OML  
The American Association of University Women (AAUW), Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch is partnering with Shelby's Restaurant, in order to raise money for local scholarships on Tuesday, Sept. 20. (L-R) Shelby's owner **Carlos Rangel**, in front of restaurant with **Jill Fernald** and **Bonnie Fend**.

By **BONNIE FEND**  
Contributing Writer

Shelby's Restaurant will partner with the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch (OML), to raise money for local scholarships on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

These scholarships are based on community engagement. Seniors at each local high school and Saint Mary's College undergraduates in the High Potential Program will receive scholarships in the spring. The High Potential Program provides a range of comprehensive services and individualized support for first-generation and low-income students.

The AAUW-OML branch meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 9:30 a.m., features a representative from the Public Defender's Office of Contra Costa County, speaking about social issues and their impact on

the lives of many from our under-served communities.

The meeting also showcases the branch's many programs and activities that support women and girls. The public is invited to this meeting at the Orinda Community Church. Visit [oml-ca.aauw.net](http://oml-ca.aauw.net) for more information.

After the meeting, members and guests are encouraged to have lunch at Shelby's, located at 2 Orinda Theatre Square. Food may also be purchased for lunch, dinner, takeout – or all three! Curbside delivery is available upon request. Shelby's will donate 10% of their sales on Sept. 20 to the AAUW-OML scholarship fund.

Visit the restaurant's website at [www.shelbyseatbetter.com](http://www.shelbyseatbetter.com) for menus, ordering, reservations and take-out information, or call 925.254.9687. There is ample free parking with validation in the garage. Reservations are preferred.

◆ DENNY from page 12

Going beyond the Miramonte campus, Barbara also worked closely with the Wagner Ranch (now Orinda) Nature Area and with the Friends of the Orinda Creeks, rehabilitating the creek along Miramonte's campus, as well as accompanying students on field trips to the Pacific Rain Forest.

Her recognition for establishing the garden at Miramonte, as well as her many volunteer efforts to preserve, educate and advocate on behalf of environmental concerns, led to The Orinda Association selecting Barbara as the 2011 William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award winner.

"Barbara's hallmark of kindness enriched Miramonte students," said her husband.

"Even after she retired from teaching, Barbara kept track of her students. She was so proud to see many earn doctorates and become active in RNA research during the pandemic."

Barbara and William retired to a lake in Idaho where Barbara enjoyed watching eagles and egrets each morning, as well as listening to spiritual music and opera. As her illness progressed, the couple moved to Lacey, WA, to be closer to their daughter.

In lieu of flowers, Barbara requested contributions to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org). Condolences can be sent to [Wdenny53@gmail.com](mailto:Wdenny53@gmail.com).

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

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ART SCENE

Orinda Art Scene

SEPTEMBER IN THE ART GALLERIES AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY AND WILDER

ELANA O'LOSKEY



Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: "What's Next ..." Art from the Edge of Discovery

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents artwork from "The Seven," a group of local artists who came together to display their eclectic show in the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library.

The theme, "What's Next ..." describes their commitment to discover what is hidden within their life experiences to share with the world via art. Several have come to this "edge" of discovery preceded by decades of work. Now that they have the time, they are excited to reawaken their creativity. The group is prolific – 100 artworks from different genres fill the gallery during September. It can also be seen and purchased from the gallery or online at [www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/).

Meet "The Seven," Cindy Baker, Kath Balamuth, Jules Campbell, Susan Erickson, Christina Finnie, Pam Jameson and Jim Jordan on Saturday, Sept. 10, at a reception from 3 – 5 p.m.

Their moniker, "The Seven," was inspired by the Algonquin School, a group of Canadian painters dubbed "The Group of Seven" (1920 – 1933). Light refreshments will be served on the patio where local singer/songwriter Bryan Kemler will play acoustic guitar interpretations of his favorite artists.

"My music is plain folk, heat-forged and rust covered," said Kemler.

Listen to a selection of his music at <https://bit.ly/3SIwxKC>.

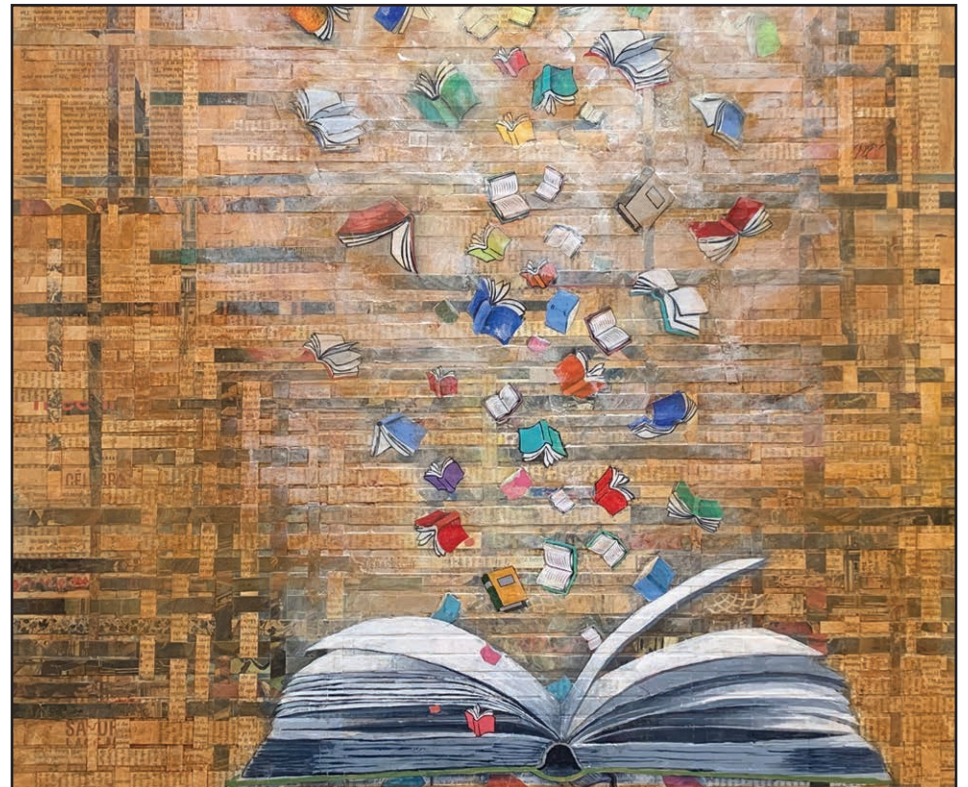
Baker, of Martinez, loves the hard edges of printmaking, especially the experience of making multiple identical prints. This experience introduced her to the beauty of paper in its many iterations, such as art books. Her current art book series, *Thoughtful Thoughts*, is inspired by home and life experiences. These books incorporate the discipline of origami folds and printmaking techniques to extend the concept of what a book can be. Her *Samurai Cornered* (5" x 5") book is a good example of this concept.

