



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Chevron's Proposed Mini-Market

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

Orinda's Chevron station, located at 11 Orinda Way, has put forth a proposal to replace the station's auto service bays with a new convenience market, a modification requiring zoning changes at the current site. The City of Orinda is currently evaluating the proposed changes. The Chevron station is one of four in the downtown area.

"Essentially, the gas station wants to add a convenience market," said Orinda's Associate Planner Jim Frank.

The service bays have stood unused for a while, Frank added, and the current use appears to be storage.

"Mainly, this is about the zoning code,"

Frank said of the proposal.

According to a mitigation management and operations plan published by Chevron Stations Inc., the retailer has applied for a conditional use permit for 24-hour operation and for a California Type 20 liquor license, which allows for the sale of beer and wine to be consumed off-site.

In a statement of findings from Petaluma-based Stantec Architecture dated Feb. 8, the proposal is described as a remodeling of the existing auto service bay building into a convenience store, featuring an entry oriented toward Orinda Way and an over-look deck area with seating. The outdoor seating area will be oriented towards San Pablo Creek.

"The applicant does not propose creek



COURTESY OF STANTEC ARCHITECTURE

The Chevron located at 11 Orinda Way could see an update in the form of a new **ExtraMile** convenience market. The existing auto service bays would be replaced by the market, which would offer refrigerated healthy snacks, sandwiches, fruit and usual gas station fare. The rendering above is the initial submittal to the Planning Department, and the design could revise as process moves forward.

restoration, but Chevron proposes to dedicate the land they own adjacent to the creek," said Frank.

He also said this land dedication would not be considered until after Chevron is set to move forward with a project and if the proposed code changes are approved.

Ten parking stalls, including eight regular stalls, one accessible stall and one EV charging stall, are proposed at the station. In Stantec's statement of findings, the

company requested, "half of the 12 fueling positions be allowed to count towards the parking provided, as is common practice in most other municipalities in California."

"Though not part of the current application, Chevron is showing the proposed design of the market for context and feedback," said Frank.

The concept design contains example images of a typical Chevron ExtraMile interior and features a mood board of the new

[SEE CHEVRON page 8]

Cinderella's Ball in the Heart of Orinda



JEFF HEYMAN

"Dreams Come True" at Artistic Director **Patricia Tomlinson's Cinderella's Ball** in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Dancers from Tomlinson's Orinda Ballet Academy performing in the ballet include: (Front "V" row) **Joanna Yu, Arya Samanta, Elise Nguyen, Ella Pierce, Emma Silberschmidt, Chloe Sabo-Nichols, Ava Allaire, Renee Silberschmidt, Phoebe Higgins, Maya Elkind, Sadie Elkind and Emily Charo.** (Back "V" Row) **Frances Giquinto, Amy Dai, Gemma Leach, Bailey Brothers and Phoebe Schultz.**

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Where else, but the Orinda Library Auditorium, can you experience a ballet production of *Cinderella* with Prokofiev's rich and melodious score?

Patricia Tomlinson, artistic director,

adapted *Cinderella's Ball* and Contemporary Dances (*Cinderella*) for a 45-member cast of ballet dancers from ages 3.5 to 18. Performances are May 20 at 6:30 p.m., May 21 at 4 p.m. and May 22 at 2 p.m. at the Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way.

Tomlinson, who was coached by George

[SEE BALLET page 4]

Lawsuits, Investigations and Violations Inside Orinda's Troubled Nursing Home

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

The Orinda Care Center, a 47-bed nursing home community located at 11 Altarinda Rd., has come under fire in the past two years for both a serious COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020 and allegations of elder abuse, neglect, understaffing and sexual assault, which prompted an investigation completed in June 2020, from the Contra Costa District Attorney's office.

The nursing home currently holds an active license, valid until January 2023.

Orinda Care Center is a for-profit, corporate-owned care facility operated by ReNew Health Group, whose Chief Executive Officer Crystal Solorzano, has been accused of providing fraudulent college transcripts to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) while applying

for licensure. CDPH's Nursing Home Administrator Program decided to revoke her license in May 2019.

Solorzano appealed the revocation but dropped her appeal during the summer of 2021.

[SEE NURSING page 18]



JEFF HEYMAN

The Orinda Care Center, located at 11 Altarinda Rd., has spent the past two years in the headlines for accusations of negligence and alleged shortcomings in maintenance of a safe facility.

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LIVE AT THE ORINDA!

Live At the Orinda! Concert Series: Two Shows

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

Orindans will not be in short supply of world-renowned entertainment when the Live At the Orinda! concert series presents two shows this month at the Orinda Theatre. The first features Debbie Gravitte May 1, and the other stars Christine Andreas May 22.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Gravitte moved to New York City to pursue her career in theater. She's a Tony Award-winning jazz singer with her tour-de-force performance having come in *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*.

She's excited to perform in Orinda, especially since COVID-19 shut down original plans.

"I was a last-minute sub and then the pandemic took over the land," said Gravitte. "This will be my debut, and I cannot wait. Everyone there has been incredible, in particular Orinda Theatre's Michael Williams."

Intensely smitten with Broadway and big band music, Gravitte has also brought credit to her name with performances in *Chicago*, *Les Miserables* and *They're Playing Our Song*.

She shared how it all started.

"I was always loud and charismatic, with an emphasis on loud!" she said. "I fell in love watching *Damn Yankees* on my local television and, particularly, Gwen Verdon, and immediately ran to dance classes and that started it all at the time. It makes me feel at home to entertain people."

Her mantra is, "life is short, live your life," and she hopes her audience in Orinda will "have an afternoon that transports them – however they want to be transported!"

Appearing with over 175 orchestras around the world from Moscow, London, Stockholm, Munich and Beijing to the National Symphony with Marvin Hamlisch and the Boston Pops with Keith Lockhart, Gravitte has recorded four solo CDs.

She said she is the proud president of Group5 Productions and has three beautiful children: "Two of my kids are in showbiz all the way."

"My son (Sam) is an amazing human and that's what makes me so happy," she said.

"He's also wildly talented. I'm hoping that Orinda audiences will get to see him one day!"

Christine Andreas will grace the Orinda Theatre's stage toward the end of May.

A two-time Tony-nominated singer and actress, Andreas lives in Ridgefield, CT, and could not be more thrilled to finally perform at the Orinda Theatre since she had initially been scheduled for January when the pandemic shut live performances down.

While literally in the middle of the ocean on travel, she took pause for an interview and talked about what she hopes her Orinda audience will take away from her show.

"Me! A little piece of me!" she said. "Singing live in an intimate theater or cabaret space is thrilling both for the audience and singer. You can feel artists breathing, finding their air for the next word or phrase. You can sense them pulling feelings from their life experiences and infusing it into the music. It's a communion between artists and audience. Pieces of Barbara Cook, Streisand, Tony Bennett, Lena Horne, Sammy Davis Jr., Rosie Clooney, Natalie Cole – so many artists I've seen live – have left their mark."

In concert, Andreas has performed everywhere from Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center to London's West End. Some of her starring roles on Broadway include *La Cage Aux Folles* (with Kelsey Grammar), *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Oklahoma!*, *On Your*



BILL WESTMORELAND

First show in May, Live At the Orinda! Concert Series presents Tony Award-winning jazz singer and actress **Debbie Gravitte**, May 1. Sunday show begins at 5 p.m. Gravitte is excited about her debut at the Orinda Theatre.

Toes and *My Fair Lady*. She is currently touring the country with her one-woman show, *PIAF – No Regrets*.

Her kids are following in her footsteps. "I have a wonderful stepdaughter, Emilie, who is a documentary filmmaker. In fact, she filmed and produced my DVD of *PIAF – No Regrets*, which is completely stunning if I do say so myself," said Andreas. "I have a beautiful son, Mac, who is on the autistic spectrum – it's not a sad story, he's a pretty happy guy. He blisses out singing in a perfect monotone while listening to my music!"

Andreas' Orinda show is titled, *Love Is Good*, and she will perform alongside her Grammy-nominated husband, producer and composer, Martin Silvestri.

"He's a consummate showman and we've worked together for 30 years; so, on-stage we pretty much just intuitively bounce off each other all the time. Let's just say the ball stays in the air, but I'm never quite sure what might come out of his mouth. He's very funny," she said. "For example, in my show, when I first stated that my mom used to sing all day long while tending to the house and her eight kids, Marty quipped, 'Maybe she should have sung a little more at night!'"

Andreas, who was raised on show tunes and standards, the music her mom sang and whose voice filled the house as she sang to the radio or record player, said she believes her love for singing started early on.

[SEE ORINDA page 3]

Beauty and Charm, Classic Orinda!



PENDING ~ 2 BIEN VENIDA, ORINDA

3 Beds • 2 Full Baths • 2,284 Sq. Ft. • .79 Acre Lot

This magical mid-century single story masterpiece is located up a private driveway off of a private lane lined with redwood trees, adjacent to the lush green Orinda Country Club golf course.

The home features a gable roof that flattens at the perimeter, a motif inspired by Japanese architecture. This residence has been preserved and the original design features are intact. The home lives like a four bedroom with one room split by a unique variation of a shoji screen to create an additional private space with its own door and closet. Perfect for an office or another bedroom. This enchanting home features a beautiful backyard with meandering paths, contemplation benches, abundant native plantings, a black bottom pool and a large pool area for play and entertaining.

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9 LA NORIA, ORINDA

3 Beds • 3 Full Baths • 3,034 Sq. Ft. • .48 Acre Lot

This delightful home is located in the Orinda Country Club neighborhood, very close to downtown, and combines the charm of a traditional 40's Orinda home remodeled to an open floor plan with a new kitchen complete with Quartz counters, an island for casual dining, stainless appliances. Large formal dining area that opens to a spacious living room all with windows that frame the lovely views. There are three sets of French doors that open to a flat play area and deck. The property is enhanced by heritage lush Oak trees that provide shade and privacy to enjoy the patios and green lawn. There is an attached office with an exterior entry not included in the bedroom count. A charming home on a magical lot!

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the President

Orinda – Keep on Truckin’

Sally Hogarty



As the days grow warmer, The Orinda Association’s annual 4th of July Parade draws nearer! This year’s theme is “Orinda – Keep on Truckin’” – a salute to how resilient our community has been during these past difficult years.

COVID-19, and the many restrictions that followed, posed challenges, but somehow we all managed to cope, solve logistical problems and live full lives. In other words, we kept on truckin’!

Let’s all celebrate our accomplishments at this year’s parade and park concert on Monday, July 4!

The day begins with the return of Lam-orinda Sunrise Rotary’s popular pancake breakfast from 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m., followed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #8063 flag-raising at 7:55 a.m. At 8 a.m., the Fun Run begins at the Community Center. Don’t miss the Friends of the Orinda Library book sale where great bargains can be found beginning at 9 a.m. in the Library Plaza.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. in the Theatre District and weaves its way to the Village District. There are lots of great places to watch the parade that also allow for social distancing over the mile-plus parade route. After the parade, Three Day Weekend will take the fun up a notch with a concert in the park.

But why not do more than just watch the parade. Why not be in the parade? Individuals and groups are all welcome. You’ll find a parade entry form at <https://orindaassociation.org/4th-of-july-parade>.

Also on the website, you’ll find ways to support the parade by sponsoring one of the American flags that will hang throughout Orinda prior to July 4, purchasing a pole banner with your name on it and much more. Go to <https://orindaassociation.org/parade-sponsor> for information on all the ways you can help.

