

# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
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## Local Resident Offers Compromise on Downtown Plans

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Ever since the City of Orinda's Planning Process Review Task Force (PPRTF) submitted their recommendations on revitalizing the downtown area in August of 2009, Orinda residents have let their opinions be known.

Orinda Vision, an independent group of Orinda architects, designers, financiers and project developers, used the report as a jumping off point for their conceptual vision of how Orinda could develop its downtown area over the next 20 years.



SHELLY HENDERSON

Ann O'Connell-Nye sets up her suggestions to beautify downtown at Theatre Square. She is holding local artist Allison McCrady's painting of the Orinda Theatre sign.

Other residents expressed concern over the PPRTF's recommendations and the proposed suggestions by Orinda Vision. Many concerned residents formed Save Orinda, a self-described civic watchdog organization supporting a ballot measure for citizens to vote on any changes to downtown.

In response to the wide variety of concerns, the city held public workshops in October and December of 2010 and plans to hold additional neighborhood workshops

[SEE DOWNTOWN page 6]

## 4th of July Table at Farmers' Market



SALLY HOGARTY

Jane McKahan-Jones (R) talks about the upcoming 4th of July celebration with Miramonte freshmen (L-R) Maddie Nelson, Elizabeth Berndt, and Margot Odell.

The Orinda Association will have a table at the Farmers' Market in Orinda every Saturday until July 4 to let people know about the great celebration planned. You can also pick up parade entry forms and booth forms as well as OA membership forms. Members are the backbone of this 65-year-old organization that puts on the 4th of July parade every year, coordinates the Seniors Around Town program, honors volunteers and environmentalists with a gala ceremony, provides important public forums, and publishes *The Orinda News*. This year, the OA gratefully acknowledges the \$5,000 contribution of the Orinda Community Foundation to make this year's 4th of July parade and park festivities even better. For more information on events planned for July 4, go to page 8. The OA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

## Moraga Orinda Fire District Station Upgrades

By DAVID DIERKS  
Staff Writer

The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) plans to replace Station 43,

upgrade Station 41, and move their administrative offices into a building they hope to purchase near Station 41. All required funds for these upgrades will come from the Special Reserve Fund. The total estimate for the projects is \$5.5 million.

Station 43, at 20 Via Las Cruces, is close to 70 years old, does not meet current seismic requirements, and lacks space for modern fire equipment. John Wyro, president of MOFD said "Station 43 is our highest priority. The replacement project will not begin until July, and it will take two years to complete." Preliminary estimates are that it will cost \$2.9 million. FAIR (Fire and Infrastructure Renewal) representative Steve Cohn thinks that instead of upgrading the station, the money should be spent on mov-



SALLY HOGARTY

Station 43, at the corner of Via Las Cruces and Honey Hill Road, looks more like one of the homes than a fire station.

ing the station so that response time will be better. "Our city leaders have told us

[SEE UPGRADES page 21]

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## The Orinda Association Celebrating 65 Years of Making Orinda Even Better!



The Orinda Association first began in 1946 as a way to ensure that our unincorporated town received its fair share from the county. As Orinda became a city, the OA added new activities to make this wonderful community even more vibrant. Here are a few of the many projects the OA sponsors:

- ❖ Annual Fourth of July Parade & Celebration (in partnership with the Orinda Community Foundation)
- ❖ Seniors Around Town (a transportation program for residents)
- ❖ Soccer for All (sending uniforms/equipment to underprivileged areas)
- ❖ Public forums for political candidates and issues
- ❖ The Volunteer Center – connecting people with good causes
- ❖ Publisher of *The Orinda News* (Thanks to our advertisers!)
- ❖ Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Awards

Without the support of our members, none of this would be possible. Please consider joining the Orinda Association and become part of something special! Membership envelopes have been inserted in this issue of *The Orinda News* or you can join online at [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org). Your tax deductible donation is appreciated.



ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President  
Who We Are, What We Do



Mark Roberts

Right now, the members of the board of directors of the Orinda Association and other dedicated volunteers are putting the finishing touches on the plans for one of the OA's signature events, the 28th annual Fourth of July parade and celebration. We're able to do this thanks to the support of the several hundred members of the OA. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them and to remind them – and those of you who aren't members – what the OA is, who we are, and what we do.

Sure, nearly every Orindan knows about the Fourth of July parade and the pre- and post-parade activities in the Community Center Park. But I'm not so sure that they know that the OA has been responsible for planning and presenting that event every year since its beginning in 1984, the year before Orinda incorporated as a city. In fact, the Orinda Association and its members have been serving this community since 1946.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dick Burkhalter is one of the drivers for Seniors Around Town

That's right, the OA is 65 years old this year – but, as I like to say, we're anything but retiring. While the OA was founded to serve as the *ipso facto* government of Orinda and to represent Orinda's interests to the County Board of Supervisors before incorporation, we have since transformed into the organization that encourages residents to be aware of what's going on in the community, to become involved in improving it, and to offer their time, talent and treasure to other community service organizations. "That's nice," you say. "So what else does the OA do?" Here goes...

**Publishes *The Orinda News***

For nearly all of its existence, the OA has published the *News*, mailed monthly to every residence and business address (9000-plus) in Orinda. Supported largely by revenue from our advertisers (thank YOU!), the *News* features in-depth articles about issues of importance to all Orindans, entertaining columnists and information about upcoming events. But then you know that since you're reading this column.

**Manages Seniors Around Town**

Keeping nearly 180 Orinda seniors who can no longer drive connected with their community and able to shop and go to medical appointments, 40 volunteer drivers make this program go – as does program coordinator Eartha Newsong. Chip Herman and Orinda Motors have supplemented initial funding from the city over the past several years with generous contributions that the Classic Car Show produced. Since

none of us are getting any younger, I'm sure SAT's popularity will continue to grow.

**Soccer 4 All**

For people too young to drive, this eight-year-old program connects the donors of previous year youth soccer uniforms and equipment with teams in developing countries in Central America, Africa and in the Bay Area. Dozens of Orinda teams have donated thousands of uniforms to outfit teams in need. Special thanks go to the Orinda Rotary Club for serving as "shipping agents" to personally deliver these uniforms to teams in Mexico and beyond. Other wonderful local residents have also taken boxes of the uniforms with them to remote locations across the globe.

**Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Awards Dinner**

As an organization that promotes volunteer service, the OA is pleased to recognize the efforts of outstanding volunteers at our awards dinner each January. This year, the OA acknowledged the collective efforts of members, past and present, of the Orinda Arts Council and our community's four garden clubs. All set an example of service to Orinda that we strive to emulate.

The OA also sponsors **Candidates Forums** as we did last fall prior to City Council elections. And, of course, we operate the **Volunteer Center** on the plaza level at the Orinda Library, your brick-and-mortar center for news and information about volunteer opportunities and special events. Recently, we promoted sign-ups for the Orinda Community Foundation's Orinda In Action day, and we continue to promote the Lamorinda Film & Entertainment Foundation's International Film Showcase screenings at the Orinda Theatre.

Accessible for information anytime from anywhere is the OA's website: [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org). You can get info on all of the events and programs I've mentioned and many more. **You can also start or renew your OA membership quickly and easily on-line. Remember, your membership dues are tax deductible.**

Take special pride in being an Orindan by becoming a member of the OA today! Then you can join us in saying "This is who WE are and what WE do." Thanks!

New OA Board Members



Stephen Stahle

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Alison Dew

SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda Association welcomes two new members to its board of directors. Stephen Stahle has lived in Orinda since

1983. He and his wife Margene raised their three children here – Lindsey (Foss), [SEE OA page 21]

The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit 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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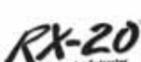
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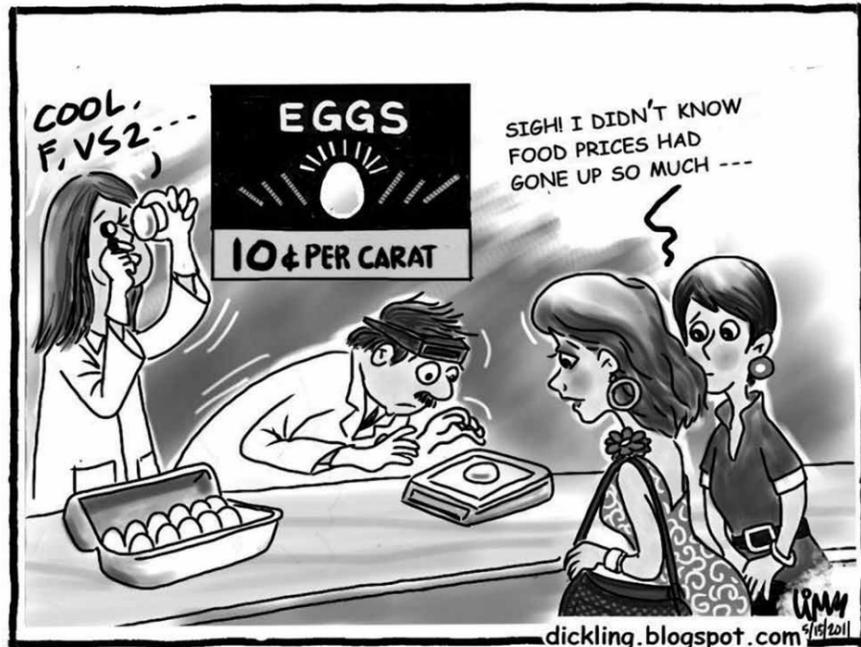



## Orinda News Staff Honored at Luncheon



PHOTOS BY DAVID DIERKS

Sally Hogarty (L), editor of *The Orinda News*, and Valerie Hotz (R), columnist for *Business Buzz*, were recently honored at the joint Chamber of Commerce and Orinda Rotary Club luncheon. The two also received recognition from Supervisor Gayle Uilkema and Assembly member Nancy Skinner. Mayor Victoria Smith spoke at the luncheon as well giving her State of the City address.



dickling.blogspot.com

### Letters to the Editor

#### Ivy Drive No Left Turn Sign

At the workshop of April 26, the chair of the Traffic Safety Advisory committee opened with a brief history of traffic along Moraga Way. The chair explained that the No Left Turn Sign at Ivy Drive was placed in 2000 to keep student traffic (and parents as well) from going through Ivy Drive. Notice, it was not said sign was placed for safety reasons, just for comfort of Ivy Drive residents.

Then, the crowd broke into several tables to discuss the problems and possible traffic solutions. At the end, all recommendations were shared at the public forum. A general theme at all tables was that the "can had been kicked down the road" and the "beneficiaries" of the traffic problem, were adjacent streets at Ivy Drive such as Whitehall, Valley View, Don Gabriel, and others. The recurring solution at all tables was the elimination of the No Left Turn Sign at Ivy Drive.

It was noticed that if Ivy Drive was open to the general public, there would be little or no need for any calming measures as requested from victimized street residents. Installation of a traffic light signal at Ivy Drive and at Valley View Drive was part of the discussion.

All those expenses and changes would not be necessary if Ivy Drive was open and allowed the free flow of traffic it was designed to bear. According to Orinda Police, such elimination would increase safety along Moraga Way.

Ivy Drive Residents that chose to pay less money to live in a busy street must find other traffic measures to keep "their" street from speeders other than placing a gate at the entrance and keeping Orinda taxpaying residents out.

— Maria Campos

#### A Note From FAIR to the MOFD Community

The 2010-11 Tri-Agency Meetings ended inconclusively on April 11. FAIR and OrindaCARES presented two different analyses regarding tax funding of MOFD, which produced two very different conclusions.

FAIR based its analysis on the concept upon which Orinda voters created MOFD: that taxes from Orinda taxpayers should be used for services in Orinda. To the extent that firefighters based in Orinda provide significant services outside Orinda, Orinda should be compensated. To the extent that Orinda residents receive significant services from outside Orinda, the taxpayers should be willing to pay for those. Using actual tax and operation records, FAIR demonstrated that Orinda taxpayers are currently paying over \$1 million annually for services they are not receiving. In fact, they are subsidizing the services used in Moraga, have been doing so for years, and the problem will become worse in the future if adjustments are not made. This was not what Orinda taxpayers voted for in 1997 when they agreed to form MOFD.