Balamuth, the show's curator, likes to create a story with a series of paintings so she can delve into the subject matter other than just scratching the surface. Currently she's working on small images inspired by nature. She uses Photoshop to combine photos to make the image she is trying to create; this becomes her model. Her media is acrylic and sometimes collage from her Orinda studio. Visit her website at [www.kathbalamuth.com](http://www.kathbalamuth.com).

Campbell, who lives in Lafayette, creates map-like compositions using layers of paper, string, rope and other materials. Her favorite tool is the sander. She piles on layers of color and collage on panels, sands them back, adds more layers, and sands again until the art pops out. *Alameda Causeway 3* a 36" x 36" mixed media on panel gives an artist's impression from above of that geographical location in the East Bay. The busy urban land mass made of recycled materials in colors and shapes, snakes around the waters of the Bay, alive and moving. To peruse her work, visit [www.julescampbellart.com](http://www.julescampbellart.com)

Erickson uses different paints, papers and mediums for her mixed media pieces. Sometimes a word, number or symbol

[SEE ART SCENE page 19]



COURTESY OF KATH BALAMUTH, CINDY BAKER, JULES CAMPBELL AND PAM JAMESON

*Reading is Magic*, a 24" x 24" mixed-media on panel, is a collaborative work created by **Kath Balamuth, Cindy Baker, Jules Campbell** and **Pam Jameson**. The four artists used a unique combination of representational and abstract art to express their ideas.



COURTESY KATH BALAMUTH

**Kath Balamuth's** 5" x 5" acrylic on panel, *Bird Nest I*, is an ever-present reminder that nature is always there to awaken us to the beauty of new life.

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STUDENTS

# Lamorinda Idol Winners

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

Months of workshops, rehearsals and performances came to fruition on Aug. 14 as the Lamorinda Idol finalists



DAN KLEIN

**Mina Lim**, an 11th grader at Campolindo High, won the 9-12 solo competition with her rendition of *Listen*.

took the stage at the Orinda Theatre. A total of 52 soloists/groups performed a wide range of music during the all-day event to the cheers of an appreciative audience.

Sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Council, Lamorinda Idol began in 2006 and is modeled after American Idol. This year, approximately 120 young people auditioned with 39 soloists and 13 groups selected as finalists.

A combination of audience and judges' votes determined the winners with the individual contestant who received the highest percentage of audience votes, and who was not a winner in a solo category, receiving the Audience Award. The event culminated with the announcement of winners – a difficult task given the high level of talent.

“But Lamorinda Idol is much more than a competition,” said organizer Steve Harwood. “It is an opportunity for young people to pursue their passion for singing. There are coached workshops and outdoor performances in Lafayette, Orinda



DAN KLEIN

BiggySmalls with Camino Pablo 5th graders **Colette Goodman** and **Vivian Welch** won the K-5 Group Competition singing *Diamonds*.

and Moraga. As the young people pursue their passion, they bring joy to the community.”

The winners for the 2022 Lamorinda Idol are:

[SEE IDOL page 21]




ADARSH GUPTA

**Palig Horoupan** won the 6-8 grade solo competition singing *A Million Reasons*. She is a 7th grader at Orinda Intermediate School.



DAN KLEIN

**William Tanner**, a 2nd grader at Saklan, won the Grades K-2 Solo division. He sang *A Million Dreams*.



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### ◆ CAR SHOW from page 1

tos featuring Orinda’s history. Here’s a chance to see the very Orinda streets some of the classic cars displayed drove on each day.

“This show is one of the two iconic events in Orinda, along with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration,” Waterman said. “Many local folks donate their time volunteering to support the show, both by bringing their cars and by working behind the scenes. We are very appreciative of all the volunteers who have again made this show possible, especially our Car Show Committee.”

The festivities get underway the night before the car show on Sept. 9 when Orinda Rotary presents “Dancing with the

Cars.” This year’s theme is “A Night in Havana” and includes a Cuban-inspired buffet, mojitos and live Latin dancing, including a quick salsa lesson. The fun evening, which includes a live and silent auction, runs 6 – 8:30 p.m. Purchase tickets by Sept. 2 at [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org) or contact [orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com).

For more information about the Classic Car Show, call The Orinda Association at 925.254.0800 go to [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) or [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com). For information on Dancing with the Cars, go to [www.Orindarotary.org](http://www.Orindarotary.org).

