



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Orinda Garden Club Launches Downtown Beautification Project

By ANIA KEENAN
Contributing Writer

The Orinda Garden Club (OGC) is marking the turn of the season by taking on the new project of refurbishing garden pots in Theatre Square.

According to club leadership, the pots were first installed around 2011 when an anonymous donor contributed generously to the Orinda Garden Club, Orinda Juniors Garden Club, Orinda Valley Garden Club

and Montelindo Garden Club. Per the request of the donor, the money was to be used in a cooperative project among the clubs. According to OGC's Community Affairs and Beautification Chair, Sue Andersen-Berger, that is when the idea for the pots originated.

According to club member Bobbie Wilson, most of the money for the repairs came from the Orinda Foundation, but the rest was financed, once again, by an anonymous donor.

"Plants are good to have around town; they bring color and life to a city and soften hard landscapes," Wilson said.

Wilson's subcommittee took responsibility for leading the project.

"Bobbie really has been the boots on the ground for this one; she has been great," OGC President Jane Wisner said.

Andersen-Berger, responsible for selecting the array of plants to be installed in the pots, said that she's mainly focused on providing a sense of "connectivity and uniformity" throughout the city.

"I want to tie Orinda together. I want it to look planned. And, of course, I want it to be drought resistant," Andersen-Berger said.

In an earlier project, Andersen-Berger worked to re-plant and landscape the plot

[SEE GARDEN page 3]



JANE WISNER

Orinda Garden Club members take a moment across from the Orinda Theatre before replanting pots and beautifying Orinda for spring. (L-R) Sue Andersen-Berger, Alyssa Harris, Julie Abramson (sitting), Montelindo Garden Club member Judy Hammon and Orinda Garden Club members Lisa Jorgens and Bobbie Wilson.

JULY 4th OR-INDA
Orinda July 4th Parade is Happening
July 4, 2021 beginning at 11 a.m.
Save the date as The Orinda Association brings back Orinda's popular hometown parade. Go to www.orindaparade.com for more information.
Be a part of this fun event. Volunteers are needed to help with advance planning and on July 4th to help with decorating, parade monitoring and many more fun activities. For more information, email orinda.volunteers@gmail.com.

Moving Forward with Fire Prevention

By MELANIE LIGHT
Contributing Writer

While Orindans get homes ready to comply with the fire code by June 1, the City and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) are also busy finding ways to help Orinda get to a

safer place.

Orinda's new Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Committee (SSTOC) is gearing up. Jim Bourgart, an interim staff person hired to get the programs going, has several important developments underway, pending final approvals.

[SEE FIREWISE page 4]



KEN LIGHT

Grant money in action: tree trimming and brush clearing on Via Farallon, organized by MOFD and the Orinda Firewise Council.

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OUSD Expands In-Person Learning; Plans Intervention Summer School

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

With vaccinations increasing and COVID cases declining, the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) expanded in-person learning to its elementary schools and Orinda Intermediate School (OIS).

In-person instruction for grades K-5 increased to five days a week with lunch on campus beginning April 20. Instruction features a staggered cohort model (early bird/late bird) for grades K-5 allowing teachers to target instruction to small groups of students.

"Getting off their screens and into class-

[SEE SCHOOLS page 18]

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RESIDENTS / TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



ANIA KEENAN

Reporter on the Street

By ANIA KEENAN
Contributing Writer

What TV shows, movies and books have you binged during the pandemic?

“*The Phantom TollBooth* will always be my favorite book. It does a fantastic job of getting readers excited about everything around them. I go back to it every time that I feel down or blue. So, that’s been one that I’ve turned to.”

– Michael Beller



ANIA KEENAN

“We’ve started watching *Parks and Recreation* and *black-ish*. We’ve been reading a lot about animal care and agriculture since we already have bees, and now have nine chickens.”

– John and Katherine Armstrong



ANIA KEENAN

Jamie John and her daughter Avery have done quite a bit of reading over the course of the pandemic. Avery has made her way through the entirety of the *Ivy and Bean* series. When she’s not reading, she enjoys watching *Jessie*. “I watched *The Masked Singer* and I’ve been watching the news. And, I read my Bible every day. Right now I’m reading *Olive Kitteredge* and my dog training book. We just got our puppy; she’s five months old.”

– Jamie John

Teachers of the Year Announced

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

While in-person learning has only been a reality for a short time in Orinda, teachers have been hard at work the entire school year preparing lessons, learning new technologies and teaching online.

To acknowledge their hard work, each Orinda Union School District (OUSD) site chose a teacher of the year through a comprehensive selection process. From those exemplary teachers, Shauna Yaeger from Wagner Ranch Elementary was named the OUSD Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations to other 2020-21 Site Teachers of the Year: Scott Adams - Del Rey Elementary; Kathryn Kang - Glorietta Elementary; science teacher Marshall Sachs - Orinda Intermediate School; Jennifer Kelly - Sleepy Hollow Elementary and Betsy Howe, who taught at more than one site.

The district teacher of the year was chosen from the site winners. Site teachers of [SEE TEACHER page 3]



COURTESY OF ORINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Shauna Yaeger, a first grade teacher at Wagner Ranch, was selected as the OUSD Teacher of the Year. She now competes at the county level.



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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA Board

Save Our Best Hometown Parade and Support the OA's Programs



CINDY POWELL



BILL WATERMAN

The Orinda Association Board wishes everyone a happy springtime, the time of renewal. And speaking of renewal, we are so happy to be planning our **Orinda Fourth of July Parade – the Best Hometown Parade!** The parade will be on Sunday, July 4, but our start time is 11 a.m., one hour later than usual to accommodate local churches. Mark the date on your calendars and enter your group in the parade or plan to attend with friends and family (safe distancing and other protocols will be announced on the OA website in the days to come).

The OA raises all funds to cover the parade costs. Our beloved City of Orinda does not pay for the parade directly – but does cover all costs of our police and other staff members who support our efforts. In order to have this year's parade, we need to raise the funds to pay for it. In normal years, the OA would solicit sponsorships from local businesses, but many of our local businesses are hurting this year (COVID is unforgiving). So, this year we are announcing our **"Save The Parade" GoFundMe campaign.** Starting in May, we will gratefully accept donations of all amounts to support the Parade. These much-needed funds will directly pay for such items as our paid entertainers and bands in the parade, insurance, equipment and other needs. Please go to the OA website (www.orindaassociation.org) for all details on this campaign! We really appreciate your support!

Your generous donations to the OA will also cover the many other programs we operate. The OA depends on supporters like you not only for the Fourth of July parade, but your donations also keep the Volunteer Center open, fund our public forums, and, of course, help publish the oldest nonprofit

newspaper in the area, *The Orinda News!* National Cartoonists Day is on May 5, and we are so lucky to have Dick Ling enlighten us at the *The Orinda News!* His background as an architect has made Orinda's roads a favorite topic. On to the calendar. National Teachers Day is May 12, and we all know how hard our beloved teachers have been working!

Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day is May 16. At our **Seniors Around Town** ride program, "neighbor helping neighbor" is a great program year-round. Taking seniors to medical appointments is our way to support their ability to live independently. The OA staff works with a dedicated group of volunteer drivers to organize and run this highly successful and much-valued program and your support helps cover staff and program expenses.

We can all participate on Senior Health & Fitness Day, May 16, because some things just get better with age. That is certainly the case with The Orinda Association. **This year, the OA is celebrating its 75th anniversary.** As the oldest continuing, community-wide non-profit in Orinda, we continue to change with the times, building community involvement, producing events, operating programs and publishing this newspaper – all to meet the needs and concerns in our community.

National Smile Day is on May 31, but with masks in place, how will we know? Your smile is a known stress reducer, makes you more approachable and creative, and reduces blood pressure.

With more daylight hours, enjoy our wonderful town. The OA Board, our office staff and the many other fantastic people who support our activities, all thank you for your generous support of The Orinda Association.

◆ TEACHER from page 2

the year will be feted at a Rotarian dinner at a time and place to be announced with the district teacher of the year, honored at the Contra Costa County Office of Education dinner on Sept. 23 at the Concord Hilton.

Following the announcement of the site winners, the district teacher of the year selection committee began conducting interviews and reviewing recorded lessons in order to make its final selection.

"The best part of my whole year is going

to the classrooms and watching the teachers," said Director of Curriculum David Schrag. "While I had to be satisfied with watching recordings of their teaching this year, I was still so impressed with their passion, resilience and creativity."

The winner was announced at the OUSD Board of Trustees April 12 meeting. "I'm so humbled and truly grateful," said Yaeger.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.

◆ GARDEN from page 1

of land located next to Safeway at the intersection of Orinda Way and Camino Sobrante. For that project, she focused on incorporating flowering plants with cooler tones, which also offered high drought resistance. She hopes to take the same approach to the pots project.

Although her favorite plant to garden is old-growth roses, Andersen-Berger plans on incorporating grasses like Platinum Beauty Lomandra and Clematis in the downtown area.

According to Wisner, the club has its sights set on a few new projects, most notably redoing the landscaping around the Community Center. Wisner noted, however, they have not nailed down an exact timeline for that project yet.

Ania Keenan can be reached at ania@7keenans.org.

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The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda;
- Promoting awareness and discussion of issues that are important to the community;
- Encouraging and recognizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character and security of Orinda.

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way
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The Orinda News

Community Forums

EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

City Council Needs to Keep Eye on the Ball

The City of Orinda has been patiently, carefully – a bit languorously – working on downtown revitalization. Good on ya' City!

Since COVID, downtown is more important than ever. Livable, walkable, relaxing outdoor spaces are more precious. My older buddies and I meet for outdoor palaver and coffee right outside Café Teatro, next to Orinda Way. Today, Friday, the area sun splashed, almost all tables filled. Skipping three-year-olds, moms and dads, retired folk, delivery persons, walkers and dogs.

Quiet vibrancy. But, I'm hard-pressed to think of another such place in Orinda.

With coffee cup in hand, I'd respectfully remind the Council, the Planning Commission, the new city manager, directors, staff – that most Orindans will embrace more

life, more zip – downtown.

