

THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis
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August 2011

The Orinda Association Thanks All Participants for Making July 4th A Stirring Star-Spangled Success!



PHOTOS BY SALLY HOGARTY

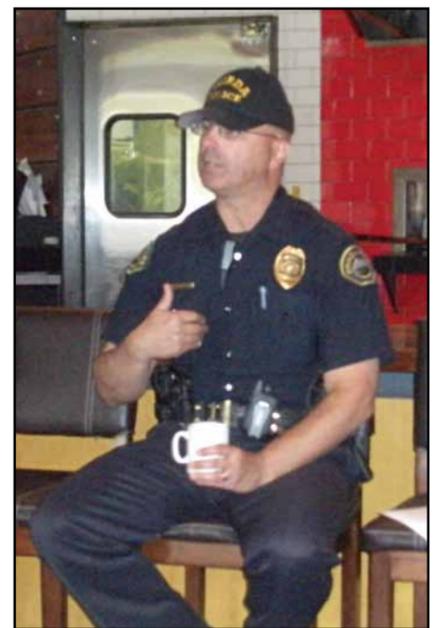
Cinderella travels with her court in one of the Orinda Association's Mini Coopers during the parade while Cub Scout **Cyrus Claassen** from Troop 212 enjoys a hot dog in the park.

Burglary Rings Targeting Orinda Homes and Businesses

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Spring saw a surge in home robberies in Orinda as well as robberies in the business community. Orinda police worked closely with their counterparts in Sonoma, Oakland and Marin to apprehend those responsible. According to Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings, there were five different crime rings operating in Orinda at the time. "We closed eight cases and we've arrested 15 of the 17 suspects so far," he adds.

Detective Sergeant Neil Rafanan spent



SALLY HOGARTY

Orinda Police Officer **Kevin Mooney** spoke at a recent Business Neighborhood Watch meeting held at Table 24 in Theatre Square. Not pictured are Orinda Police Sergeant Neil Rafanan and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Deputy Joseph England.

a day in Sonoma interrogating one of the suspects, which led to many of the arrests. "He gave us the details of the robberies and where they fenced the stolen goods," Rafanan says. "Each crew operated somewhat

[SEE CRIME page 8]

Eden Housing Presented Revised Plans for Senior Facility

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Eden Housing presented its revised design for the affordable senior housing to be built at the site of the former library, 2 Irwin Way at Orinda Way, at the July 13 public meeting.

A nonprofit affordable housing company, Eden was chosen by the City of Orinda to build the housing project. Incorporated in 1968, Eden Housing has a long history of working with low income housing facilities for seniors, families and the developmentally disabled.

The company's original plans called for

71 one-bedroom units in two four-story complexes connected by skyways. Criticized at initial public meetings due to the visibility from Orinda Way and the height, Eden revised the plans to lower the maximum height, reducing the number of units to 67 in the process.

"The building steps back dramatically because of the slope of the lot," explains Woody Karp, a senior project developer for Eden Housing and an Orinda resident for over 20 years. "That makes the second part of the structure seem so much higher. So we eliminated the fourth floor and restructured some other areas."

The structure now consists of two, three-

story buildings connected at the second and third levels by a skyway. There are two

[SEE EDEN page 6]

The NorCalKids Triathlon takes place August 27. See page 11 for details.

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COURTESY OF EDEN HOUSING

The top view shows the new lower height of the project with the structure reduced to three stories. The bottom view shows the originally proposed four-story structures.

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RESIDENTIAL DESIGN ELEMENTS



A home spa and pool area in the East Bay. Water from the spa feels as if it emanates from a spring and flows into the pool. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ORR Design Office Offers Advice to Integrate Water Features

By DAVID DIERKS
Staff Writer

When you dream of bringing water as an element into your personal domain, Gary Orr, principal and director of design at ORR Design Office, Inc. suggests that you ponder its magical facets. “Water is an elemental component like fire, earth and the air. Nearly all ancient cultures consider water to be spiritual and precious.

You should think about the state water will be in as design ideas evolve. Consider that water as a liquid can have many different states, from a drip, to a trickle, a stream, a river, a delta, or an ocean. Each of these aspects will create a different sound – from a plop to bubbles, gurgles, splashes, lapping waves, rain and even thunder. You should be aware of the different aspects of water and how it behaves.”

If there is no infinite source of water in your domain, there are two choices – to make a feature with moving water or water in a still state. “Ponds or pools of water are reflective and calm. Still water is peaceful and quiet. Cascades and fountains move the water and create sound; they are full of energy,” says Orr. Think about what the

water sounds like in addition to its appearance. Often you hear water before you see it. Orr adds, “Some people don’t like the roar of a waterfall and are inspired by a plop or trickle. Others like lots of drama and energy. It all depends on your relationship with water and the character of the space it will flow in as well as your own temperament and mood.”

In recent years, water features have become increasingly easy to acquire. One can go to any garden center and select a plug-in fountain or device. But you should consider carefully where you install that fountain once you get it home. Orr says, “Beware of placing a European styled fountain from the garden center on the patio of a ranch or modern styled home. The home and garden TV culture has handled water features with less respect than they should have and treat the *idea* of water as an accessory instead of an integrated idea. The architectural character and environment of the space is a first step. Keep it simple; stay with one idea,” explains Orr.

Before you decide on a water feature, Orr advises people to understand their building, site and landscape relationships and the environment: “If you want to create a tropical paradise with a lagoon in Orinda, then you are in conflict with the native oak and special Bay Area indigenous landscape, and the further you move away from this foundation, you’re essentially creating a poor-quality Disneyland.” He also tells clients to think about the size of their space. “A patio or courtyard is likely scaled best for a pond or small pool,” he says. “A larger space demands something



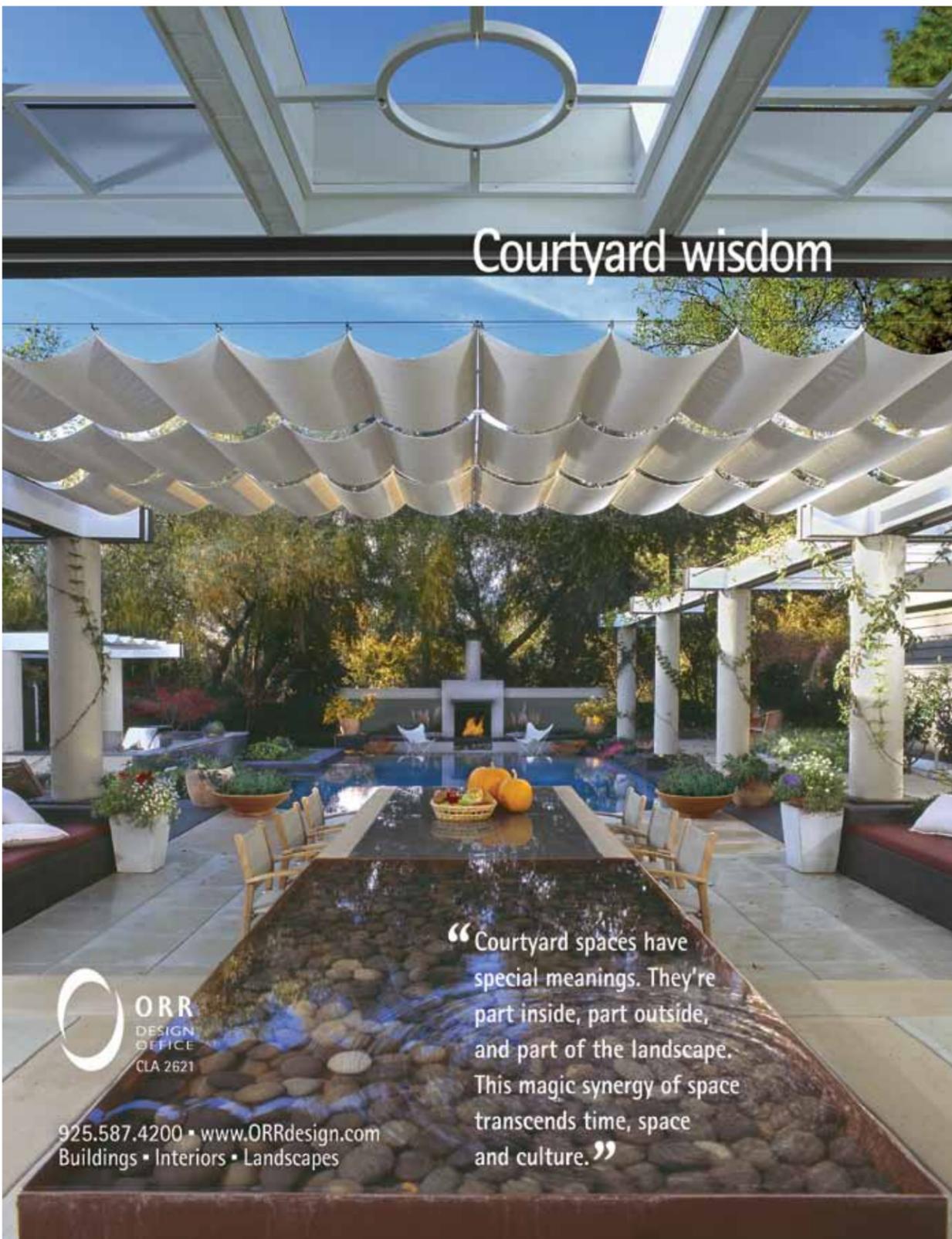
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A project in the Sleepy Hollow area of Orinda. The lower site zone was too small to accommodate a functional use, and a visual link to the area was accomplished with a small fountain bubbler and basin surrounded by a perimeter of citrus trees and decomposed granite. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

more substantial. Swimming pools and spas are unique as they are water features designed for multiple uses, and our approach is to find design concepts that amplify their symbolism and character while at the same time maintain their functional attributes.”

ORR Design Office specializes in designing and planning total home environments that cohesively merge the landscape, the home and the interior as one unified and detailed concept. About half of their projects are newly built and the other are various degrees of remodeling an existing project. As a result, they have earned numerous awards for nearly 25 years. “We consider the client, their house, and landscape together. Water in the home environment is our magical specialty,” Orr concludes.

ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Thanks and Think



Mark Roberts

It was another glorious Fourth of July celebration in Orinda. Thanks so much to all the members of our community who participated by marching in or watching the parade and then continuing the celebration in the Community Center Park. I hope you all had a great time.

That great time was the result of a lot of hard work put in by dozens of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, many of whom began planning back in February. All of their names are noted elsewhere in this issue of the *News*, but I want to add my personal thanks for their selfless and civic-minded efforts. Special kudos go to this year's event chair, fellow OA board member Chris Laszcz-Davis. Her exceptional organizational, problem-solving, and communication skills were put to good and full use in planning the event and coordinating the efforts of all the members of the committee.

Of course, resources other than time and talent are required to produce our Fourth of July fete. Valuable financial resources were provided by the OA's new partner in presenting the parade and celebration, the Orinda Community Foundation (OCF). We deeply appreciate the foundation's recognition of this event as one that is very important to this community and worthy of their support. We look forward to continuing this partnership in years to come. Special thanks to OCF president Richard Westin for serving as one of our parade judges.

