

THE ORINDA NEWS

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Will Durst Headlines Comedy Show at Orinda Theatre

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Need an idea for a “great date night?” Rick Kattenburg has just the ticket: “Live At Orinda,” the Orinda Chamber of Commerce’s fourth annual comedy show at the Orinda Theatre scheduled for March 8. Will Durst headlines.

According to Kattenburg, who produces the event, Durst (who’s been nominated for five Emmys) transcends party ties, hav-



COMEDIAN **Will Durst** hopes to score a knock-out at the Chamber’s “Live at Orinda.”

ing performed at events honoring former Presidents Bill Clinton and George H. W. Bush. Durst has made over 400 television appearances in 14 different countries and is universally acknowledged as the nation’s foremost political satirist.

“We’re very excited about Will Durst,” Kattenburg said, adding that the comic [SEE COMEDY page 6]

Residential Crime Escalates in 2013

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Residential burglaries are on the rise in the Lamorinda Area. In January, Orinda Police responded to 10 residential burglaries, a marked gain over the six reports in December. According to Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings, “There has been an increase in the Lamorinda area and the three PD’s are working to solve them. We have leads on several suspects, and it is only a matter of time before we will be able to put a case on them. In 2011 and 2012, the year started off with an increase, and we closed



SALLY HOGARTY
Politicians (including Congressman **George Miller** (4th from L) and Assembly Member **Joan Buchanan** (7th from L)), community members, funders and Eden Housing staff all grabbed shovels to mark the ground-breaking of the new affordable senior housing at 2 Irwin Way in Orinda. Located on the site of the former Orinda Library, the housing development will provide 67 apartments and is scheduled for completion in 2014.

Steve Glazer Makes His Bid for State Assembly

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Now in his third term as a city council member and having recently completed his second term as Mayor, Steve Glazer has set his sights on the California State Assembly.

He hopes to win the District 16 seat, which will be vacated by Assembly Member Joan Buchanan in 2014. The district includes portions of Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

“I feel it has been an honor to work on the Orinda City Council, and I feel good about what we have accomplished,” Glazer says. “When I was first elected to the council, I felt we needed more transparency in our subcommittees and more citizen involvement. The council’s relationship with the school district and the public’s relationship with Planning and Design Review

also needed improvement. The council has worked hard to accomplish these things, and I think the passage of the recent sales tax measure shows that we have built up the trust of the citizens over the years. Now, we have a 10-year plan to fix our roads and drains.” Glazer emphasizes that the council works well together to make things happen and that his fellow council members support his bid for the District 16 seat.

Fiscal responsibility and support of California’s schools top Glazer’s priorities

for the State Assembly. An advisor to Gov. Brown for the past three years, Glazer is closely aligned with the governor on fiscal matters. “I’ll have to give up being his advisor and most if not all of my other clients if I win, but Brown needs good partners in the assembly, and he’s very supportive of my candidacy,” Glazer says.

Glazer operates his own small business, [SEE GLAZER page 6]



LYNNE GLAZER
(L-R) **Ariel Glazer, Melba Muscarolas, Steve Glazer and Alex Glazer.**

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VISUAL ARTS

Two New Outdoor Artists Profiled

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

New art work has found its way to a variety of locations in Orinda thanks to the efforts of the Art in Public Places Committee (APPC). A volunteer committee through the City of Orinda, the group promotes public artwork by sponsoring loaned works of art displayed in outdoor spaces throughout Orinda.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Artist **Susannah Israel** works on her sculpture “Circus,” an example of her work with clay and signature glaze color and texture.

Now in its sixth year, the APPC presents public lectures by artists, curators and art historians and offers tours of artists’ studios. The group has also helped purchase favorite works such as Gail Wagner’s frog sculpture “Outta Here” in the Library Plaza fountain and John Toki’s “Springtime Whispers” located at the entrance to the Orinda Community Center.

As part of its on-going presentation of artwork, the APPC has installed several new pieces. Two of the artists – Wanxin Zhang and Susannah Israel – share their artistic vision.

“I believe that all art is somewhat a ‘revitalization’ of artistic concepts from the past, present and future,” says Wanxin

Zhang. “Regardless of the cultural implications, and space and time between these ideas, one must also keep in mind that art is not the only motivation behind them. In most occasions, the spirit and content of the then-modern society is the true source of these attempts.”

Zhang grew up in what’s considered “New China,” but acknowledges that it was also one of the most devastating periods of cultural destruction in modern history. “It was no surprise that when I visited the Terra Cotta Warriors of the Qin excavations, I immediately realized that the concepts of feudalism and oppression have never stopped controlling the people in China,” he says.

After arriving in the United States many years ago, Zhang found the freedom to voice his ideas exhilarating. “For someone with my background, this privilege is invaluable. With my new surroundings, including my connection to Christianity, influence from famous Bay Area funk artists and the figurative movement in California, and the contemporary art society, this became the perfect birthplace for the creation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Wanxin Zhang was inspired by the Terra Cotta Warriors of the Qin excavation. One of his pieces is in front of Cafe Teatro in the plaza level of the Orinda Library.

of my own concepts,” he explains. “Not only have I been able to constantly test the limits of clay in this endeavor, I have also been able to push myself to see how I can

truly incorporate my purpose, inspirations, and critiques to reflect a contemporary message.”

[SEE ARTISTS page 22]

10th Annual Visual Arts Competition for Lamorinda Teens

By ELANA O’LOSKEY
Staff Writer

This year’s Visual Arts Competition (VAC) marks the 10th year the Orinda Arts Council (OAC) has provided high school students residing in or attending schools in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga an opportunity to display their art in a professional setting and vie for cash prizes totaling \$2,550. The exhibit runs March 1 – 27 with the artist award reception planned for March 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. Come meet these

young artists and enjoy light refreshments while viewing three categories of work: 2D (paintings, drawings, print making, mixed media, collage); 3D (sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, construction); and photography (black and white, color, film and digital).

The OAC received over 175 entries from high school students at Miramonte, Acalanes, Campolindo, Los Lomos, Athelian School, Bentley School, College Prep High School, Head Royce, Holden High and Orinda Academy. Judging is done by professional artists whose criteria are: creativity and originality; content; and degree of expertise in the chosen medium. Prizes include First Place \$300, Second Place \$200, Third Place \$200, Honorable Mentions \$25 and Best in Show (Voter’s Choice Award) \$300. While prizes are great

motivators, the OAC values the competition as a showcase for the creative teaching approach and process they promote in high school art classrooms.

The OAC is grateful to local art teachers who promoted the competition and assisted students in preparing their entries. Teachers included: Acalanes High School’s Susan Lane, Robert Porter, Bear Begelman, and Susan McCauley; Campolindo High School’s Jill Langston and Collette Sweeney; Miramonte High School’s Deborah Hovey-Lacour, Gavin Kermode, Justin Seligman and Stan Heard; Las Lomas High School’s Erica Admunson; Bentley Upper School’s Aram Muksian, Sallie Bryan and Meredith Steele; Holden High School’s Daniel Dickenson and Orinda Academy’s

[SEE VISUAL ARTS page 22]

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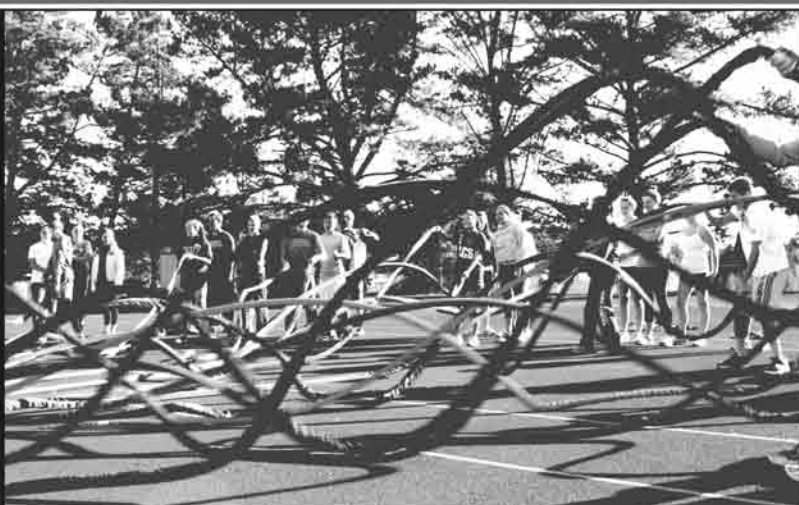
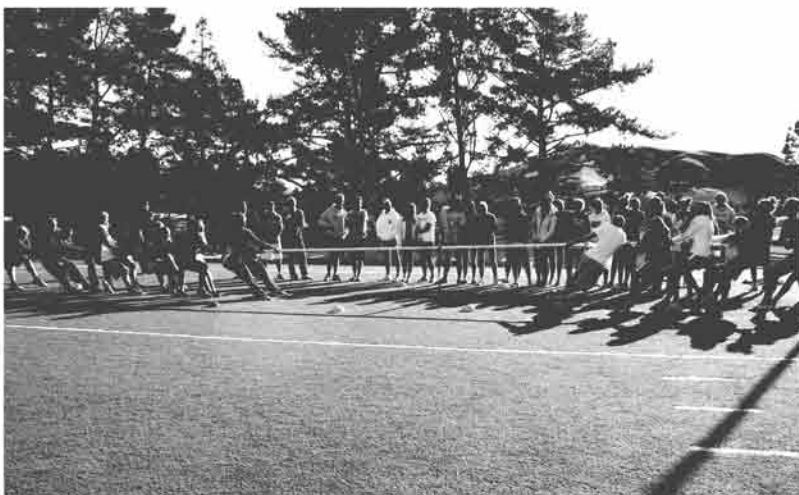
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IRELAND

Native of Ireland Reflects on St. Patrick’s Day Traditions

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

Adeline McClatchie was a wee bit surprised when her two children came home from Del Rey Elementary School one St. Patrick’s Day and told her some kids pinched them.

“They weren’t wearing anything green,” says the 71-year-old Orinda resident, who hadn’t heard of this particularly American custom growing up in Ireland. “Of course, the next year I dressed them in green; if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em!”

McClatchie was born and raised in Portadown in Northern Ireland, one of five daughters. She says St. Patrick’s Day wasn’t a big deal in those days. There was no corned beef and cabbage, no green beer – and no pinching!

“It was more of a religious day,” says

McClatchie.

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland who lived in the 5th century A.D., is credited with introducing Christianity to Ireland and converting many Irish to the faith.

“In Portadown, I remember there was a small parade with a kiltie band, but it was quite earnest, nobody was whooping it up as they do these days,” says McClatchie. “A lot of towns hold a festival in March with friendly competition for music, dancing and drama.”

She says it wasn’t until the 1970s that Ireland began to reflect some of the St. Patrick Day traditions – and commercialization – that started in the U.S. “Dublin started a big parade and celebration,” says McClatchie, who goes back to her native land every year. She’s not one to join in the parade, however. “I’m more of an observer of people; I don’t like big crowds.”

