



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Orinda Teen Raises Funds in Fight Against Juvenile Arthritis

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

Marisa Chow's life changed dramatically at age 13 when she could no longer play the piano or tennis or dance. It hurt too much.

She was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

"My wrists hurt the most now," says the Miramonte High School senior who is in the school's jazz band, orchestra, symphonic band and marching band. "I wear wrist braces and use warm compresses when they are really bothering me."

Marisa's mother, Cristi Chow, explains, "After complaining about wrist pain for several months, there were numerous doctor visits and even a cast. Initially Marisa was diagnosed with Kienbock's disease, but when they were going to do surgery on her wrist we got a second opinion and found it was arthritis. There are many kinds [SEE CHOW page 12]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Miramonte senior **Marisa Chow** and her "Sharknado" team hope to raise \$6000 in support of the Arthritis Foundation.



Wen-Shee Lee, a rider with Seniors Around Town and a monthly donor to the volunteer ride service, visits with SAT program coordinator **Cathy Goshorn**.

Volunteers, Donors Keep Wheels Turning at The Orinda Association

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Her quick step, ready smile and energy belie the fact that Wen-Shee Lee will soon turn 80 years old.

Born in China and raised in Taiwan, Lee

immigrated to the United States 50 years ago. She moved to Orinda's Monteverde Senior Housing more than a year ago and says she loves her new home. She enjoys traveling, seeing her three adult children, working in the community garden and

[SEE VOLUNTEERS page 4]

Chamber Goes Virtual

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce in October shut down its downtown office and let go of its executive director. The organization had subleased the office in the Library Plaza from The Orinda Association since January 2005.

Chamber leaders said in a press release that the vast majority of interactions with its members, the business community and local government are through Internet-based services, making a physical office space and an executive director not the best use of membership funds.

The release also noted chamber communications such as its newsletter and event announcements would be powered by "low cost or no cost digital services ... and carried out by volunteers."

The Chamber began in 1952 and has 80 to 100 members in good standing.

Chamber board members did not respond to calls for comment.

— Sally Hogarty, Executive Editor

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Assemblywoman **Rebecca Bauer-Kahan** (L) with Gov. **Gavin Newsom** (seated) and fellow legislators at the signing of the gun violence restraining order bill Oct. 11. The bill allows employers, co-workers and teachers to seek gun violence restraining orders against other people.



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Catching up With District 16 Assemblywoman Bauer-Kahan

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

Coming up on her first-year anniversary, District 16 Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan looks back over a very busy 10 months. The Orinda resident travels to Sacramento Monday to Thursday when the legislature is in session, coming home each night to her husband Darren and three children, ages 5, 7 and 9.

“We’re usually done in Sacramento by midday Thursday, so I spend Thursday afternoons and Fridays in the district,” says Bauer-Kahan, which includes Lamorinda, parts of Walnut Creek and the Tri-Valley. “All working moms have to juggle. But, luckily, I have incredible support from my

husband. There is no way I could do this without him.”

Bauer-Kahan also notes the support of her children. “The other day, my 7-year-old daughter said she wants me to run again because she knows I help people. That was so rewarding. Hopefully, I’m a role model for them.”

The Democrat says she decided to run following the 2016 presidential election. “I’ve spent many years as an environmental litigator, and I’m the granddaughter of refugees. When the country took the turn it did in 2016, I decided rather than just being depressed I should step up and make sure the values that I knew District 16 and the community holds were represented at every

[SEE BAUER-KAHAN page 3]

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ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA President
Doing Good — With Your Help



Carlos Baltodano

“I’m a single grandmother and my children live very far away,” says Orinda Senior Village resident Mary Poon. “I could not go to my doctor appointments without the help of the Seniors Around Town program.”

Seniors Around Town (SAT) is an Orinda Association (OA) program which helps local seniors maintain their independence. It is the only free transportation program that provides reliable, door-to-door transportation to seniors. There are 70 volunteer drivers who use their private vehicles for the rides.

With public support over the past several years, the program has expanded to become a positive force in the community by offering support to families who can count on someone else to take their loved ones to appointments. The program serves 118 registered riders and provides more than 1,300 rides last year. There is a tremendous need to provide this assistance to seniors in Orinda, where 30 percent of the riders are in their 90s, 30 percent are in their 80s and 20 percent are in their 70s.

As an example of the dedicated volunteers and staff, SAT staff made an extra effort during last month’s PG&E outage to get the most vulnerable clients to their dialysis and chemo treatments. They reached out by phone and in person to check on some senior riders they knew were isolated.

This is not just a ridership program, it’s helping our extended local families in a time of need.

SAT is one of the many programs offered and sponsored by The Orinda Association. The OA also organizes and sponsors the 4th of July Parade and annual Classic Car Show, and runs the downtown Volunteer Center. It publishes *The Orinda News*, which is distributed free each month to every household and business in Orinda.

The OA started in 1946 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission of maintaining and improving the quality of life in Orinda. It promotes awareness and encourages dialogue through forums on important issues. All of these efforts, events and programs would not be possible without the public’s continued generosity and assistance throughout the years. In its 73-year history the OA has been providing these services with the financial support of dedicated Orinda residents.

There are many new opportunities to explore. For instance, The OA has begun to work on a volunteer emergency support plan that will match SAT drivers with SAT riders in their own neighborhood. When SAT drivers sign onto the program, they can also volunteer to check on their assigned riders as needed and help connect them with family or the appropriate emergency services agency if needed.

The PG&E outage was a wake-up call for Orindans. It gave us insight on how to be better prepared the next time. For us at the OA, it was an opportunity to think about how we can better assist the most vulner-

[SEE PRESIDENT page 14]

◆ BAUER-KAHAN from page 2

level of government,” she says.

Fighting climate change was a chief motivator. “Washington was going to turn its back on climate change, and I wanted to help California continue to protect the environment for my three little ones and all the community’s children. It’s very scary,” she adds.

In her first session, Bauer-Kahan has helped push six bills to approval with 13 more pending. Her diverse legislation includes such topics as the environment, protecting children, education, healthcare, public safety and more. “We created a bill package I think encompasses the values of District 16 – that’s what guides my office every day.”

Bauer-Kahan credits her background as a lawyer, litigator and law professor for giving her the skills to analyze a vast array of legislation quickly. “They tell you not to fall in love with any of your bills, but I confess that I fall in love with all of them,” she confides. “Being the voice that brought the idea of a select committee on women’s reproductive health to the legislature has been an honor. I want to ensure that California is doing everything in its power to protect women and their health. I never thought in my lifetime a woman’s right to choose would be as fragile as it is now.”

The 41-year-old says she finds working with Gov. Gavin Newsom a pleasure given they both share many of the same values. “He has worked hard to push forward a budget that is bold on climate change, education and other things that are really important but also fiscally responsible at the same time,” Bauer-Kahan says.

Coming from a world of negotiation and compromise as a litigator, Bauer-Kahan

says she was surprised to find how little of that was evident in Sacramento. “People often just try to push through their view, and I think we need to listen to each other more and find that middle ground. It will make for better policy. That was the type of law I was in and seeing so little of it on this side is disappointing to be frank.”

The legislature is on recess through January with Bauer-Kahan back in District 16 working on her next legislative package. Her office is putting together roundtables on issues such as education and the environment. For information on bills Bauer-Kahan is sponsoring, committees she’s on and more, go to <https://a16.asmdc.org>.

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

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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
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Seniors Around Town



Classic Car Show



4th of July Parade



The Orinda News



Community Forums

Letter to the Editor

Private Roads Have Benefits

In response to your articles on the private roads in Orinda, I am of the distinct impression that your writers have a bias towards those who want the city to pay for their private roads. All the individuals quoted seem to be a part of an organized campaign to get the city to pay for their privacy.

Has your staff made any effort to consider the other side that does not want to pay for private roads? Have they thought

about what a “no trespassing” sign means?

Perhaps it would be good to hear from the silent majority. Those who live on private roads have benefits, the advantages of the cachet of a private road address and the privacy that comes with it.

These are important for Orindans. Paying for that privacy seems like a small price to pay for what they get.

Please make the effort and do more balanced reporting.

—Andrew Flagg



The Orinda Association Programs

The Orinda News

Published intermittently since its inception as *Hayseed Siftings* in 1893, *The Orinda News* has been continuously published by The Orinda Association since 1986. Delivered to every house and business in Orinda, the monthly publication also is available online at www.theorindanews.com.

