

THE ORINDA NEWS

MOFD Firefighters Injured on Highway 24

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

December 2 was one of the worst days of a storm system that passed through the Bay Area this fall. At 9:21 a.m., while attending a four-car accident on Highway 24 just east of the Wilder overpass, three firefighters and a civilian were struck by an out of control vehicle. The injured parties were rushed to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

The three firefighters, Captain Michael Rattary, Firefighter Paramedic Kelly Morris, and Firefighter Stephen Rogness, have all been released and are recovering from their injuries. The civilian is still in critical condition at Oakland Kaiser. Fire Chief Randy Bradley said, “There were some heroic things that occurred that day. Our folks got there and had to treat their own, which is always a difficult thing to do. They treated them and got them in ambulances and got them to the trauma center. The trauma center staff was incredible.”

The morning started with a four-vehicle accident. Moraga Orinda Fire District



Firefighter Paramedic Kelly Morris



Captain Michael Rattary



Firefighter Stephen Rogness

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

(MOFD) responded by sending two engines (E-43 and E-42), a medic unit (M-45) and a chief officer (BC-4) to the scene. Engine-43

was the first vehicle on the scene and found four vehicles on the shoulder and in the

[SEE ACCIDENT page 6]

Orinda Association Announces Volunteer and Environmental Awards for 2012

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

The Orinda Association has named Kay Aaker its 2012 Volunteer of the Year for her tireless work with hospice and cancer patients and Elizabeth O’Shea recipient of



SALLY HOGARTY

Volunteer of the Year **Kay Aaker**

the William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award for her dedication to creek health and propagation of native plants. The women will be honored at a gala dinner at the Orinda Country Club on January 27.

Orinda resident Marie Waterman nominated Aaker for the Volunteer of the Year Award. “I have worked with Kay over the past two years and she is amazing,” writes Waterman in her nomination. “She has given her energy and heart to hundreds of terminally ill patients and their families.” Aaker says she was surprised at the award. “It’s quite an honor,” says Aaker, who volunteers with Hospice of the East Bay, a non-profit headquartered in Pleasant Hill.

Before her retirement from teaching two years ago – she taught at Wagner Ranch and Sleepy Hollow elementary schools for more than 40 years – Aaker worked one day

[SEE WINNERS page 4]



RICHARD O'SHEA

William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award winner **Elizabeth O'Shea**.

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LIBRARY GALLERY

Caldecott Fourth Bore: *Tunnel Visions*, Collages, Paintings, Lithographs, Historic Models and Photographs of Old Orinda

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Start off the New Year by seeing the light at the end of the tunnel – literally. Photographers John Huseby and Karl Neilsen have been documenting the Caldecott Fourth Bore Tunnel Project construction so that the public can see the construction as it progresses. The 10, 2' x 3', photographs are part of *Tunnel Vision*, a traveling exhibit that will be part of the Orinda Library Gallery's January exhibition. Lois Reynolds Mead also graces the gallery with collages, porcelain, handmade books and photo-

graphs. Mead is also showing works of her late father, Chang Reynolds (1914-1987), including watercolors, lithographs, oil paintings and acrylic dry brush paintings. And, finally, the Orinda Historical Society Museum is showing terracotta models of historic Orinda buildings including Wagner Ranch, Santa Maria Church and others as well as a sepia photograph of the Lost Valley Power Station. Join them all on Sunday, January 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. for an artist reception where light refreshments will be served.

December 5, 1937 was the date the first two bores of the Caldecott Tunnel opened between Oakland and Orinda, the third bore opened in 1964, and the fourth bore is due to open at the end of 2013. Orinda Mayor Amy Worth notes that, "the Fourth Bore Project is made possible in part by significant funding through Measure J, and a half-cent sales tax measure passed by Contra Costa County voters in 2004. Because voters were behind the Project, local dollars were used to leverage state and federal dollars to complete the funding. The photography plays a really important



Lois Reynolds Mead's *Bird* is an acrylic and paper collage that will be included in Orinda Library Gallery's January exhibit.

Attitude of Gratitude
AOG

"Do all the good you can, and make as little fuss about it as possible."
Charles Dickens

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educational role. People are interested in the digging, machinery, mining and the whole process including engineering." Worth is also the vice chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and ex-officio board member of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). Ivy Morrison, Fourth Bore Public Information Officer, noted that one of Neilsen's photographs in the exhibit (the tunnel breakthrough in the cavernous 3,300 foot

long Fourth Bore) won the 2012 Grand Prize in a national competition sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials in Washington, D.C. Both Nielsen, a freelancer for MTC and John Huseby, Senior Photographer at CalTrans, are providing photographic documentation during the Project. The three agencies – MTC, CCTA and CalTrans -- are co-sponsoring the

[SEE GALLERY page 8]

Carnaval Comes to St. Mary's College



Female devil masqueraders, Oruro, Bolivia.

Experience Carnaval as it happens in the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe through costumes, headdresses, masks, videos and more as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities/NEH On The Road. The exhibit will be at St. Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, February 2 - April 14.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art
February 2 - April 14, 2013

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

Hearst Gallery
iCARNAVAL!
Be prepared to dance your way through the displays of costumes, headdresses, masks, musical instruments (some you can even play!), and videos. Join the expedition from the Old World to the New: Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico, and, of course, New Orleans!

MASQUERADERS IN FANTASY COSTUMES, VENICE, ITALY: COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART PHOTO: SHIRLEY AND DAVID ROWAN

Studio Gallery
Ryan Reynolds: Landscape Assembled
One of the Bay Area's most interesting young artists, Reynolds (b. 1974), a professor of art at Santa Clara University, holds a BFA from UC Santa Cruz and an MFA from UC Berkeley, where he was awarded the Eisner Award for the highest achievement in the Creative Arts. A participant in this year's Art Basel and Art Miami, his paintings are also in numerous private and public collections.

LOCKWOOD DE FOREST: LOVE TELLIOCA AT DUSK NEAR RODA ALONG THE NILE. 1876, OIL ON CANVAS, COURTESY OF SULLIVAN GOSS-AN AMERICAN GALLERY.

Armistead Gallery
In Search of the Source: Paintings of the Nile and Beyond by Lockwood de Forest
Atmospheric painter Lockwood de Forest (b. New York 1850 - d. Santa Barbara 1932) painted with the many of the Hudson River school artists early in his career. A member of the American Aesthetic movement, de Forest was also an accomplished designer who worked with Louis Comfort Tiffany.

BIKE RIDER BY RYAN REYNOLDS

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

OA Holiday Party Fetes Senior Ride Participants



Eartha Newsong with Seniors Around Town offers one of the riders a refreshment.

SALLY HOGARTY

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The second annual Seniors Around Town (SAT) holiday party co-sponsored by Orinda Senior Services Committee took place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library. Seniors enjoyed a wide variety of holiday treats while listening to the Orinda Community Center's Ukelele band. The festive event also included a showing of the Swiss comedy *Late Bloomers*, courtesy of JoAlice Canterbury of the International Film Showcase.

A program of the Orinda Association, SAT offers alternative transportation for Orinda seniors who are no longer able to drive and who may not qualify for the

County Connection LINK system. SAT is the only program of its kind in the county with its ease of use, no cost, door-to-door service, and eligibility to all Orinda seniors.

All volunteer drivers complete a thorough DMV and criminal background check along with an orientation/training. Volunteer drivers are always needed. Drivers decide how often and how far they are willing to drive. "The rewards are tremendous," says SAT's Kate Wiley. "Our clients are so grateful to have this option which allows them to continue to live independently."

For information about becoming a volunteer driver or to sign-up as a rider, call 925-254-0800 or go to www.orindaassociation.org.

A Message From the OA President
Giving Back To Our Community



Bill Waterman

You probably already know that the Orinda Association (OA) is now a nonprofit organization (as distinguished from the City of Orinda) which publishes this fine newspaper, organizes the Fourth of July parade and celebration, runs the Seniors Around Town drive program, and supports volunteerism in Orinda. Currently, the OA's board is seeking new members to fill vacancies created by members that have recently stepped down after many years of service (a big thank you to **Mark Roberts** and **Steve and April Meagher** for their contributions to the OA, and their future help!). You might think "I'd like to contribute, but I am way too busy..."

It is true that this paper is the product of a very dedicated staff and wonderful editor. Also, running the SAT ("Seniors Around Town") drive program requires a lot of dedicated work by our volunteer drivers and office staff.

But here are some examples of what you could do as a new member of the OA Board:

1) help plan out some *discrete* parts of our Fourth of July celebration (e.g. helping arrange for groups to participate in our parade or park activities, or work with our sponsorship program);

2) support our SAT program (e.g. by assisting with registration for the Orinda Classic Car show, or help with the event itself);

3) help register volunteers and participants at our volunteer of the year dinner.

These are but a few examples of things you could do to contribute to Orinda by being a member of the OA's board. So if you want to donate a bit of time this year to your community, this is your chance! No experience is necessary.

I would also like to congratulate our 2012 Volunteer of the Year, Kay Aaker, and 2012 William Penn Mott, Jr. Award winner, Elizabeth O'Shea. Kay has been involved as a volunteer with Hospice of the East Bay for many years, while Elizabeth has worked with several groups dedicated to restoring our creeks. For more information about these wonderful volunteers, please see the articles on page one. Finally, I would like to recognize the dedication of all who worked on the "Measure L" campaign – and the co-chairs Cassandra Forth and Darlene Gee. Their efforts contributed greatly to the passage of this much needed measure.

I wish you all good health and much happiness in 2013!

Volunteer of the
Year and William
Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award
Dinner

Sunday, January 27
at 6 p.m.
Orinda Country Club

Join us in honoring Kay Aaker and Elizabeth O'Shea as our winners for 2012. Call 254-0800 or go to www.orindaassociation.org.


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- ❖ Publisher of *The Orinda News*
- ❖ Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Awards

For more information on joining us for a fun and rewarding experience, email President Bill Waterman at humphrey2@aol.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.

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EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

Model Not Anorexic

I am responding to the harsh criticism that Nadine Klement gave in your December 2012 issue in her letter to the editor regarding an ad that the Gina Khan Salon ran in your November paper. Ms. Klement asks how much the salon paid to run their ad, which she claims featured an anorexic model, and suggests that the Salon must have paid a lot to run the ad! That's outrageous. I checked with the owners of the salon and found out that in fact, the model is a healthy weight and size, whom they know personally. I take offense to this kind of accusation from someone who did not check the facts. I am a regular customer of

the salon and have been for several years. Gina Khan Salon offers excellent service to a wide variety of customers of all ages, shapes and sizes, and they do not lure in customers with anorexic looking models. Running this kind of inaccurate criticism is hurtful to these Orinda residents' business. We are all bombarded by unhealthy images of ultra thin models and celebrities, which has led to a twisted reality about size. Young, impressionable men and women should be taught to honor themselves and know what a healthy size is by their parents, teachers and peers. I suggest that Ms. Klement check her facts before going off on a rant about a very real problem facing not only the young in our society.

– Yoni Mayeri

◆ WINNERS from page 1

a week as a respite volunteer. “You sit with the patient who is dying so that the family can get some relief,” says Aaker. “A lot of patients don’t want to burden their families, so volunteers can step in and take away some of that burden.”

She says working with terminal patients and their families is a very rewarding job. “Not everyone is able to do it, therefore, those who are able should do it,” says Aaker. “It’s a very special time in life and in the life of the family.”

Since her retirement, Aaker has stepped up her volunteer hours and now works five days a week in an administrative capacity, helping to coordinate the hospice program, from training new volunteers to “matching” volunteers with patients. “That’s a very important role,” says Aaker. “I look at the background of the patient – whether they’re a veteran, or are interested in art or history – and match it with the interests of the volunteer.”

Aaker still volunteers as a bedside companion to end-of-life patients. That includes Bruns House in Alamo, which Hospice of the East Bay opened in 2004 to serve acutely ill patients who can no longer be cared for at home.

In addition to her hospice work, Aaker volunteers for Caring Hands through John Muir Medical Center, which strives to help seniors “not be so lonely” through home visits or driving them to the bank or a doctor’s appointment. She also coordinates drivers for the American Cancer Society’s patient transportation service.

The Volunteer of the Year honor is not the first time Aaker’s efforts have been recognized. In 2003, she received the City of Orinda’s Citizen of the Year Award. Earlier this year, the Contra Costa Council honored her as its 2012 Volunteer of Contra Costa. Aaker, who hails from Fargo, North Dakota, lives in Orinda with her husband David. The couple has three daughters and seven grandchildren.

