

THE ORINDA NEWS

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Orinda Idol Finals Coming in September

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Contributing Writer

Most of the young contestants in the upcoming September 9 Orinda Idol competitions believe music is one of their unique gifts to the world.

Suvi Gluskin, 16, says music “gives people something to take their mind off their hectic lives.” Like other contestants, 11-year-old Amrita Newton thinks the music the contestants sing can change the world because it “can be understood” in different cultures. Stephanie Sloves, 9, believes “music brings together the cultures of the world,” thus promoting peaceful harmony both on and off the stage. “Music allows people to connect to each other in a somewhat spiritual way,” philosophizes 15-year-old Max Coleman.

Orinda Idol, held at the Orinda Theatre and created by The Orinda Arts Council (OAC), is in its second year. “The council is a nonprofit organization that leads community programs and projects in the arts. Activities included mini-grants for visual and performing arts in Orinda schools, student visual and performing arts competitions, exhibiting artwork at the Orinda Library Art Gallery, and much more,” says event coordinator Susan Garell.



Orinda Idol finalist Sarah Ames sang at the 4th of July festivities. SALLY HOGARTY

The OAC does fundraisers for the Orinda Idol program and also seeks sponsorship from local businesses through soliciting ad space in the printed program, which is expected to attract an audience of 2,000. According to Garell, Alain Pinel is, again this year, one of the major contributors to the event.

Garrell says augmenting school music programs with a show like Orinda Idol, “encourages students with vocal talent to pursue performance opportunities through their school choral and musical theater programs.”

Over 120 students auditioned across four grade groups and 36 finalists were chosen grouped in divisions of K-2nd, 3-5th, 6-8th, and high school. Vocal selections from *High School Musical* were particularly popular, as were classic Disney tunes among the younger contestants. Overall, there was a variety of genres, including rock, country, classical, and show tunes.

There are 15 young performers returning from last year’s competition. The judges [SEE IDOL page 8]

New Sign Greets Traffic Coming Into Orinda



Thanks to the efforts of the Orinda Rotary Club, a new sign greets people coming into Orinda from San Pablo Dam Road. Designed by Ted Irvin, the colorful sign recognizes some of the various nonprofit organizations active in Orinda. SALLY HOGARTY

Food Scraps Recycling Program Comes to Lamorinda

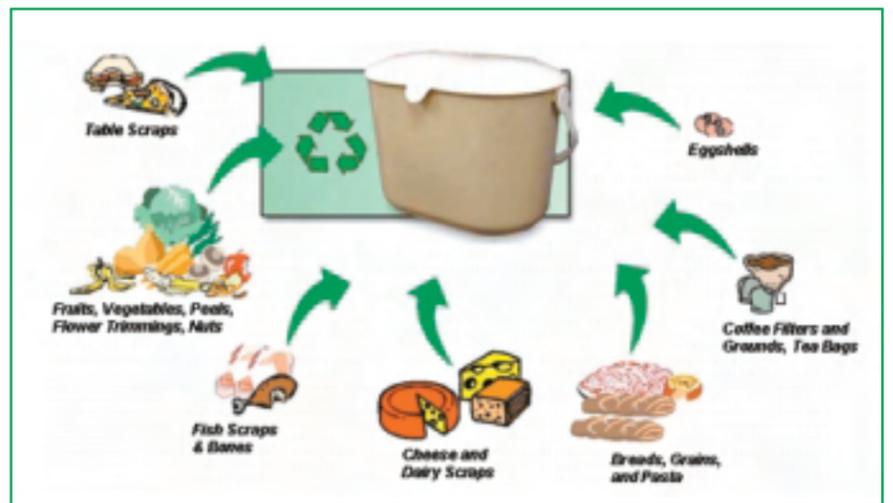
By PAT RUDEBUSCH
Assistant Editor

A parent’s admonition to “clean your plate” will take on new meaning with the launch this month of a new food scraps recycling program for Lamorinda. This new program is the latest defense in the ongoing battle of the bulge – in landfills, that is.

The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) estimates that Lamorinda residents send 8,000 tons of food scraps to landfills annually. The newest element to CCCSWA’s recycling program will make it easier for residents to help the agency turn wasted food products into nutrient-rich compost.

Last month CCCSWA provided Lamorinda residents with two-gallon canisters that can be used to collect food scraps. The canister’s small size and tight-sealing lid make the process of collecting food scraps convenient and sanitary. The canister is small enough to fit on a kitchen counter or under the sink and it can be washed in the dishwasher.

Any food scraps collected in the container can be added to the grass and yard clippings in residents’ green recycling bin. Virtually all food waste can be collected: fruit and vegetable peelings; table scraps; tea bags, coffee filters and grounds; breads,



pasta, and grains; meat, poultry, and fish bones; egg shells and dairy scraps; and even food-soiled napkins and paper towels. Plastic and styrofoam products, however, should not be added to the green recycling bins.

“We are very excited about the roll-out

of the food scraps recycling program in Orinda,” says Orinda City Councilmember Victoria Smith. She, along with Councilmember Amy Worth, represents Orinda on the CCCSWA board. “As Orinda’s representatives, we fought hard to [SEE FOOD SCRAPS page 4]

IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
News	
Fire Department	6
Police Blotter	6
About Town	
Drought Resistant Gardens	2
Farmers' Market	9
Lamorinda Reading Program	7
Local Residents	7, 10
Performing Arts	21
Restaurant Pull-Out Section	11-14
Schools/Students	15-17
Sports	18
Backyard Getaways	19
Business Buzz	24
Calendar	21
Classified	22
Editorial	4
Out and About	20
Orinda Association	3

Festival of Trees

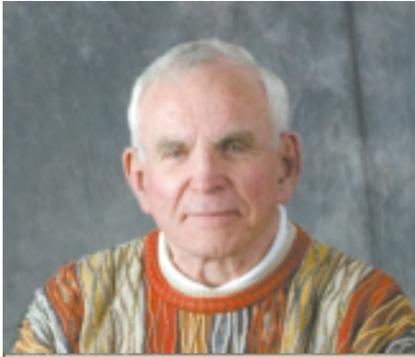
The Orinda Woman's Club annual fashion show, luncheon, and raffle takes place on November 8 at the San Ramon Marriott beginning at 10:30 a.m. Women's fashions will be by Helen Lyall of Vallejo with Patrick James of Blackhawk Plaza providing the men's fashions. Orinda's Entourage Spa and Salon will provide the make-up and hair styling for the models. This year's event benefits Orinda's Holden High School's program for special needs students and Opportunity Junction, which supports low-income families.

This event sells out early every year. For tickets, call 254-4900.



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Gardens to Conserve Water and Energy

By CINDA MACKINNON
Contributing Writer

A gardener can easily conserve water, reduce energy use, and minimize his or her impact on the environment by planting a sustainable garden. Once you establish such a garden, you will discover that it not only makes gardening easier but will provide the satisfaction of conserving and recycling resources. The call to conserve water is back. East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and many other water agencies are warning that our water supply is low. We are all learning about the impacts of global warming – and yards can have a negative impact on our water supply.

The old conventions for gardening meant fertilizers and pesticides; but, the fact is these products require a large amount of energy to produce and transport. This comes back to the burning of fossil fuels, which adds to global warming. Pesticides linger in the soil and end up in the creeks. EBMUD reports that the main



CINDA MACKINNON

This drought-resistant garden features many colorful plants that need a minimum of water to survive.

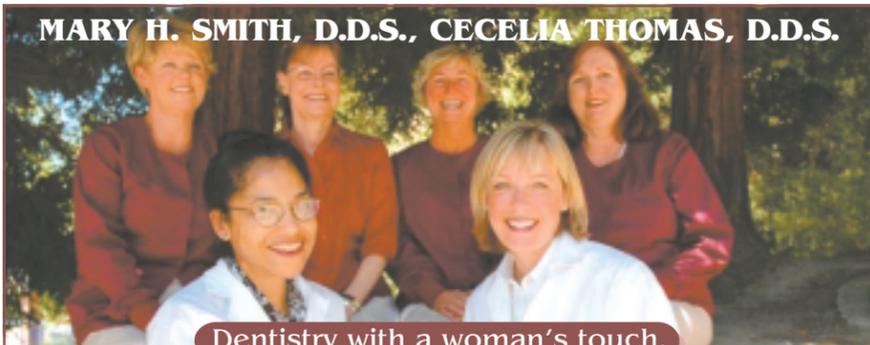
contaminants of our creeks – which flow to two drinking water reservoirs – are from residential use of pesticides and fertilizers. The good news is that if you plant for our Mediterranean climate, your plants won't need fertilizers (except for compost) and pests will be minimized and you will need less water.

Mulch and compost are the keys to success. Mulch conserves moisture, protects soil microorganisms, keeps down weeds, and looks nice. Over time, it breaks down and nourishes the soil. Even leaves can be used as mulch in hidden corners of

the yard. Mulch can be delivered free from tree services (make sure it is disease free) or ordered in bulk or you can pick up a few bags if that is all you need. One drawback to free wood chips is that they can tie up the nitrogen in your soil which makes you want to add amendments. If you do, your first choices could be compost or high-nitrogen soybean meal. Both are available at feed stores and garden centers.

Compost is an amazing fertilizer and soil conditioner - and it's free. Soil conditioning encourages worms and microorganisms and balances water retention and soil drainage. Composting is pretty easy. Many people simply throw all vegetable scraps into a large pottery jar and then onto the compost heap. But for some, the bulk of the compost comes from yard waste. Some turn the pile every week, and it turns to rich, brown compost fast. Some don't turn it very often at all, but it still produces compost at some point, and if left for long will still generate usable chunks of compost when turned.

[SEE GARDEN page 22]



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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

**A Message From the OA Presidents
Gearing up for an Active Autumn**



Kate Wiley and Jim Luini

The OA has been working on several projects over the summer. After celebrating another successful, albeit sizzling July 4th parade and celebration, our plans for next year's 25th anniversary of the July 4th parade are already in the works. Additionally, we're continuing work on old and a few exciting, new OA traditions. Our mission of encouraging volunteerism, promoting awareness of issues, and helping to enhance the quality of life for all Orindans are exemplified by our programs below: be prepared, support our seniors, get involved, and honor our volunteers.

• **BE PREPARED** – The OA continues to sell Red Cross disaster preparedness kits for your home and car. Call 254-0800 for more information or download an order form from our website, www.orindaassociation.org. There are two sizes, selling for \$65 or \$48. Remember, a disaster in our area is not limited to the impending "big one," it could be a fire or a vehicle accident. Don't find yourself unprepared.

• **SUPPORT OUR SENIORS** – Although

our original grant money for the Seniors Around Town (SAT) transportation program has now expired, we are committed to keeping this invaluable program going for our senior residents and we are seeking other grants and fundraising opportunities. For the second year, profits from *Orinda's Third Annual Classic Car Show* will be donated to the SAT program. The car show is **Saturday, September 8 at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Of course, we are **always looking for new volunteer drivers**. Please call our office 254-0800 or e-mail us at oa@orindaassociation.org for more information.

• **GET INVOLVED** – interested in serving on the OA Board? As you can see from above, we have a varied and active list of activities and events, and that list doesn't even include our on-going programs. Check out our website for information about other OA projects. We welcome those Orindans who have an interest in serving. Time commitments vary; you chose your area of interest and

availability. Call 254-0800 for more information. It's a great way to get involved!

• **HONOR VOLUNTEER'S** – We are accepting nominations for Orinda's annual Volunteer of the Year 2007 and nominations for our annual William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award. You can download a nomination form from our website, www.orindaassociation.org; or send a letter to The Orinda Association, P.O. Box 97, Orinda; or an e-mail to oa@orindaassociation.org.

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Win the Ride of a Lifetime at the Third Annual Orinda Classic Car Show



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Racing legend and Orinda resident, **Jochen Rohr**, will donate a high-speed ride in his Porsche at Infineon Raceway.

■ September 8 show benefits Orinda Association's senior ride program

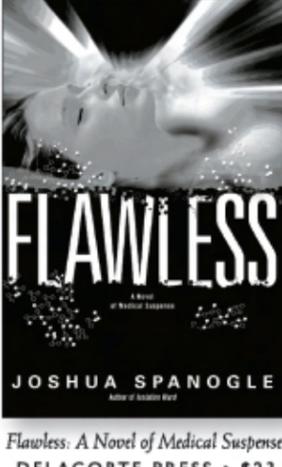
By **KATHRYN G. MCCARTY**
Contributing Writer

Porsche racing legend Jochen Rohr enjoys watching his passengers'

reactions when he takes them out for laps, especially when he is cornering. Not many have ridden in a car that tops 200. "You should see the passengers trying to brake!" jokes Rohr.

