



# THE ORINDA NEWS

Gratis  
Volume 37, Number 7

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Delivered to 9,000 Households and Businesses in Orinda

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July 2022

## Orinda's Annual 4th of July Celebration Includes Fun for Everyone



PHOTOS BY SALLY HOGARTY



The popular Concord Blue Devils C Corp returns to the parade this year as does the Friends of the Moraga Adobe, shown here in the 2019 parade. The parade includes many colorful spectators, such as this patriotic group from the 2018 parade. For a complete schedule of events, see Pages 9 – 12.

## Orinda's Sales Tax Committee Discusses Measure R Expenditures

By ANDREA MADISON  
Staff Writer

In April, 2021, the voter-approved Measure R add-on sales tax began being collected in Orinda. According to the City's records, year-to-date revenue from the tax is currently over \$2 million, with \$73,515 spent on wildfire hazard reduction chipper services.

Just over \$60,000 was allocated to parks and recreation for the purpose of firebreaks.

During a June 8 meeting of Orinda's Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Com-

mittee (SSTOC), the ad-hoc subcommittee presented updates related to Measure R funds and expenditures.

Wildfire prevention was the focus of these updates.

"We're doing pretty well against the original anticipated revenue," Administrative Services Director Douglas Alessio said during a slideshow displaying the Measure R financial update.

There are no major Measure R projects projected for 2023, said Alessio.

"We're expecting to collect \$3.4 million."

[SEE TAX page 8]

## Safety Plans at all Orinda Schools

By ANDREA MADISON  
Staff Writer



ANDREA MADISON

In the wake of the tragic shooting at Robb Elementary school in Uvalde, TX, Orinda Union School District maintains its response plan to an intruder on campus.

In light of the May 24 mass shooting at Ian Uvalde, TX, elementary school, the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) remains prepared for lockdowns in the case of an intruder at any of its campuses, which includes four elementary and one middle school.

"Even prior to the Uvalde shooting we had committed to reviewing and revising our safety plans during this upcoming year," said OUSD Superintendent Aida Glimme of the district's emergency procedures. All

[SEE CAMPUS page 18]

### IN THIS ISSUE

News		Community	1, 5, 9, 10, 11, 20, 21
Crime/Police	5	Classifieds	20
Students/Schools	1, 7, 22	Editorial	6
World News	7	Firewise	5
Around Town		Letter to the Editor	6
Art Scene	13, 14	Performing Arts	15
Club/Meetings	19	Pet of the Month	4
Events	10, 11, 15	The Orinda Association	3
Residents	2, 17, 18, 24	The Reel Less Traveled	17
Calendar	19	Seasoned Shopper	4
Car Time	8		

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22 Bryant Way - Next to Casa Orinda  
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UKRAINIAN AID / CARTOON

# Local Resident of Ukrainian Descent Helps War-Weary Ukrainians



COURTESY OF SARI HEYMAN

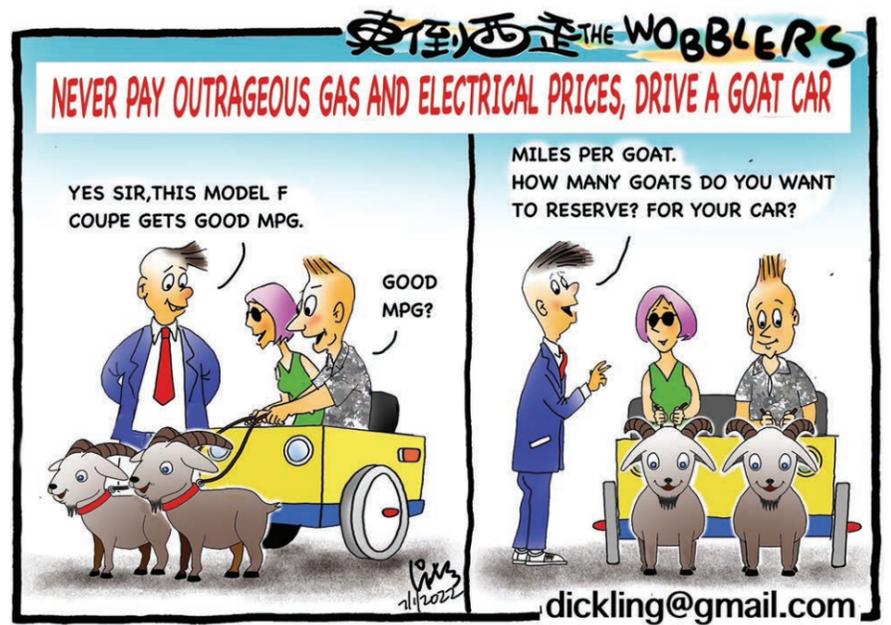
**Sari Heyman**, in a parking lot in Poland, after stocking up on food and toiletry items urgently needed by Ukrainian refugees. Her family left Ukraine two generations ago, so her effort, which was partially funded by her Orinda neighbors, is especially personal.

By **DAVID FONSECA**  
Contributing Writer

Moraga native and now Orinda resident, Sari Heyman, recently began her effort to reach out and help desperate Ukrainians. It started with a GoFundMe

page which earned more than \$12,000 –much of that coming from her Orinda neighbors.

After receiving the donations, Heyman went to Krakow, Poland, to volunteer and buy much-needed goods for the neighboring Ukrainians.



For Heyman, this was a deeply personal journey.

“My grandfather, Harry, left a small village in Western Ukraine in the early 1900s. He eventually came to New York and brought his entire immediate family over,” Heyman said. She sadly recounted the Nazi’s massacred all the Jews in that small village in 1941.

“I was obsessively reading the news and

listening to the reports about the Russian invasion. I just couldn’t stop following it. If my family had somehow survived in place during World War II, I could just as easily be one of those people fleeing right now. I kept on thinking I would have wanted people to help me,” said Heyman.

She shared her desire to help with her husband, Jeff Heyman, who used to be a United Nations Peacekeeper.

“I feel like I want to go,” she told him.

Her husband said, “You should.”

After researching online, she fortunately found the Multicultural Center in Krakow, noting their desperate need for volunteers and funds. After she chatted with neighbors, the GoFundMe page was up and running and donations began to pour in.

“Our neighbors down the street set it off. They were the first donors. They suggested I write to our [other] neighbors,” she said. “So, some of the most significant donors were our neighbors, and then their community of connections – and then it became like *six degrees of separation*.”

“I think I was all the more surprised by how much our neighbors supported this effort because we were relatively new here, but it didn’t seem to matter to anyone,” added Heyman.

Armed with the funds, Sari spent two weeks in Poland helping.

While there, Heyman volunteered with aforementioned Multicultural Center in Krakow, which runs Szafa Dobra (*Good Wardrobe*) and other centers that dispense clothing, medicines and home supplies to refugees.

[SEE HEYMAN page 16]



photo credit: Michelle Longosz

## Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

The Friends of the Orinda Library would like to thank our donors for their generous contributions to commission and complete the library mural project. Renowned mural artist Jane Kim of Ink Dwell studio has created a beautiful mural, *City in Nature*, depicting the unique ecosystem of Orinda on the south-facing Library wall above the garage entrance.

We hope you all enjoy its beauty as much as we do!



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Fri – Sat	11a – 9:30p
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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the Board  
Get Out Your Red,  
White and Blue!



Sally Hogarty and Marianne Moser

It's finally here. The month of July – bringing with it concerts, picnics, warm nights, ripe tomatoes from the garden and the 4th of July!

Given the political turmoil in our own country and the atrocities visited upon the Ukraine and its courageous people, it's especially important to celebrate Independence Day this year and rejoice in our many freedoms. Our theme, Keep On Truckin', celebrates our students and teachers and their perseverance during the challenging times presented by the pandemic.

The Orinda Association (OA) would like to help Orindans do just that with the annual 4th of July Parade and concert. The OA has been putting on this "hometown parade" since 1985 with help from the City of Orinda and a plethora of enthusiastic volunteers.

As co-chairs of the 4th of July, Marianne Moser and myself can't thank people enough for their generous donations of time and money to make the parade a reality. Now, having done our first year of co-chairing the event, we are in awe of

Bill Waterman and Diane Lautz, who co-chaired for four years!

A special thank you to Cindy Powell, who has spent countless hours getting donations and keeping track of the budget (not to mention keeping Sally from spinning out of control!) with Chris Laszcz-Davis responsible for all the beautiful pole banners around town.

For pancake lovers everywhere, we thank the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary for bringing back the pancake breakfast, and we're also grateful to Meghan Frey for organizing the Fun Run to work off those pancakes and donate to a worthy cause.

Thank you doesn't begin to say how we feel about Andy Radlow, who is doing the heavy lifting organizing the actual parade and all the entrants, and we thank Jackie Buettner for all the great music, both in the parade and at the concert in the park afterwards.

Steve Harwood, Scott Butler and Bill Cosden will once again be the familiar and fun voices of Orinda as they announce the

[SEE MESSAGE page 4]



CINDY POWELL

A special thank you to Orinda's Public Works team for putting up the American flags all over Orinda, made possible thanks to generous local donors.

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  
P.O. Box 97  
Orinda, CA 94563



OFFICERS

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

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Diane Lautz  
Grace Paik  
Kelly Sopak  
Bill Waterman  
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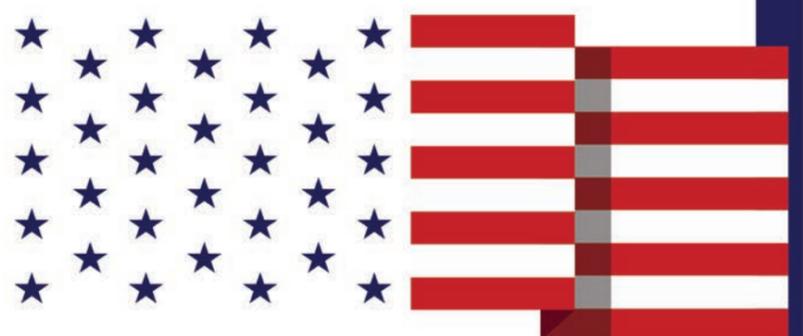
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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

4<sup>TH</sup> JULY

ORINDA KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

PARADE  
LIVE MUSIC



7:30AM PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8AM FUN RUN 9AM BOOK SALE

★ [WWW.ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG](http://WWW.ORINDAASSOCIATION.ORG) ★

10AM PARADE 11:30AM MUSIC IN THE PARK

STEVE & TISH HARWOOD  
THE PEASE FAMILY



Orinda Community Foundation (OCF)



Nor Cal Kids Triathlon Cancelled

The Orinda Community Foundation board regrettably cancels this year's NorCal Kids Triathlon scheduled for Aug. 20 at Miramonte High School.

The organization looks forward to producing the popular community event on Aug. 19, 2023.

For more information, go to [www.NorCalKidsTri.org](http://www.NorCalKidsTri.org).

PET OF THE MONTH / SEASONED SHOPPER

Pet of the Month



ADAM GRAHAM

"Moak is our two-year-old Chesapeake bay retriever mix, rescued from a shelter a little over two years ago. On the weekends you will find him hiking, swimming or at his favorite spot Point Isabelle in Richmond," said Adam Graham.

◆ MESSAGE from page 3

various parade entrants, and Anil Comelo is working hard behind the scenes to make everything run safely.

The incredibly clever Lisa Burlini has kept our website up-to-date and also designed our colorful posters. These are just a few of the volunteers who have been working for months to make sure Orinda has a wonderful 4th of July celebration.

A complete schedule of events can be found on Page 11, with the many volunteers and donors, who make the event possible, listed as well. We look forward to celebrating with you on July 4th!

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

Seasoned Shopper  
Meet the Brambleberries!

BARBARA KOBSAR



There is a lot to know about blackberries and raspberries! They grow on thorny canes or trailing vines called brambles. Most importantly they are available at your local farmers' market, they are in-season and they taste delicious.

Most blackberries range in color from dark maroon to glossy black with plump, juicy "kernels" making up the shape of the berry. Dissimilar varieties can differ noticeably in flavor and texture.

Cherokee is now more readily available and u-pickers at our local farms and customers at the markets love the large, sturdy, glossy berry for its smooth, mellow flavor.

