

THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
Volume 23, Number 4

The Orinda Association, Publisher
Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
April 2008

Local Group Launches Capital Campaign to Purchase the Orinda Theater

■ Impressive line-up of members includes honorary board member Kevin Spacey

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

After years of planning and frustrated negotiations, a group of Lamorinda residents has formed a new nonprofit organization poised to take over the Orinda Theater. The Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation (LFEF) is launching a \$4.3 million capital campaign to acquire the art deco facility from GLL BVK Properties, LLP, a German pension fund, which currently owns Theatre Square and the theater. The foundation would also take over the operating contract from Allen Michaan of Renaissance Realto.

According to Michaan, the Orinda Theater has been losing money for quite some time and is in jeopardy of closing. "It would be a shame to see this beautiful old building go the way of the Park Theater in Lafayette," he says. "The movie industry has been changing and more and more people are patronizing the megaplexes. I hope residents will rally behind this effort



SALLY HOGARTY
Board members of the Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation play around at the Orinda Theater. (L-R) Laura Abrams, Randy Holleschau, Kate Wiley, Father Mike Russo, Efi Lubliner (seated) David Mayeri and Jo Alice Canterbury.

by the foundation. It would be a tragic cultural loss and terrible for downtown business should the Orinda Theater close."

Randy Holleschau, president of LFEF, hopes to not only save the theater, but also

to make it a vital part of downtown Orinda. "We are currently meeting with a number of potential operators that can bring the right mix of entertainment to Orinda," Holleschau says. Actor Kevin Spacey, an honorary board member of LFEF, agrees, "We need to make an effort to preserve the legacy of great theaters like the Orinda Theater for future generations."

A founding member of LFEF as well as the Orinda Film Festival, Holleschau says

many of the large old theaters are closing and innovative programming is needed to preserve their legacy. He and other foundation members envision continuation of first-run films as well as foreign and independent films, celebrity screenings, and live entertainment. "We've also spoken with film festivals such as the Contra Costa Jewish Film Festival and California Independent Film Festival about using the Orinda Theater as their East Bay site. It would bring them a wider audience and

"We need to make an effort to preserve the legacy of great theaters like the Orinda Theater for future generations," Kevin Spacey says.

open their festivals to local residents who don't want to drive across the bay," he explains. Holleschau also sees the possibility of live comedy shows and music performances. "I've spoken to friends of mine at the Grand Old Opry, and they are very interested in bringing the Opry to [SEE THEATER page 20]

**OA Members
check page 3
for your April discounts!**

Mayor Outlines Priorities in State of the City Address

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

An enthusiastic audience greeted Mayor Victoria Smith on March 11 as she outlined city services and priorities. In addition to various city employees and local residents, members of Boy Scout Troop 49 used the occasion as part of the requirements for their Citizen's Badge. Sponsored by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, the state of the city address included refreshments by Dan Leff and tea service by Orinda Antiques.

Top Priority

The mayor cited Orinda's roads and drains as the city's biggest challenge. "We have 95 miles of the worst roads in the Bay



SALLY HOGARTY
Mayor Victoria Smith answered questions at her State of the City address in mid-March.

Area," she said. "According to the Transportation Authority, we have slipped below Richmond and are now rated last." The Orinda-based attorney and mother of two noted that the city's Oversight

[SEE MAYOR page 4]

Education is the Focus for Orinda's New Fire Marshall

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Michael Mentink believes that taking a proactive stance in fire education provides the best preventative for a devastating fire. "If each resident learns how to reduce the fuel on their property, it will go a long way to keeping Orinda fire safe," says the new fire marshall. "You can still have a beautiful, rural environment that is also fire safe."

He applauds former Fire Marshall Tonya Hoover for her work with the district's wildlife/urban interface analysis system. "Now we just want to get the word out to people to go to our website [www.mofd.org] and access the Firewise program to view their property," Mentink says. "It will help them understand what their risk factor is and what to do to reduce it." Mentink notes that choosing the right roof coverings, deck materials, and having double-pane windows will slow a fire, allowing the fire fighters time to put it out. A new sprinkler requirement for residential homes went into effect in January that will further reduce a home's risk of igniting. "A sprinkler system is like having a fire fighter with a charged hose in your house," he adds.



SALLY HOGARTY
Michael Mentink is the fire district's new fire marshall.

Mentink has 23 years in police and fire safety experience. He has been the deputy fire marshall for the San Ramon Valley Fire District for the past seven years. Mentick lives in San Ramon with his wife and two daughters. He can be reached at 925-258-4520.

Orindan Part of Academy Awards



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Orinda native Kathleen (Katie) Jordan worked as a press guide on the red carpet at this year's Academy Awards. Jordan currently works as a "Dustbuster" for Efilm in Hollywood where she digitally removes dust from films prior to theatrical release. Way to go, Jordan!

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Artspace Orinda Invites You to Meet the Artists

By BARBARA BONTEMPS
Contributing Writer

In conjunction with the year-long Artspace Orinda outdoor sculpture exhibition around the Library Plaza, Community Center, and City Hall, Orinda's Art in Public Places Committee is launching a "Meet the Artists" lecture series on April 12, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center. The series is designed to give interested community members an opportunity to meet the sculptors featured in the exhibition, to view a presentation about their work, and to discuss the creative process involved in developing their pieces. Artists participating in the first lecture include Archie Held, John Toki, and Gale Wagner.

Archie Held

Archie Held, whose striking metal triad "Negative" stands near the stairs at the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sculptor Archie Held will be among the artists at the April 12 event.

entrance to the Library Plaza, is an internationally recognized artist who has been creating sculpture since the late 1970s. Although not artistic as a child, he grew into it as a teen and went on to studies at UCLA for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees in painting, graphic arts and sculpture. He won the Jim Marcellus Memorial Award in sculpture before going to work as a welder to obtain some real-world experience in metal craft.

He founded the Archie Held Studio, based in Richmond, in 1985 and since that time has produced over 500 pieces of artwork. The studio currently employs a team of 14 talented artists and metal fabricators. His work is featured extensively in many public and corporate collections, including the City of Los Angeles, Auberge du Soleil Resort in Napa, the Bellagio in Las Vegas, and Chevron's headquarters in San Ramon.

Held works primarily in bronze and stainless steel; water is often used as a central element to further complement his simple and elegant large-scale designs. The appeal of his works stems from their simple and direct architectural framework, combined with a melding with the surrounding environment.

John Toki

Bay Area native John Toki has worked in clay for over 35 years, carrying on his family's Japanese traditional affinity with ceramics. A respected studio artist and adjunct professor at the California College of Arts in Oakland, Toki is also the president and owner of Leslie Ceramic Supply Company in Berkeley, which his parents founded 50 years ago. His works have been exhibited by the Oakland Museum, the Davis Art Center, and UC Berkeley, among others.

The integration of Western and Eastern ceramic traditions forms the basis of Toki's aesthetic. Growing up, he witnessed the powerful redirection of ceramics pioneered by Robert Arneson and Peter Voulkos, who were family friends, and though he initially

trained as a potter, his true calling evolved into the much larger-scale earthen sculptures we see today. His works, including "Springtime Whispers" and "Blue Motions" which are exhibited in front of the Community Center, possess a timeless quality and suggest an affinity for archeological artifacts. He sculpts the earth-toned clay and infuses it with vibrant porcelain color trails resulting in works that at once reflect long-standing tradition and notable innovation.

Gale Wagner

Wagner's whimsical "Outta Here," located in the Library Plaza fountain and featuring a colorful giant frog leaping out of the water, characterizes the artist's joy in creating art. Wagner was raised in the Midwest and his early introduction into metal sculpture was in creating toy airplanes out of the coffee cans and left-over wooden planks he found in his own back yard. He was also influenced by his observations of the assembly line at the Dart Truck Company where his father worked. It was there that he began to understand the malleability of iron and steel.

A recipient of an MFA from UC Berkeley, Wagner's large steel works utilize a range of materials from American culture and the natural world. Many of his pieces reflect his concern for the environment and our irresponsible use of natural resources. Thus, his themes often reflect the struggle between tension and harmony, balance, and



SALLY HOGARTY

Carrying on his family's affinity for ceramics, John Toki has two pieces on display in front of the Community Center.

imbalance. Ultimately, they are a celebration sparked by a love of the materials he uses. A Visual Arts Award-winner from the National Endowment for the Arts, his sculptures have been featured in exhibitions throughout the United States.

Future lectures will be held on May 17 and June 7 and will include more artists from the Artspace Orinda exhibition. For more information, contact the Community Center at 254-2445.



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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

Barnaby Beck Joins OA Board

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Barnaby Beck's business, HLW Workspace Solutions, Inc. finds homes for furniture, equipment, and more when a company needs to liquidate assets. Now, the knowledgeable businessman has found a home for his volunteer activities as a member of the Orinda Association's board.

The 10-year resident of Orinda was looking for an additional outlet for his volunteer activities and thought the OA would be a good match. "We often give to the local schools, and we're very involved with our youngest daughter's rowing with Oakland Strokes," he says. "I've been very impressed with the various activities of the OA and thought I could make a contribution." Beck jumped in with both feet and currently serves as co-vice president and treasurer of the organization. In his business, Beck often contributes furniture and equipment that can't be sold



SALLY HOGARTY
Barnaby Beck is co-vice president and treasurer.

through retail or wholesale channels to nonprofits such as churches, hospitals, and schools. "It's much better to donate a product rather than have it end up in a landfill," says Beck. "We try to be a green business and recycle as much as possible."

Beck and his wife have four daughters. The youngest is a junior at Miramonte High School.

Hurray for the Red, White and You!

By BARBARA BONTEMPS
Contributing Writer

■ Time to Party!

This year's Fourth of July celebration marks the 25th anniversary of Orinda's annual biggest party of the year. In keeping with this important milestone, the Orinda Association (OA), the City of Orinda, the Community Center Auxiliary, and the Orinda Arts Council have come together to create a multi-day festival of events and activities for the entire community to enjoy.

Not only will there be a traditional Tuesday evening Concert-In-The-Park on July 1. On July 2, Theatre Square will host a special evening: the "Reach for the Stars" art and wine gala. Then, on July 3, Orindans are invited to roll up their sleeves and pitch in to decorate the Community Park in preparation for the Big Day on July 4, when the whole city turns out for the traditional Fourth of July pancake breakfast, fun runs, parade, and fun and food in the park. "We really want to make this Independence Day a memorable one," says Kate Wiley, co-president of the Orinda Association, "and what better way to do so than to enhance all of our traditional events with another celebration at Theatre Square

– the perfect place for an elegant community party!"

Reach for the Stars

The Theatre Square gala on July 2 will be open to the public, with advance tickets available at the square or through the Orinda Association. Festivities will commence at 6 p.m. and will include a tasting of fine wines, delectable foods, and dancing to the Bay Area's own 10-piece Bob Claire Orchestra – which features a variety of jazz, rhythm and blues, soul and popular light rock hits. The orchestra has been enlivening local community events and private parties for nearly 10 years and is sure to have attendees boogying to their covers of Stevie Wonder, Steely Dan, Aretha Franklin, Eric Clapton, and Ella Fitzgerald, to name a few.