I also want to express my gratitude to Orinda Motors for again stepping up and supporting the event as title sponsor. Owners Allen and Terry Pennebaker and service manager John Vanek are deeply involved in supporting our community in many ways – OBA Opening Day, Orinda Idol and countless car washes for numerous groups among them – in addition to the Fourth of July. Over the past seven years, Orinda Motors has also created, with event mastermind Chip Herman, the Classic Car Show, which raises funds for the EFO, Orinda Historical Society and Seniors Around Town. This year's edition is coming up on September 24; be there for a great time to support several great causes.

My thanks also go to our Silver Sponsors – Mechanics Bank and Chevron Humankind – and to all our banner sponsors. Jessica Smith, manager of the Orinda office of Mechanics Bank, and her staff not only supported this year's parade but played a starring role. Their float was voted Outstanding Overall by the parade judges. Congratulations and thanks again!

The parade and activities in the park wouldn't be possible without the cooperation and support of the City of Orinda. Very special thanks goes to City Manager Janet Keeter, who returned from vacation early to serve as a parade judge, as well as Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings, Parks and Recreation director Todd Skinner, Public Works

director Chuck Swanson, and members of their staffs for their time and expertise in helping the committee plan the event and avoid difficulties. I've had the pleasure of working with these public service professionals for many years now, and I can emphatically state that Orinda is fortunate to have these talented and dedicated folks working for us and our community.

The Fourth of July parade may be one of the few times when we enjoy seeing traffic moving slowly in Orinda. Later this month, slow-moving traffic will almost certainly return to Moraga Way on weekday mornings when classes resume at Del Rey and Miramonte, and I don't think anyone will enjoy it. The City Council and the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee continue to work with input received from the community workshop in April and other sources to develop steps to mitigate the challenges faced by parents and students driving on Moraga Way as well as by the residents

[SEE OA page 6]

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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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Thank You Orinda!

The Orinda Association (OA) thanks Orinda for making this year's 4th of July parade and park festivities such a success. If you are not already a member of the OA, we invite you to join and help us make Orinda even better!

In addition to the annual 4th of July celebration, we coordinate the Seniors Around Town ride share program and the Volunteer Center, present the annual Volunteer of the Year and William Penn Mott, Jr. Environmental Awards, and publish *The Orinda News*!

For more information about joining this community-oriented, nonprofit, go to www.orindaassociation.org or call 254-0800.

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Keeping Your Home and Business Safe

The Orinda Police Department has certainly had its hands full in recent months as home burglaries continue despite the apprehension of over 15 suspects. To curb the number of burglaries in Orinda, local residents and businesses are encouraged always to be aware of their surroundings and to notice any suspicious persons or behavior.

Chief of Police Jeffrey Jennings has initiated a Business Neighborhood Watch program and encourages residential neigh-

borhoods to form their own Neighborhood Watch programs. In addition, the police department will conduct a safety audit of your home or business. To schedule an appointment to have your property assessed, call 254-6842. – Sally Hogarty, Editor

Relay for Life Now August 27-28

Orinda's inaugural Relay for Life has a new date. To organize your team to raise money in the fight against cancer, call Tracee Eberhart at 707-483-2665 or email tracee.eberhart@cancer.org.

Orinda City Council Needs To Improve

New leadership is needed in Orinda. Between January and June 2011, the Orinda City Council and the City Manager have not done effective work in protecting the city's precious environment, fixing its roads, or managing municipal finances.

Orinda still wants to go ahead with the construction of high-rise, high density apartments on both sides of downtown: the Theater District and the Orinda Village area (where the Safeway is).

Traffic and parking are horrible in downtown yet the city still wishes to construct, for low-income senior citizens, high-rise apartments across the street from the Safeway. City Councilmember Amy Worth has called the planned apartments an "asset" for Orinda.

In the Theater District, the city wants to raze the buildings from the CVS pharmacy to Nation's hamburger outlet. The city plans to install high-rise apartments to replace the demolished structures.

With all these high-rise apartments, Orinda will become one of those planned communities that wants to force people out of their cars and into "stack and pack" housing.

When the City Council was presented with a money-saving plan to examine Orinda's financial relationship with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the City Council refused to do anything.

In late June, the city passed a budget designed to close a \$570,000 deficit. The budget should have been frozen. However, the *Contra Costa Times* (June 25) reported that "the cost of police services, employee salaries and benefits [will] increase."

The new budget does not contain significant money to repair Orinda's miserable roads.

On March 1, Orinda's garbage rates went up again. The new rates are 40 percent higher than the rates that prevailed in February 2008. City Councilmembers Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer are members of the board that sets garbage rates for Orinda and other nearby cities. Why aren't Smith and Glazer trying to keep garbage rates down?

If present trends continue, Orinda will

start to look more like a government housing project – but a housing project with unusually high prices – than the semi-rural paradise that so many of us are thrilled to call home.

– Richard S. Colman

Alternatives, Not Compromise, to Downtown Plan

I agree with Chris Kniel's letter to the Editor ("Downtown and More Pressing Matters", July 2011) that he wrote in response to the front page coverage of my proposals to help resolve downtown issues for Orinda with creativity, a community project, artful use of murals, and low cost solutions.

The headline in the June 2011 issue was "Local Resident Offers Compromise to Downtown Plan." As Kniel correctly noted, the article, while very well written, was "silent about building heights and the proposed 50' height allowance, which caused so much controversy." My positive approach is meant to be an alternative, not a compromise, to the proposed downtown plan.

After taking a good look at our beloved human-scale city, beautification and updating make sense. Some of my ideas, which could bring both sides of Orinda together, include enhancing Camino Pablo with streetlights on the medians, white lights on trees, and banners (similar to Lafayette's Mt. Diablo Blvd.); these would advertise local events or welcome visitors to "Shop with Local Merchants" or "See Historic Orinda."

In addition, murals of our hills by local artists would beautify the drab concrete walls under the freeway. Signage on the overpasses could direct drivers "To Orinda Village" or "To the Crossroads/Theatre District" in attractive script. On the walking path from one side of Orinda to the other, murals of local scenes or history could be painted on the retaining walls or bridges. Riders on BART might walk under the historic ORINDA sign as they approach Theatre Square. Conversations with local merchants have resulted in many good ideas, including adding benches, trellises, and greenery on the sidewalks.

Over the last few months, I have enjoyed



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making presentations of the above ideas to the City Council, Planning Commission, board members of the Chamber of Commerce, local artists, and the Historic Landmarks Committee; the proposals have received many positive comments.

So I thank Chris Kniel for taking the time to write a letter and to give his opinion.

I also concur with him when he added the

top three priorities of city officials should be "roads, roads, roads."

After three-plus years of attending meetings and many discussions, my approach now is to work positively and offer what I can. Feel free to contact me at annocny@aol.com.

– Ann O'Connell-Nye

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

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HEALTH

John Muir Health Opens Theresa M. Caygill Breast Health Center

By ELANA O'LOSKEY,
Staff Writer

John Muir Health opened its brand new Breast Health Center last month at John Muir Medical Center (JMMC) in Walnut Creek. The John Muir Health (JMHC) Board of Directors was responsible for approving the project and making sure it stayed on time and on budget. JMHC board members from Orinda include David Goldsmith and Tom Rundall. The nonprofit John Muir Health Foundation (JMHF) raised nearly \$56 million for building projects in Walnut Creek and Concord. JMHF board members who live in Orinda include John C. Sayres and James V. Mitchell.

Patients utilizing the center have access to state-of-the-art comprehensive breast health information, resources, treatment and post-treatment survivorship programs including support groups, counseling and spiritual support. The 2500 sq. ft. center is located on the garden level of the park-

ing structure and was donated in full by Theresa M. Caygill, an honorary member of the John Muir Health Foundation Board of Directors. The new center augments existing services by offering resources in one convenient location for the community, patients, their families and loved ones. Resources include education, screening, diagnostic services, care planning and guidance, multi-disciplinary pre-treatment conferences, comprehensive multi-disciplinary tumor boards, treatment options, clinical trials, genetic counseling, and testing.

Exemplifying John Muir's personal approach to treatment are nurse navigators, who are available to help guide patients throughout the continuum of care. Their "Every Woman Counts" program offers breast cancer screening, diagnostics and timely referral for low-income, uninsured and underinsured women. To find out if you qualify for the program, call 925-674-2001. Digital mammography (which is still considered the recommended screening

tool as it helps to identify breast cancer at its earliest stages) is offered at six locations to enhance access, including sites in Walnut Creek, Concord, Brentwood and San Ramon. John Muir Health is one of only four institutions nationwide to be recognized as a Certified Quality Breast Center of Excellence by the National Consortium of Breast Cancers.

Regarding the \$612 million dollar Tom and Billie Long Patient Care Tower which opened in April, hospital president and chief administrative officer Jane Willemssen says, "The entire building was designed to be a very healing environment taking into account sound, noise, six roof gardens, and private rooms. We believe strongly this will facilitate healing and recovery in our patients." For example, because nurses are able to chart directly from the patient rooms via computer, they have a much closer relationship with their patients, and the patients are less isolated, which makes for a better recovery. In some cases, patients are requesting fewer sleeping medications. Babies in the 35-bed intensive care nursery are calmer and less agitated because of the lack of noise and stimulation. Lighting in the unit is designed to follow natural light and dark cycles.

In the Rehab Center, rooms are spatially designed for patients to practice things they are learning such as eating, ambulating, and dressing. At 90 percent occupancy, it's a busy unit serving stroke patients, those with brain tumors and traumatic injuries – very complicated patients. There is access to a beautiful outdoor garden with multi-level surfaces so patients can practice with wheelchairs, walkers and crutches on different surfaces such as gravel – there's even a small putting green. This methodology helps with balance, control and recovery.

Michael Monaldo, Vice President of Facilities Development and Real Estate,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new Theresa M. Caygill Breast Health Center is located on the garden level of the parking structure at the John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek.

points out that, "Wayfinding has been taken into account in the master plan, as the facility went from just under 400,000 sq. ft. to 800,000 sq. ft. at six stories. Because we thought about how patients, staff and visitors move through the facility, there are separate circulation elevators – visitors are moved separately from patients." Gone are long anonymous hallways with poor lighting; instead, you are greeted in an appropriate lobby and can go from the front door to the back door in daylight without having to make a turn. The skylit rotunda, with its bamboo, river rocks and water, was donated by the hospital auxiliary and accomplishes wayfinding by orienting people so they don't get lost. A strip of glass designed to look like a blue river runs from a waterfall to the hospital entrance.

Not just a pretty face, JMMC is the only facility in the area able to care for Level [SEE MUIR page 6]

Orinda Researcher Hopes to Help Those Suffering from Pancreatic Cancer

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

It took Stephen T. Isaacs only three years of retirement to realize it wasn't for him. "I love to work," Isaacs said, adding, "I'm happy to be involved with something I care about."

Prior to retirement, Isaacs founded Cerus Corporation (NASDAQ:CERS). While serving as president and CEO, he took Cerus public developing two marketed products; one included a technology to treat blood in order to make it safe for transfusion.

With the advent of AIDS, as well as the increased numbers of HIV Hepatitis C patients in the 80s, Cerus filled an urgent need for the medical field and expanded from three to over 250 employees.

Now, Isaacs has returned to work as chairman and CEO of Aduro BioTech, a clinical stage immunotherapy company based in Berkeley.