Seniors Around Town

In operation since 2005, SAT provides free rides to Orinda residents for medical and other appointments through the use of volunteer, background-checked Orinda drivers. To register for the program, call the OA at 925-402-4506 or go to www.orindaassociation.org.

Fourth of July

The OA organizes the annual Fourth of July parade. In partnership with the city, the OA also offers a celebration in Community Center Park following the parade. To learn more, call 925-254-0800 or go to www.orindaassociation.org.

The Volunteer Center

The OA catalogs many volunteer opportunities both in Orinda and the surrounding communities. Listings are available at www.orindaassociation.org.

Informative Public Forums

The OA offers public forums on such topics as fire safety, emergency preparedness as well as panel discussions with local political candidates. Go to www.orindaassociation.org.

Orinda Classic Car Show

Begun in 2005 by Chip and Carolyn Herman and John Vanek, the popular show is now organized by The Orinda Association. Run by volunteers, the car show benefits many local nonprofit groups. For information, go to www.orindaassociation.org.

◆ VOLUNTEERS from page 1

helping her neighbors. “I try to help others when I can. If my neighbors go away on a trip, I get their mail and water their plants,” says Lee. “It’s not a lot but it helps.”

Lee also helps The Orinda Association’s (OA) Seniors Around Town (SAT) ride service program. Once a month, she walks through the Community Center Park to the OA’s office on the Library Plaza and donates \$20 to SAT.

“It’s important to me to support this wonderful program. I’ve been a rider with SAT for almost a year now, and I really rely on it to get to my doctor appointments,” Lee says. “I’ve met so many nice drivers, and I love stopping by the office to talk with Cathy [Goshorn] who usually arranges my rides.”

Although the SAT ride program is free, Lee insists on giving what she can to ensure the program continues for herself and others.

While riders such as Lee benefit from the SAT service, it also provides a valuable experience for volunteer drivers such as Mayor Inga Miller.

“It is such an incredible asset to our community,” says Miller. “I have met so many amazing people driving. It’s my most favorite volunteer activity.”

Miller also notes how the service helps connect the community, especially the seniors, as drivers and riders get to know one another. She says an unforeseen benefit happened during preparation for PG&E’s October power shutdown. “The city staff needed to identify medically fragile members of the community who might need help during the power shutdown. We discovered the staff at SAT had a list and was already contacting them!”

Tish Harwood is another enthusiastic SAT driver. “I’ve met the most interesting, delightful individuals who have often led unique lives,” says Harwood. “Losing the ability to drive is a life-altering experience, and the riders are so appreciative and gracious. It leaves me feeling uplifted by their positive spirit in the face of adversity.”

Harwood isn’t the only family member

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who donates time to The Orinda Association’s programs. Her husband, Steve, also known as the Voice of Orinda, has been involved with the OA’s July 4th parade for over 20 years. If you’ve ever attended the parade, you’ve heard Steve announcing the various entries. He also acts as emcee and sound engineer for the SAT’s annual holiday luncheon. The Harwoods not only donate their time and talents, they make significant financial donations as well.

“I know Steve would agree with me that by getting involved with these wonderful community activities and organizations, we have received far more than we’ve ever given,” adds Tish.

Another husband-and-wife team who donate both their time and money are Mark

and Claire Roberts. Both have served as OA board members and presidents. They can be seen each year on July 4th at the BART parking lot organizing parade entries. Mark is also part of *The Orinda News* editorial committee, which goes over the paper each month just prior to publication.

“I really enjoy reviewing the stories,” he says. “It’s rewarding to work with other ‘mini-editors’ who share my desire to get each feature in the paper just right for the readers.”

Claire adds, “We appreciate what the OA has meant to Orinda for more than 70 years, and we plan to be part of its future.”

Started in 1946, the OA works to maintain and improve the quality of life in [SEE VOLUNTEERS page 12]

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

Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com. Letters to Editor for the December issue are due Nov. 8, 2019.

For display advertising rates, call Jill Gelster at 925-528-9225 (jill@aspenconsult.net) or Elana O’Loskey at 925-984-1751 (elanao@mac.com). The deadline for the December issue is November 8, 2019.

NEWS



SALLY HOGARTY

Joe Garvey and his wife Linda (both standing center) brought their dog Barney along to Orinda's energy center where electrical power was available during the outage.

Powering Through the Power Shut-off

By SALLY HOGARTY
Executive Editor

The city took a proactive stance during October's power shutoff by opening a City Care/Cooling/Resource Center for residents.

Open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 9-11 in the Community Center Room 8, the facility offered electrical power, water and a surprise supply of pastries from Peet's Coffee.

"I drove to Walnut Creek this morning to use the WiFi and power at Peet's Coffee before I found out about this facility just a few blocks from our home," says Orinda resident Rob Kline. "Having the power out is certainly inconvenient, but we're making do and something like this really helps.

Kline, like many in the Bay Area, was more than a little frustrated with PG&E. "This is all precipitated by PG&E's deferred maintenance. The worst part is not knowing when power will be restored. It's very unsettling. But for the elderly and those on a fixed income, it's much more serious."

Many of Orinda's medically fragile seniors who rely on electricity for medical equipment, as well as other seniors, were contacted by The Orinda Association's Seniors Around Town (SAT) program. In some cases, SAT staff and drivers drove to the homes of more isolated residents to ensure their safety.

Mayor Inga Miller found a bright spot in the outage when attending the mayor's monthly meeting. "I was heartened to hear how many residents were prepared with five-day water supplies and other necessities. Many neighbors also checked around their neighborhood to be sure people were all right," she says.

The Thursday Food Trucks event and appreciative crowds attending, added a

festive atmosphere to the dark downtown Oct. 10. The trucks even came early at 2 p.m. so residents could enjoy a hot meal in the afternoon as well as in the evening.

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



POLICE BLOTTER

Sep. 22 through Oct. 5

Calls for Service

911 Hangup: 12 incidents.
Accident Injury: 2 incidents.
Accident Property: 3 incidents.
Alarm, False: 41 incidents.
Burglary, Auto: 1 incident.
Burglary, Commercial: 3 incidents.
Burglary, Residential: 1 incident.
Carjacking: 1 incident.
CVC Moving Violation: 18 incidents.
CVC Non-Moving Violation: 30 incidents.
Disturbing the Peace: 6 incidents.
Drunk in Public: 1 incident.
Fraud: 2 incidents.
Grand Theft: 2 incidents.
Loud Party: 1 incident.
Ordinance Violation: 2 incidents.
Outside Assist: 5 incidents.
Parking Detail: 24 incidents.
Patrol Request: 23 incidents.
Petty Theft: 3 incidents.
Reckless Driving: 3 incidents.

Service to Citizen: 58 incidents.
Suspicious Circumstances: 6 incidents.
Suspicious Person Stop: 5 incidents.
Suspicious Subject: 4 incidents.
Suspicious Vehicle: 4 incidents.
Suspicious Vehicle Stop: 20 incidents.
Vacation House Check: 6 incidents.
Welfare Check: 8 incidents.

Arrest

Drug Possession: 1 arrest.
DUI: 1 arrest.
Probation Violation: 1 arrest.
Warrant Arrest: 2 arrests.

BART Statistics

No incidents reported.

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

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Orinda Author's New Book Recounts Battle to End Biased IQ Testing

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Staff Writer

It was 1968. Arturo, 10, was about to begin third grade at Soledad Main Street Elementary School in Monterey County. Before being allowed to enter the regular classroom, he was sent down the hall to a special room and instructed to take a test to see what he had learned. The timed test was administered in written English. Arturo had not learned enough and was labeled as being “retarded.”

The case of Arturo and others like him resulted in a long legal battle to stop the practice of administering racially and culturally biased IQ tests. Marty Glick, a 30-year Orinda resident, was one of two attorneys to lead the fight.

Glick, and co-author Maurice Jourdane, trace and recount their experiences in *The Soledad Children* (Arte Público Press, Sept. 2019). He is scheduled to read excerpts and

discuss the book at Orinda Books Nov. 2.

In 1966, the newly created California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) program, funded by President Lyndon Johnson’s Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, opened nine offices in key agricultural valleys. Glick, working for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in the South, was immediately hired to work at the Salinas office, 30 miles north of Soledad.

