

THE ORINDA NEWS

Draft Plan for Bay Area Housing Causes Concern

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

Who would have thought the terms “affordable housing,” “sustainable communities” or “transit-oriented apartments” would ever become hotly debatable topics at the least, and highly incendiary ideas at the most? But such is the case in Orinda, as well as other Bay Area communities, where groups such as Orinda Watch have held meetings to express concerns about a new housing proposal, while city governments stress that the proposed plan will not take away local control.

Plan Bay Area, recently released after three years in the making by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), was formed to help implement Senate Bill 375, called “The California Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008” (D. Steinberg). The facts, details and connections among various levels of state, regional and local government are complicated, but the bill requires each of the state’s 18 metropolitan areas, including the Bay Area, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks. The plan says, “To meet the goals of SB375, Plan Bay Area directs more future development in areas that are or will be walkable and bikable and close to pub-

lic transit, jobs, schools, shopping, parks, recreations and other amenities.”

Key elements of SB 375 as quoted from the plan published by ABAG and MTC include:

The law requires that the Bay Area and other California regions develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) – a new element of the regional transportation plan (RTP) – that strives to reach the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target established for each region by the California Air Resources Board.

ABAG is responsible for the land use and housing assumptions for the SCS, which adds three new elements to the RTP:

- a land use component that identifies how the region could house the population over the next 25 years;
- a discussion of resource and farmland areas; and
- a demonstration of how the development pattern and the transportation network can work together to reduce GHG emissions.

The law synchronizes the regional housing need allocation (RHNA) process – adopted in the 1980s – with the regional transportation planning process.

SB375 streamlines the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for housing and mixed-use projects that are consistent [SEE HOUSING page 10]

Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe Will Purchase Historic Building



Friends of the Moraga Adobe presented a \$10,000 check to J&J Ranch developers as a down payment on purchasing the historical building. (L-R) **Matt Branagh**, **John French** of J&J Ranch, members of Friends of the Moraga Adobe **Kent Long** (president), **SB Master** (vice president), **Bobbie Landers**, **Tanya deGroot**, **Connie Boero** and J&J Ranch's **Michael Olson**.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Since 2009, the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) have been fighting to preserve the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County – the Joaquin Moraga Adobe built in 1841.

Long neglected, the adobe sits on an approximately 20-acre site slated for residential

development with the adobe scheduled to become a clubhouse for the 13 homeowners in the development.

On April 18, however, the FJMA announced an agreement with developer J&J Ranch LLC to purchase the historic Moraga Adobe and a surrounding 2.3-acre parcel. “The Moraga Adobe is truly one of the most significant historic sites in the East Bay,” [SEE ADOBE page 18]

Del Rey Sets World Record



Students at Del Rey Elementary School show the style that helped them set a new world record for the largest hula hoop exercise demonstration. See page 10 for the complete story.

OA Proposes Seasonal Flags: First Up, Springtime Flowers

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

On April 15, the Public Works/Aesthetic Review Committee approved the Orinda Association’s (OA) Spring Floral Flag Proposal and the Orinda City Council stamped their approval at their April 16 meeting paving the way for seasonal banners/flags to beautify downtown Orinda throughout the year.

OA board members Chris Laszcz-Davis and Cindy Powell led the effort to have flags or banners displayed year round, similar to those in Lafayette. Local businesses or residents will sponsor each banner/flag.

Spring flags will be the first to adorn Orinda with a design incorporating botanically accurate springtime flowers. The anonymously sponsored flags will number 50-60. The design has been donated by 40 students in renowned botanical illustrator Catherine Watters’ private classes at Woodhall in Orinda and Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco. Watters also teaches botanical illustration at Filoli Gardens in Woodside, U.C. Berkeley Botanical Garden, [SEE FLAGS page 24]



Floral designs, such as the one above, will be put on flags and displayed around downtown Orinda.

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LIBRARY GALLERY

Themed Painting Show, Raku, Jewelry and 4th Bore Medallion Designs

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

This month the Orinda Library Gallery is, “As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer” (Shakespeare), between the themed *California Shades* paintings; Olga Jusidman’s high fire raku and silver jewelry sets; and the youthful designs from the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Medallion Contest. Join them on Saturday, May 11, between 4 and 6 pm for an artist reception where light refreshments will be served.

The Bay Area Studio Artists (BASA) have donned their Ray-Bans and are con-

sidering their favorite state in their show, *California Shades*. Painting California’s natural and man-made environments, the artists capture the iconic and the eccentric, exploring the play of sun and shade of California’s dramatic color palette in 30 plus acrylic and oil paintings. BASA was formed when seven painters met at Lafayette Studio (www.lafayettestudio.org) five years ago; they’ve been painting together ever since. Organizing and hanging shows are shared responsibilities, and sometimes guest artists are invited to participate. On a weekly basis, they serve as sounding boards, critics, coaches and examples for one another. *California Shades* can mean



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joanne Taeuffer's *China Camp in Summer* is a 15"x 19" acrylic on canvas.

the colors of the state, the bright sunshine and quiet shadows and diversity of our landscape, or its people and their attitudes and beliefs. For each of their shows, they paint small self-portraits (6" x 6") and for this exhibit, they got a kick out of painting themselves wearing sunglasses. Members showing work include: Jeanette Baird of

Walnut Creek (acrylic and oil on canvas); Joanne Taeuffer of Berkeley (acrylic on canvas); Marcy Wheeler of Walnut Creek (acrylic on canvas); Sharon Tama of Orinda (acrylic on canvas); Susan Bonebakker of Benicia (oil on canvas); and Ellen Reintjes of Lafayette (acrylic on canvas). Patricia Dellacroce, also a member of the group, is not showing work at this time. Their styles range from figurative to landscapes, from realism to abstraction – visit www.bayar-eaststudioartists.com for more information.

[SEE GALLERY page 6]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ellen Reintjes' *Twist and Turn*, an acrylic on canvas, will be displayed at the Library Gallery.

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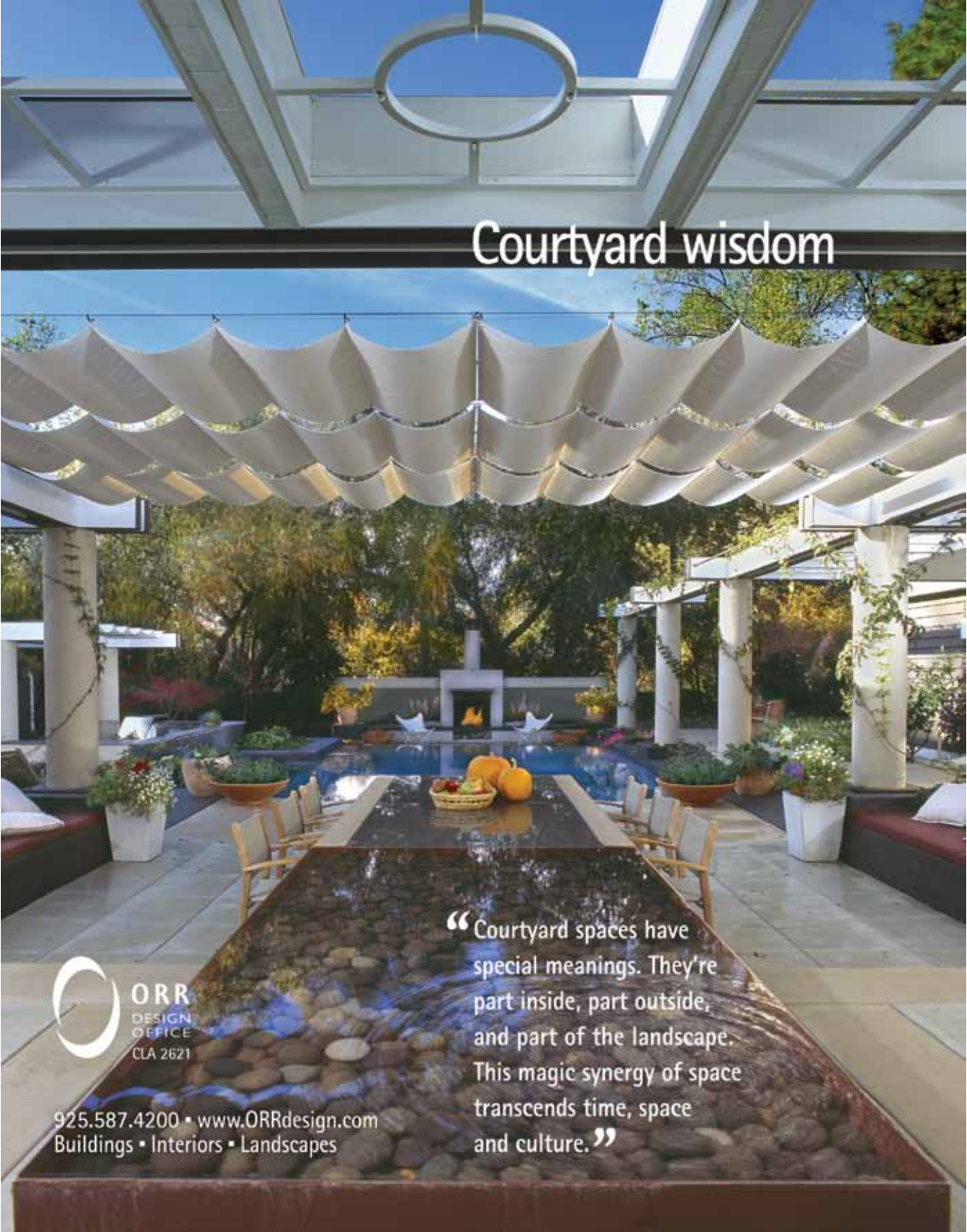
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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President What's New with the Orinda Association? Lots!



Bill Waterman

I first want to thank all of the current 450-plus members of the Orinda Association, both those of you that have renewed your memberships again and those who have joined the OA for the first time. Thanks to your support, our membership is on the upswing again, and I wanted you all to know that we on the OA Board appreciate your commitment and support.

With this continued support, the OA is working on the following projects right now:

- Putting together the Lamorinda July 4th Parade and Celebration – this is the 30th year the OA has organized the event, and we are working to put on a fun-filled parade and park celebration again, with critical financial support from the Orinda Com-

munity Foundation and Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation. And the event will be generously sponsored again this year by our tandem of Title Sponsors, Orinda Motors (including Flying A and Auto Detail, and Express Tire and Oil Change) and Mechanics Bank. We are inviting our Lafayette friends to join us again, and hope to have a Moraga contingent as well. Be sure to join us again this year!

- Arranging for 50 beautiful “Floral Flags” to be set in place throughout town. These colorful flags have a floral bouquet design, and each flag’s individual flowers were created by some 40 local artists. We anticipate the flags going up by mid-May, and then staying up for about one month, followed by the U.S. Flags, which will be

[SEE OA page 8]

2013 Fourth of July – A 30-Year Lamorinda Destination Event!

By CHRIS LASZCZ-DAVIS
Orinda Association Board Member

Independence Day – On July 4, 1776, the colonies claimed their independence from Britain and a democracy was born. Every day, thousands leave their homeland to come to the “land of the free and the home of the brave” to live the American Dream. In fact, my family was one of those dreamers. Each year on July 4, Americans have historically celebrated that freedom and independence with barbecues, picnics, parades and family gatherings. And so it was that in 1984 Orinda embraced that very same community celebratory spirit.

Orinda’s First 4th of July Parade Helped Orinda Become a City

Early one morning in the winter of 1984, Dick Heggie, Bill Gross, and Bobbie Landers were sitting in the Orinda Association’s cramped office trying to think of a way to get local residents excited about Orinda becoming a city. With local residents dissatisfied with county services, the Orinda Association’s board members and several other local residents had begun thinking about incorporation. They needed to find a way to build excitement among locals. As Landers thought back to the hot summers in her home town of Glen Ellyn, Illinois,



SALLY HOGARTY

Two well-dressed young ladies enjoy last year’s parade.

she remembered how much she used to look forward to the 4th of July parade in her home town. Why not bring that same sense of fun and pride to Orinda? Heggie and Gross concurred and Orinda’s 4th of July parade and celebration was born.

Fourth of July Evolution

Orinda’s July 4 celebration is now approaching its 30th year of life. The festivities have continued to grow year after year with an early morning official flag raising

[SEE JULY 4 page 8]

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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Show Your Spirit by Sponsoring a Flag!



Forty-five, 6 foot tall American flags are available for sponsorship.

For a \$50 donation, you can help beautify Orinda and help support a variety of community events. The flags will be displaced

throughout downtown Orinda from June 15 through July 4th.

To sponsor a flag, go to www.orindaassociation.org and click on the July 4th link or mail a check to the Orinda Association, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563.

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Editorial

Bird Flu and Housing Woes

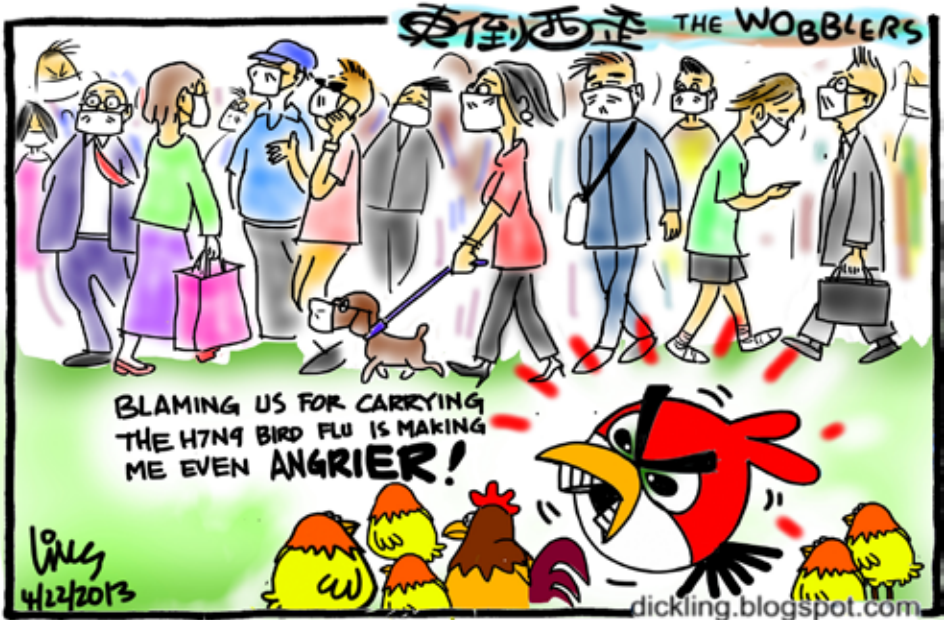
While it isn't here yet, the possibility of H7N9 spreading around the globe worries colleagues at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So far, the virus has hit primarily in China with at least 63 people infected and 14 dying as of April 16. Normally found in birds, H7N9 had not been known to infect people. Medical experts are currently trying to determine if it can be transmitted from human to human. The virus was very much on the mind of our cartoonist Dick Ling, who recently traveled to China.

The release of a Draft Plan for Bay Area Housing – Plan Bay Area – has many in Orinda concerned about possible changes in the local community. Our writer Bill O'Brian has attempted to give a brief overview of the plan in this issue. I have also

received several phone calls/emails from local residents who attended a meeting of concerned citizens in Lafayette in March. They are afraid that the plan will allow developers to take over the city and basically build high-rises for low-income people and to do it quickly.