OrindaCARES based its analysis on the same concept that MOFD used at an earlier Tri-Agency meeting: That there is a service dividing line about a mile north of the Orinda-Moraga border. They claim that all service north of that line is provided by Orinda stations and all service south of the line is provided by Moraga stations. Dividing taxes along this line, with \$800,000 of Orinda property taxes going to pay for Moraga stations, they believe proves that there is no funding inequity. The flaws in their argument are (1) the line they chose was based on assumed operations and not actual operations and (2) there is no such line as a wide area on both sides of the border is served by both Orinda and Moraga based

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units. In reality, 15 percent of all Orinda equipment operations are to incidents south of the supposed "dividing line" and eight percent of all first responders to incidents south of this line come from Orinda stations. If you do use their "dividing line" to separate taxes paid but adjust for actual operations that cross the line, the analysis results in the same funding inequity that the FAIR analysis shows; over \$1 million annually paid by Orinda residents.

At the conclusion of its presentation, FAIR asked the Orinda City Council to create a Citizens Emergency Services Task Force to thoroughly investigate the funding inequity claims including the fact that MOFD can solve this with no harm to itself.

Details of this comparison of the FAIR and OrindaCARES analyses can be found on the FAIR website: [www.FairForOrinda.org](http://www.FairForOrinda.org).

— Steve Cohn

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, fax them to 254-8312, or email to [news@orindaassociation.org](mailto:news@orindaassociation.org). Letters to the Editor for the July issue are due June 5, 2011.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 or email to [jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net). The deadline for the August issue is June 20, 2011.

POLICE BLOTTER / SENIORS



**POLICE BLOTTER**

April 2011

**False Residential Alarms:** Officers responded to 136 false alarm calls throughout the city.

**Burglary – Auto:** 1 incident was reported on El Gavilan.

**Burglary – Commercial:** 1 incident was reported on Camino Sobrante.

**Burglary – Residential:** 10 incidents were reported on La Cresta Rd., Las Vegas Rd., Via Farallon, Overhill Rd., El Toyonal, Barbara Rd., Charles Hill Rd., Canon Dr., Westwood Ct. and Acacia Dr.

**Petty Theft – From Vehicle:** 5 incidents were reported on Robert Rd., Charles Hill Ln., Vista Del Moraga, El Patio and Tahos Rd.

**Stolen Vehicle:** 1 incident was reported on Los Conejos.

**Arrests**

**Burglary - Commercial:** 1 arrest was

made on Camino Sobrante.

**Driving Under the Influence – MISD < .08:** 1 arrest was made on Moraga Way/Oak Rd.

**Drugs – Sales of Marijuana:** 1 arrest was made on Acacia Dr.

**Drugs – Possession of Marijuana for Sale:** 1 arrest was made on Moraga Way.

**Drugs – Possession of Paraphernalia:** 1 arrest was made on Orinda Way.

**Drunk in Public:** 2 arrests were made on Orinda Way and Acacia Dr.

**Court Violation:** 1 arrest was made on Eastwood Dr.

**Warrant Arrest:** 1 arrest was made on Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante and St. Stephens Dr.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department

**Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon**

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

If you are 75 or older and live in Orinda, you're in luck. You are invited to attend the Three-Quarter Century Club Luncheon on June 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. "This free event begins with wine, soft drink and appetizers, followed by a gourmet chicken dinner," says John Fazel, master of ceremonies, "If you qualify and haven't registered, or know of friends who should be invited, please contact me at 925-324-2017 or email me at runmnts@prodigy.net. Invitations will be in the mail soon."

Fazel says the guest speaker is Betty Budde, a Women's Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) during World War II. "She is 90 years young and a real gangbuster," Fazel comments. "One story she tells is that the B-29 was thought to be a dangerous plane after word got around about engine fires in testing. Two WASPs were picked to market the plane from base to base. They showed the men that the four-engine bomber was safe — safe enough for a woman — to fly," Fazel continues.

This was a time when thousands of new airplanes were coming off the assembly lines needing to be delivered to military bases nationwide and overseas. However, most of America's pilots were overseas fighting the war. To deal with the backlog, the government launched an experimental program to train women pilots to fly military aircraft. It was a time when most women stayed home and tended to their families. Few people imagined women could, or should, fly. The wartime emergency, however, took precedence and from 1943 to 1944 more than 1,000 women were trained to ferry aircraft, test planes, instruct male pilots and tow targets for anti-aircraft practice. Budde will tell the audience what



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers from California Prudential Realty and the Orinda Rotary Club served at last year's luncheon.

it was like to have been among these first women pilots.

The annual luncheon will also include the crowning of the Royal Court — the oldest man and woman and the couple married the longest. The youngest attendee will also be honored. Teeb Thomas, who was the first "baby" in 2000 will be at the luncheon with his wife, Rudy.

The Three-Quarter Century Club is the brainchild of John Fazel, who got the idea from a similar luncheon in his hometown of Perry, Iowa. The club, which Fazel's mother attended, began in 1930. This year, John and his wife, Mary Lou, will be at the Iowa club's celebration.

Fazel has enlisted the help of his co-workers at California Prudential Realty, and co-members of the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club to help with the luncheon. The Orinda Community Church provides the meeting place. These three organizations have been sponsors since the first meeting in 2000.

**Helen Vurek, A Life Well Lived**

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

Helen Vurek's history as an Orindan goes back to 1939 when she, husband George, and son Jerry moved to the small community beyond the Oakland/Berkeley Hills. She lived in the same house on Vallecito Lane until her death on March 13 of 2011. She celebrated her 101st birthday on February 2.

A native Californian, as were her parents and grandparents, Helen was born in San Francisco. At Cogswell Polytechnic High School (it still exists on the peninsula), she met George. They were married in 1927 and lived in Daly City.

Jerry remembers his parents saying, "Our neighbor was a Caltrans engineer. The family rented a house in Oak Springs when he went to work on the Caldecott Tunnel. We visited them and were thrilled to get out of the fog and into warmer weather. So we bought property in Orinda." Helen lived in their home for the next 72 years.

Active in community affairs, Helen enlisted Jerry and his friends to stuff envelopes with Christmas seals when she was president of the Contra Costa Tuberculosis and Health Association. Long-time Orin-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Helen Vurek was 101 at the time of her death.

dans remember Helen's friendly presence as an employee in the post office. When she began, the post office was located in Phair's store in the Village. It was then moved to the Crossroads side until it relocated to its present site in the Orinda Village. She worked for the post office for 18 years, retiring in 1974.

Inveterate travelers, the Vureks took their first overseas trip to Japan in 1960. They journeyed the world but spent the majority of their time in Asia. Adventuresome for their day, they went to Nepal several times, climbing part way up Mt. Everest with Tenzing Norgay, the Sherpa guide [SEE VUREK page 6]

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## WHOLE FOODS/FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

## Whole Foods Finally Open



JENNIFER MARPLES

After a long construction time, the Whole Foods on Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette opened on May 18. Now local residents don't have to drive to Walnut Creek to get those special brand products.

## ◆ VUREK from page 5

who submitted with Sir Edmund Hillary. George's hobby was taking movies, which the two of them would show to school children, Senior Village residents, and other groups. They also brought along clothing and artifacts. Jerry smilingly says, "This was before the Discovery Channel so their attendees loved learning more about far away places." They were also active in the foreign student program, bringing students from International House in Berkeley to their home.

Reading was another favorite pastime. Helen participated in the Orinda Book Store reading club. Until she was in her 90s, she would walk to the meeting, which included climbing 52 stairs from the patio level of their home to Vallecito Lane. She volunteered at the Orinda Library, and she and George both volunteered at Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek for 20 years.

George died in 1995.

For the past five years, Helen has been crowned Queen at the Orinda Three-Quarter Century luncheon as the oldest attendee. Last year, they had a special celebration to commemorate her 100th birthday. Jerry says just being at the party was more important to her than being queen.

"She loved being with people and always tried to set a positive tone in her relationships with others, whatever their station in life. I remember once in San Juan Batista there were a lot of motorcycle riders, many with tattoos. She spent time visiting with them, complimenting them on their vehicles. The people standing around were quite surprised at this," Jerry says. "I think this positive attitude she perpetually presented to others is a philosophy of life we all can take from her and try to emulate."

Helen leaves her son Jerry, daughter-in-law Ruth, and grandson Matthew, all of whom live in Orinda.

## Humanity Agreement Topic for Next Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

First Friday Forum will feature J. Kirk Boyd, speaking on "2048: Humanity's Agreement to Live Together," June 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

"Considered one of the most important international social movements of the 21st century, the drafting of the International Bill of Rights embodies humanity's agreement to live together and will be enforceable in the courts of all countries," Boyd says.

The movement began with the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a set of fundamental human rights for all people. It was adopted unanimously in 1948 by all countries in the United Nations, where Eleanor Roosevelt was instrumental in getting it passed. However, because of the dynamics of the Cold War, there was not an agreement on making it enforceable. Boyd, as executive director of the 2048 Project, will discuss what the human rights are, and strategies for bringing about their adoption and enforceability.

In his book, "2048 Humanity's Agreement to Live Together," Boyd says, "Despite all the forces pitting us against one another, the truth is that humanity wants to live as a family and is working to that end. Today there are over one million nonprofits internationally working on social justice issues. The question is not whether there is enough energy and funding; it is whether we can direct our energy and money into working on something together." Getting people to do this work is his mission.

Boyd, a professor at UC Berkeley, teaches international human rights, civil rights, free speech and constitutional law. He is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara, majoring in political science, and Boalt Hall where he received his J.S.D. in 2000.

He was a partner in the firm of Boyd, Huffman, Williams and Urla, working mainly in civil rights and environmental law.

Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, with the lecture to follow at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For further information, call 925-283-8722 or go to [www.lopc.org](http://www.lopc.org).

## ◆ DOWNTOWN from page 1

in the near future. A report on the workshops and the public's response as well as the complete PPRTF's recommendation is available on the City of Orinda's website, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org).

Now, in an attempt to bring the various entities together, Orinda resident Ann O'Connell-Nye has proposed a less obtrusive alternative to begin revitalizing the downtown areas. "This is a more affordable approach for our current economic situation that uses creativity, some paint, and donated time," O'Connell-Nye explains.

The long-time resident, who worked tirelessly with other concerned citizens to save the Orinda Theatre in the 1980s, believes that Orinda's two downtown areas could be made more inviting by addressing the drab freeway underpass and section of Camino Pablo that connects the two.

"Imagine murals depicting Orinda's current unique structures, such as the library,

or historical sites like the Orinda Theatre and Community Center, turning the drab, grey concrete into a colorful panorama," suggests O'Connell-Nye. "You could have local artists depict these structures or events such as the Farmers' Market or the 4th of July celebration."

O'Connell-Nye also suggests appealing signs on the overhead bridges of the freeway and BART that direct drivers to the Crossroads/Theatre district and to the Orinda Village area and, possibly, renaming a section of Camino Pablo and creating a boulevard from Camino Encinas on the Crossroads side to the intersection of El Toyonal and Orinda Way on the Village side. "We could also improve the dividers with more trees, white lights, and even banners," she adds.

Other proposals by O'Connell-Nye include adding awnings and coordinating paint colors for downtown buildings, softening fences and parking lots with trellises, greenery and benches. She also suggests that the vacant Phair's building on the Village side would be an attractive food center similar to the one in Berkeley across from Rockridge BART.

O'Connell-Nye has already taken her proposals to the April Planning Commission and City Council meetings. "Mayor Victoria Smith was very encouraging," says O'Connell-Nye. "And I have met with local artists who are very enthusiastic about the murals." O'Connell-Nye hopes her less complicated solutions will be something all sides can agree on.

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## CAR TIME / TRAFFIC

## CAR TIME

What Is A Check Engine Light Anyway?

by JOHN VANEK



If you drive a modern vehicle, you may have experienced this annoying phenomenon before. You are driving along minding your own business when a yellow colored light pops on. It may look like a funky picture of an engine. It also may display the words "check engine" or "service engine soon."

This light is often mistaken for a maintenance light that is designed to let you know when a factory recommended service interval is due. The check engine light is a whole different story. It is supposed to be there to let you know that there is a malfunction with one of your engine management components or systems. Instead it causes panic and unrest to the person behind the wheel. Does my car need engine work? Sounds expensive. The words "check engine" is kind of misleading actually. Perhaps "malfunction" would be a better choice.