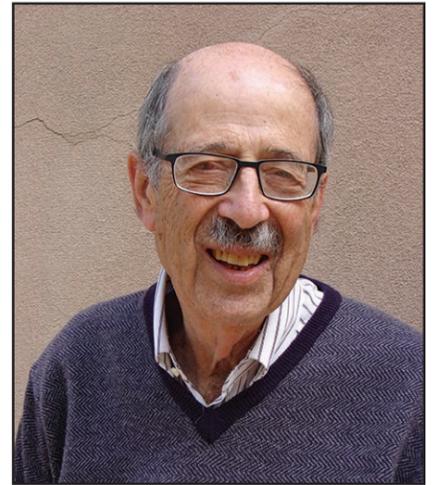
Civil rights was his calling. “I have always been willing to do what’s right at the time,” said Glick. “This is what I wanted to do.”

In California, his focus became the plight of the Mexican-American field workers. Hours worked. Rate of pay. Labor conditions. Fair housing. Receiving wages due. Public education. In 1969, parents of two of the Soledad farm worker children came forward to complain.

“There is a major difference between ‘can’t learn’ and ‘hasn’t learned,’” said

Glick. The CRLA attorneys knew tens of thousands of farm worker and other second-language students statewide had been sent to dead-end classes for the “mentally retarded” based on the tests. The courage of the parents set into action Glick’s two years of extensive research to attack the inequality of IQ testing.

Arturo was born at a Soledad farm labor camp and raised by his Mexican-born parents. Spanish was the only language he knew when he started school and, therefore, he was assigned a seat in the back of the classroom where his English-speaking teachers “simply ignored him as well as the other children of Mexican-American farm workers,” according to Glick. He was bright and energetic, but shy. Watching television became his self-teaching tool to



KATHY ENZERINK

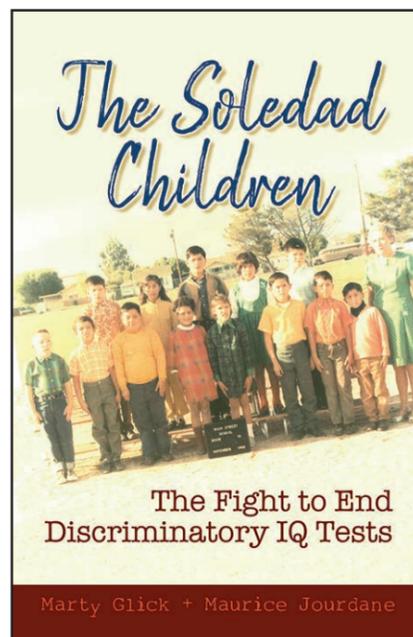
The Soledad Children is available at Orinda Books and at online retailers. Co-author **Marty Glick**, an Orinda resident for 30 years, will read excerpts and discuss the book Saturday, Nov. 2 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Orinda Books. Signed copies may be purchased at the event.

learn English.

After the IQ test, the Soledad children – Armando, Arturo, Diana, Ernesto, Manuel, Margarita, Maria, Rachel and Ramón – joined other students, ages seven to 13, in yet a different special classroom. They were “all Mexican except for one Anglo boy off in a corner,” as referenced in the book. A teacher handed out coloring books, pencils and magazines and their school days consisted of “coloring, cutting out pictures, doing a very little bit of easy addition and subtraction and recess,” Glick recalled.

When Arturo asked, “Why are we in this place instead of real school?” Maria replied, “This is the room for kids they think are dummies. They never give us anything to do but baby stuff. I hate it.” Arturo was

[SEE GLICK page 12]



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The Orinda Library in November

The Orinda Library and all Contra Costa County libraries will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and Nov. 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving.

- 4 **Maker Monday.** 1 p.m. Whether it’s Legos, a craft, or Minecraft, something is always happening on Monday. Suitable for elementary school children. Also Nov. 18 and 25.
- 5 **Baby Storytime.** Songs, stories and rhymes for infants to pre-walkers (18 months) and their caregivers. 11:30 - 12:30. Also Nov. 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, and 26.
- 7 **Computer help.** 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Receive computer help from a knowledgeable volunteer. Registration required. Focus is for beginning users. Also Nov. 14 and 21.
- ESL Conversation Group.** 1 p.m. Local

- volunteer ESL teachers lead group discussions with ESL learners. Free and open to all. Study Room A. Also Nov. 14 and 21.
- 12 **Orinda Writers’ Group.** 6:30 p.m. Meet with a group of beginning writers and get feedback on two pages of writing (any genre) in Study Room A. Also Nov. 26.
- 15 **Mystery Book Club.** 3 p.m. Join to discuss “*The Patriarch*” by Martin Walker. Study Room A.
- 21 **Contra Costa Tale Spinners.** 7 p.m. Geared for adults, features a local storyteller with an open mic afterwards.

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

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PEOPLE

Chiropractor Comes to Aid of Refugees at Camps in Jordan, Columbia

BY BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

When Jacalyn Buettner says “serving people is my mission,” it isn’t just talk.

The Orinda resident who has run a chiropractic practice in San Francisco for some 34 years recently volunteered her services at refugee camps in Jordan and Columbia with Flying Doctors of America.

“It’s difficult to understand the trauma those I saw in Jordan had undergone as they fled from bombings, saw their homes destroyed, lost everything,” she says. “They were from Syria where, it’s estimated, half of its population has been lost, with more than six million people moving out. Many were well off before the war began, but now they all are living in tents where the heat is intense and such basics as clean water, and decent bathroom facilities are difficult to find and there is no work for them. Such a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In Jordan, with Flying Doctors of America, Buettner treated patients living in a refugee camp with minimal shelter and a small patch of farmable land.

feeling of hopelessness pervades.”

Buettner, who is one of the few chiropractors to go on these trips, says she can understand why the refugees’ spines give them so much pain – they are so tight. She remembers a 12-year-old girl who had lost the fingers on one hand in a bombing.

“She was in so much pain, living with intense fear. I treated her every day and in the end she was smiling,” she says. “What a gift that was to me.”

On this trip, the group stayed in Amman and took more than an hour bus ride to Altra where a clinic was set up in an English school. More than 700 patients a day were triaged (this included taking height, weight, blood pressure and the complaint) and then sent to the appropriate classroom. There were surgeons, dentists, nurses and pharmacists.

“The most common problem was infection, dental work was badly needed, and we did see a lot of gunshot wounds. Also, there was a great deal of depression,” she recalled.

“Most didn’t know what a chiropractor was, but it turned out I was the busiest doctor there. I often saw 100 patients in our long days. Healing through chiropractic care is what I do and the results were so gratifying. Besides treatment, just knowing that someone cares about them, raises the refugees’ spirits.”

The group of refugees in Columbia who had fled from Ecuador had different problems. With the economic chaos in their country, their money was worthless so they lacked the ability to buy food.

“In the city of Cucuta we worked with a priest, Father David, who feeds 2,100 each day. Some people walked three days, in flip flops, to get over the mountains to Columbia, carrying what belongings they could in a pillow case,” Buettner says. “I remember one family where the mother was nursing a baby and also had a two- and four-year-old. Even these little children walked. They said they were walking to find work, money to buy food and a better life. Again dental work and problems of infection were paramount. Also, there was so much fear and tension causing pain which I was able to alleviate.”

All who travel on these trips pay their own way. For almost 30 years, Flying Doctors of America has been bringing together teams of health professions to care for people who would not otherwise receive medical care. They operate under the “Mother Theresa Principle,” which means they focus on the poorest of the poor.

The organization has flown more than
[SEE BUETTNER page 12]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An 85-year-old Bedouin woman shows her appreciation to chiropractor Jacalyn Buettner after receiving a much-needed spine adjustment.

Club Meetings in November

American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML). General meeting third Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. Alicia Hetman, expert on Title IX, the Federal Law Prohibiting Gender Discrimination in Education, will speak on the importance of and threats to Title IX. Admission is free and open to the public. Community leaders and educators are encouraged to attend. See <https://oml-ca.aauw.net> for more information. AAUW-OML Game Day fundraiser Thursday, Nov. 14,

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Miramonte Gardens Clubhouse, 1 Miramonte Drive, Moraga to fund AAUW-OML scholarships awarded to local young women. See <https://oml-ca.aauw.net> for reservation flyer.

Diablo Star Chapter #214, Order of the Eastern Star. Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Lodge, Karen Seaborn, 925-689-0995.

Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Garden Room, Orinda Library, www.moragaadobe.org.

Friends of the Orinda Creeks. Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. [SEE CLUBS page 15]



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Laura Abrams

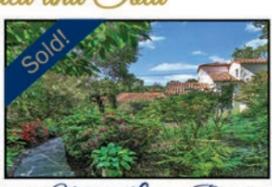
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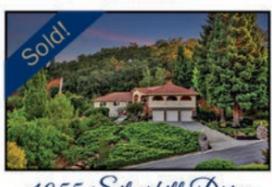
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7 Darby Court
Orinda



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November Galleries: Work of Area Teachers, Mini-Oriental Carpets

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council this month features the work of current and retired teachers who are also artists in an exhibit called Teachers Have Class.

Eighteen teachers from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda elementary and middle schools, the Acalanes Union High School District or those who have participated in the Arts Ambassadors and Visual Arts Competition programs held at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library are participating.

"Some of the days in November carry the whole memory of summer as a fire opal carries the color of moonrise," says Gladys Taber. Like the fire opal, the walls and cabinets in the gallery carry the ripples of creativity sparked by the talented teacher/artists whose work is on display. Exhibit fees have been waived by the council in consideration of the dedication these educators have poured into the community.

To see the complete list of participants in "Teachers Have Class" go to The Orinda News online at www.theorindanews.com.

Council Board Member Lois Reynolds created labels for the more than 50 works on display. Council curators Maggie Boscoe, Denise Nomura and Bill Carmel organized the install and take-down of the artwork.

Many of the artists are intrepid travelers, which is reflected in the diversity of their artwork.

The exhibitors are as follows: Maggie Boscoe, Orinda, ceramics, watercolors and photographs; Susan Dannenfelser, Lafayette, ceramics; Carla Gelbaum, Moraga, acrylic paintings; Tim Hancock, Lafayette, pen, ink and watercolor sketches; Lesley Jensen, Lafayette, ceramic vessels; Linda Kam, Orinda, botanical watercolors; Larysa Larson, oil paintings; JoAnn Lieberman, Lafayette, acrylic paintings, monoprints, mixed media; Aram Muksian, Vallejo, digi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nicole Reader's *Rowing*, a 30" x 40" acrylic on canvas.

tal photographic prints; Denise Nomura, Moraga, Nihonga paintings; Nicole Reader, Orinda, acrylic paintings; Lois Reynolds Mead, Orinda, acrylic paintings, handmade books/journals, iPhoneography; Kirsten Theurer, Danville, watercolors; Pam Toki, Oakland, clay monoprints; Moose Wesler, San Leandro, linocuts; David Wilson, Oakland, color pencil drawings; and Kim H. Wong, Orinda, acrylic paintings.

Meet the artists at their reception 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 10. Light refreshments will be served. Go to *The Orinda News* online at www.theorindanews.com to see the work of each teacher.

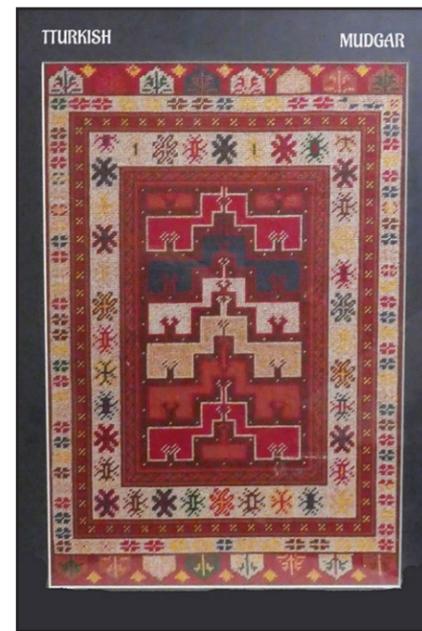
To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to www.lamorindaarts.org. The Art Gallery at the Orinda Library is at 26 Orinda Way. Open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. The library will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and Nov. 27-28 for Thanksgiving. Call 925-254-2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org/>.

she still loves cross stitching.

Ruzicka chose to create the designs in this show from *Oriental Carpets in Miniature* by Frank M. Cooper (1994). The miniatures on display are the culmination of 10 years of work based on Cooper's designs which she describes as "magical and masterful works."

The entire work is done on cotton Aida 14 count Victoria Red, Cross Stitch fabric with cotton DMC floss, two strands. Aida cloth is an open weave, even-weave cotton fabric. Its natural mesh and stiffness facilitates cross stitching. Two strands of cotton DMC floss – rather than three or six – gives her the ability to create a fine, easily

[SEE GALLERIES page 12]



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Turkish Mudjar, a 21" x 15" carpet, is part of Bohuslava Ruzicka's Miniature Oriental Carpets exhibit, inspired by Frank M. Cooper designs.

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Art Gallery at Wilder: Miniature Oriental Carpets

Bohuslava (Slavka) Ruzicka's intricate cross-stitchery is on view this month at her solo exhibit entitled "Miniature Oriental Carpets."

Ruzicka, who was born in Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic, began cross-stitchery 30 years ago in Singapore. There, when she joined the American Women's Club, she said she was invited to create cross-stitched ornaments for a children's orphanage. Never having tried it before, she did one. She said it turned out pretty good. Ninety-nine ornaments later, she was hooked. Now living in El Sobrante, she says



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CALENDAR / ARTS

On the Calendar in November

- 1 **Christian Ehrhorn Fine Arts**, 5 p.m. grand opening. 39 Moraga Way. Call 510-703-7020, email caefinearts@gmail.com for more information. See article p. 16.
- 2 **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, Nov. 9, 16, and 23. See article p. 11.
Art Gallery at Wilder, 2:30 p.m. Meet Slavka Ruzicka, view her exhibit, "Miniature Oriental Carpets" and participate in a cross-stitching demonstration while enjoying light refreshments. Wilder Art and Garden Center, 20 Orinda Fields Lane, see article p. 8.
Orinda Books, 3:30 p.m. Orinda resident Marty Glick, a litigator with the international firm, Arnold & Porter, will read from and discuss his book, *The Soledad Children: The Fight to End Discriminatory IQ Tests*. See article p. 6. *
St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 5:30 p.m. The Festival Weekend of All Saints and All Souls. Honors our departed family, friends, and holy saints and ancestors, in community, with music, food, stories and prayers. Meet in the Memorial Garden. Also, Nov. 3, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. liturgies and remembrance of the dead (Litany of Saints) at 4 p.m. 66 St. Stephens Dr. Orinda. RSVP for Saturday's supper by Oct. 31: 925-254-3770 ext. 10 or office@ststephensorinda.org.
- 3 **Chromatica** 3 p.m. Danville chorus performing Northern European composers at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church at 433 Moraga Way in Orinda. \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and children under 10 free at www.chromaticachorale.org or at the door. Includes a wine reception.
- 6 **City of Orinda Senior Services**, 10:30 a.m. - noon, This is Your Brain on Pain, Presenter: Terri Night, PT, Orinda Community Center, Room 7, Barcode: 2745. One-hour interactive workshop reviews current pain-related brain science and provides exercises and techniques.
- 7 **Orinda Books**, 10 a.m. Story Time with Cathy G. Join Cathy for a lively hour of books and fun for kids of all ages. Also, Nov. 14 and 21.*
Orinda Books, 6:30 p.m. Noted trial attorney James Bostwick will discuss and sign copies of his new legal thriller *Acts of Omission*, a gripping tale of a legal system gone awry. Gripping courtroom scenes highlight this novel.*
Orinda Chamber of Commerce, 5 p.m., Mixer celebrating the season of Thanksgiving, Mechanics Bank, 77 Moraga Way, Orinda. Call 925-253-2800 or visit www.orindachamber.org
Lamorinda Moms, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Preschool Fair at the Oakwood Athletic Club Gym, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Free event open to the general community; 30 area preschools represented.
- 8 **International Film Showcase** presents *Ayla: The Daughter of War*, a Turkish

debut film set in the 1950s when Turkey sent troops to aid the United Nations in the Korean war. A Sergeant in the Turkish army stumbles upon an abandoned five-year-old Korean girl, takes her back to the base where she captures the hearts of the Turkish brigade. Through Nov. 14. For show times go to www.orindatheatre.com.

- 10 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library**, 2:30 p.m. "Teachers Have Class" artist reception celebrating more than 18 local teachers who are also artists. Meet them and enjoy light refreshments See article p. 8.

