

THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually
July 2010

Orinda Celebrates the 4th of July in Style



Complete list of 4th of July activities begins on page 11. Remember parade starts at 11 a.m. this year!

Fire Chief Answers Criticism of Cherry Picker Rescue

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

Two men who were washing windows 30 feet above the Vintage Building parking lot at 25 Orinda Way were electrocuted and set on fire when their cherry picker hit a high-voltage power line.

The accident happened just before 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 5, when the nearby Farmers' Market was in full swing. Following a loud explosion, bystanders could be heard yelling, "People are on fire up there, they're both on fire."

In video taken at the scene, smoke can be seen enveloping the window cleaners. At first they appear stunned by the electric shock, but then rally and try to smother the

fire on their clothes.

At press time, the men, Jose Herrera, 51, and Eduardo Guerra, 30, were in critical condition at the Burn Center at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, according to hospital spokesperson Joy Alexiou. They suffered burns to 95 percent of their bodies. The men work for Delta Window Cleaning in Santa Clara.

Steve Race of Orinda witnessed the incident and said he was shocked at the length of time it took the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) to rescue the two men.

"The response time to the accident was deplorable and the inactivity and seeming lack of professionalism on the part of the MOFD was striking," he said.

According to Race, police arrived on the scene about 10 minutes after he heard the initial explosion as the cherry picker hit the

[SEE ACCIDENT page 22]



DAHLIN ARCHITECTS AND EDEN HOUSING
A view from Orinda Way looking at the proposed senior housing on the old library site at Orinda Way and Irwin Way.

Residents Get First Look at Senior Housing

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Eden Housing, the nonprofit affordable housing developer designing a senior housing project for the site of the old Orinda library, held two public meetings in June to present proposed designs and garner feedback from local residents.

Eden's senior project manager Woody

Karp, an Orinda resident for over 20 years, is particularly passionate about the project.

Karp explained that ever since Eden was chosen to develop the site, the non-profit has worked to "envision wonderful affordable senior housing on the site." He said, "the project is near and dear to me, as there is nothing more exciting than to build here."

[SEE EDEN page 10]

A Patriotic Tiger for July

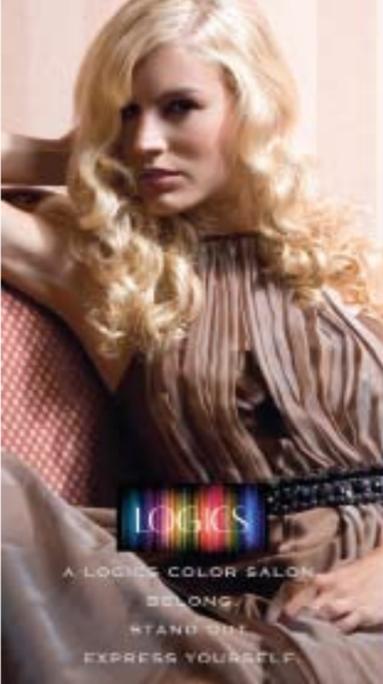


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officially named **Patriotic**, this 22 lbs of love also goes by Paddy O'Kitten and Pat the Fat Cat according to owners **Melissa and Paul Coupin**. When not lounging in the sink, Patriotic likes to ride in the car or visit his food bowl.

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VISUAL ARTS

Pam Glover: Tribute to a Consummate Artist



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Artist Pam Glover influenced generations of artists.

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

As Sir Isaac Newtown said, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on ye shoulders of Giants." Few *plein air* painters in California would disagree that for 30 years, the late Pam Glover offered her shoulders to elevate *plein air* painting to its rightful place in the world of art. Witness the 100+ artists, colleagues, family and friends who traveled to China Camp Park in San Rafael on May 23 to honor her life.

After a picnic and stories about Pam, the artists held a "Paint Out" until the wind off San Pablo Bay whipped their easels to the ground. Just the kind of day Pam would have loved, according to her daughter, Anne Marie Glover.

Shortly after Pam's passing, the Hearst Art Gallery at St. Mary's College in Moraga added her work to their permanent archives; a show in her honor will be held in 2011. These two events ensure her influence will continue for generations to come. It is through Ann Marie's devotion to her remarkable mother that these works are receiving the respect they are due. Pam is also represented at the Jerry Epperson Gallery in Crockett, the Garden Gallery in Half Moon Bay, Kerwin Galleries in Burlingame, and Nancy Dodds Gallery in Carmel, among others.

The recipient of many prestigious awards, Pam exhibited extensively throughout her career with works appearing in hundreds of private and corporate collections including Kaiser in Oakland, the Oakland Federal building, Bank of America in San Francisco, and the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. She was a member of the Marin Society of Artists, the Oakland Art Association, the San Francisco Artist Cooperative, and the East Bay Art Association.

Pam's circuitous journey to Orinda began in 1924 in Hankow, China. Her English [SEE GLOVER page 16]



JOE FITZGERALD

Pam Glover's "Moraga" exemplifies her considerable technique that helped elevate *plein air* painting to a new level.

Celebration of a Local Treasure – The Lamorinda Arts Alliance

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The July exhibit at the Orinda Library Gallery featuring works from the Lamorinda Arts Alliance opens July 2 and runs through the end of the month. An artists' reception will be held on Saturday, July 3 from 3 to 5 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. Over 27 artists will be showing their artwork, filling the entire gallery with paintings in oils, acrylics and watercolors, ceramics, photographs, pastels, pottery and metal sculpture.

The 200 member strong Lamorinda Arts Alliance (LAA) is an organization of local artists and friends who reside or work in the area. By providing art-related education, service and coordination, it promotes knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Founded in 1994, the group has three cooperative galleries under its umbrella – the Moraga Gallery, the Lafayette Gallery, and the Lafayette Studio. Artists exhibit at the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Beryl Glen-Reiland's "Twilight in Orinda Woods" will be among the works exhibited in the Orinda Library Gallery during July.

various galleries and hold monthly meetings at the Lafayette Studio where guest speakers keep things lively. Membership also confers receipt of a monthly newsletter and the opportunity to participate in a yearly open studios event, among other benefits (<http://laa4art.org>).

LAA members exhibiting in the show include Aghpzarian Zarhine, Donna Arganbright, Arlynn Bloom, Schengen Child, Terry Blair, Ruth Kolman Brophy, Sadie [SEE GALLERY page 16]



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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Celebrate and Participate



Mark Roberts

All Orindans have plenty of reasons to celebrate this Fourth of July. We live in a beautiful community with outstanding schools, motivated young people, involved parents, energetic seniors, business owners who give back and a proud history of volunteerism. As we mark our 25th anniversary as an incorporated city, we acknowledge the contributions of all these groups to making Orinda a place we're proud to call home.

I hope you'll take the time to celebrate what we have here and enjoy all the fun and festivities planned for this year's fourth. Please take a look at the calendar of activities included in this edition of *The Orinda News* and plan to join your neighbors and friends for a great time. Stop and smell the flowers (in the Community Center Park and elsewhere), listen to the music, savor the flavors, and just live for the moment.

After the celebration of who we are and what we've done, I ask you to do this: Think about how you can participate in making sure that Orinda remains a great place in which to live, learn, work, shop and play in the future. I mentioned our proud history of volunteerism but that's a tradition we can never take for granted. It's time for a new generation of Orinda volunteers to step forward and perpetuate that legacy of giving back their time, talent and treasure to our community.

I know that Orindans respond when a situation arises that inspires strong feelings, such as the winter night shelter proposal six years ago or the proposals from the Planning Process Review Task Force now

being considered. That kind of focused, emotional response is important, to be sure. But I'm suggesting that you also make a long-term commitment to helping a group, program or cause that you believe is vital and that makes a lasting contribution to the quality of life in Orinda. Such a continuous contribution of your skills may not be as much of an adrenalin rush as an emotional response to a particular situation, but it's much more emotionally satisfying in the long run.

I recognize that the parents of Orinda students make huge contributions of their time, talent and treasure to help their sons and daughters, their schools, and the many other academic, athletic and enrichment programs with which they're involved. I commend them for their dedication and generosity. But I hope that they might be able to share a little of that generosity with another group that would appreciate and benefit from their skills and talents. (You'll also be providing an active example of the importance of volunteerism for your children.)

If you're not sure what group appeals to you or needs what you have to offer, please visit the Orinda Association's website, www.orindaassociation.org or, better yet, stop by the Volunteer Center on the plaza level of the library. We'll be happy to help you learn how you get involved.

Let's celebrate Orinda's first 25 years as a city and commit to participate in making the next 25 years even better by building on our tradition of volunteer service. Cheers!

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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Medicine Shoppe Wins Small Business of the Year



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alan Wong (R), owner of **Medicine Shoppe** in Orinda, accepts the Contra Costa Council's Best Small Business award from Orinda Chamber of Commerce president **Sue Breedlove**.

Participate in Making Orinda Even Better...
Join the Orinda Association!

Become a member of the OA and support programs and activities that make Orinda an even better place in which to live, learn, work and play for residents of all ages, including:

- The Fourth of July parade and celebration
- Seniors Around Town ride share program
- Volunteer Center to connect people with organizations and programs
- Annual Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Awards
- Community Forums

And, of course, *The Orinda News*, Orinda's own monthly community newspaper, distributed free of charge to all Orinda addresses thanks to the support of OA members and advertisers.

Over 1,000 Orinda households are already members of the OA. JOIN THEM and enjoy the satisfaction of participating in making Orinda even better for all of its residents during the next 25 years! Visit our office on the plaza level of the library or join on-line at www.orindaassociation.org TODAY!

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Guest Commentaries

Maintaining Charm While Providing for The Future

The goal of the Orinda Planning Process Review Task Force (“PPRTF”) was to maintain Orinda’s charm while providing for the future. The best plan that could be conceived while maintaining stated goals was to increase the height limit with dignified and appropriate setbacks to the buildings such that Orinda maintains its charm, looks good, has more pedestrian and bike paths with more trees and flowers that provides for an accepting atmosphere for its residents.

There have been a number of misstatements and misunderstandings about what has been proposed by the PPRTF in order to revitalize downtown Orinda. Please let me try and clarify.

- There is not and never has been a proposal to use city funds to move the power poles out of downtown;
- There is not and never has been a proposal to use city funds on BART parking areas;
- There is not and never has been a proposal to allow “big box” type stores in Orinda; and
- There is pending a proposal to increase the height limit from 35’ to 55’ in some specific areas of downtown, but only with specific requirements to increase parking and maintain Orinda’s charm.

The PPRTF proposal increases setbacks such that buildings will not go straight up like the Orinda Library, which is 47’ high, or the Vintage House building, which is

55’ high.

The PPRTF proposal also increases street setbacks to allow for wide sidewalks, trees, planters and maybe sidewalk dining; then at 27’ high (as compared to current height limit of 35’) the building must articulate and step back at each level. This will allow for sun and light to shine on the street and sidewalks.

During the 150+ public meetings and six workshops – town hall type publicly-noticed meetings, the PPRTF heard that a majority of the people, who understood and saw drawings of how the proposed height limit increase would work, approved the PPRTF Revitalization Plan. After reviewing information and drawings, the public understood that the proposal would not create a Walnut Creek type-setting, but instead would maintain the charm of Orinda while updating the many old buildings to allow for more services to and a pedestrian atmosphere for Orinda residents.

I have also heard from many Orinda residents that support the following:

- Improve our roads, fire-flow water pipes and other infrastructure that need to be repaired or replaced;
- Provide housing in the downtown area for the majority of Orinda residents that are retirement age and are looking to downsize their homes;
- Provide more stores and service businesses in the downtown area so Orinda

[SEE FUTURE page 18]

“A Facelift For Downtown Orinda”

Demolition and rebuilding of downtown Orinda raise serious questions about Orinda’s environment and finances.

Orinda’s Mayor Thomas McCormick and the city’s Planning Commission want to “redevelop” downtown, razing existing buildings, and installing residential units for senior citizens. The redevelopment plan calls for the construction of buildings up to 55 feet high and the creation of new stores.

The idea that senior citizens want to live in downtown Orinda is speculative. There is no guarantee that senior citizen housing downtown, once built, will appeal to people.

The noise and pollution of living downtown might well deter seniors, many of whom might be more interested in a place like Rossmoor. Rossmoor’s premises offer golf, swimming and medical assistance. Parking in downtown Orinda is often hard to find. Putting in more housing will only make parking more difficult.

The proposed height limit of 55 feet for newly erected buildings will destroy Orin-

da’s semi-rural, village-like atmosphere. The current height limit is 35 feet. Thus, a 55-foot height limit is an increase of 57 percent. The possibility exists that real estate developers are more interested in higher buildings than most Orinda residents.

