



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
Volume 37, Number 1

[www.theorindanews.com](http://www.theorindanews.com)  
Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

12 Issues Annually  
January 2022

## Dennis Fay Takes Reins as Mayor Effective Dec. 14

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

Hitting the ground running, Dennis Fay set fire prevention as his number one priority after taking the reins as Mayor of Orinda Dec. 14. Other priorities for Fay include making meaningful progress revitalizing downtown and dealing with climate change at the local level.

Adding to goals during his one-year tenure, Fay said the issue of public versus private roads is complicated and “has been around way too long and needs to be dealt with.”

Compliance with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District’s fire code is essential, according to Fay. Establishing new Firewise neighborhoods, removing dead and dying trees on personal property and “home hardening” to save structures against potential wildfires are proactive measures for fire prevention, he said. “We all have to do our part.”

Fay said, major projects removing dead pine trees from EBMUD property and the existing fuel break on the north side of town will be extended along the west side



**Dennis Fay** was sworn in as Mayor of Orinda Dec. 14, 2021 and has set fire prevention as his number one priority.

of Orinda to Moraga by MOFD.

Referring to the Downtown Precise Plan and Housing Element, Fay said, “we have to get it done, as younger residents want a more vibrant downtown.”

He sees incentives for adjacent property

owners of large parcels as a way to implement revitalization of both the Theatre and Village districts.

As a small community, Fay said Orinda should do whatever it can to lessen the effects of climate change, “There are practical

ways to reduce our dependence on the grid. Converting the fleet of police vehicles from gas to electric is one way. Installing solar panels or a windmill to generate electricity are other possibilities to research. It’s time to think creatively.”

As mayor, Fay plans to meet with the City Manager and the Public Works staff to explore resolutions to the private roads issue.

“A pilot program to gradually bring some of the older private roads into the public system is a possibility,” he said. “Private roads within Homeowners Associations, such as Orinda Woods and Wilder, are newer and less costly to the individual owner,” Fay said, “and are not top priorities,” before concluding, “we need to work on this as one community.”

Inga Miller, now vice-mayor, serves with Fay, Darlene Gee, Nick Kosla and Amy Worth on Orinda’s City Council. Meetings, which continue via Zoom, are open to the public. Visit [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org) for the 2022 schedule.

*Kathy Enzerink can be reached at [kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com).*

## Hillary Clinton Attends Dedication Ceremony for Caldecott’s Fourth Bore

By ANDREA MADISON  
Staff Writer

For many Bay Area commuters, the Caldecott Tunnel is a familiar sight on their daily drive on Highway 24. Those who drive through the fourth bore, heading westbound from Orinda, will notice a fresh new sign in memoriam of U.S. Representative Ellen O’Kane Tauscher.

The life and accomplishments of Rep. Tauscher, who represented the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano in Congress from 1997 to 2009, were celebrated at a dedication ceremony for the Caldecott Tunnel’s fourth bore, held Nov. 22 at the Blackhawk Country Club in Danville. Former Democratic presidential candidate

and U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton spoke of her friendship with Tauscher, who died of pneumonia in 2019 at age 67.

Clinton was one of five speakers at the event, attended by Tauscher’s friends and local dignitaries. Tauscher’s daughter Katie also spoke at the dedication ceremony held in honor of her late mother. Congresswoman Tauscher lobbied for expansion of the Caldecott Tunnel and helped secure \$33 million for transportation projects within her district.

“[Clinton] was very warm, charming, gracious ... very grateful to all of the staff,” Blackhawk Country Club’s Executive Director of Club Operations Charles Lewis said. He remarked that Clinton’s participa-

[SEE TUNNEL page 6]



California Rep. **Ellen O’Kane Tauscher’s** new memorial sign greets drivers heading from Orinda toward the Bay.

### IN THIS ISSUE

News		Classifieds	13
Crime/Police	5	Everyday Orinda	2
Schools	13	Financial News	16
Around Town		Firewise	5
Club/Meetings	12	Letters to the Editor	4
Events	9	Performing Arts	9
Visual Arts & Galleries	10	Pet of the Month	2
Residents	14	The Orinda Association	3
Business Feature	16	The Reel Less Traveled	8
Calendar	12	Seasoned Shopper	6
Community	1, 3, 7, 15	Sports	13, 14

Find these stories and more on our website [theorindanews.com](http://theorindanews.com).

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
ORINDA, CA  
PERMIT # 4  
EGRWSS

Postal Customer



# Mash Gas & Food

**Orinda's Lowest Gas Prices**  
**Buy Lotto & Lottery Here**

	Self Service Gasoline	
	CASH	CREDIT
Regular Unleaded	4.29 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	4.39 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Plus Unleaded	4.54 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	4.64 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>
Premium Unleaded	4.64 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	4.74 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>10</sub>

**22 Bryant Way - Next to Casa Orinda**  
**Mon - Sat 5 am - 12 am; Sun 6 am-11 pm**

EVERYDAY ORINDA

Everyday  Orinda

MERRY PURGE-MAS

MIMI BOMMARITO



January's removal of all evidence of holiday merriment has always been a depressing chore, but this year hostility is creeping in. I'm so over it: wasting an entire day packing boxes, battling my spider-y, cramped attic with the temperamental ladder that could easily cause an untimely demise, dreading the 11 short months before the repeat.

Yah. I've fallen weirdly out of love with most of my Christmas decorations. Fiercely devoted to their upkeep for decades, I have critically eyed half of them this past December like *The Bachelor* contestants who will not be receiving a rose.

My armchair analysis suspects this is all 2020's fault. My former self has been hijacked. 2021 has aged me and suddenly my decorations are looking older and more haggard as well. This year, when I uttered my annual grumble, "Why am I the only one doing any of the decorating?"

instead of shrugging it off as motherly martyrdom, I dared to add, "Can't it still feel like Christmas, without all of the stuff?"

The purge will commence with the impulse purchases. Spared will be my childhood collection of 1960's groovy ceramic figurines – holiday mainstays since my earliest cognitive thoughts. Those I will eventually force my daughters to adopt, reinforced by a stipulation in my will that they either take them under their wing and love them, or they won't see a dime.

Also marked safe from The Great Purge will be any decorations my dearly departed mother gave us. For a devoted spendthrift, that woman managed to drop a boatload of money on Christmas paraphernalia for my daughters. Now I know why – she too loathed the holiday aftermath and I was not a helpful child. I can hear her laughing from the Great Beyond every January, poking



me in the ribs as I'm forced to grumpily pack up another storage box and accept my cosmic payback.

Then I second-guess my motives. What if my indifference is merely a side effect of two topsy-turvy years? On the other hand, what if I've entered a new phase of life, one where I no longer feel as if home should mimic an extremely low-budget rendition of a Macy's window.

Unfortunately, these decorations hold my emotions hostage. I still shed tears when Rudolph rescues the inmates on the Island of Misfit Toys. I simply cannot throw some of these aging and dilapidated decorations into a box and deposit them at Goodwill, or heaven forbid, in a trash can. These loyal holiday soldiers have put in decades of service, yet are too tattered for resale. Apparently, all these years I have subconsciously told myself, "I will protect these things till I die; then it will become someone else's problem."

And this might work ... if I shove all


the boxes to the back of the attic and leave them untouched. Otherwise, my minimalist husband, who entertains an insanely unrealistic fantasy of fitting everything he owns into the trunk of his car, is integral to hoisting the numerous boxes back into the attic.

He's a loyal and helpful spouse, but I know he resents me in January. Every year, I pacify him with the same excuse: "Next year, I will pare down the decorations. I promise." And I would. One broken ornament technically counts as paring down.

I might need a Viking Burial for some of these beloved decorations if I'm to make any real progress. If I could cremate some of my beloved treasures in the fire pit, would this solve my problem or make a giant mess? And would I be right back at Home Goods, restocking the following year?

Mimi Bommarito can be reached at Editor@theorindanews.com.


P  
I  
L  
A  
T  
E  
S



**CoreKinetics** Take control of your health.  
www.CoreKinetics.com

- \*Nationally Certified, experienced teachers.
- \*Innovative Classes and Private sessions
- \*We work with every BODY and All ages

Visit our website for great offers.



**The Well-Balanced Workout**

**925-708-3279**  
Please call for an appointment  
50 Vashell Way, #120, Orinda, CA 94563



## Orinda Shell Auto Care

- Complete Auto Care -  
Scheduled Maintenance - Smog -  
Air Conditioning - Electrical Repairs -  
Brakes and Suspension - Warranty  
Repair - Wheel Alignments -  
Free Shuttle Service  
Walking Distance from BART

Celebrating Over 19 Years in Business  
Thank You Orinda!





925 254-1486 • fax 925 254-3427  
9 Orinda Way  
e-mail orindashell@sbcglobal.net



### Pet of the Month: Dog Dylan

Dylan turned one-year-old last month and it has been kind of a tough first year for him. Among other things, he had some tummy trouble that took weeks to finally shake. But the bright side of that, at least from Dylan's point of view, was he received a steady diet of chicken and rice every day – as you can see in this photo, snapped right after dinner.



COURTESY OF KELLY AND MARCIA CANNON



## Combine and get in on the surprise.

**Kelly Sopak, Agent**  
Insurance Lic#: 0D03981  
1 Northwood Drive Suite 1  
Orinda, CA 94563  
Bus: 925-253-7700  
Cell: 925-726-4444  
Mon-Thurs 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Fridays 9:00am to 4:30pm  
Evenings & Weekends by Appt

Here's the deal, our Home and Auto rates are already great. But when you combine with State Farm®, you can save even more. Call me to discover your surprisingly great rates on Home and Auto today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
State Farm Indemnity Company  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL  
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas  
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX  
State Farm Florida Insurance Company  
Winter Haven, FL  
2001863

THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the President  
Happy New Year!



SALLY HOGARTY

The Orinda Association Board wishes you a happy and healthy 2022! We hope you have been able to spend the recent holidays with family and friends and are looking forward to an active new year.

After another year dealing with the pandemic, I think we're all ready for a little more "normal" in our lives. Things seem to be headed that way as more and more businesses and entertainment venues return to in-person events.

With the vaccine proving effective against the various COVID-19 variants, I know I am more hopeful about venturing out more into the community, having a meal at Orinda restaurants and attending our beautiful Orinda Theatre. Did you know the theater is once again offering great cabaret performances with *Live at the Orinda!*? You can check out the schedule on Page 9 of this paper or go to [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com).

And, speaking of going out, The Orinda Association's (OA) events committee has

been busy planning a fun, family event to brighten up the winter. Look for details in this column next month or visit [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

The OA enters the new year with a new slate of officers and lots of opportunities for the community to become involved with our various programs. Our new officers include me as president, with the incredibly organized Latika Malkani as vice president. Cindy Powell has agreed to continue as treasurer, and we welcome Marianne Moser as our new secretary.

If you love attending our July 4th celebration and parade or the Orinda Classic Car Show, now is the time to get involved as a volunteer. We have all sorts of opportunities for you to be a part of these events, depending on the time commitment you would like to make. You can volunteer just a few hours on the day of the event or get involved now and help define the activities.

We are also looking for additional board

[SEE MESSAGE page 4]

Seniors Around Town  
Receives Mayor's Award

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

With over 2025 rides given to local seniors in 2020 - 2021, The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town (SAT) program has provided an invaluable service

to residents during the pandemic. In recognition of its dedication to senior Orinda residents, Mayor Amy Worth bestowed the Orinda Mayor's Award of Excellence for 2021 on the organization at the Dec. 14 City Council meeting.

[SEE SAT page 4]



JEFF HEYMAN

Since 2005, the volunteers of Seniors Around Town (SAT) program have been helping Orinda's seniors get groceries and meet doctor appointments. They received Mayor Amy Worth's Award of Excellence Dec. 14 at a City Council Meeting. (L-R) **Bill Waterman, Marie Waterman, Cathy Goshorn, Kate Wiley, Cindy Powell** and **Mayor Amy Worth**.

## The Orinda Association

The Orinda Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to:

- Maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda;
- Promoting awareness and discussion of issues that are important to the community;
- Encouraging and recognizing volunteer efforts to enhance the beauty, character and security of Orinda.

Visit our office at 26 Orinda Way  
(Library Plaza)  
Phone: 925.254.0800  
[www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org)

The Orinda Association  
P.O. Box 97  
Orinda, CA 94563

**OFFICERS**

President Sally Hogarty  
Vice President Latika Malkani  
Secretary Marianne Moser  
Treasurer Cindy Powell  
City Council Liaison Inga Miller

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Carlos Baltodano  
Barb Brawner  
Jacalyn Buettner  
Joe Haughin - Board Member Emeritus  
Chris Laszcz-Davis  
Diane Lautz  
Bill Waterman  
Kate Wiley



**THE Orinda ASSOCIATION**

All officers and board members volunteer their time.

