

# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
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## Gearing Up For Those Swim Meets



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Things are just ducky at the Allison household on Glorietta Boulevard. "We live across from Glorietta school and the creek is close by," says Ruth Allison. "I saw the ducks walking up our driveway, duck under our fence, and jump in the pool. They kept our children, Andrew, age 7, and Abby, age 5, entertained for hours."

## New Web Address for City – It's Now CityOfOrinda.org

By CHRIS LAVIN  
Assistant Editor

Orinda officials recently decided to change the Internet domain name for the city's website. Anyone on the web looking for information about city services or contact information may now visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org), instead of the old mouthful, [www.ci.orinda.ca.us](http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us). E-mail addresses for city officials have changed, too, although the old ones will work for a while.

"There were a couple of reasons," said Beverli Marshall, administrative services manager for the City of Orinda. According to Marshall, not only is the new address easier to remember, but the technical glitches that came along with the old

address took up too much time and expense to manage.

"We don't own the 'ci' address," Marshall said. That domain name and web hosting was outsourced to private contractors or other government entities – in Orinda's case the website was hosted and managed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the regional planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area.

According to Marshall, not being able to administrate locally the technical aspects of the website meant that when ABAG had a problem, Orinda had a problem. "We would get bounce-back e-mails, and have to go to them to find out what the problem was," Marshall said. "Pretty soon, you have one, two, or three layers (of website

[SEE WEB page 8]

## Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

The ninth annual Three-Quarter Century Club will celebrate the longevity of Orinda residents on June 19 at noon at the Orinda Community Church. All residents 75 years and older are invited to attend the luncheon celebration.

Each year, the fun event crowns the oldest

club members as king and queen. Other awards include the longest married couple and the "baby" or youngest member. "It's an important social event," says founder John Fazel. "I believe that seniors should be remembered and honored for their contributions to their hometown."

This year's luncheon, which is sponsored by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, Prudential

[SEE CENTURY page 21]



PAT RUDEBUSCH

Tom Deahl was crowned king at the 2007 Three-Quarters Century Club luncheon. He and his wife, Aileen, were also crowned longest married couple.

## IN THIS ISSUE

|                        | Page       |
|------------------------|------------|
| News                   |            |
| Police Blotter         | 5          |
| About Town             |            |
| First Friday Forum     | 5          |
| Local Residents        | 10, 13     |
| Schools/Students       | 14-17      |
| Seniors                | 7          |
| Visual/Performing Arts | 12, 21, 22 |
| Backyard Getaways      | 11         |
| Between the Lines      | 9          |
| Business Buzz          | 24         |
| Calendar               | 22         |
| Classified             | 20         |
| Editorial              | 4          |
| Home Sweet Home        | 19         |
| Orinda Association     | 3          |
| Way to Grow            | 2          |

## Library Tax on June Ballot

By CHRIS LAVIN  
Assistant Editor

Orinda voters go to the polls in early June to vote on whether a property parcel tax dedicated to the library should be raised from \$27 to \$39 per year in order to keep the library open 60 hours per week. The current parcel tax is set to expire in April of 2009. Proponents of the measure say that unless the parcel tax is continued, the library will be forced to reduce its hours to 35 hours per week and cut into popular children's programs.

Measure E, which appears on the June 3 ballot, needs a two-thirds majority to pass. It is a parcel tax, so all property owners would pay it at a flat rate, not at a rate proportional to property values. It will pay for staffing the library, for replacing worn and outdated books and materials, and ensure that the library can maintain its existing programs.

"We definitely feel that this needs to happen," said Pam Pulley, president of Friends of the Orinda Library, a group that less than six years ago raised \$5 million through private funds to help build the present library – at the time a record sum for any non-profit in the East Bay for a public project. "Our library is a great source of community pride."

On Measure E, the non-profit group worked with city officials and other volunteers to come up with the proposed increase. "We arrived at the figure by considering, given the economy being the way it is, that a \$12 per year increase was fair," Pulley said. The current \$27 parcel

tax was instituted in 2001.

As is the case with any tax increase, no matter how small, opponents have lined up with reasons to vote against Measure E. Chief among those reasons is a lingering feeling among some residents that city officials should cut waste from the city's administration budget, thereby freeing up money to spend on books and librarians.

"Financially, it's not needed," said Clyde



SALLY HOGARTY

Miramonte student Arianna Raybin and Orinda Academy student Beverly Lyons work together at the Orinda Library after school.

Vaughn, longtime Orinda resident and vocal critic at city meetings. "It is a small increase, but on the other hand, they are

[SEE TAX page 21]

## Brookside Drive Residents Upset With EVA Requirements

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

An Orinda resident living on the privately owned Brookside Drive expressed concern at a recent city council meeting regarding emergency vehicle access (EVA) requirements that will prohibit parking on Brookside. The EVA is required by the Moraga Orinda Fire District to allow emergency vehicles to enter and exit the future Wilder development in the event of an emergency. The surprised residents were told about the restriction at a recent Sunrise Hill neighborhood meeting attended by Wilder vice president Michael Olson and spokesperson for the project Jason Keadjian. "We must follow the requirements of the development agreement," says Keadjian. "But we are also committed to helping the residents of Brookside in whatever way we can."

According to city planner Emanuel Ursu, the agreement notes that the EVA must be

in compliance with fire district's standards. Those standards designate a width of 36 feet for a street with parking on both sides and 28 feet for parking on only one side. If a street is below the 28 foot limit, parking is usually restricted with EVA's needing 20 feet for fire engine access.

"When we first purchased our home a little over a year ago, we were told that Brookside would become an EVA and that our road would be widened by two feet, but we were never told until now that it would become a no-parking zone," says homeowner Elizabeth Ball. "This will impact birthday parties for our children and other gatherings since guests will have to park farther away and walk an inconvenient distance." Ball and other residents also fear a decrease in their property values.

City Manager Janet Keeter was unaware of the parking restriction and is looking into the problem. Fire Marshall Michael Mentink, who has received phone calls from other Brookside residents, is also looking into the matter.

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WAY TO GROW



Bring your kitchen outdoors to enjoy that special outdoor ambiance.

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**Way to Grow in Orinda**  
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Steve & Cathy Lambert

Orindans love the outdoors, and why wouldn't we? The relatively new concept of "Outdoor Living" is a rapidly growing lifestyle phenomenon in our area. Many homeowners view their yards as an extension of their homes, and create separate spaces and rooms for specific purposes. Yet outdoor living has evolved beyond the picnic tables, folding chairs, and hibachis of our parents' backyards. This new landscaping trend is about bringing comforts outside.

Today's consumers have a vast and growing selection of products to make outdoor living one of the most pleasurable aspects of owning a home. Backyard kitchens sometimes become more elaborate than the inside one, with large, built-in barbecues (many including rotisseries and side burners) wine coolers, refrigerators, pizza ovens, and food and cocktail prep areas.

Aside from the two most popular additions — kitchens and living rooms — outdoor enthusiasts are adding all sorts of creative rooms and spaces to their yards. We have designed and installed outdoor play spaces, from bocce ball courts to putting greens to theaters, along with workout rooms, meditation gardens, and even a smoking lounge.

Because our weather often includes a big chill in the evening, fireplaces and fire pits are popular for adding warmth and ambiance. Elegant outdoor lighting fixtures that look as if they're intended for indoor use (chandeliers, candelabras, table lamps) extend the evening and add to the feeling of comfort. People are even bringing indoor entertainment systems outside with weather-proof televisions and stereo systems. Artwork, rugs, and furnishings specially made for outside can add a roomy feeling to a patio or deck. Today there is almost nothing you can have inside your home that you can't enjoy outside, too.

The most important step in building a good-looking, functional outdoor kitchen is design. You must consider the same factors that you would for a new indoor kitchen. First, you must consider what you

want. Then what your budget and space can afford. Then you must look for the appropriate location based on convenience, site surroundings, and climate conditions. These factors will also impact the selection of products and materials used in building your open-air cooking and dining space. Knowledge of the safety and durability of these products and materials when used outdoors is key in saving you replacement costs.

For convenience and efficiency, often the best place for your outdoor kitchen is just outside your indoor one. Here you'll have quick and easy access to food, equipment, and tableware. By choosing a location with an emphasis on efficiency, you'll use and enjoy your open-air kitchen more often.

Sometimes a view, a focal point (such as a pool or water feature), or the lay of the land will dictate the placement of your outdoor kitchen farther from your house. For example, you may need to have your space covered with shade, or trees may need to be added or removed. If you're fortunate enough to have a great view of the setting sun, your dining space should be positioned to benefit from that view.

The terrain of your yard is also a factor in deciding the layout of your outdoor space. If you have a hillside, like so many of us in Orinda do, it may require installing a retaining wall. Your built-in barbecue, bench, or fireplace can double as a retaining wall when backed into that hillside. It's also important to consider the degree of privacy you want — your landscaping will create and define the "walls" of your space.

Among the other location considerations for your outside rooms is their impact on the views from inside your home. And if your outdoor kitchen is far from your house, a smooth flow of traffic will be important.

As the trend of outdoor living grows, the market is keeping up with the demand by offering more products designed to live outside. There are more appliances available these days than just a couple of years ago that are UL-rated for outdoor use.

The best outside floor and counter surface options are the natural ones, such as granite or stone. Products made by

[SEE GROW page 18]



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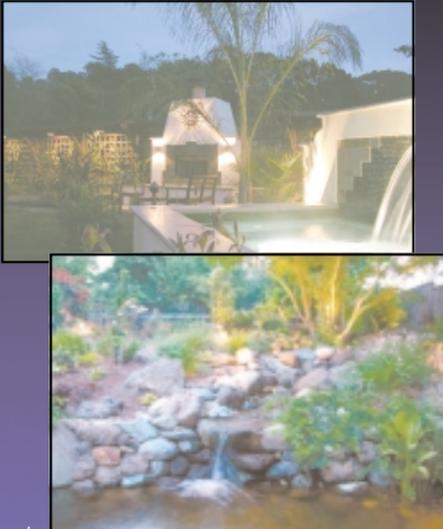
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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

# Orinda's 25th Independence Day Celebration Will Be a Sparkler!

By BARBARA BONTEMPS  
Contributing Writer

As Orinda's 25th anniversary Independence Day festivities draw near, plans are being finalized for a truly spectacular celebration. In "Reach for the Stars," the Orinda Association's Fourth of July Committee has pulled out all the stops to offer entertainment and activities like never before – and unifying them all is our city's encouragement of and deep appreciation for the arts.

### Artistic Endeavors at Theatre Square

The "Reach for the Stars" gala on July 2 at Theatre Square will be the culmination of months of planning by Susan Meyer, event chairman, featuring a fabulous evening of art, music, wine, food, and a mini classic car show sponsored by Orinda Motors.

Festivities will include a raffle and a silent and live auction of special 4th of July perks such as VIP parade seating and classic car rides in the parade, plus one-of-a-kind original artworks. For this event, Meyer has recruited numerous local and Bay Area artists and craftspeople to create beautiful, three-dimensional stars that will be on display throughout the Square and will be auctioned off during the evening, beginning at 6 p.m.

Among the artists are Debbie Arambula, Lorraine Lawson, Mary Medrano, Janice Lowe, and Sonia Paz, as well as several locals including Allison McCrady, Petra Michel, Carmel Blore, Grace Kaplan, Vee Hoff, Karen Watson, Aubyn Severson, Christina Pinkerd, Cecile Chaconas, Suzanne McCray, and Jennifer Coon. Each piece will be unique and hand-crafted, and each will reflect the distinctive vision of

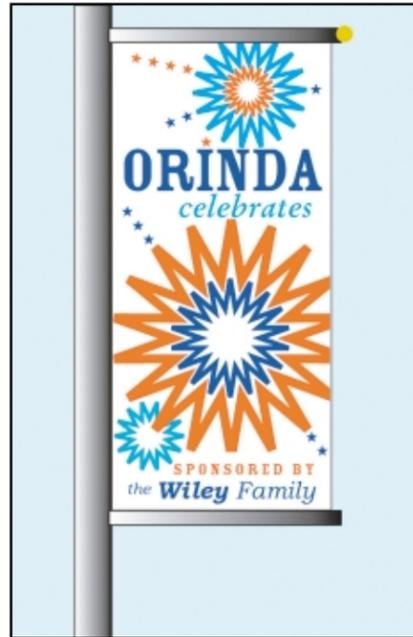
its creator. As with the Arts Council's successful *BirdHaus* fundraiser, attendees will be able to bid for an opportunity to take home their favorite star. As an added bonus, McCrady's beautiful painting of the Orinda Theater will be offered as a commemorative poster for sale during and after the event.