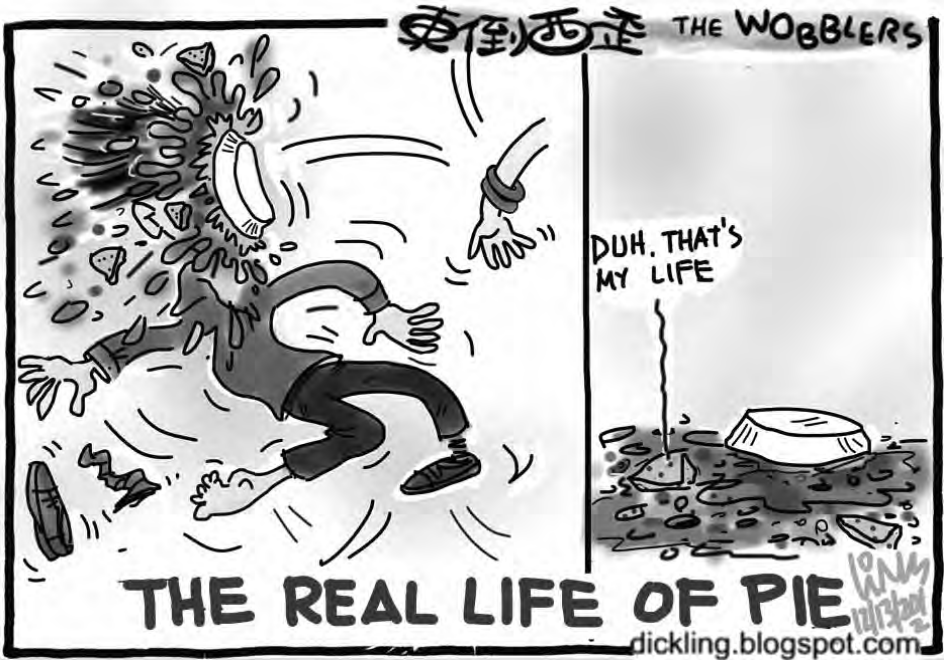
Master gardener Linda Mizes nominated O’Shea for the William Penn Mott Environmental Award. “Elizabeth is tireless in her efforts to improve the quality of our environment,” Mizes wrote in her nomination. “She has taught me so much about conservation and gardening over the years.”

O’Shea, a native of New York City and a retired banker, lives in the Lost Valley area of Orinda with her husband Richard Howard. She has two stepchildren. “My husband and I have been planting natives for many years to support native wildlife,” says O’Shea. “He’s the muscle in the garden!”

About 10 years ago, she began working with San Pablo Creek Watershed Neighbors Education and Restoration Society (SPAWNERS), a group of volunteers who work to protect the San Pablo Creek. One long-term project was the restoration of land and the creek near El Sobrante Public Library. “There was one-third of an acre of ivy and garbage from the building all the way to the creek,” says O’Shea. “With help from volunteers, students and Earth Day events, we eventually took all the ivy out and replanted with native plants, all the way to the creek.”

For the last couple of years, O’Shea has worked with Friends of Orinda Creeks, maintaining and restoring the creek in the downtown area behind Bank of America and Chevron. “It’s very much a community effort with local students and scout troops pitching in to help,” says O’Shea. “We also join in September’s California Coastal Cleanup Day when volunteers all over the state clean up beaches and inland waterways.”

O’Shea and her husband also run a native plant nursery called Lost Valley Nursery on their one-acre property. “We grow natives, such as annual wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and perennials, for restoration projects and for general gardening,” says O’Shea. “We sell directly to creek groups and during the annual ‘Bring Back the Natives Tour.’” O’Shea’s garden was one of 50 gardens in



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Alameda and Contra Costa counties that was on the tour this year. Her garden will be featured again in next year’s tour, which takes place the first Sunday in May.

O’Shea, whose work with the creeks also involves a lot of community outreach, says she’s always been interested in native plants and has taken numerous classes through Diablo Valley College, Merritt College and UC Berkeley Extension.

She also participates in the Contra Costa Watershed Forum, a group of some 50 organizations that meets every other

month to exchange ideas and find common approaches to keeping creeks healthy and involving the community in cleanup efforts. “I’m always trying to reach out because little creeks are very important to wildlife and to the people who live around them,” says O’Shea.

Aaker and O’Shea will be honored at a gala dinner on Sunday, January 27, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Orinda Country Club. For reservations, call the Orinda Association at 254-0800 or go to www.orindaassociation.org.

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer’s first and last name, signature and telephone number.

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to the Editor for the February issue are due January 5, 2013.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the March issue is February 1, 2012.

CITY COUNCIL / MOFD

Amy Worth Sworn in as New Mayor



At the December 4 City Council meeting, out-going Mayor **Steve Glazer** (L) is congratulated by incoming Mayor **Amy Worth**. Councilmembers (L-R) **Victoria Smith, Dean Orr** and **Sue Severson** added their congratulations along with the reading of an entertaining proclamation about the festivities.

Notice Of Opportunity To Serve On A City Of Orinda Commission Or Committee

The City of Orinda is seeking applications from *resident volunteers* to serve on the City's:

- Art in Public Places Committee (2)
- Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission (3)
- Finance Advisory Committee (2)
- Historic Landmark Committee (1)
- Parks & Recreation Commission (2)
- Planning Commission (3)
- Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee (1)

NEW COMMITTEE
Public Safety Committee (5)

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT
City Treasurer (1)

The City of Orinda is also seeking applications from *resident volunteers* to serve as the City's Liaison to the following local agencies:

- Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee (1)

Statement of Interest forms are available from the Orinda City Clerk's Office, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563. If you have any specific questions regarding the recruitment, please contact Michele Olsen, City Clerk at 925-253-4221 or molsen@cityoforinda.org. Application forms may also be downloaded from the City's website at www.cityoforinda.org.

Completed Statement of Interest forms must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by Friday, February 8, 2013 at 5 p.m.

Qualified applicants for City Commission and Committee appointments will be invited to interview before the full City Council on Saturday, February 23, 2013.

Introduction of New MOFD Board Members

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

At the December 13 Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) board of directors meeting, returning member Fred Weil and new members Steve Anderson and Alex Evans were sworn in. Anderson took over the seat vacated when Dick Olsen resigned from the board last February and will serve the remainder of Olsen's term until December 15, 2014. Evans took over the seat vacated by Brook Mancinelli and will serve a full four-year term.

Anderson is the managing partner in a business consulting practice. He decided to join the board when he heard about two events, "the astronomical pension of the retired Fire Chief Nowicki with the resulting awareness of the unsustainability of the current pension plans for MOFD and the desire of MOFD to purchase one of the larger office buildings in Moraga."

Anderson hopes to bring his experience to the MOFD and help to create "financial sustainability for MOFD without reduced services." Anderson added "The most difficult challenges that MOFD faces in the coming year are labor negotiations resulting in a 'win - win' for MOFD firefighters and the taxpayers of Moraga and Orinda reflecting the economic realities of contemporary California, all while providing MOFD training to result in performance to stan-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
New board member **Steve Anderson**.

dards. How do I address these challenges? Promote fiscally prudent creative problem solving and clear communication within a stressful environment focusing on creating a high performing organization at reduced costs. These goals mandate creating within the enterprise a board/management team solidly focused on both the enterprise's mission and financial underpinnings."

Evans is president and founding partner of EMC Research, a public opinion and market research firm. Evans said, "I [SEE MOFD page 20]



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POLICE

◆ ACCIDENT from page 1

number four lane. The engine positioned itself in a blocking pattern covering lane four and part of lane three. Engine-42 was recalled and diverted to another emergency incident. The chief officer parked 150 feet behind the engine and a Caltrans vehicle arrived and parked behind the chief officer. At 9:15 a.m. the chief officer was called to another vehicle accident.

Conditions at the scene continued to deteriorate. Vehicles traveling along Highway 24 began to lose control due to the increased water pouring across the roadway. The captain of Engine-43 moved his crew to the shoulder and placed the civilians from the original accident into the ambulance (M-45). At 9:16 a.m., a vehicle struck Engine-43. The driver parked in the number 4 lane near the original accident and exited the vehicle to meet with the captain. The captain ordered the ambulance to move further east as more vehicles continued to lose control while passing along the watery roadway.

At 9:21 a.m., another vehicle lost control, spun past Engine-43 and rolled into the incident scene striking the three firefighters and the civilian who had struck Engine-43. The firefighters were seriously injured and the civilian was critically injured. Bradley said, “We do expect our firefighters to recover. It’s going to be a long recovery for two of them, but we do expect them to return to work, and we’re very happy and pleased that it wasn’t worse. We continue to meet with the family of the critical civilian and provide them support.”

A comprehensive incident review is being prepared. Bradley said, “I do not want this to happen again. We’re in the process of assembling a team of fire services professionals. I am not assembling the team, I’m having a consultant assemble the team. I

want it to be an extremely objective team. The final report on the incident will be completed within 60 days. It will be a public report.” Bradley presented a preliminary report to the MOFD board on December 13. Bradley added, “From everything that we can tell right now, they were following the rules. There were no egregious acts. No one disregarded policy. The fire engine was parked the way it was supposed to be parked, and a car came around it and lost control, spun, flipped and landed up on the hill. Just before this occurred, they moved five civilians into the ambulance because they saw that conditions were deteriorating on the scene. They probably saved four or five lives by doing that. It was a great call by the captain on the scene.”

As of December 4, additional measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of the firefighters. Truck-41, the ladder truck from Moraga, will be added to all freeway responses to provide additional blocking. A second chief officer will be added to assist with traffic control. If necessary, Caltrans Caldecott Control will be called to slow or stop traffic for incidents between the tunnels and St. Stephen’s exit. Incident Commanders will have CHP shut down all lanes when safety conditions deteriorate. Bradley said, “It does remind us that we have a very dangerous job. Our firefighters are placing themselves in harm’s way on a daily basis. It reminds us all as firefighters that we need to be careful and we need to learn by that. We’re going to do everything we can to ensure our firefighters work in a safe environment and that we provide them with the right tools, leadership, safety equipment, and the right policies and procedures to do their job in a safe manner.”

For more information, visit www.mofd.org.

New Officers Join Orinda Police



SALLY HOGARTY

Six veteran police officers have joined the Orinda Police Department. Chief of Police **Jeffrey Jennings** (far left) announced the Officer of the Year and introduced new police officers at the December 4 City Council meeting. First row: **Lisa Cook**; Second row (L-R): **Chief Jennings**, new officers **Ken Rosenblum**, **Paul Schwind**, **Maynard Patacsil**, (reserve officer) **Bryan Walley**, Officer of the Year **Mike Gray**, **Sgt. Djajakusuma**, and new officer **Dustin Gregory**. Third row (L-R): City Councilmembers **Dean Orr**, **Victoria Smith**, **Mayor Amy Worth**, City Councilmembers **Steve Glazer** and **Sue Severson**.



POLICE BLOTTER

November 2012

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 102 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Burglary – Auto: 1 incident was reported at Overhill Rd.

Burglary – Commercial: 2 incidents were reported at Camino Sobrante and Moraga Way.

Burglary – Residential: 5 incidents were reported at Oak Dr. (2), Overhill Rd., Southwood Dr., and Silverwood Dr.

Grand Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident was reported at Whitehall Dr.

Petty Theft – From Vehicle: 4 incidents were reported at El Camino Moraga, Don Gabriel Way, Meadowlands Ct., and Woodland Rd.

Stolen Vehicle: 1 vehicle was stolen from Bates Blvd. 1 vehicle was stolen from La Cuesta.

Arrests

Adult - Elder Abuse: 1 arrest was made at Camino Sobrante.

Burglary - Commercial: 1 arrest was made at Camino Sobrante.

Driving Under the Influence – MISD > .08: 2 arrests were made at Hwy 24/Wilder Rd. and Camino Don Miguel/Los Arboles.

Drunk in Public: 2 arrests were made at Camino Don Miguel and Camino Sobrante.

Interfering with a Public Officer: 1 arrest was made at Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way.

Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1 vehicle was recovered on Camino Del Cielo.

Orinda BART Station

No statistics reported this period.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
Orinda Police Department

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CAR TIME / CALDECOTT TUNNEL

CAR TIME

How Much Do You Know About Your Car?

by John Vanek




Today's modern vehicles have features that the owner may not use or even know about. I often find that many motorists are not familiar with their vehicle's standard features. It is common for a customer to return to our shop after a repair reporting that something does not work properly since the repair. We usually find there's a logical reason that is related to the normal function of the car, and the driver/operator is just not aware it.

Many newer vehicles have features like power window safety locks. Many newer vehicles have several features that can be utilized from the remote key fob. Some Lexus cars have a valet switch in the glove box to disable the opening of the trunk. I did not know that and neither did the owner of the car. That information is in the owner's manual located in the glove box. Most cars have a dimmer switch for the dash lights and sometimes it gets bumped and it makes the dash lights appear to be inoperable. A simple twist of a knob and the dash lights magically appear. I do not claim to know everything about every car, but I can find out pretty fast. The manual is your best resource and for the most part is underutilized by the majority of owner/operators. When we purchase a big screen TV, we look at the owners manual information so we understand all of the features the brand new big screen has to offer. Your car deserves the same attention. As a bonus, you may even realize that your car's stereo system may offer features that will improve your audio experience.

When you purchase a new or used vehicle, we strongly suggest reading the owner's manual cover to cover. Some more complex cars even come with a DVD. Reviewing the manual will help familiarize yourself with some of your car's standard features. It will educate you on important items like the location of the hazard switch and the spare tire. It will also cover items like maintenance intervals so you can understand when services are due. You will also learn about normal warning lights and messages that may be different then the last vehicle you drove. Having the knowledge before using the vehicle regularly will reduce your stress. It may also improve your personal safety in the case of a breakdown or mishap.