First, if anyone has tried to even remodel a bathroom in Orinda, you know nothing happens quickly when Design Review and the Planning Department are concerned. Secondly, Orinda has fulfilled the majority of its low-income housing allocation through the Orinda Senior Village and the currently under construction Eden Senior Housing project. We hope to deal with this very detailed and complicated topic in subsequent issues as well.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



A Plea to Local Residents

Spring is here, summer is just around the corner. The fine weather and longer days entice us to throw open our doors and windows and relish our yards and gardens in all their glory. That is until your neighbor fires up their leaf blower, and then their neighbor, and then their neighbor, so on and so on throughout the day and into the evening.

I thought we agreed to a time limit for pervasive and excessive noise? Do we need a collective reminder? Apparently so. We agreed to allow leaf blowers and other gas powered equipment from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and then again 10 a.m to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. And please, no leaf blowers or chainsaws on Sunday. Pretty please?

If you feel these devices are necessary for the upkeep and maintenance of your property, fine. You have the right to use them during the prescribed hours. For all the rest of us who much prefer peace and quiet above air blown leaves, dust and pollen, please be a good neighbor and abide by the Orinda Noise Regulations. It's not that hard, we only ask for a few daylight hours when we can have some assurance of relative peace and quiet.

Have a great spring and summer,

– Roger Wilson

Monarchy May Be Coming To Orinda

Monarchy, not democracy, is coming to Orinda very soon unless Orinda residents strongly object.

The term "monarchy" refers to autocratic rule of Orinda by unelected, unaccountable bureaucracies. Examples of these bureaucracies are the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

One of the consequences of monarchy

is the probable construction of high-rise, high-density buildings in Orinda. Such construction could lead to overcrowded schools, blocked views of nearby hills, and lower home values.

ABAG and MTC have arrogated to themselves the future look of Orinda. These bureaucracies want to control land-use matters, housing patterns, and the disbursement of road-repair money. For example, the bureaucracies can withhold road-repair money if they do not like the way Orinda is complying with their regulations.

ABAG and MTC have developed "Draft Bay Area Plan: Strategy for a Sustainable Region." The document is dated March 2013. A goal of the plan is to reduce "greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks." Another goal is to create housing in "proximity to public transportation."

The plan assumes that the Bay Area's population will increase from 7.2 million people to 9.3 million people by 2040 – a 30 percent jump.

This assumption may prove false. Jobs in California are hard to find. The official unemployment rate in California in February was 9.6 percent. The national unemployment rate for the same month was 7.7 percent. If jobs are hard to find, the population may not grow. In fact, it could shrink.

Presumably contributing to California's unemployment problem is taxation. California has the highest state sales-tax rate in the nation. In Orinda, the sales tax is nine percent. California also has the national highest top bracket for the state personal income tax: 13.3 percent. That top bracket is significant in a high-income city like Orinda.

High California taxes may lead to employers' moving to other states, closing down, or never even operating in the

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Golden State.

When unelected bureaucracies like ABAG and MTC make assumptions that may be wrong, Orindans should protest. Orindans should let their city council know that Orinda does not need to have its city

altered by unaccountable bureaucracies. Control of Orinda should be in the hands of Orinda's voters, not in the hands of unelected bureaucrats.

– Richard S. Colman

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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 June issue are due May 5, 2013.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the July issue is June 1, 2013.

MOFD / POLICE BLOTTER



POLICE BLOTTER

March 2013

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

Assault with a Deadly Weapon: 1 incident at Camino Pablo.

Burglary – Auto: 3 incidents on Spring Rd., El Castillo, and Pico Ct.

Burglary – Commercial: 3 incidents on Camino Sobrante (2) and Brookwood Rd.

Burglary – Residential: 5 incidents on Camino Sobrante, La Espiral, Glorietta Blvd., La Cresta Rd., and Longview Terrace.

Grand Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident on Camino Pablo.

Vandalism – Felony: 1 incident on Estates Dr.

Arrests

Assault with a Deadly Weapon: 1 arrest was made on Camino Pablo.

Burglary – Commercial: 2 arrests were made on Camino Sobrante and Brookwood Dr.

Domestic Battery: 1 arrest was made on Del Valle.

Driving Under The Influence - Misd. <.08: 1 arrest was made on Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way.

Driving Under The Influence - Misd. >.08: 1 arrest was made on Donna Maria Way.

Felony – Other: 1 arrest was made on Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way.

Forgery – Fraudulent Documents: 1 arrest was made on Overhill Rd.

Possession of Dangerous Drugs: 1 arrest was made on Brookwood Rd.

Probation Violation: 2 arrests were made on Las Vegas Ct.

Warrant Arrest: 2 arrests were made on St. Stephens Dr. and Moraga Way.

Orinda BART Station

No statistics available at this time.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
Orinda Police Department

Additional Police Activity During March/April

- Assisted Moraga P.D. with a felony domestic violence case, the suspect has also been a suspect in past residential burglaries.
- Assisted the District Attorney's Office in preparing a stalking case for trial.
- Documented the surrendering of firearms from a mental health subject.
- Documented and assisted with an open Child Family Services case.
- Contacted the U.S. Marshals and forwarded requested information regarding a subject possibly impersonating a Deputy U.S. Marshal within the county.
- Worked with the District Attorney's Office regarding a child molestation case, currently preparing the case for trial. The Investigations Unit has developed a new lead on the case.
- Contacted Wells Fargo Bank and requested video surveillance regarding a battery case.
- Assisted a resident and advised them on the steps for acquiring and posting Neighborhood Watch signs within Orinda.
- Contacted CalEMA regarding upcoming hostile intruder seminar. (Date to be determined).
- The Investigations Unit continued to follow up leads on recent residential burglaries.
- A gun possession case and a stolen vehicle case were filed with the District Attorney's office.
- Detectives authored search warrants to further investigate an ID theft case.
- Officers Pryor and Gray arrested three subjects in the parking lot of Safeway. One of the subjects was found carrying a loaded firearm; the two other subjects had warrants. An inventory of the vehicle uncovered approximately \$13,600 cash, various clothing and watches that were stolen from Nordstrom. The approximate value is \$20,000.
- Officers Gray and Mooney were dispatched to Safeway regarding a subject who had been in the store several times stealing food and liquor. They located the subject near Camino Pablo and Bear Creek. The subject, who lives in El Sobrante, admitted to stealing from Safeway numerous times.
- Officer Flack stopped a vehicle for a California Vehicle Code violation and smelled the odor of marijuana from inside the vehicle. A search of the vehicle uncovered a stolen handgun and suspected marijuana.
- Orinda P.D. assisted Lafayette P.D. in a residential burglary in progress. A K9 was brought to the scene and eventually located the suspects who were hiding underneath the house. The K9 bit one of the suspects and the other suspect immediately surrendered. A total of four suspects were arrested.

MOFD Places Deposit On Property For New Station 46



DAVID DIERKS

The south side of the property at 1035 Lorinda Lane and El Nido Ranch Road may become a joint MOFD/Con Fire fire station.

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in conjunction with Contra Costa Consolidated Fire District (Con Fire) decided to place a deposit on the property at 1035 Lorinda Lane in Lafayette at their March 26 board meeting. MOFD has entered into an agreement with Con Fire to build a new fire station, Station 46, at this location. This is a joint effort to increase coverage between Lafayette and Orinda and will place firefighters in a position to better cover the Lamorinda area. This new station will replace Con Fire Station 16 in Lafayette and MOFD Station 43 in Orinda.

MOFD Station 43, on 20 Via Las Cruces, has been in the planning process of being rebuilt since February 2012. Station 43 is being rebuilt because it does not meet seismic standards, modern fire apparatus does not fit in the apparatus bays, and the living area does not adequately accommodate mixed gender staffing. Con Fire Station 16, on 4007 Los Arabis Avenue, Lafayette, was closed in June 2012 because mold and rodents infested the station. At that time, the crew from Station 16 was relocated to Con Fire Station 15. In January 2013 the crew from Station 16 was eliminated due to budget cutbacks.

In January, Con Fire Chief Louder contacted MOFD Chief Bradley and asked if MOFD would be interested in working with Con Fire to build a new station where each district would pay for half of the station. A station costs about \$2 million to run per year. A joint station would therefore cost each district about \$1 million per year to run. Chief Bradley brought it to the MOFD board and they gave him the go ahead to

look into the deal and put the Station 43 rebuild on hold.

MOFD staff feels the property at 1035 Lorinda Lane will be beneficial to both cities. They've done preliminary time studies from this location which indicate that some of the areas currently serviced by Station 43 will have an increase in response times, but that other areas currently served by Station 43 will have a decrease in response time and that areas currently serviced by Station 45 (downtown Orinda) can be covered by the new station and those response times will decrease.

The decision at the March 26 meeting allowed MOFD and Con Fire to each place a non-refundable \$7,500 deposit on the proposed property. The selling price of the property is \$1.225 million. The district has 90 days to close the sale on the property from the date of the deposit.

For more information, visit www.mofd.org and www.cccfpd.org.

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ORINDA GARDEN CLUB

◆ GALLERY from page 2

Marcy Wheeler, also a local art instructor, loves investigating all the different ways to use acrylic paint, “There’s so much you can do with it if your mind is open and you’re willing to get out of your comfort zone and be playful.” Wheeler is fascinated by curating a show – how you transition the walk through the gallery from painting to painting on the wall. She finds a way to hang each painting so that it has a relationship with the next painting you will see – it could be a color, a mood or an image. Their last show, *Undomesticated*, was about wild animals and wild women – they had animal and nature noises playing on an audible loop as patrons viewed their paintings at the Benicia Library. For this show, listen for beach sounds with a little California wildness thrown in.

Olga Jusidman agrees with Katharine Hepburn, “If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun.” She divides her time between Mexico City and Walnut Creek – who needs to live in once place? Both at home and while traveling, she visits art museums and shows so that a constant stream of inspiration flows through her life. An accomplished ceramicist and member of the Clay Arts Guild in Walnut Creek, she realized her ceramic designs could make interesting silver jewelry and has enjoyed exploring this new art form. For example, she oxidizes the silver to mimic the effects raku firings have on ceramics. She will be showing 15 silver jewelry sets and 15 raku fired ceramics. For many years, Jusidman ran an art gallery in Mexico City and developed some favorite artists during that time, notably Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Gustav Klimt.

The Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore design plans call for a total of six medallions to be cast, three on each side of the tunnel. The medallions will be located above the tunnel



KARL NIELSEN, MTC
Thirteen-year-old **Penelope Watson** was one of the winning artists who designed a Caldecott Tunnel medallion.

openings on the eastern and western sides and will become a part of this regional landmark for years to come. Project administrators created a Medallion Design Competition open to children aged K-12 in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. They received hundreds of outstanding entries, facing the judges from both counties with a daunting task. Of the more than 300 entries received, 30 from Alameda County and 33 from Contra Costa County were advanced to the second round of judging. After a great deal of deliberation, the judges made their final decisions. They selected six designs, followed by 63 honorable mentions. The six winning medallion designs along with

Orinda Garden Club Completes Restoration of Cork Oaks

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Lake Cascade is looking better than ever thanks to the Orinda Garden Club. The dedicated members started their restoration of Cork Oaks (*Quercus Suber*) along the north shore of Lake Cascade in 2009 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The Garden Club of America. They completed the project this past summer.

On April 10, 2013, the Orinda Country Club presented the Orinda Garden Club a boulder and plaque located near the Cork Oak trees behind the tennis courts. Also in April, the Orinda Garden Club traveled to Garden Club of America’s annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA, to showcase their centennial tree project.

“Thanks to support from the local community, the garden club was able to extend its work to include both sides of the lake on Camino Sobrante,” says Orinda Garden Club member Diana Kennedy. “I hope people will take the time to see how wonderful the lake and boulder look. We are very lucky to have Lake Cascade in Orinda for everyone to enjoy.”

Obviously, the City of Orinda agrees. In December, they presented the Orinda



DIANA KENNEDY
The Orinda Country Club had a plaque put on this boulder at Lake Cascade acknowledging the Orinda Garden Club's work restoring the Cork Oaks.

Garden Club with two Mayor’s Awards for Excellence: one for Community Beautification and the other for the Lake Cascade Landscaping Restoration.

Built by Edward De Laveaga in 1922, the lake was originally created to supply water for the residential housing planned for that area. With the establishment of the Country Club and EBMUD, the lake water became the primary source for golf course irrigation. A popular attraction for walkers, bikers and runners, Lake Cascade is also an important waterway for migratory birds and is protected by California Fish and Game as a bird and wildlife sanctuary.

16 of the honorable mentions from the two counties will be on display in the small glass cabinet.

The six pieces of winning artwork will be used to design the molds which will create the cement medallions. The original Caldecott Tunnel medallions adorning the portals of the first two bores feature the decorative Art Deco style born in the 1920s. Art Deco is characterized by simple and bold geometric shapes, clean lines and often features abstract symbols. “Art Deco Revisited” was selected as the contest’s theme through an online public survey prior to the launch of the competition, in deference to the Art Deco medallions featured on the 1937 Caldecott tunnels. Students exercised their creative imaginations around the theme to explore ways that the past and present styles come together. Congratulations to the following six winning student designers: Nuala Gorshow, age 8, of Thornhill Elementary; Aoife Gorshow, age 11, of Thornhill Elementary; Ellina Bartholomew Coutts, age 10, of Frank Otis Elementary (all located in Alameda County); Daniell McCann, age 16, of Acalanes High School; Chaya Tong, age 8, of Springhill School; and Penelope Watson, age 13, of Pleasant Hill Middle School (all located in Contra

Costa County). Visit www.caldecott-tunnel.org and search for Medallion Design Competition for the names of the 63 Honorable Mentions and other information, including pictures of the award ceremonies, judges and more.

BASA member Tama says, “Art is critical to a community. It serves to educate, excite, soothe and enhance. Our very own Orinda Library would still be functional but a lot less pleasurable without the outdoor sculptures in the plaza beckoning the community to its doors, for example. It is sustenance for the eye and the soul and can foster feelings of community, identity, diversity, creativity and good will.” Jusidman hopes that viewers will appreciate her unique and playful designs. She never titles her work so as not to influence people’s perceptions. She believes that art fulfills people’s lives, makes them feel all kinds of different things and often provides a different perspective.

Voltaire says, “Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.” 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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CAR TIME / BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

CAR TIME

Drive Your Car to Death and Save Money?

By JOHN VANEK



By keeping your car for 15 years, or 225,000 miles of driving, you could save nearly \$31,000, according to Consumer Reports magazine. That's compared to the cost of buying an identical model every five years, which is roughly the rate at which most car owners trade in their vehicles. In its annual national auto survey, the magazine found 6,769 readers who had logged more than 200,000 miles on their cars. Their cars included a 1990 Lexus LS400 with 332,000 miles and a 1994 Ford Ranger pick-up that had gone 488,000 miles. Calculating the costs involved in buying a new Honda Civic EX every five years for 15 years - including depreciation, taxes, fees and insurance - the magazine estimated it would cost \$20,500 more than it would have cost to simply maintain one car for the same period. Added to that, the magazine factored in \$10,300 in interest that could have been earned on that money, assuming a five percent interest rate and a three percent inflation rate, over that time. To have much hope of making it to 200,000 miles, a car has to be well maintained, of course.

The magazine recommends several steps to help your car see it through.

- Follow the maintenance guide in your owner's manual and make needed repairs promptly.
- Use only the recommended types of fluids, including oil and transmission fluids.
- Check under the hood regularly. Listen

for strange sounds, sniff for odd smells and look for fraying or bulges in pipes or belts. Also, get a vehicle service manual. They're available at most auto parts stores or your dealership.

- Clean the car carefully inside and out. This not only helps the car's appearance but can prevent premature rust. Vacuuming the inside also prevents premature carpet wear from sand and grit.
- Buy a safe, reliable car. Buying a car with the latest safety equipment makes it more likely you'll feel as safe in your aging car as a newer model.