Now, let's get back to how much it is going to cost. A check engine light is like a porch light with a hundred switches. There are literally hundreds of different reasons why your check engine light may come on. Times have changed. Car parts like carburetors and points have been replaced with computer controlled parts such as oxygen sensors and idle air control valves to name a few. These parts are controlled and monitored by your engine management computer. If they go out of a specific electronic range, the computer will recognize it and turn on the check engine light.

There are other scenarios that can cause

the light to come on such as a vacuum leak, transmission problems, or even a loose gas cap. Why is this necessary? Do I really want to know if my car is failing? Well the government thought it was a good idea. This is how the OB2 (onboard diagnostic) program came to be. The government mandated manufactures to have this system on all new cars sold to help control vehicle emissions. Yes, big brother is alive and well in the automotive industry. Modern cars are designed to monitor engine control functions including tailpipe emissions and evaporative fuel leaks. If these systems are problematic, the check engine light comes on. If the check engine light comes on, the vehicle will not pass the smog test.

The "onboard diagnostic" system does actually serve to pre-warn you of future faults. Many times faulty components can be determined and replaced before they ultimately fail, which brings me to the moral of this tale. Do not ever, ever, ever, and I mean ever, ignore a check engine light! The long term affects are unknown and usually not good to your pocket book. Even the small engine control components will affect the exhaust gasses that come through your exhaust system. Your catalytic converter is very sensitive to the gases that come through the tailpipe and engine misfires.

Long term neglect is a silent killer that can cause problems down the road. All the different scenarios are too complex to explain in a few paragraphs. The point is

[SEE CARS page 21]

## TSAC Workshop Discusses Moraga Way Traffic

By DAVID DIERKS  
Staff Writer

On April 26, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) of the City of Orinda held a community workshop on Moraga Way traffic. Representatives from Miramonte High School and the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) were in attendance, as well as city engineer Janice Carey, consulting traffic engineer Rob Rees, Chief of Police Jeffrey Jennings, police officer Kevin Mooney and 45 citizens of Orinda. The goal of the workshop was to poll the concerned citizens on what they think would fix the growing congestion problems on Moraga Way. The results of the forum will be taken to the Orinda City Council.

The workshop was lead by Steve Schnier, the chair of the TSAC. Schnier talked about the four studies performed over the last 20 years that have analyzed traffic issues connected with Moraga Way and ended by introducing the representatives from the school districts. "The schools may be the most important attributes of the community, so almost everyone at one point in their lives wants to get from wherever they are to the schools, which has implications for roads, sidewalks, residents, walkers and runners," added Schneir. Jennings said "This is a great opportunity for everyone to come together collaboratively to come up with ideas to fix this problem."

Associate superintendent Christopher Learned represented the Acalanes Union High School District and Miramonte principal Adam Clark, while Pat Rudebusch, Tyson Krumholz and Jerry Bucci represented the OUSD. A question that citizens

asked the school representatives repeatedly was "Can you change the bell schedules?" Learned replied, "Changing the bells at Miramonte causes problems for all four high schools because we have teachers who work at more than one school."

The attendees broke up into small groups to discuss alternatives. "If a lot of the ideas are the same and repeated over and over again, we get the ideas that are important," said John Eddy of the TSAC. Ideas included: school start times, traffic calming

*"Changing the bells at Miramonte causes problems for all four high schools, because we have teachers who work at more than one school," said associate superintendent Christopher Learned.*

on Whitehall, advisability of Ivy Drive/Southwaite Court U-Turn signs, more sidewalks, and slowing traffic by installing speed cushions, using speed detectors, and installing traffic lights.

The TSAC reviewed their findings at their meeting on May 16 and sent their report on to the City Council. The council plans to review the report in June. The exact date was not available at press time. For more information about previous traffic studies or to find out when the City Council will hear the report, go to [www.orinda.org](http://www.orinda.org). You can also share comments with Janice Carey, City Engineer, at [jcarey@cityoforinda.org](mailto:jcarey@cityoforinda.org) or 253-4260.

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AROUND TOWN

### Rescue One Looking for Board Member

The Board of Directors of Rescue One Foundation is seeking applicants to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of founding board member Jerry Meyer.

The Rescue One Foundation functions as the support group for the paramedic program of the Moraga/Orinda Fire District. Since Rescue One Foundation was established over 30 years ago, approximately \$340,000 has been received in donations from the community to purchase emergency medical equipment and training materials for the District's paramedic program. The Foundation has been providing this valuable help through gifts of appreciation, memorials and annual donations.

Letters of interest were due May 31, 2011. To see if applicants are still being accepted, call 376-4639 or 254-6756

### Garden Club Members Travel to Washington, D.C.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joyce Nelson and Judy Shallat of the Orinda Garden Club.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

Joyce Nelson and Judy Shallat, delegates from the Orinda Garden Club, recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Affairs Legislation (NAL) Conference. A member of the Garden Club of America, the Orinda Garden Club sends representatives once a year who join with members from across the country to

discuss environmental concerns with their representatives in Congress.

Although many Congressional representatives were preoccupied with budget issues, the group was able to make their concerns about the environment known. Issues discussed included ensuring clean air and water. "For instance, 40 percent of our electricity comes from coal," says Shallat. "It is our most domestically abundant energy source, but it contains arsenic, lead, cadmium, mercury and selenium that can cause cancer and damage the nervous system and organs, especially in children." While in Washington, Shallat and Nelson learned about the loss of productivity and short and long term effects of air pollution as well as genetically modified organisms in processed foods. "The quality of the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe really matters for us and the animals and plants around us. Some of those plants can help cure us of various illnesses and it's important we keep them healthy," says Shallat.

Shallat and Nelson urge Orindans to remind their representatives in Congress that environmental protection is a necessity, not a luxury. "We all can make a difference. In this age of email, it is so much easier to get in touch with our elected officials," Shallat adds.

### 4th of July Includes Even More Activities for Kids This year

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

The Orinda Association, in partnership with the Orinda Community Foundation, will once again offer a plethora of fun activities for children of all ages.

According to park activities coordinator April Meagher, many favorites will be returning with lots of new events added. "Jerome the Juggler will perform before and after the parade as well as riding his unicycle and juggling in the parade," says Meagher. Also returning is Twistyman, who can turn a balloon into just about anything, and the popular Petting Zoo. "We will also have face painting again, but this year the Orinda Juniors new Juniorettes will be creating the artwork," she adds.



SALLY HOGARTY

Twistyman returns to create his balloon wonders.

Other activities from last year include Miramonte High School's football toss, the arts and crafts booth, and Orinda Motors' Hot Wheels competition. Cinderella will also be on hand to say hi to youngsters and have her picture taken with admirers.

New this year is a special Laser Tag game that will take place in the tennis courts. "We're really excited about this activity run by Games To You," Meagher says. "It will be divided up by age so that young children don't have to compete with the older kids."

For more information on all the fun 4th of July activities and a complete schedule of events, go to the Orinda Association's website at [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) and click on 4th of July.



SALLY HOGARTY

This young lady enjoyed last year's petting zoo - a favorite at the 4th of July celebration in the park.

### Motorama Returns to Celebrate Father's Day

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary club once again offers a perfect Father's Day for those interested in anything with wheels.

Motorama takes place on Father's Day, June 19, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Lafayette's Clock Tower and Postino parking lots on Mt. Diablo Blvd.

The annual event showcases unique and unusual vehicles including classic and modern cars as well as motorcycles. Live entertainment takes place on the main stage from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. In addition to the various vendors dealing with everything you could possibly want for your vehicle, there will be a cigar bar, massage tent, and lounge to pamper the dad in your life. A breakfast and lunch buffet will be provided by Postino. There will also be wine tasting, and a Scotch and whiskey bar.

The Motorama dinner gala takes place on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the classic cars from last year's Motorama.

June 18 at 6 p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial building in Lafayette. The evening includes dinner, dancing and a live auction with proceeds benefiting the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's community service programs.

For more information, go to [www.motorama.us](http://www.motorama.us).

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## SUMMER MUSIC

## Theatre Square Offers Summer Music Series

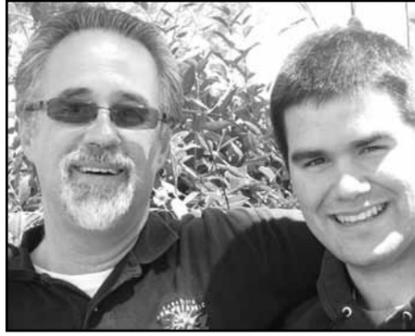
The "747 Express" featuring Ed McClary and Michael Hatfield began this summer's season of sizzling music at Theatre Square on May 5. The group returns September 1.

Local music icon Bob Athayde and Friends will play a variety of hot jazz and cool blues on June 2, July 7 and August 4. "Each concert includes different musicians," Athayde explains. "We'll go from swing to Latin to contemporary and even some easy listening."

The June concert features Bob and his son Kyle, who recently graduated from the prestigious Juilliard School of Music. Kyle will play vibraphone and trumpet. "Kyle is really the draw," says the proud pop. "He's played with people like Wynton Marsalis, Steve Turre, Akira Tana, Chick Corea, and many more." A vocalist will also be in the line-up.

The July concert combines local jazz and pop musicians bringing together great vocals and instrumentals with Bob on keyboards.

For the August concert, Bob will pull



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Bob and Kyle Athayde** bring their considerable musical talents to the summer music series.

from the guest artists he uses in his acclaimed Summer Music Workshop, which runs July 31 - August 5. "Kyle, Sullivan Fortner (pianist with trumpeter Roy Hargrove), Kassa Overall (drummer with pianist Geri Allen), and Phil Kuehn (bassist with pianist/singer Harry Connick, Jr.) are among those performing.

The free concerts are from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Courtyard Plaza. For more information on the series, go to [www.orindatheatresquare.com](http://www.orindatheatresquare.com).

## Upcoming WomenSing Concert

led by artistic director Martin Benvenuto, the accomplished local singers of WomenSing will present two performances of their spring concert. Entitled "Stepping Westward," the concerts take place June 5 at 4 p.m. at the First congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley and June 8 at 8 p.m. at Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Featured composer Libby Larsen's "Stepping Westward" is at the heart of the concert. Celebrating the resourcefulness and strength of women, the piece includes oboe, hand bells, and marimba along with the beautiful voices of the chorus. Music that draws from America's folk history will also be included.

The Acalanes High School *Bella Voce* and Miramonte High School Women's Ensemble will join WomenSing as they premiere the youth inspiring pieces "A Precious Pearl" by Lauren McLaren and "Moon Songs" by Nick Norton. Pre-concert talks with the composers take place one-half hour prior to each concert. For tickets, call 925-974-9169 or go online to [www.womensing.org](http://www.womensing.org).

## Summer Music at the Orinda Library

An international theme paves the way for this summer's music at the library. On June 22, Celtic Sands brings its poetic music and sense of fun as they play music from the British Isles from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

On July 27, Al'Azifoon performs Middle



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Celtic Sands** performs June 22.

Eastern classics from 6:45 - 7:45 p.m. and on August 31, Yolo Mambo brings its acoustic Latin jazz to the library from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

For more information, go to [www.ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html](http://www.ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html).

— Musical listings compiled by  
Sally Hogarty.

## Masterworks Chorus Seeks Singers

The Pacific Masterworks Chorus is looking for singers interested in being a part of this Pleasanton-based choral group. Led by artistic director Dr. Greg Lyne, the chorus performs a wide variety of repertoire from *a cappella* to accompanied compositions and from barbershop to classical. Dr. Lyne is internationally recognized as a musical director, having conducted over 300 festivals and all-state choirs throughout the United States and Europe. He is listed in the International "Who's Who in Classical Music" and has authored numerous articles.

The group presented works by Schumann, Poulenc, Kenji Bunch, and others at a May 21 concert and plans a tribute to American choral music on June 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. To learn more about the chorus or to attend the June concert, go to [www.pacificmasterworkschorus.org](http://www.pacificmasterworkschorus.org).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
**Nathan Craver** of Al'Azifoon.



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FUNDRAISERS

# Helping Relieve Poverty One Bead at a Time

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

The Women Helping Women group at Orinda Community Church will hold a beaded jewelry sale to benefit Ugandan women on June 26, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the church, 10 Irwin Way, in Orinda.

The event is organized through Bead for Life (BFL), a socially responsible global organization working with women who live in extreme poverty. Although these women have experienced many sorrows and difficulties, they remain strong, resilient, and hopeful for a better life. "Bead for Life's philosophy is that people want jobs rather than handouts. We focus on ways for people to leave poverty behind

forever," says BFL Co-Director Devin Hibbard. "The beaders are incredibly hard working, and every dollar they make goes into critical things, like sending children to school, paying for health care, and saving to build a home."