She says the corned beef and cabbage idea originated in New York around the 1840s when many poor Irish immigrated to America to escape the famine. “The Irish immigrants on the



Adeline McClatchie, who was born and raised in Portadown, Northern Ireland, loves this beautiful photo book, *Shades of Green*, which a friend compiled after they visited Ireland together.

East Coast learned from their Jewish friends how to preserve meat in brine,” says McClatchie. “Growing up, my mother made the best boiled ham and pork rib stew, which was good on any cold winter night, including March 17!”

To this day, McClatchie doesn’t cook

corned beef and cabbage on March 17 – or any other day for that matter. “I don’t like the smell of cabbage cooking and corned beef isn’t a favorite cut of meat for me,” she says. “Give me an Irish stew with pork ribs using mother’s

[SEE MCCLATCHIE page 8]

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Saint Patrick Over The Centuries

The brutal Irish slave raiders arrived at night to England, From the black, dark sea, from leather boats, armed in pain To snatch the teenage boy Patricus from his Roman home, Off and away from his family, and the heart of his parents.

Taken to the misty hills of Ireland to live alone, cold, hungry, Tending sheep for his master Miliucc, the warrior chief, He learned to survive, giving constant prayers day and night, To the God of his parents who were long gone from his life.

Six years of “woeful isolation” transformed him from man to Holy Man, Who heard a mystery voice say, “Your hungers are rewarded; You are going home.” Awakening from sleep, again it said, “Look, Your ship is ready.” Knowing not where he was, or was to go, he left.

Walking 200 miles until he found the sea, the bay, the ship, his goal, He cajoled to board, telling the crew, “I come in God’s strength.” They said, “Come aboard, we trust you.” And they sailed to Gaul. Arriving to land ruined by war, they starved, walking for two weeks.

will have food today.” The sailors pray, and stampeding sounds of pig hooves fills the air, Food at last, for their bodies, for their faith, for their belief in Patricius. In a monastery, he becomes the first Christian bishop missionary ever.

Returning to Ireland after a visit to his parents who begged him to stay, He changes the Emerald Isle to Christian belief becoming its Patron Saint, Creating bishoprics from Ullster to Tara to Meath; adding monasteries And convents, slavery died, violence decreased, and God’s love grew.

His legacy lives today as people of the world from Argentina to Russia, New Zealand to South Korea, Japan and Canada all celebrate together, With world churches from Catholics to Eastern Orthodox to Lutheran, Honor as one, The Feast of St. Patrick, the day he died, March 17, 461.

St. Patrick carried God’s love to the land of the Irish, And it unceasingly grew throughout the world wherever Irish live to love the life God gave them. He convinced them. God’s love would save them, in this world and the next.

Finally, Patricius says, “Trust the Lord; you

– Bill O’Brian

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President

Why Your Orinda Association Membership Matters

Bill Waterman



What, you may ask, are the benefits of membership in the Orinda Association (OA)? For one thing, without your membership support, like PBS, our organization would not exist – period.

With your support, the OA provides the following great community programs:

Fourth of July – now in its 29th year! Your support makes this annual community event possible, which last year drew over 9,000 people.

The Orinda News – this very paper is mailed, free of charge, to each of Orinda’s over 9,000 households every month. *The Orinda News*, which was ranked by Orindans as their number one source for local news and information, is published by the OA.

Seniors Around Town (SAT) Drive Program – now in its ninth year. The SAT program last year provided over 530 rides to Orinda seniors. The OA staff works with a very dedicated group of volunteer drivers to organize and run this highly successful and much-valued program, and your OA membership helps cover staff and program expenses.

Support for The Orinda Classic Car Show (set for Saturday, September 21) – this year the OA will support the show with administrative help, including taking all entry information, and organizing the show’s program. The OA is happy to assist the show, as it is a prime fundraising event for the OA’s SAT drive program, along with the Orinda Historical Society and other worthy recipients.

The OA’s website and Volunteer Center (www.orindaassociation.org) – where you can find an updated community calendar and events page, volunteer opportunities, and soon a complete listing

of all Orinda non-profit groups and other community information. Your membership will enable the OA to add exciting new content to this site.

Community Forums – The OA has sponsored these forums for many years, including two in 2012 (for the County Supervisor election last May, and City Council election this past fall).

So, by being a member of the OA, you are actually supporting each of these worthy activities in Orinda! The OA receives very little government support, so your membership is therefore crucial to these programs. You can renew your membership by going to the OA’s webpage, or by using one of the envelopes we send in this paper.

Support our Orinda Businesses:

If you care about Orinda as a community, PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OUR MERCHANTS! For one thing, a half-cent of the sales tax revenue now will go to the city, for road repairs. Second, by patronizing our businesses we are able to thank them for their community support. A recent case in point: **Shelby’s Restaurant** – they supported the Rheem Theater’s Oscar Night Party by donating their services to the event, a much needed fundraiser for a new elevator lift at the theater. Thanks to them for this generous gesture!

Orinda’s Comedy Night (Friday March 8 at The Orinda Theater). This is the Orinda Chamber of Commerce’s signature event. Your attendance helps the Chamber support Orinda’s merchants and is a wonderful way to thank our hard-working chamber too.

Thanks to all Orindans for supporting the OA!

New OA Board Member Isella Barels

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Orinda Association happily welcomes Isella Barels to its board of directors. Barels moved to Orinda in 2000 with her husband and two children. Her son graduated from Miramonte High School in 2005 and her daughter in 2007. “Our children enjoyed a great community environment as well as all the art, sports and scouting activities and my husband and I enjoyed being involved as parent volunteers,” says Barels. We met wonderful friends while cheering for The Matadors in the rain or tending the Snack Shack.”

Originally from Baja California, Mexico, Barels moved to the U.S. in 1978. “I have always felt that volunteer work provides an inner joy that is irreplaceable,” she explains. “In the early 1980s, I was a volunteer clinic coordinator for the Flying Samaritans (medical non-profit) in the Los Angeles area. I recruited my future husband Ron, who was a dentist. He also became a pilot who could fly our clinic team to Mexico once a month; I had to keep him for life! I have been working as the H. R. Manager for Cypress Abbey Company in Colma since 1996.”

Isella and Ron have participated with the



SALLY HOGARTY

Isella Barels joins OA board of directors.

4th of July parade committee for the last few years, and the OA board is happy to expand Isella’s volunteerism with her new position on the board. “I had the opportunity to meet a new group of people with the spirit of service, and I am very excited about this opportunity to serve with them.”

The OA still has room for a few more board members. Come and join us and make your community an even better place! oa@orindaassociation.org

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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THANKS for your support!

Editorial

The Luck of the Irish

As another St. Paddy’s Day draws near, I wish you all a fine celebration and a safe drive home. I must admit that since I’ve become a vegetarian (six years now), I do miss having my cabbage minus the corned beef. Lucky for me Guinness doesn’t contain any animal products.

In this issue, you will find a story on an Irish member of the Orinda community, Adeline McClatchie, along with a very enlightening poem by staff writer and poet Bill O’Brian. A fun note on McClatchie’s story, our staff writer Maggie Sharpe, who is also from Northern Ireland, wrote it. The two had fun comparing notes on life

in America.

I am constantly amazed at the good works done by many in this community. Several of them are included in this issue. Be sure and read about the Poll family and the wonderful legacy they have left for local seniors , the scouting groups that collected coats and blankets for the needy, and the impressive Diverse Abilities Awareness Week hosted by OIS.

And, finally, it seems fitting that St. Patrick’s Day falls in the Year of the Snake. After all, St. Patrick supposedly drove the snakes out of Ireland. So, Happy St. Patrick’s Day and *Gung Hay Fat Choy!*

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Letter to the Editor

Orinda Senior Housing Project Took Too Long

Bitter wrangling over building a 67-unit Orinda senior citizens’ housing project came to an end on January 25, when local officials broke ground for Orinda Senior Apartments. The housing will be built at 2 Irwin Way in Orinda (across the street from the Orinda Safeway and Citibank). Launching the project took 11 years. The apartments will be built by Eden Housing of Hayward, California.

The housing has stirred up controversy in Orinda because the Irwin Way location will add to downtown Orinda’s horrible traffic and parking problems. In addition, the project may exceed downtown Orinda’s 35-foot height limit. Thus, the housing could block views of nearby hills as well as upset the semi-rural atmosphere of Orinda.

No one knows how much time and

money the Orinda City Council and the Orinda city manager’s office spent over the 11 years. Also, no one knows if any senior citizens will want to live in the Irwin Way housing.

To gain efficiency in the construction of senior-citizen housing, there is a simpler way to proceed. Needy senior citizens should be given money – from government or charities – to select a place to live.

Once senior citizens have money to spend, private construction companies will build the necessary housing – housing which could be constructed in Orinda, Walnut Creek, or another location.

Why wait 11 years for housing that could be built more quickly? Some needy senior citizens may not be able to wait 11 years for housing.

– Richard Colman

◆ **GLAZER** from page 1

serving as a consultant to companies, associations and elected officials on public policy issues. He is also a California State University Trustee, a position he hopes to retain if elected to the assembly.

“Our schools really need our support. While the state’s university system still has a good reputation, costs have increased and access has declined,” says Glazer. “In K-12, there has been a steady erosion of support, which is beginning to be reversed. I think the people in Orinda and in District 16 understand and support both fiscal responsibility and our schools.”

Glazer and his wife Melba Muscarolas have lived in Orinda since 1996. They have two daughters: Alexandra (Alex) 18, a student at George Washington Univ. studying political communication; and Ariel, who graduated from the University of Redlands and works in brand marketing in San Francisco. “They are all very supportive, and

Alex was my campaign manager for my last City Council re-election so they have an idea what to expect,” says Glazer.

For more information on Glazer’s campaign, go to glazer4assembly.com.

◆ **COMEDY** from page 1

“promised us all new material for this show.” Durst shares the program with Emcee Wayne Coy of KKDV radio and comedians Kabeezy, David Van Avermaete and Arthur Gaus.

Chamber president Sylvia Jorgensen said that while the show is a fundraiser for the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, it will also benefit a variety of non-profit organizations. According to Jorgensen, past beneficiaries include the Educational Foundation of Orinda and the Orinda Arts Council. The show is produced in collaboration with Tommy T’s Comedy Clubs.

“Things have changed at Theatre Square,”



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Kattenburg said, pointing to the multiple restaurants and activity in the area. “The Chamber wants to encourage Orindans to shop and enjoy dinner without leaving their own town.”

Kattenburg described Theatre Square as having “evolved to be a pretty interesting place with art galleries and new restaurants. It’s one of the more lively parts of Orinda’s night time.”

The evening begins at 7 p.m. with no host bars in the lobby and theatre, fol-

lowed by an 8 p.m. curtain. Concessions for the show will include beer from the local brewer, Calicraft, recently featured in *Diablo Magazine*.

