

# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
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## Join Orinda In Action on April 16

By FRAN MILLER  
Staff Writer

Many Orindans generously volunteer their time for various causes throughout the Bay Area, and even internationally. For those who wish to help out a bit closer to home, Orinda In Action provides a simple way to get involved. The third annual community service day takes place Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to noon, and all Orindans are invited to take part in the effort to keep Orinda beautiful.

"Orinda In Action Community Service Day provides opportunities for community volunteers to accept the challenge to beautify our city by lending a hand in cleaning up our city," says the event's creator and former mayor Sue Severson. "It is one day to focus on improving our own cherished town, and every little bit we undertake makes a difference for the better."

As the event continues to establish itself, 2011 co-chairs April Webber and Jessica Smith expect participation rates to increase from last year. "The event began in 2009, with 300 volunteers completing 19 projects," says Smith. "In 2010, 500 volunteers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers from last year's Orinda In Action get ready to fill up their garbage bags.

completed 25 projects, and this year we hope to continue to grow in both volunteers and projects, allowing us the opportunity to enhance and enrich our community."

Residents are encouraged to accept the challenge of cleaning up Orinda, first by identifying cleanup projects, and then volunteering to participate in the cleanup effort. In partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, local garden clubs and Friends of Orinda Creeks, projects have included parks and school grounds improvement, litter pick up and graffiti removal, creek restoration, and planting of

[SEE ACTION page 18]

## It's Time to Choose a Camp for the Summer



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Orinda Academy students explore the Grand Canyon as part of their Educational Adventures program. The complete Summer Camps Listing begins on page 9.

## Local Film *Too Perfect* Premieres at Orinda Theatre

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Tickets are going fast for the April premiere of *Too Perfect*, the coming-of-age movie written, produced, directed and starring a host of Orinda residents. The film is scheduled for April 29 at 7 p.m. and May 1 at 4 and 7 p.m. at the Orinda Theatre.

Julie Rubio wrote, directed, and along with fellow Orinda resident Ramona Maramonte and Bay Area resident Jody Wirt, produced the film. The story follows five Orinda teens who have just finished the last day of school and are looking forward to summer vacation unaware of circumstances within their families that will change their lives forever. The young adults in the film deal with divorce, a parent's unexpected pregnancy, a mother's battle with cancer, and the death of a grandparent. "I've watched how my own teenaged son and his friends deal with the various challenges that come their way and how they really support one another," explains Rubio.

Rubio wanted to cast locally whenever possible and was fortunate to fill the ma-



KAREN ENGLUND

A number of local teens have principle roles in the new film *Too Perfect*. (L-R) Lindsey Watters, Mia Harnett, Tessa Hanson, and Elijah Stavena.

jority of the roles right here in Orinda. Of the 18 principle roles, 16 are from Orinda plus close to 100 Miramonte students were used as extras when the film shot at the high school. "We used so many Orinda locations – from Table 24 to Republic of Cake to Miramonte High School," Rubio adds.

Rubio's 14-year-old son Elijah is in the

film as well as his close friend 14-year-old Tessa Hanson. Both attend Orinda Intermediate School. "My character is similar to myself but more serious," says Elijah. "I made sure I was really prepared before filming, but sometimes doing a scene over and over from all the different camera

[SEE PERFECT page 18]

### IN THIS ISSUE

News	
Police Blotter	6
Around Town	
First Friday Forum	17
Local Residents	6, 7, 16
Schools/Students	14-15
Summer Camps	9-13
Visual and Performing Arts	2, 5
Business Buzz	20
Calendar	17
Car Time	5
Classified	18
Editorial	4
Orinda Association	3
Way to Grow	8

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VISUAL ARTS

# The Orinda Arts Council Congratulates 2011 VAC Winners

By JANE GREENTHAL  
Contributing Writer

Now in its eight year, the Visual Arts Competition (VAC), sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council (OAC), provided nearly a 150 high school students the opportunity to publicly exhibit their art and submit their work for judging by an esteemed panel of accomplished, professional artists. At the artist and winners reception on March 9, the OAC proudly announced its winners in the categories of 2D, 3D and Photographic Art:

**2D Winners:**

- 1st Place – Connor Ludwig, 12th grade, Campolindo
- 2nd Place – David Patty, 11th grade, Acalanes
- 3rd Place – Laurel Rogers, 12th grade, Orinda Academy

**Honorable Mentions:**

- Krista Waugh, 10th grade, Miramonte
- Dana Dean, 12th grade, Bentley
- Hannah Laher, 11th grade, Miramonte

**3D Winners:**

- 1st Place – Naveed Edalati, 12th grade, Miramonte

[SEE WINNERS page 18]



DAVID DIERKS

Students who attended the OAC reception included: (L to R) **Krista Waugh** (Honorable Mention 2D), **Mia Taapken** (1st Place Photography), **Sarah Manley** (Best in Show), and **Ryan Tucci** (Honorable Mention 3D).

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## OUSD 5th Annual Arts Ambassadors Exhibit Bursts with Color

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Fifth Annual Arts Ambassadors Exhibit at the Orinda Library Gallery begins on April 1 and runs through the end of the month. The non-juried exhibit showcases the artwork of over 200 first through eighth graders in the Orinda Union School District (OUSD). Each child who participates in the exhibit is named an "Arts Ambassador" and receives a ribbon in recognition.

This year the exhibit has expanded to double the original size due to the inclusion of both a boy and girl from each of the 70+ classes from local schools. The event is generously sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council's (OAC) School Committee, which advocates strong arts curriculum in all Orinda schools.

An artists' reception will be held on April 20 from 4-6 p.m. with light refreshments served. For the first time ever, students from the Glorietta Music Department will perform at the reception. Boys and girls from about 70 classes in the (K-5) Del Rey Elementary, Glorietta Elementary, Sleepy Hollow Elementary, and Wagner Ranch Elementary Schools, and the Orinda Intermediate School (Grades 6-8) will exhibit their work. All are invited to attend the artists' reception.

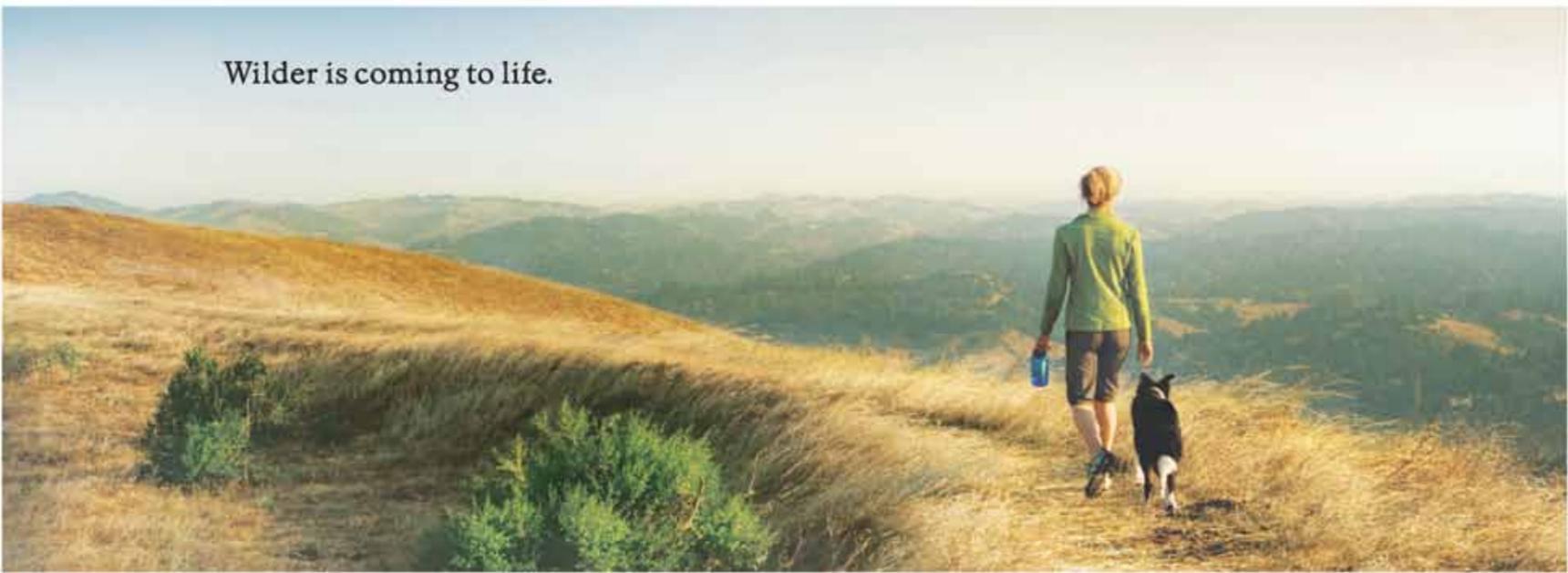
The OAC continues to help make this event possible and also contributes art workbooks and sketchbooks to the OUSD elementary school art program. EFO (Educational Foundation of Orinda) funds allow OUSD to provide a robust visual arts program. See [www.orindaefo.org](http://www.orindaefo.org) for more information or to become involved. The OAC and EFO invite the public to at-

tend the show to see a good use of funding decisions.

The indefatigable district visual art teachers – Linda Kam, Hillery Paterson, Susan Weiss and Susan Zib – devote a huge amount of their time to make this exhibit possible. "Art programs have been cut everywhere, and this is one of the last programs still in place," says Hillery Paterson, OUSD art coordinator. There are plans in the works to display photos of the art on the OAC website – look in the OUSD Art Ambassador Exhibit section at [www.orindaartscouncil.org](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org).

Check out the exhibit the next time you stop by the Orinda Library Gallery during normal library hours: 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. at 23 Orinda Way. Call 254-2814 for more information.

**Wilder is coming to life.**





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## ORINDA ASSOCIATION

## A Message From the OA President *The Greater Good*

Mark Roberts



I'm grateful when *The Orinda News* readers let me know what they think about my column. Their critiques are usually favorable (but not always). Recently, a friend from church paid me what I consider a great compliment. She called me "Orinda's biggest cheerleader." Thanks!

I enjoy recognizing and spotlighting all the good things that so many people in this community are doing. My motive is to encourage all Orindans to think about what they can do – what they can give back – to make this community even better and more livable for all of us.

One of my avocations is World War II history. While I love to learn more about the battles, the commanders, the tactics and the weapons, I'm also intrigued by what happened on the home front – how Americans across the country pulled together and made real sacrifices to help our fighting forces thousands of miles away achieve victory.

While I know Orinda today is a very different place than it was nearly 70 years ago, and we're not in the midst of a world war, I still think it's time for all of us to pull together and make decisions and take actions that will promote the greater good.

It's natural to focus our attention and concern on the challenges and problems facing, first, our families and, second, our neighborhoods. Quite often, those challenges and problems are related to traffic and roads. There's frequently too much of the former and not enough of the latter.

At recent Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) meetings, my fellow committee members and I have listened to concerns from several neighborhood groups, most along or adjacent to Moraga Way. Of course, one of TSAC's primary purposes is to help neighbors address and find solutions to their concerns about traffic safety issues. But we recognized a pattern – and we know that traffic on Moraga Way is a challenge that can't be met one neighborhood at a time. We've observed that trying to do so would just be, almost literally, "kicking the can down the road."