One lucky raffle winner at the September 8 Third Annual Orinda Classic Car Show will have the opportunity to win the ride of [SEE CAR SHOW page 22]

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Sharing the Wealth with Others

Most people in Orinda live privileged lives. They have enough food to eat, live in a comfortable house in a safe community, and their children attend one of the best school districts in the state.

But many others are not so lucky. Often, they have no idea where their next meal is coming from. Their homes might be a rundown hotel, a cramped apartment, or a chilly street corner. Their children walk to school through dangerous streets full of crime and temptations.

The disparity between the two communities is great. The willingness to help others, however, bridges this great divide. Orindans have always given freely of their time, expertise, and money for those less fortunate.

The Orinda Woman's Club holds fundraisers, such as the Festival of Trees, with the proceeds benefiting a variety of worthwhile causes. Orinda residents, as part

of a team from Lafayette-Presbyterian Church, made several trips to New Orleans to help rebuild houses destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Orinda's churches sponsor the Winter Nights Program, which provides shelter and food during the winter months for homeless families. The Orinda Rotary brings young people from the Oakland area out to San Pablo Reservoir each year to enjoy a day of fishing. The group, along with the Orinda Association, has coordinated the Soccer-4-All program, which gives used soccer uniforms and equipment to children in other countries, and, most recently, to our neighbors in Richmond. These are just a few of the programs and local organizations in our community that focus on helping others.

Through the Orinda Association's Volunteer Center, residents often come to the office looking for opportunities to be of service. One thing often mentioned is the



desire to make a difference – to know that the time and/or money they volunteer really has an impact. The Orinda Association introduces residents to a relatively new organization in Richmond dedicated to stopping the violence in that city and to

helping local residents improve their living situations. See page 5 for more information on this enterprising organization. I hope you will read the article and want to help bridge the economic and educational gap between our two communities.

Letters to the Editor

Thank You, Garden Club

I was so glad to see the garden clubs get recognition for all their hard work. We really appreciate the beautiful flowers as well as the California native plantings. Thank you: Orinda Junior Garden Club, Orinda Valley Garden Club, Orinda Garden Club, and Montelindo Garden Club.

You make a beautiful difference!
– Cinda MacKinnon

Bright new obnoxious white towers for Gateway

Anyone notice the huge new bright white electrical towers for the Gateway development? I count 13 of them, and they contrast remarkably with the natural greens and browns of the backside of Sibley Peak - and they stand out from many locations in Orinda. Just look to the western hills.

There are tower designs that are far less esthetically obtrusive - probably cost a little more. Wonder if these monstrosities were considered in the environmental reviews? They sure scream out at you! They sure are obnoxious!

– Chris Knief

Can We Trust the Mayor?

Mayor Glazer of Orinda claimed in the July 13 *Contra Costa Sun* that Messrs. Vaughn and Maiorana spread falsehoods about Orinda road spending. Indeed there have been falsehoods, but they have come from Glazer.

Glazer claims a majority of the new council did not support the new city office plan. Fact: Councilmembers Glazer, Smith, and Worth voted for the new city offices.

In a mass mailing letter to all the women in Orinda, Glazer stated that his plan "will" raise road funds by "cutting city expenditures and realignment of budget priorities." In a city council meeting after

the recent June special election on Measure E, Glazer stated that "there were no city expenses which could be cut." Obviously, there was never any intention to cut city expenses to augment road funds. Another falsehood.

Glazer claims that Measure E would have repaired most of our residential roads. Measure E was based on the Infrastructure Committee report which limited road repairs to streets having 500 car trips per day.

Measure E proponents stated that all residential streets were "eligible" for Measure E money. When you buy a lottery ticket you are "eligible" to win the lottery, but your chances of winning are microscopic.

Can we trust Glazer on anything?
– Clyde Vaughn

Response to Orinda Mayor

In a recent news article, the mayor accused me of perpetuating falsehoods. Is he the one perpetuating falsehoods since he says Measure E would have repaired most of our residential roads? The Orinda Infrastructure Report states it would take \$150 million to repair Orinda roads, and Measure E did not come close to \$150 million. Is the mayor correct or is the Infrastructure Report correct?

Measure E was contingent upon 33 years of Supplemental Financial Contributions for road funding. Unfortunately, the fire district, city and EBMUD contributions totaling \$37,300,000 were never guaranteed contributions. The fire district stated they would not guarantee their contribution. The fire district stated they were no different than the city, because the city had not guaranteed their contribution.

The mayor states the majority of the new council was not on the council when the city offices were approved. Is the mayor perpetuating more falsehoods? Councilmembers Glazer, Worth, and Smith are on the new council, and they all gave the final

go-ahead approval for the city offices.

Measure E referenced the Infrastructure Report, which designated 500 car trips as criteria for road repair. Since Measure E proponents believed the 500 car criteria was damaging for passing E, I believe Sacramento spin was used in an attempt to hide the 500 car criteria.

The mayor states the council raised the 2007-08 road repair budget to 1.2 million, which is 50 percent more than the last five-year spending average. Our roads deteriorated because we spent 50 percent less than we needed over the past five-year spending average. According to the Infrastructure Report, crumbling roads not repaired quickly deteriorate, increasing repair costs.

This council must look at common sense solutions to fix our roads without new taxes.
– Vincent Maiorana

city's annual report to the state controller on road spending is due October 1. It will be interesting to learn where, exactly, are the road repair projects that were done with the \$3 million over the last two years. Or possibly, the money was not spent on roads, proving the insincerity of the bond proponents' claims of dire emergency.

If the money was misappropriated, what does the city council intend to do about it? Who benefited? Who signed the checks?
– Wilmot McCutchen

◆ FOOD SCRAPS from page 1

pilot the program in Orinda, along with Lafayette and Moraga, because we know that Orindans are environmentally aware and looking for ways to increase recycling."

Smith notes that the state is calling for each city to divert half of its waste from landfill to recycling programs. "In 2005, Orinda diverted to recycling 42 percent of what would otherwise be garbage, so we really need and want that number to grow," she continues. "Orinda is also the perfect place to pilot the food waste program because our kids are already learning to recycle in school, and they have such a close connection to the environment through the excellent outdoor learning programs at each of our schools. Now we need the kids to come home from school each day and help teach mom and dad how important and easy food scrap recycling is!"

Turning food scraps to compost doesn't get much easier than CCCSWA's newest recycling program. Still, those who prefer to make their own compost at home can take advantage of other CCCSWA-sponsored programs such as free home composting classes and discounts on composting bins. For more information on the food scraps and other recycling programs, go to CCCSWA's website at www.wastediversion.org.

What Happened to the Road Money?

We are told that our roads are so bad we need \$60 million just to begin to fix them. Twice, the pitch to trust our city government with \$60 million has been rejected by skeptical Orindans, who have reason to wonder what would really happen to the money, given recent history.

The City of Orinda gets revenue from three sources for our annual pavement management program: Measure C Return to Source (RTS), gas tax, and garbage franchise fee. Our capital improvement plan (see pgs. 5-6 of the summary available at the library) promises to spend these revenues on pavement management in the following amounts:

Funding Source	2005-06	2006-07
Measure C	441,534	420,000
Gas Tax	291,414	590,000
Garbage Franchise Fee	703,895	466,000
Total	1,436,843	1,476,000

The fiscal year closed on June 30. The

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to the Editor for the October issue are due September 5, 2007.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or send email to jill@aspensconsult.net. The deadline for the November issue is September 17.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Making a Difference One Child at a Time

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

This is the first in a series of articles on the Richmond Improvement Association, which offers a wealth of volunteer opportunities for Orinda residents interested in making a difference in this neighboring community.

The Rev. Andre Shumake, associate minister at the North Richmond Missionary Baptist Church, had had a very rough week. In the space of seven days, he had attended four funerals of youngsters under the age of 21. "I could see the rage in the eyes of the kids at the funerals – a rage that leads to more hostility and violence," Shumake recalls. Rev. Shumake, along with other religious leaders, started asking "where is the church in our community; what can we do to stop the violence."

Pastors from the various churches in Richmond started meeting and organizing protests, rallies, and town hall meetings. In 2005, they sponsored the Richmond Black-on-Black Crime Summit, which focused on solutions such as jobs, education, and parenting skills. One result of the meetings and summit is the Richmond Improvement Association (RIA).

"We have to break the cycle of children having babies and fathers not meeting their responsibilities," says Orinda's Valerie Slovin, a long-time advocate for the underprivileged. Rev. Shumake, president of the RIA, agrees, "Many children in Richmond today are not learning the same values that we learned. They are being raised by children in an environment that doesn't encourage them to do better."

In an attempt to rectify the problem, the RIA has instituted a number of multi-faceted programs. Bright Futures, linked with the West Contra Costa County school

district, uses a holistic approach to expand learning opportunities and after-school programs, as well as advocacy and family services. A youth sports program, which has already benefited from the Orinda Association's Soccer-4-All program, brings young people from rival Richmond neighborhoods together in an effort to form lasting relationships. "We don't want to lock these kids up. We want to hook them up with jobs and educational opportunities," adds Rev. Schumake. "We use something they're interested in like sports to help promote peace."

"The youth of Richmond are really just like kids everywhere," says Orinda resident and Richmond High School teacher Andrew Meblin. "They're like a rock. They may be rough on the outside, but if you look deeper, you can see the beauty within." Meblin, who initiated the OA's Soccer-4-All program, believes one of Richmond's biggest problems is "others wanting to pull kids down. We have to expose them to other opportunities, let them know that someone cares."

To help break the cycle of violence, Rev. Shumake and the RIA are working with inmates at San Quentin. "At the prison, you have members and former leaders of rival gangs working together," he explains. "We're asking them to send that message of cooperation back to the Richmond community." The RIA also has a program called the Richmond Project that works with San Quentin inmates, who will be paroled to Richmond, assimilate into the community in a positive way. A transitional housing program provides a structured environment for the inmates upon release. "They are often just boys in a man's body," says Rev. Shumake. "They have never been trained how to act properly. We expect them to do better, to raise the bar."

Rev. Shumake says former Orinda City Manager Bill Lindsey, currently the city



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda resident Dick Burkhalter (third from right) delivered Soccer-4-All uniforms to children in Venezuela. Burkhalter, along with other Orinda residents, hopes to re-direct the program's efforts to help needy soccer programs closer to home. Soccer-4-All recently delivered uniforms and equipment donated by Orinda residents to the Richmond Improvement Agency for distribution to their youth sports program. Orinda teams wishing to donate their clean uniforms can bring them to the Orinda Association office in the plaza level of the Orinda Library.

manager of Richmond, has been an enormous help: "Bill brought a whole different mindset to Richmond. He really listens to the community and brings the residents and the various city departments together."

Jobs and education are top priorities for the RIA. The organization has been meeting with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the local petrochemical companies to encourage the hiring of Richmond

residents. They have also launched after-school programs and a mentoring program that begins with six-year-olds just entering the educational system.

The RIA offers many volunteer opportunities from such hands-on activities as mentoring, tutoring, and coaching to working in the RIA office of donating goods. For more information, contact the Orinda Association at 254-0800 or the RIA at (510) 235-4002.



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POLICE BLOTTER



Compiled by Haleh Allen,
Orinda Police Department

July 2007

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 81 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Auto Burglary (theft from a locked vehicle): 2 incidents in the areas of Oak Arbor Rd. and Briones View.

Petty Theft From Vehicle (theft of less than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 3 incidents in the areas of Tahos Rd., Altarinda Rd., and Orinda Way.

All Other Petty Thefts: 1 incident in the area of Moraga Way.

Grand Theft From Vehicle (theft of more than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 7 incidents in the areas of Tahos Rd., Fleetwood Ct., Ridge Gate Rd., Glorietta Blvd., Camino Sobrante, Orindawoods Dr., and Parklane Dr.

All Other Grand Thefts: 2 incidents in the areas of El Toyonal and Linda Vista Dr.

Vehicle Theft: No reported incidents.

Residential Burglary: 6 incidents in the areas of Linda Vista, El Toyonal, Loma Vista, Vallecito Ln., Claremont Ave., and Warford Terrace.

Commercial Burglary: 4 incidents in the areas of Camino Sobrante, Bear Creek Rd., and Avenida de Orinda.