Live at Orinda, 5 p.m. Performance by Faith Prince & Jason Graae. The Broadway duo join forces for an evening of music and hilarity. Faith Prince is the Tony Award winning star of Broadway's *Guys & Dolls* and *The Little Mermaid* and TV's *Modern Family* and Jason Graae is an LA Critics Circle Award winner and star of *Wicked*, *Ragtime* and *Scrooge In Love*. Info. and tickets at www.lamorindatheatres.com or 925-254-9065.

- 13 **City of Orinda Senior Services**, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Trip to Hiller Aviation Museum - San Carlos Barcode: 2694. Where Inspiration Takes Flight! The museum chronicles over a century of aviation history and provides a glimpse into air transportation's future. Vintage and futuristic aircraft, prototypes, photographic displays and models are on display. Activity Level 3. Fee: \$35

- 14 **Orinda Theatre**, 7 p.m. Classic Film Showcase (free movie night) presents *Grumpy Old Men*, lamorindatheatres.com. See article p. 14.

- 16 **Orinda Books**, 3 p.m. Sisters in Crime Mystery Writers: Susan Bickford, Nancy Boyarsky and Janet Dawson will discuss their books, *The Ransom* (Bickford), *Dread of Winter* (Boyarsky), and *The Devil Close Behind* (Dawson).*

- 17 **Mindful Littles & White Pony Express**, 1 p.m. Also, Nov. 19, 4 p.m. Family Volunteering Program facilitating projects at White Pony Express. Work on service projects to help communities served by White Pony Express. 3380 Vincent Rd. #107, Pleasant Hill CA 94523, info@mindfullittles.org. Register at: http://bit.ly/2lxn6T4. https://mindfullittles.org/.

- 19 **Artisan Faire**, 3 p.m. Supports Rescue One Foundation and Kerosene Lamp Foundation, Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante.
Orinda Books, 3 p.m. The World Affairs Book Group will discuss *Into The Hands Of The Soldiers: Freedom and Chaos in Egypt and the Middle East*, by David Kirkpatrick. Group meets bimonthly.*

City of Orinda, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Curry Workshop, Barcode: 2661, Orinda Community Center, Room #4. \$50/\$57.50. Learn to transform spices into scrumptious curry dishes from around Asia, such as Indian korma, Thai green curry, Burmese yellow

[SEE CALENDAR page 11]

Five New Public Sculptures to be Installed This Month

Later this month, five new pieces of ceramic sculpture will be installed at locations throughout Orinda, including City Hall, Library Plaza and Wilder, thanks to the efforts of the Orinda Art in Public Places Committee.

The works were made by artists Sandra Jones Campbell, Alan Chin, Ann Christenson, Hans Miles and Rimas VisGirda; all were created at a facility of the Mission Clay Arts and Industry program in Phoenix, AZ.

The Mission Clay facility produces vitrified clay pipe in various diameters from 18 inches to 42 inches and lengths from 6 to 10 feet, weighing 800 to 4,000 pounds.

Mission Clay founder Bryan Vansell invites artists from all over the world to Phoenix where he provides pipes, work space and access to huge kilns at no cost, encouraging them to turn a common clay pipe into an inspired work of art. To learn more about Mission Clay, go to www.mcpart.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Artist Ann Christenson and her clay pipe *Shimmy*.



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COLDWELL BANKER



Teens Express Essence of Lamorinda in Lafayette's First Public Mural

By MIMI BOMBARITO
Staff Writer

If a picture is truly worth a thousand words, then a mural must be worth an entire dictionary – especially if it depicts the essence of a hometown and was conceived and designed by visionaries who actually live there.

Such is the case of the recently unveiled mural in Lafayette that was brought to life by Lara Dutto and a team of about 13 Lamorinda youth artists.

Dutto, Orinda architect, wife and mother of three, and creative “imagineer,” spearheaded this multi-faceted project, exuberantly fulfilling the aspects of the creative process: sourcing the materials and funding (courtesy of Village Associates Real Estate), seeking the proper channels of approval, and recruiting busy teens who could spare a few hours away from their chemistry homework, among a litany of

other duties.

The whimsical painted mural measures approximately 7½ feet wide and 11 feet tall. Originally pieces of exterior-grade plywood panels, the colorful artwork neatly fills an entire back wall of a recessed niche that once housed ATM machines at the former Wells Fargo Bank turned pop-up art gallery. The mural faces out onto a small parklike space and the parking lot of Sideboard and Joe & the Juice. Lafayette's intersection of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road will never be the same.

“We want to activate this corner,” said Dutto, “and ignite curiosity.”

Viewers are encouraged to park their bikes or cars, and approach the mural up-close for an opportunity to study and absorb the many tales and truths whispered in acrylic.

Although highly original and possessing a dreamlike sense of spontaneity, the mural was not created hastily. Much thought and

planning went into its conception.

“This mural was planned with community input,” Dutto says. She tasked her artists to visually answer the question “What does it *really* mean to grow up in Lamorinda?”

“We held workshops long before we picked up paint brushes. These creative collaborators engaged in historical research and written storytelling,” she says. “We sketched and conducted interviews.”

Dutto reached out to Elizabeth Perlman, founder and CEO of the popular local writing-based empowerment group, The Intuitive Writing Project, for young creatives who were also inspired by the written word, as the goal of the mural, in addition to inspiring a sense of place and connectedness, was to visually tell a story.

Miramonte High School junior Reese [SEE MURAL page 11]



MIMI BOMMARITO

Orinda architect **Lara Dutto** (back row, 2nd from left) and her talented team of young artists created the mural *Our Home*, recently unveiled at the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd and Moraga Road in Lafayette. Several young artists who also worked on the project are not pictured here.

Mural Artists

Youth Collaborators: Brendan Bogen, Mia Dille, Mya Dunne, Genet Dutto, Makena Lai, Julia Little, Carsten Ristow, Evie Smith, Joe Smith, Maddie Stein, Mia Taylor, Reese Whipple and Maddie Venturini
Adult Collaborators: Angela Ristow, Martin Segobia and Rigo Gonzales



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Mon. - Fri. 9:30am- 4 pm.



School Events in November

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Holden High School, Transition field trip.</p> <p>4 Glorietta Elementary, 8 a.m. Character Trait Assembly/Gopher Pride.</p> <p>Del Rey Elementary, 9 a.m. Assembly: Jabali Afrika.</p> <p>Miramonte High School, 6 p.m. Boosters meeting.</p> <p>OUSD, 6 p.m. regular board meeting.</p> <p>5 Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Freshman Parent Discussion Group.</p> <p>6 AUHSD 7 p.m. Governing Board meeting. Also Nov. 20.</p> <p>7 Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, 8:15 a.m. School Board coffee meeting.</p> <p>8 Glorietta Elementary, GPC Executive Meeting, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>11 AUHSD and OUSD Schools closed for Veterans Day.</p> <p>Orinda Academy, closed for Veterans Day.</p> <p>Holden High School, in session.</p> <p>Holden High School, 6:30 p.m. Parent Support Group.</p> <p>12 Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Sophomore Parent Discussion Group.</p> | <p>14 Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, 3:15 p.m. School Site Council meeting.</p> <p>15 Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Performers for Progress - Cousins. Also Nov. 16.</p> <p>16 Wagner Ranch Elementary School, Bandit Bash.</p> <p>18 Del Rey Elementary, 5th Grade overnight field trip through Nov. 20.</p> <p>19 Miramonte High School, 7 p.m. Junior Parent Discussion Group.</p> <p>20 Miramonte High School, 8 a.m. Parents' Club meeting.</p> <p>Miramonte High School, 6 p.m. Cultural Fair.</p> <p>23 AUHSD and OUSD Schools Closed for Thanksgiving through Nov. 29.</p> <p>25 Holden High School, Closed for Thanksgiving through Nov. 29.</p> <p>Orinda Academy, closed for Thanksgiving through Nov. 29.</p> |
|--|---|

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

What's On Deck With Parks & Rec!

