

## City Council Seeks Framework for Roads Task Force

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

After many roadblocks and delays, a group of Orinda residents who live on private roads may finally see a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Following the detailing of a 67-page staff report and comments from 11 speakers at the April 10 City Council meeting, the Orinda City Council directed city staff to draft a framework for a private roads task force for the council's consideration. A unanimous vote of the four city councilmembers in attendance (Eve Phillips was absent) called for this framework to include a more dialogue-based task force. The recommendations will be presented at a future city council meeting though no specific timeline was set.

For many months, residents living on private roads have appeared before the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Committee (CIOC) and spoken during the public forum at city council meetings, urging officials to investigate private road issues and look at incorporating Orinda's 30.2 miles of private roads into the city's list of publicly maintained roads.

Currently, the city maintains 93 miles of public roads: 29 miles of arterials and collectors and 64 miles of residential streets. Approximately 80 percent of Orinda residents live on publicly-maintained streets while 20 percent reside on private roads.

Residents on private roads came to the

[SEE ROADS page 16]

### Pan Asian Festival



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Orinda Rotary and the Orinda Library present the **Pan Asian Festival** May 26-27. See story on page 8.

### Orinda Ballet Presents Colorful Russian Fairytale



PATRICIA TOMLINSON

Orinda Ballet Academy presents *The Firebird* May 18-20 at the Orinda Library Auditorium. See story on page 9. (L-R) Front row: "Monsters" **Vivi Leach, Claire Mercer, Kavina Habarakada**; Back row: "Forest Sprites" **Quinn Ryan, Bailey Brothers, Tori Gilbert**, "Starlight Queen" **Gemma Leach**; "Princesses" **Lila Moss, Elsa Cooke, Sofia Paraskaki**.

## Library Services Parcel Tax on June Ballot

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Orinda voters will vote on Measure J (Library Services Parcel Tax) on the June 5 ballot, a measure that would add \$30 annually to the existing parcel tax passed in 2008 to maintain the Orinda Library's present hours and to pay for repairs and maintenance to keep the library in good condition as it ages. The original tax passed with the support of 75 percent of the vote.

The wording of the measure reads as follows: "Orinda Library; Yes or No – To maintain hours and services; replace worn and outdated materials; undertake building maintenance and repairs; and continue library programs for children, families and seniors, shall the City of Orinda be authorized to modify the existing thirty-nine dollar annual tax, adding thirty dollars per single family residential parcel, or equivalent unit, so that the amended tax raises a total of five hundred fourteen thousand dollars annually for the Orinda Library, until amended by voters with audits and oversight?"

The measure, purposefully offered on the June ballot to save costs when state primary elections are being contested, stipulated that written arguments, pro or

con, were due March 21. Nobody submitted con arguments. Placement on the June ballot also allows continuous funding if the measure passes since Orinda's fiscal year starts in July.

The pro argument was signed by Amy Worth, Orinda's Mayor; Pam Pulley, President of Friends of the Orinda Library; Hillary Weiner, Vice President of the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees; David L. Goldsmith, Venture Capitalist; and Steve Glazer, State Senator.

The argument concludes: "County funds keep our library open only 35 hours a week. By an overwhelming vote 10 years ago, Orinda residents assessed themselves a \$39 tax to maintain library hours of 60 hours a week and to fund additional books and services. Measure J maintains the purchasing power of the original parcel tax; prevents reductions in library services; and helps cover the rising burden of utility and maintenance costs. Our Orinda Library is one of the finest in the County, and a source of community pride. The library encourages thinking and learning; it brings our community together. Measure J is a small price

to pay to keep our library open every day." Presently, the Orinda Library is open 60

[SEE TAX page 13]

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## A Creative Synergy – Artwork by Alekna, List and Young

By: ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council is pleased to present the artwork of Dalia Alekna, Susan McKenna List and Camille Young during the month of May at the Art Gallery in the Orinda Library. Join them on Sunday, May 6 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for their artist reception where light bites will be served.

The theme for their exhibit, *A Creative Synergy*, reunites the three well known Lamorinda artists with each other, their friends and patrons. The term describes the way they worked together at “Susan’s Studio” in Lafayette’s La Fiesta Square for a number of years, each in her own *métier*.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Camille Young’s *Hanami Kyoto*, a 48” x 30” oil on canvas, will be displayed at the Orinda Library Gallery during May.

They’ve used social media to keep in touch and, of course, continued to create art. Cindy Raleigh encouraged them to reunite for this show to see where creative synergy has taken them. Each artist has created vignettes of her work throughout the gallery.

Dalia Alekna of Walnut Creek came to the United States with her parents through Ellis Island. She earned an MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she gained a deep appreciation for the magic of printmaking. A member of the Lafayette Gallery, she also shows her work at the Valley Art Gallery in Walnut Creek.

In this exhibit, she is showing a mix of watercolors, pastels and jewelry. You will find silver, crystals, pearls and a lot of Swarovski crystal in her delicate and understated jewelry pieces. Alekna’s 16” x 20” pastel on paper work, *Clouds Over Mt. Diablo*, recalls the feeling of a windswept hike on any Mt. Diablo trail. For more of her work, see [www.valleyartgallery.org/artist/dalia-alekna-2/](http://www.valleyartgallery.org/artist/dalia-alekna-2/).

Susan McKenna List, now of Boca Raton, Florida, divides her time between there, Manhattan and a lake cabin in Stockholm, New Jersey. She lived in Moraga for 23 years and is delighted to be back for the exhibit. The eponymous “Susan’s Studio” in Lafayette’s La Fiesta Square, which ran for about six years, was where the three met; List was also part of “The Glover Group” during that period.

List’s *Moraga Pear Orchard*, a 20” x 24” oil on canvas, will delight anyone who enjoys a buoyant froth of springtime blossoms tumbling down a hillside. Known for her *plein air* paintings – paintings executed out of doors representing a direct response to the scene or subject in front of the artist

[SEE GALLERY page 4]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Poet Laureate Amy Alysa Glynn will serve a two-year term and create poems for community and civic events in both Orinda and Lafayette.

## Orinda and Lafayette Welcomes Poet Laureate Amy Alysa Glynn

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Lawrence Kohl, board chair of the Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC), recently announced that Amy Alysa Glynn of Lafayette has been named Poet Laureate for Lafayette and Orinda. Chosen by an independent selection committee, Glynn serves a two-year term as Poet Laureate and receives a yearly \$3K honorarium from the LAC. Her duties include creating poems of occasion for community and civic events in both cities as well as supporting LAC’s Poet Laureate Program of activities for all ages in the community and schools. She will also serve as a liaison with literary organizations.

“I am pleased to be named inaugural poet laureate of Lafayette and Orinda and look

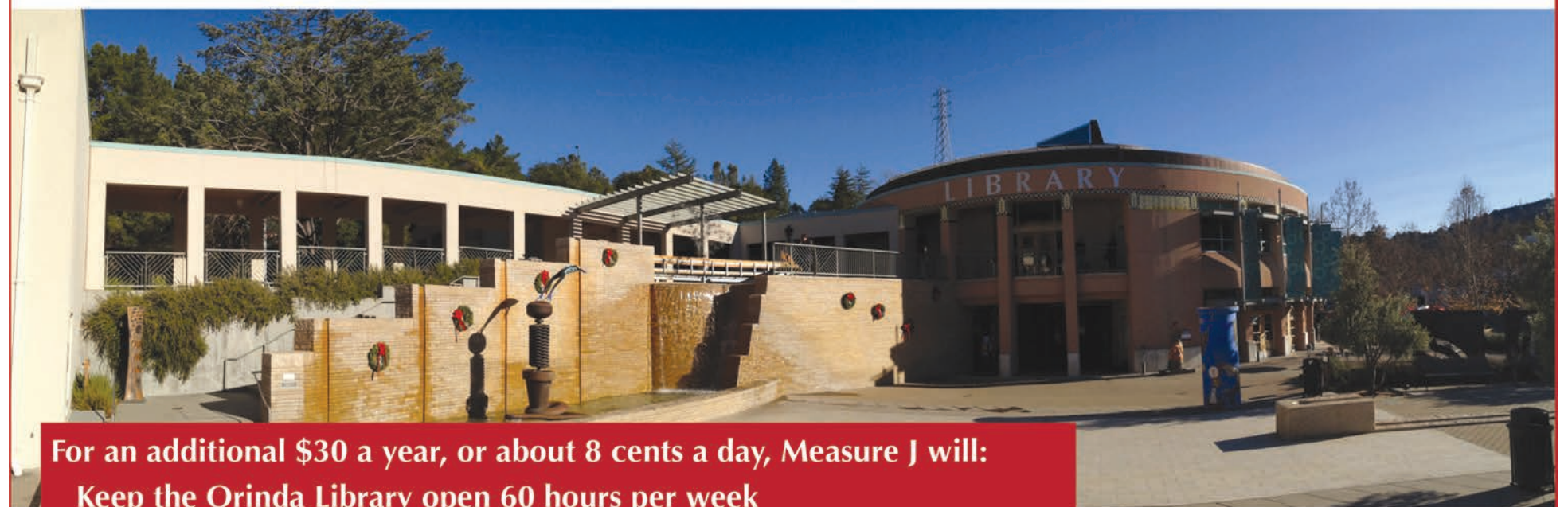
forward to working with both municipalities to develop a wide range of public programs that bring literary diversity into our communities,” Glynn remarked. Speaking of its importance, she added, “Poetry is an expression of pattern recognition and as such it’s a fundamental aspect of living in a human body. Too many of us have been trained to see it as obscure or irrelevant. It is neither.”

Glynn is a poet, essayist and fiction writer whose work appears widely in journals and anthologies including *The Best American Poetry*. Her most recent poetry collection, *A Modern Herbal*, was released in 2013; her second collection, *Romance Language*, is currently in production with Measured Press. She and Robert Pinsky co-curated the “Favorite Poem Project”

[SEE POET page 8]

♥ ORINDA'S LIBRARY  
**VOTE YES**  
ON **MEASURE J**

Support Orinda's library,  
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For an additional \$30 a year, or about 8 cents a day, Measure J will:

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Replace outdated materials

Continue existing programs for children, students, families, and seniors

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**VOTE YES ON MEASURE J ON JUNE 5th!**

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA President  
Supporting Local Volunteers and  
Businesses**



Anil Comelo

With Cindy Powell on a much-needed break and celebrating her daughter's graduation from USC, it is my pleasure as co-president to pen this article.

As we ramp up to the **Orinda July 4th parade**, I invite all those who can, to help us plan and execute the event. While the city's employees help with the heavy lifting, there are a myriad of tasks that need to be performed before and on July 4th. To **volunteer**, please contact the Orinda Association office and Andrew Radlow (a.k.a. the **Parade Guy**), who has orchestrated the event for several years, and will place you in a suitable role.

Talking about volunteering, a big Thank You for all the volunteers who helped out on Orinda Action Day, organized by the Orinda Community Foundation on April 21. Concurrently, The Orinda Association hosted the third annual volunteer fair with volunteer opportunities for all ages. If you missed it and want to volunteer, please see the list of local organizations on our website or contact the Orinda Association office at 925-254-0800.

By the way, if you enjoy the 4th of July parade or value this "free" newspaper,

please consider supporting these worthy community amenities by donating to the Orinda Association at <http://orindaassociation.org>. As you enjoy this publication, please check out the ads, and contact our advertisers if you need any of their products or services.

A few months ago, I realized that collectively our decision to patronize local businesses and restaurants keeps them in business – or not. With that epiphany, my family no longer goes to the movies in Walnut Creek or Oakland and instead dines at local restaurants before or after going to a movie in Orinda. If you have not had a chance to "audition" all the local restaurants, here is your chance. You can nibble your way through 15 local eateries during the **Orinda Chamber's Restaurant Tour** on May 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Orinda Theater District – tickets can be purchased at the event or at [orindachamber.org](http://orindachamber.org).

The next few important activities for The Orinda Association include the annual the **Orinda Classic Car Show** on September 8 and the hosting of school board and city council debates in early fall.

**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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Hello, Parade Fans! I'm so glad the weather is getting warmer as we begin the countdown for our beloved parade! As we prepare for the 35th Orinda 4th of July Parade and the 243rd celebration of the birth of this great nation of ours, I thought I'd share a little research about the 4th of July in America.

Loving to learn, the Parade Guy will begin with the basics. Here are some interesting 4th of July historical facts:

- Only John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All other 55 signers did so at a later date.

- Three U.S. presidents have died on July 4th; John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe. What's wild is Adams and Jefferson both were signers of the Declaration of Independence and died within hours of each other on July 4, 1826.

- In 1776, there were 2.5 million people in the 13 states of America. This number only slightly exceeds the number of cars on eastbound Highway 24 during any Friday

afternoon.

Now there are also other vital statistics associated with July 4th in America that the Parade Guy has found for you:

- The 4th is the #1 beer-drinking day in America! That's right, Parade Fans, it's estimated that over \$1.6 billion will be spent on beer and wine this July 4th.

- 44 percent of Americans will go to a 4th of July parade and/or fireworks display this year. My personal research, duh, says that figure is approaching 100 percent for Lamorinda residents.