In addition to the wine, food, and music, Orinda Motors' Classic Car Show will be featured around the square and the theater. Beautifully restored vehicles from a variety of decades gone-by will be on view for local classic car enthusiasts, and owners will be on hand to answer questions from admirers.

A highlight of the evening, which will run until 10 p.m., will be a silent and live

[SEE PARTY page 6]

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to:

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

P.O. Box 97
24 Orinda Way (Lower Level Library)
Orinda, California 94563
Phone: 254-0800 Fax: 254-8312
www.orindaassociation.org

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Jim Luini, Kate Wiley
Co-Vice-Presidents	Barnaby Beck, Steve Meagher
Treasurer	Barnaby Beck
Secretary	Tony Ratner
Membership	April Meagher
July 4th	Cindy Powell



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The Last Roar of a Once Mighty Local Organization

Regretfully, the Orinda Lions Club has decided to return its charter to Lions International and close the local club. An important service organization in the City of Orinda since 1940, the organization once numbered over 75 members. Now, the membership has been reduced to six members with an average age in the mid-70s. According to club secretary Fred George, the remaining members decided they no longer had the manpower or energy to continue the necessary work.

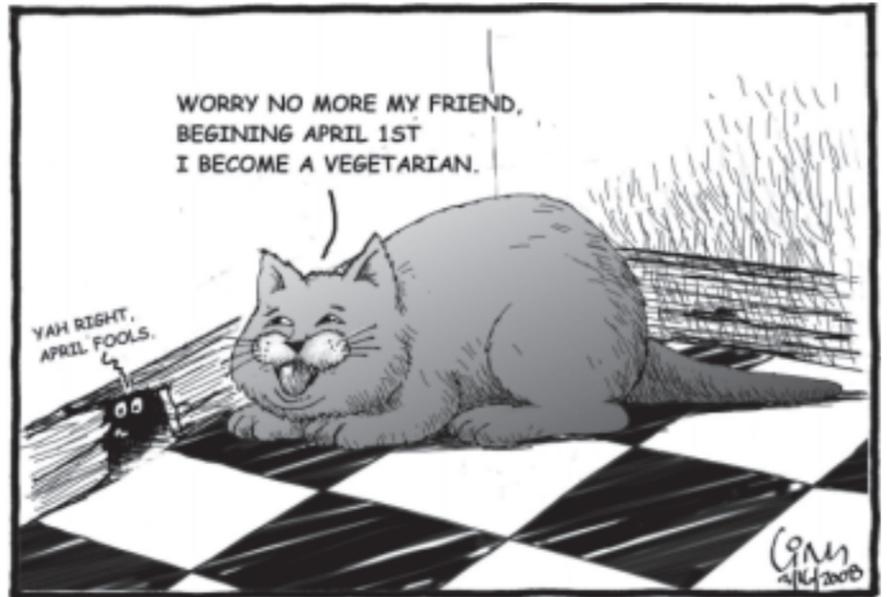
While this is certainly a difficult decision for these dedicated volunteers, they have much to be proud of. Since its inception, the Orinda Lions Club has contributed many thousands of dollars to support the blind centers in Oakland and Pittsburg, to

train Guide Dogs for the Blind, and to support such vision-related causes as Canine Companions. Local residents have filled the group's various collection receptacles around Orinda with thousands of used eyeglasses for distribution to those in need.

Although the Orinda Lions Club no longer exists, the needs of the blind remain. Contributions can still be made to Lions International via the Internet at www.lionsclub.org or by contacting the Oakland Blind Center.

Thank you, Orinda Lions, for a job well done. Your efforts have made the lives of many struggling with visual impairments a little bit better.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor



Letters to the Editor

Parcel Tax Keeps Library Open

On June 3, Orinda voters will have an opportunity to extend their library parcel tax, which passed in 2001 with 75 percent of the vote. This tax keeps our library open 60 hours a week instead of the 35 hours funded by the county. For only \$39 a year, Orinda residents have free access to hundreds of thousands of books, magazines, newspapers, CDs, DVDs, reference materials, trained librarians, and computers. It's hard to imagine a better bargain, especially for seniors on a fixed income. Thanks to our parcel tax, we have one of only four libraries in the county that is open seven days a week. Please help us maintain access to this wonderful collection, by voting yes on the library parcel tax in June.

— Linda Landau

Library Tax Too High and Hurts Seniors

The robbery rate in Orinda is about to go up – but not for the usual reasons. The Orinda City Council has voted unanimously to put a tax measure on the June 3 ballot. The measure, if passed, will increase the library property tax 44 percent.

While the amount of the tax increase seems small – from \$27 to \$39 annually – the increase is huge when measured in percentage terms.

A 44 percent increase is 11 times the annual rate of inflation, which was 4.1 percent in 2007. An inflation of 1 percent per year – not 4.1 percent – should be the maximal tolerable rate. The proposed library tax increase gives no relief to senior citizens, including those of modest means. The tax is also inherently unfair. A person living in a 40-room mansion will pay just as much as a person living in a two-room bungalow.

On March 1, 2008, garbage-collection fees in Orinda went up 14.7 percent. This

is no time to burden Orinda residents, especially senior citizens, with more government-related taxes and fees. Orinda voters should reject this massive 44 percent hike in library taxes.

— Richard S. Colman

Art in Public Places

Someone should stand up and applaud the efforts of those responsible for the sculpture exhibit in the library/Community Center Plaza! It's my pleasure to do so on behalf of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce Board, and the many businesses in town we endeavor to represent. Now that's what I'm talking about when I think of good things in town!

Last year, the arts council had the bird houses, this year the Art in Public Places Committee stepped in to give us this interesting group of modern sculptures. Glad to see anything that helps to make a vibrant downtown and supports the arts.

With a little help from the city, I've learned that much credit goes to Todd Skinner, Parks and Rec Director, and the other members of the Art in Public Places committee: Fellow architect Ted Urban was chairman, joined by Jane Zuercher, Friends of the Orinda Library; Sharon Simpson; Regina Almaguer; Francis Smith from the Arts Council; and Councilmember Amy Worth.

Kudos to all of you for being doers and making Orinda a better place to live and work. I understand your committee spent a year and a half finding the right Bay Area artists, who actually loaned the sculptures for the exhibit for 12 months. All costs including delivery and set up were donated from the Arts Council, Rotary, the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation and individual donors. The city provides insurance for the pieces.

I hope I speak for many of us in town when I thank you and the artists for your wonderful contribution.

— Rick Kattenburg, Orinda Chamber of Commerce

◆ MAYOR from page 1

Committee is looking at the most efficient way for Orinda to use its limited dollars as well as looking for new sources of funding. The committee is expected to give its recommendations to the city council within the next few months.

Plans are currently under way for the reconstruction of Moraga Way, which the mayor hopes will begin by May. "We have awarded the contract and want to get started and, hopefully, finished before Lafayette and EBMUD begins their road construction on Moraga Road," she explained. The \$2.8 million project will be financed by a \$1.3 million grant, city reserve funds, and the reprioritizing of budget items.

Housing Developments

Other key projects on the horizon include the 73 homes proposed by Pulte Development at the former Pine Grove Elementary School site on Altarinda Road and the 245-home Wilder development in Gateway Valley. The Environmental Impact Report for the Pine Grove site is under review with the planning department looking at a possible April certification. Currently in design review, the Wilder project plans on putting the first homes on the market in September of 2009.

The city has also received six proposals from developers for affordable senior housing to be built at the former library building at the corner of Orinda Way and Irwin Way. Following a review of the proposals, public workshops will be held. "This is your city," said Mayor Smith. "We want to get your opinion so we can make Orinda an even more wonderful place to be."

Other Projects

The Phairs building at Orinda Way and Avenida de Orinda may finally get developed as well. Currently under a contract of sale, the mayor expects to receive details of the proposed development

within the next few months.

The city council voted in February to proceed with a bicycle path master plan. A public meeting will be scheduled to receive public input from residents as well as from various bike clubs who use Orinda roads. "By having a master plan, we increase the opportunity for grants to pay for the project," Mayor Smith explained.

The mayor thanked the many volunteers who participate on the city's committees and commissions with particular thanks to the Orinda Chamber of Commerce for its Shop Orinda campaign. "We need to increase our sales tax revenue as much as possible – that and proceeds from property taxes are our main source of income," she said.

For more information on the city budget and upcoming projects, go to www.ci.orinda.ca.us.

Historical Society Looks For Local Olympians

The Orinda Historical Society will be honoring Olympians from Orinda at its May 21 program. Open to the public, the program will feature information on the many local athletes who have competed throughout the years at various Olympic events. "With the Beijing Summer Olympics fast approaching, this seemed an appropriate and interesting bit of local history," says Historical Society vice president Erik Andersen.

The Historical Society is looking for current or former residents of Orinda who have competed in the games, especially any going to Beijing. If you have any information on these individuals, contact the society at P.O. Box 82, Orinda, CA 94563 or by calling 254-1353.

The Orinda News prints 9,000 copies and is published 12 times a year by The Orinda Association. The office is located at 24 Orinda Way (lower level of the Library). All rights reserved. The publication is sent out by direct mail (Permit #4, Orinda Post Office) and distributed to key locations throughout the city.

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 Printing Folger Graphics

THE ORINDA NEWS

A Publication of
 The Orinda Association
 Mailing Address
 P.O. Box 97
 Orinda, California 94563
 Telephone: 925 254-0800
 Fax: 925 254-8312
www.orindanews.org



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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 May issue are due April 5, 2008.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the June issue is April 16, 2008.

POLICE BLOTTER / SPEAKERS



POLICE BLOTTER

February 2008

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 112 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Auto Burglary (theft from a locked vehicle): 2 incidents.

Petty Theft From Vehicle (theft of less than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 3 incidents.

All Other Petty Thefts: 1 incident.

Grand Theft From Vehicle (theft of more than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): No reported incidents.

All Other Grand Thefts: 3 incidents.

Vehicle Theft: 3 incidents.

Residential Burglary: No reported incidents.

Commercial Burglary: 3 incidents.

Vandalism: 1 incident.

Identity Theft: 1 incident.

Credit Card Fraud/Forgery: No

reported incidents.

Arrests

Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 1

Possession of Dangerous Drugs: 1

Under the Influence of Drugs: 1

Possession of Concealed Firearm: 1

Misdemeanor: 1

Arrest Warrant: 2

Hit & Run: 1

Driving Under The Influence: 3

Domestic Battery: 1

Domestic Violence – Injury of Spouse: 1

Child Abuse: 1

Brandishing A Weapon: 1

Petty Theft – Shoplifting: 1

Receiving Stolen Property: 1

Drunk In Public: 1

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
Orinda Police Department

Former U.S. Ambassador to Speak on Middle East Concerns



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
James Rosenthal will discuss the peace process in the Middle East on April 4.

process to see how far it has actually come and how far it has yet to go. "Admittedly, some of the hardest issues remain unsolved, but others have been settled over the years of negotiations. The case for continuing the process is clear and compelling."