Olallieberries are another favorite. The berry was first developed in 1949 at Oregon State University. They are long berries and more slender than boysenberries with a shiny black skin and sweet taste when ripe. Boysenberries are plump with a deep maroon color and offer a slightly tart, aromatic flavor. They make great jams and pies!

Baskets of red raspberries are a familiar summer sight at the market, but this season promises a few more chances to pick-up a gold variety of raspberry. The golden

raspberry is a novel variation of the red type, with a sweeter, milder flavor. All raspberries contain many crunchy seeds and are fragile. When harvested, the fruits detach from the central core, creating the signature hollow cavity.

Choose your baskets of berries carefully. Check to see if the berries move freely in the container – they should not stick together. Refrigerate berries unwashed in a single layer on paper towel. Store for 2 to 3 days if necessary, or freeze. To freeze, wash berries under gently running water, drain and arrange in a single layer on a shallow pan. Freeze and transfer to freezer bags to store up to a year.



BARBARA KOBSAR

Summertime berries are ready for eating fresh and adding to salads, smoothies, crisps and parfaits. Erik Ortiz (R) and his mother Yanira Ortiz from Chays Farms in Watsonville have plenty of fresh berries to sell at Orinda's Farmers' Market.

This quick salad for four uses 4 grilled, sliced, boneless chicken breasts, 4 handfuls of fresh baby spinach, a cup of fresh raspberries, ½ cup toasted sliced almonds or chopped pecans, ½ cup raspberry vinaigrette or red wine vinegar and fresh ground black pepper to taste. Combine all ingredients, except the chicken, in a bowl. Drizzle with vinaigrette and toss gently. Divide spinach mixture between 4 plates, arrange chicken slices on top and enjoy!

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

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

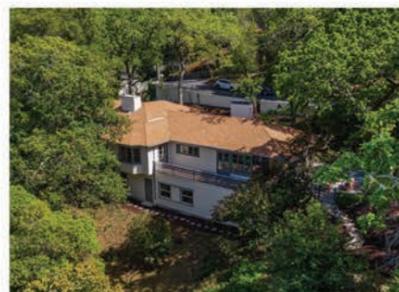
Laura Abrams ~ 2022 Listed and Sold Update



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25 Rustic Way, Orinda  
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9 La Noria, Orinda  
Sold at \$1,910,000 • [9LaNoria.com](http://9LaNoria.com)



5 La Noria, Orinda  
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2 Bien Venida, Orinda  
Sold at \$2,940,000 • [2BeinVenida.com](http://2BeinVenida.com)



407 El Toyonal, Orinda  
Sold at \$1,305,000 • [407ElToyonal.com](http://407ElToyonal.com)



37 Vallecito Lane, Orinda  
Sold at \$1,800,000 • [37VallecitoLane.com](http://37VallecitoLane.com)



75 Stanton, Orinda  
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5 Brookbank Road, Orinda  
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FIRE / POLICE

# Back to Basics for Wildfire Safety

By MELANIE LIGHT  
Staff Writer

Orinda has been really stepping up to the plate to make our town fire adapted. Kudos to us! Here's a quick primer to make sure you are covering all your bases in creating and maintaining a defensible space around your home and also hardening the home itself.

**Step 1:** Determine how big the defensible space should be. If you are on a flat lot, it should be 100 feet from the home; if on a moderate or steep slope, increase that to 200 feet. If that extends to your neighbor's lot, then it's probably time to work together to keep that space properly managed.

**Step 2:** Remove all dead vegetation: shrubs, fallen branches, grass, weeds, flowers as well as dead or dying standing trees or fallen trees.

Within five feet of your home, remove dead vegetation routinely. Do not use bark or wood mulches or landscape timbers or board in this zone. Use herbaceous or deciduous plants that are low-growing, irrigated and maintain the MOFD "box" of two feet from the house and leave a one foot airgap between the ground and

plant. Make sure there is six feet of vertical clearance between the tree canopy and roof.

From five feet to 30 feet, remove dead material every year by the MOFD deadline of June 1. Leave only healthy plants and give them space. If you have eucalyptus and Monterey pines within six feet of your home, you need to remove them. Keep roof and gutters clean.

**Step 3:** Create separation between plants. Thin dense shrubs to create more space. Depending on the slope of your terrain, shrubs or small clumps of shrubs should be separated by at least twice the height of the average shrub with more distance between plants on steep slopes.

**Step 4:** No ladder fuels. It is critical to get rid of plants that can help fire climb up from low-growing plants to adjacent taller shrubs and trees. Remove shrubs and trees growing under the drip line of your trees and remove low-hanging branches not to exceed the bottom third of the tree's height.

**Step 5:** Make it lean, clean and green. Maintain your landscaping by eliminating easily ignitable fuels near your home like broom, juniper, bamboo and others. Keep the roadside free of vegetation within three feet horizontally and

# Wilder Hosts Safety and Health Fun Fair in Partnership with City

S. K. GUPTA  
Contributing Writer

Orinda's planned community, Wilder, hosted a Safety and Health Fun Fair Sunday, June 12. The community has a large number of young families, many of them, first-time homebuyers.

The Wilder HOA partnered with the City and many local organizations to host the

event at the Orinda Arts & Garden Center. MOFD firefighters arrived with a fire truck and ambulance. The Orinda Police Department participated with two patrol cars, drones and multiple officers.

Lamorinda CERT organized a hands-on training for kids and adults on how to use fire extinguishers. They also educated folks

[SEE WILDER page 21]



S.K. GUPTA

Lamorinda CERT volunteers provided hands-on training to Wilder residents in emergency preparedness ((L-R) **Scott Honeychurch** (Wilder HOA President), **Ammon Lee**, **Charlie MacNulty**, **Lynn Trowbridge**, **Jose Anaya**, **Julie Sparks**, **Ray Breslau**, **Eric Lee**, and **Perrin Klot**.



## POLICE BLOTTER

May 15 through June 15

**Calls for Service**

- Adult Missing: 1 incident
- Burglary, Commercial: 1 incident: Camino Pablo
- Burglary, Residential: 4 incidents: Altarinda Dr., Mira Monte Rd., Overhill Rd., Pico Ct.
- Civil Disturbance: 1 incident
- Death - Non-Criminal: 4 incidents
- Drugs - Possession of Paraphernalia: 1 incident
- Failure to Obey Officer: 1 incident
- Fraud: 2 incidents
- Outside Assist: 3 incidents
- Property Lost: 1 incident
- Service to Citizen: 3 incidents

- Shoplifting: 2 incidents: Orinda Way, Camino Pablo
- Vehicle - Carjacking: 1 incident: Brookwood Rd.
- Vehicle Theft: 2 incidents: El Dorado Ln., Brookwood Rd.
- Unlicensed Driver: 1 incident

**Arrest**

- Driving Under the Influence of Drugs-Misdemeanor: 4 arrests
- Warrant Arrest: 6 arrests

- Compiled by David Dierks  
Assistant Editor

15 feet vertically from the edge of the road.

As always, you can visit the MOFD at [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) for help. You can schedule a chipper pick-up, get lists of recommended plants and ground cover and helpful videos about how to do this work.

Even better, the MOFD Fire Adapted Community Ambassador program now offers the ability to make an appointment with a trained volunteer who will come to your home and give you a free assessment. Just sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/mptfv6tx>.

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



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EDITORIAL

# Editorial

## Add More Humor to Your Life for Good Health, Well-Being and Maintaining Sanity

By CHARLEEN EARLEY  
Editor-in-Chief

Here we are world ... in the throws of so much pain, violence, death, destruction, loss and suffering. From Russia's continued incursion in Ukraine, mass deadly shootings in schools, hospitals, churches, grocery stores and homes, to the uptick in COVID-19 hospital cases and the public hearings on the Jan. 6, 2020, deadly insurrection on our capitol and ultimately, our American democracy.

It's easy to feel anxious and depressed over all of this, and it's easy to be glued to the television or radio to learn about the latest evils of *homo sapiens*.

The words "homo" and "sapiens" are Latin for human/man and wise/astute, yet it's difficult to associate the meaning of these words with those who have committed such wicked crimes on other people.

Life is difficult on its own, from holding down a job (or five), paying the mortgage or rent, feeding one's family – all with the exponential rise in inflation, from soaring gas prices to groceries. The added atrocities taking place today in our world make it worse.

So, my point here is not to pull you down that rabbit hole of despair even farther, but to offer some encouragement and ways to deal with so much negativity engulfing all of us.

These are things I've been trying my best to incorporate into my daily life, but please understand – I'm not a psychologist, therapist or biologist of any sort – although I am a mom and grandmother, and these titles inherently incorporate the job descriptions of the three:

**Take long walks** with a great friend or do some anaerobic exercise weekly – not a lot, but a little. Just a 30-minute walk does wonders.

**Call a close friend** or family member and chat for a while. Get the little things off your chest, because if you hold in the little things, they can build up and explode!

**Give thanks daily** for the small joys and victories in your life. My cats think I'm a bit strange talking to myself, but throughout the day, I verbally say thanks for various things; like having fresh, hot water for showers every day. It sounds insignificant, but I truly am thankful for those things. If I find a great parking spot, I give thanks. If I save a fly's life in my house by capturing it and turning it loose outside, I honestly give thanks. My cats though, do not give thanks, because I just tossed out their organic toy.

**Pay it forward** for someone (or the

environment) every day if possible. From holding a door open for the person behind you or letting someone with a few items in their basket go before you at the grocery store, to picking up trash off the ground (use gloves) or letting that person on the freeway cut you off without cursing at them. I try to tell myself the person's significant other is having a baby in the back seat and really needs to get to the hospital stat, or they just remembered they forgot to unplug their curling iron at home.

**Limit your time watching television and binge-scrolling on social media.** Of course, stay informed; however, we all know the news repeats itself hourly, daily, and most often, weekly, so the likelihood of "FOMO" (fear of missing out), is relatively low. I believe the benefits of setting boundaries on your screen time far outweigh the effects of digesting too much (repetitive) bad news.

**Add more humor to your life.** There are so many studies out there qualifying why laughter truly is "the best medicine." I'm not saying this because I'm a stand-up comedienne; I'm saying it because it's true. Read Emily Lockhart's article in [www.activebeat.com](http://www.activebeat.com), where she writes in her 2014 article titled *8 Reasons Why Laughter Really is the Best Medicine*, "... laughing produces endorphins, known as a 'happy' brain chemical that acts as a natural pain killer – soothing stress, reducing anxiety, easing chronic pain and just making you feel really, really swell."

When someone tells me "There's so much bad news out there," I can't help but ask, "But did you see and read about all the good news out there too, you know, people doing amazing things?" Sometimes, yes, we must dig a little deeper for it, but it's there, right under our noses.

In this issue alone, you'll read about Orinda's amazing 4th of July parade and festivities. I'll be there at the judge's booth, so stop by and say "hi!" You'll also read about the amazing Wagner Ranch 4th grade students on page 7 who placed 2nd in the Odyssey finals. You'll read about Ryan Aars making Eagle Scout rank on page 22, and you'll read about the beautiful flowers Orinda Garden Club members transformed into art on page 13.

My hope is for all those who read our monthly newspaper, they will garner joy, information, learning and inspiration. And I leave you with a quote from the late Phyllis Diller: "A smile is a curve that sets everything straight."