While higher buildings might not make Orinda the next Manhattan, tall buildings will obscure scenic views of nearby mountains and give downtown the kind of congested feeling associated with much of downtown Walnut Creek.

If downtown Orinda’s existing stores are demolished, a majority of retail tenants might leave and not return. Moreover, any new storefronts might go unoccupied because the new property taxes will, in all likelihood, be much higher than the old property taxes. At a time when Orinda’s roads are badly in need of repair, this is no time to reduce funds in the city’s coffers.

Some of the existing downtown businesses may close forever. If someone likes the corned beef sandwiches at the Europa restaurant or the gyros at the Petra Café, the

[SEE QUESTIONS page 18]



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For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to jill@aspenconsult.net. The deadline for the September issue is July 12, 2010.

FIRE DEPARTMENT / POLICE BLOTTER

Residents Rail at Ongoing MOFD Review

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

“These meetings are a study in futility,” said longtime Orinda resident Clyde Vaughn. “We are wasting time and taxpayer money,” said Gordon Nathan, a 40-year resident of Moraga. “What the F.A.I.R. (Fire and Infrastructure Renewal) group wants to do is a slap in the face to its neighbors. This is bureaucracy gone amok.”

So began the public comment period of the May 24 meeting of the Tri-Agency Ad Hoc Committee. The six-member committee is charged with review of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) and emergency medical services. The committee consists of two representatives each from Orinda, Moraga and the MOFD board of directors.

The review was initially spurred by F.A.I.R., a group of residents who want to dissolve MOFD and contract with Contra Costa County (ConFire) for fire services and with American Medical Response (AMR) for ambulance. F.A.I.R. members say that would save thousands of dollars that could be used for needed city infrastructure.

The debate escalated when Orinda CARES (Orinda Citizens Against Reducing Emergency Services) was formed in opposition to F.A.I.R.’s proposals.

The May 24 meeting, which was held at 9 a.m. at Orinda City Hall, was attended by about 25 people. It was considerably less crowded and contentious than previous MOFD and Tri-Agency meetings, although audience members voiced frustration that the debate is still going on at all.

“It’s the same song over and over again,” said Nathan. “It’s a waste of the chief’s time and administrative staff time.”

“I have similar sentiments,” said Jonathan Goodwin of Canyon. “It’s good that this review happened ... but I want to wrap it up.”

Public comment was followed by an hour-long presentation by MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on what he called “Fire101: how we do business.”

Bradley began by emphasizing the importance of core values to a small organization such as MOFD. “We embrace our mission,” said Bradley. “We’re a small district that cares about the community.”

Bradley talked about the role of paramedics in emergency response. “We’re moving toward a 100-percent paramedic



MAGGIE SHARPE

Attending the May 24 Tri-Agency meeting was new MOFD board member **Richard Olsen**, representing District 3. Olsen took over from Pete Wilson, who retired earlier this year.

department,” said Bradley.

Mike Metcalf, town councilmember representing Moraga on the Tri-Agency Committee, questioned why more than one paramedic is needed on a fire truck or ambulance. “Patient care goes up when there is more than one paramedic,” responded Bradley. “One is good, more is better, especially in a multi-casualty incident.”

Bradley also explained the difference between a paramedic and an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). “The EMT has a much lower level of training,” said Bradley. “A paramedic can do just about everything that a doctor in the ER can do.”

Steve Cohn of F.A.I.R. was concerned about the cost of a 100 percent paramedic department. “According to 2008 data, a firefighter/paramedic costs \$20,000 more per year than a firefighter/EMT,” said Cohn.

Bradley also addressed MOFD response time. Losing response time has been a major concern of those opposed to contracting with Contra Costa County fire services. Bradley said that the average response time for MOFD is about five minutes. He added that quick response is crucial in preventing “flashover,” when the fire spreads outside the immediate area of conflagration.

Cohn asked about fire sprinklers in preventing flashover. “If sprinklers operate properly, flashover doesn’t occur,” said Bradley.

Bradley talked about the possibility of a wild fire in Orinda. “Catastrophic fire is possible in Orinda,” said Bradley, who was recently appointed to the National Fire Protection Association Wildland Fire Operational Advisory Committee. “We have a high level risk about five days per year.”

[SEE MOFD page 10]



POLICE BLOTTER

May 2010

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 125 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Burglary (Residential): 1 incident was reported on Camino Sobrante.

Burglary (Commercial): 1 incident was reported on Bates Blvd.

Grand Theft - From Vehicle (theft of more than \$400 value): 7 incidents reported on Brookwood Rd, Bel Air, Las Cascadas, Canyon View, California Ave. and 2 on Diablo View.

Grand Theft - From Building (theft of more than \$400 value): 3 incidents were reported on Brookbank Rd., Estates Dr. and Southwaite Court.

Petty Theft - From Vehicle (theft of less than \$400 value): 5 incidents were reported on Meadow Park Ct., Canyon View, Irving Ln. and 2 on La Vuelta.

Petty Theft - From Building (theft of less than \$400 value): 1 incident was reported on Altarinda Way.

Petty Theft - All Other (theft of less than \$400 value): 3 incidents reported Orinda Way and 2 on Lombardy Ln.

Vandalism: 2 incidents reported on Candle Terrace and Holly Ln.

Vandalism Felony: 1 incident reported on Altarinda Rd.

Arrests

Burglary - Commercial: 1 arrest was made on Camino Sobrante.

Driving Under the Influence - MISD < .08: 2 arrests were made on Moraga Way and Hall Dr./Moraga Way.

Driving Under the Influence - MISD > .08: 3 arrests were made on Orinda Way/Santa Maria Way, Hwy. 24 Off. EB/St. Stephens Dr. and Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.

Drugs - Possession of Narcotics: 1 arrest was made on Hwy. 24 EB/St. Stephens Dr.

Drugs - Possession of Dangerous: 2 arrests were made on Hwy. 24 WB/Orinda Off Ramp WB and Camino Pablo.

Failure To Obey Traffic Officer: 1 arrest was made on Orinda on-ramp WB/Santa Maria Way.

Forgery - Fraudulent Documents: 1 arrest was made on Moraga Way.

— Compiled by Jeanette Irving,
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To Clip or Not to Clip?



by ALLEN PENNEBAKER

We all receive a multitude of coupons from which to choose. They come through the postal service, printed in the newspaper, on product packaging, stuck on the windshield of the car, printed on a bag, and probably many others that do not come to mind at the moment. How do you decide which ones to use?

What is the purpose of a coupon? To get you to purchase something you might otherwise purchase elsewhere or not at all. Given this, under what circumstances are they appropriate to use?

If you are going to the grocery store to buy a box of cereal and have a coupon for the type of cereal you like, you might as well use it. If it is for another kind of cereal, you will need to decide if the savings is worth the change.

If the coupon is for a service, the same theory applies but the answers can be a little more difficult. You can taste the difference in a cereal, you can rarely tell the difference in a service. Having the house painted? You may be able to compare paint quality but how do you tell if the surface was properly prepared or the thickness of the paint? How do you know if he will be in business when you need him "down the road?" Unless he is a regular service provider with whom you have a good history or you can get

an emphatic recommendation from a very trustworthy, well-informed friend, you cannot satisfactorily answer most of these questions.

Interesting example, but let's talk about your vehicle. Got a coupon for a set of tires? Are you able to compare the specific make, model and size to a competitor's price making sure they are not "seconds?" Has the company been around a while in case there is a warranty problem? Does the company have the expertise and modern equipment to install and balance the tires without damaging the very expensive Tire Pressure Monitoring Sensors that are in the wheels of all newer vehicles or the very expensive wheels themselves?

This could well be an appropriate use of a coupon assuming you can answer the questions in the affirmative. What about an alignment after the tires are installed? First of all, some people think that an alignment is part of the tire installation. It is not. An alignment is the adjusting of the vehicle suspension and steering to make sure the tires contact the road correctly and are oriented as the manufacturer prescribes so that the suspension and steering can work correctly. Well now, that requires some technical knowledge and skill. Think it is no big deal? On most vehicles it is actually fairly complicated.

As serious as this is, it is much less impactful than something like a timing belt replacement. Something you see coupons for all the time. An incorrectly installed timing belt can cause your engine to stop running (normally while driving at higher speeds) as well as cause serious engine damage.

Also, consider whether the coupon is just a ploy to get you "signed on" and sell you other work that can make up for the possible loss the company takes on the coupon.

This in no way means any business that offers coupons is going to do a sub-par job. It means that you need to be very careful before you select an unknown service provider just because they have a coupon available. I suppose this goes back to a previous article in which we discussed price. While price may matter, it should never be the primary factor in choosing any service provider.

Question or comments? Email Allen@OrindaMotors.com.

OBA and Orinda Motors Help Others



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On May 8 and 15, Orinda Motors was the site of Orinda Baseball Association's two car washes, proceeds from which benefited Children's Hospital and Research Center in Oakland and the John Ricksen Fund. The young players raised \$3,037 as a result of their effort.

Celebrity Golf Tournament and Social

By KEN HOGARTY
Contributing Writer

The Orinda Community Foundation will stage a celebrity golf tournament and social July 25-26 at the Orinda Country Club. Fittingly, the honorary chairman for the event called, "Celebrate Everyday Heroes," is local hero Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger. The event benefits Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Bay Area, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, and the Orinda Community Foundation.

The festive event opens with a dinner July 25 at 6 p.m. Black tie is optional for the dinner/auction social Sunday evening. Guests and non-golfers are welcome.

For the golf tournament itself on Monday, the event's website www.celebrateeverydayheroes.org advises participants to "wear comfortable clothing with a collared shirt." Participants cannot wear jeans. The shotgun start begins at noon. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Allow time before play begins for complementary lunch. The format will be a 2 Best Balls of Foursome competition. GHIN Index is requested for all players to ensure equitable play. Fun contests, food and treats await you along the course at each tee for your enjoyment. Winner awards and surprising entertainment will conclude the day shortly after golf play is completed.

Sullenberger, the retired East Bay airline pilot who gained international renown for putting a commercial jet down safely in an emergency landing in New York City, is joined on the leadership team for this event by co-chairs Sue Severson (Orinda City Councilmember), Richard Westin, and Wendy Ibanez.

Various sponsorship opportunities are

presented on the website for the event. Sponsors already committed include Grosvenor, Sue Breedlove Insurance, fREAL, Concord BMW, Alamo Capital, Brooks Street, Fremont Group, Joint Juice, Village Associates Real Estate, Parker's Crazy Cookies, *Diablo Magazine*, *Lamorinda Weekly* and *The Orinda News*.



JAMES LILLEY
Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger is the honorary chair of the golf tournament.

The Orinda Community Foundation enhances the quality of life in Orinda by encouraging philanthropy, building partnerships, and providing financial assistance to support community activities, beautification and the arts.

The Orinda Community Foundation is also slated to present other events in the fall to benefit the community. On September 25, it will sponsor a NorCal Kids Triathlon from 2-6 p.m. at Miramonte High School. Organizers anticipate the participation of five hundred kids (K-12). On October 2 (4-7 p.m.), the Orinda Silver Celebration will take place at the Orinda Library. The event celebrates the city's 25th anniversary and features the arts.

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ANGLICAN CHURCH

New Church Puts Down Roots in Orinda

By MAGGIE SHARPE
Staff Writer

Orinda resident Steve Weiser is heading a grass roots effort to form a local parish of the New Anglican Church. The new church, a subset of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), was launched in the Greater Bay Area in June 2009 and already has nine parishes.

“It’s been a whirlwind,” says Father Ed O’Neill, senior pastor at St. James Anglican Church in San Jose, which is sponsoring the fledgling St. John’s Anglican Mission in Orinda.

ACNA is part of the Anglican Communion, a worldwide network of churches that includes the Church of England and looks to the Archbishop of Canterbury as its leader. ACNA broke away from the Episcopal Church in North America four years ago after Episcopalian leadership

and laypersons began to condone same-sex marriage and the consecration of bishops in same-sex unions.

ACNA now has 808 congregations in the U.S. and Canada, including 74 in California. “We’re not just wild-eyed radicals or a splinter group,” says Weiser, who was a member of St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church in Lafayette for many years. “Thousands of people are joining the church. We’re getting a sense of permanence, which is encouraging.”

According to O’Neill, Anglicans around the globe have been in a theological turmoil since the Episcopal Church consecrated its first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson, in 2003. He says the primates of the Anglican Church begged the Episcopal Church not to consecrate Robinson because it would tear the church apart.