Vandalism: 3 incidents in the areas of Irving Ln., El Toyonal, and Orchard Rd.

Identity Theft: 3 incidents in the areas of Don Gabriel Way, The Glade, and Miner Rd.

Credit Card Fraud/Forgery: 2 incidents in the areas of Miner Rd. and Juniper Dr.

Special Notes: Temperatures inside parked vehicles can rise to dangerous levels in minutes, even on mild days. Protect your children and pets by following these tips to prevent heat suffocation.

Never leave your kids or pets in a car, even for a few minutes. Check to make sure all children leave the vehicle when you reach your destination, particularly when loading and unloading. Don't overlook sleeping infants. Teach children not to play in or around cars. Always lock your car doors and keep the keys out of the reach of children.

Additional Ambulance Crew Improves Emergency Response Time

■ Orinda Station 45 now has full-time ambulance coverage

By PAT RUDEBUSCH
Assistant Editor

It's no cliché: In an emergency, every second counts. The Moraga Orinda Fire District recently improved its ability to respond quickly with the addition of a dedicated ambulance crew assigned to Orinda Station 45. Previously, only station 41 in Moraga had a full-time, dedicated ambulance crew.

"This has been a goal of mine since I joined the board five years ago," says Gene Gottfried, M.D., who serves on the MOFD board of directors and the nonprofit Rescue One Foundation board. "Every year we struggle with how to allocate our limited resources." Employing an ambulance crew

had to be sent from a station farther away. In the absence of adequate personnel, the Orinda station was able to either respond to a fire or a medical emergency, but not two simultaneous events.

The new ambulance crew in Orinda brings two additional paramedics who are also firefighters to the station. "We generally send an engine along with the ambulance on calls," explains Gottfried. "This gives us three paramedics on the scene to handle any medical emergency."

The MOFD recently celebrated what's being billed as its 30/10 anniversary. It was 30 years ago that the Moraga Fire Department assumed responsibility for the town's emergency medical services, which had previously been provided through Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services. At the time, it was one of the first fire departments in Northern California to provide paramedic services. In 1997, Orinda voters approved a measure to form the Moraga Orinda Fire District, which



An additional ambulance crew brings better emergency coverage to Orinda. (L-R) Mark DeWeese, EMT, and Mike Lacy, Adam Thorton, and Ken Consiglio, paramedics.

24/7 is not cheap, but Gottfried says that it will allow the district to improve response times in the event of an emergency.

According to Gottfried, each of the district's engines is staffed with three firefighters, at least one of which is also a paramedic. But, in the event that the engine is out on a call, that station could find itself without paramedic coverage, or vice versa. This happened last spring when a fire broke out in the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood. Personnel from the closest station were transporting someone to the hospital when the call came in for the Sleepy Hollow fire. Response time was delayed when an engine

brought the same high level of fire and paramedic services to Orinda.

The Rescue One Foundation, which was formed in 1977, is a pioneering not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting MOFD's paramedic programs through grants that have allowed the fire district to purchase life-saving equipment such as CPR training equipment, heavy rescue equipment, and cardiac monitors/defibrillators that provide wireless data transmission to local hospitals.

For more information on the Rescue One Foundation, visit the MOFD website at www.MOFD.org/rescueone.



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Lamorinda Reads: Local Libraries Sponsor Community Reading Program

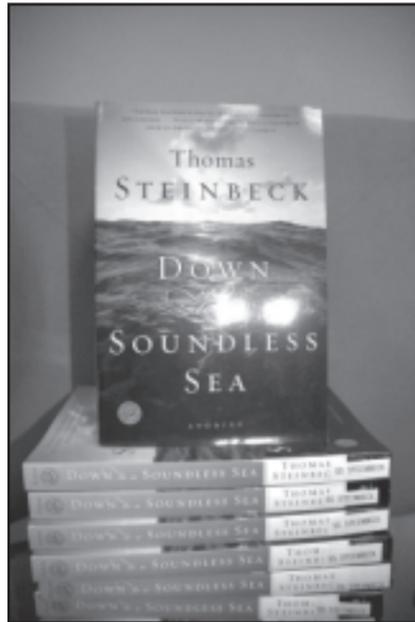
By MOYA STONE
Staff Writer

Picture this: Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette awash with the same book cover; the same book in the hands of teens and elders alike on BART, in the park, in the library, everywhere. Animated readers in local cafes discussing this one book. Get ready, because September 4th is the launch of *Lamorinda Reads*, a library-led community reading program.

Last fall, librarians at the Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette libraries joined forces to create their own version of One City One Book, a reading program that has swept the country since its inception in 1998 by former Seattle public library director, Nancy Pearl. The idea is that community members read the same book and throughout several weeks participate in various events, discussions, and presentations. "We are always looking for opportunities to promote reading," says acting Orinda branch librarian Caroline Gick. "This kind of program has been so successful in other cities it seemed like an obvious choice."

Moraga Library senior branch librarian Linda Waldroup, and Lafayette branch librarian Susan Weaver, along with Caroline Gick have chosen a collection of short stories, *Down to a Soundless Sea*, by Thomas Steinbeck, son of the acclaimed California author John Steinbeck. "We wanted something that would appeal to a broad audience," says Susan Weaver, "both men and women, and teens, as well." It was important to the librarians that they choose something reflecting California history and, keeping their readers very much in mind, they also wanted something manageable in length. "People are busy," says Weaver. But, of course, they also wanted well reviewed, quality literature.

Like any group of organized librarians, they identified their criteria and then did a key word search in their library catalog system: California, historical fiction. Up popped Thomas Steinbeck and, after reading his debut book, it was unanimous. "These stories reflect an interesting and romantic time of California history," says Waldroup. "And we were so happy to find someone with this kind of literary pedigree. It was a perfect choice."



PAT RUDEBUSCH
Thomas Steinbeck's collection of short stories has been chosen as the book for Lamorinda Reads.

Thomas Steinbeck is the eldest son of John Steinbeck, born in 1944 in New York City. A combat photographer in Vietnam, he has since become a celebrated

screenwriter. He is much in demand around the country for giving lectures on American literature and creative writing. Published in 2002, *Down to a Soundless Sea* is a collection of seven short stories set in early 20th century Monterey. Reviewers say that like his father, Thomas Steinbeck has created memorable characters facing challenging situations against a historical backdrop of horse trails, fishing villages and, of course, the sea.

Once the librarians chose the book, ideas for themed events quickly followed. Some of the scheduled events include a reading of one of the stories from Steinbeck's collection by master storyteller Ruth Halpern; Dr. Susan Shillinglaw, professor at San Jose State University and scholar in residence at the National Steinbeck Center will give a lecture on how the rich culture of California is woven into the Steinbecks'

literature; naturalist Gael Gallagher will present a local wildlife discovery program for children; and John Vlahides, travel writer for Lonely Planet guide books will give a presentation on today's coastal California. Throughout the seven-week program will be book discussions at the Orinda, Lafayette, and Moraga libraries and the *Lamorinda Reads!* grand finale will welcome Thomas Steinbeck for a reception and discussion of his book on October 25, at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Library auditorium.

Thanks to the libraries' Friends groups, each of the three libraries will have 100 copies of the book for circulation and will also distribute additional copies for free at area cafes and other businesses. Orinda Books will also have copies for sale. For more information and a listing of events go to: www.contra-costal.lib.ca.us, or visit one of the participating libraries.

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Miramonte Graduate Completes MIT PhD

Matthew Traum, shown here with his parents Valerie and Robert, recently completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree in mechanical engineering at MIT. He attended Miramonte High School from 1992 - 1996, where he was captain of the men's varsity cross country team and served as pep band student director his senior year. Traum, who invented a nanotechnology-enabled evaporative cooling technique for soldiers' body armor while at MIT, has taken a faculty position at the University of North Texas.



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ORINDA IDOL

◆ IDOL from page 1

were local music teachers, vocal coaches, and musicians, including Myrna Witt, Maggie Boscoe, Sue Farmer, and Ben Riley.

Returning emcees are local TV news personalities Leslie Brinkley from ABC-7, Diane Dwyer from NBC-11, and Anna Werner from CBS-5. Judges include theater, entertainment, and musical professionals. Last year's judges included professionals from Cal Shakes, Berkeley Rep, and Teatro Zinzanni. Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer will announce the winners and verify the voting results.

After advancing into the final show, contestants were given the opportunity for more exposure by singing at the Orinda Association's July 4th Parade, the Arts in Bloom Fundraiser, and the Orinda Farmers' Market.

Additionally, the well-rounded students reported a summer full of singing, playing instruments, world travel, and competition in sports such as soccer, volleyball, swimming, and baseball.

Matthew Barber, 12, whose brother TJ is also a finalist in the competition, shares the sentiments of other contestants when asked why he enjoys performing: "I like to sing because it is fun and a way of expressing yourself."

Amrita Newton, 11, found singing fun when she first tried it last year and discovered that she was good at it! An

incoming sixth grader at Orinda Intermediate School, she was a little bit nervous when auditioning, but hopes the experience will help make her more confident when she tackles the stage.

Confidence is a benefit that many of the performers have gained from the competition.



SUSAN GARELL
Finalists Emma and Jackie Patton sang at the Orinda Association's 4th of July celebration.

Eleven-year-old Erin Schoenfeld's parents nicknamed her "Ethel Merman because I had such a big voice!" she says, but learning to use that voice has taught her that "it takes a lot of courage and confidence."

Max Coleman says that he expects to "be incredibly nervous (after all I am performing for about 750 people)." He

adds, however, that "performing allows me to test my singing abilities in the real world, where the pressures of a live audience are ever present."

Sophie Wegener, 13, admits she, like others, has become a stronger person through music: "I'm usually a shy person. I have a hard time with public speaking, so getting up in front of people and singing makes me more confident and less shy." Her mother, the lead singer of The Crisis, is her role model. "Seeing her up there always having fun makes me want to be just like her," says Sophie.

Parental involvement is crucial, and most young performers credit their parents as their mentors. Laura Patton was a bit surprised when all three of her children (Steven, Emma, and Jackie) became finalists in the contest. "I never thought all three would make it, so I steered myself for that. No one was more surprised than I when we got the big announcement," she admits. Her advice to her children? "I have told them that having that experience will be priceless, no matter what the ultimate vote turns out to be."

Like the other contestants, her children's music taste is eclectic. While son Steven, 15, prefers Red Hot Chili Peppers, Rolling Stones, Queen, and the Beatles, Emma, 11, likes "oldies and songs from musicals," and Jackie, 6, has taken to folk songs.

Jazz is just another genre the young contestants dabble in along with alternative, pop, opera, and, of course, all things Disney.

Stephanie Sloves is one of many who "would like to be on American Idol someday." Sean McFeely, 9, also has big aspirations. "I'd love to be on Broadway. I know that there are no limits to performing and to what you do in life," he explains. Young Makenna Millham believes music is important in the world because "it brings happiness to people." Lauren Bond, 8, enjoys singing "because it helps me express my feelings." Fellow contestant Maritza Grillo, a fifth grader at Del Rey, adds that

music "makes people forget about their troubles and fears and takes them to another place."

Jocelyn Purcell, an 8-year-old who attends Sleepy Hollow, learned to sing to the music on the car radio. She says she likes to sing because "it is fun to let my voice burst out." Besides singing with the radio and friends, many of those participating have had quite a bit of training as leads in school plays and participating in community educational theater, many of which are directed by popular Orinda music teacher Ron Pickett.

The young performers enjoy a variety of other training through school programs, church, and the Orinda Community Center. Popular instructors are Cynthia Myers, Kris Mueller, Barrett Lindsay-Steiner, Loree Capper, Claire Yarrington, and groups such as Town Hall Kids, and the Piedmont Children's Choir.

Sarah Ames, 16, of Miramonte, a fairly



SUSAN GARELL
Finalist Nolan Englund took to the mic at the 4th of July celebration.

experienced songstress studies with Raz Kennedy. Ames received very favorable comments from family, friends, and teachers for her recent videos on YouTube, which have helped her build confidence towards the career she wants in music. She says she likes to challenge herself and that music "gives people something to relate to and identify with."

According to Garell, one winner will be chosen from each grade group, with half the vote weighted to the judges and the other half to the audience. Winners will be awarded cash prizes.

A first grader at Del Rey, Zoe Warch's expectations about the competition are different from winning the cash as one young man said he was vying for. At the Idol competition, "I think all the people are going to clap and say yeah - when they hear me sing," she says.

