

THE ORINDA NEWS

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

12 Issues Annually
May 2009

Road Closures Along Miner Road This Summer

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

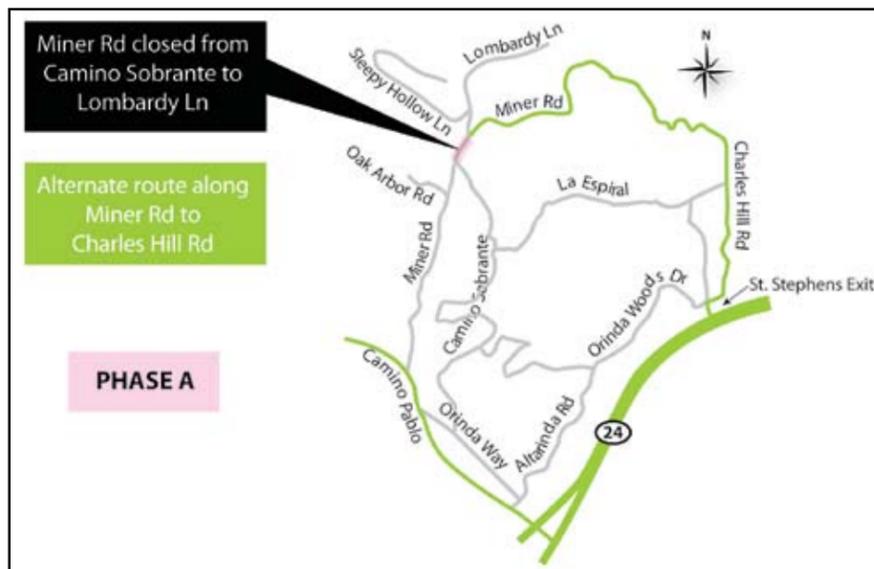
As anyone who has ever driven down Miner Road knows, it is one winding, narrow, well-traveled thoroughfare. For years, residents have asked the City of Orinda to put in a pedestrian path, but utility poles have made the project impossible. This summer that may all change.

The City of Orinda has been working with East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD), the Contra Costa County Sanitation District (CCCSD), and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to coordinate upgrades to facilities with, hopefully, a pedestrian path included at the end of the project. Work will begin after school has closed for the summer and be finished prior to the opening of school in the fall.

Summer Construction Projects

EBMUD begins a two-part project in June. In the first phase, the utility will install approximately 1,400 ft. of new 18-inch waterline from Oak Arbor Road to Lombardy Lane. In phase two, EBUD will construct the new Happy Valley Pumping Plant, located at the intersection of Miner Road and Camino Sobrante, and install the remaining 3,900 feet of pipeline up to the Lombardy Lane/Van Ripper Lane intersection. Phase two is expected to begin in 2012. The larger waterline will increase water flow to residents. A study will be conducted to see if it will also increase fire flow to hydrants. To accommodate construction, it will be necessary to reduce traffic to one-way through most of the construction zone

[SEE CLOSING page 8]



Famous Photographer Honored



CHARLIE JARRETT

Joe Munroe and his wife Virginia were feted at Saint Mary's College where current students tried to duplicate his famous phone booth stuffing photograph. See story on page 9.

OA Members check page 3 for your May discounts!

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Orinda in Action a Big Success



SALLY HOGARTY

Approximately 200 people came together on April 18 to the first Orinda in Action Day to help with over 20 projects to beautify Orinda. Members from Orinda's four garden clubs – Montelindo, Orinda Garden, Junior Garden, and Orinda Valley (shown above) got an early start replanting flowers in the Crossroads area. The city's Public Works Department, BART and CalTrans also got a headstart. Other groups cleaned trails, removed graffiti, planted trees, and much, much more. The many groups, individuals and families celebrated their hard work with a light lunch and musical entertainment at the Orinda Library Plaza that afternoon.

Valuable Community Resource May Be Lost

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

For many years, the dedicated volunteers of the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary (OCCA) have made our beautiful community center an even better place. Through their fundraising efforts, they have remodeled the kitchen, raised funds for park playground equipment, purchased new chairs for the bridge club, and much more.

Thanks to these inexhaustible community members, Orinda residents have enjoyed an annual Spring Egg Hunt (unfortunately, it had to be cancelled this year because of the weather), a popular summer concert series in the park, and the much-anticipated Holiday Bazaar, the group's major fundraiser.

"This is an incredibly friendly group, lots of pre-school moms and dads. It's a great

way to meet other people particularly when you are not in the school system yet," explains president Shannon Fuller. "We don't require a high commitment, and we do a lot of good for the community."

Unfortunately, membership in the OCCA [SEE OCCA page 10]



SALLY HOGARTY

These young girls enjoy one of the Concerts-in-the-Park sponsored by OCCA.

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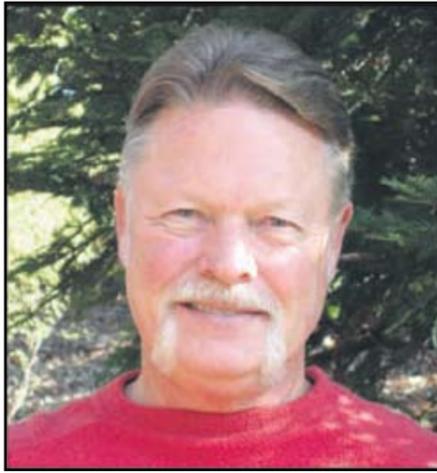
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Wood, Enamel and Watercolors Featured in Library Gallery

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The May exhibit at the Orinda Library showcases a variety of art including Anne F. Fallin's figurative watercolors, Kim Vanderheiden's mixed media pieces, and over a dozen members of the Diablo Woodworkers organization who work with wood inlays, turnings, etc. The diverse exhibit runs from Saturday, May 2 through Sunday, May 31 with the Artists' Reception scheduled for Sunday, May 3 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Anne F. Fallin has been active for a long time in nationwide competitive watercolor exhibits and has a one woman show every



JACK FALLIN

This painting by Anne Fallin is entitled "Geraldine's Dahlias."

couple of years. The last one was at the Mendocino Arts Center. Her favorite place to exhibit? Anne adds with a chuckle, "Wherever I've just won a prize!" Best known for her figurative watercolors, Fallin has decided to show some pastels, such as "Windmill at Noon" in this exhibit. She works in figurative series – florals, landscapes, still lifes, animals – but doesn't repeat a series. Her favorite way to work is from photos.

The apparently lighthearted mood in her paintings comes from her commitment that art is communication. Fallin intends to communicate the upbeat and positive aspects of life probably because she is a former nurse who has seen a lot of "contrast" in life. "When something makes me feel good enough to expend the energy to paint it, my goal is to share this experience with the viewer," she says.

Staying in touch with other artists and



KIM VANDERHEIDEN

Kim Vanderheiden will have her unique enamelware in the show. Part of her "I'll Fly Away" series, this one is called "Ba Bird - Egyptian."

the art world in general is accomplished through Fallin's many Signature Memberships in such prestigious groups as the American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, Watercolor West, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, and Pennsylvania Watercolor Society. Signature Membership in arts organizations mean that the artist's application – the artwork itself – has been juried by members of the group for acceptance or rejection.

Fallin has two tips for new painters: "Learn to draw! If you intend to paint realistically with watercolors, you absolutely have to make sure your drawing is good before you start; and buy good watercolor



GEORGE LUCIDO

Members of the Diablo Woodworkers will have a wide variety of bowls in the May show.

paper, actual watercolor paper. Never use cheap paper."

[SEE GALLERY page 10]

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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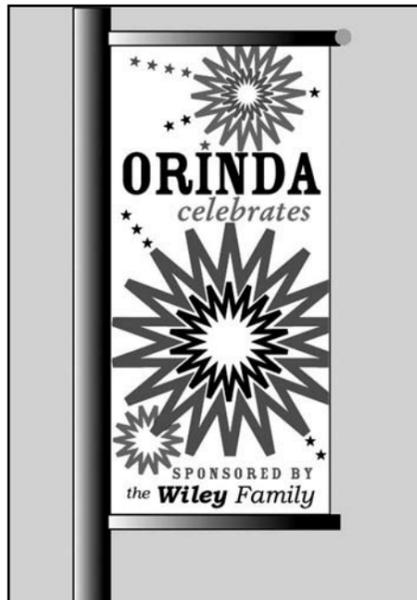
ORINDA ASSOCIATION

Time to Get Ready for the 4th of July

Two months may seem like a long time to prepare for an event, but when that event is the annual 4th of July parade and festivities, it's pretty short!

The Orinda Association's (OA) annual celebration is well underway with lots of planning for children's activities, entertainment and food as well as an exciting and colorful parade. If you would like to volunteer to help set up, clean up, direct parade entries, coordinate booths in the park, organize children's activities and much, much more, email Barnaby Beck at bhbeck1114@aol.com.

A wonderful way to celebrate this family tradition is with your own special banner. Last year, these banners commemorating the 25th anniversary of the parade were so popular that the OA has brought them back again. For only \$300, your family can have a 2.5-foot x 5-foot colorful banner displayed at a major Orinda thoroughfare. It will be up from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Designed by local artist Nancy Daniels, the beautiful banners are red, white and blue with the 4th of July logo and your family's name. There are only 26 banners available so make your request as soon as



possible.

"It's a wonderful family tradition," says coordinator Susan Meyer, "and a great way to celebrate our community." To reserve your banner, call the OA at 254-0800 or email to oa@orindaassociation.org.

— Sally Hogarty, Editor

Orinda Salutes California Shakespeare Theater

The third annual Orinda Salutes Cal Shakes will take place on Thursday, May 28, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Theatre Square. Sponsored by the Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce, Theatre Square, and the City of Orinda, the event will feature a musical performance by Bob Athayde and the band Surefire. Students from Orinda Intermediate School will also show off their theatrical skills.

The event is free to the public. Come and enjoy local food and drinks and enter the raffle for a Night Out on the Town basket. Three baskets, one from each Lamorinda town, will be filled to the brim with special discounts for restaurants and other businesses in that town.

The May 28 event is the perfect way to get ready for Cal Shakes' 2009 season, which begins May 27 with Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The passionate tale of young lovers caught in a dangerous world runs through June 21.

The season continues with Noel Coward's *Private Lives*, which runs July 8 – August 2. The sophisticated comedy tells of a divorced couple booked into adjoining honeymoon suites.

Next up is Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*. Renowned theater and Academy

Award-nominated actress Marsha Mason stars. The show runs August 12 – September 6.

The final show of the season is Shakespeare favorite *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The story of young lovers, an amateur theater troupe, and a band of mischievous fairies runs September 16 – October 11.

All shows are at the Bruns Memorial Amphitheater in Orinda. Call 510-548-9666 for tickets.



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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.

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No One Immune to Dire Financial Climate

After years of lawsuits and overcoming a myriad of environmental concerns by the Army Corps of Engineers, the EPA, and the general public, the Wilder residential development in Gateway Valley seemed poised to finally break ground on its multi-million dollar homes. But then the housing bubble popped, Wall Street tanked, and banks stopped giving out credit. Now, Wilder, like many Americans and American corporations faces an uncertain future.

According to OG Property Owner LLC spokesperson Jason Keadjian, the company is in negotiations with its lender, Merrill Lynch Mortgage Lending, and is optimistic that it can continue to work with Merrill Lynch, other economic stakeholders, and those with mechanic's liens to get the project built. The luxury development had defaulted on a \$180 million loan.

The project site is still closed for the winter with erosion control measures in place until the end of the rainy season. Wilder personnel, like many Americans,

are hopeful that they can get back on track and avoid any delays in the overall project schedule.

The City of Orinda is also hopeful that this will occur, since the additional property tax revenue from the Wilder project and the long-delayed Pulte Homes development on Altarinda Road would go a long way toward dealing with Orinda's crumbling infrastructure.

As local businesses struggle to stay in business and residents strive to retain their jobs, let's hope the economic stimulus package kicks in soon.

Here at *The Orinda News* we have also been affected by the economy. Many of our loyal advertisers have had to discontinue ads, advertise less often, or reduce the size of their ads. Luckily, we've been able to hang in there by reducing costs and paper size. I am happy to report that due to an increase in advertising for this issue, we are once again at 24 pages. It is always so upsetting to have so many wonderful stories



that I cannot print due to lack of space. To help our advertisers and our paper, we have introduced some new advertising opportunities. On page 9, you will find our new coupon clippers. We hope to have an entire one-half page dedicated to these cost-saving items in the future. These are a slightly different size than our usual ads and at a special price. We have also added a color ad to our front page. This is something I have resisted for years, but given the current

economics and the fact that just about every other newspaper offers front page ads, we have decided to try it. We will only allow one ad, either a 2 col x 2-inch, or a 2 col x 4-inch, on this page. For a complete listing of ad sizes, deadlines, and prices, visit our website at www.orindanews.org.