A retired career foreign service officer and former U.S. ambassador, Rosenthal began his 34-year career with the U.S. State Department in 1956, following service as a U.S. Marine Corps officer. He spent more than half his career at diplomatic posts in Asia and in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the State Department.

Rosenthal also taught political science and international relations and was an
[SEE ROSENTHAL page 6]

By **BOBBIE DODSON**
Staff Writer

Ambassador James D. Rosenthal will speak on "The Middle East Peace Process – Past, Present, and Prospects" at the First Friday Forum on April 4. Held in the Fellowship Hall of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), 39 Knox Drive, Lafayette, the event begins at 1 p.m. with refreshments with the talk beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Rosenthal says, "The Arab-Israeli conflict continues to roil the Middle East and remains a top U.S. foreign policy concern. Peace still seems very elusive there, but the peace process itself has gone forward over the years, despite severe setbacks and disappointments at times." He feels it is instructive to look back on this

Leading Climate Modeler Speaks on the Future of the Earth

By **SALLY HOGARTY**
Staff Writer

The future of the Earth's climate will be the topic of discussion when scientist Bill Collins speaks at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on April 8 at 7:30 p.m.

A senior scientist and department head at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Collins will discuss how observations show that the Earth is warming at a rate unprecedented in recent history and that humans are the main culprits causing these atmospheric changes.

Collins heads an initiative to create a new kind of climate model that integrates cutting-edge climate science, which, hopefully, will give forecasters a better understanding of carbon and hydrological cycles and what can be done to slow down the process. He is currently a lead author and expert reviewer of the Fourth Assessment Report on the science of climate change, for which his team was awarded the Nobel Prize.

For more information, call Barbara Bisel at 925-377-5953 or email bsmithbisel@csu.com.



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **PARTY** from page 3

auction of 25 beautifully hand-decorated stars, created by local artists and coordinated by Allison McCrady specially for this event.

As with the Arts Council's successful *BirdHaus* event, the stars will be on display throughout Orinda prior to the event and community members will have an opportunity to bid on their favorites.

Monies raised will help the Orinda Association cover the costs of our annual Fourth of July activities.

In keeping with the city's "Shop Orinda" initiative, the OA hopes this event will encourage the community to turn out en masse for this festive evening.

Make it a Banner Year

Also new for this year's Fourth is an opportunity for families to lend their names to Orinda's Independence Day banners.

With the city's original Fourth of July banners reaching their life expectancies, OA is looking for families or businesses who would like to "see their name in lights." You can help the OA by purchasing a new Independence Day-themed banner and have your name proudly flying around the city. Interested families can contact Susan Meyer at susanmeyer@value.net for more information.

Reserve Your Booth

The Fourth of July is always a busy time in the Community Park, with beverage, food, arts and crafts, and non-profit organizations placed throughout the park grounds and around the Community Center and Library Plaza. If you are interested in reserving a booth for the Fourth, please call the Orinda Association at 254-0800 or visit

the OA website www.orindaassociation.org to download a booth application. Deadline for reserving a booth is April 15.

We Love A Parade

It's never too early to be thinking about your organization's presence in the annual parade. With "Reach for the Stars" as the theme, the Orinda Association wants to encourage school, church, swim club, family, or classic car owners to incorporate the theme as you march/drive through town on the Fourth. Lots of awards will be given – so be creative! Let's give those onlookers a 25th anniversary parade to remember!

◆ **ROSENTHAL** from page 5

assistant professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Locally, he served as executive director of the Commonwealth Club of California. Currently, he serves as chairman of the Foreign Service Association of Northern California, lectures on international affairs, and travels extensively. He received a bachelor of arts degree in international relations from Stanford University in 1954.

Caroline Giers, chair of the First Friday Forum series, invites all residents of the area to take advantage of this opportunity to become better informed about the Middle East peace process, which is one of the major issues of concern of our day. "Come with your friends and your questions," she says. "Also, mark your calendars for May 2 when the executive director of Hospice of the East Bay, Cindy Siljstrom, will speak on Hospice 101."

For more information, call 925-283-8722.

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Additional OA Members

The following Orinda residents' memberships were received after our March deadline. Thank you so much for your support.

- Burkhalter Trust
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- Anne Lagache
- Raim and Lily Regelson
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WRITING CONTEST / SENIORS



SALLY HOGARTY

A morning bingo game engages residents at Casa de Gracia (L-R) Caregiver **Andrea Lastimoso**, resident **Lillian Reichmuth**, caregiver **Agnes Abadicio**, director **Emily Marley**, and residents **Evelyn Fukuhara** and **Mary Andrada**.

Casa de Gracia Celebrates 10 Years of Helping Seniors

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Tahos Road, with its picturesque views, provides a tranquil setting for Casa de Gracia, an intimate assisted living facility providing personalized care 24 hours a day.

A family business, Casa de Gracia was begun by Dr. Lilia Ibabao 10 years ago and is currently run by her daughter, Emily Marley, a registered nurse. "We try to keep our residents as independent as possible," says Marley, who lives at the home with her husband Aaron and three children Chiara (9), Sienna (8), and Julien (5). "We are all one big family here. The residents

enjoy having the children around, and for the kids, it's like having all these grandparents," Marley adds.

Six seniors reside at Casa de Gracia with two caregivers plus Marley in attendance. Miramonte students also do volunteer hours at the residence. "Recently, we had Michele Dalziel and Jackie Marzan helping us," says Marley. "It was especially important to Jackie to do her service hours here because her grandfather had been a resident."

Marley feels it is important to keep residents as active and engaged as possible, and she tries to personalize activities to meet the interests of the various residents.

[SEE CASA page 20]

Friends of Orinda Library Sponsors Contest for High School Writers

■ Four prizes of \$250 to be awarded

By PAT RUDEBUSCH
Assistant Editor

Orinda high school students are invited to enter original works in the Poul Anderson Writing Contest. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library, the annual contest seeks entries in four genres: short story, essay, poetry, and science fiction. Four prizes of \$250 each will be awarded to the winning entrants.

Poul Anderson, for whom the contest is named, was an acclaimed science fiction writer who lived in Orinda until his death in 2001. Anderson was inducted into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in 2000 and his book, *Genesis*, won the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for best

science fiction novel that same year. The author of more than 100 novels and publications, Anderson received numerous awards for his work, including three Nebula Awards and seven Hugo Awards.

Pam Pulley, president of the Friends of the Orinda Library, says that her group is pleased to sponsor the annual writing contest as it is a fitting way to pay tribute to Anderson's illustrious career as an author while at the same time encouraging the next generation of budding writers.

Any student attending high school in Orinda is eligible to enter the contest. The deadline for submission is 5 p.m., April 25, with entries left at the Orinda Library. Complete rules and entry forms can be found at the reference desk of the Orinda Library or on the Friends of the Orinda Library website at RLINK www.ccclib.org/friends/ori.

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Between the Lines

Photographer Liebovitz, Author Greer
Head for Orinda



Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books

In April, two women of breathtaking talent, both of whom helped shape women's roles in their chosen professions, will be featured at Orinda appearances — Germaine Greer and Annie Leibovitz.

Orinda Books will present Germaine Greer at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the Orinda Library, to discuss her new book about Ann Hathaway, entitled *Shakespeare's Wife*. Photographer Annie Leibovitz will sign copies of her book, *A Photographer's Life: 1990-2005*, at 1 p.m., Thursday, April 17 at Orinda Books. Images from that collection are on view at San Francisco's Legion of Honor through May 25.

Greer has informed, shocked, challenged, and entertained us for more than 30 years. In *The New Yorker*, Katha Pollitt wrote, "With the publication of *The Female Eunuch*, in 1970, Greer burst into international celebrity — an inescapable media presence, brash, brilliant, and beautiful, as exotically plumed as some wild Australian bird and equally given to preening."

Greer's new book, *Shakespeare's Wife*, gives a thorough makeover to the traditional image of Ann Hathaway, that of the neglected wife of brilliant Will, who was left back home in Stratford while her young husband caroused about London. After his death in 1616, Ann was left only his "second best bed."

Greer claims that she has always disliked literary biography, classing it as lesser writers feeding on their betters, but that she became so annoyed at images of Hathaway in current biography that she felt she owed Ann's ghost an exhumation. Like most scholarly work on Shakespeare's life, informed conjecture is all-important, and Greer's previous studies of Renaissance England have given her a great deal of authority as she draws a vivid picture of 16th century Stratford and Hathaway's life there. She suggests that Ann, rather than being abandoned, had the strength of character to send her beautiful talented boy off to make the fortune in London that he could not achieve in Stratford.

Whether or not Greer's interpretation of Ann Hathaway's and Will Shakespeare's life together is more accurate than the misogynist pictures other scholars have drawn, it is great fun. Min Wild, reviewing

Shakespeare's Wife in *The Independent*, concludes, "without new evidence, nobody will ever be able to take the bag off Ann's head, but at least here she is a different — indeed a much more plausible and interesting woman from the customary 'Ann Hathaway,' the haggard old harpy who snared lovely Will and prevented him from frolicking off across a Welsh beach with Gwyneth Paltrow."

Our second superstar, Annie Leibovitz, has Bay Area roots. While a student at the San Francisco Art Institute in the '70s, she started her legendary career as a photographer for *Rolling Stone*, then a fledgling San Francisco magazine. She soon became its principal photographer, defining the look of the magazine with intimate portraits of celebrities, culminating in what publisher Jan Wenner calls their greatest cover ever, the portrait of John Lennon and Yoko Ono taken on the eve of his death. Since the '80s, her work has appeared regularly in *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue*, and has been exhibited throughout the world to international acclaim.

Her 2006 book, *A Photographer's Life: 1990-2005*, and the current exhibition at the Legion showcases much of her best work — she calls it "the closest thing to who I am that I've ever done" — combining her professional portraits with personal pictures of her family and friends, including the incredibly moving, celebrated, and controversial images of her relationship with Susan Sontag.

Leibovitz's book tells the real story of the life of a working photographer, a woman with a unique ability to get inside the heads of her subjects, whether that subject is a pregnant Demi Moore, Mikhail Baryshnikov on the beach, a washerwoman in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, or Sontag holding Leibovitz's own sleeping newborn baby on her lap. It is a privilege for Orinda Books to host Annie Leibovitz and pay tribute to this landmark collection of photographs — both those taken as part of her professional assignments and those taken as labors of love.