Our past elections so demonstrate. We all want to leave the car, stroll, meet old and new friends, read a book, sip coffee, someday a wine spritzer, snack, shop, breathe fresh air, gaze at the beautiful green hills.

Most of my cohort will not come to council meetings or write letters. But, we are here, we support you City Council. We wish for good things to happen.

So, humbly urged ... step it up. There are naysayers who will bend your ear. God love 'em. Who profess to want progress, but at the same time, toss roadblocks in the way. Perhaps here and there, some value added.

Keep ears open to all, but eye on the ball, and keep the wheels of change – good change – rolling forward, toward a lively downtown.

–David Anderson

◆ FIREWISE from page 1

The City will purchase its own chipper and truck, ready for deployment around the end of May. The chipper program will run with an operational agreement with MOFD.

The City, having prioritized the properties that must be cleared, is moving forward on them. At the top of the list is Orinda Oaks, which will be cleaned manually to comply with fire code. A long-term option may well be grazing on the property by either cows or goats.

The SSTOC invited representatives from the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD) to speak about its vegetation management program at its April 14 meeting in response to a number of citizens who spoke at its board meeting about the incredible number of dead and dying trees at the San Pablo Reservoir.

In early February, Chief Winnacker was

tapped to use unspent grant money from Cal Fires and the Diablo Fire Safe Council if MOFD could spend it by March 15. He turned to the Orinda Firewise Council because he knew the Firewise groups could get their neighborhoods organized quickly.

Fire Marshall Isaacs worked with the Firewise groups and also reached out to the Moraga Firewise groups, who were also ready and willing to get some free tree trimming and brush removal on their properties.

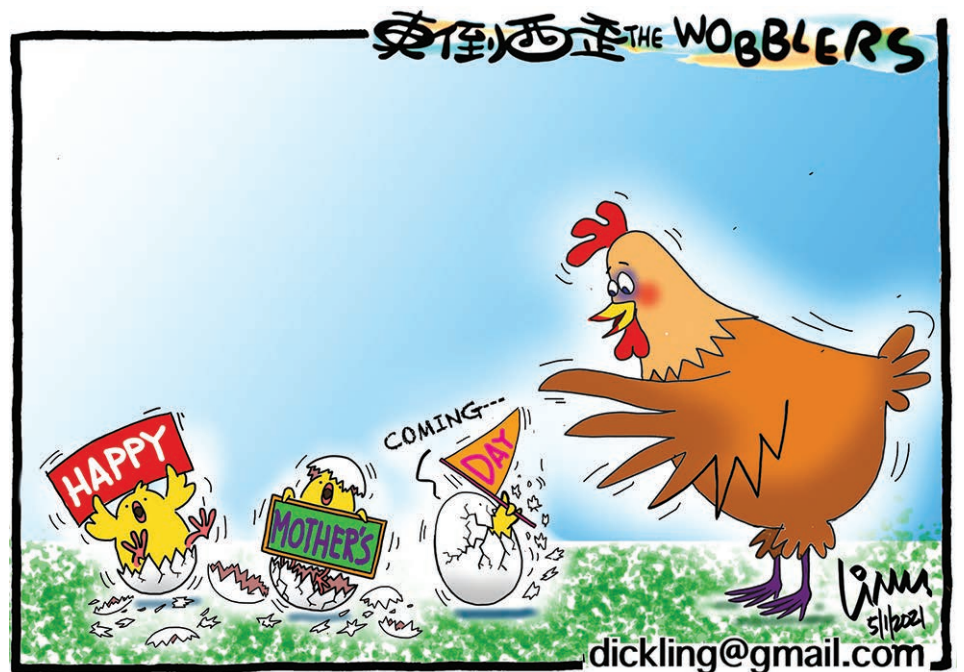
In all, they cleared out 242 piles or about 60.3 tons of material with \$90,000 from the Fire Safe Council and \$50,000 from Cal Fire.

Another partnership between the Firewise communities and MOFD is the Adapted Community Ambassador Program (ACA Program). This is a pilot program organized through MOFD to train volunteers across Orinda and Moraga to offer home assessment services and home tips for homes.

MOFD will provide specific instruction to a small group of volunteers (estimated to be seven from Orinda, seven from Moraga, two from Canyon and a couple of other areas). Once the training is complete, volunteers are expected to share their knowledge, making it easier to comply with the fire code and become safer.

Orinda is on the right path to becoming more wildfire-resilient. It's important that residents take a good look at the fire code postcard coming soon and do everything possible to make their home and property safer from a wildfire.

Melanie Light can be reached at melanie@melanielight.com.



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Fire Hazard Information

The next annual exterior hazard compliance deadline is May 31 and assessments begin June 1.

The revised Staying Safe in Orinda video will continue to air on CATV, Comcast 26 through June, with likely extensions.

The Wildfire Preparedness video is streaming on the MOFD YouTube channel, and visit the Orinda Wildfire Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Presentation video at <https://youtu.be/hh4X78wKQPw>.

Orinda Community Foundation Announces Citizen of the Year Postponed

The Citizen of the Year Award, sponsored by the Orinda Community Foundation, has been postponed until October 2021.

For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/3gvXSE>.

Correction

In the April 2021 issue, page 14, for the Shop Orinda Garden Club's Plant Sale photo, the photo is of Jean Rowe,

and not Sue Andersen-Berger. Also, Sue Andersen-Berger's name was spelled incorrectly.

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com. Letters to Editor for the June issue are due **May 8**.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net), Elana O'Loskey at 925.984.1751 (elanao@mac.com) or Kathy Enzerink at 252.626.2109 (kathy@theorindanews.com). The deadline for the **June** issue is **May 8**.

POLICE / FORUM



POLICE BLOTTER

March 1 through April 15

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 4 incidents
 Accident Injury: 2 incidents: Moraga Way, Meadow Rd.
 Accident Property: 8 incidents
 Alarm False: 12 incidents
 Armed Robbery: 1 incident: Wildcat Canoy/El Toyonal Rd.
 Assault with a Deadly Weapon: 1 incident: Orinda Way
 Burglary: 1 incident: Moraga Way
 Burglary, Auto: 8 incidents: Bear Creek Rd. (x2), Camino Sobrante, Wilder, Orchard Rd., Glorietta Ct., Brookwood Rd., Spring Ct.
 Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident: Orinda Way
 Death Non-Criminal: 4 incidents
 Domestic Disturbance: 1 incident
 Fire/EMS Response: 1 incident
 Found Property: 2 incidents
 Forgery: 1 incident
 Fraud: 2 incidents
 Grand Theft: 3 incidents: Donald Dr., Loma Vista Dr., Moraga Way
 Grand Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident: Orinda Way
 Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 5 incidents: Glorietta Blvd., Overhill Rd., Lavenida Dr., Muth Dr., Bates Rd.
 Identity Theft: 3 incidents
 Loud Music: 1 incident
 Medical Hospital: 1 incident
 Mentally Ill Commit: 1 incident
 Missing Adult: 1 incident
 Outside Assist: 5 incidents
 Panhandling: 1 incident
 Patrol Request: 13 incidents
 Petty Theft: 1 incident

Poison Food Water or Medicine: 1 incident
 Public Nuisance: 1 incident
 School Check: 2 incidents
 Security Check: 9 incidents
 Service to Citizen: 36 incidents
 Shoplift: 8 incidents: Orinda Way (x3), Camino Sobrante (x2), Theatre Square, Moraga Way (x2)
 Tow: 6 incidents
 Traffic Hazard: 1 incident
 Unwanted Guest: 2 incidents
 Vandalism: 4 incidents: Miner Rd., Whitehall Dr., Estabueno Dr., Bear Creek Rd.
 Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents: Mira Monte Rd., Wilder
 Walk Through: 7 incidents
 Welfare Check: 2 incidents

Arrests

Warrant Arrest: 4 arrests

– Compiled by David Dierks
 Assistant Editor

For more information on service calls, visit <https://communitycrimemap.com>.

Over the last several weeks the city has seen several cases of catalytic converters being stolen from vehicles. Toyota Prius' appear to be the most commonly targeted vehicle. If you see something suspicious or have information regarding these cases, contact the Orinda Police Department at orindatip@cityoforinda.org.

First Friday Forum Speaker Urges Attention Paid to Climate Change

By BOBBIE DODSON
 Staff Writer

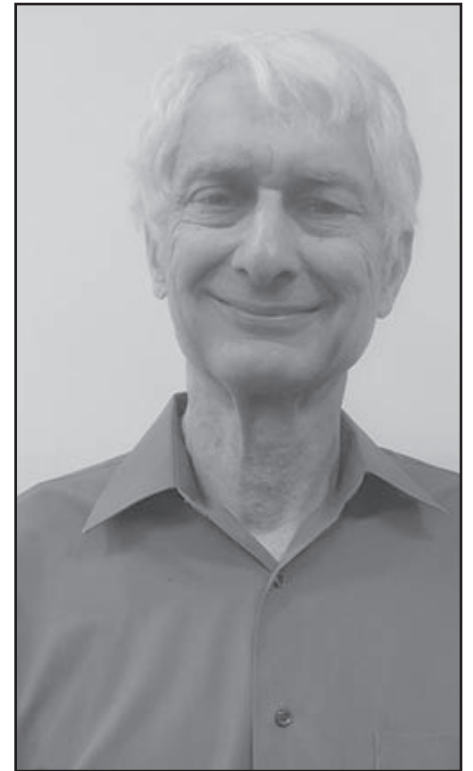
“We must solve the problem of climate change for many species to survive and for society to survive. Human survival depends on us solving the problem soon. Time is short,” said David Seaborg, lecturer for First Friday Forum on May 7 at 10 a.m., a webinar presentation.

Seaborg continued, “Not only are we causing the destruction of plants and animals, but seas are rising and glaciers are melting. This means rivers will run dry, greatly decreasing food production, which can lead to mass starvation. Also, droughts and floods will cause water shortages, thus causing forests to die, making fires larger and more frequent. The list of calamities goes on and on.”

As founder and president of the World Rain Forest Fund and a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists, Seaborg has great concern for climate change and the effects he foresees. He will discuss these as well as what we must do as citizens to alter these dire predictions.