"Aduro is exploring a new frontier. Cancer therapy is historically very crude – cut it out or you can poison it or use radiation," Isaac said. His company hopes to change things with its lead cancer vaccine, CRS-207.



SALLY HOGARTY

Stephen Isaacs' company has developed a vaccine to help cancer patients

Aduro previously reported results from a Phase I clinical trial of CRS-207 in 17 late stage cancer patients with life expectancies of only three-five months. Six out of 17 patients survived for 15 months or longer after receiving their first vaccine dose.

Aduro has recently succeeded in raising \$19.25 million in a Series B equity financing. Isaacs said that backed by a combina-

[SEE RESEARCH page 6]

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◆ RESEARCH from page 5

tion of current investors and Morningside Ventures, the new round of funding “enables us to advance CRS-207 into a Phase 2 clinical trial in pancreatic cancer.”

“In addition, these funds will support initial clinical development of CRS-207 for other indications and preclinical development of therapeutic vaccines for prostate cancer and melanoma as well as prophylactic vaccines for malaria and tularemia.”

Isaacs said the pancreatic cancer trial is scheduled to start this year, and the company will enroll 90 patients suffering from metastatic pancreatic cancer. According to Issacs, Aduro has several preclinical programs under way for prostate cancer with several major pancreatic centers. Johns Hopkins Hospital serves as the lead center.

“We understand a lot, but the human body is complex,” said Isaacs.

◆ MUIR from page 5

II critical care patients (those requiring detailed intervention for a failing organ or emergency surgery) via the rooftop helipad with direct access by elevator to the trauma bay in less than two minutes. Expanded emergency services are available to these patients so they can stay in the community. It is the only trauma center in Contra Costa

“This is one of the worst of the worse cancers – it’s a very aggressive cancer, but the early results [of our work] are good.” By October, Isaacs hopes to see the first patients being treated by the new therapy.

Isaacs, who lives with his two daughters and wife in Orinda and is a UC Berkeley graduate, said he has never met any of the patients who he hopes his work will help heal. But, he quickly added, with a genuinely warm smile, “I may get the chance this year.”

“It is easy to get cynical in this economic environment,” Isaac said, noting the cost of clinical trials is upward of a billion dollars to get a new drug on the market. Despite the uphill battle, Isaacs said he is excited the company “may be able to make a difference. It’s not just a job. The ultimate goal is to see people get better.”

For more information on Aduro BioTech go on-line to www.adurobiotech.com.

County which has been designed to remain fully operational after a major earthquake. Of its 242 beds, 230 are in private rooms, many of which allow a family member to spend the night.

For more information, go to www.johnmuirhealth.com, call 925-939-3000 or visit the Tom and Billie Long Patient Care Tower at 1601 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

◆ EDEN from page 1

elevators for residents. “It was suggested that we add the second elevator so that if one was down for maintenance, residents could still easily get to their rooms,” Karp says. The elevators are four stories since they begin in the first level of the lowest building and must access the third level of the taller building.

At an earlier public meeting, Mildred Salmon, a resident of Orinda Senior Village, expressed concern over the lack of a walkway for physically challenged seniors to access the park and other nearby facilities. She was pleased with the new design, which includes a walkway to the tennis courts that will be easily accessible to people in wheelchairs and walker, as well as a path with a handrail from the main entrance on Irwin Way down to Orinda Way. “The revised walkways will be much safer,” says Salmon. “I wish they could have also put in a straight path from the Senior Village to the new senior housing, but Mr. Karp explained that the slope of the lot

◆ OA from page 3

living on adjacent streets.

What I’m asking you – and I mean anyone who lives in any part of Orinda who drives to Miramonte – is to think about how you can become part of the solution. The big problem is that too many vehicles are trying to make their way to the campus during a specific period of time. Can you take your vehicle off the road by sharing a ride, organizing a carpool (I realize this may be difficult for students with restricted driver licenses) or taking the bus? Or can you avoid the crunch by leaving for school 10 or 15 minutes early?

There are actions that the city or the school districts may be able to take but the suggestions above are actions you can take as soon as the school year begins. Of course, I can’t make any guarantees they’ll make a difference but I think they can if enough Orindans think about making some small changes. I’d welcome your input.

Thanks for thinking about it!

didn’t allow that so we have a path with a few steps to negotiate.”

Orinda resident Richard Colman brought up his concerns regarding Eden Housing’s financial stability during the July 13 meeting. “Eden Housing’s 2009 federal tax return reveals financial weakness,” says Colman. “Between 2008 and 2009, Eden’s investment income dropped 90 percent. Profit went down 73 percent – from \$6.6 million to \$1.8 million. Income fell 50 percent – from \$12 million to \$6 million.”

Colman also feels that Eden may be overly reliant on funds from California’s redevelopment agencies. “These are agencies that Gov. Jerry Brown wants to abolish. In a letter to the editor of the national edition of *The New York Times* (January 24, 2011), Linda Mandolini, the executive director of Eden Housing, wrote: ‘... redevelopment financing is a critical part of our capacity to build affordable apartments.’”

According to Karp, Eden is financially strong with in excess of \$8 million in cash reserves. The company has provided the City of Orinda with audited tax returns as well. “We understand that the Orinda community is risk-adverse, but there is little risk to the city,” Karp says. “The city will retain title to the project until we have all our funding in place. Then we take title and begin construction.”

Other community concerns include increased traffic and parking problems. The revised plan includes 37 parking spaces on the property and the company is negotiating with the Orinda Community Church, across Irwin Way from the proposed project, and the City of Orinda for additional parking.

Karp hopes to have a development and disposition agreement with the city by September. He also plans to apply for the federal government’s Housing and Urban Development (HUD 202) funds in the spring of 2012.

One unidentified audience member at the July 13 meeting expressed concern over prospective residents, saying that low-income residents might bring about higher crime rates. Karp replied that all residents of the project would be screened for acceptability. Orinda Senior Village, which has been in existence since the mid 1980s, is also an affordable senior housing facility. This facility built at 20 Irwin Way with land donated by the Orinda Community Church has 150 units on three levels.

Eden’s revised plan includes a larger exercise room, and an outdoor elevated seating area. “The new outdoor area will be a perfect place to watch the 4th of July parade,” says Karp.

The Orinda Planning Commission was scheduled to discuss the revised project on July 26 after the press deadline.



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CAR TIME / CLASSIC CAR SHOW

CAR TIME

It Does Not Pay To Ignore Vehicle Maintenance

by JOHN VANEK



In today's world of global economic crisis, it is common for car owners to put off spending money and time on their vehicles. The family SUV appears to soldier along without much fuss while being neglected, but in reality there is a silent pain occurring that may lead to more expense later. It is true that modern vehicles actually require less maintenance than vehicles sold 20 years ago. It is also true that today's vehicles are more high tech and have internal components that are affected by neglected maintenance. The modern engine is designed to develop more power with a smaller lighter engine using modern technology such as variable camshaft timing and turbo chargers.

The internal combustion engine is already complicated enough, but engineers have figured a way to get more power by using valve timing tricks. It actually changes the camshaft timing which changes the way the valves open and close. To pull this off requires special solenoids and actuators that are controlled by the engine management computer.

I know you are wondering, what does all this mean to me? These valve actuators also use engine oil to do their job. If the engine oil is low or dirty, it will affect the way these parts operate. Once the electronic solenoid figures out that the actuators are not working, it will tell your computer and boom, there goes your check engine light. I have seen several cases this year in which the check engine light is caused by poor oil change maintenance. Unfortunately,

it takes time to confirm this situation, and you know what they say, time is money. It does not make sense to spend extra money and time to deal with a situation that could be avoided with a simple oil change! Most modern vehicles have these components including soccer-mom mobiles like the Hondas Odyssey or Acura MDX.

This is just one example of something I have actually seen recently. There are many other pitfalls related to maintenance neglect. Failure to follow the manufactures guidelines for oil changes will most likely shorten the life of your engine or related components. I mentioned turbo chargers, they are sensitive to oil maintenance as well.

Let me get on my soapbox for a minute. There are benefits of having proper service done regularly that includes checking important items like tire pressures, lights and fluid levels. Vehicle maintenance is the responsibility of the owner/driver. The maintenance intervals are in your owner's manual located in your glove box. If you have a good care car provider, they will make suggestions and send you reminders. Ultimately bringing in your car for service is still your responsibility. We tend to put a low value on spending time and money maintaining our cars, but we put a high value on the human cargo that we put in the car. Maintaining your car is also about protecting your investment and keeping it reliable. It truly does cost you less in the long run. I suggest following the guidelines set by the manufacturer.

Orinda Classic Car Show Expands onto the Country Club



DAVID DIERKS

A Shelby Cobra from last year's classic car show.

By DAVID DIERKS
Staff Writer

This year, the 7th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show will increase its display area to include the Orinda Country Club's 16th fairway. "This year's car show is special because it will expand to display classics 'on the green' of the Orinda Country Club's beautiful 16th golf fairway for displays," said Chip Herman, the event founder. "Thanks to the generosity and community involvement of Orinda Country Club, there'll be the flavor of Pebble Beach in Orinda with something for everyone, from classic cars in mint condition, daily drivers, hot rods, custom cars, race cars, and

motorcycles."

The event, presented by Orinda Motors will also include the popular Dancing with the Cars preview party on Friday, September 23. The car show will have a new edition of the display "Orinda Thru the Years" coordinated by the Orinda Historical Society, which combines historic materials and classic cars in a museum style setting.

The free Orinda Classic Car Show takes place September 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town program, Educational Foundation of Orinda, and the Orinda Historical Society. For more information about the Orinda Classic Car Show, visit www.orindacarshow.com.

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POLICE BLOTTER

◆ CRIME from page 1

differently with one crew sending a member to the front door pretending to deliver a package. He would also be checking to see if there was a dog or an alarm system. If someone answered the door, he would just say he had the wrong house and they would move on. But if no one answered and there wasn't a dog or alarm system in operation, then they would break in." Rafanan says another crew liked to find a vantage point in the neighborhood and watch cars leaving in the morning before determining which house to hit. A member of one crew had worked on a construction project in a home that was burglarized.

Despite the apprehension of these sus-

pects, Orinda continues to have an unusually high number of residential burglaries, especially during the daytime. According to an alert sent on July 11 by the Orinda Police Department, the time frame for these burglaries is between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Rafanan says Orinda is a very desirable area for criminals: "It obviously is upscale, and people don't have their guard up." He further noted that the extensive foliage around properties that gives privacy to occupants also makes it easier for criminals to access the property without neighbors noticing.

Chief Jennings stresses the importance of having a Neighborhood Watch Program in place and for residents and business owners alike to be aware of their surroundings, especially of unknown persons who don't seem to fit in. Rafanan said that Citibank in Orinda had been robbed in June and that no one had reported a suspicious person walking around the Village area prior to the robbery. "Here was a man with his hoodie pulled up and a baseball cap on, and it was 90 degrees out. He walked into the bank and got \$4,500 from the teller. Luckily, the teller hit the silent alarm, but the suspect was gone before we could get there," explains Rafanan.

The detective sergeant says the police department prefers people call if they suspect something is out of the ordinary: "A business owner called recently about a woman who seemed intoxicated walking in the area. We stopped her and found out there was a warrant out for her arrest on a burglary charge and that she had a history of burglaries."