- More than \$7 billion will be spent on food during the 4th, which includes over 150 million hotdogs. Did you also know that the official 10-minute hotdog eating record is 70, established in 2016 by San Jose's Joey Chestnut!

Fortunately, the Orinda Association's research department was also able to discover a number of impressive facts about Orinda's 4th of July Parade participants, audience

[SEE PARADE page 11]

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# Editorial ...

## Happy Mother's Day

One day a year doesn't seem enough to honor our mothers (regardless of gender) who have loved and cared for us despite our many faults. They may not be perfect but, then, neither are we. One of my favorite ways to honor the moth-

ers I know is to participate in the annual Mother's Day Walk along St. Stephen's Trail. A small donation benefits the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center. Check in at Bates Blvd. The two-mile walk takes place from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. on May 13. Light refreshments provided.

# Letters to the Editor ...

## Continue to Support Our Library

In June 2001 with the new library soon to open, Orindans voted to extend the 35 hours provided by the county to 60: it seemed a shame to limit public access to this grand new space or to continue the old practice of a few Friends of the Orinda Library constantly sending out requests to individuals to make donations to "adopt an hour."

It was wonderful to see the public's response to Measure H (for hours) in 2001, and, when that was about to expire, Orindans voted again to pass Measure E in 2008.

Expenses have increased, and Measure J is on the June 5 ballot. Careful study and projection shows that a parcel tax of \$69 will not only continue to keep our library open the 60 hours we have come to expect well into the future, it will enable the city to address some overdue maintenance so that the library continues to remain what hundreds of volunteers envisioned many years ago: a welcoming place to learn, to gather, and to enjoy.

Remember to vote Yes on Measure E on June 5.

– Carol Brown

## How would the City Council Answer?

Here is a question I have asked the Orinda City Council: I am one of over 3,000 Orinda residents living on a street that is currently maintained without assistance from the city. If one or all of these residents approached you in chambers or at the grocery store and asked you why their street is not maintained by the city when their neighbor's street is, what would you say? That the city cannot spend public funds for facilities on private property when there is legal precedence indicating that this, in fact, is not the case? That the city does not have the funds to maintain an additional 30 miles of streets when the fact is that currently the city does not have the funds to maintain any of the 64 miles of residential streets it does take responsibility for and will soon be asking voters for those funds? That the privately maintained streets are too small for the city to maintain when over 100 publicly maintained streets have ten or fewer homes on them? That city policy only allows "through" streets to be publicly maintained when 180 publicly maintained streets are either cul-de-sacs or "loops"? That the residents on privately maintained streets do

not pay the same taxes when, in fact, they do; including their share of the \$70 million in new taxes recently voted in to repair the publicly maintained residential streets?

What is the justification for the city withholding public funds for a public service as basic as road maintenance from 20 percent of its residents? If you want more facts, go to [www.OrindaRoadFacts.info](http://www.OrindaRoadFacts.info).

– Steve Cohn

## Fond Memories at Orinda Library

As a member of the millennial generation who grew up in Orinda, the library has always been a special place to me. Whether it was story time when I was a toddler, the summer reading program for kids, a place to study in my teens, or a resource today for both research and pleasure, I've always valued our library.

It's hard to imagine that the library I grew up with would not be open seven days a week, which is why I hope others will join me in supporting Measure J.

– Katherine Rudebusch

## Show Support to Library

I have had the privilege of serving on the Friends of the Orinda Library board for over 25 years and have seen firsthand how our community has come together time and again in support of the library. The result is a vibrant center of learning, serving multiple generations of Orindans, and a source of community pride.

Last year, 140,000 patrons visited the library and borrowed nearly 200,000 books, videos and music CDs. Approximately 8,000 residents – preschoolers to retirees – attended a wide range of library programs. Clearly, the library can rightfully claim itself to be the educational and cultural hub of Orinda.

Next month, we'll have the opportunity to show our support of the library by voting for an additional \$30 tax to ensure that the library remains open seven days a week and that basic repairs and maintenance needs are met. Considering all that the library provides our community, a yes vote on Measure J should be one of the easier decisions on the June ballot.

– Jane Zuercher

## ◆ GALLERY from page 2

– she might be painting outside during her visit. Keep track of her at [www.susanmckennalist.com](http://www.susanmckennalist.com).



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ennalist.com.

Camille Young of Moraga is showing watercolors and oil paintings because, "I like to change media from watercolor to oil which gives me the opportunity to develop paintings in opposite methods." She is a member of the California Watercolor Society and the San Diego Watercolor Society. Whether traveling locally, domestically or overseas, she paints a different series devoted to each location.

Look for Young's *Hanami Kyoto*, a 48" x 30" oil on canvas. The Japanese term 'hanami' literally means "flower viewing." The enjoyment of the beauty of flowers is a Japanese custom that is more than a thou-

sand years old. Viewing cherry blossoms, as depicted in her painting, is especially favored. See more of her work at [www.camilleyoung.com](http://www.camilleyoung.com).

Regarding the value of art to our community, Young says, "I think of the arts as a celebration of our humanity, our ability to imagine, to dream, to revel in feelings elicited from color, texture and lines."

Visit the gallery at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on May 13, 27 and 28. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

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Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to [news@orindaassociation.org](mailto:news@orindaassociation.org). Letters to Editor for the June issue are due May 8, 2018.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 ([jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net)) or Elana O'Loskey at 925-984-1751 ([elanao@mac.com](mailto:elanao@mac.com)). The deadline for the June issue is May 8, 2018.

ORINDA ACADEMY / POLICE BLOTTER

# Orinda Academy's Ron Graydon Retires after 36 Years

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

When Ron Graydon retires this spring, after 36 years as head of Orinda Academy (OA), the school he founded, he will leave an incredible legacy for Orinda and the entire East Bay Community. Students arrive to OA every morning from all over the Bay Area, and Graydon's energy invigorates and inspires everyone involved at the school.

"Since we opened our doors in 1982,

Orinda Academy has been committed to seeing that our students reach their full potential and become successful, confident, self-reliant individuals," Graydon said. He founded Orinda Academy in 1982 at Wagner Ranch School before moving the school to its current site in 1994.

After 40 years in education, Graydon is looking forward to retirement. While he will remain involved with the school's alumni program, relaxing, decompressing, spending more time with family and becoming active in political and environmen-

tal causes top his to-do list. Graydon has a B.S. in Conservation of Natural Resources with minors in biology and social science from U.C. Berkeley.

Graydon said he's learned a lot through his four decades in education. "Students need to be successful, happy, and be provided with a learning environment that helps them achieve their potential while meeting their individual learning needs."

His intention in starting the school was to create a space where learning would be "student-centered, engaging, multi-sensory and project-based to meet student needs, keep them interested, and prepared for the future." Graydon believes it is important for the school to provide time for individual student help with teachers. The school must feature emotional counseling, supportive, empathic and compassionate teachers and a rich elective program where students "can shine outside of academics." Many students have touched Graydon's

heart, especially those who "have worked hard in spite of learning differences and/or social skills and emotional difficulties, and have succeeded and boosted their self-esteem, study skills and organization," he said. "They've prospered and been able to get into a good college and a career path that interests them and benefits the community."

Graydon is pleased with his replacement, Dr. Susan Eva Porter, who will step into the role of head of school in July. Porter was appointed to the position following a rigorous search conducted under the leadership of the OA Search Committee, chaired by Trustee Jeffrey Pozzi, with input from the entire Orinda Academy community.

Porter joins Orinda Academy from The Bay School of San Francisco where she has served for the past two years as interim dean of students. Prior to The Bay School, Porter was dean of students at The Branson School in Ross, CA. Her career includes service at

[SEE ACADEMY page 9]



## POLICE BLOTTER

February 25 through April 14, 2018

### Calls for Service

- 911 Hangup: 20 incidents.
- Abandoned Vehicle: 1 incident.
- Accident Injury: 3 incidents.
- Accident Property: 16 incidents.
- Alarm, False: 173 incidents.
- Barking Dog: 7 incidents.
- Burglary, Auto: 5 incidents.
- Burglary, Residential: 3 incidents.
- Civil Matter: 26 incidents.
- CVC Moving Violation: 266 incidents.
- CVC Non-Moving Violation: 180 incidents.
- Death Non Criminal: 1 incident.
- Dependent Child: 1 incident.
- Disturbance, Domestic: 1 incident.
- Disturbing the Peace: 2 incidents.
- Found Property: 5 incidents.
- Hailed by Citizen: 3 incidents.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 4 incidents.
- Identity Theft: 11 incidents.
- Juvenile Disturbance: 2 incidents.
- Litter: 1 incident.
- Lost Property: 2 incidents.
- Loud Music: 1 incident.
- Loud Noise: 1 incident.
- Loud Party: 6 incidents.
- Medical Hospital: 7 incidents.
- Missing Adult: 1 incident.
- Motorist Assist: 6 incidents.
- Occupied Stalled Vehicle: 3 incidents.
- Ordinance Violation: 15 incidents.
- Outside Assist: 37 incidents.
- Panhandling: 1 incident.
- Parking Detail: 224 incidents.
- Patrol Request: 99 incidents.
- Petty Theft: 2 incidents.
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 3 incidents.
- Prowler: 1 incident.
- Public Assembly Check: 7 incidents.
- Public Nuisance: 12 incidents.
- Reckless Driving: 21 incidents.
- Robbery: 1 incident.
- School Check: 18 incidents.

- Security Check: 91 incidents.
- Service to Citizen: 201 incidents.
- Shoplift: 2 incidents.
- Shots Heard: 2 incidents.
- Suspicious Circumstances: 18 incidents.
- Suspicious Person Stop: 28 incidents.
- Suspicious Subject: 10 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle: 14 incidents.
- Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 28 incidents.
- Tow: 28 incidents.
- Traffic Collision: 1 incident.
- Traffic Collision/Property Damage: 4 incidents.
- Traffic Control: 1 incident.
- Traffic Hazard: 21 incidents.
- Trespass: 3 incidents.
- Unwanted Guest: 3 incidents.
- Vacation House Check: 90 incidents.
- Vandalism: 8 incidents.
- Vandalism, Felony: 1 incident.
- Vehicle Blocking Driveway: 1 incident.
- Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents.
- Verbal Dispute: 4 incidents.
- Walk Through: 7 incidents.
- Welfare Check: 19 incidents.

### Arrest

- Drunk in Public: 2 arrests.
- DUI: 2 arrests.
- Petty Theft: 1 arrest.
- Possession of Controlled Substance: 1 arrest.
- Recovered Stolen Car: 1 recovery.
- Shoplift: 1 arrest.
- Warrant Arrest: 3 arrests.

### BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

For more incidents details, visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

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# CAR TIME

Trying To Get Better Gas Mileage?

By JOHN VANEK



We all would like to go a little longer between gasoline fill-ups for our vehicles. This, of course, starts with what we drive. These days fuel economy is a big focus with the auto manufacturers. Technology allows modern vehicles to achieve averages of over 50 MPG!

We now have hybrids and plug-in hybrids that achieve fuel economy we have not seen before. Perhaps, though, we choose not to go out and buy a new car just because it gets better mileage. Even with modern techno-efficient machines, you have to drive a certain way to get top mileage. These vehicles even have slick graphs on their dashboard information systems to provide guidelines on how to be in the gas saving range. Even, however, if you don't drive a high-tech gas saving pod, there are

ways to improve your mileage.

Your car doesn't have monitors on the dash that show how your driving habits influence your gas mileage. Simply, when you use a heavy gas pedal, your fuel economy will be affected. If you like to drive fast and pass everyone on the road, your fuel economy will not be good. It really begins as soon as you start your car. Most vehicles will use more fuel in the first few minutes of operation. Further, most vehicles are not efficient until warmed up. So, if you drive your vehicle right away from a cold start without any kind of warm up, you can waste gas. You need to give your car a half a minute to a minute before you drive away. Then, drive it easy until the temperature gauge is up to its normal position. In short, avoid "jack rabbit" starts.

When driving on the highway, try to keep a steady speed. Using the cruise control will help fuel mileage by keeping a constant and steady fuel delivery to the engine. Running the air conditioning system will tax the engine affecting fuel economy. If you really

## Carl (Cataldo) Insalaco, Ph.D.

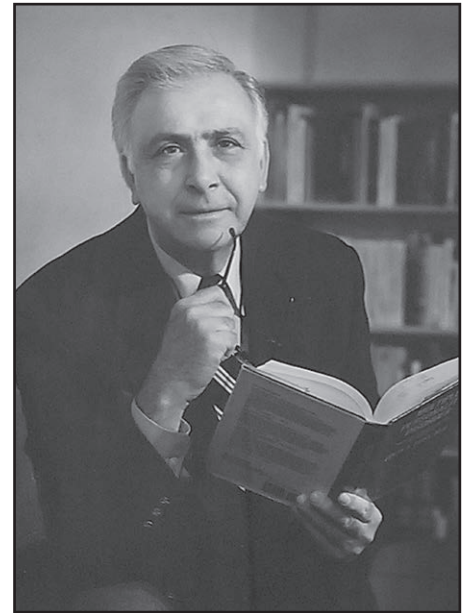
Dr. Carl Insalaco passed away on March 31, 2018 at his home in Orinda with his daughters at his side.