While lots of your friends and neighbors have been busy for the past few months planning the 4th of July event, we also need volunteers the day before, during and after the event. Here’s a fun way to get involved, help our community and meet new people. To volunteer, email 4thofjuly@orindaassociation.org.

And, finally, there will be hats! Trucker hats, in keeping with the theme, that will have Orinda boldly printed on the front. These hats, not to mention the theme of the parade, carry over to The Orinda Association’s next event – the Classic Car Show. Taking place Sept. 10, the car show features the same theme as well as paying homage to early electric cars!

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.

◆ ORINDA from page 2

“It’s very possible I started singing ‘in utero’ – I mean it!” she said. “I’m sure my mom sang the whole nine months in her lovely alto, and I must have joined in. I love making a joyful noise, I do.”

Both shows are Sunday at 5 p.m. Gravitte, May 1 and Andreas, May 22 in the Orinda Theatre’s intimate 189-seat theater, located at 2 Orinda Theater Square. All seating is reserved with most tickets from \$55 - \$100 and no drink minimums. For tickets and more information, visit www.orindamovies.com. Live At the Orinda! concert series will return in September.

Charleen Earley can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.



CLIFF LISPON

Live At the Orinda! Concert Series presents two-time Tony-nominated singer and actress **Christine Andreas** and her husband, **Martin Silvestri**, on their intimate stage at the Orinda Theatre, May 22. Show begins at 5 p.m.

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

The Orinda Association
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Orinda – Keep on Truckin’

4th of July Parade
July 4 – 10 a.m.

Orinda – you’ve kept on truckin’ throughout the pandemic and now it’s time to celebrate!



1. Enter parade
2. Volunteer to help at 4thofjuly@orindaassociation.org
3. Sponsor an American flag

For more information or to enter parade, go to www.OrindaAssociation.org



Coming Again to Orinda This Fall!
Saturday, September 10
Keep on Truckin’



If you have an interest in becoming a sponsor for this event contact billwaterman@orindacarshow.com
If you want show info or to enter a car or motorcycle go to www.orindacarshow.com

EDITORIAL

Letters to the Editor

Unacceptable Treatment from a Professional Business Owner

I had an appointment with one of the businesses located at 99 Brookwood Rd., and I was told that I could park in spaces labeled ATMA/ALMA. My dad parked in one of those spaces while he waited for me.

As we were leaving in our car, a driver waved my dad down in the middle of the street. The man got out of his car, walked up to us, took a photo, then yelled that we can't park there and that we were disturbing the businesses.

My dad doesn't speak fluent English, so I explained to the man I was here for an appointment and was given permission to park there. He did not stop yelling to hear my explanation.

I later found out this man is Dr. James Fiatarone, known as Dr. Jim, the building's landlord and music teacher at the Academy of Language & Music Arts (ALMA).

He received a complaint from his tenant, SaraBella Flower Shoppe, who described my dad as a creepy man walking around.

My dad was stretching and admiring the scenery outside of his car, nowhere near the florist.

Instead of introducing himself as the landlord and seeking to understand, Dr. Jim chose to block traffic and cause a scene to exercise his own judgment and bias.

I want to get my message out and let him know that the way he conducted himself was not okay, especially in a place of business.

- Mimi Liao

Kristin Braun Connelly is the Best Candidate for Clerk-Recorder

With so much concern about election integrity, Contra Costa County voters should pay close attention to this year's election for Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder Registrar, the county's top election official. It is critically important that we elect an

ethical, capable leader to run this department. I believe that Kristin Connelly is that candidate.

Kristin has been interested in election integrity since she was a law student and served as a non-partisan poll monitor helping people experiencing problems voting. Kristin believes that transparency about the elections process and battling misinformation about how to vote will be critically important to maintaining confidence in the integrity of our elections – and our democracy. She also takes seriously the responsibilities of the clerk-recorder to maintain Contra Costa County residents' vital records.

Kristin is an East Bay native, who returned from a prestigious career on the East Coast to raise her family in Lamorinda. She is the CEO of the East Bay Leadership Council, the Executive Director of the Contra Costa Economic Partnership and a Trustee on the Acalanes Union High School District Governing Board.

I urge Orindans to take the time to learn more about this important office and to vote for Kristin Connelly for Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder Registrar in the June 7 primary election.

- Sandi Balonick

Dead Tree Abatement

On March 25, KCBS 740AM reported that EBMUD was halting the removal of dead Monterey Pine trees on their watershed around Briones Reservoir due to sightings of a bald eagle near the reservoir.

They stated that tree removal would resume in September.

The logic for the halt was that eagles may be nesting at the reservoir and tree removal may disturb them. Note, California bald eagles generally start nesting in January. The news report indicated no nest had been identified.

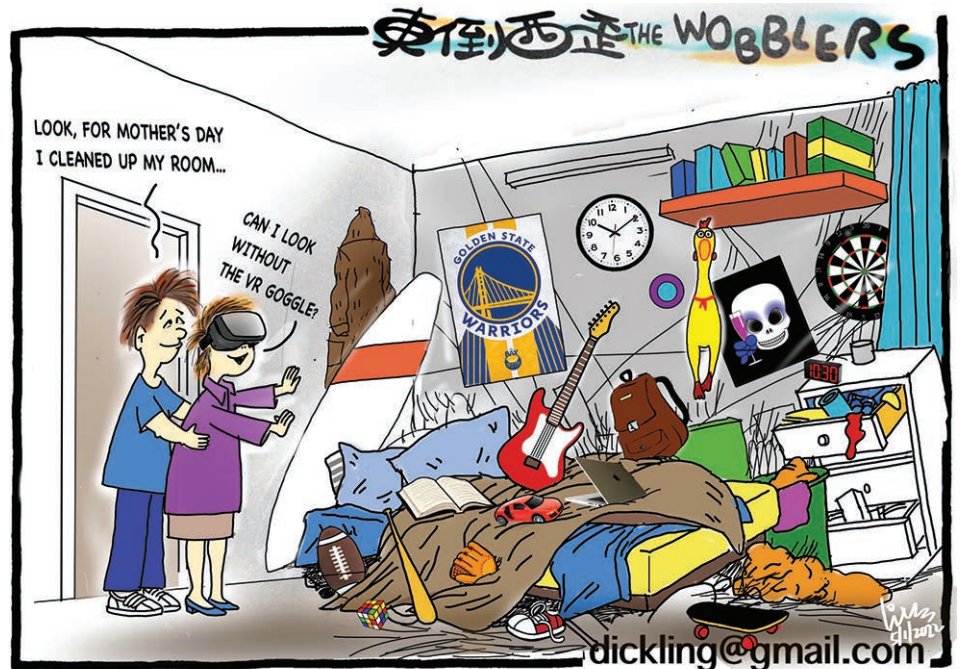
[SEE LETTERS page 5]

supporting dancers of different ages and abilities. This training will help them in whatever they choose to do in their lives."

Cinderella is one of the most universally loved fairy tales. Worldwide there are 1,500 versions – one of the earliest versions dates from 9th Century China, entitled *Yu Yang Ts Tsu*. Generations of youngsters have had Charles Perrault's 1697 version of the story read to them, sometimes over and over. It was published in English as part of the *Tales of Mother Goose* in 1729.

Dancer Gemma Leach began at the OBA 10 years ago in Tomlinson's original *Cinderella* production as the "Petite Princess." Tomlinson is excited for Leach to dance the role of Cinderella now.

"She has developed into a beautiful and strong ballerina; I am thrilled



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she will perform Cinderella," said Tomlinson.

Cinderella's prince will be guest star Vincent Chavez, who has taught for the OBA in past years and performs in the Bay Area as well as teaching in various cities across the U.S.

"We are fortunate to have him perform the role of the prince alongside the students," Tomlinson added.

Tomlinson is thrilled the audience will see the dancers without their masks: "I am excited about the return of *Cinderella's Ball* after 10 years and super excited to

remove our protective masks. The audience will now see the beautiful faces and expressions from the dancers and especially enjoy the silly, campy acting and dancing by the fun stepsisters. It has been too long!"

Tickets (\$23 - \$25) can be purchased at www.OrindaBalletAcademy.com. Masks may be required upon entrance. For more information, email Tomlinson at patricia@orindaballetacademy.com.

Elana O'Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.

◆ BALLET from page 1

Balanchine, danced around the world with Natalia Makarova. She also guest performed and taught ballet all over the U.S. before founding Orinda Ballet Academy (OBA).

While the majority of the music in this story ballet is taken from Prokofiev's score, she has included a few pieces from his *Romeo and Juliet*.

"Story ballets are more fun for the dancers because they are more than a dance on the stage with a quick exit. Performers must learn how to act and express the story with clear actions, or in ballet 'miming,' so that the audience can understand the story line," said Tomlinson. "They have to learn how to work their props, similar to a choreographed dance. Their training includes working as team members and

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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. Letters to the Editor for the June issue are due May 8.

For advertising rates, contact Jill Gelster at 925.528.9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net), Elana O'Loskey at 925.984.1751 (elanao@mac.com), or Trish Ward at 510.685.1437 (trish@theorindanews.com). The deadline for the June issue is May 8.

NEWS / POLICE

Orinda News Briefs: What's Happening Around Town

Closure of Vashell Way

Vashell Way will be closed Friday, May 6, from 1 - 7 p.m. between Moraga Way and Davis Road for the local Makers' Market. See the Calendar, Page 6, for information about the event.

Local Author Vanessa Hua at Orinda Books Signing Event

Scheduled for May 14, just in time for American Pacific American Heritage Month, Vanessa Hua will sign and read from her latest book, *Forbidden City*.

Inspired by true events, Hua's 368-page novel is about Chairman Mao's teenage protégée, lover and poster child for the Cultural Revolution. Eventually, she ends up in San Francisco's Chinatown.

"Years ago, a teasing glimpse of black-and-white documentary footage intrigued me – Chairman Mao surrounded by giggling young women in tight sweaters. As I would learn, the peasant-turned-revolutionary was a fan of ballroom dancing, and young women, who partnered with him on the dance floor and in the bedroom," said Hua. "When I looked for more information about these ingénues, I couldn't find much. In his memoir, Mao's doctor called the experience 'exhilarating' for the young women. I suspected – *I knew* – the relationships had to be more complicated, and I was inspired to explore what happened through fiction."

An award-winning columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Hua has two other publications to her name – a short story collection, *Deceit and Other Possibilities* (2020), and a national bestseller *A River of Stars* (2018).

Recipient of an Asian/Pacific American Literature Award and a New York Times Editors Choice, her novel, *A River of Stars*, is a *Washington Post* and *NPR* best-book pick. Hua's book signing is Saturday, May 14, at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square at 2 p.m. For more information, visit Hua's website at www.vanessahua.com or Orinda books at <https://bit.ly/3JIGEt0>.

Lamorinda Community Emergency Communications Exercise

The Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will team up with like-minded organizations to conduct a General Mobile Radio System (GMRS)

[SEE BRIEFS page 7]

LETTERS from page 4

Also note eagles are off the endangered species list, as their population has grown at a 10% rate in the last several decades, per a recent *Wall Street Journal* story.

We all enjoy having eagles near our watersheds and they have been here for years. However, the possibility that eagles may nest at the reservoir and may be disturbed by tree removal – when no nests have been sighted – indicates that our fire safety is being compromised with little logic.

In Orinda and Moraga, we live down valley from this watershed. If you haven't taken the San Pablo Dam Road, you should. There are hundreds of standing dead Monterey Pines along this valley. Additionally, the brush in the watershed is heavily overgrown.

My question is whether our lives and homes should be placed at risk during the bulk of the 2022 fire season (which starts in California in June)? Shouldn't there at least be a public discussion so we can all discuss risks.