Since Miramonte High School is located just off Moraga Way along the southern border of Orinda, virtually every high school student in Orinda has to travel some distance along Moraga Way to get to their school. For students from the El Toyonal and Sleepy Hollow neighborhoods, for example, it's all the way down Moraga Way – or along side streets that, quite frankly, lead to traffic safety concerns from residents along those streets, especially when traffic is heavy and the first period bell is about to ring.

Of course, students heading to Miramonte in the morning aren't the only contributors to traffic issues on Moraga Way. There are many moving parts that need to be considered. With that in mind, TSAC will hold a public workshop to discuss the big picture on Tuesday, April 26 at 7 p.m. in the Founders Auditorium of the Orinda Community Center. Please plan to attend and participate so that we can determine how we can best work together for the greater good.



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## Moraga Way Traffic Workshop

Sponsored by Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Orinda Community Center  
Founders' Auditorium

### 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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## The 4th of July Event Needs You!

Join the Orinda Association's volunteer team to make this 4th of July Celebration the best ever!

The Orinda Association has been sponsoring and coordinating this event for many, many years and has detailed information for all volunteers. This is a great way to make new friends and renew old friendships. Join us for a lot of fun and make this 4th of July the best ever for your community. Here are some of the positions we would love you to fill!

**Decorations Coordinator** - Make the Community Center and parade route better than ever with colorful balloons, flags, and more. Last year's coordinator will be on hand to help you get started! Need to be present on July 3 and 4.

**Marketing Coordinator** - Work on logo design for posters and banners and, along with other volunteers, distribute posters and banners to businesses in the Lamorinda Area.

**Banners' Coordinator** - Families and businesses love to buy banners that hang throughout Orinda from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Last year's coordinator will be on hand to help!

**Kids in the Park Co-Chair** - What could be more fun than planning games and entertainment for the kids? You'll co-chair with someone who has done this for years and is such fun to work with. Need to be present on July 3 and 4.

If you are interested in any of the above, email event chairpersons Chris Laszcz-Davis at [chrisld@eq-organization.com](mailto:chrisld@eq-organization.com) or Mark Roberts at [roberts-on-muth@comcast.net](mailto:roberts-on-muth@comcast.net).

The OA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and your membership donation is tax deductible to the extent of the law. THANKS for your support!



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Letters to the Editor

**No Left Turn On Ivy Drive. Undeserved Privilege**

All taxpayers are not treated equal. Take Ivy Drive residents as an example. They pay property taxes like we all do, but they get preferential treatment. Even though they live in the Ivy Drive loop going to Miramonte High School and also, what the City of Orinda considers a collector street and feeder to two schools, they decide who goes through "their" street and who does not. They decided, sometime ago, that they do not want Miramonte High School traffic going through "their" street in the mornings.

So, they went to the City Council and the city granted them a No Left Turn restriction on "their" street. They did not want students parking on "their" street and the city granted them restrictive parking on Ivy Drive.

They got privileges they did not deserve at the expense of the city taxpayers, that not only pay property taxes, but pay school parcel taxes and end up restricted from using a public street and get tickets if they dare to do so. Is that fair?

The No Left Turn restriction went up on Southwaite Court, to insure that Ivy Drive was fully blocked from traffic going back to "their" street. It is worth a mention that left turns are still legal on Leslee Lane?

– Maria Campos

**Clarifying No Left Turn Sign On Ivy Drive**

The No Left Turn sign onto Ivy Drive was originally (approx. 2002) placed there to make the Ivy Drive neighborhood reasonably safe for one hour per day. The majority of the 527 plus households in the Ivy Drive neighborhood support the sign.

The Ivy Drive Neighborhood Group initiated the dialogue between the City of Orinda and the school districts in response to reckless driving, speeding, cut through traffic, disregard of traffic signs, and illegal maneuvers that were creating a very dangerous environment in a neighborhood never designed for the 850+ car trips daily.

The Ivy Drive Neighborhood Group petitioned our State Senator for funding and secured \$600,000 for improvements in 2001. The money was used to construct the bus turnout at OIS, improve traffic flow at Miramonte by reconfiguring the stop light at South Ivy / Moraga Way, improve street markings, put in stop signs and a turnout in the Del Rey area, improve street markings and improve traffic flow at Glorietta, put in the bulb out on Ivy Drive at Descanso, and put in additional signage where needed.

The No Left Turn Sign was initiated to keep vehicles out of the Ivy Drive Neighborhood for one hour per day, 7 a.m. – 8 a.m. This was the hour when the most speeding, reckless driving, or illegal maneuvers were observed. Since that time,

the entire neighborhood has become much younger with a significantly larger number of children, many of whom walk to Del Rey, OIS and Miramonte. Safety is why the No Left Turn Sign was placed at North Ivy Drive.

The placement of the No U-Turn Sign on Moraga Way was suggested in 2005-2006. It was implemented this year after a number of the 20 homes on Southwaite Ct. complained about illegal U-turns on their street.

However, without police to enforce the No U-Turn and No Left Turn signs, the traffic signs will not be observed, violations will occur, and residents will be at risk. Until a comprehensive plan can be implemented, the solutions to the traffic dangers in the Ivy Drive Neighborhood will be stopgap measures.

In 1987, Wilbur Smith and Associates did a comprehensive traffic study. It made some great recommendations that would benefit the entire city which were never implemented. Another solution is asking the school districts to change the bell schedules, which would spread traffic out more evenly from 7:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Safety has been, and continues to be, the number one concern for the majority of the residents in the Ivy Drive Neighborhood.

– T Silveira

**Start Lottery to Fix Potholes**

There are too many potholes in Orinda (and other cities). In order not to burden taxpayers, I would like to suggest that the city consider a lottery. A percentage of the proceeds, 50 percent for example, will go to cover winning tickets. The balance will be for repaving our roads and to cover the expenses of organizing the lottery. Concerned citizens may want to consider setting a non-profit organization if this is legally possible.

– Suzanne Feinberg

**Citizens Committee Needed**

This letter is to encourage the City Council to approve the request for a citizen's committee to fully investigate our emergency services, both function and cost. While MOFD has provided us much improved service for 13 years, the cost of that service is disproportionate, if not excessive. Beyond whether Orinda is paying more than its fair share (we hear claims from both sides) is whether the services are being cost effectively provided. Given that there is the potential of significant cost savings to the city, it seems appropriate that the council would be supportive of studying the potential of those savings. Knowing the facts can only serve to help resolve the differing opinions on the issue and, hopefully, and ultimately result in significant long term savings for the city.

We formed MOFD in order to correct a condition of having our tax dollars spent for service outside of Orinda, when Orinda



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had needs of its own. Now apparently, we are back in that condition of spending for services outside of Orinda, as well as the question of the cost effectiveness of those services. As reports from citizens and the Infrastructure Commission indicate, the condition of our roads is degrading, and some may be unsafe. As I understand, a city survey last year showed a significant percentage of the people would not en-

tain the thought of new taxes until the MOFD funding question was definitively answered.

Seemingly, nothing would be lost by conducting a study concerning MOFD costs. And the potential benefits are most significant. Especially, if the savings from MOFD could be applied to address our degrading roads.

– Bill Cosden

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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 June issue is April 20, 2011.

CARS / FILM SHOWCASE

# CAR TIME

April is National Car Care Month

by JEFF JOYCE



Believe it or not, spring is almost here and road trips will soon be the focus of many families. Every year in April and October, we celebrate National Car Care Month by reminding motorists that their vehicle is ready for, let's say, a "physical." Fluids, tires, belts and hoses are ready for an inspection. Your vehicle is always there when you need it, and it got you through one of the worst winters in recent memory. So why not give your vehicle a little something back? The Car Care Council recommends setting aside a little time this spring to care for your car by following three simple steps.

Keep your vehicle clean. Regular car washes and waxes protect the paint and body of your car from corrosive debris. In parts of the country where salt is used on the roads, regularly washing is especially important.

Keep your vehicle on schedule. Every vehicle has a manufacturer recommended maintenance schedule. Whether you choose

to do your own maintenance or patronize a trusted local repair shop, following a routine schedule is essential to keeping your vehicle in safe and dependable working order.

Keep an eye on the little things. Are your windshield wipers cleaning as well as they should? Is your gas tank missing its cap? Is there a warning light on your dashboard? When you see your vehicle needs attention, don't delay. Repairing the small things now can help avoid more costly problems down the road and add years of useful vehicle life.

"Many vehicles end up neglected during the winter months and could use a little extra care to get them ready for the spring and summer driving season," said Rich White, executive director of the Car Care Council. "For most Americans, their vehicle is their second biggest investment, and they rely on it every single day to get everywhere. Taking a little time for car care now can save headaches and money in the long run."

## Orinda Woman's Club Car Clinic

By DAVID DIERKS  
Staff Writer

On May 14 at 1 p.m., Orinda Motors, in partnership with the Orinda Woman's Club, will be co-hosting a community car clinic. The clinic will focus on education for women motorists including car maintenance, operation and how to be a better consumer.

The clinic will last a couple of hours and refreshments will be provided. After the

clinic, there will be a question and answer session.

To sign up for the event, visit [www.orindamotors.com](http://www.orindamotors.com) to fill out the registration form by Friday, May 13. The clinic is free of charge, however, a donation of postage stamps, stationary and gift cards will be accepted to help the Senior Helpline Services charity ([www.seniorhelpline.net](http://www.seniorhelpline.net)). Look for more information in the May issue of *The Orinda News*.

## International Film Showcase Presents *Flugten (The Escape)*



DAVID DIERKS

Dame Rita Brai, honorary Consul General of Belgium, and Jo Alice Canterbury were at the February/March showing of *Illégal* at the Orinda Theatre. The International Film Showcase presented *Red Like the Sky* in mid-March.

The latest offering of the Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation will be *Flugten (The Escape)*, a Danish sociopolitical thriller directed by Kathrine Windfeld and starring Iben Hjejle and Lars Mikkelsen. *Flugten (The Escape)* tells the story of a Danish journalist, Rikke Lyngvig (played by Iben Hjejle), working in Afganistan. She is captured by the Taliban and used to try to force the government of Denmark to withdraw its troops. The title leaves no surprise that she escapes, but what happens next involves deception, ambition, professional jealousy, illicit love, and finally redemption. The film opens on April 22 at the Orinda Theater, 2 Orinda Theatre Square.



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## Teens Help Serve at Winter Nights



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On February 27, a group of teens from Santa Maria Church prepared and served dinner to the homeless at the Orinda Community Church. The program, which runs for two weeks, is coordinated by Santa Maria Church and Orinda Community Church. (L-R) **Patrick Swan, Peter Swan, Betty Karplus** (adult coordinator), **Maddie Higgins**, and **Evan Pulelich** hold up thank you notes written to them by the guests in the Winter Nights program. The program is supported by donations. Anyone interested in donating for next year's Winter Nights, can send them to the Interfaith Council at <http://cccwinternights.org/donating.html>.



## POLICE BLOTTER

February 2011

**False Residential Alarms:** Officers responded to 73 false alarm calls throughout the city.

**Burglary - Auto:** 1 incident was reported on California Ave.

**Burglary - Residential:** 1 incident was reported on Southwood Dr.

**Petty Theft - From Vehicle:** 1 incident was reported on Barbara Rd.

**Robbery - Armed:** 1 report was made on Brookwood Rd.

**Recovered Stolen Vehicle:** 1 stolen vehicle was recovered on La Campana/La Punta.

**Stolen Vehicle:** 1 incident was reported on Via Hermosa

### Arrests

**Court Order - Violation:** 1 arrest was made on La Plaza.

**Driving Under the Influence - MISD < .08:** 2 arrests were made on Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way and Orinda Way.