Chief Jennings and Detective Sergeant Rafanan emphasize that the public should not try to deal with a suspect on their own. "There are all these TV shows out there

showing people doing things that could get them seriously injured," Rafanan says. "It is best to cooperate with them and try to remember everything you can; that way you'll be the best witness possible." He also suggests that homeowners and business owners alike know who is working for you and for service companies, such as maintenance crews. A common theft in offices is someone who seems like they work there lifting employee purses. "CVS has had petty thefts and shoplifting that were people walking in like they were regular delivery people or maintenance, right through the back door and no one questioned them," adds Officer Kevin Mooney.

Mooney, Rafanan and Contra Costa Sheriff's Deputy Joseph England recently held the second Business Neighborhood Watch Program meeting at Table 24 in Theatre Square. Mooney told business owners assembled that the Orinda Police would be willing to come to an individual business and give specific training that would help the owner and employees prevent crime.

One of the suggestions made by the officers includes limiting the number of displays in windows. "You want to display

your product, but thieves like it if people can't see directly into the business. Always keep your backdoor locked during business hours. And, after you close for the day, keep your cash register open and empty," he says. Surveillance cameras and alarm systems are another deterrent. "We love obnoxiously loud alarms," says Rafanan. Officer Mooney notes that after the second time someone tried to break down Casa Orinda's heavily ornate front door, the business installed a high quality video surveillance camera which has stopped subsequent attempts.

Mooney also suggested that businesses vary the time and route they take to make bank deposits and not to run after a criminal. "After all, what are you going to do if you catch them?" he asked. He also noted that having both business and residential addresses easy to see helps the police when responding to a crime report.

To learn more about either the residential or Business Neighborhood Watch Program or to have an evaluation of your property, call 253-4291 or email publicinfo@cityoforinda.org.



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POLICE BLOTTER

June 2011

False Residential Alarms: Officers responded to 156 false alarm calls throughout the city.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon: 1 incident was reported on La Espiral.

Burglary – Auto: 1 incident was reported on Claremont Ave.

Burglary – Commercial: 2 incidents were reported on Wilder Rd. @ Hwy 24 and Camino Sobrante.

Burglary – Residential: 10 incidents were reported on Easton Ct., Via Floreado, Camino Del Diablo, Charles Hill Rd., El Campanero, St. Stephens Dr., La Encinal, Miner Rd., Brookside Rd. and Berrybrook Hollow.

Domestic Violence – Injury of Spouse: 1 incident was reported.

Grand Theft: 1 incident was reported on Estates Dr.

Petty Theft – From Vehicle: 1 incident was reported on Estates Dr.

Stolen Vehicle: 2 incidents were reported on Bates Blvd. and Altarinda Rd.

Strongarm Robbery: 1 incident was reported on Orinda Way.

Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 2 vehicles were recovered on Bates Blvd., and on Altarinda Rd.

Arrests

Alcohol Drunk in Public: 1 arrest was made on Camino Sobrante.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon: 1 incident was reported on La Espiral.

Court Order - Violation: 1 arrest was made on Las Vegas Rd.

Driving Under the Influence – MISD < .08: 3 arrests were made on Culver Ct., Camino Sobrante and Camino Pablo/El Toyonal.

Warrant Arrest: 6 arrests were made on Orchard Rd., St. Stephens/Tahos Rd., Camino Sobrante/El Ribero, and 3 on Orinda Way.

Orinda BART Station

Burglary – Auto: 2 incidents were reported.

Grand Theft from Vehicle: 3 incidents were reported.

Theft – From Vehicle: 2 incidents were reported.

– Compiled by Jeanette Irving, Orinda Police Department



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4TH OF JULY

Thank You Orinda for Making This 4th of July So Special!

It might take a village to raise a child, but it takes an entire city to make the annual 4th of July parade and park activities a reality. The Orinda Association would like to thank its partners the **Orinda Community Foundation** and the **City of Orinda**, especially the **Police Department** and **Moraga Orinda Fire Department**, for making this year's celebration better than ever.

A very special thank you to **Jill Gelster** and **Elana O'Loskey** for helping obtain sponsors for the event and to our wonderful decorating team (**Sandi Johnson**, **Miramonte Cheerleaders**, **Orinda Juniorettes**, and **Griffin Jones**), who came out on July 3 to decorate the park and Community Center, and to **Bonfire Pizzeria** for providing the pizzas to keep them going!

Judging all the wonderful parade entries were City Manager **Janet Keeter**, **Richard Westin**, and **Claire Roberts**. And, once again, the wonderful **Steve Harwood** lent his melodious voice as the parade announcer. A special thank you also to **Orinda Tow** without whom many of the larger parade entries would never have been in the parade.

Staying late on July 4th to help clean up were **Spencer Ellis** and **Greg Powell**, who also helped set up the sound systems, the **Miramonte Football Players**, and the



Young parade attendees perfectly dressed in red, white and blue.

Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, **Lamorinda Democratic Club**, **Lamorinda Republican Women Federated**, **Oakland Strokes**, **Orinda City Council**, **Orinda Community Foundation**, **Orinda Masons**, **Orinda Vision**, **Orinda Woman's Club**, **Rescue One Foundation**, and **Save Orinda**.

Food booths that provided great food and beverages included **Loard's Ice Cream**, **Orinda Chamber of Commerce**, **Republic of Cake**, **Petra Café**, **Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation**, **Rotary of Orinda**, and **Jamba Juice**.



Miramonte cheerleaders joined with **Orinda Junior Women's Club Juniorettes** and decorating co-chair **Jane McKahan-Jones** and **Griffin Jones** (back row) to decorate the park and Community Center on July 3. Bonfire Pizza provided the stimulus to keep them going!

Miramonte Cheerleaders.

Helping parade entries line up for the big event were **Pat Fearon**, **Steve Davis** and **Bruce McGurk**. And, performing a million and one tasks throughout the day was Park and Recreation maintenance man extraordinaire **Les Graham**.

The festivities in the park wouldn't be complete without our nonprofit booths and, of course, the all-important food booths. Nonprofits who shared their mission with those attending the 4th of July included **California Shakespeare Theater**, **City of Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Committee**, **Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority**, **Educational Foundation of Orinda**, **Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe**,



A Juniorette paints a festive decoration on **Andrea Tannients**.

4th of July 2011 Parade Awards

Best Car Co-Winners:

Orinda Starlight Village Players in Dr. and Mrs. Richard Green's Ford Model T
Lafayette Historical Society Old Betsy Fire Engine
Orinda Classic Car Show (all entries)

Best Non-Profit:

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Best Group:

Moraga Valley Pool

Most Musical:

East Bay Banjo Band
Orinda Idol Performer

Best Children's Group Co-Winners:

Haley's Run for a Reason
TOPS, The Orinda Pre-School
Orinda Park Pool

Most Spirited:

St. Gabriel Celestial Brass Band
Meadow Swim Club
Miramonte Latin

Best Boat Co-Winners:

Oakland Strokes
Reliez Valley Wooden Boat Club

Outstanding Overall:

Mechanics Bank



This incredible balloon school house created by balloon artist and acrobat **Kat Chan** showed **Mechanics Bank's** involvement in the community and won Outstanding Overall Parade Entry.

PHOTOS BY SALLY HOGARTY

You Sing, Pardner?

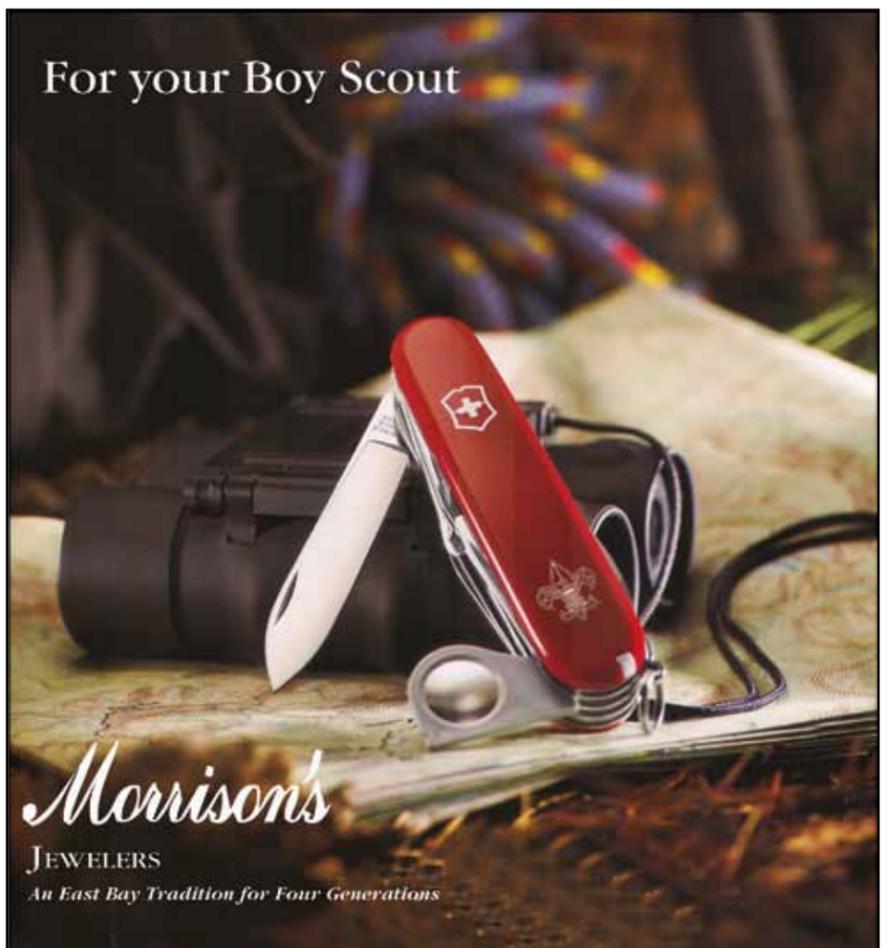
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We're now accepting enrollment for the Fall 2011 semester. For more information, please check out www.orindamandarin.org or call **Cristi Chow 876-0352**

The Orinda Mandarin Chinese Program admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to the students in the school.

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Orinda Business Decorating Contest



The Orinda Optometry Group won the 4th of July Business Decorating Contest with decorations inside and out. Honorable mention went to Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate Services, Kasper's Hot Dogs, and Park Place Wealth Advisors, Inc. Thank you to Mayor Victoria Smith for judging the contest.

Village Harvest Whole Grains Sponsors Haley's Run for a Reason



Demonstrating how quick and easy Village Harvest makes enjoying whole grains, the company had several representatives in the early morning race. (L-R) Royce Nicolaisen (cranberry), Patrick Hudgins (quinoa), John Koppel (almond), Jessica Parkhurst (wheatberries and Barley). The company's new frozen line includes "Brown Rice and Red Quinoa," "Wheatberries and Barley," and "Wheatberries Barley and Quinoa with Cranberries and Almonds." Village Harvest Whole Grains are available at Whole Foods.