## Time to buy or sell? Let me help you.

See what my clients say at [www.myagentsuzanne.com](http://www.myagentsuzanne.com)

### Clients Are Always First

Suzanne Toner Geoffrion  
925-699-4832  
CalBRE# 01878803  
International President's Circle  
Top 100 Sales Coldwell Banker SF Bay Area




©2022 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.



## Happy New Year

Over 30 years of experience  
[www.AGrealty1.com](http://www.AGrealty1.com)  
925-254-7600

**Alexander Gailas**  
DRE # 01356574  
C-925-788-0229  
[alex@AGrealty1.com](mailto:alex@AGrealty1.com)

**Katia Gailas**  
DRE # 02033175  
C-925-788-6646  
[Katia.Gailas@AGrealty1.com](mailto:Katia.Gailas@AGrealty1.com)



## Need a 2022 New Year's Resolution?

- \* Give one ride monthly for Seniors Around Town
- \* Help us with Orinda's July 4th Celebration
- \* Volunteer at Orinda Classic Car Show
- \* Support *The Orinda News* advertisers
- \* View our Volunteer Guide online

No time to volunteer? Help fund our programs.

### Ways to Give to The Orinda Association

- \* Send a check, donate online
- \* Donate unused vehicle






[www.OrindaAssociation.org](http://www.OrindaAssociation.org)  
 Or send mail to P.O. Box 97, Orinda 94563  
 Stop by Orinda Volunteer Center at 26 Orinda Way

EDITORIAL

# Letters to the Editor

## Goal of DEI is to Replace Merit

A recent story observed that many people are virtue-signaling, self-scouring and jumping on the DEI bandwagon. But what is DEI really about? Is it really about tolerance and standing up to hate? I don't think so.

The goal of DEI is to replace merit with proportional representation of races and of some (but not all) other categories of people, as shown by the elimination of standardized tests. High achieving groups, such as Asians and Jews and many others, lose the most. The only exception to proportional representation without regard to ability is in sports. I won't hold my breath waiting for the high schools in the Acalanes District or the DEI groups at those schools, to open their sports teams to all, regardless of athletic merit.

Antiracism, as Prof. Kendi explains in *How to be An Antiracist*, doesn't mean opposing racism. It means believing in reverse racism; it means using racism to achieve proportional representation of races.

DEI isn't about tolerance and opposing hate. It isn't about not making fun of people who are different in ways other than race and gender choice, such as kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder (1 in 44 kids), or who are fat, ugly, short, dumb or just clumsy. Inclusion is for some, not all.

DEI and antiracism are very selective in their choice of winners and losers. These innocent sounding concepts are really nothing like what they purport to be. Don't support reverse racism and proportional representation regardless of merit.

– Nick Waranoff

## Opposition to Library Mural

Similar to Carol Brown (Letter to the Editor, Dec. 2021 *The Orinda News*), I am deeply disappointed in the proposed library mural.

First of all, I don't like the mural at all, either as a work of art or as a portrayal of Orinda flora and fauna.

Art appreciation is a matter of personal taste and I won't quarrel with anyone who says they like the mural. But why is there an otter (never seen in the 70+ years I have lived in Orinda), but no quail?

More importantly and again like Carol, I'm very concerned that there has not been sufficient vetting and an opportunity for public input. It is my understanding that the Art in Public Places Commission was never given an opportunity to weigh-in on the mural and its presence on a very public building.

I urge the Friends of the Orinda Library

to keep, what seems to be, the dream child of a very few number of people, from becoming a *fait accompli*, until they are assured that there is strong public support for this mural.

- Bill Judge

## What shall Orinda become?

The Orinda City Council wants to "revitalize" downtown (theatre + village). City consultants have said that for this to occur, buildings would have four-plus floors of residential above the shopping. This is reflected in the Downtown Plan which anticipates 55' - 75' high buildings.

The state mandates that Orinda must be zoned to build more than 1,359 new units within 10 years, and that no parking shall be required within a half mile of public transit.

The City Council may yet destroy our "village" by enabling developers to tear down buildings, displacing beloved businesses and turn our narrow streets into canyons. The planning department is telling the council that downtown must be zoned for mixed-use, high-density, tall buildings to satisfy the council's desire for revitalization and the state legislation.

The unfortunate economic reality is that Orinda cannot attract retail businesses, because of our limited foot traffic and because of intense competition in nearby shopping areas. Increasing our population by several thousand will not help, especially with reduced parking. There will be empty storefronts in any new "mixed use" buildings.

Yes, we need to create more affordable housing for more families and individuals. Yes, downtown needs to look better. This can be achieved by having the City create a "facade fund."

Orinda is a residential town with an appropriate amount of retail and should not aspire to become like Lafayette. We should do what we do best – retain a quiet, friendly, village character with nice views of the hills.

– Charles Porges

## ◆ SAT from page 4

Since August 2005, SAT has provided free, door-to-door transportation to Orinda's senior residents. Orinda volunteer drivers, using their own personal vehicles, provide rides to doctor appointments, errands and social events in Orinda and nearby areas. This year drivers drove over 15,000 miles.

In the early stages of the pandemic Orinda volunteer drivers did grocery runs for seniors, rather than take them grocery shopping or to other appointments. Those requiring essential medical services, such



# Pet of the Month!

Email a photo of your beautiful, amazing pet and *The Orinda News* Team will select and feature your pet in upcoming issues!

Email your pet's photo, name and info to [editor@theorindanews.com](mailto:editor@theorindanews.com)

## List of *The Orinda News* Advertisers

	Page		Page
<b>Automotive</b>		State Farm, Bryan Silveira	8
Mash Gas and Food	1	State Farm, Kelly Sopak	2
Orinda Motors	5	Wilder Homeowners Association	15
Orinda Shell Auto Care	2	<b>Real Estate</b>	
<b>Beauty and Fitness</b>		AG Realty	
CoreKinetics	2	The Gailas Team	3
Nancy Henderson Personal Training	7	Coldwell Banker	
Living Lean Exercise & Eating Program	6	Laura Abrams	7
<b>Cleaning Services</b>		Suzanne Toner Geoffrion	3
Kirby Carpet Cleaning	12	Shellie Kirby	9
<b>Dental</b>		Dudum Real Estate Group	
Dr. Mary Smith DDS	7	Christina Linezo	16
<b>Educational</b>		The Grubb Company	
Orinda Parks & Rec	14	Rebecca Ciccio	9
<b>Financial and Insurance Services</b>		Alexis Thompson	10
Park Place Wealth Advisors	15	Sotheby's	
StoneCastle Land & Home Financial	16	Ann Newton Cane	13
Wells Fargo Wealth Advisors	9	Village Associates	
<b>Garden/Landscaping</b>		Shannon Conner	14
Ken's Redwood Fencing	6	Dexter Honens II	8
McDonnell Nursery	15	April Matthews	13
Tree Sculpture	13	Murphy Team - Karen & Hilary Murphy	9
<b>Medical</b>		Ann Sharf	11
Dr. Brian Clark	14	Clark Thompson	10
Medicine Shoppe	8	<b>Restaurants/Catering</b>	
<b>Nonprofit</b>		Baan Thai	12
The Orinda Association	3	Casa Orinda	12
<b>Professional Service</b>		Farmers' Market	6
5A Rent-A-Space	11	Siam Orchid	7
Green Sheds	11	Zamboni's Pizza Company	8
Jeff Heyman Photography	9	<b>Retail</b>	
Republic Services	10	McCaulou's	14

as dialysis or cancer treatments, were still driven to their appointments.

For information on being a driver, call 925.402.4506 or visit [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

Also honored with the 2021 Mayor's award were Girls Crushing It, Miramonte Environmental Solutions and Lamorinda Village.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.org](mailto:sally@theorindanews.org).

## ◆ MESSAGE from page 3

members and welcome your interest and enthusiasm.

Our meetings are once a month on Zoom. Why not help us shape The Orinda Association's future and have fun at the same time?

Please contact me if you're interested in being involved in any of our activities or serving on the board.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).

*The Orinda News* prints 9,000 copies and is published 12 times a year by The Orinda Association. The office is located at 26 Orinda Way (lower level of the Library). All rights reserved. The publication is sent out by direct mail (Permit #4, Orinda Post Office), distributed to key locations throughout the city and online at [www.theorindanews.com](http://www.theorindanews.com).

Executive Editor.....Sally Hogarty  
 Editor-in-Chief.....Charleen Earley  
 Assistant Editors.....David Dierks, Kathy Bohanan Enzerink  
 Copy Editor.....Ken Hogarty  
 Editorial Committee.....Jill Gelster, Cindy Powell  
 Advertising Representatives.....Mimi Bommarito, Kathy Bohanan Enzerink, Jill Gelster, Elana O'Loskey  
 Staff Writers.....Mimi Bommarito, David Born, Bobbie Dodson, Ania Keenan, Barbara Kobsar, Melanie Light, Andrea Madison, Elana, O'Loskey, Tom Westlake  
 Contributing Writers.....Neil Bui, Suzanne Murillo  
 Photographer.....Jeff Heyman  
 Graphics/Layout.....Aspen Consulting: Jill Gelster, David Dierks  
 Printing.....Folger Graphics

# The Orinda News

A Publication of  
 The Orinda Association  
 Mailing Address  
 P.O. Box 97  
 Orinda, California 94563  
 Telephone: 925.254.0800

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



The OA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Opinions of *The Orinda News* are expressed on the editorial page. Views of writers and letters to the editor are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Orinda Association or of *The Orinda News*. Advertisements appearing in *The Orinda News* are not to be construed as endorsements by The Orinda Association or *The Orinda News*.

Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 250 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number. Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to [editor@theorindanews.com](mailto:editor@theorindanews.com).

Letters to the Editor for the February issue are due Jan. 8.

For advertising rates, contact Mimi Bommarito 925.818.7068, Kathy Enzerink at 252.626.2109 ([kathy@theorindanews.com](mailto:kathy@theorindanews.com)), Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 ([jill@aspenconsult.net](mailto:jill@aspenconsult.net)), Elana O'Loskey at 925.984.1751 ([elanao@mac.com](mailto:elanao@mac.com)). The deadline for the February issue is Jan. 8.

FIREWISE / POLICE

# Past Wildfire Lessons Guide Us

By MELANIE LIGHT  
Staff Writer

We've been living with wildfire in California for a few years now. As the power and destruction of the wildfires has grown, clearly the best preparation involves an entire community. The process takes time to educate and mobilize all stakeholders. Looking back to past fires can help us move forward.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency recently published, "Tahoe in Depth Special Issue, Caldor Fire, Fall 2021, Issue 20."

While a change of the wind helped the firefighters, the report states, "In the neighborhoods where the Caldor Fire threatened homes, residents successfully active in creating defensible space and recent fuel reduction projects had thinned trees and removed dead woody debris.

"Publicly owned urban lots in the neighborhoods had received initial fuel reduction treatments as well. These combined tactics improved the odds for firefighters and gave them the room to work."

The fuel reduction work was done over many years. For more information on Tahoe in Depth, visit <https://bit.ly/3dLZpOI>.

Lessons can be learned from the Camp Fire too. Yana Valachovic, the county director-forest advisor for the UC Cooperative Extension in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, and a registered forester and scientist, wrote about her visit to Paradise for the Fire Adapted Communities website on Dec. 2.

She found strong statistical signals showing how we can adapt our homes and properties to fire exposure.

**We are Interdependent:**

"Over 73% of homes destroyed in Paradise had a structure burn within 18 m (59

feet)," wrote Valachovic. If you haven't hardened your home, it could take out your neighbor's home. Density creates vulnerability. This means we need to look out for each other.

**Homes are fuel too:**

"Burning homes appeared to catch neighboring trees on fire more than trees catching homes on fire," she continued. Homes should have non-combustible gutter guards. Investing in a Class A roof is critical, while shake roofs are very dangerous. All vents should be ember-resistant. That five-foot perimeter around the house and decks needs to be clear of mulch, wooden planters and woody plants. Upgrading to tempered, double-paned windows also would help.

**Construction Practices are helping:**

The age of a home is important. Only 11% of single-family homes built before 1996 survived, compared with 39% of homes built after 1996. Surprisingly, homes built to the 2008 WUI construction standards did not increase a home's survival when compared to homes constructed between 1997-2007. Regardless, it is extremely important to harden older homes.

For more information on Paradise, visit <http://fireadaptednetwork.org>.

These quiet months are the perfect time to have a look around your home, meet up with your neighbors and work on home-hardening while creating defensible space.

While there is no guarantee your home will withstand a wildfire, you can tilt the odds in your favor. Keep chipping away at making your home and neighborhood safer each year. Every bit you do will help you and your neighbors.