Dr. Insalaco was Professor Emeritus and Chair, Psychology at Grand Valley State University in Michigan.

He leaves behind his son, John Insalaco, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, his daughter Sharon Jo Insalaco and granddaughter Jenna March in Mandeville, Louisiana, his daughter Michelene Insalaco and grandchildren Cole and Lila in Orinda, California, his sister Jo Chris Reinert in Laguna Niguel, California and many relatives in the Buffalo and Rochester, NY, area.

No funeral service will be held at this time. The family will hold a private service at a later date.

Dr. Insalaco left a message wishing anyone he might have known in the Lamorinda area a good, continued life.



Dr. Carl Insalaco.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

want to achieve the best fuel economy, drive easy, drive the speed limit and only put the air conditioner on when you really need it.

The other way to achieve the best fuel economy in your vehicle is to be sure to keep on top of its maintenance. The number one concern is the air in your tires. When the tire pressures are low, the rolling resistance changes and affects fuel economy. This is another reason not to ignore those TPMS (tire pressure monitoring system) tire lights that come on the dash. The U.S. government mandated that automotive manufacturers have these warning systems in place because it is proven that motorists ignore their tire pressures. This TPMS light is like a check engine light for your tires.

Still, you should be aware that your car has sensors in the tires that may eventually fail and cause the light to stay on even if your tire pressure is good. This might cause

folks to ignore the TPMS light. It is never a good idea to ignore any warning light on your vehicle. If it needs to be fixed, it is a good idea to do so whether that repair is on the sensor or involves a fix in your tire pressure.

Regular scheduled maintenance is also very important. Did you know your engine is more efficient when the engine oil is fresh and clean? I have cars fail the smog test due to dirty engine oil. Other maintenance items, like filters and spark plugs, will affect your mileage when overdue for replacement. You will find a maintenance guide in your car's owner manual that explains the mileage intervals for these crucial maintenance necessities. The last thing to mention is aerodynamics. A roof top storage container or roof rack that you don't use will modify air flow which will cause

[SEE CAR TIME page 10]

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CAR SHOW / HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Revving Up for the Classic Car Show Returning in September

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

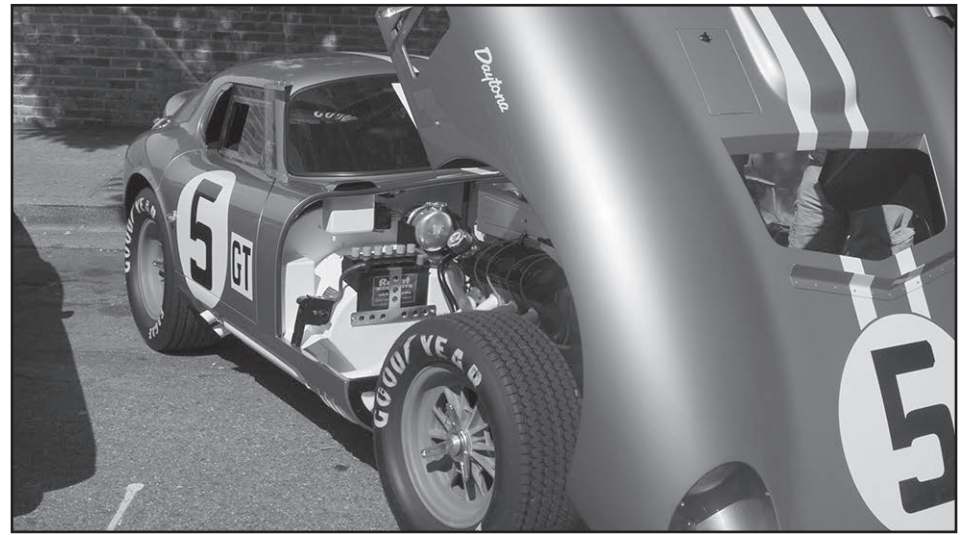
The Orinda Classic Car Show returns in September for its 14th consecutive year. The ticketed pre-party, Dancing with the Cars, is Sept. 7 at the Orinda Country Club, and the main event is Sept. 8 in and around Orinda Motors. The free show continues to delight car fans of all ages while benefiting numerous community charities and services, including Seniors Around Town, the Educational Foundation of Orinda, the Lamorinda Arts Council, the Orinda Community Foundation, The Orinda Association, the Orinda Historical Society and the Orinda Starlight Village Players.

Since this year's theme is American Graffiti, you can expect to see plenty of classic '50s and '60s vehicles as seen in the iconic 1973 George Lucas movie. "We expect to

have upwards of 200 classic cars coming, including muscle cars, sports cars, very old classics and exotic cars," says organizer Bill Waterman. "We are planning for enhanced food and beer service during the show, including food provided by Orinda's very own Taverna Pellegrini." Lamorinda Idol winners will provide live entertainment during the show.

This year's special exhibit is "a group of classic and historically significant actual race cars used in competition, driven by well-known and famous race car drivers such as Bobby Rahal and Jacques Villeneuve," says Waterman. Car manufacturers represented include Ferrari, March, Lola and McLaren. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see some amazing vehicles.

Something unique that the Orinda Classic Car Show provides is an opportunity to ride in a car from the show. For a \$10 donation, you can ride along with a car



DAVID DIERKS

Drew Serb's 1965 Shelby Daytona Coupe appeared in a previous Orinda Classic Car Show.

owner in the Drive of Classic Cars at the close of the show.

The Dancing with the Cars pre-party includes dinner, liberal libations, music, dancing and a preview of exotic cars at the Orinda Country Club. Party planners are hard at work to make the 2018 event

an evening not to be missed. Dancing with the Cars is produced by the Rotary Club of Orinda.

For more information, visit [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com). Enter cars and get your tickets for the pre-party early since last year quickly sold out.

# Public Comment Causes School Board to Reconsider Transfer Policy

By VALERIE COLBER  
Contributing Writer

Dozens of students and community members from across the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) attended the Acalanes School Board meeting on March 21 to protest the board's proposed new interdistrict student transfer policy that would severely limit such transfers.

AUHSD District Superintendent John Nickerson contextualized opting for such limitations by noting that current budget projections predict a budget deficit that would necessitate significant cuts in programs for all students. Historically, the 7th period day, including advanced electives, counseling services and other support services would be targeted for cuts.

According to Nickerson, limiting the number of transfer students would ease the budget deficit and the pressure for cuts. He projects that the district will save between \$1.5 million and \$2 million by restricting the number of transfers. The one exception would be for the children of district employees, who receive this accommodation as part of their employee benefits. He estimates that there are 15-20 students of employees. The AUHSD board, however, did express interest in allowing current transfer students to finish their four years in the district. Reserve funding would help

offset costs in the interim.

Given the public comments, the AUHSD board voted to increase the number of interdistrict transfers to 50, which would allow for students of employees plus approximately 30 others for the 2018-19 academic year, and to revisit this policy in December of 2018. The board also plans to expand its discourse with the community. Additional public hearings had not been determined at press time.

Holding signs that said "Interdistrict Transfers Make Our Schools Better Places" and "Re-segregating Our Schools Helps No One," meeting attendees spoke passionately about the benefit to all students of having a more diverse study body.

Nickerson noted that the governing board has long recognized the value of interdistrict transfer students: "They have helped stabilize fluctuations in enrollment, allowed for lower-enrolled elective programs to happen, and brought a different student perspective. And, until three years ago, we received enough revenue to cover most if not all of their educational cost."

According to Nickerson, prior to the district's designation as a "Basic Aid" district, each interdistrict transfer student brought "approximately \$9,000 from the State Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) source." He notes, "It would have

[SEE AUHSD page 16]



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PERFORMING ARTS

# Wonders of Asia Come to Orinda

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Taiko drummers, Filipino singers, Polynesian dancers and traditional Japanese mochi pounding will take over the Orinda Community Center and the Orinda Library over the Memorial Day Weekend as the Pan Asian Arts Festival comes to Orinda.

The Orinda Rotary Club and the Orinda Library have been busy securing the finest in Asian performing and visual arts for the festival scheduled for May 26-27. The festival celebrates Asian American Heritage Month throughout the United States.

“We did a smaller version of the Pan Asian Festival in 2005, and people keep asking when we would do it again,” explains Orinda Rotary Club President Weylin Eng. “Since May has been declared Asian American Heritage month throughout the United States, this seemed like the perfect time to bring back the festival.”

Eng also noted that Orinda Rotary emphasizes the cosmopolitan nature of its club, with members from several European

and Asian countries. “We believe diversity is very important, and this festival fits perfectly with our goals.”

Sierra Campagna, senior community library manager, agrees and feels the festival is a great way for the library to connect with even more people.

“We’ll have Asian authors discussing their books, origami demonstrations, Chinese calligraphy, a variety of arts and crafts for the children as well as the traditional Japanese mochi pounding ceremony,” says Campagna. The ceremony involves mashing and pounding steamed rice with wooden mallets in a traditional mortar.

It all begins with a ribbon cutting and the White Crane Lion Dance at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 26. A wide variety of visual arts and performances will take place throughout the two-day festival including a henna art demonstration by Mumbai makeup artist Nida Shaikh, Eden Aoba Taiko drummers, dancers from HipHop Natyam School performing Bollywood, semi-classical and Chandra dances, dancers from Kulturang Philipino, Aman Mishra playing the Indian



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A young dancer from the **Jyoti Kala Mandir College of Indian Classical Arts**.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Performers with **Kulturang Philipano** will entertain attendees at the Pan Asian Festival in Orinda this May.

drum Tabla and an Indian fashion show.

“We have three of our artists traveling from Taiwan as well as other Asian countries,” says Eng. “We’ll also have the Japanese Consul General and other dignitaries in attendance, including State Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, Orinda Mayor Amy Worth and our local city councilmembers. We really couldn’t do

this festival without all the help from the Parks and Recreation Department and city staff,” says Eng.

The free festival takes place from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on May 26 and from 1 – 4 p.m. on May 27. Food trucks will be available. For more information, go to [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org) or [www.ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html).

## ◆ POET from page 2

reading at the Robert Frost Library at Amherst College in 2015 and the Head-Royce School in Oakland in 2017.

Glynn received a warm welcome as Poet Laureate and celebrated National Poetry Month at two local events: “Give Poetry a Chance!” on April 26 in the Garden Room at the Orinda Library and “Poetic Composition & Cookies” on April 30 in the Arts and Science Room at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Light refreshments were served at both events which

were co-sponsored by the libraries and the Lamorinda Arts Council.

Anyone interested in working with the Lamorinda Arts Council’s Poet Laureate Program Committee is invited to become involved by emailing [poetlaureate@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:poetlaureate@lamorindaarts.org) or leaving a message at 925-359-9940. The LAC has been igniting and sustaining artistic expression and appreciation of the visual, performing and literal arts for people of all ages in our community for over 65 years. Notable LAC programs include Lamorinda Idol, the High School Visual Arts Competition, Arts Ambassadors exhibit for student artists, Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest, and curation of the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. See <http://lamorindaarts.org> for more information or to become involved.

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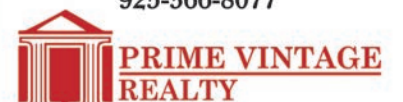
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PERFORMING ARTS

# Glorietta Elementary Brings Us *Mary Poppins, Jr.*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An enthusiastic group of students from **Glorietta Elementary School** is busy preparing Disney's popular musical *Mary Poppins Jr.* for local audiences. Shown above are the two casts who will alternate performances.

By HILLARY WEINER  
Contributing Writer

Glorietta Elementary School will present its spring musical, Disney's *Mary Poppins, Jr.* May 11 and 12. Based on one of the most popular Disney movies of all time and the Broadway musical that received multiple Tony awards, Glorietta's *Mary Poppins, Jr.* will capture hearts in a whole new way.

*Mary Poppins, Jr.* is an enchanting mixture of an irresistible story and unforgettable songs. The show has been shortened to just 60 minutes to keep the attention of even the youngest theater-

goer. It also includes a musical score filled with timeless classics as well as charming new songs written especially for this adaptation.

The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces the audience to England in 1910 and the troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, Mary Poppins takes the children on many fantastical adventures and teaches family members how to value each other again. This show is sure to be supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

This production of *Mary Poppins, Jr.* is directed by music teacher Ron Pickett, with

the assistance of parent producers Doray Briskman, Chris Casado and Jane Holden. There are two student casts, comprised in total of approximately 70 students along with 14 students participating in the tech crew.

The production is funded through parent contributions, Glorietta Parents Club and EFO. *Mary Poppins, Jr.* takes place at Glorietta Elementary School, 15 Martha Road, Friday, May 11 at 4 and 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 12 at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are reserved seating and available in advance online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com) or available at the door prior to the show.

Come and join the fun at Glorietta and have a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious time!

## ◆ ACADEMY from page 5

Phillips Exeter Academy, The College Preparatory School, The San Francisco School and San Francisco University High School.