The magazine recommends several cars that have the best shot at reaching the 200,000 mile mark and a few that, according to its data, aren't likely to make it.

Consumer Reports' "Good bets" for making 200,000 miles: Honda Civic, Honda CR-V, Honda Element, Lexus ES, Lexus LS, Toyota 4Runner, Toyota Highlander, Toyota Land Cruiser, Toyota Prius, Toyota RAV4

Consumer Reports' "Bad bets" for making 200,000 miles: BMW 7-series, Infiniti QX56, Jaguar X-type, V8-powered Mercedes-Benz M-class, Mercedes-Benz SL, Nissan Armada, Nissan Titan, Volkswagen Tourag and V6 powered Volvo XC90.

I guess it eventually comes down to making a choice to maintain or to replace your vehicle. If you are selective with your automotive purchase you can save money by keeping it and maintaining it.

Chamber Names Flying A Gasoline Station as Small Business of the Year



SALLY HOGARTY

(L-R) Orinda Chamber executive director **Candy Kattenburg** and Chamber president **Sylvia Jorgensen** present Flying A manager **Tara Lauer**, and Orinda Motors/Flying A owner **Allan Pennebaker** with the Small Business of the Year award.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

At the joint Orinda Chamber of Commerce and Orinda Rotary luncheon held at the Orinda Country Club, the chamber awarded Orinda Motors' Flying A gas station and car detailing center the Small Business of the Year.

According to owner Allan Pennebaker, Flying A carries on the long tradition of Orinda Motors for providing quality, knowledgeable service to the community. "At Flying A, we not only have the lowest

priced fuel in Orinda, we pump it for you, too," says Pennebaker.

Providing good service and giving back to the community is important to Pennebaker, who grew up in Orinda and graduated from Miramonte in 1972. He and his wife have owned Orinda Motors, Incorporated since 1996 and have consistently supported a variety of organization for the past 17 years. Three of the largest events in Orinda - the Orinda Association's July 4th celebration, Orinda Baseball Association's (OBA) Opening Day, and Orinda Classic [SEE FLYING A page 20]



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LOCAL THERAPIST

◆ OA from page 3

on display through July 4th. Generous sponsors have underwritten the costs of all of these flags.

- Creating a new set of Town Banners – funded by generous sponsors that will support the OA’s activities. We anticipate these banners to go up by early August and remain on display to early October.

- A brand-new OA website, which will enable OA members and sponsors to renew dues or make payments more easily, allowing everyone to access new pages with community calendars, youth and sponsors’ pages, and an interactive directory of all Orinda non-profit groups.

◆ JULY 4 from page 3

ceremony accompanied by a vocalist, Haley’s Run, the Roadrunner’s Fun Run, and a pancake breakfast. The parade comes next, with several bands, local sports teams, local heroes, political figures, classic cars, military veterans and our very own families. After the parade, there are lots of fun activities for kids in the Orinda Community Park, Hot Wheels races, balloon twisters, a juggler, football toss, face painting, and more. For kids of all ages, there is food and drink from local restaurants, local artists, non-profit booths and one rockin’ band that plays in the park gazebo. Everyone has plenty to make them smile!

Vision: Making this a “Lamorinda-wide July 4th celebration”

In order to enhance the parade and park celebration, last year the Orinda Association’s board members decided to move this



SALLY HOGARTY
Last year, this parade entry filmed the people watching the parade.

All of these activities are in line with the OA’s goal to contribute to Orinda’s beauty and our shared quality of life, a mission that the OA has been working toward since 1946. For more background on the history of the July 4th activities and the people now working on this project, see the accompanying article on this page.

And lastly, if you wish to further support these OA activities, we are seeking sponsorships of the U.S. Flags that will be on display again this year. Sponsorships only cost \$50, and to complete a sponsorship, simply go to the OA website and click on “July 4th” and you will see more information how to sponsor a flag.

Thanks again for your continued support.

**OA New Website
Coming Soon**

The Orinda Association is updating its website with new photos, new pages, easier accessibility and easier online payments. The new site should be up and running by the end of May. www.orindaassociation.org

celebration from being an Orinda-only initiative to one that involves our neighbors: we invited our friends from Lafayette and Moraga to join with us. This year, we anticipate having folks joining us from both cities, although we realize Moraga has its own town celebration as well. The Orinda Association’s board members hope that, by reaching out to our two neighboring communities, we can help sustain this wonderful event for many years to come and create a spirit of collaboration at the same time.

This year, the Orinda Association (OA) will be organizing the event for the 30th year, with some much-valued support again from the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF), the Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation, the Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce, the Orinda and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary clubs, the Roadrunners and other Lamorinda volunteers. And last but not least, we owe a great deal to our returning Title Sponsors, Orinda Motors (and Flying A, plus Orinda Auto Detail), and Mechanics Bank!

One final note: this year’s July 4th co-chairs are OA President Bill Waterman and OA board member Chris Laszcz-Davis, returning for a third time to co-chair the event! Preparations have already begun to make the day a fabulous success and

Resident Therapist Offers Help For Couples and Teens

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Orindan Elizabeth Rae Walker is a licensed marriage and family therapist who offers individual and couple treatment for teens and adults. “For individuals, I have a lot of experience in trauma, abuse and situational trauma. I work a lot with life and death situations. With couples, I can do pre-marital treatment or counseling to work on better communication or a deepening of their relationship. I have a business background so I can help people with work conflict or work frustrations. I also do your average chemical dependency, eating disorders and depression.” Walker has recently relocated her offices to Orinda. “I’ve done this for a little over 20 years. I worked mostly in Rockridge and switched to Orinda a little over a year ago,” added Walker.

Pre-marital counseling focuses on people who are thinking about getting married and want to be certain that the relationship will last. Walker said, “You want to make certain that you have really similar core values, because those are what will stay with you through your lifetime. If you don’t come together on certain ideas of how you structure your life and what’s important, then later on, understanding how you come together or collaborate to make decisions becomes more complicated. If you don’t come from that same foundation, or you don’t know how to work together in that way, or understand who that person is at that core, you’re in for some rocky roads ahead.” Common themes include: how do you feel about children – to have them or not, how to raise them; what are your ideas about finances; how much time do you spend together or apart; career goals – is that a couple’s decision or an individual decision. “These are things people sometimes don’t talk about because they feel like they’re in love and it’ll work out. It says a lot if you know something upfront about someone. You know what you’re buying into. You’re more adaptable at that point.

a celebration you will want to come back to year after year! If you are interested in joining our July 4 planning and implementation team this year, please call the OA office at 254-0800. We can certainly use all the wisdom, skills and talent our fellow Lamorindans can offer!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Elizabeth Rae Walker offers a variety of counseling options.

It’s when you feel blind-sided – I didn’t know that – You didn’t tell me – that you feel there’s more betrayal. There is less trust then,” added Walker.

Some of Walker’s work with late adolescent teens focuses on separation problems with their parents. Walker said, “At this point, how do you separate? A lot of conflict with teens is around that and developing their identity. Sometimes when people try to separate, they go to anger because that makes it easier. If you can get underneath that anger, look at how somebody feels and what their differences are, you can accept the differences in a different way. You leave to create your own identity but still stay connected to your parent on an emotional level. You turn that independence and that responsibility over in a gradual way, so that it doesn’t feel like you’re abruptly cutting them off or they’re cutting you off.”

Walker was educated at New College in San Francisco. “I went to New College in San Francisco because it really had a focus of looking at the person within the context of their life and trying to figure out how exactly they need help,” said Walker. “It’s more individualized and careful not to make assumptions about people. Overall, I’m more interactive. I don’t sit back like some people who have more of a neutral stance. Sometimes, I think that’s abandoning for people. I try to be more interactive when a person might need that -- give them enough room to say who they are, to come in and try to do something, not to wait to see how it all unfolds.”

For more information, contact Elizabeth Rae Walker, MFT# 31203, at 510-325-6060 or elizabethraewalker@sbcglobal.net.

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SENIORS / MODULAR HOUSE

Out of Isolation:
The Mobility Connections

By Mary Bruns,
Program Coordinator
Lamorinda Senior Transportation

Stephen Covey writes: “Courage is not the absence of fear but the awareness that something else is more important.” This wonderful statement has such a ring of truth that it could become a guiding principle for dealing with each new challenge in life. Life sometimes wears down our courage as we experience physical, mental, financial, or social changes as we age. Unless we are proactive with regular exercise, good nutrition, social interaction, and new learning we may experience less energy, lower confidence, and less of the internal drive with which to get out and about to be as active as we have been before.

Each time we decide not to push ourselves forward when faced with a challenge, we subtly agree to give up our personal power and take it easy; and the personal growth we wanted to accomplish falls by the wayside. This reduces our confidence and increases the feeling of being stressed by the next life challenge. A conscious effort is needed to get out of the house and away from the TV before isolation and loneliness increasingly creep in.

In the field of senior transportation, we are passionate about the need for older adults to remain active, independent and self-sufficient for as long as possible. In a recent edition of the online publication of “Walk the Talk,” Jim Rohn is quoted:

“Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.” And Brian Tracy adds, “If I had to pick the number one key to success, it would be self-discipline. It is the difference in winning or losing; between greatness and mediocrity.”

We know that to build a particular muscle, we need to do the specific exercise repeatedly. We don’t do one sit-up; we do five, building up to 10 on our way to 20, 30 or more. That’s what builds physical muscle and physical strength. In the same way, taking charge of our emotions, builds emotional muscle; mingling with other people on a regular basis builds social muscle and strength; and learning new things builds mental muscle, strength and agility.

The Senior Mobility Action Council, in partnership with John Muir’s Caring Hands, Meals on Wheels/Senior Outreach Services, Senior Helpline Services, Rehabilitation Services of Northern California, the Advisory Council on Aging, Chateau III, the CHP, the DMV and the Lamorinda Spirit Van, are sponsoring an upcoming event: “Out of Isolation – The Mobility Connections” on May 31, 2013 from 12 to 3:30 p.m. at John Muir Medical Center, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Dr. Carla Perissinotto from the UCSF Medical Center will discuss the findings of her study on isolation, loneliness, and its effect on older adults. Representatives from the DMV and the CHP will provide a presentation called: “Age Well, Drive Smart.” Folders of informational brochures



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seniors with the Lamorinda Spirit Van encourage seniors to use the ride service and stay active.

on transportation options will be provided. R.S.V.P. by May 17 to staff@mowsos.org or call 937-8311 and ask for Chris. This

event could be the first step in moving out of isolation into courage and greater fulfillment. Free box lunch. Parking is available.

Modular House Installed On Glorietta Road

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Local Architect Ted Urban has installed a pre-fabricated house on his lot at 173 Glorietta Road. Urban said, “This is a lot I’ve owned for 25 years. It’s a difficult lot because it’s along a creek, and it’s got overhead power lines which limit its actual space. It’s really got a small space to build. I always had in mind a relatively small home.” The house was delivered to the site the third week in February. “It’s under construction now. The interior is about 90 percent done. It’s 1,300 square feet with three bedrooms plus a den, and a common entry/living room/dining/kitchen area. You walk in and it’s your country living space,” added Urban.

Urban became interested in pre-fabricated houses due to his work at the Athenian school in Danville. Urban said, “I’ve been volunteering at Athenian for 15 years on

their facilities projects. They received a grant from the Mary Mae Foundation to build five faculty housing units. The grant required that we use pre-fabricated, modular structures.” The Mary Mae Foundation helps independent schools to fund the construction of faculty homes. “I took it on myself to find a company that would do this project for the school and in the process thought, ‘What if I put one of these on my lot?’ What if it could be designed in exactly the same way as I would design something for the Athenian school, so that when it’s up, we can walk through it, and we can see what we’re going to get before we contract the units?” added Urban.

With pre-fabricated or modular houses, “You’re mainly looking at time and cost, because you can get these constructed, built, delivered and installed much faster than conventionally. Because they’re done in a factory setting, their costs are usually much better managed, they can buy in bulk and there are so many other factors they can plug in that make it efficient and cost effective. And it is true, they are cost effective,” said Urban. Pre-fabricated and modular homes are very different from mobile homes. “This is a modular home as opposed to what you normally see as a double wide. A double wide comes in on wheels, is parked, jacked up, connected, and it can be moved. You inflate the tires

[SEE MODULAR page 16]



DAVID DIERKS

Prefabricated home located at 173 Glorietta.

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Lamorinda Spirit Van 283-3534

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Contra Costa Yellow Cab and DeSoto Company 284-1234

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Orinda Seniors Around Town 402-4506

Volunteer drivers serving Orinda seniors with free rides to appointments and errands. A program of the Orinda Association.

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◆ HOUSING from page 1

with the SCS and meet specified criteria, such as proximity to public transportation.

Regarding how this plan would affect Orinda, Mayor Amy Worth, who is also the current chair of the MTC, says, “The purpose of Plan Bay Area is to link housing and transportation planning and investment to reduce green house gas emissions and promote economic prosperity. Most of the planned housing will be in the 15 largest cities in the Bay Area, and the plan is designed to let cities keep the character of their towns as they plan them.”

Local groups such as Orinda Watch, formed to deal with the provisions of SB375, however, see SB375 and Plan Bay Area as a way to expand growth and take control away from local communities. “I think we are losing our local control,” says Orinda resident and Orinda Watch member Vince Maiorana. “Citizens have to know what is going on and not say ‘I didn’t know that’ when it’s too late.” To that end, Orinda Watch held a meeting at Lafayette’s Veteran’s Hall in March with approximately 350 people in attendance.

The California state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) prepares regional population growth projections for each Housing Cycle (currently 2007-2014) and also reviews local

housing elements for compliance with Housing Element law. Presently, Orinda’s allocation of the regional housing need for “very low” affordability is 70 units. The new Eden Senior housing currently under construction will have 66 of those units, coming very close to meeting the allocation. The total allocation for Orinda is 218 units of very low (70), low (48), moderate (55) and market (45) income levels. Mayor Worth says, “Orinda has been able to work towards achieving its affordable housing allocation by developing two affordable senior housing projects (Orinda Senior Village and the Eden Senior apartments). The Plan Bay Area provides that each city will plan for its future housing needs, at all income levels.”

Additionally, the Orinda Grove project, built on the site of the former JFK University and Orinda School district office, has a total of 73 units, eight of which are in the “moderate” category.

The Draft Plan Bay Area states that various groups played a key role in determining the plan. It says, “Business groups highlighted the need for more affordable workforce housing, removing regulatory barriers to infill development.” Environmental organizations “emphasized the need to improve transit access, retain open space, provide an adequate supply of housing to limit the number of people commuting into the region from nearby counties, and direct discretionary transportation funding to communities building housing in Primary Development Areas.” Equity organizations “focused on increasing access to housing and employment for residents of all income categories throughout the region.”

The 154-page draft plan states its creators reached out to the 7 million residents of the Bay Area, and “thousands of people participated in stakeholder sessions, public workshops, telephone and Internet surveys, and more.”

Some additional concerns from Orinda citizens revolve around how these housing allocations will affect police and fire services, schools and traffic. Also of concern is how much control Orinda citizens will be able to maintain regarding the future housing construction and general character of their town. Though SB 375 does not require local governments to amend their general plans to be consistent with RTP/SCS, there are financial incentives for towns to do so in the form of federal transportation funds. “Some of the incentives in SB375 include

Del Rey Sets World Record with Over 400 Hula Hoops

By CHARLIE JARRETT
Staff Writer

Orinda resident Eric Menke set the stage for a historic community first as 402 students from Orinda’s Del Rey Elementary School gathered to orchestrate an assault on another Guinness World Record -- the world’s largest hula hoop exercise demonstration.