*Melanie Light can be reached at [melanie@melanielight.com](mailto:melanie@melanielight.com).*



# POLICE BLOTTER

November 15 through December 13

**Calls for Service**

- Battery: 1 incident
- Burglary, Auto: 2 incidents: Bear Creek, Camino Pablo
- Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident: Glorietta Blvd
- Burglary, Residential: 4 incidents: Wovenwood Dr., Ironbark Cir., La Fond Lane, unlisted
- Death Suicide: 1 incident
- Failure to Obey Officer: 2 incidents
- Found Property: 1 incident
- Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 2 incidents: Orinda Way, Vashell Way

- Identity Theft: 3 incidents
- Outside Assist: 1 incident
- Public Nuisance: 1 incident
- Shoplift: 2 incidents: Orinda Way, Moraga Way
- Tow: 1 incident
- Vandalism: 3 incidents

**Arrest**

- Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 2 recoveries
- Warrant Arrest: 1 arrest

– Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

## Opportunity to Serve on City Commissions and Committees

At the beginning of each year, the City Council holds interviews to fill upcoming term expirations on the City's Commissions, Committees and representative seats on regional boards.

**The upcoming term expirations are for the following:**

- Planning Commission (three positions)
- Parks & Recreation Commission (two positions)
- Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (three positions)
- Historic Landmarks Committee (two positions)
- Art in Public Places Committee (one position)
- County Connection Citizens Advisory Committee (one Orinda representative)

Interested citizens are encouraged to apply by filling out a Statement of Interest by Jan. 14. For a description of the various City Commissions/Committees, visit <https://cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/3152/Commission-Committee-Descriptions>. To view and print out Statement of Interest, visit <https://cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/2320/Statement-of-Interest-Form-Updated-2-15-18> and submit to the City Clerk at [ssmith@cityoforinda.org](mailto:ssmith@cityoforinda.org).

**Monday - Friday**  
 ⌚ 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
 ⌚ 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

**ORINDA MOTORS**

🔍 [orindamotors.com](http://orindamotors.com)  
 ☎️ (925) 475 - 8435

**Proudly Serving Orinda Since The 1920s**

📍 63 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

**Your Local Family Owned Certified Auto Repair Shop!**

FARMERS' MARKET



**Seasoned Shopper**  
It's Time to Choose your Greens!  
BARBARA KOBSAR

Leafy winter greens, readily available this month at Orinda's Farmers' Market, are full of flavor, nutrition and versatility. They thrive in the cool weather growing conditions of January but are available year-round.

The robust flavors of kale and collard greens spice up winter soups and stews and blend well with rice, potatoes, pasta or beans. To tone down any bitterness, simply blanch the trimmed leaves in boiling water for a few minutes. No worries if kale has been touched by frost – it's actually a benefit since it helps to tenderize and mellow the flavor of the leaves.

Mustard greens are the pungent-flavored, curly leaves of the mustard plant. If you're looking for a more subdued "bite," try Oriental or Chinese mustard greens.

I only knew dandelions as a bright green weed in the backyard grass. Those dandelion leaves were very bitter, but cultivation practices have produced larger, thicker

leaves with a less assertive flavor. Serving with a warm vinaigrette reduces the bitterness and helps to tenderize the leaves. All parts of the dandelion plant are edible. The flower buds may be marinated, flowers may be used to make wine and roots can be roasted and ground to make root "coffee."

Turnips and beets are my favorites. They do double duty by producing both root vegetables and edible leaves. Turnip cooks up nicely with potatoes, and beet tops add color and flavor to pasta dishes.

Swiss chard is also a type of beet with lush leaves and no fleshy root.

Pick up a bunch of fresh kale at the market and try this simple delicious soup: Melt 1 tablespoon butter in a medium pot. Add and sauté ½ cup chopped onion and ½ cup chopped celery until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in 2 cups of chicken or vegetable broth and 1 cup canned chopped tomato. Heat to boiling and add about 3

[SEE SHOPPER page 8]

◆ TUNNEL from page 1

tion in the ceremony was "about genuine friendship with Ellen" and that the former First Lady had the crowd laughing as she recalled past interactions with the former congresswoman.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize Ellen and her contributions to Contra Costa [County]," Orinda's Mayor Amy Worth said.

Born in New Jersey in 1951, Tauscher attended Seton Hall University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in early childhood education in 1972. She was one of the first women to hold a seat on the New York Stock Exchange in her twenties and worked on Wall Street for a total of 14 years.

In 1980, she created the Tauscher Foundation to help elementary schools in California and Texas buy computer equipment for students. Tauscher made a difference for parents seeking quality childcare by creating the ChildCare Registry in 1992, a national service that verifies the background of childcare workers.

Tauscher's platform as a U.S. Representative included gun control, women's right to abortion and increased spending on education. During her 1996 campaign against incumbent California Republican William P. Baker, Tauscher noted that she stood for "moderation and common sense."

Rep. Tauscher held a seat on the Armed Services Committee in Congress, as well as assignments in the Transportation Committee and Science Committee. She supported the adoption of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which prohibits any nuclear explosion or test explosion anywhere in the world. Tauscher supported cutting taxes, such as the "marriage penalty" tax and estate tax, but opposed the George W. Bush administration's proposed 2001 tax cut, passed by Congress.

Tauscher also served as state co-chair

for Senator Dianne Feinstein's successful 1992 and 1994 campaigns, and, in 2009, was appointed by then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

Tauscher played a pivotal role negotiating an arms agreement with Russia, closing negotiations on the New START Treaty in 2010. She served in the Under Secretary position until resigning on Feb. 6, 2012, and was subsequently sworn in as a U.S. Department of State special envoy for strategic stability and missile defense.

Tauscher was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2010, defeating it after a two-year battle.

"She was negotiating up to the end," Mayor Worth said of Tauscher.

Worth recalls Tauscher's efforts to secure federal money for Orinda's downtown streets after the establishment of the city's new library in 2001, making the area more easily walkable. It was the beginning of the streetscape movement for cities to provide a multi-use street open to cars and pedestrians and said, "Ellen helped us get that funding."

Tauscher accomplished a lot in terms of securing transportation funding for Contra Costa County, said Worth.

Rep. Tauscher established strong relationships during her time in Congress and "could reach across the aisle and get things done," said Worth.

She forged partnerships among the local, state and federal levels of government and energized women in Orinda to become engaged for the first time to support a candidate like herself in Congress, Mayor Worth said.

Worth remembered Tauscher's great sense of humor, talents in public speaking and inspiring role as a woman in Congress, saying that it was wonderful to hear good regards and stories from Clinton and Sen. Feinstein at the dedication ceremony. Both were good friends of Tauscher, said Worth, and they spoke very warmly in remembrance of her, with Clinton reiterating the California Representative's love for her district.

Mayor Worth called Tauscher a mentor for working women.

"She was a great role model, a real inspiration as a woman in Congress," she said.

Andrea Madison can be reached at [drea.madison.05@gmail.com](mailto:drea.madison.05@gmail.com).



YOUR  
**Orinda**  
**SATURDAY**  
**Farmers' Market**

Open Year Round - Rain or Shine

*Morning Market & Music*

SATURDAYS 9-1PM • OPEN YEAR ROUND

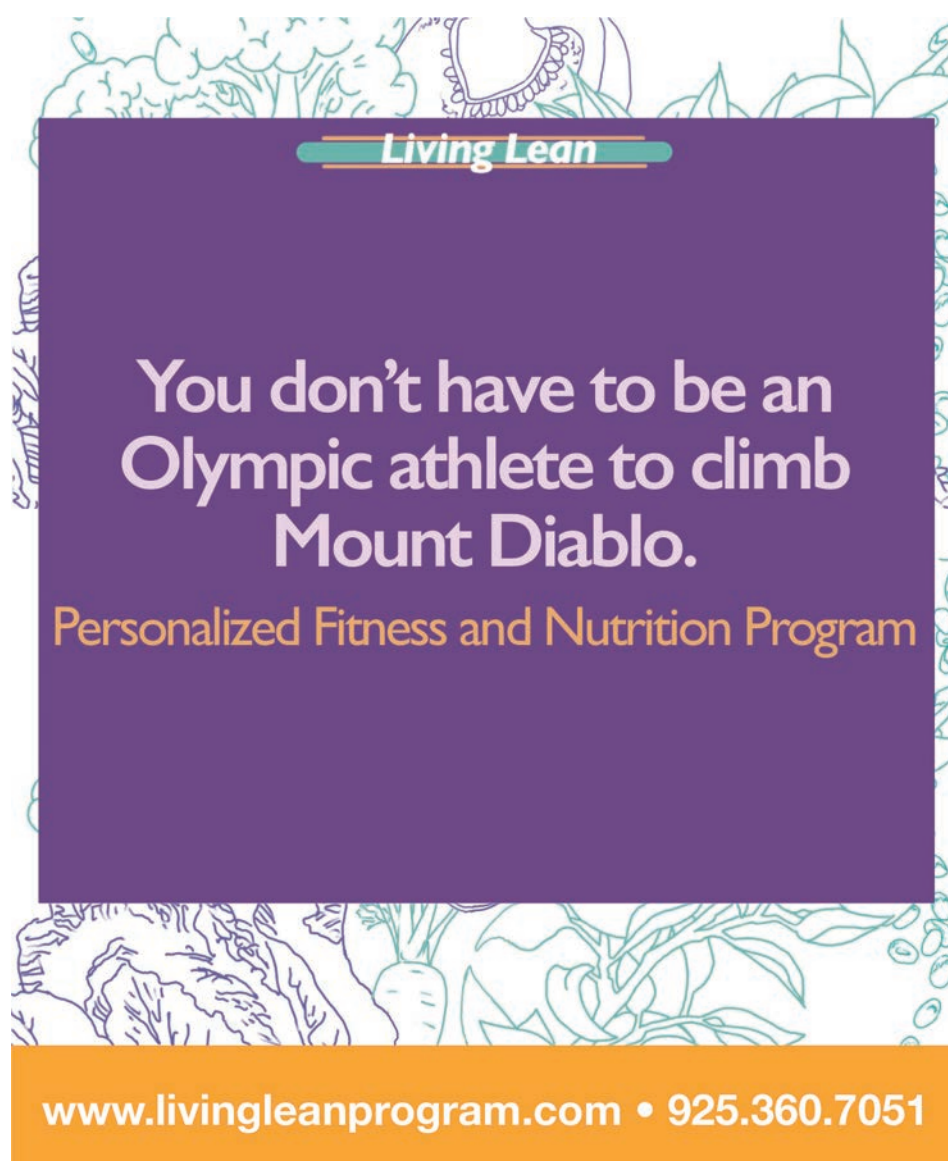
Serving Orinda for over 25 Years!



**KEN'S**  
**REDWOOD FENCING**  
925.938.9836

Custom Quality Fencing  
Good Neighbor Fence  
Deer Fencing  
Picket/Split Rail  
Arbors and Trellises  
Retaining Walls  
Insurance/Storm Repairs

Licensed, Bonded & Insured.  
CA #667491



**Living Lean**

You don't have to be an Olympic athlete to climb Mount Diablo.

Personalized Fitness and Nutrition Program

[www.livingleanprogram.com](http://www.livingleanprogram.com) • 925.360.7051



**Music Returns to the Jelly Belly Factory**

CHRISTIAN GAVIN

Once an annual tradition prior to the pandemic, sweet music has returned to the sweet Jelly Belly Factory once again. **Orinda Intermediate School's orchestra and jazz band**, directed by Greg Mazmanian, performed a concert of holiday music at the renowned Jelly Belly Candy Factory in Fairfield Dec. 11.

GIVING

# Future of the Orinda Theatre – Orinda’s Entertainment Jewel

By CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Editor-in-Chief

Steve Harwood is so passionate about the future of one of Orinda’s most cherished edifices, the Orinda Theatre, he created a nearly 18-minute YouTube video presentation charting creative ways to keep it sustainable for years to come.

For the last 12 years, Harwood has organized Lamorinda Idol, been a singer throughout his life, done some acting and wrote and directed youth musicals. He’s also been Chairman of the Board of Playhouse West, a professional East Bay theater company, and has provided sound for countless entertainment events.

Needless to say, the Orinda Theatre is important to him and also to the community he’s lived in for 44 years.

“I think it is important to the community to see the Orinda Theatre thrive for a number of reasons,” he said. “It is convenient to have film and other cultural offerings right here in our backyard. The success of the Orinda Theatre leads, in turn, to our local restaurants prospering and contributes to maintaining the vitality of downtown Orinda. Finally, the theatre is a magnificent example of art deco style and iconic in the area. We need to care for it.”

The ever-changing landscape of movie-viewing and technological advances with a myriad of streaming platforms threatens

the economic viability of this and other movie houses.

The pandemic’s economic effects, coupled with a steep monthly operational bill between \$15,000 and \$18,000 a month to cover rent, utilities, insurance, equipment maintenance and more, further threatens the Theatre’s survival.