“The Episcopal Church has proceeded with same-sex unions and the consecra-



MAGGIE SHARPE

Father Ed O’Neill (L), senior pastor at St. James Anglican Church in San Jose, with Orinda resident Steve Weiser, a founding member of St. John’s Anglican Mission in Orinda.

tion of bishops in same-sex relationships without any Biblical basis,” says O’Neill. He says that Anglicans give absolute priority to the Bible for deciding doctrine and that they have found no Biblical basis for approving same-sex unions.

“We have to ask ourselves the question,

what does God want us to do with our lives?” says O’Neill. “We try to understand the scriptures and what tradition has taught us. Like every other major religion in the world, we’ve come to the conclusion that this is not what God wants for us.”

[SEE CHURCH page 8]

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BETWEEN THE LINES

◆ CHURCH from page 7

He says that in 2009, the Anglican Consultative Council passed a moratorium on the blessing of same-sex marriages and the consecration of bishops in same-sex relationships. However, the Episcopal Church continues to move ahead and will consecrate its first lesbian bishop in the diocese of Los Angeles next month.

O'Neill says the Episcopal Church does not claim to have found Biblical basis for condoning same-sex unions. "They have not made a Biblical case for this," he says.

"They say it is 'social justice' and they equate it with the ordination of women and the abolition of slavery."

So far, St. John's Anglican Mission has 12 members who currently meet at private homes to worship. O'Neill, who also networks with the nine established parishes in the Greater Bay Area, joins them in worship and communion once a month. He says that when the church has 50 families, they will form a parish and find a place of worship.

Weiser says the new mission feels like the earliest days of Christianity. "After the death of Jesus, early Christians did the same thing – there was no priesthood, and they would meet in small groups," says Weiser, who left the Episcopal Church in 2003, after Robinson's consecration.

O'Neill says the New Anglican Church is trying to establish an authentic Anglican presence in the Bay Area. "We think it's a blessing in the world, and we want as many people as possible to enjoy that blessing," says O'Neill. "Everyone is welcome in our church. Everyone who comes through the doors is beloved by God."

St. John's Anglican Mission meets every Sunday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. A Communion Service, led by O'Neill, takes place on the first Sunday of each month. For more information visit www.saintjohnanglican.org, email info@saintjohnanglican.org or call 925-386-6393.

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Between the Lines
What! More Vampires?

Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books



Vampires sell! One of the surprise transformations of the summer season has been the emergence of Justin Cronin, a literary novelist of distinction, (*The Summer Guest, Mary and O'Neill*), as a formidable science fiction writer. *The Passage*, out in early June, is not only a huge book in size (784 pages) but also in scope. In Cronin's dystopian world, a runaway virus, part of a Defense Department attempt to create a super weapon, has instead created a population of super vampires that have almost destroyed the Western world, leaving isolated remnant populations facing extinction. You may think you've read this before – but in Cronin's hands, this dystopia is worth visiting and will keep you up late at night wondering if the magical child, introduced by Cronin, can help humanity survive.

The movie rights to *The Passage* have already been purchased by Ridley Scott and Cronin, an English professor at Rice University, says his wife has been able to give up her job and that they've bought a horse for their young daughter. He may owe his daughter the horse as she was the one who suggested that his next novel could be about a little girl who saves the world, the seed of the idea that started him writing *The Passage*, the first of a trilogy.

The imaginative space that a future world gives a talented writer – as well as an opportunity for a cautionary note about the ways in which our world is imperiled – is probably why so many are drawn to this genre. Cormac McCarthy and Margaret Atwood are two notable writers who crisscross between the past and the future with skill.

Justin Cronin, in *The Passage*, may not have had to do the same kind of research that historical novelists do but, to have credibility, he must work hard at getting his science in line. For example, how long will the electric power be available that is keeping the lights on and the vampires, or

virals, as Cronin has named them, out of the colony? This futuristic speculation puts as many demands on the science-fiction author as historical research does for the novelists who recreate life in earlier centuries. Isabel Allende, whose recent novel, *Island Beneath the Sea*, takes the reader to the 19th century slave revolts in Haiti, said that one must do a great deal of research and then make sure that none of it shows. Gifted writers must be able to gradually immerse a reader in another world without sounding like the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and to introduce the context for their characters by showing, not telling. For example, in *The Passage*, we hear Cronin's survivors referring to their pants as "gaps" – what else would you call the results of scavenging expeditions to the ruins of shopping malls?

In another fine new summer novel, David Mitchell, whose earlier *Cloud Atlas* was a remarkable combination of historical fiction and science fiction, plunges us directly into 1799 Japan. In *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet*, Dutch traders live on a floating island in the harbor at Nagasaki, the only port of entry for Europeans during Japan's 200 years of isolation. Mitchell says that for him research is both problematic and pleasurable. "If you don't do any, you can't get to the end of your first paragraph. If you don't do enough, historical fiction will be threadbare and implausible." But, like Allende, he says you have to "submerge 9/10ths of your research below the waterline." In *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet*, Mitchell succeeds so well in "showing, not telling" that readers feel both as confused and as fascinated as Jacob Der Zoet himself when he approached the court of the shogunate and met important samurai for the first time. Mitchell says he uses his historical research as a DIY warehouse where he can assemble and reassemble dates and times to suit his story line.

Writers of fantasy fiction and historical novelists too have known that big fat books, when they create either a beautifully imagined and credible past or a vividly real though painful future, make their readers smile in anticipation and hope for a sequel. Both Cronin's and Mitchell's new books are fat novels – perfect for long summer reading days in July and August. Enjoy!

Creative Writing Class

Published writer and educator Kathryn G. McCarty will teach a two week (August 2-12) creative writing camp for students 10-16 at the Orinda Community Center. Call 254-2445 or go to www.cityoforinda.org to register.

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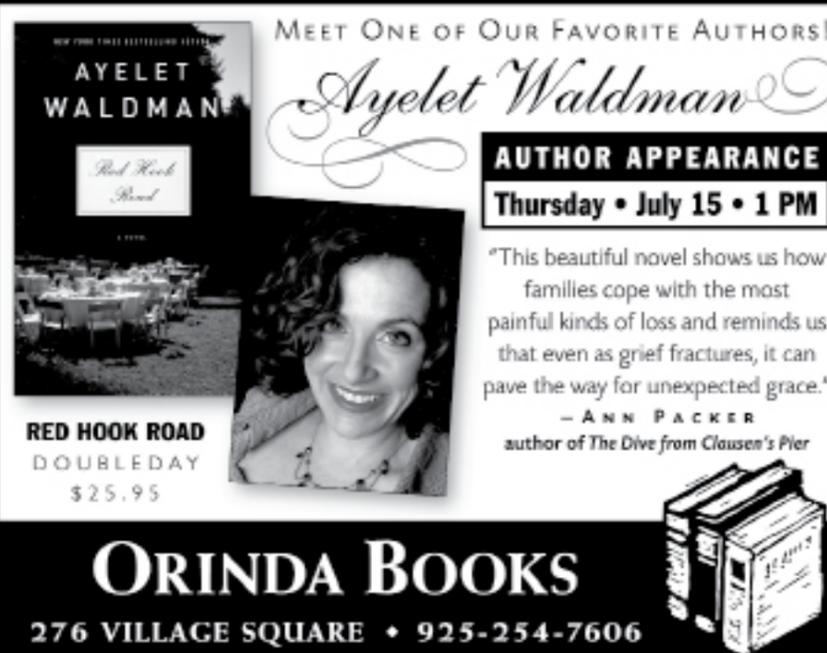
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FILM FESTIVAL

Film Festival Moves to Moraga

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Orinda's loss is Moraga's gain as the California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) took over Moraga's Rheem Theater in June and moved its classic film series from Orinda to Moraga. The historic Rheem Theater had gone dark when lackluster revenues forced operators Jim Sheehan and Tom Peterson, who also operate the Orinda Theater, to close the doors on April 16.

A non-profit organization, CAIFF had been showcasing independent foreign and mainstream films in Livermore since 1997. Upon moving to Orinda in September of 2009, CAIFF began a monthly classic film series climaxed by the April, 2010, film festival with such celebrities as Richard Dreyfuss and film producer Saul Zaentz in attendance.

It looked like a win/win situation for the Orinda Theater, CAIFF and the Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation (LFEF), which coordinates non-profits into the Orinda Theater as part of its mission to preserve and protect the legacy of that historic facility. But CAIFF's new venture at the Rheem has put that relationship in jeopardy with misunderstandings on both sides.

Beau Behan, CAIFF program director, says they would have liked to stay at the Orinda Theater for the classic film series and the film festival. "It's a lovely theater and very accessible with BART right there." But Behan says that the rent for the classic film series was going to be significantly increased immediately. Sheehan says this is "100 percent incorrect." Meanwhile, CAIFF cancelled the June classic film, *Sunset Boulevard*, scheduled at the Orinda and has moved the remaining films in the series to the Rheem.

At the crux of the matter is whether CAIFF can operate as a non-profit film festival and as a for-profit theater. As a non-profit entity under LFEF's umbrella, CAIFF receives a significant discount on rent at the Orinda Theater. Sheehan said he would honor the lower price for the classic film series but that they may have to re-think that price for the January 2011 film festival now that CAIFF was a competitor.

"Some day we would like to make a profit at the Orinda Theater," says Sheehan. "When the festival is here, we can't bid on any of the big films coming out because we give so many days to the festival. We lose money, but we do it to support the city and this beautiful theater."

While Sheehan said he and his partner



RICK KATTENBURG
The Orinda Theater may no longer be home to CAIFF's film festival.

are happy to have film festivals and other non-profit events at the theater, it presents a dilemma if one of those non-profits is also a for-profit competitor a mere five miles away.

When Sheehan and Peterson took over the Orinda Theater from the previous operator Alan Michaan, the theater had been losing a significant amount of money. LFEF helped negotiate a deal between the landlord (GLL Properties), the City of Orinda, and Sheehan and Peterson to reduce the theater operator's rent in order to revitalize the theater and other downtown businesses such as local restaurants. In exchange, LFEF was given 21 days at very reduced rates to use for various non-profit functions. "Running a theater is a very complicated business and the Orinda is still struggling," says LFEF's Randy Holleschau. "They have to compete with the multiplexes in other towns for audience and with the studios to secure the best films. Now, they will also be competing with Rheem."

"I would really like to sit down with Derek Zemrak, [CAIFF board president] and Randy [LFEF] and work things out," says Sheehan. "We wish CAIFF success in Rheem. If they are successful, perhaps we could learn from them and find out why we weren't and apply it to Orinda."

While such a "sit down" has not been accomplished, CAIFF did take Sheehan up on his offer to have Orinda Theater manager Dave Corkins spend some time at the Rheem showing the new operators the many "quirks" inherent in the old facility.

"For a period of time, all three groups were working together well," says Holleschau. "Things still might work out, but there are just a lot of unanswered questions."

Mac vs PC

By EVAN CORSTORPHINE
Portable CIO

Occasionally, I hear from a frustrated client who's been battered by viruses and is fed up with the costs of computer maintenance. As a result, sometimes the age-old question of Mac's vs PC's comes up. We're agnostic at Portable CIO; it doesn't matter what kind of computer you use. But before making the leap from one to the other, know what you're getting and get a grip on the marketing hype surrounding Mac's. The truth is, one way or the other, you end up paying, it's just how much and when the money is allocated. Apple is an alluring alternative, but somewhat illusory from the standpoint of saving money.

For example, if you buy a 15" Dual-core \$600 laptop or desktop PC, add Microsoft Office Small Business and antivirus and anti-malware software, you end up at about \$925. Assuming an extreme worst case scenario, assume you get infected needing a complete rebuild (or equivalent hardware failure) every year for the three-year lifespan of the computer. Each rebuild is about \$202, and on the third year you need to refresh your two-year antivirus for \$50. Total cost of ownership is \$925 plus \$606 plus \$50, for a total of approximately \$1,581, and this is worst-case assuming you're getting hammered by viruses.

If that's a Mac, the numbers still add up, but they're front-loaded instead of spread out. Assume we purchase the least-expensive 15" Mac laptop for \$1,699, and we don't get the extended warranties. Microsoft Office software is \$250, and antivirus is \$79. Then assuming you have one "event," either hardware or software in three years, which I'll conservatively

say costs \$202 if it's software, and much more if it's hardware. Despite claims to the contrary, Mac hardware breaks just as much as PC's, because much of it is sourced from the same suppliers. And when it's the new laptops or the iMac desktops, the repairs are complex, take longer, and the parts are very expensive. But using these conservative numbers, the total over three years for the Mac laptop is \$1,699+\$250+\$79+\$202, for a total of \$2,230.