Emma Patton, 11, sums up the purpose of music and singing. "It brings joy to so many people. A world without music is like... a world without chocolate."

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FARMERS' MARKET

Lots of Good Buys at September Farmers' Market

By BARBARA KOBSAR
Contributing Writer

Change is slow but sure at a farmers' market, and the Orinda market captures it all. While summer's tomatoes and berries are still going strong, apples and grapes are making their way in - perfect for the back-to-school crowd. Peppers and eggplant glisten in their bins, and the deluge of winter squash is just around the corner.

For me, all fruits and vegetables deserve their spot in the limelight and Bartlett pears are no exception. Actually, dry-farm pears get a little extra attention from me because of their intense flavor and rich texture.

Darryl and Judy Pereira (and extended family) from Alhambra Valley Farms in Martinez arrive at the market with just the pears I'm looking for. "Dry-farm practices produce intensely flavored fruit," says Darryl Pereira, "but the trees need training." Dry farming has always been used on our farm and the roots always had to grow deep to find water," he says.

"Cultivation is the key to dry farming," says Pereira. "The soil is turned about one inch deeper each time and this helps to bring the moisture up to the surface," he says. "Eighteen to 20-inches of rain produces the optimum crop, and we have no complaints this year," says Judy Pereira. "There will be plenty of pears to go around," she adds.

The pears are set out in boxes at the market marked with signs showing the number of days-to-ripen. Since all Bartletts (like other European type pears such as Bosc, Comice and Anjou) are picked mature but firm, I have to be patient before biting into one of my favorite fruits. If left to linger on the tree too long, Bartletts become soft and mushy - unlike a peach that benefits from every extra minute left

hanging on the tree to become lusciously sweet and juicy.

If I'm lucky, there are a few "ripe-and-ready-to-go" pears set carefully aside to enjoy at the moment. Most pears I take home need a few days on the kitchen counter. The fragrance lets me know when the pears are ripe, the color changes from light green to yellow and the stem end yields to gentle thumb pressure - perfection!

Pereira reminds me about his yearly crop of butter pears - a bit of an exception to the rule. "Butter pears do some ripening on the tree, from sort-of-crunchy to soft," he says. Very juicy Butter pears are an eat-over-the-sink creation and offer me just a hint of lemon flavor along with their creamy texture.

Asian pears, unlike European type pears, are picked ripe and ready to eat. Even though they are often referred to as a pear apple (round shape and apple-like texture) they are a true pear. Several varieties come to market - fine-textured Hosui and the sweet-tart Shinseki, to name a few.

There's also plenty of crunch around the farmers' market in September. Apples and grapes from Hamada Farms are fresh picked and ready to go. A weekly check on varieties always brings up something new, but crispy is key to what I choose.

Thompson and red flame seedless grapes remain favorite picks, but it's time to linger a little longer over the bins at the Hamada stand to check out other seedless and seeded varieties of grapes. For the full-flavored seeded grapes such as Muscat and Tokay, the Hamada stand is the place to visit.

Apple season is here, and everyone can enjoy an apple with crunch and character. From the juicy, sweet tart taste of the Fuji apple to the large Mutsu and shiny Red Romes, you can find an apple to suit every



BARBARA KOBSAR

Judy and Darryl Pereira from Alhambra Valley Farms display their delicious pears.

whim. Keep in mind some apples are better for baking (Granny Smith) while others like Pink Lady and Honey Crisp are favorite fresh-eating varieties.

Grapes and apples keep best in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. Wash just before serving.

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

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- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 cup milk
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- *3 Bartlett pears, peeled, cored, and diced
- 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease and flour a 9x9x2 inch baking pan. Combine the flour, oats, brown sugar, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg in a large bowl. Add the milk and oil; stir with a fork until coarse crumbs form.

[SEE PEARS page 22]

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Orinda Cook Bridges East-West Gap

By CHRIS LAVIN
Staff Writer

When Irene Kwok Tom came to this country from Hong Kong more than 30 years ago, teaching was at the forefront of her mind and cooking, well, cooking was just something one had to do to eat.

"I knew how to boil water and how to push the button on the rice cooker," Kwok said.

But after 30 years developing educational curriculum for the San Francisco public schools, Kwok has decided to publish a cookbook. She has scoured bookshelves around the world, and come back with lots of books, but few stories.

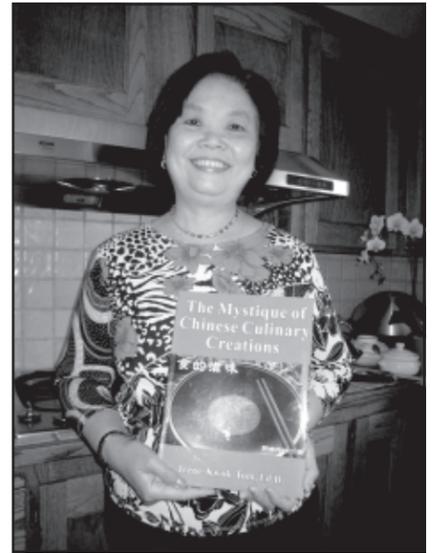
"I like stories behind the cooking. I don't like just the recipes with lists and exact measurements like, say..." Kwok searched for the right name, then got it. "Betty Crocker."

In *The Mystique of Chinese Culinary Creations*, Kwok comes down about as far from Betty Crocker as San Francisco is from Shanghai. She tells you the story of tofu, which was first made in China, and tells you that "chop suey is a Chinese dish, invented in America." She tells you how to brew a good cup of tea, and how to stew an ox tail. Kwok even took the professional-looking color photographs of dishes and equipment used throughout the book. "It's a one-woman show," she said.

She focused on dishes that Americans would recognize in a Chinese restaurant, as well as the most popular Chinese dishes throughout the world that Americans may have never heard about. But Kwok goes deeper than simple explanations about the food. The Orinda resident of more than 30 years returns to past dynasties and the emperors' roles in food preferences. She explains that Chinese chopsticks are longer than Japanese chopsticks, with the upper half squared and the lower half rounded, and that silver chopsticks used to be part of the dowry of a newlywed.

One of Kwok's prime motivations for writing the book was the sad state of the kitchen after a big meal was prepared, or "when a man cooked in the kitchen." Superfluous pots and pans littered the counters and filled the sinks, and Kwok was forced to confront her pet peeve: the sticky residue left beneath an oven burner after rice has boiled over, congealed, and dried.

"I hate that," Kwok said, standing over her immaculate stovetop. She eschews rice



CHRIS LAVIN
Irene Kwok Tom has created an educational cook book.

cookers, now, and instead prefers to cook her rice in a wire-bound clay pot on the stove top, lid askew to allow steam to escape. (No glop is left behind.) When asked about her rice/water ratio, Kwok pulls out a nondescript plastic cup she uses to measure rice, and points to her second knuckle for the water level. Not exactly Williams-Sonoma stainless steel measuring cups.

"This cooking should be simple," she said. "So many cookbooks try to make home cooks into chefs. You can be part chef, yes, but it should also be easy, not dirty too many pans and bowls, and fresh. Always fresh."

Besides food history and preparation techniques, Kwok talks about many traditions that Americans know about but aren't necessarily familiar with, such as dim sum. "There are even Chinese-American children who go to eat dim sum and don't know what to do," she said. Such as: When a waiter pours tea and stops at two-thirds of a cup, he isn't being chintzy. "It's too hard to drink if it's a full cup," Kwok said. "It would be rude to fill to the top."

And if you need more tea? "Put the lid of the pot like this," Kwok said, picking up the lid on a pot of freshly prepared *kun yum* tea and setting it down halfway over the opening, where it gently rocked. "The waiter will be surprised you know what to do," she said. And once fresh boiling water arrives? No verbalization of "thank you" is

[SEE COOKBOOK page 16]



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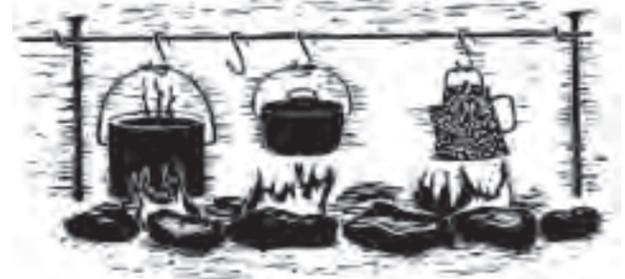
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ORINDA RESTAURANTS

A Guide to the Many Fine Restaurants Here In Orinda

By CHRIS LAVIN
Staff Writer

Here is a comprehensive list of the restaurants we are privileged to find here in Orinda. If we missed someone, our apologies! Please call us so that we may include it in future editions.

Pull out this section and keep it handy for those take-out nights – or for lunch – or for when you are up for simply going out while craving good old American cooking or something zestier, without the clean-up. We have classified them by type, but don't be picky. You just might like some barbecue when you think you're craving Thai.



SALLY HOGARTY

Zamboni's Pizza offers quick and delicious meals.

AMERICAN / CALIFORNIA CUISINE

Casa Orinda
28 Bryant Way
254-2981

If you live here and haven't been there, then you haven't really been here. Yet. Make sure to take the family or just yourselves to this venerable institution. As many of us know, this restaurant used to have a giant neon cowboy on the roof, but sign restrictions took care of that. But the restaurant is here to stay, along with its spectacular as well as colorful history. Specializes in basic fare, including steaks,

chicken, and mashed potatoes. All the recipes use local Orinda honey, when needed. Consistent fare is their business, so you won't be disappointed.

Nation's Giant Hamburgers
76 Moraga Way
254-8888

When you're in the mood for a burger, why deny it? Nation's will do takeout, but sometimes it's best to sit at a table and bite into a juicy burger, when it's nice and hot. And don't forget about the magnificently huge and deep pies, also available for take-out, or enjoy a single slice. This is a burger joint with a huge reputation. And what burger joint isn't kid-friendly?

The Orinda House
65 Moraga Way
258-8399

Whether it's roasted chicken or a rib-eye steak you're craving, start out with a club soda or something else at the beautiful bar. Plus there's music, and if you feel like it, a dance floor. Wrap it up with a piece of cheesecake.

Shelby's
2 Theatre Square
254-9688

This Orinda institution is run by local folks who whip up eclectic California cuisine using the freshest ingredients around.

Updated daily specials make the fare fresh and keeps it changing. You can try a new wine and even sit outside on a nice day, or grab your lunch for take-out and head back to the office. Live music is also featured on weekends.

CAFES AND COFFEE SHOPS

If you're looking for a quick takeout coffee or croissant, look no farther:

Caffé Teatro
2 Theatre Square, under the library
253-0508

This café sits just below the Orinda Library and next to the amazing fountain, so how can you go wrong for a morning

coffee? Fresh pastries, salads, and sandwiches are available.

Geppetto's Cafe
87 Orinda Way
253-9894

Lunch doesn't get a lot more fun than this. Sit outside under the umbrellas or eat in, where the friendly wait staff will describe the daily specials, which might be quiche, as well as the soup of the day.

[SEE RESTAURANTS page 12]



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SEPTEMBER 9 - OCTOBER 14, 2007
at the Hearst Art Gallery, the Saint Mary's College Art Museum

The Western desert Aboriginal community of Balgo has adapted this innovative and original painting style, illustrating episodes of The Dreaming, the time when powerful ancestral beings created the world, from traditional sand drawing, and body and sacred object painting.

Balgo paintings are characterized by richly layered designs in vivid colors made of complex dot patterns, concentric circles and undulating lines.

The exhibition includes 45 large paintings, photographs, DVD, CD, and catalogue.

On loan from the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia, considered one of the finest outside Australia.

Lecture: Sunday, Sept. 9, 2 - 3 pm
"Everything old is new again: Aboriginal art in an historical perspective" by Margo Smith, Ph.D., director, Kluge-Ruhe Collection

Reception: 3 - 4:30 pm

Family Hands-On Workshop:
Dot Painting & Bull Roarer construction
Sunday, Oct. 7, 2 - 4 pm
Events Free, courtesy of the Walker Foundation

Wed - Sun, 11 am - 4:30 pm
Admission: \$2 adult; children 12 and under free
925.631.4379

Sarah Napanangka - Kimayi, In the Tanami Desert 1996, acrylic on canvas

ORINDA RESTAURANTS

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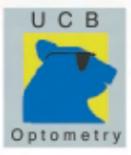
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◆ RESTAURANTS from page 11

Peet's Coffee and Tea
 63 Moraga Way
 258-9328

This well-known chain has its loyal following for coffee and tea, and pastries. You can get something on ice, of course, if it's really hot outside.