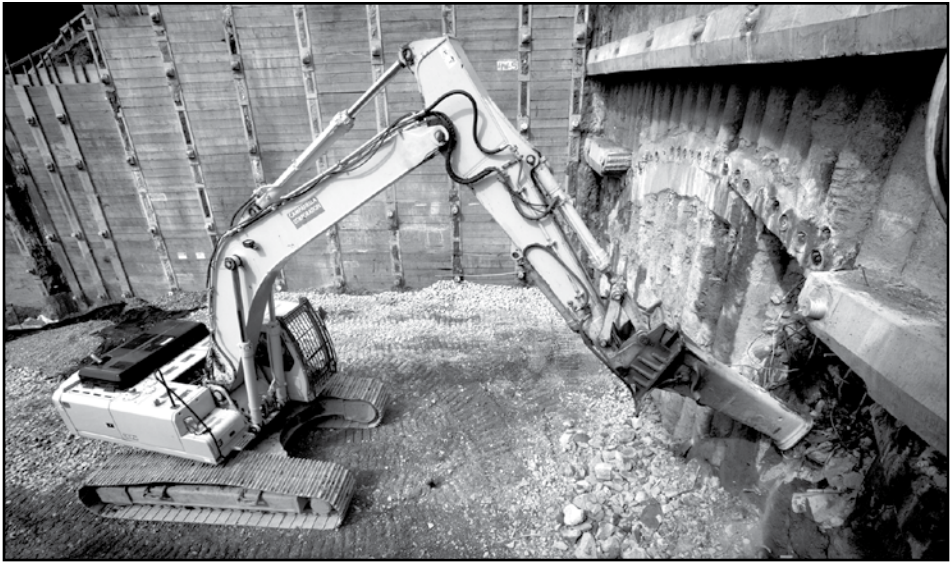
The bottom line: some standard features on your vehicle can cause frustration when accidentally misused. As usual, it comes down to knowing your car and being part of the solution.



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An Insider's View of the New 4th Bore



JOHN HUSEBY

Tunneling on the west side began in March 2011 using a modified heavy excavator. **John Huseby, CalTrans senior photographer's photo** above and others will be on display at the Orinda Library's January exhibit.

By BILL O'BRIAN
STAFF WRITER

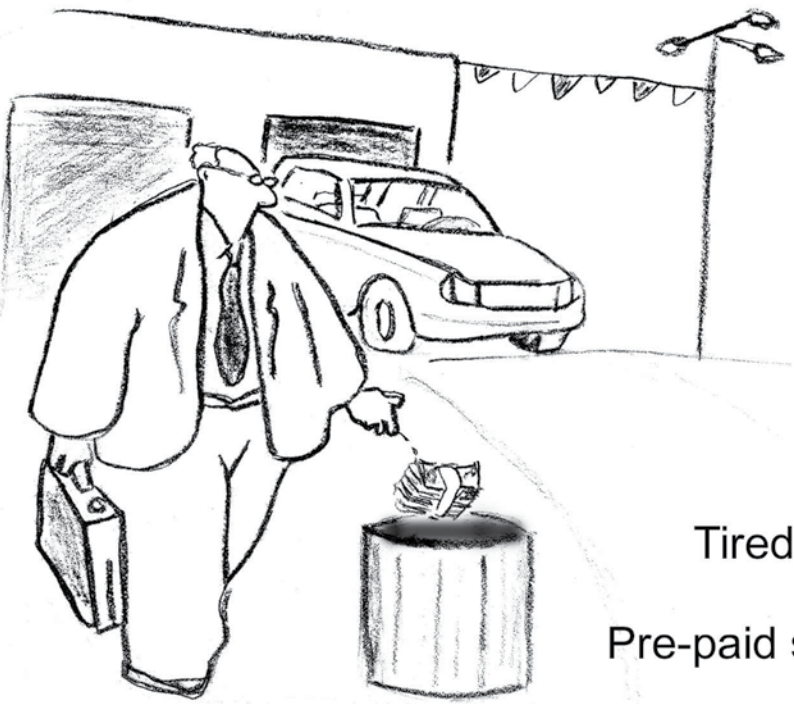
Orinda recently created a new service for its citizens called "Senior Outings." This program fits within the purview of the recreation coordinator for adult programs who works for the Parks & Recreation department. The city hired Eva Phalen in July to be the coordinator, and the last week of November, she arranged for nearly two-dozen senior Orindans to hear a lecture about the Caldecott 4th bore construction and for them to get a partial tour of one end of the tunnel project. One member of the group, Jan Speetzen, said she "loved being in touch with the history of Orinda."

Ivy Morrison, the public information officer for the 4th bore project, started the morning with a power point presentation and lecture filled with references to history, geology, construction equipment and methods that included slides of cars

exiting the first tunnel that was built in the mountain in 1903. The location of that first tunnel is about 200 feet above the present tunnel bores. It had wood beams as support structure and no lighting. According to tales, people would hold torches in the air to let people at the other end know that a car would be coming through. It had a single lane and was very popular and heavily used.

Of the three bores in use today, the first two were completed and opened in 1937. Bore #3 began use in 1964. The 4th bore should be open for use by the end of 2013. Presently the project is on time and within its budget. With significant federal money administered by the Works Progress Administration, the first two bores were the largest construction projects in Contra Costa County at that time. At the end of WWII with millions of G.I.'s returning to America, the real estate market in this county boomed as the developers advertised Contra Costa County as a great place to

[SEE CALDECOTT page 18]



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LIBRARY GALLERY

◆ GALLERY from page 2

traveling exhibit. For more information, see www.caldecott-tunnel.org, www.mtc.ca.gov, and www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/caldecott/docs/caldecottfactsheet.pdf.

Karl Neilsen, a freelance photographer commissioned by MTC who lives in Berkeley says, “The type of photography work I do exists in a strange world between fine art, photo documentation and commercial photography.” He keeps up with new equipment, as photography is very technologically driven, and it often inspires him to come up with new photo concepts. He shoots all-digital, likes to shoot quickly, and finds challenging situations inspiring. One of his favorite techniques is to use a lot of artificial lighting to control the light levels; he uses Photoshop post production. Neilsen hopes his photos will illustrate how difficult the conditions inside the Fourth Bore are, how large the project really is, and that it’s not all about the machinery. He encourages people to think about the men and women who work 12 hour days, six days a week in a dark, wet, dirty, loud, cold and dangerous place to make completion of the Fourth Bore a reality. At the artists reception, he will showcase some of the photo equipment he uses for ongoing documentation of the Fourth Bore Project. See more of his work at www.karlneilsenphotography.com.

John Huseby of Walnut Creek is a senior photographer at CalTrans and has been shooting photos for 40 years. He uses Canon main bodies, 28-300 mm and 17-40 mm lenses, and flash. Post-production he uses Canon software for processing, combined with Photo Mechanic for inserting metadata information into images in batches. Adobe’s Lightroom also proves handy; Photoshop is used less frequently as they are not altering photos individually. What makes a photograph sing for Huseby is, “the optimum combination of camera



Chang Reynolds' lithograph *Truck Show* (c. 1947) will be displayed at the Orinda Library Gallery's January show.

angle, lighting, lens and subject matter – for example, people’s expressions or, if there’s movement in the shot, the ability to show something that looks like it’s moving.” Some of his favorite photographers beyond Ansel Adams include the late Canadian/Armenian portrait photographer Yousuf Karsh; Aaron Chang, a motion/landscape surfer photographer from Solana Beach in Southern California; Jim Fidelibus, a portrait photographer in Walnut Creek; and Joel Meyerowitz, a street, portrait and landscape photographer from New York City. Huseby will attend the artists reception and also will display some of the photo equipment he uses to document the ongoing Fourth Bore Project.

Orinda resident Lois Reynolds Mead grew up in a household where art was everywhere, but her passion was to become a teacher, which she did. She also attended Cal State San Bernardino’s ceramic program and ran her own ceramics business for many years. Most recently, she taught in a

ceramics lab at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga; she retired in 2009. Since then, she discovered that she could use the photographs she loves to take (with her iPhone, especially easy when traveling) to create collages. In her many years as an artist, she finds it has been good to change from one medium to another from time to time. Mead also creates handmade books about her travels as she enjoys seeing new places and recording them. “It’s part of my personality that I need to be making things; I like to do stuff myself instead of relying on others.” While travel keeps her work fresh, she also finds time to volunteer in a kindergarten class at Del Rey Elementary School, just so “I can talk with kindergartners about art.” Mead is showing 18 collages on canvas and wood board; four porcelain pieces, four handmade books and photographs. Titles include *Bird*, an 11” x 14” acrylic and paper collage; *Elephant’s Breath Gray*, a 20” x 20” acrylic and paper collage and *Abstract with Monet’s Flower*, an 11” x 14” acrylic and copper paper collage. She hopes viewers will, “Get a sense of where I’ve been because the places I’ve seen are very exciting to me, and I hope they will enjoy seeing them.” For more information about Mead’s work, see www.loisreynoldsmead.wordpress.

Mead is also showing 25 pieces of her late father’s artwork. Chang Reynolds (1914-1987) came to California during the depression and lived in the Pasadena area. He attended art school at the Rochester Institute of Technology and obtained a teaching credential at UCLA. He worked as a teacher, then administrator in the Pasadena school system. He retired to Los Osos in the San Luis Obispo area. He painted both in oils and watercolors, did lithography and acrylic dry brush painting. His work spanned many genres including circus pieces, wildlife and scenes from ranches in the central California valley. His birth name was Charles, “but when he went to art school in New York, instead of

going to his life-drawing class, he went to the zoo. The elephant he particularly liked was named Chang – his friends started calling him that, and he just kept it,” says Mead. Reynolds was a past president of the Pasadena Society of Artists, the Printmakers of Southern California and the Circus Fans Society. He also authored *Pioneer Circuses of the West* and is well known as a circus historian. Works include a 12” x 16” oil painting, *Emmett Kelly*, a famous depression-era clown; *Truck Show*, a 16” x 20” lithograph and *Night Ride*, a 36” x 30” oil on canvas.

The Orinda Historical Society Museum (OHSM) is showing Dorothy Roos’ (of Roos Brothers) terracotta models of the Santa Maria Church, Wagner Ranch and other historic Orinda buildings, among other artifacts. Also in the show is a rare 20” x 30” sepia photograph of the Lost Valley power station towards Moraga. The OHSM’s mission is to preserve the history of the Orinda area; protect, preserve and display artifacts, documents and images in their museum; and educate its members and the general public about Orinda area history to enhance the quality of life within the community. Members will be on hand at the artists reception to share their prodigious knowledge of local history and back-stories about items in the show. Call President Lucy Hupp Williams at 650-349-3382 to make an appointment to visit the Museum on the Plaza Level of the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, across from Café Teatro; messages can also be left at the Museum, 254-1353. The OHSM is in need of volunteers to keep the museum staffed for visitors during the week. If you love history, this is a great opportunity to bask in it a few hours every week.

Mead believes that, “Art gives you a sense of being in charge and owning whatever you make; it develops decision-making in children and adults. What you make, you own, and no one can question it; it gives you a sense of power. I am amazed every time I get a cup of coffee at Café Teatro and see a sculpture – my heart sings! Somebody was really thinking when the Library and Gallery were planned.”

Neilsen says, “What value would our community have without art? Being part of a community suggests that we live with other people in a way that goes beyond our basic human needs; that we want to meet our higher level needs that please us emotionally. I think most of our higher level emotional needs are met through experiencing beauty and art in community.”

Huseby believes that, “the creative process, in whatever form, brings inspiration and the ability to see something from a different point of view than you would normally think of.”

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

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EXCHANGE STUDENT / FAMILIES

Czech Student Makes the Most of His Stay in Orinda

By FRAN MILLER
Staff Writer

Michael Cizek has lived in Orinda for only five months, but in that time he has done and seen more than many who have lived here for years. The exchange student from Tabor, Czech Republic, came here to experience American life. With the help of his host family and a few good friends, he has made the most of his time here and will take home a plethora of memories to last a lifetime.

In between his rigorous studies as a senior at Miramonte High School, Cizek has managed to squeeze-in trips to Point Reyes, Yosemite, Grizzly Peak, San Francisco, Sausalito, Las Vegas, Santa Barbara and Pinnacles. He has been to SFMOMA, the Golden Gate Bridge, Chinatown and several Giants games. Los Angeles and Hollywood are still on his wish list. “Michael is always in the mood to try new things,” says his friend, fellow Miramonte student Victoria Ortega. “I call him my workout and exploring buddy. We’ve gone biking,

hiking and running together. Although he adapts easily and makes his best effort to immerse himself in American ways, he always manages to let people get a glimpse of Czech culture. The other day he cooked a typical Czech dinner at his host family’s house and invited me over.”

Cizek’s host family is Deborah deLambert and Chandler Fisher and their three kids, twins Jarrett and Kyle (juniors at Miramonte), and Linnea, an eighth grader. When reading Cizek’s application essay for the exchange program, deLambert felt positive that he would be a great fit for her family. “He sounded so much like one of us and like someone who would be fun to have around,” says deLambert. Her instincts were correct. “Michael is a great fit,” says deLambert. “He loves music and sports, just as my kids do. He is playing soccer on the Miramonte team with my boys. He is very nice to my daughter as well. Michael is very easy-going and just feels like one of my kids.