And, please patronize our advertisers. Without them, there would be no local newspaper!

– Sally Hogarty, Editor

Letters to the Editor

Let the Kids Play

We don't have enough soccer fields in Orinda. I know the topography makes large scale sports fields difficult, but why did the city spend \$18 million on a new city hall when a fraction of that money could go to acquire, build, repair and maintenance of city sports fields in Orinda? This winter my soccer team was cut because of lack of fields in Orinda. One of our last practice destinations, the Orinda Sports Fields, was taken by PG&E, because they did not want us ripping up their field with our cleats. This is understandable, but because of this many of my friends and teammates are no longer able to play the sport they love.

This split up my team forever. And to think, PG&E would take away kids' dreams instead of looking for a win/win shared use solution. I've also heard the JFK fields are gone. What are we supposed to do? Hopefully, Wilder will have enough fields to play on – if we can get there at rush hour – when all practices are scheduled.

– Liz Berndt, age 13

Need a Kids' Club

Adults already have plenty of places to go and hang out with each other where kids are not allowed. I think it's time that kids have their own place to go and just hang out with each other. I am 13-years-old, and I think it would be nice to have a kids' club somewhere in Orinda. While parents can be out at bars, restaurants and/or movies, the kids can be at a place right in town with music, games, an arcade, and a soda or a non-alcoholic drinks bar. I think this would be a perfect idea for people from 10- or 11-

years-old to around 15- or 16-years-old. I'm sure I would go there several times, and I think others would enjoy it too.

– Connor Gallegos

Keep Hometown Feel

Your March article, "Draft Planning Process Report Suggests Myriad Changes," tells of a committee recommendation to raze the area in downtown Orinda which contains Long's Drugs, the ice cream store, the hardware store, etc. and to build a five-story-high megacomplex of retail, offices and apartments. How interesting, then, to read Mike Zampa's column in the March 13 *Contra Costa Sun*, featuring "The Ten Best Things about Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda." Placing #1 was the same area the recommendation wants to destroy!

Per Zampa: "It's Orinda's best neighborhood. A half-dozen takeout restaurants are within walking distance. You can eat outdoors in the glow of the theater marquee. There's a hardware store up the street. It has an electric train in the window. This is Times Square in Norman Rockwell's dream."

I could not agree more. Not only is the area wonderfully hometown, and provides the shops and services a bedroom community needs, it is a welcoming and compact spot where you can't help but run into friends on the sidewalk. The replacement monstrosity – recommended, not surprisingly, by a committee dominated by developers – would take away the downtown charm and substitute a soulless high rise much taller than anything else that side of town.

Not only that, the plan fails to account for the no-doubt massive parking

requirements that would result – or, more importantly, that the stretch of Moraga Way involved is the access to eastbound 24 for Moraga and many Orinda residents! Meanwhile, the under used area just north of the BART station – the logical location for a project like this – is essentially ignored in the report.

I call on the city council to reject this recommendation, and recall our city website – where Orinda is described as a family-oriented, semi-rural setting.

– Scott Zeller

MOFD – Getting What You Pay For

The importance of a name! It is called the Moraga Orinda Fire District. Under that moniker, the MOFD provides excellent service to all the citizens of both Moraga and Orinda. We all pay the same tax rate and expect to receive the same level of service, should we need it.

In recent months, a great deal of scrutiny has been placed on fire district budgets and the allocation of resources, primarily because the City of Orinda was hoping to find a new means of subsidizing the cost of road repairs. A few Orindans have claimed that two-thirds of the tax money comes from Orinda but that the residents of that city do not garner two-thirds of the benefits. While there is a great deal of evidence refuting that claim, the real answer is that it is irrelevant!

To continue the logic of those who wish to take MOFD money and spend it on Orinda's roads, we should evaluate the budget of the Acalanes High School District and determine if Orindans are paying more taxes than they get back to support

Miramonte High School. While we are at it, do people living near Del Rey School pay as much in taxes as those living near Sleepy Hollow School? And do the latter get their taxes spent exclusively at their school?

Ridiculous? Then why do the same thing to the fire district? We are all in the same sand box. Let's play nice.

– Ellen Dale

Shelby's Named Small Business of the Year



SALLY HOGARTY

On May 15, the Contra Costa Council will honor **Shelby's** restaurant in Theatre Square as this year's small business award recipient for Orinda. Above are owners **Carlos Rangel** (L) and **Arno Kober**.

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to news@orindaassociation.org. Letters to the Editor for the June issue are due May 5, 2008.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the July issue is May 12, 2008.

POLICE

City of Orinda Wants Your Input

As members of the Orinda community may know, a number of outdoor sculptures have been displayed in the community center, library plaza, and city hall since November 2007.

Beautiful creations such as John Toki's "Springtime Whispers" and "Blue Motions" that flank the steps to the community center, "Otta Here," the wonderful frog jumping in the library plaza pond by Gale Wagner, and Jeff Downing's "Block Island Hangout," a series of three oversized ceramic dogs that have been fascinating children since they were installed may be leaving us.

Many of the artists have agreed to extend the loan of their artwork for a few more months, while others will be removing their work in the next few weeks.

The Art in Public Places Committee (APPC) is considering requesting match-

ing funds from the city to purchase one or more of the sculptures on display. If the city agrees to provide park dedication funds (restricted funds which may only be used for community park and recreation use including public art programs) for an artwork, the APPC will solicit donations from private donors that will match or exceed the city's contribution.

Before making a funding request to the city, the APPC would like to solicit input from the community regarding the potential acquisition of artwork and hopes to receive feedback from as many citizens as possible. Please take a moment to respond to questions about this on the city website at www.cityoforinda.org. Your participation in this survey will help the city better determine how to proceed.

-City Staff



POLICE BLOTTER

March 2009

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 117 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Auto Burglary (theft from a locked vehicle): 3 incidents reported at Ranch Rd., Camino Don Miguel, and Brookwood Rd.

Petty Theft From Vehicle (theft of less than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 2 incidents reported on Moraga Ct. and Sunrise Hill Ct.

All Other Petty Thefts: 2 incidents reported in the areas of Los Aromas and Irwin Way.

Grand Theft - From Vehicle (theft of more than \$400 value from an unlocked vehicle): 2 incidents reported on Muth Dr. and E. Altarinda Dr.

Grand Theft Other: 1 incident reported in the area of Warford Terrace.

Stolen Vehicle: 1 incident at La Noria.

Residential Burglary: 4 incidents reported in the areas of Orchard Rd., Manzanita Dr., Van Ripper Ln., and La

Espiral.

Vandalism: 4 incidents reported on Claremont Ave., 2 on North Ln., and Altarinda Rd.

Arrests

Alcohol - Drunk in Public: 6 individuals were arrested at Theatre Square, Orinda Way, Camino Sobrante, Camino Pablo/Hwy 24 off EB, 2 on Moraga Way.

Battery - Misdemeanor: 1 arrest was made on Overhill Rd.

Battery - Domestic: 1 arrest was made on Glorietta Blvd.

Parole Violation: 1 individual was arrested on Orinda Way.

Possession of Narcotics: 1 arrest was made on Moraga Way.

Probation Violation: 1 individual was arrested on Moraga Way.

Driving Under Influence - Misc.: 1 arrest was made on Camino Sobrante.

- Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

Local Resident Receives Lifetime Achievement Reward



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gil Klingman (3rd from L) has received the Orinda Masonic Lodge's Hiram Award for lifetime achievement. Klingman is a long-time member of the Masonic Lodge as well as the American Legion. He and his wife, **Kathryn** have two children and two grandchildren. The youngest attends Miramonte High School.



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Motorists Duped into Dumping Dough at Dealerships

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Excellent Customer Service	Yes ✓	Some
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Open Door Shop Policy	Yes ✓	No
Locally Owned/Family Business	Yes ✓	No
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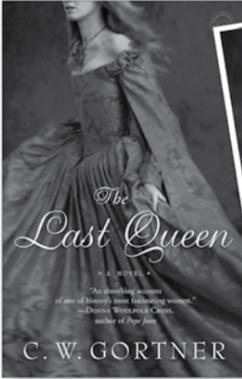
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Orinda Library Welcomes Former KTVU Co-anchor Mark Curtis

By MOYA STONE
Staff Writer

It's sunny, it's spring, and it's time for the second annual Contra Costa County Libraries' Reading Festival. Starting May 3 and continuing through May 9, the Orinda Library will join libraries around the county hosting author discussions, writing workshops, and many other children and adult activities designed to inspire story telling.

Caroline Gick, senior community library manager, says this year the festival is all about stories. "Read a story, tell a story, share a story," says Gick. As part of the festival, the Orinda Library is particularly excited to host local author and former KTVU co-anchor, Mark Curtis on May 7. "We're pleased to have Mark Curtis join us to share his own story of life on the 2008 presidential campaign trail," says Gick.

Curtis will discuss his new book, *Age of Obama: A Reporters Journey with Clinton, McCain and Obama in the Making of the President 2008* (Nimble Books), on May 7 at 7 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium. In 2008, Curtis traveled with all the presidential candidates reporting and documenting that historic election year. The resulting book offers Curtis' insights into the presidential campaign as well as stories of the average Americans he met along the way, what they were thinking, and how they made their voting decisions.

The 2009 Reading Festival brings community and libraries together to celebrate



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mark Curtis, former KTVU Co-anchor will discuss his new book *Age of Obama* at Orinda Library.

books and reading. All 25 Contra Costa Libraries will offer free events throughout the week for children and adults. In addition to the Mark Curtis book event, the Orinda Library will feature a marionette puppet show and a performance of William Saroyan's *My Name is Aram* by the Berkeley group, Actors Reading Writers.

For a complete list of events, visit the Reading Festival website at: www.ccclib.org.

Story of Small Town on Sacramento Delta Holds Lessons for Today and Tomorrow

By DOROTHY BOWEN
Staff Writer

Some alumnae give a memorial bench to their old school. Others place plaques commemorating their graduations. Sally Small had a different idea. She wrote a novel, *Two Sloughs*, for her 50th high school reunion, about a small town on the Delta where she grew up. She filled it with all the characters her classmates will remember, even though she disguised them, and made the time – the late '40s – seem like only yesterday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Orinda writer Sally Small captures hometown feel in latest book.

the fragile Sacramento Delta endangered under stress. It isn't just the fish that are disappearing."

"Here's a short reading," Small told her listeners, "that may trigger a memory or two if any of you had a soda fountain in your hometown, if you ever twirled around and around on one of those leatherette stools at the counter, if there are any bad boys in the audience who picked a covered straw out of the tall chrome dispenser and dampened the end of it and shot the paper across the store."

There was a soda fountain in Small's town. "In fact, the pharmacist in our town was named Freddy Noble, a perfect name for a hero. So perfect that I called his daughter Leanna Kay and asked her permission to name my hero Freddy Noble. He is a completely fictitious character, of course, but his pharmacy is as real as I could make it." When her friend read the description of her father's pharmacy, she told Small that she cried. Readers won't be surprised. There are many moments that will make them reach for a Kleenex, even though they have no ties to Walnut Grove, the real-life town called Two Sloughs in the book.

The book is not just a sentimental tribute to the town and its people. It takes the reader into the dusty streets and the winding waterways, describing the sights, smells and sounds in language that is unique and totally appropriate to the place. And the reader needs to know what it is like in order to race through the smashing climax of the story.

The Orinda writer gave a tribute to the crowd at the book signing, "To my literary circle, the loyal friends who gently encouraged me, who celebrated my small literary successes, the baseball piece in *The New*

[SEE AUTHOR page 18]

COMPETITIONS

Local Students Shine at Celebration of the Arts

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) once again celebrated the creativity of local students with its annual Celebration of the Arts. Sponsored by Mechanics Bank, this year's celebration took place on April 14 at Orinda Intermediate School (OIS).

The evening began with an open exhibit of visual arts in the multi-purpose room. Students showcased work in mixed media, woodworking, video production, computer graphics, and digital photography. Guests were treated to the stylings of the All Elementary School Concert Band in the Isola Gym followed by the OIS Choral Ensemble, and the Miramonte Symphonic Band. In addition, the mini-gym sported public speaking and drama presentations.

Thanks to EFO, Orinda's K-12 schools enjoy a rich academic and arts-related curriculum. Since 1979, EFO has stepped in

to help fill the state-funding gap. Enjoying strong community-wide support, the dedicated volunteers have made EFO a leader among K-12 educational nonprofits, setting the standard for fundraising and accountability.