Royal Grounds
 70 Moraga Way
 254-7789

If big chains aren't your thing, stop by Royal Grounds for the same smell of roasted coffee beans and a bagel, which the friendly staff will warm for you. The smaller franchise has a warm atmosphere and, often, an open table.

Quencher's Smoothies
 21 Orinda Way
 254-7836

In a day when lunch can be liquid (not that kind of liquid) Quencher's turns out fresh smoothies for going or staying.

Starbucks
 2 Theatre Square
 258-0476
 One Camino Sabrante, #9
 253-0447

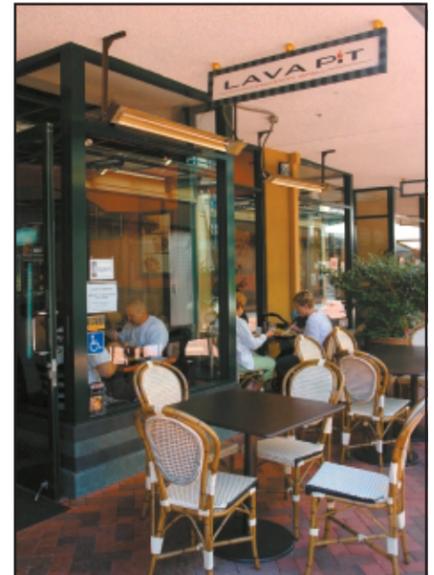
If you need your caffeine fix, this can be it. Also serves lunch and will warm it up, too.

Village Inn Café
 204 Village Square
 254-6080

There's nothing like a good old-fashioned place to grab a bite to eat with a cup of coffee, *ala diner* style, which is what you get. And don't worry, the place isn't closing, it's just moving across the parking lot. Look for them near Orinda Books.

CHINESE
Hsiang's Mandarin Cuisine
 1 Orinda Way
 253-9852

This restaurant's elegant interior matches its fresh Chinese food cooked without MSG and high fats. The kung pao chicken has the reputation for being top-notch, and the restaurant is kid-friendly.



SALLY HOGARTY
 Try something a little different with Lava Pit's Hawaiian-style barbeque!

Szechwan Chinese Restaurant
 79 Orinda Way
 254-2020

The service is fast and the menu complete - you won't be looking for a popular Chinese food favorite that's not on the list. Take-out is readily available, but it's a cozy place to eat in, as well.

DESSERTS
Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
 230 Brookwood Road
 254-3434

Why not stop by after dinner, or just for plain fun? Kids' cones and bags of candy of any size are available, as well as the full array of sundaes and services one would expect in a proper ice cream shop.

GREEK
Aleko's
 2 Theatre Square
 254-5290

Get your pita craving satisfied before a movie, or try one of the exotic soups. All the essential traditional dishes are here, as well. This popular take-out restaurant also offers room for dining.

[SEE RESTAURANTS 1 page 13]

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ORINDA RESTAURANTS

◆ RESTAURANTS 1 from page 12

HAWAIIAN**Lava Pit**

2 Theatre Square
253-1338

Forget flying to Hawaii for a luau. From grilled barbecued short ribs to a whole mixed plate with mahi mahi and crusted prawns, this restaurant allows you to eat in and smell all the flavors, or they will deliver it to your door. Several sizes of party packs are available, and they cater, too.

ITALIAN**La Piazza**

15 Moraga Way
253-9191

Service with a big smile is a standard feature of this long-time popular restaurant, featuring brick oven-baked pizzas and delectable pastas, with a basket of fresh bread if you eat in. (Or they might throw it in if you order out - ask.) It gets busy on movie nights, but the tables clear pretty quickly. This is the rare combination of a kid-friendly restaurant where a romantic dinner for two might be had at the adjacent table.

Nino's Bay Restaurant Bar and Grill

#2 Theatre Square
253-1327

A new place now serving lunch and dinner, the Italian-infused menu offers fresh grilled fish, broiled shrimp, or classical standbys such as fettucine primavera. Appetizers mostly too difficult to make at home serve as beginners, and a full wine list rounds out the meal. Indoor and outdoor seating available.

Village Pizza

19 Orinda Way
254-1200

Besides the pizza, this family-friendly restaurant also offers other Italian foods, burgers, ribs and even steaks. So you can feed the kids pizza while you enjoy something else.

JAPANESE**Hanazen Japanese Sushi**

87 Orinda Way
254-3611

Hanazan offers standard Japanese fare as well as fresh sushi of generous sizes. Open only for dinner. Don't forget the sake.

Niwa Restaurant

1 Camino Sobrante
254-1606

While the sushi is good and the classification Japanese, they also offer traditional Chinese fare. The lemon chicken gets especially good reviews online. So if you can't decide when to go with Japanese or Chinese, this is your place.



Serving Italian food, Nino's Bay can be found at Calypso's former location in Theatre Square.

Serika Restaurant

2 Theatre Square
254-7086

You will feel at home in this Japanese-inspired restaurant that exudes warmth amid a posh, comfortable setting. Ask for the best fish, although they are all good, and it's always fun to try something new to the palette. You can have standard sashimi, or try one of the many more exotic specialties.

Yu Sushi

19 Moraga Way
253-8399

As a small store-front operation, you might think you're getting fast-food sushi, but that is far from the case. The sushi is fresh, and the service is fast, making this a great place to eat before a movie across the street or for take-out. The red and white hanging lanterns outside make it unmistakable to miss.

MEXICAN**La Cocina Mexicana**

23 Orinda Way
258-9987

This family-friendly place offers all the traditional Mexican fare without the Americanization of the basics. It's good for a date, too. Try the chile relleno. (And the sangria.)

Maya Mexican Grill

74 Moraga Way
258-9049

If you like nachos, you have to try the mole. This small restaurant is a crowd-pleaser if you're hosting a party, or good for a meal with all the trimmings. You won't walk away disappointed in the full menu.

PIZZA

Ah, the old stand-by, especially with children. To spice things up, try a white
[SEE RESTAURANTS 2 page 14]



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◆ RESTAURANTS 2 from page 13

sauce, if you are accustomed to red, or add a few anchovies. You only live once, so try them again, if you've sworn them off. And always, always, ask for more red pepper on the side.

Zamboni's Pizza
 1 Camino Sobrante
 254-2800

This small restaurant has a casual atmosphere and is inexpensive. Eat in or take out - and keep the number handy, because they deliver.

DELICATESENS
Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub
 64 Moraga Way
 254-7202

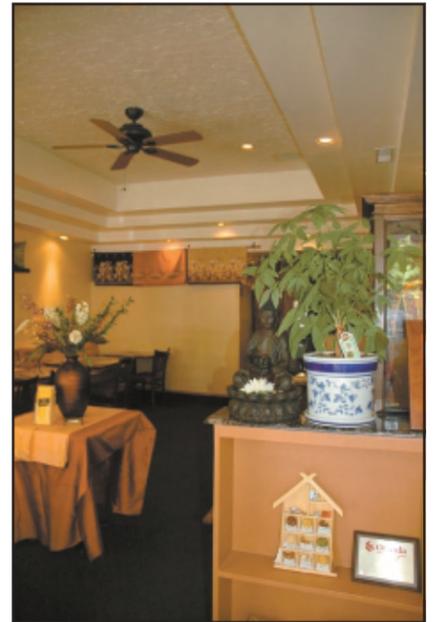
You have to go once if you haven't been at all. This popular hotspot is great for a quick, hot sandwich getaway or to simply sit on a stool and have a brew while enjoying a meal. Grab a menu and make an order.

Kasper's Hot Dogs
 99 Brookwood Road
 254-2908

Long-standing local favorite serves hot dogs and a variety of sausages. If you haven't had a Kasper's Dog, do it this week. Otherwise you might get hit by a bus and not have anything to talk about with all those people in heaven.

Orinda Deli
 19 F Orinda Way
 254-1990

Sometimes you just need Italian dressing



SALLY HOGARTY

The serenity of Baan Thai is matched only by its scrumptious food.

on a roll, you know? But then, they can do it so much better, by dressing it up with any meat you desire. Don't forget the cheese, and the crisp lettuce, and the in-season tomatoes. You get the idea.

Subway
 2 Theatre Square.

(No phone at time of printing.) This well-known chain is coming soon, and we recommend the seafood salad sub with extra mayo. Try a half or a quarter, and see what you think. Great for a quick lunch. Great for a whole meal.

THAI

If you cannot eat it every day, then maybe just scale back to weekends. It's worth every bite, and makes you wonder what it's like to live in Thailand, where such food is available on a daily basis. We should all move there.

Baan Thai
 99 Orinda Way
 253-0989

Almost an institution, at this point. Make sure to try the brown rice with your order, which perhaps you will not think to be rice at all, but a scoop of everything your body needs to make all systems work and happy.

Siam Orchid
 23 Orinda Way
 925-253-1975

You think you've had salad. Try the salad topped with ginger, mango, lime ... you get the picture. Complete fare straight from Thailand, with all fresh California ingredients. Equally best if you take in or take out.



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STUDENTS / SCHOOLS

Stop Me If You Think You've Heard This One Before

America Applies For College

Andra Lim



The Orinda News happily welcomes our new student columnist, Miramonte High School junior Andra Lim.

Our economy is the world's largest. Even though this country is young, we managed to become the only superpower in the post-Cold War era. And within the boundaries of our country, lie hopes and dreams, freedom and democracy, and the headquarters of Krispy Kreme and Starbucks.

On paper, we're an impressive nation. We have a 4.0 GPA, 2300 SAT score, we volunteer hours and participate in extra-curricular activities and varsity sports. America would receive an early decision to Harvard whereas Iraq, if there were a lapse in the time-space continuum, would be off to junior college.

People say that there's nothing wrong with junior college, but then start studying for the SATs in fifth grade to ensure they will not be attending one.

Condoleeza Rice says the crisis in the Middle East is simply "birth pangs," an accurate description of thousands of innocent Iraqis and U.S. soldiers being killed.

Step back and look at our nation: It's not pretty. Our collective mom wrote our personal statement, and we bribed a doctor to diagnose us with ADD to score extra time on standardized testing.

There's Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, the national health care system, and the recalcitrant refusal to acknowledge global warming. Then there are the little slipups, participating in senior ditch day and falling asleep in class, that don't appear on your application.

During a visit to China, I noticed their subway system works so well that unlike BART (Barely Able to Run on Time), you never have to wait more than two minutes for a train. BART boasts crushed cigarettes, soda cans, and a ban on food; the Hong

Kong subway has cream puff stands.

Yet, I want to talk about our inability to flush toilets. In most large public restrooms, I saunter in, join the long line, and notice one empty stall. However, I don't want to get my hopes up. I've been through this routine before, these toilets have had their chance, but they just weren't there for me when I needed them the most. Don't they understand I can't do this anymore because it hurts too much?

Then a feeling wells up inside me, the feeling of two glasses of lemonade shooting through my system.

I move forward, trying to forget what Teenage Fanclub said about hope never teaching you, and then the person at the front of the line shakes her head, crushing my hope that the line could move a tiny bit faster. She has rejected it and so I will as well – and I accept the fact that one toilet stall might make some sort of difference in this insipid world.

In China, I found squat toilets, which are idiot-proof because you don't need to flush, and regular toilets, which people are so grateful for that they flush every time. The bathrooms are as disgusting as Scooter Libby's commuted sentence, but the toilets are flushed.

This toilet-flushing nation is home to a newspaper called the *China Daily*. One issue had a front-page article about pigeons and how "it would be disastrous if one of them flies into a plane and causes a crash" and that "the airport has done everything to control this potential aviation menace."

Admissions officers love idiosyncratic things like that. It gives you character, not just the same old soup kitchen volunteer or class president or basketball spiel that's on all of America's applications.

So one of my many questions is, why doesn't America flush its toilets? Maybe it's because we're caught up in thinking about everything that's wrong with our country, because we're worried that we

won't get into Harvard but that China will, and we can't stand rejection because we don't have articles about menacing pigeons to lighten us up.

The next time I wait in line for the restroom, I'll reminisce about China, where the toilets were flushed, where no one cared

about Harvard, where I casually munched on a vanilla cream puff while waiting for the subway, which arrived in under a minute. After boarding, I grabbed a handle and resumed my munching, thinking casually, "Those pigeons are something, huh?"