Locally, he serves as director of the Seaborg Open Space Fund, named in honor of his father, Glenn Seaborg, Nobel Laureate in Physics. Members of the Seaborg Open Space Fund raised \$20,000 in less than a year to help successfully save Acalanes Ridge in Lafayette.

Seaborg was on the board of directors of the East Bay Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA/USA). He gave the keynote address at the organization’s last annual meeting and helped secure the passage of resolutions on biodiversity, global warming and the Kyoto Protocol at the local, state and national levels of the



DIDDO CLARK

Lecturer **David Seaborg** will speak via webinar at the First Friday Forum May 7, at 10 a.m. about important and harmful environmental climate changes and solutions.

UNA/USA.

A graduate of UC Davis with a degree in zoology, Seaborg also has a master’s degree in zoology from UC Berkeley and is listed in Who’s Who in America. His peers consider him a leader in the environmental movement as an evolutionary biologist and author.

To register, click on the registration link at lopc.org/first-friday-forum.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbiedodson@comcast.net.



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NOT SO TURBO TAXES AFTER ALL

DAVID BORN, CFA, CFP



If you see a CPA at Geppetto's, pay for her coffee.

But you probably won't see many tax professional lounging about town. Over the past 18 months, the federal government has passed thousands of pages of legislation dealing with the tax code. The most impactful include the following:

SECURE Act (Dec. 20, 2019) – affected retirement plans and some other tax relief.

FFCRA (March 14, 2020) – first round of economic stimulus and tax relief with business mandates.

CARES Act (March 19, 2020) – larger economic stimulus such as PPP Loans, EIDL Grants, Employee Retention Credit (ERC) and stimulus payments to individuals.

2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Dec. 21, 2020) – allowed ERC for businesses that also receive PPP money and other retroactive relief; taxation changes (on the changes), and additional stimulus payments to individuals.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (March 11, 2021) – retroactive changes to 2020 tax law such as making some unemployment not taxable, eliminating the Premium Tax Credit repayment, and adding

more stimulus payments.

There are many direct issues for tax filers to consider from all this legislation, but there are also grey areas with limited guidance from the IRS and conflicting guidance from the IRS versus the legislation itself in addition to secondary effects.

For example, 2020 taxes are now due on May 17, but first quarter estimated payments were due April 15. Nonetheless, you *might* be considered timely for the first quarter (Q1) if you make an overpayment for 2020 on May 17 and then elect to apply it to your 2021 first quarter estimated payments.

So much for the 10-second tax return. The Feds have not been the only ones writing tax legislation, but part of the problem is the unwritten legislation. As of this writing, Sacramento has still not passed two pending bills that would harmonize California law to recent federal changes.

There is more being discussed in Sacramento than just making our returns a bit easier. Looking ahead, state legislators have proposed increased income taxes, state exit

[SEE FINANCIAL page 19]

Dick Burkhalter Helped so Many Experience the Joy of Giving

By KATE WILEY
Contributing Writer

Richard Louis "Dick" Burkhalter, 87, a longtime resident of Orinda, passed away April 5, 2021, after a short illness, at his home, surrounded by his family.

Married in 1962, Dick and Betty Burkhalter moved to Orinda in 1970 so their children could attend Orinda's "great public schools."

Dick helped so many experience the joy of giving and doing for others through his Rotary work, where he found "the avenue to give back to the community that has given so much to our family," and his extensive involvement in such programs as the Orinda Community Foundation, Grandfather's Club of America, Lamorinda Village Formation Committee, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Orinda Public Works Aesthetic Review committee and Shingletown Lions Club. He was also a volunteer driver for Seniors Around Town program.

Honored in 2014 as Orinda's Volunteer of the Year, Dick was praised by The Orinda Association President Bill Waterman: "To me, he personifies the real spirit behind the Volunteer of the Year award...he always has been hands-on, takes the initiative and always seems ready to pitch in and help."

On March 24, 2021, Dick was honored as Rotarian of the Decade for his 31 years of service. At that time, Mayor Amy Worth decreed that day would be known as "Dick Burkhalter Day" in the City of Orinda.

"He has been my mentor," said Rotary President Ken Jew. "To many of us in the club and outside, Dick is Mr. Orinda Rotary. He has been our ambassador to the world, epitomizing what it means to be a Rotarian."

Dick was in charge of Rotary's annual Spring Egg Hunt, headed Rotary's team for Orinda Action Day and shepherded the club's electronic scoreboard at Wilder Fields.

Dick travelled extensively on behalf of Orinda Rotary in support of various international projects, including Polio Plus and Operation Smile, which raises funds for surgery to repair cleft palates in children.

He helped create and organize Soccer 4 All with Orinda Rotary and The Orinda Association. This program collected thousands of soccer jerseys, shorts, socks and cleats, from Bay Area leagues, then



COURTESY OF THE BRUCE BURKHALTER

Dick Burkhalter was honored in March as Rotarian of the Decade for his 31 years of service. He passed away on April 5.

matched individual donations to make full team uniform sets. He personally delivered these uniforms to underfunded youth soccer programs in Mexico, witnessing the excitement of the boys from the small towns lined up for their uniforms and the pride they showed looking like a real team for the first time.

"His beautiful smile, along with his ever enthusiastic and positive self, when he visited us at the Orinda Volunteer Center, always brightened our day," said Cathy Goshorn. "Sometimes he brought us donated coats for the One Warm Coat program that he also spearheaded with Rotary, or was dropping off more soccer uniforms, or just dropping by to say hello."

Dick gave his time, talent and treasure to the community he loved. The Burkhalter Foundation supported many of The Orinda Association's programs and events.

"Dick was the heart and soul of this community, and we are especially fortunate that he and Betty chose to live here and share his abundant energy and leadership with us," said Marie Waterman.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Betty Burkhalter, son Bruce Burkhalter, daughter Lynda Burkhalter and her husband David Blackmon, three grandchildren, Hannah, Brian and Allison, daughter-in-law Barbara Burkhalter and sister Suzanne Carder.

"We are not planning a memorial," said Bruce Burkhalter. "The Rotary Club Zoom meeting of March 24 served as that to us. All Dad's friends and family were there, and they said how much he meant to them,

[SEE OBITUARY page 18]



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DRAMA STUDENTS

Students Take “The Masks We Wear” to New Level through Drama

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Orinda high school students were the last to return to in-person learning. For the past year, they, like their younger counterparts, spent their school time in Zoom classes and independent study. Distance learning challenged all students, but it was especially difficult for the performing arts.

“We’d been reading and doing plays over Zoom, but it’s not the same as performing,” said Miramonte Drama Teacher Heather Cousins. “I wanted to do something more, especially for the seniors, to give them one last time to perform together as a group.”

That “something more” became a challenge to her advanced drama students to create their own plays around the theme “The Masks We Wear.” Each of the 34 students presented an individual proposal to the class, which selected four to be developed further and produced at Cal Shakes Bruns Amphitheater June 2-3 at 7 p.m. Each play is approximately 30 minutes and integrates the use of masks in the action.

“I wanted to write something that was like a breath of fresh air after the year we’ve all had,” said playwright Mina Jenab, who after her idea was chosen, teamed up with classmate Aya Banaja to write the script and direct.

Jenab and Banaja’s play *Honeybee* follows two young small-town beekeepers, Grace and Penelope, as they fall in love. The play is “narrated” by two young people sitting at a café table.

“I’m so lucky to be working with Aya; she completely understands my vision,” Jenab said. “We chose our cast first and built the characters around each actor. It’s so wonderful to see my idea coming to life. The whole mood of the show is something I think will really resonate with people.”

Playwright Clara Holland went for a psychological action-adventure story in *Point B*. While trying to recover an ancient, cursed artifact, five explorers get lost in the jungle. As tensions rise, people’s true motivations come to the surface.

“It’s a story about trust, deception and humanity,” Holland explained. “Imagine if *Dora the Explorer* clashed with *Jumanji* and Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*. That’s our show.”

Holland said she came up with her script very late at night while “spit-balling” ideas with her brother. Since the show focuses on individual characters, the young play-

wright has worked closely with the actors to develop the script and make the show as real as possible.

“It’s been quite surreal slowly seeing my vision come to life and hearing people read the words I write. But the ideas and words are not all mine,” said Holland. “It’s been a collaborative process. I’m so thankful to be working with such an amazing group of people.”

Playwright Valentina Navarro-Marsili decided on a period piece for her work *Murder at the Masquerade*. Set in 1902, it follows eight thieves who attend the 25th annual masquerade ball at Windsor Castle with the intent of stealing a necklace worth a fortune. While the heist is successful, the thieves mysteriously begin to die.

Although the play’s a murder mystery, Navarro-Marsili says it’s really about “how greed destroys us and love prevails.” She came up with the concept while researching the kinds of masks people wear.

“Masquerade balls came up and so did thieves, so I drafted some basic plot points and then strung them all together,” said Navarro-Marsili. “It’s very cool watching my writing come to life and seeing how my friends internalize the lines. It differs from what I saw in my head.”

The fourth play is Molly Weber’s “I Hate Musicals: The Musical” about a special world where it’s completely normal and encouraged to break into song. One day during a musical number, the character Evan lets it slip that he hates musicals and he and another character Sophie find they both feel the same.

“I came up with this idea when we were prompted to think about the masks we wear,” said Weber. “I realized I was in a theater class, but I hate musicals. I found this very funny and ironic and thought it would make a hilarious musical. I then got together with my classmate Heather Shinn to co-write and co-direct the one-act musical. Hearing the actors bring our vision to life is extraordinary and very gratifying when they laugh at things Heather and I have written.”

When Cousins first told the class about this project, in-person learning had not returned. All rehearsals were via Zoom. Now, they have 90 minutes several times a week together at the Miramonte theater with students, who chose to stay with distance learning zooming in from home as well as playwrights/directors Aya Banaja and Valentina Navarro-Marsili, who are fully remote.



SALLY HOGARTY

Co-writers/directors **Aya Banaja** (on screen) and **Mina Jenab** (R) direct their cast in *Honeybee*, one of four short plays to be performed June 2-3 at Cal Shakes Bruns Amphitheater.