**Drunk in Public:** 4 arrests were made on Brookwood Rd./Moraga Way, and 3 others on Moraga Way.

**Juvenile Related Alcohol Offense:** 1 arrest was made on Tahos Rd.

**Warrant Arrest:** 1 arrest was made on Glorietta Blvd. at Orchard Rd.

- Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

## Local Author Sets Latest Book in Hawaiian Islands

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

“A rather bookish childhood,” is how Orinda author Christine Sunderland describes her youth. Both her sister and mother became collegiate English teachers and the writer remembers “reading Dickens when I was 10 and taking stacks of books home from the Orinda Library.”

Sunderland recently learned two of her novels have received awards. “I was thrilled,” she says. “As a writer chained to my laptop and cat, a little validation is always encouraging!”

According to Sunderland, her recently released fourth novel, *Hana-lani*, received Honorable Mention in the Reader Views Literary Awards. In addition, *Offerings*, the second novel (set in France) of her trilogy (which includes *Pilgrimage*, and *Inheritance*) has won a Bronze Medal in the IPPY Independent Publisher Awards for 2010 for Religious Fiction.

One of Sunderland’s influences was her father, Carl Thomas, who was a Presbyterian pastor. Along with her mother Helen, he founded the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

“I have warm memories of the first services in the Park movie theater in Lafayette, with Sunday school in the old Town Hall,” she recalls. “I particularly value the role of the family in America, and the importance of history and tradition in retaining our freedoms in an unstable world,” says Sunderland.

Sunderland has long been interested in the formation of cultural ideals in society and the role of history and tradition in the public square. When her husband Harry retired from Safeway in 1992, the couple began to spend a lot of time traveling in Europe and Hawaii. Sunderland kept ex-

tensive travel journals.

After many years, her journal writing became extensive reflections on the history of Western Europe. “I was able to study these roots of Western culture, and thus understand our own American way of life,” she says, adding that “As a Christian, I also came to see how Christianity formed much of that culture. Today, writing has become a satisfying way of expressing some



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Author Christine Sunderland in Hana.

of these thoughts, and I’m able to draw on my current travels to give the stories some color and hopefully interest.”

Sunderland recently returned from Hawaii where she finished an early draft of her fifth novel, *The Magdalene Mystery*. The plot involves a young man and young woman’s “search for the true Mary Magdalene in Rome and Provence.”

“It was wonderful to be back in Hana (Hawaii) and sharing my novel with the folks that inspired it, so it was a lovely celebration. Hasegawa’s General Store (of the famous 60’s song) will be carrying the novel, as well as the Hana Cultural Center

[SEE AUTHOR page 18]



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## Move of the Month

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Stand facing TRX, elbows bent at sides. Lower tailbone toward ground. Bend elbows pulling your body forward while jumping in the air, keeping hips lifted, simulating the start position in the air. Land back down to the squat and begin again. Keep the tension on the TRX for the entire exercise. Try 10 repetitions with a 30 second rest. Try 3 sets. For a less advanced move, start with just the squat.

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HELPING OTHERS

# Orinda Family Invites Others to "Travel With Purpose"

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Orinda residents love their schools, their beautiful rural setting, and they also love to travel and to help others through volunteering and donating. Ksenija Soster Olmer is hoping that her fellow community members will also love the idea of combining those last three into a unique opportunity.

The Orinda resident has put together a very special trip to Cambodia and Laos entitled "Travel with Purpose." Participants will donate \$250 to a project of their choice prior to leaving on the trip and then tour the project during the trip. "A dollar goes so much further outside of the U.S.," says Olmer, who travels extensively throughout the world. "People can choose to put in a water well or buy books for a village school or a generator," Olmer explains. "We'll send the money over before we go and by the time we get there, people can see exactly how their money helped. It is also a wonderful way to really get to know a country. There are so many things you can't see or know about a country from a tour bus."

Olmer should know. Originally from Slovenia, she and her husband often take

their three daughters back to visit family with side trips to many other countries. "We are just an ordinary family that loves to travel," says Olmer. "We think the best education we can afford our kids is to let them see the world and do a bit of good while traveling."

This "little bit of good" started with something as simple as delivering soccer uniforms and equipment to a resettlement camp in Namibia. It has grown into a program called "The Hungry Duckling," which tackles small projects that benefit children and their communities by working directly with dedicated local people. "We believe our lives, the lives of our children, friends' and supporters are enriched by participating in these small actions," Olmer explains. "Wherever we travel, we find a small local project. We strive to find ways to make children less dependent on charity with better education, better conditions, and sustainable ideas."

Some of the projects have included fundraising to buy a rice paddy and a flock of ducks that would produce eggs and offspring to eat and sell. The organization has also purchased bricks to build a water tank, sewing machines for vocational training, and much, much more. "When we traveled



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mirek and Ksenija Olmer in front of the Angkor Wat Temples in Cambodia.

to Rangoon, the highlight of our trip was to go to an orphanage on Christmas morning," recalls Olmer. "We brought blankets, pots, cooking oil, and 130 school bags filled with donated crayons, pens, shampoos, vitamins and, the kids' favorite, chewing gum."

When Olmer and her family would return to Orinda and share their experiences with others, people were so interested in the concept they asked if they could come along next time. And so "Travel With Purpose" was born.

In addition to helping local residents in Cambodia and Laos, participants will also tour the cultural and architectural delights of the area. The trip is scheduled

for October 28 - November 5, 2011. An informational presentation is scheduled for April 15 at 7 p.m. at Captain's Vineyards, 1969 Joseph Dr., Moraga. "This trip is an opportunity to really see the culture and get to know a country and do a little bit of good," says Olmer. "Two hundred and fifty dollars goes a long way in Asia. It can really make a difference helping them become more self-sufficient."

For more information on the April 15 "Wine and Wells" presentation and the trip, call Olmer at 925-708-0770 or email [ksenija@aol.com](mailto:ksenija@aol.com). You can also go to [www.friendsofcd.org](http://www.friendsofcd.org) or <http://sites.google.com/site/hungryduckling>.

# Orinda's First Relay for Life Scheduled for July

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

This July, Orinda joins communities across the world in participating in the American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay for Life. Orinda's first ever Relay for Life currently seeks participants and volunteers for the event to be held at the Orinda Sports Field off Camino Pablo on July 9 and 10.

The 24-hour team relay begins Saturday, July 9 at 10 a.m. with a Survivors Lap, in which cancer survivors take a victory lap around the track.

The annual ACS event was started in 1985 by Dr. Gordy Klatt. Dr. Klatt's project has grown from a single man with a purpose of raising money for his local Tacoma, Washington, ACS, to an event which, according to the ACS website, annually unites "more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States, along with additional communities in 20

other countries."

According to Carissa Crader, the California Relay Manager for ACS, the race not only raises funds, but awareness needed to save lives. Juli Fountain, a Relay for Life participant for the last 10 years, joined a team when her cousin was diagnosed with cancer. "It seemed like a good idea," she said, "after my first relay I was hooked." Fountain was enthusiastic about how the fundraiser supports cancer patients and their families, as well as educational programs.

Since she first began, Fountain has had more family members touched by cancer. "Today, I relay for my cousin, her husband, my uncle, my grandmother, my friends, my co-workers, and for so many people I've never met but whose stories I've heard," she explains. "I always walk away feeling moved that all these people come together to fight against cancer as a community, and it inspires me to continue in the fight,"

reflected Fountain. "It is also a way to celebrate our cancer survivors - those who are currently fighting cancer and those who have beat it - and to remember those we've lost to cancer."

After dark on Saturday evening, candles will be lit as part of a luminaria Ceremony of Hope to honor cancer survivors and to remember those whose lives have been lost to the disease. The candles will burn throughout the night as relay participants are reminded of the importance of their contributions.

According to Crader, there are "endless" opportunities for would-be volunteers, and participants. "We are starting a Relay For Life in Orinda because it is a community event that brings everyone together to take up the fight against cancer," she said. "It helps educate the community on cancer awareness and prevention. It also helps get the word out about our free patient services."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two participants in a previous Relay for Life escort a survivor around the track during the opening victory lap.

Those interested in sponsoring a walking team, joining a team, being a part of the planning committee or simply volunteering for the event itself can contact Carissa Crader at 925-519-2192 or by email, [carissa.crader@cancer.org](mailto:carissa.crader@cancer.org). Those interested in donating to the fundraising efforts can send a check to: Relay For Life of Orinda, 1885 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill CA, 94523.

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## WAY TO GROW

## Way to Grow

Plant Dahlias Now to Add Dazzle to Your Garden  
Summer Through Fall

by Steve & Cathy Lambert



Of the various late summer and fall flowers, dahlias occupy a place near to our heart. Steve's grandfather, Grandpa Ted, grew hundreds of different varieties, in Connecticut where growing dahlias is much more difficult than in California. His rows of dahlias would stop traffic and fill the altar of the community church.

Here in Orinda, we don't usually have the luxury of a large flower garden like Grandpa Ted's but dahlias can be added to your landscape in many ways. One advantage Orinda has is its climate which is perfect for dahlias because we don't have to dig up the tubers every winter to protect them from freezing.

The variety of dahlia sizes and colors is enormous. They range from small pom-pom

blooms to amazing, "dinner plate" flowers in multiple and vivid colors. Plant sizes are also varying from dwarf border dahlias to tree dahlias which can grow 10 feet or more in height. Many aficionados consider the dahlia to be the "flower of flowers."

The history of the dahlia is very interesting. Dahlias originated in Central America and are native from Mexico to Costa Rica. They were grown by the Aztecs for food, medicine and for the beauty of their blooms. Plants were taken back to Europe by Spanish explorers more than 200 years ago. At the Botanical Gardens in Madrid, the Abbe Cavanille named the genus "Dahlia" for Andreas Dahl, a noted Swedish botanist and student of Carl Linnaeus.

There are currently 35 recognized species

of dahlias. Because the dahlia is easily hybridized (cross pollinated), it was easy for hybridizers' as well as home gardeners (including Grandpa Ted) to create new varieties. So the evolution of the original simple blooms to a vast range of single and double-flowered blossoms in saturated bright colors and a multitude of shapes has been relatively easy.

During the 1800s, the popularity of dahlias surged. Thousands of varieties emerged and were documented. Dahlias were even briefly grown as a food crop for their tuber to supplement potato crops. The following are some tips and our top picks for dazzling dahlias.

**Planting:** Full sun is the ideal location for most dahlias but these sun lovers prefer morning light over a hot afternoon spot. Dahlias are typically planted about the same time as your summer veggies, early spring after all danger of frost when the soil has warmed up. In Orinda that is around mid-April through May. Although you may be tempted by warm March days, our soils usually don't start warming up until sometime in April. Wait until evening temperatures are consistently above 40 degrees. Well drained, deep soil works the best.

Since Orinda soils are mostly clay, it's best to work in lots of organic matter. Dahlias are tubers that look something like a skinny sweet potato. One end of the tuber (or clump of tubers) has a bit of the old stem, which is usually where a new eye forms. Look for small sprouts on the side. When planting, lay tubers flat with the eyes pointed up in three to six inches of soil and space them 18 to 24 inches apart. Bone meal or a low nitrogen fertilizer, such as 5-10-10, can be added at planting time. Too much nitrogen can cause excessive vegetative growth and fewer blooms. Mulch your beds after planting. The shoots will take about two to four weeks to emerge.