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



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## CALENDAR / CLUBS

## On the Calendar in September

- Orinda Library** is open to the public. Storytimes are on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.. Open hours are Mon. through Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 6 Orinda Way, Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.
- 1 **Taste of the World Market** food trucks Orinda Community Center parking lot 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Also, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29.
  - Orinda Books Pat's Book Club** will read and discuss *A View of the Harbour* by Elizabeth Taylor. Email [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com) for reservations.
  - 2 **46th Annual San Francisco Stand-up Comedy Competition** (SFCC) produced by Jon Fox, with preliminary round one on Sept. 2 and round two on Sept. 9, 8 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre. Tickets are \$30 for the first five rows and \$25 for rows 6 through 13. For more information, visit [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com). See article p. 2.
  - 3 **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 Sept. 10, 17 and 24. See article p. 23.
  - 7 **Cal Shakes** presents a new adaptation of Williams Shakespeare's *King Lear* through Oct. 2. For more information and tickets, call 510.548.9666, email [boxoffice@calshakes.org](mailto:boxoffice@calshakes.org) or go to [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org). See article p. 2.
  - 8 **Concerts-In-the-Park**, with 925 Band, 6-8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park. Visit <https://bit.ly/3At1j33> for more information.
  - 9 **Rotary Club of Orinda**, 6 - 8:30 p.m., Dancing with the Cars. For tickets email [orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:orindarotaryfundraiser@gmail.com). See article p. 11.
  - Orinda Starlight Village Players** present George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 1, 8:30 p.m. Also, Sept. 25 at 4 p.m. and Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org), [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org) or 925.528.9225 for more information. See article p. 9.
  - 10 **18th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show** - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Orinda Village near Orinda Motors. See article p. 1.
  - Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** - "What's Next ...." is the theme of seven local artists who came together to show 100 pieces of their eclectic work during September. Reception on from 3 - 5 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments and the acoustic guitar of local musician Bryan Kemlar. See article p. 15.
  - 17 **Orinda Books And Firewise Orinda** present Katherine Blunt, author of *California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas & Electric & What It Means to America's Power Grid*. Email [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com) for [SEE CALENDAR page 22]

## Club Meetings in September

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 Sept. 20 - 9:30-11 a.m. Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall: AAUW OML Showcase Meeting with speaker from CCC D.A.'s office talking about social justice. Also, Sept. 20 - All day fundraiser at Shelby's for High School and College student scholarships. <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>.

**Community Gentle Yoga**, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at [gcmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmoozee@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

**Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m. 925.687.8844, ext. 227. <https://bit.ly/3egD3EZ>.

**Lamorinda Meditation Community**. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:25 a.m. All levels and philosophies welcome. Contact Gaby Mozee at [gcmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmoozee@gmail.com).

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated**. Third Thursday. For more information, visit [www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org](http://www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org).

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Friday weekly meetings conducted in hybrid format - in person & Zoom, are recorded. General public can access at no charge. 7 - 8:15 a.m. <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: Sept 9 - Jim Knowlton, Cal Athletic Director; Sept 16 - Mike Heller, Update on Habitat for Humanity in East Bay; Sept 23 - Amy Worth, Metropolitan Transportation Commissioner; Sept 30 - Erica Geis, Journalist and NatGeo Explorer on Water in CA. 7 a.m. breakfast at the Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Guests are welcome, no reservation required. For more info. [www.lamorindasunrise.org](http://www.lamorindasunrise.org). Email: [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com).

**Montelindo Garden Club**, membership open to all, Sept. 23, Shannon Fitzpatrick from Sloat Garden Center will help you transition your garden into the new season with a talk on "Fall Color in the Garden." Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mount Diablo Blvd. For COVID requirements visit the website. Doors open at 9 a.m., meeting begins at 10 a.m. Free. For more information, visit [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** Sept. 21 Board meeting. Contact Roy Hodgkinson 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 [SEE CLUBS page 19]



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ CAL SHAKES from page 2

ing to live performances, but it also means we must wrestle with climate change. Our insurance went up 750% because we're in a high fire zone. Theater is known for its adaptability, and we have certainly been tested lately."

Following his departure from Cal Shakes, Ting will concentrate on directing rather than theater administration and has already secured his next directorial assignment – the world premiere of Lloyd Suh's *The Far Country*. The show begins rehearsals in October and performs Nov. 17 – Jan. 1 at New York's Atlantic Theatre.

While he'll be in New York, in a way Ting won't leave the Bay Area as *The Far Country* takes place during the Chinese Exclusion Act with the action set on Angel Island, in San Francisco and in Mainland China.

"I'm looking forward to concentrating on directing and choosing projects that are close to home. Our daughter is entering second grade this fall and I want to have more time to participate in her life," Ting said.

As a replacement for Ting, the board has set up a transition committee looking into various possibilities for Cal Shakes.

"We are forever indebted to Eric for his many years of service and his dedication to Cal Shakes and the community it serves," wrote Cal Shakes Co-Board Presidents Kate Stechschulte and Tracey Walthall in a recent press release. "Throughout his tenure, Eric has been a fierce advocate of furthering the mission and values of Cal Shakes and has played a critical role in elevating the organization to the global stage."

**Cal Shakes Closes with *Lear***

A jazz trio welcomes patrons to Cal Shakes' closing show of the 2022 season – a

modern verse translation of Shakespeare's *King Lear* (Sept. 7 – Oct. 2). Adapted by Marcus Gardley, *Lear* is co-directed by Ting and Aurora Theatre Company Associate Artistic Director Dawn Monique Williams.

"We at Cal Shakes have been exploring shared leadership models and so I'm very excited to be co-directing with Dawn," said Ting. "For many years, Dawn was an Associate Artist at Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF), and Shakespeare is in her blood."

Gardley's translation came out of OSF's "Play on Initiative," a program, which commissioned living writers to engage with works from Shakespeare's canon.