<p>Nov. 6</p> <p>Nov. 11</p> <p>Nov. 13</p> <p>Nov. 23</p> <p>Nov. 25-27</p> <p>Nov. 28-29</p>	<p>Wisdom Workshop: This is Your Brain on Pain, 10:30 a.m.- noon; FREE</p> <p>City Offices Closed for Veteran's Day</p> <p>Hiller Aviation Museum, Senior Trip – San Carlos, 9:30-4:30 p.m., \$35</p> <p>Orinda Holiday Bazaar, over 55 exhibitors; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way; FREE</p> <p>Thanksgiving Break Camps – Art, Basketball, Carpentry, Cooking, Science and Tennis!</p> <p>City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving</p>
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Orinda Youth Sports (OYS) Winter Basketball Registration Underway – Sign up today! – Play begins in January



Orinda Parks and Recreation Department
925-254-2445
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OrindaParksandRec@CityofOrinda.org
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Administrative Office Hours – Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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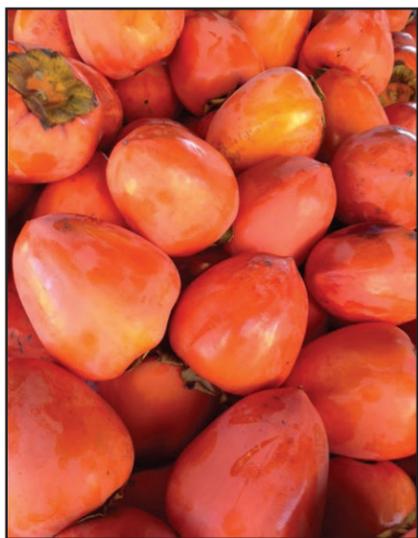
BARBARA KOBSAR



Start looking for some favorites at the Farmers' Market to get a jump on holiday meals and festivities. The season wraps up Saturday, Nov. 23 but tables are full of fresh fall produce, baked goods and specialty foods.

Root vegetables like turnips, rutabagas, beets, onions, kohlrabi and carrots are great keepers. Purchase early and store in the refrigerator until ready to use. Pumpkins, winter squash and sweet potatoes also keep well so when you spot the variety or shape you like, pick it up and store in a dry, well-ventilated space until the carving or baking begins.

Visit the booth for Marina Bay Bakery



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hachiya persimmons are best enjoyed fully ripe, when their skins turn a deep orange color.

to try a unique, delicious line of artisanal farm-to-table breads. Favorites include summit whole wheat sourdough, whole grain gluten-free sourdough and ginger apricot scones. Stop by the stand and Dan can answer any questions about their breads – from sourcing single varieties of wheat to using natural starters.

Home cooks will appreciate shopping for new-crop almonds, walnuts, raisins, eggs and dried fruits to create their own favorite dishes. Pie makers may choose from a variety of apples to make an uncooked pie to freeze and bake fresh on Thanksgiving Day – smells great and guests enjoy the tasty results!

Persimmons add some flare to the holidays as decorations and baked into traditional puddings, cookies and cakes.

Pomegranates are a once a year treat – enjoy the seeds as a snack or add to winter green salads, toss a few on a dish of ice cream or yogurt or drop several seeds into a glass of champagne or apple cider.

Many growers and vendors from the Orinda market attend the year-round Sunday market in Walnut Creek. For more information go to www.cccfm.org or call the market hotline at 925-431-8361.

Barbara Kobsar sells her Cottage Kitchen jams and jellies at the JAM STAND at the Saturday Orinda market and the Sunday Walnut Creek market. She is also president of CCCFM (Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Market) Association Board of Directors.

presents *The Glorious - Handel Messiah*. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 24 Knox, Lafayette. Tickets at www.pacific-chamberorchestra.org.

* Orinda Books is at 276 Village Square, info@orindabooks.com, 925-254-7606.

CITY/FIRE MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council. First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.

Historic Landmarks Committee. Fourth Tuesday, 3 – 5 p.m., Library Garden Room, 26 Orinda Way. Call 925-788-7323.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Third Wednesday, 7 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room 22 Orinda Way, Orinda. For agenda www.mofd.org/board/meetings.

Planning Commission. Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. www.cityoforinda.org.

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

◆ MURAL from page 10

Whipple, 16, one of the participants, wowed the audience at the mural's unveiling on Oct. 5 with her observations of the creative process.

"How do you grab a torch, a map and a backpack and take a journey inside your own head to find that glowing crystal, that diamond in the rough?" the teen asked. "How to be creative is something that is hard to teach because no matter how many art tutors, college camps or drawing classes you take, it will never feel like enough. To find the great relic of creativity is something we cannot teach. You must guide yourself to find it. 'Teachers' can only give you a starting point."

Whipple said that in the first weeks of working on Lamorinda's first community mural, finding original, creative inspiration was challenging, both personally and for her fellow artisans.

"I told this group from the beginning that I would not draw this mural for them," Dutto says.

Whipple says her personal method for igniting her creative flare involved envisioning Lamorinda as a textbook, then asking herself what would be the takeaway

if she were quizzed on that book the next day at school.

"On the first pages you will find only the surface, what we can physically see; the theaters, the reservoir, the golden hills. Okay, this is good," Whipple observed, "but it is not deep."

"Flip a few more pages and perhaps you would get to the people and what they do; how they act and what they look like. But this is still not that deep. What you must find in order to be creative are the bottom layers; the page 108. Seek out not just the objects but the feelings, the beautiful mystery of it all – how does Lamorinda make you feel? What secrets does it hide?"

"Past everything on the surface, you'll find a million hidden, diverse communities waiting to be discovered, subcultures of all kinds that you never even knew existed in your own backyard," says Whipple.

"There are secrets and stories contained in this mural; like what is the meaning of the big, green eye, or the bats, or the rainbow BART tracks, or the nest?" Dutto says. "There are many hidden gems you will want to return to for a second, or a third look."

Reach Mimi Bombarito at mimi.bombarito@TheOrindaNews.com.

◆ CALENDAR from page 9

curry, Indonesian red curry, etc. Bring your sharp chef's knife or cleaver, cutting board, hand towel, and beverage. Materials fee of \$12 is due to the instructor.

21 **Orinda Woman's Club**, 10 a.m. 33rd Festival of Trees. San Ramon Marriott. Benefits the Monument Crisis Center, Renaissance Scholars of Cal State East Bay, Orinda Woman's Club Community Service Committee. Tickets are \$95 at www.eventbrite.com. Enter event code 62958154535 in the search box. For info. 925-963-6356. See box p. 14.

25 **Orinda Books**, 5:30 p.m. Eric Thurm will introduce *Avidly Reads Board Games*. Writer and critic Thurm digs deep into his own experience as a board game enthusiast to explore the emotional and social rules that games create and reveal, telling a series of stories about a pastime that is also about relationships.*

30 **Pacific Chamber Orchestra**, 7:30 p.m.

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AROUND TOWN

Sleepy Hollow Learning Garden Celebrated at ‘Farm-to-Table’ Dinner

Fifty people enjoyed a “farm-to-table” dinner at the home of Susan and Tony DiStefano on Oct. 5 in celebration of Sleepy Hollow Elementary School’s Learning



COURTESY OF ROBERT SCHROEDER PHOTOGRAPHY
Garden founder **Susan DiStefano** and Sleepy Hollow Parents Club president **Dana Chiappone** were among the hosts of the Oct. 5 dinner.

Garden and in support of the Sleepy Hollow Parents’ Club that funds the garden each year.

Twenty years ago, the DiStefanos donated the garden when their children were attending Sleepy Hollow, and these many years later, they still grow seedlings in their home greenhouse to create starter plants for the students to tend at school. Each week, students visit the garden in support of their classroom curriculum, putting newly learned principles of math and science to the test as they study the plants and how they grow. Seasonal taste tests of the garden’s harvest are a favorite with students, sometimes leading to the discovery of a healthy new snack.

Reflecting on the gift, Susan DiStefano says, “It does my heart good to see the

students enjoy their time in the garden. I had no idea 20 years ago when we built the garden area that the kids would be learning about composting, germination and patience. Gardening is not immediate gratification. It takes planning and the students get to enjoy salads from lettuce seeds they planted.”

With Sleepy Hollow’s garden well established, DiStefano says her next goal is to work with students at Miramonte High

School.

In addition to the DiStefanos, the dinner was hosted by six Sleepy Hollow families, with Diablo Foods donating sushi and salmon and Belcampo Meat Company providing organic beef to complement the salads and fresh vegetables. Event styling services were donated by The Revelry Company, along with plates courtesy of Bamboo Compostable.