**Care:** Because blooms can be large and stems thin, some dahlias need the support of a floral stake. Moisture in the spring soil is sufficient to promote growth. Don't water the tubers at planting time because this can cause them to rot. Wait until the ground warms up, usually about the time the sprout breaks through. When the weather warms up and the top growth has emerged, you can begin to water. A deep watering two times a week should be adequate. When your dahlia plants are 12 to 20 inches tall with no more than four sets of leaves, cut or pinch the center shoot. This produces shorter, bushier plants with more flowers. Remove old blossoms to promote more blooms and keeps the plant growing vigorously. Cut off the entire cane when there are no longer any buds to encourage new

canes with stronger blossoms.

In our climate it's not necessary to dig and store dahlia tubers for winter, however, it is important to divide the tuber clumps every few years. Dig tubers two weeks after the first frost or wait until the middle of November. Wash clumps and let them dry (not in hot sun) then store them in paper bags in a cool, dark, dry place. Tuber clumps can be divided before storage or just before planting in the spring.

**Protect:** Slugs and snails can do major damage to your dahlias. We recommend putting snail bait out at planting time then follow up with more as needed when dahlias are just appearing from the ground. Slug bait may be required around each tuber. Other pests, such as aphids or cucumber beetles can be destructive as well. Cucumber beetles look like light green lady bugs, but don't be fooled; these guys will eat huge holes in all your flowers. Organic insecticidal soaps should be applied to affected areas as soon as beetles appear to stop the spread. Diazanone and Pyrethrums can be used as a non-organic but effective method for controlling insects. Any application of insecticides should be applied early in the morning or late in the day.

**Enjoy:** Dahlias while gorgeous in the garden are stunning in floral arrangements too. Dahlias should be cut in the early morning or late in the afternoon when the sun is no longer directly on the plants. Place fresh cut dahlias in tepid (warm) water for about one half hour then replace it with cool tap temperature water. Add one to two pumps (depending on the size of your vase) of antibacterial soap to keep the water and flowers fresher longer. Blooms will last from three days to over a week depending on the variety. Change water frequently and avoid placing your cut flowers in a hot or sunny location. For the longest lasting flowers, pick your dahlias when they are about two thirds open.

Our top picks have long lasting blooms (both in the garden and as cut flowers) and include a variety of colors and bloom shapes: *Pineapple Lollipop*, a cheerful pale yellow bloom; *Cornel*, a deep, dark maroon; *Café o'late*, a beautiful blend of pale pink and creamed coffee brown on a strong four foot tall plant; *Garden Party*, a fiery yellow, flame shaped petal with orange highlights; *Just Married*, a cool purple to yellow blending with very skinny petals; *Bed Head*, a solid SF Giants Orange; *Lagoon*, a pure purple; *Fuchsiana*, a beautiful blend of watermelon and fuchsia; and *Karma Choc*, dark maroon flowers and dark green and maroon foliage.

If you have any questions about dahlia varieties or their care, feel free to email us at [office@gardenlightslandscape.com](mailto:office@gardenlightslandscape.com).



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CAMPS

Camp Guide From Animation to Zoo

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Now's the time to look through the exciting variety of summer camps available for children in grades K-12 in our area. No matter what your child is interested in, we guarantee you'll find something to engage their interests, with a lot of fun thrown in. Be an early bird and sign up now, as many sessions are small in number and spots fill up fast. Following is a selection of local camps for our annual listing.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Two of last years athletes at Saint Mary's Athletic Summer Camps.

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**Camp Orinda** (Ages 6-10): Enjoy one adventure after another. Camp includes games, arts and crafts, hiking, skits, sports, special fun days, and field trips. One week, two week, full and extended-day camps are offered.

**Orinda OK (Orinda Kids) Camp** (Ages 3.5-5): Crafts, music, sports, art, traffic town, fire department visit and exploring are all part of the fun. Week-long, half-day and extended day camps are offered.

**Babysitting Camp** (Ages 10-15): Learn skills needed to be a trusted and responsible babysitter. Camp covers child development, safety, bedtime strategies, and ways to make babysitting fun. M-Th June 20-23 10 a.m.-noon. Cost \$101-\$111.

**Carpentry Camps** (Grades K-8): Camps meet M-Th throughout the summer. 12:30-2:30 p.m. or 2:30-4:30 p.m. Cost \$122-134.

**Chess Camps** (Ages 6-17): Beginning-Advanced level camps. June 13-17, July 11-15, August 15-19. M-F, half-day camps. Cost \$190-\$209.

**Chinese Summer Intensive-Mandarin** (Ages 4-7, 7-9): Inspires student to learn Chinese and to introduce Chinese culture in a fun and encouraging environment. Week-long, 1.5 hr. program offered throughout the summer.

**Cooking Camps:** Asian Cooking (ages 7-12): June 20-23, 3:30-5 p.m. Cost \$134-147. Asian Cooking for Teens (Ages 12-18), June 28-June 30, 3-5 p.m. Cost \$120-\$130. Chocolatier Camps (Ages 9+) and a variety of other cooking camps offered during the summer.

**Engineering, Erector, Lego, Snap Circuits, and Science Camps** (Ages 3.5-15): Some of the exciting camps include: Crazy Chemistry, Engineering and Construction with Erector Sets, Engineering FUNDamentals (Legos), Future Geniuses, Green Engineering with Legos, Inventors, Journey into Outer Space, Let's Get Growing, Mad Machines and Robots, My First Lab, NASA, Pre-Engineering with Legos, Secret Agent, [SEE CAMPS page 10]

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◆ CAMPS from page 9

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**Writing Camp (Ages 7-10):** Learn to write poetry, short stories, and non-fiction. June 20-24, 9 a.m.-noon, July 25-29, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and August 8-12, 9 a.m.-noon. Cost \$173-190.

**Creative Writing Camp (Ages 10-16)** M-Th, August 8-18. Cost \$183-\$201.

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925-627-2926

www.wildlife-museum.org

**Summer Science Camp** offers new adventures with live animals, indoor and outdoor games and songs, science experiments, and more. Camper to counselor ratio is 3:1 in the camps for ages 4-9. The camp uses Lindsay Wildlife Museum's large community room, two private classrooms, and adjacent Larkey Park. Camp shirt, snacks and drinks are included.

**Counselor positions** for 12- to 17-year-olds for all camps. Mandatory training sessions for counselors on June 24 or July 10. Full details available at website. Cost \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members.

**Session 1-Animal Families** (ages 4-6): June 27-July 1, 1 - 3:30 p.m. What is a mammal? Why do reptiles have scales? How do birds fly? Spend a week learning about animal families and meet live fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Every day we will discover what makes each of these animals special through crafts, games and songs. Cost \$100 for members, \$125 for non-members.

**Session 2-Animals of the World** (ages 6-9): July 11 - 15, 1 - 4:30 p.m. Join us as we explore a wide variety of mammals, birds and reptiles. Find out where they live and how they are related to the animals that we have at the museum. Cost \$125 for members, \$150 for non-members.

**Session 3-Amazing Animal Bodies** (ages 6-9): July 25-29, 1 - 4:30 p.m. Do all animals have backbones? What kind of heart does a lizard have? How does a frog breathe? Join us for a week of hands-on activities, games, songs and crafts to explore amazing animal body systems and how they compare to our own. Cost \$125 for members, \$150 non-members.

**Session 4-Science Quest** (ages 9-12): August 1-5, 1 - 4:30 p.m. Science is all around us! Let's see where we find science as we explore and experiment with chemistry, biology, physics, geology and ecology. Each day brings new discoveries in a different branch

[SEE CAMPS 2 page 11]



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2011

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**www.saklan.org**  
925-376-7900

CAMPS

◆ CAMPS 2 from page 10

of science. Meet mammals that share not only our world but also their "secrets of science" with us. Cost \$125 for members, \$150 for non-members.

**Session 5-Animal Families** (ages 4-6) August 8 - 12, 9:30 a.m.- noon. What is a mammal? Why do reptiles have scales? How to birds fly? Spend a week learning about animal families and meet live fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Every day we will discover what makes each of these animals special through crafts, games and songs. Cost \$100 for members, \$125 for non-members.

**Zoo Camp**  
**Oakland Zoo**  
 9777 Golf Links Rd.  
 Oakland, CA 94605 (off Highway 580)  
 510-632-9525 x280 (Zoo Camp hotline)  
 www.oaklandzoo.org

The Oakland Zoo offers week-long camps,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

These boys enjoy last year's summer camp at Saklan School.

with second-week camps available. Campers from age 4 through grade 12 learn about nature and animals through hands-on experiential learning, as well as puppet play, games, craft projects, science activities and of course, animals. Nestled in the rolling hills of 525-acre Knowland Park, the Zoo is home to more than 660 native and exotic animals. Online registration. Need-based scholarship applications available on the website. Extended care also available. Full information and registration available on the website. Open daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Pre-K:** Children need to be 4 by the start of the first day of camp. Class A Sessions: Explore the idea of same and different in the animal kingdom. 9 a.m.-noon, June 20-24, July 5-8, July 18-22, August 1-5, August 15-19. Class B Sessions: Animals move in weird and wonderful ways! Slither, slide, creep, crawl and waddle around the zoo. 9 a.m.-noon, June 27-July 1, July 11-15, July 25-29, August 8-12. Cost \$196 for members, \$216 for non-members.

**Kindergarten Sessions:** from 9 a.m.-noon or 1 to 4 p.m., must choose one. June 14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 5-9, July 12-

16, July 19-23, July 26-30, August 2-6, and August 9-13. Cost \$196 for members, \$216 for non-members.

**Grade 1 - Furry Friends; Grade 2-3 - Animal Friends; Grades 4-5 - Eco Explorers:** Sessions from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 5-9, July 12-16, July 19-23, July 26-30, August 2-6, and August 9-13. Cost \$291 for members, \$311 for non-members.

**Grades 6 to 8 Wild Survivor:** Sessions from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 20-24, June 27-July 1, July 11-15, August 8-12 and August 15-19. Cost \$316 for members, \$336 for non-members.

**Grades 9-12 Teen Assistant:** Sessions from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Love animals and kids? We need your help! Come to camp as a Teen Assistant and spend two weeks playing with kids and helping to lead activities while earning community service hours. June 20-24, June 27-July 1, July 5-8, July 11-15, July 25-29, August 1-5, August 8-12 and August 15-19. Cost \$60 for members, \$80 for non-members.

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

Our 39th summer! An all-outdoor summer day camp at the Lafayette Reservoir for ages 4.5 to 16. Instruction for all abilities in horse-back riding, swimming, fishing, canoeing, boating, sports, nature, outdoor living skills, crafts and more! Four-and-eight week sessions build friendships, teamwork, confidence and fun for every camper. Extended care available. Sessions run June 27-August 26. Specialty English and Western Horse Camps for beginning to advanced riders; Little Raccoons, an introductory program for younger campers; and new Outdoor Explorers, one-week outdoor adventures. New activities and expanded programs provide something different every year. Transportation from home and central pick-up locations in East Bay and SF. Visit www.roughingit.com for more information.

[SEE CAMPS 3 page 12]

CAMPS

◆ CAMPS 3 from page 11

**SCHOOL-RELATED CAMPS**

**Fountainhead Montessori School**  
 30 Santa Maria Way  
 Orinda, CA 94563  
 925-820-1343  
 www.fms.org

A Montessori-based summer school, 9 a.m.-noon with aftercare available from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Age ranges toddler to kindergarten.