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

## List of *The Orinda News* Advertisers

	Page		Page
<b>Automotive</b>		Recycle Smart	23
Mash Gas and Food	1	State Farm, Bryan Silveira	9
Orinda Motors	8	State Farm, Kelly Sopak	16
Orinda Shell Auto Care	14	<b>Real Estate</b>	
<b>Community</b>		AG Realty	
Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church	10	The Gailas Team	16
Orinda Parks & Rec	11	Coldwell Banker	
<b>Financial and Insurance Services</b>		Laura Abrams	4, 9
Mechanics Bank	15	Suzanne Toner Geoffrion	3
Park Place Wealth Advisors	16	Shellie Kirby	11
<b>Garden/Landscaping</b>		The Grubb Company	
Ken's Brush Removal & Tree Trimming	21	Rebecca Ciccio	21
Ken's Rototilling and Weed Cutting	15	Alexis Thompson	4
McDonnell Nursery	7	Sotheby's	
Oakland Hills Brush Clearing	24	Ann Newton Cane	5
Tree Sculpture	18	Jennie Swan	19
Wildland Corporation	13	Village Associates	
<b>Health/Fitness</b>		Shannon Conner	11
Nancy Henderson Personal Training	7	Linda Friedman Team	7
<b>Medical and Dental</b>		Dexter Honens II	18
Dr. Mary Smith DDS	21	Christina Linezo	10
Hospice East Bay	10	April Matthews	19
Medicine Shoppe	5	Murphy Team - Karen & Hilary Murphy	16
<b>Non-profit</b>		Ann Sharf	5
The Friends of the Orinda Library	2	Clark Thompson	17
ONE Orinda	22	Margaret Weil Zucker	21
The Orinda Association	3	<b>Restaurants/Catering</b>	
Orinda Classic Car Show	12	Baan Thai	7
Orinda Community Foundation	3	Casa Orinda	19
<b>Professional Service</b>		Farmers' Market	21
5A Rent-A-Space	11	Siam Orchid	18
Green Sheds	21	Zamboni's Pizza Company	2
Jeff Heyman Photography	14	<b>Retail</b>	
Kirby Carpet Cleaning	17	McCaulou's	17
Law Office of Victoria Robinson Smith	9		

## Letters to the Editor

### Orinda Council Needs to Commit to Affordable Housing

Many people are unfamiliar with affordable housing and new state laws. In Orinda, moderate-income affordable housing for a four-person household allows for a maximum income of \$171,000. That would cover the salary of two Orinda teachers. Lower income maximum is \$109,000. Recent laws require Orinda to prepare a "Housing Element" showing where Orinda will up-zone properties for approximately 1000 affordable housing units.

A city, however, cannot require only affordable housing be built on a site up-zoned for it. Instead, if sufficient sites are up-zoned for a density of 20 units per acre or more, the Housing Element law is satisfied even if no affordable housing is ever built.

However, if no affordable housing is built, other laws impose penalties. Thus, in order to actually obtain affordable housing, many cities, including Lafayette, have enacted "inclusionary housing ordinances" requiring, for example, 15% of units in new projects be affordable. Yet rather than enacting such an ordinance or committing to enact such an ordinance, the Orinda Council has allowed "staff" to submit to the State a draft Housing Element that merely commits to "research" the subject over a multi-year period.

There are at least two problems with

Orinda's approach. First, the lack of a commitment to an inclusionary ordinance means little or no affordable housing will be built for teachers and others who qualify. Second, the City will suffer penalties when affordable housing does not actually get built.

- Nick Waranoff

### Orinda Needs to Come Alive on Friday Nights

On a recent trip to Lake Tahoe, we stopped in old town Auburn for dinner on a Friday night.

What an incredible and memorable experience! There was live music, multiple sit-down restaurant options, three wine bars to choose from, a local brewery with excellent food and microbrews, an art gallery and even a historic theater.

All in a city of 14,000!

Families, kids and friends having fun on a Friday night, surrounded by historical buildings that have been well preserved over the years.

I said to my wife, "Wouldn't it be incredible if Orinda had the same energy, dining and entertainment options as Old Town Auburn?"

In that moment, we had a vision of what Orinda could become.

I would encourage the City Council  
[SEE LETTERS page 17]

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STUDENTS / FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

# Wagner Ranch Students Place Second in Odyssey Finals

By JILL GIBSON  
Contributing Writer

Wagner Ranch Elementary 4th graders (soon to be 5th graders) took Second Place in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held at Iowa State University, May 28, competing against 35 teams.

This top result came from refining their ideas in Part I: Long Term Problem Solving and Part II: Spontaneous Problem Solving.

The students advanced to the finals after earlier wins this year in San Francisco Bay Regionals and Northern California State competitions. The winning team members are Drew Alameda, Gianna Campbell, Ryan Gibson, Elise Nguyen, Anya Parikh, Stella

Schmitt and Connor Volk.

Coaches Leslie Volk and Maggie Wang guided the innovation and spontaneous team problem solving.

This team – who happened to be the youngest competitors – was also the highest placing out of all the competing Northern California teams in the World Finals divisions, ranging from elementary to college level.

Creativity, scene assembly and problem solving is all done by the team, who spent over 100 group work hours since last year October.

*Jill Gibson can be reached at editor@theorindanews.com.*



SCOTT CAMPBELL

Wagner Ranch Elementary fourth grade students took Second Place in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, May 28 (L-R) **Drew Alameda, Gianna Campbell**, coach **Leslie Volk, Anya Parikh, Connor Volk, Stella Schmitt** (front), coach **Maggie Wang, Elise Nguyen** and **Ryan Gibson**.

# First Person View of Russia's Attack on Ukrainians' Lives and Country

By SASHA LEVIN  
Contributing Writer

It has been more than 110 days since Ukraine faced a new reality - the one with constant fear, endless air raid alerts and emotional swing. We are paying a huge price for the right to celebrate our culture,



COURTESY OF SASHA LEVIN

**Sasha Levin**, from Ukraine, writes about living in a war zone.

appreciate our values and lifestyle.

It is incredibly difficult to keep mental stability for such a long time, but humans are naturally adaptable.

Despite life in Ukraine is currently far from normal, people are getting used to the conditions so cafes, restaurants, beauty bars and shopping malls are re-opening in areas where battles no longer take place.

For instance, my hometown Chernihiv, which is located only 43 miles from the Belorussian border, is now bursting with people who have returned to the City and urban routine seems to be covering all visual consequences of recent bombarding.

Those who live in liberated regions are trying to forget the suffering brought by the Russians, but mass graves always remind people of what was happening there just a few months ago.

At the same time, about 20% of Ukrainians

[SEE UKRAINE page 18]



MICHELLE LONGOSZ

Friends of the Orinda Library commissioned Jane Kim, Founder of Ink Dwell studio, to create the mural City in Nature on the south-facing wall of the Orinda Library. The Library Mural will be dedicated on the 4th of July at 8:45 a.m.

# City in Nature Mural Adorns Orinda Library Wall

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK  
Assistant Editor

City in Nature, the mural on the south-facing Orinda Library wall, depicts "the unique ecosystem of Orinda." Commissioned by The Friends of the Orinda Library and financed by private donations, the mural was created by renowned Bay Area visual artist Jane Kim.

Included in the mural are a river otter, Allen's Hummingbird with Western sycamore, Toyon berries, an Alameda whipsnake, a coast live oak acorn, an anise swallowtail butterfly, plus silhouettes and a watershed map.

Ink Dwell studio, founded by Kim, creates art which explores the beauty and complexity of nature, merging classical techniques of science illustration with modern fine art. She creates large-scale public art across the country and is the creator of the Migrating Mural campaign, a series of public

installations highlighting wildlife along migration corridors it shares with people.

See the complete list of donors on page 2.

*Kathy Enzerink can be reached at kathy@theorindanews.com.*



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CAR TIME

◆ TAX from page 1

Alessio said regarding Measure R over the upcoming fiscal year.

But how much of the funds generated by this sales tax are being directed toward a wildfire prevention plan for the City of Orinda?

In the itemized list of third quarter operating expenditures for the fiscal year 2021-22, Measure R funds are shown to have been utilized for various City operations, such as city manager and public works costs.

To date, \$55,650 has been spent on publicity and promotion, which included the printing of “a direct mail piece to all the residents,” said City Manager David Biggs.

This mailing went to every resident with information on the fire department requirements, said Biggs, in a June 9 email. It also included information on the availability of the Measure R-funded chipper.

The free-of-charge chipping services for Orinda residents can be scheduled online using the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) Chipper Reservation System, located by visiting [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) and searching the term “chipper.”

Priority is given to requests when three or more neighbors request service jointly, according to the City’s informational mailing.

“We have also done a direct mail piece to the residents who live on El Toyonal in regards to the Red Flag parking restrictions,” Biggs said via email.

“[The publicity and promotion costs are] a combination of contractual services and ... limited advertising and then also production and mailing costs of things that we mail and whatnot,” Biggs said during the SSTOC meeting.

The professional services and grants expenditure listed in the Measure R quarterly report is “primarily California Consulting,”

said Biggs.

California Consulting, Inc. is a state grant writing firm, using about \$60,000 of the funds.

“We are doing the AB 747 analysis,” Biggs said, “which is a more detailed evacuation planning analysis... So that’s probably in there, too.”

The recent meeting was also an opportunity for the SSTOC to discuss the possibility of adopting a wildfire prevention plan proposal from UC Berkeley’s Prof. John Radke.

Radke, a professor of City & Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning and Urban Design, is a faculty member in the College of Environmental Design at the university, as well as a founding member of the Center for Catastrophic Risk Management.

In a late April, meeting between the City and MOFD’s two-by-two committee, Mayor Dennis Fay said, “My goal for this committee is to identify the true partnerships that we can actually create in order to reduce or even eliminate the wildfire danger in the City of Orinda, using the resources available to both Orinda through Measure R and whatever resources MOFD can bring... on this.”

Fay added that a partnership between the City and the fire district is his goal for this particular committee.

MOFD President Michael Donner commented, “We can do the best job on the planet with fire prevention and mitigation, [however] we will never eliminate the threat of fire.”

During the meeting, Fay also noted there is a “much bigger opportunity up front” to spend more Measure R funds on wildfire prevention and mitigation as opposed to the future, when the revenue will be directed towards Orinda’s infrastructural needs.

Mayor Fay is part of a two-by-two com-

## CAR TIME

INFOTAINMENT GOOD, BAD, UGLY?



XAVIER ESTRADA

These days, having factory screens in vehicles is as common as carrying a smartphone. It’s something that was unimaginable 20 years ago, but today they are an integral part of our daily lives.

Just 20 years ago, having a navigation system in your car was a wow factor. Who needs Mapquest or a AAA map when you had the luxury to type in an address and have all the directions right in your very own vehicle? It was around this time, car phones were phasing out due to the rising popularity of cell phones. See a pattern?

Jump to 2014 and you could still order a vehicle with or without navigation, but by this time, smartphones were quite advanced, and it became normal to use your phone for navigation because of and to get real-time information.

Not every vehicle had a display screen at that time. Some did, due to their aesthetic nature, whether for a back-up camera or to utilize a screen for A/C controls or a settings menu.

It was easy to distinguish who spent more money between 2002-2010 to upgrade their interior with a factory navigation screen. By today’s standards, seeing an old pixelated screen really dates a vehicle, as opposed to having a simple stereo.

By 2014, factory navigation was be-

coming obsolete in comparison to a smartphone’s capabilities. Then it was announced in 2014 that by 2018 it would be mandatory for all new vehicles to have a back-up camera.

This shift meant every single vehicle, regardless of trim, would have a screen, serving multiple purposes: displaying a camera, menu settings, A/C controls, and of course, navigation.

Manufacturers were designing their UI (User Interface) to be user-friendly, but a lot of them missed the mark. In the midst of this, people were using an AUX cable, or Bluetooth from the factory, to play music or make calls, and still handling their smartphone for navigation, which was a safety concern.

So what’s the answer?

It’s Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Integrating your smartphone’s UI to work on your vehicle’s native screen and controls just makes sense, since people already interact with it daily. Of course there are limitations adhering to safety concerns. In other words, you can’t watch YouTube and drive. Our vehicles are now an extension of our smartphones. So, what’s next?

*Xavier Estrada can be reached at [xavier@orindaclassiccarcenter.com](mailto:xavier@orindaclassiccarcenter.com).*

mittee with MOFD, alongside Councilmember Darlene Gee.

Gee echoed Fay’s sentiments via email on June 6, “Our goal is to try to partner together to implement recommendations from our SSTOC with MOFD in the

most effective way possible, particularly when it comes to expending Measure R dollars.”

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

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# Celebration for the Entire Family at Orinda's Annual 4th of July Parade

By BOBBIE DODSON  
Staff Writer

With "Keep on Truckin'" as the theme, Orinda looks forward to its 4th of July parade beginning at 10 a.m. in Orinda's Theatre District. It continues under the freeway, culminating at the Orinda Community Center.