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The 4th of July Leadership Team

- Fun Run, Haley's Run & Pancake Breakfast: Co-Chairs John Fazel & Suzanne Tom
- Parade & Park Activities: Co-Chairs Chris Laszcz-Davis & Mark Roberts
- City Coordinating Logistics: Mark Roberts
- Communications: Sally Hogarty
- Banners: Chris Laszcz-Davis, Claire and Mark Roberts
- Food Booths: Clay Deanhardt
- Non-Profit Booths/Site Hardware: Jan Cushman
- Parade: Coordinators: Steve Meagher & Bill Waterman (organizing volunteers Bruce McGurk & Stephen Davis)
- Sponsors/Donations: Jane McKahan-Jones
- Finance/Parks & Rec. Coordinator: Jim Luini
- Event Announcers: Steve Harwood & Mark Roberts
- Kids Park Activities: Co-Chairs April Meagher & James McGurk
- Music/Bands: Cindy Powell
- Decorations: Isela Barels, Jane McKahan-Jones, Chris Laszcz-Davis
- Facilities & Site Management: Claire Roberts

The Orinda Arts Council presents Orinda Idol 2011

Orinda Theatre
Sunday,
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from Orinda Idol 2010 Finals:



Schedule By Category:

- 11:00 am Elementary K-2 and 3-5
- 1:00 pm Groups K-5 and 6-12
- 3:15 pm Middle School
- 5:00 pm High School
- 7:00 pm Announcement of Winners

For a list of finalists visit www.OrindaArtsCouncil.org

See More of the 2011 Winners & Finalists This Fall!

- 9/24 Orinda Classic Car Show
- 9/27 EFO Dine About Town

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NORCALKIDS TRIATHLON

Register Now for August NorCalKids Triathlon

By FRAN MILLER
Staff Writer

Triathlete Jane Callister participated in her first triathlon at age five. Her favorite part was running through the finish-line balloons. Now age seven, Jane is preparing for her third triathlon, as are her older brothers Chase (11) and Reed (9). The seasoned competitors eagerly anticipate the third annual NorCalKids Triathlon on August 27 in Orinda – the venue where they first honed their swimming, biking and running skills back in 2009.

The brainchild of former Orinda Mayor Sue Severson, the annual triathlon for pre-school through high school-aged kids has become a marquee event for Orinda. The originally intended goal of providing a fun and healthy activity for youth, while raising funds for the Orinda Community Foundation, has proven to be a winner. Registration is now taking place, and participation is expected to soar this year.

The Triathlon is intended as a friendly competition open to all; competing categories are assigned for girls and boys according to age. Participants receive a registration goodies packet, and medals are awarded to the winners of each competing category. The swimming, biking and running distances vary according to age group, and the entire event is a super sprint with very short distances meant to encourage new racers to participate. Participants can compete as an individual in all three events, or as part of a three-person relay team with each person competing in one of the three events.

Eleven-year-old Orindan Ben DeLange plans to participate again this year: “I thought it was an awesome event last year

because it was so exciting to compete with my friends, and it was well organized and so fun!” His brother Zach, age seven, also participated last year, “I really liked the biking because the course was great and it was a tough challenge.”

Age groupings and distances include: 6 and under, 25 yard swim, .75 mile bike ride and .33 mile run; 7-8s will swim 50 yards, bike .75 miles and run .33 mile; and 9-10s will swim 100 yards, bike 1.3 miles and run .65 mile. Ages 11 – 14 will swim 200 yards, bike 3.4 miles and run 1.25 miles, and those 15-plus will swim 300 yards, bike 4.6 miles and run 2 miles.

“I’ve done the triathlon twice,” says Chase Callister. “The second time I did the relay and liked doing it with my friends.”

The event, sponsored by Orinda Motors, Living Lean, Mechanics Bank, Oakwood Athletic Club and Sports Basement is held at Miramonte High School. Race courses are available for viewing online at the event website: www.norcalkidstri.org, where you’ll also find the registration form, and a wealth of information such as preparation suggestions and event transition tips. Participation is \$45 per individual and \$120 per relay team.

“It is extremely exciting to witness so many youth experience the natural high of completing the triathlon multi-course athletic challenge,” says Severson. “And it’s great that the event raises dollars in support of community events, programs and the arts. The Orinda Community Foundation, with the help of events like NorCalKids, donated over \$23,000 last year to enhance the quality of life in Orinda.”

Severson adds that while the event is definitely a competition, participants should be proud of themselves simply for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two young men compete in last years triathlon.

signing-up and completing the race courses – after which, “You will be a full-fledged triathlete!”

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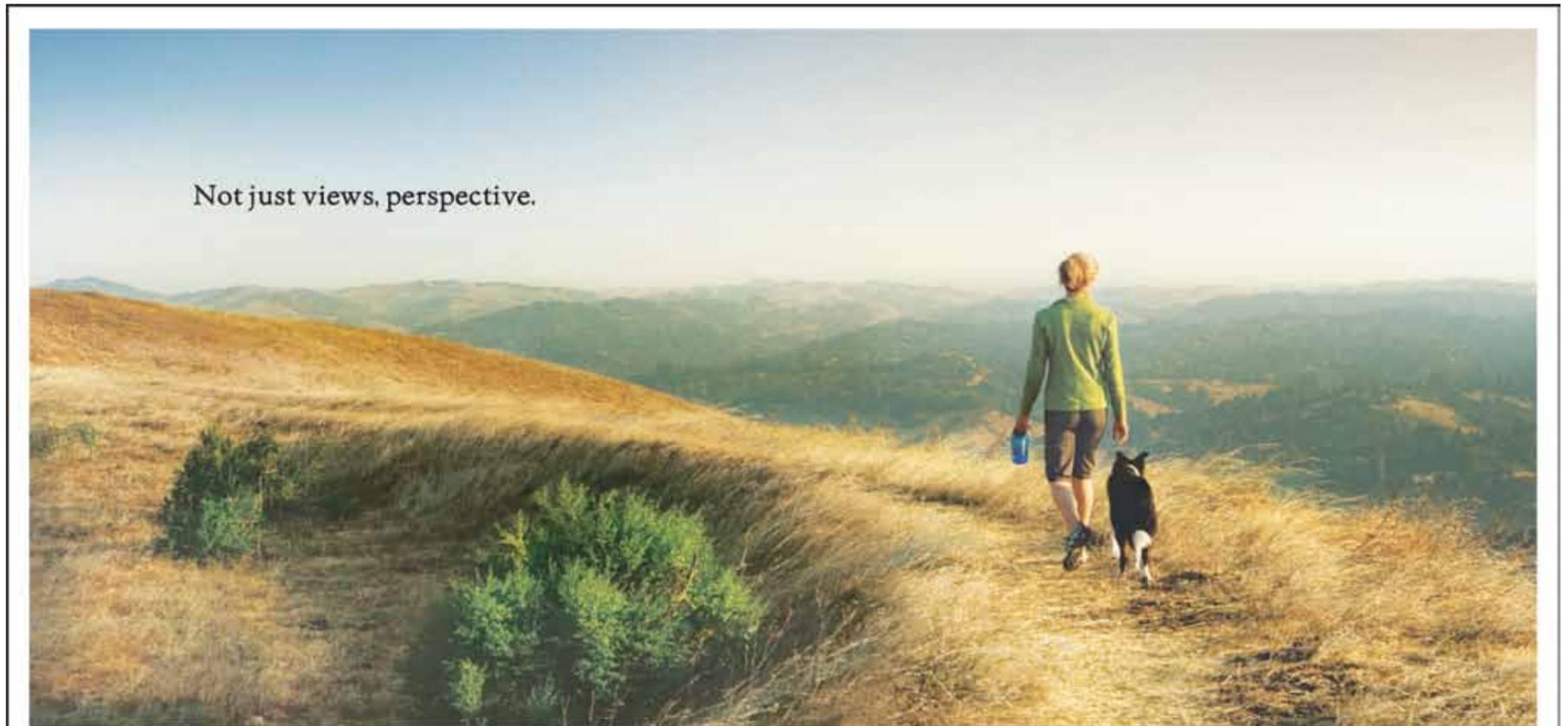
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WILDER

Orinda, California

Orinda Valley Garden Club Makes Station Restoration a Reality

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Editor's Note: In the July issue of The Orinda News we inaccurately listed the Orinda Garden Club as the benefactor for the restoration of the train station. It should have been the Orinda Valley Garden Club.

Thanks to the Orinda Rotary Club and the generosity of the deLaveaga family, the historic Orinda train station was moved from the deLaveaga property to the corner of Bryant and Davis in 2000. The 12 foot by 16 foot structure is the last remaining

structure of the once thriving California and Nevada Railway, which ran through the deLaveaga property.

The historical landmark has made a nice addition to downtown Orinda but time and weather had taken their toll on the wood-frame building. The Orinda Valley Garden Club stepped up to fund the project with the Orinda Historical Society's Charlie Vollmar coordinating the project. Tom Romanek, a member of the Orinda Historical Society and a professional painter, de-leaded the exterior before applying new paint and John Bacon, Orinda resident and owner of Economy Lumber, provided the new station



(L-R) Orinda Valley Garden Club members Jackie Douglass, Genie Halland, Becky Kemsley, and Laurie Lowery, and Orinda Historical Society board member Charlie Vollmar.

doors at cost. In addition to funding the restoration, the Orinda Valley Garden Club will upgrade the landscape and provide future maintenance of the site.

Also involved with the restoration are Carl Weber, Frank Baldwin, and Kay Nor-

man of the Historic Landmark Committee. "Frank did all the repairs to the structure and is having a new sign created that is an exact replica of what appeared on the station during its operation in the late 1800s," adds Vollmar.

August in the Gallery: Paintings and Ceramics with Something to Say

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

"Treat a work of art like a prince. Let it speak to you first." Arthur Schopenhauer's words of long ago (1788-1860) come to mind as an invitation to this

month's exhibit. Works from four local artists with "something to say" grace the walls of Orinda's spacious Library Gallery. An artists' reception will be held on Saturday, August 13 from 4-6 p.m., where you could meet Ayako Harashima (oil and ink paintings), Francesco Rosato (oil and acrylic paintings), Fred Lee (photographic giclées) and Tom Winn (ceramics).

Ayako Harashima's "La Vista," oil on canvas, 52 x 72 in., exemplifies her sense of wonder and the subtle beauty she sees in nature. She endeavors to capture the vitality and fragility of trees in many of her works. Drawn to trees since childhood, she appreciates their unique presence, similar to a human presence, often evoking a sense of courage and compassion. Other works include a still life, "Viva la Vita," oil on canvas, 22 x 28 in.; and "The Suffering



Artist Ayako Harashima works on one of her large format paintings.

Tree," ink and collage, 38 x 45 in. Born in Tokyo, Harashima received her Fine Arts degree from The Academy of Fine Arts of Florence and San Francisco State University, summa cum laude.

Over the past few years, she has worked as a painter in the Tuscan countryside under sponsorship of the cities of Florence and Siena. Presently, she lives the Bay Area and [SEE GALLERY page 18]



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FARMERS' MARKET



Seasoned Shopper
Farmers' Market Highlights



BARBARA KOBSAR

August can be one of the best months of the year at the farmers' market. The "big three" (tomatoes, corn and stone fruits) that draw in the most enthusiasts are at their peak, and melons, pears, peppers and squash aren't far behind.

Along with many other fellow fig lovers I also look forward to the second flush of figs this month. The Hamada Farm stand at the Orinda Farmers' Market buzzes with excitement when Preston Hamada brings baskets of figs to snap up. Fresh harvest figs from the Hamada farm in Kingsburg (20 miles southeast of Fresno) are fragile cargo, but the family prides itself on bringing top quality produce to market.