"Playwrights were tasked with looking at every word in a play, and if a word felt too obscure, they would select a more contemporary word, a more accessible word for today's audiences," Ting said. "I was skeptical about this at first because I so love the originals. But when we were contacted by OSF about this translation of *Lear* and that Marcus Gardley was interested in Cal Shakes doing the world premiere, I just said yes, yes, yes!"

Ting had directed Gardley's *black odyssey* for Cal Shakes' 2017 season and is very familiar with the richness of his writing and the ease of working with the award-winning

playwright.

"Of all the wonderful collaborations I've been gifted with at Cal Shakes, my collaboration and friendship with Marcus has been the greatest gift. It's a very special opportunity to be painting pictures with his words again," said Ting.

According to Ting, Gardley found the themes of *Lear* entwined with happenings in his own life which created a very intimate relationship between the playwright and his newest play.

"As he developed *Lear*, he kept finding all this resonance with events that occurred in SF and the Bay Area in the middle 20th century," said Ting. "His adaptation explores themes of wealth, and legacy, inheritance and filial responsibilities to parents."

Set in the Western Addition of San Francisco, the play explores the eminent domain crisis of the 1940s through to the subsequent displacement of the 60s.

"For a very long time, this was the most diverse community in San Francisco. It's made for a very fertile exploration for me and the cast," said Ting. "This time also recalls the Harlem of the west. From the beginning Marcus said there must be a jazz band. So, we have engaged Marcus Shelby who will be leading a jazz trio every performance. He's also composing original

music to underscore the action."

Ting and Williams have cast primarily local performers except for the role of Lear, who is played by James A. Williams.

"James is a stalwart of the Twin Cities theater scene and is such a thoughtful, grace-filled actor. We're very lucky to have him join us," Ting said.

Gardley joined Ting, Williams and the cast for the first week of rehearsal in early August and spoke about the challenges of dealing with the classics especially when some things feel dated or offensive.

"It was very special having Marcus with us. He helped the actors dive deeply into an investigation through the specific lens he has chosen for this show," Ting said. "Using such a corner stone of Bay Area history, his adaptation invites you to see this play in ways you otherwise would not. Words hold new meanings. You get a sense through Marcus' voice that this play is about a kind of call to repair the division that has separated us. A call to a sort of dignity and respect and responsibility."

For more information and tickets, call 510.548.9666, email [boxoffice@calshakes.org](mailto:boxoffice@calshakes.org) or go to [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

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

◆ BART from page 4

outside were thrilled by BART. It's the Space Age transit system and everyone is excited."

With the 50th Anniversary of BART, the public is invited to help celebrate Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Lake Merritt Station. The 50th Birthday Party and Family Fun Festival is free to the public, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will include food trucks, music, games, prizes and a time capsule opening.

In additional celebrations, BART riders are encouraged to return to the system with a month-long 50% discount incentive this month and riders using Clipper receive half off all published BART fares as well. It also includes 50% off already discounted fares for youth, senior, Regional Transportation Connection, Clipper Start and Gator Pass riders. Learn more about BART's anniversary at [bart.gov/50years](http://bart.gov/50years).

In pre-pandemic 2018, each workday BART's ridership averaged 414,166 trips. During peak commute hours, nearly 25,600 people rode through the Transbay Tube into downtown San Francisco. The busiest BART stations, Embarcadero and Montgomery, had more than 93,000 exits occurring at these two stations on an average weekday. The top ridership day was 493,927 trips on June 12, 2018, for the Warriors Victory Parade.

As the Bay Area's population swells, BART is tackling the challenge to keep the Bay Area moving. Aging trains (more than two-thirds of BART's train cars are from 1972) are being replaced.

BART's workforce is rebuilding the infrastructure, modernizing stations, replacing track, power cables and substations. BART has spent \$164.3 million (through Dec. 2018) of voter-approved Measure RR funds and the independent Bond Oversight Committee said in its Annual Report projects are "on time and on budget."

BART's board of directors stated, "In 2019, we expanded our Measure RR ef-

orts and laid the foundation to increase frequency and capacity. We've received bidder proposals to upgrade BART's train control system, begun to study a second Transbay Rail Crossing and launched a major earthquake retrofit to the Transbay Tube."

In July 2019, BART Board of Directors unanimously appointed Robert "Bob" Powers to take over as BART's tenth General Manager. Powers, a professional engineer, has more than 20 years of experience in the public transportation industry, overseeing major infrastructure projects and transportation programs. He had been serving as Interim General Manager.

Healy, the Director of Public Affairs at the time of BART's opening, remembers the Sept. 11th of 1972 as "an incredible day. We celebrate it 50 years later."

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




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**2022 Publication Schedule**

Issue	Deadline
October	September 8
November	October 8

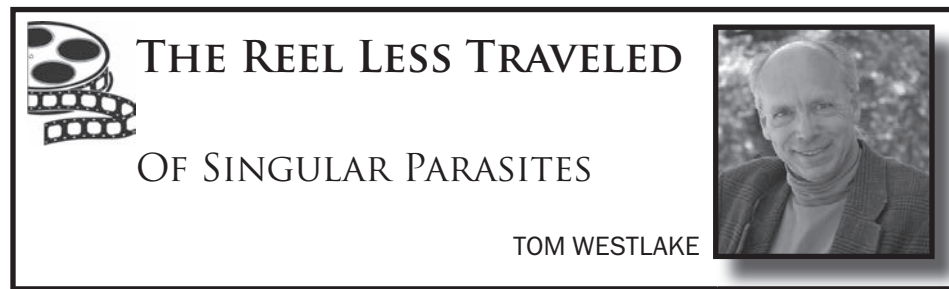
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## FILM



For as long as I can remember, September always had a pall cast over it since it was the month school officially started. I guess it is August now.