Today EFO, together with Parents' Clubs, the local parcel tax, and other local revenue sources, now underwrites 34 percent of the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) budget. We are also the largest voluntary funding source for Miramonte High School, giving over half a million dollars annually.

EFO's fundraising goal this year is \$1.6 million in support of OUSD and Miramonte, with monies directed to school libraries, music and art education, vocal and instrumental music instruction, electives and special student programs, counseling services, and living history at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. For more information, call 253-0885 or visit www.orindaefo.org.



JILL GELSTER

Four-year-old Lucy Berkman (L) admires one of the pieces of art at EFO's Celebration of the Arts sponsored by Mechanics Bank. Also shown, members of the Elementary School Band and Orchestra directed by David Uyeno prepare to play a variety of classical and pop music.

High School Visual Arts Winners Named



ELANA O'LOSKEY

(L-R) Andrew Moore, 1st Place Photography, Marisa Rowland, 2nd Place 3D, Erin Cherry, 2nd Place Photography, and Michael Nohr, 1st Place 3D.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Orinda Library Gallery was abuzz with excitement on April 10 as teen artists enjoyed refreshments and musical entertainment by Miramonte High School student and pianist Raymond Lau. But, the real excitement came, when the winners of the prestigious competition were announced.

Sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council (OAC), the competition attracted 164

entries from students at Miramonte, Campolindo, Bentley, Orinda Academy, and Holden. Artists were judged in three categories: 2D, 3D and photography for a total of \$2,250 in cash prizes. Adding to the festivities were performances by last year's Orinda Idol winners: Jackie Patton, Katie Marino, Sarah Ames, Neris Newton and Jacqueline Garell.

The winners for this year's OAC Visual Arts competition are: Category: 2D -1st Place, \$350, Brianna Roberts, "Guilty," [SEE VISUAL ARTS page 22]

Youth Ink Winners Announced

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC) recently announced the winners of its annual Youth Ink. The middle-school writing contest is open to all students who live or attend school in Orinda. A panel of local professional writers – Melissa Manlove, Scott Ostler, and Yvonne Prinz – critiqued over 50 submissions.

"Participants in this year's competition displayed tremendous creativity in their interpretation of the contest's theme, Green," said Orinda Junior Women's Club president Maureen Brown. "They delivered

a wide variety of entries – from poem to essays – focusing on topics ranging from the environment to mystery."

First place, with a prize of \$250, went to St. Perpetua seventh grader Alexander See for "Green." Michelle Wu, a seventh grader at OIS received second place and a \$125 prize for "Un-deforested," and OIS sixth grader Adela DePavia won third place and a \$75 prize for "The Greens." Honorable mentions went to OIS students Linden Brentano ("Firefly Dreams"), Carter Broad ("Le Tour de Owl"), Caie Kelly ("Jade"), Margot Mai ("The Green Dress"), Gina Nerone ("Doubt in the Greenroom"), and [SEE YOUTH page 22]



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ CLOSING from page 1

and to completely close the road in some locations for specific time periods. During closures, traffic will be detoured to Charles Hill Road and Camino Sobrante depending upon where the closure takes place.

CCCSD will also be lining their existing sewer line on Miner Road this summer. "The sewer is 58 years old and has cracks and extensive root infestation," said CCCSD's Chris Carpenter. The extensive work will require bypass sewers while the new liner is installed. The two utilities are coordinating work to take advantage of joint lane closures. According to the City of Orinda's director of Public Works, Charles Swanson, having both utilities doing upgrades at the same time will allow two seasons of work and traffic delays to be accomplished in one.

Following the completion of the work by EBMUD and CCCSD, PG&E will begin to underground its utility lines, eventually

leading to the construction of a pedestrian trail sometime in late 2010 or early 2011.

The improved road conditions on Miner Road and the addition of the pedestrian trail will come with a cost to local residents. City staffers expect a significant impact on traffic flow resulting in delays and detours.

"Our hope is to get this done as quickly as possible," said Swanson. Residents along Miner Rd. and Sleepy Hollow spoke at a March City Council meeting agreeing that construction take place over the shortest time frame. To that end, residents asked for, and the council voted on, lengthening the daily construction schedule from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. This will reduce the number of weeks that Miner Road will be impacted from eight to six weeks. "We are hoping to be done by 7 p.m. whenever possible," added EBMUD community representative Nora Harlow. Harlow also noted that EBMUD will have flaggers out to help drivers negotiate the various detours, similar to how they handled construction on Moraga Road this past summer.

Alternative Routes

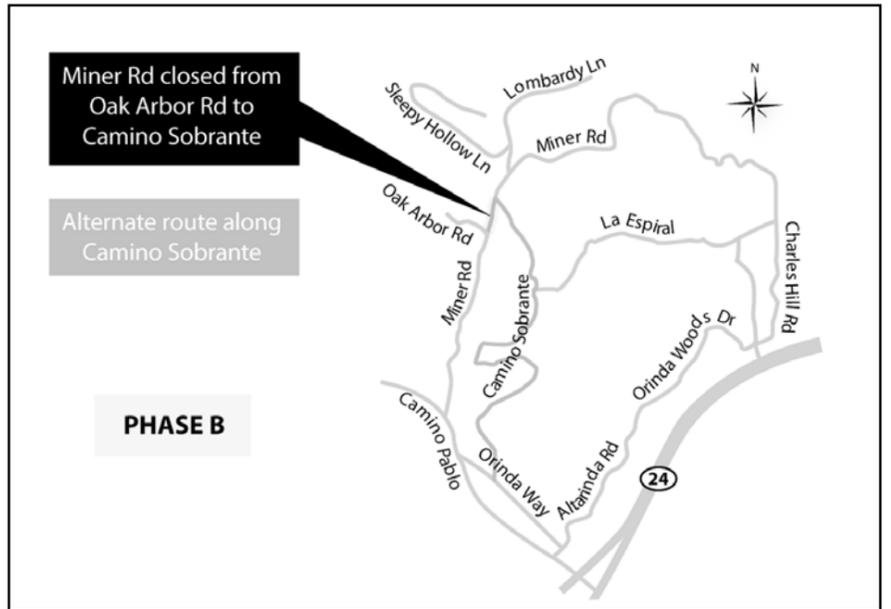
Miner Road will be closed 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., June 15 - July 7, from Camino Sobrante to Lombardy Lane. Emergency

vehicles and residents who live along the road closure portion will have access. All other traffic will be diverted up Miner Road to Charles Hill Road and onto Hwy. 24. CCCSD also expects to be doing work on the sewer pipeline during this time period with intermittent lane closures between Camino Pablo and Oak Arbor Road.

On July 8 through July 24 from 9 a.m.

- 9 p.m., Miner Road will be closed from Oak Arbor to Camino Sobrante with traffic diverted down Camino Sobrante to Orinda Way. EMBUD will institute one-way traffic on parts of Miner Road from July 27 - August 21 from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

For additional information, email Harlow at nharlow@ebmud.com or to www.ebmud.com.



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Youth from Santa Maria Church Make a Difference

By FRAN MILLER
Staff Writer

How does it feel to make a remarkable difference in someone else's life? Sixteen-year-old Alec Steele knows. As a youth parishioner at Orinda's Santa Maria Catholic Church, Steele and 18 fellow high schoolers ventured to Mexico during spring break to work with children in need at Niños Don Bosco, a residential Catholic mission site for orphans and street children.

Youth Ministry was a truly life changing experience. We were able to impact the lives of over 50 kids in an orphanage for the better. We painted walls and gardened, taught English, played sports and games, and spoke with grateful children, some of whom had already led drastically troubled lives."

Niños Don Bosco is located in the city of Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico's fifth largest city, located 450 km north of Mexico City,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Santa Maria Church Youth Group spent their spring break helping others in a poor region of Mexico.

"Being able to make a difference in today's world is not easy to do," says Steele. "When a chance presents itself where one can touch another's life in a beneficial way, it's as if the possibilities are endless. Traveling to Mexico with the Santa Maria

directly in the center of Mexico. The institution was established more than 40 years ago by the Salesians, an order of Catholic priests, nuns, and brothers who work with disadvantaged youth throughout the world. It is dedicated to orphaned and abandoned

[SEE SANTA MARIA page 16]

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JOE MUNROE / ROTARY CLUB

Orinda Photographer Joe Munroe's Famous Photo Still Holds the Record

By CHARLIE JARRETT
Contributing Writer

It may not be Thanksgiving, but St. Mary's College (SMC) in Moraga has just given thanks for a "stuffing" event that took place on their campus 50 years ago. In 1959, celebrated *Life Magazine* photographer, Joe Munroe, was sent to the college to photograph 21 St. Mary's College students attempting to cram themselves inside a telephone booth, hoping to beat the record of 20 students set by a South African fraternity. That widely publicized success story made St. Mary's College a household name all across this country, and the photo became one of *Life Magazine's* 100 most popular photographs.

Munroe, a long time Orinda resident, has put his innate sense of timing, composition skills, and photographic training to work thousands of times since, capturing historic events, farm life, famous and not so famous people; in other words, the heartbeat of America.

Those memories came gushing back on March 25 as a number of the former students from SMC during the '50's and '60's gathered on the green on the Moraga campus, along with about 40 or more anxious participants, teachers, students and press ready to relive the craziness that was the norm on college campuses in the '60's.

In an attempt to celebrate Joe Munroe's renowned photographic event on the photo-

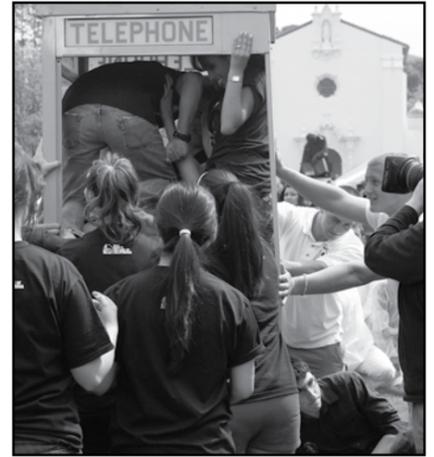
graph's 50th anniversary, St. Mary's set up a celebratory party and contest encouraging their present crop of college students to attempt to break the 1959 phone booth stuffing record.

Class of '61 student, Paul Clooney, returned to campus to explain how he came up with the idea to break the phone booth stuffing record. Then, current SMC president, Brother Ron Gallagher, cried out, "Let's do some stuffing!"

The co-ed cadre of students on March 25 almost broke the record after several tries by two different teams and an amalgam of the best of both teams made a super-concerted effort. With bodies compressed and distorted in every conceivable angle, the grand push continued, but when a plastic Plexiglas panel popped out of the phone booth's sidewall, somebody cried, "It's breaking apart," and somebody else cried, "Get out!" and the breathless students piled out of the phone booth – so close, but no cigar. But it was a great try. It wasn't easy to do it 50 years earlier either said class of '59 student Ray Motta. Now a pharmacist in Benicia, California, Motta has the only recognizable face in the famous '59 photo. He was back on campus to watch the current group of students try to break the old record and to share some of his memories. Motta said that the current students didn't really get that close to the record, because "many of their bodies were hanging as much outside the booth as inside. Not



COURTESY OF JOE MUNROE



CHARLIE JARRETT

Joe Munroe's photo of Saint Mary's College students breaking the phone booth stuffing record in 1959 made *Life Magazine's* 100 most popular photographs. On March 25, current Saint Mary's College students attempted to break the record of 21 students stuffed into the Plexiglas booth. They didn't make it.

even close," he cried. "At least we tied the record," retorted one of the young female participants who was jumping up and down and celebrating what she conceived as a victory. Hanna Bruenner collapsed on the ground in front of the phone booth with a smile on her face, happy to be out of the booth and happy just to have participated. Regardless of which argument you agreed with, it was obvious that good times and great fun was back in spades.

Joe Munroe explained that when he arrived at the campus in 1959 and discovered the boys were trying to overload a wooden phone booth in the dorm, he knew he would have a terrible time trying to photograph it. "Nothing could be seen but a bunch of feet protruding from a wall," he recalled. His wife, Virginia, reminded him that their

neighbor was a major supplier of the Bell system phone booths. A quick phone call and a couple of hours later, a brand new phone booth was delivered to the campus lawn, complete with a telephone. With camera in hand, Joe went to work, and "the rest is history."

Munroe has created a legacy of images, a photographic collection that will live on for all of us to enjoy in books and magazines and even on the worldwide Internet. He and Virginia have worked as a close knit team creating, cataloguing and managing their photography business. You may visit his website at www.joemunroephotography.com to see the famous St. Mary's phone booth photograph and experience more of his marvelous award winning photography.

