



THE ORINDA NEWS

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Hollywood Stars Join Local Author at Film Premiere

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

Hugs, photographs, tears and laughter filled the evening for Kristine “Kris” Carlson and her 150 guests – family members, close friends and Hollywood actors, including Heather Locklear, at the Orinda Theatre Oct. 14.

Based on Carlson’s 149-page memoir titled, *Heartbroken Open*, the biopic telefilm premier, *Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff: The Kristine Carlson Story*, aired on Lifetime television Oct. 16.

Attendees, required to wear masks and show proof of COVID-19 shots, were given complimentary popcorn and a swag bag containing a black mask with the words “don’t sweat the small stuff” on it, a copy of *Heartbroken Open* and a box of candy.

Carlson is wife to the late Dr. Richard Carlson, a psychologist, motivational speaker and author of *Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff* book series. The film gives a

glimpse of how the family coped with his sudden death Dec. 13, 2006.

The evening marked the first time Carlson, who had seen a preview of the first five minutes, saw the film in its entirety alongside her supporters and her two daughters, Jasmine “Jazzy” Priddy and Kenna Carlson.

Carlson felt somewhat prepared, though as a mother, she was mostly concerned about how her daughters would react to the film.

“Even though they’re grown women, it was just such a sensitive, tragic time in our lives,” said Carlson. “It’s been part of my work for all these years to help other people through grief and loss. So, I’ve shared my story many times. So many times, I’ve repeated that phone call in my mind, and I’ve repeated it on stage so many times, and I think I became acutely aware that my kids haven’t, and I was really worried about that.”

[SEE PREMIERE page 10]



CHARLEEN EARLEY

Kristine Carlson (right), formerly of Orinda, with actor **Heather Locklear** at the Orinda Theatre Thursday, Oct. 14. Locklear plays Carlson in the newly released Lifetime film titled, *Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff: The Kristine Carlson Story*.

Newly Appointed Police Chief Ryan Sullivan Takes Helm in Orinda

By KATHY BOHANAN ENZERINK
Assistant Editor



SALLY HOGARTY

Police Chief **Ryan Sullivan** settles into his new role as Orinda’s top cop.

Ryan Sullivan was selected by City Manager David Biggs as Orinda’s Chief of Police, effective Sept. 20. Chosen from a slate of “qualified candidates” from the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office, Sullivan “is a great fit for Orinda,” according to Biggs.

Sullivan joined the Sheriff’s office in 2005 and served as a sergeant in Internal Affairs and then as the lieutenant responsible for Internal Affairs. He was the Academy Coordinator, a patrol supervisor and had many diverse specialty assignments.

With just two weeks on the job, Sullivan said it is challenging trying to find things

[SEE CHIEF page 5]

City Council Tackles Need for Affordable Housing

By ANDREA MADISON
Staff Writer

On Sept. 28, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 787 into law. The bill aims to increase moderate-income housing for California’s “workforce” population – nurses, teachers, firefighters, grocery store employees – and will provide an incentive of credit towards local jurisdictions’ annual Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) goals.

The bill, authored by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Woodland Hills), takes effect amid a recognized shortage of affordable housing for California’s residents. Jurisdictions that convert existing market-rate housing units and preserve them as deed-restricted, moderate-income units will receive credit towards their annual RHNA goals.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) approved the assignment of

1,359 units in Orinda under RHNA – new homes Orinda must plan for in their Housing Element.

“Assembly Bill 787, however, will not have an impact in Orinda,” according to Orinda Mayor Amy Worth. “We have rental apartments, but they are all deed-restricted ... low-income apartments, in our two senior affordable apartment projects.”

According to the City of Orinda’s Planning Department, the upcoming 6th Cycle Housing Element (found at www.planorinda.com) – which is one of the required elements of their General Plan – must be certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development by Jan. 2023.

As shown on the City’s website, of these approved RHNA units, 215 are moderate-income level, another 215 are low-income level and 372 are very low-income level. The ABAG Board is expected to approve final

[SEE HOUSING page 14]

IN THIS ISSUE

News		Community	1, 8
Business/Financial	16	Classifieds	12
Crime/Police	5	Editorial	4
Schools	5, 13, 15	Events	10
Around Town		Letters to the Editor	4
Club/Meetings	online	Obituaries	6, 7
Galleries & Visual Arts	9, 10	Seasoned Shopper	8
Residents	11, 15	The Orinda Association	3
Calendar	online	The Reel Less Traveled	12
Car Time	13		

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THE ORINDA ASSOCIATION

A Message From the OA Treasurer
November – A Month for Giving

Cindy Powell



Please collect your extra coats for the One Warm Coat Drive at The Orinda Association (OA) office. Drop offs begin Nov. 1 and run until mid-December. This past year has seen a large boost in donated eyeglasses. This tells me you are clearing out your closets and drawers.

Also, the power of our “double the donation drive” begins in seeking donations to Seniors Around Town. It runs through the end of the year. You can make an impact in Orinda.

The final local Friday night Miramonte Mats’ football game is Nov. 5, away at Campo (Beat Campo!). Show up to cheer our players and be cheered by the Miramonte Cheer Team. Orinda showers its football players and cheer teams with love in the OA 4th of July parade every year, and Cheer Team Captain Bridget Meagher has been a part of the parade most of her life.

Remember this past March when Daylight Saving Time started? On Sunday, Nov. 7 at 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time ends (“Spring forward, Fall back”). Move your clocks back one hour. Use that extra hour for productive activity – or just sleep in.

The two days, six months apart, we change time are great days to remember to check batteries in your fire alarms and smoke detectors. Gene Gottfried also reminded me to check batteries in my personal alarm devices. Pulled my keychain alarm and expected a blast; instead I got a dull buzz ...thanks Gene!

Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11, honors all members of the Armed Forces, particularly living veterans who served this country valiantly. Veterans gave their time and risked

their lives to preserve our way of life. The Orinda Association will hang American Flags in Orinda this Veteran’s Day. Thank you, veterans!

World Kindness Day, Nov. 13, highlights good deeds in our communities, focusing on the positive power of kindness. Thank you in this context to our Senior Around Town drivers and shoppers who volunteer their time and vehicles to epitomize neighbors helping neighbors. Orinda has a great community of volunteers. We are thankful for their giving and kindness daily.

Nov. 17 is Take a Hike Day. Strap on your walkers and enjoy our beautiful town and hillsides. Orinda is a past recipient of a Trail Town USA designation for our great trail system.

The Orinda Woman’s Club (OWC) Festival of Trees is back Nov. 18. The OWC will again hold its fashion show and luncheon, which supports many deserving groups in our area with the funds raised at this single event. Come and encourage me as I model local clothing in a new, casual format. You can also bid on a cute miniature tree or festive basket.