Sally Hogarty, co-chair of the event said, "I'm impressed with the Orinda Association's commitment to this popular event – which began in 1985 – and with the incredible local residents who volunteer their time and talents to make it a reality."

All families, schools, clubs and other organizations are encouraged to march in the parade. Complete information and application can be found at [orindaassociation.org/4th-of-july-parade](http://orindaassociation.org/4th-of-july-parade).

Co-chair Marianne Moser is excited about this community event.

"It takes a village, and I am proud to be part of one where neighbors from all walks of life come together in an annual tradition that celebrates our highest ideals," she said. "The parade is run entirely by volunteers. We currently have about 20, but we hope to fill about 20 more positions. It is

incredibly fulfilling to work on the parade." To volunteer, call 925.254.0800 or email [4thofjuly@orindaassociation.org](mailto:4thofjuly@orindaassociation.org).

Favorite bands have returned to be in the parade, including the Concord Blue Devils C Corp, St. Gabriel's Celestial Brass Band, MJ Brass Boppers and the ever-popular Orinda All-Volunteer Marching Band. Amazing stilt walkers will also entertain the crowd.

The 4th of July celebration begins with Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary's pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by raising our country's flag at 7:55 a.m. in front of the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. At 8 a.m. it's the Fun Run for a Reason, a two or five mile walk/run. See [sudc.org/wesley](http://sudc.org/wesley) for details.

The beautiful new mural on the south side of the Orinda Library will be dedicated at 8:45 a.m. at the entrance to the library parking lot, 26 Orinda Way. Following the dedication, the Friends of the Orinda Library book sale begins at 9 a.m. with the parade starting at 10 a.m. on the Theatre side.

While attendees await the parade to make it to the Village side, they have the mellow sounds of the Lewiston Jazz Band to keep them entertained.



CHARIS WOO

It wouldn't be the 4th of July parade without **Mel Silva** and his horses with members of Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe riding in back. The group is preserving the adobe built in Orinda in 1841.

Following the parade at 11:30 a.m., 3 Day Weekend performs a concert in the Community Center Park, featuring classic rock, funk and Motown sounds. Moser, invites everyone to bring a picnic lunch and join together with fellow Lamorindans.

The Orinda Association thanks the City of Orinda, Mechanics Bank, the Tish and Steve Harwood family, OPR Foundation, the Janet and Norm Pease family, Republic Services, Chevron, Marjory Graue and Martin Bloes, and Village Associates, for their generous contributions, which make Orinda's 4th of July celebration possible.

"Whether marching in the parade, watching along the parade route, enjoying a great pancake breakfast or grooving to the music in the park," Hogarty says, "Orinda is the place to be this 4th of July."

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



CHARIS WOO

The Sleepy Hollow Legends always make a "splash" in the annual parade.

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FOURTH OF JULY

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Dancing with an airy breeze,  
Poised in red, white and blue of liberty.



SALLY HOGARTY

She flies for dreams of freedom,  
Ever gained and always sought.  
She flies in wars for freedom,  
Her liberty lovers have fought.

She flies for living ideals.  
She flies for those who died,  
Giving up life so others hear  
Liberty Bell's resonant peals.

The wind ceases, she curls not moving,  
Then waves again red, white and blue,  
Bright colors for all colors of people  
Believing in dreams, ideals living anew.

Colors to share freedom's dream:  
White for purity, red for blood shed,  
Blue for blue skies ahead,  
White stars blinking possibility.

She's in the sky, her windy dance,  
Waving, floating, curling  
For all dreams of all people,  
Whoever sought a better chance.

Where freedom rings, opportunity sings  
The song of clear and open skies,  
Where people envision all hope  
Of possibility that forever flies.

Where better people make a better world  
In dreams all striving to achieve,  
Where life, liberty, happiness wave and swirl,  
Where freedom awaits those who believe.  
- Bill O'Brien



## 2022 July 4 Celebration Volunteer Team

**P**lanning and preparing for the 4th of July celebration begins long before summer. In early March, our team captains began meeting and sharing ideas to make this annual event as much fun as possible. A very big thank you to the following dedicated volunteers who gave countless hours and their copious talents to making this year's parade and concert possible.

- Announcers:** Scott Butler, Bill Cosden, Steve Harwood
- Co-Chairs:** Sally Hogarty, Marianne Moser
- Decorations:** Marianne Moser
- Flag Raising Captain:** Terry Murphy and VFW Post 8063
- Fundraising/Sponsors:** Sally Hogarty, Cindy Powell
- Marketing/Publicity:** Lisa Burlini, Sally Hogarty
- Music/Bands:** Jacalyn Buettner, Cindy Powell
- Parade Operations:** Andy Radlow
- Pole Banners:** Chris Laszcz-Davis
- Run for a Reason:** Meghan Frey
- Safety:** Anil Comelo
- Social Media:** Lisa Burlini, Marianne Moser
- Sound Systems:** Steve Harwood, Desired Effect Sound
- Volunteers:** Latika Malkani, Marianne Moser
- Website:** Lisa Burlini



CHARIS WOO

Announcers **Steve Harwood** and **Bill Cosden** will keep parade goers informed and entertained in the Village District.



**Happy 4th Orinda..  
Hope to see you at the parade!**

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## Know Before You Go

- ★ Street parking will not be available along the parade route on Moraga Way or on Orinda Way. All other street parking is available, as well as Orinda BART's west parking lot. For handicapped parking, drivers may drop passengers off in front of the Community Center on Orinda Way until 9 a.m.
- ★ Street closures planned from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. include: the Westbound Highway 24 on-ramp (East side of Camino Pablo); Moraga Way from Wells Fargo Bank to the Davis Road intersection; a portion of Santa Maria and all of Orinda Way. [Highway 24 access for both on and off ramps will remain available at St. Stephens Drive]
- ★ Volunteers will serve as Parade Route Monitors, helping keep the parade moving and ensuring safety.
- ★ Porta potties, provided by Republic Services, will be on the North side of town in the Community Center parking lot and the East BART parking lot.
- ★ Need more info? Visit [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

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FOURTH OF JULY



DAVID KERSTEN

Lamorinda Idol finalists (L-R) **Cara Impallomeni** and **Miranda Klein** sang in last year's 4th of July parade.

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**4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

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**8:45AM LIBRARY MURAL DEDICATION**

**9:00AM LIBRARY BOOK SALE**

**10:00AM PARADE STARTS**  
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The **East Bay Banjo Club** keeps everyone entertained along the parade route. CHARIS WOO



# The 18th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

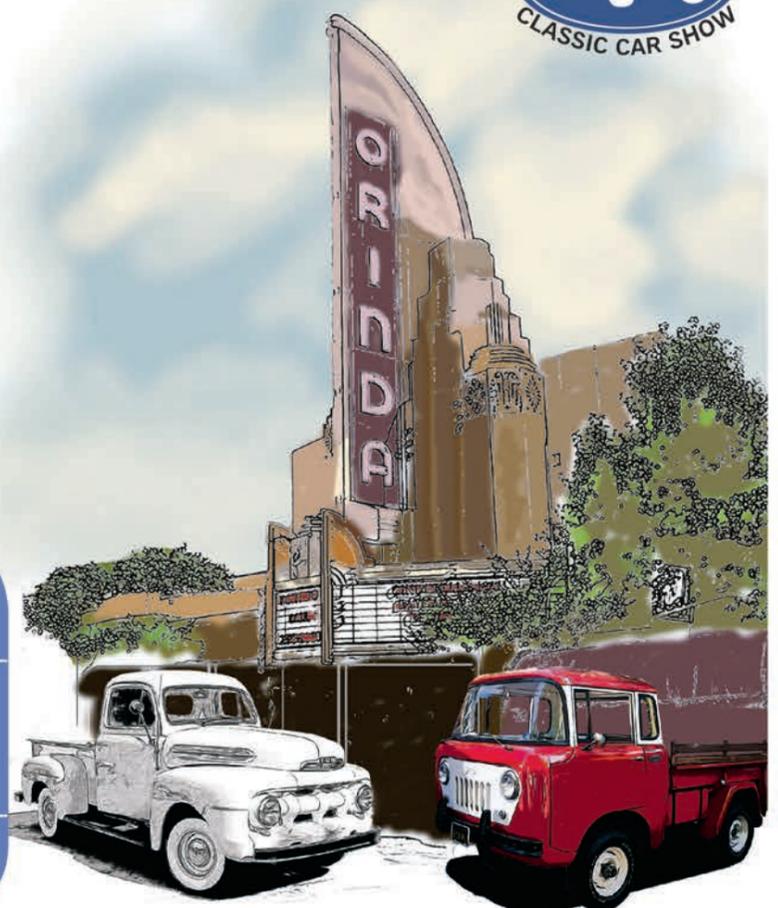
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This event benefits the Orinda Association Seniors Around Town Transportation Program and other local charities.

ORINDA GARDEN CLUB

# Bouquets to Art Welcomes Orinda Garden Club Members at de Young

By ELANA O'LOSKEY  
Staff Writer

Orinda Garden Club members Diana Kennedy, Phoebe Kahl and Mari Tischenko helped San Francisco's de Young Museum celebrate its 38th year of Bouquets to Art exhibitions. The three were among designers chosen to interpret a de Young artwork with an accompanying floral design they fashioned. About 800,000 people have visited the exhibit since it began in 1984.

This was the first full in-person Bouquets to Arts since 2019. It was virtual in 2020 and at a limited capacity in 2021.

Art in the de Young's permanent collection was displayed in over 24 galleries on

three floors to make room for the individual floral designs that accompanied them. The artwork included paintings, sculptures, objects and architecture. This eclectic approach to art provided unique features for 100 volunteer floral designers to interpret.

Orinda Garden Club members Kennedy and Kahl were assigned Chiuri Obata's large painting, "Lake Basin in the High Sierras," (1930) located in Main Floor Gallery 11. For over 20 years, these gardeners have enjoyed the challenge of relating their floral designs to the museum's artwork.

This year's design included hydrangea, anthuriums, fan palms, plastic swirls, statice and *Phaleonopsis* orchids. The two designers painted smooth cylindrical gourds blue and placed them in the front and back of their design.

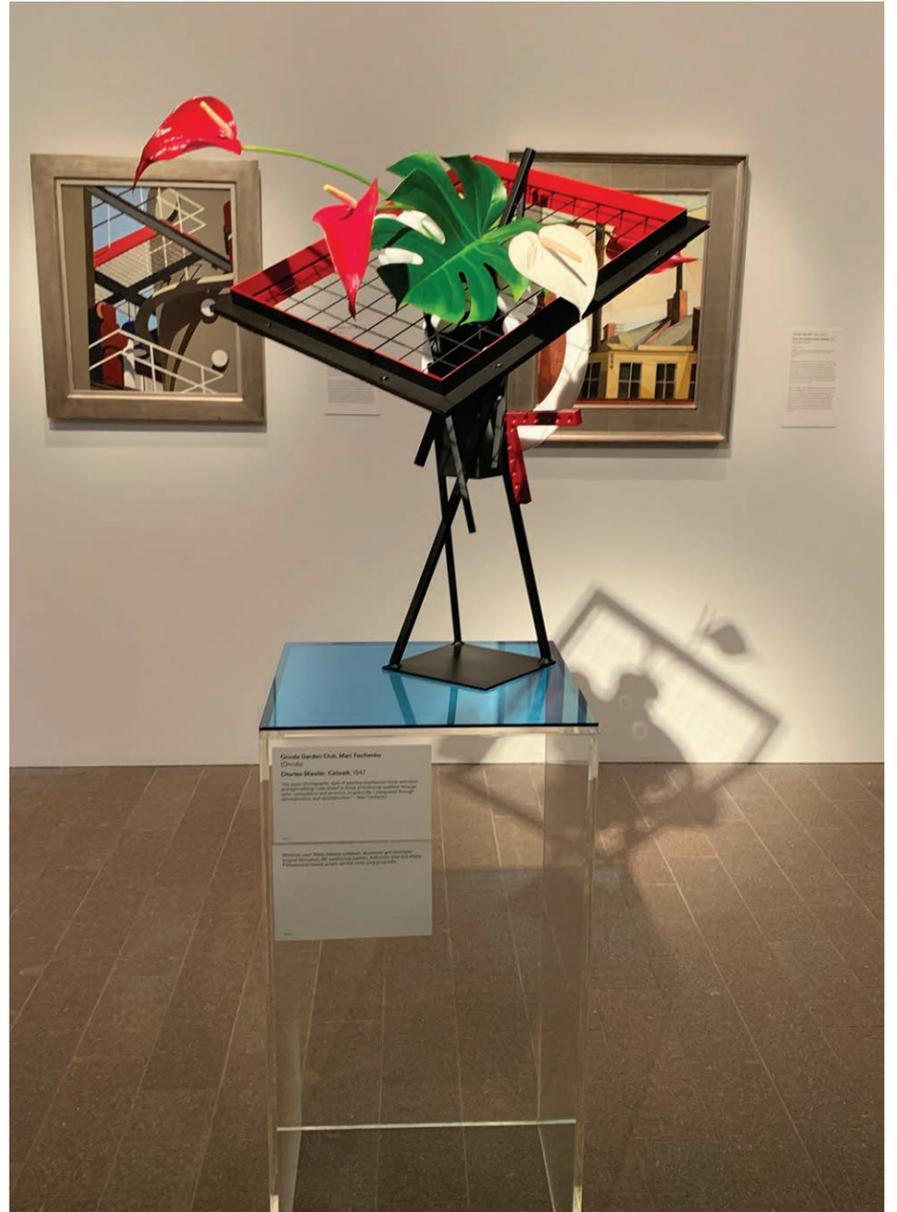
Fellow Orinda Garden Club member Tischenko is no newcomer to the challenge of this exhibition. This is her 12th year of interpreting de Young artwork via floral designs.