Book Groups Alert:

A strong woman's story just out in paperback will generate a lively discussion as a book group selection: Try *Petropolis* [SEE LINES page 18]

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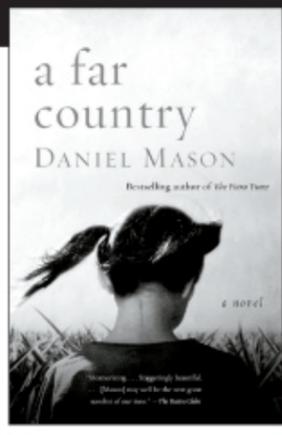
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FAMOUS AUTHORS / HOME SWEET HOME

Orinda Books Scores Greer ...
and That's Not AllBy CHRIS LAVIN
Assistant Editor

You wouldn't think of it happening back then ... but people really did line up, just to see a book. Not to buy a book – they wouldn't dare with this one – but to look at it. It was 1970, and Germaine Greer had come out with *The Female Eunich*. She even had the audacity to name one of her chapters "The Wicked Womb."

"It really was the first of its kind, and it was so exciting to be selling it," said Janet Boreta, who has owned and maintained



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acclaimed author Germaine Greer will be at Orinda Library auditorium on April 12.

Orinda Books since that pivotal decade. "It was such a shocking book at the time. [Greer] didn't pull any punches."

Nowadays, people will come in to buy a book, but back then, with *Eunich*, people wanted to approach it first, like coming up to a sleeping lion to poke it, testing its potential danger.

In a way, Greer has arrived – along with Boreta. In a day when independent bookstores are becoming disposable, the 78-year-old owner will see not only the feminist Greer but renowned photographer Annie Liebovitz cross the threshold at her independent bookstore.

"I'm very excited about having such important women, strong women, coming to our bookstore," said Boreta, who has had the life of a feminist, herself. Boreta graduated with honors from Stanford University in the 1950s, at a time when "most women were trained to be teachers or nurses, but that was about it."

Greer will sign copies of her newest book, *Shakespeare's Wife*, about the life of Ann Hathaway, after her talk at the Library Auditorium at 1 p.m., April 12. Greer is already taking heat from international reviewers, who say she cannot possibly extrapolate such detail about Hathaway's life and desire to see her "Will" become a successful playwright. Yet, Greer does make assumptions about Hathaway's life, who lived largely alone and raised children by herself, and seems entirely convincing.

Shakespeare's Wife was released in Britain last year, and makes its U.S. debut April 8. The author lives in Australia, but will be on her U.S. book tour.

Liebovitz will visit the bookstore at 1 p.m., April 17, to sign copies of a book featuring some of her most renowned photos of celebrities, entitled *A Photographer's Life: 1990-2005*.

"Her sister lives here in Orinda," Boreta said. "She's coming for a family visit, so we got her, too."

HOME SWEET HOME

Choosing a Contractor or
Handyman Part 2

Janice Gatlin



Do you need a handyman, or a contractor? Each has a different license designation, and it depends on what you need for your project.

A licensed contractor in California will have a designation associated with his or her license that describes the type of work that contractor is permitted to do. There are three general categories:

1) General engineering contractor, designated by "A,"

2) General building contractor, designated by "B," and

3) Specialty contractor, designated by "C."

The general engineering contractor has specialized engineering knowledge and skill and is typically involved in public works or industrial projects. The general building contractor usually does residential and/or commercial contractor work and can perform multiple trades. Specialty contractors are limited to the particular trade of their license, such as drywall or plumbing work.

Which type of company to use? Construction companies range from one-person operations to those with hundreds of employees.

The smaller the project, the fewer people need be involved. Anything from "honey-do" work up through a bathroom or straightforward kitchen remodel can be handled by a one- or two-person general contracting company. However, some contractors will hire specialty subcontractors for each step of your project. If you

are considering this type of contractor, you'll have many more people in your home, and your contractor will need to be there more often to supervise. For larger or very labor-intensive projects, your contractor will likely have a crew.

When talking to a potential contractor, ask him or her who is going to do the work, how many people will be needed, and how long it is expected to take. If you hire a local company that uses the same subcontractors or employees on each of its jobs, you have a greater assurance that these same folks will still be there for you for any warranty calls and for future work.

In the next in this series you'll learn how to be a conscientious client and get the best out of your contractor.

Janice Gatlin is a licensed general contractor and owner of Always the Best Home Repairs and Construction www.ATBRemodel.com.

Eagle Scout Makes Dean's List at University of Colorado

Max Gompertz achieved a grade point average of over 3.75 this fall to make the Dean's List at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he is a freshman. The Miramonte graduate had organized the MS Walkathon last summer as his Eagle Scout project, earning over \$10,000 for research on muscular dystrophy. Gompertz had also received a scholarship from the Sisto Family Foundation, which awards one scholarship per year to an outstanding student and Eagle Scout. "I'm sure the Sisto family will be pleased that their investment in Max was a good one," says Max's father, Michael Gompertz.

– Sally Hogarty, Editor



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Way to Grow in Orinda
Choosing a Landscape Maintenance Contractor can be Challenging



Steve & Cathy Lambert

Is your service doing a good enough job? You might be thinking about hiring someone to care for your lawn and garden. Why pay for a professional landscape maintenance company? Most homeowners do it to protect their investment, to save time and trouble, and to make sure the job gets done right.



STEVE LAMBERT
A well-maintained garden with its colorful blooms.

If you've invested in your property by improving your landscape, you can safeguard that asset and allow it to grow by hiring a well-trained and reliable maintenance contractor. Your garden needs more than just a weekly mow and blow to thrive. It also needs proper pruning, fertilizing, and irrigation system checks.

If you're like most Orinda homeowners, you are maxed out with work, family obligations, and social commitments. Time, as they say, is at a premium. Often yard work that isn't essential gets left to a chance weekend when the kids don't have baseball or soccer games. Hiring a yard service company can free up a substantial chunk of time. It is a luxury to come home at the end of the workweek to see the lawn mowed and the yard tidied.

Just the thought of operating a mower is intimidating to some, not to mention changing the oil and sharpening the blade. With so many skills to master, it's no wonder that homeowners contemplate turning the job of yard care over to an expert. That said, there's much more to properly managing and maintaining a quality landscape. It takes a whole heap of horticultural knowledge and training to know when and where to plant which annuals, how to spot early signs of disease and prevent them from spreading, how much and when to fertilize or prune in order to achieve optimum performance from your plants and trees, how and when to fertilize and aerate your lawn so it remains lush, green, and weed-free, and how to manage the irrigation system when it's in need of repairs or adjustments to watering times and amounts or spray head direction.

Is your current landscape maintenance company doing a good enough job? Your maintenance company should be the

steward of your garden. It's their responsibility to make certain the vision and intent you and your landscape designer had for your garden is sustained through their maintenance program. As a designer, it's frustrating to visit an installed garden to find it being maintained in a manner that results in a completely different look than the client and designer intended.

Because of such mistakes, we have created Cathy and Steve's Top 9 Poor Maintenance Pet Peeves and Tell-Tale Signs that Your Maintenance Company is Not Cutting It.

1. The tree is holding up the stake instead of the reverse.
 2. Too many green meatballs. Landscape plants are all too often pruned improperly or all into the same shape. Each type of shrub has a different pruning technique and style.
 3. The hacker technique. Large-leaved plants pruned or hedged with power shears resulting in ripped and torn leaves with brown edges create hazy, dirty-looking plants.
 4. Cutting off the flowers. Pruning
- [SEE GROW page 18]




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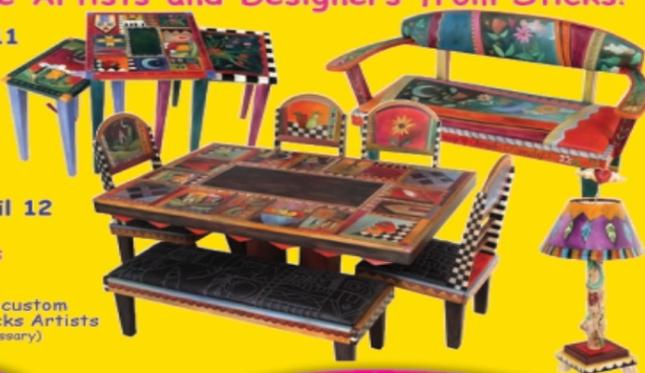
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SUMMER CAMPS

It's Time to Sign Up for This Year's Summer Camps

By CHRIS LAVIN
Assistant Editor

It's that time of year again, when summer vacation approaches and long days without school loom on the calendar. Now is a good time to start looking at quality programs for kids and teenagers to enjoy. From sports programs to training courses, someone in the area is offering something that can fit. This listing is meant to be a guide for you – contact the source for brochures and more information.

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The following is a listing of some of the camps offered through the Orinda Community Center.

OK Camp "Orinda Kids Camp" for ages 3 1/2 to kindergarten; daily activities include crafts, music, games, hiking, and nature study presented in an enjoyable atmosphere: June 16 - August 15.

OK Corral offers supervised lunch and playtime at the Kinderym following OK Camp. Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 1:30 p.m.; session corresponds with OK Camp.

Camp Orinda, for ages 6 to 10 1/2, five-nine- and 10-day camps including Wilderness Adventure June 16-27, Mad Scientists June - August.

Chess Camps, ages 5 to 14, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, June 23-27, July 21-25, and August 4-8. Cost \$187.

Babysitting for Beginners Camp for ages 10 to 15, June 23 - 26, 10 a.m. to noon. Teaches skills needed to be a trusted and responsible babysitter.

Carpentry Camps offered Monday-



Young dancers in the Community Center's hip hop class finish a dance routine.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thursday throughout the summer. Boys and girls entering grades K to 6 learn to use hammers, saws, drills, and other basic hand tools to make projects out of wood.

Cooking Camps, ages 4 to 5 with Busy Bee, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. June 23-27, and German Cooking for ages 6 to 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the same week. Cost \$110 plus \$20 material fee includes bound cookbook.

Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop, and Tap Dance Camps, for groups ages 5 to 8 and 8 to 12, 9 a.m. to noon, August 4-8 and August 11-15. Cost \$145.

Scottish Dance Camp, Aug. 18 - 22, 10 a.m. to noon.

Kids on Camera, physical comedy, scripts, ages 4 to 12, Aug. 11-15.

Rock 'N Roll Band Camps, July 21-25, Aug. 4-8.