Artisans of another type will also be featured at the July 2 gala – The Lamborn Family Vineyards will be offering a selection of fine wines for tasting throughout the evening.

Tickets for the wine tasting will be \$25 and will include a souvenir wine glass. Advance tickets will be available through the Orinda Association at 254-0800 or at the door on July 2.

Finally, the winners of the Arts Council's July 4th "Hats Off to Orinda" design competition will also be on display at Theatre Square. The winners, all students from Orinda's schools, were challenged to create a design to be used on this year's special 4th of July polo shirts, as well as on the wide-brimmed straw hats which will be sold in local stores prior to Independence Day. All three winners are from Wagner Ranch school and include: Sophia Spitulnik, age 10 – Grand Prize for "Letters

[SEE CELEBRATE page 8]



Families and businesses can buy a banner that will help support the 4th of July celebration.

### 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  
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www.orindaassociation.org

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## June 3 Election Important for Orinda Voters

This year has certainly been an important one for voters. First, the presidential primary in February with a record turnout of voters and California finally playing a decisive role. Now, Orindans have another very important local election on June 3. There are state senators, members of the state assembly, and county supervisors to elect as well as a variety of measures to vote yea or nay. Of course, for Orinda the most important ballot measure is Measure E. This measure proposes to extend the current \$27 per parcel per year library tax that sunsets in April, 2009 and increase it by \$12 per year to an annual tax of \$39.

We have had a plethora of letters on both sides of the issue and have endeavored to print all that were received by the deadline.

We have eliminated our usual editorial cartoon to allow more space for your opinions. I hope you will take the time to read these letters as well as Chris Lavin's article on page 1. The voter's pamphlet also gives the various pros and cons. If you have not received your voter pamphlet in the mail, it is available online at [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us). Just click on "elections" on the left side of the webpage.

— Sally Hogarty, editor

### Correction:

On page 6 in the May issue, Michelle Leighton and Ana Ramirez were inadvertently listed as Orinda Union School Board Members. Leighton is a parent of a Miramonte High School student and Leighton is a parent from Moraga.

seating area. It is a place of tranquility seven days a week and a respite from cell phones and the daily grind. Being able to go to the library seven days a week allows access on weekends for those who work.

Some families with young children use the library daily. Children learn to love the feel of a book in their hands and to respect books, the premises, and to use "inside voices." They learn about sharing and caring. After school, hordes of middle-school students head into the library. It is a quiet place to do homework, a safe place, a place to see friends, or do research. Children are there on weekends and they respect the books, the facility, staff, and other patrons.

For seniors, the library is free, welcoming, and easily accessible to the infirm or handicapped. With rising costs, the need increases for free online access whether for homework or for the elderly to "surf" for health information, or just for a free place to go. Yes on E!

— Aliza Metzner

### Library Needs Our Help

The Orinda library is an incredible asset to our community, and it needs our help. Orinda residents have access to an amazing collection of books, magazines, newspapers, the Internet, and other media. Our library is a state of the art facility and a focal point of our community. It is a central gathering place where people meet and students study. The library is open until 8 p.m. most nights and is open on Saturdays and Sundays. Nobody likes taxes, but the proposed \$39 per year replaces the current \$27 per year tax. This increase of just \$1 per month is so insignificant that it becomes an easy decision. All Orinda citizens should support Measure E to help ensure appropriate use and operation of our beautiful library.

— Glenn Alper MD

### Misinformation on Measure E

I am incensed and dismayed by the misleading information about Orinda's

Measure E in Clyde Vaughn's letter in the May issue. He states the existing parcel tax is sufficient to keep the library open 60 hours a week and implies that the proposed measure is an additional tax on top of the current one. The reality is that the existing parcel tax expires in April 2009 and, without replacement funding, we'll be back to minimum staffing levels and facility hours for this vital community resource. This measure raises the tax by a mere \$12 per year per parcel in order to cover anticipated cost increases over the next 10 years and to create a sufficient reserve so, hopefully, we won't have to go through this process again. This reasonable approach to long-term planning is not "unnecessary;" it is critically necessary.

Mr. Vaughn's statement that passage of this measure "will only encourage the council to raise other taxes" is simply an attempt to fan the flames of fear. It has no place in important public debate about these kinds of issues. I'm also tired of the old argument about "poor" seniors. Surely giving up two or three lattes a year at Peet's or Starbucks is a small sacrifice compared to the value returned to Orinda, and all of its residents, by the \$12 annual cost of this measure.

Let's end the blind opposition to any tax or increase in spending and consider each of them on their individual merits. We all must take responsibility as citizens of this community and do what's right for the future, not just today. This small burden now is important to help ensure that future generations of Orindians have the foundation and resources to become valued, contributing members of our society. A yes vote on Measure E is a positive and necessary step towards that goal.

— Bill Wadsworth

### No Justification for Library Tax

A new Orinda Library tax increase will be on the June 2008 Orinda ballot. This new tax of \$39 per year will have no sunset or ending. It will go on forever. The only way of ending it would be an initiative requiring signatures of 10 percent of all Orinda voters to place it on the ballot – a virtually impossible task.

There is no justification for such a tax increase. The existing Orinda Library tax income for fiscal 2006-2007 was \$213,346, which is 29 thousand dollars more than the cost of keeping the library open 60 hours per week. The library tax reserve is 187 thousand dollars. Obviously, no tax increase is needed.

The proposed tax increase is 44 percent.

There is no exception in this tax increase for seniors or low-income residents. Not only are we in a major recession, but inflation is rampant, especially in food and gasoline costs. Investment income is approaching zero. Recently, the garbage collection tax increased 14.7 percent.

The city council should be cutting expenses. They have not done so. Instead, the council has spent 42 thousand dollars on a poll and the cost of this election. If

we pass this unnecessary tax, it will encourage the council to raise other taxes instead of cutting expenses.

This tax will not be the end of the demand for more taxes for the new library; it is only the beginning. If this tax increase passes, look forward to a series of future library tax increases as the city council tries to shift more and more of the library building utility costs onto the Orinda taxpayers. This wasteful tax illustrates the tendency to never be satisfied but to always demand more.

Please send a message to the city council: No more unnecessary taxes.

Please vote no on the library tax increase, Measure E.

— Clyde Vaughn

### Yes on Measure E

I support measure E. We have a wonderful local library used by the entire community. It is a valuable asset to Orinda and would be a shame to reduce hours.

— Bernard Larner

### Can't Match Library Benefits

It would be hard to match the benefits achieved through the library with any other benefits received through our tax dollars. The library is a public service that truly touches every facet of our community. As one individual with three children, I have utilized the library personally (or through my kids and husband) for children's programs, summer reading programs, travel plans, book club books, best sellers, research for elementary, middle, and high school projects, videos, books on tape, language learning, access to the internet, and a quiet place to study or write.

To limit the hours of operation of the Orinda library would deny all of the above to some and much of the above to many.

Measure E would keep the library open 60 hours a week, making it accessible to working adults, children, and seniors alike. It may be true that for \$39, one might purchase two new books, but for that same cost per household, one could check out a limitless number of books and videos and do research and meditate in a sunny window seat. Now that is a deal!

The library is the quintessence of life long learning that bars none. Support Measure E on the ballot in June to assure these services continue for all of our community.

— Susan Forman

### Cost of Four Lattes

"A library is like a giant magic shop with transformations in every aisle. I see them as monuments to curiosity and the imagination in the human soul that needs to ask why, again and again." With these words, Jon Carroll opened our new library on October 7, 2001. He painted a picture that our library, along with the staff and volunteers that support it, has delivered to

[SEE LETTERS page 6]

## Letters to the Editor

### Support Small, Local Businesses

As a resident of Orinda for the past 24 years, I think it's very important to support the small businesses in our town who strive to provide local services; yet, I'm constantly appalled at the city officials who seem to do everything possible to discourage their success. Why is it okay to allow anyone to hang a banner from the BART overcrossing, but not for local vendors to hang a personalized banner outside their store to advertise? Why is it okay to bring in major coffee chains, like Peet's Coffee and Starbucks, who then put Royal Ground, a sole proprietor, out of business?

As a business owner myself, I appreciate the spirit of competition and may the best product win, but come on Orinda...listen to the needs of the small business owners and help them thrive. It's what attracts so many of us to shop locally and to support our community. It's time you did too.

— Suzanne Ashton

### Library Ignites a Love of Books

Our beautiful library is one of the jewels in Orinda's crown.

It is truly a place of community, offering a lovely place to read in peace for adults, a resource for study and contemplation for students, and a bevy of activities as well as an attraction to ignite that love of books and learning for our youngest citizens.

By keeping the library open seven days a week, the library stands as a place always available to those who need it. Please join in voting to keep Orinda's jewel sparkling and open!

Support Measure E!

— Leslee Larner

### Library a Cornerstone of Orinda

The Orinda Library is the cornerstone of Orinda, beautiful outside but magnificent inside. I request books online, pick them up, and stay to read in the lovely fireplace

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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.

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For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the August issue is June 18, 2008.

SPEAKER / POLICE BLOTTER

# Professor Speaks on Why Crime Declined in the 1990s at Next First Friday's Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

Franklin Zimring, a law professor at University of California-Berkeley, will speak about the decline of crime at the First Friday Forum this month. He promises to have some good news, and some bad news.

The forum will begin at 1:30 p.m. June 6 in the Fellowship Hall at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Zimring has titled his talk, "The Great American Crime Decline of the 1990s; Why Did It Happen, What Happens Now?"

"The bad news is that most of the things we thought were major causes of the national decline in crime – like imprisonment and the economic boom years — had a relatively minor impact on crime. The good news? I will argue that we found out in New York City rather substantial changes in city structure can

produce big changes in violent crime. New York City crime is down by 75 percent in 15 years. That is a target goal for the rest of the nation." A visit to the forum, which is open to everyone, will offer the professor's views on crime in the United States today, its problems, and possible solutions.

Zimring's major fields of interest are criminal justice and family law, with special emphasis on the use of empirical research to inform legal policy. He is a fellow of the American Society of Criminology and since 1998 has been an expert panel member for the U.S. Department of Education Panel on Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free Schools. He serves as an advisory member for the National Research Council Panel on Juvenile Crime; Prevention, Intervention, and Control.

Zimring is the author or co-author of many books on topics including deterrence, the changing legal world of adolescence,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Franklin Zimring will discuss how crime stats change on June 6.

capital punishment, and drug control. A graduate of Wayne State University in 1963, he obtained his doctorate degree from the University of Chicago in 1967.

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## POLICE BLOTTER

April 2008

**False Residential Alarms:** Officers responded to 130 false alarm calls throughout the city.

**Auto Burglary** (theft from a locked vehicle): 6 incidents.

**Domestic Violence:** 1 incident.

**Petty Theft From Vehicle** (theft of less than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 2 incidents.

**All Other Petty Thefts:** 5 incidents.

**Grand Theft From Vehicle** (theft of more than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 1 incident.

**All Other Grand Thefts:** 2 incidents.

**Vehicle Theft:** 1 incident.

**Residential Burglary:** 7 incidents.

**Commercial Burglary:** 2 incidents.

**Vandalism:** 2 incidents.

**Identity Theft:** No reported incidents.

**Credit Card Fraud/Forgery:** No reported incidents.

**Arrests**

Possession of Narcotics: 1  
Warrant Arrest: 3  
Hit and Run - Misdemeanor: 1  
Driving Under the Influence: 6  
Burglary - Residential: 1  
Public Drunkenness: 2

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving,  
Orinda Police Department

**Special Note:** Last year at this time, the police departments of Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette joined forces to launch the speed crackdown called "Slow Down Lamorinda!" While the program resulted in slowing down drivers in the area, this year's unofficial program may work even better. Although not a police department program, the road construction on both Moraga Way and Moraga Road will certainly result in much slower rides between Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette. We encourage you to be as patient as possible, and please be careful of the workers in the area. Their lives are in your hands.

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LETTERS

◆ LETTERS from page 4

our community from the moment its doors opened.

Even in Orinda, with our wealth of home computers and Internet access, our library has something for so many. It is a place for meeting and research. It is a comfortable place to enjoy perusing a newspaper or magazine that you do not subscribe to at home. It is a place to get audio books for long commutes or for those who prefer to listen, rather than read.

For the cost of four lattes, we can help keep our library open and resourced all year long. Even if you do not use the library yourself, someone you care about probably

does. Vote for Measure E and continue to feed the curiosity and imagination of our community.

— Sandy Gross and Paula Reinman

**Expanded Library Hours Essential**

Yes on Measure E will keep the Orinda Library open 60 hours per week, purchase new materials, and ensure that the library can maintain existing programs for children, families, and seniors. While we were remodeling, we used the library computers to keep up with our children's schools, email, and bookkeeping. People without access to a computer are at a huge disadvantage. All six Orinda schools expect

students to do writing and research online. Orinda parents and students require a computer to check assignments, buy graduation tickets, PE clothes, even register for school.