Sister City Exchange Student



Michaela Kopecka from Orinda's sister city of Tabor in the Czech Republic will be attending Miramonte High School next year. She needs a host family to live with, preferably with a Miramonte student. If you can accommodate this lovely young woman for a semester, please call Bobbie Landers at 254-8260.

59th Annual Frank Isola Rotary Field Day and Rotary Winner



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 have been practicing to compete in the annual Frank Isola Rotary Field Day which takes place at Del Rey Elementary School on Saturday, May 9, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Some of the events include relays, dashes, football and softball throws, and the long jump. Awards will be given for students, classes and schools. No advance sign-up is necessary.

The event was started in 1950 by Frank Isola, a Rotarian and P.E. teacher. The gym at Orinda Intermediate School is named after him.



SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda resident Ray Keene was the lucky winner of the Orinda Rotary's \$5,000 raffle. He purchased the lucky ticket from club member Lance Cowles outside of City Bank. The winning ticket was drawn at the Rotary's gala fundraising dance.

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FASHION



SALLY HOGARTY

The annual Holiday Bazaar has lots of unique gifts for the holiday season.

◆ OCCA from page 1

has declined. With more and more people returning to the work force and adding lots of extra-curricular activities in the evening, the OCCA now only has eight members, two of whom work full time and cannot help at daytime events.

“It’s rather daunting trying to put everything together with so few people,” explains Fuller. “Just a little more help would make everything easier and more fun.” Fuller points out that the Park and Rec staff are incredibly generous with their time and help for all the group’s events. “They are such lovely people to work with. We couldn’t do it without them.”

Current OCCA members include: Julie Whitsitt, Shannon Fuller, Susan Stephan, Corinna Anthenien, Gayle Maroney, Jennifer Robb Farnedi, Seanna Allen, and Annette O’Donnell Butner.

Fuller encourages anyone interested in becoming involved with this lively group, to contact her at 925-377-5173.

Concerts scheduled for this year’s Concerts-in-the-Park from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. are:

- June 23 The Dave Crimmen Band (Rock-a-Billy)
- June 30 Juke Joint (Rhythm & Blues)
- July 7 Mixed Nuts (Rock, Disco, Blues, Oldies)
- July 14 The Crisis (Blues & Rock)
- July 21 Stone Soup (Classic Rock)
- July 28 Pladdohg (Celtic Rock)

Concert goers are encouraged to bring a picnic and enjoy the free music in the park each Tuesday evening.

Ten Chic Must-Haves for Spring

By MOYA STONE
Staff Writer

As a fashion writer for *SFBaystyle.com* and correspondent for *Glamour Magazine*, I’ve got my eye on current fashion trends. Here are 10 must-haves to keep you stylish and fresh for spring 2009.

The Cardigan: Cardigan sweaters, once banished by the fashion forward for being a bit Plain Jane, are this season’s hottest trend. Available in bright colors like coral, pink, and aqua, the cardigan has been redesigned with a slimmer fit and three-quarter length sleeves. Pair with a lace cami and denim skirt and you’re good to go.

Bangles and Cuffs: Big jewelry was the big story for fall and the trend continues. New for spring is the bold and chunky look in bracelets. Wood and plastic bangles, gold and silver cuffs, bejeweled and beguiling. Mix and match and make sure to stack. The more the better.

Socks: Not just for kids anymore. Socks are a hot look this season. In bright colors, knee highs with skirts, silky bobby socks worn with heels and capri pants are comfortable and fresh for spring.

Color: Our lovely First Lady, Michelle Obama, has awakened us to color. We saw her on the campaign trail last year mixing it up – pink with red, orange with teal, green with another shade of green. The year 2009 is all about color. Have fun with it.

Pearls: You’ll be seeing more pearls this season and the scoop is - don’t take them too seriously. Sport your pearls with a T-shirt and jeans during the day and with a black cocktail dress for evening. Pair a

single long strand with a simple cashmere sweater, ala Sarah Jessica Parker in *Sex in the City: The Movie*. Mix a long strand with several long gold chains.

Shoes: The gladiator look from last year is taking a stronger hold and metallic ballerina flats are also back. What’s new is even higher heels, for those of us who like to tempt fate. We’re talking 5-plus inches.

Purses: Classic understated silhouettes are in, like the hobo and quilted styles. Ladylike structured shoulder bags with chain straps are another look of the season. Statement designer logos are out. Create some mystery and opt for an unrecognizable handbag.

Hats (this is one for the gentlemen): Inauguration day 1961 and JFK forgot to don his hat, putting an end to the requisite accessory for men. Welcome back the hat. Young guys are seen sporting fedoras, pub caps, porkpies, all sorts of stylish chapeaus with suits, sport coats, and jeans. Halleluia!

Dresses: The dress is still a staple, this season in bold colors and patterns. Asymmetrical dresses are big for evening and simple a-line for day.

Jumpsuits: We’re calling them the one-sey now. Back from the 1970s, the one-sey is big news this season. Made in light fabrics and various styles from strapless to cowl, the one-sey provides a long, lean look. A couple of tips – full length bottoms should be worn with heels. The capri leg looks cute with flats, if you’re tall enough. If you are petite, like moi, look for a slimmer silhouette, both top and bottom and always wear a heel.

◆ GALLERY from page 2

Kim Vanderheiden is debuting her exciting series, “I’ll Fly Away,” at the exhibit. The theme of flight is approached conceptually as well as literally. The 20-plus pieces are mixed media - enamel, acrylic and collage on copper, varying in size from 6 x 4 inches to 8 x 5 inches. Vanderheiden loves how the bits of glass become luminescent when they are fired on the copper; she also works with mesh and wire, which sometimes peek over the edge of the glass.

Her individual works are based on the theme of flight as used in mythology, religion, fairy tales, nature, objects, and concepts. Vanderheiden hopes those who view her work enjoy the different ways “flight” has been expressed across cultures and history; that they are touched by the way the concept inspires playfulness and fun; and that they experience the many textures of each piece combined with the luminescence of the glass.

Five years in the making, “I’ll Fly Away” is going strong; to stay abreast of

Vanderheiden’s flight plans, go to www.kimvanderheiden.com/index.html.

Members of the Diablo Woodworkers club (DWC) are passionate about their creations and excited to include a wide variety of work in the show such as wood turnings, jewelry cases, a music box, and a scroll saw puzzle in the shape of a mastodon! Those submitting work include Roger Jiles, Jeff Traeger, George Lucido, Bill Tarleton, Dave Wittenbrock and Bob Barnett.

These prolific artists also believe in contributing to their local communities. In 2008, they initiated the juried Contra Costa County High School Woodworking Competition. Students from seven high schools submitted more than 70 projects; \$1,500 in awards went to winners in nine categories. Based on the success of the inaugural event, 2009’s competition will be expanded. Keep track of this in-progress event by clicking on the DWC website at www.diablowoodworkers.com.

To meet the artists, attend the Artists’ Reception on Sunday, May 3, from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 254-2814.

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SMILES / GARDEN TOUR

Seeing Smiles Wherever She Goes

By KEN HOGARTY
Contributing Writer

Most people would see a mummified dead skunk found under a shed as repulsive or, at best, a nuisance. Orindan Ruth Kaiser sees a smiley face. In fact, the dead skunk is just one of over 2,000 images that have captivated people worldwide on Kaiser's Spontaneous Smiley Project (www.SpontaneousSmiley.com) website. The website, fittingly launched on Valentine's Day this year, has generated much buzz for and about Kaiser, known as "teacher" Ruth at Tot Drop, the drop-in day care centers she started 15 years ago with locations in Lafayette and Moraga.

Kaiser, who studied art at UC Berkeley, exudes the legendary optimist's enthusiasm: "I've always been a glass is half-full kind of gal," says the long-time Orinda

resident. People from Argentina, Peru and Switzerland have found joy in the site, becoming "Smile Captains," Kaiser's moniker for contributors.

"Right now it's just a low rumble," Kaiser says with a smile, "but I can imagine it becoming a mighty roar." Newspapers as far from the Bay Area as Chicago have picked up the story which should invite even more grass roots participation. Christie Winkles, a local mom who knows Kaiser from Tot Drop, is one of several Tot Drop clients who have talked about "bombarding 'The Ellen Show' with emails" to generate even more attention.

Kaiser was transfixed by smiley faces since the first time she saw them in the 1970s. "An artist is trained to see what others don't," Kaiser notes before adding that

[SEE SMILEY page 22]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Smile Captains from around the world post photos on Ruth Kaiser's site. Here a cookie, kitchen sink, headlights, and a pan resemble a Smiley Face.

Orinda Gardens Featured in Tour

By CHRIS LAVIN
Assistant Editor

The gardens surrounding two Orinda homes will be featured in the Moraga Junior Women's Club annual tour "Through the Garden Gate," on May 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The self-guided tour includes six exceptional gardens within Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette.

"We get all of our salads for the whole summer from our garden," said Brenda Horne, whose Orinda garden will be featured in the tour. Located off of Overhill Road, Horne's garden, pond, play areas and other features will be splendidly displayed. The avid gardener has plenty of help from her aspiring gardener daughter, 6-year-old Sidney. "We have a ton of veggies," Horne said.

The current drought is a challenge for most home gardeners, Horne said. "I won't plant much lettuce this season." Her garden, which includes raised and flat beds, a pond, a pool and play areas, is built on a slope with multiple retaining walls and encompasses the back of the property.

"We have beets, carrots, and potatoes," Horne said. She also has lots of ornamentals, including those that "bloom then just go away too soon."

The tour is a benefit for the children's hospital music program at University of California-San Francisco, which comforts children when they are in the hospital to reduce their fears of anxiety and speed their recovery. Sponsors include *Diablo Magazine*, East Bay Tree Service, Lana Fitzpatrick (Coldwell Banker), The Olsen Team (Sue, Lara, and Ben) - Village Associates Real Estate, and Union Bank.

Besides Horne's home on Monterey Terrace, the home of Laura and Brian Milham on Overhill Road will be featured



CHRIS LAVIN

Sidney Horne and her dog Zoe show off a small portion of her family's garden in Orinda.

in the tour.

Tickets for the garden tour, which cost \$31, may be purchased at www.moragajuniors.com or by calling 925-376-5054.

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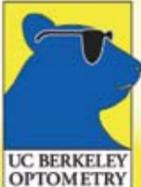
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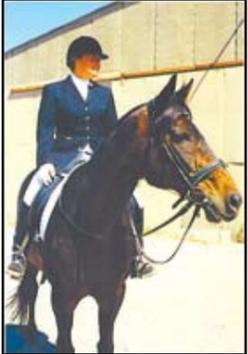
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Seasoned Shopper
Think Fresh



BARBARA KOBSAR

It's time to think fresh and buy local again. The Orinda Farmers' Market opens Saturday, May 2, for its 13th season. Growers and vendors are ready to return to bring in-season produce and specialty products, and to rekindle friendships with their long-time customers after the winter lull.

I leave my shopping list at home when I come to the market. What's in season is the guide to meal planning and what's in season is always at the market. This Seasoned Shopper is ready to shop.

Some crops, like strawberries, are available at the markets almost year-round, thanks to innovative growing practices, and I'm sure to take home a basket or two every week. Varieties change during the season but the fresh-picked flavor is key to satisfaction. All strawberries, whether Camarossa, Seascapes or Diamante, need to offer up an intense aroma and bright green caps. The size of the strawberry should not affect the flavor, but experience tells me that the smaller ones tend to be more flavorful.

The local asparagus crop begins by the end of February and winds up in June. Bundles of fresh-cut asparagus are an easy find – check for dry, firm, closed buds at the tip of the asparagus with a tinge of purple. Asparagus spears arrive plump and juicy or pencil-thin, and everyone seems to have their favorite. Plump and juicy spears are definitely my choice for flavor and texture whether quick-cooked for three to five minutes in a little water in a flat pan to serve as-is, or cooked and sliced to add to quiche, a quesadilla, salad or risotto.

Depending on the weather, some of the first pickings of cherries should be ready to greet us on opening day. Early rains make blossoms drop off the trees and late rains damage the cherry fruit, but I stay optimistic. Hamada Farms from Fresno, J. Gotelli & Sons cherries (orchards in Stockton, Lodi and Linden), and Mora Farms from Denair will bring bins of cherries to choose from during the short seven- to eight-week season. I still prefer the red varieties (Brooks, Bings and Vans for example), but I never give up the chance to take home a few handfuls of large, yellow, red-blushed Rainier cherries to savor their subtle flavor and fine texture.