Figs first came to California in 1769 when Father Junipero Serra planted them in Mission San Diego. They became a commercial crop in 1900 and today flourish in the fertile San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys of Central California. The Mission fig, California's leading black fig, takes its name from this history. The fresh Mission fig boasts a deep purple shade outside which darkens to rich black when dried and a pink inside.

There are literally hundreds of fig varieties but only a relative few are grown for fresh harvest or dried and packaged for the consumer and industrial markets. In addition to the Mission fig the yellow-green Kadota, with its thick skin, is a favorite for canning and preserving. The Adriatic fig is the most prolific of all the varieties, and its high sugar content makes it a prime choice for fig bars and pastes.

Fat, ruddy brown Brown Turkey figs are prized for their rich flavored pinkish-red flesh. The Calimyrna fig is sort of nutty tasting with a tender, golden skin and is delicious for eating out-of-hand.

Botanically speaking, figs are not a fruit but a flower with the blossom on the inside. The seeds are the real fruit. Magnificent looking fig trees can live as long as 100 years. The fruit is a natural source of sugar without being too high in calories (about 50 calories per fig) and provide more fiber than any other common fruit or vegetable.

Figs are a natural humectant that helps retain freshness and moisture for baked goods (think Fig Newtons). Figs help extend the shelf life of cakes, cookies and breads without the use of chemicals or preservatives. A Fig Walnut Salad made with sliced figs, mixed greens and walnuts drizzled with a vinaigrette dressing is quick, easy and delicious.

The Orinda Farmers' Market is also home to many specialty foods. Shoppers like to stop by to chat with Mary Lou Sumberg and Paul Rooney at the Il Pastaio Fresh Pasta stand.

Owner Francesco Avella is a third generation pasta maker from Naples who now makes his home in Walnut Creek. Sales are primarily to restaurants, but the pasta has become a popular addition to many market bags at the Orinda, Walnut Creek and Lafayette Farmers' Markets.

Il Pastaio pasta is made from semolina (a Durham wheat) which contains more protein and gluten to provide a nice sturdy



MARY LOU SUMBERG (R) with a customer at Il Pastaio Pasta booth.

base. Portabella and Shitake raviolis are a must and the Butternut Squash Whole Wheat are definitely worth a try. There are also delicious choices for vegans and a new cheese and spinach Manicotti. All pasta cooks within 2 to 9 minutes with cooking instructions included on request.

The Il Pastaio pasta sauces are a hit with shoppers looking for a complete dinner to take home, but a splash of olive oil, a drizzle

of lemon and your favorite herb (arugula, parsley, sage or chives) also does the trick.

Il Pastaio features over two dozen types of raviolis in your choice of round, oval or square along with gnocchi and fresh noodles. Check their website at www.ilpastaiofoods.com – orders can be made through the farmer market contact page.

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

Microwave Fig-Stuffed Baked Apples

4 cooking apples (Granny Smiths), peeled one third way down and cored

1 teaspoon cinnamon
Grated peel of 1 lemon

One half cup chopped figs
One quarter cup orange juice

Mix cinnamon, lemon peel and chopped figs with half of the orange juice. Use a small spoon to stuff center and cover tops of apples. Place apples in a circle in a round glass baking dish. Spoon remaining juice over apples. Cover with plastic wrap (leaving an opening at one corner). Microwave on High 8 minutes, or until tender. Let set 3 minutes. (Size and variety of apples determines time).

Barbara Kobsar, *The Seasoned Shopper*, can be reached at cotkitchen@aol.com.

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Move of the Month

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Place feet (toes down) in foot cradles under anchor point; assume plank position on forearms.



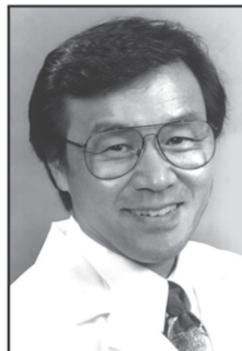
Lift tailbone and bring knees to chest. Return to start position.

Try for 3 sets of 10.

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Local Resident Lets Voice of Germany Be Heard in His Latest Novel

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

If the Germans had been told about the extermination camps," author Frederic C. Tubach says, "most Germans would not have believed it. Those Germans who ran the camps were sworn to secrecy; in releasing any information about the death camps, they risked their lives."

Tubach explores what it was like to grow up under the government of one of the world's most notorious dictators in his new book *German Voices: Memories of Life during Hitler's Third Reich*.

An Orinda resident since 1967, Tubach returned to the country of his roots to interview average Germans who, like him, came of age between 1933 and 1945.

"Because of the horrors of the Holocaust, (all) Germans have often been categorized as perpetrators or victims of Nazism. But

the vast majority of non-Jewish Germans living at the time were neither perpetrators of nor resistors to Hitler's regime. The sheer horror of the genocide in death camps was not known to most Germans," Tubach said, adding, "They were, however, well aware of WWII and the violence it brought about on all sides."

In Germany, Tubach spoke with "the voices of this long-overlooked population — ordinary people who were neither victims nor perpetrators, including former soldiers drafted to fight, civilians, children and refugees."

In an attempt to explore the war's impact on average Germans and how the country "made the quantum leap from anti-Semitism to systematic genocide," Tubach includes parts of almost 80,000 unpublished war-time letters penned by both soldiers and civilians in his book. The soldier's letters, written in various European Theatres of war, and now archived in Berlin, offer insight to a country at war.

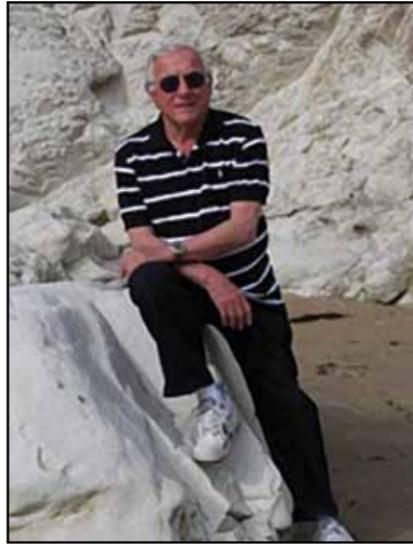
According to Tubach's wife and collaborator, Sally, the book "attempts to understand the complexities of history and promotes understanding and tolerance."

Though Tubach was born in San Francisco, his parents returned with him to Germany in 1933. "Consequently," Tubach said, "I experienced the Nazi period and WWII there during my youth in a German village on the Main River, about 50 miles east of Frankfurt."

A professor in the German Department at UC Berkeley for over 35 years, Tubach has written numerous books and articles about medieval European culture and modern German history. He is a Professor Emeritus of German at the UC Berkeley.

In 2001, Tubach co-authored *An Un-*

common Friendship: From Opposite Sides of the Holocaust, with Bernat Rosner, an Auschwitz survivor. He said the book provided him with the motivation to write *German Voices: Memories of Life During Hitler's Third Reich*.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frederic Tubach of Orinda writes about World War II.

He calls his new book "a cautionary tale about an entire nation falling prey to abstract ideological notions about a clash of civilizations. Hitler wanted the rest of the world to believe all Germans agreed with him and his brutal methods," said Tubach, offering that his book "warns us not to fall either for visions of *Götterdämmerung* (*Twilight of the Gods*) or for a biblical Armageddon, as promulgated by extremists in the United States."

Tubach said that a key to understanding Hitler's power was "his clever use of

the modern media of radio and film. This problem of a virtual reality is still with us in the American media."

Tubach believes Germany to be "the most radically changed country in Europe since WWII, politically and socially."

"Having experienced the horrors and destruction of war, it has become pacifistic, tolerant and open." Germany, he says, "has done much in the way of reparations and has memorialized the Holocaust and educated subsequent generations, so that the horrendous crime of genocide will never be forgotten or repeated."

German Voices is available at Orinda Books and through the University of California Press and Amazon websites.

Orinda Rotary Acknowledges a Job Well Done

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Buying a Braille machine for use in Argentina, contributing to Japanese earthquake victims, supporting local events such as Frank Isola Field Day, and Opera in the Park — these are but a few of the projects accomplished by the Orinda Rotary Club during the past year. So, when Ray Bergez says what he likes best about the Rotary Club is their commitment to helping others, he can be proud that during his year as president, the Orinda Rotary Club has done just that.

As Rotary members and their spouses [SEE ROTARY page 18]

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Tennis Tournament Raises Over \$9,000 for Breast Cancer Center

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The Ace It! Tennis tournament held recently at Orinda Woods raised over \$9,000 for the Carol Ann Reed Breast Health Center. "This is the ninth year of the tournament and our total giving is now over \$100,000," said Tessie Siegel, chairman of the event sponsored by the Orindawoods Tennis Club.

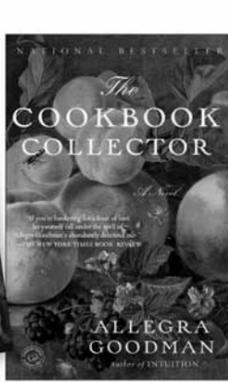
Some 100 players enjoyed tennis clinics in the morning, a gourmet lunch, raffle prizes, and afternoon round robin tennis. Tennis pros Anna Marie Gamboa, Patric Hermanson, Keith Wheeler, Brad Rieser, Allison Rhodias, and Steve Squire donated their time for the clinics, while the Orinda Country Club, Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis, and Orindawoods made their courts

available for play.

Linda Peitz, a member of the Alta Bates Summit Foundation, was on hand and commended the group at Orindawoods for their continuing support for breast cancer research. Major benefactors for the Breast Health Center, located at the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, were the Reed family of Orinda. The center is named in honor of Carol Ann Reed, mother of three, who lost her battle with breast cancer in 1998.

Winners of the tennis events were: Ladies 4.0, Caroline Brennan and Nancy O'Neil; Ladies 3.5, Liz Corbett and Gerrie Shields; Ladies 3.0, Kathy Williams and Robin Elawady; Men's Doubles, Stan Orlik and Jim Karas; Mixed Doubles 8.0, Debbie Goettsch and Karl Brown; and Mixed Doubles 7.0, Robert and Meredith Young.

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YOUTH

Young Performers Prepare for Big Competition

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Aspiring singers from kindergarten through high school have been busily working on song routines to wow the judges on September 11. The all-day competition takes place at the Orinda Theatre with winners announced that evening. The public is invited to see and hear the stars of tomorrow.

If you can't wait until September, you can catch some of these fine performers at Theatre Square's August 17 concert, which begins at 5:30 p.m. They will also perform one Saturday at Orinda's Farmers' Market, but the date was not announced by press



Alex Meckes, one of last year's Orinda Idols, performs the National Anthem at the opening of the 4th of July ceremonies.

time. Following the September competition, the winners will be performing at the Orinda Classic Car Show at Orinda Motors on September 24 and EFO and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce's Dine Around Orinda on September 27.

Young Orinda Poet's Work Fitting for Summer

Jenni Coletta, an eight-year-old student at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School loves to write poetry. Last year, *The Orinda News* published her poem "Wild Storm." Keeping up with the seasons, Coletta has now composed an ode to the beautiful flowers growing in her back yard:

Rose
Sweet smelling rose spiraling, growing.
Its crisp petals soft and fragile like silk.
Lovely colors escaping from a tight bun.
Edges snowy white.
Open to the world.