- Randy Roberts



POLICE BLOTTER

March 15 through April 15

Calls for Service

- Assault, with Deadly Weapon: 1 incident
- Assault, Simple: 1 incident
- Battery: 2 incidents
- Burglary, Auto: 3 incidents: Bear Creek (2), Camino Pablo
- Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident: Dairy Creek Ln.
- Burglary, Residential: 1 incident: Oak Ct.
- Civil Disturbance: 2 incidents
- Court Order Violation: 1 incident
- Death - Non-Criminal: 1 incident
- Driving with Suspended/Revoked License: 1 incident
- Driving Under the Influence Misdemeanor: 2 incidents: Camino Pablo (2)
- Failure to Obey Officer: 1 incident
- Found Property: 2 incidents
- Grand Theft: 1 incident: Camino Pablo
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 1 incident: Charles Hill Rd.
- Hospitalization: 1 incident
- Identity Theft: 2 incidents
- Littering: 1 incident

- Obstructing Executive Officer: 1 incident
- Outside Assist: 3 incidents
- Petty Theft: 2 incidents: El Gavilan Rd., Camino Pablo
- Petty Theft from Vehicle: 1 incident: Briones Valley
- Petty Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident: Grizzly Peak Blvd.
- Possession of Dangerous Drugs: 2 incidents
- Property Lost: 1 incident
- Shoplifting: 1 incident: Camino Sobrante
- Vandalism: 5 incidents
- Vandalism, Felony: 2 incidents
- Vehicle Theft: 5 incidents: Claremont Ave., St. Stephens Dr., Camino Pablo, Orinda Way, Tahos Rd.

Arrest

- Recovered Stolen Vehicle: 2 recoveries
- Warrant Arrest: 4 arrests

- Compiled by David Dierks Assistant Editor

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CALENDAR / CAR TIME

On the Calendar in May

- 1 **Orinda Library** is open to the public. 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.. 26 Orinda Way, Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>.
Lamorinda Idol. Submit your audition video through May 15. Visit www.lamorindaarts.org/idol-2/ for more information. Program runs through August.
Art Embraces Words: Call for Artists & Writers - Lamorinda Arts Council invites emerging authors and visual artists to apply to participate in this return to life program which runs 2 - 3:30 p.m. June 18, July 23, Sept. 24 and Oct. 29.. Visit <https://bit.ly/2VNjUFv>.
Lamorinda Wine Fair Lamorinda Wine Growers Association celebrating the 5 year (+1) anniversary of the Lamorinda Appellation. Tickets include LWGA wine glass to keep, 5 tickets to use for tasting or a glass pour. Additional tasting tickets can be purchased at tinyurl.com/LWGA51. Noon to 6 p.m. Wine Thieves, 3401 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.
Girls Crushing It Pop-Up Shop takes place 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., Orinda Library Plaza. See article p. 7.
Orinda Theatre presents *Live a the Orinda!* with jazz singer Debbie Gravitte. 5 p.m. See article p. 2.
- 4 **Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** General Mobile Radio System (GMRS) radio exercise, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. For more information, pio@lamorindacert.org See article p. 5.
- 5 **Taste of the World Market** food trucks Orinda Community Center parking lot from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Also, May 12, 19 and 26.
Orinda Intermediate School Bulldog Theater presents *High School Musical JR.*, through May 7, with performances at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, La-

- fayette. For show time information and tickets, visit www.townhalltheatre.com/thed-residencies.
- 6 **First Friday Forum** presents *Armies of Enablers: Survivor Stories of Complicity and Betrayal in Sexual Assaults* with Dr. Amos Guiora. 10 a.m. See article p. 20.
Orinda Local Maker's Market locally made goods. 3 to 5:30- p.m. Casa Orinda parking lot, 20 Bryant Way.
- 7 **Annual Compost Giveaway** 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. sponsored by Recycle Smart/ Republic Services. Must register at www.recyclesmart.org/ICAW to pick up free compost in Lafayette; open to Lafayette, Moraga & Orinda residents only.
Orinda Farmers' Market, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. www.cccfm.org or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also May 14, 21 and 28. See article p. 14.
- Lafayette Nursery School's** 45th Annual Science Day of Discovery 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. See box pg. 14.
Art Gallery at the Orinda Library - Tablets, Out of Africa Photos and Watercolors can be found through May 30. Meet the artists at a reception in their honor 3 to 5 p.m. See article p. 13.
- 8 **Tilden Park Merry-Go-Round** Tea Party Brunch 9 - 11 a.m. tickets at <https://bit.ly/36jY9IN>.
Art Gallery at Wilder - The Lamorinda Arts Council presents *The Art of Listening to Your Materials* solo exhibit of Hallie Strock's collages during May and invites you to join her at a Pop-Up Collage Party 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. See article p. 13.
- 13 **The International Film Showcase's** May selection is the French/Canadian feature *You Will Remember Me*. A drama of the grow-
[SEE CALENDAR page 10]



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XAVIER ESTRADA



As vehicles become more advanced, new inventions are created to assist drivers as they commute. For example, in the mid to late 2000s, Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) was created to assist drivers on freeways. What this system started would later morph into something more complex.

ACC works by setting your speed, as you normally would on cruise control, as well as setting the distance you want from the car in front of you. The purpose of this system is to maintain a safe distance and speed, dependent on the vehicle in front of you, based on sensors. Not only would the vehicle maintain its speed, it could change it without driver input by applying the brakes and throttling on its own.

Various additions and revisions have since eventuated to better the ACC system. For example, Lane Keep Assist System (LKAS) alerts a driver and independently steers the vehicle to keep it within a lane.

These systems were both made to assist drivers, meaning as manufactures insist, a driver must still be fully aware with their hands on the steering wheel. ACC is nearly standard on new vehicles these days.

Tesla's driver assistance systems teeter on a fine line, marketed in a confusing, and in many cases, dangerous way. Autopilot is geared towards a more advanced ACC - LKAS type of system, while the company's "Full Self-Driving" system focuses on full autonomy.

Tesla states Autopilot requires the driver's attention, while Full Self-Driving does not, even though it is in a beta phase and advertised as an unfinished product.

There have been many incidents cited where people relied on autopilot to drive without driver input or awareness, unfortunately resulting in vehicle crashes. Third party inventions were even made to trick the autopilot system into thinking a driver had hands on the steering wheel, thus bypassing an alert message.

The Full Self-Driving system is flawed. Videos online affirm it does not fully work, even breaking the law passing through stop signs, and ultimately forcing a recall.

Vehicles today are advanced, but they still require a driver's full attention no matter what. Full autonomy has not been perfected, nor is it actually available to the public in a fully functioning manner.

Pay attention while driving and stay safe out there.


Xavier Estrada can be reached at xavier@orindaclassiccarcenter.com.



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STUDENTS

Girls Crushing It Spring Pop-Up in Time for Mother's Day

By ANNABELLA BOOTH
Contributing Writer

“Girls Crushing It” is a non-profit based in Orinda, with a mission to empower girls through entrepreneurship and to increase their confidence through entrepreneurial experiences.

It offers a wide range of courses that prepare young entrepreneurs while promoting self-confidence, leadership skills, financial acumen and communication skills. The program culminates with a pop-up shop showcasing each entrepreneur’s business and products.

“Girls Crushing It” has taught me how to be prepared to talk to people about my business. It has helped me grow my confidence in my business, showing me to be proud of making my own money,” said Sierra Caragol, “Girls Crushing It” entrepreneur and owner of Amethyst Soap Company.

After two years of having to switch to all online businesses since COVID-19, the pop-up shop is back in person.

Just in time for Mother’s Day, the fourth Annual “Girls Crushing It Pop-Up Shop” is Sunday, May 1, from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., at the Library Plaza, 26 Orinda Way.

The spring pop-up features 50 entrepre-



ROXANNE CHRISTOPHE

Orinda Intermediate student, **Sierra Caragol**, selling her handmade soaps to schoolmates and fellow Girls Crushing It entrepreneurs, **Chole Chung** and **Chelsea Dao**, at the 2021 Girls Crushing It Pop-up in Moraga.

neurs, ages seven to 17, selling products, including everything from pet supplies to housewares, fashion accessories and one-of-a-kind works of arts.

Special guest Diana Kapp, journalist and award-winning author, will sign copies of her new book, *Girls Who Green The World: Thirty-Four Rebel Woman Out to Save Our World* at the event. Her book relates stories of CEOs who have launched sustainable business ideas which empower females of all ages.

Founder and CEO Roxanne Christophe

thanks her two children for the inspiration to start “Girls Crushing It.” The two youngsters pitched the idea of taking the products they made and sold at school to a bigger audience and “Girls Crushing It” was born.

It blossomed into a non-profit that has educated over 2,000 girls in entrepreneurship with more than 10,000 people having shopped at the pop-up shops since 2018.

Christophe knows the gaps and barriers girls can face in their professional journey and wants to help eliminate that gap.

[SEE CRUSHING page 11]

◆ BRIEFS from page 5

radio exercise, May 4.

The exercise, hosted by the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group (LARIG), Lamorinda CERT and Moraga-Orinda Fire District’s Support 245, will test the GMRS Communications Plan developed for the use of GMRS frequencies during an emergency. GMRS communication could be instrumental in conveying information within neighborhoods, as well as receiving reports from GMRS users on other neighborhoods following a disaster.

During the exercise, users will be asked to call on their radios and report their name, location, city and evacuation zone. This information will then be recorded by volunteers at the control center and mapped to determine which neighborhoods have coverage and which need greater efforts to raise awareness and participation.

To find out which evacuation zone you live in, visit www.community.zonehaven.com and enter your address.

All licensed GMRS radio operators are welcome and encouraged to participate in this exercise.

The CERT radio exercise will take place May 4, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. GMRS channels for participants to call in are:

Moraga GMRS, LARIG channel 121, GMRS 20R, code 4

Orinda GMRS, LARIG channel 122, GMRS 21R, code 4

Lafayette GMRS, LARIG channel 123, GMRS 22R, code 4

The control center for the exercise will be situated at the Orinda Community Center Plaza at 28 Orinda Way. All participants and interested community members are welcome to see the exercise net control in action.

For more information, contact pjo@lamorindacert.org.

Student From Tabor Needs Host Family

Sofie, a 16-year-old student, who studies English, German and Italian, is a gymnast and runner and needs an Orinda host family. Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation (O/TSCF) members chose Sofie for their 2022 - 2023 visiting student from Tábor, Czech Republic to attend Miramonte High School.

Sophie submitted her biographical essay in English to explain why she would love to study and stay in Orinda for six months. She also passed an in-person English interview in front of a three-member panel of English speakers in Tábor. The O/TSCF Board approved her over 15 - 20 applicants.

She would like to live with an Orinda family with Miramonte students. Sofie needs her own bed, study area and three meals a day, and will be the 21st student sponsored from Tábor.

To become a host family and for more information, contact Bobbie Landers at bobbielanders@yahoo.com.

Compiled by Charleen Earley, who can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

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WHEN: Sunday, May 1st from 2:00 – 5:00 PM

WHERE: Outdoor Plaza at Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

ABOUT US: Girls Crushing It is a nonprofit empowering girls ages 8 – 18 through entrepreneurship

MORE INFO: girlscrushingit.org

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FOOD TRUCKS

Thursday Evening Food Trucks in Orinda Remain a Hot Topic

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

Thursday evenings in the Orinda Community Center parking lot provide an opportunity for locals to sample a variety of international cuisine, with a selection of food and drink trucks coordinated between the City and Walnut Creek-based Taste of the World Market.