When visiting OA for the first time, Porter said she was struck by OA's mission and feel. "On my visits to campus, I have been impressed by students, faculty and staff alike, and with the vibrant and inclusive sense of community," Porter said.

Laura Cottrill, chair of the Orinda Academy Board of Trustees, said the school is "thrilled" to have Porter as the school's next head of school. "We look forward to building on the successes of current head, Ron Graydon, and creating our next chapter of growth and service to our students together."

Porter is excited to call OA her new "home" and witness the "magic" which unfolds when eager students and talented teachers come together. "OA is small, with fewer than 90 students so I'll get to know everyone well, and this means I'll really be able to see this magic happen close up."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Our brains are wired to learn, and our minds are thirsty for knowledge," says new Head of School **Dr. Susan Eva Porter**. "When done well, education is a process that thrills the mind and leaves the student with a feeling of mastery."

# Visually Striking, *The Firebird* Lands at Orinda Ballet

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Forest sprites, princesses, guardians of the golden apple tree and the beautiful Starlight Queen will inhabit the Orinda Library Auditorium as Orinda Ballet celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with a production of *The Firebird*.

The Russian fairy tale was the first ballet score composed by Igor Stravinsky and has become a beloved tale of magic and romance. Complete with a handsome prince, a beautiful princess and a magical firebird, the story tells of an evil sorcerer who captures a kingdom with a magical golden apple tree, the source of the firebird's magic. The prince, with the help of the firebird, is able to save the kingdom and destroy the sorcerer.

Orinda Ballet Academy Founder Patricia

Tomlinson, choreographs the popular tale using not only her talented students but also guest artists and professional dancers Jackie McConnell, Jacob Kremer and Maurice Monge.

*The Firebird* marks the Orinda Ballet's 10 year anniversary of bringing classical ballet to Orinda and providing performance opportunities for students, ages 3 – 18. Tomlinson enjoyed a professional career which included performing across the United States and in Europe before beginning her teaching and choreography career in the East Bay.

*The Firebird* performs May 18 at 6:30 p.m., May 19 at 4 p.m. and May 20 at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22 in advance through [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or \$25 at the door. Go to [www.orindaballetacademy.com](http://www.orindaballetacademy.com) for additional information.

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## Peter Pan Foundation Fundraiser

The Peter Pan Foundation presents its annual original musical, *Wish Upon A Star* at Diablo Valley College over the Memorial Day Weekend.

This is a spectacular show with a cast of more than 200 performers, eight showtimes throughout the weekend, their biggest event of the year and a charity fundraiser, with proceeds donated to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland.

A magical musical adventure with princesses, villains, heroes and more, filled with all your favorite characters, the show will delight audiences of all ages.

Younger cast showtimes are Sunday, May 27, and Monday, May 28, at 10 a.m., with high school and adult casts May 26-28, Saturday, Sunday and Monday at 2 and 7 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased through the Box Office link at [www.peterpanfoundation.org](http://www.peterpanfoundation.org).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Performers with the Peter Pan Foundation make an important difference in the lives of young cancer patients.

## Between the Lines Take a Trip with Travel Literature

Pat Rudebusch



One of the many benefits of working in a bookstore is the ready access to a variety of genres. One of my favorite, yet often overlooked genres, is travel literature. These first-hand narratives of travel provide a deeper level of cultural understanding than you are likely to find in a travel guide and are as rewarding to read before a trip as they are after.

*Rue Tatin* by Susan Hermann Loomis, is the book which introduced me to the genre and remains one of my favorite escapist reads. Loomis is an American, James Beard Award-winning cookbook author and expat living in Normandy, France. With the ink barely dry on her diploma and a dream of becoming a food writer, she embarks on a trip to France for an apprenticeship at Paris' famed *La Varenne École de Cuisine*. It doesn't take long for Loomis to fall in love with the French lifestyle. She and her husband soon are restoring a former convent to make a home of their own. With wry humor and personal reflection, Loomis carries the reader along on her marvelous journey. An added bonus is the inclusion of several family-favorite recipes.

Georgeanne Brennan's newest book, *Windows on Provence*, is a visual delight. Brennan's love of the region shines through each of her essays bringing readers to sun-drenched beaches, fields of lavender, and colorful fishing villages.

Francophiles will also enjoy *The Sweet Life in Paris* and *L'appart*, both by former Chez Panisse pastry chef David Lebovitz. In both books, Lebovitz chronicles the abundant idiosyncrasies of Parisian life. His tales read like a comedy of errors, but there's never any doubt this author delights in sharing stories of his newly adopted home.

Donna Leon is widely known for her best-selling Venetian mystery series featuring Commissario Guido Brunetti. Leon now shares stories from her 30 years of *la dolce vita* in *My Venice and Other Essays*. Anthony Doerr, best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *All the Light We Cannot See* brings his enviable storytelling skills to the travel memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*. Within days of becoming the father of newborn twins, Doerr learns he is the recipient of a prestigious writing fellowship – in Rome. What follows is a

chronicle of the young family's adventures and cultural immersion into the many charms and mysteries of a most fascinating city.

Mark Adams certainly is not the first writer to try to unravel the mysteries of the Incas, but combine the allure of this lost culture with Adams' self-deprecating humor and you have a delightful travelogue to one of the world's wonders. *Turn Right at Machu Pichu*, follows Adams, his guide, a cook, and a few mules on a 100-mile trek through the mountains of Peru to discover what Machu Pichu was. Readers learn geology, history and modern-day culture, but in the end, Adams shares his belief that no one will ever really know the answer to his driving question of this journey.

Armchair travelers looking to stay closer to home will find humor, adventure, and a bit of Gold Rush history in Steve Boggan's *Gold Fever*. After the financial crisis of 2013, when the price of gold skyrocketed, Boggan joins a growing number of dreamers and prospectors who set out to find gold in Northern California's Gold Country. While he finds just a few flakes of gold, the real treasures found are the people he meets along the way.

No matter the destination, travel literature offers a deeper understanding of the culture, history and oftentimes quirky customs of the places we love to visit, or simply dream of someday seeing. And, there's no better way to discover your next armchair travel adventure than by browsing the travel lit shelves of your local bookstore or library.

Georgeanne Brennan will be at Orinda Books on May 17 at 11 :30 a.m.

### ◆ CAR TIME from page 6

fuel economy to suffer. If you care about fuel consumption, you should only use your roof top carrier when you really need it.

Improved fuel mileage can be gained with the vehicle you drive. As usual, I leave it to you, the owner/driver, to provide required maintenance and to be proactive about issues with car, truck or SUV.

John Vanek can be reached at [john@orindamotors.com](mailto:john@orindamotors.com).

## The Musical *Shrek, Jr.* at Wagner Ranch



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

More than 80 students at Wagner Ranch Elementary School have been working hard to put together a fun production of the musical *Shrek, Jr.* Divided into two casts plus a hard-working crew, the students will perform June 1 and 2. For more information and to purchase tickets, call 925-258-0016 or go to <https://wr-orinda-ca.schoolloop.com>.

LAMORINDA **arts** COUNCIL



**LAMORINDA Idol**

**Auditions**  
May 10-12, 2018

Register for auditions at [www.LamorindaArts.org](http://www.LamorindaArts.org) April 1-30, 2018.

Registration is open to all Lamorinda students or residents. Groups can include members outside Lamorinda.

For inquiries, email us at [lamorindaIdol@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindaIdol@gmail.com)

The Lamorinda Idol program includes workshops, multiple performance opportunities, parties and the Finals at the Orinda Theatre Sunday, August 26, 2018.

At the finals, cash prizes are awarded for winners in each category.

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade soloist - \$200  
3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade soloists - \$300  
6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade soloists - \$500  
9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade soloists - \$750  
K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade groups - \$200  
6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade groups - \$300  
9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade groups - \$500  
Audience Award - \$300

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## PERFORMING ARTS

## Cal Shakes Takes Old Stories and Makes Them New

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

Octavio Solis, Marcus Gardley, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Eric Ting, California Shakespeare Theatre Artistic Director, is bringing these nationally acclaimed playwrights to the Bruns Amphitheatre to create works for the company's 2018 season. The New Classics Initiative, launched last year, aims to interpret classical stories within a framework which makes them accessible and relevant to every audience.

"The heart of the idea is that classical stories belong to all of us," Ting says. "We are interested in taking old stories and injecting them with something urgent, new, vital and vivid. At the heart of Initiative is "a desire to bring living writers into the space."

According to Ting, Shakespeare based much of his work on classics crafted so his audience could relate to them. The company is engaging contemporary writers to tackle the classics and is "looking for the Shakespeares of our day."

Ting has a clear vision for a classical theatre. "We are not producing museum pieces. We're producing theatre. We want these stories to feel very immediate, to feel very relevant. We want the audience to see the very conversations they're having in their own household reflected on the stage in stories that are decades, or centuries old."

Cal Shakes Board of Directors Member Shelly Osborne is excited about the upcoming season. Osborne first became acquainted with Cal Shakes when the company performed at John Hinkel Park in Berkeley. Now a board member for three years, she looks forward to the company's 44th season, and enjoys the "quality of performances," given by the company. Osborne appreciates the "new energy" that Ting brings to the company, as well as the company's educational programs.

Opening the season is Solis' *Quixote Nuevo* a world premiere adaptation of *Don Quixote*, set in the fictional modern-day border town of La Mancha, Texas. Actor Emilio Delgado, well known for his 30+ years on *Sesame Street*, stars as a man who loses himself in stories of chivalrous escapades and embarks on a quest of imagination, adventure and Tejano music. Solis'

work will be directed by KJ Sanchez and in performance June 13-July 1.

The second show of the season is a 21st century riff on the medieval morality play, *Everybody*, by acclaimed playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins in its West Coast premiere. The play features a core company of actors – whose roles are randomly determined each night by lottery. When *Everybody* faces imminent death, which companion – Beauty, Friendship, Stuff, or Love – will make it to the final destination? Directed by Nataki Garrett, the play runs July 18-August 5.

Ting directs the final show of the subscriber season, *The War of the Roses*, a monumental evening of theater spanning four of Shakespeare's histories—from the *Henry VI* trilogy through *Richard III*. Danny Scheie stars, as Shakespeare's most monstrous monarch in what Ting describes as "a serious and challenging role." Ting anticipates the work will be one of the most epic and ambitious evenings of Shakespeare ever seen at the Bruns Amphitheater. With the assistance of the company's dramaturg Philippa Kelly, Ting cut the play from Shakespeare's work. Ting directs the fast-paced, vividly theatrical depiction of two powerful families – the Lancasters and the Yorks – and their decades-long fight for English rule, running August 22-September 9.

Following the subscription season will be a limited engagement remount of 2017's smash hit, *black odyssey* by Marcus Gardley, directed by Eric Ting, with vocal composition by Linda Tillery and Molly Holm, September 25 – October 7. *black odyssey* mashes up Greek mythology and African-American folklore in this musical and visionary new take on Homer's classic. The show stars Aldo Billingslea.

Besides their entertainment value, the season's productions have intrinsic educational opportunities, both onstage and off. Students from area schools will be in attendance at school matinees. "Artistic Learning is the reason that my husband, Steve Tirrell, and I support Cal Shakes. We enjoy providing funds for the after-school residencies in under-served areas and respect the work of Clive Worsley, who is in

[SEE CAL SHAKES page 14]



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREA MCARDLE

Broadway sensation, **Andrea McArdle**, will bring her big voice to the more intimate setting of the Orinda Theatre's 154-seat auditorium for a special concert on May 3.

## Annie Star Comes to Orinda Theatre

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Andrea McArdle, who took Broadway by storm as everyone's favorite red-headed orphan, will appear at the Orinda Theatre on May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

As the lead in *Annie*, McArdle became the youngest performer ever to be nominated for a Tony Award as Best Lead Actress in a Musical. She received the Theater World and Outer Critics Circle awards for the role before going on to conquer London with her portrayal.

Her storied career has also included starring in *Jerry's Girls* alongside Carol Channing and Leslie Uggams, playing Fantine in the original Broadway run of *Les Miserables*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Eva Peron in *Evita*, Nancy in *Oliver*, Sandy in *Grease* and many more.

Now, local residents have the opportunity to see her in concert, up-close and personal, when she appears at the Orinda Theatre's 154-seat auditorium. Reserved seating is \$45-60 with a VIP package available for

\$100. The package includes seating in the three center rows and a meet and greet following the show at Cine Cuvée.

For tickets, go to [www.lamorindatheatre.com](http://www.lamorindatheatre.com).

### ◆ PARADE from page 3

members and volunteers:

The total exercise benefit achieved by attending or participating in the Orinda 4th of July Parade guarantees you will lose 10 pounds of weight or increase five pounds of muscle, depending on whatever you want. Historically, this has been proven true.

Parade fans have such a good sense of humor, they laugh at solid jokes like: What's the most popular tea in 1776? Liberty!

Anyone who is going to volunteer this year for the Parade has a better than 50% chance of winning the Lotto in the next year and/or will receive "A New Car" on July 5.