School was by no means all bad. Education is something to be proud of, and it did awaken in me the concept that there was much more to learn than what was being taught in school. It's all very well and good to learn about people, places and dates, but when one takes the time to delve beneath the surface, one finds a wealth of ancillary information that is, oftentimes, more interesting than the initial lesson.

There are only two films to talk about this month. The first is The International Film Showcase's presentation of *The Good Boss*. A Spanish company producing industrial scales in a provincial Spanish town awaits the imminent visit from a committee which holds its fate in their hands. Everything must be perfect when the time comes. Working against the clock, the company's proprietor, Básculas Blanco, played by Javier Bardem, pulls out all the stops to address and resolve issues with his employees, crossing every imaginable line in the process.

*The Good Boss* plays daily at 1, 4 and 6:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 23.

The other film is one I'm happy to have an opportunity to delve into a bit deeper. It's *The Tingler* (1959), starring Vincent Price. It is September's offering at the Orinda Theatre as part of the Chiller Diller Theatre Series.

Made during a time when there was a collective paranoia wafting through the American landscape (The Cold War was

still very much with us), it was also a time when schlock was king. American International Studios was still churning out cheesy horror and science fiction films *Attack of the Giant Leeches*, *The Killer Shrews*, and most notably, *Little Shop of Horrors* come immediately to mind.

*The Tingler* was released by Columbia Studios, but more importantly, its director is William Castle, who made a name for himself with another horror film, *House on Haunted Hill*.

*The Tingler* is about a scientist, played by Price, who comes to the spurious conclusion that fear is actually a parasite we're all born with, and the only way to keep it at bay is to scream.

As ludicrous as it seems, when this film first came out, it had an extra element added to it in theaters that "enhanced" the viewing experience. Castle equipped certain theaters with a special device installed under some of the seats, which vibrated at specific times during the showing, causing audience members to scream.

Now, I can't comment with any real certainty that Lord Blood-Rah won't give you the same treatment as those around during the film's initial run, but it doesn't mean you still shouldn't do your part to keep this parasite at bay. Scream away! *The Tingler* screens Sept. 11 at 9:30 p.m. For tickets, visit [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com).

So until next time, remember to always go towards those wonderful images of sound and light, for that's where the reel magic lies.

Tom Westlake can be reached at [popinjay@earthlink.net](mailto:popinjay@earthlink.net).

## ◆ CLUBS from page 17

Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925.254.5211. <https://orindalodge.org>.

**Orinda Rotary.** Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at the Founders' Auditorium, 28 Orinda Way. Guests are welcome to join Rotarians. Contact Rodney Lal, president, email: [RodneyLal@yahoo.com](mailto:RodneyLal@yahoo.com) or call 925-366-8077

**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).

[cityoforinda.org](http://cityoforinda.org).

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

**Road Runners.** Meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Pappilion (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 [runmtns@prodigy.net](mailto:runmtns@prodigy.net).

**Sons in Retirement (SIR)** Lamorinda Branch 174, the second Wednesday 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).

## ◆ ART SCENE from page 15

in various sizes and colors add mystery, meaning and maybe a special memory or feeling to her piece.

Her collages pull together realistic images with abstract mark-making and exuberant splashes of color and all have a message. *Careful Wet Paint*, needs no explanation, the elements joyfully lead the eye around the 30" x 30" piece. See what she's up to at [www.susanericksonartist.com](http://www.susanericksonartist.com).

Finnie's new works have taken off with a wild abstract playfulness that bespeaks her resilient personality. Daily nature walks in Vallejo, where she lives, bring vital energy to her acrylic paintings; color and form are her current study areas.

Educated in painting, printmaking and the history of art at UC Berkley, Finnie references art history in her paintings without exactitude. Her current work references artists David Hockney, Peter Doig and Joan Mitchell.

Jameson shows a series of landscapes depicting environments in Northern California. In these urban views and landscapes, she finds quiet beauty that comes alive under her brushwork. Baker, Balamuth, Campbell and Jameson met at Diablo Valley College, where they belonged to CC14, a student critique group which exhibited locally. Since 2015 they have worked together creating unique collaborative works displayed at Orinda Books. Look for *Reading is Magic*, a 24" x 24" mixed media on panel, an example of a collaborative work by these four artists.

Jordan, who resides in Pleasant Hill, uses the human figure as his primary, but not exclusive, focus for his art. His media includes acrylics on canvas and pastels on paper. The 28" x 22" pastel drawing, *Think-*

*ing of You*, depicts the thoughtful pose of a youthful model. *Fantastical Warrior*, a 60" x 48" acrylic on canvas, is Kachina-like in its hovering menace.

"Most of all I feel joy when I am in the zone applying color," said Jordan.

He is inspired by Victor Frankel's assertion that, "You don't create your mission in life – you detect it." View more of his work at [www.jimjordan-art.com](http://www.jimjordan-art.com).

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org). This exhibit runs the month of Sept. in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Mon. – Thurs., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sun. The Library is closed all day Mon. Sept. 5. Call 925.254.2184 for more information about the Library or visit [www.ccplib.org](http://www.ccplib.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: Temporarily Closed**

Due to circumstances related to COVID-19, the September exhibit is cancelled.

The Wilder Art and Garden Center is located at 20 Orinda Fields Way. Normally the exhibit runs the entire month. It 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 the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940 or visit [www.lamorindaarts.org/gallery-2/](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/gallery-2/).

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at [business.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:business.orinda@gmail.com).