Orinda City Council approved the food truck contract with Taste of the World (TOW) in a May 2019 council meeting. The agreement is set to expire November 2022.

Local brick-and-mortar restaurants weigh-in on the impact the weekly food truck gathering has on them.

“I wouldn’t say it was a big effect,” said Danny Koenen, an employee of Baja Cali Taqueria & Grill, located across the street from the Orinda Community Center and Thursday evening food trucks. “I would say it’s kind of a hit or miss because we get a lot of [recurring] customers and a lot

of word of mouth.”

Taste of the World Market aims to “provide an inclusive space for makers and creators to share their passion with the local community,” according to the market’s website.

“What we do is make a deal with the City. Every single month, we give them a cut,” said TOW market’s founder, Javid Ebrahimi.

Every single city a food truck visits, he said, the truck’s bookkeeper does their taxes, and those taxes get distributed within that city.

TOW Market pays \$200 to \$300 a month to the City, depending on how much revenue the food trucks generate. This monthly fee “offsets city staff time to negotiate and administer the contract,” said Mayor Dennis Fay.

The food truck contract with the City allows Orinda’s brick-and-mortar restaurants to participate in the Thursday night event, but according to Arno Kober, one



ANDREA MADISON

Taste of the World Market brings a variety of food trucks to the Orinda Community Center parking lot Thursday evenings.

of the owners of Theatre Square restaurant Shelby’s, joining Thursday’s gathering is “too much hassle.”

Kober acknowledges that Thursdays at Shelby’s have been slower when the food trucks visit Orinda Way. While businesses such as Fourth Bore Tap Room & Grill

are “obviously not that slow” on Thursday evenings and maintain a clientele for their cocktails and beer selections, Kober said that the dining aspect of his business has been affected by TOW Market’s food trucks.

[SEE TRUCKS page 18]

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— Rumi



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◆ CHEVRON from page 1

market’s proposed exterior, which appears to echo the existing architectural flavor of downtown Orinda. Cedar wood siding, black and burgundy metal accents and brick flooring at the deck entry are the materials and finishes highlighted in the design.

Stantec refers to the possible redevelopment on the site as “reminiscent of a traditional Main Street environment.”

The process requires a recommendation by the City Planning Commission, with final action by the City Council, said Frank.

Chevron ExtraMile’s product offerings include bananas, apples and oranges, as well as sandwiches and refrigerated healthy snacks. Typical gas station fare, such as dispensed coffee and fountain drinks and hot foods, like burgers and taquitos, are mentioned in Stantec’s written description of the market and its operation.

Chevron expects two to three employees to be working on site at a time.

According to the proposal’s draft ordinance, criteria for the allowance of a convenience market at a service station includes ensuring that the proposed use “will not significantly and adversely alter the impact and character of the primary

service station’s use.” Further, the draft claims an eventuated use will enhance the pedestrian environment in the area around the station.

The proposed use must be at least 2,250 square feet, but smaller than 3,000 square feet.

The project’s draft ordinance states ancillary retail use at a service station may be permitted if a noticed hearing is held and if the Planning Commission’s standards are met. These include ensuring the use’s absence of excessive noise, litter and other enforcement problems as well as the lack of “a material adverse effect on the health or safety” of those working or living nearby the site.

An additional requirement of the project is that it will serve to further Orinda’s downtown goals, including the ConnectOrinda Streetscape Master Plan.

The Chevron ExtraMile website shows the convenience store nearest downtown Orinda currently is in Berkeley. The joint venture between Chevron and Jacksons Food Stores opened its one thousandth store last year.

Andrea Madison can be reached at drea.madison.05@gmail.com.

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MIRAMONTE

First Class of Miramonte High School Graduates Had Too Much Fun

By CHAYA TONG
Contributor

The class of 2021 graduated from Miramonte after spending an entire senior year on Zoom. But the award for most unique senior year goes not to us, but to 1959 graduates, the first from Miramonte High School. From playing sports without a proper field to drag racing down Moraga Way, this pioneer class paved the way for generations of students roaming the salmon-colored halls.

Miramonte, drawing students from both Orinda and Moraga until Campolindo High School's founding six years later, opened in 1956. Orinda Intermediate School did not exist. Students attended Glorietta Elementary through the sixth grade and then completed seventh and eighth grades at the Orinda Union School. Before Miramonte was built, Orinda and Moraga students attended Acalanes High School, founded in 1940.

The class of '59 was the only class on campus its first year. When the Class of '60 arrived, the two classes bonded and often felt like one big class. In fact, the classes continue to hold joint high school reunions.

But being first was far from easy. "We were the ones that had to decide everything and figure out what to do," Nancy (Gosch) Peterson '60 said. Students attended school against the backdrop of construction as additional classrooms were added, and sports teams practiced without a field or the benefit of older students with more experience.

"We were breaking trails," Bruce Hilger '59 said. "For instance, when I played football, we played against other teams, and we got beat because they had been playing football for a number of years."

With no classes ahead of them, members of the class of '59 were essentially seniors every year. When it came time to pick the school colors, they advocated for black and pink, which the staff quickly overruled in favor of green and white. As for the school mascot, the administration also got the final say. "We didn't think 'Matadors' was very strong, but that's what we got," Carol (Griffiths) Allen '59 said.

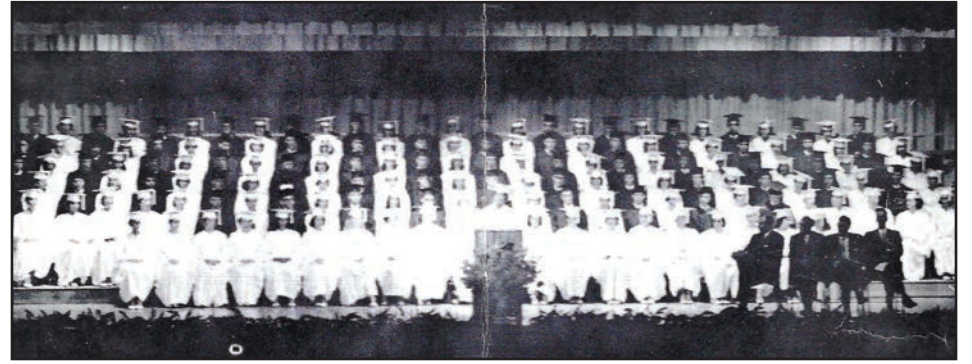
The class of '60 stayed at Miramonte long enough to raise money for the first swimming pool, though things did not turn out quite as expected. "We had to sell See's Candy to raise money to build the swimming pool," Peterson said. "Then, the last year we were there, the girls were really pretty annoyed as we had done all that work to raise funds for the swimming pool and then had to go swimming for P.E.!"

Academics at Miramonte were intense, even in its early years. "There was pressure that we needed to succeed so Miramonte would make an academic name for itself," Kathleen (White) Sudborough '59 said. "I'm sure they wanted to have a sports name for themselves, but our sports teams were pretty pathetic."

In fact, Miramonte's football team lost every game its first year. "I went out with a receiver who weighed less than me," joked Susan (Jensen) Hansen '60.

Bruce Hilger, '59, scored Miramonte's first ever touchdown against Piedmont High School. "I remember running down the field, and they really kinda felt sorry for us because we were a pitiful team. I think they just let me run to the end zone. It would've made no difference for the score; it was like 60 to 7," Hilger said.

While Miramonte may not have been a sports powerhouse, the hard work of



Class '59 graduates from Miramonte High School. Photo taken from the first edition of Miramonte's campus newspaper, *The Mirador*.
COURTESY OF THE MIRADOR

students in the classroom certainly paid off, with many going on to obtain college degrees. "I think we kind of felt a responsibility because we were leading the way. We had to set the tone to model because there was no one above us to guide us. We were the leaders in a new school," Irene (Ingram) Smith '59 said.

But the school day was filled with fun. Instead of housing complexes across the street, pear orchards surrounded Miramonte entirely. Barbara Stross '59 rode her horse, Fadiyah, to school, tying her up in the orchards and visiting her during lunch break.

Some things haven't changed. "We had the senior lawn, a little patch of green grass and that was it," Bill McGuire '60 said. "Nobody but seniors were supposed to go on it." I had to break it to him that this year, with the lunch period divided for social distancing, the sophomores got to sit on the senior lawn two years early.

Though cigarettes have been replaced with vape pens, the bathrooms at Miramonte reeked, even back in 1959. Students would smoke cigarettes in the bathroom and hope Ms. Giddings, the "Dean of Women," didn't catch them.

Like now, kids worked after school jobs at local establishments. Bill McGuire worked at the gas station next to Casa Orinda, while Susan Hansen worked at the Orinda Theatre for a dollar an hour.

Miramonte even had a foreign exchange program through the American Field Service, which started after the World Wars to promote intercultural learning. Tore Lindholm '59 spent the 1958 to 1959 school year at Miramonte as an exchange student from Norway. Though he wasn't expecting much from the American school system, when he soon discovered the math and physics courses he had signed up for were quite rigorous, he dropped them to take choir and public speaking.

[SEE MIRAMONTE page 12]



Willla, we are so grateful you are ours. Go all the places and try all the things! We will always be here for you to come home to. Love, Mom, Danny, Dad, Emily, and your many siblings.

CLASSES OF 1959 AND 1960 REUNION, SAT., SEPTEMBER 10

Don't miss our upcoming reunion! Remember the 20th? Sign up now!



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STUDENTS

National Charity League Lamorinda Honors Class of 2022



Andrew - Congratulations on your graduation from high school! We've very much enjoyed watching you grow up. We appreciate the lack of academic drama from first through twelfth grades and applaud your decision to join the community of Villanova University! Keep on being you and you will be just great! Love Mom, Dad and Trevor



Miramonte High School members of the Class of 2022 are front row (L-R) **Riley George, Allison Smith, Ava Caballero, Adriana Colon, Paige Chivers, Chloe Carberry, Samantha Hess, Joanna Bishop,** and back row (L-R) **Olivia Curtis, Erin Smith, Anna Crinks, Kristi Conner, Emily Starn, Lila Hill, Laurel Hunter, Danielle DeFrancisci, Sophia Harju, Sammi Huebner, Megan Mitchell, Jacqui Huebner, Avery Bahl.**

By Kim Hunter
Contributing Writer

The Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League (NCL) recognized and celebrated 21 graduating seniors in a ceremony filled with poignant speeches, dinner, dancing and a generous donation to Monument Crisis Center (MCC), March 27.

Alexa Gambero and Tina Ross, from MCC, accepted the class gift at the event, which took place at the Saint Mary's Soda Center in Moraga, marking the culmination of their six years of service to the community.

The young women began their journey in the mother-daughter philanthropic organization as seventh graders, and have collectively volunteered more than 5,300

hours to those in need.

NCL's Lamorinda Chapter supports many local non-profit organizations through its mission to foster mother-daughter relationships in its commitment to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences.

Philanthropies include 10,000 Lunches, American Heart Association, Blue Star Moms, Cake 4 Kids, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Community Reading Buddies, East Bay Heritage Quilters, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Lamorinda Village, Loaves & Fishes, New Day for Children, White Pony Express and over a dozen more.

Kim Hunter can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.

Congratulations Tom Inouye

We are humbled by how you have already made the world a better place through your activism and hard work. Your humor and grace will get you far in this world. Have fun at Claremont McKenna College and keep doing what you are doing because you are amazing. We love you to the moon and back!