“It’s so special for the students to be able to do this show live and at Cal Shakes,” said Cousins. “Many of them grew up going to summer programs there and seeing plays. And, Cal Shakes has been so wonderful to us. It’s such a magical place.”

For tickets to “The Masks We Wear,” go to www.calshakes.org. Audience size will be limited.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.



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STUDENTS / SEASONED SHOPPER

Kids Helping Kids During Pandemic and Beyond Through a Non-profit



Del Rey Elementary sisters (L-R) **Leah and Adriel O'Neill**, of the non-profit Pantry Kids, Inc., market their free snack boxes to those in need, by spreading the word and telling their friends at school.

By **CHARLEEN EARLEY**
Editor-In-Chief

Everyone loves a snack, right? But if you are food-insecure, a snack takes on an entirely different meaning. This is where Pantry Kids, Inc., created last September by a family in Orinda, fits in.

"Pantry Kids was started to help kids in need, with snacks," said Joanna O'Neill,

with husband Anthony and daughters Leah and Adriel comprising the rest of the family. "Noticing our daughters making multiple trips to the pantry during distance learning, we started sharing how most kids are not as fortunate and don't have pantries. In fact, Leah and Adriel were surprised to learn that Anthony and I never grew up with a pantry."

Their business slogan is "From Our [SEE PANTRY page 19]



Seasoned Shopper

Berries Make Their Debut

BARBARA KOBSAR



Excitement is mounting at the local Orinda Farmers' Market. This month more flats of fresh harvest strawberries arrive and baskets of blackberries and raspberries make their debut.

Check in with your favorite strawberry grower if you are curious about the variety or particular qualities of the berry. Size, a matter of preference, does not necessarily determine quality.

Many California varieties are now bred to be large while maintaining the juiciness and firmness once only found in the smaller

strawberries.

Chays Farms from Royal Oaks, CA, returns to market for several months to sell its berries and other produce including carrots, beets and greens - all certified organic. The flats of strawberries are unloaded from the truck, stacked behind the stand and then carefully set out on the table in single baskets or 3-pack carriers ready for their customers.

This year Chays Farms is growing the Albion and Monterey variety strawberries. [SEE MARKET page 16]

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(L-R) **Gaby, Mia and Erik Lopez** from Chay's Farm at the Farmer's Market, are ready to sell their delicious strawberries.

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Cathy Goshorn holds just a few of the hundreds of coats donated through The Orinda Association's One Warm Coat program. Local residents donated a record-breaking 450 new and gently used clean coats in 2020. The coats went to Oakland's Mission for the Homeless and Pleasant Hill's White Pony Express.

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 [SEE SUPPORTERS page 10]

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Bring 5-gallon buckets, cardboard boxes or other strong containers. NO BAGS. Republic Services provides staff to shovel compost into your containers. Residents can take up to 50 gallons of compost (ten 5-gallon buckets), while supplies last.

Follow state protocols: You must wear a mask and come at your scheduled time to allow for social distancing. Those who come without a scheduled pickup time will be turned away.

Reserve your time. Registration required:
www.recyclesmart.org/ICAW21

This event is open to: Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga, and RecycleSmart residents only.

Saturday, May 8th, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. (registration required)
 Event hosted in Lafayette. Register for event information.



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SALLY HOGARTY

Beatrice Heggie (R) congratulates Dick Burkhalter on his Volunteer of the Year Award presented by The Orinda Association in 2014. Dick passed away April 5, 2021.

◆ SUPPORTERS from page 9

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Ann Christofferson (L) and Bobbie Landers were The Orinda Association's Grand Marshalls at the 2019 July 4th parade.

SALLY HOGARTY



Jenny and Brook Parker delivered food to seniors during the pandemic as part of The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program.

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[SEE SUPPORTERS page 12]

Advertisement for Mary H. Smith, D.D.S., a professional corporation providing family and cosmetic dentistry. Includes a photo of Mary H. Smith and contact information: 1 Bates Blvd. Suite 210, Orinda, 925.254.0824.

Advertisement for new construction homes in Moraga Vista Encinos. Features photos of modern interiors and exteriors. Includes contact information for Jay Williams and Rob Olson, and the Compass real estate logo.

WILDER TRAILS / THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS

Wildlife and Hiking Trails in Wilder



S.K. GUPTA

The Wilder trails, many of which are open to the public, are available from dawn to dusk, and with the arrival of warmer weather, the trails are expected to fill up with walkers and hikers.

By S. K. GUPTA
Contributing Writer

With the arrival of warm weather, we expect both wildlife and trail hikers to boom again in Wilder development like last year. Wilder is a master planned development that is located in Gateway Valley,

surrounded by lush hills.

Orindans and residents of our neighboring cities have walked and hiked across Wilder for decades. However, now as a planned development, there are many rules which govern this community, from plants to parking and from trees to trails.

Wilder is currently private property and owned by the home owners or the builders. All of the open space parcels are still owned by the developer, OG Property Owner LLC (OG LLC). The trails in Wilder are planned and were designated in an agreement between the City of Orinda and the developer in 2018 and many are open to the public. Go to www.theorindanews.com to see a trail map.

Most of the area has been declared to be a wildlife preserve with the wildlife conservation easement held by the non-profit Wildlife Heritage Foundation (WHF). The resident California Red-legged Frog and the Alameda Whipsnake are federally listed as threatened species by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Coyotes, deer, rabbits, wild turkeys are in abundance in the valley. Red-tailed hawks, swallows, eagles and other birds thrive in the valley.

“Wildlife preserves and people can co-exist, but it is critical the people respect that the primary occupants in preserves are the

[SEE TRAILS page 14]

◆ SUPPORTERS from page 11

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Cecilia Serrano-McLaughlin | Roger and Suzanne Stuart | Phillips |
| Sue and Ralph Severson | David and Jean Sullivan | William and Joanna Wagner |
| Sudha Shankar | Carolyn Taaning | Mary Jane and Len Walde |
| David Shapiro and Sharon Wheatley | Hugh and Sharon Tama | Kira and Jeff Wampler |
| Steven and Heather Shatz | Darlene Tamayo | Marie and Bill Waterman |
| Carolyn Sheaff | Herbert and Ann Tasker | Brian Waters |
| Sherman Swim School | Marilynn Terstege | Lennie and Howard Weiser |
| Siam Orchid Restaurant | Janet Thibault | Elaine and Richard Wells |
| Dennis and Nicole Sidlauskas | R.H. and K.C. Thompson | Wells Fargo Advisors |
| Sarah and Lawrence Siegel | T.C. Tutoring | Sheila Wendt |
| Shauna and Mark Simmonds | Travel Adventures Unlimited | Greta Westeson |
| Bill and Genia Simpson | Tree Sculpture Group | Richard and Pamela Westin |
| Barclay and Sharon Simpson | Tom and Lynn Trowbridge | Mark Whatley and Danuta Zaroda |
| Singelstad Construction | Nancy and Donald Turtle | Arlene and Jeffrey White |
| Nancy Siu | Mark and Maaarcie Tuttle | Donna White |
| Ellis Sjoberg | Pat Uhland | Marjorie White |
| Maryann Skitarelic | Ted and Lida Urban | Shirley White |
| Daniel Slaven | Jen Villafane and Caroline Utz | Pam Whitman |
| Janet Sloan | Joseph Vanderliet | Jack Wickware |
| Joseph and Sally Small | Vaya Travels to Cuba | Wilder Owners' Association |
| Deborah Smith | Village Associates – Shannon Connor | Kate and Rich Wiley |
| Mary H. Smith, DDS | Village Associates – Dexter Honens | Amelia Wilson |
| Sheri Smith | Village Associates – April Matthews | Raymond and Dorothy Wilson |
| Winifred Smith | Village Associates – Hillary and Karen Murphy | Jim Wiltshire, in Memoriam |
| Mark and Maria Solit | Village Associates – Ann Sharf | Brian and Kim Wirtz |
| Scott Soong | Village Associates – Molly Smith | Tom and Amy Worth |
| Lionel and Ann Sorenson | Village Associates – Steve Stahle | Wendy Wu |
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| Patricia Stanten | Chandler Visher | Ed Yee |
| State Farm – Bryan Silveira | Katalin Voros and Wayne | Zamboni's Pizza |
| State Farm – Kelly Sopak | | Ben Zarrin |
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SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda Association sponsors forums on areas of interest for Orinda. The one above was for the 2015 Orinda Union School Board election.

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STUDENTS

The Making of Cub Reporters at *The Glorietta Times* Student Paper

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

While much negativity has come out of the pandemic, so has the positive, which led one elementary school librarian, Anne Lowell, to figure out a way for her student writers to pivot.

Their typical print newspaper, *The Glorietta Times*, morphed into an online version instead, via Zoom meetings and email.

“It’s one of those rare gifts of the pandemic. We had to reimagine what the newspaper would look like, and it turned out far better than what we had before,” said Lowell, librarian technician and staff advisor for the newspaper at Orinda’s Glorietta Elementary School. “We were able to accommodate so many more stories – 30

pages in all – and had to create an overflow magazine to contain all the great content the kids were making.”

The idea came from Principal Tracy Lewis.

“Lewis was looking for opportunities to get more kids involved, to give them a greater sense of belonging while we were in full distance learning mode and brought up the idea of reviving the newspaper,” said Lowell.

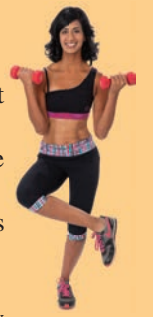
She started Zoom meetings in late February with third to fifth grade students, “But second graders, or their parents, started hearing about it and wanted to be included. I initially thought they’d be too young to contribute, but I’m happy to report that I was completely wrong about that.”

Lowell was shocked – in a good way –



Front cover of *The Glorietta Times* newspaper, a 30-page publication, created by grade school students from Glorietta Elementary, during the pandemic via Zoom sessions and email with newspaper advisor, Anne Lowell.