Harwood’s goal for the future of the Orinda Theatre is that it becomes a suitable venue for a broad range of entertainment and activities, not just for films.

Offering live entertainment is one way to achieve that goal.

“In the near term, readers can help by patronizing the theater and becoming a subscriber of the *Live at the Orinda!* cabaret series,” he said. “Longer term, financial and other support will be required if modifications to the theatre are to be made so that it can serve as a venue for a broad range of entertainment in addition to film.”

In his video presentation, Harwood stated the playhouse was built in 1941 and slated for demolition in 1984.

“It was saved through the efforts of preservationists and reopened in 1989 when two additional screens were added,” said Harwood. “The Orinda Theatre is part of the Theatre Square complex, which is owned by Dunhill Partners, LLC, with equity primarily from a Texas-based entity with management from Vacaville.”

Located at 4 Orinda Theatre Square,

# Orinda Woman’s Club 35th Annual Festival of Trees Pandemic Era Success

By SUZANNE MURILLO  
Contributing Writer

A carefully planned and well-executed strategy for guest safety and enjoyment made this year’s Festival of Trees a pandemic era fundraising success. Attendance was limited to no more than 300 for an annual event that usually draws over 400 guests.

All attendees either pre-registered their proof of vaccination or showed proof at the door and were given a silicone wristband to wear, facilitating their movement inside and outside the Marriott San Ramon, where the event was held.

Orinda Woman’s Club and Festival of Trees Committee members Charlene Antal, Betty Brotherton, Janet Nelson and Donna Schuppert, handled reservations.

Guests were encouraged to bid on over

60 silent auction items. These included a vacation in Vermont, a stay at Hotel Drisco in San Francisco, collector dolls, handmade quilts and jewelry, bottle of excellent wines and gift certificates to Postino, Shelby’s, Tutu’s and Trader Vic’s.

Amazing baskets, trees and wreaths, beautifully decorated and lovingly created and donated by Orinda Woman’s Club members, friends and local businesses, were displayed along the wide hallway outside the Bishop Ranch Ballroom, enticing guests to buy raffle tickets for a chance to win one.

The luncheon salads, prepared by the Marriott catering staff, received rave reviews from guests, who were able to remove their masks and enjoy both the meal and the opportunity to visit with friends.

ABC Channel 7 News Anchor Dan

[SEE FESTIVAL page 15]



DEREK ZEMRAK

Spencer Day, #1 Billboard artist/Jazz vocalist, performed at the Dec. 5, 2021 *Live at the Orinda!* cabaret series at the Orinda Theatre. The cabaret series is subscription-based and helps support the Orinda Theatre’s continued longevity and service to the community.

the East Bay landmark currently has three screening rooms to seat 750, 189 and 47 guests.

It boasts a spacious lobby, a wine bar called Cine Cuvee and a newly installed, state-of-the-art movie screen in the main auditorium. A complimentary bag of popcorn with real butter is offered on Wednesdays.

Orinda Theatre owner and operator, Derek Zemrak of San Ramon, is equally impassioned about the theater’s future and

[SEE THEATRE page 8]



Authentic Cuisine of Thailand

- Family Owned
- 3 Generations of Thai cooking experience
- All sauces made fresh
- Full Bar

Lunch: Mon.-Fri. 11-2  
Dinner: Mon.-Sun. 4:30-9:00

23 F Orinda Way, Orinda  
(925) 253-1975



In-Home Personal Training  
For Individuals with Parkinson’s

Nancy Henderson

Pilates Instructor & Personal Trainer  
Careful Social Distancing

Phone: (925) 254-0329

Email: sersuave2003@yahoo.com

May your home be filled with laughter, joy and love, this holiday season.



| SOLD |  
3 Wellesley Court  
Lafayette

This elegant contemporary designed estate has panoramic views of the Lafayette reservoir across the valley.

3Wellesley.com

◆◆◆ HOMES RECENTLY SOLD BY LAURA ◆◆◆

20 Hacienda Circle, Orinda  
56 Camino Del Diablo, Orinda  
40 Camino Del Diablo, Orinda  
1076 Serrano Court, Lafayette  
341 Camino Sobrante, Orinda  
32 Via Farallon, Orinda

85 Orchard Road, Orinda  
5 Newberry Place, Moraga  
921 Dewing Avenue, Lafayette  
185 Holly Lane, Orinda  
192 Crestview Drive, Orinda  
44 Camino Encinas, Orinda  
3 Wellesley Court, Lafayette

4 W Creek Court, Lafayette  
221 El Toyonal, Orinda  
22 E. Altarinda Drive, Orinda  
38 Chapel Drive, Lafayette  
2725 Prince Street, Berkeley  
9 Stanton Court, Orinda  
37 Vallecito Lane, Orinda ~ Pending

Recognized as one of America’s 2021 Best Real Estate Professionals by Real Trends and Tom Ferry.  
Ranked among the top 1% of 1.4 million real estate professionals in the United States!



Laura Abrams

laura@lauraabrams.com • lauraabrams.com

510.697.3225

DRE # 01272382

Celebrating 22 Years With Coldwell Banker Orinda  
A Trusted Partnership Local Expertise with Global Connections



YOUR SMILE IS EVERYTHING

MARY H. SMITH, D.D.S.  
A Professional Corporation  
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry



Proudly serving the Lamorinda Community for over 26 years.

We always welcome new patients.

Our office delivers the highest quality and service.

Consults are always complimentary.

Come visit our brand new state of the art office.  
1 Bates Blvd. Suite 210, Orinda, 925.254.0824

FILM

◆ THEATRE from page 7

the community benefits.

“Arts are important to any community, expressing the values and ideas of the people within the area,” said Zemrak, who has produced several movies over a span of 25 years and produced music for several television shows. “Losing the arts results in loss of focus in a community.”

A member of the Screen Actor’s Guild and the Producer’s Guild of America, Zemrak said there are ways people can help: “We have an ongoing GoFundMe campaign (<https://bit.ly/3ILq24G>), which people can donate to, but the most direct way, would be to attend a movie or special event.”

Michael Williams, co-producer with Zemrak of the *Live At the Orinda!* concert series, said their goal for the cabaret series – which began in 2018 – is twofold: “One, to bring world-class Broadway, cabaret and jazz artists who excel in this intimate style of performing and who don’t often perform in the Bay Area, to the Orinda Theatre.”

Williams added, “Two, to create a sense of community among live music lovers. It’s a beautiful community here and an untapped market we’ve discovered.”

Williams said artists they’ve brought to Orinda include Tony, Grammy, Emmy and Academy Award-winning and nominated artists such as Rita Moreno, John Lloyd

Young, Maureen McGovern, Ann Hampton Callaway, Liz Callaway, Lillias White, Karen Mason, Andrea McArdle, Lorna Luft and Amanda McBroom, to name a handful.

The concert series is subscriber-based. Those who subscribe to the entire season get discounted ticket prices, their own reserved seats for the season, complimentary drinks and more. To subscribe, people can visit [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com), or stop by the theater.


The Orinda Theatre turned 80-years-old last month, and Williams is proud to have access to such a remarkable hippodrome.

“Just having this historic theater that has been so lovingly and painstakingly restored and maintained in our own neighborhood is such a gift,” he said. “And the opportunity to see world-renowned artists perform in our own community in this beautiful theater just takes it to a whole other level.”

On the heels of the pandemic, Harwood is excited to see the theatre come alive again: “Dec. 5 was a special night in Orinda, as the monthly *Live at the Orinda!* cabaret series resumed following a COVID-19 hiatus.”


He concluded, “Those who attended in the sold-out 189-seat room at the Orinda Theatre were treated to a world class cabaret event featuring internationally-renowned jazz vocalist Spencer Day and his combo. The ever-changing lighting matched the mood of each song, and the sound was perfect. The audience left exhilarated. This was an example of seeing the Orinda Theatre thrive.”

Charleen Earley can be reached at [editor@theorindanews.com](mailto:editor@theorindanews.com).



## THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

### IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN OR HAPPY



**TOM WESTLAKE**

Two films coming to the Orinda Theatre this month to begin the New Year represent opposite ends of the movie spectrum, one arguably one of the worst ever made, the other a well-crafted piece of cinema that explores a relatively new wrinkle on a very old subject.

In the worst column, we have *The Green Slime*, released in the landmark year of 1968, the same year as its polar opposite, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The title alone should tell you all you need to know. On the surface, this movie is about an alien species bedeviling a space station after the meteor they live on gets blown up. If you look just a bit deeper, you won’t find much. As a lover of cinema, I can’t in good conscience, make any more of this movie than that.

Even back in the day when it was initially released, word traveled fast that this was, to put it mildly, not a good movie. The effects are anything but special, the actors know just what they’re involved with and the titular monsters ranks right up there with Tobonga, the killer tree stump in *From Hell It Came* and the equally deadly carrot from *It Conquered the World*.

Since, however, this is this month’s selection for The Chiller Diller Theatre at the Orinda Theatre, I would be equally remiss if I didn’t let you know about it. It really is something. What, specifically, I can’t rightly say, but it is something. It screens Jan. 15 at 9:30 p.m.

Elevating things, we have the welcome return of the International Film Showcase

and its New Year’s entry *I’m Your Man*. This too is a work of science fiction, but it’s far more grounded and, with the massive advances in our technological age, frighteningly plausible.

Dan Stevens (*Downton Abbey*) stars as Tom, an android designed solely for the purposes of making Alma, an archeologist, more interested in her work than in making any kind of human contact, happy. Reluctantly allowing this imposition in her life, she manifests an apparent irritation, but nonetheless goes along with the nuisance since there’s a significant monetary reward attached.

In many ways, this feels like a predictable story. *Ex Machina* and *Her* both explored similar territories, but there’s very much an air of unpredictability present, and one is never sure where the story will go or how it will end. Much of this has to do with actor/director Maria Schrader, whose work in front and behind the camera has never opted for rote, easy answers.

To say more would be revealing too much, as is my ability to tell you exactly when it will screen. That has yet to be determined, but as usual, I urge you to keep checking [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com) or [www.internationalshowcase.org](http://www.internationalshowcase.org).

Now then, until February, remember to veer towards those wonderful images made from sound and light – for that’s where the reel magic lies.

Tom Westlake can be reached at [poppinjay@earthlink.net](mailto:poppinjay@earthlink.net).

## Zamboni's

PIZZA COMPANY

**1 Camino Sobrante, Ste 4**  
We're right across from Orinda Safeway!

---

### Thin Crust & Deep Dish Pizza

---

Delicious pizza, calzones, salads and drinks. Eat in or order out, we're open everyday.

Remember we always offer FREE local delivery! (\$15 min)


---

**Open Daily**

M-Th	11a – 9:00p
Fri – Sat	11a – 9:30p
Sundays	11a – 8:30p

## The Medicine Shoppe

100% Pure Pharmacy<sup>SM</sup>



Naomi Yuen, Pharm D.  
Custom compounding available.  
Now offering FREE Deliveries  
282 Orinda Village Sq. • 254-1211  
<http://orindamedicineshoppe.com>



**Right coverage.  
Right price.  
Right here in town.**

**Bryan A Silveira, Agent**  
Insurance Lic#: 0M13551  
23 Orinda Way  
Orinda, CA 94563  
Bus: 925-317-3804

Here’s the deal. The right insurance should help you feel confident and comfortable. I’m the right good neighbor for that. Call me today.

Like a good neighbor,  
State Farm is there.®



State Farm  
Bloomington, IL  
2001290

◆ SHOPPER from page 6

cups chopped kale. Cook until the kale wilts, about 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in 1 cup canned white beans (drained and rinsed) and heat another 4 to 5 minutes. Hardy and delicious! Enjoy with your favorite friend! Serves 2.


The Orinda Farmers’ Market is open every Saturday (closed New Years Day) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. For more information, visit [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org), [facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket](https://facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) and Instagram at [OrindaFarmersMarket](https://instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) or call the market hotline at 925.431.8361.

Barbara Kobsar can be reached at [Barbara@cotkitchen.com](mailto:Barbara@cotkitchen.com).



BARBARA KOB SAR


Tender leaves and crunchy stalks make up these beautiful bunches of Rainbow Chard.



Achieving the Real Estate Goals of clients, friends and family in your neighborhood since 1989.  
Native & lifelong resident of Orinda.

DEDICATION □ TRUST □ INTEGRITY □ RESULTS

**DEXTER HONENS II**  
Real Estate Broker  
Cell: (510) 918-8911  
Email: [dex@dexrealtor.com](mailto:dex@dexrealtor.com)  
[www.dexrealtor.com](http://www.dexrealtor.com)



DRE # 01029372



PERFORMING ARTS / FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

# Live at the Orinda Features Tony Award Nominated Christine Andreas



COURTESY OF ORINDA THEATRE  
Christine Andreas and her producer/composer husband give romance a nod in their Jan. 30 concert.