The big three (strawberries, asparagus and cherries) dominate the May/June

markets but there are plenty more tasty treasures at the market stands. Potatoes are ubiquitous, but when "new" potatoes arrive, I'm ready to give them a little more attention.

"New" potatoes are simply the first harvest of any variety that comes directly from the field instead of being stored. These are low in starch and high in moisture with a thin skin that requires no peeling – my pick for boiling or baking whole in a splash of olive oil, or cutting up for potato salad.

All potatoes fall into two basic groups – thick- or thin-skinned. Russets are the brown, thick-skinned types and may be labeled Idaho, Burbank or baking potatoes. Their high starch content and dry, mealy texture make them the choice for fluffy mashed potatoes and crisp fries. After harvest, the russets are stored for year-round use.

Thin-skinned potatoes offer a much wider selection of color, shapes and sizes. In addition to the common round reds, long whites and round whites, farmers' markets give us the chance to explore more of these South American natives. Peruvian Purples, Red Rose, Oregon Blues, Yukon Gold and Yellow Finns are some thin-skinned types that may not store well but are flavor-worthy. Fingerling potatoes such as Russian Banana and Rose Fin Apple are elongated and finger-shaped with an outstanding firm, waxy texture.

I'll track down some fresh cut rhubarb during the next few months, too. Fava beans and peas are sure to be abundant, apricots are ripening on the trees, raspberries are plump, juicy and delicious, garlic and eggplant are in great shape and several types of salad greens are at their peak. Enjoy, and see you at the market!

Barbara Kobsar, the Seasoned Shopper, may be reached at cotkitchen@aol.com

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

To view Barbara Kobsar's recipes for Basil Pesto Sauce with Green Beans and Potatoes and her Fava Bean Sauce with Spring Vegetables, go to page 25.

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Cooking For Kids: Strategies for Building a Strong Foundation for Life



Chef Charles Vollmar

Our twins, Aidan and Amelia, recently turned 7, and it is astonishing how fast the time passes. By their age, many of their preferences and dislikes are already well established. They know what they like and what they don't and are not afraid to remind us! They are, however, willing to try just about anything we prepare for them, because they know it is important to us that they eat well. We talk about it a lot – that we care about them, and want the best for them, and they are willing to do their part. Although kids have strong opinions, we remind them that, as grown-ups, we are responsible for helping them make balanced choices and helping them understand why they are important. With the importance we place on the welfare of our kids including safety, socialization, academics and athletics, remember that our kids' best efforts are supported by proper nutrition: eating the right things, the right amounts, at the right times and increasing the value of what they eat. What they learn now, and the example we set, will have an impact on the rest of their lives.

Getting your child (or a few adults you may know) to be more adventurous with food, if they are not already, can be a substantial challenge. For those families just starting out, I have some insights and suggestions for building the foundations of proper eating habits. For those struggling with the well-established habits, continue to progress – don't give up. Beyond a child's general dislike for some foods, there can be

many reasons for their food preferences.

Color: too green (that's the big one), too red, too brown, too whatever color it is as an excuse not to eat; Texture: too hard, too soft, too chewy, and too big; Flavor: too sour, bitter, salty, spicy, (sweet, however, never seems to be a problem). Infrequency results in unfamiliarity and will always present a problem. I have also found that sameness can be an issue as well, so provide as much variety as possible. Find ways to prepare foods or present them differently to meet your child's expectations. Eventually, the foods you enjoy will become part of your family's personal food culture and your children will grow to appreciate much of what you prepare.

In all you select, your family will be well served if you keep to some essential core ideals: quality, purity, variety, moderation and nutrient-rich. By all means, allow your kids to be kids, and enjoy periodic treats that we all associate with childhood. But in general, find ways to incorporate the following principles into the foods you provide your family:

Always read the labels of the products you choose, and pay close attention to fats (trans fats), refined sugars and carbohydrates, preservatives and artificial ingredients.

- Increase the amount of whole foods (least processing as possible) – always look to increase the quality and value you offer.

[SEE COOKING page 18]

Farmers' Market Returns May 2



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paul and Barbie Ratto inspect a new crop of fresh corn.

By **LYNDA LEONARD**
Staff Writer

Circle May 2 on your calendar: Orinda Farmers' Market returns! Grab your "Shop Orinda" bags and select farm-fresh food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. More than 30 vendors present a variety of food items that range from honey, bread, and sorbet to broccoli, corn and strawberries.

The Farmers' Market is more than a place to buy asparagus or heirloom tomatoes; it's an event where you meet friends and neighbors, learn about local community organizations, or meet a master gardener. Browse the market with your week's menu in mind. Strike up a conversation with the friendly farmers who can tell you about their produce. Taste samples and make your selections. And don't forget the flowers for the dinner table.

Many of the farmers at Orinda's market have a long family history of tilling the

soil. Paul and Nick Ratto are from one such family. In 1898 their grandparents started farming on Bay Farm Island in Alameda, and today the brothers work the land in French Camp in the fertile San Joaquin Valley. Over the course of a year there may be as many as 38 crops produced, including broccoli, carrots, onions, celery and organic potatoes.

Much has been made recently of eating that which is in season and grown within a 100-mile radius of home. There are benefits in this practice. During the winter months, much of our out-of-season produce comes from Chile. What is the cost in petroleum dollars needed to travel from farm to fork? Is the produce organic? The longer the peach stays on the tree, the sweeter. It makes sense to support local farmers.

The Farmers' Market opens May 2 and runs through November 21 and is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way between the Community Center and Ride Aid.



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MOVE OF THE MONTH / ITCH TO STITCH

Move of the Month

Boxing for Abs

The Jab

Knees are bent slightly, feet staggered, chin down and hands raised by the side of your face. Push off your back foot and snap jab out quickly. The lead foot will slide forward slightly before impact. For more power, twist your arm in a corkscrew motion.



The Cross

Start from the face with the other hand and punch straight out at target directly in front of you. Drive and pivot from the rear foot, rotating the hips forcefully as your body weight shifts toward the front foot. Extend your right arm toward the target, snapping your wrist downward. On impact the palm is down and the knuckles up.

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Itch to Stitch

Make a Tote Bag

Doreen Leong



Go green and create your own fashionable, re-usable tote bag. This sturdy tote is roomy enough to hold everything and is great for everyday use. The bag is so easy and inexpensive to make, you'll want to make several to give to your family and friends.

For these bags, we used printed cotton fabrics from Amy Butler. We selected bold and colorful prints for the face of the bags and coordinating prints for the lining of the bags. The handles are made of 1-1/4" wide cotton webbing. The face of the bag is reinforced by an iron-on medium weight interfacing. The interfacing gives the tote bags body and weight so they hold up to daily use.

your main fabric.

Lining fabric - Cut (2) 18" squares from your lining fabric.

Fusible interfacing - Cut (2) 18" squares from your fusible medium weight interfacing.



Picture A

Supply List

- Sewing machine
- Coordinating thread
- Scissors
- 18" ruler/tape measure
- Yard stick
- Tailoring chalk or disappearing fabric marker
- Straight pins
- Cutting surface
- Iron and ironing board
- Hand sewing needles

Materials List

Allow extra yardage for matching or centering a design on your fabric.

- Face of tote bag (referred as main fabric in the instructions) - 5/8 yard (44" or 54" wide) of sturdy cotton or linen fabric.
- Lining of tote bag - 5/8 yard (44" or 54" wide) of cotton fabric.
- Fusible medium weight interfacing - 5/8 yard (44" or 54" wide).
- 1-1/2 yards of cotton or nylon webbing for straps.

Notes

All seams are 1/2" unless otherwise indicated. The 1/2" seam allowance is included in all the cut measurements.

Optional - Pre-shrink your fabric by washing, drying and ironing it before starting your project.

Step 1. Mark, measure and cut out all of your pieces - See picture A.

Main fabric - Cut (2) 18" squares from

1-1/4" webbing for handles - Cut (2) lengths of 24" each of webbing for the handles.

Step 2. Iron interfacings to the main fabric pieces.

Iron the wrong sides (shiny side) of the fusible medium weight interfacings to the wrong sides of the main fabric pieces. It's easier to press with the iron on the main



Picture B

fabric side, not the interfacing side.

Step 3. Sew the main fabric pieces together and the lining pieces together - See picture B.

Sew main fabric pieces together - with the right sides together, line up and pin around the 2 sides and bottom of the squares leaving the top side open. Sew around the

[SEE SEWING page 22]



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Lynn Simon

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-Lynn Simon

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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

National Charity League Celebrates 20 Years of Making a Difference



(Seated L-R) Kate Worth, Inbar Raber, Natalie Romak and Alia Fite; (Standing L-R) Safia Guergah, Alex Coburn, Maria Theophanous, Kenzie Zimmerman and Kelsey Ross. Not pictured: Christina Arnon.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

While some young girls are busy with schoolwork, friends and sporting activities, others find time to add community service to their busy schedules through the National Charity League (NCL). The nonprofit organization of mothers and daughters join together to volunteer for a wide variety of local organizations.

The Lamorinda chapter, which includes girls from Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette, recently honored its 20 graduating seniors. Together these teens volunteered over 5,500 hours of philanthropic and league service to local communities during their six-year participation.

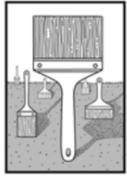
"My mom told me about NCL when I was still at Orinda Intermediate School," says Miramonte senior Alia Fite. "I had been involved with community service through OIS, but I liked the way NCL deals more directly with people." Fite recalls feeling very helpful at Loaves and Fishes in Martinez, where the girls and their mothers prepared the food and served the clients. Another graduating senior, Natalie

Romak, also remembers a time at Loaves and Fishes when a female client got upset and overturned a table. "It really showed me how difficult some people's situations are in life," she says.

Fite says some of her fondest memories are working with Special Olympics. "We helped out at a bowling tournament at Diablo Lanes. We kept score and, basically, helped in any way the athletes needed. It was just nice talking to them and seeing how much fun they were having," she adds.

The Lamorinda chapter of NCL has approximately 30 organizations that it supports with volunteer activities and cash donations. NCL has 149 chapters nationwide with over 36,000 members. To learn more about the opportunities for girls in grades 7-12, visit www.nationalcharityleague.org. For information on the Lamorinda chapter, go to www.ncllamorinda.org.

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OAKLAND STROKES

Orinda Academy's Multi-Media Variety Show

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Students have been working for months on special compositions, dances, dramatic presentations, and martial arts for the annual Spring Arts Festival. The "O-Show" takes place on May 14 at the Orinda Library Auditorium. Performances are at noon for students and at 7 p.m. for the general public.

"It's really an exciting time," says drama chair Leigh Lightfoot. "The drama students have been working on several short pieces including *DMV* and *One-Minute Play* by Christopher Durang, *Agnus Angst* and *Lud and Marie* (Agnus' grandparents) by Lily

Tomlin as well as excerpts from *You're a Good Man, Charley Brown* and Jules Feiffer's *I Found a Flower*. We even have an original one-act by a teenage playwright."

The musicians are looking forward to playing a wide variety of music from jazz to classical to hip hop and the dancers are excited to show their variety of dance mediums and their original choreography. "It's hard work but really a labor of love," says dancer Darian McCrackin. "I've learned a lot at Orinda Academy and hope to use it as I go on to Sarah Lawrence next year," says graduating senior Jacob Basri.

For tickets to the "O-Show," call 254-7553, ext. 0.



SALLY HOGARTY

(1st row L-R) Jacob Basri, Michelle Ross, Hillary Calef, Jeremy Smith-Danford (2nd row L-R) Michael Firestone, Alberto Fox, Lino Sanchez Siegel, Darian McCrackin, and Elizabeth Agramont.

Lamorinda Placed First at Twin Rivers Equestrian Event



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Crossroads Pony Club, located in the Briones Valley, placed first in an event rally in Paso Robles. The girls and their horses competed in dressage, show jumping, and cross country jumping over three days. They were thrilled to have Beijing silver medalist Gina Miles at the event. (L-R) Sarah Braun (College Park), Lauren Branagh (OIS), Gina Miles (Olympic Silver Medalist), Grace Ann Carrick (JM), and Marissa Monroe (Campolindo).

◆ SANTA MARIA from page 8

children, many coming from conditions of extreme poverty, and all coming directly off the streets. In Leon, the number of street children is among the highest in the country.

Chaperoning the youth were Santa Maria's two youth ministers, Carlo Fiatarone and Thea Ricchiuto, as well as parental chaperon Dina Fiatarone, and Fr. George Alangadan. "This trip is truly a transformative experience for our kids," says Fiatarone. "It opens up their eyes to the reality of the world, and to the reality that their faith has called them to take an active role in standing up for disadvantaged individuals."