The library is green. It practices reduce, reuse, and recycle. In a tight economy, the library is affordable entertainment. Our family listens to books on tape and watches movies borrowed from the library. Our book group borrows nine books whenever we can. The library will not serve the working individuals, students, and families well if it is open only 35 hours a week. The additional twelve dollars a year from \$27 to \$39 provided in Measure E is a small price to pay to keep our Library open seven days a week. We can't afford not to support our library. Please vote yes on Measure E.

— Jane & Nicholas Hyde

reading needs.

Please join me in supporting our library, a wonderful community asset, by voting yes on Measure E.

— Bill Judge

**Pay No Attention to Critics**

I sincerely hope that this time no one pays attention to Clyde Vaughn and his diatribe about the increase of \$12 a year in the library tax. As one of your readers pointed out, Vaughn is opposed to everything every time, and he has done this for years.

Vaughn likes to obfuscate the issue. Forty-four percent increase? Yes, disingenuous. It is exactly a \$1 per month increase to keep this gem operating in our city as it has for the use and enjoyment of all of us. I am sure that this cannot be the great burden on residents that he suggests, nor that this insignificant amount is going to add to inflation or the recession, as he also argues.

Vaughn's statements about \$23 million do not make logical sense. He says the new city offices cost \$18 million and the city contributed \$5 million to the new library, therefore, we would have had \$23 million for roads if the library had not been built. I guess what he is trying to say is that the two buildings combined represent \$23 million of city money, but they are, of course, separate and apart. It seems that the city gave only \$5 million to the library but the total construction cost was around \$12 million, the balance consisting of money raised elsewhere. If Vaughn's idea was to keep the old library, it was obviously obsolete, and far inferior to the excellent present facilities.

I urge a yes vote on Measure E.

— T. Flagg

**Personal Attacks Inappropriate**

The personal attack contained in the Letter to the Editor entitled "Usual Nay Sayers" in the May 2008 edition is inappropriate. All writers should be entitled to express their opinions on issues, but not to make personal attacks against private citizens for their views on issues. Publication of personal attacks against private citizens tends to stifle opposing views and should not be propagated by your publication.

— C. Burke Gordon

**Library Saves People Money**

Well, guess who is the only person to sign the ballot argument in opposition to Orinda Library Measure E? It's Clyde Vaughn! As Yogi Berra would say, "this is like *déjà vu* all over again." To my knowledge, Mr. Vaughn has never been positive about anything in our community and certainly has never supported a bond measure. It is sad that he has had the good fortune to enjoy all the benefits of living here for decades but continues to be negative.

In this instance, he makes much of the "difficult economic times" in arguing against Measure E. Actually, this is a strong reason to support the measure as people forego the luxury of buying books and instead rely on our library to meet their

**Voting for Measure E a Privilege**

For us, the Orinda Library embodies everything that is best about living in Orinda. It offers something precious for everyone – all ages and all interest. It is a public institution that respects and accommodates each and everyone of us.

With measure E on the June 3 ballot, we are asked to extend the parcel tax passed overwhelmingly by Orinda voters in 2001. It has served us well by giving all of us the flexibility of using the library's excellent services seven days a week. An increase in the tax from \$27 to \$39 will ensure the continuation of these hours and services.

There are a few people in our community who are uneasy about paying taxes for public services. Perhaps an understanding of the relationship between quality schools and libraries and real estate values will change their perspective. For the rest of us, a yes vote for Measure E is a privilege in a democracy.

— Ruth and Ivan Majdrakoff



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SENIORS AROUND TOWN

# Spotlight on Seniors Around Town

By IAN HEETDERKS  
Staff Writer

Seniors Around Town is dedicated to helping senior Orinda residents maintain independent, active lifestyles by providing them with convenient, reliable, free transportation. Orinda volunteers help seniors run important errands, such as going to the grocery store, or a medical appointment, or simply taking them to the movies.

Peggy Fuerst, an Orinda resident for 52 years, has been a volunteer driver with Seniors Around Town since October 2005, just two months after the organization started. Fuerst enjoys driving as well as meeting new people, and she thought Seniors Around Town sounded like a great way to combine both while also allowing her to lend a helping hand. "I've had a good life in Orinda, and I wanted to do something for my community," she explained. "Also," she added with a laugh, "I'll probably have the same need before too long, so I hope there will be someone around to help me." She also likes participating in Seniors Around Town because it allows senior residents "to age in place," without having to rely on public transportation, which is usually difficult to access from their homes without a car. Regular trips with steady clients allow Fuerst to get to know a variety of people from all different backgrounds. Also, since many are themselves longtime Orinda residents, she often finds things in common with them, such as having had kids at the same schools or even in the same grade together.

Over the course of her extensive service, Fuerst has distinguished herself as one of the most dedicated and passionate



**Peggy Fuerst** enjoys meeting new people as a volunteer driver for Seniors Around Town.

volunteers in the organization. While most drivers drive once a month at most, for most of her tenure with Seniors Around Town Fuerst has driven once a week, resulting in her personally driving more than 75 trips. She has also established a reputation as one of the most compassionate drivers. The careful attention she pays to the needs of her elderly and, oftentimes, handicapped passengers has made Fuerst the ideal choice for driving frail riders, although of course her energetic spirit and generous attitude make her a great driver for just about anyone.

Fuerst first learned to drive during her youth in Los Angeles, where the traffic was just as harrowing and dangerous as it is today. "If you can drive in L.A.," Fuerst said, "you can drive pretty much anywhere." The skills she acquired braving Southern Californian thoroughfares proved useful years later, after she moved to the Bay Area and settled down to raise a family. In order to make ends meet, Fuerst picked up a part-time job driving a school bus,

[SEE FUERST page 20]

## Lamorinda Senior Transportation

By MARY BRUNS  
Program Coordinator

Think about yourself in 20 or 30 years when you may no longer be able to drive. You phone a neighbor for a ride to the grocery store. You call your son or daughter for an important doctor's appointment. And after calling on family and friends a few times to get to the places you need to go, you begin to hesitate and feel uncomfortable for making yet another call for a ride.

Your world begins to shrink to the size of your house or apartment, and you may find yourself saying as one of our passengers did, "I feel like a prisoner in my own home." Wouldn't it be wonderful then if there were a service in your community that you could call for a ride, and you

weren't asking for a favor?

That's how we look at Lamorinda Senior Transportation, a program that helps people to live independently for a longer period of time because it provides transportation to those who no longer drive.

**There are three prongs to the transportation program:**

1) The Volunteer Driver Program is comprised of Orinda Seniors Around Town and Senior Helpline Services Rides for Seniors. These two programs have volunteers who drive registered seniors in the driver's personal vehicle. Through the commitment of volunteers, ambulatory seniors can go to medical appointments, personal appointments, and grocery shopping. Both of these programs need

[SEE RIDES page 23]

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◆ **WEB** from page 1

management) to go through to get everyone together to fix it.”

The original “ci” website address will continue to work indefinitely, she said, for Internet location as well as e-mail addresses. Eventually only the dot-org address will work, although no precise time has been set for the cut-off.

When cities began to put their presence on the Internet for everything from information to city services, officials usually went with the web address recommended by the government: www.ci.nameofthecity.ca.us. But also for many, that name and the problems that came with it have not worked well when their respective citizenries tried to find it. The City of Martinez, for example, recently switched from the “official” addresses to www.cityofmartinez.org for many of the same reasons that Orinda officials decided to make the switch.

“We didn’t go with dot-gov for the same reasons,” Marshall explained. While that

domain extension is available to any city that wants to use it with their own name, it’s hosted elsewhere and is privately administered, a situation that would lead to the same technical problems encountered with the ci.ca.us domain. Therefore, more cities are going with the .org extension.

The simplest Orinda URLs (that stands for Uniform Resource Locator, if you’re not a techie, also known as website address), such as Orinda.com, .net and .org, have already been registered and are currently unavailable.

“Eventually, we would like to get those names, or one of those names,” Marshall said about these most simple URLs. But until the registries on those domains expire, or if current registrants renew, the city is unable to acquire them unless it buys the names from the registrant, a process that

can be lengthy and expensive.

While the Orinda.org and Orinda.net names are registered to a company in New Jersey, the owner of Orinda.com, Larry Hood, is a local real estate agent who does business in Orinda. “It’s a great name for us,” Hood said. “We’d be happy to link to the city’s site, if they want us to.”

Orinda city officials have no plans to toss out all printed collateral material that now boasts the “ci” website address, Marshall said. Instead, the city will continue to link the old address to the new one indefinitely, so that regular users of the site and e-mail addresses will have time to adjust, and allow the current printed materials such as stationery and business cards to run low.

“We’re a lean organization,” Marshall said. “We try not to buy huge quantities of anything.”

◆ **CELEBRATE** from page 3

on Parade;” Katherine McDonald, age 9 – Honorable Mention; and Ian Cowles, age 11 – Honorable Mention. Each of the winners will enjoy a ride in the parade. Shirts and hats may be purchased from June 14 to July 3 at Loard’s Orinda, Coldwell Banker, Orinda Books, and at the Orinda Association Volunteer Center next to the Library. They will also be on sale during the Fourth at the OA booth in the Community Park.

**Art in the Park and Plaza**

In addition to the parade and lively musical entertainment to be presented on July 4, a wide array of arts and crafts booths will decorate the Community Park and Library Plaza. Hand-made jewelry, art glass, paintings, and more will be offered for sale. Be sure to stop by the booths to admire the work of local artists like abstract painter Zarmine Aghazarian, fusion art glass designer Mariann Mortensen, and jewelry designer Tommie D’Amico.

Kids will also have plenty of artistic pursuits to enjoy after the parade, when the Fun Factory brings a variety of activities into the park, including a petting zoo and balloon animals created by Twisty. A highlight will be the amazing “Happy Birds” exotic bird show, featuring live performances by a very talented exotic bird troupe who will entertain the crowd with their singing, impersonations, roller skating, and more. Home Depot will also be on hand for those who want to roll up their sleeves to construct a little art of their own.

**Still Time to Become a Sponsor**

It’s not too late to help the Orinda Association with a gift or sponsorship to help cover the costs of our 25th anniversary

4th of July celebration. Sponsors are still needed to help underwrite activities and events at both the July 2 gala at Theatre Square, as well as in the Community Park and Plaza after the parade on the 4th. Families and businesses can make their support visible, too, by sponsoring one of the city’s new 4th of July banners designed by the Art Council’s Nancy Daniels. For \$360, your name will fly high over Orinda throughout June and July. Still on our “Wish List” are pickup and/or flatbed trucks and car trailers that can be used for floats in the parade. Meanwhile, a big thank you to all of the sponsors that have stepped forward so far (call 254-0800 for details):

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## BETWEEN THE LINES

## Between the Lines Oh, Dad, Poor Dad! -- It's Father's Day

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



Bill Cosby has said that fatherhood is pretending the present you love most is soap-on-a-rope, a fiction unnecessary considering the wealth of possibilities for presents for dad this June. There are books for fathers hyper-ventilating over global warming and the world situation, and books for escapist dads hoping to settle into the hammock with a chunk of great history or biography or even a nicely *noir* thriller.

For the environmentally anguished dad, a Long Island native discovers it isn't easy being green in Doug Fine's funny and thought-provoking memoir about his adoption of an eco-friendly lifestyle on a remote ranch in New Mexico. *Farewell, My Subaru: An Epic Adventure in Local Living* would bring more than a few belly laughs from Al Gore.

Or, *Earth: The Sequel—The Race to Reinvent Energy and Stop Global Warming* by Fred Krupp, who for 23 years was president of the Environmental Defense Fund, and Miriam Horn, which offers a surprisingly optimistic prescription for saving the planet with the power of capitalism. Lively profiles of new innovators make this an inspiring and entertaining read.

And for internationalist dads, *Newsweek* editor and popular pundit, Fareed Zakaria, offers a refreshingly optimistic global view. In *The Post-American World*, he sees the rise of "the rest of the world" as the greatest story of our time but feels that the United States, benefiting from an influx of young immigrants, will stay strong. His new book is thought provoking and lucid.

But if the future still seems a little too bleak, dad may enjoy a look to the past in *The Man Who Loved China: The Fantastic Story of the Eccentric Scientist Who Unlocked the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom* by Simon Winchester. We know that Winchester (*The Professor and the Madman*) is a master at bringing particular passions to life. His new book introduces us to Joseph Needham, an eccentric Cambridge scientist who traveled to China in the 1940s, became fascinated with its ancient civilization, and ultimately produced a 17-volume encyclopedia chronicling 3,000 years of Chinese history. Wonderful reading.