Additional Dance and Theater Camps: The Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with Kids'N Dance sponsors a large variety of

dance and theater camps throughout the summer. Classes for ages 3 to 5 include Dora, Princess, Animation Favorites, and Happy Feet dance [SEE CAMPS page 12]

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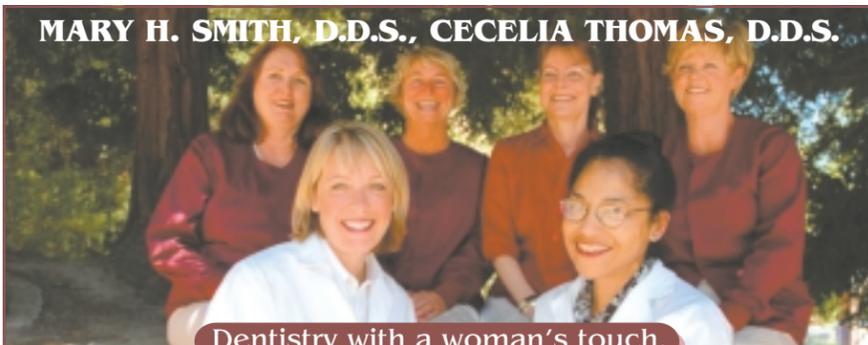
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◆ CAMPS from page 11

camps. Theater camps for ages 4 to 14 culminate in such productions as *High School Musical*, *The Lion King*, and *The Wiz*, to name just a few. Call 254-2445 for details.

Improv! Camp for Teens, 2 to 5 p.m. June 16-26, with performance on June 26. Cost \$200.

Skyhawks Sports
Mini-Hawk Soccer, Baseball & Basketball for ages 4 to 7, provides a no-pressure way for young children to explore various sports camps held at the city fields behind JFK 9 a.m. to noon; June 16-20, July 21-25. Cost \$151.

Multi-Sport for ages 5 to 11, teaches the fundamentals of soccer, baseball, football, and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 Last year, Town Hall Kids presented Disney's *The Jungle Book*. (L-R) Annie Midthun, Jessica Thomas, and Aleah Pagan portrayed the three vultures.

Art Around the World Camps with Art in Action, June 16 - 20, 23 - 27, 30 - July 3, 9 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. Ages 4 1/2 to 9.

Science and Engineering Camps, co-sponsored with Mad Science of Mt. Diablo include Playwell, Technology, Lego camps, and more offered throughout the summer, for ages 5 to 14. Call 254-2445 for details.

Flag Football, ages 6 to 12, 9 a.m. to noon; July 7 - 11 and August 4-8. Cost \$151.

Golf, ages 5 to 8, 1 to 4 p.m. July 14-18. Cost \$161.

basketball; camp held at Orinda Intermediate School 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; August 18 - 22.

Challenger British Soccer for ages 4 to 12; whole and half-day soccer for ages 6 to 16; Sessions June - August.

Tennis Camps & Clinics for ages 4 to 16; offered throughout the summer; morning and afternoon sessions available.

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[SEE CAMPS 1 page 13]

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SUMMER CAMPS

◆ CAMPS 1 from page 12

Dr. James Fiatarone, Director
99 Brookwood Road
Orinda, CA 94563
254-5056 or 254-5053

This camp offers a create-your-own program. It includes private lessons in music, including guitar, piano, voice, strings, wind instruments, and percussion; also, private and group lessons in foreign languages and English as a second language.

California Shakespeare Theater
701 Heinz Street
Berkeley, CA 94710
510-548-3422 ext. 127
www.calshakes.org

Cal Shakes Summer Theater Camp helps students ages 8 to 18 discover their artistic voices through Shakespearean training programs taught by performing artists. Campers receive free tickets to the Cal Shakes' season. Scholarships are available.

Five-Week Camp for learning all aspects of performance; 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 16 - July 18 at Bentley Upper School in Lafayette. Cost \$1,275. Interview required before on-line registration.

Two-Week Conservatory a condensed version of the five-week session for students new to the Cal Shakes summer camps or those unable to attend the longer session, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 28-August 8 at Holy Names High School in Oakland. Cost \$475.

Two-Week Camp, two sessions, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 14-25 at Orinda Community Center, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 28 - August 8 at Fairmont Elementary in El Cerrito. Cost \$450.

Saint Mary's College Hearst Art Gallery
1928 Saint Mary's Road
Moraga, CA 94575-5110
925-631-4069
www.stmarys-ca.edu/arts/summer-art-camp.html

Summer Art Camps and workshops will be offered through St. Mary's College Hearst Art Gallery; programs for older elementary, intermediate, and high school students, as well as parent-child workshops. For more information, visit the website.

Summer Drama Camp
P.O. Box 6145
Moraga, CA 94570
925-300-8337
www.afterschooldramaclub.com

Students in grades 3 to 8 work with professional directors and choreographers to learn singing, dancing, and acting as they prepare for their stage production.

Alice in Wonderland, 1 to 4 p.m. July 7-25. Performance July 25 at 7 p.m. Cost \$500. 1 to 4 p.m. Performance July 25 at 7 p.m. Cost \$500.

Willows Theatre Company
1975 Diamond Blvd.
Concord, CA 94520
925-798-1300
www.willowstheatre.org

SummerStage: for students entering grades 7 to 13. Classes will be held June 16 - July 27. Performances are July 24 - 29 at the Willows Theatre.

SummerStage Junior: for students entering grades 3 to 6. Taught by theater professionals with extensive experience working with kids. Classes will be held at location not decided yet; dates are June 16 - July 12.

SummerStage Mini: for students entering grades kindergarten to 2; teaches basics of stagecraft using theater games, improvisation, storytelling, voice, and movement training. Session A, June 16 -20; Session B, June 23 - 27.

SPORTS-RELATED

Bottomley Farm
Bear Creek Road
Briones Valley, CA 94553
925-228-3766

Summer Horse Lessons for all ages. Program provides an intensive learning experience focusing on dressage and natural



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Bottomley Farms has been providing summer riding lessons as well as lessons in proper care of horses and equipment to generations of local residents.

horseman techniques as well as proper care of the animals and equipment; small classes limited to five students; all participants must supply their own properly fitted SEI or ASTM approved helmet and appropriate riding boots.

Oakland Strokes
115 Embarcadero East
at Oakland Estuary
510-652-6445
www.oaklandstrokes.org

Summer Rowing Camps are designed to introduce beginning rowers to the sport of crew and experienced students conditioning and continuing classes. The camp provides training in rowing technique, fitness, and teamwork. Participants must be 12 to 18 years old and capable of passing swimming test; morning (9 a.m. to noon) and afternoon (1 to 4 p.m.) sessions beginning June 2. Complete details on [SEE CAMPS 2 page 14]

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◆ CAMPS 2 from page 13
website. Sessions are \$210 each if registered by April 15; \$260 per session thereafter.

St. Mary's College
P.O. Box 5100
Moraga, CA 94575
925-631-4386
www.smcgaels.com

Saint Mary's College Athletic Summer Camp offers high-quality athletic instruction for students ages 7 to 18 from June - August. Week-long programs (Sunday - Thursday) are offered in a wide variety of sports at various skill levels for boys and girls; campers may choose either the resident or day camp format.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURE

Deer Hill Ranch
3232 Deer Hill Road
Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-1197
www.deerhillranch.org

Deer Hill Ranch in Lafayette. DHR runs week-long Summer Camp programs from June 16 - August 8 for kids ages 5 to 12. In addition

DHR offers a Counselor in Leadership Training program for youth ages 13 to 15. Camps are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and range in price from \$345 - \$370/week. You can call 925-283-1197 or go on-line for more information, and to register.

Little Explorer's Camp for ages 5 to 6 1/2; campers take care of farm animals and learn about the principles of organic gardening and sustainable agriculture.

Junior Explorer's Camp for ages 7 to 9; campers take care of farm animals and become familiar with the principles of organic gardening and sustainable agriculture.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
1931 First Avenue
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
925-627-2926
www.wildlife-museum.org

Wild Times Summer Science Camps introduces students to science and nature through animal interactions, games, and arts and crafts. Opportunities for older students (12 to 15) to help as camp counselors. Brochures available at the museum.

Animal Families, ages 4 to 6; two sessions, 1 to 3:30 p.m., July 7-11, and 9:30 a.m. to noon, July 28 - August 1. Cost \$105, members \$80.

Animals of the World, ages 6 to 9; 1 to 4:30 p.m., July 14-18. Cost \$125, or \$100 for members.

Amazing Animal Bodies, ages 6 to 9, 1 to 4:30 p.m., July 21-25. Cost \$125, or \$100 for members.

Behind the Scenes, ages 10 to 12, 1 to 4:30 p.m., August 4-8. Cost \$150, or \$125 for members.

Oakland Zoo
P.O. Box 5238
Oakland, CA 94605
510-632-9525, Ext. 280
www.oaklandzoo.org

The Oakland Zoo offers week-long camps, and starting this year, second-week camps are available without repeating activities from the first week. Campers from age 4 through 5th grade learn about nature and animals through hands-on experiential learning, as well as puppet play, games, craft projects, and science activities. Extended care options are available. Also new this year, middle school campers can spend the night.

Weeks begin June 16 - August 15.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saklan Valley School in Moraga provides a variety of educational and performing arts programs during the summer months.

Roughing It Day Camp
P.O. Box 1266
Orinda, CA 94563
925-283-3795
www.RoughingIt.com

A traditional outdoor day camp located at the Lafayette Reservoir for ages 4 1/2 to 16 years, with an emphasis on extended stays. Four- and eight-week sessions build friendships, teamwork, skills, and confidence. Transportation provided from home and central pick-up spots. Extended day programs, Junior High Camper in Leadership Training and Junior Counselor programs also available. ACA accredited. All sessions begin June 23, check the website for four- and eight-week differentiations.

PRESCHOOL/SCHOOL-BASED

Dorris Eaton School
1847 Newell Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
925-933-5225
www.dorriseaton.com

Dorris Eaton offers a six-week summer program beginning in mid June that balances education and recreation for elementary school-aged children as well as two three-week sessions for preschool students. All classes are taught by Dorris Eaton faculty.

Academic Enrichment for students entering grades kindergarten through grade six; classes are grade level-specific and provide a preview of the upcoming academic year.

Mini Camp for students entering grades kindergarten through grade six; can be as an extension to the Academic Enrichment program or separately; hands-on science, arts and crafts, and cultural activities, as well as swimming are

[SEE CAMPS 3 page 15]

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- Amy Chen

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WORLD TRAVELER

◆ CAMPS 3 from page 14

offered; students may enroll in Monday - Friday or Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; June 25 - August 3, noon to 4 p.m.; extended care options available.

Preschool for students entering the school's pre-kindergarten or transitional kindergarten program in the fall; program is designed to enrich students' classroom and social skills as well as further develop their small and large motor skills; Session I, June 25 - July 13, Session II, July 16 - August 3; both sessions are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; held at the school's Alamo campus.

Galileo Educational Services
4660 Harbord Dr.
Oakland, CA 94618
510-595-7293
www.campgalileo.com

Camp Galileo offers week-long programs throughout the Bay Area, from Lafayette to Marin. Science and art projects vary; check the website for the best location and programs for you. Programs begin June 16 and continue through August.

Holy Shepherd Church
433 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org

Fun in the Sun for ages 2 1/2 to entering first grade; enjoy summertime activities in a small class environment; songs, games, cooking, arts and crafts, and water play; various dates throughout summer, 9 a.m. to noon with option for extended care until 2 p.m.