**Holy Shepherd Preschool**  
 433 Moraga Way  
 Orinda, CA 94563  
 925-254-3429  
 www.holyshepherd.org

**Fun in the Sun** for ages 2.5 to entering first grade; enjoy summertime activities in a small class environment; songs, games, cooking, arts and crafts, and water play; various dates throughout summer, 9 a.m.-noon with option for extended care until 2 p.m.

**Orinda Academy**  
 19 Altarinda Road  
 Orinda, CA 94563  
 925-254-7553  
 www.orindaacademy.org

**Open House** for interested families on April 20 at 7 p.m. Orinda Academy offers fully accredited (W.A.S.C.) academic classes for high school students. Classes meet state requirements and are U.C. approved. Two



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students enjoy horseback riding at **Roughing It Day Camp**.

Summer School sessions offered: June 20-July 12 and July 14-August 5, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. with a student/teacher ratio of 9:1. Books are included in tuition. Courses may be for credit or non-credit.

Academic courses offered for high school credit include algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2, U.S. history, English composition and literature for all grades 9-12, and Spanish (all levels). Students may take two semester classes or one full-year class.

**Middle School Prep:** Reading, math, English, study skills (Grades 7 and 8).

**High School Prep:** Reading, math, English, study skills (Grade 9).

**Summer Music and Art Instruction:** Learn to sing, or how to play guitar, bass, piano or drums! Classes in drawing and cartooning are offered as well.

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

Located on the Saklan School campus in Moraga, Camp Saklan is open to the public and offers nine weekly sessions, June 13-August 12, with half-day and full-day options. We offer two age groups: **Mini Campers**

(ages 3-5) and **Explorers**, (ages 6-10). We offer a Spanish Camp for both age groups.

Every week is carefully designed to incorporate our mission to expand the heart, mind and character of every child.

**Mini Campers** enjoy a day balanced between time spent indoors and out, including time spent in our well-equipped play yard with shaded areas, a wading pool, sandbox, trikes, climbing structures, swings, and lots of room to run around. Children enjoy activities such as swimming, art projects, circle games, field trips, special guests/shows, and story time.

**Explorers** enjoy theme-based activities during the morning session, M – Th, and the afternoon session includes activities such as swimming, singing, sports, games, crafts and much more. Explorers take part in weekly field trips every Friday!

**Camp Hours:** Full-day sessions are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F. Half-day sessions are offered mornings from 8:30-12:30, or afternoons from 12:30-4:30 p.m., M-F. Extended care is available M-F, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. for an additional fee. Visit our website today to register!

**SPORTS-RELATED CAMPS**

**Orinda Parks & Recreation**  
 28 Orinda Way  
 Orinda, CA 94563  
 925-254-2445  
 www.cityoforinda.org

A variety of half and full-day camps offered for beginning to advanced levels (ages 4-15 unless otherwise stated). Call or go online for more information.

**Basketball, Capture the Flag, Flag Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Mini-Hawk Camps**

**Multi-Sport Camps** Baseball, basketball, football and soccer.

**Soccer Camps:** Challenger, August 8-12; Euro, June 27-July 1, July 18 – 22, and August 1 – 5; World Cup, June 20 – 24, July 11– 15 and July 25 – 29.

**Tennis Camps** (Ages 7-12): Week-long tennis clinics offered throughout the summer. M-Th, 10:30 a.m.-noon and 1:30 – 3 p.m. Cost \$120-\$130.

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

**Summer Rowing Camps** are one week sessions designed to provide an enjoyable but very real introduction to the great sport of rowing. The camps provide training in rowing techniques, fitness, teamwork and endurance. Within a week, participants will gain enough skill to row their first race on the Oakland Estuary! June 20-24 and July 11-15. Participants must be 12-17 years old. Advanced sessions available June 27-July 1, July 25-29 and August 1-5 to athletes who have completed the one week introductory session.

**Saint Mary's Athletic Camps**  
 Saint Mary's College

[SEE CAMPS 4 page 13]

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## CAMPS

## ◆ CAMPS 3 from page 11

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925-631-4386

Click on "summer camps" at [www.smc-gaels.com](http://www.smc-gaels.com).

This marks the 42nd year that Saint Mary's College will be offering outstanding Athletic Summer Camps to children between the ages of 6-18. Overnight and day camps include: **All Sport, Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball.** Athletes can expect to participate in daily competitions, conditioning, skill development and other activities. Resident campers wake up at 7:30 a.m., lights out at 10:30 p.m.; day campers begin 9 a.m. sharp and depart at 8 p.m. The camps run from June 12 through August 4. Cost \$150 to \$535.

This year we expect to register over 2,500 campers. We will continue to have our Traditional Camps starting on Sundays and ending Thursdays but have added several clinics and specialty camps with different schedules to better accommodate your needs. We have also changed the end time for our traditional camp to noon rather than 2:30 p.m. on Thursdays and have added early bird and extended care options.

**Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club**

1 Sunnyside Lane  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-1126

email: [shstc@comcast.net](mailto:shstc@comcast.net)

[www.sleepyhollowlegends.net](http://www.sleepyhollowlegends.net)

Sleepy Hollow Swim & Tennis Club is dedicated to providing excellent recreational opportunities in an environment that fosters legendary pride and spirit. The **Swim Team** is for kids ages 4-18; the **Mini Legends** swim program is designed for kids ages 4-6; and the **Learn to Swim** program is for kids ages 3.5 and up. Our tennis clinics, private lessons and tennis team are available to kids of all ages. Younger members also enjoy spending fun in the sun at **Legendland**, a supervised drop-off day camp.

**VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CAMPS**

Academy of Language & Music Arts (ALMA)

Dr. James Fiatarone, Director  
99 Brookwood Road  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-5056 or 925-254-5053  
[www.alma-leap.com](http://www.alma-leap.com)

This camp offers a create-your-own program featuring private lessons in music, including guitar, piano, voice, strings, wind instruments, and percussion; also, private and small group lessons in foreign languages (Italian, French, Spanish, Greek, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese and Chinese, etc.) and English as a second language. Special summer group classes include **Guitar Ensemble, Rock Guitar Combo, Band Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Theory and Musicianship** (all instruments), **Strings Ensemble, Percussion/Drum Clinic** (two



Kids get energized during **Kids on Camera's** voiceover class.

levels), and **Vocal Ensemble/ALMA Glee Club.** New classes include: "**Acting up at ALMA**" (theater, acting and presentation skills), and **Music Technology Class** (basic studio recording techniques, creating/recording songs).

**California Shakespeare Theater**  
701 Heinz Street  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
510-809-3293

[www.summershakespearecamp.org](http://www.summershakespearecamp.org)

California Shakespeare Theater's Summer Shakespeare Conservatory offers two - and five-week sessions for students age 8-18. Each program culminates with a student performance. Campers receive free tickets to the Cal Shakes Main Stage season. Scholarships available.

**Five-Week Conservatory:** The most intensive of the Conservatory offerings, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., June 20-July 23, Bentley Upper School, Lafayette. Cost \$1,350.

**Two-Week Conservatory:** Offered in Lafayette, Oakland and San Francisco. At Bentley Upper School in Lafayette from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., August 1 - 12. At Holy Names High School in Oakland from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., June 27-July 8. At St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., July 11 - 22 and July 25-August 5. Offers a condensed version of the five-week session for students new to the Summer Conservatory programs or those unable to attend the longer session. Cost \$550.

**Orinda Parks & Recreation**

28 Orinda Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-2445

[www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org)

**Art Camps** (Ages 5-7 and 7-9): Enjoy drawing, painting, and creating art projects. Weekly half-day art camps offered with different mediums and themes. Morning and afternoon programs. Call for specific camps, dates, and times.

**Cartoon and Anime Camps:** Junior Monsters and Dinosaurs (Ages 5-7 and 7-9): June 27-July 1 and July 25 - 29, half-day program. Morning and afternoon programs. Cost \$105-115.

**Dance Camps** (Ages 3-5): Dance to the magical land of faeries, unicorns, flying horses and princesses, and journey across the seven seas to find hidden treasure in our week-long dance camps. Variety of themed dance camps offered throughout the summer,

M-F, 10 a.m.-noon and 9 a.m.-noon. Cost \$146-199.

**Dance Camps** (Ages 5-8 and 8-12): Ballet, jazz, hip hop and tap. Come and have fun experiencing and learning a variety of dances. The last day of camp includes a class demonstration. June 25-29 and August 8-12, M-F, 9 a.m.-noon. Cost \$125-\$145.

**Dance Camp** (Ages 5-14): Orinda Ballet Academy. Come learn ballet from the outstanding staff of the Orinda Ballet Academy. Call for specific dates and times.

**Jewelry Making Camps** (Ages 6-12): June 13-17, June 27-30, August 8-12, and August 15-20, half-day program. Cost \$224-\$298.

**Stained Glass Mosaics Camps** (Ages 8-12): July 5-8 and August 16-20, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. Cost \$80-\$110.

**Kids on Camera TV/Film Acting School**  
415-440-4400

[www.kids-on-camera.com](http://www.kids-on-camera.com)

Lights, camera, action and fun for ages 4-13. Students build social skills, expand their creativity and improve listening and speech. Video feedback makes learning fun. 30th year. Live Improv performance on Friday from 1:30-3 p.m. Success stories include speech tournament winners; Lafayette's Krista Fettke, co-star of the Pixar film, *Play By Play*; Bridget Mendler, Star of the Disney series, *Good Luck Charlie*; John Morris, the voice of Andy in *Toy Story*; and Yasmine Morales, a model for *Brides Magazine*.

**TV Scripts, Comedy, Audition Skills and Improv** (Ages 6-8, 9-13): July 5-8, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Camps conclude with a review and live improvisation. Piedmont Veteran's Memorial Building. Enroll online at [www.ci.piedmont.ca.us](http://www.ci.piedmont.ca.us) or call 510-420-3079. Cost \$200-\$390.

**Summer Drama Camp**

P.O. Box 6145

Moraga, CA 94570

925-300-8337

[www.afterschooldramaclub.com](http://www.afterschooldramaclub.com)

Students in grades 2 through 10 will work with professional directors and choreographers for three weeks to learn singing, dancing and acting, culminating in an elaborate production of the fun musical *School House Rock, Live!* Camp to be held at Hacienda de

las Flores, 2100 Donald Ave., Moraga, from July 11-29 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. The performance takes place on July 29 at 7 p.m. Tuition includes cast T-shirt. Cost \$515.

**Youth Theater Company's Summer Theatre**

Shadelands Art Center

111 N. Wiget Lane

Walnut Creek, CA

925-943-5846

[www.YouthTheatreCompany.org](http://www.YouthTheatreCompany.org)

**Summer Theatre** (ages 5-14): Allows kids to work together to produce the fantastically fun musical *Dear Edwina, Jr.* The program runs for three weeks, June 13-July 1, and students rehearse the musical while they learn to sing, dance and act. Part of the Stepping Stone Program of the Youth Theatre Company, Summer Theatre is perfect for the budding actor. **Mini Kids** (ages 5-6) rehearse from 2:30-4 p.m., while our **Kids Theatre** and **Theatre Jr.** (ages 7-14) students rehearse from 1 p.m.-4 p.m., M-F. Performances take place on June 30 and July 1 at 4:30 and 7 p.m. Tuition includes cast T-shirt. Cost \$297 (ages 5-6) and \$472 (ages 7-14).