Based in North America and Uganda, BFL has partnered with industrious women who make vivid beaded jewelry out of recycled paper. The 300 members of BFL support almost 5,000 others to climb out of poverty.

*"We focus on ways for people to leave poverty behind forever," says Devin Hibbard.*

The beaders' work has been sold at thousands of home parties, businesses, and community-sponsored events around the world. All net profits from BFL sales are invested in projects that fight extreme poverty, primarily in four key areas: health, affordable housing, vocational training for impoverished youth, and entrepreneurial development through micro credit for small businesses.

For more information on the fundraiser at the Orinda Community Church, call Eartha Newsong at 925-258-9855. For information about Bead for Life, go to [www.beadforlife.org](http://www.beadforlife.org).



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ugandan women learn skills to help them economically thanks to Bead for Life, a socially responsible global organization working with women in extreme poverty.

# Tennis Tournament Also Helps Fight Cancer

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

"Play for the Cure" is the call the Ace It! tennis tournament makes to all players. Benefiting the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland, a day of tennis instruction, round robin play, plus a gourmet lunch will take place Saturday, June 25, at the Orindawoods Tennis Club, 650 Orindawoods Drive, Orinda.

"It's a fun time for all levels of tennis players, men and women," says committee member, Lysbeth McNeill. "During

[SEE ACE page 21]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Players from last year's event wait for a clinic.

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# Artists Helping Japan Relief



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kimiko Kogure (L) and Makiko Vazifdar (R) help Norm Nicolson with one of his paintings that he will donate to the benefit. More than 100 donated works by local artists will be auctioned off at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, on June 11 from noon to 3 p.m. Money raised will go to the Red Cross in Japan to help victims of the earthquake and tsunami.

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## LIBRARY GALLERY

## Traditional Watercolor Pushed to the Edge

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

The Orinda Library Gallery's June exhibit, June 1-30, displays the works of the prestigious California Watercolor Association (CWA). This 500+ member nonprofit group, founded in 1967, is the largest regional water media organization in California. Over 100 works of 60 members will illuminate the gallery with vibrant watercolors of every description imaginable. An artists' reception will be held on Saturday, June 4, 3:30 - 5 p.m. where light refreshments will be served.

Lynda Moore, director of California exhibits hopes that viewers will, "Notice that times change, and here's a fresh look at watercolor and how it's used today. Emerging artists are using watercolors traditionally, then pushing that to the edge." Moore notes that the only change in the group over time has been the acceptance of yupo, a new type of watercolor paper. She hopes that people walk away from the exhibit feeling, "refreshed, filled with a sense of beauty" and that the community gets to see how artists portray their view of the same community through the ubiquitous art of watercolors.

CWA holds approximately 10 yearly shows for its members, including the California State Capitol show and a National Annual Exhibition, which is open to all water media artists in the United States and Canada. All shows are juried by nationally known artists and attract a large viewing public. Because of the many juried shows each year, there are any number of opportunities for members' works to be accepted and shown. The CWA national annual open show awards three medals with over \$10,000 in cash and merchandise.

CWA holds a general meeting the third Wednesday of every month (except June and December), which is free for members and guests at 7:30 p.m., Shadelands Art Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane in Walnut Creek. The program includes demonstrations by guest artists, who are often prominent nationally or internationally known instructors. Literature and handouts are available, as well as an extensive video library which members may borrow for use. See [www.californiawatercolor.org](http://www.californiawatercolor.org) for more information or to join.

Dedicated to the artistic growth of artists of all ages, especially school-aged youngsters, CWA donated 15 percent of members' sales to fund outreach programs for community schools. Yearly scholarship funds are provided to students for further art study. Merchandise awards, cash, or gift certificates are given to deserving students, or to community art projects as well.

Each year, the busy members of CWA participate in community art festivals, act as jurors for school art shows, and teach and demonstrate the art of watercolor painting in student art education. Annual achievement cash awards for students are presented at the Sacramento State Fair, Alameda County Fair, and Contra Costa County Fair. The group also sponsors an art exhibition for a high school district that includes cash awards. In addition, CWA grants extend the outreach program to include art materials for community art classrooms. At the end of the school year, an all-day workshop designed for art teachers is offered.

Over 100 CWA volunteers keep the group humming with community outreach efforts, member benefits, workshop leadership, exhibitions, hosting overseas travel painting trips, *plein air* Paint Outs and more. Members routinely win national

awards and have been published in noted books and magazines. All this adds up to one of the leading art associations in the country, and they've been doing this since 1967.

To see members latest works, visit the Orinda Library Gallery during normal library hours – Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 254-2814 for more information.



CHRISTINE DOUGHERTY

Christine Dougherty's "Skyscape" is a large watercolor done on paper, adding a nice texture to the piece.

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## Miramonte Graduate Uses Biofuel Grant to Help Villages in Kenya

By DAVID DIERKS  
Staff Writer

Megan Isaacs, a Miramonte graduate now attending the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, received a grant of \$10,000 from Projects for Peace. She plans to use this money to provide sustainable biofuel options for the Kasigau villages in Kenya, replacing the villagers' dependence on charcoal with biofuel briquettes made from agricultural and commercial waste.

According to Isaacs, "Kenya has always been an important part of my life, and more recently, the Kasigau villages have had an increasing influence on my family and on me. This relationship was the stimulus for our creation of the A Better Education Club (ABE), which focuses on community and educational projects throughout the Kasigau region." Founded in 2004, the ABE Club of Miramonte High School works to

improve the lives of students and villagers in the Mt. Kasigau area of Kenya by helping local leaders of the Kasigau villages focus on educational projects and community improvement. Along with working to enhance the quality of life for Kasigau villagers, ABE Club strives to encourage and offer help to villagers to live in a sustainable and environmentally conscious manner.

The villages are made up primarily of subsistence farmers living in the arid environment. "Their reliance on such difficult environmental circumstances creates desperate situations for many villagers. People must find alternative solutions to feed their families. One of the most common solutions which villagers have learned to depend on is the production, use and sale of charcoal," noted Isaacs. The production of charcoal has caused numerous environmental issues in the area including deforestation and the loss of wildlife habitat,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Megan Isaacs works with children at the Kasigau villages in Kenya.

in addition to contributing to global CO2 emissions. "The Kasigau villages directly border Tsavo East National Park and villagers often trespass into the park and cut down trees that are then burned to create charcoal," added Isaacs.

While at college, Isaacs heard about the Projects for Peace grants. It works as a competition where students submit proposals to their schools, and each school is allowed to nominate one proposal for a

[SEE ISAACS page 16]

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## Miramonte Senior Places Third in National Speech Competition

By JAMES CARROLL  
Contributing Writer

Anastasia Kaiser, a high school senior from Orinda, capped a busy weekend of competition in Indianapolis by earning a \$14,000 college scholarship and third place in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest."

Kaiser started the weekend as one of 53 state or territorial champions in the 74th annual speech competition and placed third after three rounds of intense competition.

In her speech, titled "From a Crisis, a Constitution," Kaiser reminded listeners that the Constitution was written during a time of great strife, and its guarantees came as a result of other times of great trial.

[SEE SPEECH page 15]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anastasia Kaiser won a \$14,000 scholarship for her oratory abilities.



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RESIDENTS HELPING OTHERS

## Local Artist Featured at de Young

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

When Robert Melton, Community Outreach Coordinator for Student Showcase Programs at the de Young Museum, contacted Arianna Barels of Orinda, it was “mind blowing,” says Barels. “I never thought my art would be shown at the de Young!” On April 22, student work from California colleges, universities and art schools, chosen by the de Young’s New Generations student and faculty advisory board was exhibited. The event included live music, dancing and a DJ, art, pop-up history lectures, community art making, videos, films and more art in the free zone at the museum in Golden Gate Park.

In shaping the focus of the exhibit, de Young personnel posed the following question to student artists: Our communities are responding in different ways to the social

issues of our times such as the recession, human rights, and climate change. The challenges ahead are dynamic and often troubling, yet we will continue to find solutions through activism and art. Where are we now, and where are we going?

Barels decided to concentrate on the horrific problems Japan has recently faced. Her work, “The Rising Sun Will Rise Again,” is a 20 x 24” watercolor on paper, using black, white and red pigments. “The earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11 killed over 23,000 people. My piece is a response to this natural disaster but also a call for help. I wish it to remind anyone who sees it to become actively involved with their prayers, efforts or financial resources to serve those in need,” says Barels.

Having survived two natural disasters (fires) herself in Santa Barbara, she remembers how traumatized she was; but when support rushed in from other parts



ARIANNA BARELS

Arianna Barels "The Rising Sun Will Rise Again" depicts the resilience of the Japanese people following the earthquake and tsunami.

of California and the rest of the country, “it was a welcome flood to our parched souls.” She believes that our current call of the times is to become better citizens of the world and to assist those who have been devastated by natural disasters with whatever means we can.

Melton asked if her piece could be used for the poster publicizing a Special Relief Benefit for Tsunami Victims at the 111 Minna Gallery in San Francisco on May 6th. The benefit was hosted by the de Young’s New Generations student and faculty advisory board and organized by Melton. Barels learned a lot from working with Melton and Rebecca Crump, specifically learning what it takes to display work in a museum/gallery. The payoff for adhering to all the rules and regulations was that her artwork got out into the world where it could “speak for itself.”

This young artist is drawn to monochromatic work because she feels that in this day [SEE BARELS page 20]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Arianna Barels, who attended Miramonte High School, recently graduated from Westmont college in Santa Barbara.

## Shelby’s Owner Joins Cross Country Ride to Help Those With AIDS/HIV

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Editor

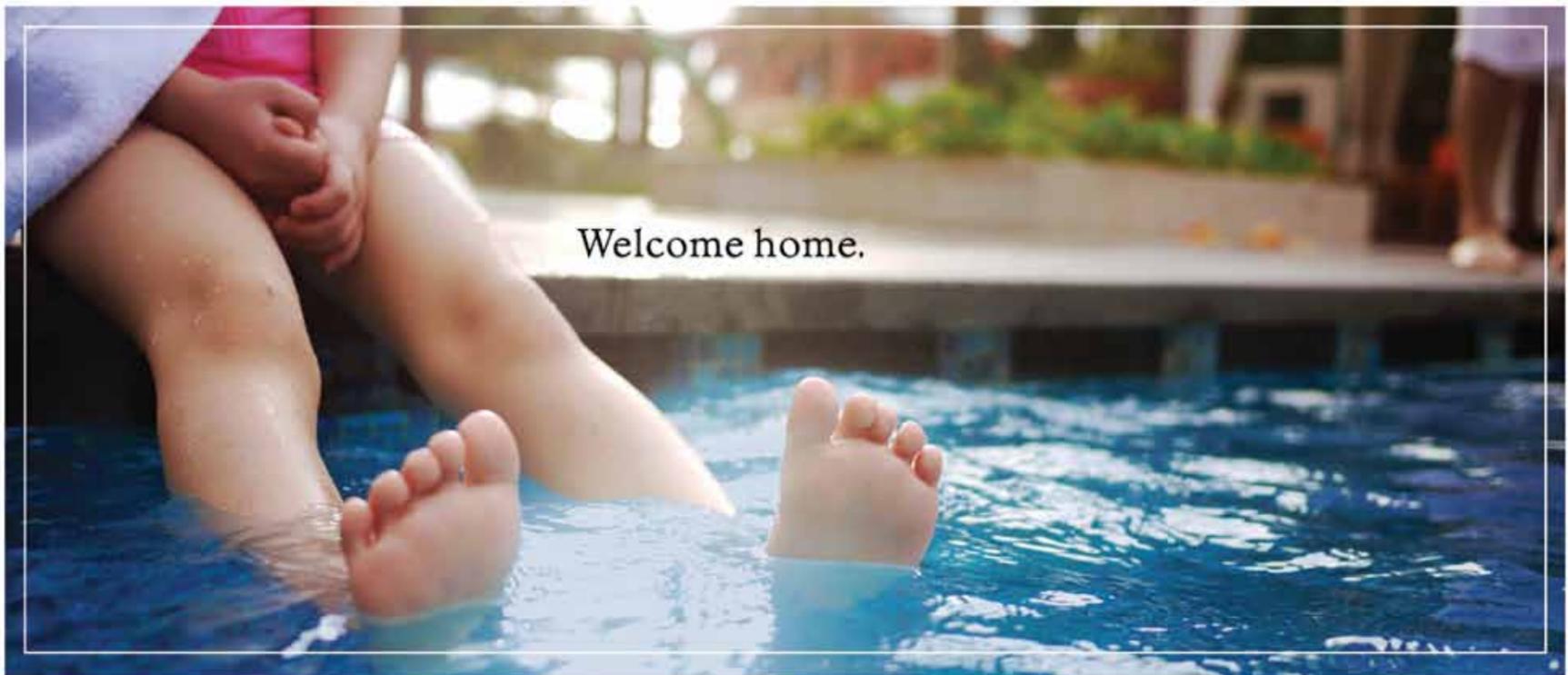
A random discussion with customers three years ago sent Carlos Rangel on quite a journey – 545 miles via bicycle to be exact.