Nov. 20 marks the last Farmers’ Market before Thanksgiving. Orinda’s Farmers’ Market is now open year-round, making it possible to get down to the market to fill your bags with fall vegetables and flowers.

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, is an American celebration to give thanks for the harvest of the past year. Start your day with a parade and end it with a pledge to share your harvest with others. Support The Orinda Association’s community programs

[SEE MESSAGE page 5]

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

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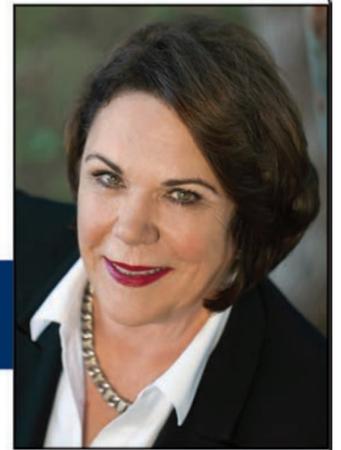
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If you answered “Yes” then you ARE engaged in our community!

Donate now with the enclosed envelope or visit www.OrindaAssociation.org

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EDITORIAL

Editorial

Overview on How Letters to the Editor Actually Work

Every one of our loyal readers should know by now that I'm Editor-in-Chief of *The Orinda News*, and I've been in this seat for over a year and love my job!

I'm also a journalism teacher at Diablo Valley College, where I currently teach mass communication classes, the last few semesters online due to the pandemic. I also freelance write and take photos for other publications, something I've been doing for over 20 years.

Basically, I'm just setting up my "cred" for what I'm about to discuss.

I can't help myself – it's the teacher in me who wants to do a little teaching about how the letter to the editor works for our newspaper, and pretty much all newspapers and magazines.

First and foremost, let me say our newspaper does not always agree with the letters we receive and publish.

But one thing our team does agree with 100% of the time is that democracy is a gift to be cherished, and a key foundation of that democracy is the first amendment right prohibiting the abridgement of the free exercise of freedom of speech or of the press:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

In the United States, our democracy gives us the opportunity to live in an informed

society and to make important decisions based on that information. We realize some news deliverers are more informed than others and seek the objectivity that places us in that circle.

In the context of *The Orinda News*, that information comes from reporters, columnists and an editorial staff who strive to be objective for you – our readers. It comes from suggestions from our community. It also comes from readers, particularly Orinda residents, who want their voices heard through a letter to the editor. Pretty cool, huh?

Letters to the editors may not be factual or objective and are often opinion-filled.

Is it possible the letter-to-the-editor writer's facts might be inaccurate? Absolutely.

That's where research on your part comes into play.

And, since most everyone today has access to more information (via the Internet, books, print publications, TV, radio, trusted leaders or family and friends, etc.), we are confident our readers have the means to seek the truth.

Of course, if someone submits a letter to the editor riddled with blatant misinformation, prejudicial intolerance or personal vendetta, we, as a publication, have the right and responsibility to refuse publication.

So, here's the rub. You can't judge a publication by the letters it runs. Well, I guess you technically could – it's your choice – but you must understand we may

[SEE EDITORIAL page 12]



List of *The Orinda News* Advertisers

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

Letters to the Editor

Teaching students about LGBTQ

Re.: *The Orinda News* September article titled "OUSD Looks at Diversity, Equity and Inclusion."

I have been in medicine for nearly 50 years, specializing in endocrinology. The male and female biology are well known to me. I have worked with patients with sexual and gender identity issues. I have seen the issue from the patient's perspective.

The new theory of gender, which now underlies almost everything in our society from pre-school curricula to government regulations, is devoid of any connection to human biology and the heretofore-inextricable connection between sex and gender. These are the foundational tenets of this theory:

Gender is a social phenomenon, unrelated to biological sex.

The individual's choice of gender requires partial or complete change in phenotypic sex.

Sex is "assigned" at birth.

Biological sex does not exist; it is continuum.

Language must be changed. Misgendering requires punishment. "Woman" was relabeled as "menstruating person," "pregnant person," and "birthing person."

"Gender dysphoria" was appropriated to support claims that social experience of gender is internal, immutable and biologic in nature. There is growing concern gender dysphoria applies to only a few, with the majority driven by a fad.

Biological fact: all organisms in the evolutionary chain above worms reproduce sexually. It takes a male gamete (sperm) and a female gamete (ovum) to reproduce. There are no transitional gametes in a continuum between the sperm and ovum. If an individual produces ova, it's female. If an individual produces sperm, it's male. At least let's not lose the connection to biology.

Rather than promoting gender transition,

we can accommodate the need for extending the range for non-normative gender behavior without irremediable medical treatments, while providing appropriate treatment for children with true gender dysphoria

Recommended reading about the proposed LGBTQ curriculum:

1. National Sex Education Standards (NSES) outlines the details of the transgender curriculum, starting with grade 2: <https://bit.ly/3DL0mlr>.

2. The writings of Kim Westheimer, the Director of Strategic Initiatives for Gender Spectrum, an advisor to the NSES curriculum and school consultant. The organization provides lesson plans, faculty

training, etc. Conflict of interest seems apparent.

We can teach children to be kind, respectful, accepting of self and others without ignoring established scientific principles, denying rationality and creating lifelong confusion for our children.

Proceed cautiously. Your children depend on it.

– Rachele Halpern MD

DEI's are Necessary

The Orinda News (Oct. 2021 issue) printed the letter to the editor "Question the DEI Specialist."

Here's my response.

[SEE LETTERS page 11]

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Letters to the Editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words. They must include the writer's first and last name, signature and telephone number. Send letters to: Editor, *The Orinda News*, P.O. Box 97, Orinda, CA 94563, or email to editor@theorindanews.com.

Letters to Editor for the December issue are due Nov. 8.

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

SCHOOLS / POLICE

Miramonte Principal Gets Dunked



JEFF HEYMAN

In honor of October Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Miramonte High School's Principal, **Ben Campopiano**, challenged students to raise \$500 by Oct. 18 and if successful, he'd go into a dunk tank at lunch. As of lunchtime, students raised \$817 and Campopiano hit the cold water. Students were more determined than ever to meet and exceed his goal so they can donate more to help fight breast cancer.

◆ MESSAGE from page 3

and events by donating your unused items to charity. Pack up your eyeglasses and warm coats for the OA boxes and bins.

Nov. 26 is Buy Nothing Day, a statement against consumerism and Black Friday, which is not the busiest shopping day of the year, but the Saturday before Christmas.

My vote, though, goes to Giving Tuesday (Nov. 30), the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Remember to donate to Seniors Around Town during the double the donation drive, and be thankful for our kind and giving Orinda residents!

Cindy Powell can be reached at oa@orindaassociation.org.