Discounted and VIP tickets can be reserved until March 7 at www.Orinda-Chamber.org, or in person at First Republic Bank, 224 Brookwood Road. Tickets at the door (if available) will be \$40 per person.

For a preview of Durst’s style of comedy, go to www.willdurst.com.

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

LOCAL BUSINESSMAN / CAR TIME

Local Businessman Works with FPA to Help Foster Youth

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

Dan Gannett of Park Place Wealth Advisors Inc. in Orinda, has worked with Financial Planning Association (FPA) and the Independent Living Skill Program (ILSP) to put together a financial literacy program to help high school aged foster youth. The program focuses on “teaching the youth about budgeting, banking, insurance and credit - core life skills,” said Gannett.

The program grew out of work that FPA East Bay did with Junior Achievement. Gannett added, “Junior Achievement is an organization that does financial education for youth.” A few years ago, Gannett discovered ILSP, a county services program. ILSP was formed to help foster youth to get life skills that they need. “We took Junior Achievement as a group, and we went to ILSP and we started a two-hour training class. We did that for a year, and they found it very valuable,” said Gannett. ILSP then asked if the program could be expanded. Gannett added, “I sort of lead this one project. We took that content and expanded it from one two-hour class to two two-hour classes, and then we came up with a four week class. Now, we’re offering it at three locations, and there are two hours of training, four times, so the kids are getting eight hours of training.” ILSP provides a monetary incentive check to youth who take the classes of up to \$50.

FPA East Bay has also partnered with Mechanics Bank to help the youth that take the classes get into the banking system. Gannett said, “I was made aware of a program called CA25, in San Mateo County. The San Mateo County ILSP were



Dan Gannett works with high school aged foster youth.

partnering with a bank to offer the youth a bank account if they trained a certain number of weeks.” FPA East Bay offered a matching grant to the youth if they place the check they get from the county into a bank account. Gannett added, “The county pays the youth \$4-5 an hour for taking the class. At the end of this four-week class, the youth get a check for \$40-50. When a youth opens a bank account with the \$50 from the county, we match it within a few days, and all of a sudden they have \$100. They go ‘wow, somebody does care about me!’ It’s funny, the first time we did the class with the grant in place there was a lot of skepticism among the youth. Now, we’re in the third or fourth year of offering the grants.”

Gannett is co-founder and principal of [SEE GANNETT page 22]

CAR TIME

What to Do If Your Car Breaks Down on the Highway
by JOHN VANEK



You are driving down the highway when suddenly you have car trouble. The National Safety Council suggests the following measures when your car breaks down or has a flat tire on the highway.

At the first sign of car trouble, gently and smoothly take your foot off the accelerator. Do not brake hard or suddenly. Carefully work your vehicle toward the breakdown lane or the side of the road. If you are on an interstate, try to reach an exit. Signal your intentions to drivers behind you. If it is necessary to change lanes, watch your mirrors and the traffic around you closely.

Once off the road, make your car visible, use your emergency flashers. If it is dark, turn on the interior dome light.

When you have a flat tire, be certain that you can change it safely without being close to traffic. If that is possible, change the tire as you normally would. Remember, safety must take precedence over your schedule or whatever other concerns you may have.

However, when the car is beyond repair,

it is best to get professional help. Do not try to flag down other vehicles. Raise your hood and tie something white to the radio antenna or hang it out a window so police officers or tow truck operators will know help is needed. Don’t stand behind or next to your vehicle. If the car is in the roadway, stand away from the vehicle and wait for help to arrive.

If your car is safely out of traffic, wait inside the vehicle with the doors locked. Use your cellular phone to call for help. If someone stops and offers to help, open the window slightly and ask them to call the police.

Watch for a uniformed police officer or other emergency personnel. All interstate highways and major roads are patrolled regularly. Also, some local highways have special “call-box” phones.

It is inadvisable to walk on an interstate, especially during inclement weather. However, if you can reach a source of help on [SEE CARE TIME page 22]



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POLICE

◆ MCCLATCHIE from page 4

recipe!”

McClatchie has memories of her whole family going to worship service at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Armagh, which is said to be the seat of St. Patrick’s Christian ministry. “I remember I didn’t like singing ‘Saint Patrick’s Breastplate’ [a Christian hymn whose lyrics have been attributed to St. Patrick],” she says. “The poetry in that just passed me by.”

McClatchie says she’d like to debunk one more myth about St. Patrick – apart from the tale that he drove all the snakes out of Ireland! “You hear that St. Patrick was a Roman Catholic, however, he brought Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century, 1,000 years before the church split into Protestant and Catholic,” she says.

McClatchie and her husband Ted, who also hails from Portadown, came to California in 1967. “My husband was offered a chance to do post-doctoral studies at UC Berkeley Lawrence Radiation Laboratory,” she says. “We thought we’d only be here for two years.”

The family, including son Iain and daughter Sharon, moved to Orinda in 1975. “We moved here for the better schools,” says McClatchie, who now has five grandchildren.

McClatchie, who earned an undergraduate degree in Speech Pathology from Leicester University in England and a post-graduate degree in Audiology from Manchester University, went on to become the first clinical pediatric audiologist in Northern Ireland. “I

started a clinic specializing in diagnosing deafness in babies as young as 6 or 7 months,” she says.

When she arrived in Berkeley, she soon got tired of sitting around the pool at their apartment while her husband went off to work. “I had never not worked in my life.” She landed a job in the Audiology Department at Children’s Hospital and eventually became Head of Pediatric Audiology, a position she held until her retirement in 2005.

One of her proudest achievements was winning a grant in 1990 to establish the first cochlear implant program in Northern California. The device is a surgical implant that provides a sense of sound to deaf people. She and a colleague also wrote a book called *AuSpLa* about how to teach implant patients to speak.

McClatchie is also active in the Orinda Woman’s Club which raises thousands of dollars for charitable organizations through its annual Festival of Trees fashion show – what McClatchie describes as “very New York.”

This year, they gave over \$13,000 apiece to Juvenile Auxiliary, which helps formerly incarcerated teens transition back to society; Winter Nights, a program through churches and synagogues that gives shelter and food to the homeless; and A Friendly Place in Oakland, a drop-in where girls on the street have a safe place to take a shower, get clean clothes and a square meal.

“Everyone has the right to be rescued,” says McClatchie, in the true spirit of St. Patrick. “We have been given this freedom in order to extend it to others.”



POLICE BLOTTER

January 2013

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 91 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Burglary – Auto: 1 incident reported on Brookwood Rd.

Burglary – Commercial: 2 incidents reported on Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante.

Burglary – Residential: 10 incidents were reported on Don Gabriel Way, Honey Hill Rd., Estabueno, Overhill Rd., Courtney Ln., Berkeley Ave., La Vuelta, Zander Dr., Las Vegas Rd., and Valley Dr.

Grand Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident at Las Palomas.

Petty Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident at Diablo View Dr.

Vandalism – Felony: 2 incidents at Kenmore Ct. and Camino Pablo.

Arrests

Domestic Battery: 1 arrest was made at Glorietta Blvd./Heather Ln.

Receiving Stolen Property: 2 arrests were made on Orinda Way and Virginia Dr.

Warrant Arrest: 4 arrests were made on Dalewood Dr., Lavenida/Moraga Way, Sunnyside Ln. and Ichabod Ln.

Orinda BART Station

Stolen Bicycle: 2 incidents were reported.

Stolen Vehicle: 1 incident was reported.

Theft from a Motor Vehicle: 4 incidents were reported.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
Orinda Police Department

◆ CRIME from page 1

this was caught on a security camera that the home owners had installed. This is the second time this home has been burglarized since September 2011.

According to Chief Jennings, one of the reasons that criminals target Orinda is because, “Many of our victim’s homes are located with quick access to the freeway,” said Jennings. That coupled with homes that appear unoccupied during the day leads to tempting targets for burglars.

Police activity is also on the rise to combat the surge in burglaries. “We have increased patrols, and we have had a couple of neighborhood watch meetings since the increase. It should be noted that we provide a Home Burglary Audit, which informs citizens how to make their home a less attractive target,” said Jennings. Though

the vehicle caught on surveillance video at Overhill Road had unreadable license plates, “We have not recovered any stolen vehicles associated with the burglaries. We also have had information that leads us to believe that one crew of burglars prefers to rent luxury vehicles to commit their crimes,” added Jennings.

To increase safety in your neighborhood, Jennings said, “We encourage citizens to report any suspicious, unfamiliar people in their neighborhood. It is also important to try and get a license plate and a good look at the people when you call dispatch to report an incident, without placing yourself in harm’s way. The more information provided the easier it will be for my officers to develop reasonable suspicion to enforce a pedestrian or traffic stop.”

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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Diverse Abilities Awareness Week
Furtheres Understanding

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) once again furthered understanding of both students, parents and faculty/staff at its annual Diverse Abilities Awareness Week (DAAW). Held from February 4 – 8, the week included class discussions about various types of challenges and abilities such as differences in learning styles, auditory processing, visual and sensory integration, and physical impairments.

“Our goal is to have the kids begin to understand what a person might be challenged by and to experience that. It really helps you appreciate what others have to deal with everyday,” says Anna Tague, parent volunteer and DAAW coordinator. Tague, who also cofounded Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education (POISE), has a 9-year-old daughter with Phelan McDermid Syndrome – one of about 600 diagnosed cases in the world – caused by a spontaneous deletion of a small segment of her 22nd chromosome. “Nicole is the youngest of our four children, and she is inspired by, and an inspiration for, her older siblings,” says Tague. “Her siblings, and in some ways friends of her siblings, gain an awareness of the challenges life can have by watching Nicole and how hard she works to accomplish things that many never even think about.”

During Diverse Abilities Awareness Week, all OIS students were exposed to numerous activities involving physical challenges and discussed the film *Freedom Machines*, a documentary on assistive technology. The week also included a sixth grade assembly and panel discussion, where three young people shared their experiences and challenges of their world.

“It’s amazing, but each year I learn something new from the panelists,” says Tague. “There are so many resources out there, and we want to increase the aware-

ness for people who might need those resources.” This year’s panelists included Maricor Pagsanjan, who has cerebral palsy and uses an augmentative communication device to communicate. “She is not able to use a typical keyboard due to muscle control challenges so she uses an infrared light on a headband to select ‘keys’ on her computer,” Tague explains. Richie Bennett, a graduate of OIS, returned to the panel for his fifth year. Bennett has had much success as a wheelchair athlete through BORP (Bay Area Outreach Recreation Program), which provides adaptive sports to individuals with physical disabilities. He is currently working on his graduate degree at St. Mary’s College. Laurie Van Allen also returned as a panelist to share details of her life with a guide dog.

A highlight of the week was the community open house on February 6, which included a wheelchair basketball game with OIS 8th graders playing the BORP team in the Isola gymnasium. BORP had to spot the OIS players a large number of points to keep the score somewhat close.