The co-owner of Shelby’s Restaurant in Theatre Square had noticed the same group of approximately 30 cyclists stopping by his restaurant every Sunday during certain months. Rangel began talking to the group and found out they were in training for the annual AIDS Lifecycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Intrigued, Rangel, who didn’t even own a bicycle at [SEE SHELBY’S page 20]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carlos Rangel on last year’s AIDS ride.



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## Miramonte Cycling Club Gets Win

By STEVEN JOHNSON  
Contributing Writer

On May 1, Miramonte sophomore Erik Johnson became the first racer to wear a Miramonte jersey to a first place finish in a NorCal league race. A member of the Miramonte Cycling Club, Johnson won at Boggs Mountain State Forest – the fifth and final league race of the season.

Johnson managed to come out on top of

Ortega, finished a very respectable 13th and 14th in their categories.

Miramonte Cycling Club finished the 2011 season overall with a team ranking 10th out of 28 Division #2 high school teams. Founded in 2001, the Berkeley-based NorCal High School Cycling League represents over 38 clubs throughout Northern California, with more than 500 high school riders.

The Miramonte Cycling Club concluded



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Erik Johnson** (center) brought **Miramonte Cycling Club** a first place finish. (L-R) **Will Harper** from Trojans Composite Team, **Joshus Krisman** from Santa Cruz Junior Cycling, **Alex Chamberlin** from Monte Vista High, and **Peter Patrakis** from Marin Catholic.

a strong field of 38 sophomore racers in a challenging 18-mile twisty alpine course that saw several crashes and many mechanical breakdowns.

Fellow teammate Adam Ocamb, a Miramonte Junior, racing the 24 mile varsity course, finished in 18th place in a tough field of 35 of Northern California's top high school male racers. A disappointed teammate Francisco Ortega, racing junior varsity, was forced to withdraw from his race with a flat tire.

Female teammates, sophomore Victoria Ortega and her sister, freshman Sophia

its competition season on May 15th at the California State Championships in Los Olivos, California, where the top NorCal riders competed against the best riders from their sister SoCal High School League. Top finishers from the State Champs will qualify to race in the National Championships in Sun Valley, ID, July 14-17.

For more information contact, Miramonte Cycling Club ([communications@miramontecyclingclub.org](mailto:communications@miramontecyclingclub.org)) or the NorCal High School Cycling League ([www.norcalmtb.org](http://www.norcalmtb.org)).

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## June Events at Local Schools

By MINA JAMESON  
Eighth Grade Intern

This June comes with many exciting events throughout local Orinda schools.

On June 1, Del Rey features a Talent Show at 7 p.m. for parents and friends. A second performance takes place for students on June 2 at 9 a.m.

Also on June 2, Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) will host an Open House. The all day event is an opportunity for students to show their parents what they've been doing all year.

On June 3 and 4, Wagner Ranch will be performing their annual spring musical,

*Fiddler on the Roof*. This heartwarming production is a junior adaptation of the original 1964 Broadway musical and is performed by the 4th and 5th graders, who have been practicing for four long months. Directed by Ron Pickett and produced by Susie Parr and Lynn Molloy, the show takes place at 4 and 7 p.m. on June 3 and at 3 and 7 p.m. on June 4. Everyone is welcome, and tickets are available online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com) or through the school website at [www.orindaschools.org/wagerranch](http://www.orindaschools.org/wagerranch). Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

Del Rey's popular event "Singing Sox" returns on June 6 and 7 at 9 a.m. For information, see the story on p. 16. Graduation dates are also on p. 16.

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SCOUTS / STUDENTS

2011 Orinda Moraga Girl Scout International Faire



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadette Troop 30446 included (L-R) **Nicole Perrin, Hannah Witbeck, Emily Friese, Marie-Claire Schillinger, Sara Rockwood, and Fatima Hasanain.**

By **MARIE-CLAIRE SCHILLINGER** and **SARAH ROCKWOOD**  
Girl Scout Cadettes

Young excited Daisies, cheerful Brownies, mature Juniors, and supportive parents all had a great time at the annual Girl Scout International Faire this year. On March 13, 2011, Cadette Troop 30446 hosted the annual Girl Scout International Faire for the Orinda Moraga Service Unit. The International Faire is an event where many local Girl Scouts choose countries and, on their own, learn about them with their troop. Then, on the day of the International Faire, they gather to represent their country and teach others about the culture. To represent their country, each troop

hosts a booth about the country they chose. At these booths, the troops can decide to have games, activities, food and more to share with others. Not every troop had to host a booth, and many just attend to see other booths.

A little Daisy girl who loved Ireland and could do an Irish jig, and many other children who were interested in certain countries, had a great time. The room was filled with cheerful squeals of young children. This year, Troop 30446 added a fashion show to the agenda. Each member of the troop, and a few volunteers, wore Girl Scout uniforms from many different countries and described them to the audience. Many Girl Scouts enjoyed this small but colorful addition to the usual event.

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Winter Ball Debutantes Gather for Annual Tea



JAMES BIRAN FIDELIBUS

Orinda residents (first row L-R) **Katrina Kovalik, Emma Smith, Kelly Tucker, and Madeleine Neuburger** (back row L-R) **Morgan Thompson, Alyssa Wendt, Faith Engstrom, Lara Gruye, and Lucy O'Melveny** were among the 30 senior girls from the East Bay gathered for the first time together at the annual tea, hosted by members of Hill Branch of Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland. Not pictured are Orinda debs **Katherine Gibbs** and **Alexandra Seclow**.

The debutantes will make their debut at the Winter Ball in December. Since 1958, the Winter Ball has been sponsored by members of Hill Branch of Children's Hospital Oakland.

◆ **SPEECH** from page 12

“Our great Constitution guarantees equality under the law, yet it took the courage of suffragists to make these words a reality for women with the 19th Amendment. It took the actions of civil rights protestors who marched for freedom to make these words a reality for African Americans. The Constitution has weathered the storms of civil war, economic crises and terrorism. It is the task of each individual to preserve, protect and defend its heritage.”

She concluded by saying that Americans

have an obligation to continue the Constitution's guarantees.

“No matter which act of our country's history we find ourselves in today, so long as we adhere to the calling of the first three words of the Constitution, ‘We the people,’ we, ordinary men and women, to vote and fight and work for a more perfect union. And if our rights are ever lost, it will not be because the Constitution has failed America but because Americans have failed the precious heritage given to them by the men who argued and sweltered and worried during the long hot summer months of 1787.”

SCHOOLS/STUDENTS

◆ ISAACS from page 12

Project for Peace grant. "I thought it would be an appropriate project to focus on and get funding for. Biofuel is an idea that ABE Club has been thinking about for a while, and I knew that we didn't have enough funding," said Isaacs. Isaacs sent in her two page proposal and was thrilled when she won. "It was awesome!"

Isaacs plans to use the grant money to install Legacy Foundation fuel briquette kits in two of the villages – Rukanga, the largest village, and Makwasinyi, the most isolated village. Isaacs said "The briquette raw materials are derived from widely available agricultural and commercial waste such as scrap paper, corn husks, leaves, weeds, wood chips, cardboard, and sawdust." The first step is to set up

the presses and teach the villagers how to create the briquettes. She hopes to be able to market the briquettes in the villages at a price point less than charcoal, which will be an incentive for the villagers to move away from charcoal production. "The briquette's circulation throughout the villages will cut back on production related CO2 emissions and help promote the importance of a clean environment," adds Isaacs. "It would be cool if we could figure out a way to make little presses that could go in each household. To develop smaller, less heavily involved presses."

Projects for Peace is an organization which encourages students to design their own grass roots projects which promote peace and address the root causes of conflict among parties. Projects for Peace was started in 2007 by Kathryn W. Davis on her 100th birthday. "I want to use my 100th birthday to help young people launch some immediate initiatives that will bring new thinking to the prospects of peace in the world," said Davis. Since 2007, Projects for Peace has donated \$1 million dollars in grant money each year. For more information, visit [www.davisprojectsforpeace.org](http://www.davisprojectsforpeace.org).

Fiddler on the Roof at Wagner Ranch



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lights, camera, action! **Wagner Ranch Elementary School** proudly presents its Annual spring musical, *Fiddler on the Roof Jr.*, on Friday, June 3, and Saturday, June 4. This heartwarming production is a junior adaptation of the original 1964 Broadway musical. The 4th and 5th grade cast and crew has been working hard for months to make this a wonderful experience for audiences of all ages. Directed by Ron Pickett and produced by Susie Parr and Lynn Molloy. Tickets for the four shows are available online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com) or through a link on the school website at [www.orindaschools.org/wagnerranch](http://www.orindaschools.org/wagnerranch). Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

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**Graduations**

It's that time of the year again when students in our local schools will be graduating and moving forward to new adventures. Here are graduation schedules:

Holden High: June 5 at 3:30 p.m.  
Orinda Academy: 8th graders graduate on June 9; high school graduation on June 10  
Orinda Intermediate: June 9  
Miramonte High: June 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Singing Sox Continue to Entertain

By NICOLE SHARP  
Eighth Grade Intern

The Singing Sox performance has been a tradition for over 40 years at Del Rey Elementary School. Music teacher Marjorie Musante, who recently retired, started the popular event. Current music teacher Christina Martin continues the tradition

with performances for parents on June 6 at 9 a.m. and for students on June 7 at 9 a.m.

The fifth graders do the singing sox performance instead of a musical each year, making their own sock puppets and writing the script with the help of their teachers.

The theme this year is "Positively Yours." For more information, call Del Rey at 925-258-3099.

Orinda Academy Student Wins A Better Chance Award For Excellence

Ninth grader Ying Yu Ren has been awarded the "A Better Chance Award for Excellence." This award is given annually to select scholars in grades 9 through 12 for academic distinction, contributions to school community, and demonstrated ability to achieve in a manner that is representative of the goals of A Better Chance and its member schools. This award carries with it a gift of \$350. A Better Chance is a national organization that helps underrepresented students of color to attend private college preparatory schools.

Ren is a straight A student at Orinda Academy, making Dean's List and Student of the Semester in her first semester in high school. She began the Chinese/American Club at Orinda Academy where she teaches Mandarin and Chinese culture to other students. She also recently attended the Critical Issues Forum annual conference in Monterey to discuss nuclear non-proliferation topics with international students. Ren served as bilingual liaison



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ying Yu Ren received an achievement award.

with the students from China.  
– Miriam Schaffer, Contributing Writer

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SCOUTS

# Troop 249's New Eagle Scouts

By RICKI SORENSON  
Contributing Writer

Boy Scout Troop 249 has recognized four new Eagle Scouts in achieving scouting's highest rank. David Fuhrman, Mitchell Larson, Zach Sorenson, and Christian Thatcher, all Orinda residents, were honored on April 23 in their Court of Honor. Scoutmaster Jeff Logan presented the awards.



David Fuhrman

David Austin Fuhrman, a senior at Miramonte and a cross country veteran, designed and built a 650-foot long path to complete a walking/running path around the play fields at Del Rey School in Orinda. For labor, David managed not only his scout troop, but many Orindans as he led a work



Mitchell Larson

party during the *Orinda in Action* service day. David is the son of Mark and Yvonne Fuhrman.