POLICE BLOTTER

September 16 through October 14

Calls for Service

- Adult Missing: 1 incident
- Burglary, Auto: 5 incidents: Camino Pablo, Bear Creek Rd., Meadow Park Ct., Moraga Way (2)
- Burglary, Commercial: 2 incidents: Moraga Way, Big Rock Rd.
- Burglary, Residential: 4 incidents: Ironbark Cir., Meadow Park Ct., Scenic Ct., unlisted
- Death Non-Criminal: 1 incident
- Found Property: 1 incident
- Fraud: 1 incident
- Grand Theft: 2 incidents
- Grand Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident: Lloyd Ln.
- Hit & Run Misdemeanor: 4 incidents
- Identity Theft: 1 incident
- Medical Hospital: 1 incident

- Outside Assist: 1 incident
- Petty Theft: 2 incidents
- Petty Theft Vehicle Parts: 1 incident: St. James Ct.
- Shoplift: 2 incidents: Village Square, Camino Pablo
- Tow: 2 incidents
- Vandalism: 3 incidents
- Vehicle Theft: 2 incident: Southwood Way, Wilder Rd.
- Weapons Violation: 1 incident

Arrest

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

– Compiled by David Dierks
Assistant Editor

◆ CHIEF from page 1

and knowing which meetings to attend, but countered with, "It's an exciting adventure."

Sullivan feels his previous experiences bring a different perspective to policing the community.

"I see the Orinda Police Department as part of the city, with a customer service approach to community policing," he said. "I want us to be highly visible and accessible to our citizens."

Sullivan said keeping an open line of communication is key to enhancing emergency preparedness and is impressed with the established, "tremendous cooperating relationships Orinda has with Lafayette and Moraga."

He plans to "start doing things which are known to work" for community safety.

Praising practices such as Neighborhood Watch programs and National Night Out, he also said he will work to become more visible on social media outlets, especially when there's a need to be timely to disseminate information to the public.

Spending the first 12 years of his life in Lafayette, Sullivan said his great-great-grandfather was the first Irish immigrant to settle there in 1847. Other family members traveled by wagon train from Missouri to join him, and Sullivan still has relatives living there.

Now living in Benicia, Sullivan enjoys dirt biking with his sons Liam and Sean, but he leaves motocross and BMX riding to them. "I know how that story would end," he said.

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

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OBITUARIES

Long-Time Orinda Resident Passes Away at Age 98

Orinda's Dr. Florentino T. Ibabao was born the youngest of eight children of Gregorio and Basilia Ibabao on Nov. 25, 1922, in Dongon, Aklan, Philippines. He enjoyed growing up in the countryside but moved to Manila for college to study engineering at the University of Santo Tomas (UST).

When World War II interrupted his studies, he joined the guerilla forces in Aklan as a spy against the Japanese. After the war, he returned to UST. Because only the school of medicine was open, Florentino decided to become a doctor, graduating in 1951.

Known to many as "Tino," Ibabao traveled to the U.S via a cargo ship to take up surgical residency in St. Louis, Missouri,

and then went on to Cleveland, Ohio, where he met Dr. Lilia Ferrer, an OBGYN resident. After a yearlong chaperoned courtship, they married in 1955 and honeymooned in Niagara Falls. He convinced Lilia to go into anesthesiology so they could work together.

Tino also trained as a plastic surgeon in Toronto, where he was a doctor for the Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Team. After nine years of shoveling snow, Florentino and Lilia moved to sunny California where children Cheryl, Emily and Greg were born.

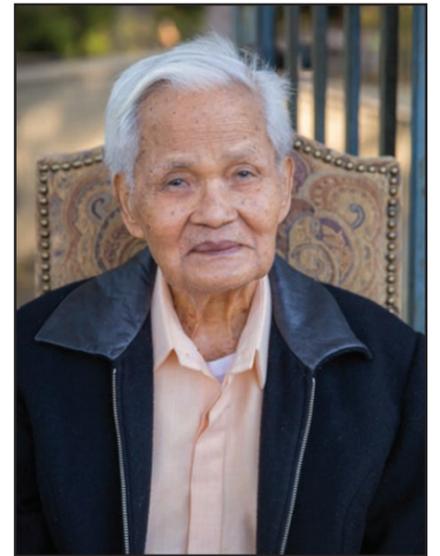
Tino established a general surgery practice and was affiliated with Brookside Hospital and Doctors Hospital of Pinole, where he was Chief of Staff (1970) and Chief of Surgery (1972). He finally retired at the age of 70 and spent his golden years in the Philippines: participating in philanthropic projects, traveling, golfing and even performing pro-bono surgeries up until the age of 94.

Very proud of his grandchildren, Malaya, Fenua, Chiara, Sienna and Julien, Ibabao cherished spending time with them. He was even able to see the three eldest graduate from college.

In June, Tino and Lilia celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary and reminisced about their many blessings. Tino was actively involved with the Aklan Association, Rotary Club (Paul Harris Award), Sierra Club, Kiwanis Club and the Philippine Medical Society of Northern California (PMSNC).

He co-founded the PMSNC Medical Missions to the Philippines in 1980, led annual missions throughout the Philippines for 10 years and alongside many medical mission volunteers, he treated thousands of indigent people.

Tino passed peacefully at the age of 98 on Sept. 22, in the presence of his family at his Orinda home of 43 years. He lived a life of service, making a positive impact on many people's lives.



COURTESY OF EMILY IBABAO-MARLEY
Dr. Florentino T. Ibabao (1922-2021) passed peacefully at 98-years-old Sept. 22, 2021 in the presence of his family at his home in Orinda of 43 years.

He will be deeply missed by all. May he rest in peace.

– Emily Ibabao-Marley

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Orinda Resident Karen Gail DePaepe Loved Living in Orinda

Karen (Geisinger) DePaepe passed Aug. 27 to be with the Lord.

Karen was born Oct. 2, 1965 to Arch and Christine Geisinger of Storm Lake, Iowa. Growing up, she had a happy childhood and enjoyed playing tennis, the violin and piano, cheerleading and working at The

Courtroom clothing store on Lake Street. After graduating from Storm Lake High School, Karen attended Iowa State University where she was an active member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. In 1988, she graduated Cum Laude from ISU with a degree in marketing and set her sights on success.

She headed southwest to Scottsdale, Arizona, where she worked in marketing and event planning for Concepts II at the Phoenician Resort. She made several friends and had several opportunities to travel to California. She fell in love with San Francisco and by 1990, accepted a position at DFS – Duty Free Shoppers, Ltd. While at DFS, she gained marketing knowledge and traveled to Europe, Australia and Hong Kong.

Karen was an enthusiastic bike rider and in 1997, met Eric "Rick" DePaepe while biking. They married July of 1999, moved to Orinda and were blessed with two handsome sons, Andrew and David, who attended Glorietta Elementary School. In 2005, Karen accepted a position with Wells Fargo Bank where she excelled as VP of Marketing, online sales. In 2007, Karen and Rick divorced, but they continued to lovingly co-parent until Karen became ill.