It is no secret that breaking any world’s record can be a daunting task as Guinness World Records admits that it receives over 1,000 applications a week and that only three percent of those applications succeed in making the pages of the famous record book. Whether it is an attempt at breaking the record for the largest number of people to parachute from a balloon, or an attempt by 1564 participants to build the most sandcastles in one hour, these projects can be complicated and time consuming.

This attempt to set a new world’s record all came about as Menke and his daughter, Peyton, were perusing a copy of the *Guinness World Book of Records* that Menke had given her for Christmas. A particular event caught their attention. They discovered that the largest hula hoop workout record was held by 290 student participants at an elementary school in Kansas. Menke commented that if an elementary school could hold the record, then certainly it was obtainable by their own elementary school. When Peyton told him there were approximately



CHARLIE JARRETT
Del Rey students perform their hula hoop routine that won them a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

400 students at Del Rey, he responded, “Well then, we’re going to go for it!”

Menke began the project by sending letters to the publication company and telling them Del Rey Elementary School would like to attempt to overturn the Kansas record. Several months later, Guinness responded with the requirements and materials necessary for them to sanction the event. From that point on, it was all about orchestrating and practicing for the event.

“This was all about going for a dream, about believing in yourself, and that anything you put your mind to was possible,” said Menke. “That’s what motivated us to do it. It was to create a teaching opportunity for the children.”

Del Rey principal Kirsten Theurer signed [SEE DEL REY page 24]



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grant money for transportation,” Maiorana says. “What happens to the grant money if the City of Orinda does not build like ABAG and MTC want?”

The Bay Area Plan also lists mandatory targets, “Two (of the 10) targets are not only ambitious; they are also mandated by state law.” The first mandatory target addresses climate protection by “requiring the Bay Area to reduce its per-capita CO2 emissions from cars and light-duty trucks by 15 percent by 2040.” The second mandatory target “addresses adequate housing by requiring the region to house 100 percent of its projected population growth by income level.” The eight voluntary targets are concerned with such items as promoting healthy and safe communities by reducing premature deaths from air pollution, increasing the amount of time people walk or cycle for transportation, protecting open space and agricultural lands. Other targets address equity concerns, economic vitality

and transportation effectiveness. Regarding local control, Mayor Worth emphasizes, “Cities continue to have local control over all zoning decisions, and local cities have a choice about how their cities evolve.”

ABAG and MTC held open houses/public hearings during April with two more on May 1 to solicit input from local communities. The Contra Costa County open house/public hearing took place on April 22 in Walnut Creek (after press deadline). Local residents can still comment on the Draft Plan Bay Area by emailing info@onebayarea.org or mailing responses to MTC, Plan Bay Area Public Comment, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607. Comments are due by 4 p.m. on May 16.

Additional information on Plan Bay Area is available at www.abag.ca.gov.

Editor Sally Hogarty contributed to this story.

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CLASSIC CAR SHOW / LOCAL AUTHORS

OA and Rotary Step Up To Help Organize Classic Car Show



DAVID DIERKS
OA president **Bill Waterman** and Orinda Rotary's **Jack Bontemps** and **Sue Breedlove** have joined forces to help produce the Orinda Classic Car Show and Dancing with the Cars.

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

The Orinda Classic Car Show will return this year on September 20 through 22. This year, the Orinda Association (OA) and Rotary Club of Orinda are stepping up to help take some of the load off of original organizers Chip and Carolyn Herman. The OA takes over the back-office logistics while Rotary has taken over the Friday evening event. "I'm really excited at how our local organizations are coming together to work on the car show. The Orinda Rotary has stepped up to take over the Dancing with the Cars event, and they have a great theme and location, and the Orinda Association is taking over so much of the logistics," said Chip Herman.

Bill Waterman, president of the OA said, "We're basically going to handle the whole registration process for the car show. Before, Chip and Carolyn would handle all that." Chip Herman said, "Carolyn told me that if I wanted to continue having a happy marriage that I'd better get some help with the car show."

The OA is releasing a new version of their website in May and a section will be devoted to the registration process for the Car Show. The OA will also be creating the placards that are placed in each vehicle, containing owner information and unique features of the vehicle. "That is a nice thing that this show does that some other car shows don't do," added Waterman.

Last year, Rotary helped with the live auction during the Dancing with the Cars event and provided volunteers for both the

dinner and the Car Show. Jack Bontemps, president of Rotary and Barbara Bontemps were asked to help again this year. "Chip and Carolyn were really interested in getting Rotary's sponsorship of the dinner. They had attended an event that I put on as one of the auction items that we offered last year, and thought I might be interested in chairing the dinner. I'm doing that on behalf of Rotary. We're very excited about it," said Barbara Bontemps. The location for Dancing with the Cars has not been finalized, but Bontemps said, "Our theme is going to be sort of a roaring '20s/Great Gatsby/speakeasy/flapper vibe. We're hoping to get upwards of 250 people. We're hoping to repeat the success of last year's dinner and maybe do a little better in terms of the fundraising. We held a live auction at the dinner last year, and we raised a little over \$55,000 for Orinda non-profit groups."

For more information, visit www.orindacarshow.com.

Lamorinda Sunrise
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and Car Show

Gala - May 18 at 5:30 p.m.
Veterans' Memorial Building,
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Proceeds benefit Lafayette Library
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Car Show - June 16, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Golden Gate Way, Lafayette

www.motorama.us

Editor's Note: Art and Gladys Jensen discovered the following poem when they moved into their Orinda home in the early 1960s. If anyone knows who wrote it or any of the people referred to, contact news@orindaassociation.org.

An Ode to Orinda . . . By the Rounder

Their Cattle get chased and their dogs get shot;
They build their homes on other guys' lots.
The rattlesnakes roam through the brush next door
And they swear up and down they can stand no more.
Their homes get robbed while the Sheriff's away;
Their hills are filled with foxes at lay.
They fight mosquitoes and moths in their oaks
And have to listen to FRED BECKNER'S jokes.
They ruin their cars and need vaulting poles
To get across some of the county road holes.
They pay through the nose to have grocery bills
And then help to fill the Tunnel Strip's tills.
But despite all the trials that turn their hair grey.
Those doggoned Orindans just won't move away.
For regardless of trouble and worry and strife
They stagger along gasping "This is the life."

Author Combines Literary Skills with Environmental Background

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Cinda Crabbe MacKinnon adds to the richness of the incredible pool of talented local writers who call Orinda home with her new novel *A Place in the World*. "The moment you read the first paragraph, you are hooked ... caught up in the beauty and wonders of the lush rainforest of Colombia," says fellow author Nona Mock Wyman. "MacKinnon's gift for weaving intrigue, adventure and passion ... into the lives of ordinary people ... is sheer pleasure culminating ... in a riveting climax."

MacKinnon, who lives in Orinda with her husband Tom and their golden retriever, grew up in Latin America. She began telling stories to her little brother when they were children in Bogotá. Her experiences and love for the people, culture and natural setting of Colombia resulted in her novel. A writer, former university lecturer, and environmental scientist, she has an MS in geology and a longtime passion for botany. This background enabled her to weave details into her writing on tropical nature and geology, as well as Colombian society.

Published by Multicultural Press/VBW, *A Place in the World* tells of a young woman struggling to make a life for herself and her son after her Colombian husband deserts her. Left on her in-laws' coffee plantation high in the Andes, she discovers her passion for the rainforest and the people despite the threat of guerrilla uprisings and

[SEE AUTHOR page 24]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cinda MacKinnon will read from her new novel at Orinda Books on May 18.

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ordinate and implement set up, making sure the market offers convenient shopping and diversity. Look for the raffle box at the information table to deposit your recent Orinda postcard mailer for a chance to win free market produce.

Fava bean aficionados flock to the market this time of year for their supply of this fresh shell bean that’s as versatile as it is nutritious. When mature, fava beans contain 25 to 30 per cent protein – more than any other common bean except soybean. Favas are also an excellent source of Vitamin C and a good source of folate.

Bushy fava bean plants grow quickly to reach 4 to 5 feet, and produce prodigious amounts of green, velvety pods. Each pod may grow as long as 18 inches, but most are picked and marketed at the 7 to 9 inch stage when the 5 to 7 beans inside are still tender. When opened you’ll find each bean sitting comfortably inside the fuzzy lined pod.

Most often found in the fresh shell stage, fava beans can actually be eaten during other stages of their development – tender greens, young pods and dried. During fava bean season, farmers’ markets are one of the best places to seek out fresh favas. Choose fava pods that are moist, feel firm and look full without bulging. (Those beans past their prime still make excellent additions to soups or pureed in sauces).


Bring some patience to keep you company you when you sit down to prepare fava beans – each mature bean is encased in a skin that is generally removed. To prepare, remove favas from the pod and drop into a large pot filled with about 2 inches of boiling water. Cover and simmer gently for one or two minutes. Cool under cold water, drain and slip the beans out of their skins by pinching open the end of the bean opposite the end that connected it to the pod. If you

[SEE SHOPPER page 18]


Orinda Listings By Laura Abrams

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PERFORMING ARTS

Young Dancers to Perform *Swan Lake* in Mid-May

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Patricia Tomlinson, artistic director of Orinda Ballet Academy and Company brings a long history and wealth of knowledge to her company’s upcoming performance of *Swan Lake*. The ballet company will mount its production May 17-19 at the Orinda Library Auditorium/Theatre.

Tomlinson has danced over 100 full-length performances of Ben Stevenson’s *Swan Lake*, including several soloist roles, while touring nationally and internationally with the Houston Ballet.

“This gave me much experience to pull from while setting the ballet,” said Tomlinson, who adds that even at the “ripe old age of 136 years old,” Tchaikovsky’s score “is as enchanting and mesmerizingly beautiful” as it was when first performed in 1877.

The ballet “is a great challenge for ballet students,” said Tomlinson. “It is one of the purest of classical pieces with lots of classical *port de bra* (arm positions), which helps to strengthen how the students use and hold their arms as well as strengthen their muscles.”

Tomlinson explains that although the dance steps are academic, “the dances themselves demand stamina.” She points out that performers must work completely in unison at times, which demands precision.

“There is also *corps de ballet* work where the students must maintain specific



SALLY HOGARTY
Kendall Sparks and Patricia Tomlinson perform a scene from the Spanish Dance for Orinda Ballet’s *Swan Lake*.

formations and lines while they dance. This requires complete team work, and they are doing a wonderful job.”

“The ballet itself is very rich in its great dramatic story line that the students love,” Tomlinson said, adding it is “lots of fun to act out.”

Tomlinson added, “I loved performing the dramatic roles and acting, alongside the historic dancing, when I was performing this ballet. It has been around for centuries, and the music and drama still makes me

cry at the end of the ballet. Many historical dancers have performed these roles, and there is lots of inspiration out there to watch.”

Professional guest artists will join the Orinda Ballet to bring *Swan Lake* to life. They include: Kristin Lindsay (Odette and Odile); Bobby Briscoe (Prince Siegfried); and Kendall Sparks (Von Rothbart).

Tomlinson describes Sparks, who has performed with Orinda Ballet for the past four seasons, as “a wonderful dancer” who “brings to the stage over 30 years of professional experience.” Sparks has been on staff with the Orinda Ballet as a master teacher since 2011.

According to Tomlinson, Briscoe and Lindsay dance with Company C, the local professional dance company that resides in Walnut Creek.

“Ballet is important for all ages because [SEE SWAN page 20]

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Artistic Director, Patricia Tomlinson

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Auditions for Lamorinda Idol Take Place in May

By KATHY G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Young vocalists from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are gearing up for auditions for the 8th Annual Lamorinda Idol competition to be held May 16-18 at the Orinda Theatre.

The young performers will share their talents as they compete for cash prizes. Participants also have the opportunity to receive feedback from a panel of celebrity judges, who are professionals in the performing arts world.

Soloists will compete in four categories, divided by grade, and groups will compete in three categories, also divided by grade. The contest raises money for, as well as promotes, the Orinda Arts Council, which

sponsors the event. Auditions are open to all Lamorinda K-12th graders, and up to 10 finalists in each category will be chosen to perform in the show on September 8, 2013 at the Orinda Theatre.

Tosca Maltzman, who has participated for four years in the program, said she is excited about her past experience, and hopeful that she will be included in this year’s show.

“Orinda Idol is a great performing opportunity as well as a positive experience,” the Miramonte High School sophomore said. “There’s always a really responsive audience which makes it fun to perform. Everyone involved is really talented and supportive of each other.”

For more information, go to www.orindaartscouncil.org.



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Complete 12 reps and then switch to the other side.

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or www.thelivingleanprogram.com.

The Neighborhood Swimming Hole for Lazy Summer Days



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oak Springs Pool provides plenty of space for swimming or just enjoying the sun.

By FRAN MILLER
Staff Writer

It's a swim club without a swim team - a Lamorinda anomaly - and it's what makes Oak Springs Pool special. The 50 families who comprise the pool's membership roster never have to plan around Saturday swim meets. They don't have to wait for the end of weekday swim practice in order to take a dip. They never have to

navigate between swim team tents and sleeping bags, and they've never had to "time" or "shepherd" for four hours on a cold and foggy summer morning.

Oak Springs is a pool for those seeking the informality of a lazy summer day spent with family, friends and neighbors. It's a throwback to a simpler time that so many adults wistfully remember; a place that has changed little in the past 80 years. Sure, some upgrades have taken place, like a renovated clubhouse with complete working kitchen, solar heating which keeps the pool water at a consistent and comfortable 80 degrees, and wi-fi. But it remains an oasis, surrounded by oak trees and an ivy-covered hillside. Member Steve Meagher grew up near the pool in the late sixties and remembers spending nearly every summer day there. At lunchtime, he and his friends would walk from the pool to Black's Market to buy bread and salami, and then head back for the rest of the afternoon. When

[SEE SWIMMING page 18]

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young campers at Orinda Afternoons hike nearby trails.

trip to Crab Cove; the Martinez Regional Shoreline and the Berkeley Marina. Learn about the Bay and its ecosystem. Week 6 - Flora and Fauna: Catch and release crayfish; explore Kennedy and Briones Regional Parks; identify birds and waterfowl.

63rd Annual Rotary Field Day, Saturday, May 11

By BARBARA BONTEMPS
Contributing Writer

All Orinda students in grades 3 to 5 are invited to participate in the 63rd Annual Frank Isola Field Day – a great day of track and field events, including school relays – on Saturday, May 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at Del Rey School.

Named for former Orinda teacher, administrator and Rotarian Frank Isola, Field Day is open to all Orinda third, fourth and

fifth grade boys and girls. Teams from each of Orinda's four elementary schools engage in friendly competition in a variety of track and field events such as the 50-yard dash, the long jump and relay races, as well as athletic challenges such as the basketball shoot, football throw and sack race.

Medals are awarded for each competition and the winning school team takes home the prized Field Day annual trophy.

Sponsored by the Orinda Rotary, the event is free.

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ANIMALS

◆ MODULAR from page 9

and you roll it off. A modular home comes in on a steel frame. The tires and the whole frame are removed and the house is actually set on a permanent foundation. It's the same construction you would do if you had a stick builder do it," added Urban.

Urban's house was built by Karsten, a modular home builder with facilities in California, Oregon, New Mexico and Texas. "The Karsten factory is in Rancho Cordova and is a very interesting process to watch,"

said Urban. "They have an assembly line and start with a steel frame and then go down to the next station. They have about eight stations, and by the time it gets to the last station, it's all finished. Very efficient and they crank out a house a week. For a 1,400 square foot house, you could buy a relatively nicely appointed and complete home for about \$90,000, plus foundation, which is usually about \$15,000."