Mitchell Ryan Larson, who will be attending Brigham Young University in May,

designed and built a shed for the garden at Orinda Intermediate School. Larson led scouts in building the structure in the fam-

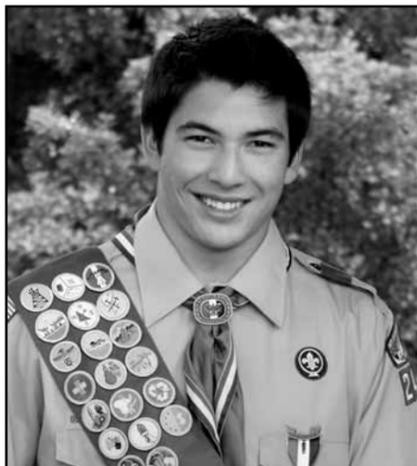


Zach Sorenson

ily garage, transported and assembled it at OIS, where it stores supplies for the OIS student garden club. Mitchell is the son of Brent and Rebecca Larson.

Zachary William Sorenson, Miramonte junior, refurbished the Butterfly Garden at Glorietta Elementary School. With the help of the troop, he installed new raised beds and a drainage system, repaired old beds, and added a "welcome" sign. The Girl Scouts then filled the garden with a beautiful array of flowers. Zach is the son of Andy and Riki Sorenson.

Christian Alan Thatcher, Miramonte senior, along with the help of many scouts, friends, leaders and parents, constructed the new Glorietta Elementary sign and bench in front of the ball field on Glorietta Blvd. The sign is dedicated to his third grade teacher, Sue Johnson, and his friend, Joe Loudon. Christian is the son of Jeremy and Kim Thatcher.



Christian Thatcher

## Cub Scout's Ice Cream Social

Cub Scout Pack 52 is hosting it's annual Ice Cream Social event on Sunday, June 5 at Moraga Commons Park from 5 - 8 p.m. The Scouts will be serving hot dogs and hamburgers, making ice cream sundaes, and playing games. This free event is open to all boys of Cub Scout age and their families who are interested in learning more about scouting.

# New Eagle Scouts for Troop 233

By KEVIN NITSOS  
Contributing Writer

Boy Scout Troop 233 is proud to announce that six new Eagle Scouts have joined the troop's Eagle family. Alex Hoff, Matthew Lai, Sean Larner, Connor Nitsos, Camron Stevens, and Ian Woods were honored at Troop 233's Eagle Court of Honor on June 4 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Scoutmaster Don Larwood presented the Eagle awards, the highest rank in Boy Scouting.

Alex Hoff, son of Vee and Greg Hoff and a junior at Miramonte High School, planted redwood trees at the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda. These will replace some Monterey Pines which the City of Orinda and the Orinda-Moraga Fire department have both requested to be taken out due to fire hazard. He also removed 2000 square feet of Juniper bushes and set up irrigation for the new trees.

Matthew Lai, son of Amy and Jim Lai and a junior at Acalanes High School, constructed and installed a six foot by three foot cross at the Main Hall for the Contra Costa Gospel Church at Walnut Creek California. He also built three wooden benches for the church to enhance outdoor activities.

Sean Larner, son of Leslee and Bernard Larner and a senior at Miramonte High School, developed a project protecting the



CONTRIBUTE PHOTO

New Eagle Scouts are (front L-R) Alex Hoff, Ian Woods, and Matthew Lai (back L-R) Sean Larner, Connor Nitsos, and Camron Stevens.

native Bay Oak from being overcrowded by invasive non-native weeds and trampling by cows. He protected 50 oaks that were deemed by the Briones ranger to be weak with wraparound chicken wire enclosures.

[SEE TROOP page 21]

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# Watching Children Adapt to China a Heart-warming Experience

By JULIE MCCORMACK  
Contributing Writer

*This is the fifth in a series of articles written by Julie McCormack on life in China. The Orinda mom, her husband Michael, and two young children, Conor and Erin moved to Chengdu, China in August of 2010. They return home in late June.*

Before Christmas Conor had said to me one day that Chengdu Waldorf wasn't that bad after all, and many of the classes that he had hated in the beginning were now growing on him. I had also witnessed Conor interacting more with his classmates and speaking more Chinese.

He still plays soccer at recess and after school. Some days he is quite exasperated as his classmates lay down the law: Mei guo da Zhong guo: America fights China. In other words, Conor vs. everyone else. Some days he gets a handful of girls on his team and one day a friend of his came over and said, "Wo meiguo" (I'm American) to ally with Conor.

In the last two weeks, we had both Conor and Erin's conferences with their teachers. Waldorf conferences are very interesting: no grades, no standards. Instead, they spend much of the time talking about how various aspects of the kids' drawing, interacting with their classmates, and hard work reflects how balanced they are or at what stage they are psychologically.

My husband Michael is making his own headway with Mandarin. He started teaching two new classes at night a couple of weeks ago. Following one recent class, the driver who takes us to class and home wasn't waiting for Michael as usual. He waited around for 10 minutes, and when the driver still didn't show up, he started walking. There are not many taxis in the area where our classes are, so when a car pulled up, Michael figured out that it must be an illegal taxi (someone who operates without a taxi license and meter). He told him where he needed to go, set a price and asked for a receipt, so he could get reimbursed. It was a pivotal moment for Michael, who has felt woefully out of control in this country due to the language. One of our regular drivers likes to chat on the 20-minute ride to my classes. One day, after he'd driven Michael, he told me that my husband's

Chinese wasn't good. Then, this week, after a conversation with Michael, he proceeded to tell me that Michael's Chinese was *hai keyi* (okay).

The same night Michael was negotiating with the illegal taxi, the kids and I were having our own drama. Conor had written a beautiful *duan lian* poem for Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) using an ancient Chinese script he learned in calligraphy class. I wanted to put it on either side of our front door. Conor, Erin and I were outside in the corridor in our slippers and socks with the door ajar. Conor accidentally shut the door, and it quickly dawned on us that we were locked out. I didn't have a coat, cell phone, or money. Michael and our cleaning lady, Zheng Jie, were the only two people with keys, but I couldn't call either of them without my phone, nor did I have Zheng



JULIE MCCORMACK  
Erin (R) and her friend Deng Qing take time from their studies to enjoy a good climbing tree.

Jie's number memorized and Michael was teaching class. We went downstairs and saw the *ayi* (nanny) from across the hall.

We told her our predicament, and she directed us to go to the management office so they could call a locksmith. Ten minutes later a locksmith showed up. He looked at our lock and realized he wouldn't be able to open it, so he removed our peep hole and tried to release the lock from the inside using a coat hanger-like tool. He spent about 15 minutes trying that with no luck.

Finally, our neighbors opened up their

door and saw all of us huddling in the corridor. They suggested the locksmith go out onto their terrace and then climb onto our terrace and break open one of our windows. This suggestion made me sick with worry as our "terraces" are iron railings for plants. They are secured by a couple inches of cement next to the building and do not appear sturdy. However, the locksmith didn't seem fazed. He also didn't make me sign a liability release form. He climbed out onto the railing and somehow jimmied our window open without breaking the lock. In the end, this life-threatening endeavor set us back 50 *yuan* (\$7.50).

January 19 was Conor and Erin's last day of school before the one-month Spring Festival. There was a 1-1/2 hour performance with each Chengdu Waldorf School class from 1st grade to 7th grade performing either songs, a play, violin, recorder or reciting a poem. With the exception of a couple of songs and poems led by Monica, the Canadian English teacher, the whole performance was in Chinese.

At times, tears welled up in my eyes as both kids happily performed in Chinese with their classmates. I was proud of them and moved at how far they have come in the nearly six months since we arrived last August. Through perseverance and determination, and also through tears and temper tantrums, Conor and Erin have made their way in a new school, new language, and new country. It has been extremely tough for them at times, but they have come out the other side. It was such a sweet moment to realize this and relish it.

Before the performance, the Chengdu Waldorf principal spoke about where the school is going and then made a couple of points: the first point concerned how the morals of respecting one's parents and teachers are falling apart in current day Chinese society. He reiterated the importance of these morals and gave all the students a few assignments over the Chinese New Year break. Give cards or gifts or well wishes to the guards, cafeteria workers, gardeners and teachers. And wash their parents feet to exhibit humility and respect.

After the performance, the kids were dismissed and the parents had class meetings. The classrooms were set up like open house with all the kids' work displayed. Because Waldorf doesn't use textbooks, all the kids' work is completed in notebooks with special Waldorf-approved colored pencils and crayons. Even math is colorfully displayed. I was surprised to see beautiful artwork and lots of Chinese characters as well as some English.

After viewing the kids' work, we were corralled into an adjacent classroom for the teacher's report. Even though we had recently had conferences, this was a general report on the whole class. The teacher handed out what looked like annual reports detailing what the kids have studied all semester and then a specific report on each child.

A little later, I looked through Erin's work, and she showed me things she was proud of. Erin's teacher handed over her annual report and I noticed, thankfully, that her specific report on Erin was in English. We grabbed a taxi and met Michael for lunch at one of our neighborhood favorite restaurants that we call Park Place, because it's close to a park. We ordered *hui guo chao fan* (a type of fried rice), *niu rou mian* (beef noodle soup) and *jiaozi* (dumplings). We were at home, even in our nice clothes, despite the cigarette butts, used tissues and other debris on the floor. Lunch was delicious and a fitting celebration to the day.

Erin's teacher had reported about how Erin had listened and observed and worked extremely hard during the first two months to figure out what was going on. She also wrote that Erin had matured a lot, especially in working out conflicts with her peers.

The next morning I got up and translated Conor's specific report. Conor's teacher suggested he eat a warm breakfast and dinner every day (since he doesn't like to dress warmly for school and seems impervious to cold) and that he do more housework. At Waldorf, the students are the janitors and Conor's teacher had complained a bit in the class meeting that her students were very slow at cleaning up each day. She attributed this to the fact that they didn't do much housework at home. I reported this to Conor and, although he didn't like the sound of it, we plan to impose more household chores on the kids.

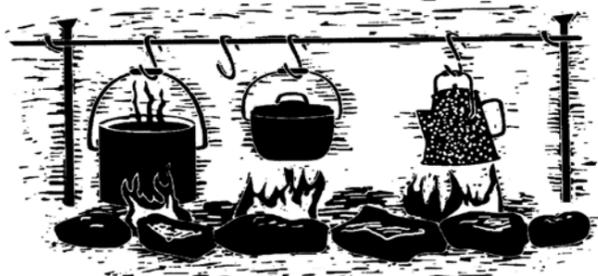
And Michael and I are both very much looking forward to having our feet washed!

## Orinda Teens Outreach to Homeless



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Mitchell Chow and Charlie O'Brien were among the teens handing out blankets to the homeless.

Sponsored by the Orinda Community Church, six Orinda teenagers spent 34 hours helping the homeless in San Francisco. They distributed food through the City of Refuge Food Pantry before heading to Market Street where they handed out blankets to those in need. They later joined the San Francisco Night Ministry and handed out blankets and socks to people in the Tenderloin in the wee hours of the morning.



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Goats and Llamas and Cheese,  
Oh My!**



Bobbie Dodson

Surrounded by goats at the Harley Farms Goat Dairy, I felt one nuzzle up and then begin eating a page of the notes I was taking. Our guide had said, "They won't do any harm, they are just curious so they nibble on things." Luckily, only part of the page was eaten so I still have my story to tell.

If you are looking for a unique experience for a day trip, head for Harley Farms. But, first make a reservation for one of their tours. Harley Farms is located just 66 miles from Orinda in Pescadero.

After a few instructions, our guide Janet Kern opened a pasture gate so we could meet some 75 goats who were as interested in us as we were in them. She invited us to listen to her remarks or stroll about, whatever we wished. She was a fountain of information so our Lamorinda group of five adults tried to stay close but we were constantly tempted to mingle with our bristly-haired friends who enjoyed being petted. The children in our group were delighted with this opportunity to be among so many friendly goats.

According to Kern, the farm has a herd of around 220 females, three males, and anywhere from zero to 300 kids, depending upon the season. Currently, they plan to raise all the female kids to increase their milking herd. The male kids typically go to a weed management company in the Sierra Mountains. If you happen to visit during the spring, you'll be treated to the sight of all the newborn kids.

The goats are milked twice a day. Each produces a gallon of milk per day, which makes a pound of cheese. Harley's makes four kinds of cheese: *chevre*, *fromage blanc*,

feta and ricotta. "Our pasture grasses and special feed give our cheeses a mild, delectable flavor," Kern explained.