She is remembered as an amazing, smart,

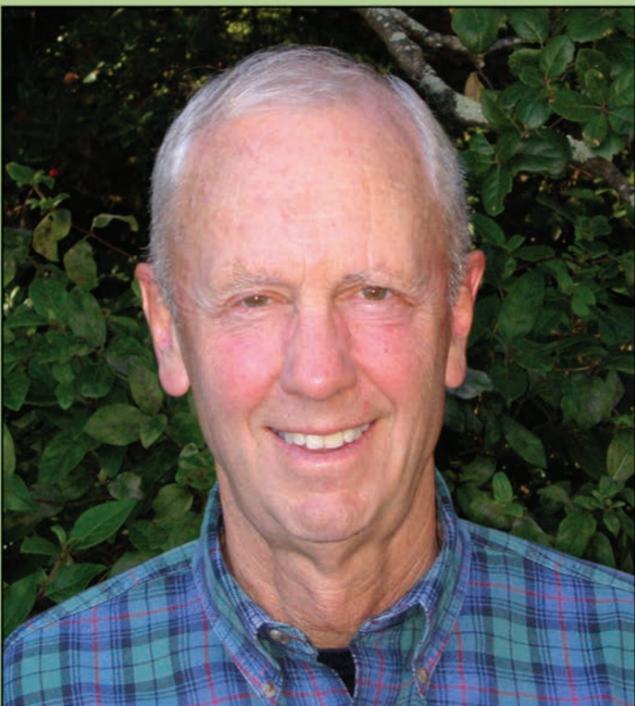
[SEE DEPAEPE page 7]



COURTESY OF STEPHEN GEISINGER
Karen Gail (Geisinger) DePaepe (Oct. 2, 1965 – Aug. 27, 2021), a 23-year Orinda resident, whose two sons, Andrew and David, went to Glorietta, will be remembered by her family and friends.

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OBITUARIES

Born to Help Others, Betty Karplus Passed Away at the Age of 96

Elizabeth “Betty” (Frazier) Karplus, long-time resident of Orinda, passed away at home Sept. 22, at the age of 96.

Born in Burlington, Vermont, the family moved to Connecticut where Betty worked as a “Winnie the Welder” in the Yale and Towne factory during WWII while earning a bachelor’s degree in physics from Oberlin College. She later contributed her story to the “Rosie the Riveter” National Historic Park in Richmond, CA.

Betty continued into graduate studies in physics at Wellesley College where she met Robert “Bob” Karplus, a Harvard graduate student. They married in 1948, and she completed her master’s in physics the following spring. The young couple spent the next year and a half at Princeton University, where Bob worked with J. Robert Oppenheimer and Betty worked in the radiochemistry lab. In the evenings, she also helped John von Neumann develop the ENIAC computer. Betty, Bob, and family moved to California in 1954 when Bob accepted a physics faculty position at UC Berkeley.

The mother of seven children, Betty was always ready for adventure and shared her love of the outdoors with her family as well as her passion for education.

She helped Bob with his work in physics, was a valued collaborator on his research in science curriculum and reasoning development, and collaborated with others to improve math education. Betty was also a pioneer in rights for students with disabilities. When her youngest child, Peter, was born with cerebral palsy, she provided him with challenges and support that greatly aided his development. In the mid-1960s, Betty began to substitute teach physics and chemistry at Campolindo High School and got a teaching credential so she could do more. When the state started



COURTESY OF THE KARPLUS FAMILY

Betty Karplus stained a picnic table at Sequoia National Park in July 2021. Her son David, a retired park employee, had arranged for the family to refurbish a deteriorated campground to honor their mom on her 95th birthday. Originally scheduled for 2020, it was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

to fund classes for students with learning disabilities at the high school level, the district hired Betty full time to work in the new resource classes.

While teaching at Campolindo, Betty was elected to the Orinda School Board, where she served two terms. For her many contributions to the community, she was honored as the 1982 Orinda Citizen of the Year. Also in 1982, Bob had a debilitating heart attack and Betty lovingly cared for him until he passed away in

1990.

Retiring from Campolindo in 1986, she worked at Mills College leading the Midcareer Math and Science (MCMS) program to train scientists, engineers and mathematicians who wanted to become teachers. For her exceptional contributions to science education, Betty was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2019.

Motivated by her passion for justice, Betty filled her retirement with activities that fulfilled her need to serve. In 1991, she joined the Peace Corps, working for two years at a home for handicapped children in a village outside Montego Bay, Jamaica. In the mid-1990s, the newly formed AmeriCorps program was blessed with Betty’s leadership in developing curriculum and training materials. She later spent a year teaching English in China. In between these activities, she volunteered in local classrooms and colleges.

During her 66 years in Orinda, Betty developed many long-term friendships. She was an active member of the Orinda Community Church, where she served as a volunteer in many capacities and

was instrumental in arranging for Holden High School to use the lower classrooms, where it has thrived for over 50 years. She also provided leadership in community organizations such as the Orinda Historical Society, the AAUW and the League of Women Voters.

Betty is survived by her seven children - Beverly Hartline (Fred), Peggy Hellweg (Horst Rademacher), Richard Karplus (Michelle Delore), Barbara Karplus (Rod Womer), Andy Karplus (Karen), David Karplus (Catie), and Peter Karplus - as well as by 16 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, brother-in-law Martin Karplus (Marci), 10 nieces and nephews and many dear friends.

A memorial service is pending. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Robert and Elizabeth Karplus Outdoor Nature Lab under construction at the Lawrence Hall of Science (<https://bit.ly/3j905Rk>) or to the Orinda Community Church.

- The Karplus Family

◆ DEPAEPE from page 6

talented, vibrant woman with an incredible smile and joyful laugh. She will be dearly missed.

Karen’s parents, Archibald and Christine Geisinger, preceded Karen in death. Left to cherish her memories are her sons: Andrew and David DePaepe of Lafayette; sister Elizabeth Hatch of Lake View, Iowa; and brother Stephen (Donna) Geisinger of Kansas City, Missouri.

Nieces Laura Knoll of Nebraska and Nicole Hatch of Texas and nephews

Josh Hatch of Iowa; John Geisinger of Texas; Scott Geisinger of Missouri; Thomas Geisinger of New York and Ryan Kinney of Kansas also mourn Karen’s loss, along with extended family and friends.

Final celebration and tribute information is pending. The family requests, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to a charity of your choice in Karen’s name and memorials or cards sent to Stephen Geisinger, 102 The Woodlands, Kansas City, MO, 64119 or emails to Stephen.geisinger@gmail.com.

- Stephen Geisinger

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THREE QUARTER CENTURY CLUB / SEASONED SHOPPER

Royal Court Celebrated at the Three Quarter Century Club Gathering

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

The local “Three Quarter Century Club Gathering” recently named its Royal Court for the year as well as regaling participants with a talk by the great-nephew of the legendary Harry Houdini.