Also at the open house, sixth grade students had an opportunity to experience a variety of visual, auditory and sensory-motor stations. “The sensory-motor station had you look into a mirror and then try and trace something. It was pretty hard,” said 6th-grader Brice Dalton. “I really liked the station where you asked Maricor questions. She answered by moving her head and pointing a laser at her computer screen, and then the computer ‘said’ what she wrote.”

Bridget Tague’s favorite station was the one that required students to put a bunch of Skittles candy in front of their lower teeth, hold them in place, and then read a tongue twister. “It was pretty frustrating trying to be understood,” says the 6th grade student. “The goal of this exercise is for students to acknowledge that a person’s intelligence level can be misunderstood or underestimated if the individual is difficult to understand,” says Anna, Bridget’s mom.



SALLY HOGARTY

OIS 8th grade students play wheelchair basketball against the BORP team. BORP (Bay Area Outreach Recreation Program) provides sporting events for wheelchair athletes.

The groups at this year’s open house included: Autism Family Support Project; Augmentative Communication and Technology Svcs.; BORP; Communication Works; Canine Companions for Independence; Quest Therapeutic Camp; MaxAbility, occupational therapy services; Special Olympics; Trails to Success, social skills; and Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center.

“Our principal Michael Randall feels strongly that having activities like this that let students really experience things, helps them learn,” says Tague. “I hope that it also

allows them to share some of those experiences with their parents.”

Dalton, who was attending the open house with his grandfather Al Foley, felt the experience was very valuable. “I think kids really get something out of it. They see what it’s like to not be able to do things a certain way so maybe when they see someone different, they’ll not laugh but help them. I know that some of the stations I went to seemed kind of cool at first because you’re trying to do something in a whole new way. But, if I had to do that everyday, it would get really annoying.”

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SALLY HOGARTY

OIS students try to draw by looking at an image through a mirror at the sensory-motor coordination station.

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FILM



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

ON THE DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS

Tom Westlake



Ordinarily, it would be April when everything felt a little off kilter; it being the month of fools and all, but chaos never was very good at keeping appointments and decided to visit us during the month of February and overstay its welcome well into March. Rest assured, there is still enough to choose from when it comes to cinematic entertainment, but there is one particular problem that has descended upon us and has, in a very significant way, impacted our usual cinema viewing habits. More on that later in this column.

The extra movie showings this month

are all bunched together during the second full week of March with nary a moment in-between to catch one’s breath (another sure sign that the cosmic jester is in full force). It all starts on March 14 with a showing of *The Princess Bride*. Based on the book by William Goldman, this film is often overlooked for its tenderness amidst all the chaos. *Bride* is also one of the first examples of deconstructionism (most recently made popular with the *Scream* films and the more recent *Cabin in the Woods*) that turns its genre – in this case, the fairy tale - on its head. Comedy,

provided by Billy Crystal, Carol Kane and Wallace Shawn, is also very present, and it all blends together seamlessly. The film has achieved a well-earned cult status and is highly recommended – especially if one has never seen it before. Always better on the big screen, it will show at the Orinda Theatre at 7 p.m.

The International Film Showcase brings us *Three Worlds*. This French 2012 film is ornate and fraught with guilt, suspicion and...love. Centered on a single tragic event, the primary characters are caught in various lies, omissions and withheld identities. To go into more detail would most certainly spoil the many twists and turns this film offers. Suffice it to say, it would be wise to pay close attention to this Gordian knot of a movie, which you will have ample opportunity to do during the week of March 15 at the Orinda Theatre.

Also during that week, the Orinda Theatre is proud to partially host the 18th Annual East Bay International Jewish Film Festival. From March 15 - 18, the Orinda Theatre will be showing a variety of films highlighting the Jewish experience covering such topics as Broadway musicals, films about gender identity, and Roman Polanski among many others. For a full schedule, visit their website at www.east-bayjewishfilm.org.

And now, as promised, I wish to call your attention to something that should be of concern to all cinefiles in the area. It’s all very well for this column to inform one and all of the many cinematic events in the Orinda/Moraga area, but it would be an exercise in futility if there were no venue in which to show said films.

As any long-time resident can attest, our two local theaters have been both a source of pride and a source of, for want of a better word, indifference. In all honesty, my first impression of the Rheem was not a good one. It had all the markings of a local theater that had fallen into disrepair. The seats were worn to where some of them actually had to be cordoned off, and watching a movie there was like watching it through a Los Angeles smog bank.

Now, it’s quite a different picture. There is an air of casual elegance about the place...almost European (all that’s missing is a bar!), and there’s an equal effort to maintain it. Unfortunately, one of its more prominent features has fallen upon hard times: The lift that enables the mobility im-

paired to enjoy movies in the upper floors is broken. According to Derek Zemrak, the Rheem has raised over half of what it will need (\$30K) to effect complete repairs. In truth, what the Rheem plans to do is install an exterior elevator, completely replacing the interior rail system. This, of course, is dependent on approval by the building owner as well as by the town planners.

One of the casualties of this malfunction is none other than Vanessa, Queen of the Rheem, who will not be able to engage in her monthly slumber party, and though I might have made light of her in the past, I do consider what she’s doing very valuable.

Of equal importance, though is to also remember how many other events the Rheem hosts. Aside from the Queen’s Slumber Party, there is also the Kid’s Summer Movie Camp, the Annual Lamorinda Film Festival and the always important and environmentally aware Green Rheem Film Series; none of which would even exist were it not for the Rheem.

So I urge you all to keep the Rheem in your thoughts, donate what you can and remember, stay in the dark. That’s where the magic truly lies.



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Local Donor Moves Elevator Repair Along

The Lamorinda Theater Foundation, through the California Independent Film Festival Association, recently reported that Joan Bruzzone of Moraga has contributed \$5,000 for the elevator lift fund for the Rheem Theater. Additionally, she has made a loan to the Association for the remaining \$25,000.

While this will allow the association to install the new elevator and re-open the upper floor theaters, the loan will have to be repaid so fundraising efforts continue. A gala Oscar Night was one of the many held to help repay the loan.

The wheelchair lift that could transport one wheelchair at a time up the curved staircase to the three theaters upstairs has been closed since mid-January. By either repairing the current lift or building a new outside elevator (see “The Reel Less Traveled”), the theater will once again be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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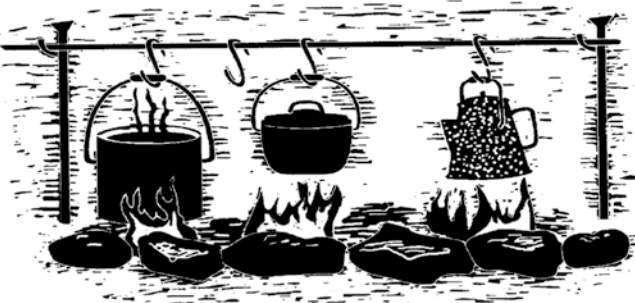
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We'd love to see new members join today too. Joining the OA or renewing on-line is fast, easy and safe. Simply go to www.orindaassociation.org and press the big

orange button, or you can use the enclosed membership envelope found in this issue. Your support is vital to sustaining such programs and events as the Orinda Volunteer Center, the annual Volunteer of the Year and Wm. Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Awards dinner, the July 4th Parade and celebration (made famous by the Forbes.com recognition of Orinda as "#2 friendliest town in the nation"), our Seniors Around Town transportation program, public forums, and, of course, your favorite newspaper for in-depth local news, *The Orinda News*.

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

Passionate Art Lover Receives U.C. Berkeley’s Highest Honor

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Barclay Simpson is passionate about art, though he can’t remember when he first acquired his appreciation. It certainly wasn’t that he is a gifted artist - in fact, his first art teacher told him he had no talent.

“Artists are generally better people,” he says. While his art teacher dissuaded the young boy from a career as an artist, the teacher couldn’t have foreseen Simpson’s passion for the arts, nor his future philanthropic endeavors.

Simpson finds it difficult to recall where his love of art originated. There is a consistent joy to his voice, marked with thoughtful laughter as he recollects growing up in the Depression. “We sure didn’t have any artwork, couldn’t afford it,” he says.

Now, every room of his home, and most of the lawn, display magnificent art – created not only by masters long gone from this world but also young up and coming artisans he and his wife Sharon have met in their 13 year tenure as owners of Barclay Simpson Fine Arts Gallery in Lafayette, as well as in his work as a trustee of the California College of the Arts and as chairman of the UC Berkeley Art Museum.

His wife Sharon offers some hint to when her husband developed his love of art. Their first date, she says was at the Laguna Beach Art Festival. Art was one of the first common denominators on which their relationship flourished. Without hesitation, Simpson adds the best decision he ever made in his life is his wife Sharon. The two raised seven children in Orinda,



Barclay and Sharon Simpson at last year's California Shakespeare Theatre's gala.

where they have lived since the early 1950s.

In December, while attending the ground breaking ceremony for the new UC Berkeley Art Museum, which Simpson had raised funds for, he was surprised when “the Chancellor started talking about me and put a big medal around my neck.” The Chancellor had presented him with the highest honor bestowed by UC Berkeley, the Berkeley Medal.

Simpson says he is “uncomfortable at the attention I’ve gotten,” but admits “it is exciting.” A UC Berkeley graduate, Simpson’s education was temporarily

interrupted by the onset of World War II. He became a member of the distinguished Naval Air Corps group, Flying Golden Bears, which consisted of pilots recruited from UC Berkeley.

Simpson’s philanthropic activities at UC Berkley, and throughout the Bay Area, are due not only to he and his wife’s generous spirits, but to the success of his company, Simpson Strong Tie (Simpson Manufacturing). As his company grew, Simpson dealt with many changes in the workplace. He believed in the ideals of Affirmative Action long before the phrase was popular, and personally saw to it that his plants in San Leandro and Mississippi were integrated. He was ahead of his time, and business principles he put in place from the start remain today. He stresses the importance of getting all employees, (who are all on a first name basis) involved in decisions. And, with no embossed markers, the janitor has the same chances as management at securing a parking spot each morning.

In addition to the arts, Simpson’s passion and generosity includes education, and his enthusiasm for Girls Inc., runs deep. He and his wife are longtime advocates of the group, which began renovation last year on the new 33,000 square-foot Girls Inc. Simp-

son Center for Girls in downtown Oakland.

In his first year supporting the program, 14 years ago, Simpson said only four percent of 30 girls were reading at grade level. There is pride in his voice as he speaks of the young children’s accomplishments: “When they finished, everyone read at grade level.” Simpson’s fervor is contagious. According to the group’s website, www.girlsinc-alameda.org, the group served 7,500 girls in 2011.

Simpson and his wife have spent decades contributing to many causes in the arts, education and sports and are well known for their philanthropic work. Besides several scholarship funds, their namesakes include: the Sharon Simpson Center at Cal Shakespeare Theater; the Simpson Center for Student-Athlete High Performance at UC Berkeley; and the Sharon Hanley Simpson Library and Barclay Simpson Sculpture Studio in Oakland at the California College of the Arts.