Her assignment was Charles Sheeler's *Catwalk* (1947), also in Main Floor Gallery 11.

"I was drawn to the industrial architectural, clean lines, crisp color palette, geometric forms and the composition of deconstructed parts transformed into an exciting whole in this piece," said Tischenko.

Since her background is Sogetsu Ikebana, she is drawn to a minimal approach, geometric forms and unconventional materials. Sogetsu, founded in Japan in 1927 but practiced throughout the world, is one of several ikebana flower-arranging schools. The Sogetsu School, deeply rooted in Japanese tradition, embraced the modern age.

"Sometimes a piece calls for an abundance of..."  
[SEE BOUQUETS page 20]



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Mari Tischenko of the Orinda Garden Club participated in the world-class exhibit "Bouquets to Art" held at the de Young Museum in San Francisco from June 6 – 12. She created the floral design pictured here that echoes artist Charles Sheeler's painting entitled *Catwalk* (1947).



ELANA O'LOSKEY

Diana Kennedy and Phoebe Kahl of the Orinda Garden Club, interpreted Chiuri Obata's large painting *Lake Basin in the High Sierras* (1930) at the de Young Museum's recent "Bouquets to Art" exhibit. The *Phaleonopsis* orchids they used soften the lines of their design and contrast with the smooth cylindrical gourds painted a deep lustrous blue. This blue references the color of the lake in the painting.

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ART SCENE

Orinda Art Scene

JULY IN THE ART GALLERIES AT THE ORINDA LIBRARY AND WILDER

ELANA O'LOSKEY



**Art Gallery at the Orinda Library: Lords of the Garden Drawings, Juxtaporph Sculpture, "You Are Here" Paintings and Photos from the Road Less Traveled**

Poet Mary Oliver advises, "If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it." Summertime provides many opportunities to experience joyful moments in nature, perhaps via

a fragrant breeze of blooming jasmine or grass between one's toes. The artists in the July gallery have already been sparked by joy, as is evident in what they exhibit.

Carla Gelbaum creates large-scale acrylic paintings exploring the juxtaposition of seemingly improbable past, present and future moments with the people and places she cares about. Her current series entitled "You Are Here" borrows a familiar phrase from maps. In her case, the phrase refers to merging different places, people and times into the present moment within her painting. The butterflies hovering in her 36" x 60" *You Are Here No. 1* acrylic painting set a tone of wonder and delight.

Gelbaum, of Moraga, explains what goes into each of her pieces: "My paintings contain images of impossible encounters and of settings that blend my dreams and memories in order to manifest a new reality, one that dares to be both nostalgic and full of enthusiasm for the future." She added, "They're made with love and deep appreciation for all the people in my life, past, present and even future!"

Keep up with Gelbaum's creative activities on Instagram @carlamakesart or www.cwgelbaum.com.

Tim Hancock of Lafayette is a longtime freelance illustrator, art teacher and advocate of "Tradigital" art.

Tradigital art combines traditional media,



COURTESY OF CARLA GELBAUM

The butterflies hovering in **Carla Gelbaum's** 36" x 60" acrylic on canvas entitled *You Are Here No. 1* set a tone of wonder and delight in this multi-dimensional window setting.

such as pen and ink drawings, with the use of digital software, such as Procreate. His signature anthropomorphic illustrations, drawings and sketches are familiar to many. Who else would create "Sir Grasshopper Bopper," a rabbit who walks with a carrot cane? He is exhibiting prints of his pen and ink drawings.

Hancock enjoys evoking humor and fashioning uplifting illustrations in his artwork.

"My Lords of the Garden theme comes from a timeless tradition of classically illustrated tales, including *Brer Rabbit* drawn by A.B. Frost, and *Wind and the Willows*, drawn by E.H. Shepard," he said.

He recently completed an Artify Orinda public art project by painting an electrical box for the Lamorinda Arts Council. Located in front of Rite Aid (across from the Community Center), it depicts two of his favorite characters, the kindly Sir Grasshopper Bopper rabbit and the wily Huckleberry Fox. Follow Hancock @Timhartccc on Instagram or visit www.timhart.org.

Karl Stinson of Walnut Creek is a "Road Less Traveled" traveler who revels in taking photos of people on the streets of the world. He is displaying a collection of 48, 8" x 10" color photographic prints entitled "People of the World."

Stinson's photograph, "Custodian, Amber Fort, Jaipur, India," conjures robes dipped in saffron, draped over a gracile citizen. His two central messages, apparent throughout his exhibit, are "The world is full of fascinating, colorful, friendly people" and "Keep on traveling."

Andrew Werby is a sculptor who lives in Berkeley and works out of his studio in

Oakland. His ongoing artistic project grew out of a hands-on approach to the art of bronze casting, which he began as a student at UC Berkeley.

Instead of creating models in clay and turning them over to technicians for mold making and casting, he learned how to do this work himself. His graceful steeple-like 10" x 4" x 4" SLD (Selective Laser Sintering) 3D print titled "Rubrum Viridis" reminds one of intricate lacework.

"My fascination with the process of making molds, particularly of natural objects that can be transformed into personal art objects, has broadened over time," he said.

Werby coined the term, 'Juxtaporph art,' which he defines as combining forms, textures and images taken directly from nature using molds, impressions, photographs and holograms. To push the boundaries of art making, he uses 3D scanning and CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machining, among other technological innovations.

His exhibition of 20 pieces spans the development of his "Juxtaporph" process from bronze casting into other media, such as ceramics, wood and 3D printing.

"As people puzzle over the various forms and textures in my work, I want them to realize these things are all around us in nature, exuding natural beauty," said Werby. "This beauty speaks to us, even if we are not listening."

Learn more about Juxtaporph art at www.juxtaporph.com.

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, visit www.lamorindaarts.org. This exhibit runs July 1 through 31 in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda

[SEE WILDER page 16]

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PERFORMING ARTS

# The Wonderful Land of Oz Magic Returns to Orinda Starlight

By DAVID DIERKS  
Assistant Editor

The second production of the Orinda Starlight Village Players (OrSVP), set for July 22 through Aug. 13, is Frank L. Baum's *Wonderful Land of Oz*, the second in The Wizard of Oz series. *Wonderful Land of Oz* is adapted by Malcom Cowler into a musical extravaganza, with lyrics by Cowler, music by Rice Majors and live musical accompaniment by Deborah Dahl Shanks.

"I've done two other musicals at Orinda in the past – *Pinocchio* and *Wizard of Oz* – and we've always used recorded music for the songs," said Cowler. "This time Deborah will be playing the music live each night."

The action starts with a young boy named Tip. The wicked sorceress Mombi, in the Land of the Gillikans, is unhappily

raising Tip. Tip escapes from Mombi with the aid of Jack Pumpkinhead, meets up with an oddball crew of characters and determines to defeat Mombi and discover a secret Mombi has been hiding for years.

Cowler is excited to be back in production with this show. "It'll really be great to get a full production in, after COVID. This show was set to produce in 2020 before COVID struck," he said.

The delay had some positive effects. "The silver lining is that Rice Majors and I have had a lot more time to work on the musical arrangements," said Cowler. "In the interim we've found a wonderful music director for the show in Deborah Dahl Shanks."

Majors joined Cowler in 2019 to begin work on this production. "I put an ad on [www.bayareatheaterbums.com](http://www.bayareatheaterbums.com) for a music composer. I wrote the lyrics to 12 songs for

the show and needed someone to write the music," said Cowler. "Rice has been really easy to work with and has composed some remarkable music that I'm sure our patrons will enjoy enormously."

Cowler is known at OrSVP for the many adaptations he's produced, including Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White*, Carlo Collodi's *Pinocchio*, Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and, of course, L. Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*.

"When I write an adaptation, I start with importing the entire original novel into the word processor I use for scripting," said Cowler. "Then I start to convert it to a stage play, retaining as much of the original dialog as I can. This approach means when you watch the show, you're hearing the exact words of the author 80% of the time."

Cowler is again incorporating projector technology to bring the audience into Oz.

[SEE STARLIGHT page 20]



JILL GELSTER

Tom Westlake as the Scarecrow in the 2017 production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Westlake will be reprising this character in this season's production of *The Wonderful Land of Oz*.

## Theater, Music and Stand-Up at Bruns Amphitheater

By SALLY HOGARTY  
Executive Editor



COURTESY OF MARK CHUA

Bay Area rapper **Lyrics Born** performs at Cal Shakes Amphitheater July 29 as part of the Paper Moon concert series.

In keeping with its "Share the Light" theme, Cal Shakes is sharing its beautiful stage at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 Shakespeare Way, Orinda, in July.

The play *Pure Native* debuts at the Bruns July 15 – 24 in the Upper Grove at the Bruns. The show tells of a prodigal son returning home with a business proposal to bottle the tribe's water. A heated debate takes place with his childhood sweetheart leading the opposition.

Written by Tuscarora writer Vickie Ramirez who is currently playwright-in-residence at New York's New Dramatists, *Pure Native* runs at various times. Go to [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

Jackie Keliiaa's Good Medicine announces a Night of Live Native Stand-Up to be held July 16 at California Shakespeare Theater featuring top Native American stand-up comedians.

The lineup includes: Brian Bahe, a New York City-based comedian featured on Comedy Central and in McSweeney's; Monique Moreau, an LA-based comedian who has performed at the Melbourne Comedy Festival and Edinburgh Fringe; Marc Yaffee, a seasoned veteran whose Dry Bar special went viral; Teresa Choyguha who's been featured on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video; and Keliiaa who has been featured on Team Coco, Comedy Central and Amazon Prime Video.

[SEE BRUNS page 17]

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ WILDER from page 14

Way. Hours are Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Sunday. The Library is closed July 4. Call 925.254.2184 for more information about the Library or visit [www.ccclib.org](http://www.ccclib.org). Email the curators with questions at [gallery@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:gallery@lamorindaarts.org)



COURTESY OF GRANT GLOSSOP  
Craft designer and woodworker **Grant Glossop** patinated offcuts of pine using a variety of techniques then added a painted panel to complete his 12” x 9” x 3” work entitled *Sheffield #73*. Watch him demonstrate these techniques during his July 10 reception.

[lamorindaarts.org](http://lamorindaarts.org) or call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

**Art Gallery at Wilder: Reclaimed Wood Transformed with Patina and Imagination**

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents the woodwork designs of Grant Glossop at their Art Gallery at Wilder, Sunday, July 10 through Saturday, Aug. 6. Meet the artist July 10 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., where light refreshments will be served. Glossop will demonstrate a variety of woodworking treatments, including patination options at different stages of design completion during his reception. Patination is a generic term meaning changing the surface of any material (such as wood, metal or cloth) with a substance.