“We have gotten so much out of this experience. Learning about some of the



(L-R) Deborah de Lambert, Jarrett Visser, Linnea Visser, Micael Cizek, Kyle Visser and Chandler Visser on a family trip to Yosemite.

hardships his parents endured during the Soviet occupation of the former Czechoslovakia has been eye opening, especially for my kids who really don’t know what oppression or deprivations are like. He has a way of pointing out to my kids how incredibly lucky they are for the things they take for granted every day, which is humbling.

Beyond that, I have enjoyed the Czech food he has prepared for us. And because of him, we discovered a great Czech restaurant in Concord!”

Cizek has found in Orinda very few similarities to his life in Tabor, an historic city founded in 1420. “This experience is

[SEE CZEK page 16]

Warm Winter Nights Brings Families in From the Cold

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The lack of job opportunities is forcing many families in Contra Costa County into homelessness. Recently, there were 11 families housed in tents in Fellowship Hall of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian (LOPC) Church. Seven of the children were toddlers. While this may not be an ideal situation, each family has a space they can call their own where they are warm and well fed.

From October through May, the Warm Winter Nights (WWN) program shelters homeless families in facilities of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths under the auspices of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. Other Orinda congregations involved are the Orinda Community, St. Mary’s Catholic, St. Marks Methodist and Holy Shepherd Lutheran churches as well as nearby Temple Isaiah,

LOPC has participated for nine years hosting the group for two weeks. Jim Reiter heads up their program, organizing over 150 volunteers who serve in tasks ranging from tutoring and story-telling, to shopping, meal preparation and serving. Reiter observes, “Perhaps the most important job is listening and encouraging.” Jim has worked with homeless people in this county for 21 years. He says, “Humility and gratitude are my rewards, and I value them highly.” He adds, “Children under the age of 12 are the majority of homeless in Contra Costa County. Think about that, and

what the future does not hold for them.”

Gwen Watkins, who oversees WWN, gives special praise to Reiter, Rick Silvani, and John Weems, Associate Pastor of LOPC, for their dedication to homeless guests. She estimates that some 8,000 volunteer hours overall will be donated to Winter Nights during its 30-week session.

“I think one of the best parts of volunteering for Warm Winter Nights is sharing a meal with our guests and hearing their stories. It raises our awareness of the problems facing many in our area,” says Fred Nielsen. “In talking with one of the men, I learned he’s been laid off from his job. I’m an engineer, and I could tell he knew a lot about construction, but he hasn’t been able to find work, money has run out, and now he and his family are homeless. I hope I gave him some encouragement and showed him I cared about him.”

Many of the families in the program have jobs, like one woman who works in a senior care facility. When her rent was raised, however, she just couldn’t afford the payments. She’s searching for places on Craig’s list with lower rent but is grateful for the WWN assistance until that happens. There’s also the mother of three children who awakes at 2 a.m. to clean office buildings and needs her car to get to work and pick up her children from school. Her brakes went out and there were other motor problems. She didn’t have the money for repairs so she could get to her job. St. Vincent de Paul HOPE Conference answered

the call for help and paid the bill,” Watkins says. “We all work together to provide the support system our clients need.”

Four Muslim women helped Warm Winter Nights by opening a gift registry noting what was on their wish list. Every item was filled in two days. This all happened two days before Thanksgiving. One of the ladies said, “This registry gift-giving gives a new meaning to Thanksgiving,” and Valerie Sloven, the Oasis Daytime Center Manager, added that Christmas arrived early at Winter Nights.

Warm Winter Nights offers parenting as well as classes in resume writing. There are tutors who participate weekly and guide the

[SEE FAMILIES page 16]



A young resident in the Warm Winter Nights program.



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SCOUTING

Daisy Troop Helps Those in Need



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Glorietta's Kindergarten Daisy Troop #30238 collected new, unwrapped toys for the Orinda-Moraga Fire Departments' Toys for Tots drive.

Troop 233 Installs Three New Eagle Scouts



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Troop 233's newest Eagle Scouts are (L-R) **Lukas Bittner, Bryant Chow** and **Matt Henry**.

By KIT BITTNER
Contributing Writer

Boy Scout Troop 233 is proud to announce that three new Eagle Scouts have joined the troop's Eagle family. Lukas Bittner, Bryant Chow and Matt Henry were honored at Troop 233's Eagle Court of Honor on November 11 at the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda. Scoutmaster Don Larwood presented the Eagle awards, the highest rank in Boy Scouting.

To obtain their Eagle award, each scout had to do a community service project. Lukas Bittner, son of Kit and Dennis Bittner and a junior at Miramonte High School, put in a brick walkway at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda. This walkway is in the garden area and will allow kids and staff

to tend to the raised garden beds relatively mud free.

Bryant Chow, son of Cristi and Andy Chow and a senior at Miramonte High School, constructed and installed a six-foot by three foot cross at the Main Hall for the Contra Costa Gospel Church at Walnut Creek California. He also built three wooden benches for the church to enhance outdoor activities.

Matt Henry, son of Lynn Bertram and Dwayne Henry and a senior at Miramonte High School, developed a project protecting the native Bay Oak from being overcrowded by invasive non-native weeds and trampling by cows. He protected 50 oaks that were deemed by the Briones ranger to be weak with wraparound chicken wire enclosures.

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Orinda Academy Student Earns Eagle Scout Award



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Orinda Academy student **Jackson Hu** just earned his Eagle scout award. He is a member of Troop 246.

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NONPROFITS

The Orinda Nonprofit Volunteer Guide: Give Something Back in 2013

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Volunteers are the heart of Orinda. They staff enjoyable community events, enhance the city's beauty, and help those in need. *The Orinda News* created this guide to help newcomers and all in the community find out about satisfying volunteer opportunities that will give you a sense of accomplishment and a set of new friends. While our list is not exhaustive due to space limitations (people who attend a place of worship, for example, are already informed we hope of those volunteer opportunities), we have focused on some of the well-known groups that keep Orinda evolving and responsive to community needs, locally and beyond. Websites of the listed nonprofits will give you much more information. What follows are brief sketches so that you can fine-tune what areas might interest you. Young and old, able-bodied and not so fit, it doesn't matter; try volunteering for just one hour and see what happens! We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

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www.ci.orinda.ca.us (Departments, Parks & Recreation), www.artspaceorinda.org

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. M-F, closed weekends

Provides temporary exhibitions of rotating collections of artworks (Art Space Orinda) at the Orinda Library, Library Plaza, Community Center and City Hall. Arranges public lectures by artists, curators and art historians, tours of artists' studios and collectors' homes. Creates online surveys about matching funds donations for potential Art in Public Places Fund purchases. The vision of Ted Urban, APP was established in 2007 by the Orinda City Council to advance the vision of art and culture in the City of Orinda.

California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF)

350 Park Street, Moraga, CA 94556
388-0752 or derek@caiff.org
www.caiff.org/getinvolved.asp

A showcase for independent, foreign and mainstream films presented at the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga and the Orinda Theatre, Theatre Square, Orinda. A seven day, star-studded event providing the opportunity to see world-class independent

films, meet filmmakers, fans, actors, directors, etc. from the Bay Area and around the world. Special events include Kids Showcase, Local Filmmaker Showcase and Iron Filmmaker Contest. As a volunteer, you can expect to be treated as a valuable part of their event team.

California Shakespeare Festival (Cal Shakes)

701 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710
510-548-3422

www.calshakes.org/v4/supportus/volunteering.html

Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. M-F (closed for lunch 12-1 p.m.)

The Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda, is one of the most beautiful and unique settings to experience live theater. They also offer a variety of Professional Development trainings for classroom teachers and teaching artists, not to mention their exciting and popular summer Shakespeare conservatory for students (scholarships available) and many volunteer opportunities.

Del Rey [Elementary School] Parents Club

25 El Camino Moraga
258-3099

www.orindaschools.org or <http://ousd.schoolwires.com/delrey/site/default.asp>

In addition to providing major funding to support OUSD classroom curriculum and services, Del Rey Parents Club is responsible for an extensive array of programs and services to supplement students' daily education, provide campus and safety improvements, and promote meaningful communication between the staff, parents, OUSD and the Orinda community. Coordinates extensive after school programs.

Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO)

21C Orinda Way #123
322-0336

<http://orindaefo.org>

The EFO's successful 2011-2012 Campaign raised \$1.5 million for Orinda public schools so they have the critical funding they need to continue to provide the quality education we expect and our children deserve. Volunteer-led and run by parents and community members, the funding makes up the gap between state funding and what our children really need to succeed in the world at every grade level.



SALLY HOGARTY

The Educational Foundation of Orinda raised over \$1.5 million to support local schools. Shown above, Chamber of Commerce president Rick Kattenburg presents a check for \$2,500 to EFO's Yosh Neugebauer. Other Chamber members include: (L-R) Candy Kattenburg, Sylvia Jorgensen, Nora Harlow, Dina Zapanta, Victor Ivry and Patti Camras.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Life Member | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: Friends of the Orinda Library, PO Box 152, Orinda CA 94563

"Like" us on Facebook to receive notices about library programs and events.

[SEE NONPROFIT page 12]

NONPROFITS

◆ NONPROFIT from page 11

Friends of Orinda Creeks
51 Lost Valley Drive
Contact: info@orindacreeks.org
www.orindacreeks.org

Seeks to conserve, restore and help educate the public about the values of, and threats to, the creeks in Orinda. Members of the community are invited to assist in hands-on monitoring, restoration and protection of native habitat to the creeks to maintain clean water and a healthy watershed. Orinda creeks flow into two

reservoirs: the San Pablo and Upper San Leandro. Meets fourth Wednesday of the month, 7-9 p.m., May Room Orinda Library.

Friends of The Orinda Library Inc. (FOL)
PO Box 152
254-2184
www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org

Raises funds to enrich library collections, help the library respond to patrons' needs, and serves as advocates for library funding. They also improve the library's physical

facilities and established an endowment fund to ensure the purchase of materials in the future. Book Sales, for which volunteers are needed, of gently used books account for 70 percent funds raised. Each year, FOL spends \$95,000 to purchase books, DVDs, CDs, periodicals and other subscriptions for adults and children.

Glorietta [Elementary School] Parents Club
15 Martha Rd., Orinda, CA 94563
254-8770
www.orindaschools.org

Supports the educational mission of Glorietta through fundraising, increased communication, facilitating parent volunteering, and building community by fostering healthy relationships. Assists with campus publications, landscaping, Before & After School programs, and hot lunch program.

Hospice of the East Bay
3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
887-5678 or volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org
www.hospiceeastbay.org

Provides in-home medical, emotional, spiritual and practical support to over 20,000 terminally ill patients and their families throughout Contra Costa County (CCC). Cares for over 40 percent of hospice patients residing in CCC regardless of insurance status or ability to pay; patients never receive a bill. Volunteers receive training so they can be confident and effective at whatever services they provide. Annual Hospice Tree Lighting ceremony, beginning of December in front of the Bank of America in Orinda Village, 31 Orinda Way. Need donations (clothing, household goods, DVDs, etc.) for their Thrift Stores.

Junior Garden Club of Orinda
Orinda Junior Garden Club members maintain the Orinda Circle Garden across from Starbucks downtown. The Club has used mostly native plants to beautify the Circle and conserve water. Recipient of 2010 William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award. Supports Orinda in Action Community Service Day.

Lamorinda Film & Entertainment Foundation (LFEF)
3455 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette, CA 94549
283-1700
www.lfef.org

Preserves and protects the legacy of the Orinda Theatre. The International Film Showcase, operating under the LFEF umbrella, brings you award winning foreign films otherwise unavailable to the general

public. Promotes the Orinda Theatre as a cornerstone of community life for all citizens of Lamorinda and beyond in a variety of ways too numerous to mention.

Lamorinda Sons in Retirement (SIRS)
Contact: John Ringer, 510-452-0189 or jeringer@comcast.net
<http://branch174.sirinc2.org>

Open organization providing opportunities for retired men to make new friends and participate in activities they were too busy to enjoy prior to retirement. Also intended to promote independence and dignity in retirement; no dues. Men from all walks of life attend monthly meetings, the second Wednesday of each month 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Supports 20 individual activity groups including astronomy, barbershop harmony, bocce ball, bridge, computers/technology, fishing, historical adventures, veterans, investments, poker and wine tasting.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary
3565 Mt. Diablo Ave., Lafayette
www.lamorindasunriserotary.org

The pervasive theme of Rotary is "Service Above Self." Participation in civic activities, youth services and public service organizations is encouraged and heavily supported by the Club. They undertake a wide variety of service activities in vocational, community and international promotion of good will and understanding. Meets every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino, Lafayette, 254-0440, x463.

Miramonte [High School] Boosters Club
750 Moraga Way
Contact: andfive@comcast.net
www.miramonteboostersclub.com

Parents, alumni and community members who have a passion for sports and want to help the Miramonte sports programs (54 teams, over 65 percent student participation) excel, grow and continue to set high standards. Volunteers most needed to help in the spring and fall. Activities include distributing apparel, and helping with their spring fundraiser, the Matador Fan Fest. Known as "the team behind the teams."

Montelindo Garden Club
Orinda Community Church
20 Irwin Way/PO Box 434
Contact: montelindogarden@aol.com
www.montelindogarden.com

For those who derive pleasure from working in the garden and spending time close to nature. Developed and maintains the Orinda Crossroads garden that greets people arriving in Orinda. Provides flow-
[SEE NONPROFIT page 13]

Make a New Year Resolution to Sort, Organize and Donate!