Fitness Tip of the Month



- Aging is not about how many years you have lived, but more about how you have lived your life.
- If you wished you had lived a bit healthier, it’s not too late to reverse the effects.
- There are things you can do to be younger no matter how many years you have been alive.
- And no...you don’t have to take any drugs.
- You can increase your BMR (the calories you burn per unit time), by increasing your muscle mass and maintaining it with workouts and diet. You will look younger and stronger, be more energetic and fit so that you can continue to ramp up your ability to do cardio and burn even more calories.

The earlier you start working on this, the more strength you will have to do it!

For more information, contact Sheena with Living Lean personal training and eating for elite fitness, at 925.360.7051 or www.livingleanprogram.com.

with contributions from the second graders.

“One of our second graders, Rueben Rosenberg, turned out amazing illustrations for our Women’s History Month feature and made so many of them we ultimately featured them on their own page in quiz format,” said Lowell. “Maddie Butler did interviews and poems and was there for pretty much every minute of every meeting, and we had some extremely long meetings. Second graders are fierce.”

Lowell has been at Glorietta five years and worked as a full-time journalist and copywriter for Netflix, Gamespot (Ziff Davis), *Mac Home Journal* and *San Francisco Downtown Magazine*. She also freelanced for *The New York Times*, Edutopia and GreatSchools, prior to becoming a mom.

She did the layout for the student newspaper in a program called Flipsnack.

“It was so much fun for me to work with the Glorietta kids this way,” she said. “Definitely one of the highlights of my year.”

Now, with up to 25 students with growing interest, Lowell is pleased the students created a 30-page online publication, with a complimentary overflow magazine.

“One of the challenges for writers was knowing when to stop!” said Lowell. “We have a shared Google document where we post stories, and some that we never discussed in our editorial meetings just kept appearing on the Google drive.”

“The stories were so great that we added pages to accommodate them, but we ended up having to create a second publication, the *Boredom Busters Magazine Supplement*, because our software only allows us 30 pages. We had many more,” she added. The newspaper and supplemental maga-

zine contain features about Orinda School Superintendent Carolyn Seaton, Glorietta Principal Lewis, teachers, stellar photos, hand drawn illustrations, book reviews, poetry, cartoons and more.

Lowell suggested books for the students to review, and while they considered them, some went in a different direction.

“Chiara Poletto wrote about a book I had never heard of that sounds great. *Radium Girls*, about female factory worker activists in the last century, is now high up on my reading list,” said Lowell. “I love getting book tips from students!”

[SEE GLORIETTA page 14]

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Celebrate OUSD Graduates in Print



HAZEL WEINER

Congratulations on your promotion from OIS! Love, Mommy, Daddy, Abigail and Cameron

The *Orinda News* is offering special, low-cost ads to be published in the June issue for all graduates, from kindergarten to college! Several ad sizes and cost options are available and will be placed throughout the newspaper.

For more information, contact:

Kathy Enzerink, 252.626.2109, kathy@theorindanews.com

Elana O’Loskey, 925.984.1751, elano@mac.com

Space reservations due by May 8

Photo and message due by May 11

Celebrate Your Miramonte Graduate!



Congratulations to 2021 Miramonte graduate Nejlja Ackdoe-Pagey.

Graduation ceremonies may not be happening this year, but celebrating your graduate is always in season.

The *Orinda News* is offering special, low-cost ads to be published in a center, pull-out section of the June issue for graduates of Miramonte High School.

This is a keepsake publication, so reserve your ad space now!

Contact Jill Gelster at jill@aspenconsult.net or 925.528.9225 for additional information.

Space reservations due by May 8

Photo and message due by May 11

ARTISTS COLLABORATION

Art Installation at CVS on Moraga Way



(L-R) Sharon Tama, Ruth Stanton, Suzun Almquist, Marcy Wheeler, Jeanette Crawford Baird, Joanne Taeuffer, and Ellen Reintjes (masked) are pictured in front of their 50" x 94" painting, "It's in Our Nature." Located on the Brookwood Rd. side of CVS in Orinda, the artwork was completed in collaboration with the Lamorinda Arts Council's Artify Orinda program. The artists are all members of Bay Area Studio Group. View more of their work at www.bayareastudioartists.com.

◆ TRAILS from page 12

wildlife. Please stay on existing trails and also observe limits for uses in some areas," added Dr. Darla Guenzler, Executive Director of WHF.

The large parking lot near Wilder fields



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is ideal for accessing Sibley. The Brookside Road trailhead can accommodate 10 cars. When completed, the Red-tailed Hawk Staging Area at the end of Wilder Road will include a gravel parking lot and a restroom.

The trails are open from dawn to dusk. "Other than service vehicles, motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails," added Bruce Yamamoto, Project Director for OG LLC.

Trail maintenance demands everyone – hikers, bikers, dog walkers, equestrians – comply with regulations and trail etiquette and stay on authorized trails. "That way, trail users honor those hundreds of citizens who worked to ensure open space is forever protected in the Gateway Valley," said Amelia Wilson, of Save Open Space - Gateway Valley.

Plans are underway for installing signage on the authorized and designated trails. In the meantime, all are welcome to enjoy nature responsibly.

S. K. GUPTA can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

◆ GLORIETTA from page 13

Although the cub reporters are young, one student used advanced equipment.

"One of our third graders, Sebo Lee, went out and took incredible photos to go with some of the stories," said Lowell. "I think he used quite an impressive camera rather than a phone for that, and the photos show it."

Lowell said the joys with this project were countless.

"I saw how much initiative the students

took, without a lot of coaching on my part," she said. "They had great ideas for stories, great instincts about the best questions to ask and turned in really solid copy. They made my job doing the final edits and proofing easy. Also, seeing the kid's creativity unleashed in the poetry and the boredom busters was special."

To view *The Glorietta Times*, visit <https://bit.ly/3uBRtGj>.

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

Wagner Ranch Places First in Odyssey of the Mind



REGINA GORDON

The fifth grade team at Wagner Ranch Elementary rose to the challenge amidst a pandemic and placed first in their division at the Odyssey of the Mind SF Bay Regional Competition, held in a virtual tournament Feb. 27. Odyssey of the Mind is a world-renowned program where students learn how to problem-solve, create, design and think outside of the box as a team. The team's coach, Leslie Volk (who also heads the Innovation Lab at Wagner Ranch), has led members **Raunav Agarwal, Bryce Batiuchok, Maya Elkind, Sadie Elkind, Bryce Gordon, Davis Gordon and Brian Volk** for the past three years. These Wagner Ranch OMers are looking forward to the NorCal State competition and hope to advance to the World finals in June. For more information on how to start your Odyssey journey, visit www.odysseyofthemind.com.

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FILM / CLUB MEETINGS

Club Meetings in May

While some clubs are not meeting during shelter-in-place, most offer Zoom meetings. Use contact info for more information.

American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAU2W-OML). For information, visit oml-ca.aauw.net.

Birding with Ben. The group meets at a different birding location every Wednesday at 9 a.m., masks and social distancing rules are practiced and enforced. FREE. Email: Ben Pettersson at berntp988@gmail.com.

Diablo Star Chapter #214. Order of the Eastern Star. No meetings at this time. Contact Karen Seaborn, 925.689.0995 for information.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Kent Long for Zoom link at kentlong@moragaadobe.org. For more info., www.moragaadobe.org.

Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 5 p.m. 510.919.4765. www.orindacreeks.org.

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

Lamorinda Meditation Community. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:25 a.m., through Zoom. All levels and philosophies welcome. Contact Gaby for more details: gcmozee@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., free. Call 925.254.2445 for meeting information.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday. For more information, go to: www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org. Contact Elsie Euing at 925.254.8617 orejeuing@comcast.net.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. All weekly meetings currently conducted via Zoom video conferencing. 7 - 8:15 a.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205. Regular meetings will resume at the Lafayette Park Hotel when conditions permit. www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Meetings: May 7: DDr. Tony Kern, The Rebirth of Self-Reliance; May 14: Dr. Antonio Zadra, When Brains Dream; May 21: Grace Richter, Scholarship & Mentoring; May 28: Member Magazine.

Montelindo Garden Club. May 21 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. "Cymbidiums" with Paul Ashby, who will provide valuable information on re-potting, dividing and fertilizing for their optimal care. To request a Zoom link to attend, email: montelindogarden@aol.com.

Orinda Association. First Monday, 7 p.m., Zoom meeting. 925.254.0800 or www.orindaassociation.org.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce. May 5, 4 p.m. - Executive Committee Meeting; May 12 - Membership Committee Meeting; May 19 - Board Meeting. 4 p.m. Meetings via zoom. For more information and zoom link, contact Ally Fatore at Ally_Fattore@MechanicsBank.com.

Orinda Garden Club, PO Box 34, Orinda, www.orindagc.org, 925.257.0668.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, Ian at 925.254.1465 or www.orindahiking.org.

Orinda Historical Society. Call 925.254.1353 for times and location of meetings and appointments.

Orinda Junior Women's Club. Second Tuesday, via Zoom, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org.

Orinda Job's Daughters. First and third Mondays, 7 p.m. 925.283.7176.

Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. For information, call 925.254.5211.

Orinda Rotary. Virtual meeting Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., 925.254.2222 go to www.orindarotary.org for zoom link.

Orinda Satellite Rotary Club. Second Wednesday. Call Sylvia at 510.224.8548.

Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting via Zoom. For more information, 925.254.8260.

Orinda Woman's Club. Currently meeting virtually Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Email Jean Barnhart at jeanr.barnhart@gmail.com or go to www.orindawomansclub.org.

Reservoir Walk for Seniors meets Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at the center bench and walk begins at 9 a.m. To receive the weekly notice, e-mail jascala2@comcast.net.

Road Runners. Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepettos 87 Orinda Way, Orinda), Thursday (SiSI, 910 Country Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem). For more information, contact John Fazel, runmnts@prodigy.net.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) Lamorinda Branch 174 hosts, via Zoom, a speaker and discussion on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. For info, call Tyler at 925.963.5741 or Bill at 925.963.0442 or go to www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

BEST LAID PLANS



TOM WESTLAKE

I planned this whole month's column about director "B" sides – films made by famous directors that veered from their typical output.