The Parade Guy cannot guarantee the accuracy of The Orinda Association's research department findings but can promise that this year's Best Hometown Parade will be the greatest of them all!



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# Clay Arts Guild Spring Ceramics Sale

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Explore the diverse works of the talented and dedicated artists at the Clay Arts Guild (CAG) spring ceramics sale from Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 6. At the opening party on Friday beginning at 5 p.m., enjoy light refreshments and your pick of over 1,200 pieces of wheel-thrown, hand-built sculpture and art pottery for sale. Created by over 30 instructors and student artists (many of whom are from Orinda), all pieces are individually crafted for the home, patio and garden.

Longtime CAG member and Orinda resident Clarice Judah says, "Having taken ce-

ramics in Walnut Creek since 1972, I have been playing in the mud for many years and still love it. When throwing a bowl, I am in another world, and the clay really takes me away." Judah says most of her work is thrown and doing so "beats going to a psychiatrist." She adds, "I do a mean [ceramic] chicken and will have some in the sale." Nicole Collins, also from Orinda, says, "I have been a CAG member now for only a year, but I feel I have found 'my tribe.' I am struck by how generous everyone is with their knowledge, experience and expertise and am inspired by their artistry and energy as well as their sense of humor."

Children are invited to look over the "Under \$10" shelves for Mother's Day bargains. Other shelves are loaded with plates and platters, planters with miniature succulent gardens, mugs and bowls of every size, vases, candle holders, birds and birdhouses, miniature houses and masks, casseroles and lidded pots, statues, tiles, sculptural pieces, lions and elephants, totems, pears and pumpkins, boxes and shrines – the list goes on and on.

The variety of ceramic-making techniques includes stoneware, meaning pottery or other ceramics fired at a high temperature (cone 10) which creates "stone-hard" durable wares. Salt glaze pottery is stoneware with a glaze of glossy, translucent and a slightly orange-peel-like texture formed by throwing common salt into the kiln during the high temperature

[SEE CLAY page 15]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 1,200 pieces of wheel-thrown, hand-built sculpture, tableware and art pottery will be on display at the Clay Art Guild's spring sale.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Outdoor Sculpture, each with its own site and surrounding plants, fills Garden Number Two on the Lafayette Garden Club Tour.

# Tour Five Artful Gardens in Lamorinda

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

"Sweet April Showers/Do spring May Flowers," or so said Thomas Tusser in 1557 – and it's still true. If you accept the Lafayette Garden Club's (LGC) invitation to its "Artful Garden" tour, you will traverse five diverse gardens, including one in Orinda. It all begins, rain or shine, on May 12 at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m.

Garden number one is a family garden for small children with a pool and outdoor shower, fire pit, huge outdoor chess game, and a trail leading to a fairy garden and house. You will see *Magnolia soulangeana* or Tulip Magnolia, lots of different *Hydrangea*, *Helleborus orientalis* or Lenten Rose and *Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum* or Doublefile Viburnum.

A hillside garden with lots of stairs, wrought iron railings, interesting lighting fixtures, sculptures and beautiful stone awaits you in garden number two. There's a red garden room defined by red *Camellia japonica* in the winter, a yellow room filled with yellow Roses, a blue room that shows off *Clematis* and other striking blue and purple plants, and an orange room featuring roses, Dahlias, *Crocasmia*, *Zinnia*, Wallflowers and *Canna* Lilies. In the upper garden, look for the spectacular *Paeonia itoh* hybrid or Itoh Peonies with their pale pink blossom, deeper pink ring and fluffy boss of yellow stamens dead center and a *Cotinus obovatus* or American Smoke Tree with its effervescent foliage.

The urban farm at garden number three opens with *Quercus lobata* or Valley Oak trees under planted with *Asparagus aethiopicus* or Asparagus Fern, Asters, *Callicarpa* or Beautyberry, *Ceanothus* or California Lilac, *Campanula* or Bell Flower, and *Clematis* to name but a few. Next, listen for the chickens, stroll by the stream and pond (a former swimming pool), an orchard, and a vegetable garden. Enjoy the beauty and fragrance of *Rosas* 'Guy de Maupassant,' 'Barbara Streisand,' 'Cecile

Brunner,' 'Eden,' 'Color Magic,' 'Diana Princess of Wales,' 'Duet,' and 'Iceberg.'

Garden number four is a showcase for family gatherings, receptions, weddings and charity fundraisers. Pink roses cover an arched white lattice gate. Backyard plantings of interest include *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory,' *Lagerstroemia* or Crepe Myrtle trees, *Cornus kousa* or Korean Dogwood trees, a Privet hedge for privacy, *Quercus rubra* or Red Oak trees, and *Prunus caroliniana* or Carolina Cherry. The Connecticut blue stone wall in the front garden shows off the *Alstroemerias*, Anemones, *Trachelospermum jasminoides* or Star Jasmine, white Lantana and pink and white annuals.

As you enter the driveway of garden number five, a series of arbors show off *Rosas* 'Polka Dot,' 'Sally Holmes' and many others. Complex fragrances from 150 roses are sure to please as you meander through a series of interconnected garden rooms. An enjoyable walk brings you to the Moroccan soaking pool, French water fountain, parterre garden and creek. Favorite plantings include *Magnolia grandiflora*; *Wisteria sinensis* or Chinese Wisteria; *Viburnum plicatum* or Japanese Snowball and *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light' or Chinese Silver Grass.

You can easily drive and park at three gardens on the self-directed tour while a shuttle service takes you to the other two. Four of the private gardens are in Lafayette and one is in Orinda. Knowledgeable docents are onsite to answer questions.

A plant sale is offered in combination with a pop-up market at garden number three. Proceeds from the tour benefit the Acalanes Unified High School District Horticultural Programs and other local organizations fostering horticulture. Event co-chairs are Laurie Callaway (a certified garden designer), Orinda residents Laurie Reich and Melinda Flanders, and Chris Voil Chernin. Nonrefundable tickets can be purchased online at [www.lafayettegardclub.com](http://www.lafayettegardclub.com).

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## SCHOOLS / FITNESS

## A Special Tribute to Del Rey's Mr. Steve

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Steve Eydam loves his job and the feeling is mutual among the staff, parents and students at Del Rey where he has worked since 1980, following two years at Orinda Intermediate School (OIS).

The highly respected custodian goes way beyond his job description and is known for handing out candy every Halloween night at Del Rey's auditorium, spending his Saturdays helping parents paint scenery for plays, attending school board meetings, supervising the lunch room, running the safety patrol, providing music and sound for the Halloween parade and much more.

"I love working at Del Rey because of the wonderful kids and parents – such an enjoyable job. I especially enjoy the creative aspect of working on the musical productions with Margie Musante and Maggie Boscoe," he explains.

But, after 40 years with the school district, Eydam has decided it's time to retire. "It's bitter sweet to leave, but I am looking forward to the next phase in my life," he says. "I want to hang out with two retired friends and travel all over California and see things I've never seen because I was so busy working. I have renovations on my house I want to do as well, and I must admit I'm



MAGGIE BOSCOE  
Long-time Del Rey Custodian, **Steve Eydam**, will be honored at a retirement dinner in May.

looking forward to not getting up at 5:30 a.m. every morning!"

To say thank you to this dedicated member of the Del Rey family, the school is throwing "Mr. Steve" a retirement party on May 24 from 4 - 6 p.m. at OIS. While Eydam knows about the party, details are being kept secret. For more information, call Del Rey at 925-258-3099.

## ◆ TAX from page 1

hours a week, but the Friends of the Library point out that the county library system only pays for 35 of those hours. Moraga's library, by contrast, is closed on Mondays and only open for four hours on Fridays and Sundays. The Friends of the Library note that, in addition to library services, the extra hours enable the library to be a community magnet, attracting elementary and high school students, seniors and community groups to a community hub easily accessible to all.

The Friends point out that the 2008 tax, without a sunset limit but also without a cost escalator, "funded 42 percent of the library's open hours for 10 years." Measure J's "replacement tax," also without a sunset limit or cost escalator, would enable the library to "fund the same level of service, covering library hours without any further increase, at least until 2024" according to the Friends.

Linda Landau, a CPA and the treasurer of Friends of the Library, says if Measure J doesn't pass, "the county library staff would recommend cutting back to 35 hours a week, which would basically mean the [2008] parcel tax would only be paying for maintenance and repairs. This is because expenses go up every year, but the parcel tax revenue is flat."

In response to suggestions that shorter li-

brary hours be phased in over time, Landau says, "it would be disruptive to the community, staff and programs." She affirms, "It's harder when things keep changing. If librarians are only working 35 hours a week, and they need income for a 40-hour week, they will look for a different job with more hours somewhere else. Then, we would need to find new people to fill the job(s) which leads to more disruption. New librarians need time to become familiar with the community and establish new programs. At 35 hours a week, the library would probably be open five days a week, or six days with much shorter hours. You can do the math – it's seven hours a day, say 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday, closed on weekends, or closed one weekday so it could be open on Saturday. Compare that to now: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday."

For more information on Measure J, go to the city's website and the specific link to Measure J, <https://cityoforinda.org/384/MEASURE-J---Library-Services-Parcel-Tax>. Vote by mail ballots will be mailed on May 7.

Anyone with a pro or con argument on Measure J is invited to submit a Letter to the Editor for the June issue. Letters are due by May 8.

Writer Valerie Colber contributed information for this article.

## Fitness Tip of the Month

## Don't Just Do It... Feel It

*Working out and not seeing a change can be frustrating... maybe we are maintaining and maybe we are not. I have two tips. Don't do the exact same thing everyday and try to internalize what you are feeling when you exercise, so that you can be reminded of it when it comes time to decide what to eat.*



For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925-360-7051 or [www.livingleanprogram.com](http://www.livingleanprogram.com).

Gathering Against  
Cyber Bullying

May 9 from 6 – 8 p.m.  
Orinda Library Auditorium  
26 Orinda Way

Dr. Samadian Family and Advanced Dentistry team invite Lamorinda families and individuals to gather together to build a healthy support system to help prevent emotional abuse, particularly through social media and cyber bullying.

Dr. Gary Nye, a prominent retired psychiatrist in Orinda, will share his expert opinion on the subject and will moderate a panel discussion.

For more information, contact Katherine Trent at 925-212-6332 or email [ktrent@dionhealth.com](mailto:ktrent@dionhealth.com).

Three Orinda Schools  
Achieve Distinguished  
School Honors

Congratulations to Del Rey Elementary, Glorietta Elementary and Wagner Ranch Elementary for being designated as a Distinguished School in Contra Costa County by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. The three elementary schools achieved the honor based on outstanding student academic performance, high participation rates on state testing and low student suspension rates.

On May 3, the California Department of Education will host an awards ceremony in Anaheim to honor all 287 elementary schools from across the state who achieved distinguished school status.



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**OUSD Partners with SF Firm to Help Teachers and Staff Purchase Homes**

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Anyone who lives in the Bay Area knows how difficult it can be to purchase a home – particularly a home close to work.

The Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Board of Trustees hopes to make the process more accessible to its teachers, staff and administrators by partnering with Landed, a San Francisco startup. The company helps school personnel purchase homes through a down payment assistance program which provides half of the down payment, up to \$120,000 per household, in exchange for a portion of the gain or loss in the value of the home when it is sold. The program will be available to school personnel who have worked for OUSD for two or more years and who can contribute 10 percent of the down payment.

“Orinda is one of the least affordable

cities in the Bay Area,” notes OUSD Board President Carol Brown. “Without innovative solutions like Landed, most of our educators cannot afford to live in or near our community. We believe Landed will be a valuable tool to improve district retention by providing educators with a pathway to home ownership.”

Thanks to partnerships with large foundations and a \$5 million investment from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Landed has established the U.S. Educator Housing Fund to bring down payment support to educators in expensive cities around the country. Since its founding in 2015, the company has helped over 40 educators purchase homes in San Jose, Oakland, San Francisco, Santa Clara and other cities across California.

An informational session was held on April 18 with Orinda Union School District employees in April. For more information, go to [www.landed.com/interest](http://www.landed.com/interest).

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G.P. PUTNAM \$23

Sarah Winman will be introducing her remarkable new novel, *Tin Man*. **Cost: \$12** (includes light luncheon and Q & A with the author).

Georganne Brennan will be introducing her stunning new book, *Windows on Provence*. Lunch will include Salade Nicoise (Georganne's recipe), crusty French bread, a glass of Rosé and a Provençal biscuit. **Cost: \$20** (includes \$10 off price of book).