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor

The Orinda Theatre's popular concert series returns Jan. 30 with two-time Tony nominated actress/singer Christine Andreas. Beginning at 5 p.m., Andreas and her Grammy-nominated husband, producer/composer Martin Sylvestri, will perform numbers from her solo album *Love Is Good*.

Married for 30 years, Andreas and Sylvestri take audiences on a journey of respect and affection as they reinforce their mutual admiration through such pop standards as *Fly Me to the Moon* and *Song of Bernadette*.

A Christine Andreas' show would not

be complete without a nod to her many Broadway triumphs. The song *Storybook* from *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, where she originated the role of Marguerite St. Just, ushers in an evening of upbeat tunes from that show, as well as *South Pacific* and *My Fair Lady*, to name just a few.

Known for her performances at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, London's West End and major Broadway houses, Andreas also excels at intimate venues such as the Orinda Theatre. Orinda's middle-sized theater provides an up-close and personal space to hear Andreas' soaring vocals, as well as to enjoy brief stories giving insight into the couple's prolific

careers.

For tickets, call 925.254.9065 or go to [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com). Subscriptions for the entire season are also available. Future shows include Freda Payne (Feb. 20), Marilu Henner (March 6), Natalie Douglas (April 3) and Debbie Gravitte (May 1).

Sally Hogarty can be reached at [sally@theorindanews.com](mailto:sally@theorindanews.com).

## First Friday Forum Topic for January is Crisis on the Korean Peninsula

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

Despite the 2018 Trump-Kim summit, declared a success by both sides, tensions between the U.S. and North Korea continue to rise. Will erratic behavior and aggressive rhetoric result in conflict?

Guest speaker Dr. Michael Baker will discuss the importance of the Koreas to their neighbors and world commerce in a webinar presentation titled "Crisis on the Korean Peninsula and a Rational Way Forward," Jan. 7 at 10 a.m.

Baker will examine why North Korea acts in a belligerent fashion and whether

this poses a credible threat to the security of the USA and its allies. U.S. and allied options, such as diplomacy and war, will be explained, along with a way forward featuring so-called constructive engagement.

Dr. Baker is a retired general surgeon. He also had a military career, retiring as a Rear Admiral. A Commander of U.S. Naval Medical Forces in Korea 2001-2005, he has experience in strategy, contingency planning and multinational exercises. Baker teaches about the military for Osher Life Long Learning Programs at UC Berkeley, California State University - East Bay, Dominican University and others.

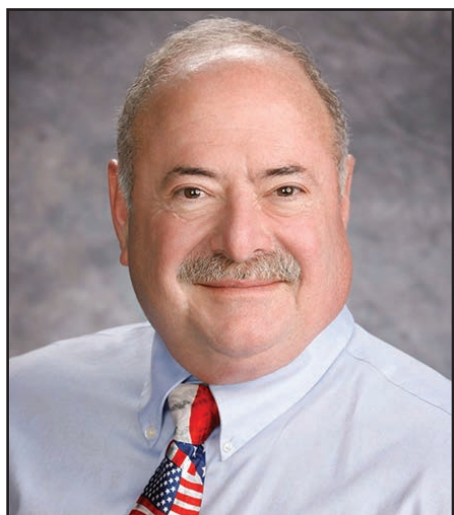
This is the first of 2022's First Friday Forum lecture series presented by Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC).

Mark your calendars for future forums. The next two during winter will be Feb. 4, UC Berkeley lecturer Marilyn Chase, "Everything She Touched: The Life of Ruth Asawa" and March 4, Dr. Juan Ruiz-Guajardo, "Mexican Culture in the Context of the US-Mexico Relationship."

In the spring, the program will feature April 1, Dr. Larry Toy, "Astronomy - The 5% We Know and the 95% We Don't Know"; May 6, Dr. Amos Guiora, "Enablers: Stories of Complicity and Betrayal in Sexual Assaults"; and finally, June 3, Ryan Tempte, former Children's Ministry Director at LOPC, "The Impact of the Pandemic on Children and Families."

To register for all webinar presentations, visit [lopc.org/first-friday-forum](http://lopc.org/first-friday-forum).

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at [bobbiedodson109@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiedodson109@gmail.com).



COURTESY DR. MICHAEL BAKER  
As the United States continues to have a tenuous relationship with North Korea, First Friday Forum presents the timely topic, "Crisis on the Korean Peninsula and a Rational Way Forward." Dr. Michael Baker is the lecturer Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary of LOPC, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, or via Zoom.

Jeff Heyman  
510.499.1420  
[OutcastsRevisitedMedia.com](http://OutcastsRevisitedMedia.com)  
Photography  
Broadcast  
Communications

The GRUBB Co.  
REALTORS  
Lafayette | Orinda | Moraga  
Berkeley | Oakland | Piedmont  
Rebecca Ciccio  
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE MATTERS  
917.482.6780  
CalDRE#01891757  
GRUBBCO.COM

Shellie Abbes Kirby  
Lifelong Lamorinda experience you can trust. Utilize Shellie's unique East Bay knowledge, personal attention, guidance and professionalism.  
Proven Results - Experience  
Personal Service  
Office: 925-253-6321  
Cell: 925-872-4257  
email: [shellie@shelliekirby.com](mailto:shellie@shelliekirby.com)  
COLDWELL BANKER

WELLS FARGO Advisors  
Building wealth takes hard work and passion. So should managing it.  
As successful as you are, we know there's still more you want to do. We've been helping our clients for more than 125 years, caring for more than \$1.6 trillion\* of their hard-earned assets. Find out why so many people trust our Financial Advisors to help them manage their wealth with the care it deserves. \*As of June 30, 2020  
Dean Akazawa, CFP®, APMA®  
Managing Director - Investment Officer  
Senior PIM Portfolio Manager  
2 Theatre Square, Suite 210  
Orinda, CA 94563  
Direct: (925) 253-4313  
[dean.akazawa@wellsfargoadvisors.com](mailto:dean.akazawa@wellsfargoadvisors.com)  
<https://home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/dean.akazawa>  
CA Insurance # 0687690  
Investment and Insurance Products:  
▶ NOT FDIC Insured ▶ NO Bank Guarantee ▶ MAY Lose Value  
Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company. © 2020 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. All rights reserved. CAR-0720-03330

The Murphy Team  
Leaders in Lamorinda Real Estate  
www.MurphyTeamRE.com  
Karen Murphy (925)788-6322 [karen.villageassociates@gmail.com](mailto:karen.villageassociates@gmail.com) License #00699318  
Hillary Murphy (415)309-5061 [hillary@murphyteamRE.com](mailto:hillary@murphyteamRE.com) License#01967218  
Village ASSOCIATES

VISUAL ARTS

# Orinda Art Scene

JANUARY IN THE ART GALLERIES AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY AND WILDER

ELANA O'LOSKEY



### Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: Digital News Art, The Beauty of Birds and Intricate Botanical Watercolors

The Lamorinda Arts Council will present the work of the Boscoe Family, Carol Lee-Chung and Lance Jackson at an in-person (with all COVID-19 precautions observed) and virtual exhibit at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library from Jan. 3-31. Meet the artists at a reception in their honor Saturday, Jan. 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. You can

view and purchase their artwork online at [www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/](https://www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/).

Three members of the Boscoe family – George, Maggie from Orinda and Sara from

sity of species. Her 8" x 10" photo of a Townsend's Warbler provides a great example of her skill at capturing one of the few moments when this active bird remained still. You can view her 2020 video exhibit at <https://youtu.be/IKIJ9uTxpoU>.

Carol Lee-Chung can often be found in her Orinda garden where she grows an impressive list of subjects for her botanical watercolors – artichoke, orchids, tulips, dahlia and figs to name a few. Her interest, which began a few years ago while studying with well-known botanical artist Catherine Watters, has never stopped.

to view or purchase them.

Lance Jackson, also from Orinda, trained as a painter/designer at Washington University and Rhode Island School of Design. During his 15 years in print journalism, doing illustration and design at the *S.F. Chronicle* and *Examiner*, "he was among the nation's first to use the Macintosh as a creative, expressive drawing tool," according to Saginaw Valley State University reviewer Mike Moser.

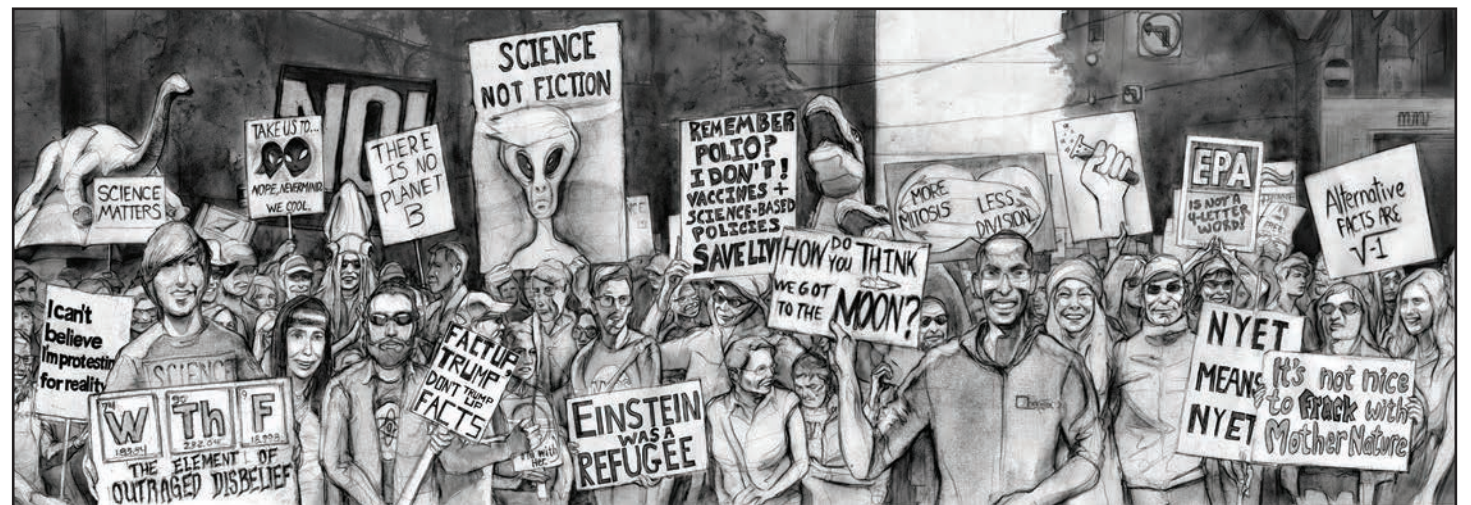
Unique to this show will be a selection of digital art he'll be exhibiting for the first time on the wood walls in the gallery. They

**The GRUBB Co.**  
REALTORS

Orinda | Lafayette | Moraga  
Berkeley | Oakland | Piedmont

**Alexis Thompson**  
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE MATTERS

☎ 510.816.0706  
CalDRE#01849227  
[mcrathompson.com](http://mcrathompson.com)



COURTESY OF LANCE JACKSON

Lance Jackson's 24" x 71" digital print entitled *Science March* commemorates the April 22, 2017 Earth Day rallies and marches centered in Washington, D.C. and more than 600 cities worldwide. Organized as a non-partisan movement to celebrate science, it emphasized that science upholds the common good and called for evidence-based policies in the public's best interest. Estimated worldwide attendance was 1.07 million.

Los Angeles – will display 40 - 8" x 10" photos of feathered friends. George took his photos as far away as the Tambopata Scarlet Macaw Project in the Peruvian Amazon. Maggie took up birding as a hobby during the pandemic. She joined the Mt Diablo Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)). Their photos include local species you may see in your backyard.

Upon returning from a family trip to Costa Rica, Sara discovered that LA county is a birder's paradise because of the diver-

Never short on inspiration, no matter the season, her garden provides all the botanical materials she needs to execute her detailed, delicate watercolors. While her watercolors are not for sale, she offers a selection of beautiful note cards depicting her exquisitely accurate botanicals. Visit <https://lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries>

depict recent news events such as *Science March, April 22, 2017*. This whimsical 24" x 71" digital print commemorates an international series of marches held in Washington, D.C. and more than 600 cities worldwide. A non-partisan event, it emphasized that science promotes the

[SEE GALLERIES page 11]

## Single Family Home Customers 2022 Holiday Tree Collection Schedule

**Your tree pickup will be on the same day as your regular garbage service but by a separate truck. Regular service will not be affected for Christmas and New Year's Day because they fall on a Saturday.**

<b>Week of Jan 3-7</b>	Customers in Walnut Creek, Danville, Alamo, Diablo, and Blackhawk (including unincorporated areas).
<b>Week of Jan 10-14</b>	Customers in Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga (including unincorporated areas).
<b>Week of Jan 17-21</b>	Customers who missed prior tree collection.
<b>AFTER Jan 21</b>	If possible, cut tree and place in organics cart with lid closed, or call (925) 685-4711 to schedule a pick-up for a fee.