The Royal Court, which acknowledged seniority in the local club where newcomers must be 75 years old, was announced.

The top honor was a shoo-in for George Jedenoff – named King at the club’s annual meeting: He’s 104. What’s more, he skied at Sugar Bowl two times this past year. Certainly, he is deserving of his \$100 gift certificate award, almost matching his age per dollar.

The club’s Queen was named: yours truly. Just turned 93 in September, I am also active. In addition to writing for this newspaper, I play tennis at Orindawoods at least two times a week, often with ladies half my age. I also received a \$100 gift certificate.

This year’s longest married couple, Nancy and Don Hall, have been married 63 years. They too, received a \$100 gift certificate.

With that in mind, all of us would say, “This makes it worthwhile getting old.”

Jedenoff agrees with me that continuing

to engage in a sport one enjoys, or any kind of exercise, is good medicine for all as we age.

George Hardeen, the great-nephew of Houdini, gave an interesting presentation during the gathering. He said Houdini was the highest paid entertainer of his time and he was best known for his escape tricks.

Houdini became famous when he freed himself from the shackles of Scotland Yard. He would announce he was going to hang himself upside down in a straight jacket on the flagpole near a newspaper office. Of course, they would publicize it and draw thousands to watch. His closing remark was, “Live magically.”

John Fazel, the inspiration for the Three-Quarter Century Club, and perennial master of ceremonies, expressed his thanks to the Evite Master, Tom Guyette, Chris Laszcz-Davis and Don Jenkins, who helped recruit new partners for the event.

Sunrise Rotary sponsored the Evite meeting, along with the Rotary Clubs of Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette and Rossmoor and the Orinda Association, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Lamorinda Village, Lafayette Community Foundation, Lafayette Senior



COURTESY OF GEORGE JEDENOFF
George Jedenoff once again was crowned King in 2021, as the oldest man at the luncheon at age 104. Jedenoff still goes on an annual ski trip to Alta, Utah every February. To see videos of Jedenoff skiing, visit: <https://bit.ly/3ATCWS6>

Service Commission, Lamorinda Art Council and the Lamorinda Movers.

The overall tech consultant was Jim Marggraff. The Evite event was headquartered at the Jennifer Perlmutter Art Gallery in Lafayette.

An added bonus to the celebration was a shout-out to John and Mary Lou Fazel’s 59th wedding anniversary. They met on a blind date at Iowa State 63 years ago. Congratulations to them.

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

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COURTESY OF BOBBIE LANDERS
The Orinda News writer, **Bobbie Dodson** was honored Sept. 29 as Queen at the Three-Quarter Century Club this year. She’s an active 93-year-old, who plays tennis at Orindawoods at least two times a week, often with ladies half her age.

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The holiday season is a time to celebrate, and food tends to be an important part of our traditions. Citrus, winter squash, broccoli, cauliflower, nuts, fennel, root vegetables and, of course, potatoes are now available at the market which provides fresh produce picks.

Root vegetables and tubers – is there a difference? The two are almost interchangeable in soups, both are wonderful roasted, they’re very tasty sauteed or pureed. But there is a difference.

Tubers, like potatoes, form at the base of the root. Greens are above ground and tubers are below ground, growing on a system of hairy-like roots. Several tubers grow from one plant.

Root crops produce one root from each plant, like carrots and beets. The root grows downward, absorbing the moisture and nutrients needed from the soil.

Red and white potatoes and sweet potatoes are favorites for baking, mashing or making into soups and salads. I can’t resist any creamy “fresh” potato, which is simply the first harvest of any variety com-

ing directly from the field instead of being stored. Since sweet potatoes contain much more Vitamin A than regular potatoes, I toss those in my basket too.

All potatoes fall into two basic groups – thick or thin skin. Russets are the brown, thick-skinned types. Their high starch content and dry mealy texture make them the choice for fluffy baked potatoes and crisp fries.

Thin-skinned potatoes offer a much wider selection of color, shape and size. In addition to the common round reds, long whites and round whites, vendors at farmers’ markets always give us the opportunity to explore more of this South American native.

Peruvian Purples, Red Rose, Oregon Blues, Yukon Gold and Yellow Finns are flavor noteworthy but do not store as well due to their high moisture content. Fingerling potatoes, such as Russian Banana and Rose Finn Apple are elongated and finger-shaped with an outstanding firm, waxy texture.

Sweet potatoes are a root vegetable and a member of the morning glory family. Dry varieties, like the tan-skinned Jersey sweet potato, benefit from a little butter after bak-

[SEE SEASONED page 10]

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VISUAL ARTS

Viking Vessels, Chinese Scroll Paintings and Abstract Retrospective

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents the work of Dina Asna, Raymond L. Haywood, Lesley Jensen and Joan Yao at the in-person and virtual Art Gallery at the Orinda Library during November. View their work online at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.

Meet the artists at a reception in their honor outdoors Saturday, Nov. 6 from 3 to 5 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. All COVID-19 precautions will be observed for health and safety.

Asna combines her love of painting with her jewelry designs. "I express my emotions through painting and, as a designer, transform them into earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings," she said. Her handcrafted, handmade jewelry is inspired by her journey throughout three continents where she travelled, worked and lived. After traveling the world, she settled in Moraga.

The Moon Whisper, her 11" x 15" acrylic painting, sets a playful tone with trees nestling around the silvery celestial body. Always on the lookout for new techniques,

she has created a collection of lightweight hypoallergenic antique bronze jewelry. Visit www.din-art.com to learn more.

Haywood, who lives in Berkeley, is showing a seven-year retrospective about the evolution of his abstract paintings. He moved from small, intimate 8" x 8" panels to 60" x 60" panels. His subject matter evolved from pure surface abstraction to abstract expressionist landscapes and seascapes.

In *Sister Typhoon*, a 36" x 36" acrylic on wood, there are repetitions of linear elements and patterned voluminous surfaces. Movement is everywhere. Muted yellows, oranges and blues swirl in an atmosphere of grays.

For Haywood, painting is a mode of communication utilizing vivid, dynamic color and gesture to provoke emotional responses to the work. He said, "How you feel after reviewing my paintings is as important as the craft of the messages embedded in the work." For more of his work, visit www.raymondhaywood.com. Catch his show at the Mercury 20 Gallery through Nov. 27, 425 25th St., Oakland, www.mercurytwenty.com.

Jensen has been a ceramics teacher for 35

years and said this has impacted her work immensely. "Encouraging my students to explore the possibilities in this wonderful medium has allowed me the freedom to also embrace exploration," she said. Her show of 20 pieces reflects her intrigue and deep interest in the ceramic processes of raku and pit firing.