Along with the goats, which are divided into three groups, are three llamas. Amazingly Bart, who was in our pasture, was very tame and sociable, much different from the ill-tempered, spitting llamas we'd encountered in Peru. "The llamas are the goats' caretakers," said Kern. "They are very protective, especially of the babies. They scare off such predators as coyotes and bobcats." Bart, too, with his protruding front teeth, liked to be petted.

After spending an hour in the pasture, we went through the dairy where those who wished could milk a goat. It takes about three minutes for the actual milking. What requires more time is the washing and drying of the teats before they are connected to the milking machines to be sure no foreign matter gets in the milk.

The milking staff arrives at 5:30 a.m. and the cheese makers arrive at 8 a.m. We had a quick lesson in making cheese before climbing to the barn's hayloft for the tasting plus the opportunity to see how their fancy packages of cheese are made. Cranberry-walnut and pumpkin flavored cheeses were my favorites. Harley's also makes soaps, lotions and paint from goat's milk.

Owner Dee Harley, who hails from Yorkshire, happened to be in during our tour. Harley said that she had no idea how to make cheese when she purchased the property some 19 years ago. Someone suggested raising goats so she began with six American Alpine goats. She slowly expanded her herd and the milking and cheese making facilities. Today, Harley's



BOBBIE DODSON

Two visitors enjoy petting the goats during a tour of the Harley Farms Goat Dairy.

cheeses are prized. They have received over 30 national ribbons from the American Cheese Society and two world medals. In 2007, Harley was named the San Mateo County Farmer of the Year.

While you are in the area, take time to visit the historic town of Pescadero. Duarte's Tavern at 202 Stage Road was founded in 1894. Famous for its artichoke soup, crab cioppino, and pies, the tavern serves over 100,000 people each month. Fourth generation Duartes now run the business.

Another landmark, the Arcangeli Grocery Company at 287 Stage Road, specializes in country-style artichoke and garlic herb breads as well as a line of gourmet

salsas and jams, including olallieberry made from local fruit. Established 70 years ago, it is still run by the same family. There are also several interesting gift shops. Made in Pescadero became our favorite with its handmade furniture and local crafts.

If you want to spend the night, try one of the local bed and breakfast inns or the Pescadero Creekside Barn of Costanoa Lodge and Camp. Half Moon Bay offers lots more choices.

Harley Farms Goat Dairy is open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The Farm Shop is open daily from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The cost for a tour is \$20 with children under five free. Call 650-879-0480 or go to [www.harleyfarms.com](http://www.harleyfarms.com).

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CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER

◆ BARELS from page 13

and age we are bombarded with billboards, neon, and advertisements of all kinds, everywhere, all the time. She switched from studio art to art history/teaching at Westmont College in Santa Barbara because she wants to use art as education. To this end, monochromatic colors allow the viewer to focus on the art and not be distracted by the colors. See [www.heartsandcuddles@deviantart.com](http://www.heartsandcuddles@deviantart.com).

Her first art teacher in the fourth grade, the late Mrs. Edwards, encouraged her and saw her potential – her message was “You can do it.” All her teachers have been encouraging in different ways. At Miramonte, she focused on art all four years and did Advanced Placement Art in her senior year. She was encouraged to develop her own style and gain experience as an artist. While at Miramonte, she entered a contest at the Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek and won second place.

Among her artistic influences she counts Walt Disney and Ansel Adams. Adams inspires her because he was able to capture so many emotions in his nature photography of California’s beauty. Disney overcame many obstacles, but his stories, always with a moral element, live on as his legacy – he never gave up.

Barels loves going to the Orinda Library as she is a “bit of a bookworm, but I always take a few minutes to walk through the art gallery and take time to appreciate the art – you can always walk through it for free!” Strolling through the plaza, she especially enjoys Patricia Vader’s “Wheely Whirly Peacock” with its bicycle wheels whirring not only to her family and friends for supporting her but also to the community for including art in the schools and in public places.

◆ SHELBY’S from page 13

the time, decided to get involved. Now, he finds himself preparing for his third AIDS ride, which takes place June 5 – 11 this year.

“That first year was a bit crazy,” Rangel recalls. “I had to buy a bicycle, riding gear, helmet, all the stuff you need, and I had to get into shape.” The training rides begin at Orinda BART in January. “You start with a 35 mile ride and then it increases by 10 percent every Sunday until you reach 110 miles per day,” explains Rangel.

His first year, Rangel raised \$3,500 to help people living with HIV and AIDS. The second year he increased his fundraising to \$7,500. He has set a goal of \$10,000 for the 2011 ride. “Given the economy, I wasn’t sure I’d do the ride this year. Everyone is watching their money, but then I realized how hard the economy has been on nonprofits like the AIDS Lifecycle organization and thought I needed to do this,” says Rangel. “I feel very fortunate that we’ve had loyal customers who have helped us through this downturn, and now it’s my turn to help those affected by this disease.” To that end, Shelby’s restaurant donated 50 percent of its profits to AIDS Lifecycle on May 19.

In addition to raising money for a worthy cause, Rangel has made a whole new set of friends. “People from all walks of life do this ride,” he says. “One guy is 83 years old and another is disabled but they still do the ride.” Rangel also says he has learned a lot about AIDS in the last three years. “I really didn’t know much before, but this disease continues to affect generation after generation.”

To help Rangel reach his goal, go to [www.tofightHIV.org/goto/carlosrangel4715](http://www.tofightHIV.org/goto/carlosrangel4715). To learn more about the ride, go to [www.aidslifecycle.org](http://www.aidslifecycle.org).

Powerful Start to Cal Shakes Summer Season

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY  
Staff Writer

California Shakespeare Theater opens its 38th season with William Shakespeare’s *Titus Andronicus*, playing on the company’s stage for the first time in Cal Shake’s history. The tragedy, directed by Joel Sass and featuring acclaimed actor James Carpenter in the title role, will run June 1-26.

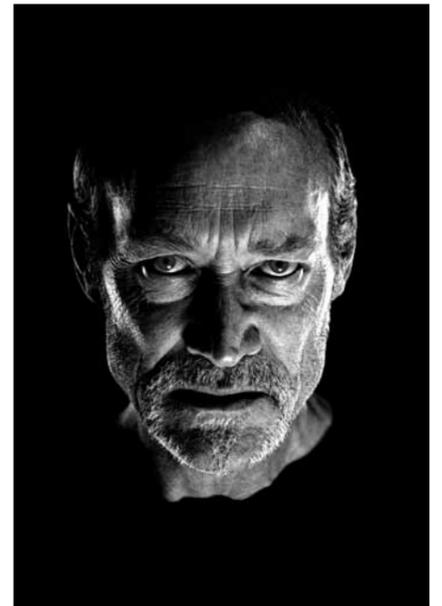
Cal Shake’s 38th Season also includes *The Verona Project*, a new play with music, inspired by *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* written and directed by Amanda Dehnert, July 6 – 31; and George Bernard Shaw’s *Candida* directed by Cal Shakes’ artistic director Jonathan Moscone, running August 10 - September 4. Concluding the 2011 season is Shakespeare’s comic masterpiece, *The Taming of the Shrew* directed by Shana Cooper, running September 21-October 16.

*Titus Andronicus* is “about a society torn apart, and how its citizens attempt to knit themselves together again,” says director Joel Sass, who previously directed Cal Shakes productions of *Macbeth* (2010) and *Pericles* (2008). “Titus is one of Shakespeare’s oldest plays, but it is undeniably a play for our time – a sophisticated blend of heart-stopping drama and pitch black humor.”

*Titus Andronicus’* plot revolves around a general in the Roman Army who returns from battle to discover his family has been destroyed by the war’s cultural and religious fallout. “It’s a play that is profoundly concerned with the personal and societal consequences of violence,” explains Sass. “Ultimately the major question is: Is this society going to heal? Do the virtues of mercy, empathy, compromise and forgiveness have any power to survive in this world? And who among the combatants is capable of halting the cycle of revenge?”

“We have a fabulous cast assembled for this adventure — inventive and fearless artists, all!” continued Sass, adding. “We’ve got two actors possessed of immense charisma and raw emotional power, all set for a titanic clash of opposing wills and revenge.”

Carpenter, a 2010 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow, has appeared at Cal Shakes in such memorable roles as Prince Hal in *Henry IV, Parts One and Two*; Ralph Nickleby in *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*; Gloucester in *King Lear*; Serebryakov in *Uncle Vanya*; Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*; Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*; and the title roles in *Henry V*, and *Richard II*. Playing opposite Carpenter is Stacy Ross, who Cal Shakes audiences will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
James Carpenter plays Titus in Cal Shakes opening play.

recognize from her work in last season’s *Mrs. Warren’s Profession* and *Macbeth*, as well as *Arms and the Man*, *Comedy of Errors*, and *Triumph of Love*.

Sass, based in Minneapolis, is an artistic associate at the acclaimed Jungle Theater, and has also directed at the Guthrie Theatre. He is the recipient of a 2005 McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship for directing and the 2007 Alan Schneider Director Award, administered by Theater Communications Group (TCG).

Cal Shakes will be holding a number of special events in association with *Titus Andronicus*, including Teen Night, a Shindig, and Tasting Nights. The Teen Night will be held June 9 at 6:30 p.m., and includes pizza and soda in the Upper Grove as well as a pre-show discussion with a Cal Shakes teaching artist. The Shindig, a party for people age 30 and younger, will be held in the North Star Grove, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on June 10. The popular “Tasting Nights” program has been expanded this year and will occur every Tuesday and Wednesday evening in the George and Sue Bruns Plaza, starting at 6 p.m. (previews excluded).

The Bruns Amphitheater is located at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. The grounds open two hours before curtain and the Theater offers free shuttle service from the Orinda BART station as well as free parking on site. For information or to charge tickets by phone, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510-548-9666. Additional information and online ticketing are available at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

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## ON THE CALENDAR

### JUNE

- 1 **California Shakespeare Theater** opens its 38th season with *Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare, through June 26 at The Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Way. Performances are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Saturday matinee June 25 at 2 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. Call 510-548-9666 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).
- 2 **Orinda Theatre Square Summer Music Series** with Bob Athayde and Friends' Quartet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy jazz music while shopping or dining at the square. Visit [www.orindatheatresquare.com/events](http://www.orindatheatresquare.com/events).
- 3 **Wagner Elementary School** presents *Fiddler on the Roof* presented by 4th- and 5th-graders at 350 Camino Pablo. Performances are June 3 at 4 and 7 p.m. and June 4 at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for reserved seats and \$9 for general admission. For tickets, visit [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com).  
**Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. Fridays and Saturdays through June 25 at 8:30 p.m. Also Thursday June 23 at 8 p.m. and Sunday June 12 at 4 p.m. For tickets and information call 925-528-9225 or go to [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org).
- 4 **Cub Scout Pack 52's Annual Ice Cream Social**, Moraga Commons Park, 5 to 8 p.m. Scouts will serve hot dogs and hamburgers, make ice cream and play games. The free event is for boys of Cub Scout age and their families who want to learn about Scouting.
- 8 **Second Wednesday Book Group** meets at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 11 **Artists Helping Japan**, an auction at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, featuring more than 100 donated works by local artists, is a fundraiser for the Red Cross in Japan, helping victims of the earthquake and tsunami, noon to 3 p.m. Call Kimiko Kogure at 254-7279 or [kkogure@comcast.net](mailto:kkogure@comcast.net).
- 19 **Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Motorama**, Lafayette's premier auto show, features collector cars, motorbikes and bicycles, live music from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and good food, at the Clock Tower and Postino parking lots, Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Entrant access, 7 to 8:30 a.m., spectator access, 9 a.m. Visit [www.motorama.us/indexopt1.html](http://www.motorama.us/indexopt1.html).
- 21 **Concerts-In-the-Park** features Mixed Nuts, playing rock, disco, blues and oldies at Orinda Community Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a blanket and a picnic. Free.  
**World Affairs Book Group** meets at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, 3 p.m. Call 254-7606.
- 22 **Orinda Library Summer Music Series** Celtic Sands performs music from the British Isles at Orinda Community Park, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Call 254-2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org).
- 28 **Concerts-In-the-Park** features the jazzy sounds of the Cal Alumni Big Band at Orinda Community Park, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a blanket and a picnic. Free.