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New Principal at Del Rey Elementary School

Del Rey School 's new principal, Kirsten Theurer, comes to Orinda from the San Ramon Unified School District where she was an assistant principal.

Theurer brings 22 years of experience as an educator to her new role as Del Rey's principal.

The new principal's vision encourages strong relationships between the parents and staff of Del Rey, which she believes helps students assume increased responsibility for their own actions.

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Student Perspectives

Life's Not Fair

Grace Ho



My parents like to ask me what I will be writing about for my next column. They feel that they are entitled to sneak previews. My most common response is my sweetest smile accompanied with a cheeky, "You'll just have to wait until the paper comes out, like everyone else." This time, however, I've been telling my mother the truth: "I have an idea in my head, but I haven't sorted it out yet." Thinking about it more, though, I realize that sorting it out will probably take years, if I ever sort it out at all, so I should just go ahead and write.

I guess you could call what I've been thinking about "big stuff." I'm not sure how else to label it. The state of the world. Poverty. Suffering. When you go to the

University of California at Berkeley from a sheltered Asian family in sheltered Orinda, things hit you.

Once, my friend and I were eating lunch when a woman approached us, addressing us as "kind sir and lady." She showed us a folder of documents, including photos of three children, whom she said her husband had electrocuted in the bathtub and tortured with other methods. He was now in prison, but she was struggling to pay the bills; she needed a certain sum by that night or she and her remaining children would be evicted from their home. My friend and I listened to this long speech in silence, avoiding her eyes. Half of me felt very uncomfortable hearing these things because

they broke through my sheltered bubble, and I wanted to brush everything off defensively. "Don't be naïve. She just wants our money." But the other half snapped, "How dare you remain so apathetic? Her children were *tortured*. These are live, real people. You are heartless for not caring, for reducing this very human issue to a matter of money!" At last, being Christian, both my friend and I were extremely touched by one line: "I believe in Jesus Christ, and I believe that he suffered more than my kids, on the cross. I..."

"It's OK," my friend interrupted her. "We understand." We both gave her what little cash we had on us at the time, and she burst into grateful tears, thanking us profusely and hugging us. "God bless you," she cried. I hugged her back but didn't know what to say.

But forget random people on the street. Going to a school as diverse as Berkeley, these kinds of problems are often nearer to the heart. One of my close friends has a "hard knock life." Her father has leukemia and has not been responding well to chemotherapy, while her mother was laid off her job around the time her father was diagnosed. Her family is not well off in any sense of the word, so my friend has been working multiple jobs trying to send money back home while fighting to pay for college, as well. I always feel immensely guilty when complaining in her presence about things like tough classes. Sure, tough classes are ... tough! But am I struggling to pay my family's bills? No. Is my father dying as I speak? No.

There are so many things in the world that are deeper, greater, heavier than what I've encountered in life. I know they should matter to me, but in the routine of daily life they get thrown into the back of my mind, partly because, I myself, don't have the will to tackle them and absorb them. It is so much easier to turn away, but in the end, my conscience screams against my apathy. In a society that teaches us to be selfish, that may sound strange; yet, I do not feel entirely at peace with myself while others are downtrodden. Some appear to "deserve" their unhappy fates – for now, we shall ignore the fact that none of us are really qualified to judge. They are mere human beings and so are we; what makes us think our criticisms of others are so infallible?

Haven't you ever met someone who has it rough even though he does work hard and, therefore, should be living a better life than the one he has now, theoretically?

I remember waiting for a bus one day. Also at the stop was a little old man with a weathered face who struck up a conversation with me because he was bored; the bus was taking forever. Interestingly enough, he turned out to be a visiting scholar from Nanjing who only arrived in Berkeley a month before. Considering that I was a complete stranger, he seemed oddly open with his thoughts. Perhaps he felt comfortable because we were speaking in Mandarin – the moment he discovered that I'm fluent, he stopped using his broken English altogether. He spoke about how life is unfair, that lots of people around the world work equally hard, but there is no equality in the rewards they reap or the lives they live. Being born in China is very different from being born in the United States or somewhere else. "Look at you," he said. "I work as hard as you do, probably, but you will always live a better life than me, simply because of who and where we are."

He didn't seem bitter at all. He said all this in a very simple, matter-of-fact tone, the kind of tone that old people sometimes adopt when they've reached the point of knowing better than to argue with life's natural laws. He said one must fight the best one can and that is all one can do. That you cannot choose where you were born, just as you cannot choose who you were born to. Having said that, he did acknowledge that he is already very lucky. The vast majority of people in China never get the chance to leave, and he has one precious year here.

I hate the saying "Life's not fair." Older and wiser people often try to awaken me to the reality of it, but I always burst out in reply, "I *know* life's not fair, but it **SHOULD** be fair! I refuse to accept that it's not fair!" Even when life is unfair to my advantage, I ache for the people who get the short end of the stick. A lot of people grow desensitized to the world's injustices, but I get angry as if it's the first time I've ever heard about such things. I'm not quite sure what to do about it. The world will always treat some people better than others. Socialism sounds pretty on paper but often fails in action.

◆ COOKBOOK from page 10

necessary, Kwok said.

"Just put your fingers like this," she said, putting her index and middle fingers together and tapping three times on the table. "You tap your thanks. No words are necessary." The background of the custom, as Kwok writes, developed during the Qing Dynasty as a replacement for bowing three times before the emperor.

While many people think Chinese cooking is difficult and cumbersome, Kwok swears it doesn't have to be. Fresh, reasonably priced live fish are available

throughout Oakland's Chinatown, she said, and the fishmonger will clean and cut it for you. A one-pound fish needs only 15 minutes of steaming, she said, and side dishes and condiments may be prepared early in the day or even the day before. Too many people overcook fish, she said – her test is that if a chopstick depresses the flesh but it's still firm, it's ready. If the fish flakes and falls apart, it's overcooked.

Irene Kwok Tom's 122-page *The Mystique of Chinese Culinary Creations* cookbook is \$19.95 and currently available through mail-order at P.O. Box 1898, Orinda, Calif., 94563, or by e-mailing ikwoktom@yahoo.com.

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SCOUTING / SCHOLARSHIP

Sitting Pretty at the Orinda Park Amphitheater
With the Help of an Eagle Scout

By KSENIJA SOSTER OLMER
Staff Writer

Our community is blessed with young men, who excel in many areas, academic, sports, visual and performing arts, debate, and quite a few in scouting as well. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank of boy scouting; only about five percent of all Boy Scouts do so. One of the hardest tasks that a potential Eagle Scout has to perform is planning and carrying out an Eagle project. It takes all the leadership skills, communication skills, and laboring ability that each scout has developed during their time in the Boy Scouts to complete a single, beneficial project. Since the project has to benefit the community each year, Orinda is the beneficiary of different improvements thought of, planned, and executed by diligent scouts.

Because of the unusual size of the benches he had to travel to a lumber mill in Richmond.

"While contacting different vendors for different prices and supplies, I was surprised to find out that they welcomed me and tried their best to help after hearing that it was for an Eagle project. But what was really noticeable was how it drew in many different parts of our community. There were scouts from Troop 57, people from the Starlight Players (the acting group that uses the theater) and even members of the Orinda community who offered to help. While we were working on the benches, some people who were just walking through the park asked to help us on a whim. And some of them were Eagle Scouts themselves!"

The City of Orinda funded the \$3000 for the needed materials and the director of Parks and Recreation, Todd Skinner, and the manager, Jim Arth, have spent quite a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boy Scouts from Troop 57 struggle to push a warped board into place as they refurbish the benches at the Orinda Community Center Park amphitheater.

One of the latest is the renovation of 19 benches at the outdoor amphitheater in the Orinda Park, undertaken this summer, just in time to celebrate the centennial of Boy Scouts of America, by Miramonte High School junior Joseph Chen of Troop 57.

"Six months ago when I had first walked into the Orinda Volunteer Association to see if the city needed anything to be done that I could undertake as an Eagle project, I had no idea what I was getting into when I accepted to replace all those benches," says Chen. He had to replace all the top and face boards on the cracking and rotting benches.

bit of time working with the scouts. "I am very pleased with the outcome of the project," says Skinner. "Joseph and his helpers put in a lot of time and effort!" The Eagle project requires only 50 man-hours, but this one took over 300.

"It was a great way to spend part of my summer," says Chen. "I wish other teens could experience the satisfaction of a summer project completed to benefit their community. I hope some other students will be inspired to find a project that gives them the same sort of satisfaction that I experienced."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Boy scouts (L-R) Emmet Jacobs, Zach Mayeri, Pat DeWitt, and Brian Gee were among the Scouts selected to attend the 100th anniversary of the organization that was held on Mt. Diablo this summer.

Tyler J. Fahr Receives
National Honor

Congratulations to Miramonte High School student Tyler Fahr on being selected for membership to the national Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). The society recognizes the top scholars in the nation and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence. "Our vision is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members in a meaningful way," says NSHSS president James Lewis. "We aim to help students like Tyler build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community."



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ATHLETICS

The Golden Bears Win National Title



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Lamorinda Golden Bears boys 18 and under water polo team captured the national Junior Olympic championship on July 31 in San Jose. Competing against 48 teams from across the nation, the Golden Bears were the only 18 and under team to go undefeated in the tournament. Coached by **Boyd Lachance, Rob Barter,** and **Kirk Everist,** the team features players from Acalanes, Campolindo, DeLaSalle, Las Lomas, Miramonte, and Monte Vista high schools. (L-R, top row) **Rob Barter, Kyle Smith, James Perry, Zak Dychtwald, Brendan Whitmore, Stephen Hobbs, Max Parrague, Eric Johnson, Terry Kezer. Boyd Lachance, Kirk Everist.** (bottom row) **Nick Ferrif, Jackson Sharf, Kevin Peat, Miles Cilhuly, Nick Hoversten, Charlie Steffens, and Andrew Milcovich.**

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Stone Free Wins Basketball Title



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For the third year in a row, Stone Free has won the Orinda Basketball League title. (L-R, top row) **Mike Harris, John Barnes, John Allenberg, Joe Barnes, and Nick Wagern.** (bottom row) **Paul Cornett, Phil Wilhite, and Dave Arthur.**

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BACKYARD GETAWAYS

**Backyard Getaways and Beyond
Cruise the Port of Oakland**

Bobbie Dodson



The sun was shining, the sky blue, the breeze gentle, and there we were on one of the Blue and Gold ferries cruising on San Francisco Bay - for free. It was a once-a-month opportunity offered by the Port of Oakland to acquaint visitors with the port and its facilities. From April through October on the third Thursday of the month, tours run twice daily at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., departing from the ferry terminal at Jack London Square.

Our group chose the later time so we could enjoy an early lunch at one of the many fine restaurants nearby. We chose Scotts, where the glassed-in patio provided an excellent view of activity on the water along with tasty fare. Other possibilities include Kincades, Il Pescatore, and more.

Onboard the ship, Laura Arreola, of the public affairs department of the Port of Oakland, provided an informative narration on the port's history, how the port operates and cargo handling. It was pointed out that the Port of Oakland has been in operation as a public harbor since the city was incorporated in 1851. It is now the fourth busiest container port in the country

Passing by Howard Terminal, operated by the Matson Navigation Company, we learned that Matson has been in the ocean shipping business for more than 100 years, sailing between the West Coast and Hawaii.

Mountains of twisted and rusted metal, mostly old autos, occupied space at the Schnitzer Steel Company yard, one of the largest exporters at the Oakland Port. Each month they export about 10,000 tons of scrap metal to the Far East, where it is transformed and sent back to us in such familiar products as Toyota and Nissan cars.

The 85-acre American President Lines Terminal provides a service for "post panamax" container ships. Post panamax means that these large ships are too wide to pass through the present-day Panama Canal. They can hold more than 4,500 TEUS, an abbreviation for 20-foot-equivalent-unit, a shipping industry term for counting containers. For an idea of how many 20-foot containers this represents, if one modern shipload of containers were lined up end-to-end, they would make a line 17 miles long, or the distance from Oakland to Concord. Over 2.4 million containers pass through the Port of Oakland each year. These, lined up end-to-end, would stretch from Oakland across the Pacific Ocean, through Tokyo to Seoul.