For more information on modular housing, visit www.karstenhomes.com and www.athenian.org.



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Roll Up Your Sleeves and Wash that Dog for Charity

By Jennifer Conroy
Staff Writer

What are you doing on Saturday, May 4? If you ask Baker Sharp of Orinda, he'll tell you that he hopes you'll be washing your dog. Take your dog for a wash at Pet Food Express stores in Lafayette, Pleasant Hill, Concord, or Danville that day and 100 per cent of the fee you pay will go to saving cats and dogs, especially dogs like Truman.

Who is Baker Sharp? And, what's so special about a dog named Truman?

Sharp is a 7th grader at Orinda Intermediate School and a participant in the school's Take Action Project (TAP). Truman, well, he just happens to be Baker's best friend and the inspiration for the project Sharp is undertaking.

TAP requires that students find problems that affect lives and come up with solutions. Sharp readily shares that some of the projects chosen include global warming, clean



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Baker Sharp, shown with his dog Truman, organized a "dog wash" that helps dogs like Truman find happy homes.

water and endangered species. For him, however, it is the "awesome friend" he finds waiting at the gate of his yard every

[SEE FUNDRAISING page 22]

Something to Howl About... Animal Tales Get Ready for Spring

Jennifer Conroy



Spring is here and with it comes opportunities and challenges. Let's look at some opportunities. Spring is the perfect time to give your pet's area a thorough clean up and refurbishment. Wash that pet bed cover or treat your cat or dog to a brand new one. How are those food and water bowls looking? Perhaps, it's time for a new set. And what about collars and leashes? Is it time for your pet to be more "fashion forward" with a nice new collar?

Your smaller critters may enjoy some changes as well – new plants for the aquarium, new habitats for hamsters, mice, and rats, new swing for the budgie. Go online to see what's new at your favorite pet supply store and also check to see if they are offering coupons.

Spring harkens us to the garden where

we should focus attention on plants harmful to pets. The Humane Society of the United States has a wonderful table of plants harmful to animals. You can access it by going to www.humanesociety.org. The common oleander has leaves highly poisonous to animals. All parts of the day lily are especially poisonous to cats! And the bulb of that harbinger of spring, the daffodil, is also poisonous. If you have animals, you will want to invest in plants that are safe. For example, the African daisy is dog and cat friendly and some herbs, such as pennyroyal, lay claim to being flea repellents.

Spring is also the time to gear up for those pariahs of pets – fleas and ticks. Fleas are lurking, ready to hatch, and before you can say "Grab the flea spray," they will be

[SEE HOWL page 22]



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GARDEN

Glorietta Couple Create Low Maintenance Garden

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

What do you do if you are tired of your garden with its “mow and blow” maintenance? Theresa Larson and Fred Strauss found an answer that works for them. They covered their almost half acre yard with a foot of wood chips. “It took about eight truck loads, but it was free,” Fred comments. “And, it killed all the lawn, weeds, anything that was growing there. That gave us the base to plant what we like best, succulents.”

The on-going project began about two and a half years ago, but the improvements are dramatic. Strauss, a landscape designer, has added enriched soil to make different sizes and shapes of mounds. He is careful to place each plant in good soil, whether in the mulch or on mounds. In flat areas, he pushes the mulch back around the plant; the mounds are covered with gravel to prevent erosion and give another texture to the area. There is an incredible variety, which Strauss says includes some 40 plant families, represented by approximately 75 Genera and at least 190 species. His favorites tend to be various Agaves and lots of Cacti, Aloes and Euphorbia, with the addition of some California natives such as the brilliant orange poppies, and willowy grasses. He and Larson are happy all of this takes very little water and requires almost no maintenance after plants are established, and definitely no “mow and blow.”

But the fence, which goes 100 feet along one side of the lot, is probably what causes the most comments. It has two six foot tall courses built twelve inches apart. Made of two inch square raw steel wire, it is black on arrival but soon turns a lovely rust color. The center space is filled with wood chips. Often, people stop when driving by



SALLY HOGARTY

Fred Strauss and Theresa Larson had turned their front and back yards into succulent paradises.

on Glorietta to ask about it and most have very positive comments.

The unique fence was built because of the wandering deer in the area who love to feast on local gardens. But, Strauss and Larson wanted their yard to have an open, inviting feeling so they decided to try four inch square raw steel fencing, welded to pipe for framing. The fence encircles the back and side yards. It’s nearly invisible but keeps the deer from those areas. Strauss says it rusts very slowly and will outlast the life of the house.

The 60-year-old house had a raised wooden deck, with railing, going out from the kitchen and nothing on the opposite side where an addition was made. Strauss wanted to unify the two spaces and create decks at near ground level that would be more intimately connected to the garden. He tore out the deck, and built two large, round ones for each space – a lily pad effect. Then, he carefully cut the old concrete patio into large rectangles to create walkways

connecting the two decks, and the old red-wood hot tub, which has been transformed [SEE LANDSCAPE page 24]



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CONTINUATION

◆ **SHOPPER** from page 12

find yourself with an over abundance of beans, freeze in a single layer on a tray and pack in air-tight freezer bags for later use.

Fava beans are also known as broad beans, horse beans or Windsor beans, but whatever you choose to call them they are best prepared simply. Sauté in a little olive oil and diced shallot or try them cold added to green or pasta salads.

Stalks of asparagus are still fat, juicy and tender. As the season winds down next month, the stalks begin to thin to my dismay. But some shoppers seek out the thinner versions so just choose what makes you happy to cook gently and slice and toss into a dish of orzo or risotto.

May is also the beginning of the short, once-a-year crop of local sweet cherries. Early varieties like Tulare and Burlat taste delicious after a long fall and winter hiatus, but it's pretty much a sure thing the cherries just get better as the weeks progress. Brooks are great and Bings continue to be the cherry on the top, coming at the end of the cherry season - these fruits are "solid" and full of juice and flavor.

Rainier (Royal Ann or Napoleon) cherries ripen mid-season with a beautiful yellow, red-blushed skin. Rainiers bruise easily and generally cost more than other varieties, but when you're looking for a subtle cherry flavor and fine texture Rainiers are your cherry of choice.

Cherries require cold temperature and high humidity for optimum storage time. If necessary place single layers of unwashed cherries between paper towels in a container, cover and refrigerate for up to 4 days.

The Orinda Farmers' market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park and Rite Aid. For more information, visit the website at www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

All of us are looking forward to seeing

our farmers' market family and friends. Be sure to stop by the information table if you come with any questions, concerns or comments or would like some free community news, recipes or a copy of *Edible East Bay Magazine*. Barbara Kobsar, The Seasoned Shopper, can be reached at cotkitchen@aol.com

Fava Bean & Pecorino Crostini

This is a simple but very tasty appetizer! The fava paste may be made a day in advance and kept in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Refrigerate the whole favas in a separate small container.

2 pounds fresh fava beans, removed from pods (about 1 and one quarter cups)
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint (optional)
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
24 crostini
Shaved pecorino cheese, for garnish (3 to 4 ounces)

Bring a medium pot of water to a boil and add the fava beans. Boil for a couple of minutes, then drain and rinse under cold water. Using your fingers, peel the outer skin off the beans and discard. Separate 3 tablespoons of fava beans and set aside.

Place the remaining favas, olive oil, mint, lemon juice and salt and pepper to taste in the bowl of a food processor and quickly pulse to create a thick, chunky paste. Transfer the fava mixture to a small bowl.

Spread about 1 teaspoon of fava paste onto each crostini. Garnish each crostini with the remaining whole favas. Top each with shaved Pecorino cheese and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Clafoutis

This classic French recipe for Clafoutis typically uses cherries, but you can use plums, peaches, pears or a combination of

fruits. My recipe uses a batter topping – others use more of a pudding.

1 and one quarter pounds cherries (about 3 cups)
One quarter cup sugar
One third cup flour
Pinch of salt
3 eggs
1 cup cold, two per cent milk
One half teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Wash and drain the cherries. Remove stems and stones. Place the cherries in a lightly buttered small (about 6" x 6") baking dish and sprinkle with half the sugar. In a bowl, combine the flour, salt and remaining sugar. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, followed by the cold milk and vanilla extract. Continue mixing until the batter is smooth. Pour the batter evenly over the cherries. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until the top is puffed and golden. Sprinkle the clafoutis with a little powdered sugar if desired.

Serve lukewarm or cold. Serves 4.

◆ **ADOBE** from page 1

says Kent Long, FJMA president. "We are thrilled that it will finally be available for the public to appreciate, after being privately owned for all of its 170 year history."

Under the terms of the agreement, FJMA will purchase the adobe and surrounding parcel for \$500,000, including establishment of a fund for ongoing maintenance and operation. The purchase amount will be used to pay for up to one-half of the cost of restoration of the adobe to its original 1840's configuration and preparation of the site for public access as a museum and learning center.

"Now the hard work of raising money for the purchase price begins, but we have already seen an impressive level of support from the local community and outside the area as well," Long explains. The J&J Ranch partners also see the significance of preserving the adobe and have committed the funds from the purchase price towards restoration of the house.

◆ **SWIMMING** from page 14

Meagher returned to the area about 10 years ago with his wife and family, nostalgia led him to purchase a home near Oak Springs. He wanted his children to experience the same carefree summer days that shaped him.

"The pool hasn't changed much since I was a kid," says Meagher who recalls a strong sense of community at Oak Springs, and a general sense of well-being. "It did experience a decline in the mid-90s, but several caring community members stepped-in to oversee a refurbishment. My family has used the pool and club house for our rehearsal dinner, my mom's retirement party, family birthday parties, and we plan to have our family Thanksgiving dinner there this year."

Meagher's wife April echoes her husband's sentiments about Oak Springs, "This is such a gem that embodies the friendliness of Orinda and the small community/family feeling we have experienced here. There is always a lounge chair available and all of the members get to know each other and become like a small summer family. We do a potluck BBQ on the 4th of July where the kids play games, such as diving for quarters – something Steve did as a kid."

Built in 1929 by Orinda resident Nathan Gray, the pool was originally spring-fed. It became central to the neighborhood in the 1940s when a rustic clubhouse was added. Solar panels brought it into the 1980s, and

further improvements have made the still rustic-looking clubhouse secretly state-of-the art. It features a large furnished recreation room, 42" flat screen TV with cable, multimedia center, wet bar, dining area, fireplace, banquet tables and chairs. (Non-members are welcomed and encouraged to rent the clubhouse for special events such as family reunions, weddings, fundraising events, meetings and even sleepovers.)


The pool itself ranges in depth from 3.5 feet to 9 feet and has a wading pool and a diving board – and it never feels crowded. "It's like having your own private pool, without the maintenance," says Meagher.

Membership at Oak Springs is annual – families, couples and individuals pay by the year and there is no buy-in fee. Pool treasurer Kathleen Duffy estimates that membership could easily double and the pool would still feel leisurely and spacious. The pool officially opens Memorial Day and is open weekends until June 8 when it is open every day until Labor Day weekend. For more information, visit www.oakspringspool.com.

For information on Orinda's other swim clubs, please visit their websites:

Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, 20 Heather Lane: www.gomeadow.com
Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club, 1 Sunnyside Lane: www.sleepyhollowlegends.net
Moraga Valley Swim & Tennis Club, 15 Risa Ct.: www.moragavalleypool.org
Orinda Park Pool, 72 El Toyonal: www.orindaparkpool.org

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FILM



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OTHER MATTERS OF DIZZYING
HEIGHTS



Tom Westlake

May maybe short in letters, but that is about the only thing short about what's happening during this Merry Month. Though Vanessa's deposition continues, the Rheem is more than making up for it with a special event that will definitely put that beleaguered theater on the map – more about that later in this column and in the story on this page. First, let's start with the monthly offering from the International Film Showcase

I must admit that when I first read the synopsis of *Starbuck*, I was somewhat taken aback. Basically, it tells the story of one David Wozniak aka Starbuck, who, despite his own lackadaisical nature is, not only about to get married but is also due to be a father. His past, however, threatens to compromise his future. I won't go into specifics here, but suffice it to say, the ensuing situation he finds himself in is more akin to the kind of farcical situation that is the mainstay of American cinema, and even as we speak, an American version of this film (called *Delivery Man*) is underway starring Vince Vaughn. But the International Film Showcase's *Starbuck* is a French/Canadian enterprise that attempts to rise above the attitude prevalent in so many movies. It is, therefore, recommended that an effort be made to see this film before the (possibly) lesser American version gets released. You will get your chance to do so during the week of May 3 at the Orinda Theatre.

The second film on the list is so different from *Starbuck* that I gave up even trying to write a clever segue between the two. *Vertigo* is one of those multi-hyphenate films. Not only is it widely regarded as Alfred Hitchcock's finest, most romantic film, but it's also a love letter to San Francisco. Hitchcock made several films in the Bay Area but *Vertigo* stands apart from them all due to its languid pacing and the way the camera makes both the city and Kim Novak look good. It's also amazing that Jimmy Stewart has absolutely no trouble parking, even around the City Hall area. Hitchcock may have been the Master of Suspense but even that takes suspension a little too far. Be that as it may, *Vertigo* will screen at the Orinda Theatre on May 9 at 7 p.m.

Moving onto the Rheem Theatre, the Moraga Movers will be presenting *A Place in the Sun* starring Montgomery Clift, Elizabeth Taylor and Shelly Winters. This 1951 film has all the elements of what many used to call "soap opera." Indeed, it's safe to say that every single one of the Seven Deadly Sins get a real workout here, what

with Clift's wandering romantic ways, avid social climbing, and ultimate downfall. It also features the possible beginnings of a well known TV lawyer. It will screen on May 15 at 4 p.m. at the Rheem Theatre.

Of the four major film programs that show classic and sometimes not so classic films, the most popular would probably be the Classic Films Showcase that will be screening *Vertigo* this month. Derek Zemrak, who oversees all of these programs, came up with an idea to enhance the showcase as well as the venue that hosts it.

This month will see the launch of the Classic Film Hall of Fame. This enhancement will manifest itself by, not only showing classic and/or well-loved movies but will include celebrities who are either directly or indirectly involved with the film. There is even talk of opening the second level of the theatre to house a museum dedicated to movie memorabilia as well as starting a Hollywood Walk of Fame right here in Lamorinda. In many ways, we are well on our way towards our own version of Xanadu – the only question now being, where could we put a "stately pleasure dome?"

At any rate, May 10 - 12 will be the dates to set aside for this event, and Derek has arranged for a quadruple threat to start it out with a bang.

In no particular order, the films that will comprising this event include *National Velvet*, the film that propelled Elizabeth Taylor to stardom as well as legitimizing the near symbiosis so many young girls have towards horses. This will be followed by an appearance by *Velvet*'s co-star, the legendary Mickey Rooney. The original *Frankenstein* will also screen and Sara Karloff, Boris Karloff's daughter will be on hand to answer questions afterwards. Following on the theme, the next film on the list will be *Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein* with special guest Chris Costello (Costello's daughter) attending. Finally, a special repeat showing of the Mel Brooks/Gene Wilder comedy classic *Young Frankenstein* will be highlighted with an appearance by none other than Cloris Leachman! The event will close with all of these luminaries being inducted into the Rheem Classic Film Hall of Fame. For specific dates and times, please visit www.LamorindaTheatres.com.

And that's it for this month. Isn't this enough? Till next time, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the true magic lies.

Classic Film Hall of Fame Now at Rheem Theatre

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Lamorinda area now has its very own piece of Hollywood with the establishment of the Classic Film Hall of Fame at the Rheem Theatre.