– Lynn Kalmar, Assistant Editor

Everyday 😊rinda

Pioneer Days and PG&E

MIMI BOMMARITO



As I await the pre-planned electricity shutoff by PG&E as a wildfire prevention measure, I, like most Orindans, am maniacally eager to complete my To-Do List. Minimally prepared yet anxiously cleaning house to combat the fear of the unknown, it feels a lot like the days leading up to the birth of my first child.

However, as you read this, hopefully this throwback to candlelight and Pioneer Days will have passed, safely and uneventfully.

All of this PG&E interference is messing up my joyful autumn vibe. I’ve always loved this season of vibrant foliage and beautiful, blinding sunlight. In addition to the quirky way that Orindans only trick-or-treat in certain neighborhoods, our fair city has many original autumnal traditions. It’s no surprise that my mind is wandering toward First Thanksgiving at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, and its director, beloved educator and naturalist Toris Jeager. With this impending power shut-down, I am kicking myself for not paying closer attention to Toris’ lessons and instructions, as she taught our kids the necessary life skills of our resourceful and hardworking pioneer predecessors.

Unfortunately, I remember only the incidentals, like how my oldest daughter’s fifth-grade class was the last to be allowed to dress as Pilgrims and Native Americans

for their First Thanksgiving re-enactment. Embracing the moment, I was thrilled to present to my daughter authentic matching mother/daughter Pilgrim apparel, complete with those funky Pilgrim bonnets.

My girl couldn’t have been more disappointed. She wanted to dress as a Native American. All the kids did.

“Fine,” I snapped. “But I’ve already spent way too much time finding us these awesome costumes,” I exaggerated. Truth be told, a generous neighbor, a former elementary school mom whose kids were grown, casually inquired in passing if I’d like to take them off her hands. “If you want to go as a Native American, then be my guest,” I said, “I’m sure you can find a costume.”

I knew she wouldn’t make the effort. We went as matching Pilgrims, but I had to promise not to stand anywhere near her all day.

The following year, when my middle daughter’s fifth-grade class participated in First Thanksgiving, a memo went out — we still received neon-colored paper memos back then, in our child’s Friday Folder — explaining that students would no longer be permitted to attend First Thanksgiving dressed as Native Americans, as it was disrespectful.

I could understand where this reasoning [SEE EVERYDAY page 14]



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FILM

◆ **EVERYDAY** from page 13
was coming from, but at the same time it presented an amusing conundrum. My middle daughter had informed me weeks prior to her First Thanksgiving event that there was “no way” she was wearing “that Pilgrim dress.” Considering that I had to access every motherly manipulation and bribe at my disposal to get her to wear a dress to Spring Sing (cut me some slack, readers, I’m from the South) I knew she would not take this news well.

That particular transition year, 2009, First Thanksgiving was a bit confusing. Despite the students’ insistence that they meant no disrespect to the Native American population — in fact, in the students’ minds they felt it was completely the opposite of disrespect, as someone named ‘Massasoit, chief of the Wampanoag’ sounded infinitely cooler than someone named Edward Winslow — the school district held firm. Eventually, however, a compromise was reached: students who wished to dress as Native Americans could instead wear tie-dyed T-shirts in fall colors. Allison Bingham and

the thoughtful and generous team of fifth-grade teachers at Glorietta even scheduled a day for the students to make these shirts.

Eventually, the entire costume aspect of First Thanksgiving was disbanded. And, given how much our historical perspective of Thanksgiving has evolved, even since 2009, I would have guessed that by now this event was probably re-named the Harvest Festival. Glorietta educator Allison Bingham brought me up to date: “The school district thought about changing it, but in the end, they didn’t; it’s still First Thanksgiving.” Bingham added, “We teach the kids about the falsehoods of the First Thanksgiving now too.”

I’m off to check the batteries in my flashlight and see if I can unearth any of Toris’ Wagner Ranch Nature Area recipes in case this power outage drags on. All of them, except that vile acorn mash, were pretty tasty. If I only had an adobe oven and Toris Jaeger as my neighbor, I’d be set.

Reach Mimi Bommarito at mimi.bommarito@theorindanews.com.



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

For Young and Old Alike



Tom Westlake

This month brings more of the usual with both the International Film Showcase and Classic Film Showcase offering their collective best. There’s also some great news regarding the Rheem, but let’s start with our extra curricular film choices.

As the headline suggests, chronology plays a very large part and so, of course, I’m going to start with youth. I’m also going to paraphrase an old adage: “It takes a regiment to raise a child.”

Ayla: The Daughter of War is a 2017 Turkish film that tells a true story about the Korean War, its ravages and, particularly, the effect it has on the innocent people who have nothing to do with the conflict. In this case, it is a little girl who is found abandoned and nearly frozen. A courageous soldier risks life and limb to rescue her. Obstacles immediately crop up, but despite the language barrier and no evidence of any surviving relatives, the soldier informally adopts her. A strong but unofficial bond is formed.

I won’t reveal what happens next but if you’ve seen Charlie Chaplin’s *The Kid*, then you have a pretty good idea what you’re in for. That said, it is highly recommended to bring some tissues with you. It will be screening at the Orinda for a week starting 7 p.m. Nov. 8. For more information go to internationalshowcase.org.

Then, on the other side of the spectrum, the Classic Film Festival presents *Grumpy Old Men*, featuring the original *Odd Couple*, Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. This is clearly an example of repeated stunt casting as these two actors have worked together in a number of other

films including the sequel to both of the aforementioned, but it is the first one we’re concerned with here.

In this film, they’re sniping next-door neighbors who are seemingly content to be so, that is, until Ann-Margaret moves in. From there, things go comically awry, but when you’re dealing with two pros like Lemmon and Matthau, you can bet that the wryness will be turned up to 11. And with other old pros like Burgess Meredith and Ossie Davis, as well as other notables such as Daryl Hannah, the comic possibilities are endless. It will also be showing at the Orinda Theatre at 7 p.m. Nov. 14. Check in with www.orindamovies.com for this and other non-cinema events. As usual, admission is free.

Now to that good news I alluded to earlier. As mentioned in my earlier columns, [SEE REEL page 15]

◆ **PRESIDENT** from page 3

able members of our community. We need your help in order to provide these needed services. Enclosed in this month’s newspaper is an Annual Appeal Envelope. Please take the time to study and familiarize yourself with the kinds of programs that are being sponsored and consider becoming a donor for the year.

We would like to keep providing these services and wish to ask you to join us to continue this journey of volunteerism.

Reach Carlos Baltodano at cbalt ldc@comcast.net.

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Tickets Available for Festival of Trees

A

fter months of planning, the Festival of Trees, featuring an array of decorated trees, wreaths and baskets, is set to take place this month. Sponsored by the Orinda Woman’s Club, the event raises funds for East Bay charities.

The festival takes place 10 a.m. Nov. 21 at the San Ramon Marriott. Local businesses, artists and Orinda Woman’s Club members have donated silent auction items that include travel to Lake Tahoe, Chicago’s Magnificent Mile and Monterey. Baskets, wreaths and trees will be raffled.

The event includes a fashion show and lunch. Tickets are \$95 each and can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com. Enter event code 62958154535 in the search box. For more information contact Orinda Woman’s Club member Betty Brotherton at 925-963-6356.

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CLUBS / BUSINESS BUZZ

◆ CLUBS from page 7

day, 5 p.m., May Room, Orinda Library, 510-919-4765.

Guided Meditation. Wednesdays, 9 a.m. St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, focuses on health, harmony and wholeness, 925-254-5965.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m., Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room, 925-687-8844, ext. 227.

Lamorinda Drum Circle from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Enjoy learning to drum in a small-group environment. Drums are provided. Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Suggested donation \$10-\$20.

Lamorinda Meditation Community. Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Career Wisdoms Institute, 1036 Country Club Drive, Moraga. All levels and philosophies welcome. \$5 donation for the use of space. Contact Gaby for more details: gmozee@gmail.com.