Next in view was the state-of-the-art Oakland International Container Terminal, which opened in November of 2002 with a capacity of 515,000 TEUS per year, increasing the port's capacity by 42 percent. Here we saw those giant cranes, which look

like some huge animal from prehistoric times that George Lucas used to model an enemy creature in "Star Wars." The cranes are an indication of the modern age of shipping cargo. Weighing about 1,500 tons each, and standing 241 feet high, the equivalent of a 24-story building, they can load or discharge more than 35 cargo containers per hour and can lift 65 long tons (145,600 lbs.) at a time. Many remember when they were being transported to Oakland under the Golden Gate and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridges with only inches to spare.

Surprisingly, the next space is occupied by a park. The Middle Harbor Shoreline Park opened in 2004 and offers panoramic views of the San Francisco skyline, picnic areas, barbecue facilities, bike and pedestrian paths. Soon, it will have the only public beach in Oakland. You can drive to the park by taking Interstate 880 to the Seventh Street exit and heading west to the Bay and following the signs. The Natural Resources Defense Council's latest Environmental Report Card rated the Port of Oakland with the highest grade among the nation's 10 largest ports. The Port of Oakland provides more than 1,000 acres of waterfront parks and open space for public enjoyment.

Adjacent to the park is the Middle Harbor Habitat Enhancement area, which will use clean, dredged material from the harbor deepening project to restore shallow-water habitat. The dredging project will deepen the port to a depth of minus 50 feet so it can accommodate the larger vessels that are now the industry standard.

On our cruise, we learned that Oakland's port was one of the pioneers of large-scale containerization in the 1960s. Using the "inter-model concept" which makes it easy to transfer cargo between ships and different modes of ground transportation, the port quickly overtook San Francisco as the region's leading port. With only one packing and one unpacking operation, a sealed container can carry up to 40 tons of cargo across 5,000 miles of ocean, 3,000 miles of land, or around the world, if necessary, by truck, train, and container ship.

As we came close to the Bay Bridge, we had an excellent view of the new bridge, now under construction. Also, we were near Berth 34, where the BART tunnel enters the bay. The initial 145-acre landfill, which provided the port room to expand in order to install the cranes and other container facilities, was constructed from 63 million cubic yards of excavated material from the building of the BART tunnel.



The Laura Arreola ferry travels up and down the Oakland estuary as passengers learn about the Port of Oakland.

BOBBIE DODSON

Returning to the dock, we explored Jack London Square a little more, walked to Jack London's grass-roofed cabin, and settled down at Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon for refreshments. As a school boy, Jack London studied at the same tables that are in use today.

It was a fact-filled trip, with time to visit, snap photos, buy a snack, and enjoy views with a sea breeze as we sat on the open, upper deck of the ferry. It was fascinating

to learn about the scene we behold when we emerge from the tunnel heading from Orinda toward San Francisco. And, all of this was free.

If You Go: Reservations may be made online, www.portoakland.com/communit/serv_tour.asp or by calling (510) 627-1188. Driving from Orinda, travel on Highway 24 west on to 980, taking the 12th street exit to Brush Street. Turn left on Fifth Street, right on Washington.

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SHAKESPEARE CAMP

Shakespeare Camp Parallels Cal Shakes Season in Orinda

BY DOROTHY BOWEN
Staff Writer

Fights broke out at Orinda Community Center recently: Demetrius slapped Lysander. Quince kicked Bottom's bottom. Oberon and Titania had a tug of war over a changeling child.

No need to call security. It was all part of Shakespeare Camp by Cal Shakes for youngsters ages 8 to 18. About half the students returned for a second summer and half were from Lamorinda.

In the mornings, the groups spent time in classes on text and meaning, movement, and stage fighting, all taught by teachers who specialize in those subjects. The student actors learned how to do stage slaps, butt kicks, and foot stamps in a way that makes the observers wince, but doesn't hurt the victim. Of course, the victim also must learn how to look hurt.

For the older student actors, the fighting was more serious. They used golf clubs for swords, bent garden hoses for strangling, and fake blood spurted from imaginary wounds. The blood was made from red food coloring mixed with corn syrup or

dishwashing detergent, depending on whether it needed to be spit out. Fight coach Carla Pantoja was torn between egging them on: "Bash him harder!" and warning them to be more careful: "You just maimed her, Nate. Your sword scrambled her brains. Hold it more carefully."

Because the campers would be performing *King Lear* at the session's end, there was plenty of gore to choose from. Edmund and Edgar have a sword fight to the death. Gloucester gets his eyes gouged out and trampled in the ground. Cornwall's servant stabs him. In addition, the student actors learn the difference between illusion and reality. In *Midsummer Night's Dream*, one girl worried that the shoelaces she was supposed to tie together are Velcro. "You don't really tie the shoelaces," said the teacher. "You don't really get sand in your eyes, either."

The teachers also made sure the actors understood what their lines meant. "What's the joke?" asked the teacher in a scene between Bottom and Quince. The answer, "Bottom wants to play all the parts." The students can relate to that.

The plays they performed were cast in the first week. In the afternoons, the groups rehearsed for the play they presented at the end of the session. The youngest group performed *Midsummer Night's Dream*, the sixth and seventh graders, *Richard III*, the eighth and tenth graders did *A Comedy of Errors* set in an insane asylum in Commedia del Arte style. The oldest students performed *King Lear*, but instead of focusing on his age, they concentrated on the loss of property, of home and belongings, as if they were homeless vagabonds. There was a shopping cart on stage, and the characters on the heath turned an old wicker chair into a sword and shield.

In preparation for the performances, the students had a poster contest. One of the winners was for *Richard III*, portraying him as a huge black spider.



DOROTHY BOWEN
Two students in Cal Shakes' fight camp practice sword play.



DOROTHY BOWEN
Students in the Shakespeare camp work on hand-to-hand combat moves.

Out and About Pat Rudebusch



The hottest ticket in town last month must surely have been the fundraising event for Democratic presidential candidate **Hillary Clinton**, which was co-hosted by **Leslie and Tim O'Brien** at the home of **Joni Binder and Robert Schwartz**. Regardless of your political leanings, it's hard not to be impressed when a presidential candidate comes to town.

For **Leslie Darwin O'Brien**, the Orinda fundraising event was a way of paying tribute to a woman who she remembers fondly from her days growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas. "I'm just thrilled beyond belief to be able to do this for Senator Clinton. She's always been such a good friend to me and my family," O'Brien says. When Bill wasn't governor, the Clinton's lived in a very modest home in our neighborhood. They were very much a part of the neighborhood, coming over for dinner and swimming in our pool. I don't think that most people understand that Arkansas is a small state with only two million people, everyone knows everyone else."

Aside from sharing occasional family dinners, Hillary Clinton was also one of Leslie's Sunday school teachers. "The Clinton's have always been incredibly kind to me," O'Brien recalls. "I once heard a minister say that you can tell a lot about a person's character by the way they treat someone who they don't expect to meet again and from whom they don't expect to gain anything.

Well, I remember a time when I was living in New York with my sister, struggling to make it as an actress and working as a waiter to make ends meet. I was working an event at Sotheby's, passing *hors d'oeuvres*, when all of a sudden a woman gives me a great big hug and says "Leslie, what are you doing here?" It was Hillary Clinton. I couldn't believe it. She

invited me and my sister to a party later. We went, expecting it to be a big affair where we would fade into the woodwork. Instead, we found ourselves at a small gathering with Hillary Clinton, Mrs. Sam Walton, Joan Ganz Cooney (then president of Children's Television Workshop), and Hillary's college roommate. That's the kind of woman she is - warm, welcoming, and without pretense. I was hired help at the Sotheby's event. I was nearing the end of my rope. She had nothing to gain; yet, she invited us to dinner. I'll never forget that act of kindness."

"Her warmth is not the stuff of sound bites, it runs much deeper. When you're with her, it's as though you're the only person in the room; she's not shaking your hand and looking down the line for the next donor," O'Brien continues. She describes Hillary as a woman who has devoted herself to public service; who, after finishing law school, took a job as a staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund; and who, ran the legal clinic handling foster care and child abuse cases while teaching at the University of Arkansas's Law School. "She's fought for children's rights forever. Public service is what she does, it's not just a résumé builder."

On a more personal level, O'Brien recalls a conversation with the senator on raising children: "I remember her telling me that, while there was a lot to be said for quality time, quantity time was just as important. You can't have an organic conversation with a child if you're in a hurry." That simple comment is a far cry from the infamous "...staying home to bake cookies" quote that was used to define then-candidate Bill Clinton's wife. If nothing O'Brien's personal accounts of Hillary Clinton, serve as an important reminder that, in this media-driven age, we have to listen even harder to get the true picture of our candidates.

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 6 **Orinda Books** Author Discussion, 4 p.m., Joshua Spanogle will discuss and sign copies of his new thriller, *Flawless*.
- 7 **Orinda Starlight Village Players**, *See How They Run*, a wartime comedy, 8:30 p.m. Continues Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. through September 22. No reservations required. Call 253-1191 or e-mail jill@aspenconsult.net.
- 15 **Contra Costa Waste Authority**, Home Composting for Busy People, 9-10:30 a.m., Wagner Ranch School Nature Area, call (925) 906-1806 for reservations.
- 18 **World Affairs Book Group** will read and discuss *Black Dog of Fate* by Peter Balakian, 4 p.m. at Orinda Books. This group meets bi-monthly and welcomes new members.
Orinda Owls will read and discuss *The Girls* by Lori Lansens, 7 p.m. at Orinda Books. This group meets monthly and welcomes new members.
Page by Page Book Group will read and discuss *The Highest Tide* by Jim Lynch, 7 p.m. at Orinda Books. This group meets monthly and welcomes new members.
- 19 **California Shakespeare Theater**, *King Lear*, through October 14, (510) 548-9666.
- 29 **Author Discussion**, 4 p.m. at Orinda Books. Irene Kwok Tom will discuss and sign copies of her new book, *The Mystique of Chinese Culinary Creations*.
- 30 **Friends of Orinda Creeks**, Creek Clean-Up, 10 a.m. to noon. Meet in parking lot at 23 Orinda Way. Focus: Downtown portion of San Pablo Creek. Wear gloves, long sleeves, and long pants.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events open to the public and are free unless otherwise marked.

- 4 **Lamorinda Reads!** kicks off with Thomas Steinbeck's *Down to a Soundless Sea*, through October 25.
- 11 **Toddler Lapsit**, 10 a.m., stories, songs, and bounces for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers. Repeats at 10:30. Also September 12, 18, 19, 25, 26. In Library Gallery Room.
- 15 **Saturday Morning Live!** Family story-time for 3- to 5-year-olds, 11 a.m. in the Toddler Alcove. Also September 22, 29.
- 19 **Book Discussion**, *Down to a Soundless Sea*, 7 p.m. In the Gallery Room.
- 25 **Fireside Chat**, 7 p.m.
- 27 **Story Swap for Adults**, sponsored by Contra Costa Tale Spinners and the Orinda Library, 7 to 9 p.m. Join professional and beginner storytellers to share and listen to funny, sad, foolish, and wise stories.
- 29 **Whale Bus!** In connection with "Lamorinda Reads!" families can visit this amazing vehicle to learn more about whales, dolphins, and porpoises, 2 p.m. Suitable for 5- to 12-year-olds. Second-graders and older may assemble the skeleton from a pilot whale; younger children perform "whale dress up."

For more information on library programs, call 254-2184.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Friends of Orinda Creeks**, Orinda Library, May Room, fourth Wednesday, 8 a.m., 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**, Postino's in Lafayette, 7 a.m. every Friday, 254-0440, ext.463.
- Orinda Lions Club**, Europa Restaurant, 64 Moraga Way, every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m., 254-0482.
- Orinda Rotary**, Community Center, every Wednesday at noon, 254-5537.
- Orinda Association**, Orinda Library, May Room, second Monday, 7:30 p.m., 254-0800.
- Orinda Historical Society**, third Wednesday of the month, OHS Museum, 3 - 5 p.m., 254-1353.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**, fourth Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Women's Club**, second Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., 254-3881.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Acalanes Union High School District

First and third Wednesdays, district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette, 7:30 p.m.

City Council

First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.ci.Orinda.ca.us.

Historic Landmarks Committee

Fourth Tuesday, 3 - 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, public is welcome, for information, please call 788-7323.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

Orinda Public Safety Advisory Commission meets the second Thursday of each month, 7pm, Community Room, City Hall.

Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees

Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road, www.orinda.k12.ca.us.

Planning Commission

Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 253-4210.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Second Wednesday, 7 p.m., Community Center, room 7, 254-2445.