Glossop, who hails from Yorkshire in the U.K., now lives in Novato. He first trained as a jeweler in the U.K. where he developed his love of working with metals. After finishing art school, he became interested in creating larger pieces. This led him to incorporate wood into his designs.

For many years, Glossop designed and created work for himself, but that changed during the pandemic. Glossop launched a website to expand his reach.

“Creating during quarantine helped me find some kind of balance during a chal-

lenging time,” he said.

His goal is to make something someone else sees as beautiful. His 12” x 4” x 4” “Loxley Floating Box,” made of treated wood and paint, seems to hover above its resting place, catching the eye and imagination. Learn more about Glossop’s work at [www.grantglossop.com](http://www.grantglossop.com).

The Wilder Art and Garden Center is located at 20 Orinda Fields Way. It is in-

person for the opening July 10 but virtual the rest of the month because of COVID-19 restrictions. Viewings by appointment with Curator Aniston Breslin can be arranged by request at [anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu](mailto:anistonbreslin@berkeley.edu). For more information, call the Lamorinda Arts Council at 925.359.9940.

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

◆ HEYMAN from page 2

“They’re really amazing, and they work in concert with the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Krakow which was also doing amazing work. The funds that we raised also went to the JCC, which has a food and medicine distribution point,” said Heyman.

When she asked the clothing distribution center’s coordinator what they needed the most, she said their response was surprising yet practical – underwear.

“Most of their clothes are donated, but they don’t accept donated underwear,” said Heyman. “So, I said if someone can take me shopping, I would love to, you know, buy underwear.”

The coordinator immediately put her in touch with two local volunteers, and they set out to a store.

“We went and literally cleaned them out

of underwear!” she said.

Heyman also shopped to help the center stock up on food and toiletries for the refugees and also went to pharmacies to get medicine.

She explained these organizations in Poland are individual efforts and, despite the help from governments, organizations and individual volunteers from across the world, they desperately need more support.

“They really, really need our help,” said Heyman. “We have to step up. We can’t expect them to shoulder this burden by themselves.”

For more information, visit Heyman’s GoFundMe page at [www.gofundme.com/f/support-ukrainian-refugees-in-krakow](http://www.gofundme.com/f/support-ukrainian-refugees-in-krakow).

*David Fonseca can be reached at [davef52@gmail.com](mailto:davef52@gmail.com).*

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SARI HEYMAN  
Polish volunteers (L-R) **Paulina Zatorska** and **Katarzyna Pracuch** helped Orinda resident **Sari Heyman** (not in photo) stock up on underwear urgently needed by Ukrainian refugees. The ladies dubbed the loaded car “the bra mobile.” Heyman traveled to Poland to aid the refugees last month. Her family left Ukraine two generations ago, so her effort, which was partially funded by her Orinda neighbors, is especially personal.



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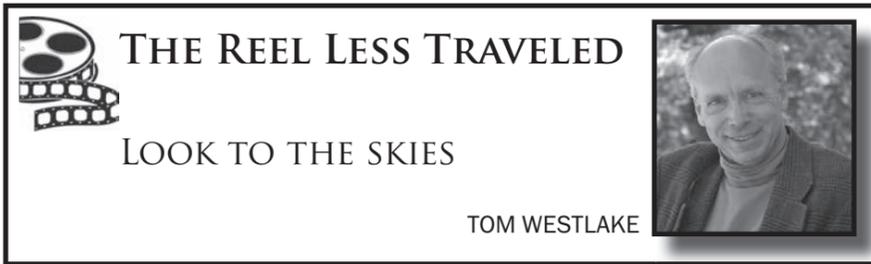



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**THE REEL LESS TRAVELED**  
LOOK TO THE SKIES  
TOM WESTLAKE

I usually end columns with my tagline about light, images and reel magic, but here, in the month of July, seeking out light is not really a problem – and I’m not just talking about fireworks. Both the Orinda Theatre and the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation are also providing a wide variety of illuminating programs, so let’s get right to it.

Going in reverse order, we’ll start with this month’s outdoor viewing of *Raya and the Last Dragon*. This is one of Disney’s most recent efforts, and though many might have already seen it streaming on Disney+, it’s a safe bet that seeing it again will reveal details you might not have seen the first time. The fact it will be projected writ large at the Orinda Community Center Park is a plus.

In many ways, this film has parallels to *Avatar: The Last Airbender* in that it starts out with unity rent asunder and an overall goal of repairing that which was broken. Martial arts and flying dragons play a large part in achieving this goal. It’s also one of the more beautiful films Disney has put out recently. It screens July 15 at dusk. Bring blankets and prepare for the possibility of the usual cool Orinda evening breeze.

Sheltering-in-place and duck-and-cover are hardly the purview of the 21st Century, though if you want to see the next film, it might still be a good idea, especially since that sheltered place is the Orinda Theatre. This is where you’ll see July’s edition of *The Chiller Diller Theatre*.

Anyone of a certain age will certainly

◆ **LETTERS** from page 6

members and the Planning Commission to visit old town Auburn and experience what Orinda could become.

- Brent Nickerson

◆ **MOFD Chipping Program**

I’d like to give a shout out to the Moraga Orinda Fire Department and the chipping program, which is free to residents through this summer. It is funded by Measure R and besides being a real lifesaver in case of a catastrophic fire in our community, it is also operated flawlessly by MOFD.

To use it, simply fill out a request form online at [www.MOFD.org](http://www.MOFD.org) and within days they will chip up your pile. We have diligently removed tree branches eight feet up and have used the program four times already. Try it!

- David Kirk

remember there was a time when we were genuinely fearful of aliens from outer space coming to Earth and taking over. The ‘50s and ‘60s were rife with movies with just that theme, and no film was better at stoking those fears than *Earth vs. The Flying Saucers*.

Released in 1956, it takes a more grounded approach to the alien invasion trope, much in the same way Orson Welles’ radio broadcast did, by putting us on the ground floor of this terror from outer space.

It features the usual stunning stop-motion work from effects master, Ray Harryhausen. Also, keep an ear out for legendary voice actor Paul Frees as the enunciator of the aliens. It screens July 16 at 9:30 p.m.

For further information, go to [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com), not just to check out movie times and dates, but also for the many other live action events.

At this time, there’s no scheduled movie from the International Film Showcase this month, but, as ever, you may also want to check out [www.internationalshowcase.org](http://www.internationalshowcase.org) just to be safe.

And so, until we meet again, remember ... well, you know what I’m going to say: enjoy those wonderful images made from light and sound, since that’s where the reel magic lies.

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

◆ **BRUNS** from page 15

Doors open for Live Native Stand Up at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. Audiences are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy dinner, drinks and live music on Bruns Amphitheater grounds before showtime. There will also be a Native artisan market featuring handcrafted jewelry, beadwork, and apparel and accessories. Be sure to bring your blanket as temperatures cool in the evening.

Paper Moon Presents offers its concert series at the end of July with Lyrics Born and Destani Wolf with Audiopharmacy on July 29 at 5 p.m., Brett Dennen and Megan Jacobs July 30 at 5 p.m. and the Siesta Valley Strings and Things Music Festival July 31 at 1 p.m.

For tickets and more information, go to [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

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



COURTESY OF S.K. GUPTA

Neeta and S.K. Gupta have often been made to feel less “American” by unthinking people.

**Unconscious Bias: Think Before Asking “Where Are You From?”**

By S. K. GUPTA  
Contributing Writer

I knew something was wrong when my wife entered the house. Everything was a little louder than normal. The banging of the doors. The dropping of the keys. The tossing of the handbag. The closing of the drawers. Lessons have been learned! After 44 years, one knows the signals. So, I quietly disappeared to my home office.

After giving her sufficient time to cool down, I found her chopping vegetables in the kitchen. Very therapeutic. I asked her “How was golf?” And the floodgates of her frustrations opened up!

“I have lived here for 40 years, and I will never be accepted here!”

“What happened?” I asked.

A fourth golfer had joined their regular threesome that day. A Caucasian woman. After playing a few holes, she asked my wife, “Where are you from?”

My wife knew what she was asking. Her other two friends are also Indian Americans and look it. But my wife doesn’t have the obvious Indian American look. She also adapts easily and doesn’t have a pronounced accent. Like I do. And her friends.

So, I suspect, the new golfer was curious. Not realizing that this is a perfect example of “Unconscious bias”!

My wife replied, “Orinda.” That’s where

our home is, and they were playing in another nearby Bay Area city.

Her new “friend”, said, “No, no, what nationality are you?”

Now I realized my bride’s frustration. After 40 years of living in the U.S., 33 years as a citizen, to be asked her nationality was not something she was going to digest easily.

So, she replied, “I am American, where are you from?”

The new friend said, “Oh, I was born and brought up here.” Implicit in her answer was

[SEE BIAS page 20]

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CONTINUATIONS

◆ **CAMPUS** from page 1

campuses have annual “active shooter” drills, said Glimme, and all school staff is trained in the matter.

“The drill is not necessarily called that in front of our youngest students, as that could be rather traumatic, but the practice of lockdown is the same,” Glimme said.

The incident at Robb Elementary School in Texas is one of 27 school shootings so far this year, as reported by NPR-KQED. Nineteen children and two adults were killed and 17 others were injured when 18-year-old Salvador Ramos entered the school and opened fire.

OUSD schools have “uniform emergency procedures, which were created in collaboration with local law enforcement and firefighters and are based upon nationwide best practices,” according to the district’s website.

In the case of an intruder, entailing a lockdown and/or the securing of a school campus, OUSD procedures direct those on campus to call 911 and announce the emergency over the school announcement system. The securing of all students and staff in safe locations or the employment of “run, hide, fight protocol” are also listed in OUSD’s lockdown procedures.

Each OUSD school site has a comprehensive safety plan, updated annually by each school site council and reviewed by the local police and fire department, as explained by OUSD’s Emergency Procedures webpage.

The Board of Trustees must also approve

the plan. School staff is assigned to roles, such as search and rescue and communications.

“The Orinda Police Department is asked to participate as observers of various drills and to be knowledgeable of our campuses, which they are,” said Glimme.

Every school year, OUSD practices all emergency procedures with staff and students on a regular basis, with the elementary schools practicing campus lockdown at least once per year and twice per year at the secondary level, according to the procedures information page.

All elementary schools and Orinda Intermediate also feature assigned employees that “monitor the campus and ensure safety.”

District schools maintain a three-day emergency supply for staff and students, which includes food, water, first aid supplies and other necessities, as explained by district’s procedures page.

The OUSD emergency procedures page states the district utilizes the SchoolMessenger system, which simultaneously delivers text message, email and phone notifications when an emergency occurs. Parents and family members can opt-in to this notification system by texting “Y” to 67587.

To prepare for a possible emergency situation during school hours, OUSD recommends parents of students program their child’s school telephone number into their cell phone and make sure to include a local trusted emergency contact, other than themselves, on their child’s emergency card.

Contacting the school office immediately to update any changes to a student’s emergency contacts is another way in which

◆ **UKRAINE** from page 7

an land is still under occupation. These are Southern and Eastern territories, including such big cities as Kherson and Mariupol. The latter, according to the local Mayor Vadim Boichenko, is already facing an epidemic of cholera.

Donbas, which has now become the main battlefield, has turned into a bloody cauldron, where neither army is able to drastically change the situation to its benefit. Russians are slowly advancing deep through the country from the East and, considering what forces and means are currently available to each side, most analytics are predicting that this process is going to continue in the near future.

Mykhailo Podolyak, advisor to the President’s Office, implied the artillery ratio in

**Driver Appreciation Luncheon**



CINDY POWELL

On June 15, The Orinda Association’s Seniors Around Town program honored its volunteer drivers with a festive celebration. The OA also gave special recognition to Eartha Newsong, a founding SAT staff member, and Ingrid Evans, a founding volunteer driver. (L-R) SAT Coordinator **Cathy Goshorn**, SAT Director **Kate Wiley, Newsong, Evans** and current volunteer driver **Pam Schroeder**.

parents can help.

OUSD also recommends parents reinforce with their child that they are to follow any school staff directions given to them during an emergency.