Orinda Academy
19 Altarinda Road
Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-7553

www.orindaacademy.org

Orinda Academy offers fully accredited (W.A.S.C.) academic classes for high school students. Classes meet state requirements and are U.C. approved. Two sessions offered: June 22 - July 15 and July 17 - August 8 (no classes July 4 or 11).

Academic Courses offered for high school credit include algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2/trigonometry, U.S. history, and English literature for students in grades 9 to 12; students may take two semester classes or one full-year class; Classes for both sessions are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Basic Skills Review for junior high students; English and literature, and general math; classes for both sessions are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Critical Reading and Writing SAT Skills geared toward developing reading, writing, and studying skills to help students perform better on the SATs; second session only.

SAT Math review of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry in preparation for the SATs.

Saklan Valley School
1678 School Street
Moraga, CA 94556
925-376-7900
www.saklan.org

Early Childhood Program for children entering preschool (must be 3 by June 1 and potty trained) or kindergarten, provides a theme-based program, educational and fun art activities, story telling, science and nature exploration, cooking projects, games and outdoor play; swim lessons will be offered at a Moraga pool. Sign up is by the day (three day minimum per week) or by the week, morning (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) or afternoon (12:30 to 4:30 p.m.) or full day.

Elementary School-Aged Program consists of both a morning and afternoon program. The morning program takes place in three sessions, each three weeks long. Both programs which can be combined to make a full day include: **All the World's a Stage!** with a performance at the end of the session; June 12 - 30; **Science and Discovery** life science, physical science, and earth science; July 3 - 21; **Camp Creative** focusing on studio arts and crafts; July 24 - August 11.

Elementary Afternoon Recreational Program is for elementary school-aged children attending Camp Saklan; program includes daily recreational swim at a swim center followed by a choice of activities including a soccer clinic, softball, and Frisbee; 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

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Stand a few inches in front of a knee-high chair, facing away from it. Lift your left leg in front of you, keeping it as straight as you can. Raise hands in front of you for balance.



Slowly squat on your right leg, keeping your knee aligned with your toes until your butt lightly touches the bench.

Stand back up, keeping left leg straight and lifted. If you can only go a few inches to start, that's fine. Work up to the deeper squat. Do all reps then switch legs to complete the set.

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Miramonte High School Junior Prom: Arabian Nights



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Junior Class officers (L-R) **Colin Cramer** (vice president), **Stacey Rosenzweig** (treasurer), **Nika Saki** (president), and **Emily Rhodes** (secretary) have been planning the annual event for months. Scheduled for May 3, the prom takes place at the Golden Gate Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel in Concord. Ten luxury coach buses will transport students from Miramonte to the Hilton Hotel. The evening includes a three-course dinner featuring Middle Eastern themed-cuisine followed by dancing and special entertainment provided by an Arabian princess, Tarot and palm readers, and belly dancers.

Wagner Ranch Round-Up Takes Place April 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kyle McKeen stakes out his favorite cake at last year's Round-Up.

By SALLY HOGARTY
 Editor

It's time once again to dust off those Western boots and cowboy hat and head on over to Wagner Ranch's annual Round-Up.

The event is a fun way to get to know other families at the school while raising much-needed funds for school programs.

This year's event takes place April 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features a BBQ, lots of games, pony rides, a cake walk, inflatable amusements, a bake sale, and much more. Entertainment will be provided by The Crisis, a versatile five-piece band featuring Wagner Ranch mom Ali Wegener. The group plays classic rock cover songs such as "Landslide," "Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours" and "Songbird."

The Round-Up is open to the general public. So, grab yourself a partner and come on down.

For more information, contact Wagner Ranch Elementary School at 925-258-0016.

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OIS Presents
Beauty and the Beast April 23-26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 Director Clive Worsley directs students in the upcoming production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Based on the French fairy tale, the story of transformation and redemption is told with humor as well as sword fighting.



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SCHOOLS

Wildlife Festival Coming to Wagner Ranch Nature Area

By DOROTHY BOWEN
Staff Writer

Wild animals and people who love them will gather at Wagner Ranch Nature Area for the 7th annual Wildlife Festival this month.

Exhibits, speakers, and booths will provide information about local wildlife habitats, from beehives to watersheds, from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 20, at the Nature Area next to Wagner Ranch School, 350 Camino Pablo Road. Refreshments will be provided.

In 2001, the Nature Area became the first to be certified as a wildlife habitat. Many participants of previous years plan to return, according to Toris Jaeger, WRNA naturalist. They include Gary Bogue, columnist for the *Contra Costa Times*; Cecil Williams of Wildbirds Unlimited; Diana Granados of Native Bird Connections; Georgette Hellington of California Bluebird Recovery Program; Bob Wisecarver of Benefits of Bats in Our Midst; Douglas Vaughan of The Dragonfly Experience and Steve Gentry, Orinda beekeeper, who will bring his bees along, as well as his '39 Ford truck that won the

prize in the Fourth of July parade. Other displays will be presented by Judy Adler of Life Garden, Madame Ovary of Reuse as Art, Katy O'Neill of Leaf Print T-shirts, and native plant drawings by Orinda fourth-graders.

Bart Carr will present the ins and outs of composting and Cinda MacKinnon will talk about connecting with our creeks. Roger Hartwell, of EBMUD, will discuss the local water company. Orinda writer Ginger Wadsworth will display her latest books about wildlife, including *Desert Discoveries*, *Woolly Mammoths*, and *One on a Web* as well as *Gardening with California Native Plants* by John Evarts of Cachuma Press.

Posters and artifacts from Wagner Ranch, prepared by Barbara Burkhalter, Orinda Historical Society, will be on display. Native plants, grown by students, will be for sale, as well as compost and T-shirts. Music and Native American dances will round out the program.

Wildlife Festival
April 20 from 1 to 4 p.m.
Wagner Ranch Nature Area

Orinda Schools Win Big \$\$\$ From Safeway Program

By VEE HOFF
Contributing Writer

The parents clubs from Miramonte High School and Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) have announced that they are two of the top 250 earning groups nationally in the recent Safeway 10 percent Back to Schools Program. As top earners during this promotional program, Safeway has contributed an additional \$1,000 to each school for a total of \$5,775 to Miramonte's Parents' Club and \$3,388 to OIS's Parents' Club for this six-week promotion.

Safeway has been a solid contributor to Orinda schools for many years primarily through eScrip, Inc., a fundraising vehicle for non-profit groups. The parents' clubs at both Miramonte and OIS have developed well-organized eScrip programs that raise significant amounts of money to pay for important academic programs and materials. Nancy Bluford, Miramonte's eScrip Coordinator, states that "Miramonte's program is supported by 2,000 households who effortlessly generate several thousand dollars per month by shopping with eScrip merchants. Safeway is, by far, our largest partner and helps us raise about \$65,000 annually for

Miramonte."

Supporters register their Safeway Club Card number along with a credit or debit card when they join eScrip. As they shop with eScrip merchants like Safeway, a percentage of their purchases is sent to as many as three designated organizations. "eScrip is so easy," says Marci Byrne, an eScrip Coordinator at OIS. "Once you sign up for eScrip, you just shop as usual and a percentage of your purchases are automatically donated to the groups of your choice. It has been incredibly lucrative for OIS, and we are so grateful that Safeway keeps participating."

This past summer, the Safeway 10 percent Back to Schools Program allowed all eScrip groups to earn 10 percent of items purchased by their supporters from participating manufacturers such as Kraft Foods, Pepsi, Kellogg's, General Mills, Sara Lee, and Unilever. During this six-week Back to Schools Program, the Safeway family of stores contributed over \$3 million to support the education of youth across the nation. Contact eScrip07@mhspc.org to sign up for Miramonte's eScrip program. Contact eScripChairA07@oispc.org to support the OIS program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Indian dances are a popular feature of the Wildlife Festival scheduled this year on April 20 from 1 to 4 p.m.

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◆ **GROW** from page 10

flowering trees in the fall or winter actually removes most of the spring blooms.

5. Perennials left unchecked. Allowed to grow un-pruned, perennials will grow higher than they should and many (like penstemon) develop an unattractive naked, woody growth if they're not cut back hard once or twice a year.

6. Over blowing. We believe that blowers are absolutely necessary in modern maintenance, however, too often gardeners are given no instruction and simply walk around with the blowers on full blast blowing not only leaves but mulch, gravel and small pets, and children off the grounds.

7. Leaving the plugs behind. When aerating a lawn the dirt plugs are often left on the sod allowing them to break down and refill the holes they came out of after the first few waterings. Rake them.

8. House and window washing. This should not be a service of your landscape maintenance company. If your irrigation system is getting more water on your house and windows than on your landscape, something is amiss.

9. Bright light in your eyes. Have you ever been sitting at your dining room table wondering why your landscape light is shining right in your eyes? Well, it could have been the kids or the dog but more likely it was the yard service lawn mower.

Start with Referrals

If you need a new maintenance company, ask your designer and/or installation contractor for a referral as well as friends or neighbors with gardens you admire.

Ask each company to provide you with a list of current clients.

Get Quotes

When getting quotes or estimates from more than one company make certain that they are comparable. The best way to do

this is to ask for a quote that includes weekly hours, materials, and other services that you might require. For people who truly enjoy gardening but have limited time, we usually recommend that you hire someone who can handle the mundane tasks of mowing and blowing weekly to free you up to do the gardening chores you most enjoy.

Check their License

Landscape maintenance professionals, like all California contractors, are required to be licensed by the state. They should have either a C-27 Landscape Contractors license or a C-61 Specialty Contractors license. If they use any chemical fertilizer or pesticides, they must also possess a pesticide license. You can double check their license number by going to www.cslb.ca.gov.

Verify their Insurance

To hold a California contractor's license a company is required to have workers compensation insurance. If a maintenance company tells you they don't have or don't need workers compensation insurance because they don't have any employees, be wary. General liability insurance is not a state requirement for landscape maintenance contractors but think twice before hiring a company without it. Remember they use dangerous equipment on your property, and if an accident occurs you could be liable for damage or injury caused by your maintenance contractor. Ask for a proof of insurance certificate for both worker's compensation and general liability insurance. The general liability certificate will state the coverage limit, which should be a minimum of \$1 million dollars. Call the insurance company listed on the certificate before signing a contract to verify that your contractor is a current client. Make sure you check insurance for any company that provides you with a bid far and below the rest. This usually means they have a lower overhead, and often it is due to low or no insurance coverage.

Request and read the contract. Make sure you sign a contract that clearly spells out all hours to be worked and all materials and services provided. The contract should also state all services that can or may be provided at additional cost, and all services not included in the regular maintenance fee (i.e. tree trimming above 15 feet).

If you have any specific questions about hiring, please drop us an email at gardenlights@comcast.net.