Dad, Mom and Sarah



◆ CALENDAR from page 6

ing friendship between a retired professor who is losing his memory and his caregiver who finds meaning to her life. Go to: www.orindaMovies.com for information on dates and times. See article p.16.

14 **Orinda Books** presents Vanessa Hua reading and discussing *Forbidden City*, 2 p.m. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3JIGEt0>. See article p. 5.

15 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** auditions 3 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. Also, May 17 at 7 p.m. See article p. 17.

18 **Orinda Parks and Rec Senior Day Trips** Filoli Historic House & Garden, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. 20th century country estate self-guided tour. Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3jJbqHB>.

20 **Orinda Ballet Academy** presents *Cinderella* 6:30 p.m., also May 21 at 4:30 p.m. and May 22 at 2 p.m. at the Orinda Library Auditorium, See article p. 1.

Movie in the Park, Luca, Orinda Community Center Park, begins at dusk.

Orinda Theatre presents Krofft-Kon. 11 a.m. For more info, go to www.orindamovies.com. See article p. 16.

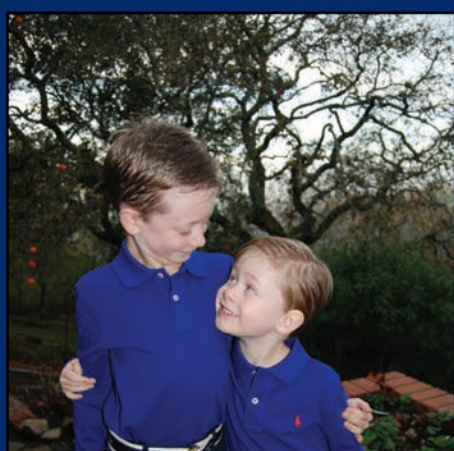
22 **Orinda Theatre** presents *Live a the Orinda!* with singer and actress Christine Andreas, 5 p.m. See article p. 2.

25 **California Shakespeare Theater** (Cal Shaks) presents *Romeo y Juliet* through June 19. See article p. 17.

Send calendar items to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net.



Congratulations Callum and Duncan! Middle school and elementary are in the books and we are so proud of all you have accomplished!



Go Mats and Go Athenian Owls!
We love you! Mom, Dad, Emery and Winston

I wish the best to MHS graduates, past and present. Lots has changed since graduating 50 years ago, but Marie and I love living in Orinda and being part of the community. Great teachers I recall at MHS include Otis McCain, Mrs. Deluca, Coach Durant and our Vice Principal, Bran Yaich (yes, I did get in a little trouble). I love teaching law and being a Mediator now. Good luck to the Class of 2022.

- Bill Waterman

STUDENTS

Orinda Hears Voice of Ukrainians Through Unexpected Connection

By NICOLE GUO
Contributing Writer

Hastily typing on his phone, Eastern Ukrainian teen Myroslav Bur documented his journey out of Ukraine for his international friends who were deeply concerned for his well-being.

This cross-cultural connection was facilitated by ENGIN, a non-profit organization that matches youth in Ukraine with young English speakers. It has become a lifeline for Bur and other Ukrainian teens, like Sasha Levin and Dymtro Antonchyk, to share their stories with international communities like the small town of Orinda.

Thursday morning, Feb. 24, 2022, Orinda residents woke to the gut-wrenching news of Russia invading Ukraine which ignited a rapid chatter of discussion across Miramonte High School.

"I never imagined a war this significant occurring in the 21st Century," said Miramonte sophomore Lila Moss.

Across the world, northern Ukrainian teen Levin couldn't believe it either. "We had expected an attack as early as January, but it was just speculation at that point," he said. "When it never came, we didn't think it would ever happen."

Since then, millions of Ukrainian civilians have faced the grueling decision of either staying in a war zone or upending everything to escape.

Teens like Bur endured days of bombing before evacuating.

"There were hundreds of people crammed into a 15-car train suited for 60, and thousands more fighting to board," he said. "We didn't even know where we were going, and I had to leave my family behind in a Russia-occupied region."

Many who remained in Ukraine hunkering down in bomb shelters had to adjust



NICOLE GUO

Miramonte High School sophomore, **Lila Moss**, discusses with Ukrainian teen **Myroslav Bur** via Zoom about the impacts of the Russian invasion against Ukraine, which began Feb. 24.

to a new normal, with constant blaring of air-raid warnings. "The first time I heard the siren, it was the most terrifying experience of my life," said Levin. "But after hearing it more than 50 times, it has become routine, and I don't pay attention to it anymore."

At ENGIN, the war has disrupted the typical carefree meetings. Before Feb. 24, students like Antonchyk enjoyed casual banter and watching his favorite shows with his mentor. Afterwards though, a solemn air weighed down sessions.

Now, Ukrainian students look forward to taking their minds off the terrifying situation at home.

"The sessions have become more serious than before, but I appreciate having time not to think about the war because it has dominated my life outside the meetings," said Antonchyk.

With everything going on, Bur, Levin and Antonchyk just want their stories shared worldwide.

"I want people to try to understand our perspectives and imagine what we're going through," said Bur. "We Ukrainians have our own unique language and culture and are now forced to fight for our freedom. Our home country is suffering and we need help."

Many Orinda residents like Moss recognize the importance of hearing perspectives firsthand from Ukrainian teens. "Personal stories are the most compelling," said Moss. "Now I can imagine what people my age in Ukraine have been going through."

For more information about ENGIN, visit www.enginprogram.org.

◆ CRUSHING from page 7

"Research has shown between the ages of 8-14, girls can lose up to as much as 30% of their confidence. Our program organically reaches girls at that age when they are susceptible to losing confidence," she said. "When girls lose confidence, it can really impact their academic and career trajectory. We want to help give them a safe place to take risks which, will help them build confidence and pursue their aspirations."

Annabella Booth can be reached at annabellabooth@gmail.com.

Nicole Guo can be reached at nicoleguo0664@gmail.com.

To the Matador Graduating Seniors

It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the Miramonte High School Class of 2022! Over the last four years, these Matadors have exhibited perseverance and resilience during challenging times and continual improvement and excellence in and out of the classroom. The skills they have developed during this time will serve them well in their next chapter of life, and the legacy they leave behind at Miramonte will influence our community for years to come.

A big congratulations to our 2022 graduates. We wish you all the best moving on! Go Mats!

—Ben Campopiano, Principal
Miramonte High School

CONGRATULATIONS, WYATT!



WE'RE SO VERY PROUD OF YOU AND EXCITED FOR YOU. WITH MUCH LOVE, MOM, DAD, SKYLAR AND SIERRA

Congratulations Sophia!



And here is wishing you all the success and happiness the world has to offer. We are so proud of you. Love, Dad, Mom, Nick and Buddy

Nathan Mesfin



Congrats! May God make your dreams come true. With endless love, Mom, Dad & Naomi.

Daniel Patrick Fay, Class of 2006

Our son earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University, Boston then attended NYU, where he met Priyanshi Singh. Now married, the couple hold master's degrees in a data science field and currently work for Microsoft.

Danny and Priyanshi are moving to the Bay Area this summer.

We are so proud of you, son, and delighted to have your lovely wife in our family!

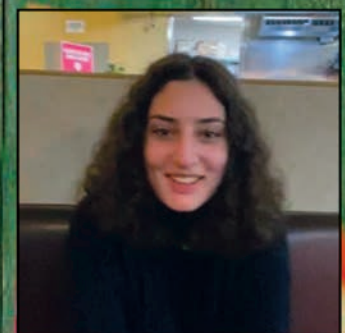
Love, Mom and Dad
Natalie and Dennis Fay
(Mayor of Orinda)



GENUINE GOODNESS



AIDEN



ANAYA



JOE



ZOE

Genuine Goodness Cafe is genuinely proud of our graduating Matador team members.

MIRAMONTE

◆ MIRAMONTE from page 9

He did, however, take Ms. Clapper's English course, crediting her with being the best teacher he ever had. His American mom taught him how to drive, and after returning home to Norway he continued to visit her until she was over 100 years old. He dated a Miramonte girl, and they went to jazz clubs in San Francisco and often visited Fisherman's Wharf. They stayed in touch and visited Miramonte together 10 years ago. "If you ask me what it is I didn't like," Lindholm said, "I felt that pom-pom

girls was a very stupid thing, but then I didn't like peanut butter. Everything else was great actually."

Of course, the early classes also got into a lot of mischief. For its senior prank, the class of '59 cut down the flagpole. The students also dumped a truckload of sand in Ms. Giddings' front yard. One escapade even made the front page of the *Oakland Tribune*. "There was a whole group of them that blew up the dam at St. Mary's College," Carol Allen recalled. The students paid for the damage after the incident. "People would throw cherry bombs into the garbage cans on campus," Susan Hansen said. "Worse yet, some of these explosives would even get dropped in the toilets."

A friend of Barbara Stross created a collection of Miramonte keys. "He would borrow a key and then put the key in a bar of soap to get the impression to make master keys for the entire school. He never misused them; he just liked having access." After talking to Irene Smith, it's clear that those keys would still be valuable today: "When I came back for our 20th reunion, I walked around campus and found my old locker," Smith said. "I put in the combination, and it actually worked. 20 years later."

Some aspects of life in 1959 bear no resemblance to today's world. For instance, multiple alumni gave accounts of Sadie Hawkins Day, an event based on a comic strip where the girls asked the boys to a dance dressed up in backcountry costumes. Kathleen Sudborough won the costume contest one year. "I had a burlap sack that I wore. I had long hair, so I braided it and put wire in it so my braids would stick out. And

I wore my dad's old garden clunker shoes, hiking boots four sizes too big for me."

Miramonte students also attended dances called "sock hops," sort of like this year's Senior Ball—no shoes allowed on the turf!

In those days, Miramonte had a strict dress code. "Thoughts of wearing pants to school didn't even cross our minds. Girls wore skirts with lots of starched petticoats underneath to make them stand out. We had washed and starched those petticoats often to make them do their job," Kathleen Sudborough said. One of Carol Allen's friends, "a rebel," wore tennis shoes to school. Bruce Hilger and his friends once rode their bikes to school, only to be sent home by the infamous Ms. Giddings for wearing shorts.

Even school safety drills differed. Rather than the "active shooter" drills the class of '21 experienced, '59 had "civil defense" drills in case the Soviet Union bombed the nearby radiation lab at UC Berkeley. "When the drill happened, we would all parade out, and the mothers would be where the circle was," Kathleen Sudborough said. "They would drive up to the circle, load a car, and then the next car would come and load up whoever was there, and we would just all load up and drive around the circle."

Trying to out-drive radiation sounds about as effective as throwing textbooks at an armed intruder, so apparently Miramonte's safety drills haven't changed too drastically.

Dreaded ninth grade P.E. had a twist, according to Carol Allen: a hula dancing unit. Miramonte's now-rich Latin program was in its fledgling state, Bruce Hilger recounted, offering only Latin I. But one of the most shocking things about 1950's Miramonte is that it had gangs. "There were three gangs, if you will, that existed at Miramonte when I was there," Bill McGuire said. "One of them was a group called the Knights. They had leather jackets and were the real bad guys of the campus, rumbling with people from Concord or Lafayette. Obviously not allowed by the administration, you had to belong surreptitiously."

Among the girls, social groups were organized around service clubs. "I belonged to the girls' group, Ailanthus, a service organization, but basically they were cliques," Susan Hansen said. "But by the time we got to be seniors, we matured out of that clique and decided we liked all these people in our class."