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## LOCAL AUTHOR

# Local Author Andy Baraghani Publishes His First Cookbook

By KATHY CORDOVA  
Contributing Writer

When he was just eight years old, Andy Baraghani became obsessed with watching Julia Child and *Yan Can Cook* on PBS. He delighted in devising embellishments like chili flakes or freshly grated cheddar to spice up boxed mac and cheese.

Today, at age 32, the Miramonte High School graduate has parlayed his childhood passion into positions at prestigious restaurants, food magazines and a series of viral culinary videos. Baraghani's latest accomplishment is the publication of his debut cookbook, *The Cook You Want to Be: Everyday Recipes to Impress*.

The book has garnered lavish acclaim from both ordinary readers and eminent chefs around the world.

Looking back, Baraghani is sure his success began to simmer in the kitchen of his Orinda childhood home.

"I'm a first generation (American). My parents came from Iran in the late '70s, and I grew up in a household where cooking at home was a daily thing," said Baraghani.

He fondly remembers grocery shopping with his mother and then sitting on

the kitchen counter while she cooked for a houseful of grandparents, aunts and uncles.

"In my family it was very natural to be eating with a lot of people while having conversations," he added. "The act of eating brought so much pleasure, but I was curious about more than just eating."

Baraghani's curiosity guided his journey to becoming a *New York Times* bestselling cookbook author – an untraditional career trajectory he carved out on his own. He got his start as a high school senior with a job at the legendary Chez Panisse in Berkeley, as part of the WISE program at Miramonte.

When asked how he landed the prestigious restaurant posting at such a young age, he said, "I was pretty focused and I had a clear sense of self and what I liked. I knew that space was special. I went in there one day and told them that I wanted to work in the kitchen. I said I'd be there every Friday after school and every Saturday. I'd be there as early as possible and stay as late as possible and do whatever they needed."

This combination of moxie and determination propelled Baraghani to the ultimate heights of the culinary world. After graduating high school, he moved to New York



JEFF HEYMAN

On Aug. 12, Miramonte High School graduate, **Andy Baraghani**, now age 32, discussed his new cookbook, *The Cook You Want to Be* to an enthusiastic house at Orinda Books. Baraghani said his cookbook encourages the home cook to achieve "maximal flavor in minimal time."



JEFF HEYMAN

It was a full house at Orinda Books, Friday, Aug. 12, when celebrity chef **Andy Baraghani** (left), an Orinda native, came back home to talk about and sign copies of his new book, *The Cook You Want to Be*. Baraghani was welcomed by Orinda Books owner **Pat Rudebusch** (right) and proved to be a hit with his relatives, longtime friends and local fans.

to attend NYU.

While in college, he worked at renowned restaurant Estela and interned in the test kitchen at foodie magazine *Saveur*. There, he soaked up their anthropological approach to food while learning how to develop his own recipes. Later, as a senior editor at *Bon Appétit*, he launched a popular series of videos featuring him cooking and eating in exotic locales.

Baraghani has combined all that experience and knowledge to create *The Cook You Want to Be*, a collection of 120 recipes, complete with personal essays, gorgeous design and photography meant to inspire home cooks.

"There are so many great cookbooks, but many of them take the authoritarian approach to cooking," said Baraghani. "I want to help readers think about and develop their own personal cooking styles. I think of all the lessons I've learned in this crazy food world to challenge myself and stay curious and continue to evolve. I want to pass them down. I hope I can push cooks to try new things."

The book encourages the home cook to achieve "maximal flavor in minimal time," using flavorful ingredients, fresh vegetables and special techniques Baraghani has honed over the years.

Some recipes are versions of Persian dishes from his childhood, like the frittata dish Kuku Sabzi. Others, like Hot-and-sour Garlic Soup with Shiitake and Celery, are drawn from his Asian travels. Entrées like Proper Steak with brown butter fried onion rings are more traditional American fare. Baraghani's intent is to challenge and enchant the taste buds of just about any kind of cook.

Although Baraghani has traveled the world, dining and writing about food, he has an enduring fondness for his childhood home.

"The East Bay is a very special place," he said. "The nature, the farmers' markets, the incredible restaurants have inspired me, both in and out of the kitchen."

Kathy Cordova can be reached at [khcordova@gmail.com](mailto:khcordova@gmail.com).

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PET OF THE MONTH



DAN KLEIN

**Aubrey Peterson** and **Isabelle Porcella** are Treble & Bass. The duet won the 6-8th Group category with the song *Favorite Crime*.

◆ IDOL from page 16

- K-2 Solo – William Tanner
- 3-5 Solo – Cara Impallomeni
- 6-8 Solo – Palig Horoupian
- 9-12 Solo – Mina Lim
- K-5 Groups – BiggySmalls (Colette Goodman, Vivian Welch)
- 6-8 Groups – Treble & Bass (Isabelle Porcella, Aubrey Peterson)
- 9-12 Groups – 4 O’Clock (Svea Peterson, Mina Lim, Jaden Maspaitella, Sadie Poole)



DAN KLEIN

**Ruby Vanhouten**, who will be a college freshman at NYC’s Tisch School of the Arts, won the Audience Award with her rendition of *The Joke*.

Audience Award – Ruby Vanhouten

Students in kindergarten through 12th grade living or attending school in Contra Costa County are eligible to participate. If competing in a group category, only one member must live in Contra Costa County.

For more information on Lamorinda Idol, go to [www.orindaartscouncil.org](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org).

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



DAN KLEIN

Sleepy Hollow 4th grader **Cara Impallomeni** captured the 3-5th Solo award singing *Rise Up*.



DAN KLEIN

4 O’Clock took 9-12th Group honors with its performance of *Praying*. The group consists of **Svea Peterson** (10th grader at Campolindo), **Mina Lim** (11th grader at Campolindo), **Sadie Poole** (11th grader at Las Lomas) and **Jaden Maspaitella** (10th grader at Acalanes).