According to president and founder of the California Independent Film Festival Association Derek Zemrak, the Hall of Fame will induct new honorees semi-annually with each honoree receiving a framed picture on the wall along with an interactive video presentation on his or her life. Hollywood memorabilia will also be displayed at the theater giving a glimpse of cinematic history and the stars that made it possible.

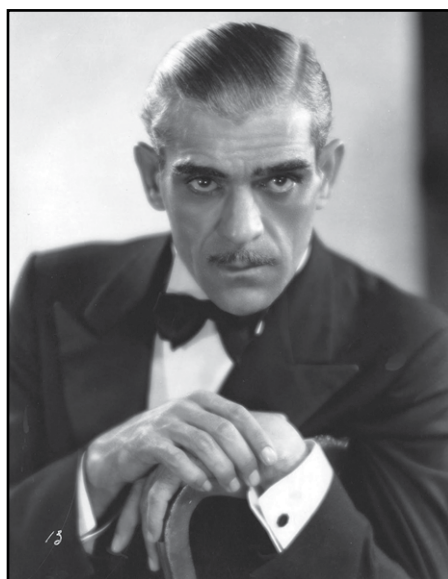
According to Zemrak, the Rheem Theatre is a fitting location for the Hall of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bud Abbott and Lou Costello are among the inaugural inductees.

takes place on Sunday at the Rheem Theatre. The first inductees include: Mickey Rooney, who made over 350 films during his career; the late Abbott and Costello, who made numerous movies and starred in their own television show; the late Boris Karloff, who appeared in more than 45 silent films; and Cloris Leachman, whose career spans both television and movies. Rooney and Leachman will be attending along with Chris Costello (daughter of Lou Costello), and Sara Karloff (daughter of Boris Karloff). Representative films for all inductees will be shown during the Classic Film weekend with the honorees available for questions following each presentation. For developing news on the festivities, go to www.LamorindaTheatres.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boris Karloff will also be inducted in the May ceremony.

Fame. Built by Donald Rheem in 1957, it was the first stadium seat theater in the country and boasted a moveable screen on wheels, which allowed it to be removed for live stage performances. Donald Rheem was also one of the largest shareholders in Paramount Studios during its infancy and a close friend of William Randolph Hearst.

The first inductee ceremony fittingly occurs over the May 10-12 Classic Film weekend, which includes screenings at both the Rheem Theatre in Moraga and the Orinda Theatre. The actual ceremony



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mickey Rooney will attend the induction ceremony.



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AROUND TOWN



Gavin Pickens (L), a 5th grader at Wagner Ranch Elementary School, finishes a wildlife puzzle at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area's Wildlife Festival on April 21.

◆ FLYING A from page 7

Car Show – were either founded by or have Orinda Motors Inc. as their primary sponsor. In addition, Orinda Motors and Flying A staff spend countless hours volunteering at these events. “We support numerous auctions and fundraisers at the various Orinda schools and often have Scouts holding their fundraising car washes at Orinda Motors,” Pennebaker adds.

At this year’s OBA opening day, the crew

from Orinda Motors handed out Orinda Motors Rewards Cards with prizes that included a free set of tires and a \$100 gift card. The OM booth was the most popular one around as OM staff held a “Guess the Number of Wiffle Balls” contest and handed out Big League Chew and Baby Ruths to OBA players who entered. “We love being a part of the OBA Opening Day tradition,” says OM manager John Vanek. “It is the perfect way for Orinda Motors to show its support of the community.”



Handing out Big League Chew and Baby Ruth candy bars made the OM booth at OBA very popular. Above are Orinda Auto Detail manager **Joe Torbati** (L) and Express Oil Change and Tire manager **Jeff Joyce** (R) with OBA players (L-R) **Micah Elias**, **Christopher Butner** and **Greg Kornguth**.

◆ SWAN from page 13

it is a classical art form that speaks to one’s soul. We all need to have art in our lives,” said Tomlinson, pointing out that the ballet has both audio and visual components that audiences can “feast on.”

Tomlinson, who began formal training with Elizabeth Carroll and Melissa Hayden in Saratoga, New York, has studied at the School of American Ballet where she was coached by George Balanchine, Alexan-

dra Danilova, Peter Martins, and Helgi Tomasson.

Following her career as a professional dancer, Tomlinson has shared her love of dance as a teacher, ballet mistress and choreographer for the past 16 years.

Swan Lake will be performed May 17-19 at Orinda Library Theatre. Shows are May 17 at 6:30 p.m., May 18 at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., and May 19 at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. General Admission tickets are \$18 and available through brownpapertickets.com.

National Honors for Three Oakland Strokes Rowers

U.S. Rowing recently announced its Scholastic Honor Roll and three Oakland Strokes Rowers made the list.

The U.S. Rowing Scholastic Honor Roll recognizes high school seniors who have excelled in both academics and rowing. Applicants must be U. S. Rowing members, have rowed or coxed at least one year, and successfully competed at or above the league or regional level.

Elizabeth Pate and Matthew Coupin, both of Miramonte High School, were among the 55 student athletes designated.

Caroline Carper, who attends Alameda High School, was one of 73 named in the Honorable Mention category.

This fall, Elizabeth Pate will row on the Women’s Lightweight team at Harvard University and Matthew Coupin will row



(L-R) **Elizabeth Pate**, **Caroline Carper** and **Matthew Coupin**.

Men’s heavyweight at MIT. Caroline Carper will cox at Brown University.

Community Comes Out in Force for Orinda Action Day



Action Day volunteers dig out the seats from the Community Center Amphitheater in preparation for Orinda Starlight Village Players 30th Anniversary season.



An Orinda Action Day crew picks up litter along Orinda Way across the street from Orinda Motors.

The fifth annual Orinda Action Community Service Day on April 20 saw individuals, families and various groups out in force to beautify their community. Whether cleaning up trash, painting, weeding or raking, everyone turned their enthusiasm into lots of hard work. The day, which started at 9 a.m., ended at noon at the Library Plaza for pizza and fun.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



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STUDENTS

Odyssey of the Mind State Champions Advance to the World Tournament



(L-R) Coach Amy Inouye, Sarah Inouye, Caroline Kim, Sullivan Jordan, Leah Sopak, Stephanie Wu, Coach Michael Kim.

Glorietta Elementary School’s fifth grade Odyssey of the Mind team took first place at the Odyssey of the Mind State tournament in March. This follows their first place finish at the regional competition. Their 15 gram, 8 inch tall balsa wood structure supported 530 pounds, traveled down a ramp and then moved to the weight tester without being touched – all of this incorporated and presented in a creative eight-minute commercial. They were judged on weight held, creativity and ability to solve a separate spontaneous problem. The team will be representing the State of California, Orinda and Glorietta at the World Finals, held May 22-25 in Michigan.

AAUW Celebrates Young Woman with Awards and Scholarships

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

On April 21, six seventh grade girls described their passion for science and math and five high school girls and one St. Mary’s College student shared how receiving an AAUW (American Association of University Women) scholarship will help them achieve their career dreams. It was all part of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of AAUW’s annual scholarship awards program.

carves her own path.” Feinberg spoke on “Leading with Creativity: from Logo Turtle to Pixar’s *Brave*.” Since 1998, AAUW’s Tech Trek has worked to help girls entering 8th grade continue their interests in science, math, engineering and technology through a one-week camp. This year’s campers are: Chun Che Free and Julia Moseyko (Orinda Intermediate School); Audrey Moore and Natalie Davis (Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School); and Ariella Zulch and Molly Mudgett (Lafayette’s Stanley Intermediate



The AAUW honored 12 young women at its Celebration of Excellence. (Bottom row L-R): Chun Che Free, Julia Moseyko, Audrey Moore, Natalie Davis, Ariella Zulch, and Molly Mudgett (Top row L-R): Kate Greer, Jenanne Vaccaro, key note speaker Danielle Feinberg of Pixar, Mina Arastch, Natasha Blazer, Mariah Miller, and Elise Peterson-Trujillo.

Held at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga, the afternoon celebration also included an exciting and informative presentation by Danielle Feinberg, Director of Photography and Lighting at Pixar Animation Studios. Feinberg began working at Pixar in 1997 and has since worked on 13 feature films. Most recently, she led a 50-person lighting team for *Brave*, the 2012 Academy Award Winner for Best Animated Feature Film. “I relate to Princess Merida, *Brave*’s protagonist,” says Feinberg. “She is a tomboy who loves horseback riding, archery, and sword fighting. She

School). Funded by scholarships provided by AAUW branch members, the camps take place on college campuses. Seventh grade science and/or math teachers at local schools recommend potential Tech Trek participants. Candidates must then pass through a qualification process that includes an application, an essay, and a personal interview. For more information on the camps, contact www.aauw.org/tech-trek.html. The awards ceremony also included the [SEE AAUW page 24]

Spectacular Relay at Stanford



(L-R) Rebekah Ent, Kera Deakins, Georgia Roden, and Tina Romak just after winning the Girls Track 4 x 800 Relay at the Nike Stanford Invitational.

By ALISON ZAMANIAN
Contributing Writer

The Miramonte High School Girls 3200 Relay team obliterated their school record by 23 seconds at the Nike Stanford Track and Field Invitational on Saturday, March 30. The team ran an amazing 9.20.23, which currently puts them at number one in California and number two in the nation. Conditions were optimal at the Cobb Track and Angell Field at Stanford University, enabling these elite runners to mark personal best times on a bright sunny day with minimal wind resistance. Lead runner, Kera Deakins, a senior, started out strong and held her personal best time at 2:24.8 for the first leg of the race. Senior Tina Romak marked a personal record (PR) of 2:18.9 while passing three runners in the second leg. Georgia Roden, a sophomore, held their second place position until she met the leader stride for

stride, running a personal best of 2:21.8. Lady Mats anchor, senior Rebekah Ent, ran a phenomenal PR of 2:14.7, charging ahead and leading the team to victory nine seconds ahead of the second place finishers. While the results at the following week’s Arcadia Invitational in Southern California were less thrilling, the team did win at a dual meet versus Dougherty Valley on April 17. Sprint Coach Tristan Tool attributes their fierce competitive drive to the fact that this relay team has an extremely strong alternate in junior Lindsay Buckel. “She has PR’d for the past three weeks, reaching 2:25.0 recently,” says Tool. “I truly believe that her success has created the perfect competitive atmosphere.” Tool notes that high school track and field has no divisions, and athletes compete and are ranked nationally against every high school in the nation no matter the size.

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John Kirby
Owner

EVERYDAY CHANGES / FOOD DRIVE

◆ FUNDRAISING from page 16

day when Sharp comes home from school. “Truman is always there. He sees me and hops up and grabs his ball. I love him a lot,” Sharp says. Baker goes on to describe how the 100-pound German Shepherd was rescued from an animal shelter by the Golden State German Shepherd Rescue in Walnut Creek. “He almost died,” says Sharp, describing the awful reality that animals left too long at some shelters can end up being euthanized.

To help other animals like his Truman find happy homes, Sharp decided to make his TAP project a fundraiser in support of local Operation Paws Rescue. He has carefully researched all the steps involved in saving animals and explains that the rescue program takes animals from a shelter that has too many animals at a particular time and places them in shelters that have too few. Animals, however, must be spayed or neutered in order to be moved out of an animal shelter and made available for adoption.

To help Operation Paws Rescue pay for the spaying and neutering of the animals, the four local Pet Food Express stores have agreed to donate all the proceeds of dog wash tokens sold on Saturday, May 4. Each token costs \$15 and is used to do a self-

wash of your dog. The stores are equipped with special dog washing tubs, shampoo, dryers and towels to give your dog a convenient and easy bathing experience.

Sharp hopes to raise at least \$4,000 in donations for Operation Paws Rescue and to make the possibility of that happening even greater, Pet Food Express is giving Sharp tokens he can sell on his own at \$15 each that the store will honor on any other day. He plans to canvass dog parks and place posters in stores to get the word out.

If there is any doubt about this young man’s commitment to saving animals, just ask him what he wants for his upcoming birthday. Sharp says, “I ask people to donate to German Shepherd rescue groups instead of giving me gifts.” He clarifies, “It’s not that I don’t like gifts. I do; but this is really important to me.” Sharp plans to do the same thing at Christmas.

To connect with Sharp about his TAP project and fundraiser, you can contact him at BakerOperationPaws@yahoo.com. Most Pet Food Express stores are open on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can “friend” both Golden State German Shepherd Rescue and Operation Paws Rescue on Facebook. And if you’re looking for a birthday gift for Baker Sharp, think about making a donation to your favorite animal charity in honor of Sharp and Truman.

◆ HOWL from page 16

gorging on your pet and you! Ticks are prevalent just about everywhere outdoors and can quickly embed themselves on your cat or dog or on you. Visit www.cdph.ca.gov for excellent information on ticks in our state including tick disease prevention. If you have not done so already, start your pet on a monthly regimen of combined flea and tick preventive available through your veterinarian or local pet supply.

Here in the beautiful Bay Area, we face challenges each year with the arrival of spring “babies.” Baby birds, baby deer, baby raccoons. The challenge is that we want to help these babies because we think they may be abandoned or hurt. Our kind natures propel us into action when, in fact, we may be doing more harm than good. The typical wildlife found in the Bay Area do not abandon their young. The parents

may have left them alone with every intention of returning only to be frightened away from their young by a well-meaning human.

The best advice should you encounter one of these spring babies is to leave it alone, stay at a distance from it and quietly observe. Do not take a chance on causing injury to a wild animal or to you by attempting to intervene. If the animal shows no obvious sign of physical injury, chances are that the parent will return to claim junior. If there is an obvious injury, such as bleeding, call Contra Costa County Animal Services (925-335-8300). You can also try the Lindsay Wildlife Museum (925-935-1978) for advice. If you are committed to wanting to be hands-on with animals, then consider volunteering at either of those two organizations. By learning more about the animals in our neighborhoods we can become their best advocates and protectors.

Have a safe and happy Spring!



Baby skunks playing on a log.

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Everyday Changes

‘Tis the Season and Summer is the Reason

Bonnie Waters



While the weather can still be a bit unpredictable, we are already experiencing the occasional balmy summer-like days. While you may have not yet donned that new bikini, ‘tis definitely the season of preparation! Bikini and leg waxing, mani and pedi perfection together with sunless tanning can provide almost instantaneous summer WOW factor.

In the not too distant past, nail grooming and hair removal were only available for the elite upper class. Today these services are routine for average woman and many men too. Men now makeup 20-25 percent of spa goers.

With the increased popularity of manicures, pedicures and waxing, it is now common to see these services being provided in virtually every strip mall. While these shops may be convenient and often affordable, it is critical to choose a facility carefully and keep an observant eye on hygiene.

Waxing and Pedicure Safety

Before you make an appointment, drop by to see how clean the facility is. Preferably ask a trusted friend to recommend a facility she trusts. In the case of waxing, be sure the technician is thoroughly trained in waxing sanitation and technique and state licensed to provide these services. Just because they have a Nail License does not mean that they are licensed for waxing. In

California to provide waxing services, the technician must display either a Cosmetology or Esthetics License.

Nail Trends – Don’t Be Square

The pointed nail shape trend is definitely retro, and dare I date myself when I say I can vividly remember when pointed nails were popular in the past. Nail color trends this season range from light and innocent to dark and dangerously daring. Enjoy the neo-pastel polishes from the likes of OPI in shades of luscious lavender and stellar sky blue. Juxtapose the colorful with the glittering metallic varnishes and matte greys. Mix it up with colorful two-tone manicures that add the perfect pop and sizzle.