Get organized in 2013 by resolving to declutter and donate. **Hospice of the East Bay** thrift stores need your contributions of gently used clothing, collectibles, furniture, housewares and jewelry.

Drop off your items at any of our 6 thrift store locations in Alamo, Concord, Danville, Dublin, Martinez and Walnut Creek. Donating is quick, convenient and tax deductible.

Proceeds from the sale of your donations benefit the patients and families in the care of **Hospice of the East Bay**. Your contributions can truly make a difference!

For store locations and hours visit www.hospiceeastbay.org. Tax-deductible donation pick-up service for large items is also available by calling: (925) 674-9072.

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NONPROFITS



MARTY DEJONGHE

The Orinda Garden Club and Boy Scout Troop 237 teamed up to hang 100 festive wreaths throughout Orinda. Over 60 members of the garden club met at the Orinda Country Club which donated a room for the members to put together the wreaths and a truck to help distribute them. The basic wreaths were purchased from Boy Scouts and Miramonte High School fundraisers. (L-R) Scout **Joseph Frank**, Garden Club member **Shari Bashin-Sullivan**, scouts **Daymond Frank** and **Jack O'Melveny** and Garden Club members **Julie O'Melveny** and **Katherine Dunn**.

◆ **NONPROFIT** from page 12

ers for a Lafayette convalescent hospital. Recipient of 2010 William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award. Supports Orinda in Action Community Service Day. Monthly speaker meeting third Friday, September through May, Orinda Community Church, 9 a.m.

Orinda Arts Council (OAC)**PO Box 121****Contact: info@orindaartscouncil.org
www.orindaartscouncil.org**

Provides a variety of services including the Library Gallery exhibits; Orinda Jazz Festival; Visual Arts Competition for Lamorinda High School Students; Orinda Idol for Lamorinda K-12th Grade; OUSD Arts Ambassadors Exhibit and Reception, grades K-8; OIS Bulldog Theatre fall play and spring musical; Miramonte spring musical; Lamorinda Acalanes Unified Film Festival for high school students; Arts in Bloom in the park and much more.

Orinda Association (OA) Volunteer Center**26 Orinda Way (Plaza Level of Orinda Library across from Café Teatro)****254-0800 or oa@orindaassociation.org****www.orindaassociation.org/volunteering/htm**

Meaningful opportunities to assist with various activities including: Seniors Around Town where locals drive Orinda seniors to appointments; 4th of July Celebration, an old-fashioned parade with music and park activities; *The Orinda News* monthly newspaper mailed free-of-charge to all residents and business; public meetings/

forums/debates on issues of importance to local residents and more. Meets second Monday of every month, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce**26 Orinda Way/PO Box 2771****925-254-3909****www.orindachamber.org**

More than 200 business and professional men and women concerned with the well being of the business community and Orinda as a whole. Sponsors "Live at the Orinda," a night of champagne and comedy at the landmark Orinda Theatre featuring side-splitting comedians; save the date - March 8. Also sponsors Hospice Tree Lighting ceremony in December, with local school choirs and Santa as well, annual restaurant tour and more. Resource for many volunteer activities in the community.

Orinda Community Center Auxiliary (OCCA)**28 Orinda Way****254-2445****www.ci.orinda.ca.us (Departments, Parks & Recreation)**

Sponsors the Halloween Parade, Holiday Bazaar and Summer Concerts in the Park. Raises funds for a variety of projects such as: new swings, tot-lot playground; sound system for summer concerts and more.

Orinda Community Foundation**PO Box 21****254-0800 or orindafoundation@gmail.com****com****www.orindafoundation.org**

Encourages philanthropy, building partnerships and providing financial assistance to support community activities, beautification and the arts. Three main fundraisers annually, direct mail solicitation, Everyday Heroes Golf Tournament, NorCal Kids Triathlon, and Orinda in Action Community Service Day. Every dollar raised goes back into the community. Other events sponsored include Orinda Jazz Festival, Dancing with the Cars/Classic Car Show, and 4th of July Celebration.

Orinda Garden Club**PO Box 34****www.orindagardenclub.org**

Goals are to stimulate the knowledge

[SEE NONPROFIT page 14]

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NONPROFIT DIRECTORY

◆ NONPROFIT from page 13

and love of gardening, to cooperate in the protection and conservation of our natural heritage and to assist in the beautification of the community. Recipient of 2010 William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award. Plants bulbs on the grounds of the Orinda Community Center, Library and City Hall, works with Boy Scouts to place wreaths throughout Orinda. Supports Orinda in Action Community Service Day.

Orinda Historical Society Museum (OHSM)

26 Orinda Way

Contact: Lucy Hupp Williams 650-349-3382; OHSM message phone 925-254-1353

Preserves the history of Orinda and surrounding area; preserves artifacts, documents and images; educates members and the general public about Orinda area history to enhance the quality of life within our community. Needs volunteers to staff the office on weekdays, limited hours; also to

assist with walking tour of historic sites (spring and fall); arrange hosting of local authors, speaking at local groups and maintenance/display of archival materials.

Orinda Intermediate School Parents Club Inc. (OIS)

80 Ivy Drive

258-3090 or VolunteerCoordinator@oispc.org

www.orindaschools.org

Sponsor many of the important people, programs and projects that are vital to the operation of OIS. Programs include: Library Book Fair; vision, scoliosis and TB testing; Helping Hands provides dinners, driving or runs errands for OIS families in times of need; Garden Liaison assists the garden manager.

Orinda Junior Women's Club

PO Box 40

Contact: info@orindajuniors.org

www.orindajuniors.org

Dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Activities include sponsoring a Youth Ink Creative Writing Contest, and supporting groups including STAND! Against Domestic Violence, Holiday Family Adoption, Orinda Convalescent Hospital, Shelter, Inc., and many others. Meets first Tuesday, September to June at 7 p.m.

**Orinda Starlight Village Players
Orinda Community Center Amphitheater/Community Center Park**

28 Orinda Way

925-528-9225 or info@orsvp.org

www.orsvp.org

Celebrating 30 years in the park, it's always a pleasure to see a play at Orinda Starlight in the tree-lined outdoor amphitheater. A volunteer run and staffed organization with actors and crew who know what they're doing makes being a volunteer both enjoyable and instructive. Volunteers needed to act, run lights and sound, build sets, manage concessions, create costumes, and perform maintenance. The months of April through October are the busiest so they need more volunteers during this time.

Orinda Valley Garden Club

email: cbs0527@comcast.net

Each year, the club spends countless hours collecting decorations and decorating the large Christmas tree that fills the Orinda Library with heart-warming scents. Recipient of 2010 William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award. Supports Orinda in Action Community Service Day and joins with the other garden clubs to keep the planter boxes throughout downtown beautiful.

Orinda Woman's Club

PO Box 533

Contact: orindawomansclubinfo@gmail.com

https://sites.google.com/site/orindawomansclub

With a long history of community involvement and enrichment, members participate in diverse community activities as well as social get-togethers. Their annual fundraiser, Festival of Trees, allows them to help a wide variety of organizations helping women and children as well as provide scholarship assistance. They support the Orinda Library, CASA, Child Abuse Prevention Council, California Youth Connection and many other organizations

Rotary Club of Orinda California

254-2222

http://orinda.rotary5160.org

A worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Meets every Wednesday, noon, at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Works in partnership to support activities such as: NorCal Kids Triathlon, Annual Rotary Field Day competition for elementary school kids; Tom Fitch Day Annual fishing outing for Oakland inner-city kids; gifts of dictionaries to all third graders in Orinda Union School District classes and hosting Opera in the Park.

Sleepy Hollow [Elementary School] Parents Club, Inc. (SHPCI)

20 Washington Lane

254-8711

www.orindaschools.org

org/14802031621599140/site/default.asp

Promotes the welfare of students to bring about an integrated, focused partnership between OUSD administrators, teachers and parents. *The Hollow Log* newsletter comes out weekly; general meetings are held several times a year to communicate information to parents; coordinates Before and After School.

Wagner Ranch [Elementary School] Parents Club

350 Camino Pablo

258-0016

www.orindaschools.org or http://ousd.schoolwires.com/wagnerranch/site/default.asp

Provides funding support; organizes and supports family activities such as Open House BBQ, Multi-Cultural Night, Science Night, Scary Night, Coffee Connections and Friendship Day.

Winter Nights Shelter in Orinda/Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

1543 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek

933-6030 or eye4cee@aol.com

www.cccwinternights.org

Several Orindans Exhibiting at UC Berkeley Botanical Garden

Local gardeners/artists Lee McCaffree, Pat Rudebusch, Laura Sawczuk, and Catherine Watters will be among those exhibiting at the Botanical Garden's fourth annual botanical art exhibition, Plants Illustrated, January 19 - February 8, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. The exhibition, held in conjunction with the Northern California Society of Botanical Artists, explores the relationship between scientific study and fine art. The exhibit presents original artworks in watercolor, graphite, colored pencil and pen & ink, and explores the many styles, forms and approaches unique to botanical art and illustration. Artists reception on January 26 from 2 - 4 p.m.

Serves homeless families in CCC during winter weather by providing shelter in a clean, safe, and warm environment from October through May. Coordinates with local churches to provide 2-3 weeks housing at each place of worship. Volunteer opportunities for tutors, story tellers, meal preparation teams and servers.

**WomenSing/WomenSing Auxiliary
PO Box 2014**

974-9169 or volunteer@womensing.org

www.womensing.org/get-involved/volunteer/

A 50-member auditioned chorus who sing with a vibrant and beautifully blended sound featuring great landmarks of the treble repertoire as well as seldom-performed works and new music. Awarded the 2011 CCC Arts Commission Award for Excellence. The Auxiliary is a group of dedicated volunteers who can choose a job and fill it – greet audiences, handle the box office, pass out programs, help with setups, host receptions/wine bars, or help pack everything up after a performance. Free ticket to event you volunteer for, invitations to social events, and the group's never-ending gratitude.

**Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center
PO Box 16**

377-0871 or danielle@xenophontrc.org

http://xenophontrc.org
Provides therapeutic horseback riding in a safe and secure environment for children with a wide range of disabilities. Children achieve goals they never dreamed possible because the focus is on enhancing their unique abilities. All therapeutic riding instructors trained and certified through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship.

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PETS / NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales
Preparing for a Disaster

Jennifer Conroy



With the East Coast still recovering from Super Storm Sandy, all of us living on the West Coast are reminded of how fickle Mother Nature is. One day it's sunshine; the next day a Super Storm, or, in our case, an earthquake. Yes, we all know it will happen and some of us have made plans and kits in preparation. But what about the animals in our lives. Have we included them in those plans and in our disaster kits?

We've often heard that we should have enough food and water for a period of three to five days post emergency. Well, look at Sandy. The storm hit a sophisticated part of the world and yet people (and pets) went for weeks without electricity. Frankly, planning for only three to five days is simply not enough. I am not suggesting you go into "survivalist" mode, but I do recommend taking steps that will ensure you and your animals have the very best chance to make it through a disaster in reasonable shape.

There are essential steps to take right now to protect cats and dogs. They include:

- Making sure all vaccinations are current and original records are kept in a safe dry place along with other medical and prescription records.
- Having companion animals micro-chipped at your local animal shelter or by your veterinarian.
- Training your dog in basic obedience commands.
- Crate training your cat or dog.
- Get a "Pet Inside" sticker and place it prominently on your front door or front window. In fact, I recommend several of these at various points of entry to your home. These stickers are available online; simply search using the phrase "pet rescue stickers."

For other animals, such as birds, reptiles, rodents, etc., keep handy smaller, non-breakable versions of their habitats so that you are able to transfer them quickly into a portable home you can take with you.

The next level of preparation includes putting together your animal's disaster kit. Here are the basics:

- Plastic bottles of water

- Pet food
- Foldable food and water dishes
- Pet medications (don't forget the heart worm preventive)
- Photocopy of current vaccination records
- Luggage tag with your contact information on it and information for contacting a friend or relative not living in the disaster zone
- Breakaway collar and leash (harness for cats)
- ID tag
- Towel
- Toy
- Bedding and blanket
- Pet First Aid Kit
- Spare crate for larger pets; portable habitats for smaller pets
- Small litter box and litter.

Have enough water, food and medications to last for a minimum of one week (I recommend two weeks). Change it out often so it remains fresh. You can save money by recycling some of these items when you purchase new ones for your pet, especially bedding and toys. Get your pet a new collar and leash for the New Year and put the old ones in the disaster kit. If you can wrangle a favorite toy from your pet, put that in the disaster kit as it will serve as a familiar friend should disaster strike.

Other items you can easily purchase in stores, online, or, perhaps, through your veterinarian. Disaster shelters for humans will be more willing to accept your animal family members if they are contained or controlled, have evidence of vaccinations, and are equipped with their own supplies.

Animal shelters as far from the East Coast as San Diego stepped up to help rescue Sandy Storm pets and reunite them with their owners. You can give the animals you love the best chance of survival and reunification if you take steps today to prepare. And while you're at it, don't forget to create a disaster kit for you!

2013 New Year's Resolutions

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

As soon as the presents are unwrapped and the holiday dinner finished, the terror often begins. "With Christmas over, what will be my New Year's resolution?!" Whether vowing to lose weight, find a new hobby, or make new friends, New Year's resolutions are just as much a part of the new year as those late night parties.