### AT THE LIBRARY

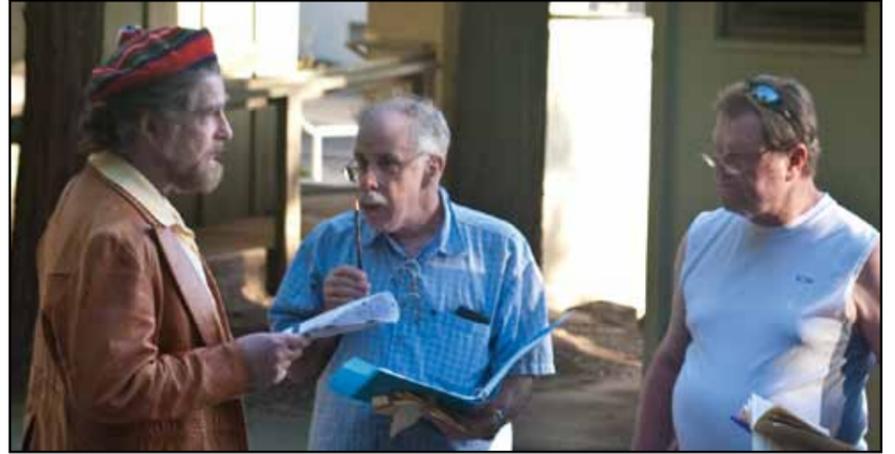
All events are free unless otherwise specified.

- 2 **Friends of the Library Book Sale**, Bookshop and Sorting Room, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 6 **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. Also June 13.
- 7 **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 June 14 and 28.  
**Berkeley Repertory Theater** docent will talk about the theatre's production of *Let Me Down Easy*, a one-woman show by monologist Anna Deavere Smith, Fireside Room, 7 to 7:55 p.m.
- 16 **2011 Summer Reading Festival's** featured author Rick Steves celebrates this year's festival theme, *One World, Many Stories* with a talk for adults entitled Europe Through the Back Door at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Call 943-SHOW (7469). The reading program runs June 11 through August 20.
- 17 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss their favorite genre, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. This month's book is *Have Mercy On Us All* by Fred Vargas.
- 18 **Saturday Morning Live**, story time for 3- to 5-year-olds and their caregivers, Picture Book Area, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Also June 25.
- 21 **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 June 22, 28 and 29.
- 23 **Storytelling for Adults** hosted by the Contra Costa Tale Spinners, share your own story or just come to listen, 7 to 9 p.m.
- 25 **Weekend Paws to Read**, children practice their reading in 20-minute sessions with a friendly dog, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. To register, call 254-2184.

### CLUB MEETINGS

- Diablo Star Chapter #214**, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Masonic Center. Contact Karen Seaborn, 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 to 1:30 a.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 Sirs** for retired men. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Luncheon speakers plus golf, tennis, bocce, bridge and astronomy. Call Pete Giers, 254-4667.
- 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 Starlight Village Players Kick Off 29th Season



(L-R) Geotty Chapple, David Weiner, and Mark Barry, rehearse Starlight's opening show, *The Mousetrap*.

By DAVID DIERKS  
Staff Writer

This summer marks the Orinda Starlight Village Players' (OrSVP) 29th year in the Orinda Community Center Park, and they are opening the season with Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* on June 3. The second show of the season will be Norman Barasch and Carroll Moore's *Send Me No Flowers* in July, and they will finish the summer off with Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid* in September.

Longtime OrSVP favorites Mark Barry, Malcolm Cowler, Al Guaraglia, Kelly Hansen, Marian Simpson, and Ken Solazzo will retake the stage to entertain and enthrall in Agatha Christie's murder mystery *The Mousetrap*. Also in the cast are newcomers to OrSVP Babette Bilger and David Weiner. The Agatha Christie whodun-it begins when a woman is murdered in London and the police track the murderer to a newly opened guesthouse. Owned by a husband and wife, the lodging fills up with its first guests just as a terrible snowstorm closes the roads, trapping everyone inside.

Perfect timing for the police to enter and declare that the murderer they have been following is on the premises. What happens next has kept audiences spellbound for decades.

*The Mousetrap* originally opened in London's West End in 1952 and has been running continuously since then. The play was based on a short story, "Three Blind Mice," which has not seen print since 1950 because Christie asked that the story not be published while the stage show was running. The play was originally entitled *Three Blind Mice*, but the name had to be changed to avoid conflict with another play of the same name. Christie's son-in-law Anthony Hicks suggested the play be renamed *The Mousetrap* in reference to Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. When asked what play is being performed before the court, Hamlet says "The Mousetrap."

Performances for *The Mousetrap* are Friday and Saturdays, June 3 through June 25 at 8:30 p.m., Thursday June 23 at 8 p.m. and Sunday June 12 at 4 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) or call 925-528-9225.

- Orinda/Tábor (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.

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

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 24

a company located in North Beach,” says Brooks. The array of old fashioned jar candy is a dazzling display of colors.

If you are feeling nostalgic, slip into Loard’s for a trip down memory lane where you can buy a bottle of Dad’s Root Beer or Coca Cola in the glass bottle (it’s the real thing and tastes so much better than the plastic or can). Local resident Denise Manz manages the Moraga location, across from the Moraga Hardware Store, while Gary Riechter oversees the Orinda shop at 230 Brookwood Road, adjacent to Jamie Westdal Photography. “We have Wi-Fi for customers, and it is a gathering place for students after school. Many kids drop in for a treat and visit with friends or do their homework here until their parents get home,” says Brooks. “This community has been extremely loyal, and we appreciate it so much.”

If you are looking for a new ice cream taste treat, try Macapuno, a coconut flavor, Ube, made from purple sweet potato, or Lychee, a tropical fruit that is very popular these days. Always ask for Avery soda which features Birch Beer (the taste is similar to Root Beer), and other flavors. There are the classic favorite ice creams, chocolate mint, mocha chip, mocha almond fudge, and the Loard’s signature flavor, chocolate showers, which is vanilla based with a hint of malt and chocolate shaving. The catering service is available for end-of-year classroom parties (up to 60 guests can be accommodated), sports team or graduation parties – you name it, and Loard’s Ice Cream and Candies will make your event memorable.

Loard’s Ice Cream and Candies is open seven days a week, Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. throughout the summer. A longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Loard’s can be reached at 254-3434. Brooks requests people call several days in advance for custom cakes or pies.

#### **Insight Resource Group One of America’s Fastest Growing Companies**

Val and Scott Mollahan established this marketing services company just four years ago with two employees and have expanded to 20 employees, offering their clients creative execution of marketing plans. Last year, Insight Resource Group (IRG) was rated #82 in *Inc. Magazine’s* list of America’s fastest growing private companies and rated #34 in *Counselors* (a marketing trade magazine) list of Best Places to Work. This family-owned business is located at 3 Altarinda Road, Suite 301.

“A lot of companies cut costs during a recession by cutting marketing staff, but they do not cut the marketing program. We undertake agency work, come up with ideas for a marketing program, and create new angles to pitch a business,” explains Laura Traxler of Insight Resource Group.



Val and Scott Mollahan, above with their children, run Insight Resource Group.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The execution of marketing plans is conducted by IRG in three key ways; print materials, promotional products, and point of sale displays. Among the range of services offered by IRG are custom promotional products, displays, design and CAD services, direct mail campaigns, digital printing, process color printing, fab-

ric banners, fabric stands, and promotional products made from recycled materials, to name a few. “We have a fantastic line of organic cotton tee and polo shirts and naturally sustainable bamboo shirts, as well as recycled polyester blend fabrics. We recommend apparel made from renewable wind and water energy,” points out Traxler.

Approximately half of IRG’s clients are wine businesses located in California. A quick look at existing clients reveals well-known enterprises including Rutherford, Chateau, Red Bull, Bay Alarm, Leap Frog, Diageo and Treasury Wine Estates (formerly known as Foster’s Group). “Some of the marketing displays we create are fairly grand in size. For example, in the Midwest, where there is adequate retail space available, we may create a full size gazebo featuring fine dining outside for a Bev-Mo display on behalf of a client,” says Traxler.

IRG values a healthy life-work balance and employs several of its staff on a part-time basis. Owners Val and Scott Mollahan make community volunteerism a high priority. Scott coaches baseball. Val volunteers in the public schools and is on the OBA board of directors. Their core value of giving back to the community carries over into the business. In 2008, IRG donated 200 backpacks to St. Martin de Porres, a private K-8 school in Oakland and has supported Orinda public schools with donations, volunteerism and preferential pricing. Last year, IRG supported the Oakland Fire Fighters’ Random Acts of Kindness program by providing books and balls for students in the Oakland Unified School District.

For more information, call 254-4114 or email at [mktg@insightresourcegroup.com](mailto:mktg@insightresourcegroup.com).

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BUSINESS BUZZ

# Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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**Orinda Motors Expands**

Over the past few years Orindans have witnessed the closing of several businesses in town including Treible Stationers, b.b. gear, Curves, Hedyeh, Catherine Macfee



VALERIE HOTZ

Allen Pennebaker of Orinda Motors

Interior Design, Valero Gas Station, and The Framemaker. In the case of the former Valero location, Orinda Motors is stepping

in and expanding its operation to include selling gas. Orinda Motors plans to open the station at 28 Bryant Way, just east of Casa Orinda, this summer.

Allen Pennebaker, and his wife Terry, have been owners of Orinda Motors since 1996. They are looking forward to offering customers the best gas prices in town. "Our service station will operate under the Flying A Gasoline banner, which is retro-American, a real throwback to the 1950s when Flying A was a major national retail brand. We will pump gas at the island accepting cash or credit at the island. For customers who wish to pay with ATM, they will have to get out of their car and walk over to the attendant at the window," says Pennebaker.

The focus of the Flying A Station under the Pennebakers' ownership is gasoline. "Necessary upgrades to the property are being undertaken, and all new gasoline dispensers are being installed. We will have the latest credit card security measures in place," adds Pennebaker. "We plan to operate our quality detail shop for all makes and models, including luxury and classic automobiles, out of the Flying A Station location," he says.

No mechanical repairs will be available at this location. Orindans will continue to be served by the Orinda Motors location at 63 Orinda Way, with maintenance on all makes and models of vehicles, including foreign and domestic, express oil, tire repair and alignment service, and a rental car service.

John Vanek, service manager since 2004, describes Orinda Motors as a local repair shop offering the expertise of dealerships with the feel of a small town garage. "We provide full service maintenance and repairs, including warranty required maintenance on all vehicles," adds Vanek. Pennebaker is a member of the National Automobile Task Force, an organization that facilitates getting technical information from automobile manufacturers, allowing the aftermarket to have the same information as the dealers have.

"It is great to be adding one more thing to our service to Orinda," says Pennebaker. A fervent supporter of this community, Orinda Motors hosts a classic car show, supports the NorCal Kids Triathlon, the Orinda 4th of July, Orinda Baseball Association, as well as local public schools. Orinda Motors is a longtime member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

**Loard's Ice Cream and Candies Celebrates 60th Anniversary**

Native Orindans Bradley and Brooks Stubblefield purchased Bay Area ice cream institution Loard's in 2002 and are thrilled to be celebrating the company's 60th anniversary next month. Proprietors of both the Orinda and Moraga locations, the couple has employed over 400 local high school students over the years, providing that oh-so-memorable first job experience for many Orinda teens to the delight of many parents. What makes this business so special is the personal touch the Stubblefields provide, and the fact that you know the product will always be exceptional and that you'll receive excellent customer service.

"We started as a family business, and now we are a Mom and Pop," explains Brooks. "Speak for yourself," responds Bradley with a laugh. The story goes their daughter Amanda wanted to buy a car and her parents replied she could go get a job to earn the money for the car, which she did not lose

any time doing. Soon Amanda came home from her job at Loard's Ice Cream and Candies and let her parents know the business was for sale, the owners had an offer, but the sale fell through. "The next day we bought Loard's," says Brooks. Amanda and her twin sister, Jamie, both worked at Loard's throughout high school. Both are graduates of Miramonte High School



VALERIE HOTZ

Brooks and Bradley Stubblefield own Loard's Ice Cream.

(as are their parents), and today Jamie is teaching English in Budapest and Amanda is a flight instructor in Arizona.

Brooks Stubblefield makes every cake and pie herself, so customers know it will be fresh. "I will make a custom cake or pie in any flavor combination. Just let me know what you want and you got it. We feature custom chocolates, which I get from vendors all over the United States and incredibly delicious fudge by Z Cioccolato,

[SEE BUZZ page 23]

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