Eight-year-old poet **Jenni Coletta**

Orinda Idol 2011 Finalists

Grades K - 2
Grace Barmmer
Audrey Biles
Amelia Chen
Sophie Lurie
Ava Schmitt

Kate Marvin
Jackie Patton
Michaela Sasner
Lindsey Wallace

Skylar Sjoberg
Leah Woodcox

Middle School

Grace Baer
Sarah Cain
Lucy Clearwater
Danica Dabasinskas
Ellie Glade
Casey McGonigle
Jocelyn Purcell
Eleanor Roeder

High School

Kate Avery
Matt Barber
Kevin Belinn
Kevin Depolo
Lindsay Kathryn Ford
Katie Marino
Amrita Newton
Paige Powell
Montana Rowson
Sofie Woodlee

Group Category K - 5

English Beat: Ellie Belshaw, Lila Insalaco, Kaylin Ishizu and Ava Jacuzzi
Rising Starz: Leah Douglas, Hannah Hoffman, and Nicole Prozan
Arriana and Keira: Arriana Glenn and Kiera Glenn
Topaz Girls: Samantha Martin, and Jennifer McFarlane
Rabid Chickens: Helana Hallahan and Ella Steinbach

Group Category 6 - 12

JAMin': Alex Meckes and Julia Meckes
Sister Act: Annalise Baer and Grace Baer
Maritza and Katie: Maritza Grillo and Katie Marino
PACK: Kevin Depolo, Amrita Newton, Paige Powell and Carter Soso
Hasler & Sanderson: Parker Hasler and Jamie Sanderson
Judges Named Runners-Up as Follows:*
Grades K-2: 1st Annaluna Giacich, 2nd Lucy Berkman
Grades 3-5: 1st Poppy Bovoso, 2nd Jennifer McFarlane
Middle School: 1st Madison Gibson, 2nd Cole Cronk
High School: 1st Carter Soso
Groups K-5: 1st The Husky Girls: Grace Sterner and Sarah Westergren
2nd The Crazy Girls: Emery Anderson, Malin Glade and Shelby Tse
Groups 6-12: None
*Runners-Up serve as alternates in their grade group for finalists who choose not to compete September 11, 2011

You can catch the finalists performing around town at:
Theatre Square Concert 8/17 • Orinda Car Show 9/24 • Orinda Dine-About-Town 9/27

Del Rey Team Fares Well at World Finals



(L-R) **Avery Maybury, Nikhil Shastri, Jonathan Holobetz, Edward Anaya, Matt Mahoney, and Nick Luckenbach** composed the 5th grade team from Del Rey Elementary School.

Eight hundred and fifty six teams from 34 states and 14 different countries competed at this year's Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held in College Park, Maryland. Four teams from the Lamorinda area competed in the scientific competition. Moraga Rotary Club Team A came in second place in Division III, Problem 2 (As Good As Goldberg) with Team B coming in 10th place in the same division but working on Problem 1 (Extreme Mousemobiles).

In Division II, Del Rey Elementary School came in 24th with Problem 2 (As Good as Goldberg), and the Orinda Masonic Lodge Team A captured 4th place in Division III, Problem 3 (Le Tour Guide).

When not competing, the teams attended classroom-style activities from NASA (a major sponsor of the event), watched an earth science movie, and enjoyed a "Creativity Festival" where carnival-type booths were set up by the various states and NASA.

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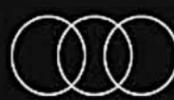


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Practical Tips for Staying Healthy in a Toxic World

Bonnie Waters



Editor's Note: This is a new column by Orinda resident and owner of Changes Salon and Day Spa Bonnie Waters.

Today, more than ever, detoxification is important. No one is free from the enormous amounts of environmental toxins assaulting us in the world every day. No one is immune to unhealthy lifestyle options.

Our bodies detox continuously as a

natural process. It's only when the detox mechanism becomes overloaded that the process becomes less efficient and symptoms may occur. Many of the chemicals we are exposed to are known to disrupt hormones, cause cancer, and contribute to many health problems, including weight gain, fibromyalgia, autoimmune disorders, chronic fatigue, and psychological disorders. Our bodies store foreign substances in fatty deposits — a significant reason to keep your body fat low.

How can we remain healthy in this toxic environment? Here are a few suggestions:

The Clean Lifestyle

1. Plastic hazard: Never heat in plastic. Use glass or ceramic. Plastic releases harmful chemicals when heated.

2. Dry-brush skin: To aid in lymphatic drainage, use a natural bristle bath brush to dry brush before bathing. Our skin is our largest detox organ.

3. Lose the microwave oven: Heat on a stove top or conventional oven. Avoid Teflon and synthetic non-stick coated cookware.

4. Drink clean water: Public tap water is often contaminated. Drink and cook with filtered water. Avoid plastic water bottles and never leave them in a car where they can heat up and expand, which releases toxins.

5. Exercise: One of the best ways to improve your metabolic activity is simply to use your body. Try jumping on a rebounder

[SEE CHANGES page 18]



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Cal Shakes Brings Shaw's *Candida* to the Bruns Amphitheater in August

By KATHRYN G. MCCARTY
Staff Writer

"We have no more right to consume happiness without producing it than to consume wealth without producing it," says George Bernard Shaw in *Candida*.

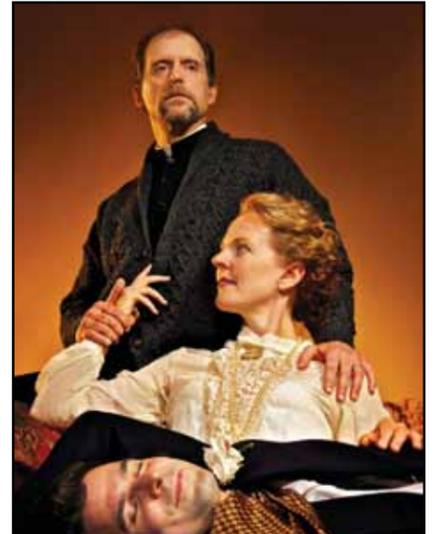
California Shakespeare Festival artistic director Jonathan Moscone will produce some happiness for Shaw fans when he directs the playwright's *Candida*, opening August 13 at the Bruns Amphitheatre.

"*Candida* is endlessly fascinating to me as I continue to discover the complex nuances of each character, and of the play's highly charged circumstances," says Moscone. "Underneath the veneer of Shavian wit is a richly-detailed portrait of the sometimes savage undercurrents running through the veins of a seemingly ideal marriage."

The title role will be played by Julie Eccles. An associate artist with the company, she has been seen in their productions of *The Pastures of Heaven*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *An Ideal Husband*, *King Lear*, *As You Like It*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet* and *Love's Labour's Lost*.

According to the company's website, Moscone is tangling with Shaw for the first time since 2007 when he directed the *Man and Superman*, "pulling new human truths from the brilliance of this modern master." Shaw's plot focuses on *Candida*, the wife of a Christian Socialist minister who is asked to choose between her pragmatic middle aged husband and a young poet who yearns for her hand. "As always with Shaw, neither the answers nor the questions are clearly cut," Moscone adds.

Shaw, a recipient of a Nobel Prize for Literature, wrote over 60 plays, including *Arms and the Man*, *Saint Joan* and *Pygmalion*, which won the 1930 Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay, and was later adapted into the popular musical *My Fair Lady*. The Shaw play *Mrs. Warren's Profession* was produced last year at Cal Shakes. Though Shaw is well known for his dramas addressing social issues of his day, the Irish playwright is also known for incorporating



KEVIN BERNE

Anthony Fusco as Rev. Morrell, Julie Eccles as *Candida*, and Nick Gabriel as Marchbanks in Shaw's romantic comedy, *Candida*, directed by Jonathan Moscone.

much levity into his work. "My method is to take the utmost trouble to find the right thing to say, and then to say it with the utmost levity," said Shaw.

Candida runs August 10–September 4. Discounted previews are held August 10–12 with opening night on August 13. Cal Shakes will be holding a number of special events in association with *Candida*, including "Singles Night" and "Tasting Nights." The "Singles Night" will be held August 19 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 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 with free shuttle service from the Orinda BART station as well as free parking onsite. 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.

Orinda Starlight Village Players
Presents
Moliere's French Farce
The Imaginary Invalid

Fridays and Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 26 through Oct. 1 (no performances Sept. 2 or 3)
Sundays, Sept. 11 & 18, 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 29, 8:00 p.m.
At the Outdoor Theater,
Orinda Community Center Park,
26 Orinda Way (Across from Rite Aid). Two blocks from BART.

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CALENDAR

ON THE CALENDAR

JULY

31 **Orinda Rotary** - Opera in the Park, Orinda Community Park, 4 to 6 p.m. Visit www.orindatheatresquare.com/events.

AUGUST

- 1 **Moraga Art Gallery** - Off the Wheel, Off the Canvas exhibit through Aug. 13 showcases member Donna Arganbright's stoneware and guest artist Sharon Tama's acrylic paintings. Located at 570 Center St. For info. www.moragaartgallery.com or call 925-376-5407.
- Contra Costa Camera Club** hosts a photo exhibit through Aug. 21 in the Doug Adams Gallery at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, depicting a cross-section of American landscapes, people and imagery. Sundays from 11 a.m. to noon. Visit www.contracostacameraclub.org.
- 4 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents *Send Me No Flowers* by Norman Barasch and Carroll Moore at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 28 Orinda Way at 8 p.m., also Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. For tickets call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org. This is an outdoor theater so dress appropriately. Visit www.orsvp.org.
- Orinda Theatre Square** Summer Music Series features the Bob Athaide and Friends' Quartet, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enjoy free music while shopping or dining.
- 13 **California Shakespeare Festival**, George Bernard Shaw's *Candida*, through September 4, Bruns Amphitheater, 510-548-9666 or go to www.calshakes.org.
- 14 **Saint Mary's College (SMC)** 7th Annual Summer Wine Festival in the Soda Center in Moraga, 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$35 until Aug. 7 (\$45 thereafter). Ticket includes SMC logo wine glass, appetizers and wine tasting. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. Call 925-631-4200 or visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/wine.
- 19 **Lamorinda International Film Showcase** opens the season with an Italian family drama called *Loose Cannons* playing through Aug. 25, the tale of the younger son of the Cantone family who wants to stay in Rome with his gay lover, but whose father wants him to return to Southern Italy and help with the family's pasta business. Show times are 1:30, 4:15, 7 and 9:15 p.m. Visit www.lamorindatheatres.com.
- 26 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** presents Moliere's *Imaginary Invalid* through Oct. 1 in Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater, 26 Orinda Way. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11 and 18 at 4 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. For tickets call 925-528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org. Dress appropriately for the outdoor theatre. Visit www.orsvp.org.
- 27 **Orinda Community Foundation** NorCal Kids Triathlon, Miramonte High School, 750 Moraga Way, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Super Sprint Triathlon includes run, swim and bike ride and promotes healthy activities for kids. Registration is \$45 per person and \$120 per team. Kids will be divided into categories by age and sex: under 6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 and 15+ in high school. On-line registration closes Aug. 25. Day-of-the-event registration is an additional \$5. To register, visit www.norcalkidstri.org.
- Orinda Arts Council (OAC)** Shop for a Cause Day at Macy's. Purchase a \$5 pass from the OAC and save 25 percent on your back-to-school and other shopping. Proceeds from the purchase of shopping passes benefit the OAC. Visit www.OrindaArtsCouncil.org.
- Relay for Life**, 24-hour team event to fight cancer, Pine Grove Field, www.relayforlife.org/orindaca.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events are free unless otherwise specified.