### Tree Pickup Do's & Don'ts

- Do:**

  - Remove lights, ornaments, and tinsel before placing at curbside.
  - Trees over 8' must be cut in half.

**Don't:**

  - Flocked trees can be collected using your annual on-call garbage cleanup at no cost, but must be scheduled in advance. Call (925) 685-4711. If cut to fit inside with lid closed, flocked trees may be placed in your black landfill cart.
  - Do not leave stands (whether plastic, metal, or wood) on the tree. Trees with these items still attached cannot be picked up.

Leave trees at curbside on the same day as your regular collection day, during your city's assigned week.

**COLLECTED TREES WILL BE COMPOSTED.**



COURTESY OF SARA BOSCOE

Sara Boscoe encountered a Mountain Bluebird in Tierra Bonita Park in Los Angeles County. Her 8" x 10" photograph of this adult male thrush confirms that the "bluebird of happiness" is still around in 2022.

**36 Years of Experience**  
No individual broker has **SOLD** more homes.

**CLARK THOMPSON**

REAL ESTATE BROKER  
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925.254.8585 Cell: 925.998.7898  
[ct@clarkthompson.com](mailto:ct@clarkthompson.com)  
[clarkthompson.com](http://clarkthompson.com)

License# 00903367

VISUAL ARTS

◆ GALLERIES from page 10

common good while also serving as a call to action for evidence-based policy in the public's best interest.

Jackson's acrylic paintings on the white wall will include the 16" x 20" *Doggie Diner*, a homage to the 30 Doggie Diners that once dotted the Bay Area. The original can be found at Sloat Blvd. and 45th Ave. near Ocean Beach in SF. It became SF Landmark #254 in 2006. The brand name is now used for hot dog sales in Oracle Park, home stadium of the SF Giants. The 22 works on the wood walls will include Orinda landscapes, the Orinda Theatre and a possible projected Orinda future.

"Drawing is a form of communication," said Jackson. "The image is a possible form of dialogue, the beginning of a conversation." Learn more about his work at [www.lancejackson.net](http://www.lancejackson.net).

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, visit [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org). This exhibit runs Jan. 3 through 31 during normal library hours in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sun. Holiday close dates are Sat., Jan. 1 and Mon., Jan. 17. Call 925.254.2184 or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org). Email the curators with questions at [galleries@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:galleries@lamorindaarts.org), or call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

**Art Gallery at Wilder: Whispers of the Heart, Contemporary Art by Valerie Corvin**

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites you to view a solo in-person show and virtual exhibit of contemporary paintings by artist Valerie Corvin from January 3-31. Her theme for the exhibit will be "Whispers of

the Heart." Meet the artist at a reception in her honor Sun., Jan. 9, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is the only time the gallery will be open to the public except by appointment. All COVID-19 precautions will be observed for your safety. View and purchase artwork in Corvin's virtual exhibit through images at [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org) online-galleries.

Corvin, of Piedmont, has been painting for 20 years. While growing up, she was surrounded by art since both parents were artists. She studied fine art at the California College of the Arts and with numerous Bay Area painting teachers. "I love to paint and draw because I can use my body. I like to move and dance when creating lines and shapes. I love color, all colors, but I am most attracted to blues, yellows and whites," said Corvin.

She will exhibit about eight large scale works within her "Whispers of the Heart" theme, which describes the feelings and emotions she wants to communicate. She wants people to know she creates energetic works that speak to the heart and mind, and connect to the human experience of awe and wonder when in nature.

Corvin, who holds a Master of Arts in museum administration, worked for the SF Museum of Modern Art as a museum educator. As one of the founders of the Piedmont Center for the Arts, she applied these skills to help bring the Center into being.

Her love of painting has many layers, much like her mixed media canvases. "I love getting to know other artists and learning from them. Every time I am involved with a show at the Piedmont Center for the Arts, I gain some knowledge or ideas or inspiration," she said. For more information about Corvin's artwork, visit [www.valericorvin.com](http://www.valericorvin.com).



COURTESY OF VALERIE CORVIN

Valerie Corvin presents abstract artwork that exemplifies her theme, "Whispers of the Heart." Seen here are the blues, whites and yellows she prefers to work with in her 36" x 48" mixed media on canvas entitled, *Shifting Winds*. She draws inspiration mainly from landforms and clusters of boulders, trees, snow melt and unusual organic shapes and marks made by Mother Nature.

The Wilder Art and Garden Center is located at 20 Orinda Fields Way, Orinda. Viewings by appointment with Curator Aniston Breslin can be arranged at [anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu](mailto:anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu). For more

information, call Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at [business.orinda@gmail.com](mailto:business.orinda@gmail.com).

**Children's Health Guild Benefits UCSF Benioff**



LEIGH ANN PINCUS

Children's Health Guild members, pictured above at Diablo Country Club, held their annual boutique and fundraiser Nov. 5 to benefit UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and George Mark Children's House (GMCH) San Leandro. Event co-chairs Lauren Pierce and Molly Pullet of Orinda welcomed over 300 guests to the gala. All \$134,024 raised goes directly to the two beneficiaries so that, regardless of a family's ability to pay, a full circle of medical care, including emergency care and ongoing treatment, is provided for children in need. GMCH provides transitional and respite care, plus palliative care to help children and their families live life to its fullest during a child's final days. Visit [www.childrenshealthguild.org/](http://www.childrenshealthguild.org/) to learn more.

**Back Yard Office or Guest House**



- Studio/Gym
- Site-Built with Deck
- No Permit Required
- Ready in 3 Weeks!



[www.GreenSheds.net](http://www.GreenSheds.net) 925-872-3187

**Ann Sharf**

Top Producer. Strong Negotiator. Proven Results. for 30 years.

#1 Agent 2020 Lamorinda Sales

Be certain your largest asset is in the hands of a professional who represents both buyers and sellers.

Let me help you navigate through this ever changing real estate market.



(925)253-2525  
[ann@annsharf.com](mailto:ann@annsharf.com)  
[www.annsharf.com](http://www.annsharf.com)

CalBRE# 01156966



93 Moraga Way, Orinda

**IF YOUR RESOLUTION IS TO GET ORGANIZED 5A IS HERE TO HELP**

**\$50.00 OFF**  
ON SELECT UNITS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

WE SELL BOXES & PACKING SUPPLIES



Hours of operation  
Mon-Sat 9am -6pm office  
Mon-Sat 7am -5:45pm Yard.



455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F  
(925) 643-2060  
[www.5Aspace.com](http://www.5Aspace.com)



CALENDAR

## On the Calendar in January

**Orinda Library** is open to the public. With few exceptions, masks are required by the County for anyone not vaccinated. All events are currently online only. They can be viewed at: <https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events>. Open hours are Mon. through Thu., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sun. 26 Orinda Way, Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.

**Christian Science Church** Prayer Garden open to all for Quiet Meditation. Pray, read, meditate. All are welcome anytime during daylight hours. 24 Orinda Way.

**International Film Showcase** will present *I'm Your Man*, Germany's submission for Oscar consideration in the International Feature category in January. A doctor of art history needs money for a big project and agrees to take in a male robot for three weeks. Dates are not available at this time. Go to: [www.OrindaMovies.com](http://www.OrindaMovies.com) for information.

3 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** – Digi-



COURTESY LANCE JACKSON

**Lance Jackson's** 16" x 20" acrylic painting *Doggie Diner* appears at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library.

tal News Art, Beauty of Birds and Intricate Botanical Watercolors presented by the Lamorinda Arts Council at an in-person and virtual exhibit. Jan. 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. See article p. 10.

**Art Gallery at Wilder** – Lamorinda Arts Council features "Whispers of the Heart" by contemporary artist Valerie Corvin. Meet the artist at a reception in her honor Jan. 9 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. See article p. 10.

4 **Orinda Books Pat's Book Club** will meet to discuss *Meet Me at the Museum* by Anne Youngson. 11 a.m. The book is available at Orinda Books. Call 925.254.7606 or email [info@orindabooks.com](mailto:info@orindabooks.com).

7 **First Friday Forum** presents Crisis on the Korean Peninsula and a Rational Way Forward with Dr. Michael Baker. See article p. 9.

8 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also Jan. 15, 22 and 29. See article p. 6.

15 **Chiller Diller Theatre** presents *The Green Slime* 9:30 p.m. Orinda Theatre. Visit [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com), or [www.facebook.com/orindatheatre](http://www.facebook.com/orindatheatre). See article p. 8.

30 **Orinda Theatre** presents *Live in Orinda!* with Christine Andreas and Martin Sylvestri. Beginning at 5 p.m. See article p. 9.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at [calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:calendar@aspenconsult.net).

## Club Meetings in January

*With the lifting of state-level restrictions, some clubs are meeting in person while others still offer Zoom meetings. Use contact info for more information.*

**American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAU2W-OML)**, for information go to [oml-ca.aauw.net](http://oml-ca.aauw.net). **Community Gentle Yoga**, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at [gcmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmoozee@gmail.com).

**Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Kent Long for Zoom link at [kentlong@moragaadobe.org](mailto:kentlong@moragaadobe.org). [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).

**Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 3 p.m., 925.408.1840. [www.orindacreeks.org](http://www.orindacreeks.org). or [info@orindacreeks.org](mailto:info@orindacreeks.org).

**Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m. 925.687.8844, ext. 227. <https://bit.ly/3egD3EZ>.

**Lamorinda Meditation Community**. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:25 a.m., through Zoom. All levels and philosophies welcome. Contact Gaby Mozee at: [gcmoozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmoozee@gmail.com).

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated**. Third Thursday.

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

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary**. Weekly meetings conducted in hybrid format – in person & Zoom, and are recorded for after-the-fact playback. General public can access at no charge. 7 – 8:15 a.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609498205>.

Meetings are held at the Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For information: [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com). Meetings: Jan. 7: Marc Myers, contributor to the *Wall Street Journal* and other publications, writes about music, with focus on jazz; Jan. 14: Clara Sousa-Silva, astrophysicist and researcher at Harvard-Smithsonian Center. Her work has been showcased on PBS and NOVA; Jan. 21: Power of Rotary Partnerships in East Africa, presented by Erna Grasz; Jan. 28: Invention Time: the multi-patient ventilator splitter, co-developed by engineers at UC Berkeley and across the UK. The hope is to get the low-cost device deployed in Africa within the next two years.

**Montelindo Garden Club**, membership open to all, Email [montelindogarden@aol.com](mailto:montelindogarden@aol.com) to learn if the meeting is via Zoom and to request a link.

**The Orinda Association**. Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m., Zoom meeting. 925.254.0800 or [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

**Orinda Chamber of Commerce** Jan. 5 Executive Board Meeting, Jan 12, Membership Meeting 4 p.m., Jan 19 Board Meeting 8 p.m.,

– via zoom. Contact Kristen Southworth at [president@orindachamber.org](mailto:president@orindachamber.org) for zoom link.

**Orinda Garden Club**, PO Box 34, Orinda, [www.orindagc.org](http://www.orindagc.org), 925.257.0668.

**Orinda Hiking Club**. Every weekend and first Wednesday, Ian at 925.254.1465 or [www.orindahiking.org](http://www.orindahiking.org).

**Orinda Historical Society**. Call 925.254.1353 email [information@orindahistory.org](mailto:information@orindahistory.org), <http://orindahistory.org> for times and location of meetings and appointments.

**Orinda Junior Women's Club**. First Tuesday, 7 p.m., [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org). Contact Erika Rosenberg, Membership Chair, at 415.867.3065.

**Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM**. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925.254.5211.

**Orinda Rotary**. Virtual meeting Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m., [cmroeder@comcast.net](mailto:cmroeder@comcast.net) or [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org) for zoom link.

**Orinda Satellite Rotary Club**. Second Wednesday. Call Sylvia at 510.224.8548.

**Orinda/Tábor (Czech Republic) Sister City Foundation**. Fourth Thursday, 7 p.m., social, 7:30 p.m. meeting via Zoom. For more information, 925.254.8260.

**Orinda Teen Advisory Council** meeting Jan. 10, Orinda Community Center, 3:45 p.m. Jan 29 – Kids Night Out movie *Despicable Me*

Founder's Auditorium in Community Center. \$25 per child, \$10 sibling discount. Registration starts Jan. 4: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/orinda-ca/catalog>. Email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at [mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org](mailto:mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org).

**Orinda Woman's Club**. Currently meeting virtually Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Email Jean Barnhart at [jeanr.barnhart@gmail.com](mailto:jeanr.barnhart@gmail.com) or go to [www.orindawomansclub.org](http://www.orindawomansclub.org).