This is Santa Maria's third year traveling to Niños Don Bosco. First time participant Joseph Janiga, a sophomore at Miramonte, was not quite sure what to expect. "I had an open mind, and I assumed that the trip would be pretty straight forward," says

Janiga. "I figured my friends and I would simply go down to Mexico to do some missionary work. As it turned out, the trip was so much more than that, not only for us, the Santa Maria kids, but for the kids in the Mission orphanage as well.

"When we arrived at the orphanage, everyone was shy," continues Janiga. "A few awkward 'hola[s]' were exchanged, with little interaction. Fortunately, a very quick change occurred. After our first dinner, time was reserved for playing soccer and volleyball. I was amazed at how there was a magical kind of communication between us and the Mission kids. Even though some of our group spoke very little Spanish, everyone knew what the other person was thinking so there was really no need for words. By the end of the week, many friendships were made and some of the non-Spanish speaking kids on the trip had been able to pick up on some key phrases and were communicating quite well."

Parishioner Peggy Manrique is impressed that the teens are selflessly willing to give up their traditional spring break vacations in exchange for the hard work expected of them on the trip. "I am in awe of these teenagers who are willing to forgo the "fun" things that most do for spring break to help these children who are so badly in need," she says.

Steele says many have asked him if it was worth it to use an entire precious spring break for this cause. "And to that I answer, yes," he says. "For the sacrifice given, more is received in return."

Janiga concurs, "I would highly recommend this trip to anyone who feels like helping out some kids while having a good time and growing personally and spiritually. It's a step into a whole different world that you will never forget."

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STUDENTS / SCHOOLS

Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 Inducts Five Accomplished Eagle Scouts

By PAT RUDEBUSCH
Contributing Writer

Orinda's Boy Scout Troop 237 honored its five newest Eagle Scouts at a Court of Honor on Sunday, March 8, at the Orinda Community Church. Ted Alper, Evan Bontemps, Craig Dathe, Daniel Esquivel, and John Holland achieved Boy Scouting's highest award after completing their individual community service projects, which included helping young inner-city tennis players and young musicians in Berkeley, and the restoration and improvement of the City of Orinda Events Board and the Miramonte High School Aquatics record boards.

Ted Alper earned his Eagle Award for his work on behalf of Youth Tennis Advantage, a tennis instruction and school mentoring program for youth in Oakland and the greater Bay Area. Alper is a junior at Miramonte and has played on the tennis team for the past three years. He

in music to benefit the Young Musicians Program at Jazzschool, a nonprofit music school in Berkeley. Bontemps produced a CD-release benefit concert that raised over \$1,000. The proceeds of the concert and CD sales were used to purchase chairs and refurbish classrooms at the school. Bontemps is a member of Miramonte's Choral Artists and Concert Singers who toured Switzerland and Austria last summer. He also rowed for three years with the Oakland Strokes Varsity crew team.

Craig Dathe reconstructed Orinda's community events board, which is centrally located on the corner of Moraga Way and Brookwood Drive. While the new board resembles the one it replaced, Dathe's improvements make it easier to read, simpler to use, and better able to endure time and weather. In undertaking this project, he also taught his newly acquired skills to several other Scouts. Dathe has served on the *Contra Costa Times* Teen Correspondence Board and has attended writers' workshops

and supplies from the Orinda Rotary. With materials and racquets in hand, he taught Scouts, and other youth from Youth Tennis Advantage, how to refurbish and restring the donated racquets that, in turn, were donated to disadvantaged youth in Oakland. Esquivel is also on the varsity tennis team at Miramonte.

John Holland upgraded and replaced six record boards at the Bill Brown Miramonte pool. The boards list several hundred record holders and All-Americans in swimming, diving and water polo at the high school. Holland secured funding for his project from the Miramonte Boosters Club and

led 22 other Scouts who worked with him to smooth, drill and install the new metal record plates. Holland is captain of Miramonte's men's water polo team, a member of the varsity swim team, coaches for the Special Olympics Sea Serpents, the Orinda Country Club, and Lamorinda Water Polo.

Troop 237, which has served Orinda for 56 years, has seen 174 of its young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. The troop is led by Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen and Troop Committee Chair Gary Witherell. For information on joining the troop, contact evjorgensen@comcast.net.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Miramonte students Daniel Esquivel, John Holland, Ted Alper, Evan Bontemps, and Craig Dathe recently became Troop 237's newest Eagle Scouts.

chose this project because he wanted to make the sport he loves more accessible to disadvantaged youth. Last summer, Alper spent seven weeks doing volunteer work in a small village in Panama with *Amigos de las Americas*.

Evan Bontemps brought his interest

at Lake Forest College and the University of Iowa.

Daniel Esquivel's Eagle project also benefited Youth Tennis Advantage. After collecting over 150 tennis racquets that were donated by seven different tennis clubs, Esquivel secured additional funding



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **AUTHOR** from page 6

Yorker, articles in the *S.F. Chronicle*, and the short story award from Stanford, who haven't asked about the mountain of rejection slips accumulating on my desk. ... One who isn't here is Poul Anderson, the science fiction writer, who bequeathed me an agent and gave me courage. I miss him.

"One who is here is Jim Arth, custodian at Orinda Community Center, who in the '70s allowed me to sneak into empty classrooms at the old community center to write. I couldn't stay home – the dishes in the sink, the unmade beds, the mounds of dirty laundry would have made me feel guilty. So I'd sneak into an empty classroom and write for two hours.

"And Jim understood. In return, I'd help him move the long table so he could sweep under them, and we'd discuss Jack London,

one of Jim's favorites. That went on for 10 years or so. And one day, Jim leaned on his wide dust mop, and he said, 'You know, someday you'll publish a book, and everybody will say you're an instant success, and only you and I will know about the hours you've spent writing at the Orinda Community Center.'"

The book signing was a near sellout, but by now, copies of the paperback will be available again at Orinda Books.

◆ **COOKING** from page 13

- Increase organics – especially those most commonly contaminated: berries, stone fruits (peaches, nectarines, etc.) apples, pears, cherries, bell peppers, spinach, celery, potatoes and dairy products.

- Increase whole grains (breads, cereals, pastas) and omega-3 fatty acids (fish, nuts, seeds, cereals, eggs).

- Reduce sugars, especially corn sweeteners (high fructose corn syrup); smaller amounts of natural cane sugar is preferred over corn-based or artificial sweeteners.

For kids, vegetables and fruit remains the major hurdle. Over the years, I have developed this list of suggestions (which have seemed to work in my home) to encourage more vegetable intake, but they can apply to other categories of foods as well:

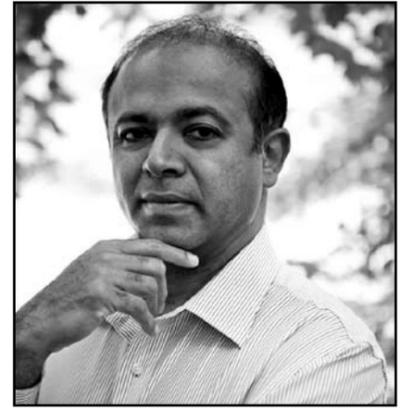
- Expose children to a wide variety of foods – especially vegetables. Prepare them properly to enhance natural flavors.

- Have kids take part in growing, harvesting or market selection of foods and have them assist in their preparation.

- Encourage consumption and positive reinforcement (suggest one or two bites – small bodies don't need much) and try not to equate food with punishment. And remember, if they don't eat, the next meal

Abraham Verghese at Orinda Books May 3

A stunning debut novel, Verghese's *Cutting for Stone*, spins an enthralling family saga that encompasses Africa and America as one man's past catches up with him. Intensely suspenseful, deeply moving, and unexpectedly funny, *Cutting for Stone* is an epic story into one man's remarkable life, and the power, intimacy and curious beauty of the work of healing others. Verghese will read from his book and sign copies at Orinda Books on May 3 at 3 p.m. For more information, call 254-7607.



Abraham Verghese

JOANNE CHAN

is only hours away.

- Every meal and snack should include some type of vegetable(s) and fruit(s).

- Parents need to set a good example – don't expect them to eat what you won't.

- Avoid making separate meals, if at all possible – no one has time for that.

- Whenever possible, retain the skins of your fruits and vegetables. Most of the nutrients and fiber are found in the skins.

- Respect your child's right not to eat something (it's sometimes just not worth the battle), but continue to offer it and provide encouragement.

- Avoid referring to foods as "healthy," so as not to draw attention to the foods they may not prefer. All foods should be presented equally and all are important for proper health.

- Avoid sweet rewards for eating properly.

Creamed Chicken with Broccoli and Mushrooms

This recipe is one of my kids' favorites. It's a simple combination of chicken, broccoli and mushrooms surrounded by a creamy white sauce topped with cheese. I choose to use whole milk, but feel free to use a reduced-fat milk, if you prefer. The butter, on the other hand, must be real. Serve with a whole grain rice or whole wheat pasta and crisp salad.

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 1 1/2 pounds) cut into 3/4-inch cubes

1 pound brown Crimini mushrooms, rinsed, trimmed and quartered

1 1/2 pounds broccoli crowns, florets cut into bite-sized pieces

2 tablespoons olive oil

4 tablespoons whole butter

1/4 cup whole wheat flour

2 1/2 cups whole milk

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pep-

per to taste

1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

- In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the chicken pieces and sauté until golden brown on all sides, 4 – 5 minutes. Remove from the pan and set aside. Add the cut mushrooms to the pan and sauté until soft, about 4 minutes. Remove from the pan and set aside.

- Heat a medium pot of water to boiling and blanch the broccoli florets until cooked firm but tender, about 3 minutes. Strain the broccoli and set aside.

- Melt the butter in a heavy-bottomed saucepan. Using a whisk, stir in the flour all at once, and cook, stirring constantly, until the paste (roux) cooks and bubbles a bit, but don't let it brown — about 2 minutes.

- Add 1/2 cup of the milk and whisk to combine. The mixture will thicken rapidly, but continue to add the milk slowly until it is all incorporated. Continue to whisk until the sauce thickens. Bring to a boil. Season with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste. Lower the heat, and cook, whisking for 2 – 3 minutes more.

- Preheat the oven to 375°F. Place the cooked chicken, mushrooms and broccoli into a 3-quart baking dish, pour the white sauce over and stir to combine. Sprinkle the grated Parmesan cheese evenly over the mixture.

- Bake, uncovered, until the top cheese is melted and golden brown, 15 - 20 minutes. Caution when serving little ones – this is hot straight from the dish.

Serves 4 -6

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For comments, questions or suggestions feel free to contact the Chef, via email: charlie@epicureanexchange.com or visit www.epicureanexchange.com for more information on programs and classes.



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ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

It's On to the World Finals for Odyssey of the Mind Teams

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Congratulations to Glorietta Elementary, Orinda Intermediate School (OIS), and Miramonte High School for placing high enough in the state levels competition to qualify for the world finals May 27-30 in Ames, Iowa.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting creative interpretations of literary classics. Thousands of teams from throughout the United States and from approximately 25 other countries participate in the program.

This year, several Orinda schools sent teams to the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition in February. Glorietta Elementary, Del Rey Elementary, OIS and

Miramonte High School all placed high enough in their respective competitions to make it to the state finals, which took place on April 4 with Glorietta, OIS and Miramonte advanced to the world finals. "This is really very amazing," says parent Joni Binder Shwartz. "This is such a rigorous academic competition, and it's great that our kids are shining in this area."

The Glorietta team chose to engineer a structure made from just 8 grams of balsa wood that was able to withstand "shock-waves" of weights being dropped onto it. The little structure held 280 pounds before it collapsed. The Glorietta "Green" team is coached by Kent Grelling and Chow Chen.

The OIS and Miramonte teams both competed in the "Superstition" problem. They had to create and present a performance that included two documented superstitions, an original superstition created by the team, and the events that caused the original superstition to come to be. Kathy Simon, Susan Livingston, and Laurie Rothermel coach the OIS team with Cheryl Kortright the coach for Miramonte.

The three teams from Orinda are proud to represent their community in this rigorous academic exercise at the prestigious world championship. Congratulations and good luck in Iowa!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Glorietta Team (L-R) **Eli O'Brien, Maia Shwartz, Christian Schillinger, Andrew Chow, Dylan Wallerstein, and Jordan Grelling.** Coaches **Kent Grelling** (L) and **Chow Chen** in back.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miramonte Team (L-R) **Kate Cebalo, Katie Kortright, Kiernan Salmon, Mai-Lan Vugia, Sowmya Murali, and Katie Ladouceur**



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OIS Blue Team (L-R) **Charlotte Pitt, Kiley Fillingier, Laurie Simon, Kendal Taylor, and Sydney Livingston.**

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Spring Plant Sale to Benefit Young Directors' Fund

Bret C. Harte, an active member of the Orinda Starlight Village Players and an intern at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, died in a car accident four years ago. An annual plant sale in his memory has taken place every year since with proceeds helping other aspiring directors. The sale is May 8 and 9 at 73 Coral Drive in Orinda. Call 925-376-4299.