“As you can see,” Simpson smiles as he indicates the walls of the dining room, filled floor to ceiling with art, “Sharon and I get a lot of pleasure from this art.” Indeed, the art of philanthropy is one that thousands of Bay Area residents will enjoy for years to come.

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Something to Howl About...
Animal Tales
“The Luck O’The Irish”



Jennifer Conroy

‘Tis March and the time when all of us might claim to be a bit Irish. Well, there are indeed some lucky dogs and cats who can rightly claim that heritage. Irish breeds, one and all!

Most of us are familiar with the Irish Wolfhound, that huge dog with the brown-grey thick ruffled coat and those deep dark eyes. Wolfhounds have been prized for centuries and were brought from Ireland to Rome as gifts for emperors.

While the brown-grey coat is common, there are other varieties, including a grey so light it could be white. The breed got its name for protecting farms, homes, stock and kin from wolves. Although once fierce protectors, the breed possess a temperament so sweet that they earned the right to be the best friends of kings and peasants alike.

The Irish Setter is another example of the bounty of the Emerald Isle. Its red mahogany wavy coat make it fit for any beauty pageant. This breed was among the very first recognized by the American

Wolfhounds have been prized for centuries and were brought from Ireland to Rome as gifts for emperors.

Kennel Club back in 1884. A true retriever, they can be trained for field trials but they are truly spectacular as companion dogs, especially for families with children.

Terriers are top among the Irish breeds and include the Kerry Blue, the Soft-Coated Wheaten, and the Irish Terrier which was the mascot of Notre Dame until 1963 when that position was usurped by, you guessed

it – a Leprechaun! Each of these has the terrier traits of tenacity and the need for plenty of exercise. They have distinguishing physical characteristics that range from the soft silky coat of the Wheaten to the dark blue highlights of the Kerry Blue. While smaller in stature than wolfhounds or setters, the terriers’ feisty personalities make their presences known.

The Irish Water Spaniel is a lovely mid-size curly coated dog that may have descended from the pairing of an Irish setter and Poodle, a wonderful mix of beauty and brains. The breed features a top knot and a smooth face and is extremely agile in the water. Used by fishermen in Ireland to pull nets, it, too, makes a fine companion animal.

But what about Irish cats! No vision of an Irish home would be complete without the kettle set to boil and a cat by the hearth. The Scottish Fold cat with its owl-like face and front folded over ears may not be “pure” Irish, but the Irish Bog cat certainly is! There is a yarn that claims the bog cat was the companion of the “little people” or Leprechauns. A distinguishing feature of this cat is that its front legs are longer than the back legs to enable the cat to climb out of peat bogs.

The British Isles in general are rich in specialty cats from the Manx with its bobbed tail to the Scottish McCat that was such a fierce fighter it was used in battles between clans. For information about dog and cat breeds, visit the websites of the American Kennel Club and the Cat Fanciers Association of America. In particular look in the calendar sections for “all breed” shows of dogs or cats in the Bay Area and treat yourself to the amazing experience of seeing some of these breeds live.

Local Runner Achieves All American Status

By BILL O'BRIAN
Staff Writer

The All American status is the ultimate rating for an athlete in American college athletics. Jenny Bergren, who ran for Miramonte High School, earned this designation in November 2012 running 15th overall at the (NCAA Division II) Cross Country Championship at Joplin, Missouri. Three hundred runners competed in the 6k race.

Bergren is 24 and graduated from Miramonte in 2007. She recently graduated Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo studying agricultural business. Presently, she is in graduate school at the Art Academy of San Francisco earning a MFA in Interior Architecture and Design. One might ask how someone who is in graduate school can compete in college athletics. Bergren has one year of college



Jenny Bergren at the NCAA Cross Country Championship at Joplin, Missouri.

“Jenny certainly upset the apple cart as a freshman! She was a great runner and a fierce competitor,” says then Campolindo coach Chris Walsh.

eligibility left over from her undergraduate years when she took her sophomore year off from running. Thus, she can compete with the Academy’s undergraduate athletic program.

She started running in the 9th grade for the Mats in cross country and track. That first year Bergren led her team as a freshman to win the California State Division III Girls Cross Country Championships with a sixth place finish for her. In Cross Country races, points are given for the place of each individual runner on a team. The five to eight runners’ scores and are added up, and the lowest team score wins. Thus, the person winning the race gets one point, and the person running eight gets eight points. The Campolindo team in that meet had the first place individual winner with their star runner, Vera Ross, and the team finished second to Miramonte at the state meet.

Campolindo Cross Country coach at that time, Chris Walsh, says, “Jenny certainly

upset the apple cart as a freshman! She was a great runner and a fierce competitor. I remember their excellent coach Brian Henderson talking about her with great excitement early in the season.”

Bergren ran the indoor mile in 4:56 on February 8, 2013 at the Grand Valley state meet in Michigan. One of her current coaches is Torrey Olson who ran for Walsh at Campolindo. She is now running indoor track meets for the Art Academy.

Asked how she balances athletics and academics, she says, “I wouldn’t have a social life without my teammates. I run hard and study hard. It’s really intense, but I choose that lifestyle.” Bergren has been “really lucky” not to have any major injuries from her running career. Her senior year at Cal Poly she had some knee pain from too much mileage. She plans to continue running after her studies, competing in 5k and 10k races and hopes to get a sponsorship from a business to help fund the training and competing.

Her feelings for the sport remain strong. She says, “It has done a lot to improve my life. It has taught me to be patient, to treat my body well, and I have a new community of friends. I love the sport and respect it.” About the Art Academy, she says she really likes the school, and her plans are to find a job involving interior hotel design.



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HELPING OTHERS

Fleeing Evil and Leaving Behind a Legacy of Good

By ERIK ANDERSEN
Contributing Writer

Ernest and Lola Poll loved their adopted home of Orinda, and to show their appreciation, they set up a trust that upon their death benefited the community where they had lived since 1949.

Their story began in 1907, in the northwest corner of Hungary, where Lola Erlich was born. She grew into an impressive woman who was known throughout Austria, Hungary and Germany for her singing and dancing. Legend has it that Lola was the first woman to drive an automobile in Vienna, where she met and married an Austrian named Ernest Polacek.

Ernest and Lola, both raised in the Jewish faith, enjoyed life in Vienna during the 1930s until March of 1938, when Austria was annexed by the German Third Reich. At that time, there were 300,000 Jews in Vienna. By 1945, there were only 8,000 Jews in Vienna, and nearly all who remained were in hiding. Lola's father was friends with the local Catholic priest, and, when it became clear that it was dangerous for Jews to remain in Austria, Ernest and Lola Polacek were told they could only escape

to Italy if they converted to Catholicism. The priest provided baptismal certificates so that they could leave Austria for Italy by way of Yugoslavia.

In Yugoslavia, it became necessary for Ernest and Lola to present themselves as Muslims. They made it safely through Yugoslavia and into Italy, where they had to revive their Roman Catholic identity to enter. While in a refugee camp in Italy, German officers tried to seduce Lola, so she feigned pregnancy. Ernest and Lola were able to reach a Red Cross deportation camp, and after the war, they received permission to leave Italy for the United States. They sailed on the Saturnia from Naples to New York, arriving on June 23, 1947, and they were able to make their way to the Bay Area. Members of the Unitarian Church in Berkeley befriended them, and their last name was shortened to Poll as they started over in a new land.

Ernest and Lola Poll bought a home on Camino Sobrante in Orinda at the end of 1949. They opened Village Cleaners at 101 Orinda Way in Orinda Village and grew to love Orinda. They later joined Orinda Community Church, and, being childless, they chose to leave behind a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Ernest and Lola Poll in an older passport photo. The two Orinda residents have left behind a legacy of helping seniors.

legacy that would benefit the community that welcomed them. Ernest passed away in the summer of 1982, and Lola remained in their home until her death in January of 1987. Ernest and Lola had arranged to have a trust created to serve the senior citizens of Orinda. The Reverend Dr. Ray Welles, Pastor of the Orinda Community Church at the time, served as the original trustee along with Harry and Jane Andersen of Orinda. Dr. Welles was instrumental in the creation of the Orinda Senior Village on the property adjacent to the church, and Harry Andersen ran Andersen Travel on Orinda Way.

Over the last 25 years, the Poll Trust pro-

vided grants to the Orinda Senior Village, the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town transportation program, Hospice of the East Bay, and individuals with chronic or terminal illnesses. In 2012, the Poll Trust was dissolved, and substantial grants were given to the Orinda Senior Village, the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center at Orinda's Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hospice of the East Bay, the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program, and the Orinda Community Foundation. The Orinda Community Foundation has the funds in reserve to benefit the new senior housing project that is underway at 2 Irwin Way at the old Orinda Library site.

Ernest and Lola Poll showed great courage and determination to flee persecution, and they were well aware that their flight to freedom was due to the kindness of others. Their 25-year legacy of generosity to Orinda was their way of carrying on the kindness that we continue to see as so many Orindans give generously of their time and resources.

Senior Helpers Of Contra Costa Announces New 2013-14 Senior Discount Card

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Senior Helpers of Contra Costa announced this week a new 2013-14 edition of its popular Lamorinda Senior Discount Card, which entitles local seniors to 10-20 percent discounts at select restaurants, hair salons, auto repair shops and other Lamorinda and Walnut Creek businesses.

The card is sponsored by Senior Helpers, an in-home care provider for seniors, which allows the elderly to remain independent and safe in their homes. The card is free of charge to seniors. A total of 35 businesses in the Lamorinda / Walnut Creek area are participating in the program, almost 10 more than in previous years.

"Our Senior Discount cards have been immensely popular over the last several years, and this year we had more merchants who wanted to participate than ever before," says Kevin Reneau, the owner of Senior Helpers in Contra Costa and program founder. "Our goal in starting the discount card was to provide a significant discount to our seniors while also giving a boost to local businesses. Whether it's 20 percent off a salad at a restaurant or a discount on



VICTOR IVY

Al and Annie Hyman use their Senior Discount Card at Theatre Square's Table 24.

hair styling or help with car or computer repairs, our discount card provides a genuine savings for local seniors."

Local businesses see the program as a great way to engage the local senior community. "We always want to be involved in our local community and this Senior Helpers discount card is a way to give back to our senior community, which has supported us forever," says Victor Ivry of Table 24 and Barbacoa Mexican Comfort Food in Orinda. "It allows us to reach out to our local seniors with significant discounts and also generate new business for our restaurants."


Participating Orinda businesses include: Table 24, Shelby's Restaurant, Orinda Motors, Village Pizza, National Life Foods, Anahid Designs Flower Shop, Barbacoa Mexican Grill, Siam Orchid Thai Restaurant, Hilton House, and Lava Pit Hawaiian Grill.

Over 3,000 cards were printed and are being distributed to seniors through local senior centers, senior organizations and senior living facilities along with all participating merchants. The cards are also available at the Senior Helpers offices at 1550 Viader Drive in Moraga.

For more information, contact Kevin Reneau at 925.376.9900, kreneau@seniorhelpers.com.