Both the Knights and Ailanthus were modeled after sororities and fraternities. Members of the Knights drag raced in the pear orchards and down Moraga Way, though as Bill McGuire noted, "I think all of them went on to higher education and became very, very successful people. In



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cebe Wallace receives his diploma from **Dr. Ralph Hall**, member of the board of trustees.

other cultures, the meanest people would go on to criminal enterprises."

Bill McGuire says his time at Miramonte prepared him for the rest of his life: "School generated an expectation of success." Irene Smith agreed: "I feel very fortunate to have been raised in Orinda and attend Miramonte."

One member of the class of '59 who did not particularly enjoy high school was William Van Voorhis, who described himself as "a dweeb." For students who were less academically inclined, Miramonte's academic rigor and college-preparatory-focused culture could prove difficult. "There was nothing for guys like me who were just floating through. I took three years of mechanical drawing, to give you some idea of how little there was in the way of alternatives to college prep."


But Van Voorhis eventually found his way. After high school, he went into the military service, where, he laughs, "they put me into intelligence." As it turns out, Van Voorhis had a great capacity for abstract thought, like seeing patterns and recognizing where ideas come from. "Nothing that you would find in regular school then," he says, but "people like that are good at breaking codes. I found my place." Van Voorhis hopes students in the class of 2021 will find their place. "There must be idiots like me who run around high school for as long as it took to get out of there. They'll love knowing that I made it."

As Kathleen Sudborough puts it, "High school isn't your whole life, thank goodness. There's a big world out there with many possibilities." Carol Allen adds, "Life is unpredictable. Embrace life; take some risks; you'll learn from them for sure." Van Voorhis agrees: "Everything from now on is going to be much more important than what brought you to this point. If you learn to accept what happens to you and look for the opportunities that are ahead of you, what you lose won't be anything but preparation for what you are about to receive. If you're mourning the loss, then you aren't looking for the gain."

Chaya Tong can be reached at chatatong@yahoo.com.

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Orinda Art Scene

MAY IN THE ART GALLERIES:
ORINDA LIBRARY AND WILDER

ELANA O'LOSKEY



Art Gallery at the Orinda Library:
Tablets, Out of Africa Photos
and Watercolors

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents, "Reading the Tablet" by Francesca Borgatta, "Out of Africa" photographs by Maggie Boscoe (which she interpolates with others by David Fleisig, Pam Hall, Jeff Halliday and Maureen Rosati-Wee) and watercolors by Anne Fallin.

The show runs in May in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. Meet the artists at a reception Sat., May 7 from 3 to 5 p.m. where light refreshments will be served.

An Oakland resident, Borgatta describes her show as "reading the tablet."

"A library holds a collection of books, meant to be shared. I hope this presentation will cause people to think about the act of reading, not just as words, but as a means of communication," she said. "The audience is asked to make an interpretation of the tablet based on the conjunction of word and image."

Untranslated, a 42" x 18" tablet, portrays messages in Farsi to be fathomed while musing over its intricate hand-fashioned frame.

"My story tablet with characters, *Blue Dream*, has imagery depicting the stages of an adventure by tracing its pathway on the surface," Borgatta added.

All the tablets are bas relief sculpture with mixed media assemblage.

Borgatta's favorite classical artists are Van Gogh, Rodin and Goya. Modern artists she admires include Stephen de Staebler,

Robert Rauchenberg and Wanxin Jiang. Puppet master Peter Schumann of the Bread and Puppet Theater was her mentor. She is drawn to folk art and religious traditions, including Indonesian shadow theater and pre-Conquest Mexican figures and architecture. For more information about Borgatta's exploration of tablets, visit <https://bit.ly/38yVHIR>.

Boscoe, a Lamorinda Arts Council board member and a longtime curation team volunteer for the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, organized the "Out of Africa" show.

Group members roamed far from home to assemble this exhibit of photographs, a mixture of animals, landscape scenes and exotic birds taken mostly in African National Parks.

Boscoe was inspired by others to take the trip to Africa. "So many people I met had enthusiasm for trips to National Parks in Africa, that I had to see the beautiful vistas and precious wildlife myself."

Fleisig has taken the trip a few times. "I have experienced three African safaris and each time I was enthralled by viewing the abundant wildlife in its natural environment," he said.

Hall took photos of scenes she knew would hold her interest back at home. She said it was a trip of a lifetime.

A focus on birds was Halliday's intention, which he fulfilled with his photo of the *African Darter*, a water bird with a wingspan of 47".

For Rosati-Wee's safari, admiration for what the people of Botswana have done to preserve their wildlife was her inspiration. Her panoramic photo, "Zambezi River," depicts its serene beauty. "The colors on the river change constantly throughout the day," she said.

Anne Fallin of Walnut Creek describes her artistic style as contemporary realism. The 24 watercolors she exhibits display a wide variety of subjects. "I love the challenge of creating a strong design with any subject imaginable," she said.

Some of her favorite artists are Karl Larsson, Will Bullas and Pam Glover (1924 - 2010). She painted and studied with Lundy Siegrist (1925 - 1985) for a long time, which is how she met Pam Glover.

It's safe to say that at 80 years of age,

she knows how to play with watercolors in just about every way imaginable. Her bold sense of design provides a structure for her explorations of brilliant color.

One of her cousins, Clyde Smith, is a renowned portrait painter in New York. "We grew up together and he had quite an influence on me," she said.

She likes experiencing artwork and exhibits through books and printed materials as the lack of distractions allows her to concentrate fully on the details of the artwork. Visit www.annefallinwatercolors.com to learn more about her striking watercolors.

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, visit www.lamorindaarts.org. This exhibit runs May 1 - 31, during Library hours in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sundays and Memorial Day. For more information, call 925.254.2184 or visit www.ccclib.org. E-mail curators with questions at gallery@lamorindaarts.org or call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

Art Gallery at Wilder:
Collage - The Art of Listening to Your
Materials and Pop-Up Collage Party

The Lamorinda Arts Council's featured artist in the Art Gallery at Wilder for May is collage artist Hallie Strock. Meet her at a reception Sunday, May 8, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and help make a collage. View her virtual exhibit at the Council's online gallery, www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.

For directions to the opening see www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder.

Strock, of Berkeley, turned to collage [SEE GALLERIES page 15]



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Maureen Rosati-Wee said, "Within five minutes of landing at my first camp in Botswana, we came across this massive leopard (*Panthera pardus*) mating with a female. What a welcome to our African adventure!"



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Orinda Ballet Academy & Company
Artistic Director, Patricia Tomlinson
Presents
"Cinderella's Ball"
&
Contemporary Dances

Orinda Library Auditorium
May 20, at 6:30pm
May 21, at 4pm
May 22 at 2pm



Eventbrite.com
Advance Ticketing, Children \$23 & Adults \$25
All Door Tickets \$25 - General Seating

Additional Information:
OrindaBalletAcademy.com

City of Orinda * Parks & Recreation * 28 Orinda Way
Orinda, CA 94563 * (925) 254-2445



SEASONED SHOPPER

Lafayette Nursery School's 45th Annual Science Day of Discovery

S lated for Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., children, preschool through third grade, from schools in Orinda, Lafayette and surrounding areas, are invited to participate in this event where they can make a volcano explode, shoot a rocket, make slime, dig for dinosaur bones and test their senses. These are just a few of the many hands-on activities at this Annual Science Day of Discovery. It's a great experience for the entire family. Cost is \$5 per child, and proceeds will be donated to a local math or science-based charity. Held at the Lafayette Nursery School, 979 First Street, Lafayette. For more information, visit www.lafayettenurseryschool.org or call 925.284.2448.

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 **Seasoned Shopper**
Short and Sweet Cherry Season



BARBARA KOBSAR

The cherry season comes in with abundance and seems to end quickly. Rumors are the 6-to-8-week local crop will be off to a good start by early May at the Orinda Farmers' Market.

There are two main categories of cherries – sweet and sour. Local farmers' markets offer an array of sweet cherries during the season. Bing cherries reign supreme, but look for early varieties like Brooks and Tulare to get a head start on this mouth-popping treat. Red, low acid Coral cherries, which arrive with the Bings mid-season, are also worth a try.

Golden, red blushed Royal Anns (Napoleons) and Rainiers are the "cherry of choice" for many who savor the delicate flavor and fine texture. Look for their arrival just after the Bing season begins. Because they are fragile and tend to bruise easily. They should be handled with care.

Sour cherries, a source of conversation, are not available at local markets. Michigan is the leading producer of sour cherries where this high-acid, tart cherry is prized in pies and preserves.

Cherries do not ripen or improve in flavor after harvest. The best cherries are plump, shiny, dry and quite firm with full color. Those with fresh green stems still

attached are best quality and store the longest. To store cherries, place single layers of unwashed cherries between paper towels in a container, and cover and refrigerate them for up to four days if necessary. My guess is they'll be gone before then!

Scientific research backs up all we've heard about the nutritional goodness of cherries. Here are a few of the facts:

The anti-inflammatory properties in cherries may help control arthritis and gout.

Cherries contain antioxidants, and studies show they may help reduce the risk of heart disease.

The anthocyanins found in cherries may help reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

Cherry sugars release more slowly and evenly than most, leaving you feeling fuller longer.

Cherries are a good source of potassium, which may help control blood pressure.

Cherries are one of those "healthy" snacks. A serving size of 21 cherries has less than 100 calories.

The California Cherry Board partnered with a scientific panel to produce over 10 years of research on cherry nutrition. See www.calcherry.com/nutrition.

The Orinda Farmers' Market is open every Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way. More information is available at www.cccfm.org, facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket and Instagram at [OrindaFarmersMarket](https://Instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) or call the market hotline at 925.322.6228.

Barbara Kobsar can be reached at Barbara@cotkitchen.com.

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CLUB MEETINGS

Club Meetings in May

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 (AAUW-OML) general meeting May 17 at 9:30 a.m. Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way Spring luncheon May 17 at 11:45 a.m. Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church at 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>.

Community Gentle Yoga, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at gcmzee@gmail.com.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Kent Long for Zoom link at kentlong@moragaadobe.org. www.moragaadobe.org.

Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 3 p.m., 925.408.1840. www.orindacreeks.org. or 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: gcmzee@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday. For more information, visit www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org.

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

Meetings held at Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Visit: www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. May 6; “Orinda’s Vision: Challenges, Opportunities, Promises” with Dennis Fay, Mayor of Orinda. May 13: Scarlett Hawkins, Rotary World Peace scholar, May 20 – Brian Donohue on “Measuring and Indexing Social Determinants of Health,” May 27 – “My Harrowing Attempted Journey From Cuba to America” with Eydis Lima, who sailed

from Cuba, her homeland, to Florida in a home-built boat.

Montelindo Garden Club, membership open to all, Friday, May 20, Glenn Phillips, Executive Director of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, presents How to Create a Backyard Symphony by making our gardens inviting to birds. Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mount Diablo Blvd. Proof of vaccination including booster is required and an N95 or KN95 mask must be worn. Doors open at 9 a.m., attendees must be seated by 9:45 a.m., meeting begins at 10 a.m. This event is free and open to the public. For additional information visit the website at montelindogarden.com.

The Orinda Association. First Monday

7 p.m., Zoom meeting. 925.254.0800 or www.orindaassociation.org.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce May 4 Executive Board Meeting, May 11, Membership Meeting 4 p.m., May 18 Board Meeting 8 p.m., – via zoom. Contact Kristen Southworth at president@orindachamber.org for zoom link.