Orinda dads who loved *The River of Doubt* (Theodore Roosevelt's 1912 South American expedition) will relish one more trip down the Amazon, this time with Henry Wickham, who in the 1870s smuggled rubber trees from Brazil to Kew Gardens in London, where their seedlings were transplanted to British colonial outposts throughout the world. *The Thief at the End of the World: Rubber, Power, and the Seeds of Empire* by Joe Jackson is a fascinating and well-researched tale of true-life adventure.

And dad may embark on an armchair adventure of a different vintage with *The Millionaire's Vinegar: The Mystery of the World's Most Expensive Bottle of Wine* by Benjamin Wallace (who will be at Orinda Books on Tuesday, June 3, to tell us more about his book). Ben has written a fascinating story about the bottle of *Château Lafite Bordeaux*, ostensibly from Thomas

Jefferson's wine cellar at Monticello, that sold at Christies in 1985 for \$156,000.

And now for dad's hammock reading: Who could be more entertaining than Carl Hiaasen, who has charmed readers with his funny Floridian thrillers, and now invites us out on the golf course as he picks up his clubs for the first time in 32 years with *The Downhill Lie: A Hacker's Return to a Ruinous Sport*.

More relaxing reading for sports-minded dads will be found in Mike Lupica's collection, *Fathers and Sons in Sports*. Lupica has collected great writing by sports and literary luminaries who take readers from the Little League diamond to the local fishing hole and the high school wrestling mat to the collegiate gridiron. Another collection that will appeal to dads of all ages is *Everything They Had*, by the late David Halberstam. Editor Glen Stout has gathered together Halberstam's very best sports

writing, ranging from stories about a memorable dinner with Ted Williams to a fishing expedition in Patagonia.

And if dad needs a little background music in the hammock, *The Backyard Birdsong Guide: Western North America* by Donald Kroodsma offers electronic touch button vocalizations for 75 Western birds.

Lastly, there are some grand new titles such as David Benioff's *City of Thieves*, a darkly entertaining novel that takes place during the siege of Leningrad. Jeff Shaara's *The Steel Wave* opens with British commandos gathering soil samples on Omaha Beach in January 1944 and offers a sweeping account of D-Day and its aftermath. To wind up this trilogy of World War II adventures, Alan Furst has a brilliant new espionage thriller, *The Spies of Warsaw*.

Happy Father's Day – maybe it's time to build more bookcases!

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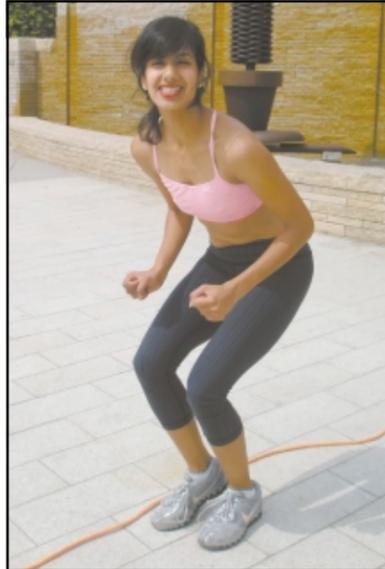
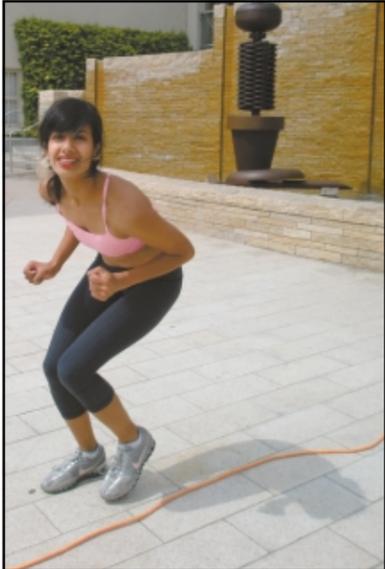
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# ORINDA MOTORS

## Move of the Month

Speed Skater



SALLY HOGARTY

Lay a long piece of string on the floor. Keeping knees bent, jump over the string with one foot leading and the other following, moving forward along the string each time until you get to the end. Then, jump back in the opposite direction. Perform for 10 seconds, rest and repeat. Increase time later. Courtesy of Living Lean, 925 360-7051.

## Orinda Resident Receives Innovative Hip Surgery

BY IAN HEETDERKS  
Staff Writer

Orinda resident Bob Moody, 60, has been an athlete all his life. Besides basketball, he played baseball semi-professionally for many years, and later transitioned to fast-pitch softball. Throughout his long career, he never gave any thought to the strain his hips were enduring. "I never worried about my hips," he recalled. "My knees never hurt, and that's all I cared about."

However, roughly five years ago hip problems slowly began to emerge. They started when a basketball teammate noticed him limping when Moody himself had not, and later developed into back pains that forced him to give up basketball altogether. Within a couple of years, Moody was even having trouble walking, and was virtually incapacitated during a family trip to Disneyland. "It became a matter of my kids saying, 'Well, Dad can't go because he can't get there.' I was becoming an old man without even knowing it." His inability to walk even short distances cut Moody off from his life's normal routine, and he began adapting to match his severe physical limitations. As a result, he started living a "very limited, boring life."

Finally, the problem came to a head when he had to cancel a trip to visit his daughter in Spain during her semester abroad, knowing he could never manage the amount of walking it would require. "I was losing my life, and I knew it was time to finally do something about it." After extensive research, a doctor referred him to Dr. Aaron Salyapongse of the Valley Medical Care Center in Pleasanton, whom he referred to as being "the latest and greatest" hip doctor in the area. At his first appointment, Moody was immediately reassured by Salyapongse's demeanor, which he described as "absolutely professional, personal, and caring." Salyapongse could see no solution other than a total hip



SALLY HOGARTY

**Bob Moody** is thrilled with his innovative hip replacement, which allows him to resume his athletic activities.

replacement, utilizing a new form of hip surgery called the SuperCap method.

A normal hip joint is comprised of a cartilage-covered ball and socket. Arthritis occurs when the cartilage covering becomes decayed or degenerative. This can lead to painful rubbing between the bones. Current standard hip replacement involves a six to eight inch incision, detachment of muscles, and hip dislocation, to allow for adequate exposure of the bones. The head (or ball) of the femur is removed and the socket is resurfaced. A new ball is placed into the socket, serving as the new hip joint. Although this is a highly respected technique with a proven record of success, the SuperCap method is a new variation that its creator, Dr. Stephen S. Murphy of Boston, considers a more effective alternative.

SuperCap is short for Superior Capsulotomy, which roughly translates to "incision from the top," because the incision is made from directly above the hip rather than along the side. This allows for a much smaller cut, roughly equal to the length of three quarter-size coins. Furthermore, it also avoids the disruption of muscles and ligaments. The SuperCap method "releases," or moves, only one tendon in the leg, and no muscles need to be cut. Specialized equipment is then used to insert

[SEE MOODY page 20]

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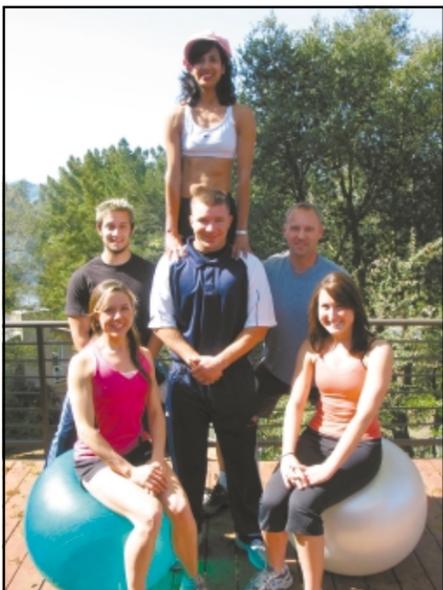
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**Bobbie Dodson**



Rain or shine, our family has enjoyed hiking the Stream Trail in Redwood Regional Park. It starts just 5.5 miles from the intersection of Moraga and Canyon roads. It's level, side trails offer easy grades, and it's sheltered from wet drops on rainy days and the heat on sunny ones.

This spring, when nine of us gathered



SALLY HOGARTY  
**Picnic areas with playgrounds** and barbecues welcome families at Redwood Regional Park.

here from as far away as New Jersey, we wanted to get outside even though it was raining. So we donned appropriate apparel and took off. Fresh air combined with wet, woody smells greeted us as we started the Stream Trail, which begins at the far end of the parking lot where the road ends. Wide and paved, it winds along above Redwood Creek. Soon you come to Canyon Meadow, with many picnic tables, barbecue pits, and a large play structure. Past that, we followed the sign on the left which got us on the Forest Trail, which parallels the Stream Trail. Here trees form an even thicker protective covering from the rains of winter, and are a boon to hikers in the hot summer months as they provide welcome shade. You eventually reach the Stream Trail again. Proceed on it and you'll arrive at the parking lot on the Oakland side at Skyline gate, a total of 3.5 miles, but here we headed back.

Although our shoes picked up mud, we all felt like children again as we splashed in a few puddles. Surprisingly, quite a few people had the same idea, laughing as they

walked along enjoying the light rain and the escape from being cooped up at home.

We also learned some interesting facts. At the Arelia Henry Reinhardt Redwood Grove, signs told us that Sequoia sempervirens, commonly known as coast redwoods, once grew from Santa Cruz to the Oregon border. In the East Bay, they grew from the Oakland Hills east to Moraga, with trees on the ridge line so tall they were used as navigational points by ships entering the Golden Gate. Those trees would have been 16 miles from where the sailors entered the bay.

However, as more people populated the area, the demand for timber grew. Between 1840 and 1860, heavy clear-cutting took place. "What was once five square miles of redwoods was reduced to a 'sea of stumps'," a sign proclaimed. The redwoods in the park now are second and third generation clones. Amazingly vital, redwood trees sent up shoots around the stump which eventually may grow into a circle of eight, nine, or more mature trees. We like to call them "fairy rings," and feel most fortunate that such a fine redwood grove of trees stands so close to home. Remember this when you have guests who'd like to see this species; you need not drive as far as Muir Woods.

This area has another claim to fame. The  
[SEE BACKYARD page 20]



SALLY HOGARTY  
**Secluded Redwood groves** covered in wild flowers add beauty to the walk as hikers follow the Stream Trail.

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- Fred and Judy Beernick, Sellers

# Meet the Artists of Orinda's Artspace Exhibition at June 14 Lecture



Artist Jeff Downing (center) explains why dogs are featured in his "Block Island Hangout" sculpture in the library plaza.

By **BARBARA BONTEMPS**  
Contributing Writer

Visitors to Orinda's Community Center and library can now enjoy a self-guided walking tour of the Artspace Orinda outdoor sculpture exhibition thanks to a new brochure made possible by Orinda Rotary and the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation. The brochure details the 14

artists featured, includes photos of each piece, and offers a step-by-step walking tour that leads from sculpture to sculpture, inviting the viewer to examine the artist's vision in creating his/her work. Visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite pieces with an eye toward the possibility that Orinda's Art in Public Places Committee might launch a voluntary fundraising campaign in the future to acquire one of

the pieces for the city. Brochures are available inside the community center and at the library.

Those interested in the walking tour may want to enjoy it in conjunction with the third and final "Meet the Artists" lecture for the Artspace exhibition, which will be held on Saturday, June 14, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center. The lecture is open to the public and gives citizens an opportunity to meet the sculptors featured and learn about their work. Artists participating in this last lecture include Riis Burwell, Jeff Downing, and Vicki Jo Sowell.

**Riis Burwell**

Born on the East Coast and originally a student of architecture, Sonoma County abstract sculptor Riis Burwell looks for the geometry found in nature and has a strong preference for stainless steel and bronze because of their permanence and inherent beauty, as well as their duality of character – as exemplified by "Bird," the piece featured in the Artspace exhibition. The metals are at once strong, yet flexible;

utilitarian, yet graceful. They evoke a variety of textures – from naturally rusted to smooth and gleaming; from silver to dark brown or black. Burwell does not cast any of his sculptures, each piece is hand-fabricated and each illustrates his impeccable craftsmanship.

**Vicki Jo Sowell**

Metal sculptor Vickie Jo Sowell graduated with an MFA from Mills College and has created public art for many communities including projects for the cities of Oakland, Dublin, Emeryville, Concord and Richmond. Her community garden, "Big Daddy's Rejuvenating Public Garden and Sculpture Park," graces the west MacArthur exit of Highway 580 east. Sowell has 20 years of studio experience and has taught welding for more than a decade. Her "Totems" grace the Orinda Library Plaza as part of Artspace. "I create enamel painted steel and aluminum sculptures that distill my responses to my environment into cultural symbols," says Sowell. "I begin with very immediate sketches that capture my personal reactions, then build this abstract vision into a linear welded outline" She calls her process "drawing in space" because it represents the coming together of a rational organizing principle with an exploration of nature.