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HEALTH / BEAUTY

Everyday Changes
March Madness - Four Winning
Beauty Tips for Men

Bonnie Waters



What does a tournament of the final four in college hoops have to do with health and beauty? While there is no doubt that men (and women) love sports, eating and drinking, the truth is that today most men are also interested in looking good.

Men’s grooming has come a long way from the days when the average man washed his face with a withered bar of soap, doused on aftershave and covered up shaving nicks with bits of toilet paper. A recent survey shows that most men still need help when it comes to skin care since the majority of men still clean their skin with “whatever is in the shower.” The following four winning tips can give men a skin care routine that will be their own winning formula.

Winning Tip #1: Cleanse your skin two times a day

Men: While oil is important for keeping the skin naturally moist, “using whatever

is in the shower” can leave your face as dry as the Sahara. The skin attempts to compensate by ramping up oil production, leaving the skin feeling greasier leading to excessively blocked pores, oily skin, pimples and acne. Cleanse your face morning and evening clean using a face wash for your skin type.

Ladies: Ask your skin care specialist to recommend an appropriate facial wash for men...and then put it in the shower!

Winning Tip #2: Exfoliate two times per week

Men: While Tip #1 washes away oil and dirt on the surface, it doesn’t touch that stuff deep down in your pores. Use an exfoliating scrub that has granules to eliminate pore clogging and dirt build-up. Exfoliation also softens hair follicles for a closer, less-irritating shave.

Ladies: Pamper your significant other and introduce the exfoliating process to

him with a facial.

Winning Tip #3: Moisturize after cleansing the face

Men: The horror of dragging a sharp blade across your skin daily and exposure to the sun’s damaging rays can magnify the ravages of aging! After you cleanse, use a light moisturizer with SPF to restore your natural moisture and to protect from sun damage.

Ladies: Look for a moisturizer that contains SPF that blocks UVA rays the UVB rays.

Winning Tip #4: Avoid wrinkles around your eyes

Men: The first signs-of-aging for men

comes from the skin around the eyes. This can be prevented with regular use of an eye cream. Although common sense would tell you that eye cream goes around the eye, to avoid eye irritation it should be dabbed gently on the edge of the bone under the eye to prevent irritation. It will slowly spread to the fragile areas that need it most.

Ladies: When you treat your man to a facial, show him how to use his ring finger to apply eye cream properly. He may love the pampering so much that he will become your new spa partner!

These four winning tips prove that great skin care doesn’t need to be complex, mysterious or time consuming. If you have questions, call Changes Salon and Day Spa at 925-947-1814.

Move of the Month



Adjust the TRX straps to mid-length.

Face toward the anchor

point with one foot on the ground, and the other foot straight out in front of your body with your knee straight.

Hold the handles with a slight bend in your elbows, and place tension in the

straps by slightly leaning your body back.

To begin the movement, sit your hips back and down into a squat position, lifting one leg. Keep your heel on the ground and your knees over your ankle.

Jump directly into a squat landing with the opposite leg.

Try 3 sets of 10 reps.

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

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by Sheena

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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Boy Scout Receives National Award

By DAVID DIERKS
Assistant Editor

On March 16, Will Gittings, a sophomore at Miramonte High School, will be recognized for receiving the Boy Scouts’ Heroism Award. He is being honored for his actions on June 2011, when his cool head prevented a young girl from going into shock following a severe injury. Gittings was 14 years old at the time. “Had it not been for the swift and decisive actions



DAVID DIERKS

Will Gittings received one of Scouting’s highest honor for his quick thinking in a medical emergency.

of this young man, it could have been significantly worse for the young girl,” said neighbor Gary Schroeder. Schroeder provided a detailed letter to the Boy Scouts nominating Gittings for the award. “That’s why it took so long, it had to go through the Washington DC office,” said Tracy Gittings, Will’s mother. According to Schroeder, the accident took place on the

first day of summer vacation in 2011 at the Giddings’ home in Orinda. “The sounds of young people having fun and enjoying the start of their vacation were audibly noticeable. It sounded like kids having a great time,” said Schroeder, who was working in his home office at the time. The accident occurred when the young girl, who was entering 8th grade, went out the Gittings’ door and then quickly turned around to go back through. The door, which had many small glass panes, had closed and her arm went through the glass. “They were running and having a good time,” said Schroeder. Tracy Gittings added, “Instead of just leaving it [her arm] there, she panicked and pulled it out, and that’s where most of the damage happened.” The girl was cut across her bicep and bled profusely. “I do remember hearing one very loud scream. I figured there was no reason for alarm. That is until a minute later when I heard the faint sound of a siren,” Schroeder recalled. Will Gittings took control of the situation and according to Schroeder, “By the time I got there, he had already put pressure on the wound to stop the bleeding, sat her down, calmed her, called 911, called her dad, and was completely in control. Literally that was within minutes. I just walked across the street. The ambulance was already coming up the block,” said Schroeder. That night the girl went into emergency surgery. “I just recounted what happened. Will did all the work. He is one of the most mature, composed and polite young men I’ve ever met. He’s an exceptional kid. It was no surprise that he could act and react the way he did,” Schroeder explained. Gittings will receive the Boy Scouts’ Heroism Award at the council dinner on March 18. The award has been bestowed 3,206 times since its inception in 1923. Of the more than three million scouts eligible,

Girl Scout Cadettes Make a Difference



Cadette Troop 30622 is making a difference for needy children and animals in the Bay Area. The 7th grade troop made 17 blankets and donated them to Covenant House in Oakland. The organization works with youth who have left foster homes as well as runaways. The troop also worked for the animal rescue group, the Milo Foundation. The girls also found time to host this past fall’s Brownie Songfest, which included over 100 girls. The girls plan on working with other nonprofits this year as they explore various organizations and decide what to do for their Silver Award. Troop co-leaders are **Susanne Tom and Betsy Shandolay**. **Lisa DeLillo** is assistant troop leader. Shown above (L-R): **Lynn Wilder, Rachel Hee, Alexandra Shandolav, Julia Smith, Lynnette Voong, Sarah Bonapour, Megan Tom.** (non shown: **Ivy Langston and Serena Meadows**).

only 155 Heroism Awards were bestowed in 2012. For more information, visit www.bsamds.org.

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Czech School of California Expands to Lafayette Location in March

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Czechs are coming and Orinda’s Sister City Foundation couldn’t be happier. The Czech School of California has been offering classes in Palo Alto since September 2012, but, beginning in March 2013, classes will also be offered in Lafayette and San Francisco. “It’s a wonderful tie-in with our Sister City organization,” says Bobbie Landers. “We have our delightful high school students from our sister city Tabor in the Czech Republic staying here for six months and improving their English. Now, we can learn more about their culture and language.”

During its first semester in Palo Alto, the Czech School of California became the largest Czech school outside of the Czech Republic. Interest in the region has increased in recent years with UC Berkeley establishing a Czech Klub on campus last year. The school’s goal is to preserve the Czech language and culture among Czechs, Slovaks and Americans living in the Bay Area. The comprehensive curriculum includes: Czech language, Czech literature, history, geography and culture. Courses are taught by teachers with Czech credentials! For more information on the spring semester in Lafayette, go to www.Czech-SchoolofCalifornia.com.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Youth Theatre Company Wins Big in Atlanta



Orinda resident **Meaghan Hohman** (2nd row, 4th from right with red hair) is a member of Youth Theatre Company's Junior Theater. The group recently returned from the Disney Jr. Theater Festival in Atlanta, Georgia with the coveted Excellence in Acting Award. The group performed an excerpt from their upcoming production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.

Bulldog Theater Gets Island Fever

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater will present *Once On This Island Junior* at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive in Orinda. Show dates are Wednesday, April 24 through Saturday, April 27. With its poignant story and catchy Caribbean flavored score, *Once On This Island Junior* is a Caribbean adaptation of

the popular Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale *The Little Mermaid* featuring almost non-stop song and dance. The show is a feast for the heart, mind and soul that the entire family is sure to enjoy.

Visit <http://ois.orindaschools.org> starting April 10 for information regarding show times and tickets.

Stars Convene for Gold Coast Chamber Concert

By KALYN JANG
Contributing Writer

The Gold Coast Chamber Players return to the Orinda Library Auditorium for a chamber music concert, *Concertante*, on March 1 at 7:30 p.m. This award-winning ensemble will perform the music of Haydn and Mozart along with visiting artists Gil Sharon (violin), Ron Ephrat (viola), and Jennifer Culp (cello).

When Gold Coast brought their concert series to Orinda for the first time in September, they received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from Orinda classical music fans. Gold Coast has been drawing packed audiences for their concerts in Lafayette since 1999.

This program will feature Mozart's *Grande Sestetto Concertante* and Haydn's *Sinfonia Concertante in B Major*, two rarely performed arrangements of *sinfonia concertante* masterworks. As a genre, the *sinfonia concertante* combines the complexity of a symphony with the virtuosity of a concerto. Gold Coast is proud to welcome Gil Sharon and Ron Ephrat of the Amati Ensemble, who will make their only U.S. appearance of the year for *Concertante*. The Amati Ensemble is based in the Netherlands and is one of Europe's premier chamber ensembles. Also joining Gold Coast is Jennifer Culp, a former member of the Kronos Quartet.

Gold Coast's artistic director Pamela



Gil Sharon of the Amati Ensemble is one of the guest artists playing at the Gold Coast Chamber concert.

Freund-Striplen remarks, "The Orinda Library Auditorium is quite an intimate venue. The musicians felt that it was a great place to play chamber music and to feel the connection with the audience." She adds, "All our concerts this season have been selling out, and this performance will be our last in Orinda this year."

A post-concert reception will provide an opportunity to meet and mingle with the musicians. Tickets are \$35 general, \$30 senior, and \$10 student. Tickets are available at www.gcplayers.org and by phone at 925-283-3728.


Cal Shakes Tops Previous Box Office Records

By MARILYN LANGBEHN
Contributing Writer

California Shakespeare Theater 2012 season was the best attended in the organization's history, capping a stellar year of unprecedented growth for the organization. In addition to finishing the year in the black and breaking box office and attendance records, 2012's other accomplishments included the launch of programming designed to engage more people in the act of theater making via the Triangle Lab which deepens the audience's experience. A partnership between Cal Shakes and San Francisco-based Intersection for the Arts + Campo Santo, the Triangle Lab became a highly visible part of the Cal Shakes experience during *Spunk*, by hosting a variety of pre- and post-show participatory activities. These activities included an interactive art installation, a blues "holla

jam" to invite audiences to learn about the history of call-and-response and to create their own blues chant, and on-stage dance parties where audience members enjoyed dancing in the style featured in the production.

Cal Shakes' 2013 season opens with *American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose* by Richard Montoya, (May 29 – June 23); *Romeo & Juliet* (July 3 – 28); followed by *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Aug. 14 – Sept. 8); and concluding with *A Winter's Tale* (Sept. 25 – Oct. 20). In addition to Main Stage programming, Cal Shakes' 2013 Conservatories have doubled their capacity in the three-week Oakland sessions, and the Triangle Lab will present a whole new set of programs as it launches "Califas", a series of plays and events that will explore the California immigrant experience. For more information, visit our website at calshakes.org.