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Washington D.C.

Bobbie Dodson



All eyes were on Washington D.C. for the presidential inauguration. What a beautiful city; how proud we were of our nation's capital. With spring break and summer vacations approaching, it's a good time for families to plan a visit to see some of the monuments and buildings you have admired on television. Or, opt to choose a less busy time, as we did.

We traveled to Washington last October. The best news to report is that almost every venue one wishes to see, from the Smith-

sonian museums to the Capitol Building, is free. And, most are easily accessed by public transportation. It's useful to plan your sightseeing before you go so that you, and those with you, don't miss your "must-see places," though be flexible and take in something new if it strikes your fancy.

If it's your first time to the city, you will undoubtedly want to see the Washington Monument (ride to the top for a spectacular view), and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. On previous visits, we had not seen the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, dedicated in 1997. We give it top billing with its four outdoor galleries depicting each of his terms in office and the many quotes, including "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." The



The World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

BOBBIE DODSON

monument covers a lot of ground, more than seven acres, as does the World War II Memorial, the newest on the National Mall, dedicated in 2004. Its pools and waterfalls, and 4,000 gold stars, each representing 100 United States deaths, offer a tranquil site for reflection and remembrance.

Along with the striking Vietnam Memorial, we thought the Korean Memorial was a moving tribute. Nineteen poncho-clad figures, representing different ethnic backgrounds, appear to be walking uphill through a field of rice paddies. On a 164-foot polished granite wall are etched 2,400 faces of our troops in all branches of service.

Then there are the tours. Those of the White House and Capitol Building can be booked through our California members of Congress. Some same-day passes are available in their offices. We were able to get ours at Senator Dianne Feinstein's office when we visited in October.

We also lined up at the Supreme Court Building for the 10 a.m. session but not soon enough to get a seat for the entire hour. However, groups were let in at 10-minute intervals to stand at the back to watch the proceedings, so we did get a glimpse of the court in action and heard Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg questioning an attorney. Whether the court is in session or not, it's another

building worth seeing.

Don't miss the two new additions to the Smithsonian complex. The National Museum of the American Indian opened in the fall of 2004. The building, which gives the feeling of a huge natural rock formation, houses permanent exhibits dealing with "Our Universe, Our Peoples and Our Lives," and has one of the world's largest collections of Indian artifacts. The Mitsitam Native Good Café offers the opportunity to sample many different Indian cuisines.

Perhaps the most spectacular museum is the Sant Ocean Hall, whose doors opened in August of 2008. As we entered, we felt as if we were walking through a vast sea full of exotic fish. With its wide array of state-of-the-art exhibits, it's especially appealing to children.

But the National Air and Space Museum remains the perennial favorite with its vast display of airplanes and spacecraft, including the Wright brothers' original 1903 flyer, "The Spirit of St. Louis," the Apollo 11 command module, "Columbia" and lunar rocks one can touch. On the National Mall, it's easy to access. The newer Udvar-Hazy Building contains many more craft, such as the Boeing B 29 Enola Gay and the space shuttle "Enterprise," but no public transportation is available to its location near the Dulles International Airport.

As to art, the Phillips Collection topped our list with its magnificent Renoir painting, "Luncheon of the Boating Party." It is a bit off the beaten track but can easily be reached by the Metro. The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery houses portraits of all the presidents and their wives, including those of George W. and Laura Bush which were unveiled December 19. The new exhibit, "The Mask of Lincoln," shows how his face changed from early depictions, to four painted in 1860, to those near the end of his life. The American History Museum also has a Lincoln exhibit commemorating the 200th anniversary of his birth.



The striking Korean memorial in Washington, D.C.

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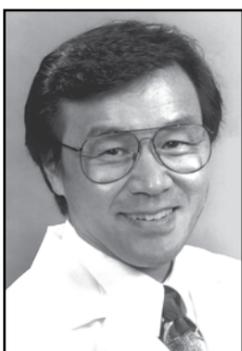
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MAY

- 1 **First Friday Forum**, 1:30 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Professor Ananya Roy will speak on "Global Poverty: Challenges and Hopes for the New Millennium," 925-283-8722.
Glorietta School presents *Seussical*. Enjoy a fun time with Dr. Seuss and his wild creations. May 1 at 4 and 7 p.m., and May 2 at 3 and 7 p.m., \$5 general, \$10 reserved. Tickets sold at school pickup booths or seussicalplaytix@gmail.com.
- 2 **Moraga Juniors Women's Club** Annual Garden Tour, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with two Orinda gardens, as well as four others in Lafayette and Moraga. Contact www.moragajuniors.org.
Orinda Books, 3 p.m. Abraham Verghese will discuss and sign copies of *Cutting for Stone*, 254-7606.
- 4 **Salsa Dancing**, 7 p.m., Orinda Community Center. Free introductory course. Instructor is Tomaj Trenda, 254-3459 or www.SalsawithTomaj.com.
- 5 **Orinda Youth Association** Soccer Registration, 10 a.m. to noon, Orinda Community Center. For pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Also, May 9 from 9 to 11 a. m. Del Rey School.
- 6 **Orinda Rotary**, noon, Orinda Community Center. Professor Richard White will speak on "The Electric Grid," 254-3151.
- 7 **Friends of the Orinda Library** Book Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Orinda Library sorting room, 254-2184.
- 8 **Fourth Annual Spring Plant Sale** to benefit the Bret C. Harte Young Directors' Fund at Berkeley Rep, 73 Coral Drive in Orinda, also May 9, 925-376-4299.
- 9 **Orinda Rotary** Annual Frank Isola Rotary Field Day, 8 a.m. to noon, Del Rey School, 254-3151.
Orinda Books, 1 p.m. C.W. Gortner will discuss and sign copies of, *The Last Queen*, 254-7606.
- 12 **Orinda Books**, 4 p.m. Iain Pears will discuss and sign copies of, *Stone's Fall*, 254-7606.
- 13 **Orinda Rotary**, noon, Orinda Community Center. Professor Daniel Kammen will speak on "A Clean Energy Future," 254-3151.
- 14 **Orinda Academy** Arts Festival, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, a multi-media celebration of music, dance, theater, film and more, 254-7553, ext. 0.
Orinda Books, 4 p.m. Claire Langley Hawthorne will discuss and sign copies of, *The Serpent and the Scorpion*, 254-7606.
- 15 **Contra Costa Council** Small Business Recognition Awards, noon, Concord Hilton. Orinda Chamber of Commerce has named Shelby's of Theatre Square as outstanding business. 254-6687.
- 16 **Kids 'N Dance 'N Theater Arts**, Presentation of *Annie* at 1 p.m. *Dance Along Princess Show* at 3:30 p.m., allows participants to come on stage or in the aisles. Orinda Library Auditorium. Tickets \$10 per show, 510-531-4400.
Orinda Books, 3 p.m. Mark Arax will discuss and sign copies of his new collection of California stories, *West of the West*. 254-7606.
- 19 **World Affairs Book Group**, 3 p.m., Orinda Books. Discussion of *The Great Partition: The making of India and Pakistan*, by Yasmin Khan. Contact Daisy Daymond, 925-935-1565.
Miramonte High School Theater presents *The Crucible*, 7:30 p.m. Continues May 20 and 22, 925-280-3930.
- 20 **Orinda Rotary**, noon, Orinda Community Center. Professor Susan Marqusee will speak on "Synthetic Biology," 254-3151.
- 23 **Orinda Books**, 1 p.m. Andy Raskin will discuss and sign copies of his memoir, *The Ramen King and I*, 254-7606.
- 27 **Orinda Rotary**, noon, Orinda Community Center. Professor Eliot Quataert will speak on "Black Holes and Expanding Galaxies," 254-3151.
- 28 **Orinda Chamber of Commerce and City of Orinda** salute Cal Shakes, 5:30-7 p.m., Theatre Square. Performances by Orinda Intermediate School students, 254-3909.
Miramonte Symphonic Band and Orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m., Miramonte Theatre, playing works from their highly successful Southern California Tour, 925-280-3930.
- 29 **Orinda Books**, author Surrey Blackburn will read from her new work *It Takes Two to Tell a Good Tale*, 4 p.m., 254-7606.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified.

Children's Events

- 2 **Saturday Morning Live!** 11 a.m. Family story time for 3- to 5-year-olds. Also May 9, 16, 23.
- 3 **Puppet Show**, 3 p.m. The "Share Your Story Reading Festival" begins with the Fratello Marionettes presenting Vaudeville Follies.
Origami for Fun, 2:30 p.m. Learn origami with Yuki Siegrist. Repeats May 10.
- 5 **Peek-a-boo Story Time**, 11:30 a.m. Bounces, rhymes, and songs for pre-walkers (infants to 1-year-olds) and their caregivers. Those with older siblings are welcome to attend Toddler Lapsit. Also May 12, 29, 26.
Toddler Lapsit, 10 a.m. Stories, songs and finger-plays for 1- to 3-year-olds and their caregivers. Drop in, but please attend no more than one Lapsit a week. Repeats at 10:30 in the Gallery Room. Also May 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27.
Actors Reading Writers present *My Name is Aram* by William Saroyan, 7 p.m.
- 7 **Mark Curtis**, news anchor and author, shares his story of life on the campaign trail in *Age of Obama: A reporter's Journey with Clinton, McCain and Obama in the Making of the President*. Space limited. First come, first seated.
- 9 **Paws Storytime**, 11 a.m., early readers from 3- to 5-year-olds to practice reading to a gentle dog.
The Key to Comprehension, 7 p.m., Special session on reading skills for teens/parents.

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

MEETINGS:

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, for information, call 925-788-7323.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks, fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library. Call 253-1997.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District, third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees, OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road, 4 p.m.
- Planning Commission, second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 253-4210.

Send calendar items to news@orindaassociation.org

Global Poverty Topic of First Friday Forum May 1

by BOBBIE DODSON
Contributing Writer

"The new millennium is marked by the emergence of a global conscience, particularly a mobilization around the efforts to end poverty," says Ananya Roy, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and International and Area studies at UC Berkeley.

Roy is the speaker at First Friday Forum on May 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Choosing the subject "Global Poverty: Challenges and Hopes for the New Millennium," Professor Roy will explore the efforts to alleviate poverty and the challenges they face. The current fiscal crisis casts a cloud on the allocation of resources to aid international development with the food crises of the past couple of years swelling the ranks of the global poor.

Global trade, a cornerstone of today's globalization, remains structured in highly unequal ways, privileging rich countries and discriminating against poor countries.

Roy says such challenges indicate the "rules of the game" must be changed in order to address poverty in a serious fashion. "In my talk, I will explore poverty-alleviation interventions that are successful and what we may learn from them. I will also share my own efforts as a teacher to involve young men and women, the generation that has been dubbed the 'millennials,' in the struggles against global poverty."

A distinguished member of the UC faculty, Roy is the recipient of a 2006 Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest teaching honor UC Berkeley bestows on its faculty. She also received the 2008 Golden Apple Teaching Award, bestowed by the student body at Cal, the only teaching award at the school conferred by the students.

Ananya Roy received her B.A. from Mills College in 1992 and her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1999. The author



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Ananya Roy of UC Berkeley will speak on Global Poverty.

of several books, her current research and book project is entitled *Poverty Capital: Microfinance and the Frontiers of Millennial Development*. This project has received several prestigious awards including the Hellman Faculty Award and the Prytanean Faculty Award, as well as a multiyear research grant from the National Science Foundation.

This project examines development capital, and the circuit of accumulation that run through international development institutions like the World Bank, USAID, UN, and the exploding sector of non-governmental organizations.

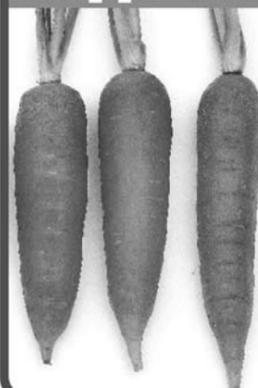
In 2006, the Blum Center for Developing Economies was established on the UC Berkeley campus to deepen the engagement of students and faculty with the pressing issues of poverty, inequality and development. Ananya Roy serves as the education director of the center and has led the effort to establish a new undergraduate minor in Global Poverty and Practice.