**Orinda Youth Sports** Jan. 22, Winter Basketball starts and runs through March 12. Orinda Community Center. Email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at [mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org](mailto:mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org).

**Road Runners**. Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papiilon (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepettos 87 Orinda Way), Thursday (SiSi, 910 Country. Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem). Contact John Fazel, [runmnts@prodigy.net](mailto:runmnts@prodigy.net).

**Sons in Retirement (SIR)** Lamorinda Branch 174, the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. For info, call Tyler at 925.963.5741 or Bill at 925.963.0442 or [www.branch174.sirinc2.org](http://www.branch174.sirinc2.org).

Send club listings to Jill Gelster at [calendar@aspenconsult.net](mailto:calendar@aspenconsult.net).



**Baan Thai RESTAURANT**  
Eat Healthy, Live Healthy  
ORGANIC SALADS MADE FRESH DAILY. MANY VEGETARIAN OPTIONS.  
WE COOK FROM FAMILY RECIPES.  
CATERING & GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE

You are welcome to Dine-In or  
Take your food To-Go with Curb Side Pick Up.  
We are here for you!

Lunch: Mon. - Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Dinner: Mon. - Sun. 4:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
99 Orinda Way, Orinda  
(925) 253-0989





**CASA ORINDA**  
RESTAURANT

**We are Fully Open!**

Thank you Orinda for all of your ongoing support!



925.254.2981 ■ 20 Bryant Way ■ Orinda, CA 94563

SERVING LAMORINDA SINCE 1979

Area  
Rug  
Cleaning  
Specialist



Area  
Rug Free  
Pick Up &  
Delivery

**(925) 254-2866**

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

**Services include**

- Carpets
- Tile & Grout
- Upholstery
- Outdoor Cushions

SPORTS / CLASSIFIEDS

# Youth Water Polo Teams Bring Home Gold and Bronze Championship

By THE ORINDA NEWS STAFF

Local 14-and under water polo club Diablo Alliance won a National Championship on the girls' side and brought home the bronze on the boys' side of the prestigious Kap 7 Champions Cup tournament at Indiana University in November.

Athletes from Hawaii, Texas, California, Connecticut, Illinois and Michigan traveled to Indiana to compete against the best eighth grade and under teams in our nation.

Diablo Alliance Water Polo Club previously won this tournament in 2014 on the girls' side, but this year marked the first time it qualified both a boys' and girls' squad. Catharine Arroyo (COO and coach) directs the club with husband Robert ("Robby") Arroyo (CEO and coach).

"Recently, the boys' program has made huge leaps and bounds, primarily due to this phenomenal group of eighth grade and under young men," said Catharine. "The girls' squad is a tight group of young women as well. They have played together for several years, some since they were eight and nine-years-old. They have always been a highly

competitive group of athletes, but this fall they really came into their own."

After a challenging weekend of high-level play, the girls' squad found themselves going into the semi-finals. Having suffered only one loss to SoCal (9-6), they matched up with SET in the semis, a team hailing from El Toro, California. The game was a battle, but Diablo secured its spot in the championship game with a 17-11 win.

"A couple of hours later," Catharine said, "they hopped back in the tank for a redemptive battle with the team that had handed them their only loss of the tournament, a SoCal team from Tustin, California. After an amazing four quarters of team play, they came out victorious 11-7."

The boys' squad had a similar path to the medal stand, but after a tough loss to Greenwich, Connecticut, 18-12 in the semi-finals, the team found itself matched up with a SoCal team in the third-place match. Like the girls' team, they too had suffered an earlier loss to SoCal SET in bracket play, 13-7.

"They were ready to put it all on the line to bring home a medal," Catharine said. "The boys jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, winning



COURTESY OF AJ MAST/USA WATER POLO

Diablo Alliance Water Polo boys and girls teams both took home national championship awards, with the boys winning bronze of the prestigious Kap 7 Champions Cup tournament at Indiana University. (L-R back row) **Coach Robert Arroyo, Dillon Bouch, Cristian Sanchez, Sloan Brown, Peter Kroger, William Corr, Evan Liberatore, Jackson Frediani, Jack Elder, Coach George Driscoll** (Front Row) **Nyle Nuckols, Tanner Lustig, Ben Livesay, Kyle Stilinovich, and Reid McCall.**

in convincing fashion, 13-6. This is a historic win for this group since it is the first National Tournament where a Diablo Alliance boys' team has taken home a medal."

Catharine Arroyo points out the tournament recognizes winners even about game results: "This tournament recognized two Diablo Alliance athletes who were awarded the USA Water Polo Sportsmanship Awards. On the boys' side, Peter Kroger from Orinda, took home the Jody Campbell award while Sarah Wright of Lafayette was the recipient of the Maureen O'Toole award for the girls. This award has a special place in the hearts of all Diablo players and coaches since Maureen O'Toole, along with her husband Jim Purcell, founded Diablo Alliance back in 1999."

For more information about Diablo Alliance, contact Catharine Arroyo at robertmarroyo@gmail.com.

## ...classified ads

### Help Wanted

**Interested in Neuroscience and Psychology?** The Advanced Therapy Center Orinda seeks part-time technician to hire/train for cutting edge work. Education level negotiable. Please submit letter of interest to Dr.Smith@advancedtherapycenter.org. No phone calls please.

### Services

**Christmas Lights and more.** Take down indoor and outdoor. Orinda resident Charles 925.254.5533

**Rain Gutter Cleaning.** Roof Cleaning, Overhanging branches trimmed. Charles (h) 925.254.5533 or (c) 925.528.9385.

### Wanted

**I buy Danish Modern & 1950's Modern furniture,** fine art, sterling silver, & estate jewelry. Will buy 1 item or entire estate! Call Rick at 510.219.9644. Courteous house calls. Rick Hudson Estate Liquidation, LLC.

**Donate Your Vehicle** to The Orinda Association. Very easy! Call 925.326.5868.

**Orinda Volunteer drivers needed** for one ride per month. Call SAT at 925.402.4506 to set up an appointment.

**Unwanted Eye Glasses** are collected for Lions Club at The Orinda Association office, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda.

## Orinda News classified ads

Your ad in The Orinda News reaches 9,000 households and businesses in Orinda!

### 2022

#### Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline
February	Jan. 8
March	Feb. 8

Ad rates are \$5 per line  
\$10 minimum  
Form available at:  
<https://bit.ly/3f4gkf6>

Enclose your check payable to *The Orinda Association* and mail to *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563. We reserve the right to reject any ad. Classified ads must be prepaid. *Your cancelled check is your receipt.* Ads can also be paid at [bit.ly/3bZsoio](https://bit.ly/3bZsoio).

Guiding you through one of your most important transitions from **Start to Finish.** Utilizing my *skill, care, and excellence* from 24 years of local **Real Estate Experience.**



It's April in Lamorinda for Real Estate



April Matthews

925.200.0773  
l.april.matthews@gmail.com  
DRE# 01221153



It's Village. Of Course.

Want to know what your home is worth?  
Call for your free market evaluation.



In 2021, Ann represented buyers and sellers in more than \$50 million in transactions, surpassing her record sales total for 2020. One of her 2021 transactions, representing the seller of a Happy Valley property in Lafayette, produced the **highest price of any Lafayette sale ever reported on the Multiple Listing Service.** Ann has become the largest sales producer in the Golden Gate Sotheby's Lafayette Office.

Call today for any and all real estate needs you may have—**this is the best time to take action for you, your family, and your future.**



**ANN NEWTON CANE**  
**415.999.0253**

a.newtoncane@ggsir.com  
annnewtoncane.com  
Lic.#02084093

Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated.

Golden Gate | **Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



## TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE

**Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!**

Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977

**(925) 254-7233 ❖ www.treesculpture.com**

SPORTS / STUDENTS

# Looking Back on Soccer Team's CLS League Championship Triumph

By NEIL BUI  
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 21, 2021, the 2013 Boys Lunar Team of the East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club beat the Peninsula Cyclones White of Santa Clara and became the 2021 CCSL (California Competitive Soccer League) league champions for their division.

The 3-1 victory capped an extraordinary and undefeated 10-game season for the Club.

The Lunar Team, made up of eight-year-old boys from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette, clinched the league title the day before by defeating the Lamorinda Football Club 14 Navy, 5-2.

"It was great to see the commitment of our boys finishing the season so strong. You could see in the boys' faces after the game what this season meant to them," said Ellie McGinley of Orinda.

McGinley added, "From the very beginning, it felt like we were always saying how lucky we were to have the best of everything – best dedicated group of boys, best coaches any team could ask for with Kevin McClure, Michael Chaffin and Keith Klohn, best team manager there ever was with Kevin Desai and best active group of parents – the list just goes on."

Parent Chinh Vo of Orinda, couldn't get over the kids' drive during workouts.

"Forget the games – the energy level at practices was incredible," said Vo. "The coaching was so good that I actually sent video clips of certain drills these coaches had my eight-year-old doing to my 12-year-olds' soccer team."

Team manager Desai of Orinda, said the young athletes enjoyed growing as a team and improving as soccer players.

"What stood out about this group more than anything is that they love to compete," said Desai. "They were a joy to watch. I could not be more proud."

During a team celebration after the boys were also crowned champions of the San Ramon Boo Cup Soccer Tournament – which is a U.S. Club Soccer-sanctioned tournament with accepted player passes – Coach McClure of Orinda, made a statement to the crowd: "We had a special group of boys from the start. They just kept getting better as the season progressed."

The Lunar Team went undefeated in league play, scoring 61 goals while only giving up six goals to the 10 opposing teams.

The team's season record included the following game results: Lunar v. Belmont United Roma (8-0); Lunar v. Belmont United Milan (7-0); Lunar v. Alpine Strik-



MIKE STERN


The 2021 California Competitive Soccer League champions clinch a 3-1 victory (L-R back row) **Keith Klohn, Kevin McClure, Michael Chaffin**, (middle row) **Calvin, Caleb, Drew, Chase, Logan, Brendan, Garin**, (front row) **JJ, Andrew, Owen, Camden, Brady, and Connor**.

ers (8-2); Lunar v. Eclipse Solar (7-0); Lunar v. Belmont United Inter (6-0); Lunar v. Madera Roja Chelsea (2-0); Lunar v. Peninsula Cyclones Red (9-0); Lunar v. Fremont Rush (6-1); Lunar v. Lamorinda

Navy (5-2); and Lunar v. Peninsula Cyclones White (3-1).

Neil Bui can be reached at [neil\\_bui@yahoo.com](mailto:neil_bui@yahoo.com).

**McCaulou's**  
and  
**Hollyhock**  
always  
**FREE Gift Wrap!**  
**on items 15.00**  
**or more.**  
Orinda Village Square



**Brian Clark, Psy.D.**  
*licensed clinical psychologist*  
PSY 25198

ADOLESCENTS · ADULTS · FAMILIES

*specializing in:*  
Achievement Pressure  
AD/HD  
Parenting Support  
Anxiety  
School Stress  
Depression

954 Risa Road · Lafayette  
(925) 385-8050  
[www.brianclarkpsyd.com](http://www.brianclarkpsyd.com)

**THE BEST TIME TO BUY OR SELL? FRANKLY, TODAY.**

925.980.3829  
[Shannon@ShannonConner.com](mailto:Shannon@ShannonConner.com)  
[ShannonConner.com](http://ShannonConner.com)

DRE# 01885058  
[Villageassociates.com](http://Villageassociates.com)  
925.254.0505



*SC* shannon conner

Village ASSOCIATES


## 2022 Youth Ink Writing Contest

Youth Ink announced its annual writing contest with the theme "Cup Half Full" as a prompt. Not wanting to limit the imagination of participants, the contest allows students to veer away from the prompt to write about anything, real or imagined. The contest opened Dec. 13, 2021 and closes March 6.

Created to support the literary arts among young people in the Orinda Community, the contest is open to all students in grades 6 through 8 who live in or go to school in Orinda. Entries must be a story (fiction or non-fiction), poem or other creative writing forms presented in English at 750 words or less. Submissions will be evaluated on content, clarity, structure and originality.

Youth Ink 2022 entry forms are available online at [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org) or in hard copy at local schools or the Orinda Library. Contest rules and submission information can be found on the entry form.

First Place winner will be awarded \$250, Second Place \$125 and Third Place \$75, and 10 honorable mentions will receive gift certificates. Winners will be notified by mail and receive prizes in May. Sponsors of the contest include the Orinda Junior Women's Club, The Friends of the Orinda Library, The Intuitive Writing Project, Orinda OCF (Orinda Community Foundation) and Lamorinda Arts Council.



SANA SHUKAIRY

**Hana Shukairy** read her winning piece, while former Youth Ink Chair, **Erika Rosenberg**, moderated the Youth Ink awards ceremony, April 2021 at the Orinda Community Park in the outdoor amphitheater.