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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 **Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church** First Friday Forum presents sleep expert Dr. Matthew Walker on “Secrets of the Sleeping Brain – Overnight Improvements in Memory and Emotion, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette, 1:30 p.m. Call 925-283-8722.
- 2 **Oakland Museum** White Elephant Sale, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 333 Lancaster Street, Oakland. Free shuttle service from Fruitvale BART to sale warehouse. Benefits Oakland Museum. Call 510-536-6800 or go to www.whiteelephantsale.org.
- 7 **Miramonte High School** presents its spring musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, 750 Moraga Way, 7 p.m. Also March 8 at 7 p.m., March 9 and 10 at 2 p.m., and March 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. Tickets available at the door. Call 280-3930.
- 8 **Orinda Chamber of Commerce** A Night of Comedy, features Will Durst and well-known comedians, champagne and no-host bar, Orinda Theatre, 7 p.m. Tickets \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. Visit www.orindachamber.org.
- 13 **Second Wednesday Book Group** discusses *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 14 **Orinda Books** hosts Joel Pehanick discussing her novel *Porch Lights Burning*, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.
Del Rey Elementary School presents *Aladdin, Jr.* in the Glorietta Elementary Auditorium, 15 Martha Rd., 7 p.m. Also March 15, 7 p.m. and March 16, 2 p.m. Tickets available at the door. Call 258-3099.
- 15 **Sleepy Hollow Elementary School** presents *Seussical, Jr.* in the school’s Multipurpose Room, 20 Washington Lane, 5:30 and 8 p.m. Also March 16 at 2 and 5 p.m. Tickets available at the door. Call 254-8711.
International Film Showcase presents the French crime drama *Three Worlds* through March 22 (except March 17) at the Orinda Theatre with daily shows at 1:30, 4 and 6:30 p.m., additional shows Friday and Saturday at 8:45 p.m. Visit www.lfef.org.
18th Annual East Bay International Jewish Film Festival movies at the Orinda Theatre through March 17. Visit www.eastbayjewishfilm.org film titles and show times.
- 20 **State of the City Address** Luncheon with Mayor Amy Worth, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and advance reservations are required. Visit www.orindachamber.org/events.htm
The World Affairs Book Group discusses *Rez Life: An Indian’s Journey Through Reservation Life* by David Treur, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 28 **Sisters-in-Crime** Cara Black and Rhys Bowen discuss their latest mysteries, *Murder Below Montparnasse: an Aimee LeDuc Investigation* (Black) and *The Family Way: a Molly Murphy Mystery* (Bowen), Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 30 **Orinda Rotary** Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Orinda Community Park, 10:45 a.m. This free event for children up to age 7 will feature prizes, photos with Big Bunny and refreshments for kids and parents. Bring a basket.

AT THE LIBRARY

- All events are free unless otherwise specified. Note: library is closed March 31 for Easter Sunday. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org/locations/Orinda.html.*
- 2 **Friends of the Orinda Library** Book Sale at the Book Shop and Sorting Area, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 12 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent talks about the theatre’s latest production, *Fallaci*, from Pulitzer Prize winner Lawrence Wright about Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci, Fireside Room, 7 p.m. Adult program.
Mariela’s Music Time with bilingual music and stories especially for babies and preschoolers, 10:30 a.m.
- 14 **Ballet 101: What’s Ballet All About**, join members of the Diablo Ballet to learn more about the behind-the-scenes world of ballet, Garden Room, 7 p.m. Adult program.
- 15 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss *The Companion Ann Granger*, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Adult/teen program, drop-ins welcome.
- 19 **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 March 20, 26 and 27.
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 March 26.
- 20 **Paws to Read**, children in grades 1-5 can practice their reading with a friendly dog listener, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration required. Also March 27.
- 23 **Saturday Morning Live**, family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also March 30.
Weekend Paws to Read, same as weekday Paws to Read, but with shorter sessions, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- 28 **Talespinners of Contra Costa**, tell a story or just come to listen, featuring a special storyteller, 7 to 9 p.m. Adult program.

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., upstairs Better-Home/Mason McDuffie real estate meeting room, 51 Moraga 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., Postino Restaurant, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, September through May, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., www.montelindogarden.com. Troy McGregor, owner of Gondwana Flora nursery, will talk on Incorporating Australian Plants into a New or Existing Landscape.

Secrets of the Sleeping Brain Topic of First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Sleep expert Dr. Matthew Walker will speak on “Secrets of the Sleeping Brain-Overnight Improvements in Memory and Emotion,” at the First Friday Forum (FFF), March 1, 1:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

“The functions of sleep remain largely unknown, a surprising fact given the vast amount of time it takes from our lives. However, there is new evidence that suggests sleep may enhance our memories by remodeling our brains, as well as rebalance our emotional brain reactivity to prepare us for next-day social and psychological challenges,” Walker says. “Our research indicates that sleep is one of the most essential ingredients for helping the brain learn and retain new memories, and from those new memories, even discover novel and creative next-day insights.”

As an Associate Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of California, Berkeley, Walker directs the Sleep and Neuroimaging Laboratory, so he is well equipped to discuss topics relating to sleep. He earned his PhD in neurophysiology from the Medical Research Council in London and became an assistant professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School before coming to Berkeley.

Walker is the recipient of funding awards from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, and in 2006, became a Kavili Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences. His research focuses on the impact of sleep on human brain function in healthy and disease populations.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Matthew Walker discusses the relationship between sleep and brain function at the next First Friday Forum.

Walker observes, “On average, adults spend one-third of their lives sleeping, yet, no scientific consensus has been reached on why humans need sleep. My research has shown that deprivation can make otherwise reasonable people emotionally shaky, indicating a strong correlation between sleep loss and psychiatric disorders.” He also has found that an afternoon nap markedly boosts the brain’s learning capacity.

“This promises to be a most interesting [SEE FORUM page 23]

Theatre Square Celebrates Easter

Join us for a family friendly day of free activities!
March 30 – Noon to 5 p.m.
Bouncy house (noon)
Rock Climbing Wall (2 p.m.)
Face Painter (2 p.m.)
Photo Booth (2 p.m.)

- 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, 5 p.m., Historical Society Museum, 26 Orinda Way, 254-1353.
- Orinda Job’s Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 283-7176.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman’s Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

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STUDENTS / ATHLETICS

Orinda Aquatics' Stumph sets Record at USA Swimming Junior National Championships

By M. WOODWARD
Contributing Writer

Steven Stumph (Orinda Aquatics) swam to three first place finishes (100 breaststroke, 200 breaststroke and 200 Individual Medley) at the United States Junior National Championship, fastest under 19 meet in the world, in Knoxville, Tennessee, smashing the meet record in the 200 breaststroke. Per Mike Gustafson, USA Swimming Correspondent, “Stumph absolutely crushed the field in this event by nearly three seconds, en route to an incredible 1:55.88.”

In the fall, Stumph will head to USC to train under Dave Salo, 2012 Olympic swim coach and breaststroking “guru.” As a junior in high school, Stumph was just shy of the national high school record and was ranked as the number one high school swimmer in the nation (100 breast and 200 IM).

International Swimming recently released its “18 and Under Top 40 World rankings.” Between Stumph (100 breast/200 breast/200 IM/400 IM) and Sven Campbell (50 free/100 back/200 back), also of Orinda Aquatics, they combined for a total of seven



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coaches Don (L) and Ron Heidary (R) congratulate Steven Stumph on his three first place finishes.

such rankings.
Orinda Aquatics, coached by Don and Ron Heidary, is consistently ranked as one of the fastest small swim teams in the country and has produced numerous Olympic Trial and National Level swimmers. The organization also places a high percentage of swimmers in collegiate programs, and recently finished third at Junior Nationals. The team motto is “Character First.”

Lamorinda Teen Association Joint Council Meeting



SALLY HOGARTY
The Orinda Teen Advisory Council hosted a Lamorinda Teen Association meeting in late January. The association is a joint council comprised of each city's respective teen council. The councils plan a variety of service and social events. Front Row (L-R): Lina Mathkour, Meghan Marks, Devin Stein, Rain Mize, Preshet Moore and Mina Arasteh. Back Row (L-R): Evan McAvenia, recreation coordinator Troy Faulk, Jonathan Katayanagi, Kimberly Nelson, Orinda recreation supervisor Linda Dezzani and City Councilmember Sue Severson.

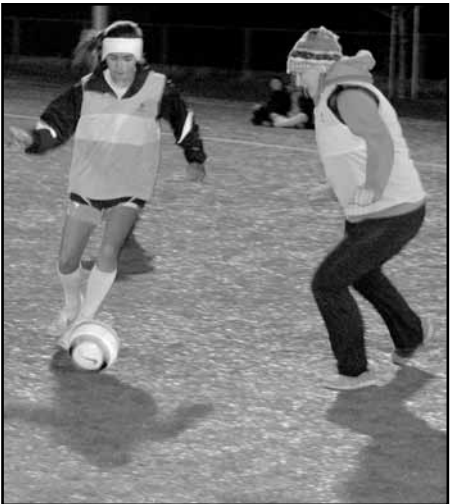
Soccer Club Gathers Coats for Those in Need

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The California Magic Soccer Club combined Pelada (a pick-up game of soccer) with collecting coats for the “One Warm Coat” foundation. The fundraiser took place on January 20 with more than 60 parents and players participating at the new Wilder playing fields. With coats in hand, the soccer club and their supporters shared an evening of fun, food, entertainment and, of course, soccer. Playing Pelada under the lights of the Wilder field, the California Magic Soccer Club was able to collect 117 warm coats, which the Concord Burlington Coat Factory distributed to those in need throughout the county.

“They [Burlington] were quite surprised as we kept bringing bag after bag after bag in through the front door,” said volunteer Lori Smith. “It’s just nice that the Magic does these types of community outreach programs to enlighten the kids.” The “Warm Coats, Warm Hearts” campaign is a nationwide effort to collect and donate one million coats.

Based in Orinda, the California Magic Soccer Club is now ranked in the top 10 in the state for U13 girls according to getsoc-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the California Magic Soccer Club organized a pick-up soccer game where the price of admission was a warm coat.

cer.com. “We are extremely excited about the future,” said head coach and technical director Haris Obic. “It means we are recognized as a premier club with the ability to produce competitive players and teams, but we are not done yet.”

The competitive soccer club also strives to educate, inspire and empower youth in a positive way. For more information, go to www.calmagicssc.com.