"I honor and love the work of Julia Galloway. I traveled from Lafayette, where I live, to her class at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, CO, where I saw the playful decoration on her work. I've learned many techniques from her. She makes pottery that is deeply personal for her with stories attached to her work. I hope to inspire my students in the way she has inspired me," said Jensen.

Jensen's 12" x 7" x 7" pit fired ceramic *Viking Vessel* shows an interplay of fume metallic glazes in grays to deep rusts overlaid with black grid-like lines. This striking piece has a curved lid and its top piece is reminiscent of Viking symbols. It [SEE GALLERY page 13]



COURTESY OF LESLEY JENSEN
Leslie Jensen's 12" x 7" x 7" pit fired ceramic *Viking Vessel* shows an interplay of fume metallic glazes in grays to deep rusts overlaid with black grid-like lines. This striking piece has a curved lid and its top piece is reminiscent of Viking symbols.

Wilder Gallery Presents Welcome Home: Memories in Brushstrokes

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The Lamorinda Arts Council invites everyone to view a solo in-person show and virtual exhibit of oil paintings by featured artist John Anderle during November. Meet the artist at a reception in his honor on Sunday, Nov. 7 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. where light refreshments will be served. This is the only time the Gallery will be open to the public. All COVID-19 precautions will be observed for safety. View his virtual exhibit through images at

www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries.

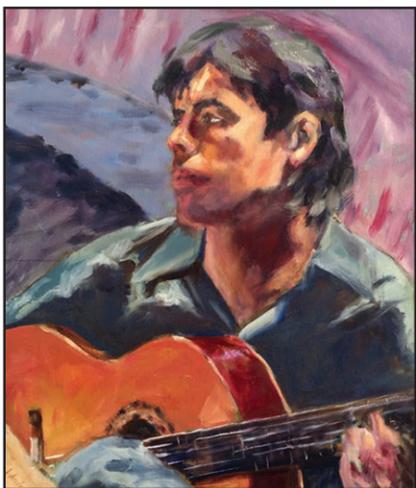
Prior to COVID-19 constraints, Anderle's paintings were based on his travels. Since that kind of travel has been impossible, he and his wife were pining to get away. This past May they took a car trip to Zion and Bryce Canyon. "What a relief to get away at last and get back to doing what we love," he said. They've traveled to every continent except Antarctica.

"Welcome Home: Memories in Brushstrokes" is the theme for the 18 bold and colorful paintings he is exhibiting. They range in size from 9" x 12" to 18" x 24" and include a selection of interesting places and people he's encountered in his travels.

Walnut Creek Center for Community Arts has provided Anderle with a variety of watercolor, life drawing and oil painting classes for the past 10 years. Recently, he's taken classes from Gary Bergren and Jody Mattison. Learn more about Anderle's work at www.johnanderle.wixsite.com/mysite.

The Art Gallery at Wilder is located at the Wilder Art and Garden Center, 20 Orinda Fields Way, Orinda. The exhibit is in-person on the reception date but virtual the rest of the month because the building is not open due to COVID-19 restrictions. Arrange a viewing by appointment with Curators Denise Nomura and Aniston Breslin at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org.

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



COURTESY OF JOHN ANDERLE
John Anderle's 16" x 20" oil painting, *Flamenco Guitar in Seville, Spain*, captures the mood of an impromptu performance of the unmistakable sound of flamenco.



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VISUAL ARTS

Rue Whittaker Honored for *Indigo Animal and Dame Eleanor Marmot*

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

The public is invited to attend a reception honoring sculptor Rue Whittaker Saturday, Nov. 20, from 2 – 4 p.m., outdoors at the Orinda Community Center. Look for the 650 lb. seated, five-foot tall, bright blue tapir-like mammal, “Indigo Animal” and a much smaller brown animal, “Dame Eleanor Marmot” just waiting to make new friends.

The City of Orinda Art in Public Places Committee (APPC) and the Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) are hosting the reception jointly.

The two characters on display began as a gleam in Whittaker’s eye when she started writing *Indigo Animal: The Complete Trilogy*.

“Indigo Animal appeared to me as a gender neutral character,” said Whittaker. “So I suggest we use the pronouns ‘they’ and ‘their’ to think about Indigo.”

The book can be described as an “interior journey” to be started and stopped wherever one likes. Page one states the reason for Indigo’s quest: “Every morning, Indigo Animal wonders, ‘What is my purpose in life?’”

Whittaker, who is a psychotherapist in

private practice, said the book uses active imagination (in the manner of Carl Jung) to tell Indigo’s story. The 320-page book, richly illustrated, can be found at the Orinda Library and Orinda Books.

When Whittaker and her husband met sculptor and APPC volunteer John Toki at his Richmond studio, he suggested she build a large scale “Indigo Animal” using ferrocement. Toki referred her to APPC, and the committee agreed to locate an appropriate site and help install the art.

An armature with welded steel rods (rebar) was used to create Indigo’s shape. Whittaker used steel wire with large needles to sew chicken wire over the armature. Next she applied a scratch coat of stucco. After shaping and painting the ferrocement, Indigo was placed on a 42” circular base of galvanized steel coated with special paint for durability. The sculpture was then connected to the base with internal steel rods for safety.

Whittaker said many people helped bring the sculpture to completion.

“I want to thank APPC committee members Rich Thompson, Ted Urban, Susan Mautner, Shelly Hubner, Jane Zeurcher, Richard Westin and Steve Danziger; John Toki for the idea and help at his studio where I learned about ferrocement; Jessica

Jordao, who was a stalwart helper from start to finish; plus, Martin Rickert, Ying Ling Lin, Andrea Brower and Andrea Hendrickson,” she said.

This is a rain or shine event. If weather is inclement, attendees are advised to follow the signs to Room 8, which has its own outdoor access to the left of the main entrance to the Community Center at 28 Orinda Way.

Learn more about APPC at www.artspaceorinda.org or email orindaparksrec@cityoforinda.org. For more information about LAC, visit www.lamorindaarts.org or email info@lamorindaarts.org.

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



JEFF HEYMAN

Rue Whittaker with her sculpture *Indigo Animal and Dame Eleanor Marmot* in front of the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way.

◆ PREMIERE from page 10

The phone call Carlson referenced is the one in which she was informed, while parked in her car, that her husband had expired.

While writer Shannon Bradley-Colleary took creative license in various segments of the film, Carlson said, “Every scene was seated in truth, and I think it really captured the essence of what we went through.”

She added, “I think that Shannon and Maura [Dunbar], the executive producer and all the producers, did so much to protect the integrity of our story, and that came through.”

Watching the film, Carlson said, was a thousand times easier than living it.

“My life was so much messier, and my grief was so much deeper and harder than what you see in the film,” she said.

Cast members Heather Locklear, who plays Carlson, Jason MacDonald (Richard Carlson), Natasha Bure (Jazzy) and Ella Dorsch (Kenna), Dunbar and Bradley-Colleary, joined Carlson on stage before the film started to say a few words.