**Orinda Books**  
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**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**MAY**

- 2 **Orinda Academy**, Open House for interested families, 6 - 8 p.m.
- Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Spring One Act Plays. Also May 3, 4 and 5.
- Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m., Governing Board Meeting, AUHSD Community Room, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- 3 **Holden High School**, 5 p.m. ProTools Spring Course. Also May 10, 17 and 24.
- 7 **Miramonte High School**, all day AP testing though May 18.
- Miramonte Boosters Club**, 6 p.m. meeting.
- 10 **Miramonte High School**, 1 p.m., Therapy Dogs during lunch on quad.
- 11 **Glorietta**, 4 and 7 p.m. Spring musical *Mary Poppins, Jr.* See article p. 9.
- 14 **Orinda Unified School District**, 6 p.m., board meeting, 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda.
- 17 **Sleepy Hollow**, 6 p.m. Open House.
- Wagner Ranch**, Open House.
- 19 **Miramonte High School**, 5 p.m. Musical Theater Broadway Showcase.
- Wagner Ranch**, 11 a.m. Round Up (yearly western-themed carnival).
- 23 **Miramonte High School**, 7 p.m. Pops Concert. Also May 24.
- 24 **Del Rey Elementary School**, Mr. Steve, a retirement party. See article p. 13.
- Glorietta**, 5 p.m. Open House.
- 26 **Miramonte High School**, Senior Ball.
- 28 **All Schools** Closed for Memorial Day.
- 31 **Orinda Intermediate School**, Open House.

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

◆ **CAL SHAKES** from page 11  
charge of the Artistic Learning Program,” Osborne says.

This season Cal Shakes Summer Shakespeare Conservatory, an intensive training program serving actors from 6th to 12th grades, takes up residency at Saint Mary's campus in Moraga, July 9 – August

3. Students spend the morning creating in a wide variety of theater disciplines taught by working theater professionals. Afternoon rehearsals are in preparation for abridged Shakespeare productions at the LeFevre Theatre on the Saint Mary's campus.

For more information on Cal Shakes season and Conservatory, visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org) or call the box office at 510-548-9666.

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STUDENTS

## Orinda Troop 303 Honors Three New Eagle Scouts



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Liam Glynn, Walker Lambert and Evan Draeger, are Troop 303's latest Eagle Scouts.

Boy Scout Troop 303 in Orinda inducted three new Eagle Scouts – Liam Glynn, Walker Lambert and Evan Draeger. These three young men, all Miramonte High School seniors, joined the less than four percent of all scouts who achieve Eagle Rank.

Glynn's Eagle Scout project was refurbishing a stairway and railing at Orinda Oaks Park. The scope of work included: planning, materials sourcing, budgeting, city approvals, excavating 31 steps over a 70-linear foot area, prepping the area and reinstalling new steps/dirt, and sanding/painting related handrails.

Lambert designed and directed the installation of an automated irrigation system with a water efficient, solar-sync controller

for the garden beds at his former elementary school, Wagner Ranch, for his Eagle service project. This project will allow the garden beds, used for math and science lessons for grades K through 5, to grow and flourish year-round while greatly reducing teacher and parent volunteer time spent watering.

For his Eagle Scout project, Draeger built a 16' x 4' footbridge over Wagner Creek in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Work included bridge design, site preparation, staining, bridge assembly, and final installation of the bridge and railings. This ADA-compliant bridge provides year-round access to historically-important parts of the Nature Area.

To learn more about Troop 303, go to [www.bsatroop303orinda.com](http://www.bsatroop303orinda.com).

### ◆ CLAY from page 12

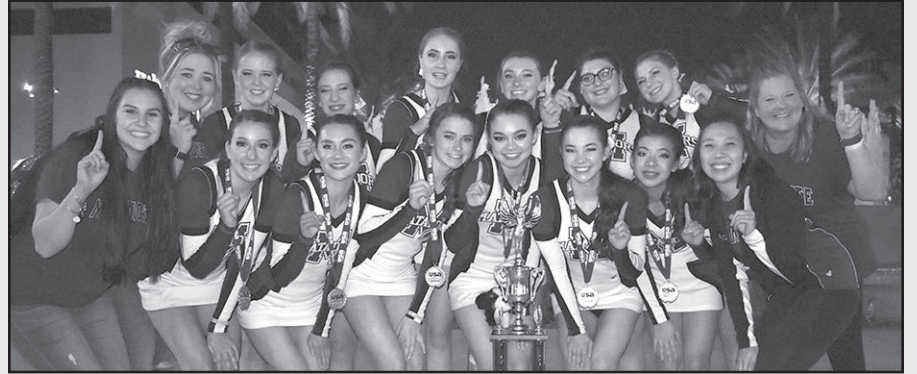
part of the firing process. Pit fired work is the original method for "baking" clay which dates back nearly 30,000 years where clay pots are baked in a hole in the ground or a pit on a beach. Western raku work, on the other hand, is a low-firing process inspired by traditional Japanese *raku* firing. It involves removing pottery from the kiln while at bright red heat and placing it into containers with combustible materials such as shredded paper or straw. When the materials ignite, the containers are closed which produces an intense reduction atmosphere. This atmosphere results in unusual colors and effects in glazes and clay bodies.

Did you know that CAG volunteers contribute to a variety of community outreach programs? They donate over 100 bowls annually to the Food Bank of Contra Costa County; offer ceramic workshops through the Walnut Creek After Dark program and other venues; and provide scholarship funds for anyone interested in adult clay classes.

The spring sale hours are Friday, May 4 from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday, May 5 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Civic Park Community Center, 1365 Civic Drive, Studio E, Walnut Creek. Plenty of parking is available around the studio and on the street.

Visit [www.wcClayArtsGuild.com](http://www.wcClayArtsGuild.com) for more information.

## Miramonte Varsity Cheer Three-peat at 2018 National Cheer Competition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For the third straight year, Miramonte High School's Cheer Team won first place at the USA Spirit Nationals in the Small Varsity Show Cheer Novice category. (L-R) Front row: Coach Victoria Carozza, Zoe Jeffrey, Maddie Robinson, Kyla Meyer, Jessie Robinson, Jacqui Yuke, Shelby Tse, Coach Meghan Hashimoto; Back row: Coach Danielle Herndon, Sydney Swinton, Julia Jungbluth, Charlotte Biancardi, Julia Lang, Mercedes Diaz, Stephanie Friese, Coach Carol Herndon.

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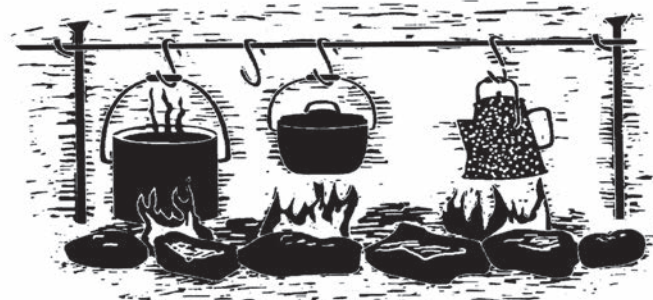
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CLASSIFIEDS

◆ AUHSD from page 7

been \$9,200 this year, or more if the student was an English Learner, Foster Youth, or categorized as low wealth as determined by qualification for the free and reduced lunch program.” Nickerson continued: “But being ‘Basic Aid,’ we have not received the LCFF funding from the State for the transfer students for this year or the previous two years.”

Starting in 2013-14, the LCFF provides an average base of funding per pupil. A district’s property taxes are first applied towards the LCFF entitlement with state aid filling any gap between the entitlement and the property taxes. AUHSD’s property tax revenue exceeds the entitlement so it does not receive additional funds. In Nickerson’s opinion, LCFF “inadequately funds school districts, particularly such as ours, which is part of the reason that we have slipped into ‘Basic Aid’ and part of the reason that we project significant budget deficits this year and in coming years.”

Previously, AUHSD accepted applications from students residing outside district boundaries who demonstrated a need that could only be fulfilled by AUHSD. Students had to receive approval from their resident school district to transfer as well. Students were admitted on the basis of how much space the district schools had available. Typically, Miramonte and Campolindo have the most space. If admitted, transfers must maintain a 3.0 GPA and an exemplary disciplinary record to stay in the district.

Nickerson offers, “our current enrollment is about 5,600. Acalanes has about 1,370 students; Campolindo about 1,370; Las Lomas about 1,540; and Miramonte about 1,300. Acalanes Center for Independent Study (ACIS) is about 30. Currently, there are 274 interdistrict transfer students throughout the district which accounts for 4.9 percent of all students.”

Of the 274 students, 19 percent are 9th graders; 18 percent are 10th graders; 30 percent are 11th graders; and 33 percent are 12th graders. By campus, 47.1 percent of the 274 interdistrict transfers are at Miramonte (the only school with more than 100 transfer students); 30 percent are at

Acalanes; 15.7 percent are at Campolindo; 7.3 percent are at Las Lomas, and 1.5 percent are at ACIS.

Some transfer students already have a history in Lamorinda schools. Gil Peled, for example, previously lived in Orinda and attended local schools, but when his parents moved to Dublin, he wanted to follow his long-time friends and former classmates to Miramonte so he applied as an interdistrict transfer. Anish Bajaj, on the other hand, transferred from Rich-

mond with concerns that he might not fit in at Miramonte but found his new fellow students accepting and welcoming. According to both, they wanted to be with their friends in “an opportunity-filled learning environment.” Zahra Hasanain, leader of the Student Equity Team, pointed out how many of the clubs and other student activities would not have sufficient students to exist without interdistrict transfers, several of whom have taken on leadership roles in the organizations.

The operational budget revenue from all sources (including parcel taxes, education foundations, parent and booster clubs, and other categorical grants and entitlements) equates to about \$13,500 per student this year. Nickerson projects that without a severe reduction in interdistrict transfer students, spending per student would increase to approximately \$14,200 per student.

Editor Sally Hogarty contributed to this article.

◆ ROADS from page 1

city looking for assistance. They noted problems when neighbors on private roads refused to help pay for maintenance, the general public’s use of private roads and the impact to these roads by emergency vehicles and garbage trucks.

Orinda resident Jennifer Wallace noted that her street was divided in two with Lower Mira Loma designated a public street and Upper Mira Loma listed as a private street. “We even have a school bus stop and a county bus stop on the private portion,” she said.

Speakers in attendance said that the city could help them in several ways: financing of private road maintenance (possibly setting up an assessment district), partnering with the city on maintenance projects to lower the overall cost and accepting some of the private roads as publicly maintained streets.

Melissa Roeder, who also lives on Mira Loma in Orinda, urged the council to help residents on private roads by setting up a task force that would allow a conversation beyond the three-minutes allowed during the public forum. She noted, “If some people on private roads are happy with their HOA, then the total amount could be far less than 30 miles.”

During his presentation of the 67-page staff report, Director of Public Works and Engineering Services Larry Theis said that the majority of the roads that are now city-maintained streets had already been formally accepted by the county before Orinda incorporated in 1985. He further stated that the city took over the responsibility for maintenance of only county-maintained roads upon incorporation, excluding privately-maintained roads.

According to Theis, there were a variety

of reasons why Contra Costa County, and later the City of Orinda, did not accept roads. The reasons included insufficient pavement width, failing culverts, landslides and right-of-way issues. The report concluded that city staff does not see a viable option under state law to accept private streets without increasing financial liability and exposure to claims and lawsuits that would severely impact the city’s limited finances.

In his report, Theis pointed out that 69.8 percent, totaling 20.93 miles, of the private roads had HOA agreements or other mechanisms for maintenance. He noted that 18.7 percent, totaling 5.61 miles, of private roads would be very complicated to deal with as they were “never anticipated to be public.” The final 11.6 percent, totaling 3.48 miles, had been dedicated to the public on a subdivision map but never accepted by the county. Roads in this category are located throughout Orinda.

City Attorney Osa Woolf added that the first question to ask when looking at using public funds for a private road is “what would be the public benefit?”

Theis was also concerned that the task force itself might necessitate the usage of “quite a bit of staff resources” and that a funding mechanism would need to be in place. “We don’t know the costs to add 30 miles of private roads,” he said. “In order to consider accepting any of the private roads, you would need to hire consultants to study the road surface and the drainage. It would be a substantial cost to assess all the private roads.”

Mayor Amy Worth noted that roads in Orinda were a very complex issue and that “many of the road agreements were made before anyone in this room was even born.”

Councilmembers discussed the possibility of a task force focusing on the

11.6 percent of private roads totaling 3.48 miles rather than the entire 30.2 miles. Vice Major Inga Miller expressed concern over the amount of staff time that might be needed for the task force and whether it would interfere with other pressing road concerns while Councilmember Darlene Gee suggested a less formal task force that encouraged more brainstorming and dialogue rather than staff involvement. Councilmember Dean Orr concurred, “I want a task force with specific parameters about what we want to accomplish before spending any additional funds.”

“This is a complicated issue that we’re not going to solve here unless you want to ignore 20 percent of Orindans who live on private roads,” resident Steve Cohn added. He had asked the council at the meeting to reject the staff report and create a task force instead. He noted that City Resolution 56-90 (Attachment B of the report) was well-meaning when implemented 28 years ago but flawed today: “It essentially says that any private street to obtain public status must add to the city’s traffic circulation. In other words, it cannot be a dead-end street (a cul-de-sac or loop). While that applies to virtually all of Orinda’s private streets, it also applies to 180 of the City’s 279 public streets.”

Cohn also cited several examples of public streets that don’t meet the city standards for width or pavement criteria. “It is obvious that adding an additional 30 miles to Orinda’s 93-mile road system would cost more money,” admitted Cohn, “But the real questions should be ‘how much’ and ‘how can we raise those funds?’”