**Willows Theatre Company**

636 Ward Street

Martinez, CA

925-798-1300

[www.willowstheatre.org](http://www.willowstheatre.org)

**Willows Theatre Company Youth Conservatory's SummerStage** is an invigorating six-week summer intensive for teens ages 12-18 and runs from June 27-August 7. Morning classes include instruction in acting, music, singing, movement and dance followed by afternoon rehearsals. Classes will be held 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **SummerStage Jr.** (ages 8-11) is a one month program which runs June 20-July 17 and includes morning activities in dance, acting and vocal techniques followed by afternoon rehearsals for a fully staged musical production. Aftercare available for an additional fee. The high school camp will perform *Sweeney Todd* while the Junior Campers will perform *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Registration available online at [www.willowstheatre.org](http://www.willowstheatre.org) or by phone 925-798-1300. Cost \$500-\$800.

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**New Directions for Miramonte Education**

Sara Duplancic



About this time a year ago, students, teachers and parents were anxiously rallying in support of Measure A, an emergency parcel tax to remedy Sacramento's educational budget cuts. Without its passage, schools in Orinda faced the harrowing prospect of losing classes, shorter school days, and teacher layoffs. Nearly 12 months have come and gone, and Miramonte High School's vital signs are surprisingly good and deserving of new attention.

Thanks to caring community members, parents and involved students, quality education has triumphed over the budget shortfalls for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

Miramonte's Oral Interpretation/Public Speaking Program has always been a hallmark of the school's success, attracting over 150 students every year. After placing first in both the Congress and Individual Events divisions of its regional league, the Golden Gate Speech Association, Miramonte sent over 20 students to compete at the state tournament in San Diego.

The funding from EFO, coupled with the passage of Measure A, allowed the drama, choral, and instrumental department at Miramonte to feature an outstandingly talented cast in its six performances of *The Wizard of Oz* in late March.

Elective and Visual and Performing Arts classes beefed up their efforts to expand their programs, resulting in more students participating in classes and clubs like the WISE program, Link Crew, Model UN, Mock Trial, 3D Art, and Academic Decathlon.

A good indicator of better times for education is Miramonte's addition of new courses available to next year's students. This year, Miramonte Principal Adam Clark wisely added four new elective options that will be available next year.

Variety is important because many students begin discovering both their academic and nonacademic interests in high school.

Among the four new classes, students will have opportunities to grow their knowledge on law, language, computers and cooking. In the new Law and Society class, students can gain traction with conflict resolution techniques through traditional legal models of problem solving. Students will benefit from a Socratic style dialogue in class discussion.

Mandarin 4 Honors will expand the linguistic and cultural skills of students who want to broaden their reading, writing, and appreciation of Chinese culture. In addition to French, Latin, and Spanish, Mandarin offers an attractive option for many Miramonte students.

The Intro to Computer Programming course will afford Miramonte students the thrilling opportunity to acquaint themselves with Java Programming language and gaming logic. In this age of information and globalization, understanding the inner workings of computers and technology is becoming a prerequisite for many careers.

The Advanced International Cuisine course will take students on a savory tour of world cultures and cuisines. Students will also learn about food trade, climate and environmental impacts on growing food.

High school education in Orinda has withstood the challenges of the state budget cuts. Every spring school play, every art show, weekend public speaking tournament, and winter chorus concert is proof that our valuable education is firm and uneasily shaken. We are lucky to have a community that puts our education first, and gives students the skills to face challenges beyond high school doors.

**Glorietta Elementary School Students get Ducky with its Musical Presentation of *Honk! Jr.***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ron Pickett (L) and Ralph Severson with the cast of *Honk! Jr.*

By JENNIFER ROGERS  
Contributing Writer

One hundred and ten fourth and fifth grade students will bring *Honk! Jr.* to life as Glorietta Elementary School presents its 13th spring musical on April 29 and 30.

The play is a contemporary re-telling of Hans Christian Anderson's classic story, *The Ugly Duckling*. It has been transformed into a smart comedy, full of bright, original and fun musical theater. Through its wonderful humor, charm and message of tolerance, *Honk! Jr.* is an entertaining show for audiences of all ages.

Glorietta's large-scale production tells the story of Ugly, whose odd, gawky looks instantly incite prejudice from his family

and neighbors. Separated from the farm and pursued by Cat, Ugly must find his way, while his loving mother, Ida, searches for him. Along his journey, he discovers his true beauty.

"*Honk! Jr.* reminds us that being 'different' isn't necessarily bad... although it isn't always easy," says producer and Glorietta parent, Nan Reed. "Through his journey kids learn that being different is okay."

Ron Pickett, a professional award-winning actor, returns to direct his 13th show at Glorietta Elementary School. Producers of the production include parent volunteers Reed, Robyn Bowen and Pam Severson. The music director is Ralph Severson.

Performances of *Honk! Jr.* will be at the Glorietta Elementary School multipurpose [SEE HONK page 18]

**Student Film Festival on April 15**

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

The fifth annual LaMorinda Acalanes Union Film Festival (LAUFF) will be held April 15 from 7 – 9 p.m. in the Campolindo Performing Arts Center. Roughly 20 short student films will be screened.

Each film was written, directed and produced by students from Campolindo, Miramonte, Acalanes, Las Lomas, or Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. "The festival showcases the talent of our community's students as actors, screenwriters, cinematographers, and digital artists," says Campolindo High video instructor and festival coordinator Justin Seligman. "The festival gives them a forum to tell their own stories in their own voices."

Awards will be given out by judges in 10 categories including: Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, Best Special Effects, and Best in Show. The student musical group "Jazztastic Voyage" will perform.

Sponsors for this year's event are the New York Film Academy at Universal Studios, California College of the Arts: Pre-College Program, East Bay Media Center, San Francisco School of Digital Filmmaking, UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television: Arts Camp Workshop/US Performing Arts, California Independent Film Festival, Academy of Art University: Pre-College Art Experience, and the Orinda Arts Council. The sponsors have pledged thousands of dollars in tuition reductions for winners of the film festival to attend various film/video/acting summer programs.

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## SCHOOLS/STUDENTS

## Two Orinda Teens Perform Key Roles in Pulitzer Prize-Winning Drama

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

When Center Repertory's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* debuts at the Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek on April 1, it will include two young Orinda actors – Olivia Lowe (Scout) and Danny Christensen (Jem).

"I've always loved the book and feel really honored to be able to portray Scout," says Lowe. "I feel like we are friends." An 8th grader at Julian Morgan Elementary School in Berkeley, Lowe has studied with Young Rep and performed in Center Rep's production of *A Christmas Carol* as Belinda Cratchit last year.

To prepare for the pivotal role of Scout, Lowe has re-read the book several times and spent time looking through her own family's photo albums. "I'm 14 but Scout is only 9 years old, so I've looked at myself at that age and tried to remember how I reacted to things," Lowe explains.

There is certainly a lot for Scout to react to in Harper Lee's modern classic. Set in the fictional southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, the story takes place during the

Great Depression. Scout lives with her older brother Jem and their widowed father Atticus, a middle-aged lawyer. Scout and Jem, along with their friend Dill, are busy trying to pry the reclusive, mysterious Boo Radley out of his house when Atticus is appointed to defend a black man accused of raping a young white woman. Racial issues turn the quiet southern town into chaos and change the children's world forever.

"Scout is a wonderful role model for young girls, and I love working with our director Michael Butler," says Lowe. She also feels fortunate to have well-known Bay Area actor Dan Hiatt as Atticus. "He is just amazing. I have learned so much watching him," Lowe says. "How he transforms into Atticus is incredible."

Christensen agrees. This is the first production the Miramonte student has been involved with that included professional actors. "The rehearsal process is very intense," says Christensen. "I go from a full day at school to five-hour rehearsals. We also rehearse on weekends with Mondays our only day off. But I love it." Christensen finds director Michael Butler a great role model. "He is so supportive and enthu-



Danny Christensen plays Jem.



Olivia Lowe has the role of Scout.

siastic and really listens to the actors. At rehearsals, he always finds time to sit down with me and help me with my character. He's also an amazing actor himself."

Christensen and Lowe are both students in Center Rep's Young Rep program. "Last year, one of our classes was on how to audition, and we actually prepared auditions for this show," Christensen explains.

*To Kill A Mockingbird* runs April 1 – 30 at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek. For tickets, call 925-943-SHOW or go to [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org).

## Submissions Due for Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest

By FRAN MILLER  
Staff Writer

Longtime Orinda resident Poul Anderson was quiet, unassuming and modest – he was also one of the most highly regarded science fiction writers of his time and winner of some of the most coveted prizes in literature. He received the Hugo Award seven times, the Nebula Award three times, and the Grand Master Award from the Science Fiction Writers of America, for a lifetime of distinguished achievement.

Though Anderson passed away in 2001,

he continues to maintain a presence within the local literary community through the Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, sponsored for more than 20 years by the Friends of the Orinda Library. The contest is currently open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda.

Entry categories include Science Fiction, Essay/Memoir, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline for this year's contest is Friday, April 22, at noon. "We pick the winners based strictly

on their work, and we ask that the name not be on the submission, in case we know the student as a neighbor, friend, etc.," says judge Ginger Wadsworth.

This year's judges, in addition to award-winning children's book author Wadsworth, include pear farmer and published author of poems, short stories, and one novel, Sally Small, and book aficionados Janet Boretta and Marian Nielsen of Orinda Books.

"There is no minimum or maximum word count specified," says Wadsworth. "We ask for quality work, typed, double-spaced, spell-checked, with a title, and if the young author was influenced by a particular published author, please let us know the title of the piece and the author."

Entries should be submitted to the following individual school representatives: Bentley School – Susan Bogas at [sbogas@bentleyschool.net](mailto:sbogas@bentleyschool.net); Campolindo – Gwen Carrel at [gcarrel@acalanes.k12.ca.us](mailto:gcarrel@acalanes.k12.ca.us); College Prep – Andy Dean at [andy@collegeprep.org](mailto:andy@collegeprep.org); Head-Royce – Barry Barankin at [bbarankin@headroyce.org](mailto:bbarankin@headroyce.org); Holden – Kristin Lamoureux at [kristinl@holdenhigh.org](mailto:kristinl@holdenhigh.org); Miramonte – Eloise Schneider at [eschneider@acalanes.k12.ca.us](mailto:eschneider@acalanes.k12.ca.us); Orinda Academy – Katherine Saxby at [katherine@orindaacademy.org](mailto:katherine@orindaacademy.org).

Up to four winners will each be awarded prizes of \$250, underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Visit [www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org](http://www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org) to access the contest entry form.

### Wells Fargo Bank Gives \$10,000 to EFO



TRACEY MILLHAM

Orinda's Wells Fargo Bank supported its vision of social responsibility by presenting the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) with a check for \$10,000. This donation will help EFO reach its goal of \$1.5 million to supplement the education of Orinda's students. (L-R) EFO VP business and community Laura Dorman and EFO president Joan Kiekhaefer, Wells Fargo branch manager Catherine Saadeh, and Wells Fargo private banker Jamie Hupman.



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## Learning to Adjust to School, Work and the Holidays in China

By JULIE MCCORMACK  
Contributing Writer

*This is the third in a series of articles written by Julie McCormack on life in China. The Orinda mom, her husband Michael, and two children (9-year-old Conor and 8-year-old Erin) have moved to Chengdu, China for the year.*

After about two months of living in Chengdu, Conor and Erin were still miserable at school. Things had become so bad that Michael and I told them if the situation didn't improve, we'd take them

out and home school them, then return home at Christmas. We then hired a Chinese tutor to teach them 45 minutes a day at the Chengdu Waldorf School. After three days of Chinese class, there seemed to be a vast improvement.