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ELIZABETH STROUT • RANDOM HOUSE \$26 (3-26-13)
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AROUND THE TOWN

Orinda Woman’s Club Awards Checks to Beneficiaries



SALLY HOGARTY
Representatives from the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary were presented with a check for \$13,000. The East Bay non-profit volunteer organization gives youth in the Contra Costa County juvenile justice system a second chance through its scholarship program, educational and vocational assistance, youth mentoring programs, and positive outreach. (L-R) OWC member **Barbara Rogan**, Auxiliary Executive Director **Janet Young**, Auxiliary intern **Beverly Carino**, Auxiliary member **Gwen Watson**, OWC president **Adeline McClatchie**, and Auxiliary member **Dixie King**.



SALLY HOGARTY
A check for \$13,000 was also presented to the Winter Nights Program of Contra Costa County, which provides a clean, safe and warm facility at night and daytime services center during the winter for homeless families with children. (L-R) Winter Nights representatives **Gwen Watson**, **Barbara Rogan**, **Alene Lee**, **Jo Kerner** and OWC president **Adeline McClatchie**.

Celebrating Adulthood as the *La Quinceañera*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CESAR VIRGEN PHOTOGRAPHY
Lauren Ramirez (L) entering the celebration and dancing the tango (R) with **McClain Marks**

Lauren Ramirez celebrated her fifteenth birthday with a traditional *Quinceañera* held at Berkeley’s Claremont Hotel in late February. Nearly 100 Miramonte High School students and family attended the event, which is steeped in Latino culture. The event included a slide show of Ramirez’s first 14 years, the presentation of representational gifts and dance performances. After dancing the waltz with her parents and godparents, Lauren danced with her seven *chambelanes* (Miramonte freshman boys shown above dancing the tango). The young people danced the waltz, tango and salsa all choreographed by Art Desuyo. International award-winning “popper” Woojin Lee performed and then led Lauren and her friends in “popping,” a street dance style similar to hip hop.

Chamber Welcomes Bank of America



SALLY HOGARTY
The Bank of America recently joined the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and had an official ribbon cutting reception on February 13. (L-R) Chamber members **Sue Breedlove**, **Paul Koenig**, **Susan Meyer**, **Jim Breedlove**, B of A loan specialist **Mike Gama**, Chamber president **Sylvia Jorgensen**, B of A manager **Daniel Villafuerte**, Chamber executive director **Candy Kattenburg**, B of A Assistant Vice President **Teesta Kaur**, and Chamber member **Sue Hurrell**.

Local Resident Elected President of American Chemical Society

By JOAN COYLE
Contributing Writer

Marinda Li Wu recently took over her duties as the 2013 president of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world’s largest scientific society.

Wu has a passion for promoting public outreach and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. She was inspired many years ago to launch the first “Family Science Night” with a successful partnership between the Orinda Union School District and the local California Section of ACS. Since 1997, the California Section of ACS has worked with school districts around the Bay Area to offer popular Family Science Night programs to hundreds of school age children and parents.

Wu also introduced popular Science Café programs for the general public in Orinda restaurants several years ago. More recently, in a partnership between the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF) and the California ACS Section, monthly Science Café programs attract large crowds to the Lafayette Library Community Hall with popular topics ranging from the “Science of Steinway and Sound” to “The Science of Art Conservation and the Sacred Art of Bhutan.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marinda Li Wu is president of the American Chemical Society.

Wu graduated from Ohio State University, with a B.S. cum laude with distinction in chemistry in 1971 and earned her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1976.

She lives in Orinda with her husband, Norm. They have two grown children, Lori, married to Stanford classmate Evan Malahy, and Will who recently moved back to the San Francisco Bay Area to work. Both have earned their respective Ph.D. and B.S. degrees.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

my value of creating a family memory that will be enjoyed for generations to come. I am grateful for this continuing support,” says Westdal.

Married to graphic designer Larry Westdal for 35 years, the couple resides in Orinda. Their two adult daughters, Claire and Lauren, attended Orinda schools. Jamie and Larry are proud grandparents of 21-month-old grandson Jake Blackshear, whose portrait is displayed throughout the Brookwood Road studio. In addition to custom framing for portraits, ready-made frames are available for purchase here.

For more information or to schedule a portrait sitting, call 254-9689 or visit the website at www.jamiewestdal.com. Jamie Westdal Photography is a member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

Entourage Day Spa

Gino Chiodo established his Salon Gino in Theatre Square in 1994 and, subsequently, grew his business from 16 employees to the current 38 employees over the years. Located in suite 148, adjacent to Shelby’s Restaurant, the business expanded to a full service spa and moved to its present loca-

tion in 2003. is savvy and proud of the hairstyling team he has brought together at Entourage Day Spa. “Our hairstylists are spectacular. They are a diverse group of people. We do good work, and we have a good time serving our wonderful clientele here,” adds Chiodo. Not only are hair and makeup services available, but clients may also take advantage of massage, facial and body treatments. “You can spend the entire day indulging in wellness and beauty. We carry a range of high quality products and gifts for purchase in our boutique. After all, our goal is to renew, restore and revitalize clients,” says Chiodo.

“The one hour reduction wrap proves to be a popular body treatment and guarantees slimming results. We feature several different peels for facial skin care,” remarks Chiodo. Entourage Day Spa also features a smoothing system for hair that does not involve a flat iron. “We are very happy to have neighbors in Theatre Square. There is very good energy here. We enjoy giving back to Orinda and support all local events when solicited by clients.”

Gino Chiodo lives in Lafayette with his wife, Linda, who is a hairstylist and buyer for the salon. The couple has two adult daughters. They enjoy jazz music at every opportunity. For years, they have donated



Gino Chiodo of Entourage Day Spa.

VALERIE HOTZ

tion in 2003. “By design, we took the day spa concept into the night and received national recognition for best new day spa by *Spa Finder Magazine* in 2004. Ten years later, and we are going strong,” explains Chiodo. Licensed to sell wine, champagne, beer and light fare that include salads, wraps, Panini, and soup in the café, the thoughtfully designed interior offers clients a relaxing respite from the demands of their busy lives.

With 32 years in the business, Chiodo

time at the spa for the National Charity League, as well as other local organizations.

Entourage Day Spa is open Tuesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. By special arrangement, Sunday may be reserved by groups.

Established clients will want to sign up for the Spa E-Club and receive special advertised discounts from time to time. To schedule an appointment, call 254-9721 and for more information on services visit the website at www.entouragespa.com.

Lenten Activities

Lenten Sermon Series will feature *The Table of Tears* art piece created by Donna Fado Ivery, disabled minister and a local artist, and several outstanding guest speakers. Held each Sunday February 17 through March 31 at 10:30 a.m.

Lenten Study series will focus on Howard Thurman’s book *Disciplines of the Spirit*, which provides insights about faith in the midst of suffering and struggle. Includes a soup and bread meal. Held each Wednesday February 20 through March 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Both events will be held at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, in Orinda. Call 254-5965 for more information.

◆ FORUM from page 19

presentation which should be of value to our guests as sleep and its issues apply to all of us,” says Judy Nielsen, chair of FFF. “We are delighted to present this free event and welcome all to a social hour of refreshments at 1 p.m. in LOPC’s Fellowship Hall.”

For further information call 925-283-8722 or visit lopc.org.

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Time to Read



KELLEE BACHOUR

Gideon Bachour was both fascinated and concerned as he read the latest Orinda News!

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Wells Fargo Advisors at the Crossroads

The specialized investment team of Alan Metheny, David Clarke, Mark Passalacqua, Gary Ledbetter and Scott Hampton recently opened Wells Fargo Advisors at Theatre Square, offering comprehensive financial planning, portfolio management and banking services for high net worth families, retirement plans and foundations. Abundant parking and being situated on the second floor in suite 210, makes this convenient location easily accessible for East Bay residents.

“Wells Fargo Advisors is one of the strongest global financial institutions, and they have greatly helped us offer terrific client experience,” says Metheny, who left Morgan Stanley last year to open this Orinda office. With 30 years of experience providing comprehensive investment planning, he teams up with Mark Passalacqua to help individuals and families determine personal investment planning and retirement planning. “I enjoy helping others meet their financial goals. My father was a physician, and I feel I am a family invest-

ment specialist. Our assistants, Jennifer Lau and Carol Christian, manage the office with finesse,” adds Metheny.

The investment advisors work one-on-one with clients to customize investment strategies according to a client’s needs. With the office loosely organized into a combination of two teams, David Clarke, Gary Ledbetter and Scott Hampton collaborate together to help families with their personal investments. “Our teams currently manage over \$125 million for our clients. Making sure your wealth continues to work in support of the goals you have established takes careful planning. Our teams recognize opportunities and solutions in a market that is not as simple as it used to be,” says Passalacqua.

“We offer the highest quality of services for investment planning and portfolio management for clients that include individuals, corporate executives, athletes and entertainers. This involves providing personalized service for high-net worth families and their retirement plans. We focus on developing an investment strategy to meet objectives that reflect lifestyle expectations, cash flow needs, risk tolerance and aspirations for families,” explains Metheny.



(L-R) Gary Ledbetter, Scott Hampton, Alan Metheny and David Clarke of Wells Fargo Advisors.

The teams of Wells Fargo Advisors in Theatre Square reside in the Lamorinda area and are active volunteers in their communities, serving in such capacities as OYA and CYO coaches.

For more information, call Alan Metheny at 253-4306 or email alan.metheny@wfaadvisors.com

Jamie Westdal Photography at the Crossroads

A portrait photographer with 32 years of professional experience, Jamie Westdal’s photography studio is located at 232 Brookwood Road, adjacent to Loard’s Ice Cream and Candies. Ample parking is available in the Beverages and More parking lot on Moraga Way and Brookwood Road.

Jamie Westdal specializes in portraiture of families and pets. “The main purpose of my art is to give portraits to people of their loved ones that will be passed down through generations. My work focuses on the individual people and who they are as individuals, rather than focusing on the environment surrounding the subject,” says Westdal. There is nothing gimmicky in a Westdal photograph.

“I shoot in the studio or on location. Even when I do shoot on location, I focus on the face. This is what is important to me. Of course, when I shoot portraits at weddings, I am in addition chronicling an important life event, so incorporating the environment and the wedding guests is very important,” says Westdal, who goes on to point out that it is a different world of photography today than when she first began in the profession. “Unfortunately, the craft has been devalued, and this may be due to the saturation and

availability of digital cameras. I have seen situations where individuals charge pennies on the dollar for a photograph, and the reality is photography is an art form. It is a craft that requires many skills to consistently produce quality professional work,” she says.

Many factors are involved in creating prized family portraits, including composition, lighting, and the interaction between the photographer and subjects is crucial to creating a desired effect that is captured on



Jamie Westdal with grandson Cooper.

film. “I think it is fabulous for people to take up photography, but I don’t think that just anyone with a camera should call themselves a portrait photographer,” explains Westdal. The numerous Orindans proudly displaying a Westdal portrait in their home is a fairly good indication of the loyal following she has built over the decades.

“I love my vocation and it is very satisfying. I am so lucky to be in this community, because it appreciates my work and shares [See BUZZ page 23]

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EASTER WEEKEND. ALL SQUARED AWAY.

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