Pet of the Month



HARINI RAMIREDDY WESTMAN

“**Indigo** is a one and a half-year-old blue Great Dane, who moved from San Francisco to the Orinda Wilder community last December. She loves the suburban life as she enjoys watching birds, taking long walks around the neighborhood and meeting her new human and dog neighbors. This photo was taken when she weighed-in at 100 lbs., and she’s pretty hard to miss,” said Harini Westman.

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STUDENTS

# Orinda Boy Scouts Troop 303 Celebrates Proud New Eagle Scouts

By JOHN CLAASSEN  
Contributing Writer

In June, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 303 of Orinda held an Eagle Court of Honor at Orinda Community Church to commemorate six Scouts, each of whom recently obtained scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

Honorees included Nicolai Bell, Cyrus Claassen, Henry Dreessen, Alex Kohr, Logan Lee and Paulo Obnial. Bell recently graduated from Campolindo High, while the others graduated from Miramonte High.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in scouting with the BSA. Since the organization's inception in 1911, only 4% of Scouts have earned the topmost rank after a lengthy process and active participation in their troop.

To obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, candidates must earn a minimum of

21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit and successfully complete an Eagle service project benefiting the community.

Owen Pines, who was awarded his Eagle last June, and Bruce McGurk, chair of the Briones District of Scouts BSA's Golden Gate Area Council, presided over the ceremony. Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay presented each scout with an official proclamation of the Orinda City Council, declaring officially June 12 as Nicolai Bell Day, June 13 as Cyrus Claassen Day, June 14 as Henry Dreessen Day, June 15 as Alex Kohr Day, June 16 as Logan Lee Day and June 17 as Paulo Obnial Day.

Representatives of the Office of State Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan also attended. County Supervisor Candace Anderson and State Senator Steve Glazer sent awards to be presented



PAUL DOLAN

Six Orinda Scouts were honored in June for earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout (L-R) **Cyrus Claassen, Alex Kohr, Nicolai Bell, Paulo Obnial, Logan Lee** and **Henry Dreessen**, in the Orinda Boy Scouts of America Troop 303.

to the Scouts.

The Scouts' Eagle Scout service projects benefitted the Orinda Nature Area (ONA), adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, and Orinda Village Grove for the City of Orinda.

Bell built an ADA-compliant trail at ONA to provide access to gathering areas and the Nature Area trails. Claassen planned and oversaw the construction of two picnic tables to replace worn tables and a large crafts table at ONA. Dreessen constructed a wood structure, designed a trail map and installed a high-quality sign that highlights the great one-mile nature hike and includes key sites at ONA. Kohr refurbished the 50' wooden, foot bridge that spans across the duck pond in the ONA. Lee constructed three long-lasting tables using composite material for the Olive Festival at ONA. Obnial restored and rebuilt the historical map of the Orinda Village Grove for the City of Orinda.

A beneficiary of the projects, Toris Jaeger of Orinda Nature Area, offered her thanks to the boys as well.

The newly confirmed Eagle Scouts thanked their Scout leaders, community, parents and fellow Scouts who helped them along their journey to achieve this rank and honor.

Scout Troop 303 (303B & 3030G) serves boys and girls in Orinda, California and the surrounding communities. The troop has been serving the Lamorinda area since 1964 with Orinda Rotary the Troop's sponsoring organization. The troop is a member of the Briones District of the Golden Gate

Area Council of the BSA and currently has over 60 Scouts.

The Troop generally meets one Monday night a month from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda. In addition, scouts are expected to make time for one patrol meeting a month to plan patrol outings and activities.

For more information, go to <https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop303Orinda/Index.htm>.

John Claassen can be reached at [john@cmpc.law](mailto:john@cmpc.law).

### ◆ CALENDAR from page 17

- reservations.
- 20 **Shelby's and AAUW-OML** Have lunch, dinner, or takeout at Shelby's Restaurant: All day fundraiser for AAUW OML High School and College student scholarships. See article p. 14.
- 22 **Sustainable Contra Costa's (SCO-CO's)** annual awards gala. For more information, email [tyler@sustainablecoco.org](mailto:tyler@sustainablecoco.org). See article p. 7.
- 23 **The International Film Showcase** present *The Good Boss* in September. In the film, Javier Bardem's company is due for a big inspection, but it does not go as planned. Tickets and show times are available at [www.OrindaMovies.com](http://www.OrindaMovies.com).

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

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Market Celebrating 25 Years

BARBARA KOBSAR



Congratulations Orinda. The Farmers' Market is celebrating 25 years with a promise of more freshness on the way.

The market's proverbial doors opened on Saturday, July 26, 1997, as part of the certified Farmers' Market movement founded in Contra Costa County by CCCFM (Contra Costa Certified Farmers Markets) in 1982. With the support of then City Manager Bill Lindsay and City Council Members Joyce Hawkins and Laura Abrams, market plans were put into motion.

As public relations co-ordinator for the market association at the time, I remember an exhilarating and busy opening day. The Board of Directors, of which I am now president, remains cognizant of our mission to support the development of local, sustainable farming by cultivating vibrant farmers' markets.

All farmers' markets strive to bridge the gap between food producers and consumers. The supportive relationship between the market, the Orinda Parks and Recreation Department and the City Council has been a vital link in the market's success.

Market Executive Director Staci DeShasier described the market as small, but mighty. "The setting is beautiful," she said. "And what's in season is what's at the market."

DeShasier sees the market as a true gathering place where all are welcome. Customers come for coffee and breakfast, stay to shop and then enjoy some time at the adjacent community park. There's also plenty of parking, a friendly staff and time

to relax.

All markets, however, face challenges.