In the midst of all the school drama, I decided to get my act in gear and look for a job. I sent out a couple of emails to English schools and immediately heard back from one of them, the Chinese-Malaysian director at New Dynamic Institute (NDI). NDI is a corporate training company, and they teach English through trainings in such subjects as communications, business etiquette, telemarketing and customer service. Their customers are all large foreign companies in Chengdu. After teaching a demo class, they hired me. Michael attended the demo class and they quickly hired him also.

I started my teaching/training job by facilitating a one-hour "English Corner" class at the Finnish IT firm, Tieto. English Corner is provided for free by NDI to their good clients. Anyone who wants to practice their English can show up and discuss a chosen topic for one hour. This day's topic was dating. I circulated, correcting English, and encouraging dialogue by asking questions. It was quite enlightening to learn that about 3/4 of the 20-somethings in the group do not want to have children!

Besides the students, most of whom I really like, one of the more entertaining things about teaching is learning the students' English names. There's Hunk (male, of course!), Azure (male), Dino (male), Monday (male) and Chefree (female—a combination of Che Guevara and freedom, because she "loves freedom").

About this time, the Chengdu youth soccer season started. We boarded a bus in a nearby neighborhood for the 1/2 hour ride to LeMan International School. The campus included a huge soccer pitch and beautiful track. The kids got their jerseys, were assigned to their age groups and began practicing. It's a bit different than soccer in Orinda in that there are not separate teams. The field is divided up into different age groups, and the kids in the different age groups practice together, then scrimmage.

Despite a lot of discussion in our family about purchasing bikes or a motorbike or some sort of motorized vehicle (not a car!), we continue to depend on taxis, buses, *san lun che* (three-wheel vehicles) and foot for transportation. In the last few weeks, I have discovered a move I call the "Chengdu left turn." As a driver in Chengdu, there's no need to let the equivalent of a No Left Turn sign deter you. All you do is continue straight across the intersection, let the on-coming traffic pass, execute a quick U-turn and then go right. Left turn completed in a roundabout way. The first time we noticed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The entrance to the McCormack/Roemer apartment in Chengdu, China.

it, we had a female taxi driver who told us she couldn't make a left turn where we needed to and asked us if it was okay to do the above-mentioned maneuver. After that, I noticed everyone doing the Chengdu left turn and few taxi drivers felt the need to inform or ask us if it was okay. Nor do police witnessing the Chengdu left turn ever pull anyone over.

One week we were treated to nearly four days of sunshine, which improved our moods significantly. Four days of sunshine in a row in Chengdu is as good as it gets. It has begun to feel like we're in somewhat of a routine. While Chengdu does not feel like home, it does feel like we are more than passing through. We know all the guards at the various exits to our complex and know and chat with the three generations at our nearby fruit stand. I often visit a knife-cut noodle shop (where the cook sits over a boiling vat of water with a large wad of dough and takes what looks like a vegetable peeler and shaves off thick noodles). Knife cut noodles have become my favorite and when I walk into this shop, they just yell to me, big bowl or small bowl?

We were very excited when Michael's 80-year old parents came to visit us for two weeks in November. They had a long lay-over in Beijing and could not communicate, but kind people helped them along the way by getting them wheelchairs, helping them on and off planes and carrying their bags. They also received the royal treatment at the hotel where they stayed. It's a testament to how well the Chinese treat their elders. Even our kids now give up their seats on the city buses for older people. There's a recording, that sounds off constantly on public buses, that says, "According to China's traditional morals, please give up your seat for elders, sick people, disabled people, pregnant women, and children."

On the second night of my in-laws visit, we took them out to our favorite local Sichuanese restaurant, *Yang Yang*. The kids took turns ordering our best-loved dishes: kung pao chicken, pork strips with green peppers, crispy fried potato strips with scallions, stir fried wild greens, beef with onions and peppers and rice. Once the food came, Conor and Erin both jumped up, moving the lazy susan only in a clockwise direction (which

is what the Chinese do, they told us). Then Conor flipped his chopsticks upside down to serve his grandfather some food. This is the polite way to serve others – not using the end that your mouth has touched, but using the other end for hygienic reasons. When each new dish came, they competed to serve their grandparents first. They continued to serve them throughout the meal, because they are both much better at using chopsticks than their grandparents!

We enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving dinner at our local hangout, the Bookworm (catered by our American friend Kim Dallas), which we shared with 60 other Americans living in Chengdu. Michael's parents were still here, and it was a wonderful and festive evening for kids and parents alike. Pumpkin cheesecake never tasted so good.

Once Thanksgiving passed, Chengdu moved slowly into the Christmas season. With the exception of the major Western hotels and some upscale shopping malls, there was not a lot of evidence of Christmas in Chengdu. I was amused, though, to see all the checkers at our local Chinese supermarket wearing Santa hats. It was somewhat refreshing from the overdone commercial nature of Christmas in the US, but I found I missed it a bit. We had a small artificial Christmas tree left by the previous tenants. We filled it with a few homemade ornaments, shells and sea glass from Vietnam, local handicraft ornaments, and some cheap ornaments from Carrefour, a French department store here. We borrowed lights from our friend Catherine. We also bought a poinsettia at a local Christmas Bazaar.

One night in early December, all four of us walked arm in arm, singing Christmas carols, as we headed to dinner at a neighborhood restaurant. We barely elicited a glance from the Chinese. I was not sure how to take this, but finally decided that we must be so strange in our normal behavior that this didn't cause any extra notice. I've told Michael that one of my favorite things about living in a foreign country, especially China, is that we are outside of society so they don't hold us to the same behavioral standards. In other words, we can do whatever we want, and they will just chalk it up to our being strange *lao wais* (old foreigners)!



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## CALENDAR

## ON THE CALENDAR

## APRIL

- 1 **First Friday Forum**, Dr. Bertram Lubin, 1:30 p.m., Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 925-283-8722.
- 3 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** auditions for 2011 summer season, 4 p.m., Orinda Community Center Amphitheater. Also April 4 at 7 p.m. Orinda Community Center Carpentry Room. Season includes: Agatha Christie's *Mousetrap*, *Send Me No Flowers* by Norman Barasch and Carroll Moore, and *The Imaginary Invalid* by Molière. Call 925-528-9225 for more information.
- 9 **Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Orinda Way in front of Community Center, continues every Saturday, 925-431-8361.  
**Moraga Orinda Fire District** open house at Station #45, 33 Orinda Way, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 13 **The Second Wednesday Book Group** will read and discuss *Tinkers* by Paul Harding, Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. New members welcome to this monthly meeting.
- 14 **Miramonte High School**, Instrumental Solo Concert, 750 Moraga Way, 7:30 p.m. Free, no reservations required.
- 15 **EFO Nights at Europa Hofbrau!** "Bring your family and join your friends as Europa will donate 20 percent of its dinner sales to EFO! Come enjoy what many consider the county's best corned beef and turkey, and help raise money for our students." Also April 16.
- 16 **Orinda In Action**, 9 a.m. – noon. Join other volunteers in beautifying Orinda, www.orindainaction.org or email orindainaction@gmail.com.  
**Orinda Books** hosts marriage and family therapist Margie Ryerson who will discuss her new book, *Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship*, 276 Village Square, 2 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 17 **Wagner Ranch Nature Area** Wildlife Festival, 1 - 4 p.m., Learn about composting, create a leaf t-shirt, launch a solar balloon and much more. www.fwrna.org.  
**Lamorinda Acalanes Union Film Festival**, 7 - 9 p.m., Campolindo Theatre.
- 20 **Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education (POISE)** salute Autism Awareness Month with a free showing of *Temple Grandin* at Orinda Intermediate School's Isola Gym, 7 to 9 p.m. For information, email tague6@comcast.net or visit www.orindapois.org.
- 22 **Tri-City Teen Dance** 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga, sponsored by the youth committee's of Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga. Tickets on sale at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. All students from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte welcome.  
**Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation**, International Film Showcase featuring Danish sociopolitical thriller *Flugten*. Runs through April 28. Go to www.lfef.org.
- 29 **Ceramic artist Gerry Wallace** will exhibit and sell her artwork at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, starting at 10 a.m.  
**Too Perfect**, premiere of local film, 7 p.m., Orinda Theatre. Also May 1 at 4 and 7 p.m., www.tooperfect.com  
**Glorietta Elementary School**, the musical *Honk! Jr.*, 4 and 7 p.m., Glorietta School Multipurpose room, Also April 30 at 3 and 7 p.m., www.orindaschools.org/glorietta.

## AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified. The library will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 24.

- 2 **Saturday Morning Live**, storytime for 3- to 5-year-olds and their caregivers, Picture Book Area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also April 9 and 16.
- 5 **Toddler Lapsit**, stories, songs and fingerplays for 1- to 3-year-olds and their caregivers, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Drop-ins welcome, but please limit attendance to once per week. Also April 6, 12, 13, 19 and 20.  
**Peek-A-Boo Time** with songs, stories, rhymes and rhythm for newborns through 1-year-olds and their caregivers, 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Also April 12 and 19.  
**Origami for Everyone**, learn how to fold boxes and animals in this Japanese paper art. Suitable for ages 7 and up, Tutoring Room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. All skill levels welcome. Also April 12, 26 and 29.
- 6 **Paws to Read**: Would your child like to practice reading with a friendly dog? Children in grades 1 through 5 can *Paws to Read* with dogs tested for sociability. Sessions are 25 minutes long, Gallery Room, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call 254-2184 or register online at <http://ntevanced.ccclib.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp>. Sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. Also April 13.
- 7 **Book Sale** hosted by Friends of the Library, Bookshop and Sorting Room, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Dress Under Difficulties: Civilian Fashion in the Civil War**, a slide show and lecture on civilian dress during the war, presented by Shelley Monson, for adults and high school students, 6:30 to 7:25 p.m.
- 9 **Weekend Paws to Read**: A 15-minute version of the weekday program (see April 6 listing for details), 2:50 to 3:05 p.m. Call 254-2184 or register online at <http://ntevanced.ccclib.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp>. Also April 23.
- 12 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** docent will discuss the theatre's current production of Anton Chekhov's *The Three Sisters*, Fireside Room, 7 p.m. Adults only.
- 18 **Tell It! Tales for Preschoolers**: A storyteller brings adapted myths and folktales to life for 3- to 5-year-olds, Tutoring Room, 11 a.m.
- 21 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss their favorite genre, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
- 26 **Free child ID cards** with photo and fingerprints, sponsored by Mass Mutual, Gallery Room, 10 to 11 a.m.  
**Minoan Crete: The Dawn of European Civilization**, a preview of the upcoming Humanities West seminar presented by George Hammond, Fireside Room, 7 to 7:55 p.m. Adults only.
- 27 **Just Say What You Think Book Club** for middle school students who share their reactions to thought-provoking books. This month students will discuss *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire, Tutoring Room, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

## 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. 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**. Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org).
- Planning Commission**. Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

## Stem Cell Research Top for First Friday Forum

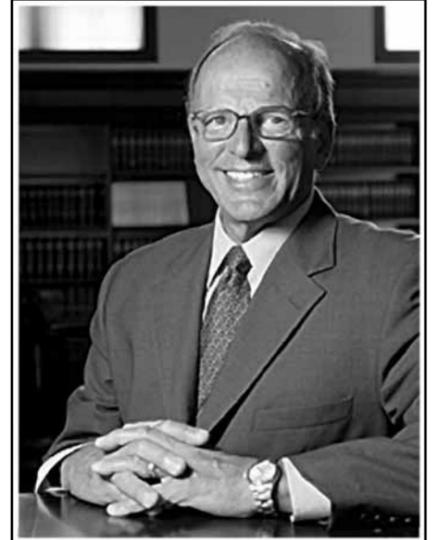
By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

**S**tem Cell Research: *The Social, Ethical, Political and Therapeutic Implications* is the topic to be presented by Dr. Bertram Lubin, president and CEO for the Children's Hospital and Research Center of Oakland, at First Friday Forum, April 1, 1:30 p.m. at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

In his talk, Dr. Lubin will review the history of stem cell research and the current therapeutic applications of this research. He also will discuss some aspects of the politics related to obtaining state funds to support this program and the relative importance of those dollars to other issues in the state.