The bottom line is if you're thinking you're saving money with a Mac, you aren't. Do they get fewer viruses? Yes. Absolutely, they do. It was explained the following way to me by a security expert. He said, "A PC running Windows is like a jewelry store in Harlem with four locks on the door, brick walls, and bars on the windows with an alarm system. The Mac is like a farm house in Iowa with the doors left open and the car sitting in the driveway with the keys inside. Which gets broken into more often? The Mac ought to, but there's no one around. The PC gets all the press, because it's in a bad neighborhood, and it's a very big target. Is the Mac better? No. It's just in a better neighborhood because of poorer market share."

Are they elegantly designed? You bet. Is their hardware any better? Not really. You just trade one set of problems and expenses for another. Hopefully, I hope you can make a more informed choice about how to go forward. However you proceed, Portable CIO is competent and happy to be of service.

For Mac or PC needs call the friendly staff at Portable CIO to evaluate your situation, and to ensure you have the best protection and habits in place. For service requests and inquiries, email helpdesk@theportablecio.com or call 925-552-7953.

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SEASONED SHOPPER

◆ MOFD from page 5

The chief said that removing firefighter/paramedics from ambulances would create a 20 percent decrease in firefighter services. "Initial wildland fire attack capabilities would also be diminished," he said.

Bradley talked about current conditions within Contra Costa County fire services. "ConFire is shutting down four companies, including one in Lafayette," said Bradley.

He said that if the cities of Orinda and Moraga decide to dissolve MOFD and contract with ConFire, they will give up their rights to determine service levels within their communities. "This is huge to me, as a fire chief," said Bradley. "It's a slippery slope. Once you give up the rights, you can't get them back. I'm confident about that."

For information on the next Tri-Agency meeting on MOFD finances, visit www.cityoforinda.org.

◆ EDEN from page 1

Karp pointed out that the proximity of the Eden Development to Orinda Senior Village (OSV) offers a multitude of possibilities for community building. "We are hoping to work with OSV to coordinate programs so that everyone benefits," says Karp.

"The incorporation of the sidewalk along Irwin Way and pedestrian path along the rear of the property into the design was specifically done based on input from neighbors," said Karp. "We understand the importance of providing a railing along the future sidewalk, and we intend to meet with the fire marshal to determine how we can address any other life/safety concerns."

According to Karp, when community members voiced concerns about traffic and parking in the area, Eden did a traffic study to "address neighbor and city concerns about parking, driver safety, and the ability of the community to absorb our project." Inclusion of off site parking is also being considered as a result of neighborhood input. "We developed a few earlier design concepts that were ultimately rejected, because we did not feel they would work well with the existing uses around the site."

From the initial period of design, Karp said Eden was committed to seeking ideas from the community. "Input is extremely important to Eden. We try to initially meet with the immediate neighbors to understand the unique issues that are inherent with the site."

Eden Housing has a long history of working with low income housing facilities for seniors, families and the developmentally disabled. It is the oldest non-profit housing developer in California, having incorporated in 1968. "Many of our residents live to be 100," Karp said, "I think that is a testament to their staying safe and healthy." He also noted that other properties, which Eden has developed, "generally have a 1

[SEE HOUSING page 22]



Seasoned Shopper

Peak Season Variety



BARBARA KOBSAR

Peak season has arrived – in other words it's prime time for the widest selection of fresh-picked local produce at the farmers' market. Nothing brings out the throngs of shoppers every Saturday morning more than vine-ripened heirloom tomatoes, sweet corn, baskets of luscious blueberries, and juicy tree ripened peaches.

If you can't spot what you're looking for, just check in at the information booth for some help. Market manager Janice Faust also sets out a weekly message board with news of the day, and there's plenty of free "stuff" on the information table including recipes, Harvest Time maps for the local u-pick farms, *Edible East Bay* magazine, and flyers for local events and other non-profit organizations.

The summer squash season is upon us with the seeds planted eight or nine weeks ago now yielding prodigious crops of this tender, warm weather vegetable. Squash are

fields and markets filled with various colors and shapes during peak season. The deep yellow colored golden zucchini has become one of my favorites and the pale green English zucchini is well worth a try.

Scallop squash, named for their "scallop" decorative edges, are smooth skinned and relatively flat in shape – like the sunburst, pattypan and scallopini (a cross between a zucchini and a scallop squash). They all add a little excitement to the barbecue when sliced crosswise and grilled with a little olive oil and tarragon or oregano.

Bitter melon and opo squash are now considered mainstream, where once these were novelty items in this area. As its name implies, bitter melon is bitter and even more so when completely ripe and the skin turns from green to yellow. Its inedible bumpy skin and seedy pulp are removed before slicing or chopping to use in many Asian dishes.

Opo or Asian squash look like a smooth, green skinned elongated pear and are mild tasting when picked at the young stage. When left to grow large, it's often used as a container, thus the alternate name "bottle gourd." At the mild stage, the opo may be used raw in salads or added to stir fries and sautéed dishes.

More About Squash

Summer squash need cool temperatures and high humidity to store properly. Refrigerate, unwashed in a plastic bag for up to five days if necessary.

When using salt to flavor squash always add just before serving. If added at the start of the cooking time, it releases some of the vegetables excessive moisture.

Chayote squash are a tropical summer squash. Pale green, pear shaped with a single seed, chayote are excellent for stuffing. Raw summer squash is an excellent source of Vitamin C. One pound serves 4. Sprinkle grated squash over salads or sandwich fillings.

Serve slices of summer squash raw with your favorite dip. Add grated zucchini to a favorite muffin or bread recipe. Decrease the amount of liquid by about one third to compensate for the moisture in the squash.

Barbara Kobsar, the *Seasoned Shopper*, can be reached at cokitchen@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.



BARBARA KOBSAR
Robin Pastor from Smith Farms in Knightsen shows a customer one of her many squashes.

members of the gourd family and unlike their winter counterparts, harvested and eaten when immature – the rind is tender and the seeds small. If you're growing your own squash and the crop gets ahead of you, salvage the over-mature squash by using them in soups, baked goods or by coarsely grating, draining and sautéing with a dab of butter and salt. They can also be hollowed out for stuffing and baked like a winter squash.

Mild in flavor and interchangeable in many recipes, summer squash marry well with the flavors of cilantro, basil, garlic, onion, pepper and tomato when sautéed, microwaved, grilled or steamed.

Slender, green-skinned zucchini (Italian squash or courgette) remain the most ubiquitous of all summer squash, but there are



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Orinda Plans Spectacular 4th of July Celebration

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Colorful floats, classic cars, high-stepping horses, marching bands, and even trained dogs will delight youngsters of all ages at Orinda's annual 4th of July parade. Since the holiday falls on a Sunday this year, the parade will begin at 11 a.m. instead of the customary 10 a.m. The parade will travel from the south side of



SALLY HOGARTY
Patti Camras was Betsy Ross and Keith Miller was Abe Lincoln in last year's parade.

Orinda (near the Orinda Theater), under the freeway and over to the north side, ending at the Orinda Community Center Park at approximately 12:30 p.m.

This year's festivities will also celebrate Orinda's 25th anniversary as a city. On July 1, 1985, a lone bagpiper led the first City Councilmembers to the Orinda Community Center Park gazebo to be sworn into office. Four members of that first City Council – Bobbie Landers, Dick Heggie, Joe Harb and Aldo Guidotti – will be the official parade marshals. And reminiscent of that day 25 years ago, a lone bagpiper

will lead the parade.

But the bagpiper is just the beginning of the music in this year's parade. Other musical groups include the Saint Gabriel Brass Band, the Dixie Devils, East Bay Banjo Band, Orinda Idol singers, and Orinda's All Volunteer Pick-Up Marching Band.

Schedule of Activities

Sponsored by the Orinda Association in partnership with the City of Orinda, the day's festivities begin at 7:30 a.m. with the Roadrunners' Pancake breakfast followed by the Roadrunners' Fun Run and Haley's Run for a Reason. Participants can choose between a 2-mile run/walk or a 5-mile run through scenic parts of Orinda and EBMUD watershed. Named after Haley Tom, a 21-month Orinda girl who died suddenly in her sleep, Haley's Run for a Reason raises funds for the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood program.

The Orinda Idol singers will start entertaining at 9 a.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park, where a variety of activities will take place. Adults can peruse the many nonprofit booths while children enjoy the petting zoo or enter Orinda Motors' Hot Wheels Race. There will also be face painters, balloon artists, arts and crafts to create, and at the Home Depot booth, projects to build. The Miramonte High School Varsity Football team will return to run its popular football toss and celebrity characters, such as Cinderella and Indiana Jones, will roam the crowd.

The events in the park will close from approximately 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. while the parade takes place. Immediately following the parade, all park activities will resume with entertainment provided by the Bob Claire Orchestra. Anyone who

Thank You, Orinda Motors!



SALLY HOGARTY

As the lead sponsor for the 4th of July, Orinda Motors helps make the parade and park festivities possible. The community-minded organization also supplies classic cars for the parade, operates a Hot Wheels race in the park, and sponsors the Classic Car Show. To have your classic car entered in this year's show (September 25), go to www.orindacarshow.com.

has worked up an appetite during the parade won't have far to go. Delicious food and beverage booths, including hot dogs from the Orinda Chamber of Commerce,

Loard's Ice Cream, Petra Café, Republic of Cake, Czech beer from the Tabor Sister City Foundation, and beer and soft drinks

[SEE ACTIVITIES page 12]

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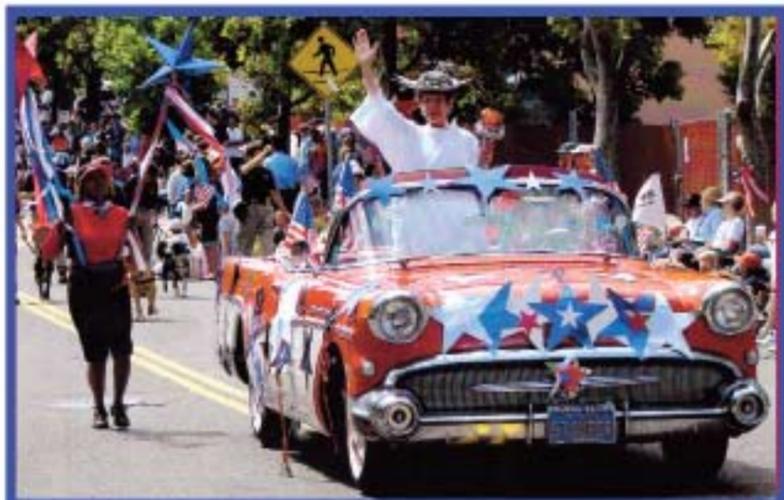


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◆ **ACTIVITIES** from page 11

from the Orinda Rotary, will be available in the park.

“Orinda Motors will also host a classic car show at the entrance to the park,” says 4th of July co-chair Chris Laszcz-Davis. “And we have so many bands and floats in the parade this year that will make it really special.”

To accommodate the parade, the west-bound Highway 24 on/off ramp and the east side of Camino Pablo will be closed from approximately 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Traffic will be allowed on the west side of Camino Pablo with the on/off ramps on that side of the street open. For the complete schedule of activities, the parade route, and parking availability, go to www.orindaassociation.org or call 925-254-0800.



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Join the Marching Band!




SALLY HOGARTY

Renowned band leader Mo Levich encourages musicians (and would-be musicians) to join the All Volunteer Pick-Up Marching Band this 4th of July. Anyone who has an instrument that can be carried while marching is welcome, especially music teachers and their students. Marchers should wear blue shorts or pants and a white top and add flags or anything red.

Two rehearsals are scheduled the morning of July 4: 9 a.m. for percussionists (who must register in advance with Levich by calling 925-284-0961) and 10 a.m. for all other musicians. The rehearsals take place behind the Valero gas station located at Bryant and Davis Roads in the Crossroads section of Orinda.

Music will be available in advance at Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-385-0963. Lamorinda Music owner Colleen McCormick and her husband have played in the pick-up band since 1995. Their children, now ages 14 and 17, began carrying the banner for the group as youngsters before graduating to playing alongside their parents. “The kids really look forward to participating each year,” says McCormick. “And it’s so much fun having all of us play.”