For instance, did you know Alfred Hitchcock made, not one, but two comedies (*Mr. & Mrs. Smith* and *The Trouble with Harry*) and one historical drama (*Jamaica Inn*)? I intended to write all about him and David Lynch (*The Straight Story*) and even Gore Verbinski (*A Cure for Wellness*) among others, but then something wonderful happened.

I received news that was so good and locally significant – not to mention timely – I had no choice but to postpone the idea or to leave it to interested readers to email me about it.

The Orinda Theatre is opening again! Many of you knew this because you have already been there, probably to see *Godzilla vs. Kong*, which has been playing on a reservation-only basis. Others of the community's loyal followers of our cinematic landmark might have been alerted either via the theater's Facebook page (facebook.com/orindatheatre) or by email in which Derek Zemrak has set May 1 as an official soft opening day.

Keep in mind this will not be a full reopening at first. Caution is still the watchword of the day, which means that only the main auditorium will be open. Further, the theater plans to allow only about 7% of capacity (or about 50 people – give or take) at any one time, still far better than

what has been.

This is cause for a massive, socially distant celebration, and that's exactly what will be happening.

On that first day in May, the Orinda Theatre plans to feature the welcome return of the Psychotronic Film Festival (PFF). Now to those unfamiliar with the PFF, the best way I might be able to prepare you, would be to get you to recall those distant childhood memories many of you might share. You know, those lazy days you spent camped out in front of the TV, watching your favorite shows and equally favorite commercials.

Come on. Admit it. You know at least [SEE REEL page 19]

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CALENDAR / CLASSIFIEDS

On the Calendar in May

- Orinda Library** Online events. Daily storytimes and events can be viewed at: [https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:\(5e2b7849df59234500450f71\)](https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=program:(5e2b7849df59234500450f71)). Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, for front door service only: Mon. through Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sun. Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.
- Christian Science Church** Prayer Garden open to all for Quiet Meditation. Everyone seeking a better sense of peace will find a welcoming haven in an outdoor setting. Pray, read, meditate. Books and periodicals with a spiritual perspective on current issues are free to all. Attendant on site from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., but you are welcome any time during daylight hours. 24 Orinda Way.
- 1 **Art Gallery at Wilder**, Virtual Exhibit - "Around the World in 12 Portraits" through May 30. View the portraits of Annie Jacquemet-Barrington at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries. See article p. 17.
- Art Gallery at the Orinda Library**, Partial Reopening - "Sail Away" through May 30. View the paintings of Sydney Ann Cheney-Thomas and Lisa Gunn in the two wood walls near the entrance to the Library, while adhering to current health guidelines. See article p. 17.
- Lamorinda Idol** - Submit audition videos form online through May 15, winners posted June 1. Visit <https://bit.ly/3gqNxV5>. Questions? Email idol@lamorindaarts.org.
- Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925-431-8361. Also May 8, 15, 22 and 29. See article p. 8.
- Orinda Theatre** presents Psychotronic Film Festival (PFF). See article p. 15.
- 4 **Orinda Rotary** Celebrate Cinco de Mayo by ordering a mexican dinner from Baja Cali Taqueria through Orinda Rotary on May 4 and help support Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties, Meals on Wheels, Miramonte scholarships and more. For more information, 925.254.2222 or www.orindarotary.org.
- Orinda Books Pat's Book Club** will meet via ZOOM to discuss *Writers & Lovers* by Lily King. 4 p.m. All are welcome. The book is available at Orinda Books. To attend, phone 925.254.7606 or email info@orindabooks.com giving your email address. You will receive a link to the event.
- 7 **First Friday Forum** webinar presentation with evolutionary biologist and author, David Seaborg at 10 a.m. via Zoom. To register, go to lopc.org/first-friday-forum and click on the registration link. See article p. 5.
- 8 **Christian Science Church** How Spiritual Perception Brings Healing Webinar. Alexander Fischer of Paris, France will give an overview of Christian Science. Hear examples of prayer based healing. 11 a.m. To register: Healing101Talks.org.
- 12 **Day of the Teacher**.
- 14 **Lamorinda SuperShorts** film festival submissions deadline (midnight). Produce a 3-minute, G-rated movie. Use cell phone, tablet, or camera to record. Participants must live, work or attend school in the Lamorinda area. Winners selected from three submission categories: under 18, Adults 18+ and Family (collaborators must live in the same household). Prizes include gift cards. Submit via FilmFreeway at <https://bit.ly/3dP2oWr>. Winners will be announced on a live Virtual Film Festival Awards Show on Wednesday, May 19 at 7 p.m.
- 16 **Youth Ink Awards** presentation. Go to

- www.orindajuniors.org.
- 27 **Orinda Intermediate School Graduation**
- 28 **Miramonte graduation.**
- 30 **Art Embraces Words** - 2 p.m. free Zoom webinar. Participate as an audience member, a writer by reading your work or an artist by showing your work. May theme is "Courage and Heroism." Visit www.lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words for details and to register, email literary@lamorindaarts.org or call 925.359.9940.
- 31 MOFD annual exterior hazard compliance deadline.

- CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE**
- City Council.** First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee.** Fourth Tuesday, 3-5 p.m. Call 925.788.7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District.** Third Wednesday, 7 p.m. For agenda, go to mofd.org/board/meetings.
- Planning Commission.** Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., cityoforinda.org.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net.

◆ MARKET from page 8

Both are excellent for eating fresh or freezing as well as making pies and preserves. Be sure to store the berries in small containers since they can be crushed by their own weight. Refrigerate berries unwashed between a layer of paper towels in a covered container for 3 to 4 days.

Prepare strawberries just before using. Wash under cool running water and drain on paper towels. Hull by removing caps with a slight twist or with the point of a paring knife. If you find yourself with an excess of luscious berries, freezing is a good way of preserving for later use. Rinse, hull and drain. Place in a single layer on a baking sheet and freeze. When frozen, transfer to freezer bags to store up to 6 months.

Blackberries and raspberries are botanical cousins and known together as brambles because they grow on thorny bushes or brambles. They are similar in structure – plump juicy "kernels" make up the shape of the berry. Blackberries remain fairly firm after harvest, while raspberries are hollow and more fragile.

Golden raspberries are joining the baskets of red raspberries this season at the Chay stand. All offer a delicate texture, and the golden ones tend to be a little sweeter and milder. The choice is yours!

Berries are picked ripe and ready to eat. Refrigerate as soon as possible after purchase.

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. More information is available at www.cccfm.org, facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket and [Instagram at OrindaFarmersMarket](https://instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) or call the market hotline 925.431.8361.

Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jams and jellies at the JAM STAND at the Saturday Orinda market and Sunday Walnut Creek market. She is also president of CCCFM (Contra Costa Certified Farmers Market) Association Board of Directors. Barbara Kobsar can be reached at Barbara@cotkitchen.com.

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

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Issue	Deadline
June 2021	May 8, 2021
July 2021	June 8, 2021

Ad rates are \$5 per line \$10 minimum Form available at: <https://bit.ly/3f4gkf6>

Enclose your check payable to The Orinda Association and mail to The Orinda News, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563. We reserve the right to reject any ad. Classified ads must be prepaid. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Ads can also be paid at bit.ly/3bZsoio.



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VISUAL ARTS

Wilder Gallery: Around the World in 12 Portraits

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view a virtual exhibit of portraits by Annie Jacquemet-Barrington during May. All Council art exhibits are virtual until COVID-19 restrictions change. See Jacquemet's virtual exhibit entitled "Around the World in 12 Portraits" through images at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.

Jacquemet, who lives in Concord, closed her psychotherapy practice in 2008 and began watercolor classes right away. Taking classes at Walnut Creek Community Center fulfilled a promise she made to herself when she retired. Although she grew up in Orleans, France, and worked in Paris as an adult, neither art nor music was part of her early life. Still, she was always attracted to art. She visits France regularly and is still

close to childhood friends.

Some of her favorite artists include post-Impressionists such as Norwegian painter Severin Kryoeer (1851 – 1909), Swedish painter Anders Zorn (1860 – 1920) and Spanish painter Joaquin Sorolla (1863 – 1923). Prior to the pandemic, she visited Sorolla's Madrid home, which is now a museum of his work. Each of these painters has a unique way of treating light in their work which she admires and finds fascinating.

Jacquemet's husband, Michael Barrington, travels around the world in aid of humanitarian causes, always returning with photographs of his projects. Often these photos serve as models for her portraits. You will see portraits of people of all ages from the U.S. to Guatemala, Ethiopia, Ghana and Japan.

She enjoys taking classes with Patsy

Taylor and Gary Bergren at the Community Center. "I work at loosening up by brushwork and keeping my mind and eyes open," says Jacquemet. Projecting emotions and feelings through her artwork to show that she cares about people is her goal. In her statement paintings, her intention is to denounce injustice. One look at Ruth Bader Ginsburg's level gaze in *RBG*, her 11" x 11" oil painting on canvas, tells quite a story.

For more about her work, visit www.anniejacquemet-art.com. The Art Gallery at Wilder is virtual because the Gallery is closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Contact Curators Denise Nomura and Aniston Breslin at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.



COURTESY OF ANNIE JACQUEMET-BARRINGTON

Annie Jacquemet-Barrington receives photographs from her globetrotting husband, Michael Barrington, who works on humanitarian causes worldwide. She delights in painting portraits of the people involved in these projects. *Shy Ethiopian Girl*, her 16" x 20" oil painting, is bursting with the colors of beautiful Ethiopian fabrics that are part of this equally beautiful young girl's native dress.

Library Gallery Reopening: California Impressionism and Sailboats

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council is pleased to announce the reopening of a partial area of the art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Stop by to view oil paintings by Sydney Ann Chaney-Thomas and Lisa Gunn during May. As COVID-19 restrictions have recently changed, you are invited to view a limited exhibit of their original artwork on the two wood walls near the entrance of the Library. View their artwork in the online gallery at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.

Chaney, of Moraga, was born in Germany. Since both her parents were painters,

she began at an early age. She is not only a lifelong painter, but also the author of three books, founder of Ocean SF (a sustainable clothing company), a lifestyle blogger with over 1,500 followers and mother to daughters Paris and Siena.