Our interns at The Orinda News, 7th grade reporter Khyber Pratt and 6th grade photographer Zarah Saporito, paid a visit to Orinda Books to ask staff members about their New Year's resolutions. All, except Ginger, had to take a minute to decide!



ZARAH SAPORITO

Ginger, the bookstore cat: "My resolution is to find better places to hide. The customers always find me and want me to sign autographs."



ZARAH SAPORITO

Josie Kelley: "I'm determined to read more and have more fun in the New Year."



ZARAH SAPORITO

Tudi Garland: "I hope to do more in the New Year – read more, exercise more, and make more art."

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Miramonte High School Cross Country Teams Running Strong



Members of the Cross Country Men's Varsity team (L-R): **Brad Alban** (coach), **Jimmy McFeely**, **Miles McCaulou**, **Dennis Finger**, **Tyler Hanson**, **Charlie Zamanian**, **Mark Tamminga**, **Dillon Reed**, and **Alison Zamanian** (coach).

By ALISON ZAMANIAN
Co-Coach

Both the men and women's cross country teams have been working hard and placing well this season. The varsity boys won the National Coast Section conference on November 17 at Hayward High School for the first time in 11 years and only the second time in the

team's history. The girls came in 6th later in the day on a track that continued to worsen in the heavy rain. The day's races involved warming up in pouring rain, sliding in mud, falling, running through puddles and somehow managing to stay fast and do well!

The boys went on to place 8th in the state competition at Woodward Park in Fresno on November 24.



Members of the Cross Country Girl's Varsity team (L-R): **Sondra Abruzzo**, **Ariel Thomas**, **Ashley Kawaguchi**, **Andrea Tamminga**, **Lindsay Buckel**, **Sarah Rockwood**, and **Camille Anderson**.

◆ **CIZEK** from page 9

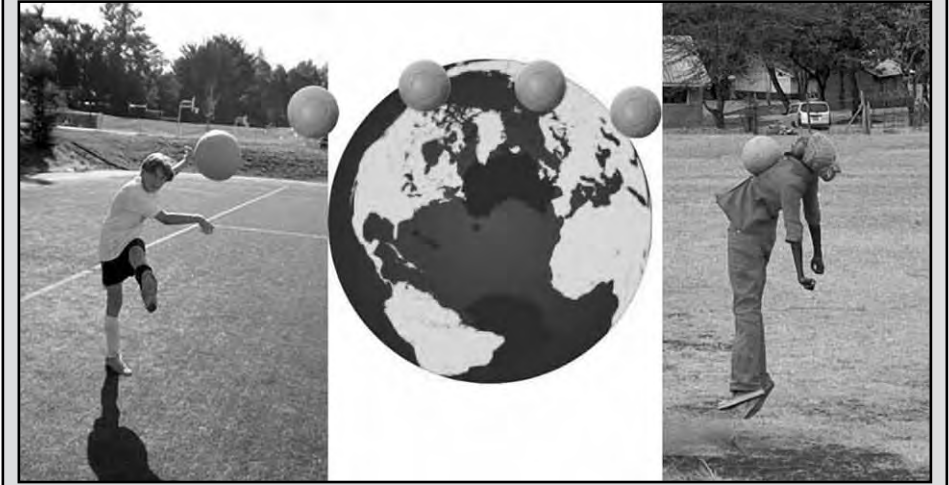
absolutely new for me," says Cizek. School is definitely the most challenging aspect. "His English is really great, but conversing is so different from analyzing literature and learning economic theory in a non-native language," says deLambert. "He is an excellent student so it is frustrating for him to be struggling in these classes. In addition, he must keep up in his classes at home as well. He gets updates from his teachers and classmates over the Internet. He will have to take exams soon after returning to Czech Republic, so he must work very hard on his studies."

"I have met many interesting people that really enrich my life," says Cizek, who admits that he will miss his host fam-

ily when he returns to Tabor at the end of January. "We became really close; they are all really nice to me, and I feel like a real member of the family. I would love to thank my host family and Orinda Sister Cities organization for helping my dreams come true."

As her hosting duties come to an end, deLambert wholeheartedly recommends the experience. "Not every student can be as fun and easy as Michael, but I think that we have gained so much," says deLambert. "Michael is truly a member of our family and will always remain so. We look forward to visiting him in Czech Republic and to hosting him again when he returns for another visit! Any time you open your heart to someone new, it enriches your life."

Young Orindan Coordinates Fundraiser Helping Kids in Kenya



Baker Sharp (L) kicks a soccer ball half way round the world to a child in Kenya.

Contra Costa youth athletic club has joined together to provide the only soccer balls in the world that are virtually indestructible to youth in Africa. The East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club players and their families launched a holiday online fundraiser to donate One World Futbols to several villages in Kenya through the Hilde Back Education Fund (www.hildebackeducationfund.com).

Thirteen-year-old Blake Sharp of Orinda coordinated the campaign. She, her brother Baker and teammates shared their love of soccer with African children by providing a ball that can withstand heat, rocks, cement, broken glass and dirt. For more information, go to www.oneworldfutbol.com.

◆ **FAMILIES** from page 9

volunteers who help the children with their homework each evening. One of the tutors said she was pleased that so many wanted to work in the program from high school students to St. Mary's College students to many former teachers. The children are driven to their schools each day by the WVN van if parents don't have their own transportation.

Everyone must leave the faith community campus during the day, but the program provides a daytime site in Pittsburg with job

and housing search support. Congregations provide weekend daytime activities. Each evening while at LOPC they may sign up to use the laundry and shower facilities.

LOPC is responsible for laundering the bed linens and delivering them to the new location before mid-afternoon on the Monday of moving day. Volunteers reload equipment, supplies and participants' belongings into a WVN truck. They are delivered to the new location and the tents are set up for a new resting place for these families in need.

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EVERYDAY CHANGES / LOCAL CHEMIST

Everyday Changes
New Years Resolution: Don't
Just Maintain your Health in
2013!

Bonnie Waters



While the holidays were a time to celebrate and enjoy family and friends, the New Year is a time to reflect on what is really important, and what is more important than good health? Set a goal to not just maintain your health but improve the overall level of your health in 2013. Consider these three simple tips to help you become healthier than ever before. Some of these recommendations from reliable sources are obvious but bear a reminder.

Manage stress – Balance

A major stressor in life is our tendency to over-commit and not dedicate sufficient time to care for our personal well-being. Set a goal to balance home and work commitments. Make sure you that you regularly include time for relaxation (a professional massage is always a great way to remember how to relax). Keep a relaxed and positive outlook.

Get plenty of rest and quality sleep

National Sleep Foundation recommendations:

- Go to bed at the same time each night and rise at the same time each morning;
- Make sure your bedroom is a quiet, dark and relaxing environment, which is neither too hot nor too cold;
- Make sure your bed is comfortable and use it only for sleeping and not for other activities, such as reading, watching TV, or listening to music. Remove all TVs, computers and other “gadgets” from the bedroom;
- Physical activity may help promote sleep but not within a few hours of

- bedtime;
- Avoid large meals before bedtime.

Be (or become) smoke-free

Avoid smoking and breathing other people’s smoke. If you currently smoke, quitting is the most important thing you can do to take care of you and your family! For help, call the Center for Disease Control at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or talk to your health care provider for help.

Eat healthy, and be active

You can enjoy your favorite foods and improve your health when you eat healthy and increase your activity. As they say... everything in moderation. Choose fresh fruit as a substitute for candy and baked goods. We all know that regular exercise is critical to health. Besides a regular exercise routine, find fun and invigorating ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite music, joining your family for Wii activities or bundling up and enjoying a brisk walk in the rain. Join a yoga class for flexibility and relaxation.

Bottom line: be active for at least 2½ hours a week.

In conclusion, it seems fitting to use an analogy that most of us can relate to. During take-off the flight attendant always reminds us that before helping others it is important to put on our oxygen mask first! The key to improving your health is to put your health first. Being sick, stressed out and exhausted does not serve anyone. This year commit to be a loving, balanced and relaxed family member and friend.

Have a healthy and happy New Year!

Colorful Past Keeps Cutting Edge
Chemist Eager to Learn

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Orinda resident Igor Sobolev entered the United States in 1949 as a refugee and turned the opportunity into a scientific career that has furthered the protection of our fragile ozone layer.

Born in what is now the Czech Republic in 1931, Sobolev found his world turned upside down when his family had to flee to the United States. His father, who had been in the White Army (1915-17) and fought the Bolsheviks, felt it best to take his family to safety when the Red Army (formed following the Bolsheviks victory in 1917) took control of the Czech Republic following World War II.

“My father had an engineering degree from Austria and had become a wine expert in a Bohemia winery, but when we emigrated to the United States, he worked on a farm,” says Sobolev. “My mother worked as a housekeeper, which is rather ironic since she had two housekeepers herself when we lived in the Czech Republic.”

Sobolev’s parents had always prized education, and their son inherited their love of learning earning a Ph.D in Chemistry. He met his future wife, Rita Skaidrite, while both were attending the College of Forestry in Syracuse, New York. The young couple moved to Orinda in 1962 and purchased a home close to Del Rey Elementary School. “There wasn’t much traffic then,” Sobolev recalls. “In the 1960s and ‘70s, kids took school buses or rode their bikes or walked to school. Not so now. It can be very difficult to get in or out of our area in the morning and afternoon when school is just starting and stopping.”

But Sobolev wouldn’t trade the small traffic inconvenience for all the happy memories of living in their home where they raised a son and a daughter and now enjoy visits from their two grandchildren. In addition to his family and taking educational excursions with Rita, Sobolev takes great pride in his work. “I have been so fortunate to work with people at the forefront of science,” he says.

Sobolev began his career working for Shell, but when the headquarters moved to Houston, TX, in 1970, he took a job with Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical to stay in the Bay Area. He became head of the chemistry division at Kaiser’s Pleasanton operation until they sold the division to LaRouche Industries in 1987. He stayed with LaRouche for many years.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rita and Igor Sobolev (R) with their host Jacinta (L) in the South Pacific Kingdom of Tonga.

“Working for Kaiser was a wonderful experience,” says the chemist. “I worked with wonderful people and was lucky to be able to do such interesting things.” One of those “interesting things” was his groundbreaking work in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). “A study had just come out showing that aerosols were hurting the environment, and Kaiser asked me to represent them on a number of committees studying the effect of CFCs on the ozone. Pretty soon, I was spending a third of my time on this research,” Sobolev explains.

Sobolev found himself on several industry committees and traveling to conferences around the world, often accompanied by Rita. In 1975, he had the opportunity to testify before the senate committee looking into CFCs. “It was very exciting and a bit terrifying to testify, but I knew what we were doing was important and could led to a healthier environment for everyone,” he adds.

One of Sobolev’s committees funded research in a number of universities. Research, including sampling air over the Antarctic, confirmed that CFCs were adding to the depletion of the ozone layer. Thanks to the extensive international cooperation and resultant research, the Montreal Protocol was formulated. This international treaty, ratified by 197 states and the European Union, protects the world environment by phasing out the production of numerous substances found to deplete the ozone layer. “My work on these committees was very satisfying actually,” says Sobolev. “We had some of the best scientific brains available –

[SEE CHEMIST page 20]

Woman's Club Accepting Applications

The Orinda Woman’s Club announces acceptance of applicants for its major beneficiary awards in 2013. Appropriate applying agencies must meet the following basic criteria: non-profit 501(c)(3); serving women and children in need; Alameda and /or Contra Costa County based; receiving \$1,000,000 and below as annual income stated on tax returns 2011-2012. Application forms can be acquired from Orinda Woman’s Club, Post Office Box 533, Orinda, CA, 94563 or from Adeline McClatchie Beneficiary Chair at 254-1162 or Adeline@mcclatchie.com. Two applicants will be selected. The Beneficiary Chair must receive applications by March 4, 2013, at 7 p.m. in order to be considered.



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THE REEL LESS TRAVELED



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

ON A BALANCE RESTORED

Tom Westlake



As many might remember, last month was kind of slim on the ground for the cinema enthusiast. This month...not so much, but that's just the way it should be. With the holidays over (and with a majority of the mainstream releases already viewed), there is no better time to escape that slight let-down that comes to many of us after the chaos, than to go to the movies. Below is as complete a list as I was able to compile to insure you'll be able to keep the post holidays blues at bay.

Going chronologically, we start out with *All the President's Men*. Many remember well the Watergate scandal and the ripples it sent out when more and more information was found out, leading up to the resignation of then president Richard Nixon. Films of this nature are of vital importance to the American people and, thanks to the stellar direction of Alan J. Pakula as well as the convincing performances by Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford, this film is anything but boring. Shown in association with CAIFF and *Diablo Magazine*, it will screen at the Orinda Theatre on January 10 at 7 p.m.

Following right on the heels of *President's Men* is the welcome return of the


International Film Showcase, this time making us acquainted with *Shun Li and the Poet*. A tale of differing cultures, illegal immigration (this time not presented as a threat!), small town gossip, and a generous helping of poignancy, this gentle film will leave you with a wrenched but ultimately a better heart. It will be showing all during the week of the January 11 at the Orinda Theatre.