The lecture and walking tour are free to the community. For more information, contact the Community Center at 254-2445.



Riis Burwell's "Bird" graces the front of the Library Plaza directly in front of Café Teatro.

**Creative Writing Class at Community Center**

Local playwright and educator Kathryn G. McCarty is teaching a Summer Creative Writing camp for the Orinda Park and Rec Center, June 16-26 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Students will improve their creative writing techniques while they explore a variety of genres, including haiku, myths, and dialogue. To sign up for the Creative Writing Camp, visit the Orinda Park and Rec website at [www.ci.orinda.ca.us/parksandrec](http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/parksandrec) or call (925) 254-2445.

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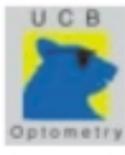
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LOCAL RESIDENTS

# Electronic Socializing Has Become the Wave of the Future

By CAROL GALASSI  
Contributing Writer

Since the Internet has become such a great part of our lives, you may now be feeling familiar with terms such as “social networking” or “bookmarking.” And now, throughout our town, Orindans “talk” via Blackberries and iPods without even exchanging a word.

In case these terms are still confusing to you, here’s a quick lesson. People don’t actually stand around with cocktails and hand out business cards when social networking. Social networking on the web is similar to networking in real life, but with some important differences.

Online social networking involves connecting and sharing information with

other like-minded people via the web. Social networking is the 21st century’s virtual community, used by groups who use the Internet to communicate with each other about anything and everything. One can find dating sites, friendship sites, sites with a business purpose, and hybrids that offer a combination of these. Globally, millions have joined one or more social networking site, meant to deliver information to even the most narrow interests. It’s no surprise that this new vehicle of communication has become a phenomenon for young and old alike, whether their interests are quilting or hip-hop.

As the Internet continues to evolve, so does our ability to socialize. The newest opportunity is presented in the form of [SEE ELECTRONIC page 20]



DAVE GALASSI

Carol Galassi explores social networking on the Internet.

# Local Architect Sees Positive Changes Ahead for Local Businesses and Homeowners



SALLY HOGARTY

(L-R) Amalia Leal, Rick Kattenburg, Jane Slates, Allen Thygeson, and Elina Bluvshsteyn of Kattenburg Architects. Not shown is “girl Friday” Candy Kattenburg.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Looking down from his suite of offices on the second floor above La Piazza restaurant, architect Rick Kattenburg has gazed at the Orinda Theatre for 12 years now, watching a variety of businesses come and go. “I’m very excited about the Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation and its plans for the theater,” says the architect with over 30 years experience. “Hopefully, it will bring new life to the area.”

Kattenburg is also hopeful that the Planning Process Review Task Force, created in late 2007, will have a beneficial effect on the planning process for businesses and homeowners in Orinda. “For

years, Orinda has practiced NIMBYism (not in my backyard) with very restrictive codes. But, our current city council and the new task review committee favor a different approach.” According to Kattenburg, who attends some of the task review force meetings, the 11 members have clocked hundreds of volunteer hours resulting in new ideas and proposed changes to current policy. “The pendulum is swinging the other way. If the planning commission and city council accept the committee’s recommendations, projects won’t be as time consuming and expensive just getting through design review and approval,” Kattenburg explains.

Sometimes seen as the “squeaky wheel,” Kattenburg acknowledges his proactive role [SEE KATTENBURG page 18]

## real experiences



### MAGGIE

Margaret, an avid cyclist, suffered extensive injuries when hit by a car. After several surgeries, she transferred to our care and received intensive medical and rehabilitation services to help regain her ability to care for herself. Margaret is now back home.

### ROGER

Roger had a double knee replacement. After the surgery, he needed physical rehabilitation before returning home. We helped him regain strength and endurance. Roger is home and golfing with his friends and family.



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# Marjorie Musante Retirement Party

■ Set for June 11 at Del Rey School

By VALERIE HOTZ  
Staff Writer

Marjorie Musante began her teaching career at Sleepy Hollow School in 1969. After 12 years, she moved to Del Rey Elementary School, where she spent the majority of her 29-year career teaching 5th grade curriculum to generations of Orindans. Students, former students, parents, and the Orinda community are warmly invited to attend, and join in honoring Musante at her retirement party, where she is likely to tell some of her fascinating stories about growing up and teaching in Orinda.

The party will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Del Rey multi-purpose room June 11.

A product of Orinda public schools, Musante fondly recalls rural scenery with pear orchards and fields awash with yellow

mustard seed. Her brother had a paper route and delivered the *Oakland Tribune* from horseback. She herself was not allowed to ride her bike on Moraga Way, as it was the main thoroughfare. Musante shares the story of a conversation her mother had with one of her teachers. "Mrs. Dodd impressed on parents how important they are in their children's lives every day. She used to say the children got fresh squeezed orange juice, not the frozen stuff in the can, but fresh squeezed every day," smiles Musante. "It is a great illustration of the love and care our children receive. The volunteer efforts of parents, grandparents, and community volunteers continue to be huge and make this job a pleasure."

Her summers in elementary school were spent at the creative arts summer school program. At age 12 that program ended and Musante became a student aide in the Orinda schools for many summers. Prior to graduating from Miramonte, Musante was called in to the district office for a meeting. "They very kindly explained that I should be a math and science major in



VALERIE HOTZ

Marjorie Musante, shown here in her Del Rey classroom, retires this year after 29 years of teaching. Her retirement party will be June 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Del Rey Elementary School.

college, since those fields were being stressed in elementary school as far as teaching training was concerned," says Musante. "So off I went to San Jose State University to major in a science program designed for teachers."

"I am not sure when she sleeps, because she is always going above and beyond to adapt new curriculum or work on our Singing Sox Show. She is a mentor to us all and would literally give you the shirt off her back, with a periodic table on it or a Wagon Train picture for when you taught the western movement. We are hoping she will be back as a guest lecturer," says colleague Robyn Arthur.

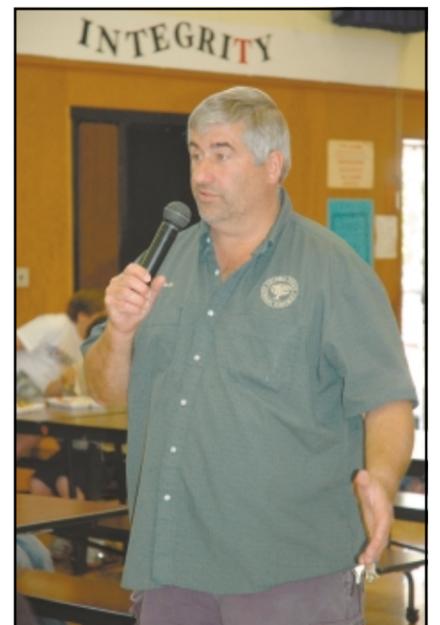
With her musical background, it was a natural step for Musante to produce the Del Rey tradition, Singing Sox. "Mr. Steve [head janitor at Del Rey] has so many phenomenal skills. He is my right arm. If there is a Rodgers, he is my Hammerstein. Probably my most memorable times are Sox and environmental living experiences, Indian Days, First Thanksgiving, Rancho Day, and Pioneer Days. Orinda has always felt like a family to me. I am very grateful to all the people who helped me along the way. I have had the honor of working with a high-powered group of professionals who provide a support system for children. It has been a great team."

## Steve Eydam Remembers Margorie Musante

By VALERIE HOTZ  
Staff Writer

Steve Eydam joined the Del Rey staff in 1981, serving 26 years with Marjorie Musante. As head janitor, Mr. Steve – as he is known to the students – is responsible for making the institution hum. "Marjorie and I made a great team. It was always so much fun to work with her producing 5th grade plays and "Singing Sox" every year. I learned how to light cities and how to fly a kite over the multi-purpose room. One year, we did the *Wizard of Oz*, complete with a huge mask of Oz and smoke billowing out," recalls Eydam.

"Marjorie Musante is a person of total dedication. She is usually always on campus by 7 a.m. every day and almost always the last to leave at night," reminisces Eydam. It will be a new experience for Eydam to work on "Singing Sox" this year without Musante. The two of them have given so much to the school, its parents, and students over the years. But Musante will be there in spirit and, possibly, in the audience cheering the students on.



VALERIE HOTZ

Steve Eydam, Del Rey head janitor, praises Musante's dedication to her students.

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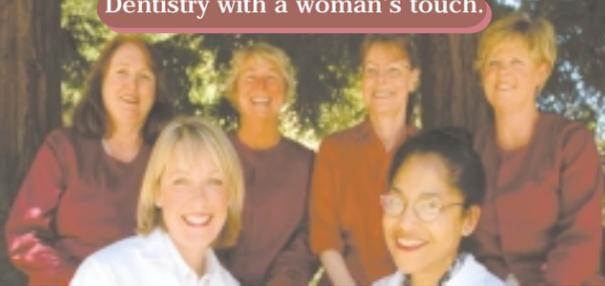
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ORINDA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

# OIS Students Wade in to Clean Up the Bay

By CHRISTINE TEMPLE-WOLFE  
Contributing Writer

The largest offenders of polluting the San Francisco Bay over the last 16 months are pretty heavy hitters: San Quentin prison, the 900-foot container ship Cosco Busan, and everyday citizens who are dumping trash into waterways throughout the bay.

And while some in Orinda may believe they are not directly affected by the health of the bay, hundreds of students at Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) believe otherwise. For weeks, they have volunteered to join with groups supervised by the environmental organization Save the Bay to pull out non-native vegetation and replace it with native plants. They have learned about the ecosystem, expanded their vocabularies – and they keep coming back for more.

“During the first semester of this school year, we logged over 2,000 hours and 450 kids participated,” said Kathy Jones, president of Others First, the school’s volunteer organization that acts as an umbrella for a number of causes.

That includes helping to save the bay, which recently received 2.5 million gallons of partially treated sewage and storm water through its waterways, along with 58,000 gallons of heavy duty bunker fuel spilled from the Cosco Busan tanker. East Bay legislative bodies and the residents who live and work here are helping in record numbers to keep the bay alive and healthy.

Through Others First at OIS, more than half the student body volunteers each year to work during their lunch hour on projects that help non-profits throughout the Bay Area. After school on weekdays and on weekends, Others First volunteers visit environmental areas in need as well as other health organizations, food banks, and East Bay shelters for families in need.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
OIS students joined Save The Bay to pull out non-native vegetation and replace it with native plants.

The students volunteering for the monthly activities are chaperoned by parent volunteers who take them to the various wetland locations throughout the East Bay to work with Save the Bay’s trained leadership to not only learn about the ecosystem, but to pull invasive plant life and replant more indigenous plant life that helps the bay prosper.

Save the Bay works with schools to provide educational programs to help future generations learn about the ramifications of our behavior. While the lessons often incorporate hard work such as weeding, digging, replanting and hauling, they also help the students become the future change agents of our community.

Save the Bay projects that it will cost up to \$1.43 billion over 50 years to fully restore 36,176 acres of shoreline property that is already in public ownership and slated for tidal wetland restoration. Bay Area voters have overwhelmingly supported the last four statewide natural resource bonds, yet bay projects have received just 1 percent of the \$13.5 billion those measures contained for open space and park protection, water quality improvements, acquisition of public lands, and wetland restoration.

Save the Bay program leaders help young adults also better understand what the wetland habitats are like. Right out of the science class lesson plans, program leaders take students to important sites and help to teach them the academic facts about the world in which they live.

For more information about the Others First program, go to [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org), then click on schools, then Orinda Intermediate School, then programs. Or email President Kathy Jones at [kbjones11@comcast.net](mailto:kbjones11@comcast.net). For more information about Save the Bay programs, go to [www.savesfbay.org](http://www.savesfbay.org), or call 510-452-9261.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
OIS students, through the school's Others First program, logged over 2,000 volunteer hours doing projects such as this environmental cleanup for Save the Bay.

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

### *Bicycle, Bicycle*

  
 Andra Lim

On March 9, bicyclists Kristy Gough and Matt Peterson were hit and killed by a Santa Clara County deputy. This tragedy spiked an interest in California cycling accidents over the past several years.

A study by *The San Francisco Chronicle* showed that bicyclists were blamed for accidents twice as often as drivers in the approximately 2,000 collisions that occurred in the Bay Area from 1997 to 2007. According to *The Chronicle*, "bicycle and safety advocates... say large numbers of cyclists fail to follow the rules of the road, running stop signs and red lights, and drivers are becoming more aggressive."