“I found Richard’s books because I had gone through a very difficult time in my life. I had lost four family members in the span of 16 months,” said Dunbar. “It was Richard’s books that became a pinpoint of light during that very dark time.”

After watching film segments that portrayed her relationship with her husband

Richard, Carlson said the writer and producers nailed it.

“They captured our love story. That’s exactly how my relationship was with Richard – a beautiful marriage,” said Carlson. “We had very little conflict in our entire marriage. Honestly, we had three fights in 25 years! He was so gentle and loving and kind.”

She felt actor MacDonald embodied Richard perfectly.

“The way Jason played him, that’s how he was and anybody who knew Richard, knew that about him,” said Carlson. “Many people in Orinda knew Richard. His family was from Orinda.”

Carlson hopes viewers will learn to “not sweat the small stuff.”

“If you sweat the small stuff, you’re just taking energy away from what matters most to you,” Carlson said. “I mean, it’s the small stuff that keeps you from being happy.”

She concluded, “We focus on the things that don’t matter, and then our energy isn’t reserved for the things that do. The truth is, when you’re going through something big, you’re not sweating the small stuff. Anybody will tell you that what might have been on your small-stuff radar, the day your husband dies that stuff is not on your radar any longer, forevermore.”

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

◆ SEASONED from page 8

ing. These make excellent chips and hash browns and provide a good substitute for standard potatoes.

Moist types of sweet potatoes are referred to as yams (true yams are indigenous to Asia and really not related to sweet potatoes). The deep orange flesh and dark orange-to-red purple skin varieties far out-sell the dry types of sweet potatoes, with most of their starches converting to sugar

during cooking – hence delicious sweet potatoes!

The Orinda market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Orinda Way in Orinda Village. More information is available at www.cccfm.org, facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket and Instagram at [OrindaFarmersMarket](https://Instagram.com/OrindaFarmersMarket) or call the market hotline at 925.431.8361.

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AWARD

Dr. Jan Cushman Named Distinguished Woman for OML Branch of the AAUW

By BOBBIE DODSON
Staff Writer

As a Ph.D. recipient in toxicology, Dr. Jan Cushman is a role model for girls who want to enter the science field. This is but one of her accomplishments that led to her being chosen as Distinguished Woman of the Year for 2020 for the Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette (OML) branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Due to the pandemic, instead of a May luncheon in 2020, she was honored at the Sept. 2021 meeting, which was an outdoor brunch with masked and vaccinated attendees.

Cushman's primary focus has been the AAUW Tech Trek program, which sends middle school girls to a week-long science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) camp held at Stanford University.

The OML branch sends six or seven girls each year from Orinda Intermediate, Stanley and Joaquin Moraga. Cushman, who heads the OML Tech Trek committee, is responsible for accepting applications, interviewing applicants and providing a

social orientation before and after the camp. She's also active with the girls since she served as dorm mom for four years.

"The girls who attend the camp tell me that enjoying STEM activities with like-minded girls validates them pursuing STEM subjects in school," said Cushman. "I know sometimes they find it hard to fit in while taking STEM classes, so hearing this makes all the work with Tech Trek worth while."

Cushman comes from Ithaca, New York, where her father was a professor at Cornell and her mother an educator and high school principal. In high school, both Jan and her husband Bruce McGurk, were in band, where she played the clarinet and he played the trombone.

Young love flourished, and so did education. The couple found programs that gave them strong credentials and allowed them to be together. They were married in 1978 before they moved to Utah to attend graduate school at Utah State University.

"We picked that school because it had good programs in both toxicology and watershed science. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences funded



KAY DE GROOT

Jan Cushman, Ph.D. stands with her son James McGurk and husband Bruce McGurk at an outdoor luncheon in her honor Sept. 29, when she received an AAUW Distinguished Woman Award.

my work while Bruce had support from his department and living stipends were paid for," said Cushman.

After completing their degrees, Jan prowled the yellow pages looking for a job. When she was invited to be interviewed in the toxicology department at Chevron, she spent some time learning what she'd need to know for the interview.

She got the job, and Bruce was hired at the U.S. Forest Service research office in Berkeley. Jan worked for Chevron's Energy Technology Company in the toxicology de-

partment for almost 30 years, where her final job was in the Product Stewardship Unit.

Both are involved with scouting, and Jan volunteers as the Girl Scout Gold Award Coordinator, which is the highest award a girl can earn in Scouts. She also worked with the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team. Cushman is now serving as president of the OML AAUW branch.

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

◆ LETTERS from page 4

I graduated from San Ramon High School. I would say that the level of diversity at the time did little to prepare me for my experiences where I found myself culturally and linguistically in a minority living in France and Portugal, and then in Senegal where I found myself also in a racial minority.

Preparation for such experiences is much to ask of a high school particularly almost half a century ago. With today's world getting smaller, I think a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) expert in OUSD is a great idea.

OUSD schools do not use tests but admit all qualified residents and some others. As typically in public schools, this leads to a high degree of diversity in some categories, for example, in physical abilities and a variety of learning and behavior differences.

DEI is needed to address differences in the students to assure service to all, as well as to "talent" (those who excel at testing). Talent in its broader sense also cannot be reduced to those who excel at academic testing; university level admissions at many institutions have come to question the use of testing in admis-

sions due to inherent blind spots and biases.

There are other categories of diversity that make the issue much more interesting than the assumed talent versus the disadvantaged. Gains for DEI are not losses for talent; they are gains for all. In corporate settings, DEI is a metric used as one indicator of sustainable productivity and a resilient work environment. It is also used to tailor products and services to penetrate competitive markets.

In life, our youth can expect to face some non-trivial challenges; one of the most important skills they will need is the ability to communicate and collaborate with people of differing backgrounds.

For example, communication with those who understand in a way that you do not, or vice versa, is one of the critical abilities that makes a high functioning individual. One need not go far; right here in the Bay Area many corporate talent searches prioritize international experience. The value of the ability to function in diversity is recognized in that arena.

We are fortunate to live in this fine community with some of the finest schools. DEI can help to make them better.

— Jeff Violet

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FILM

◆ EDITORIAL from page 4

or may not agree with those letters. We simply agree with the First Amendment rights that underpin their appearance. It's the letter writer and his or her opinion you should judge.

We strive to balance arguments in reporting, and prefer, especially if letters to the editor speak to one of the many divisions so striking in our body politic or community, that we have other letters to balance opposing points-of-view to an issue. To that end, we welcome and encourage all sides to speak out on issues raised by other letter writers.

Of course, space limitations might limit the number of letters to the editor that can appear in any edition.

That's it. I just wanted to get that off my

chest – just in case anyone was wondering how this whole letter to the editor thing works.