Tanning Safety

We all know how detrimental, even life threatening, it can be to expose our skin to the sun’s damaging rays and yet bronzed shoulders and tanned legs are the hallmark of the California lifestyle from spring to early fall. There is a solution in sunless tanning products. The active ingredient in most sunless tanning products is dihydroxyacetone (DHA). When applied to the skin, DHA reacts with dead cells in the outermost layer of skin to temporarily darken the skin’s appearance. The coloring doesn’t wash off, but it gradually fades as the dead

[SEE CHANGES page 24]

Letter Carriers’ Food Drive



LETTER CARRIERS’
FOOD DRIVE
SAT., MAY 11, 2013

On Saturday, May 11, letter carriers will pick up sacks of donated non-perishable food items and take them to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. All local residents need to do is leave the food items by their mailboxes. Businesses can also be involved by requesting a barrel for food donations to be placed at your business. The Food Bank is currently providing food to 149,000 people in need every month – the great majority of the recipients being children. For more information, contact food drive coordinator Joan Tomasini at jtomasini@foodbankccs.org.

PERFORMING ARTS

Culture Clash Comes Home to Open Cal Shakes' Season

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

It's a long way from San Francisco's Mission District to Orinda - especially if you go by way of some of the country's most prestigious theaters, including the Lincoln and Kennedy Center, Washington's Arena Stage, Chicago's Goodman, Yale University and the Gilroy Garlic Festival.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Richard Montoya's new play opens Cal Shakes' summer season.

But actor/playwright Richard Montoya, a co-founder of the legendary performance trio known as Culture Clash, considers California Shakespeare's upcoming production of his play *American Night: The Ballad of Juan José*, developed by Culture Clash and Jo Bonney, a type of "coming home." Directed by Cal Shakes artistic director Jonathan Moscone, the production will run at the Bruns Amphitheater from May 29 through June 23.

Culture Clash was founded in San Francisco's Mission District in 1984. Shortly afterwards, the actors found themselves Los Angeles bound. Montoya says, "Culture Clash found a huge audience waiting for us in Los Angeles. There was no turning back," he adds. "We had to leave home to find that success and then come back."

In the early part of his career, Montoya said he was influenced by the SF Mime Troupe and Luis Valdez's El Teatro Campesino (a farm worker's theatre troupe). "Those groups are very much in my DNA," he says.

American Night has had prior successful runs, including its 2010 world premiere at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where it became the first show in the company's history extended due to popular demand; and a production at Yale Rep, which the *New York Times* deemed "a lovable hodgepodge of references, historical and pop-cultural, with a deadly serious message at its heart."

Montoya and Culture Clash are known for comic approaches to serious subject matter often at the pinnacle of public debate. *American Night* centers on the immigration issue. The story follows Juan

José on the night before he is to take his citizenship exam. Falling asleep, he travels throughout American history, meeting a host of iconic characters.

"Immigration, our economy and our service work industry - Orinda is not immune to these issues. It may not be the epicenter, but I'm sure people have their concerns," says Montoya, "There are liberal and conservative opinions. These issues are not are going to go away."

Montoya explains, "Theatre, culture and art can lead the way in the discussion. I believe in theatre as kind of a town hall. I believe in taking back the theatre and having everyone have a chance to speak," Montoya said, quickly adding, "and not just the loudest voice in the room. Humor, that little bit of laughter gives us a window of opportunity to discuss these topics; otherwise, people are too frozen to have a conversation."

"Somewhere in this story, people remember we are all a generation or two away from our own immigration story, in each of our families - no matter how quote-unquote 'American' we are. Chances are some ancestor in your family came by way of boat or steamer. The play tries to remind people of this in a humorous way that keeps us laughing and thinking, but moving forward."

The nine actor cast tackles over 100 roles. In the title role is San Francisco's Campo Santo co-founder Sean San José, in his Cal Shakes debut. Other ensemble members, each of whom play up to 15 characters, are Margo Hall, Sharon Lockwood, Dan Hiatt, Dena Martinez Todd Nakagawa, Brian Rivera, Richard Ruiz and Tyee Tilghman.

Last year, Montoya wrote and directed the feature film *Water & Power*. He is an alumnus of the Sundance Institute's Writers and Directors labs and was a staff writer on the first season of NBC's *Southland*.

All performances will be at the Bruns Amphitheater. Tickets may be purchased by calling 510-548-9666 or online at www.calshakes.org.

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*American Night: The Ballad
of Juan Jose*

By Richard Montoya

May 29 - June 23

Bruns Amphitheater

510-548-9666

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Orinda Starlight Village Players 30th Season

The Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) launch their 30th season with Frank Vosper's *Love from a Stranger*, an adaptation of Agatha Christie's *Philomel Cottage*, followed by James Thurber's *A Thurber Carnival*, and finishing with Malcolm Cowler's *Escape to Bedlam*, an adaptation of three Edgar Allan Poe stories.

Love from a Stranger will open on May 31 and run Friday and Saturday nights in June, with one Sunday matinee on June 9 and one Thursday evening on June 20. *A Thurber Carnival* will open on July 19 and run Friday and Saturday nights until August 10 with one Sunday matinee on August 4 and one Thursday evening on August 8. *Escape to Bedlam* will open on September 6 and run Friday



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ken Sollazzo and **Charlie Guitron** from last season's production of *Room Service*.

and Saturday nights until September 28 with one Sunday matinee on September 22 and one Thursday performance on September 26.

For more information, email info@orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225.

Songstress Belting Out Tunes at Theatre Square

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

With beautiful summer evenings approaching, visitors who venture into Theatre Square will discover the incredible vocal talent of Stephanie Harwood, who will be playing at Barbacoa Restaurant, Friday evenings from 7-10 p.m. The versatile singer/actress was a *Beach Blanket Babylon* cast member for over five years, has performed "The Star Spangled Banner" at both Infineon Raceway and AT&T Park, and is a vocalist in a number of Bay Area bands.

While living in New York, a *Backstage Magazine* reviewer called Harwood one of "the town's finest powerhouse belters," who can "out sing any female vocalist on the top 40 list." According to Harwood, she will be singing at Barbacoa "most every Friday," accompanied by guitarists Joey Nuñez or Garey Rickher.

After spending several years in New York studying and working in various cabaret locations like the famous Don't Tell Mama, the California native returned to the Bay Area. These days, Harwood finds her schedule filled with singing with three different groups, including the band "Swoon," who perform all original music written by Harwood and other band members.

She is excited about the projects she is working on with Swoon, and said "We just finished recording our new album and are finishing up post production." In addition, Harwood performs with the cover band "Modern Edge" and Cover2Cover, which also features her mother, Toni Bryant.

"I've been performing since I can remember in school productions, commu-



WHITNEY TODOR

Songstress **Stephanie Harwood** sings at Theatre Square's Barbacoa on Friday evenings.

nity theatre, and New York City after my performing arts school," said Harwood. "I performed at *Beach Blanket Babylon* for five and a half years and had an absolute blast! I learned so much as a performer there. Val Diamond was an inspiration and Kenny Mazlow stretched me as an actress." Steve Silver's *Beach Blanket Babylon* is the longest running musical review in theatre history.

"The comedic timing and stamina needed for that show is something I didn't even realize I had until those limits were pushed." Last year, Harwood left the long running show to return to college to get her music degree so that she would be able to teach. "But the *Beach Blanket* door is still wide open! Who knows?" She added, "Maybe I'll be back there very soon."

Until then, catch this amazing songstress at Barbacoa.



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◆ LANDSCAPE from page 17

into a six by six foot raised planter. New curved wooden benches have steel legs, and steel mesh encloses the area under the decks adding unity with the steel fencing.

"It's been a lot of hard work, but it's satisfying to re-purpose materials and create a beautiful garden to enjoy," says Strauss. "I feel too many people accept the rather dull status quo when a few changes could enhance their environment so much. I design all sorts of gardens, even if I'm known as 'the succulent guy.' They say about 90 percent of landscaping plans never get built. People look at all the plant names, sprinkler specification and so on, and just don't get started or do a bit and give up. I enjoy designing and then doing the building for my clients. Not only does it begin the process, but we can change or modify as we go along and keep at it until the client is satisfied," Strauss explains.

As to what plants the novice succulent gardener should choose, Strauss recommends the many species of Aloes, which bloom every year, often in mid-winter when there are few flowers. Many varieties of Yucca also bloom every year, but the Agave blooms only once and then dies. Echeveria plants are also popular. Most all of these, he suggests, send out little pups so you should soon have many plants of the same variety. He also likes California native plants and grasses. In their mulched garden he says they've noted over two-dozen species of mushrooms, not for eating, but interesting to observe.

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Strauss worked on many large projects in Texas before moving to Orinda. Here, he's established his business as Terrapin Garden-Design, Build and Maintenance. He may be contacted at fred@terrapingarden.com or 512-750-7002. He also volunteers at the Berkeley Botanical Garden and the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek where he is on the board of directors. Strauss recommends both as places where those interested can learn about and purchase succulents.

◆ AUTHOR from page 11

Although this is MacKinnon's first novel, she has published an award winning short story as well as articles in journals on environmental topics, and she received the Orinda Association's William Penn Mott Jr. Award for environmental advocacy.

MacKinnon will read excerpts from *A Place in the World* on May 18 at 2 p.m. at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square. For more information on the reading, call 254-7606. For more information on MacKinnon, go to her blog at <http://cindamackinnon.wordpress.com>.

◆ DEL REY from page 10

On to the project saying this would be a great way to get the children excited about their school and provide a great educational exercise. When the children were told about the idea, they matched the Menkes enthusiasm.

On March 25 at 9:30 in the morning, a small army of volunteers arrived at the school to assist in making this dream happen. The school exercise area was delineated with orange cones to mark out the exercise stage and eight perpendicular lines were laid out to accommodate 50 children each, with a chalk X on the line marking a spot for each child to stand. The children became more and more excited as the newspaper reporters, photographers and the television cameraman from Channel 2 arrived.

A number of people were required as support team members to certify that the event occurred, including those who validated the number of participants, those who

◆ AAUW from page 21

presentation of scholarships to four high school seniors and one St. Mary's College student. Recipients included: Natasha Blazer (\$700) from Miramonte High School; Mina Arastch (\$700) from Campolindo High School; Jenanne Margaret Vaccaro (\$5,000), Kate Ruth Greer (\$500), and Elise Peterson-Trujillo (\$700) from Acalanes High School; and Mariah McKenzie Miller (\$5,000) from St. Mary's College.

This year's \$5,000 scholarship awards were made possible by the generous bequest of former District 2 Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, a long-time AAUW member. "Gayle's bequest was \$50,000 to be given out in \$5,000 increments," says AAUW president Karen Mankowski. "We have decided to give out two \$5,000 annually for the next five years." According to Mankowski, two of the \$700 scholarships were made possible through member donations while the third \$700 and the \$500 Merit Scholarships were anonymously donated by a non-member who was inspired by the girls' stories.

For more information on the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the AAUW, go to www.aauwoml.org.

monitored each row of 50 children each (making sure they stayed in their respective lines and followed instructions), those who choreographed the event to exercise music, and those who filmed and documented the event.

Yoga instructor Lauren Blackham and personal trainer Joan Pinto counted the children. Physical Education teacher Cheryl Collins choreographed the students selecting fun-filled music for the children to exercise to as well. School superintendent Dr. Joe Jaconette attended the event.

And, in the end, the well-organized event came off without a hitch. Guinness advised the event organizers that all they had to do was to check the website after April 1 for updates to current record holders. A tense few days ensued until, finally, on April 8, Del Rey principal Kirsten Theurer discovered the Guinness Book of World Records had updated their website, announcing that the Del Rey students had indeed set a new world record.

◆ FLAGS from page 1

Florilège de Brécy, Château d'Outrealise, Normandy, and *Peinture sur Vélin*, Paris, France.

"Botanical illustration is a beautiful marriage of art and science," explains Watters. "Botanical art immortalizes the plant world. After careful observation, a plant is drawn and painted to capture in detail its graceful movement and intriguing personality. It is truly humbling to try to capture on paper what nature does so perfectly."

Class members contributing botanical illustrations to the design include: Betsy Chovanes, Black eyed Susan; Margi Connelly, Camellia; Ruth Cox, Columbine; Lyn Dahl, Camellia; Sally DeMaria, Tulip; Jennifer Griffin, Vinca; Helen Hasselman, Lavender; Kaye Herbranson, Tulip; Laurence Hills, Tulip; Peggy Hinman, Camellia; Jean Johnston, Sweet Pea; Linda Kam, Mandevilla; Linda Kramer, Tulip; Nadia Le Bon, Morning Glory; Tina Locke, Mandevilla; Mary McCaffery, Tulip; Jean Martin, Tulip; Bailey Meyer, Snapdragon; Willa Mundell, Peony; Suzanne Oldfield, Orchid; Susan Olness, Incarvillea; JoAnne Osberg, Orchid and Rose; Melinda Pahl, Tulip; Joanne Palamountain, Daffodil; Judy Paris, Tulip; Sandy Putnam, Iris; Lynn Randelman, Rose; Dayna Ramlan, Pansy; Pat Rudebusch, Magnolia; Laura Sawczuk, Iris; Pam Seifert, Iris; Billie Severy, Calla Lily; Lisa Sharafian, Tulip; Elaine Shelby, Hydrangea; Diana Treter, Abutilon; Carol Varian, Rose, Pansy and Cone Flower; Barb Ward, Camellia; Catherine Watters, Anemone and Ranunculus; Melanie Widrow, Daffodil and Midge Zischke, Daisy.

The springtime flags should be up by May 15.

◆ CHANGES from page 22

skin cells slough off. The longevity of the service varies dependent on how the skin is prepared, and how the tanning product is applied and maintained. Most sunless tanning products don't contain sunscreen so a sunscreen remains essential.

Carpe Diem

Seize the day and book your waxing, tanning and mani-pedi appointments today! Don your sexy, summer apparel, and "be the sizzle" these hot summer months!

[illegible]

CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

May

- 1
- Moraga Art Gallery** presents *Divine Inspiration* through June 1, featuring paintings of St. Mary’s college and stone and glass crochet beadwork, Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 522 Center St. Open Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Call 376-5407.

Orinda Library Gallery exhibit featuring “California Shades” themed painting show, raku, jewelry designs and Caldecott Tunnel 4th Bore Medallion artwork. Through end of May. Artist reception May 11, 4-6 p.m. 254-2814.
- 3
- First Friday Forum** features journalist Lynne Joiner speaking on “Changing China – One Journalist’s 35 Year Perspective,” 1:30 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Call 925-283-8722 or go to www.lopc.org.

Farmers’ Market, opening day, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Orinda Way in front of Community Center Park. 925-431-8361.
- 7
- Story Hour** for 2- to 4-year-olds, every Tuesday, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 10 to 11 a.m. Call 254-7606.
- 8
- The Second Wednesday Book Group** discusses *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 16
- Lamorinda Idol 2013** auditions will be held May 16 through 18. Open to all students in Lamorinda schools in K through 12th grades. Visit www.orindaartscouncil.org.
- 17
- Glorietta Elementary School** presents its spring musical *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* at 4 and 7 p.m. Also May 18 at 4 and 7 p.m. For tickets, visit <http://glorietta.orindaschools.org>. The school is at 15 Martha Road.

Orinda Ballet presents *Swan Lake*. Also May 18-19 at the Orinda Library Auditorium. Professional dancers join students from the Orinda Ballet Academy. www.brownpapertickets.com. See article page 13.
- 18
- Orinda Books** hosts Orinda resident Cinda MacKinnon discussing her new novel, *A Place in the World*, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.

Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise presents Motorama Gala, wine, dinner, dancing and auction with proceeds benefiting Lafayette Library and other community projects, 5:30 p.m., Veterans’ Memorial Building, Lafayette. Go to www.motorama.us.
- 19
- Orinda Books** hosts author Donna Kaulkin discussing her new novel, *Brenda Corrigan Went Downtown*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 21
- The World Affairs Book Group** discusses *A Single Roll of the Dice: Obama’s Diplomacy with Iran* by Trita Parsi, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. The group meets bi-monthly and welcomes new members. Call 254-7606.
- 29
- California Shakespeare Theater** presents *American Night: The Ballad of Juan José* through June 23, various times, Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theatre Way, Orinda. Call 510-548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.
- 31
- Wagner Elementary School** presents its spring musical *Annie* at 4 and 7 p.m. Also June 1 at 3 and 7 p.m. For tickets, visit <http://wagnerranch.orindaschools.org>. The school is at 350 Camino Pablo.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.

- 1
- 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 May 7, 8, 14 and 15.
- 2
- Book Sale** sponsored by Friends of the Orinda Library, Book Shop and Sorting Area, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ESL (English as a Second Language) Conversation Circle, practice your English conversation skills in an informal group setting, Tutoring Room, 1 p.m. No registration required. Also May 9, 16, 23 and 30.
- 14
- 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 May 21 and 28.
- 17
- Mystery Book Club** members discuss *Murder in Clichy* by Cara Black, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult program, drop-ins welcome.
- 18
- Saturday Morning Live**, family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also May 25.
- 23
- Talespinners of Contra Costa**, tell a story or just come to listen, featuring a special storyteller, 7 to 9 p.m. Adult program.
- 29
- The Life and Art of Isadora Duncan**, special performance celebrating the life and dance of the Bay Area dancer, Garden Room, 7 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., Better Homes & Garden Mason-McDuffie Office, 51 Moraa Way, Orinda, 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., Celiás Mexican, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.

Lamorinda Toastmasters. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.

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, 7 p.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 254-1353.

Journalist Lynne Joiner Gives Her Insights into China at First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Lynne Joiner, well known Bay Area television personality, will speak on “Changing China – One Journalist’s 35 Year Perspective” at the First Friday Forum, May 3, at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, in Lafayette.

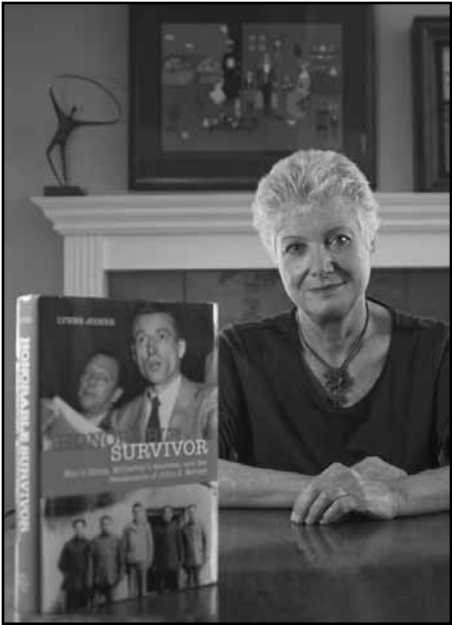
Joiner has had a unique opportunity to view events in China from her position as a news consultant for Chinese television news programs over many years. She says, “I’ve gotten to know a wonderful assortment of Chinese people over the past 35 years who have helped give me insight into their lives and their country.”

She continues, “I have learned first-hand that China is a very complicated and fascinating experiment filled with contradictory currents involving 1.3 billion beings. To those fear-mongers who claim China wants to dominate the world in the 21st century, I would just ask, ‘are you sure?’”

Joiner’s first book, *Honorable Survivor or: Mao’s China, McCarthy’s America and the Persecution of John S. Service* received the 20th Douglas Dillon Award for distinguished writing about American diplomacy. Of the book, Susan Shirk, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, says, “Jack Service’s experiences in wartime China and post-war America is an exciting tale with important resonances for current foreign policy challenges in countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Iran as well as US-China Relations.”

Lynne Joiner has reported on many major events in US-China relations: the death of Premier Zhou Enlai in 1976; Deng Xiaoping’s historic visit to Washington D.C. in 1979, and Britain’s’ return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. For more than 20 years, she has served as a media consultant to Shanghai Television and Shanghai Media Group. She has also served as a news consultant to Radio Free Asia.

Professional news assignments include work for ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC and Chris-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Author Lynne Joiner will speak on her experiences as a journalist in China over a 35 year period.

tian Science Monitor Radio. She anchored news programs for CBS in San Francisco and produced “Foreign Exchange,” a weekly world affairs call-in program for National Public Radio.

Joiner holds a BA in English Literature from Cornell University, and an MFA degree in broadcast journalism from UCLA. She also attended Sanford University’s Graduate School of Education and the Taipei Language Institute. She speaks what she calls “survival” Chinese and French. Additionally, she taught broadcast news writing at Stanford University.

“With so much attention now being paid to United States and China relations, Lynne Joiner, with her wealth of knowledge about China, will be able to give us special insights into both positive and negative situations existing between the two countries,” committee member, Tapan Munroe suggests.

This is a free lecture and refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at 1:p.m.

For further information, call 925-283-8722 or click on lopc.org

Upcoming School Musicals

Beauty and the Beast

May 17 and May 18

Glorietta Elementary

Annie

May 31 and June 1

Wagner Ranch Elementary

See calendar for details.

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

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

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Acalanes Union High School District. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.

City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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 High 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

NATIONAL CHARITY LEAGUE

Changing of the Art!



SALLY HOGARTY

While we all enjoy the beautiful outdoor art located throughout the downtown area, it doesn't just appear there overnight. The Art in Public Places Committee spends countless hours selecting new art and returning current art – sometimes with the help of very large cranes!

National Charity League Class of 2013



DEANNA WENTZEL

Front row, left to right: Gina Nerone, Marina Pazos, Christina Romak, Natalie Garrett, Claire Winter, Karen Ranstrom, Sara Torchio, Gigi Axelrode, Erika vonNovak. Back row, left to right: Emma Jones, Kelly Martin, Madeline Bush, Jenna Reynolds, Jane Baffi, Lauren Andronico, Taylor Nielson, Kendall Kovalik, Abbey Healey, Sarah Parsons, Alyssa Parsons, Sarah Reynolds, and Alison Pietrykowski.

By JILL NERONE
Contributing Writer

The Lamorinda chapter of the National Charity League, which includes girls from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette, recently honored its 22 graduating seniors who began their service to the community, along with their mothers, by joining the chapter in 7th grade.

The 2013 class of the Lamorinda chapter dedicated thousands of hours of community service over the past six years to over 30 local organizations such as the Contra Costa Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes, Monument Crisis Center, Special Olympics, Blue Star Moms, the American Cancer Society, Cal

Shakes, J.F. Kapnek Pediatric Aids Foundation, Las Trampas, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the Shorebird Nature Center.

These volunteer activities help forge a lifelong commitment to community service, and deepen the bond between mother and daughter through these shared activities.

National Charity League, Inc. is a non-profit organization of mothers and daughters who join together in community involvement through participation in philanthropic activities, along with leadership and cultural events.

For membership information, visit www.nationalcharityleague.org.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 28

loved ones,” adds Vollmar.

A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Vollmar enjoys giving back to the community to the tune of \$25,000 last year alone. In addition to donating gift certificates for Epicurean Exchange classes, he volunteers his time at the Orinda Chamber of Commerce’s annual comedy night and restaurant tour in Theatre Square each fall. He serves on the Orinda Parks and Recreation Commission and chairs the NorCal Kids Triathlon, sponsored by the Orinda Community Foundation.

Vollmar and his wife Doaa have twins, Aidan and Amelia, who attend the fifth grade at Wagner Ranch School. “We are a big swim family, and our summers are happily consumed by swimming. I serve as a stroke and turn judge for the Orinda Moraga Pool Association. We really enjoy this amazing place where we live and especially enjoy gardening together at home and at the Wagner Ranch School Garden.”

For more information about Epicurean Exchange, visit the website at www.epicureanexchange.com. Contact Vollmar at 925-368-4181 or email Charlie@epicureanexchange.com

Loard’s Ice Cream and Candies Celebrates 60 Years in Orinda

One of the happiest places in Orinda has to be Loard’s Ice Cream, located at 230 Brookwood Road in the Crossroads, adjacent to Jamie Westdal Photography. Truly old-fashioned, Loard’s Ice Cream is the local ice creamery established in Oakland in 1950. Native Orindans Bradley and Brooks Stubblefield purchased the Orinda location July 1, 2000, after their daughter came home one night and said the place was for sale.

“Bradley and I both grew up here in Orinda, and Loard’s has always been a



VALERIE HOTZ
Brooks and Bradley Stubblefield of Loard’s Ice Cream.

gathering spot for families. When we heard it was for sale, we knew immediately that we were going into the ice cream business,” says Brooks Stubblefield with a smile.

Whether ordering it by the scoop or one of the custom ice cream birthday cakes, Loard’s is always a hit with people of all ages. “We cater a lot of private gatherings and end of year classroom parties at local schools. A two and a half gallon box of ice cream - which contains 50 four ounce scoops - is \$55. We offer schools a 5 percent discount on that price as well,” says Stubblefield. They also cater Orinda’s Concerts-in-the-Park on Tuesday evenings in the summer and Moraga’s outdoor summer concert series on Thursday evenings.

Included on the cream parlor menu are old fashioned sodas made with seltzer, and the Loard’s Freeze is always in demand, a concoction that includes refreshing sherbet and seltzer. The candy selection has expanded greatly. “We want our loyal customers to know we have Honeycomb back again. Loard’s made this prized candy for 60 years, and now Preston’s has taken over and supplies us with Honeycomb,” says Stubblefield. A rite of passage for many youngsters growing up in Orinda is to work

at a summer job at this local institution. “It is a pleasure hiring kids for their first job, which I know is a really memorable part of their growing up,” she adds.

Brooks and Bradley originally met at Miramonte High School and have been married 34 years. Bradley is the foreman for Stubblefield Construction, which is owned by his brother Robert. The couple’s twin daughters, Amanda and Jamie, attended Orinda schools as well. “Amanda is a flight instructor at Falcon Field in Mesa, Arizona, and Jamie is an English teacher in Krakow, Poland,” says Stubblefield. Although they

are often catering events on the weekends, when they do have some spare time Bradley and Brooks enjoys snow skiing in the winter and fishing on the Stanislaus River in the summer.

Loard’s Ice Cream and Candies is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. “Anytime you see someone in the store, we are open,” exclaims Stubblefield. Loard’s is a member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 254-3434.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz
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StoneCastle Land and Home Financial

Orindan Kyle Davis has been in the mortgage business 22 years and celebrates the 13th anniversary of establishing Stone-Castle Land and Home Financial this spring with partners Rich Fahey and Nick Rosen. The firm is located by the big Oak tree at 319 Diablo Road, Suite 103 in Danville.

“Primarily a residential lender, including multi-family and commercial units, we represent major and minor banks in California that do residential lending. We strictly ser-

vice loans within California,” says Davis. “As a result, we are very familiar with the Northern California real estate market. This current market has been phenomenal in the nicer places in the state.”

According to Davis, today the value increase in homes is the strongest it has been since the 2006 to 2007 era. “Hopefully, the worst is behind us here in California,” he says. “Qualifying standards for obtaining a residential loan are easier than in the 1990s. For instance, during the decade of the 1990s, the limit for debt to income ratio was 36 percent to qualify for a residential mortgage. Currently, lenders have increased

that limit to 45 percent, with the result of making home loans more accessible,” points out Davis.

“In addition, interest rates have never been better and, most likely, will stay low for awhile longer. If you have not refinanced in the past three to six months, you should certainly do so now while these conditions exist,” says Davis. “Fixed rates are currently at 3.5 percent with no points, so it is clearly an ideal time to refinance an existing mortgage or make that purchase.



Kyle Davis of StoneCastle Land and Home Financial.

FHA will allow up to 55 percent debt to income ratio. A buyer can secure a \$729,000 loan with a 3.5 percent down payment and 55 percent debt to income ratio,” Davis explains. Refinancing of existing mortgages currently takes 30 days, while purchases can be closed in 21 days if necessary.

With increased regulation of the mortgage industry, brokers are required to maintain a national mortgage license in addition to the state mortgage license and the real estate license requirements. Additionally, mandatory FBI background checks and credit checks are imposed on mortgage professionals. “Anyone who owns a mortgage company has all of the above licensing and pays fees to maintain them.”

Married to Kamala Davis, the couple moved to Orinda in 1995. Their son Beau graduated from Miramonte High School in 2012 and is pursuing studies at Central Washington University. They enjoy spending time with the newest addition to the family, daughter Mikala’s six-month-old son Lucas. An avid snow and water skier, Davis also takes pleasure in coaching Lamorinda Rugby teams.

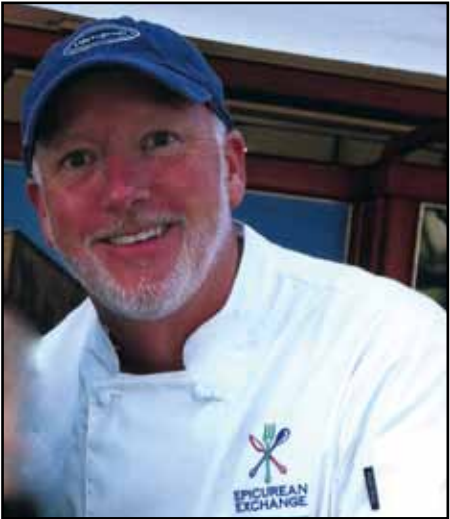
For more information about StoneCastle Land and Home Financial, call 925-314-5299 or email Kyle@StoneCastle-LIF.com.

Epicurean Exchange Features Foodie Field Trips

Charles Vollmar manages Epicurean Exchange with enthusiasm and brings a

sense of well-being, balance and enjoyment to people’s lives by providing outstanding culinary experiences. Cooking classes are available in addition to intriguing field trips to local restaurants or you can experience local agriculture first hand by visiting Farmstead Cheese Company in Marin County. Home of the Original Blue Cheese, the Giacomini family has been making farmstead products here for more than 50 years.

“My goal is to encourage better eating through education and to bring enjoyment to people’s lives by providing culinary experiences together. Taking the time to slow down and be together is enriching, and cooking together really brings people together in a special way,” says Vollmar. “Epicurean Exchange is a local resource for cooking instruction. Since 1999, our “Companies in the Kitchen” program has offered culinary activities that mirror workplace challenges, providing effective alternatives to team building exercises in businesses.” Another offering, Kids Hands-On Cooking Parties, are custom designed parties based on the number of children and their ages.



Chef Charles Vollmar of Epicurean Exchange.

Monthly classes held at kitchens in either Orinda or Emeryville are listed on the website at www.epicureanexchange.com and, in addition, include such exotic offerings as “A Gathering at Chez Panisse,” which features a tour of the world famous restaurant’s kitchens and the Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley. Three Mother’s Day celebrations are scheduled involving learning about several recipes, the ingredients and how to prepare a special meal for your mother. Vollmar always incorporates seasonal foods and the Mother’s Day classes incorporate spring offerings of asparagus, strawberries, leeks, artichokes and fresh fava beans.

“I like exposing people to different ingredients and tastes. Burmese cuisine is very unique, with a pan-Asian feel and intriguing textures. I do a lot of Thai cooking and incorporate skill development into each class. Indian cuisine is considered complicated, but, in fact, it is rather simple with amazing results. Clients can take the recipes home and create a special dinner for friends and

[SEE BUZZ page 27]

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