Though there has been no such recent accident in Orinda, tensions between drivers and bikers are definitely present.

While driving down Moraga Way, I have noticed that many Orinda cyclists are incapable of staying within the designated bike lane. I believe Freddie Mercury expressed this violation of traffic laws best: "I want to ride my bicycle, I want to ride my bike. I want to ride my bicycle, *I want to ride it where I like.*"

Which is, for Orinda cyclists, a foot away from cars that are going 50 miles per hour (it is the rare driver who actually obeys the speed limit on Moraga Way, and the even rarer driver who does not hate the driver who actually obeys the speed limit on Moraga Way).

In my observations of Orinda cyclists, I have noticed a pattern: They ride in groups, and they ride side by side. I can understand why bicyclists would want to ride together. However, I cannot even begin to comprehend why cyclists seem to feel compelled to ride next to each other (I have seen as many as four abreast), as it is obviously dangerous for cars and bikes to travel so close to each other.

Are they having a conversation? But what could they possibly have to talk about that they would ride so far outside of the bike lane? Do they enjoy the thrill of risking an accident? Do they get a perverse feeling of satisfaction from all the frustration and anger they cause drivers?

Or are they having some sort of Tour de France fantasy, imagining that Moraga Way is not a potholed, two-lane paved street but a rugged mountain road? (As triathlon coach Marc Evans told *The Chronicle*, "You get these guys who think they are Lance Armstrong or something, then they turn around and get themselves killed.")

I have realized that their disrespect is what annoys me the most. I don't care so much about having to swerve in order to avoid hitting a group of bicyclists. What irks me is that they could stay within the lines but choose not to.

I must give some kudos to bicyclists. I know that a few of their number do stay inside the bike lane, setting a shining example that renegade bicyclists would do well to follow. I would also like to encourage cyclists to consider biking on the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail (which can be accessed from Moraga Commons Park) instead of Moraga Way.

Furthermore, one common argument in favor of biking is that it saves gas and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. However, most Orinda cyclists do not seem to be going anywhere (most are not carrying any sort of baggage, and most are wearing neon spandex, which is not normally worn in public for lengthy periods of time). Biking is not an alternative method of transportation for Orinda cyclists, but merely a way to get exercise. Therefore, Orinda cyclists have minimal impact – positive or negative – on the planet.

As the song *The Idiot on the Bike* goes, "I've been told it's getting much warmer everywhere in the world. But know what? The tempers are, too."

## Miramonte Grad Night Moved Off-Campus

By IAN HEETDERKS  
 Staff Writer

Miramonte's annual Grad Night celebration on June 13 will be held off-campus this year, in order to accommodate a later finals schedule and to ease the burden placed on parent volunteers. This year, preparations started in April, as opposed to last year when they began in January. The theme for this year is "Get in Tune." As the invitation describes, "We all walk to the beat of a different drum, and we all make beautiful music together when we 'Get in Tune.'" Seniors will receive customized invitations that resemble iPods, bearing the familiar click-wheel and shape of the popular music players. In place of the screen, each invitation will have a portrait of the recipient.

Trish Stuber, a volunteer on the Grad night committee, was optimistic about the change. "We'll be offering a lot of the same activities, and new ones will replace the ones that are taken away," she said. "And another benefit is we won't have to shut down early, although as is traditional we will be taking an hour at the end to watch the senior video, which we are really excited about." Graduates will board buses at 8 p.m. and be whisked away to an undisclosed location, and returned to campus at 3 a.m. A DJ will keep the tunes coming, in keeping with the event's theme. There will be plenty of food with a special surprise at midnight.

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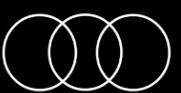
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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

# Local Orindan Takes Action Against Styrofoam

By IAN HEETDERKS  
Staff Writer

David Sasson, an eighth-grader at the Athenian School in Danville, has been interested in devising ways to improve the world since he was very young. "I had a notebook that I filled with drawings of my 'inventions,'" Sasson recalled, "like one that would attach to exhaust pipes to 'clean' the exhaust." Today, Athenian's community service requirement has motivated him to put one of his ideas into action. "I've been suspicious of Styrofoam for a long time," Sasson explained, "and I wanted my project to be about something that really mattered



SALLY HOGARTY

David Sasson hopes to convince businesses to stop using styrofoam (L) and use paper instead.

to me." Athenian requires 20 hours of community service before graduation, and Sasson has been fulfilling the requirement by working to raise awareness of the dangers of Styrofoam (the trade name for polystyrene) and the threat it poses both to people and the environment.

Although it is a popular container for food and beverages, Styrofoam permeates the food it comes in contact with and makes it carcinogenic, especially when food is hot, acidic, or fatty. Furthermore, Styrofoam products cannot be recycled or composted, because they are 95 percent air. They bear a recycling symbol because the petroleum-based plastic from which Styrofoam is made could presumably be recycled, but doing so is not feasible because it is too light. Every Styrofoam recycling program that has thus far been attempted has failed. Instead, it is disposed of in landfills and often winds up in the ocean, where it melts, permeating plankton and poisoning fish. "There's just no way to get rid of it safely,"

Sasson said, "so the only solution is to stop using it altogether."

After extensive research, Sasson found that many Bay Area cities have already taken steps against polystyrene. The city of Berkeley was one of the first to adopt such an ordinance, banning polystyrene in 1988. Other cities have been slower to act, such as Alameda, which enacted its ban in January of 2008. Nonetheless, the list of West Coast counties with polystyrene bans either already in place, or soon to be enacted, is extensive. Contra Costa County, however, is glaringly absent. Sasson has been busy trying to promote anti-Styrofoam awareness in local businesses, and he has already convinced the Orinda Woods Tennis Club and La Piazza Restaurant to stop using Styrofoam products. The government of Orinda is too small to wield the same amount of influence as the government of a city like San Francisco, and, therefore, it is only through voluntary commitment that Styrofoam can be rid from our community.

Many viable, environmentally friendly alternatives to Styrofoam exist. Paper- and aluminum-based containers are recyclable, while corn starch-based products can be composted. Although such products are more expensive than Styrofoam, businesses could easily compensate for the extra cost by either encouraging customers to bring their own containers, or by adding it to the bill. "Besides," Sasson said, "in an affluent community such as Orinda, this wouldn't be a problem anyway." According to Sasson, there is simply no excuse for Orindans to continue the harmful practice of using Styrofoam, and it is incumbent upon all of us to make a concerted effort to end its use, both here and in neighboring communities.



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## Wagner Ranch Elementary School Presents, SNOOPY!!!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wagner Ranch students rehearse a scene from *Snoopy!!!* Everyone's favorite pooch comes to Orinda June 6 and 7 when Wagner Ranch students recreate the Charles M. Schulz musical.

Based on the popular comic strip "Peanuts," this sequel to *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* follows the lovable 5-year-olds onto the school yard as Charlie Brown assumes his new responsibilities as safety patrolman. Here such songs as "Edgar Allan Poe," which asks why teachers only call on you when you don't know the answer, and "Clouds," where the youngsters imagine dragons, horses, and more as they stare at the sky during recess, remind the audience of simpler times when everyone had their security blanket within reach.

Directed by Ron Pickett and produced by Meg Vaughn and Gloria Kubitschek, *Snoopy!!!* features talented Wagner Ranch students on stage and behind the scenes as they make Charlie Brown, Linus, Peppermint Patty, Lucy, and, of course, Snoopy come to life. The show performs at 4 and 7 p.m. on June 6 and 3 and 7 p.m. on June 7. General admission tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for children. Reserved seats, only available by advance purchase, are \$10. To reserve tickets, go online to [www.orindaschools.org/wagnerranch/site/default.asp](http://www.orindaschools.org/wagnerranch/site/default.asp).

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ GROW from page 2

nature will better withstand the wear and tear of outdoor exposure. These are generally best chosen in lighter colors so as not to absorb too much of the sun's heat. Concrete and stainless are also good

choices, and certain tiles can be more durable than stone, particularly when used for flooring.

Factors such as heat, sound and light are often overlooked when planning outdoor spaces, yet these elements are essential. Think about how the system will be powered. There are two basic options: If your backyard kitchen is close to your house, it can be powered through a common or nearby wall. A more remote location will require installing a separate electrical and/or gas line.

Because cool Orinda evenings often send us indoors for warmth, most homeowners are adding a heat source to their exterior rooms. There are many options to choose from in this regard. We have installed propane and natural gas heaters, mounted in eaves and arbors, as well as free-standing models. Fireplaces and fire-pits, although not as efficient as a gas heater in warming up a large space, are a more popular choice.

Sound systems will greatly enhance the social aspect of your outdoor space and can be wired to the in-house stereo system, or wired to act independently. Finally, good



The Wheaton family will certainly enjoy summer evenings with their new outdoor kitchen and fireplace. COTNRIBUTED PHOTO

lighting is critical to the success of your backyard kitchen and entertainment spaces. Just as with the indoor kitchen, there must be ample amounts of both ambient and task lighting. Often, the ambient (mood) lighting is remembered, but the task lighting is not. It can be difficult to perfect your cooking if the cook can't see the food. Good task lighting can easily be achieved

by placing small, directional spot lights in overhead eaves, structures, or even in trees. We avoid the barbecue lights with flexible stems because they don't look good, they don't hold themselves up well, and they rust easily. There are newer, more effective mounting lights available that can be permanently attached onto your barbecue counter.

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◆ KATTENBURG from page 13

with the city. "As a licensed architect in this community, I feel I should be politically active and push our city government to develop a building process that is friendly and positive."

Kattenburg comes by his rabble rousing honestly. His father was a foreign service officer and Viet Nam expert who had the courage to tell the National Security Council that the United States should withdraw from Viet Nam. "It was a very unpopular thing to do at the time," says Kattenburg. Three years ago when his father died, members of the diplomatic corps came out for the funeral. "It was really something to see all these important politicians," Kattenburg says. "Many came up to me to say how much they admired my dad for taking a stand and saying what needed to be said at the risk of injuring his career."

Kattenburg credits his dad with giving him a good example of speaking out and exposing him to the beautiful classical architecture of Europe and Asia as the family moved to various posts during his father's diplomatic career.

While the housing market has had a domino effect on many construction-related businesses and banks, Kattenburg is weathering the storm. "We are seeing clients sit on the fence longer before deciding to go ahead," he says. "Some have reduced their projects and scaled down a bit." Kattenburg had hoped to see a reduction in construction materials and labor costs to help homeowners' budgets. "The hike in gas prices, however, has kept material costs up," he explains.

Fortunately for the award-winning design firm, Kattenburg Architects has not been impacted by the housing slump as much as many in the industry. "Some lumber companies that we deal with estimate that their sales are down 20-30 percent, and architectural firms dealing with subdivision housing are experiencing a decline," he says.

Specializing in custom, residential design, Kattenburg's firm continues to have a loyal following of clients. At any given time, they have 10-12 projects in construction. "We do a lot of remodels and additions for homeowners, but we also do commercial," says Kattenburg, who recently completed the new Tommy T's comedy club in Pleasanton.

"We try to save our clients money in whatever way we can," adds Kattenburg. "We've always been big on energy conservation, taking into account the client's stylistic and living issues and finding a way to reduce energy consumption if possible." Kattenburg notes that homeowners don't have to spend upwards of \$30,000 for extraordinary green measures, and cautions homeowners to be careful of misinformation. "There are passive solar designs that can provide savings," he says. Kattenburg lists heavier insulation, proper orientation, appropriate glazing, and use of radiant sheathing (foil covering plywood to retain heat in the winter and air-conditioning in the summer).

Kattenburg encourages interested community members to keep up on requirements by attending planning commission and task force meetings, which are listed on the City of Orinda's website at [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

Are you considering buying or selling your home? Do you want to know what your home is worth in the current market? Are you wondering what is happening to home prices in the area? Give me a call about your real estate needs.

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Janice Gatlin



While it's sad that some homeowners have lost their homes to foreclosure, it can also be an opportunity for those looking to buy.

If you're one of those buyers, you may be able to purchase a bank-foreclosed home (called REO's for Real Estate Owned) below market prices. Typically, banks have real estate agents initially price the home at market value. But banks like to sell properties quickly and will usually drop the prices or accept a lower offer to get the home sold.

The downsides can be that a REO may need some work and the escrow and inspection times are usually fairly short.

How can you plan ahead to make a REO purchase successful? What should you as a buyer look for and do to reduce the risks when purchasing?

First, make sure you are pre-approved (not pre-qualified) by a stable, reputable lender and have that pre-approval letter in hand. Most REO sales require that letter to be submitted with the offer.