Sally Hogarty, Editor

4th of July Sponsors

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4TH OF JULY

**ORINDA 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- 7:30 - 11 a.m.** The Roadrunner's Pancake Breakfast
- 7:55 a.m.** Flag-raising Ceremony
- 8 a.m.** Fun Run and Haley's Run for a Reason
- 9 a.m.** Marching Band percussionists meet behind Valero gas station at Bryant and Davis Roads.
Community Center Park Activities
 - ★ Silent auction/wine tasting
 - ★ Nonprofit booths
 - ★ Entertainment by Orinda Idol Singers
 - ★ Children's Activities: Hot Wheels Race, Petting Zoo, Face Painters, Balloon Artists, Arts and Crafts, Games, Celebrity Characters
- 10 a.m.** Marching Band instrumentalists meet behind Valero gas station at Bryant and Davis Roads.
- 11 a.m.** Friends of Orinda Library Book Sale
Parade begins by Orinda Theater and continues through town culminating at the Orinda Community Center
- 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.** Community Center Park Activities
Resume with the above plus:
 - ★ Entertainment by the Bob Claire Orchestra
 - ★ Lots of food and beverage booths
 - ★ Classic Car show courtesy of Orinda Motors

Over 75 entries from floats to marching bands to high-stepping horses and much, much more will delight children of all ages. The parade begins by the Orinda Theater, continues under the freeway to the Village side of Orinda, and culminates at the Orinda Community Center. All of the above activities take place at the Orinda Community Center and park. For a complete listing of activities, road closures, and parking accommodations, go to www.orindaassociation.org.

The 4th of July Parade and Celebration is brought to you by The Orinda Association in partnership with the City of Orinda.



SALLY HOGARTY

If you like horses, there will be lots in this year's parade, including the Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol and rancher Mel Silva's 4-horse hitch. Riding in Silva's wagon will be members of Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. In addition, two riders on horses will ride along with the horse and wagon.

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Lots of Music in Parade and in Park



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

St. Gabriel's Celestial Brass Band (shown above) is one of many bands performing in the parade. This authentic New Orleans marching band is the brainchild of Lafayette resident Tom Wiggins, who has helped launch the careers of such greats as John Lee Hooker, Tower of Power, and the Steve Miller Band. Also in the parade are the Dixie Devils, the East Bay Banjo Band, the Orinda Idol singers, and Orinda's All Volunteer Pick-Up Marching Band. The Orinda Idol singers will also entertain in the park prior to the 11 a.m. parade and the Bob Claire Orchestra will play blues and rock n' roll following the parade.

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3. Orinda Library Book Fair
4. Portable Restrooms
5. Food Court: Orinda Neighborhood Potluck Breakfast, Orinda Rotary Beer Tent, Orinda City Lunch Meet, Orinda Summer Hot Dog Luncheon, Joe's Coffee, Rocky Cafe
6. Safety/Volunteer for A Reservoir Zone: Orinda Avenue, Home Depot Booth, Joe's Joe's Smoothies, Orinda Community Center
7. Orinda Museum: Orinda's Past, Orinda Museum, Orinda's Past, Orinda Museum, Orinda's Past
8. Parking Zone: Soccer & Soccer Dogs
9. Ballroom Parkland
10. Park Parkland
11. Orindaville
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AGING / MOVE OF THE MONTH

Remember What We Can Learn from the Forgetful

By NADER SHABAHANGI, PHD
AgeSong Senior Communities

I recently talked with Judy Huston, a minister who lives in Orinda and whose brother Doug is a resident at our AgeSong Lakeside community in Oakland. Although Doug is still in his 60s, he suffers from dementia, brought on by a series of strokes. The journey that Judy and her family have been on with Doug is one of simultaneous loss and discovery, grief and joy, and an ultimate recognition of what valuable lessons about life and spiritually can be learned from people with forgetfulness.

Right now there are nearly 5.3 million people in the United States with Alzheimer's and dementia. Fear surrounds this condition, even though it is not a disease, but simply another state of consciousness. Many professionals in the industry view it as "forgetfulness" and seek to discover what wisdom those on this journey can impart to us and what we can learn from them.

Over the past 15 years, I have had

hundreds of discussions with families of AgeSong residents about the value of forgetfulness. As a Zen teacher, I help families practice mindfulness and learn how to be "in the moment" with loved ones who live with dementia. Wisdom is not about memory; it is about being present. That is one of the most important things that families and friends can remember, especially at this time of year, as graduations, weddings and summer barbecues bring all generations of families together.

Here are some tips for families for supporting parents or grandparents with Alzheimer's at family gatherings and celebrations in a meaningful way.

Don't dwell on "remember this" and "remember that." Those with dementia have a single point of focus; instead, talk about the here and now – the food, flowers, weather, people.

Be accepting. Alzheimer's is not contagious. Learn to accept this difference in your loved one. It is a way to learn how to deal with your own changes in life.

Set a good example. Model good behavior and inclusive gestures for your children or grandchildren; they will notice and follow your lead.

Music, art and dance can play a positive role in bringing joy and physical transformation to those with dementia. They feel better, and there is a sense of meaning to what they are doing. For those whose spoken language is no longer their primary communication tool, art and music can be important venues to express their thoughts and feelings. Consider incorporating some expressive arts activities into family events that everyone can enjoy.

Above all, when you are with a person who has Alzheimer's or dementia, you are with a whole person - one who has physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs. Focus on those elements, and you will find that supporting your loved one will bring joy to all of you.

Tips for Healthy Aging

- Enjoy a warm bath or shower every day.
- Tending to plants and seeing them flourish, can bring a sense of achievement and joy.
- Regular physical activity strengthens the body's natural immune system.
- Frequent, balanced and nutritious meals including fresh, organic foods, especially fruits and vegetables, are important.
- Maintain balance in your life by doing things that have meaning and purpose for you. Build relationships, explore the arts, and develop new sides of yourself.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) Orinda's **Doug Dary**, who utilizes AgeSong's services, his sister **Judy Huston**, and AgeSong's **Nader Shabanangi**.

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BALANCED LIVING

◆ GLOVER from page 2

parents exposed her to Far Eastern art influences at an early age. Formal schooling was not her *forté*; at home she studied with a White Russian painter. For three years, she studied with Olga Popoff (a student of Rodin). China held both wonder and risk – at times, she pulled newborn baby girls out of rubbish bins into safety. When the Communists took over, she managed not only to smuggle all her paintings out of China, but also her mother and brother. One of Anne Marie's treasures is a sketch of a duck her mother did at 15 years of age.

"Painting to me is the utmost pleasure – to be outside, with the changing of the seasons, each bringing their own beauty and excitement; that is what I try to capture. On my journey to find new places, I can hardly wait to get my easel set up, to paint my painting." Pam Glover

Her family was evacuated to Australia during the war years. She studied at the Polytechnic Institute of Art in Sydney. At the Hamilton Art Studio there, she worked as a fashion artist. It was in Australia that Pam met her husband-to-be, George Glover. In England, she taught arts and crafts at Kinglsey High School. The couple moved to the Bay Area in the 1950s, and Pam entered the California College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland. Later, she spent four years studying with Lundy Siegriest. Pam had a rich history and involvement with the famous "Society of Six" and as one of the founding members of "The Outsiders," both groups of artists broke new ground in American *plein air* (outdoor) painting.

Anne Marie, who returned to the Bay Area in 2002 after living in Switzerland for 25 years, remembers those early years well. She recalls how artist Lundy Siegriest, renowned painter Lou Siegriest's son, suffered a broken leg. Barely 16 years of age, Anne Marie became his driver. Also a budding artist, Anne Marie worked alongside Lundy breaking the gender barrier as the first female to work with the Society of Six. Soon, Pam wanted to join, and since Ann Marie was already a member, they couldn't say no.

There are five generations of creative women in the Glover family. Anne Marie's great-grandmother painted in soft grays; her grandmother was a very artistic stitcher; her famous mother painted all over the Bay Area and taught *plein air* painting at the Orinda Community Center for 25 years. Anne Marie, a painter herself, teaches at the Orinda Community Center where she critiques painters' works (<http://orinda.waterware.com>). Her daughter, Janine Ehrentraut, sculpts clay and works in pastels;

Anne Marie's favorite is a pastel Janine did of Pam.

Glover passed away peacefully on April 11, 2010 at 86 years of age – she enjoyed a long and productive life. She was married to George Glover for over 50 years; he passed away in 1999. She is survived by her daughter, Ann Marie Glover, son-in-law Peter Thayer, granddaughter Janine Ehrentraut, and countless colleagues and friends. Taki Tu, who painted with Glover for over 30 years, remembers her opinion that, "Yosemite is too pretty for painters, but perfect for photographers."

Pam's paintings will always be esteemed for their bold brushwork and Impressionist use of rich layers of oil in brilliant tones, in the Colorist tradition. She always painted entirely on location so she could capture the excitement of sun and shadows playing across whatever fascinating *mise-en-scène* she ferreted out.

Pam, along with other dedicated artists, conferred new vitality to the discipline of *plein air* painting in California and beyond, forever changing the world of art. Now *plein air* painting knows no borders – there are "Paint Outs" where artists hunger to look upon our world with new eyes. Those in the artistic community lucky enough to have been touched by Pam's passion for *plein air* painting are now part of this rich tapestry, truly "standing on ye shoulders of giants." Perhaps it can be said that at long last, "The Outsiders" have become "The Insiders."

◆ GALLERY from page 2

Cuming, George Ehrenhaft, Barbara Falconer, Claire Finne, Beryl Glen-Reiland, Angelica Goett, Kathryn Ikeda, Bill Klaproth, Debbie Koonce, Roswitha Kress, Philippe Lavaud, Anna Marie Levy, Robin Longbeam, Gayle Muehring, Wenda Pymman, Marsha Ramp, Nancy Sorenson, Tama Sharon, Leslie Swartz, Joanne Taeuffer, and Robert Wahrhaftig.

The Lafayette Studio offers art classes for adults and mature teenagers taught by distinguished local artists (<http://lafayettestudio.org>). The Moraga Gallery shows members works and features speakers and demonstrations on various themes related to 2D and 3D media (<http://moragaartgallery.com>). The Lafayette Gallery is a creative force in the heart of Lafayette. As art educators, gallery members offer occasional public art demonstrations and hands-on art activities at their artist receptions and artist's markets (<http://lafayettegallery.net>).

The Orinda Library Gallery exhibit is open Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 925-254-2814 for more information.

BALANCED LIVING

What is your age?

Part Two

Andrea Colombu



As we continue looking into the phenomenon of aging, if we pay close and mindful attention to our experience, we find that aging is truly a multidimensional process. We think of aging as the passing of time as recorded in our memories and the noticeable physical changes of our body. However, we also need to take into account experiences of our mind and consciousness which, not bounded by time, clearly indicate that there is another dimension of "aging" that is not characterized by the passing of time: the ageless dimension.

Hence, although elusive in nature, aging may be better looked at from a new point of view, a new paradigm that suggests the existence of different elements to the whole experience of aging coupled with the way in which we relate to them. A whole picture of aging, therefore, must encompass at least three types of ages or age dimensions: the chronological, the biological, and what I call the *ageless*. Of these then, which one is our true age? My suggestion is, the one you choose to pay more attention to!

It has been long accepted that which we pay attention to determines the quality of our experience. In keeping with this notion, the attention that we primarily place on any of the three dimensions of age determines our experience of it and the quality of our lives. Chronological age provides only a temporal perspective of our existence – linear time. Chronological age and linear time are convenient ways to help wrestle with the infinity of time. Because of this, this concept is difficult for us to grasp, we have conveniently reduced time into manageable linear parts – bits of time like years, months, weeks, days and so on in order to make our lives more manageable. We have adopted these conventions purely for convenience. In fact, if taken as an absolute truth, these conventions can become self limiting assumptions and restrict our larger experience of life and limit our expectations and sense of self.

Additionally, chronological age is void of experience, and experience is what

ultimately counts as the true mark of our existence. This brings us to the biological dimension of age. Here we find that our body and mind, in their inter connectedness, provide us with a direct experience of life and being. Awareness of this experience, not tied to time but to feeling and sensing, releases the burden of time and opens us up to the freedom of the moment. In a moment by moment awareness of life, we sense what is happening rather than what should be happening. We break through the limitations of time and are no longer passive objects. And, this leads us to the third age dimension, the ageless.

To understand this dimension of age, we need to let go of both the chronological and biological dimensions and drop deeper into the direct experience of the moment. The *ageless* age refers to the experience we can all have when we are able to be in the moment, in the *now* of life, and not caught up within our mind projection toward past or future. Here, in this moment, when all ideas, concepts and constructs are dropped, we experience the timelessness of life. When we are simply here in the now, we are ageless. Every time we can access this "space," we experience a part of our being that is indeed beyond time and free from the its limiting grip. This is a space of infinite creativity where we can reconnect with our timeless nature and find a source of balance and support for our life journey. We may not be able to escape time but by regularly tapping into the ageless dimension, we can certainly make our journey an easier and happier one.