**What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!**

**We are accepting rentals of the Tennis Court #1 by Pickleball players.**

**New Classes for Youth and Adults Begin this month. Please check our website for Class Listings.**

**Currently Accepting Facility Rental Requests Under Current Health Guidelines**

**Orinda Community Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Masks are Required Indoors.**

**Happy New Year and Please Continue to Stay Safe by Following Health Recommendations**



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department  
925-254-2445  
[www.OrindaParksandRec.org](http://www.OrindaParksandRec.org)  
[OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org](mailto:OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org)  
28 Orinda Way – Orinda Community Center  
Administrative Office Hours – 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

FRIENDS OF ORINDA CREEK

# Friends of Orinda Creek Score Big

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

Mayor Amy Worth, in a Nov. 5 ceremony with Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, received a check for \$125,000 designated for the San Pablo Creek Pedestrian Trail from the Friends of Orinda Creek (FOC).

It was a win-win for the city and the Friends of Orinda Creek (FOC) when Bauer Kahan's request for a grant for creek restoration and a trail was approved.

The road to the grant began a couple years ago when FOC approached Bauer Kahan and pitched the restoration of San Pablo Creek through the downtown section of the Village.

Sharon McGinnis Girdlestone, an Orinda business owner, could not contain her excitement.

"Yay for RBK, as well as Mayor Worth, City staff and Friends of Orinda Creek, for keeping this vision of a restored creek alive," she said. "Downtown San Pablo Creek was put in a concrete straight jacket in 1958. The channel blew out in a storm a few years later, and the creek was left with

broken concrete, eroding banks and loss of flood protection."

Now that funds have come through, restoration work can begin on the 275 linear feet section of San Pablo Creek, which lies directly behind the Vintage Office Building. The County owns this section and supports restoration.

According to Dr. Bruce McGurk, Certified Professional Hydrologist and a member of the FOC Board, this would consist of the following:

1. Providing flood control by removal of the concrete slabs to prevent potential blockage of the downstream culvert in a severe storm.

2. Making a wall to support the steep bank below Camino Pablo Road.

3. Removing the concrete slabs and installing three "step pools" to prevent sheet pile, undermining erosion and form natural pools for aquatic life.

McGurk added, "Our effort is to improve access and function of the creek. A natural stabilization of the creek channel will allow free water flow without erosion."

Cinda MacKinnon, founder of FOC,

Harper Greer of Lafayette presented an eclectic mix of fashions, and online merchant Mahsa (www.wearmahsa.com) of San Ramon offered understated, yet bold designs.

Most models were Orinda Woman's Club members or friends who sauntered and twirled their way through the ballroom, posing at each table tearoom-style to allow guests to see the fashions up close.

While final numbers were not available at press-time, Festival of Trees staff members felt confident proceeds would exceed \$30,000.

The Orinda Woman's Club will use its share of the proceeds to support local charitable organizations.

In the past, the club has donated to Seniors Around Town, Monument Crisis Center, White Pony Express, NAMI of Contra Costa County, Renaissance Scholars and many others. Assistance League Diablo Valley will use its share of the proceeds to help fund Operation School Bell Common Threads program, which will supply \$100 in new clothing to homeless children in three Contra Costa County school districts.

For more information about the Orinda Woman's Club, visit www.orindawoman-sclub.org.

Suzanne Murillo can be reached at [suzannemurillo@gmail.com](mailto:suzannemurillo@gmail.com).



SHAWN KUMAGAI

(L-R) Orinda Chamber of Commerce Vice President **Juliet Don**, Assemblymember **Rebecca Bauer-Kahan** and Friends of Orinda Creeks President **Bob Stoops** are happy to receive the State of California Build Back Boldly check for the downtown San Pablo Creek enhancement work.

gave background information about the organization, "When I moved to Orinda 29 years ago, I noticed there was a degraded creek running through the otherwise nice downtown, and people didn't even know it was there," she said. "I thought, 'What a shame.' My background is hydrology and I was interested in creek restoration."

Encouraged by the East Bay Municipal District (EBMUD), she founded Friends of Orinda Creek in 1993, with meetings held

in the old Orinda Library.

"In those days, City engineers considered the creek a drainage ditch," she said. "Things have changed at the City level, and FOC has attracted a highly talented group, jump-starting this dream of a restored babbling brook running through the village."

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at [bobbiedodson109@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiedodson109@gmail.com).

## ◆ FESTIVAL from page 7

Ashley once again presided as Master of Ceremonies. He introduced the major beneficiaries of this year's event – Assistance League Diablo Valley and the Community Service Committee of the Orinda Woman's Club.

Ashley offered stories of how these organizations have helped those most needy in our communities and encouraged all present to continue their support. He also announced the 25 very happy raffle winners.

This year's fashion show was a departure from the New York style runway format used in past years. Patti Camras, Chairperson for Fashion Houses, enlisted the two local fashion houses who were featured.



SALLY HOGARTY

Maryann Aude (right) was one of the models at the Orinda Woman's Club Festival of Trees fashion show.

**Park Place**   
**WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.**  
A Registered Investment Advisor  
Retirement & Income Planning • Estate Planning • Charitable Planning • Educational Funding  
401K Rollover Specialists  
18 Orinda Way, Orinda • 925-254-7766  
Registered Principals with and securities offered through Securities America, Inc.  
Member FINRA, SIPC. Park Place Wealth Advisors Inc. and Securities America are separate entities.

**Wilder Wishes  
Everyone a Happy  
and Healthy  
New Year!**

**ADD-RO**

**McDonnell**  **Nursery**  
family owned since 1933

**Winter Rose Pruning Workshop**  
January 22, 2022  
10:00am

To reserve a seat please call: (925) 254-3713  
or [info@mcdonnellnursery.com](mailto:info@mcdonnellnursery.com)

Flowers - Trees - Succulents - Pottery & Fountains  
Benches - Garden Decor - House Plants  
Gifts - Jewelry

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

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Wed. - Sun.

BUSINESS

# Hilton-istas Found at the Hilton House Consign & Designs Locations

By Mimi Bommarito  
Staff Writer

**T**Maxxinistas – is so “last year.” Savvy shoppers in the East Bay (and beyond) discovered it’s best to be a *Hilton-ista* instead, a frequent peruser of ever-changing merchandise at Orinda’s own Hilton House Consign & Designs.

Whether downsizing or decorating, Hilton House is a thriving local business never to be overlooked or underestimated. Despite a global pandemic, this place is hopping, filled to the brim with all manner of quality consignment items, ranging from practical to whimsical to extravagant.

“The store is never the same place twice,” said owner Cyndi Hilton, adding that turnover of the inventory moves at a rapid pace, making frequent visits to the store – or following their social media accounts – worthwhile.

Realizing that Orinda and the surrounding area had few, if any, options in 1999 for reselling furniture and fine décor, Orindan Hilton created a business.

It had instant success. Years later would prove that even Facebook Marketplace and other online shopping venues has not diminished the popularity of this bustling local shop. Or, shall we say, shops, since Hilton needed to add additional retail space in the same shopping center, near the original, to accommodate larger furniture pieces, carpets and artwork.

Hilton left the banking world 22 years ago and was searching to define the next phase of her life. Though well-schooled in all aspects of banking and commerce, she had never run a consignment business.

Serendipitously, she encountered the right experts, many of whom she still works with daily, to help her evaluate merchandise and successfully navigate the resale market.

Ahead of her time, magic occurred in the days before anyone was regularly preaching the environmental and humanitarian benefits of reduce-reuse-recycle.

“People just love to visit this store,” said Hilton, as she pointed out an eclectic and impressive array of estate jewelry to fine jewelry, cabinets full of collectibles, china, crystal, designer shoes and purses, Steiff teddy bears, objects d’art, chairs, lamps, tables and cabinets – the list is endless and constantly changing.

She added, “Some people visit just to look around.”

If one’s schedule does not allow an in-person visit, Hilton House has Facebook and Instagram pages, which are updated daily and boasts over 10,000 followers.

Purchasing resale furniture is an excellent way to acquire long-lasting quality without the high retail price tag, Hilton said.



Owner **Cyndi Hilton** started Hilton House Consign & Designs in 1999 and remains actively involved today.

Orindan Linda Bakshi was thrilled to find the perfect dining room table and sofa for her father, who recently moved here from Florida. Bakshi’s goal was to make her father’s downsized home in assisted living pleasant and comfortable.

“I was concerned about supply chain delays,” she said. “I needed to have all his furnishings in place when we moved him in, to ease his transition. I found the perfect table and sofa for him at Hilton House. Cyndi even hired Campo students to deliver and set up the furniture.”

Hilton House is also the ideal place to shop for gifts, especially wedding, baby and birthday, all with free gift-wrapping without a price minimum.

With the top-notch customer service the store is famous for, if shipping is needed, Hilton will box it up and walk it next door to The UPS Store.

Hilton said, for potential consignors, merchandise must first be personally evaluated by one of the staff, but they are extremely flexible and do their best to adapt to busy schedules.

“We’ve had folks leave things here to be evaluated while they run to the Farmers’ Market,” she said.

Next time you grab a meal at Genuine Goodness or visit any of Orinda’s other businesses near the Orinda Library, pop in and check out Hilton House, or visit it on Instagram at #hiltonhousedesigns or on Facebook: Hilton House Consign/Design & Estate Liquidations.

Hilton House Consign & Designs is located at 19 and 21 Orinda Way. Call 925.254.1113 for more information.

*Mimi Bommarito can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.*

## FINANCIAL NEWS RELATING TO RESOLUTIONS



DAVID BORN, CFA, CFP

**Y**our columnist will spare you all of the financial New Year’s resolutions and the concomitant set up for pain and disappointment. There are enough listicles in the spirit of “22 Financial Changes to Make in 2022.”

Sure, marginal improvements to finances can make a person happier, but rather than working more or bleeding every penny, let’s focus on research that shows that giving yourself a break also increases happiness.

This is the finding of a recently published study conducted by researchers at Ohio State, Rutgers, and Harvard Business School.

“There is plenty of research which suggests that leisure has mental health benefits and that it can make us more productive and less stressed,” said Selin Malkoc, one of the study’s authors.

Indeed, since the ability to afford a break increases with wealth, it is no surprise that both financial health and leisure increase happiness. But life is more nuanced than this correlation. Higher earnings often go to people with better work ethic and less proclivity for taking a break. This crowd should pay special attention to the leisure study.

“We find that if people start to believe that leisure is wasteful, they may end up being more depressed and more stressed,” said Malkoc.

Yet, there is hope for workaholics if they can only convince themselves that leisure

is part of a larger goal.

“If leisure can be framed as having some kind of productive goal, that helps people who think leisure is wasteful get some of the same benefits,” said Rebecca Reczek, the study’s co-author.

One goal of leisure time might be to increase the quality of your relationships.

If that alone is not enough for you to push the chair away from the desk, consider that relationships are the greatest predictor of happiness, health and longevity. That is the conclusion of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, which has followed 724 then-teenagers since 1938 for their entire lives.

“The lessons of this study are not about wealth or fame or working harder and harder. The clearest message we get from this study is this: good relationships keep us happier and healthier,” according to Robert Waldinger, the fourth director of the 83-year (and counting) study.

The implications of all this research for your financial resolutions are simply given not to let those resolutions get in the way of spending quality time with those you care for. “The good life is built with good relationships,” as Waldinger said.

I would tell you more if you are not yet convinced, but it’s time for my break!

*David can be reached at dborn@pfmpartner.com.*



### Kyle Davis

Mortgage Consultant/Owner/Partner  
Lamorinda Resident Since 1995  
CalBRE License #01111347/NMLS #274107  
Direct: 925-314-5299  
Kyle@stonecastlemtg.com

**RATES ARE NEAR ALL TIME LOWS!**  
**30 YEAR FIXED RATE TO \$3,000,000!**  
**2.875% / 2.95% APR**

### GREAT CONFORMING RATES!

	Fixed Rates to \$647,200		Fixed Rates to \$970,800	
	Rate	APR	Rate	APR
<b>30 Year Fixed</b>	2.869%	2.925%	2.999%	3.03%
<b>15 Year Fixed</b>	2.128%	2.199%	2.156%	2.25%

“PROVIDING PREMIER LOAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICE FROM THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND SOLUTION-ORIENTED PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.”

**Call 925-314-5299 for Today’s Quote!**

This is not a loan commitment, nor is it a guarantee of any kind. This comparison is based solely on estimated figures and information available at the time of production. Interest rate is subject to borrower and property qualifying.

Stonecastle Land and Home Financial, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Lender.



380 Diablo Rd. Suite 280 • Danville • kyle@stonecastlemtg.com



**Client Centered. Results Focused.**  
**Experience the Difference.**

### Christina Linezo

REALTOR®

415.425.3085

Christina@christinalinezo.com  
www.BayAreaDreamHomes.com



DRE 01964989

DRE 01882902