Orinda Union School District’s full emergency procedures, including the handling of school campus intruders as well as wildfires, earthquakes and shelter-in-place orders, are on its website [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org), under the “Parents and Community” drop-down menu.

NPR-KQED reported as of May 25, the U.S. has seen 212 mass shootings, with the Uvalde incident happening only 10 days after a shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, NY which killed 10 people.

According to Education Week, which has tracked shootings at schools in the country since 2018, 119 school shootings have occurred in the past five years, with 2021 having a record 34 incidents.

Speaking on OUSD’s plans to review and revise school safety plans during this upcoming year, Glimme said, “The purpose of the revision was to make them more accessible to the public as the format is very cumbersome, but now this will give us an opportunity to also further examine our procedures and protocols.”

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

certain areas is approximately 10 to 1 in favor of the Russians. Indeed, Ukraine feels a severe lack in heavy weapons.

Despite constant speculations and promises, certain countries are trying to avoid or minimize direct military aid. Of course, this fact is demoralizing for Ukrainian society, and people doubt whether our allies are indeed willing to help us end this war.

According to the Ukrainian Ambassador to Germany Andriy Melnyk, FRG has increased its imports from Russia by almost 60% since the invasion started.

People are afraid that the world will steadily forget about the war, and Ukraine will be left alone in this unjust fight against Putin and his regime.

Nevertheless, we believe that isolationist views will not prevail in Western society, and we will obtain enough equipment to defeat the monstrous machine that is trying to ruin our country.

Unfortunately, the diplomatic solution no longer seems to be possible. High-ranking Russian officials are constantly stating the

aim of this war – which they call a “special military operation” – is to completely destroy Ukraine and eventually occupy it.

For example, Dmitriy Medvedev, a former president and prime minister of Russia, has recently posted the following text in his Telegram account, “I saw a message that Ukraine, under land-lease, wants to receive LNG (liquefied natural gas - ed.) from its overseas owners with payment for delivery in two years. Otherwise, it will simply freeze in the coming winter.”

My question is ... “Who says that in two years Ukraine will even exist on the map?”

People around the world are tired of the war. People in Ukraine are exhausted too, but they have no other choice but to defend their homes. Time will pass, we will win and the civilized world will say a sacred phrase – “never again.”

Please pray for Ukraine. Stand with Ukraine.

*Sasha Levin can be reached at [sashalevinchernigov@gmail.com](mailto:sashalevinchernigov@gmail.com).*

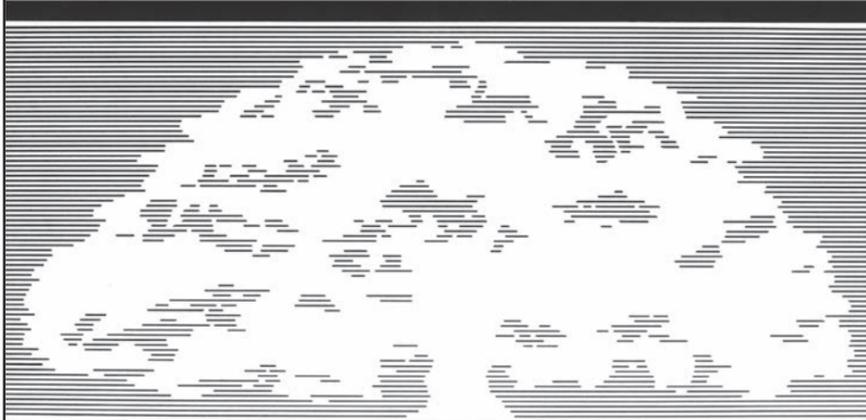


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CALENDAR / CLUBS

On the Calendar in July

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. 6 Orinda Way, Call 925.254.2184 for more information or visit <http://ccclib.org>. For Story-Time updates, please check <https://ccclib.org>, or call your Orinda Library at 925 254-2184.  
**Orinda Starlight Village Players** present Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero*. Fridays and Saturdays through July 2, 8:30 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater.

2 **Orinda Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. Orinda Way in front of Rite Aid and the Community Park. [www.cccfm.org](http://www.cccfm.org) or market hotline at 925.431.8361. Also July 9, 16, 23 and 30. See article p. 4.  
4 **Orinda Association** 4th of July celebration and parade begins 7:30 a.m. See article p. 9.  
7 **Orinda Books Pat's Book Club** will read and discuss *The Netanyahus* by Joshua Cohen. Winner of the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Literature, *The Netanyahus* is a fictionalized account of Harold Bloom's encounter with the Netanyahu family while studying at Yale. Mixing fiction with nonfiction. Email [info@orindabooks](mailto:info@orindabooks) for reservations.

**Taste of the World Market** food trucks Orinda Community Center parking lot from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Also, July 14, 21, and 28.  
8 **Movies-In-the-Park**, *Coco* begins at dusk. Orinda Community Center Park.  
9 **Art Gallery at the Orinda Library** show "You Are Here" paintings by Carla Gelbaum, "Lords of the Garden Drawings" by Tim Hancock, photographs from the "Road Less Traveled" and "3D Juxtaporph Sculpture," by Andrew Werby. Meet the artists at their reception on 3 to 5 p.m. See article p. 14.  
10 **Art Gallery at Wilder** - "Reclaimed Wood Transformed with Patina and Imagination." Grant Glossop's woodturnings through Aug. 6. Meet the artist who will demonstrate a variety of woodworking treatments See <https://lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/> for details. See article p. 14.  
14 **Concerts-In-the-Park**, with Lamorinda Idol, 6 - 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park.  
15 **Movies-In-the-Park**, *Raya and the Last Dragon* begins at dusk. Orinda Community Center Park.  
**Cal Shakes** presents *Pure Native* through July 24. See article p. 15.  
16 **Chiller Diller Theatre** presents *Earth vs. The Flying Saucers* at the Orinda Theatre. For more information, go to [www.orindamovies.com](http://www.orindamovies.com) See article p. 17.  
**Good Medicine** presents a Night of Live Native Stand-Up at the Bruns Amphitheater featuring top Native American stand-up comedians. Doors open at 6 p.m. show at 8 p.m. See article p. 15.  
22 **Orinda Starlight Village Players** present Frank L. Baum's *Wonderful Land of Oz*

adapted by Malcom Cowler into a musical extravaganza, with lyrics by Cowler, music by Rice Majors and live musical accompaniment by Deborah Dahl Shanks. Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 6, 8:30 p.m. Also, Aug. 7 at 4 p.m. and Aug. 11 at 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater. See article p. 15.  
23 **Art Embraces Words**: Live Program 2 to 4 p.m. Artists paint with colors, writers paint with words, and together they enrich our community. The Lamorinda Arts Council presents a free program featuring visual art and the spoken word by local artists. For more information, call 925.359.4490 or visit [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org).  
28 **Concerts-In-the-Park**, with Juke Joint, 6 - 8 p.m. Orinda Community Center Park.  
29 **Cal Shakes** concert series Lyrics Born and Destani Wolf with Audiopharmacy 5 p.m. See article p.15.  
30 **Cal Shakes** concert series Brett Dennen and Megan Jacobs 5 p.m. See article p. 15.  
31 **Cal Shakes** concert series Siesta Valley Strings and Things Music Festival, 1 p.m. See article p. 15.

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



Singer-songwriter **Brett Dennen** appears at the Bruns Amphitheater on July 30 with Megan Jacobs (not pictured).

Club Meetings in July

Some clubs are meeting in person, while others still offer Zoom meetings. Use contact for more information.  
**American Association of University Women**-Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML) general meeting July 19 at 9:30 a.m. Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. <https://oml-ca.aauw.net>.  
**Community Gentle Yoga**, via Zoom, Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. Contact Gaby Mozee at [gcmozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmozee@gmail.com).  
**Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe**. Third Monday, 7:30 p.m. Contact Kent Long for Zoom link at [kentlong@moragaadobe.org](mailto:kentlong@moragaadobe.org). [www.moragaadobe.org](http://www.moragaadobe.org).  
**Friends of the Orinda Creeks**. Fourth Wednesday, 3 p.m., 925.408.1840. [www.orindacreeks.org](http://www.orindacreeks.org). or [info@orindacreeks.org](mailto:info@orindacreeks.org).  
**Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition**. Third Wednesday, 10 a.m. 925.687.8844, ext. 227. <https://bit.ly/3egD3EZ>.  
**Lamorinda Meditation Community**. Mon-

days and Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:25 a.m., . All levels and philosophies welcome. Contact Gaby Mozee at: [gcmozee@gmail.com](mailto:gcmozee@gmail.com).  
**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated**. Third Thursday. For more information, visit. [www.lamorindarepublicanwomenfederated.org](http://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](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com).  
July 4 Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. Orinda Library Plaza. Meetings: July 1– Steve Pifer, former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, talks about the Russian invasion; July 8 – Club Assembly ~ Newly seated President Dan Herbert gives clues to what is in store during his reign; July 15 – Skye Estroff, well-known TV personality in Atlanta, runs a marketing company special-

izing in connecting people through food; July 22 – Tony Kaufman talks about his role as a VP with Carnival Cruise Lines in leading the company's response to the COVID-19 outbreak in February 2020 aboard the Diamond Princess; July 29 – Annie Weldon, doctoral candidate at Oxford University, talks about her cutting-edge research with NBS (nature-based solutions) involving a herd of Hereford cows.  
[SEE CLUBS page 20]

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## CLASSIFIEDS

## Orinda Community Center Solar Installation



JEFF HEYMAN

The City of Orinda issued NBC Construction & Engineering, Inc. a formal Notice to Proceed (NTP) for Construction Phase June 10; in concert with the Orinda Community Center Solar, Battery Storage and Roof Replacement Project (City Project #4141 and 4164).

The construction phase took effect June 15 in accordance with Section 8 of the project specifications, including all punch list items and commissioning. Project completion date is slated for Aug. 31.

Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay (in photo above right) officially presented the owner of NBC Construction & Engineering, Inc., Mike Schalchi, (above left), the NTP June 15. Schalchi's company, opened in 1989, is located at 850 S Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.

City Engineer, Sivakumar Natarajan, stated in the NTP, Park Engineering Representative Jaemin Park, is the City's authorized representative on this project and can be reached at 925.818.3756 or jpark@park-eng.com. Natarajan can be reached at 925.253.4254.

## ◆ BOUQUETS from page 13

dance of floral material and sometimes that simply gets in the way," said Tischenko. "I kept removing material and editing until it felt just right."

In her design, she used a metal ikebana container, aluminum grid structure/original fabrication, 90" positioning squares, Anthurium (red and white), Philodendron leaves, acrylic cut-out circle and ping pong balls.

Tischenko pointed out that the whole viewing experience at Bouquets to Art is unique because in a normal exhibit the

social aspect is missing.

"People examine, critique and share much more with one another," she said. "This seems to encourage a more interactive, shared encounter with art and artist."

To learn more about Bouquets to Art at the de Young, visit <https://deyoung.famsf.org/bouquets-to-art>. For information about the Orinda Garden Club, go to [www.orindagc.org](http://www.orindagc.org).

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

## ◆ CLUBS from page 19

**Montelindo Garden Club**, membership open to all. For additional information, visit the website at [montelindogarden.com](http://montelindogarden.com).

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

**Orinda Chamber of Commerce** Contact Kristen Southworth for zoom link at [president@orindachamber.org](mailto:president@orindachamber.org).

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

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

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

**Orinda Junior Women's Club**. First Tuesday, 7 p.m., [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org). Contact Erika Rosenberg 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](mailto:cmroeder@comcast.net) or [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org) for zoom link.

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

**Orinda/Tabor (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](mailto:mdelmartini@cityoforinda.org).

**Orinda Woman's Club**. Second Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. Garden Room of Orinda Library. Email Jean Barnhart [jean.barnhart@gmail.com](mailto:jean.barnhart@gmail.com) to confirm location.

**Road Runners**. Runners meet 5:45 a.m. Tuesday at Papilion (67 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette), Wednesday (Gepetto's 87 Orinda Way), Thursday (SiSi, 910 Country. Club Drive, Moraga) and Friday (Starbucks, 470 Moraga Road, Rheem). Contact John Fazel [runmntns@prodigy.net](mailto: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](http://www.branch174.sirinc2.org).