The City Staff Report on Private Roads, which includes an extensive attachment delineating all private roads by Steve Cohn, can be found on the city’s website at www.cityoforinda.org.

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The Senior Bridge Group is looking for players! Games take place on Thursday afternoons in the Community Center. Call Gretchen Dabel for details at 925-254-5532.

Unwanted Eye Glasses are collected for Lions Club at the Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

2018 Publication Schedule

Table with Issue and Deadline columns: June 2018 (May 8, 2018), July 2018 (June 8, 2018)

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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## MAY

- 1 **Rechic 101**, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mother's Day Event. Shopping, sips and surprise. Beautycounter w/Jenny Hill and Heather Annette Jewelry w/ Heather Woodiwiss. 101 Orinda Way Orinda.
- Orinda Chamber Annual Restaurant Tour**, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. A tour of Orinda's restaurants with food from over 16 participants. Tickets \$40, go to [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org) or [www.orindafo.org](http://www.orindafo.org). See article p 19.
- 3 **Orinda Books**, 10 - 11 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for 2-4 year-olds and their grown-ups. Also, May 10, 17, 24 and 31. 276 Village Square, Orinda, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com), 925-254-7606.
- Taste of the World Market**, 5 p.m. Weekly food truck event features a different mix of trucks and entertainment. To see which food trucks will be present, visit [www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style](http://www.tasteoftheworldmarket.com/calendar-agenda-style). Also, May 10, 17, 24 and 31.
- Orinda Concert Series**, Andrea McArdle will appear at the Orinda Theatre. Reserved seating is \$45-60 with a VIP package available for \$100. For tickets, go to [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com). See article p 11.
- 4 **International Film Showcase**, presents the French film, *Back To Burgundy*, a family drama, through May 10 at the Orinda Theatre. For more information, visit [www.orindatheatre.com](http://www.orindatheatre.com).
- First Friday Forum**, 1:30 p.m. "Stroke Prevention and Life's Simple 7," Mary K. Donnelly, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article p. 19.
- Clay Arts Guild Ceramics Sale**, 5 - 9 p.m. Enjoy an opening night party with refreshments and best selection of work for home, garden, patio. Civic Park Com. Ctr., 1365 Civic Dr., Studio E, Walnut Creek. Also May 5 and 6; see article p. 12.
- 5 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m., Orinda Way, Orinda. Also, May 12, 19 and 26. See article p. 18.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**, 10 a.m.-noon. Spring Open House at Station 45, 33 Orinda Way, Orinda.
- Musiciansinconcert.org**, 7 - 9:30 p. m. Great Bay Area Jazz and Funk Bands Live. The benefit will generate funds for educational scholarships and grants to assist young musicians and underfunded Bay Area music programs. Veterans Memorial Hall in Lafayette, Tickets at [www.MusiciansInConcert.org](http://www.MusiciansInConcert.org). For information, contact Tommy Davidson, Executive Director, at [contact@MusiciansInConcert.org](mailto:contact@MusiciansInConcert.org).
- 6 **Girls Makers' Market**, 2 - 4 p.m. where "girlpreneurs" can share ideas and sell their wares. The Quarry House at Wilder, 8 Quarry Hill Rd., Orinda. See [www.facebook.com/GirlsMakersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/GirlsMakersMarket).
- Orinda Library Art Gallery**, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., "A Creative Synergy," artists reception where light bites will be served. Sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Council. See article p. 2.
- 9 **Orinda Books**, 2 p.m., The Second Wednesday Book Group will read and discuss *Parallel Lives* by Phyllis Rose. 276 Village Square, Orinda, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com), 925-254-7606.
- Community Awareness And Support Against Social Media Abuse**, 6 - 8 p.m. Presented by Dr. Amin Samadian, Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.
- 10 **City of Orinda Senior Trip**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Winchester Mystery House Tour/Shopping, Fee: \$79, [orindaparksrec@cityoforinda.org](mailto:orindaparksrec@cityoforinda.org) or 925-254-2445.
- Classic Free Movie Night**, 6:30 p.m. presents *The Goonies* at the Orinda Theatre, For further information, please go to [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com).
- 11 **Mindful Littles**, 4 - 5:45 p.m. Critter Compassion: Explore Animal Senses and "Be Kind to Animals." Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598. <https://mindfullittles.org/events>.
- 12 **Moraga Community Faire & Car Show**, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rheem Valley Shopping Center. Kid's Zone activities include pony rides, a climbing wall, and a bounce house. Food trucks, and over 70 amazing classic cars, 60 local artists, business and organizations. Live entertainment all afternoon. Visit [www.moragachamber.org/faire](http://www.moragachamber.org/faire).
- Artful Gardens**, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visit five stunning private Lamorinda gardens, plus a plant sale and pop-up markets. Presented by the Lafayette Garden Club. See article p. 12.
- 15 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. The World Affairs Book Group will read and discuss *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Hochschild. 276 Village Square, Orinda, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com), 925-254-7606.
- 17 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Luncheon with Georgeanne Brennan, introducing her new book, *Windows on Provence*. Luncheon will include Salade Nicoise using Georgeanne's recipe, crusty French bread, a glass of Rose' and a Provencal biscuit. \$20 includes \$10 off price of book. Call 925-254-7606 for reservations.
- 19 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. Assaad Mounzer will discuss his new book, *Burnout to Engagement: Mindfulness in Action*. 276 Village Square, Orinda, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com), 925-254-7606.
- 20 **Orinda Books**, 1 p.m. Leah Bullen will present her new children's book series, *Where We Grow: Gigi, Gabriella, and Zara* - a series designed to introduce young readers to different cultures. 276 Village Square, Orinda, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com), 925-254-7606.
- Orinda Books**, 2 p.m. Middle School Book Club moderated by Susan Reckers will read and discuss *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani. All middle schoolers are invited to stop by the store, purchase the book (10% discount), and join the discussion. 276 Village Square, Orinda, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com), 925-254-7606.
- 21 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Literary Luncheon featuring Sarah Winman, introducing *Tin Man*. Light luncheon and Q & A with author: \$12, call 925-254-7606 to make your reservation. 276 Village Square, Orinda.
- 23 **Orinda Books**, 11:30 a.m. Chef Charlie Vollmar of Epicurean Exchange Cooks Again. Cooking demonstration and luncheon with a menu featuring new recipes he has discovered on his travels. \$35 includes luncheon and a 10% discount on any cookbook in the store that day. Call 925-254-7606 to make reservation. 276 Village Square, Orinda.
- 24 **Orinda Books**, 11 a.m. Maria's Book Group will read and discuss *Trick* by Domenico Starnone. Call 925-254-7606. 276 Village Square, Orinda, [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com).
- 26 **Orinda Rotary Club and the Orinda Library**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wonders of Asia. Free festival of the finest in Asian performing and visual arts. Also, May 27 from 1 - 4 p.m. Food trucks will be available. For more information, go to [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org) or [www.ccplib.org/locations/orinda.html](http://www.ccplib.org/locations/orinda.html). See article p. 8.
- 27 **Peter Pan Foundation**, 10 a.m. presents their annual original musical, *Wish Upon A Star* at Diablo Valley College. Younger cast on May 27 and 28 with high school and adult casts May 26-28, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets at [www.peterpanfoundation.org](http://www.peterpanfoundation.org).

## Business Person and Business of the Year Announced

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce has awarded the Business Person of the Year to Maria Roden of Orinda Books and the Business of the Year to Taverna Pellegrini Restaurant.

Since she took over the bookstore in 2014, Roden has reached out to local book lovers, young readers and local writers, inventing new experiences and partnerships that continue to feed the vitality of the local bookstore. Taverna Pellegrini, meanwhile, has been an enthusiastic member of the local business community, participating in all the restaurant tours and inviting local artisans such as Lamorinda Wine Growers to be featured on his menu.

The two will be feted at an awards dinner on May 8 from 5 - 7:30 p.m. at Taverna Pellegrini, 65 Moraga Way, Orinda. The all-inclusive dinner is \$35. For tickets, call 925-254-3909 or go to [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maria Roden is the Chamber's Business Person of the Year.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. For more information, call 254-2184 or visit [www.ccplib.org/locations/Orinda.html](http://www.ccplib.org/locations/Orinda.html). The library will be closed for Mother's Day May 13 and Memorial Day on May 27 and 28, 2018.

- 1 **Toddler Storytime**, 10 and 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and early literacy learning for new walkers (approx. 18 to 36 months) and their caregivers. No registration required; please attend only one toddler storytime each week. Also, May 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- Peek-a-Boo Storytime**, 11:30 a.m. Lapsit storytime for newborns/pre-walkers (0 to roughly 18 months) and their caregivers. Early literacy advice. Families with older siblings please attend toddler storytime. No registration required. Also, May 8, 15, 22 and 29.
- Humanities West Fireside Chat**, 6:30 PM - 7:30 p.m. Join George Hammond of Humanities West for a fireside chat exploring the historical lives and influence of The Borgia. More information about Humanities West and other events at [www.humanitieswest.net](http://www.humanitieswest.net)
- Orinda Library Writers Group**, 6:30 p.m. Meet with a friendly group of beginning writers in a supportive environment to motivate, critique and inspire one another. Share two pages of your writing (any genre) and get feedback from the group. Also May 15 and 29.
- 2 **Paws to Read**, 3:30 p.m. Early readers can practice with the perfect audience: therapy dogs! Call or stop by beforehand to reserve a 20-minute spot for a child (no online registration available).
- 3 **ESL Conversation Circle**, 1 to 3 p.m. For adults, practice and improve English conversation skills in a small, informal group. Registration not required. Also May 10, 17, 24 and 31.
- 7 **Maker Monday Special: Junkology!** 1 p.m., Dr. Recycle will show you how to turn trash into toys! Bring clean yogurt cups, milk jugs and cereal boxes to make whirligigs, ducks, whales and more! Also, May 14 and 21.
- 10 **APA Asian Heritage Brush Painting Workshop**, 10 a.m. A hands on brush painting workshop with Pauline Tsui. Materials provided. Space is limited. Register online, in person or by phone at the Orinda Library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Orinda Library Garden Room.
- 18 **Mystery Book Club**, 3 p.m. Join the Orinda Mystery Book Club to uncover and discuss the new mystery book of the month. Meetings every third Friday of the month.
- 22 **Orinda Library TAG Meeting**, 4 p.m. Monthly meeting of the Orinda Library Teen Advisory Group.
- 24 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**, 7 p.m. Join this lively group to tell or listen. This is storytelling for adults with a featured teller every month. Garden Room.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)** General meetings third Tues., <http://oml-ca.aauw.net> or email Marty Schimbor at [mgschimbor@comcast.net](mailto:mgschimbor@comcast.net).
- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Masonic Center, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 925-253-1997.
- Guided Meditation**. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching** for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting place.
- Lamorinda Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, Pete Giers, 925-254-4667.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com). May 4 - SUSPENSE! A surprise special guest. Come to find out! May 11 - Your friendly tax guy, Gus Kramer, Assessor, Contra Costa County. May 18 - In the beginning was GEORGE CHAFFEY a founding father of LMSR. Now hear the rest of his story of his elaborate lifestyle. May 25 - 4-way Speech Contest.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, <http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>.

SEASONED SHOPPER



**Seasoned Shopper**  
Tender Fava Beans are a hit!  
BARBARA KOBSAR

The Orinda Market is becoming a Saturday morning tradition for many families. Children enjoy a special kids' activity set up by the information table, and parents shop for some of the finest, local produce available. The market is complete with the addition of food vendors, specialty products and lively music.

Fava bean aficionados are ecstatic! Bushy fava bean plants produce prodigious amounts of green, velvety pods picked fresh for the market. Favas are edible during the four stages of their development – tender greens, young pods, fresh shelled or dried.

Because fava bean pods deteriorate quickly, use them as soon as possible or refrigerate them unwashed in plastic bags for a day or two. If longer storage is necessary, or you have an over-abundance of favas, shell and blanch the beans for three to four minutes. Drain them, run them under cold water and slip each bean out of its skin by pinching open the end of the bean opposite the end that connected it to the pod. Freeze the beans in a single layer on a tray and pack in air-tight bags for later use.

Tender fava beans need only simple preparation. Sauté them in a little olive oil and diced shallot or try them cold added to green or pasta salads. Fava bean and

pecorino crostini also make a quick and easy appetizer or snack.

Berries also make their grand entrance this month. Strawberries continue to get sweeter, and blackberries and raspberries arrive to start their season. Blackberries and raspberries are botanical cousins and similar in structure – plump juicy “kernels” make up the shape of the berry – but blackberries remain fairly firm after harvest and raspberries are hollow and more fragile.

True blackberries are shiny, purple-black in color, and when mature range from one half to one inch in length. Blackberry hybrids, including boysenberry, olallieberry and marionberry, are dusty maroon in color, while tayberry and loganberry are more reddish.

Berries are picked ripe and ready to eat. Refrigerate as soon as possible after purchasing. If storage is necessary, arrange a single layer of unwashed berries in a shallow pan lined with paper towels. Top that with another layer of towels and refrigerate for one or two days. Prepare for serving by washing under gently running water just before serving.