Dr. Lubin is the first pediatrician to serve as president and chief executive officer in the 98 year history of Children's Hospital, after having served at the medical center for 36 years. When he first arrived, there was a small research program which he has developed into a \$50 million a year enterprise, Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute. (CHORI). Today, it is recognized nationally and internationally for its research in blood diseases and its outstanding care of children with malignancies, sickle cell disease, and hemophilia.

Dr. Lubin has made many contributions to medical research. He played a major role in cord blood banking and was part of a team demonstrating that cord blood transplantation can cure children who have sickle cell anemia. He helped establish the only not-for-profit Sibling Donor Cord



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Dr. Bertram Lubin** of Children's Hospital and Research Center.

Blood Program in the world.

Dr. Lubin completed medical school at the University of Pittsburgh. He served in the army in Vietnam in a provincial health program. When he returned home, he did a hematology/oncology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. His recent awards include the Bronze Bambino for lifetime service to Oakland's Children's Hospital and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Medical Alumni Association of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. with the lecture taking place in the sanctuary at 1:30 p.m. For question, call 925-283-8722 or log on to [www.lopc.org](http://www.lopc.org)—activities.

## CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 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](http://www.moragaadobe.org).
- Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 253-1997.
- Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**, every third Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Orinda City Hall Sarge Littlehale Room, and 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Supervisor Uilkema's office, 3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Call 925-687-8844, ext. 227.
- Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Every Friday, 7 a.m., Postino's, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, [www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net](http://www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net).
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., [www.montelindogarden.com](http://www.montelindogarden.com). April's speaker is Stefani Bittner, a teacher at Magic Gardens in Emeryville, who will talk on *Growing Spring and Summer Vegetables*.
- Orinda Rotary**. Every Wednesday, noon, Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 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](http://www.orindahiking.org) or call 253-2465 for schedule of upcoming hikes.
- Orinda Historical Society**. Third Wednesday, 7 to 9 p.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 254-1353.
- Orinda Job's Daughters**. First and third Monday, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 283-7176.
- Orinda Juniors** community service group. First Tuesday, September to June, 7 p.m. Contact Diane Petek and Amy Campbell at [orinda.juniors@yahoo.com](mailto:orinda.juniors@yahoo.com) for location.
- Orinda/Tabor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.
- Orinda Teen Advisory Council**. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email [orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com).
- Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

Send calendar items to Maggie Sharpe at [m.sharpe66@gmail.com](mailto:m.sharpe66@gmail.com)

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BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ BUZZ from page 20

They remain friends after the home is completed," says Annemieke Howsepian, Daniel's wife of 31 years.

dh Structures has a history of working with local architects including Peter Golze, Richard Bartlett, and Tim Ward. "I build by consensus. I enjoy helping people understand what is possible within their budget and people tend to like my ideas. It is not just about money for me but more about delivering an excellent product for the value they are getting," adds Howsepian.

Daniel and Annemieke have three children, Stephan, Julian and Favienne. All attended local schools and graduated from Miramonte High School. Stephan is an engineering consultant for Citrix in San Francisco. Julian, a U.C. Davis graduate with a degree in viticulture and enology, is currently working at Sunnyside in Lake Tahoe while he searches for a position in the wine industry. Favienne is a cinema major at San Francisco State University and spending her junior year abroad studying in Paris. Annemieke teaches jazzercise classes in Pleasant Hill. Throughout the year, the Howsepians enjoy spending free time at Lake Tahoe. Daniel is Assistant Patrol Director for the Squaw Valley Ski Resort.

In this difficult economic environment, dh Structures crews are busy. The good work and good faith demonstrated over the years comes back by word of mouth referrals to new clients. "We are grateful to the Lamorinda community for welcoming us. We are fortunate to continue to have good clients in spite of the recession," adds Daniel.

For more information about dh Structures, visit the website at [www.dhstructures.com](http://www.dhstructures.com) or give Daniel Howsepian a call at 254-3583.



SALLY HOGARTY

Kevin Wong practices chiropractic care from the feet up.

**Orinda Chiropractic Features Infrared Laser Therapy**

Husband and wife chiropractic team Kevin and Isabelle Wong are the first chiropractors in the State of California to offer fully robotic infrared therapy laser to clients. Their practice is located in the Crossroads at 89 Moraga Way. Ample parking is available both in front and behind their office.

What sets Kevin Wong apart from other chiropractors is his primary emphasis on treating feet and lower extremities. "A lot of lower back pain is in fact caused by lack of arch support in the feet. I teach over 50 hours annually to chiropractors in the United States and internationally about how to examine the body, especially the feet and lower body," explains Kevin Wong. A native of Orinda, both he and Isabelle are graduates of Palmer College of Chiropractic West in San Jose.

Wong speaks highly of the infrared therapy laser treatment, explaining infrared light is applied at a certain frequency that is therapeutic. "I calculate and set parameters on the machine before I turn it on. The infrared light increases circulation, increases lymph node drainage and releases natural pain killers – the endorphins created by the body," explains Wong. "Laser therapy treatment is a great tool. We use it on pretty much every part of the body. Not many chiropractors have this kind of technology available for their clients," he adds.

Infrared laser therapy treatment is considered an effective tool by Wong. The effectiveness is achieved over time, so about six to eight visits are required. One laser application is \$45. "I provide the first treatment for free. However, before I can administer the first treatment an examination is required and a fee is charged for the preliminary exam," says Wong. "The laser is a very safe modality. While other laser therapies create heat for the patient, the infrared therapy does not create any heat. The patient does not even know it is on. There are no side effects. Occasionally people feel some warmth under the skin because of the increased circulation it produces," he adds.

Kevin Wong has been a part of the Orinda community since he was a child. In addition to establishing his practice here, he continues to be involved by participating in Miramonte High School's annual Career Night every spring. He and his wife Isabelle have two children. Kyle is 8 years old and plays baseball. Gabrielle is a kindergartner.

For more information about Orinda Chiropractic, visit the website at [www.orindachiropractic.com](http://www.orindachiropractic.com) or give them a call at 254-4040. They have convenient hours for the working professional and are open Mondays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 7:00 a.m. to noon.

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### Christopher Casado Challenges His Clients

Orindan Christopher Casado believes in a good challenge so co-founding TSC Challenge Hikes was a natural business for him. The TSX Challenge is a 75 mile, nine day and eight night backpacking trans-Sierra hike across the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. It is not your average backpacking trip. It is designed to be a transformational experience that leads hikers to Mt. Whitney, the highest point in the lower 48 states. Each group of 12 is composed of motivated people ranging in age from 10 to 65 and Casado says he

witnesses a renewed sense of responsibility, community, self-confidence and inspiration among participants.

"I first experienced this trip when I was a freshman in high school. Our group included parents, 5th grade students and retirees. It was an interesting, dynamic group of people and an unforgettable experience," says Christopher Casado. Originally established in 1983 by professional guide Mike Murphy, Casado has joined Murphy to expand the program to include four separate trips conveniently scheduled throughout July and August. If you are looking for an unusual summer vacation experience that will be both challenging and rewarding, this is it. You need look no further.

"This is a trip for anyone who has a level



Christopher Casado leads challenging hikes.

of physical fitness to be able to hike in high altitude and cover about eight miles a day, is committed, and wants to do something different this summer. Individual hikers must weigh at least 80 pounds, in order to be able to manage the 30 to 40 pound backpack. We provide all communal items including the tents, cooking gear and food and hikers bring their personal effects such as the backpack, sleeping bag, clothing, toothpaste and toothbrush. We can provide the backpack if necessary," points out Casado.

With 28 years experience as a professional guide, Mike Murphy is a Sierra Club National Outings Leader and member of the California Geographical Society, where he served on the board of directors for 14 years. He has led Sierra Club backpacking trips for nearly 19 years.

"I see a neat transformation in young people. The first few days of the hike can be tough and sometimes there is complaining, and by the third day you can't catch up with the kids. We share stories around the campfire at the lower elevations, but by the time we get to higher elevations, we hike above the tree line and there is no firewood available for campfires," shares Casado. Responsibilities for setting up camp, cooking and cleaning up are shared by everyone. "We work together to navigate the trail each step of the way," adds Casado.

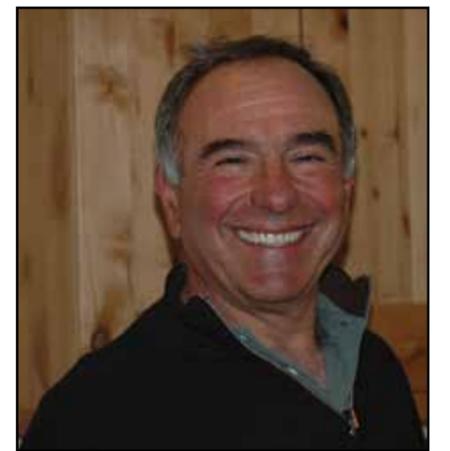
Casado has a background in investment banking. He and his wife, Un Casado, moved to Orinda in 2009 from San Fran-

cisco. The couple has two young children, two year-old Claire and Brooks, who is six months of age. Un serves as director of strategic marketing at Fluidigm, a life science tools company.

An information session about TSX Challenge hikes will be presented at Bonfire Pizzeria in Theatre Square on April 7 at 7 p.m. Registration is appreciated by emailing inspire@tsxchallenge.com You may give Chris Casado a call at 925-255-5065 or visit the website at www.tsxchallenge.com.

### dh Structures, Inc. Specializes in Custom Home Construction

Daniel Howsepian is a general building contractor with a vision ahead of his time. A general contractor since 1980, Howsepian worked on many projects in the Lake Tahoe area, including the Tahoe Beach and Ski Club. When the Tahoe Regional Planning Association (TRPA) stepped in and



Daniel Howsepian will customize your home.

stopped development, Howsepian relocated to Orinda 25 years ago. "I am an environmentalist and I did not fight the TRPA. My wife, Annemieke, is from Amsterdam. I am from New York, and we enjoy the outdoors, so we moved to Orinda and re-established the business here," says Howsepian.

dh Structures, Inc. specializes in custom home building, additions to existing homes and remodels, handling everything from Craftsman to Tudor, Modern and Mediterranean styles. "I enjoy helping people design their homes. Clients come to me and ask me to help with the details to complete their vision. These details include selecting colors, deciding on shapes, proportions and spatial relationships," explains Howsepian. He takes the extra care to introduce himself to a client's neighbors in order to maintain good relations throughout a remodeling project. "What makes Daniel so good at what he does is his personable approach. People enjoy working with him and often clients become friends during a project.

[SEE BUZZ page 19]

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