◆ **LINES** from page 8

by Anya Ulinich. The book offers John Irving at his best in this story of Sasha Goldberg, a bi-racial Jewish girl from Asbestos 2, a small town in Siberia, who escapes from Russia to Arizona as a mail-order bride. This is a story of new beginnings that is both funny and moving.



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WORLD TRAVELERS

Former Orinda Resident Makes the World His Home

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

All who knew Paul Amstutz through the years he grew up in Orinda won't be surprised to learn that he's just returned from another adventure. From living in Hong Kong for three years in elementary school to leading treks in such exotic places as Tibet, Pakistan, and Nepal, or bicycling with his wife and daughters from the top of New Zealand's North Island to the tip of South Island, he's always reaching out for

parks, and we traveled frequently to other cities and Indian national parks," he says.

As far as living in India, Paul and Karen describe it as a place of beauty, order, and kindness right next to filth and despair. Bangalore has a fast-growing middle class, born partially of the tech-boom and international trade. "There is opulent wealth in some places, but just across the street might be an open sewer, a legless beggar, or a family living in an alleyway. But I am happy to say that more and more people seem to be improving their lives. Still, water

might be so much chaos that the noise disrupts other classes," he continues.

As the Amstutz's departure day neared, Paul's students constantly crowded around him, sometimes 10 to 15 at a time, begging for his autograph: "I sometimes felt like a rock star," he says laughingly.

Instead of attending a school of 55, Eliza and Sylvie's Begali school had 2,400 students. English was their language of instruction, but most of the kids there were tri-lingual, at a minimum speaking English, Hindi, and their mother tongue, which might have been Bengali, Kannada, Tamil or Punjabi. Some spoke even more languages. The Amstutz girls were the first foreign children to attend the government-run Kendriya Vidyalaya school.

[SEE AMSTUTZ page 20]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miramonte grad and world traveler Paul Amstutz (L) with Eliza and wife Karen. (Bottom row) Silvie and Lupin.

new experiences. Meanwhile, his parents, Carole (who formerly taught music at Glorietta) and Andy, continue to reside in Orinda.

Now, Paul has completed a six-month teaching assignment in Bangalore, India on a Fulbright Scholarship. "For my wife, Karen, and me, the main purpose of this exchange was taking the kids to live in a foreign country. We love to travel, but we wanted to live somewhere longer term to really know an area, sink in some roots, make friends, and soak in the culture, language, etc. We hoped the girls, Eliza, 9, Silvie, 7, and Lupin, 3, would fall in love with the place and then be sad to leave. That's just how it turned out," Amstutz says.

Coming from the tiny mountain town of El Portal, California, with a population of 650, where Paul teaches math and science at Yosemite Park High School and Karen is an interpretive park ranger in Yosemite, to the huge city of Bangalore, which has 8 million people, was quite a change for the family. They found the traffic and air pollution particularly challenging. "My kids were used to having trees and nature all around them, as our home is surrounded by national forest and borders Yosemite National Park, but we did manage to find some slices of nature in Bangalore at a few

shortages, and power outages are common, even in this Silicon Valley of India," Paul explains.

Paul and the girls — who he started traveling with when Eliza and Silvie were 3 and less than 1 — found school very different in Bangalore than in El Portal. Paul discovered his educational resources short — comprised of a textbook and a piece of chalk. His students stood when he entered the room and chimed in unison "good morning Mr. Paul, sir." When he left, they also rose, saying "thank you, sir."

The day before a big half-yearly exam a few students asked Paul to give them a blessing. "When I said 'sure' the entire class crowded around me. Each kid would bend down, touch my feet, and then kiss their fingers. My role was to touch their bowed head with my right hand and wish them 'best of luck, do well on the exam.'"

Paul also notes that there was just one LCD projector for the entire school. "In the U.S., I use PowerPoint and a projector on a daily basis. Also, teachers move from class to class in Bangalore while students stay put. Often classrooms are without a teacher when one takes a leave or is sick. Then the atmosphere might be dead quiet, with one student leader writing text on the board and all 50 kids diligently copying it, or there



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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

APRIL

- 3 **Cal Shakes Literary Society**, 7 to 9 p.m., Orinda Community Center, first in an eight-week series through May 22. Total cost \$225. Call 510-548-9666.
Orinda Books Author Appearance, 4 p.m., with Daniel Mason discussing and signing *A Far Country*. Call 254-7606.
- 4 **First Friday Forum**, Ambassador James D. Rosenthal, 1:30 p.m., speaking on "The Middle East Peace Process – Past, Present, and Prospects," Fellowship Hall of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Call (925) 283-8722.
Book Club, 3 p.m., Orinda Books, discussion of Edith Wharton's *The Custom of the Country*. New members welcome. Call 254-7606.
- 6 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** season auditions, 4 p.m. in Room 3 of the Orinda Community Center or on April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Amphitheater, where performances also take place. For more information, call 253-1191 or 254-5530.
- 12 **Orinda Books**, Germaine Greer, author discussion, 1 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, discussing her study of a woman famous because of marriage, Ann Hathaway, in a new book, *Shakespeare's Wife*. Call 254-7606.
- 15 **Youth Soccer Registration**, 10 a.m. to noon, Community Center, also April 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Community Center, April 19 from 9 a.m. to noon at Del Rey School, and April 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at Community Center. Separate boys and girls divisions from pre-K to 8th grade. Cost is \$140 for Orinda residents and \$154 for non-residents. Call 253-4204.
- 17 **Orinda Books**, Photographer Annie Liebovitz, will sign *A Photographer's Life: 1990-2005*, 1 p.m. An exhibit of her images are on view at San Francisco's Legion of Honor through May 25, 254-7606.
Performers for Progress presents a cabaret performance benefitting the Haiti Medical Mission featuring various styles of dance and vocal performances, bands, and comedy performed by over 40 Lamorinda high school students, 7:30 p.m., Rheem Theater, maddiekv@gmail.com.
- 18 **Awards Party**, Student Visual Arts Exhibition, 7:30 p.m. at Orinda Library Gallery. Exhibit open Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. This year for the first time the art will be for sale.
- 19 **Earth Day Creek Cleanup**, 10 a.m. to noon, parking lot behind 23 Orinda Way. Help clean up San Pablo Creek. Dress code: Gloves, long sleeves, and long pants. Gardening tools of all kinds needed. Call Maya at 253-1997.
- 20 **Wagner Ranch Nature Area Wildlife Festival**, 1 to 4 p.m., 350 Camino Pablo Road. Exhibits, talks, and booths. Refreshments provided. Call 925-258-0016.
- 23 **Orinda Intermediate School**, *Beauty and the Beast*, through April 26, 925-376-4402.
- 24 **Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club Luncheon**, noon to 1:30 p.m., Orinda Community Center, 254-3909.
- 25 **Holden High School** Friendraiser features student projects including a drama performance and refreshments to raise money for scholarships to this unique, small, nonprofit school in Orinda, 7 to 8:30 p.m., 10 Irwin Way, 254-0199.
- 26 **Wagner Ranch Round-Up**, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wagner Ranch School featuring a classic rock band, BBQ, pony rides, and more, 258-0016.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless specified.

- 15 **Toddler Lapsit**, 10 a.m., stories, songs, and bounces for infants to 3-year-olds and their caregivers. Repeats at 10:30 a.m. on April 16, 22, 23, 29, and 30. Choose one session per week.
- 20 **Saturday Morning Live!** 11 a.m., toddler alcove for family story time for ages 3 to 5. Repeats April 27.

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

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 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, public is welcome, for information, call 788-7323.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

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

Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees

Second Monday, 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.

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 (see above), 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 to 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 Woman's Club

Second Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon; call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

CALENDAR BY CHRIS LAVIN

Send calendar items to chrislavin@earthlink.net

Orinda Starlight Village Players Hold Season Auditions

Local thespians can take to the boards without leaving Orinda by auditioning for the Orinda Starlight Village Players summer season. Shows scheduled for this summer are *I Hate Hamlet*, *A Bed Full of Foreigners*, and an Agatha Christie mystery to be announced.

Auditions take place April 6 at 4 p.m. in Room 3 of the Orinda Community Center or on April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Amphitheater, where performances also take place. For more information, call 253-1191 or 254-5530.

Artists/Gardeners Kate Chenok and Kay Van Hoesen in Spring Art Show

By SALLY HOGARTY

Editor

Avid gardeners and talented artists, Kate Chenok and Kay Van Hoesen, will be featured in the Clay Arts Guild and Civic Arts Education's (CAE) annual spring art show, April 17-20, in Walnut Creek.

Chenok, whose native plant garden will be part of a garden tour in May, will display her earth-toned bowls and planters among other items while Van Hoesen's decorative gourds will delight art lovers with their colorful decorations and unique materials. "Gourds are really the pottery of the plant world," says Van Hoesen, who has incorporated pine cones into her pieces and stenciled others to resemble jack-o-lanterns for Halloween. An avid gardener, Van Hoesen's Orinda home has been certified as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard



MELISSA CHENOK

Kate Chenok displays her pottery in her hillside garden.

Wildlife Habitat.

"The creative process provides immediate gratification, which is very different from my life as a corporate executive," says Chenok. The mother of two teenage daughters is vice president of National Product Development for Kaiser Permanente and volunteers in the Orinda schools as well as for the Educational Foundation of Orinda.

The spring art sale takes place at two Walnut Creek locations: Civic Arts Park, 1313 Civic Dr. (pottery, sculpture); and CAE's Shadelands Campus, 111 Wiget Lane (paintings, jewelry, textiles, and more). For information, call 925-943-5846.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kay Van Hoesen works on one of her many gourds at her Orinda home.

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BACKYARD GETAWAYS

Backyard Getaways and Beyond
McMinnville Laid-back Version of
Napa/Sonoma Valleys

Bobbie Dodson



Sitting at the Rooftop Bar in the McMinnamin's Hotel Oregon with its 360-degree view of the wine country, my family and I knew we'd picked the right place to experience the down-home side of this part of Oregon. McMinnville is a laid-back version of what the Napa and Sonoma Valleys were 30 or 40 years ago.

Four members of my family and I flew into Portland, rented a car, then drove the 30 miles to McMinnville, a town of 30,215 founded in 1876 and home to the annual Cracked Pot Garden Art Show. (This year's show will be held on July 22 and 23.) All of the works of art entered in the show must be constructed of recycled materials. The inventiveness and whimsy of the entries charmed us. We'd met one of the artists, Jim Vitale, in Mexico last year, were intrigued by his creations, and happy to see him again.

The area is also home to many charming bed and breakfasts and small motels. The historic Hotel Oregon, which was built in 1905 and restored to its original splendor

by the McMennamin brothers in 1999, was our home base.

Once settled into our quarters, we set out for Third Street where antique lamp posts boast brimming flower baskets and boutique shops and art galleries beckon to intrepid shoppers. Most of the buildings date back to the late 1800s or early 1900s.