CALENDAR BY CHRIS LAVIN

Send calendar items to chrislavin@earthlink.net

Lear Turns Fog into Storm at Bruns

By DOROTHY BOWEN
Staff Writer

If only Lear hadn't taken early retirement and divided his kingdom between his daughters. If only Cordelia would "make nice" to her father, instead of being such a stickler for truth telling. If only Edmund, the illegitimate son of Gloucester, weren't such an evil person. If only the weather on the heath weren't so inclement. If only....

Then the whole tragedy Shakespeare wrote might have turned out differently. Others, through the ages, have thought so too, and written improved versions of the famous play. From 1681 to 1838, the tragedy was given a happy ending and stripped of what was felt to be the barbarisms of a previous age. However, Cal Shakes is presenting the original tragedy of *King Lear* in all its gory glory.

The final production of the 2007 season will run September 19 through October 14. Audiences should bring handkerchiefs for the ending as well as ski jackets for weather at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda. Fog creates an appropriate setting, but an uncomfortable venue for the lightly dressed.

Jonathan Moscone, artistic director of Cal Shakes, explains why *Lear* was chosen for the final play of the 2007 season. "Given our time frame, we can reach the most



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lisa Peterson directs Cal Shakes' final production of the season *King Lear*.

students during the academic year. *Lear* is a play students should experience early on. It's a story about family and country. When the family falls apart, the country falls apart. When the father makes a bad decision, he is toppled and the country falls apart, again and again and again. Civilization has to reform itself. *Lear* is a masterpiece of the ramifications of human behavior on the world. It's great writing about love and about family."

Lisa Peterson will direct. Moscone calls the assignment a gift to her to direct the greatest play Shakespeare wrote. "She is highly intelligent and gifted and has directed Shakespeare, Shaw, and Brecht, as well as brand new plays," he said. Peterson is currently resident director at Mark Taper Forum. At Cal Shakes, she has previously directed *Love's Labour's Lost*, 2000, *Winter's Tale*, 2002, and *All's Well That Ends Well*, 2004.

Lear will be played by Jeffrey DeMunn, who trained at the Old Vic Theatre and performed in a Royal Shakespeare Company production of *King Lear* in New York. Making his debut at Cal Shakes, he is well known in off-Broadway productions and in movies and television. Cal Shakes associate artists in *Lear* include L. Peter Callender as Duke of Cornwall, James Carpenter as Earl of Gloucester, Julie Eccles as Regan, Anthony Fusco as Lear's Fool, and Andy Murray as Kent. The cast includes Sarah Nealis as Cordelia, Graham Sheils as Edmund, Delia MacDougall as Goneril, and Erik Lochfeld as Edgar.

Moscone concluded: "Lear travels to the heath and back. It's a journey that the world can never get enough of. It's a great way to end our season." Tickets are now on sale, \$15 - \$60, by calling (510) 548-9666. They can also be purchased at the Cal Shakes' ticket kiosk at Theatre Square. For information, visit www.calshakes.org.

Orinda Starlight Village Players



DAVE DIERKS

Heather McRobbie and Mark Holobetz perform a scene from the Orinda Starlight Village Players final production of the season, the wartime comedy *See How They Run*. The comedy continues Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. through September 15 at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheatre. Call 253-1191 for information.



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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

The pleasant staff is responsive to patients and sees to it that Dr. Walker stays on schedule.

Dr. Walker impresses patients with her calm and relaxed demeanor. She exudes a sense of well being. Walker thoroughly enjoys her work as a dermatologist, and it shows.

"I have always been interested in the sciences, and during high school, I volunteered at Marin General Hospital. My uncle, Dr. Eric Hisaka, is a plastic surgeon in Pleasanton, and he was a major influence in my decision to become a physician," explains Walker.

A graduate of the University of Southern California Medical School, she also did her residency at USC. After completing her training, Dr. Walker practiced dermatology in Malibu for six years, before moving back to the Bay Area in order to be closer to family.

Lucky for Orindans that Dr. Walker relocated her practice to 89 Davis Road, Suite 180, offering all-inclusive service. "Physician's assistant Nikki Satovsky, licensed clinical aesthetician Barbara Perez, and nutritionist Theresa Tsingis, D.C., M.S. are available to service our patients. Microdermabrasion, peels, and extractions are performed by Barbara Perez," says Dr. Walker, who adds that she sees entire families in her practice.

Dr. Walker offers a wide range of services including full body exams to screen for skin cancer, skin cancer surgery performed in her office, and treatment for severe acne and rashes. Cosmetic surgery is available, as well as a variety of anti-aging treatments such as laser, Botox, Restylane and Perlane, spider and varicose vein treatment, as well as hair removal. Physician strength skin care products are available for purchase, including Procyte and Skin Ceuticals.

"Interestingly, men are becoming very aware of the importance of good skin care. I see an equal amount of men and women in my practice. Businessmen are more in tune with having healthy skin," adds Dr. Walker. The very elderly to the very young seek treatment from Dr. Walker. "I enjoy treating the entire family, mom, dad, and the children," she adds.

"Laser and Botox procedures have become factories these days and are often done by a technician, which can be hazardous, since a technician is not trained to identify skin cancer," says Nikki Satovsky.

Dr. Walker was recently voted Best Dermatologist by the Lamorinda Moms Club, an honor she holds close to her heart, as well as having been recognized for three years in a row in Diablo Magazine's "Diablo Best Women" publication. In her spare time Dr. Walker enjoys travel locally to such destinations as the wine country and Carmel.

"In dermatology, whether it is skin cancer surgery or cosmetic surgery, we achieve results right away. I enjoy helping teenagers who are suffering from acne at a critical time in their life. My work is very gratifying," adds Dr. Walker.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 254-1080.

Peter A. Schneider, M.D., Orinda Urology, Inc.

Given there is not a urology medical practice between Berkeley and Walnut Creek, it is very fortunate for Orindans that Peter A. Schneider, M.D., F.A.C.S. opened Orinda Urology at 25 Orinda Way, Suite 100, this past spring, sharing offices with Berkeley Orthopedics. A graduate of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Schneider completed his residency at Yale. Prior to establishing Orinda Urology, he was in private practice in Berkeley for 20 years and in New York for three years.

"In my practice I treat both men and women. Urology is concerned with all cancers in the urinary tract, bladder, and kidney. The specialty also includes prostate cancer, testicle cancer, and male sexual and reproductive functions. All of the urinary complaints affecting both men and women including incontinence, blood in urine, and kidney stones fall under this medical specialty as well," says Dr. Schneider.

"If an individual is seeing a primary care physician on an annual basis, they will be checked and can be referred as needed. Certainly anyone who has blood in his or her urine needs to be evaluated for possible bladder cancer. If detected early, there is an excellent cure rate," adds Dr. Schneider.

Over the past 20 years the American Urological Association started pressing for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Peter Schneider of Orinda Urology.

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greater awareness around prostate cancer. "Research has revealed that African American men who have a history of prostate cancer, or who have female relatives with a history of breast cancer, are at greater risk of developing the disease. Men who fall into these groups are advised to have an annual check-up to screen for prostate cancer starting at age 40. Men who are not in these risk groups should undergo screening check-ups beginning at age 50," says Dr. Schneider. "Prostate cancer is very common. Men with this type of cancer often do not have a family history and that is why it is so important to begin annual screenings at age 50," he adds.

There are many factors involved in

deciding on the course of treatment for prostate cancer. "Sometimes the appropriate approach is to wait and see what develops. However, there are many options for men with prostate cancer including surgery, radiation, observation, and hormone treatments," Dr. Schneider elaborates.

An Orinda resident, Dr. Schneider is married to Kari Schneider. The couple has one daughter who attends Sleepy Hollow School. When not caring for his patients, Dr. Schneider enjoys playing tennis, hiking, and scuba diving in the British Virgin Islands.

For more information on Orinda Urology, call 253-1650.

Kristin Walker M.D., Inc.
General & Cosmetic Dermatologist
89 Davis Road, Suite #180
Orinda
(925) 254-1080

Dr. Walker, board certified dermatologist, offers care in general adult and pediatric dermatology, laser surgery, skin cancer surgery, and cosmetic dermatology. Her friendly and supportive staff can assist you with diminishing the effects of nature to reveal the real you underneath. Dr. Walker and her caring staff can help return the glow to your skin with the most advanced skin care lasers and technologies. Dr. Walker is proud to announce the addition of a Nutritionist and Aesthetician to her practice.

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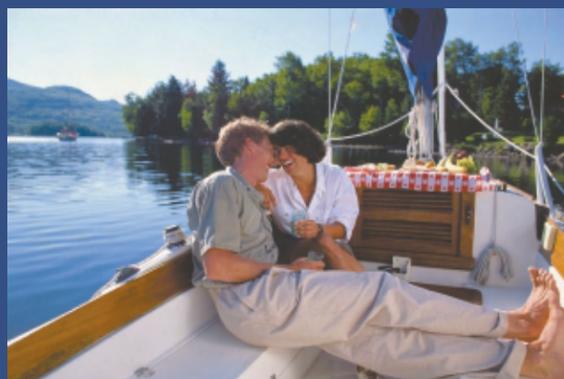
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Theatre Square is undergoing some renovations. Recent developments include the removal of the interior fountain, which was located outside Catherine Macfee & Associates Interior Design. This has created more space suitable for concerts in the plaza and other events. Build-outs and improvements are also underway in the space adjacent to Starbucks, where a new Subway sandwich shop is going in.



Valerie Hotz
Rosa and Victor Escudero own the popular Orinda Deli.

Orinda Deli Offers Delicious Fare
As the relatively new owners of Orinda Deli, Victor and Rosa Escudero offer an abundance of lunchtime selections, specializing in a variety of homemade salads that include a Chef's salad, Caesar salad, and pasta salad, chicken, crab, and tuna salads. This classic sandwich shop is located at 19 Orinda Way, near Village Pizza and adjacent to Hair 2000.

brownies for customers of the Orinda Deli, and these are a real treat.

Victor is originally from Peru. He worked in the bakery business for 30 years and most recently, he was the head baker at Acme Breads in Berkeley. "A few years ago I decided to go into business for myself. I was working 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the bakery, and I missed seeing my family. I chose to go into business so that I could see more of my wife and children," says Victor.

The shop is cool and cheery on a warm afternoon with tile floors, a knotty pine ceiling, and glass-top bistro tables featuring Renoir, Cezanne, and Toulouse-Lautrec prints. Recordings of Julia Iglesias are often heard in the background. The coffee bar is laid out on an attractive antique oak buffet; its mirror reflecting more Orinda sun throughout the shop. Outside on the sidewalk, Victor has placed white metal bistro tables alongside the blooming potted flowers.

His expertise as a bread baker is clearly evident at Orinda Deli, where customers have 10 different breads to choose from, including whole-wheat, multi-grain, and focaccia. "Everything we do here is homemade, and we are in the process of expanding our salad selection even further. At the moment, our homemade meatloaf and chicken and tuna salad are very popular. Of course we offer turkey, ham, bacon, lettuce, and tomato, and veggie sandwiches, as well," he says. Sandwich prices start at \$5.95.

"I like people and enjoy seeing my customers. We have regulars and some of them come almost every day. We really appreciate our customers. Pleasing them is our number one goal," smiles Victor.

A wide range of beer and sodas, including the popular Jones Soda flavors are available, as well as organic teas and coffee. Customers go for the kettle cooked Dirty Potato Chips, with no cholesterol. Rosa enjoys baking Peruvian pastry and

Victor and Rosa have been married for 17 years. Rosa is a teacher and, for the past eight years, she has been working with children who have special needs in the Richmond School District. The couple has two children, daughter Kezia is a 10-year-old and son Kerwin is nine. Victor is pleased to have made the change to owning his own business and having more time with his family. "There are times, however, when I miss baking bread," he admits.

Orinda Deli has expanded its catering operation and is especially adept at catering business luncheons, as well as providing hot lunches at Camino Pablo School in Moraga. For excellent service, fax your order in ahead of time to 254-1990. The Orinda Deli is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Dr. Kristin Walker, M.D.
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Sally Hogarty
Dr. Kristin Walker makes patients feel at home in the relaxed atmosphere of her dermatology office.

dermatologist for an annual check-up, one is immediately put at ease entering Dr. Kristin Walker's comfortable and relaxed office. The décor resembles a health spa more than a doctor's office. A slate-backed waterfall creates the soothing sound of running water and is surrounded by an abundance of beautiful, blooming white orchids. Warm yellow walls blend with golden brown tile flooring and the large windows provide views of the Orinda hills.

[SEE BUZZ page 23]