Orinda Garden Club, PO Box 34, Orinda, www.orindagc.org, 925.257.0668.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, Ian at 925.254.1465 or www.orindahiking.org.
Orinda Historical Society. Call 925.254.1353 email information@orindahistory.org, <http://orindahistory.org> for times and location [SEE CLUBS page 16]

◆ GALLERIES from page 13

during the pandemic because it is one of her favorite ways to work. She describes the collage process as a jigsaw puzzle that gives her a way to silence the noise, forget what might be worrying her and totally occupy the moment.

“Life is messy, and I just had to get out of my head and let the art pour out of me,” she said.

She likes the appropriating nature of collage. Collecting and making imagery and various materials for her are just as exciting as making the collage itself. The littlest thing can speak to her with significance.

For her 16” x 20” paper collage on wood panel, *Uplift*, Strock printed handmade colored circles using a gelatin plate, stamps and stencils. The circles she created give the appearance of balls suspended in the air.

Four Birds in the Bush, a 16” x 12” collage on wood panel, is part of a series about birds in fantastical settings. She hopes they bring viewers a sense of joy because she had fun making them by juxtaposing disparate elements, styles and colors against one another.

Her Pop-Up Collage Party is a fun way for art lovers to create a community collage. All materials and supplies will be provided. Join her and council curators from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Sun., May 8. Yes, she knows it’s Mother’s Day and said, “Moms are the special guests at this party – let’s do something fun!” To learn more about Strock’s artwork, visit www.halliestrock.com.


The Wilder Art and Garden Center is located at 20 Orinda Fields Way. The exhibit runs May 1 - 31 and is in-person on the reception date, but virtual the rest of the month because the building is not open due to COVID-19 restrictions. Viewings by appointment with Curator Aniston Breslin can be arranged by request at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org. For more information, call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

Elana O’Loskey can be reached at business.orinda@gmail.com.




COURTESY OF HALLIE STROCK
Four Birds in the Bush, a 16” x 12” paper collage on wood panel, is part of **Hallie Strock’s** series about birds in fantastical settings. Join her at a Pop-Up Collage Party on Sunday, May 8 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. to make a collage. Moms are the special guests at this party.

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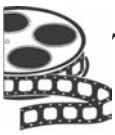
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TOM WESTLAKE



This month brings with it a reawakening to the possibility of all things as they were with the reintroduction of outdoor movie viewing.

Well thanks to the Orinda Parks and Recreation Association, the Orinda Community Foundation and the City of Orinda, you will be able to do just that and see a free movie to boot.

Starting May 20 at the Orinda Community Center Park, with nothing more than lawn chairs, blankets, pillows and food, you will have the opportunity to see one of Pixar's latest classics, *Luca*. This is, quite literally, a fish out of water story about friendship, acceptance, perseverance

and growing up, with all the hallmarks of a Pixar film: beautifully realized locations including a small Italian seaside village, witty dialogue, music and adventure. Show time begins at dusk.

On a heavier, more traditional note, there's the International Film Showcase with its May offering *You Will Remember Me*. The French/Canadian film follows the journey into old age and deals frankly, but sensitively, with the ravages the years take on the body, but more importantly, the mind.

It centers on a retired teacher who, after achieving a certain fame in his own right, is surrounded by those who care for him but don't necessarily know *how* to care for him – or even if they want to. This struggle is shown from different perspectives, his own wife who finds herself hindered from leading her own life and his granddaughter going through growing pains of her own.

Many American films have covered this same subject, but this one provides a worldlier take on it. I recommend viewing this film since it may show another, previously unthought-of, way of addressing this devastating problem. It opens May 13. Check in at www.internationalshowcase.org for more information.

Lastly, we not only have a movie but a whole event! There is a rich history of children's television programming in America. We have always found new and inventive ways to entertain the younger

set, and somewhere right in the middle of that history are the contributions of Sid and Marty Krofft. *The Banana Splits*, *H.R. Pufinstuf*, *Land of the Lost* and *Lidsville* to name a few, are just some of the shows they have created. Singular and distinctive are words that come to mind in describing their shows, and it was these elements that also made them extremely popular, not only for children but for all age groups.

On May 21, the Orinda Theatre will present the first ever KrofftKon. Starting at 11 a.m., this all-day event will include guest stars, including Sid and Marty Krofft, Butch Patrick (*The Munsters*, *Lidsville*), Johnny Whitaker (*Sigmund and the Sea Monster*) and many others. Ever since this event was announced, the response has been overwhelming, possibly only rivaled by the California Independent Film Festival. People are coming in from all over, just to bask in the warm memories these shows engender.

There will also be celebrity Q and As, costume and trivia contests, episodes from shows, capping it all off with a showing of the 1970 film *Pufinstuf*. Tickets are available but going fast through Eventbrite. This is not something you want to miss. For more info, go to www.orindamovies.com.

See y'all in July, but in the meantime remember always go towards those wonderful images made from light and sound – for that's where the reel magic lies.

Tom Westlake can be reached at poppinjay@earthlink.net.

◆ CLUBS from page 15

of meetings and appointments.
Orinda Junior Women's Club. First Tuesday, 7 p.m., www.orindajuniors.org. Contact Erika Rosenberg at 415.867.3065.

Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925.254.5211. <https://orindalodge.org>.

Orinda Rotary. Virtual meeting Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m., cmroeder@comcast.net or 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 for information, email Recreation Coordinator Matt Delmartini at mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org.

Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Garden Room of Orinda Library. Email Jean Barnhart jeanr.barnhart@gmail.com to confirm location.

Road Runners. Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (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 runmntns@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.

Send club listings to Jill Gelster at calendar@aspenconsult.net.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Cal Shakes Bookends its Season with Shakespearean Adaptations

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Although COVID-19 is still very much with us, it won't stop California Shakespeare Theater from offering two world premiere Shakespearean adaptations, as well as many other events at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda this summer.

"Anchored by two vital re-imaginings of iconic classics with beloved Cal Shakes artists familiar and new, this summer is sure to be a dynamic return to live performance under the stars," said Artistic Director Eric Ting.

It all begins with the world premiere of the bilingual *Romeo y Juliet*, May 25 – June 19.

Adapted by playwright Karen Zacarias (*Native Gardens*, *The Book Club Play*, *Des-*

tiny of Desire) and directed by KJ Sanchez, who recently completed a national tour of *Quixote Nuevo*, Cal Shakes' 2018 hit, *Romeo y Juliet* was originally scheduled for Cal Shakes' 2020 season.

"I have been longing to work with Cal Shakes again, longing to make art again, longing to be back on that beautiful stage," said Sanchez. "I've been a huge fan of Karen Zacarias for years and years. The fact that we get to play with a bilingual RYJ makes this production even more dear to my heart."

Zacarias' adaptation intertwines Spanish and English throughout the play and sometimes within the same line.

"It was important to both Karen and KJ not just to have a line in English and then one in Spanish, but to have them mixed throughout. They wanted to show the ways

in which language represents class. From the workshop rehearsals I've attended, I know it is going to be really exciting," said Ting.

Set in the early 1800s, *Romeo y Juliet* takes place in Alta California when the Golden State was under Mexican rule. The young lovers will both be women.

"I think it is very cool to have the lovers played by women," Ting said. "California was on the cusp of transformation with all these strict religious rules about relationships and this feeds into the story and time period."

A jazz trio welcomes patrons to Cal Shakes' closing show – a modern verse adaptation of Shakespeare's *King Lear* (Sept. 7 – Oct. 2) infused with a jazz score. Adapted by Marcus Gardley, the show is directed by Ting and Aurora Theater

Company Associate Artistic Director Dawn Monique Williams in partnership with Oakland Theater Project.

"Our collaboration with other theater companies was inspired by our first season of Shared Light," said Ting. "We wanted to create a resilient artistic community, and partnership with others is the way to go."

Set in San Francisco's Fillmore District from the eminent domain crisis of the 1940s, when people of color were forced to leave their homes under the guise of urban renewal, to their subsequent displacement in the 1960s, Gardley's "King Lear" looks at the legacy of wealth and inheritance and the generational divide.

While the various concerts and special events have not been finalized yet, Ting [SEE CAL SHAKES page 18]

Starlight Village Players Holds Auditions for All Ages

By JILL GELSTER
Staff Writer

Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP) is holding auditions May 15 at 3 p.m. and May 17 at 7 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater for two productions: *Marvelous Land of Oz* and *Pygmalion*.

For *Marvelous Land of Oz*, OrSVP seeks young actors for many roles. Unlike most summer camps, participation in this summer program is free. OrSVP encourages young actors to perform alongside adult actors in this fun musical production.

OrSVP rehearses and performs outdoors in a safe environment at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. Rehearsals are Monday through Thursday, June-July.



The 2017 cast of OrSVP's production of Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of L. Frank Baum's *Wizard of Oz*.

Performances are weekends in July and August. The production includes singing, dancing and acting.

For *Pygmalion*, OrSVP is looking for adult actors of all ages. Rehearsals are in August and September, with performances in September and October.

For audition reservations and information, email info@orsvp.org. For more specific performance details, visit www.orsvp.org.

Jill Gelster can be reached at jill@aspenconsult.net.



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CONTINUATIONS

◆ NURSING from page 1

As of April 2022, Solorzano is listed on the CDPH’s license and certification page as a certified nursing assistant, employable until December 2022.

Orinda Care Center was investigated by the CDPH in April 2020, for COVID-19 infection control noncompliance, with the department findings showing that complaints regarding the noncompliance were “substantiated” and that the care facility had violated regulatory requirements.

“During the pandemic, we enhanced our

infection control protocols in a number of ways, including restricting non-medically necessary visits to our facility, screening employees and residents for symptoms and high temperatures, isolating persons who show signs or symptoms, providing all necessary PPE to staff members, and avoiding group activities where possible,” ReNew Health Group spokesperson Dan Kramer said in March.

“We are in regular communication with local and state health authorities,” Kramer added. “We will continue to follow the guidance they have provided us to limit risk to residents and staff.”

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reports that Orinda Care Center’s rate of complaints and reported incidents in 2021 was three times the state-wide average.

A finding from an April 2021 CDPH recertification survey visit (<https://bit.ly/3va08Bt>) found the care facility “failed to ensure medications and biologicals were stored properly” and violated safe and sanitary food preparation guidelines in its kitchen on the premises.

U.S. News & World Report (<https://bit.ly/3xiRaom>) has given the Orinda Care Center a below-average short term rehabilitation rating for post-acute care of patients recovering from a hospital stay. Further, it reports the percentage of short-term residents that needed to visit an emergency room during their stay is higher than the state’s average. The facility also administers antipsychotic medications to 24.4% of its residents, whereas the California average use of the drugs within

comparable facilities stands at 16.6%.

The last three years of operation has seen the nursing home pay over \$98,000 in federal fines and face two lawsuits – one from a former patient and one from the relatives of a since-deceased former patient. A common thread in both cases is the accusation of negligence on behalf of the nursing home.

Assembly Bill 1502, lead-authored by California State Assemblymembers Albert Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) and Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa), aims to prevent unfit nursing home conditions by requiring operators first to obtain a license from the State Department of Public Health. AB 1502 would specify the requirements to apply for a skilled nursing facility license, including suitability, and would also require CDPH to post all license applications on the Internet, with an allowance for public comment.

If an applicant or associated person or entity fails to apply for and obtain a license for a CDPH nursing home operation, or receives a denial from the department, immediate action as imposed by the new bill would be taken in the form of ban-

ning new admissions, conducting daily onsite monitor visits and the suspension of all Medi-Cal payments to the facility by the State Department of Health Care Services.

As of Feb. 1, AB 1502, known as the Skilled Nursing Facility Ownership and Management Reform Act of 2022, was read in the Senate for the first time and sent to the Committee on Rules for assignment.