Lamorinda Nature Walk and Bird Watching for seniors. Wednesdays, 9 a.m., free. Call 925-254-2445 for weekly meeting information.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated. Third Thursday. For more information, search facebook for Lamorinda Republican Women Federated or go to www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org. Contact Elsie Euing at ejeuing@comcast.net or 925-254-8617.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary. Breakfast, Fridays, 7 a.m. at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 328 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, www.lamorindasunrise.com or lamorindasunrise@gmail.com. Meetings: Nov. 1: Professor Tim White, UC Berkeley – Lucy and Our Ancestors; Nov. 8: Aeelah Soine, Ph.D., The Fall of the Soviet Union; Nov. 15: Kate Rooney, KRON Sports Center Reporter; Nov. 22: 8:45 a.m. monthly box packing day at the Food Bank, 4010 Nelson Ave., Concord, and Gary Satterfield, Club Member Presentation; Nov. 23, 8:45 am - HOME Team at Gary Fulcher's shop. Nov. 29 No meeting.

Lamorinda Toastmasters. Every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. http://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org.

Montelindo Garden Club third Friday, Sept. through May. Nov. 15 Floral Creations with Nyna Dolby, Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Orinda Association. Second Monday, 7 p.m., Orinda Library Plaza level, May Room, 925-254-0800.

Orinda Garden Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda 925-257-0668, www.orindagc.org.

Orinda Hiking Club. Every weekend and first Wednesday, www.orindahiking.org or Ian at 925-254-1465.

Orinda Historical Society. Call 925-254-1353 for times and location of meetings. Open to public on Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

Orinda Job's Daughters. First and third Mondays, 7 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, 925-283-7176.

Orinda Junior Women's Club. First Tuesday, Sept. through June, 7 p.m. Orinda residents invited to learn about the group and how to give back to the community. RSVP on Facebook at Orinda Junior Women's Club or at www.orindajuniors.org.

Orinda Masonic Lodge #122 F&AM. First Thursday, except holidays. Family dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 8 p.m., 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda Masonic Center. 925-254-5211, www.orindalodge.org.

Orinda Rotary. Every Wednesday, noon, Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, 925-254-2222, www.orindarotary.org.

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. For more information 925-254-8260.

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

Orinda Woman's Club. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.. Call Jean Barnhart at 925-254-3881 or go to www.orindawomansclub.org.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174. Second Wednesday, 11 a.m. lunch. Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St., Moraga. A social organization of retired and semi-retired men who enjoy leisure time with friends and activities. For info., call Tyler at 925-963-5741, www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

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

◆ REEL from page 14

Derek Zemrak has done hero's work in trying to preserve this landmark movie house and I'd like to think he had something to do with this new news. It would seem that, instead of the threat of losing the Rheem altogether, it's actually going to get bigger!

Although in the early planning stages, the new owners are planning to expand the Rheem from four theaters to six. The new auditoriums will resemble very much how the Orinda Theatre is now.

If there's a downside, it would appear that there may be less places to park and there may be fewer seats but those that remain promise to be wider and more luxurious. Moreover, there will be an effort made to

keep the overall look of the place consistent with its current aesthetic.

We'll know more in the months to come but in the meantime, remember to stay in the dark for that's where the reel magic lies.

Reach Tom Westlake at poppinjay@earthlink.net.

◆ BUZZ from page 16

or many – that makes the difference.

"Harvest time is Oct. 15 to Nov. 15," he says. "I recommend harvesting and pressing on the same day or at most the morning after harvest. Keep the pressed oil in a glass container at room temperature in a dark place and use it within a year."

Contact Autran at 415-595-0815, email oleascape@yahoo.com or visit www.oleascape.com for more information.

Hilton House Consign and Design Celebrates 20th Anniversary

When Cyndi Hilton Girgis opened Hilton House Consign and Design in 1999, she had no idea it would become a go-to spot for San Francisco Bay Area shoppers seeking fine jewelry and estate pieces.

"Customers tell me we have the best selection in the Bay Area of unusual gold, gemstones, diamonds and pearls. These are the number one items that sell in Hilton House," says Girgis.

The store is filled with brand names such as Waterford, Lalique, Baccarat, Pottery Barn, Ethan Allen furniture and Restoration Hardware. Recycling items that are too good to donate by offering them via consignment is a good option when people move. If the items don't sell, Girgis offers

to donate them to one of the Hospice of Contra Costa County's 13 locations.

The anniversary celebration begins Dec. 5 with an Open House from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. during which time visitors can fill out a card for a chance to win one of three gift certificates. Hilton House Friends and neighbors are also invited to attend the Orinda Chamber Mixer from 5 to 8 p.m. Enjoy light refreshments and live music by Jose and Marcella Avila on keyboards and vocals.

Contact Hilton House Consign and Design at 19-21 Orinda Way, 925-254-1113, contact@hiltonhousedesigns.com or visit www.hiltonhousedesigns.com. Follow them on Facebook or Instagram @hiltonhousedesigns.

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BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz
Putting a Personal Face
on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



Christian Ehrhorn Fine Arts

As Christian Ehrhorn drove by the under-construction building at 37-43 Moraga Way across from the Orinda Theatre he noticed he had memorized the phone number on the front of the building. This signaled that a long held dream of his – to open his own gallery – was rising to the surface; action was required. He made the call.

With his three sons in Orinda schools, he said it was important for him to locate his gallery in his home town.

Months later, as remodeling and construction of the space reached completion, Ehrhorn’s dream gallery took shape. The tall ceilings and light pouring in from the street onto pristine white walls created the perfect backdrop to show off original artwork. Spacious, uncluttered and serene come to mind to describe the vibe.

“I like being in the middle of downtown Orinda,” says Ehrhorn, “Spending time here has proved to me that there are plenty of people passing by who might stop in to see some original art.”

A UC Berkeley grad who studied social science and environmental design, Ehrhorn’s is the owner/designer/contractor at Misty Morning Gardens, a local landscape design and construction company, since 1998.

“In response to all the technology we are inundated with on a constant basis, I believe that craftsmanship and the arts should be celebrated and witnessed more than ever. As a parent I appreciate our Lamorinda school districts which value the arts, music and sciences. I feel encouraged by our commitment to our children to value these aspects of human existence and offer them the opportunity to participate,” says Ehrhorn. The gallery will showcase various types of artists from the Bay Area and around the country.

A grand opening takes place 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 1. Light refreshments will be served. Christian Ehrhorn Fine Arts is at 39 Moraga Way. Open Wed. to Thur. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fri. – Sat. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 510-703-7020 or email caefinearts@gmail.com for more information.

Oleascope Boutique Olive Oil

Frederic Autran grew up in Provence surrounded by olive trees and their production. *Olea* – part of his business name – defines the genus we know as olive trees (*Olea europaea*). No wonder the mix of olive trees on his Orinda property mimics southern France, complete with two sleek donkeys to keep the weeds down and provide fertilizer (they can safely eat poison oak).



ELANA O’LOSKEY

Gallery owner **Christian Ehrhorn** is an artist in his own right; his painting *Kekova* is one of the works on display at his space in downtown Orinda.

During his 10 years in the sustainable landscape business he says he learned a lot about what that means in the Bay Area. The drought California experienced during this time raised the bar as to what sustainable looks like in any landscape. Olive trees definitely qualify as sustainable.

When his landscape contract ended he enrolled in a one-year program at Montpellier University in France. Known as the No. 1 location for agro-environment-biodiversity, the campus is also the research leader for new agricultural models and environmental management. Surrounded

by people from all over the world, students were there to learn about olive trees for a different reason. Is the soil good? Is the climate good? What is the light orientation?

Beginning in 2016 he focused for two years on planting his own trees and maintaining his olive grove. After purchasing his own press in 2018 he pressed the oil for all his clients. “Some clients want to spend the day pressing the oil; others just want the bottle. It all works for me,” says Autran with a grin. He’s happy to let homeowners do as much or as little as they want from beginning to end of each project.

Oleascope LLC offers design assistance to bring fresh ideas to a garden using a legendary old tree; help with cutting edge planting techniques that are environmentally friendly and maintenance.

Autran might begin with a delicious question: Do you have a preference as to the kind of olive oil you like? Greek? Spanish? Tuscany? Next he looks at the land, sloped or flat; what are your potential planting areas? Then comes a soil test; the journey to your own olive oil has begun.

When he and his wife, Nancy, moved to Orinda in 2016 he says the whole idea was to connect with people, exchange ideas and promote small-scale production of olive oil on individual properties. While terroir is important for a vineyard, Autran doesn’t believe the same is true for olive trees. Instead, it’s the practices, maintenance and health of the olives – whether it is one tree

[SEE BUZZ page 15]



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From planting trees to pressing olives for oil, **Frederic Autran** and his team at Oleascope offer a full range of services in support of the sustainable tree.

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