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

## ◆ BIAS from page 17

that she was an American. She didn't need to say that. And yet, she had the audacity to ask someone else their nationality.

"Where are you originally from," she continued at the next hole.

"I was born in India," my bride replied, and added, "where did your ancestors come from?" And so, it continued.

I could relate to her frustrations as I have lived them too. I have often been told "You speak English very well!" Surprised? Why? Just because I don't look like a white person? I love telling folks that I didn't have an accent till I came to this country.

It has been a while since someone asked me "Do you go back home often?" I loved telling them: "I go home every night!" I knew the intent of the question, but I also knew it revealed a stereotypical mind set.

People don't realize questions like these manifest implicit bias, also referred to as unconscious bias.

Our kids who were born and brought up here, are still asked similar questions. For me, I get it. I look very Indian, and still have a very pronounced Indian accent. But not our kids. Graduates of excellent universities and very successful in their professional careers, they still get asked, "Where are you from?"

We have a couple in our neighborhood that we are getting to know. He was born in Belgium and grew up speaking Dutch and French, and he has an accent when he speaks English. She was born in California

of Vietnamese immigrant parents and has no accent. Their kids look very Caucasian. She told us that she is often asked if she is the nanny of her own kids.

Another couple in our neighborhood had to put out a Public Service Announcement, requesting not to ask her kids, if they live here. Why would people ask them that, you ask? Because they are one of the few African Americans in this upscale community.

What folks don't realize is that such questions make us feel less than a "full" American citizen.

Some of our Indian American friends have lived here for much longer than us and many were born and brought up here. And yet, the recent call to "Go back to your country" has been galling for all of us. We conveniently forget that nearly all of us are immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Okay, maybe not the Indigenous Americans, but there is a distinct possibility that they too originally came from somewhere else, no?

So, how does one satisfy one's curiosity? Over the years, I have used, "What's your heritage?" to ask the same question.

So, ask me about my favorite movie, my restaurant of choice. Talk to me about your kids, our grandkids. Let's discuss the weather, the commute traffic. The World Series. The next Super Bowl.

But please. Don't ask, "Where are you from?"

S. K. Gupta can be reached at [sk.gupta.us@gmail.com](mailto:sk.gupta.us@gmail.com).

## ◆ STARLIGHT from page 15

"I use the Unity 3D software program, generally used for developing 3D games, to create the virtual world of Oz" said Cowler. "The biggest challenge is coordinating all the stage action to seamlessly tie in with the video that's continuously projected onto a 20-foot screen on the back wall of the stage throughout the show."

OrSVP sponsors include Zamboni's Pizza, Gepetto's Café and Seawolf Press. Seawolf Press, located in Orinda, publishes classic books and is donating copies of *The Wonderful Land of Oz* book to be sold at the ticket booth during performances as a fundraiser for OrSVP.

Marty Nemko, career coach and radio personality, is generously donating his time to perform pre-show and intermission piano music on opening night of all three OrSVP productions. Nemko's music was greatly appreciated by the audience of the first production, Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero*, and he will again be performing July

22 for the opening of *The Wonderful Land of Oz*.

Performances run Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m., July 22 through Aug. 13, with one Sunday matinee at 4 p.m., Aug. 7, and one Thursday performance, Aug. 11 at 8 p.m. All shows are at the amphitheater in the Orinda Community Center Park. For more information, visit [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) or call 925.528.9225.

OrSVP is completely volunteer run and no one at the theater is paid. Anyone interested in any aspect of theater who would like to help is encouraged to contact the group at [www.orsvp.org](http://www.orsvp.org) or 925.528-9225.

David Dierks can be reached at [david@theorindanews.com](mailto:david@theorindanews.com).

## Orinda News classified ads

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2022

### Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline
August	July 8
September	August 8

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

**Nominations Open for Orinda Citizen of the Year**

Do you have a person in mind to nominate for outstanding community service in 2022 and/or over many years of lifetime service?

- Must be a current Orinda resident
- Must be someone who has given of their time, talents and energy as a community volunteer helping make Orinda better
- Must be someone who models excellence and good citizenship in everything they do
- Must be someone who brings our community together making us proud and promoting community spirit

Deadline for nominations is Sept. 2.  
Nominations can be sent to [orindafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:orindafoundation@gmail.com) or mailed to Orinda Community Foundation, PO Box 21, Orinda CA 94563. Include your name and contact, along with the name and contact for the nominee.

◆ **WILDER** from page 5  
on Go Bags and the importance of Emergency Preparedness with water drums, etc. The team from Red Cross answered many questions and trained over 25 residents on Hands-Only CPR. The Orinda GHAD (Geological Hazard Abatement District), the City of Orinda and EBMUD had informational tables set up and addressed questions from the residents on different safety and emergency preparedness aspects. East Bay Parks brought a team of volunteers. The crowd-highlight of the day was when their helicopter landed on Field

3, where the pilot explained to parents and kids how the helicopter works and carries water to fight fires. Festivities for the kids included face painting, balloons, food truck and a group of Ukulele singers. Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay visited the event. "It is impressive to see over 350 adults and kids learning and having fun!" he said. MOFD Board member Steve Danzinger and EB Parks Board member Dee Rosario also attended.

S.K. Gupta can be reached at [sk.gupta.us@gmail.com](mailto:sk.gupta.us@gmail.com).



Lamorinda CERT Volunteer Perrin Kilot coaching London and her dad Chad Amon on how to put out a fire. S.K. GUPTA

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STUDENTS

# Miramonte Sophomore Ryan Aars Happy to Earn Eagle Scout Rank

By ANNABELLA BOOTH  
Contributing Writer

Orinda has a new Eagle Scout from Boy Scouts of America, Troop 57, named Ryan Aars.

The 16-year-old Miramonte High School sophomore and Orinda resident joined Cub Scouts in the first grade, moving his way up to Boy Scouts by the sixth grade.

For his Eagle Scout project, Aars built a shed for Xenophon Therapeutic Riding in Orinda, which is a non-profit organization offering therapeutic riding and pediatric therapy services. The shed, used daily, creates a rest spot for volunteers working with horses.

“I knew how to do those things, like building the shed and the overhang, so I thought it would be something good for me to do,” said Aars. “For the project, you are not supposed to do most of the work. You have to lead it, and I wanted to know what I would be leading the other boys to do.”

Aars, who currently has 86 merit badges to his name, has his sights set on reaching 100.

In addition to his new rank as Eagle Scout, Aars also earned the 50th Anniversary Environmental Protection Agency Award after he and other Boy Scouts led several beach clean-ups.

Troop 57 Scoutmaster Ken Goldman said his troop has a modest 18 scouts.

“Ryan has held many roles in Troop 57, including Quartermaster (in charge of all our gear and storage shed), Outdoor Ethics Guide (teaching the tenets of “Leave No Trace”), Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader,” said Goldman. “His

contributions have helped keep the Troop running smoothly.”

Aars’ mother, Maura Aars, put Ryan in Boy Scouts for the valuable life experiences he could gain.

“I always wanted Ryan to be a part of Boy Scouts because they learn many things they don’t learn just going to school. For example, one of the badges Ryan earned was pioneering, where he put a table together with rope and random logs,” she said. “It is a way for learning different kinds of careers and lessons while having fun.”

Ryan’s father, Rick Aars, said he’s enjoyed spending time with his son at multiple campouts.

“It’s been great being a parent of a Scout; Scouts keep you busy as part of a community,” he said. “It’s a lot of fun to go camping with the Troop, including the trips and hikes.”

Goldman said he loved seeing Ryan work with younger Scouts to help them learn skills and move up through the ranks.

“Ryan really came into his own last summer as our Troop’s Senior Patrol Leader at Wente Scout Camp,” said Goldman. “It felt as if he turned into a leader right before my eyes.”

Boy Scouts Troop 57 is always open to new Scouts. “We welcome and encourage new members,” said Goldman. “Not only is it a great opportunity for youth to meet kids and go on fun outings, but it’s also a great way for parents to stay engaged with their kids as they become teenagers and start to move beyond their usual family social setting.”

Annabella Booth can be reached at [annabellabooth@gmail.com](mailto:annabellabooth@gmail.com).



MAURA AARS

Orinda resident, **Ryan Aars**, age 16, is a Miramonte sophomore and was excited to receive his Eagle Scout rank. He proudly wears his hard-earned 86 merit badges, plus new patch and scarf for becoming an Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 57, under the leadership of Scoutmaster **Ken Goldman**.

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HOME SECURITY

# Vacation Season Means Home Security Season: Tips for Safety

By JEFF HEYMAN and  
RUSS BARRETTA  
Contributing Writers

As the wildfire season approaches, let's not forget that it's vacation season as well. And that means we should be mindful of security preparations around our homes, especially during vacations and even short trips out of town. Secure homes mean a secure neighborhood. Here are a few tips on preparing your home, both year-round and when you are away.

First, if you don't already have one, get a good home security alarm system connected to both the police and fire departments through a central, monitored dispatch. You can have systems installed by professionals, which can be costly, or you can do it yourself relatively easily with wireless systems operated through an app on your phone or computer.

Once the system is set up, make sure to use it! Folks tend to get lazy and not arm their systems when they run to the store, for example. The "bad guys" sometimes watch for people leaving their homes and dash in for the home burglary equivalent of a "smash and grab."

Likewise, make sure all doors and windows are closed and locked – even if gone for a short period of time. Many local home invasions occur when burglars simply walked into a home through an open garage door or porch screen door.

Next on the list is video security cameras, important possibly to identify someone who broke into your home (or tried to break-in) and as a deterrent as well.

Make sure cameras are easily seen at

entry points to your home. The intent is that burglars will avoid your house if they spot cameras.

Security cameras have become cheaper and better in recent years. Wireless systems are easy to install and retailers, like Costco and BestBuy, have a number of good systems available for a reasonable cost. Most have advanced features that send alerts, let you talk to an intruder and turn on security lighting.

Speaking of lighting, one of the best security steps you can take is to make sure to have motion-sensing exterior lighting and interior lights going on and off automatically. If you have a smart light system, you can control these through a smart phone. If you don't, there are very good digital timers available that can be set easily.

In fact, these should be used year-round so that the house lighting goes on and off at the same times everyday, whether one is home or not. That way, it doesn't look as if the house is dark and empty when no one is home, since the lighting is on the same schedule throughout the year (with annual adjustments for daylight savings time, of course).

And one more thing to consider, if you don't already have one, get a dog!

Crime stats show that one of the most effective deterrents to break-ins is a dog in the house. Those bad folks don't know if the dog is vicious or just noisy, but chances are they don't want to find out.

Although getting a dog won't help during vacation, your pup can really be a lifesaver in all kinds of emergencies and a real deterrent when someone is thinking about breaking into your home.



SARI HEYMAN

Inspecting his home security cameras, **Jeff Heyman** is assisted by his family's dog, **Natalie**. Adding both easy-to-install wireless cameras to your home and getting a dog are two of the best ways to make your home safer and more secure this summer.

Here are a few more tips to improve the safety and security of our neighborhood and home:

- Make friends with your neighbors.
- Notify neighbors when you are away.
- Place a stop on mail and newspapers when out of town.
- Have trash/recycle receptacles brought in from the street.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed at night and when away, but only if you do that regularly when you are home.
- If you install security cameras, consider registering them with Contra Costa County at <http://cityoforinda.org/433/Security-Camera-Registration>.
- Get a lockable mailbox.

If you see something suspicious, say something: Immediately contact the Orinda Police department at 911 or the non-emergency dispatch line 925.646.2441.

Be careful posting and reading information on social media sites such as Nextdoor; many times the information is not accurate and may cause undue alarm; rely on trusted media or law enforcement social media feeds.

Register for Nixle alerts, which can provide information about community criminal activity: Text your zip code to 888777 for local mobile alerts or use this link <https://local.nixle.com/signup/widget/i/18418>.

The Orinda Police Department provides vacation house checks. Learn how to take advantage of this free service on the police department's website: <https://bit.ly/3MXLIvs>.

Jeff Heyman and Russ Barretta can be reached at [heyman.foto@gmail.com](mailto:heyman.foto@gmail.com) and [russellbarretta@outlook.com](mailto:russellbarretta@outlook.com).

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