Secondly, make some calls to pest and home inspection companies well ahead of looking at REO properties. Tell them you're interested in purchasing a REO and that they have very short inspection schedules (usually 5-7 calendar days). See if you can create an on-call arrangement with the inspection companies of your choice so that they will be ready when you need them.

Third, make sure your down payment and deposit funds are in ready cash. REO sales usually require the deposit be made in the form of a cashier's check, within 24 hours of acceptance, and the down payment funds need to be available within three to seven days of acceptance. So before making an offer, transfer those funds into a liquid state, such as a savings or checking

account.

Fourth, to reduce your risks, do all the inspections you feel are necessary. At a minimum, do a pest and home inspection, using qualified professional inspectors. Also, do them as early as possible after acceptance so that if a specialized inspector, such as a structural engineer for example, is recommended by a home inspector, you will have time for that additional inspection, as well.

What can you expect to see in a REO property? REO's range anywhere from small condo units up to luxury homes. Most of these homes need at least some cosmetic work. As you can imagine, if someone is in a financial crisis, they don't have the money or time to do upkeep on their property. Typically, these homes need at least touch-up paint, sometimes full interior painting, carpet, and general cleaning. Many need some carpentry repairs, as well.

Some homes need more extensive repairs, and unless you are very clear on the extent of those repairs and are willing and able to undertake the work, those properties are probably best left to contractors or others with the skill to do large renovations. REOs are sold as-is with no warranties.

Last and most important, find a real estate agent with REO sales experience. He or she will have the knowledge and experience to guide you. If you're feeling sad for those who lost their homes, it may help to think: what could be a nicer ending than to have that home once again cherished by a new owner?

*Janice Gatlin is the local owner of Always the Best Home Repairs and also a partner in two real estate firms that specialize in selling REOs in the Tahoe-Truckee area and Greater Reno Areas.*

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## STARLIGHT

## ◆ TAX from page 1

going to keep on coming back and saying we need more and more and more.”

Election watchers at press time were unsure how likely the measure was to pass – a two-thirds majority is a difficult hurdle for tax increases. The state requires, however, that any tax increase be passed by that majority.

What library users are certain about is the popularity of the Orinda branch of the Contra Costa County Library system, which is headquartered in Pleasant Hill. About 8,100 people walk into the Orinda Library on a weekly basis, said Caroline Gick, the acting community library manager. Between 22,000 and 25,000 items are checked out at the Orinda Library per month, she said.

“Children’s programs are very popular, particularly our weekly lap-sits and story-times,” Gick said. Author visits also are popular, as well as programs on travel, health-related issues, social, and historical issues. “We have a very socially and intellectually engaged community here,” Gick said. All library programs will be cut back if Measure E fails to pass because the hours of the library will be reduced from the current 60 hours per week to 35.

One stream of income for the libraries is fines paid for late returns or lost items. Fines paid in Orinda, along with fines paid at the county’s other 24 branches, go to a communal pot at the county library system, where they are divvied up to the libraries in proportion to the library’s use, said Laura O’Donoghue, deputy county librarian for public services. “So if you pay a fine in Orinda, it doesn’t mean that the library gets that money directly,” she said. Income from fines, however, are allocated based on a branch’s use – so even if all Orinda library-goers managed to get all materials back on time, the branch would still receive money from the county fund. They also comprise only a tiny part of the general library fund, she said – about 2 percent.

“Orinda is definitely one of the most popular and well-used branches,” O’Donoghue said. More than 14,000 people are card-carrying members of the Orinda branch, she said. According to a U.S. Census estimate, Orinda’s population was 18,348 in 2006, meaning that just about everyone in the city is a member.

“We all love our library,” Pulley said. People often pick up their teen-agers at the library; they take their little ones to library programs, and are generally supportive. “It’s a jewel of the city,” she said.

## Text of Measure E:

## Measure E. Parcel Tax — City of Orinda (2/3 Approval Required)

For the purpose of maintaining the existing hours and services at the Orinda Library, replacing worn and outdated books and materials, and ensuring that the Library can continue existing programs for children, families, and seniors, shall the City of Orinda be authorized to continue and adjust the existing tax from twenty-seven dollars to thirty-nine dollars per year per residential parcel or equivalent unit, only for the Orinda Library and subject to an annual audit?

## ◆ CENTURY from page 1

Real Estate, and the Orinda Community Church, features speakers Joyce Hawkins and Dick Heggie, who will discuss the birth of Orinda as a city. “It’s been 25 years since we incorporated, but many people don’t know what went on behind the scenes the year before as we planned for the election,” Fazel explains. Hawkins was part of the feasibility study to determine if incorporation was best for Orinda and Heggie became Orinda’s first mayor. “Many people don’t realize that the first 4th of July parade was organized in part to promote incorporation. We even had a Boston Tea Party float,” adds Fazel.

The June 19 luncheon is free to those 75 and over. Call 925-324-2017 to secure your reservation.

## Starlight Players Open Season With Agatha Christie Murder Mystery

BY DOROTHY BOWEN  
Staff Writer

Why do mystery writers always want to kill off their own creations? It’s a mystery.

Arthur Conan Doyle was more of a threat to Sherlock Holmes than Professor Moriarity ever was. Moriarity may have pushed the great detective over Reichenbach Falls, but it was Doyle who refused to resuscitate him. Likewise, Agatha Christie got tired of her Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, and wrote him out of her play, *Murder on the Nile*.

An Agatha Christie opening play is a tradition for the Orinda Starlight Village Players. They perform in the Orinda Community Park Amphitheater, and this year the company performs *Murder on the Nile* May 30 through June 29. Suzan Lorraine will direct.

The plot involves a group of tourists traveling on a paddle steamer down the Nile River. It’s the exotic equivalent of an English country house that Christie often uses to isolate her suspects.

Among the tourists are Simon Mostyn and Kay Ridgeway. Simon has just married the wealthy Kay after jilting his fiancée, Jacqueline de Severac. Not to be cast aside

so easily, Jackie follows them along with Kay’s uncle, Canon Pennyfather, and an entourage of characters with agendas of their own. It is up to the Canon to unravel the mayhem that ensues.

Lorraine has directed a play for Starlight Players every season for the last several years, including *My Three Angels*, *Cards on the Table*, *The Nerd*, *Fallen Angels* and an Alan Ayckbourn comedy.

In the cast are both Starlight regulars and some new names: Brian Hitchem, Patricia Inabet, Ken Sollazo, Diana Godet, Rebecca O’Conner, Craig Echneyer, Bill Chessman, Laura Morgan, and Jim Fritz.

Audiences may remember the 1978 movie version of *Murder* starring Peter Ustinov as Poirot. However, critics at the time agreed that Christie had done the right thing in bumping off the detective. The ultimate compliment, wrote one, was that on the way out of the theater he heard members of the audience discussing who they thought had done it. They had, of course, been wrong.

The Starlight season continues with Paul Rudnick’s *I Hate Hamlet* (July 18 – August 16) and Dave Freeman’s *A Bed Full of Foreigners* (September 5 – 27).

For information call 253-1191. You can purchase tickets at the performance.



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Dr. Angela Bayat

## Body Makeovers By Living Lean

“These pants are too tight.” “That shirt doesn’t fit anymore.” “I may have to buy all new clothes.” These comments from my wife, Lisa, led me to seek out Sheena at Living Lean. A mutual friend had gone on the Living Lean program, and the results were great. Lisa was a bit reticent at first about her ability to succeed in the program. In turn, we all knew that we would have to support her 100% as a family. Since joining the program, the entire family now eats brown rice (not easy, since Lisa is Chinese), Living Lean Bread, and we’ve virtually eliminated red meat and high fat foods. At meals, our kids often ask if we’re “eating on plan.” Lisa has made working out a way of life. Lisa went from 28% body fat to 15% body fat in 6 months and from a size 10 to a size 6. Lisa is discovering “new” clothes every day in her own closet. At our recent school auction, she was able to wear the same little sexy black dress she wore at our wedding rehearsal dinner 10 years ago, and it fits perfectly.

*Lisa Siemsen went from 28% body fat to 15% body fat in 6 months and from a size 10 to a size 6.*

Living Lean Team

For More Information Call Sheena at  
**(925) 360-7051**  
Space is limited so call today!



## ON THE CALENDAR

### JUNE

- 1 **CalShakes' Meet the Artists**, 4 p.m., Bruns Amphitheater. *Pericles* to be performed in the evenings through June 22, www.calshakes.org, 510-548-3422, tickets, 510-548-9666.
- Orinda Starlight Village Players Murder on the Nile** by Agatha Christie, 8:30 p.m., Orinda Community Park Amphitheater. Through 6/29. For info. call 253-1191. Tickets at the box office prior to show.
- 4 **Orinda Rotary Camps Royal and Venture Students' Presentation**, noon, Orinda Community Center, 254-3151.
- 5 **Orinda Library Spring Book Sale**, 10 a.m. to 1 - 6 p.m., sorting room and bookshop. Last sale of the season, 254-1358.
- 6 **Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church First Friday Forum**, 1:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall at 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. See article page 5, 925-283-8722.
- 7 **Roughing It Day Camp's Day Camp Show**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., 1010 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette. Opportunity to meet directors, learn about programs, and meet prospective camper families. RSVP www.roughingit.com/campshows.htm or 925-283-3795.
- 8 **Kids 'N Dance 'N Theater Arts**, *Cirque Du Soleil*, 2 and 4 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$5 children, ages 2 and under free. 510-531-4400 for tickets.
- 11 **Orinda Books**, Wednesday Book Group, 3 p.m. Read and discuss *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson. 254-7606.
- Orinda Rotary Nazi Holocaust Speaker** at Orinda Community Center. Johann Snapper will speak about his family's experience saving Jews from the Nazis, 254-3151.
- 17 **Orinda Books**, Orinda Owls, 7 p.m. Read and discuss *Intuition* by Allegra Goodman, 254-7606.
- 18 **Orinda Rotary Cal Stanley**, of Oakland Boys and Girls Clubs, noon, at Orinda Community Center. He will discuss the clubs' work, 254-3151.
- 19 **Orinda Books**, 4 p.m., Sheldon Siegel will discuss and sign copies of *Judgment Day*, 254-7606.
- 25 **Orinda Rotary**, Passing of the Gavel, noon, Orinda Community Center, with Marshall Johnson the new chair, 254-3151.
- 28 **Orinda Ovations Children's Theater** presents *Annie*, a musical performed by children ages 4 to 8, noon. *Jungle Book*, 11 a.m. *Grease*, 1 p.m. Lafayette Dance Center, 925-284-7388 for information, 510-531-4400 for tickets.

### AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless specified.

#### Children's Events

- 17 **Insect Discovery Lab**, 3:30 p.m., meet and greet live insects from the Center for Ecosystem Survival. Suitable for 5 years old and up.
- 24 **Peek-a-boo Time**, 10 a.m., stories, songs, rhymes, and rhythms for babies under 1 year and their caregivers only. Those with older siblings can attend Toddler Lapsit at 10:30 a.m.
- Toddler Lapsit**, 10 a.m., bounces, stories, songs for children up to 3 years old and their caregivers. Repeats at 10:30 a.m. Also June 25.
- 28 **Saturday Morning Live!** 11 a.m., family storytime for 3- to 5-year-olds.

#### Adult Events

- 18 **Energy Efficiency: Myths and Facts for Residential Customers**, 7 p.m., Gallery Room. Bill Holloway from PG&E will discuss ways people can reduce energy consumption and save on utility bills.
- 24 **Fireside Chat**, 7 p.m. Local author J. Gary Gwilliam will talk about his book, *Getting a Winning Verdict in My Personal Life: A Trial Lawyer Finds His Soul*.
- 26 **Story Swap For Adults**, 7 to 9 p.m. Help keep the oral tradition alive as professional and beginning storytellers share funny, sad, foolish, and wise stories.

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.cityoforinda.org.

#### Historic Landmarks Committee

Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, public is welcome, 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.

### CLUB MEETINGS

#### Friends of the Orinda Creeks

Orinda Library, May Room, fourth Wednesday, 8 a.m., 253-1997.

#### Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary,

Postino's in Lafayette, 7 a.m. every Friday, 254-0440, ext.463.

#### Orinda Job's Daughters

Orinda Masonic Center, 9 Altarinda Road, first and third Mondays at 7 p.m. Call Nicki Wandesforde 925-283-7176 or email nickichef@comcast.net.

#### 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/Tabor (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 Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon; call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

CALENDAR BY CHRIS LAVIN

Send calendar items to chrislavin@earthlink.net

## Pericles Opens Cal Shakes' Season at Bruns Amphitheater



MICHAEL DANIEL

Joel Sass, who directed the above production of *Pericles* at the Guthrie Theatre, will open Cal Shakes' season with the same show.