Her theme for this exhibit, "Sail Away," reflects her love of sailing as part of the Bay Area sailing community. "I hope my paintings reflect the adventure and freedom inherent in sailing," she said, "and bring awareness to pollution and conservation issues facing our oceans."

There are many sailboats in this exhibit, but there is also a 12" x 30" oil painting, *San Francisco From the East*. It gives you a panoramic view of this iconic vista. Her

style is unmistakable; she simplifies forms into geometric shapes in a pleasing and melodic way. Subjects, like clouds in the sky or waves in the ocean, relate to each other.

To learn more about Cheney's many activities visit, <https://bit.ly/32DHFzr>.

Gunn, from Orinda, is a longtime plein air painter who captures scenes from the beautiful California countryside in oil. She aptly describes her work as "California Impressionism." Also a classical pianist, she adapts musical principles such as texture, tone and color into her oil painting techniques. "Values are transferable from the ear to the eye," said Gunn.

She enjoys capturing qualities of light and works most often with a palette knife. Striving to create a bond between herself and the viewer is what she aims for. "I don't show every detail, but paint as though it is a musical moment for me. I pick my subjects

with great care, like a composer, and paint only what I find expressive or wonderful," said Gunn.

Learn more about her work at www.lisagunnart.com.

Visit the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way during normal library hours, Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sun. All libraries are closed May 31, Memorial Day. Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>. For more information about the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, contact Curator Maggie Boscoe via email, gallery@lamorindaarts.org, call 925.359.9940 or visit www.lamorindaarts.org. To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to www.lamorindaarts.org.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.



COURTESY OF LISA GUNN

In Lisa Gunn's *Crockett House*, composition and colors are deftly balanced on her 14" x 16" oil on board painting. The reopening of the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library means you can see her work during normal hours. Her paintings are also on display in the virtual Art Gallery at the Orinda Library during May at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

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28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center
Administrative Office Hours – **Currently Closed**

EVERYDAY ORINDA

◆ SCHOOLS from page 1

rooms with teachers and peers has made a world of difference for my children's overall well-being. This has been especially true for my kindergartner with special needs, who was really unable to access her curriculum via Zoom," said parent Emily Waterbury. The transition to more in-person time is an extremely welcome development. Now, I will get smiles every morning when



COURTESY OF OUSD

These students are happy to have increased in-person learning.

my youngest asks, 'Is today real school or Zoom school?'

OIS began its new schedule April 20, which included combining Cohort A and Cohort B into one, full cohort with in-person learning five days a week. Unlike the elementary schools, OIS does not offer lunch on campus and afternoons focus on teacher office hours, asynchronous work from home and P.E. classes.

"I will never forget picking up my sixth grade daughter at OIS one day and she was just gushing about science. 'Mom we got to look through microscopes today,' she said. She went on and on about what they looked at, what a friend saw, things they were doing outside, etc. This has been so emotional for parents and to see my daughter so excited about school, meant everything," said parent Laura McDowell.

At the April 12 OUSD Board of Trustees meeting, Director of Curriculum David Schrag did a PowerPoint presentation on OUSD's expanded learning and intervention programs. He noted many programs were reduced or eliminated due to distance learning and outlined which programs should return as soon as funding allows.

On top of his list is Intervention Summer School, which would help struggling students as well as ensure the brightest students were adequately challenged. Schrag hopes to have 12 students per grade level in the summer school. Other priorities are increasing students' access to literacy/math intervention, increasing teacher training opportunities, deepening ELA/math assessment and increasing resources for teachers. He also proposed adding a full-time literacy and intervention teacher.

"I completely support the intervention program," said Glorietta first grade teacher Charles Shannon. "In my own classroom, I've seen remarkable progress in a student who was struggling."

Schrag noted the school district could benefit from AB 86, signed by Governor Newsom March 5. The COVID-19 relief package includes \$2 billion for In-Person Instruction (IPI) grants and \$4.6 billion for Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) grants.

"We have to be mindful of what we fund and how," said Schrag. "We need to see where kids are after distance learning and how we can support them. But you don't want to start a program and then have funding run out."

The OUSD Board of Trustees will look at possible funding sources and consider Schrag's proposal at its meeting in late April, after press deadline.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.

Everyday  rinda
WAS LAST YEAR A FEVER DREAM?



MIMI BOMMARITO

Now for a little story about a guy I knew in college. And not just so I can name-drop Baylor University, 2021 NCAA Men's Basketball Champions. Finally, some street cred for my Waco alma mater after years of David Koresh jokes.

A fifth-year senior, my friend was upset as he had just learned he would not graduate as planned, lacking one credit for a sophomore-level English literature class. Back then, soph English classes were divided in two segments, before or after the life of Scottish poet Robert Burns. When asked, "Which class are you lacking, 'Before Burns' or 'After?'" he pondered deeply before responding, "I'm not sure. I think 'During.'"

Yah...no during. This story reminds me of the pandemic, and how we'll record it. Much like BC and AD, will our personal timelines reflect "Before COVID" and "After COVID"? And yet there will remain a brief span – which does not seem brief as we trudge through it, but might seem brief 10 years from now – known as "During." Short for "Enduring," a fact not lost on any of us. My youngest has her "uphill in the snow both ways" Class of 2020 pandemic stories safely stowed away for future grandchildren.

The Class of 2020, however, is quick to relinquish the "We Had It Worst" trophy to the Class of 2021. At press time, plans for Miramonte graduation remain in flux, but this year's senior class will exit with a few fond memories, thanks to a true Orinda treasure, Miramonte Parents' Club President Tricia Young and her team of senior class parent advisors.

These dedicated volunteers have worked alongside the five-star Miramonte staff crafting opportunities, such as outdoor movie nights, for students to safely socialize. Currently, they're designing a modified, sports-field, boxed-dinner version of Senior Ball as well as a TBD iteration of a crowd-less commencement and a Senior Sunrise. We forget how heavily event planning relies on tradition. It is indeed a rare high schooler who enjoys being guinea-pigged when their social standing hangs in the balance. We owe these Miramonte parents and staff a huge debt of gratitude. Their creative efforts are what makes our community that overused but highly desirable phrase, "A great place to raise kids."

We will all share in having lived "During." Each pandemic experience will be both unique and universal. Once the

world's "Open" sign flipped to "Closed," I figured I might as well use the isolation for introspection and growth. I envisioned my empty-nester goals and a game plan solidified by the time we reemerged, like a butterfly shedding its cocoon. Although we're not exactly out yet, we're getting close. My irksome revelation: I'm more bee than butterfly– somehow I kept busy, but remain no closer to figuring out what I'm going to be when I grow up.

As my first dose of the Moderna vaccine got injected into my arm, the tiny stick of the needle became one of those weird "frozen in time" moments, similar to déjà vu, but maybe more like its opposite – where the mental camera takes a snapshot and suddenly a few random seconds become defining.

It's been said that pain is a memory marker. Not that the injection itself was painful. Once you've given birth, a woman has an entirely new threshold for pain. But that stick in the arm triggered some sort of awakening, like a hypnotist suddenly snapped his fingers on the count of three. It almost felt like coming out of a trance, a very distinct realization that my life was beginning a hopeful new phase. "But what will I blame when I can no longer blame COVID?" I wondered neurotically. Followed by, "Is this what Stockholm Syndrome feels like?" Have I fallen a tiny bit in love with my captor, a fickle virus that reeled me in by encouraging Netflix, DoorDash and Wine O'clock?

A post-COVID world looms – thrilling and daunting at the same time. I feel a bit lost with launched kids and no firm plan. Guess I'm still banking on pulling a rabbit out of a hat at the eleventh hour. Except for the basketball team being much improved, not much has changed since college.

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

◆ OBITUARY from page 6

which he really appreciated."

In honor of Dick's memory, the family encourages people to volunteer or donate to an organization they value.

Kate Wiley knew Dick and Betty Burkhalter for many years and traveled with them to distribute soccer uniforms in Mexico. She can be reached at seniorsaroundtown@gmail.com.

ORINDA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Volunteers needed for Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee
 *** 2 Community At-Large Member positions open ***
The Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) will:

- Inform the public about expenditures of bond proceeds from recently passed Measures E & I.
- Review expenditures to ensure bond proceeds are spent for authorized purposes.
- Provide an annual report to the Board of Trustees at a public meeting.

CBOC Member Terms and Meeting Information
 Terms of service are two years, and no CBOC member may serve more than three consecutive terms. CBOC meetings must occur at least once per year and will not exceed quarterly.

More Information
 For more information or to request an application, contact Kathy Schwarz at kschwarz@orinda.k12.ca.us or by phone at (925) 258-6200.
Deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. on May 14, 2021.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ PANTRY from page 8

Pantry to Yours.”

While Anthony O’Neill came up with the Pantry Kids idea, Joanna created the paperwork to incorporate as a non-profit. Leah, age 9 and Adriel, age 7, who both attend Del Rey Elementary, do the marketing by telling their friends about it.

“Anthony and I plan the packing events with our community,” said Joanna. “We have done four packing events to date, three in our immediate community with the support of our Orinda friends and family. We organized one recently in Georgia, partnering with Goodwill of Middle Georgia and the CSRA’s (Central Savannah River Area) Foundation in Augusta, Georgia.”

Together, the family has packed 700 boxes designed and donated to kids in need.

Each box contains 10 snacks and five drinks to help one kid snack for a five-day school week. Snacks range from Oreo cookies and granola bars to individual-sized drinks such as Capri Sun or Honest Kids.

Helping children in need is important to the O’Neill family.

“Because neither of us grew up with pantries, we wanted to showcase the need outside of the bubble we live in to our girls,” said Joanna, who works in risk management for a tech company, while Anthony works in advertising.

When Pantry Kids partnered with Del Rey Elementary, Amanda Yacoe Perrone, a member of the Del Rey Site Council, became very excited.

“As a community, we felt it was extra important to partner with an organization that was not only born from our own little community but from children within that

community,” said Perrone, who has lived in Orinda with her family and three children for the last eight years. “Pantry Kids is an amazing example of how children can help fuel the changes we need to see in the world and to help support others.”