For further information on the First Friday Forum lecture, call 925-283-8722.

CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.
- Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe** meeting, May 18, 7:30 p.m. All interested in preservation of the landmark are invited to attend. For location, 254-8260.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**, Postino's in Lafayette, 7 a.m. every Friday, 254-0440, ext.463.
- Orinda Rotary**, Community Center, every Wednesday at noon, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**, Orinda Library, May Room, second Monday, 7:15 p.m., 254-0800.
- Orinda Historical Society**, third Wednesday of the month, OHS Museum, 3 to 5 p.m., 254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**, first and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- 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.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

1916 or bump her an email at ef.artnow@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Martial Arts Studio

Native Orindan David Drath established Lamorinda Martial Arts Studio at One Orinda Way seven years ago, teaching Tae Kwon Do to students aged four to fifty-four. With 17 years of experience as an instructor, Drath also oversees the program at Oakland Athletic Club. An extremely accomplished martial artist himself, Drath has competed as a black belt in national tournaments since 1997.

Tae Kwon Do is a Korean striking art. Students learn blocking and distance control. "We double in other styles for self defense training. There are a lot of directions one can take with Tae Kwon Do, focusing on the sports aspect, the artistic aspect, as well as the technique. Once a student attains black belt, we get more focused in other styles of martial arts," explains Drath. His studio in Orinda is conveniently located adjacent to Hsaing's Restaurant and is well lit, with an entire wall of mirror reflecting every student's movements.

"There are a lot of skills to be maintained when learning a martial art. It is comparable to learning a foreign language. To practice martial arts is really to practice a way of living. The art of Tae Kwon Do and the sport of Tae Kwon Do are really two different things," elaborates Drath. "It helps build self-discipline, perseverance and personal integrity."

There are five tenets of Tae Kwon Do; courtesy, integrity, indomitable spirit, perseverance and self control. "These five tenets are concepts one needs to develop to be successful in any arena in life. One develops oneself through the process of learning this martial art," explains Drath.

Drath gives the example of focus. He teaches the definition to his young students and explains how when one focuses it helps in the classroom, when dealing with parents and anytime you want to learn something it is imperative that one focus. Drath stays with one word, its definition and applications in life, for two months. "I am not worried about the devastation of their kicks. It is more important to me that students learn to respect their parents and teachers, that they learn how to identify when they become distracted and how to regain focus." Learning Tae Kwon Do helps get these most important concepts into their minds at an early age and students receive the benefits for their entire lives according to Drath.

Robert Bradford's two daughters, Casey and Bridget, train at Drath's studio two days a week. "Casey was not interested in team sports so I enrolled her in Tae Kwon Do when she was 7 years old. She enjoys it so much and has stayed with it. Naturally, her younger sister became involved with

the same enthusiasm. The program helps a youngster learn how to use her body and to develop self-confidence," explains Bradford.

Students are grouped in classes by age groups, such as 4-7-year-olds, 8-12-year-olds, teen level and adult classes. Classes are conveniently scheduled and students usually attend class twice a week. For more information visit the website, www.tkdlmas.com or call David Drath at 254-5244. You may also email Drath at LMASTKD@yahoo.com.

LightPath Photography

Rick Konlon brings over 20 years of computer expertise to his digital photography business, LightPath Photography. While Konlon manages both his computer consulting and photography businesses from his Orinda home, he is passionate about the latter and in his words, is leveraging all his computer experience to focus on digital photo processing.

"Digital photography has come of age and continues to improve. That is what made it right for me. In the early days, it did not capture skin tones well, but tremendous strides have been made. I do a variety of photography because it is interesting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rick Konlon prefers the other side of the camera as the owner of LightPath Photography.

from my perspective. My subjects include portraits, commercial food, clothing, real estate, social events, sports, performing arts, and action portraits. Most likely you have seen Konlon's work around town. He did the photography and graphics for Maya Mexican Grill, the Orinda 4th of July parade, and photos for the Orinda

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VALERIE HOTZ
Orinda native David Drath helps Casey Bradford with a move at his Lamorinda Martial Arts Studio on Orinda Way.

Convalescent Home brochure.

Konlon, originally from Illinois, worked in Silicon Valley before moving to Orinda 25 years ago. His wife, Lynne, works for Weight Watchers. The couple's daughter, Laura, graduated from Miramonte High School in 2004. She earned her BA degree in Theatre Arts from Chapman University. Konlon likes to reminisce about his early years when he and his father performed western style quick shooting shows at county fairs for the Boy Scouts and others in Lake Zurich, Illinois. "My father owned a stable in those days. He trained, boarded and taught riding and jumping skills. Starting at age 12, I would perform in these shows." These days Konlon enjoys working out at 24-Hour Fitness, hiking, running,

playing tennis and flying when he has the time. He holds a private pilot's license.

"I really enjoy my job, especially the interaction with people. It is an extreme contrast with work in the computer industry, where all my time was spent with a computer and other engineers. I have rediscovered a new passion for my work and as a result I am more outgoing. It is a pleasure talking to people," he explains.

A recent client asked him to photograph her on location at the historic John Muir home in Martinez. Konlon asked his daughter, Laura, to assist with the photo shoot. "I noticed throughout the session the client was very nervous and as time wore on she became more and more relaxed. When the photo shoot was over and it came time to say good-bye, she turned to me and said, "I think I want to hug you," and then she did. I'll tell you, her hug meant more to me than the professional fee. It's about having a positive effect on someone else's life and giving them something that is enduring. That means so much to me," adds Konlon.

Rick Konlon is a member of the Professional Photographers of America and the local affiliate, Northern California Professional Photographers. If you notice a fellow wearing a light brown leather, wide brim Australian hat in Orinda, say hello to Rick (and no, he will tell you, it is not a cowboy hat). For more information about LightPath Photography, visit the website at www.lightpath.com or call Rick Konlon at 253-6079. His email is rick@lightpathphoto.com.

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Original Works of Art for Your Garden

Orinda resident Eileen Fitz-Faulkner is a designer, a maker of things, a creator of environments. Her portfolio includes furniture design, steel sculpture industrial design, lamps, as well as vases, candlesticks and dinnerware designs for Williams Sonoma. For the past seven years, Fitz-Faulkner has turned her artistic energies to creating unique and whimsical original art for the garden.

"I have always been interested in shape and shadow, and negative and positive space. I have always been interested in art

and especially enjoy making art for the outdoors, because almost everyone has space outside. Gardens are a place of solitude and joy. It is a spiritual place for me and a place to get in touch with myself, to find calm and peace," says Fitz-Faulkner.

After studying design at UC Davis, she did visual merchandising for Macy's for many years. At the California College of the Arts, Fitz-Faulkner studied art, sculpture and industrial design. Drawn to the variety of shapes present in the out of doors, she creates her garden art starting with heavy poultry wire. The form is then covered with concrete polymer and fiber glass and an additional coat of concrete. Among Fitz-Faulkner's creations are Oscar - a fictional-



VALERIE HOTZ

Eileen Fitz-Faulkner with Oscar, an imaginary cross between a toucan and a stork.

ized bird best described as a cross between a toucan and a stork - a zebra, enormous eggs in a variety of vibrant colors and a larger than life, luscious gleaming pomegranate. The pieces are fairly lightweight and are weatherproof for display outdoors.

Another commission completed by Fitz-Faulkner was designing a mosaic pattern for an 11 foot exterior wall. "The client had a beautiful garden landscape and one bedroom window looked directly at a blank retaining wall. I photographed the garden and went about integrating the scheme in the wall mosaic," explains Fitz-Faulkner.

You get the picture that there is no limit

to Fitz-Faulkner's imagination. "If you have an inspiration, just go with it. I enjoy a touch a whimsy and bringing a spark to people's personal space. It is wonderful to collaborate with clients and give them something very unique and quite personal to their lives," she adds.

Materials for garden art come from a variety of sources that include salvage yards and recycled, high fired kitchen tiles. All materials are of high grade quality in order to stand the test of time in the outdoors.

Fitz-Faulkner and her husband, Kyle Faulkner, relocated to Orinda four years ago from the Rockridge area of Oakland. He is a software engineer consultant and the couple has two children: Gaelen, who is an eighth grader at Orinda Intermediate School, and Sorn, who is in the fourth grade at Wagner Ranch School. Fitz-Faulkner enjoys giving back to her community by volunteering in the schools creating sets for theatrical productions. While an Oakland resident, she spent four years working with the designer to create Frog Community Park in Rockridge. This project incorporated the neighborhood's children's wishes into the park, which was built by 1,500 volunteers.

With imagination, inspiration and a spark of creativity, the possibilities are endless. "I would love to do a fountain someday," muses Fitz-Faulkner. For more information or to commission a work of art for your garden, call Eileen Fitz-Faulkner at 253-

[SEE BUZZ page 23]

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Recipes



BARBARA KOBSAR

BASIL PESTO SAUCE with Green Beans and Potatoes

3 cloves garlic
 1 bunch basil, stemmed
 1/4 cup toasted nuts (pine nuts, almonds or walnuts) – Place nuts on a baking sheet and toast in a 350 degree oven until golden brown. Pine nuts take 5 to 7 minutes; almonds or walnuts take 8 to 10 minutes.
 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
 1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan or Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
 1 pound pasta
 1 pound potatoes, peeled if necessary, sliced one half inch thick, and blanched in boiling water for 3 to 4 minutes, then drained.
 1/2 pound green beans, cut into 3-inch lengths and blanched for 3 to 4 minutes.

With a food processor running, drop in the garlic. Add the basil and nuts and process to a grainy texture. With the machine running, gradually add the olive oil to the desired consistency. Fold in the cheese by hand and set the pesto aside.

In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook the pasta according to package directions. Add the potatoes and green beans for the last minute of cooking to heat them through. Drain, reserving 1 cup of the pasta cooking liquid.

Transfer to the serving bowl and toss the pesto with the pasta, adding the pasta cooking liquid to the desired consistency. Turn into a warmed serving bowl and serve at once.

Serves 6.

FAVA BEAN SAUCE with Spring Vegetables

1 pound penne, or pasta of your choice
 5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 2 pounds fava beans, shelled and blanched for 1 minute
 1 red spring onion, diced
 1 bunch baby carrots, peeled, halved lengthwise and blanched for 2 minutes
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
 One half cup freshly grated Parmesan or Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
 In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and reserve 1 cup of the pasta cooking liquid. Toss the pasta with a tablespoon of the olive oil and set aside in a warm place.

Remove the skins from the fava beans by pinching off the end and squeezing the brightly colored bean out.

In a large sauté pan, heat the remaining oil over medium-high heat and sauté the onion for 3 to 4 minutes, or until golden brown. Add the reserved pasta cooking liquid and bring to a boil. Cook over high heat to reduce to one half cup, then reduce the heat to a simmer; add the carrots and the fava beans. Heat for 3 to 4 minutes, or until the vegetables are warmed through. Season with salt and pepper.

Transfer the pasta to a warmed serving bowl. Add the vegetables mixture and toss. Stir in the cheese and serve at once.

Serves 6.

Apricot – Cherry Crisp from Local Flavors, Deborah Madison

Apricot and cherries team up for this sensational, old fashioned dessert.

2 one half pounds ripe apricots
 1 pound sweet cherries
 2 tablespoons sugar
 1 one-half tablespoons minute tapioca
 One-eighth teaspoon almond extract

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Lightly butter a 2 and one half quart gratin dish. Pit the apricots and cherries, then toss them with the sugar, tapioca, and almond extract. Lay the fruit in the prepared dish.

Make the topping. Pat the topping over the fruit. Set the dish on a baking pan to catch the juices and bake until the top is browned and the juices have thickened around the edge, about 45 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream if desired.

The Crisp Topping

6 tablespoons butter, cut into small chunks
 Three-quarter cup light brown sugar, loosely packed
 Two-thirds cup all-purpose flour
 One-half cup rolled oats
 One-quarter teaspoon salt
 One half teaspoon ground nutmeg
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, optional

Using your fingers or the paddle attachment of a mixer, work the butter with the rest of the ingredients until the texture is coarse and crumbly.

Serves 6 to 8.

Oven Roasted Asparagus

Try roasting asparagus for a sweet, intense flavor. It's easy!

1 pound medium size asparagus, ends broken off
 2 to 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 One quarter cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Arrange asparagus in a single layer in a glass baking dish. Drizzle with olive oil and bake for about 10 minutes. Bake a minute or 2 longer if not tender when pierced with a fork. When tender, dribble the vinegar into the dish and shake to coat asparagus with both oil and vinegar. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Transfer asparagus to a serving dish, sprinkle with Parmesan and serve immediately.

Serves 4.

See you at the Farmers' Market.