Orinda Care Center, LLC holds a two-of-five-star rating on Medicare’s website. An overall nursing home rating, as provided by Medicare, is based on a home’s performance in health inspections, staffing and quality measures. The government website advises that star ratings “aren’t a substitute for visiting the nursing home” and recommends using the rating in conjunction with other information when deciding on a facility.

“At Orinda Care Center, our primary concern is, and has always been, the health and well-being of our residents and staff,” said Kramer.

Andrea Madison can be reached at drea.madison.05@gmail.com.

◆ TRUCKS from page 8

“It definitely needs to change,” he said, saying the discussion has been ongoing for many years.

“The [City] Council understands that the food trucks do compete with our brick-and-mortar restaurants to some extent,” Mayor Fay said, adding he has heard that Thursday is considered a prime evening by some of Orinda’s restaurants.

“I would be open to another evening for the food trucks,” Mayor Fay said.

According to Food Truck Nation, a project of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, food trucks represent a \$2 billion-plus industry in America. San Francisco ranks number 18 on the site’s top 20 cities.

Mobile vendors are active in more than 300 cities in the country, Food Truck Nation says, and has seen a 300% increase in revenue in the past three years. The roots of the modern food truck can be traced back to 2008. Los Angeles-based Kogi Korean BBQ wound up raking in \$2 million in sales during its first year of operation, “spawn[ing] gourmet imitators of an altogether different breed.”

TOW Market’s Ebrahimi noted the food trucks are from various localities – Brentwood, Pleasant Hill and Pittsburg, all within Contra Costa County and one participant was from the Orinda area. “I try to keep it as local as possible,” he said.

Ebrahimi mentioned the food trucks have a camaraderie with farmers’ markets, speaking about an Açaí bowl (Brazilian dessert) food truck that buys its supplies from local farmers at the market.

Ebrahimi spoke about the percentage of profits given back to the community as well.

“We go and we take 10% from the trucks, my company and turn around and give 10 to 20% back to the schools that we work with, and nonprofits.”

Taste of the World Market’s food truck gathering is held at the Orinda Community Center parking lot Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

TOW Market offers “rotating food trucks serving a unique take-out experience.”

Andrea Madison can be reached at drea.madison.05@gmail.com.

◆ CAL SHAKES from page 17

said they will include Destiny Arts Center’s “Letters to the Present” (May 6 – 8), the aerial dance company Bandaloop and Good Medicine – a Night of Live Native Stand-Up.

For more information on Cal Shakes, call 510.548.9666, e-mail boxoffice@calshakes.org or visit www.calshakes.org.

Sally Hogarty can be reached at sally@theorindanews.com.

OBITUARIES

Barbara June (Rivers) Novogradac Had a Zest for Life

By THE NOVOGRADAC FAMILY

Mother, wife, friend, real estate entrepreneur and financial executive, Barbara June (Rivers) Novogradac, 61, passed away Wednesday, March 16, 2022, after a formidable battle with cancer.

Barbara had an inexhaustible zest for life, typified by a skydiving adventure with her son John just last summer in Truckee, Calif. She was game for any adventure, whether it was a spontaneous trip to New York City with her daughter, Ellie, to see a Broadway musical or exploring London and Normandy with her son, C.J., Barbara's interests were full-spectrum – she was a knitter, pianist, scrapbooker, cyclist, chicken wrangler, car enthusiast, philanthropist, investor – and she loved to laugh.

Barbara enjoyed walks with her husband and dogs, visiting friends, watching her children play sports, skiing and traveling the world with her family. By 2013, she had visited all seven continents – including Antarctica.

Born in Portland, Oregon, Barbara attended high school in Dallas, Oregon, where she was student body president. Bar-

bara graduated from UC Berkeley in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in business with a focus on accounting, and began a public accounting career at Arthur Andersen.

In 1990, Barbara joined Robert Half International where she rose to the position of senior vice president and controller. She retired from Robert Half in 2001 to form a real estate investment firm, Novogradac Investment Company and was elected to the Robert Half Board of Directors in 2009. At Robert Half, she mentored many staff and managers in their careers, coaching them to do their best work for both the company and for themselves.

Barbara was a diligent student in college and her determination to succeed led her to an economics tutor, Michael Joseph Novogradac, who would, years later, become her lifelong partner and husband.

Barbara and Michael married in 1994 and moved to Orinda in 2005. The pride of Barbara's life was her three children, C.J., John and Ellie.

Barbara's family and friends will continue to love her deeply, and she will be missed enormously.

Barbara is survived by her husband

Michael and their three children, Charles Jackson, John Ross Jure and Elizabeth June, and by her stepson, Michael Joseph (Kat) Novogradac. She also leaves behind her mother Lois Roth, brother Tim (Nancy) Rivers, and Uncle Bill (Doris) Reynolds. She was preceded in death by her father James Rivers, stepfather Gary Roth and first husband Bruce Forsberg.

A celebration of Barbara's life and legacy is planned for late June in Northern California. Inquiries may be sent to novogradac@msn.com.

Condolences may be mailed to Michael Novogradac, 244 Glorietta Blvd., Orinda, CA, 94563.

Remembrances may be sent in



COURTESY OF THE NOVOGRADAC FAMILY

Barbara Novogradac

memory of Barbara to the MikeRowe-WORKS Foundation, 1207 4th Street, PH1, Santa Monica, CA 90401 or at www.mikeroweworks.org/donate.

Donald Vernon Genesy Nov. 11, 1959 – March 17, 2022

By THE GENESY FAMILY

Don was a fourth generation Californian, born in San Francisco to Ray and Mary Gordon (McLachlen) Genesy. Growing up in Orinda, he attended Miramonte High School where his renowned trumpet playing could be seen front and center for musicals, the marching band, the jazz band and the brass choir at Christmas.

He attended Chico State on a trumpet scholarship and graduated with an Art degree from University of California, Santa Cruz. Family and friends still cherish the paintings he gave them.



COURTESY OF THE GENESY FAMILY

Donald Vernon Genesy

Don loved music, cooking, traveling, the Niners, the perfect cocktail, Spenser novels and all things flora and dogs. An ardent dog lover from childhood, Don often had a dog at his side.

His Indy rock collection is legend. He traveled all over the world, with a special place in his heart for Paris, Maui, DC and Yosemite. He had an innate ability to fix just about everything, fine-tuned as a teenager by rebuilding cars and tinkering with anything that had an engine.

Don wore crazy colorful socks that would catch your eye, but he always wore the Niner socks on game day. He read dozens of cookbooks from beginning to end as if they were novels and would generously entertain, cooking extravagant, multi-course meals from scratch. He considered himself the ultimate restaurant critic.

While it could take a while for him to get past an innate shyness, Don was always curious about people and their lives, asking intimate questions out of the blue. He carried a never-ending curiosity about faith and how others perceived their God. We trust Don knows all the answers now.

[SEE GENESY page 20]

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FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Dr. Amos Guiora talks about Complicity in Sexual Assaults at First Friday Forum

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

What do you know about enablers of sexual assaults? Dr. Amos Guiora will discuss this topic in his presentation titled, *Armies of Enablers: Survivor Stories of Complicity and Betrayal in Sexual Assaults* for First Friday Forum (FFF) May 6 at 10 a.m.

The lecture is based on Guiora’s personal interviews with numerous survivors of sexual assault, from USA Gymnastics, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Ohio State University and the Catholic Church, as well as thousands of pages of grand jury indictments, civil lawsuits, criminal prosecutions and media accounts.



COURTESY OF DR. AMOS GUIORA
Dr. Amos Guiora speaks at the First Friday Forum, May 6 at 10 a.m. His presentation is titled, *Armies of Enablers: Survivor Stories of Complicity and Betrayal in Sexual Assaults*.

In his recent book, with the same title as his talk, Guiora focuses not on what the sexual predators did, but on how institutions and individuals allowed it to happen.

Guiora will discuss the criminalization of enablers and bystanders, which reflects recognition that failure to prosecute aggress-

sively those who acted by not acting themselves ensures perpetrators will continue to act with impunity and immunity.

“The broader issue cuts to the heart of what society is and to whom it owes a duty,” said Guiora. “In advocating criminalization of enablers and bystanders, we owe a duty to the person in peril. In an institutional setting, the hesitation to criminalize enablers and bystanders who choose to protect an institution, reflects prioritizing the needs of the institution over the needs of the individual.”

A Professor of Law at the University of Utah, Guiora is a distinguished fellow and counselor at the International Center for Conflict Resolution and Chair of the Gymnastics Canada Task Force on Assault.

He’s also a member of the Board of Advisors for *Stop Educator Sexual Abuses Misconduct and Exploitation*, the leading national voice for the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment of students by teachers and other school staff.

Holding an A.B. in history from Kenyon College, a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law and a PhD from Leiden University, Guiora has published extensively on issues related to human rights, national security, limits of interrogation, religion and terrorism, the limits of power and multiculturalism.

He is actively involved in legislative efforts to criminalize bystanders and enablers in the United States and internationally.

Dr. Tom Scovel, a member of the First Friday Forum team, said Guiora’s father, Prof. Alexander Guiora, was one of his important mentors while pursuing his doctorate at the University of Michigan.

Scovel and Guiora have kept in com-

High School Musical Jr. at Orinda Intermediate School in May

Orinda Intermediate School’s (OIS) Bulldog Theater presents Disney’s *High School Musical JR.*, May 5 – 7, with performances at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Adapted for young performers, the 60-minute musical follows superstar athlete Troy and science whiz Gabriella as they navigate the ins and outs of high school.

There are two casts, comprised of nearly 50 OIS students, along with

an additional 10 OIS students serving on tech crew. The production is funded through parent contributions, OIS Parent’s Club, Orinda Network for Education and Lamorinda Arts Council.

The production is produced and staffed by Town Hall Theatre Company through their THEd Residency Program.

For more information and tickets, visit www.townhalltheatre.com/thed-residencies, or call 925.283.1557.

munication, especially concerning their common interest in sports and their strong belief that those who have perpetrated sexual violence against young college athletes should be brought to justice.

“While this is an issue that we might shy away from, it is a subject which deserves

our attention,” said Scovel. “Please plan to attend FFF.”

For more information, visit lopc.org/first-friday-forum.

Bobbie Dodson can be reached at bobbiedodson109@gmail.com.

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He parlayed his passion for the Art of a Garden into a 35-year career with Barry Swenson and Swenson Builders, managing dozens of properties in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Don helped countless friends, coworkers and family members create beautiful gardens at their own homes. A friend shared how appropriate it is that his work will continue literally to live on in his absence.

Don’s family is grateful to Dr. Julie Jaffe and her entire staff for years of incredible care, understanding and compassion as they helped keep Don’s cancer at bay for more than a decade.

Don was an incredible man and will be deeply missed by his wife Katherine

(Butler); his siblings Rob, Dave (Sue), and Lisa Genesy; his stepchildren Josh (April) Mitchell, Tony (Rachel) Mitchell, Shane Luke, Rhiannon Prokop, Lauren (Jesse) Patterson, and Cameron Gardner; his grandchildren Kalil, Felicia, Anthony, Reveille, Olivia, and Finley; and cousins Chuck (Betsy), Mary Gordon (Jim), and Jane (Weston). His nieces and nephews; Alison, Spenser, Claire and Oliver will miss their “cool and quirky Uncle.”

His grandchildren will always remember listening to their Papa read the food and restaurant sections of the newspaper while eating toast in bed, enjoying hot tubs, drinking glasses of champagne, watching movies and sports together, sharing in his fried chicken dinners and exploring the Enchanted Garden he lovingly created.

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