The 1892 Cozine House, a fine example of the Queen Anne-style of Victorian architecture, can be viewed in the downtown district along with other historic buildings. One must-see structure is the childhood home of the 31st U.S. president, Herbert Hoover. Now known as the Hoover-Minihorn House Museum, it's located at 115 S. River St. in nearby Newburg. The splendid example of the Italianate style features many artifacts from Hoover's life.

On Thursdays, the McMinnville Farmers' Market and Brown Bag Lunch Concerts take center stage. The live concerts start at 11:30 a.m. in the U.S Bank Plaza while the Farmers' Market starts later in the afternoon.

As for places to eat, Le Bistro Maison and Cuvee offer great French cuisine. At the Joel Palmer House, chef Jack Dzarneckie's passion for wild mushrooms has earned him top rankings, and La Rambla features Spanish food.

But it's the booming wine industry that draws visitors from all over the world to the Willamette Valley. Since the 1990s, the majority of vineyards of the valley have centered around McMinnville. The International Pinot Noir Celebration, a



BOBBIE DODSON

The vineyards in the Willamette Valley are as picturesque as our own Sonoma Valley.

stellar event, takes place every July on the Linfield College campus.

As for sipping wine, we recommend trying the Oregon Wine Tasting Room, 19690 SW Hwy. 18, nine miles south of McMinnville. It represents 100 wineries and features more than 300 wines. Then, travel to some of the wineries whose products you enjoyed. Casual wine tasting rooms where you might sample in a packing shed, alongside where bottling or labeling takes place, often offer the opportunity to visit with the owner or wine maker. Amity Winery is one of the best-known tasting rooms. Pioneers in Oregon, they helped establish the area's reputation for world class Pinot Noir.

Love chocolate? Then visit the grounds of the Briggittine Monastery, 23300 Walker Lane, Amity. Their five flavors of fudge and 10 truffle varieties are handmade by monks. Numerous television programs, including ABC *Nightly News*, have featured segments about their candy, as has the quiz show *Jeopardy*.

As for other attractions, the Evergreen Aviation Museum houses the world's largest wooden airplane, the Spruce Goose, built by Howard Hughes. There are more than 60 historic aircraft and exhibits on display. Evergreen's three-story IMAX theater, one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest, is located next to the museum.

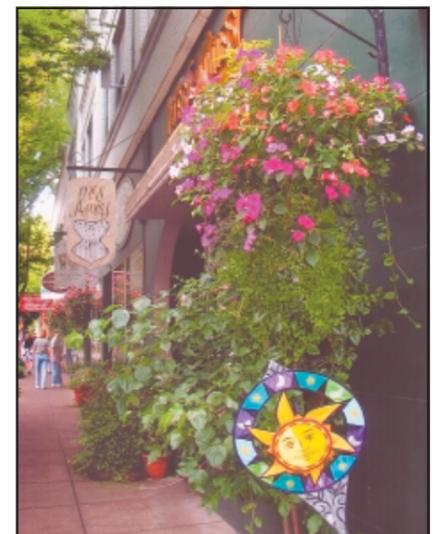
Of course, you can easily travel to Portland on a day trip. We stopped first at the Saturday Market, which now occurs on Sunday. Artisans must be approved for the 300 available spots, and the quality of wares is excellent. I'm delighted with the stainless steel crane sculpture purchased at the market and now, with it standing in my garden. Don't miss the tasty Elephant Ears, dough cooked in soybean oil, buttered, and finished with your choice of toppings — a Portland original since 1975.

We all bought books at Powell's, the

largest independent book store in the United States, and could have spent an entire day browsing the multileveled building encompassing a full city block where more than a million new and used books can be found.

Plant lovers will enjoy strolling through Washington Park. In this "City of Roses," the International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park grows over 8,000 rose bushes of 557 varieties. The nearby Japanese Garden, proclaimed the most authentic Japanese garden outside Japan, encompasses 3 1/2 acres, features five traditional gardens, an authentic pavilion and teahouse, and offers a splendid view of Portland and the surrounding mountains. The tranquil beauty of the Classical Chinese Garden was an oasis of calm in the midst of the bustling city. The authentically built Ming Dynasty-style garden features covered walkways, bridges, koi ponds, and a teahouse.

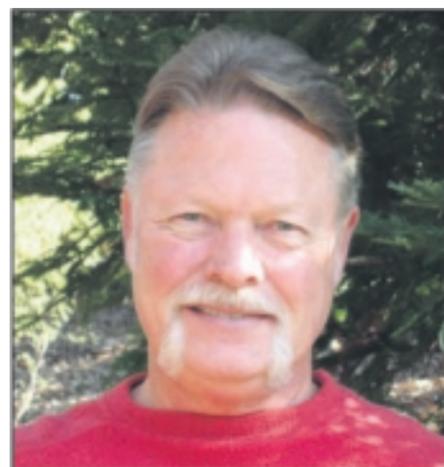
For further information on McMinnville, go to www.mcminnville.or.us.



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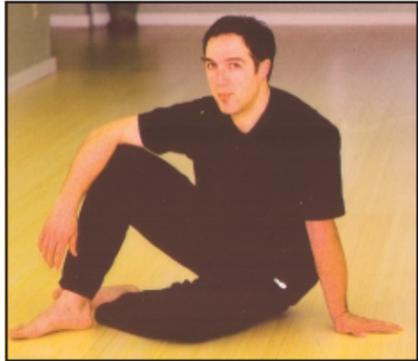
BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

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In Forma Integral Fitness

Ever since personal trainer Andrea Colombu established In Forma at 23 Orinda Way, across from the Orinda Library 13 years ago, he has been yearning to expand his operation to include yoga, tai chi, and Pilates classes. When neighbor Andersen Travel merged with Orinda Travel last year, Colombu seized the opportunity and last month began offering classes taught by certified instructors, including a weekly



VALERIE HOTZ

Andrea Colombu in his larger studio at In Forma.

Parkinson's training group. Mat Pilates and equipment Pilates are both offered.

"I have always wanted to cultivate an integration of the western approach to body fitness with the wisdom of the eastern traditions of yoga and tai chi. This exciting expansion is a realization of my dream," says Colombu, a native of Rome. It has been a busy year for Colombu, who in addition to providing personal training at In Forma and managing the fitness gym, has managed the development of In Forma Integral Fitness and also been working toward completion of his master's degree in psychology from John F. Kennedy University.

"We are excited about using this space to create awareness in our community of the integrative forms of training. Workshops and a guest lecture series are being planned. For instance, this month a special class on women and yoga is featured," explains Colombu. "Our website provides up-to-date information at www.informaorinda.com," he adds.

This fresh yoga studio features renewable cork and bamboo floors, and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)-free painted walls, biodegradable soaps, low-flow showerheads, and recycled paper. "We are very conscious of our impact on the

environment. The balance with nature and our world community is important, and we re-use as much as possible. Only one and a half truck loads of recyclable waste was removed from the space as the build-out took place. Parts of the previous floor have been reused here in the front," says Colombu.

A retail nook offers yoga props and athletic wear, cross-trainer gloves, yoga mats, and nutritious health snacks. A single yoga class is \$15 with a discount available with the purchase of a Yoga 10 Card, which includes 10 yoga classes for \$120. A student Yoga 10 card is \$100.

For more information and to schedule a class, call 254-6877. In Forma is open Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. These hours are subject to change during holidays.

JAD Construction

After owning a fresh fruits business and working in construction in his native Poland, Jerzy Adamczyk and his wife Jolanta immigrated to the United States in 1986. The couple's two children, Filip and Agata, were ages 3 and 2 at the time. They settled in Oakland and established JAD Construction, specializing in residential remodels, particularly kitchens and bathrooms.

"We are very good at listening and communicating with homeowners. We have



VALERIE HOTZ

Jerzy and Jolanta Adamczyk of JAD Construction.

an ability to understand their vision for their home and then make that vision a reality," says Jerzy. Jolanta schedules clients, does the bookkeeping, and manages the office.

While JAD Construction primarily focuses on kitchen and bath remodels, the company also builds additions, decks, windows, and doors. At the present time, they are remodeling two bathrooms in a Lafayette home. "I am enjoying the commute," smiles Adamczyk. More and more customers are beginning to consider

using green products in their remodels. "I have found my clients prefer natural materials over synthetic. For instance, clients select granite countertops over Corian. We see this more often," he points out.

The Adamczyks moved to Orinda in 1995. Their son Filip was a member of the Miramonte High School Class of 2001 and daughter, Agata, graduated from Acalan High School in 2002. This local husband

and wife team continues to work from their Orinda home and can be reached at 254-4080 or lamorindacontractor@gmail.com.

CORRECTION

Last month's issue of Business Buzz incorrectly listed the company owned by Scott and Val Mollahan as Inside Resource Group. The company name is Insight Resource Group. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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Canetti's Bookshop at the Crossroads

A wonderfully stocked used bookstore has recently opened its doors at 39 Moraga Way, next to Orinda Cleaners. The ideal Crossroads location welcomes customers to browse the wide selection of titles and authors in all categories including drama, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. You name it, it is here, and if by some chance you can't find a good read, owner Jeff Koren will field any questions and make helpful suggestions. Books are his thing. Patrons are invited to bring their gently read books for possible trade or store credit.

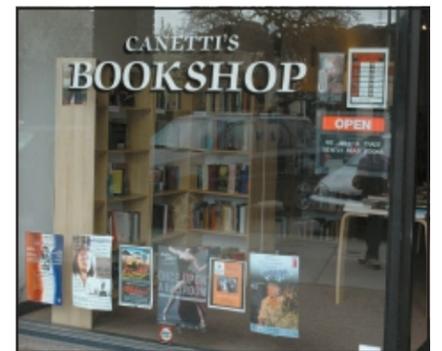
With 12 years in the business, Koren was a key buyer of used books at Bonanza Books in Walnut Creek for the past eight years. With the recent closure of Bonanza Books, Koren realized his dream of owning an independent bookshop. "People who stop by have been very appreciative of the importance of an independent bookstore. They understand the value of buying good literature," says Koren. "The local merchants have given good feedback, and I have great neighbors," he adds.

The bright and spacious shop has clean lines with bookshelves extending from the front windows to the rear of the store on both sides. Featuring a theater theme, the shop displays vintage French opera and theater posters. A large poster of Jack Kerouac adorns the rear of the store, accompanied by his famous words, "The

only people for me are the mad ones. The ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn, like the fabulous yellow Roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars..."

There is something for everyone at Canetti's Bookshop — Edith Wharton, H.G. Wells, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Ernest Hemingway, Leo Tolstoy, Victor Hugo, Thomas Mann, as well as contemporary authors such as J.K. Rowling, Stephen King, Sara Gruen, John Irving, and John Grisham, among many, many others. Canetti's includes the works of great authors in fine condition and at decent prices. In case you are wondering, this delightful bookshop is named in honor of one of Koren's favorite authors, Elias Canetti. For more information, call

[SEE BUZZ page 23]



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