On January 16, the Moraga Movers will offer *Stagecoach*. This is one of *those* films – films that became the template for countless Westerns to follow. In this one, John Ford is established as a formidable director and John Wayne – in one of the more famous zoom shots in cinema history – is introduced. If your interested in seeing the origins of many familiar Westerns, be at the Rheem Theatre on January 16 at 4 p.m. You won't regret it.


And speaking of regret we now turn your attention to The Queen's Slumber Party. This time, though, Vanessa is trying something a little different. Instead of highlighting the questionable quality of the movies of the '50s through the '90s, she is turning the mirror inwards with *Revenge of the Nerds*. This 1984 comedy, which spawned three sequels, has, as its central character, just the kind of people that would attend an event such as this. That it features a Carridine (Robert) and Anthony Edwards (of *E.R.* fame) is its only stab at legitimacy. It will show at the Rheem on January 19 at 9 p.m.

And then there's *Casablanca*. Words nearly fail when it comes to this film, and perhaps nothing needs to be said about this stellar classic. What does need communicated, however, is that Rosario Tronolone, a renowned expert on all things Ingrid Bergman, will be on hand for a Q & A session after the film. It will screen on January 23 at the Orinda Theatre.


I recommend that you check out www.lamorindatheatres.com for any surprises and remember to stay in the dark. That's where all the magic happens.



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◆ CALDECOTT from page 7

live for those commuting to San Francisco.

The 1950s saw tremendous growth in the economy and the population, which led to increasing need of a third tunnel. For the '64 third tunnel, there was only enough money for one, but money was set aside for the right of way, stability and feasibility studies for a fourth bore. The third tunnel was more popular in Contra Costa than in Alameda County. The new 4th bore will probably be the last since a 5th bore would necessitate extensive work widening Highway 24.

The purpose of the 4th bore is threefold: 1) to relieve peak hour congestion; 2) to eliminate daily traffic shifts amongst the bores; and 3) to create better traffic predictability. The new bore will have two 12-foot wide lanes, a 10-foot shoulder, and state-of-the-art ventilation. The length will be 990 meters or about 3200 feet, and will be less curvy at each end than the current tunnels.

Geologically speaking, the rock in the mountain over the 4th bore is from five to 23 million years old. The tunnel goes through three formations or types of strata. The northeast part goes through the Orinda formation; the middle of the tunnel is in the Claremont formation, and the southwest part is in the Sobrante formation. Construction crews took sample bores in all three, but only at some places. One difficulty of such construction is that the engineers don't really know what is there until they get into it. The sedimentary rock in the mountain is basically in horizontal layers, but with the Bay Area located on tectonic plates, the earth is always shifting. Thus, some layers went from horizontal to almost vertical, and folded, creating a mish-mash of rock. Some of the rock is shale and has oil in it, and when handling even a small piece, a person can smell the oil.

All four tunnels produced fossils. Examples include a camel tooth, horse leg bone, leaves and a partial skull of an "oreodont" (a pig-like animal), all of which are extinct. As a result of earlier discoveries of fossils in the older tunnels, the 4th bore project is required by state and federal law to have an on-site paleontologist at all times. Additionally, the project works in conjunction with the U.C. Berkeley Museum of Paleontology to set aside as many fossils as possible for further analysis.

The 4th bore is being constructed to withstand a 7.2 earthquake, expected every 1500 years. In such a seismic event, a tunnel is among the safest places to be. With five major earthquake faults nearby, the tunnel design allows it to be usable in 72 hours. Fire safety criteria also require the tunnel to withstand a 2000 degrees Fahrenheit fire for two hours.

The builders use the New Austrian Tunnel Method (NATM), which employs a system called Sequential Excavation Method. The initial supports are installed

during excavation, and after each bite of the tunnel machine, high pressure concrete is used to secure the ground. The builders use a "shotcrete" machine to spray the concrete, and the machine operator stands off of the machine and uses a remote to operate it.

Groundbreaking occurred in January of 2010, and the breakthrough to the other side was in October of 2011 with excavation completed in August of 2012. The final lining of the arch was done in 2012, and the new tunnel should be open to traffic in late 2013. Total cost of the four contracts for the 4th bore is \$402.1 million. The funding comes from federal, state, regional governments and local bridge tolls.

Most of the excavation occurred from the Orinda side with only 200 feet being done from the Oakland side. Of course, the builders utilized laser technology, but they still had to employ tape measures and standard surveyor methods and equipment. Once the two directions of the bore met and were opened, the crews found that one bore was only off the mark by one quarter of an inch, and the other direction by one half an inch, after boring through 60 percent of a mile. A waterproof membrane has been installed on the sides and top of the tunnel to keep the water out followed by a re-bar cage covered in 15 inches of concrete.

The bas relief medallions, located at the entrance to the older three tunnels, formed the basis for the new 4th bore medallions. People participated in an on-line survey to determine the theme of the new medallions. The theme "art deco revisited" won and will blend perfectly with the older art deco medallions. Next, the 4th Bore Project held a contest for school children to design the new medallions, which of course entailed them learning about art deco style and technique. For a look at the winning designs, go to www.caldecott-tunnel.org.

Following Morrison's lecture, the group of about 15 seniors car-pooled to the Orinda side of the bore where the construction offices are located. Decked out in white hard hats and bright yellow safety vests, the group discovered that not enough of them were wearing hard toed shoes to be able to enter the construction site. Construction crews had also needed to work in the area the group had hoped to visit. The site construction supervisor, however, allowed the group to drive close to the site allowing them a closer look than commuters see as they wait in traffic to enter the existing tunnels.

Participant Joellen Lippett said the whole experience was "fascinating, educational and exciting." Speetzen also felt the "knowledge gained in the lecture greatly enhanced my appreciation of the magnitude of the project."

Future "Senior Outings" will include a walking tour of Orinda and a trip to the Napa Valley wine country. For more information on the outings, call the Orinda Community Center at 254-2445.



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OUSD Recognizes Pat Rudebusch's Service



DAVID DIERKS

(L-R) Pat Rudebusch, OUSD superintendent Joe Jaconette, and Julie Rossiter.

The Orinda Union School District (OUSD) honored outgoing board president Pat Rudebusch for her many years of dedicated service at the December 10 OUSD board meeting. The reception began immediately before the opening of the regular board meeting where the large gathering of well-wishers enjoyed cake and refreshments. Rudebusch has been a board member since 2000, serving as president a number of times. Julie Rossiter, vice president during Rudebusch's last year on the OUSD board, has assumed the president's chair for 2013, with board member Chris Severson becoming vice president.

Christmas in Wine Country: Chick-Lit Author's Break-Out E-Book a Kindle Success Story

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Author Addison Westlake, Kindle's latest chick-lit success story on Amazon, is known in Orinda as Kiley O'Meara. She is a stay-at-home mom of three who says her biggest supporters are her husband, Jack O'Meara, and her nine-year-old son William. The O'Mearas moved to Orinda three years ago from El Cerrito. Madeline is two years old, Katie is four and attends St. Mark's Preschool while William attends Prospect Sierra School in El Cerrito. O'Meara has fallen in love with Orinda and enjoys meeting "so many great people with great ideas and good stories to tell."

Telling stories is O'Meara's strong point as *Christmas in Wine Country* proves. Despite her B.S. in English with a creative writing concentration from Middlebury College in Vermont, a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard, and a 17-year career in the field of Education Policy, her creative juices are still flowing. Her pseudonym, Addison Westlake, was born when she decided to write for fun. After the birth of her third child in 2010, she entered the first chapter of *Christmas in Wine Country* (CIWC) in the ChickLit Stiletto Contest (www.chicklit.com). ChickLit is what Amazon calls women's fiction. The contest is designed to help chick-lit writers get their foot (ahem, stiletto) in the publishing door. She had written the first chapter while sitting at her kitchen table. To her amazement, she won! "One of the judges was a literary agent who publishes just the kind of books I wanted to write. In January 2011, the agent asked me for the full manuscript, but there wasn't one. I got it to her during the summer of 2011. She passed on it, wasn't interested." O'Meara thought about querying other agents and investigating self-publishing but didn't have time.

Things changed on Sunday, November 18, when her husband took the kids to Oakwood Athletic Club in Lafayette to give her time to prepare for Thanksgiving, i.e., housecleaning. Instead, the prospect of several hours by herself sparked her desire to take the book further. Amazon's Create Space was too complicated given her time constraints; but Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing was just right. "It's fascinating," says O'Meara, "because it provides this tremendous opportunity to create a book for an iPad, Kindle, iPhone, etc. and is quick and easy. A way to reach an unprecedented huge market, not available



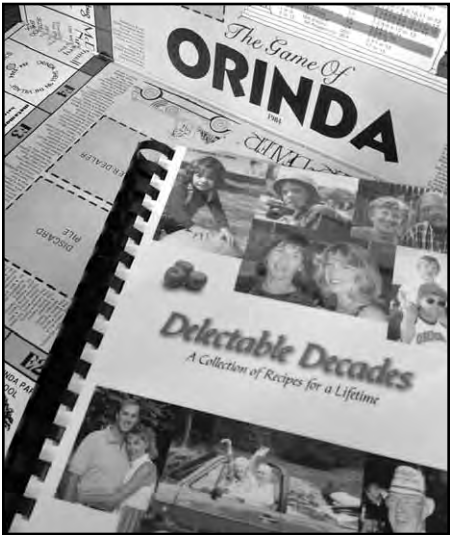
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Addison Westlake, author of the best selling chick-lit e-book, *Christmas in Wine Country*, lives in Orinda, but we know her as Kiley O'Meara.

in traditional publishing. I thought at most I would have 100 readers total including my mom, mother-in-law and sisters. And wouldn't that be great." Broadly speaking, Kindle Direct Publishing offers either a 35 or 70 percent royalty option to the author for their e-book. According to The Association of American Publishers' article, "Bookstats Highlights, Fiction and Non-Fiction for Children, Young Adults and Adults," eBooks' net sales revenue more than doubled in 2011 vs. 2010. This significant growth was particularly fueled by [SEE AUTHOR page 20]

OJWC Game and Cookbook for 30th Anniversary

Calling all Juniors! The 30th Anniversary of the Orinda Junior Women's Club is in 2013. To celebrate this event, all past and current Juniors are invited to a mug exchange to be held in Orinda on February 5. The OJWC is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, founded in 1890 with over a million members in 6,500 clubs in the U.S. OJWC members volunteer to make a positive impact in our community. Their efforts have benefited numerous community organizations including the Orinda Community Center, Community Center Park, Orinda schools, Orinda Library, Orinda Convalescent Home, Orinda 4th of July activities, Haley's Run for a Reason, EFO, and Orinda in Action. The OJWC has also reached out to help Bay Area organizations donating time and resources to the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Prevent Blindness Preschool Vision Screenings, Battered Women's Alternative, STAND! Against Domestic Violence, Bruns Hospice House, Children's Hospital Family House,



YONI MAYERI

Holiday Family Adoptions, and many more. To RSVP for the mug exchange or to find out more about OJWC, visit the website: www.orindajuniors.org.

— Yoni Mayeri

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 **Orinda Library Gallery** exhibit through the month of January features Caldecott Tunnel photographs as well as artwork by Lois Reynolds Mead and Chang Reynolds. Artists reception on January 27, 2-4 p.m., call 254-2814.
- 4 **First Friday Forum** featuring Thomas Loarie on “Advanced Medical Technology and Your Health,” Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette, 1:30 p.m., 925-283-8722 or go to www.lopc.org.
- 8 **WomenSing** ensemble is holding auditions, all voice parts welcome. Performances include Green Music Center in Sonoma and Missoula International Choral Festival. Scholarships available. Email audition@womensing.org or call 974-9169.
- 11 **International Film Showcase** presents *Shun Li and the Poet* at the Orinda Theatre through Jan. 17, with daily shows at 1:30, 4 and 6:30 p.m., additional shows Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. Visit www.lfef.org.
- 12 **Rotary Club of Orinda Crab Feast**, Orinda Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Rd., Orinda, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner. Live entertainment and raffle. Fresh cracked crab, plus pasta, salad and dessert courtesy of Charles Mounzer of La Piazza. \$45 per person. Call 254-6262 or go to orindachamber.org. Proceeds benefit Rotary community projects.
- 15 **World Affairs Book Group** will discuss *The Party: The secret world of China’s Communist Rulers* by Richard McGregor, Orinda Books, 286 Village Square, 3 p.m. New members welcome. Call 254-7606.
- CERT Community Emergency Response Team** training, Lafayette Community Center, www.lamorindacert.org.
- 23 **California Independent Film Festival** presents the classic *Casablanca*, Orinda Theatre, 7 p.m. Movie followed by Q&A with Rosario Tronnolone, renowned Ingrid Bergman expert.
- 27 **Orinda Association’s** Volunteer of the Year (Kay Aaker) and William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Award (Elizabeth O’Shea) dinner, Orinda Country Club, 6 p.m. For reservations, call 254-0800 or go to www.orindaassociation.org.
- 30 **Anxiety in School: What Parents and Teachers Should Know**, presented by psychologist and author Dr. Michael Tompkins, Lafayette library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., 7 to 9:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by POISE (Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education) and SPSK (Special Parents, Special Kids). Contact Courtney at cabennett_98@yahoo.com.