- 1 **The Summer Reading Program** features the theme One World, Many Stories and has programs for babies, kids, teens and adults and special events throughout the summer. There's still time to sign up with prizes for all ages. Aug. 20 is the last day to pick up prizes. Visit www.ccplib.org.
- 2 **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 limit attendance to once per week. Also Aug. 3, 9 and 10.
- 13 **Weekend Paws to Read**, children can practice their reading and earn Summer Reading minutes in 20-minute sessions with a friendly dog, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Register at the library or call 254-2184.
- 19 **Mystery Book Club** members discuss their favorite genre, Tutoring Room, 3 to 4:30 p.m. This month's book is *The Dogs of Riga* by Henning Mankell, featuring famous detective Kurt Wallander.
- 25 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners** Storytelling for Adults. Share your own story or just come to listen, 7 to 9 p.m.
- 31 **Summer Music Series** features Yolo Mambo, a four-piece group playing acoustic jazz with a South American vibe and songs in Spanish, Portuguese and French, 6:30 p.m.

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.
- 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, Lafayette, 254-0440, ext. 463.
- Lamorinda Toastmasters**. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorinda.freetoasthost.net.
- Montelindo Garden Club**. Third Friday, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, 9 a.m., www.montelindogarden.com. 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 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 for location.
- Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 p.m. meeting, call 254-8260 for location.

Orinda Starlight Village Players Keep the Laughs Coming



DAVID DIERKS

Shawn Bonnington and Mark Barry in *Send Me No Flowers*.

By DAVID DIERKS
Staff Writer

Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) continues its 29th season with two shows this month. The comedy *Send Me No Flowers* by Norman Barasch and Carroll Moore runs through August 6. Opening on August 26 is Moliere's farce *The Imaginary Invalid*.

Send Me No Flowers focuses on George (played by Shawn Bonnington) a hypochondriac who overhears a conversation his doctor (played by Mark Barry) is having about a dying patient and assumes the conversation is about himself. George decides that he must make plans to take care of his wife, Judy (played by Jill Gelster), after he is gone. One misunderstanding after another ensues to the delight of the audience.

The Imaginary Invalid follows the misadventures of Argan (played by Geotty Chapple), a stingy hypochondriac, who decides to marry his daughter (played

by Chapple's real-life daughter Claire Stephenson) off to a doctor so that he can have free medical consultations. Other cast members include Charlie Guitron, Mark Holobetz, Mary Kidwell, Jo Lusk, Ken Sollazzo, Stephanie Stratman, David Weiner and Tom Westlake. *The Imaginary Invalid* was the last play that Moliere wrote, and in a twist of fate, Moliere collapsed during his fourth performance playing Argan and died soon afterwards.

Send Me No Flowers is running July 15 through August 6 on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m. and Thursday, August 4 at 8 p.m. *The Imaginary Invalid* runs August 26 through October 1 on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m. with matinees on Sunday, September 11 and 18 at 4 p.m. and one Thursday performance on September 29. There will be no performances on Labor Day weekend.

For more information or to reserve tickets, visit www.orsvp.org or call 925-528-9225.

Please Note Calendar Change

Due to circumstances beyond their control, Orinda Starlight Village Players will have no performance on July 31. Instead, the matinee moved to July 24.

Orinda Teen Advisory Council. Second Wednesday, 4 p.m., Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For information, email orindateenadvisorycouncil@gmail.com.

Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to noon, call Jean Barnhart, 254-3881.

Parents of Orinda Individuals in Special Education (POISE) holds regular meetings and events. Contact info@orindapoise.org or visit www.orindapoise.org.

CITY/FIRE/SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Acalanes Union High School District. First and third Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., district office, 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette.

City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

Historic Landmarks Committee. Fourth Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m., Library Garden Room. Call 925-788-7323.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m., Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. Second Monday, 4 p.m., OUSD Conference Room, 8 Altarinda Road. For the latest listing of dates, please check the website at www.orindaschools.org.

Planning Commission. Second and Fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, www.cityoforinda.org.

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

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BUSINESS BUZZ / FILM SHOWCASE

International Film Showcase Returns to Orinda Theatre in August

By TOM WESTLAKE
Contributing Writer

There is a singular pleasure in discovering something wonderful. For most of us, it is usually confined to a piece of music on the radio or a book where the author seems to be speaking directly to you. Cinema seems to be particularly suited to this phenomenon, and who among us can honestly say that one of their friends has not recommended a movie that “you just have to see.”

It is in that spirit that Jo Alice Canterbury and Efi Lubliner of the Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation sally forth far and wide (mostly to other film festivals) to seek out undiscovered gems. Better yet, they bring them back to Orinda and present them at The Lamorinda International Showcase for the benefit of all.

Their latest acquisition is an Italian com-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Italian comedy, *Loose Cannons*, will be showing August 19-25 at the Orinda Theatre.

edy, *Loose Cannons*, which will run August 19 – 25 at the Orinda Theatre. If the trailer is any indication, audiences will be laughing in much the same way they laughed at *Mamma Mia* and *La Cage aux Folles* (or *The Birdcage*; its American counterpart).

To speak with either of them is to be caught up in their infectious love of film. Both of them not only enjoy bringing new and untried movies to wider attention but also have a “sixth sense” of what will be well received (and reviewed). Much of this has to do with an active pulse taking, not only of the film itself but the community overall, but there is also an element of chance involved. “Found Money” is how Jo Alice puts it, almost like a serendipitous piece of good fortune that falls into their laps.

This is not to say there isn’t an element of risk. Rights issues and time zones are their most formidable challenges, not to mention exclusivity, but the real trick is finding these films in the first place.

That is where Lubliner comes in. With his considerable knowledge of the ins and outs of the film rental business, he has taken on a sort of Sam Spade aura with a little Indiana Jones thrown in for good measure (Hey, they both wear fedoras!) but instead of poison darts or unfriendly natives, his greatest nemesis is red tape. These risks, however, are balanced by the satisfaction he gets when, for example, the films he presents do far better than expected. *Illegal*, which premiered last year, actually ended

up making more money during its run at the Orinda then it did when the filmmakers initially opened it up themselves.

Of course, there’s no predicting the end result of each showing, but neither can they ignore the fact that films often take on a life

of their own. Citing such dark horses as *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and *Napoleon Dynamite* both achieving unprecedented success, they are always hopeful that they will be able to reproduce that good fortune here. For information, go to www.lfef.org.



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◆ BUZZ from page 20

accommodate everyone.

“I am very interested in the effects of food on human health. The old saying, ‘We are what we eat,’ rings true. It is an important topic for me,” says Haas, who moved to Orinda seven years ago. Her husband, Kyle, works in finance and the couple has two sons. Connor will be a third grader at Del Rey School and Charlie begins kindergarten there later this month. Haas enjoys food so much that in her spare time she enjoys reading cookbooks and, what else, cooking for fun. “I enjoy the outdoors, especially hiking in our neighborhood and, of course, I am always looking for new restaurants and new food ideas.”

One Family One Meal is partnering with Revolution Foods, a nonprofit that is revamping the lunch system in America’s public schools. “They began by delivering incredible healthy hot lunches to inner city schools and have expanded to five cities now. Revolution Foods is an excellent program, and we are excited to partner with them,” says Haas. The next step with her online business that is free to registered users is to partner with organic farmers and other advertisers whose products she uses. Look for Haas to author a cookbook that ties in with One Family One Meal.

For more information, visit the website at www.onefamilyonemeal.com or give Amanda Haas a call at 415-596-1341.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Valerie Hotz



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Bonfire Pizzeria at the Crossroads

When it is time to get out of the house, be sure to drop by Bonfire Pizzeria in Theatre Square for an enjoyable outdoor dining experience with your family. This casual pizzeria opened for business just this past March and has become a gathering spot for many Orindans, especially after swim meets and other sporting events. Co-owner Adam Sall lives in Orinda and his partners, Ryan Mason and Justin Bain reside in Lafayette. From the beginning, these partners have focused on delivering a welcoming family dining experience in Theatre Square.

“We enjoy utilizing the interior courtyard of Theatre Square where kids and parents can relax and dine outdoors. In the event of a foggy evening, we turn on the gas heaters to make guests comfortable, and on hot, sunny afternoons we have umbrellas for our guests,” says Sall. At Bonfire Pizzeria, the emphasis is on delicious traditional Neapolitan style pizza crust, fine piadina and fresh green salads with house made dressings. Pizza selections run the gamut from basic cheese and pepperoni to more gourmet varieties such as the Parmesan, garlic, crème fraiche, mozzarella, goat cheese with caramelized onions and sautéed mushrooms.

Traditional Neapolitan style pizza is



SALLY HOGARTY

Justin Bain (L) and Adam Sall are co-owners of Bonfire Pizza. Not pictured is co-owner Ryan Mason.

achieved by using a cold fermentation method for dough. By placing the dough in the refrigerator for two full days, during which time the dough is punched down, the process slows down. After two days, it is cooked at a high temperature to achieve delicious, chewy pizza dough. Natural sodas made with real cane sugar and organic ingredients are featured and dessert offerings include chocolate, strawberry or vanilla gelato. “We like to keep it simple and executed properly,” comments Sall.

Bonfire Pizzeria features benefit nights and donates a portion of the proceeds to local public schools, in addition to donating pizzas for Miramonte High School’s Grad Night. “The community embraced us early on, and we enjoy giving back. It is a high priority for us,” adds Sall. If dining outside is not your pleasure, there are three big screen televisions inside so you won’t miss that important game.

A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Bonfire Pizzeria is open Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Delivery is available throughout the Lamorinda area. For more information or to place an order, call 253-1225.

Access One Family One Meal Online

Amanda Haas has always been a foodie, so much so that she worked for Williams-Sonoma for seven years and left to realize her dream of attending Tante Marie’s Cooking School in San Francisco. She has filmed over 50 instructional videos for Williams-Sonoma, which may be viewed at www.williams-sonoma.com and her company, Proof Recipes, has tested and developed over 400 recipes for dozens of cookbooks over the past few years. Haas will tell you her most gratifying work has been the launch of One Family One Meal, where she provides recipes, shopping lists and excellent meal plans for today’s busy families.

Visit the website – www.onefamilyonemeal.com – and register now for free to

begin creating organic, family-friendly meals, menu plans, customizable shopping, and budgeting tools. “One Family One Meal is an extension of everything I have worked on in my cooking career. Improving the way we feed our children is important to me, and making food a high priority in people’s lives is my contribution,” explains Haas. “One Family One Meal is built on the concept that the kitchen and dining table are the foundations for bringing families together. Food helps us to connect with one another,” she adds.

By joining the One Family One Meal



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amanda Haas put her love of food to work.

program, cooks may plan menus from new recipes that are featured each week or select recipes from the archives. A personalized shopping list will be created for you. Free menu plans and shopping lists help save money. If a member of your family is on a restricted diet, such as gluten free or vegetarian, recipe adaptations are available. With Haas’ vast recipe base, she is able to

[SEE BUZZ page 19]

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