Enjoy and see you at the market!

*The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in front of the Community Park and Rite Aid. For more information, visit the website at [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) where you can also sign up for market specials sent right to your phone. The market hotline is 925-431-8361.*

**FAVA BEAN AND PECORINO CROSTINI**

- 2 pounds fava beans, removed from pods (about one and one quarter cups)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 24 to 30 Crostini, or sliced baguette
- Pecorino cheese, for garnish.

Prepare fava beans (see above). Place favas, oil, juice, salt and pepper in the bowl of a food processor and quickly pulse to create a thick, chunky paste. Spread 1 heaping teaspoon fava paste on each crostini. Garnish with thinly shaved Pecorino cheese. Sprinkle with freshly ground black pepper and serve.



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Chamber of Commerce members, Mayor Amy Worth (with scissors) and Farmers' Market staff and merchants joined together to officially open the Orinda Farmers' Market on April 14.

**CALENDAR (continued)**

**Montelindo Garden Club.** Third Friday, 9 a.m., Sept. through May, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com). 925-284-8193. April 20 at 9 a.m., The History of Mt. Diablo and its Open Space Preservation with speaker Seth Adams, land conservation director at Save Mount Diablo.

**Orinda Association.** Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 925-254-0800.

**Orinda Garden Club,** 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668 or [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

**Orinda Hiking Club.** Every weekend and first Wednesday, [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org) or Ian at 925-254-1465.

**Orinda Historical Society.** Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings.

**Orinda Job's Daughters.** First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

**Orinda Junior Women's Club** community service group. First Tuesday, September through June, 7 p.m., [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org).

**Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM.** First Thursday every month, except holidays, at 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center, Orinda. Family Dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 925-254-5211, [www.orindalodge.org](http://www.orindalodge.org).

**Orinda Rotary.** Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org). May 2, Speaker John Donnelly, The Global Healing Project May 16, Speaker Dr. Joel Kramer, UCSF Memory & Aging Center.

**Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation.** Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m., meeting, call 925-254-8260 for location.

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council.** Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).

**Orinda Woman's Club.** Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 925-254-3881, or [www.orindawomansclub.org](http://www.orindawomansclub.org).

**CITY/FIRE/MEETING SCHEDULE**

**City Council.** First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

**Historic Landmarks Committee.** Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District.** First and third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Visit [www.mofd.org/board/meetings](http://www.mofd.org/board/meetings); meeting location will be posted on the agenda.

**Planning Commission.** Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

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

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

- May 1 – Children's Gymnastics Classes (#23544, #23551, #23549) – Register Now!**
- May 10 – Senior Trip: Winchester Mystery House Tour/Santana Row Shopping and Lunch**
- May 15 – Registration Closes for Adult Softball Leagues**
- May 22 - Wisdom Workshop: Learn How to Tell Your Own Story; FREE**
- May 28 – Memorial Day – City Offices Closed**

**Register Now for Children's Summer Camps!**

Orinda Parks and Recreation Department  
925-254-2445  
[www.OrindaParksandRec.org](http://www.OrindaParksandRec.org)  
[OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org](mailto:OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org)  
28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center  
Administrative Office Hours – Monday – Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

RESTAURANTS / REAL ESTATE

## Restaurant Tour Returns to Crossroads

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

It's time to wine and dine alfresco as the Orinda Chamber of Commerce presents its annual restaurant tour May 1 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

"It's a tasty tour of Orinda's favorite restaurants and some new ones with delicious food from more than 16 participants," says Orinda Chamber Executive Director Sophie Braccini. One of the new participants is Saffron Indian Restaurant, which is taking over the space in Theatre Square previously occupied by Wild Magnolia.

In addition to the food, the Lamorinda Wine Growers will furnish liquid libations and various musicians, including Lamorinda Idol singers and the Miramonte Jazz Band, will provide entertainment throughout the tour route.

The tour begins in the parking lot at 51 Moraga Way, next to Pacific Union Real Estate. The Orinda Chamber is partnering



SALLY HOGARTY

Participants in last year's **Restaurant Tour** had lots of delicious bites to choose from. Expect even more at this year's event.

with the Educational Foundation of Orinda, which receives a portion of the proceeds.

For tickets, priced at \$40, go to [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org) or [www.orindaefo.org](http://www.orindaefo.org).

## Stroke Prevention Topic of Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

"Stroke Prevention and Life's Simple Seven" is the topic chosen for First Friday Forum (FFF) May 4 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Mary K. Donnelly who holds a doctorate in nursing practice from Chatham University, Pittsburgh, is the speaker. Currently, she is an assistant professor in the Master of Sci-

ence in Nursing for Non-Nurses Program at the University of San Francisco School of Nursing and Health Professions.

Dr. Donnelly has apt areas of expertise and interest for her topic. They include cardiovascular risk factors - identification and modification, decision making processes related to health care treatment options and student engagement.

This is a timely topic as May is Stroke Awareness month. Symptoms of a stroke and what to do when dealing with one will be covered. Strokes moved down from the number three cause of death to number five in the United States as people are better educated about them. Part of this is due to better lifestyles and getting regular check-ups. Equally important, due to education, early detection of stroke symptoms has prompted the patient or witnesses to call 9-1-1 right away.

Guests at FFF will learn steps to build a healthier lifestyle to prevent heart disease and stroke based on the American Heart Association's, "My Life Check - Life's Simple Seven." Dr. Donnelly will discuss ways to improve one's health by follow-

[SEE FORUM page 20]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

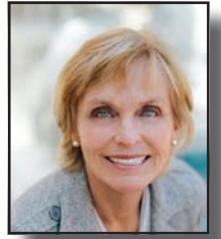
Mary Donnelly will discuss stroke prevention at the First Friday Forum May 4.

## Real Estate Reality

HOT Market ~

Thank You and Goodbye!

MAUREEN WILBUR



Earlier this year, I provided Lamorinda market data for the first month of the year. The following is a market update for 2018 through April 5. Since the Federal Tax Law changes, there have been lots of commentary about the effects on the California real estate market. Here are the facts, year-to-date, for our local Lamorinda market. The data collected is from the Contra Costa Association of Realtors and is for *single family homes* only on April 5, 2018.

On Feb. 9, **Lafayette** had 24 active, 13 pending and seven sold properties. The average sales price was \$1,099,143 and the median sales price was \$1,160,000 with the average days on the market, or DOM, for actives is 30 days, 19 for pending and eight days for sold properties. On April 5, Lafayette had 20 active, 25 pending and 41 sold properties, year-to-date. The average sales price was \$1,604,676 and the median sales price was \$1,360,000 with the average DOM 22 days for active, 18 days for pending, nine days for sold properties.

On Feb. 9, **Moraga** had 11 active, eight pending and eight sold properties. The average sales price was \$1,421,813 and the median sales price was \$1,239,000 with the DOM for actives 21 days, four days for pending, and 22 days for sold properties. On April 5, Moraga had 10 active, 13 pending and 21 sold properties year to date. The average sales price was \$1,575,922 and the median sales price was \$1,500,000 with the average DOM 27 days for active, 20 days for pending and seven days for sold

properties.

On Feb. 9, **Orinda** had 25 active properties for sale, 10 pending and seven sold properties. The average sales price was \$1,575,768 and the median sales price was \$1,229,000 with an average DOM for active 33 days, 66 days for pending and 78 days for sold properties. On April 5, Orinda has 31 actives, 28 pending and 28 sold properties year to date. The average sales price is \$1,641,452 and the median sales price is \$1,337,500 with the average DOM 40 days for active, 16 days for pending and 11 days for sold properties.

The spring market is in full swing and HOT! Interest rates have risen slightly but continue to be low. There is a 2.5 month supply of homes in all of Lamorinda. This is well below the six month benchmark supply in a balanced market. The market is strong for sellers with homes priced sharply for their size, condition and location.

And finally, I am saying goodbye to a successful and all around fulfilling career. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to write for *The Orinda News* for the past few years. Thank you to my family, friends and clients for enthusiastically supporting my real estate and teaching careers during the past 50 years! I will especially miss assisting sellers and buyers achieve their goals and dreams against the odds. I don't know how to say it can't be done; there is always a way if you think long, hard and creatively!

Thank you!  
Maureen

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BUSINESS BUZZ

## Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



To send items for consideration, email Hotz at v.hotz@att.net.

### Village Inn Cafe Reopens

After briefly closing earlier this spring, that old-fashioned, good ol' American coffee shop experience lives on at the Village Inn Cafe, having reopened under new ownership March 20. Located at 204 Village Square and adjacent to Orinda Books, the Cafe offers a menu featuring breakfast and lunch six days a week.

"I have always wanted to have my own breakfast place, and this is an excellent fit," says new owner Peter Leou, a graduate of Miramonte High School, Class of 2002. Leou still owns and operates Geppetto's Caffe. "One day one of my servers at Gep-

petto's said that Village Inn Cafe was going to be sold. The owners, Kurt and Kathy Bellows, shared they wanted to sell to local owners and continue to keep the Village Inn Cafe local, and we were able to come to an agreement," says Leou.

The menu is 80 percent the same as it has always been with Leou adding Eggs Benedict, Chicken and Waffles, and new sandwich and salad options. "Our customers continue to enjoy the fresh orange juice and corned beef hash. We love serving the Orinda community and encourage everyone to come in and have breakfast," smiles Leou, who prepares the dishes for his loyal customers.

Leou has a long history in the restaurant business, having spent his high school years working at his family's restaurant. His parents, Simon and Gina, owned Szechwan Restaurant on Orinda Way for 35 years and just recently sold the business.

"We have a lot of regulars at Village Inn Cafe. They are happy the café is continuing and were extremely relieved when we reopened in March," adds Leou. Being open for breakfast and lunch six days a week leaves Leou precious little time for pursuing his hobbies. His love for cooking is paramount and he especially enjoys grocery shopping. Whenever the opportunity presents itself, Leou spends time in the great outdoors.

Village Inn Cafe is open for breakfast and lunch Tuesday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Breakfast only is served Sunday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more infor-



Peter Leou, owner and chef at Village Inn Cafe.

mation about Village Inn Cafe, visit the website at [www.orindacoffeeshop.com](http://www.orindacoffeeshop.com) or call 925-254-6080.

### La Piazza A Perennial Neighborhood Favorite

After 23 years in operation, this year sees the passing of the baton at La Piazza Trattoria - located at 15 Moraga Way - from founder Charlie Mounzer to husband and wife team John and Aquela Rahimi. Veterans of the restaurant business, the couple brings 30 years experience to La Piazza. Originally from Afghanistan, they own two Italian restaurants in Crockett.

"This past January, we purchased La Piazza from Charlie. We are pleased to be here. We have very good relationships and enjoy the Orinda community immensely," says John Rahimi. The staff and menu remain the same under the new owners. "If it is not broken, don't fix it," he says with a smile.

The food is hearty Northern Italian. A variety of fresh pasta dishes are prepared in the open kitchen with the homemade pizzas baked in the wood burning stove, making for a cozy atmosphere. A standard favorite includes the Insalata della Piazza and, of course, the Insalate Cesare. Fresh fish offerings and a variety of specials which change weekly keep the menu interesting. You won't want to miss the Tiramisu.

Italian, Californian, Argentinian and Australian wines are offered as well as a selection of beers. Gluten-free pasta and gluten-free pizza may be ordered. "We are keeping everything the same and invite customers to drop in before or after a movie at the Orinda Theatre," adds Rahimi.

Open for dinner only Monday through Thursday, 5 to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 5 to 10 p.m., La Piazza Trattoria is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit the website at [www.lapiazzaorinda.com](http://www.lapiazzaorinda.com),



John Rahimi, the new owner of La Piazza.

call 253-9191 or email [lapiazzaorinda@gmail.com](mailto:lapiazzaorinda@gmail.com).

## American Association of University Women Distinguished Woman



Longtime AAUW-OML member and community volunteer **Maryellen Judson** will be honored at a luncheon May 22 at the Moraga Country Club. For tickets, call Judy Helder at 925-631-0156.

### ◆ FORUM from page 19

ing these steps which include managing blood pressure (new guidelines released November 2017), controlling cholesterol, reducing blood sugar, getting and staying active, eating better, losing weight and stopping smoking.

Having lived and worked in four continents before teaching at USF has given Dr. Donnelly a unique perspective on her research and teaching. She has worked at various care facilities in Japan, Italy, London and in the States. She notes, "I recognize healthcare as a dynamic and continuously evolving field and place an emphasis on cultivating collaborative and proactive practitioners who are constantly

working toward improving processes, techniques and communication methods to achieve better outcomes for care providers and patients." Dr. Donnelly was elected to the Distinguished Fellowship in the National Academies of Practice and received the Johns Hopkins Biennial Retreat in Primary Care, Service Excellence Award.

"We feel this is an important topic for FFF attendees and Dr. Donnelly comes with outstanding credentials to present it," says Nancy Whyte, FFF team member. "We also invite everyone to come at 1 p.m. for refreshments in Fellowship Hall. This is a free event. Invite your friends."

For further information, call 925-283-8722.

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