By DOROTHY BOWEN  
Staff Writer

When Shakespeare wrote *Pericles*, it was an instant box office hit. It was performed more than any other play when Shakespeare's company, the Kings Men, was giving 138 shows a year. The Puritans and the plague closed the theaters for a while, but when the theaters opened again after the Restoration, it was the first play to be performed.

It isn't done as often these days, but that could change when *Pericles*, directed by Joel Sass, Minneapolis-based freelance director, opens the Cal Shakes' season. It plays May 28 through June 22. Cal Shakes' performed it in 1997, and, before that as Berkeley Shakespeare, in 1979, directed by Julian Lopez-Morillas.

*Pericles* is not like Shakespeare's other plays. It's not tragedy like *King Lear*, nor history like *Richard III*, nor comedy like *Twelfth Night*, which ends the Cal Shakes' season. It is called a romance and features not only fairytale elements, like wicked stepmothers and riddles to be solved, but also many themes from previous plays, like father and daughter relationships and the clash between appearance and reality. The Cal Shakes' season announcement calls it a wild fairytale and the production photos feature fancifully costumed characters riding horses that look like beach toys. It could well be subtitled, like *Lemony Snicket*, a series of unfortunate events. The hero moves from Antioch to Tyre, Tarsus, Pentapolis, Mytilene, and Ephesus in the course of his adventures. Along the way, he finds a wife and daughter and loses them at sea. Then, at the end, the lost are found and the family reunited.

"Shakespeare's romances give us a happy answer to human dilemmas," says Philippa Kelly, dramaturg for *Pericles*, "and

it also provides a very fitting follow-up to last season's *King Lear*, a play that is relentless in its presentation of the reality of mortality and loss - whereas *Pericles* confronts us with mortality and loss only to offer restoration at the end."

"Also, *Pericles* uses riddles and oath-taking, dumb shows, and narratives to advance its plot. They offer audiences a fascinating ride through the play. And Joel's production will be amazing: He uses gorgeous color, fast-paced action, and wonderful theatrical devices," Kelly adds. Kelly was one of the speakers in the new Cal Shakes Literary Society that meets at the Orinda Library to discuss the season's plays. She will be giving some of the Grove Talks before the performances at Bruns Amphitheater.

An ensemble of eight actors will play multiple roles. The part of Pericles will be played by Christopher Kelly, a newcomer to Cal Shakes, who was most recently Macbeth at the New Victory in New York. Delia MacDougall will be Pericles' long lost wife, Thaisa, and also a Bawd. She was in last season's *Man and Superman* and *King Lear*. Danny Scheie, in *Triumph of Love* last season, will play a triple role.

Shawn Hamilton, who appeared in Sass' Guthrie Theater production of *Pericles*, will reprise his roles as Gower, the narrator, [SEE PERICLES page 23]

### Teen Movie Night!

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

a great room with a flat screen television hidden away in a cupboard, and then the area can be used for formal entertaining as well," she adds.

Sprague notes the future will bring more ecologically sound home space and energy conservation principles, making the home more energy efficient in the process. "Of course decisions are made on a case by case basis, but I think there will be a time when the living room is eliminated as part of the process of making the home more energy efficient," says Sprague.

Nancy Sprague & Company Interior Design has been a member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce since 1996, with Sprague serving as a director for nine years. For more information, call 254-7767 or 932-4477.

**Hanazen Is By Reservation Only**

This tiny and intimate restaurant – tucked



VALERIE HOTZ

Hanazen's sushi bar is a popular place among local aficionados. With only 18 seats in the entire restaurant, reservations are a must!

in next to Geppetto's at 87 Orinda Way – is a must for connoisseurs of fine authentic Japanese sushi and sashimi. It can't be stressed enough that seating at Hanazen is by prior reservation only. This is not a place where you drop in for a quick dinner before the movie. If you do, you will not be seated, so call in advance. With room for only 18 guests prior planning is essential. It will be worth the wait. Serving dinner only, Hanazen is open from 5 to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Chef Kenji Horikawa prepares every dish in the house himself. "It is not often you find a sushi chef who trained in Japan," says his wife and co-owner Coco Horikawa, who is also a native of Japan, and she herself holds a sake *sommelier* license. There are more than 50 different sake varieties on the sake list at Hanazen. Premium shochu is also available, a Japanese style vodka that is stronger than sake.

Prior to opening Hanazen three years ago, the Horikawas worked at restaurants in the Bay Area. This is the couple's first restaurant operation. Everyday different specials are available, featuring fresh fish from all over the world. "Hanazen is not Japanese fusion cuisine. We serve authentic Japanese sushi and sashimi only. We do not serve noodles, beef, or sukiyaki and do not offer a children's menu," adds Coco. Specials include mouth-watering white king salmon, halibut, giant clam, sea urchin, best yellowtail, and mackerel from Japan. The appetizers are also in Japanese style and may include grilled asparagus, miso, cod, and grilled oyster.

The charming dining room incorporates a sushi bar as well as table seating. Blonde wood chairs compliment maroon tablecloths and traditional Japanese prints

and occasionally to go to medical or hair appointments. Monthly shopping trips to local malls or to lunch and a movie enhance the fun aspect of this program. In the fall, with the receipt of a second van, we will be able to drive seniors to medical appointments, a long-awaited event.

Every passenger seems appreciative of our service. Clients love our drivers, who remind them to lock the door and remember their keys and then offer an arm down the steps and up onto the van or into the taxi or to the volunteer's car. This door to door service is the kind of help we all may need at some point in life. As an Orinda passenger says, "I think this program provides a wonderful service. It's a godsend to me as I'm housebound without it. The drivers are always on time and so courteous and helpful that it is a joy to know them."

hope," Kelly concludes, "yet a play that also steeps its audiences in the hectic underworld of brothels, deceit and betrayal."

The summer season continues with Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, directed by Jonathan Moscone, July 2 - 27; *Uncle Vanya*, by Anton Chekov, directed by Timothy Near, August 6-31; and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, directed by Mark Rucker, September 10 to October 5. For tickets, call the box office at 510-548-9666.

◆ RIDES from page 7

drivers.

2) A 20 percent Discounted Taxi Program provided by Contra Costa Yellow Cab and DeSoto Company. Through the generosity of owner George Moore, Lamorinda seniors can go anywhere, anytime.

3) The Lamorinda Spirit Van provides transportation every weekday for seniors who want to go to the C.C. Café at the Walnut Creek Senior Center for a nutritious lunch in a social setting, alleviating isolation and loneliness and fulfilling needs for relationships and a sense of belonging. The Lamorinda Spirit also provides transportation for our older citizens to manage banking and post office errands, to go shopping for groceries and sundries,

◆ PERICLES from page 22

Lychorida, a nurse, and Diana, the goddess. Associate artists Ron Campbell and Dominique Lozano, last seen together in *The Triumph of Love*, will play dual roles. And last year's Cordelia in *King Lear*, Sarah Nealis, will play Marina, the lost daughter, and Antiochus' daughter. A newcomer, Alex Morf, American Conservatory Theatre grad, will play a triple role.

"Pericles is a play that offers healing and

Orinda Chamber Welcomes Union Bank



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Chamber of Commerce welcomes Union Bank as a new member. (L-R) Candy Kattenburg, Sylvia Deaton, Farideh Fakouri, Mayor Victoria Smith, Mark Jepsen, Julie Hernandez, Jason Abad, Shawn Micheal-Mathies, AJ Nisen, and Patti Camras.

adorn the walls. Some customers are very knowledgeable about sushi and sashimi, while others are just beginners. Coco and Kenji Horikawa are happy to inform customers along the way about the various dishes. The menu notes, "If your order is taking longer than expected, please bear

with us. We believe you will agree it is worth the wait."

For more information, visit the website at [www.myhanazen.com](http://www.myhanazen.com).

Hanazen serves dinner by reservation only Monday through Saturday, 5 to 10 p.m. Call 254-3611 to make a reservation.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

# Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on the Face of Business

Valerie Hotz



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

### Royal Ground Closes Doors

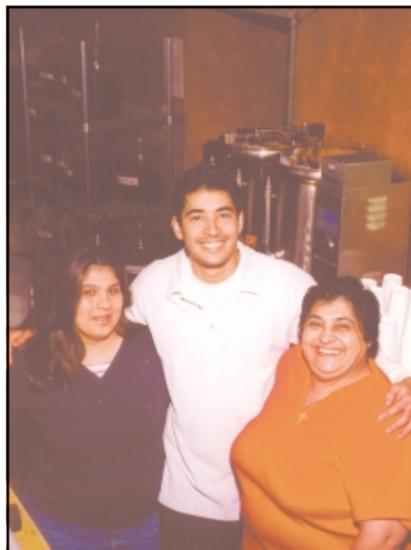
An Orinda institution that was around before espresso and caffè latte became staples, Orinda's Royal Ground recently closed. A Mediterranean restaurant is slated to open soon. With the arrival of Peet's Coffee & Tea business was highly impacted and Royal Ground owner Annie Janes, who also owns Annie's Mexican Grill in Pt. Richmond, elected to concentrate on her restaurant.

"It was more than a business. We had so many beautiful, wonderful people there and I miss them. They came from different backgrounds, different religions, and we

always had lively, polite discussions about a variety of issues. The people who came to Royal Ground were genuine, they believed in a little coffee shop and were loyal to us," says Janes.

Janes likes to pay tribute to Nelly Haddadin who first started working at Royal Ground in 1993 - 11 years before Janes bought the business. For a long time, Royal Ground was the only place in town an early morning commuter could pick up a cup of fresh coffee at 5 a.m. "She was always warm and kind to the customers and very sweet to me," says Janes.

In October of last year, Haddadin suffered a stroke and became disabled. It has been six months now and she is improving. She is able to speak better and



CHARLIE JARRETT  
Former Royal Ground employees (L-R) Carmen Leon, Mohammed Bellouch and Nelly Haddadin in a 2001 photo.

can walk with the aid of a cane. Haddadin can also use her left hand 30 to 40 percent. "The best part of every day was talking to my customers. I miss each and every one. I was there 15 years, and business was very good in the beginning. Making the best of every day was what I had there," says Haddadin.

Anna Wahbeh, owner of Orinda Cleaners, observes Haddadin built the business clientele from the first day she came on board. "She was always so pleasant with each customer. She knew everyone by name and would greet you with, 'Good morning honey. How have you been? How are the kids?'" She had a very special touch," says Wahbeh. Orinda resident Cathy Boswell's family visited nearly every day over the past 13 years and recalls Haddadin even remembered her children's birthdays. "We love Nelly and, in fact, my kids referred to the coffee shop as 'Nelly's Place.' It was wonderful to be called honey or sweetie by Nelly and have our favorite coffee order ready when we walked up to the bar. She was a great spot in our days and we miss her, Annie and the entire gang," says Boswell.

Dave Anderson and Carl Meggers nostalgically recall the congenial atmosphere, where neighbors and friends talked over a cup of coffee or tea. "It was our meeting place. Annie and Nelly are incredibly special people," says Anderson. "It was a bit like Cheers, but with coffee instead of alcohol."

### Nancy Sprague & Company Interior Design

A graduate of the California College of Arts and Crafts, Nancy Sprague has been providing interior design expertise for both residential and commercial clients for 28 years. Sprague's projects run the gamut

from primary residences with growing families to vacation homes on the coast and in Tahoe, out of state locations, as well as local businesses.

Sprague has local roots dating back to the late 1960s when she helped the Seifert family establish Seifert's Flowers, the first floral shop in Orinda. When Dee Seifert passed away, the business was sold to Jory's Flowers and has since closed. Sprague spent 1996 to 1998 managing another local family business - Phair's - which has also closed its doors. Her children Hilarie and Jonathan are graduates of Miramonte High School.

"No job is too big or too small. I often see people inheriting furniture and then needing help integrating these pieces into the existing interior design of their home. As families grow a lot of changes take place in terms of re-utilizing space after children have gone off to college," says Sprague. Always incorporating client preferences - which usually lean toward the traditional approach with a trend toward California casual lately - Sprague works with clients to integrate practical elegance and functionality. "It makes no sense to create a guest room and then have no place for kids to do their homework. A more sensible approach is to design a study room for the kids that incorporates a daybed for guests that you may use several times a year," observes Sprague.

"There has been an evolution in living spaces and the great room is being utilized more now. Families want to be together and they gather in the kitchen, combined with the great room. The traditional formal living room has become obsolete because it rarely gets used. It makes far more sense to design

[SEE BUZZ page 23]



VALERIE HOTZ  
Nancy Sprague has been doing interior design for more than 28 years.

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