In a sense, it can be said that we live a time paradox – we do not really have a true age and yet time is also a real experience for all of us. Ultimately, *how* we choose to think and *be* with ourselves determines the quality of our life – that which we are aware of becomes our experience. Once again, the choice is ours!

For more information, contact Andrea Colombu at info@informaorinda.com or colombuthrapy.com.



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SCHOOLS / STUDENTS

Orinda Intermediate School Volunteer Award Winners



SALLY HOGARTY

OIS students were recognized at the end of the school year for volunteering with a number of local organizations. Nine students won the President's Award (over 50 hours) and 11 received the Governor's Award (over 25 hours).

Back row (L-R): Libby Dunne, Aoife Tejada, Linda Lan Phung, Taryn Lausch, Annemarie Hoskins, Isabella Donofrio, Nahhah Friel, Katie Barber, Abby Rhodes, and Emily Friese; Sitting (L-R): Anna Tucci, Caie Kelley, Cassidy Fuller. Award winners not pictured are: Kylie Gordon, Colleen McCullough, Nicole Perrin, Catherine Powell, Margaret Rae, Sarah Rockwood, and Madeline Smith.

Second Grader Helps Clean Up Efforts in the Gulf

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

Mackenzie Gripp decided that even though the Gulf Oil spill is over 1,500 miles from her Orinda home, she had to get involved in the clean up efforts. "All the animals are getting oil on them and loosing their homes in the marshes and in the sea. Lots of people have lost their jobs which makes me really, really sad," said the 8-year-old student at the Meher School in Lafayette.

"Mackenzie and her friends got inspired, very excited," said her mom Lisa Copass. "They researched on the web and discovered the non-profit agency Matter of Trust, which collects hair and fur and mails it to designated warehouses on the ravaged coast line."

The hair is used to create booms which soak up the oil. "They need more hair and fur as soon as possible," said Copass. "The Gulf oil spill is 12 times larger than Exxon Valdez, which is still being cleaned up today, 11+ years later. Hurricane season started June 1, and it's anticipated that human and animal life will be highly impacted."

Mackenzie and her friend Jewel Roemer, who is also 8 years old, walked the streets of Orinda and handed out fliers with the information about Matter of Trust and told people what they could do to help. The pair also approached Orinda salons and pet groomers for hair donations. They enlisted Entourage Salon who, Copass said, was inspired to set up their own account for donations. They also found other salons, including Hair 2000, Penny Lane, and Village Barber, who said they would participate in collecting and or spreading the word by



LISA COPASS

Sierra Ashton (L) and Mackenzie Gripp box up collected hair and fur donated to help clean up the Gulf oil spill at the Orinda Fire Station on Orinda Way. The eight year olds will be third graders at The Meher School in Lafayette this fall.

posting the fliers the girls made. "Believe it or not," said Copass, "human hair (and pet fur) is an excellent absorbent."

Mother and daughter have also set up collection stations for the hair and fur at the Orinda Fire Station (on Orinda Way) as well as Moraga Fire Station 42 (near Rheem), and the Orinda Community Center. According to Copass, people can either donate animal or human hair at these locations or set up an account for themselves with Matter of Trust by going to www.matteroftrust.org. "I think our small town could do a world of good if we pull together to help this environmental tragedy," said Copass.

Miramonte Student Donates His Paintings



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Katie Kosturos (L) and her husband Tom (R) purchased one of the paintings by Alexander Chen (center) at Matador Madness.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

For the second year in a row, Miramonte student Alexander Chen has donated two of his artistic creations to Miramonte High School's Boosters Club. The organization raises funds for athletics at the school. Chen, who will be a junior at Miramonte this fall, has studied under a master painter since he was 8 years old. "I paint Chinese brush paintings, and I mostly paint subjects from nature, like flowers, trees and birds," says Chen. The brush used in Chinese brush painting is similar to a watercolor brush but with a finer tip allowing the artist to do more shading and texturing.

This year, in addition to donating his paintings, Chen made arrangements to have them framed. "I would like to thank artist Bill Carmel of Danville and Richard's Arts and Crafts in Livermore for supplying the free frames," says Chen.

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ FUTURE from page 4

residents do not need to leave town to spend their money on necessary items;

- Provide more parking in downtown;
- Creating a park and access along San Pablo Creek;
- Make the area more pedestrian friendly by adding biking and walking paths;
- Allow for a mixture of retail, service, and residential uses in the downtown area;
- Implement green building codes; and
- Increase the number of street trees and planters.

In order to accomplish any of these goals, the city needs more revenue. A way that will bring a steady stream of revenue to the city is to receive more sales tax dollars from money spent in Orinda (which is down 15.3 percent this year). The only way to get more sales tax dollars is to increase the number of stores and service businesses in Orinda and provide a built in demand for those businesses. The only way to increase the number of stores and service businesses is by allowing for updated buildings that provide for residential units above retail with more parking. Unfortunately, the reality of the situation is that the city cannot make necessary repairs to roads and infrastructure without allowing for more service businesses in the downtown area.

Basically, the concept was to allow for a thoughtful and artful renaissance of the downtown to accommodate a pedestrian friendly and charming flower and tree filled environment for all Orindans to enjoy. I hope this creates more discussion on how to update Orinda and provide for the future.

— Thomas T. McCormick
Mayor of Orinda

◆ QUESTIONS from page 4

buyer may not be able to obtain appropriate substitute foods in or near Orinda.

When adjacent Lafayette wanted to do some downtown redevelopment, that city hired a professional city planner. Orinda has done nothing of the sort. Orinda would benefit if an objective, professional city planner were brought into Orinda's redevelopment scheme. Spending money on such a planner would be dollars well utilized.

Before any aspect of downtown Orinda is changed, there should be a survey of Orinda's residents.

If the Orinda City Council approves a redevelopment plan, the council must allow residents, in a citywide referendum, to accept or reject the plan.

— Kent Hagen and Richard Colman
Concerned Orindans Oversight League

Letters to the Editor

Where's the Parking?

I studied the pretty drawing of the new plan the City of Orinda is proposing for the Village downtown area. It looks nice. However, it is also worth noting what is missing. The landscaped streets will not accommodate cars. There are no (or much fewer) parking lots. The blurb with the drawing advised that the new Village will be "pedestrian friendly." That really means less parking.

People in Orinda drive cars. Very few people will shop in this new, politically correct utopia if they have to walk there and carry their purchases home. Perhaps the city planners think they will expand their property tax base if they cram in a lot of high density housing into the Village. However the shopping activity will surely decrease. Will there be room for the new residents to park or are they expected to use public transportation?

This new plan is a bad idea. Orinda is not about high density housing. Remember, there is a lot of free parking in Rheem and Moraga.

Henry R. Pinney

Showdown at the High-Rise Corral

The essence of the debate over the Downtown Proposed Plan is simply whether Orindans want to accept the transformation of our commercial canyon into a high-rise, high-density, mixed use, BART condo village, without a vote in the matter. And make no mistake that is precisely what is being proposed.

There are a lot of unanswered questions regarding the Downtown Proposed Plan. What is the financial impact to nearby residential property value? Where is the traffic solution for a re-configured downtown? Where is a realistic parking solution, because 0.5 parking spaces per condo, shared with commercial parking is certainly not realistic? Does high density mean 40 residential units per acre, a figure mentioned by the planning director at the May 25 planning commission meeting? What happens to the existing downtown businesses when the rent goes up? The questions go on. As always, the devil is in the details. And the details are sorely lacking.

Also missing: the city has not hired an independent, certified, urban planner, to conduct a valid needs assessment of all Orindans for the town's commercial district. The Downtown Proposed Plan is simply the self-serving vision of an elite, pro-developer few, who seek to put a process in place for fast-tracking high rise developers without your vote.

Orindans need to examine this matter

under a bright light. The linchpin for high-rise, high-density condos is the part of the plan that calls for raising the building height limit.

In truth, Orinda's downtown commercial district could be "re-vitalized" right now, within the existing 35 foot building height limit and the existing commercial parking requirements, if that were really the issue. All that is required is the will of a commercial property owner, and consent of neighboring property owners, to do so. Clearly, the prize being sought is bigger.

Citizens of Orinda deserve an actual vote in this matter. Keep the existing 35 foot building height limit in the commercial district: Yes or No? The current approval process does not give citizens that vote.

— Owen Murphy

Shameful MOFD Performance

I feel compelled to write about the power line accident I witnessed firsthand on Saturday, June 5. I have to comment that the response time to the accident was deplorable and the inactivity and seeming lack of professionalism on the part of the MOFD was striking.

I was entering Rite-Aid when the initial "explosion" happened, and I actually saw the entire set of events unfold. As I attempted to call 911, I was routed through Vallejo, and then the CHP, when I heard a lady next to me confirm that she had already reached the emergency services. Another lady indicated she had run down the half block to bang on the fire Department door only to find nobody there. I later learned that the firefighters were training down the street but, regardless, the entire response notification system took far too long and is woefully inefficient.

The police arrived after about 10 minutes, and they largely did what they are supposed to do in situations like this - crowd control. They, however, were unable to offer any assistance to either victim. When the fire department did arrive after 20 minutes, they did not attempt to pull a hose line in order to get any water on the men and their burning clothes. I can understand their reluctance to cause a possible electric arc, but a fog nozzle would have extinguished the fire and not been capable of causing any sort of arc. The fire department gained entry to the adjacent building at 25 Orinda Way but then appeared to stand around on the second level of the building doing little, as precious minutes lapsed. These men could have given the victims rope in order to hoist a small hose or bucket of water.

When the ladder truck finally did arrive from Moraga, 45 minutes after the initiation of the accident, they needed to reposition and chock the truck tires at least twice before getting the aerial ladder up to the men. While I understand the firefighter's must protect themselves before attempting any rescue of the victims, they could have easily and quickly extinguished the burning clothes of the men in the basket prior to extending the ladder to the men.

I can appreciate there will be all sorts of rationale and reasons for the delay in response and the seeming lack of coordinated effective aid, and I presume some of it will be valid. However, what is not acceptable is having these two very badly burned men suffer for minutes while they were on fire and for approximately one hour on an elevated platform when the fire department is several hundred yards away. The solution is not more fire fighters or police. There were plenty of personnel for the tasks at hand. What there wasn't seemed to be sufficiently trained staff and a coordinated response by the incident chief. Shameful.

—Steve Race

Problems with New Development Plan

The proposed preliminary development plan for the Orinda parcel which contains the historic Moraga Adobe is deeply flawed. This preliminary plan proposes 13 houses on the parcel, whereas the housing density (houses/acre) used for the Wilder (Gateway Valley) development plan would allow only three houses. Orinda should follow the Wilder precedent and not crowd access to the Moraga Adobe, Orinda's first house.

There will be only one road into or out of the development. If there is a moderate earthquake on this slide-prone land and a fire breaks out, this road could be closed to both fire trucks trying to go in and to residents trying to escape. Such an unreachable fire would spread through this heavily forested parcel and burning embers would ignite the brush-covered nearby hills, which could form a firestorm like the great Oakland fire and burn down Orinda. There must be two roads into the development, one at the top and one at the bottom of the parcel.

The developers plan to use a private road, owned by the residents of the road, to access the development. They will do this without the permission of the private road residents and without any payment to the residents for use of their road. Keep in mind that private road residents pay the same taxes as public road residents but get no city money for their road repair. The developers have two other access routes available.

Finally, can we rely on the developers to protect Orinda from hazards in the development? Let's look at the record. Without any clearance from the Fire District, the developers began cutting down big trees with chain saws. Sparks from chain saws are believed to be the cause of several major California fires. A neighbor heard the saws and called the Fire District. The Fire Marshal immediately shut down the sawing until all flammable vegetation was cleared in a 100-foot radius around the sawing. Sparks from those saws could have started a major Orinda fire.

If you would like to be kept informed about this development, send your e-mail address to: scldevau@att.net.

— Clyde Vaughn



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SCOUTING

Troop 57 Adds Six New Eagle Scouts

By DAVID CARTER
Contributing Writer

Troop 57 recently added six new Eagle Scouts – Christopher Michael Hart, Emmett Thompsen Jacobs, Alexander James Yeh, Ross Michael Carter, Zachary Formisano Mayeri and Andrew J. (AJ) Buettner-Fourie. These recent Miramonte graduates join the approximately 4 percent of all Boy Scouts who attain the Eagle Scout rank. The new Eagle Scouts celebrated their accomplishment at an Eagle Court of Honor on June 12 at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda.