As more and more markets opened following the debut of the Walnut Creek market in 1982, we saw a need to find more farmers to fill the stalls. That phenomenon didn't really play out for several years but is currently an ongoing challenge.

"Markets need diversity," said DeShasier. "And we make every effort to find what's best for each of our markets."

Challenging weather, including torrential rain, wind and smoke have resulted in more safety guidelines for operating the markets. A decision was made in 2019 to go year-round in Orinda for the following 2020 season. This became one of the biggest challenges our markets (and the rest of the world) have ever seen. The market was designated an essential food source and continued to operate under strict COVID-19 protocols.

Year-round markets offer everything in-season, but after the last pomegranate in December and before the first spear of asparagus in February, the selection is limited. That is the time for any citrus lovers to shop the markets, salad lovers to pick from the best greens and stew lovers to find fabulous carrots and other root vegetables.

Wondering what's coming next? Just ask your friendly farmer or market manager.

Fall is fast approaching and the market changes with the seasons. Farmers begin harvesting more squash, peppers, apples, eggplants, pumpkins, greens, spinach and broccoli. Choose from specialty foods all



JEFF HEYMAN

(L-R) Staci DeShasier and Barbara Kobsar recently enjoyed a visit to the Orinda Farmers' Market, which is celebrating its 25th year of operation. DeShasier is the market's Executive Director and Kobsar is one of the founding members and board president of the market, which began Saturday, July 26, 1997. The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village.

year round, such as fresh bread, honey, jams, hummus, yogurt, craft beers, beef, fish, eggs and cheese.

Look for our most popular event of the year in October – Halloween Harvest – which is fun for the entire family. Kids activities, including a scavenger hunt and pumpkin patch, are loads of fun when you're all dressed up in your favorite costume!

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

Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jams and jellies at the Jam Stand at the Saturday Orinda market and the Sunday Walnut Creek market. Barbara Kobsar can be reached at [Barbara@cotkitchen.com](mailto:Barbara@cotkitchen.com).

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FINANCIAL NEWS

# Orinda's New Japanese Restaurant Opening: O'Yammy Sushi Cuisine

By JEFF HEYMAN  
Contributing Writer

There is a new Japanese restaurant in town, O'Yammy Sushi, conveniently located just across the street from the Safeway in Orinda Village. Plenty of parking is available on the street or in a side and back parking lot. The latest culinary establishment in Orinda offers indoor and patio seating both for lunch and dinner.

Owner Jenny Alton, with 20 years of Japanese restaurant experience under her apron, has created in O'Yammy Sushi a cozy, neighborhood eatery devoted to fresh and healthy offerings. Alton proclaimed O'Yammy Sushi "fun and friendly – and committed to community-oriented service."

Alton, 54, said she has always wanted to open a sushi restaurant in Orinda, home to her husband's parents.

"When the former owner of the Japanese restaurant that was here decided to retire, we knew the time was right," she said.

Alton, who lives in Concord, also owns Oyama Sushi in Walnut Creek, which

shares the same menu for the most part as its new Orinda sister, O'Yammy Sushi.

Hailing from San Francisco, Chef Terence Tan, has created a menu both traditional and East Bay-focused. It can be seen in the nearly 30 different special rolls on offer, including the Orinda Roll, the Mt. Diablo Roll, the Golden Bear Roll, the A's Roll, the Raiders Roll, in addition to the O'Yammy Special Roll, the Godzilla Roll and the Ocean's Trio Roll.

And that's Alton's favorite – the Ocean's Trio Roll – a tempura prawn, avocado, salmon, tuna and hamachi, hand-wrapped in soy bean paper and served with "trio sauce."

As for customer favorites, Alton, who moved to the Bay Area from China in the 1980s, said in addition to sushi it's Chicken Teriyaki, udon and ramen noodle dishes, and, of course, spring rolls.

A range of handrolls, ice cream cone-shaped sushi creations, round out the large menu. A full slate of tea, sake, soft drinks, beer and wine are also available.

Alton's family's background owning Japanese restaurants in the Bay Area for the



JEFF HEYMAN

Owner **Jenny Alton** welcomes customers to Orinda's newest restaurant, O'Yammy Sushi. Alton, who also owns Oyama Sushi in Walnut Creek, said she always wanted to open an eatery in Orinda. With a focus on quality fresh and healthy Japanese fare, O'Yammy Sushi is open Wednesday through Sunday.

past several decades is evident in the wide ranging menu, which includes Japanese and Asian-influenced fare.

Appetizers include Shrimp Pops and a Jalapeno Bomb, with salads offering everything from seaweed to mango, as well as an assortment of seafood. There is a full range of lunch and dinner entrees, noodles, sashimi and sushi a la carte.

The lunch menu features bento boxes which one can personally tailor by choosing any two of 12 items. Coming with both miso soup and rice, these offer a quickly prepared lunch for those on the go.

In business for only a couple of weeks, O'Yammy Sushi has five employees. Although they do not deliver, orders can be placed directly through O'Yammy's website, <https://oyammysushi.com>. Orders are ready for pick-up in 30 minutes.

Alton said, "fresh, fresh fish," delivered daily, is the quality focus at O'Yammy Sushi.

"It's the quality of the food – our fish – that makes us special," said Alton. "We focus on friendly customer service and healthy food and do our best to have the community like us. We are always listening to our customers."

Just weeks open in Orinda, O'Yammy Sushi is rated 4.5 stars by its customers.

"We want that to be five stars!" said Alton.

O'Yammy Sushi is located at 1 Camino Sobrante, Suite 6, open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (lunch), and 3:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. (dinner). Call 925.254.1606.

Jeff Heyman can be reached at [heyman.foto@gmail.com](mailto:heyman.foto@gmail.com).



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