Perrone said they are currently in the process of executing their own small drive through Troop #33779.

“Our goal is to pack 50 boxes,” she said. “Leah O’Neill, a member of the troop as well, has been sharing her experience of starting Pantry Kids with her family.”

In addition to donating to kids at school through Pantry Kids, the O’Neill family has donated snack boxes to other organizations.

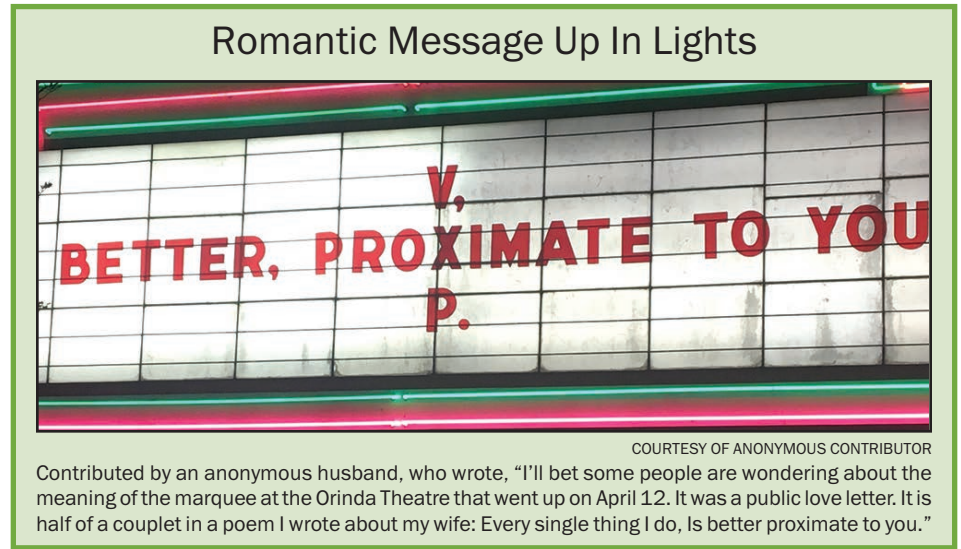
“We have helped the Women’s Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley and Monument Crisis Center in Concord,” said Joanna. “We chose the Monument Crisis for our drive with Del Rey, because they serve many kids. Our Del Rey students successfully packed, designed and gave 271 boxes for this drive.”

Perrone is thankful the community has come together to help those in need.

“I just want to say thank you to the amazing Del Rey community which has really stepped up to make this drive so successful,” said Perrone. “Also, a huge thank you goes to Tina Ross and her team at The Monument Crisis Center for helping collect and transport all of the boxes and for all of the hard work they do for the Contra Costa County Community.”

Tax-deductible donations can be made to Pantry Kids, Inc. directly through its online store at <https://bit.ly/2OHbdsO>.

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.



COURTESY OF ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTOR
Contributed by an anonymous husband, who wrote, “I’ll bet some people are wondering about the meaning of the marquee at the Orinda Theatre that went up on April 12. It was a public love letter. It is half of a couplet in a poem I wrote about my wife: Every single thing I do, Is better proximate to you.”

◆ REEL from page 15

one catchy jingle. Well, imagine a whole program like that but even better since there will also be samples of movie related staple fillers like invitations to visit the snack bar, previews of obscure coming attractions and many other rare and bizarre 16mm short subjects. This show will start at 7:30 p.m., and all this madness can be yours for the low, low price of \$12.

And as loathe as I am to use this cliché, “but wait! There’s more!” The International Film Festival makes a grand return on May 15 with *Riders of Justice*, a 2021 Danish film featuring Mads Mikkelsen, who is probably known to American audiences as Dr. Hannibal Lecter on the wildly successful television show *Hannibal*, though many might also recognize him from other films such as *Casino Royale* (2006), *Quantum of Solace* and *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. Usually playing a villain

or, at best, a conflicted good guy, here he plays a man hell-bent on vengeance after a tragedy he finds out was a highly organized assassination with horrific collateral damage. Playing in the medium theater at the Orinda, showings take place at 1p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays only. As it is with the main theatre, seating will be limited to 50 people only but as there will be several showings, that should give everyone ample opportunity to come out of seclusion and support this welcome return.

As ever, I urge you to keep checking in with the Orinda Theatre’s Facebook page as well as orindamovies.com and, until next month, always go towards those wonderful flickering images of light since that’s where the reel magic lies.

Tom Westlake can be reached at poppinjay@earthlink.net.

◆ FINANCIAL from page 6

taxes and a wealth tax.

But when a conversation turns to tax changes today, the topic is normally none of the above.

The Biden administration plans to implement a major tax overhaul, not the minor tinkering in the thousands of pages of legislation from the last year and a half.

Planning opportunities are likely to arise from increases to capital gains rates, ordinary income rate, prevalence of Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) and use of itemized deductions. The government may bring back the federal deduction for CPA fees – an expense that has become more valuable with every twist and turn in our tax system.

David Born can be reached at davidborn@gmail.com.

The Spring Market is off to a wild start!

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Travel Adventures Unlimited

According to co-owner Colleen O'Connell, travel is a continually changing industry which required more Zoom meetings in the last year than she can count. They covered how to keep up-to-date on open destinations, how to travel safely and what tour operators and cruise lines do to make travel as safe as possible for clients.

Travel Adventures Unlimited (TAU) advisors have done some traveling this past year to Disney World, Mexico, Hawaii, National Parks and more. They have gathered first-hand information about what traveling in these times is like, so they can educate clients about what to expect and how to prepare for safe travel. When your flight changes, the domino effect may mean changes in transfers, car rental, hotel, tours and all pre-booked travel. The volatility of all the variables in travel due to the reopening of the industry plus the pandemic makes working with a travel agency a smart choice.

O'Connell can book a National Park Tour with a fantastic guide. This allows travelers to spend more time viewing the parks and seeing the wildlife than they ever would on their own. There are plastic barriers between the driver and the passengers and everyone is masked in the vehicle. TAU knows how to set up clients to travel in safety because they've been there.

Flexibility is key, according to TAU advisor Sheena Shastri: "Chances are the client trip (depending on destination) will be altered in some way from the time booked to the time traveled. Expected changes probably include flight times and routing," said Shastri. Fluctuating changes due to the pandemic make travel insurance a key component. "We do our best to help clients understand what is covered and, maybe more importantly, what is not covered," said Valerie O'Connell, Colleen's daughter and co-owner of TAU.

For 2021, TAU agents recommend Disney World and Disneyland, Alaska for a land trip in the summer, and domestic river cruises (Columbia and Snake Rivers), Pismo Beach, Half Moon Bay, Napa and the National Parks. Destinations this summer can include most Caribbean islands, Costa Rica, Tahiti, Greece, Belize, Turkey, Egypt and Croatia. For 2022, they recommend booking now because everyone is going to want to travel in 2022.

Contact TAU at 925.935.7447, info@travelau.com or visit www.traveladventuresunlimited.com to keep up with industry trends and updates.



(L-R) Heike Schueller, Sheena Shastri, Valerie, Colleen and Bill O'Connell and Allison Conrad of Travel Adventures Unlimited are pictured here at their Walnut Creek offices, 1515 Oakland Blvd., Suite 100. They remind travel lovers of the many beautiful domestic destinations to visit. "You can travel to National Parks, Half Moon Bay, Disneyland, Disney World in Florida and book many domestic river cruises," said co-owner Colleen O'Connell.

Piccolo Napoli Rebrands as Brothers Public Kitchen in Theatre Square

Jason and Blair Bagneschi have rebranded their Theatre Square restaurant from Piccolo Napoli to Brothers Public Kitchen. They offer local seasonal American and Italian fare and a full bar with craft cocktails on their spacious patio or for indoor dining. Try their charred romaine Caesar with a house-made Italian sausage and mushroom pizza with truffle oil. Stop by 2 Theatre Square #144 (across from Republic of Cake) to check out the new menu. Hours are Tues. – Sun. 3 p.m. to close, or visit during Happy Hour, Tue. – Fri. 3 to 5 p.m. Phone 925.253.1225, email info@brotherspublic.com or www.brotherspublic.com.

and behavior. A full groom appointment is also priced according to size and breed of your dog. It includes everything in Judson's Bath and Tidy package; a full body haircut according to breed, coat and owner's preference; and specific breed pattern cuts.

To learn more about Orinda Grooming, visit Judson at 19 Orinda Way, #J down the steep driveway and a sharp left in the rear of the building. Hours are Tues. – Fri. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and two Saturdays every month. All COVID-19 precautions observed. Phone Judson at 925.254.1662, email orindagrooming@gmail.com and visit www.orindagrooming.com.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.

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Happy Mother's Day to all Orinda Moms

May the love and patience you have given this year return to you a hundredfold.

From Residents and Owners' Association at Wilder

Orinda Grooming Celebrates 10th Anniversary

If you've seen the U.K. *Pooch Perfect* television show, you know something about what Lindsay Judson of Orinda Grooming is all about. This month Judson celebrates the 10th anniversary of following her ambition to work with the dogs and puppies she has loved since high school. The care Judson takes with each animal and the way her business is run remain true to her love of "human's best friend."

An ongoing member of National Association of Professional Creative Grooming, Judson attends continuing education webinars and seminars about the art and science of grooming for all dog breeds. Training focuses upon anatomy and wellness, including using natural remedies used preventively for skin and coat care. About 85 million American families have pets, which is 67% of all households across the U.S. Dogs are the most popular pets by far.

A Bath and Tidy appointment is priced according to the size and breed of your dog and includes a 10-point list of services. Additional fees are charged for fleas, matting



Lindsay Judson, shown here with (L-R) Octavia and Dean, the brother and sister Doberman Pinschers she adores, is celebrating her 10th anniversary at Orinda Grooming. Judson combines the science of creative dog grooming with artistry and focuses on natural remedies for skin and coat care.

ORINDA ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW 

Coming Again to Orinda This Fall! Saturday, September 11



If you have an interest in becoming a sponsor for this event contact billwaterman@orindacarshow.com
 If you want show info or to enter a car or motorcycle go to www.orindacarshow.com