Chris Hart, 18, earned 21 merit badges on his Eagle journey and served as patrol leader, quartermaster and senior patrol leader. He chose an Eagle Project that would help the kindergarten and first grade classes of Del Rey Elementary School. Hart built and installed three 10-foot redwood benches outside these classrooms and eight smaller pine benches to be used within the classrooms. The son of Michael and Paula Hart, he will attend the University of California, Davis and study Materials Science Engineering.

Emmett Jacobs, 18, earned 23 merit badges on his Eagle journey and served in a variety of leadership roles, including librarian, quartermaster and scribe. His project involved designing, building and implementing a compost system for Temple Isaiah in Lafayette. The son of Marty Jacobs and Annie Iverson, he will continue his education at the University of California, San Diego where he will study Computer Engineering.

Alex Yeh, 18, earned 24 merit badges on his Eagle journey and served as historian,

patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader. His Eagle Scout Leadership Project provided first aid kits, medical stations, and basic first aid demonstrations and information to the residents and staff of SHELTER, Inc. Yeh raised funds and set up first aid kits/medical stations and did demonstrations at the group's Pittsburg, Antioch, Concord, and Martinez sites. The son of Francis and Sheila Yeh, he will be attending the University of California, Los Angeles where he plans to major in chemistry.

Ross Michael Carter, 17, earned 31 merit badges on his Eagle journey and served several leadership roles including patrol leader, historian and senior patrol leader. His Eagle Scout Leadership Project was building an address wall for the City of Orinda Community Center. The project was designed to reduce confusion of people looking for the Community Center as its address was unmarked. The project included removing landscaping to build a footing and foundation wall, then placing stone veneer and lettering on the wall to match that of the community center and library complex. Landscaping was then replaced. The son of David and Terri Carter, this Eagle Scout will attend the California College of the Arts in Oakland and pursue a career in animation.

Zachary Mayeri, 17, earned 34 merit badges on his Eagle journey and served as historian, patrol leader, librarian and scribe. His Eagle Scout Leadership Project was the restoration of the bleachers at the Miramonte High School tennis courts. This included temporary removal of the bleachers to build a new foundation, replacement of the bleachers wood components, and resetting the structure in place. Zachary



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top Row (L-R) **Ross Carter, AJ Buettner, and Emmett Jacobs.** Bottom Row (L-R) **Alex Yeh, Zachary Mayeri, and Chris Hart.**

earned his Eagle on May 18, 2010. The son of David and Yoni Mayeri, he will be attending the University of California, San Diego and plans to major in Economics.

Andrew (AJ) Buettner-Fourie, 17, earned 36 merit badges on his Eagle journey and served as den chief, patrol leader and senior patrol leader. His Eagle Scout Leadership Project was to refurbish the entry area of the Orinda Intermediate School education garden to make it wheelchair accessible. The project also included the building and replacement of several old benches and table. AJ is the third generation of Fourie's to achieve the Eagle rank. The son of Jackie Buettner and the late Jacques Fourie, he plans to attend Diablo Valley College before transferring to the University of California to pursue a major in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Business.

Troop 57, chartered by St. Mark's United Methodist Church, has been serving the Orinda, California community for over 46 years and has produced 122 Eagle Scouts over its history. Each Eagle candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 12 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete a service project to earn the Eagle Award.

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Girl Scouts Honored for 13 Years of Service



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(L-R) **Alison Blazer, Maddie Riley, Phoebe Schmidt, Jennifer Ginsburg, Katy Yeh and Kate Sciamanna** were recently honored by Girl Scout Troop 866 for their 13 years of service and participation in community events. Friends and family gathered to honor the Girl Scouts and to enjoy delicious appetizers and cake. The dedicated troop leaders are Bobbie Bednar and Sheila Yeh. The event included the presentation of Gold Awards, the highest award a Girl Scout can achieve, to Jennifer Ginsburg, Maddie Riley, Phoebe Schmidt, Kate Sciamanna, and Katy Yeh.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Ayckbourn's Suburban Farce Up Next at Orinda Starlight Village Players

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

The Orinda Starlight Village Players have chosen Alan Ayckbourn's hilarious comedy *Time and Time Again* for its second show of the season.

Written in only six days, it is a refreshing light entertainment perfect for the Starlight Players' outdoor amphitheater in the Orinda Community Center Park. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. from July 16 – August 7. There is also a 4 p.m. performance on Sunday, August 1, and an 8 p.m. show on Thursday, August 5.

Anyone who has a sports-obsessed friend or relative can relate to the confusion that reigns in this oh-so-nice neighborhood. Peter, totally preoccupied with sports, is appalled when his boss makes advances towards his fiancée Joan. He is so caught up with his boss's lechery that he fails to

notice that Leonard, his boss's brother, has captured her heart. After all, why would he suspect the poetic Leonard, who spends his time holding conversations outside with the garden gnome, of having the gumption to steal Joan away. By the onset of football season, Joan is all set to marry Leonard but no one has bothered to tell Peter. In the end, Peter decides that sports are his true love and that winning isn't everything.

Directed by Starlight president Geotly Chapple, the Starlight cast includes: Malcolm Cowler, Mark Holobetz, Patricia Inabnet, Ken Sollazzo, and Shanti Rachel.

Tickets are \$16 regular and \$8 for seniors/minors. They are available the night of the performance or in advance by calling 925-528-9225. For more information, go to www.orsvp.org. Next up for the Starlight Village Players is *The Wind in the Willows*, which will run August 27 - September 25 at the park amphitheater.



BILL CHESSMAN

The Orinda Starlight Village Players recent production of Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced* was a great hit with audiences in June. Pictured above from the show are (R-L) **Marian Simpson** as Miss Marple, **Loralee Windsor** as Letitia Blacklock and **Susan England Chapple** as Dora Bunner.

California Shakespeare Theater Produces Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession*

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

California Shakespeare Theater's season continues with George Bernard Shaw's provocative examination of the high price of morality in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. The show runs July 7 through August 1 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda.

"This is a witty and furious play that shows us that poverty is as immoral as prostitution," says director Timothy Near. "In modern terms, Mrs. Warren, trying to avoid the filthy, disease ridden job opportunities offered to her class and gender, opts for hooking for health care...so to speak. I love this very early play of Shaw's because he reveals a great deal of his own complicated feelings about his aloof, career-minded mother, her business partner George Lee, and Shaw's disappointing drunken father (also named George)," continues Near, "Shaw writes a rebellious-youth-story about the huge abyss between parent and child due to hypocrisy, lack of nurturing, and consequent sexual confusion. This play could easily have been written about an angry young woman of the 'punk generation.' It has a recognizable unsentimental grit to it."

The show follows Cambridge student Vivie Warren who comes home to discover a shocking secret about her mother and the source of her family fortune. Shaw said he wrote the play "to draw attention to the truth that prostitution is caused, not by female depravity and male licentiousness, but simply by underpaying, undervaluing and overworking women so shamefully that the poorest of them are forced to resort to prostitution to keep body and soul together."

Mrs. Warren's Profession reunites director Near and Bay Area favorite Stacy Ross as the title character; the two collaborated earlier on another Shaw comedy, *Major*



KEVIN BERNE

Stacy Ross stars as Mrs. Warren in Cal Shakes production of Shaw's satirical comedy.

Barbara, with Ms. Ross as the feisty heroine. Anna Bullard makes her Cal Shakes debut as the headstrong Vivie Warren. The cast also includes Dan Hiatt, Andy Murray, Rod Gnapp, and Richard Thieriot.

Creating the Shavian-inspired country cottages and London offices are set designer Erik Flatmo, costume designer Meg Neville, whose designed Cal Shakes' season opener *Pastures of Heaven*, lighting designer York Kennedy, who also lit *Pastures of Heaven*, and sound designer Jeff Mockus.

Performances run Tuesdays – Sundays with "Grove Talks," offering insight into the play and production, beginning 45 minutes before each performance. For more information and for reservations, call 510-548-9666 or go to www.calshakes.org. The "Scottish play," also known as *Macbeth*, is Cal Shakes third play of the season. This supernatural thriller, directed by Joel Sass, runs August 18 - September 12. Cal Shakes final show of the season is *Much Ado About Nothing*. Directed by Jonathan Moscone, Shakespeare's comedy runs September 22 - October 17.

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Orinda Starlight Village Players
Presents
TIME AND TIME AGAIN
BY ALAN AYCKBOURN

Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. July 16 through August 7
Sunday, August 1 at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, August 5 at 8:00 p.m.
At the Outdoor Amphitheater,
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26 Orinda Way (Across the street from Rite Aid and the Orinda Post Office). Two blocks from BART.
Regular admission \$16, discount admission \$8
Orinda Starlight Village Players, P.O. Box 204, Orinda, CA 94563
www.orsvp.org
Tickets at Box Office or call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org.
Starlight Dinner Theater Offer
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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

JULY

- 1 **Lamorinda Arts Alliance** exhibits art at Orinda Library Gallery through July 31. Reception for the artists is on July 3, 3 to 5 p.m., at the library.
City of Orinda celebrates its 25th anniversary by rolling back movie prices to 1985's \$6 ticket price. *Back to the Future*, Orinda Theater, 7 p.m.
- 4 **Orinda Fourth of July** events include fun run, pancake breakfast, activities in the Community Park, parade at 11 a.m. Visit www.orindaassociation.org/forms/schedule.pdf.
Friends of Orinda Library Book Sale all day.
- 6 **Concerts in the Park** presents Cal Alumni Big Band Jazz at Orinda Community Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., free.
- 7 **California Shakespeare Theatre** presents George Bernard Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession* through August 1 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Way, Orinda. For show times and tickets, visit www.calshakes.org or call 510-548-9666.
- 9 **Instant Chorus** invites everyone who likes to sing to join a chorus. Adults and kids over 10 are welcome. No auditions. 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Also, Sat 7/10, 2 – 5 p.m. \$30. 25 Parklane Dr, Orinda, Call 925-253-0462.
- 13 **Concerts in the Park** presents Stone Soup classic rock at Orinda Community Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., free.
Orinda Books hosts author Ayelet Waldman who will talk about her new novel *Red Hook Road*, 276 Village Square, 1 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 16 **Orinda Starlight Village Players**, presents *Time and Time Again* - by Alan Ayckbourn. Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. through August 7. Also, Sunday, August 1 at 4 p.m., Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. Call 925-528-9225 or www.orsvp.org.
- 17 **Orinda Books** hosts author Henry Lee who will talk about his new murder mystery, *Presumed Dead*, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
California Independent Film Festival's Classic Film Series presents Marlon Brando in *On the Waterfront*, Rheem Theatre, 350 Park Street, Moraga, 7 p.m. Visit www.caiff.org/classicfilm.html for details.
- 20 **Concerts in the Park** presents Orinda Idol Variety Show at Orinda Community Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., free.
- 22 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners** Storytelling for Adults. Share your stories or just enjoy listening. Gallery Room, 7 to 9 p.m.
- 25 **Concerts in the Park** presents Opera in the Park at Orinda Community Park, 4 to 6 p.m., free.
Orinda Community Foundation Celebrity Golf Tournament and Social at Orinda Country Club includes dinner and auction (non-golfers welcome). Benefits Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Bay Area, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and the Orinda Community Foundation. Register at www.CelebrateEverydayheroes.org.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. Splash into Summer Reading with the whole family. Prizes for readers of all ages. Visit <http://ccclib.org>.

- 3 **Saturday Morning Live!** Family story time and crafts for 3- to 5-year-olds, Picture Book area, 11 a.m. Also July 10, 17, 24 and 31.
Paws to Read (drop-in session) for 1st -through 5th-graders. Mark off Summer Reading minutes with a sociable dog, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Also July 17 and 20.
- 6 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for 1- to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 10 and 10:30 a.m. No registration required. Attendance limited to once per week. Also July 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28.
Peek-a-Boo Time features stories, rhymes and rhythms for newborns to 1-year-olds and their caregivers, Gallery Room, 11:30 a.m. Also July 13 and 20.
- 7 **Paws to Read** (registration required) for 1st -through 5th-graders. Mark off Summer Reading minutes with a sociable dog, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sign up at the library. Also July 14, 21 and 28.
- 8 **Splash into a Collage**, make a collage with an underwater theme, 1 to 4 p.m. Also July 15 and 22.
- 14 **Drawing Class** led by Geanie Choy for K through 2nd-graders, Tutoring Room, 4 to 5 p.m. Sign up at 3:30 p.m.
- 20 **Tell It! Tales for Young Children**, a storyteller weaves folktales and legends adapted for children, this month featuring dragons, Tutoring Room, 1 p.m.
- 28 **Summer Music Series** presents Japanese Koto performance with Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto and Brian Mitsuhiro Wong, Fireside Area, 7 to 8 p.m. For more information on library programs, call 254-2184.