AT THE LIBRARY

- All events are free unless otherwise specified. The library will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year’s Day and Jan. 31 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.
- 5 **Book Sale sponsored by Friends of the Orinda Library**, Book Shop and Sorting Area, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 8 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent talks about the theatre’s world premiere of *Troublemaker* or *The Freakin Kick-A Adventures of Bradley Boatright* by Dan LeFranc, Fireplace Room, 7 to 7:55 p.m. Adult program.
- 15 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop-ins welcome, but attendance limited to once per week. Also Jan. 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30.
- Peek-A-Boo Time features songs, stories, rhymes and rhythms for newborns through 1-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also Jan. 22 and 29.
- 16 **Winter Music Series: Jazz with Carol, Frank and Marc** playing instrumental and vocal selections from the Great American Songbook, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., free. Adult program.
- 18 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss *No Mark Upon Her* by Deborah Crombie, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult/teen program, drop-ins welcome.
- 19 **Saturday Morning Live**, family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also Jan. 26.
- 23 **Paws to Read**, children in grades 1 through 5 can practice their reading with a friendly dog listener, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration required. Also Jan. 30.
- 24 **Talespinners of Contra Costa**, tell a story or just come to listen, featuring a special storyteller, 7 to 9 p.m. Adult program.
- 26 **Weekend Paws to Read**, same as weekday Paws to Read, but with shorter sessions, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Moraga-Orinda Fire District Conference Room, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition, every third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room. Call 687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Sirs for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club. Third Friday, September through May, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., www.montelindogarden.com. This month’s speaker is Don Dillon, Jr. of Four Winds Growers, Fremont, who will discuss Growing Citrus in the Bay Area.
- Orinda Juniors Women’s Club community service group. First Tuesday, September to June, 7 p.m. Contact Julie Mercer or Charlene Robinson at info@orindajuniors.org or www.orindajuniors.org.
- Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Hikes every weekend and the first Wednesday of the month. Visit www.orindahiking.org for weekly schedule or call Ian at 254-1465.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday, 3 p.m., Historical Society Museum, 26 Orinda Way, 254-1353.
- Orinda Job’s Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 283-7176.

Medical Technology Topic of First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

“Advanced Medical Technology and Your Health: In an Era of Globalization, Regulation, and Health Care Reform” is the timely topic of First Friday Forum, January 4, 2013, 1:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary of the Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Thomas Loarie, who has a career spanning 40 years as a life science executive, will address these issues and how they will impact health care in the years ahead. He says, “Advanced medical technology development is in a transformational period due to emerging markets outside the United States growing at 20 – 30 percent per year, increased U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulation, increased scrutiny by Health and Human Services for medical technology reimbursement, an implosion of medical technology venture capital funds, and now, U.S. health care reform.”

Loarie’s career has been in the field of growing multi-national technology companies and successfully commercializing over 20 innovative medical devices across 11 specialties. He serves as executive chairman for Mercator MedSystems, Inc., LOF Technologies, Inc., and Silicon Bio Devices, Inc. In addition, he serves as chairman of the External Advisory Board for the University of California’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, as an assistant professor of surgery at Creighton University Medical School in Omaha, Nebraska, and as a trustee of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. He has lectured and written extensively on medical technology innovation and its implications



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thomas Loarie discusses advanced medical technology at the January First Friday Forum.

for health care public policy, including articles in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Royal Academy of Engineering World Technology Update*, and the *Journal of Refractive Surgery*.

Following Loarie’s speaking engagement, the First Friday Forum will continue with six more lecture/discussions:

February 1: Dr. Ahmed Ghoreishi, U.S./Iran Relations –Past, Present, and Future;

March 1: Dr. Matthew Walker, Secrets of the Sleeping Brain-Overnight Improvements in Memory and Emotion;

April 5: Victor Gauthier, Update on the New Oakland/San Francisco Bay Bridge;

May 3: Lynn Joiner, Changing China – One Journalist’s 35 Year Perspective;

June 7: Dr. Daniel Kammen, Green Energy = Money? A New Currency for the 21st Century.

Prior to all of the lectures, refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by the lecture at 1:30 p.m. For questions, check the LOPC.org website or call 925-283-8722.

First Katrina and Now Sandy!

By Rebecca Kunzman
Contributing Writer

Nature just keeps reminding us to be prepared for emergencies. It is never too soon or too late to prepare your home, your family and your neighborhood so that when the time comes, we won’t have to say: “I’ve been waiting and waiting and no one has come!”

No one may be able to come for a long time – so get ready. Food, water, radio, flashlight and a communication plan with your family should be your first priority. You can do this.

FEMA, The American Red Cross and ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) have so much information for

you online. Don’t wait another day. What better way to say Happy New Year than by giving your family and friends disaster supplies?

Take CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. The next Lamorinda Class starts on Tuesday, January 15, at the Lafayette Community Center. The September Class will be in the Garden Room of the Orinda Library and both consist of seven three-hour classes and a final drill. Register at lamorindacert.org.

This training will open the doors to many other opportunities to gain experience in the survival of any disaster. It is a rewarding family project and a really good feeling, knowing you can take care of yourself, your family and help others.

- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation.** Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council.** Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman’s Club.** Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District.** First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council.** First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee.** Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District.** Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees.** Second Monday, 6 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 25 Orinda Way—Suite 200, Orinda, CA 94563. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.
- Planning Commission.** Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

MOVE OF THE MONTH / MEASURE L / REALTOR

Move of the Month

TRX – Abdominal Crunch



Start in plank position with feet in TRX.
Keeping hips lifted, draw toes towards glutes and then return to start position.
It's a tough one but its a great core workout!
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by Sheena

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Measure L Committee Recognized



Committee members of Yes on Measure L, the 1/2 cent sales tax measure that passed in the November election, were recognized by the Orinda City Council at its December 4 meeting. Front row (L-R): **Pat Rudebusch, Alex Evans, Carol Penskar, Casandra Forth**, Councilmembers **Steve Glazer and Sue Severson**. Back row (L-R): Councilmember **Dean Orr**, Mayor **Amy Worth**, Councilmember **Victoria Smith, Dick Hasselman and Richard Booth**.

Lafayette’ Larry Pestal Joins Pinel’s Orinda Office

By CONCETTA BURNS
Contributing Writer

Alain Pinel Realtors (APR), the largest privately-owned and independent residential real estate company in California, is proud to announce the addition of Larry Pestal to its Orinda Office.


Pestal joins APR from Empire Real Estate and specializes in properties in Lamorinda, Walnut Creek and along the 680 corridor from Alamo to Pleasanton.



Larry Pestal joins Alain Pinel Realtors.

A resident of Lafayette for over 25 years, Pestal’s background is diverse and international. Originally from Hawaii, he attended high school in Dublin, Ireland, has an engineering degree from M.I.T., an MBA from UCLA and had a successful career in systems and software development. He is looking forward to bringing his professionalism and client dedication to his career at APR.

Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, APR has nearly 1,400 agents in 32 offices throughout the Bay Area.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

Connecticut. RPM Mortgage is a retail only lender and a direct seller and servicer of Fannie Mae loans with its loan agents specially trained to offer FHA and VA loan programs to their customers. They work with borrowers, realtors, CPA's, financial planners, attorneys and financial consultants to serve home buyers and owners' needs.



VALERIE HOTZ
Dianne Crosby manages RPM's Orinda branch.

The 51 Moraga Way building was purchased earlier this year by RPM owners, Rob and Tracey Hirt, who renovated the office in anticipation of the new branch launch. "Tracey and I are extremely proud to be part of the Orinda community again

by purchasing RPM's newest commercial location," said Rob. "As former residents of Sleepy Hollow, we feel like we have come back home. We have been fortunate to make many friends and business acquaintances in Orinda and we look forward to continuing to serve the Orinda market," says Rob.

Top producing loan agent Dianne Crosby manages the branch. Crosby previously worked at La Salle Financial in Oakland, an affiliate of RPM Mortgage. Rob and Tracey asked me to open this branch and our hope is to bring the two sides of the tunnel closer together. As a mortgage bank, we underwrite and fund loans ourselves using a local team of appraisers who understand neighborhoods and the subtle value differences between neighborhoods," says Crosby.

A broker since 2001, Crosby previously worked in sales and marketing for legal publisher WestLaw. "I think we saw our bottom of the local real estate market last year and we are gradually on an uptick. In fact, currently we are having our biggest year ever. Areas like Orinda are always in demand," says Crosby. "We bring excellent, prompt service to the Orinda community, where you have banks and mortgage brokers, but there is not another mortgage broker and mortgage bank under one roof here in Orinda," she adds. Additional services offered by RPM Mortgage include on site home buyer seminars for realtors, facilitating mortgage related workshops and financial workshops hosted by Orinda financial advisors and tax planners.

Crosby is enthusiastic about connecting

Orinda residents with RPM Mortgage. "We made a commitment to the community and realtors here and deliver with excellent customer service."

Thoroughly passionate about scuba diving, Crosby recently returned from Palau where she swam with sea turtles, sharks, barracuda and manta rays. "It was an in-

credible experience. Fortunately, I left one day before typhoon Bopha hit the island. Typically, Palau is outside the typhoon zone and villagers did not think Bopha would strike, but it did," she says.

For more information about RPM Mortgage, call Crosby at 925-743-3501 or email dcrosby@rpm-mtg.com.

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Open House and Ribbon Cutting at Prudential

SALLY HOGARTY

Prudential California Realty recently moved from 51 Moraga Way to its new, more spacious offices at 8 Camino Encinas in Orinda. The company celebrated with a festive open house on November 29. Orinda Chamber of Commerce president **Rick Kattenburg** (center) brought the Chamber's rather large scissors and was joined by other Chamber members and Prudential employees for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

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Orinda Tires Opens in the Crossroads

The young newlywed husband and wife team of Jawad Ibrahim and Sara Iqbal opened the doors of their business enterprise this past November at the Union 76 station, located at 67 Moraga Way. They offer a large tire inventory with fast and convenient service and are enthusiastic about offering the best prices for replacement tires for your vehicle.

“Jawad is certified and wants to make certain your car is running properly. Our services include alignment, brake repair,

tires and wheels as well. We offer the lowest prices in the area, and you can’t beat the convenience factor,” says Sara. You may call ahead to schedule an appointment or drop in. Previously, Jawad repaired airplanes at ACCES Aviation in Sacramento. “He has been into cars and airplanes his entire life and is very skilled and knowledgeable,” she adds. Sara’s parents, Bushra and Joe Begum, own and operate the Union 76 station where Orinda Tires is located, making it a two generation family affair.

“My parents have owned gas stations for 30 years and have been inspired to see them do well as small business owners. We appreciate our Orinda customers and make

first rate service our priority.” Sara manages the accounting, payroll and bookkeeping duties for the Union 76 station as well as Orinda Tires. When employees are unable to come to work, Sara fills in. She is currently studying for the CPA examination.

Sara and Jawad are avid movie buffs. When not managing their business or watching movies, they are trying new restaurants. “We are all about food. Mediterranean, Turkish, Sushi, Japanese, Chinese, Mexican-you name it, we enjoy trying new flavorful foods,” says Sara.



DAVID DIERKS
Jawad Ibrahim and Sara Iqbal opened Orinda Tires in November.

While gas is available 24 hours a day with ATM or credit card purchase, the attendant is on duty in the mini mart during the hours of 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Orinda Tires is open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 253-7799 or email orindatires@gmail.com or visit the website at www.orindatires.com

Academy of Language & Music Arts (A.L.M.A.) Features Open Mic Night

James Fiatarone, Ph.D. is one of those lucky people who gets to play when he goes to work every day. Director of the Academy of Language and Music Arts since 1994, Fiatarone studied Italian literature and music, with an emphasis on the influence of language in music at UC Berkeley as an undergraduate and graduate student. He teaches Italian and all band and orchestral instruments, specializing in teaching reed instruments. Additional instructors teach drums, violin, guitar, voice and singing.

A.L.M.A. is a full service academy offering a variety of instruments for sale or rent, music books, sheet music, and all things musical. If you need an instrument repaired, A.L.M.A. undertakes repairs as well. With

no age limit on students, Fiatarone’s youngest was 18 months of age. Pre-schoolers up to adult are welcome and lessons may be scheduled in the evening, with the last lesson ending at 9 p.m. to accommodate work schedules for adult students. Private lessons as well as mini groups and “Combos” are offered.

Usually, an open mic night takes place one Friday evening each month in the café two doors down from A.L.M.A. “We welcome all ages and levels of playing ability and styles and the place is usually overflowing. With a less formal atmosphere than a recital, it is much more like a pizza party,” says Fiatarone. “Performers just play their instruments and have fun and there is no stress. We encourage people to bring their instrument and try out their pieces or just come and listen.” Students also perform at the Olive Festival and Spring Wildlife Festival at Wagner Ranch.

Fiatarone’s doesn’t get to his fairly unusual hobby - competitive fencing - until late at night. He is grateful that his coach works a flexible schedule with him. “Interestingly, many people who compete in fencing are also musicians. The two go hand in hand,” points out Fiatarone.

A.L.M.A. is located at 99 Brookwood Road. Open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call Dr. Fiatarone at 254-5056 or visit www.facebook.com/almamusic.



VALERIE HOTZ
James Fiatarone has been the Director of A.L.M.A. since 1994.

RPM Mortgage Inc. Moves into 51 Moraga Way

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[SEE BUZZ page 23]

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