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

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 the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Moraga-Orinda Fire District Conference Room, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, www.moragaadobe.org.
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library. Call 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino's in Lafayette 254-0440, ext.463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., www.montelindogarden.com.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday at noon, Community Center, 254-2222.
- Orinda Association**. Second Monday, 7:15 p.m., Orinda Library, May Room, 254-0800.
- Orinda Hiking Club**. Please visit our website at www.orindahiking.org or call 925-253-1465 for schedule of upcoming hikes.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday of the month, 3 to 5 p.m., OHS Museum, 254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.
- Orinda Juniors** community service group. First Tuesday of the month, September to June, 7 p.m. Contact Diane Petek and Ann Sullivan at orinda.juniors@yahoo.com for location.
- 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 Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday of the month, 4 p.m., Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon; call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.
- Second Wednesday Book Group** 3 p.m. Orinda Books, 276 Village Square. Call 254-7606.
- World Affairs Book Group**. Fourth Thursday, 3 p.m., July's discussion *In the Graveyard of Empires: America's war in Afghanistan*, Orinda Books, 254-7606.

Concerts In The Park Feature Diverse Groups

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Things are heating up at the Orinda Community Center Park this July as the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary and the Orinda Rotary offer four concerts.

First up is the Cal Alumni Big Band on July 6. The popular group will play jazz and swing tunes from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the park amphitheater. The Cal Alumni Big Band was established in 1980 with the intent of providing Cal grads and alumni of the Jazz Ensembles an outlet for playing big band music after leaving UC Berkeley. The band is open to talented musicians from all over the Bay Area but traditionally the vast majority of players are Cal grads.

Stone Soup, a local favorite, will perform



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Open Opera perform in the park at a concert last year.

The Sunday concert begins at 4 p.m. and continues until 6 p.m. Founded in 2008, Open Opera brings free, professional opera to Bay Area parks and strives to build community through the arts. The organization was founded by three accomplished professional singers with impressive credentials: Olivia Stapp (artistic director), Ellen St. Thomas (executive director), and Elizabeth Baker (creative director).

All of the concerts are free. Picnics are encouraged for these family-oriented events. For more information, contact the Orinda Community Center at 254-2445.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alex Meckes, performing here in last year's Orinda Idol competition, is a finalist for 2010 as well.

July 13 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. This classic rock cover band features Fred Johnson, Steve Meckfessel, Jim Lautz, Dan Kevin, and Brian Burns. The group's extensive set list includes Eagles, Stones, Beatles and Motown.

On July 20, the Orinda Idol singers will entertain. Ranging in age from elementary school through high school, these talented vocalists are finalists in the annual Orinda Idol competition sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council. They will perform a variety of musical genres from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

The strains of opera will fill the air on July 25 as the Orinda Rotary presents Opera in the Park featuring Open Opera.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Stone Soup brings its classic rock sounds to the park gazebo.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

- Acalanes Union High School District**. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.
- City Council**. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.
- Historic Landmarks Committee**. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, public is welcome. Call 925-788-7323.
- Moraga-Orinda Fire District**. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.
- Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees**. Third Wednesday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road.
- Planning Commission**. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 253-4210.

Send calendar items to Maggie Sharpe at m.sharpe66@gmail.com

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 24

working in the restaurant. Clearly inspired by his father's cuisine, Michel includes such popular items as tuna and bean salad and fried artichokes, sausage and goat cheese pizza, petrale sole, gnocchi bolognese and, of course, classic Caesar salad. Desert temptations include tiramisu, thin crepes with Nutella and ricotta, crème anglaise and whipped cream, and a flourless chocolate cake with hazelnut ice cream.

The Lavecchias shop the local farmers' markets to ensure freshness, "We use organic flour for our pizza and freshly squeeze all juices in our kitchen. Our salami is imported from Italy, and we buy our cheese from Cow Girl Creamery in Marin County," says Michele.

The décor reflects the friendly atmosphere with warm sunflower tones and terra cotta colored floors. Colorful, and sometimes humorous, illustrations that adorn the walls are from Michele's father's cookbook. Mariam Lavecchia has been in the restaurant business herself for 24 years and is excited to own and manage a family business. "We love sportsmanship and culture and featured World Cup coverage at the bar last month. It was a big hit," smiles Mariam.

Michele has over 30 years experience in California restaurants. He previously was with Spectrum Foods and oversaw the opening of Speidini's in Walnut Creek in 1986 and worked at Il Fornaio as well.

At Trattoria Lupetti, the Lavecchia's are staying away from pseudo Italian food and focusing on authentic Roman food, which includes a focus on lamb and pork. The front room seats about 45 diners and features sliding glass windows the length of the restaurant, which are opened for diners' enjoyment on warm afternoons and evenings. For patrons interested in hosting a semi-private party, the mezzanine seats 25 and is a cozy spot located near the brick

oven. "We do quite a lot of birthday parties and catering as well. The Junior League held its annual get together here recently," points out Mariam.

"We like Orinda. Our customers have been loyal, and we want them to know this is their neighborhood restaurant. Families are always encouraged and welcome. We like being part of this community and hire local people to work here," adds Mariam.

Owning a restaurant is a 24/7 proposition, so there is not much free time. Family time is business time as well and the Lavecchia's 12 year-old son, Francesco, is learning the trade from his parents like his father before him. Michele and Mariam also have two daughters, Nicole, who is a sophomore at Diablo Valley College and Madison, a freshman at Orange County Community College.



VALERIE HOTZ

Michele Lavecchia (L) and his wife Mariam are the owners of Orinda's newest restaurant. Shown here with their son Francesco.

A great place to drop by on your way to the movie or for a special date night, Trattoria Lupetti is open seven days a week from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, call 253-7662 or email the Lavecchias at trattorialupetti@gmail.com.

Carotte et Caviar Offers Personal Chef Services in Your Home

Orinda native Edward Keller is a personal chef who splits his time between his home in Paris and his home in Orinda. For the past two years, Keller and his wife, Isabelle

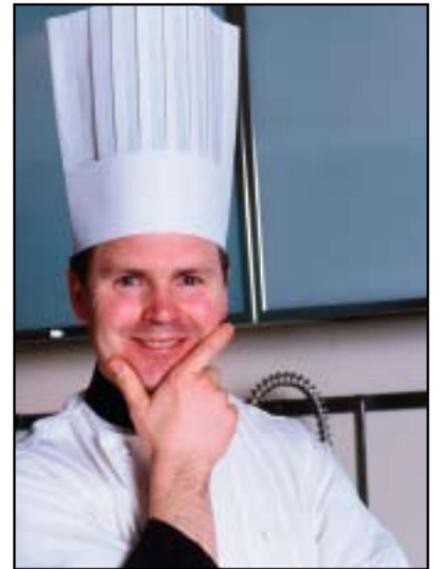
Boucq, have been remodeling the kitchen in their 180-year-old Paris apartment resulting in more time in Orinda. His background includes learning the art of French cooking at restaurants in Paris, including Jacques Cagna, where he worked during two game seasons and learned how to prepare and cook all game, including cutting a whole wild boar.

"I provide a personal chef service in your home for a party of two or 12 and really enjoy working with clients to create a personalized menu which suits the occasion, style and budget. I shop for the freshest ingredients at local farmers' markets," explains Keller. You will find him providing cooking classes at our local community center. Keller also conducts demonstrations of major brand kitchen tools, such as Henckles, at trade-shows.

"If you are planning a rehearsal, anniversary or special birthday dinner with friends, I can help make your dinner unique and memorable. Perhaps if you are entertaining a special guest, I can prepare the guest's favorite meal," explains Keller, who brings all the food to the client's home, prepares the table, flowers and decoration, and cooks the meal. "I am with people before, during and after," smiles Keller.

It may be a simple meal and not necessarily high priced. Keller's specialty is selecting the right ingredients and understanding how they blend together. He enjoys preparing classic French dishes such as *Coq au Vin*, *Boeuf Bourgeoun* and *Cassoulet*, a duck confit from the Landes region of France. "Long, slow-cooked meals are most interesting. A lot of these meals are from French Provincial cooking. Rich flavors are developed by reduction or, in the French manner, through cooking things for a long, long period of time. Simmering all day served an additional purpose of keeping the house warm on cold winter days," he explains.

Keller's wife, Isabelle Boucq, is French



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chef Edward Keller offers unique catering experience.

and the couple has two sons. Emmanuel will be in the 6th grade at Orinda Intermediate School this fall, and Gabriel begins 4th grade. Boucq is a freelance journalist who writes about the hi-tech industry for French outlets, writing in both French and English.

"Since my wife is French and I have lived there, I understand food and culture from the inside. I have a lot of knowledge to share with people, for example, the subject of the variety of French cheeses," says Keller.

There are over 60 open air markets scattered throughout Paris. According to Keller, you will come across one every 10 blocks every day of the week. "If you are going to Paris, please give me a call, and I can set you up with some markets to explore," he adds. But in the meantime, as you begin to plan that next special dinner party, give Edward Keller a call at Carotte et Caviar, 925-876-4941 or send him an email at chef@carottecaviar.com. For more information, visit his website at www.carotte-et-caviar.com.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on the Face of Business

Valerie Hotz



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

McDonnell's Nursery Offers Everything for the Garden

Jack McDonnell established McDonnell's Nursery in the Bay Area in 1933 and began operating at the Orinda location, 196 Moraga Way, during the 1950s. This family owned and operated business spans three generations of the McDonnell family. Eventually Jack's son Dan assumed the reins during the late 1970s and since 1998, Dan's daughter Sarah has been manager at this wonderland of outdoor delights.

You might say gardening and plants are in Sarah McDonnell's genes, as she grew

up two doors down from the nursery and worked in the family business during high school and college. "My maternal grandmother lived next door for 20 years, and I grew up playing among the plants. One of the many things I like is our emphasis on creating a family atmosphere here. When I started here in the late 1990s, many of our customers remembered my grandfather. Some of our employees have been with us 30 years. They are very knowledgeable. The community knows them and customers enjoy seeing a friendly, familiar face when they come in," explains Sarah.

After earning her bachelor's degree in agriculture business from California State University, San Luis Obispo, Sarah worked

in marketing at a graphic design firm in San Francisco. She earned her MBA at St. Mary's College at the same time she joined the family business as manager.

"It is really special to be in an area where people take such pride in their gardens. On their 2-1/2 acre site, customers will find all varieties of plants, annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs. "We are vigilant about offering new varieties for our customers. We have an especially gorgeous selection of Japanese Maples. Over the years, we have established a strong relationship with trusted growers and suppliers throughout California and the West Coast, and it is reflected in the variety and exceptional quality of the plants we offer," says Sarah.

Walking through the entrance to McDonnell's Nursery, customers notice the expanded selection of indoor plants and offerings in the gift department. The calming ambience of the place is immediately felt. Additions include indoor and outdoor wall art such as metal sculptures and wall plaques, fountains and statuary, candles, lotions and a charming variety of hostess gifts. "We are expanding our home décor section and encourage customers to visit and peruse our hostess gift items," points out McDonnell.

While there are no landscape designers on staff, McDonnell's Nursery offers an extensive network of designers, labor, construction, and arborist and irrigation specialists for referral. The do-it-yourselfer will be pleased to know free local delivery is available.

Sarah is married to Mark Slight, who handles risk management at Intel. The couple has one child, 16-month-old Noah. "These days I spend most all my free time with my son. After all, my family is most important. Our son enjoys playing in the fountains here at the nursery," smiles Sarah, who enjoys managing the family business with her father still helping out.



VALERIE HOTZ
Sarah McDonald (R), shown with her son Noah, is the third generation of her family to run McDonnell's Nursery.

McDonnell's Nursery is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. For more information, visit the website at www.mcdonnellnursery.com or give them a call at 254-3713.

Trattoria Lupetti Under Direction of Michele and Mariam Lavecchia

Locals who recall the launch of Amorama at the Crossroads, 65 Moraga Way, last spring will be glad to know Michele Lavecchia is still running the popular restaurant. He and his wife Marian recently assumed full ownership and management. The name has changed and the menu expanded, but the quality and excellent service remains the same.

"We have more options, adding pasta and entrees and are pleased to offer a changing menu that features new authentic Roman dishes every month," explains Lavecchia, a native of Rome. His father, Francesco, was chef at Gigi Fazi, and Lavecchia grew up [SEE BUZZ page 23]

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