OH! I forgot to mention, in each monthly issue, we have in fine print (like who reads the fine print anymore?) the following: *Views of writers and letters to the editor are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Orinda Association or of The Orinda News. Letters to the editor are printed on a space-available basis and should be no longer than 400 words.*

One more thing – all letters to the editor are due by the 8th of each month – the month prior to publication. For example, if you'd like to have us publish a letter in December, it's due by Nov. 8.

– Charleen Earley, Editor-In-Chief



THE REEL LESS TRAVELED

THE LARGE AND THE SMALL OF IT

TOM WESTLAKE



This month brings two special features and, as usual, both offerings are worth seeking out, one for its searing drama and the other for its uniqueness during the time of the film's release.

The first is the "heavier" of the two films. Offered with pride by the International Film Showcase (IFS), Jo Alice Canterbury and Efi Lubliner present *Hive*.

More than any of the other films the IFS has shown, this one is truly international. Four countries – Kosovo, Switzerland, Albania and the Republic of Macedonia – pooled collective resources to deliver a searing film about determination, resolve, difficult choices and the unfortunate fact that many countries still hold to outdated ideas about sexual equality.

Finding herself alone and with little in the way of support, Fahrige (Yilka Gashi) bands together with friends to start a business selling a local culinary delicacy. This does not go over well with the local men, and she is met with all sorts of obstacles, public and private.

Looking at all the awards this film has won, including three at the Sundance Film Festival, should be all you need to encourage you to catch this when it premieres at the Orinda Theatre Nov. 12, but just in case you need further motivation, check out the trailers and more information at www.internationalshowcase.org.

Our next offering is brought to you by that fairly new and welcome monthly feature, The Chiller Diller Theatre with *The Incredible Shrinking Man*. Released in 1957, the film would be easy enough to dismiss as just another of the many cheesy science fiction movies that came out around that time.

This one, however, managed to rise above the schlock that so predominated theaters, especially drive-ins. The premise is self-explanatory and the cause is cliché (didn't the ants from the 1954 sci-fi film *Them* grow when exposed to the same thing?), but aside from that, this film deals with deeper philosophic ideas like love, life compatibility, mortality and transcendence.

Much of this may be because of the performances, which are subtle and tinged

[SEE REEL page 16]

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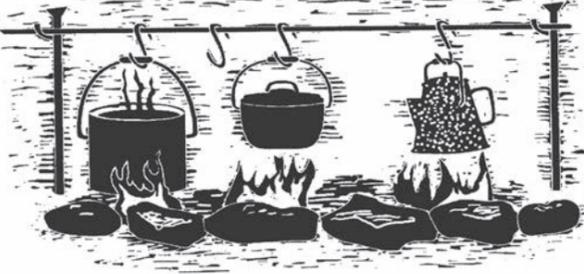
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College Admissions In the Time of COVID-19

EMILY PÉREZ, Ph.D



For the second consecutive year, the global pandemic casts its shadow over the college admissions season. These days, one of my tasks as a college admissions consultant involves advising clients about how, if at all, they should address the pandemic in their applications.

More specifically: should one answer the optional COVID-19 question on the Common Application? And should an applicant mention COVID-19 in the optional "Additional comments" section of the UC application?

The answer is – it depends.

These questions fall under the writing section of their respective applications. The overarching goal of any writing section is to convey something about who you are.

With the exception of interviews, which are not offered by all colleges/universities, the essays are the sole component of the application wherein students have freedom to shape their own responses.

While the pandemic has impacted each and every one of us in some respect, it certainly has not had an *equal* impact on all of us. Those who have suffered monumental losses (for example, the loss of a loved one or a parent losing a job as a result of the pandemic) can absolutely address them in these optional questions.

Similarly, if the myriad challenges of COVID-19 have led to anxiety, depression or other negative life changes, speak to those in a way that allows admissions [SEE COLLEGE page 14]

◆ GALLERY from page 9

is featured in John Toki's forthcoming sixth edition of his acclaimed book, *Hands of Clay*, scheduled to be released by Oxford University Press in 2022..

Joan Yao, also of Moraga, counts her artistic life as beginning when she met the granddaughter of the renowned world-class artist Chang Dai-chien (1899-1983). Originally known as a *guohua* or traditional Chinese painter, by the 1960s he was also a celebrated modern Impressionist and Expressionist painter.

Chang traveled the world and even gifted Picasso with a special set of brushes. "It was truly Mr. Chang's character that influenced me the most. His tenacity in believing in himself, his relentlessness of never giving up and his free spirit encouraged me to be the artist and art educator that I am today," Yao said.

Yao considers herself fortunate to have a long history of teaching Chinese calligraphy painting to many students at both the Contra Costa Chinese School, part of Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, and her home. "It's been an honor and

a privilege to teach many students, their parents and adult students in the East Bay community since 2000," she said. Many of her students compete in the Northern California Art Competition and receive awards and recognition. To learn more email Yao at joanyao1128@gmail.com.

The paintings she is showing are inspired by nature, near and far. She hopes people will enjoy viewing her vertical scroll paintings, a form of traditional Chinese artwork. There are Chinese handscroll paintings dating back to the late fourth century C.E.

To learn more about the Lamorinda Arts Council, go to www.lamorindaarts.org. This exhibit runs in the Art Gallery Nov. 1 through Nov. 30 during normal library hours at 26 Orinda Way. Hours are Mon. – Thur., 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Fri. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., closed Sun. and closed Nov. 11, Nov. 24 at 6 p.m. and Nov. 25. Call 925.254.2184 for more information about the library or visit www.ccclib.org. Email the curators with questions at galleries@lamorindaarts.org.

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

CAR TIME

MY CAR SUDDENLY SOUNDS DIFFERENT!

RAYMOND KUNZ



Is there a screeching or grinding noise when you stop your vehicle? Worse yet, a grinding noise all the time? When coming to a stop, do you feel thumping in your steering wheel or seat of your pants?

These are all indicators of failing or failed brakes that eventually will not stop your car when needed.

Have you left your vehicle outside overnight and started it in the morning to a very loud exhaust noise?

The last question came as the result of an actual customer's experience. She parked her car to go grocery shopping. When done, she loaded her car and started the engine to leave. Startled by how loud the exhaust sounded, she shut it off immediately and walked over to our facility for help.

We started the car and within seconds knew what was wrong. The catalytic converter had been stolen while she shopped.

Do you know how many people ignore noises or the old "Check Engine" or "Low Tire Pressure" lights? These checks, built

into vehicles to help keep you and your vehicle safe, should never be ignored!

I present these questions simply to make this important point: Listen to your car!

You drive it daily and if something starts to sound or feel differently, pay attention. If or when this happens, seek a local repair facility with great reviews, a long warranty, ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) technicians, convenient location and service advisors who listen to you!

It should be a place you feel comfortable patronizing because the people care about you and your car. If your current auto repair facility misses these marks, maybe you should look for one that hits those marks.

Look for a facility that makes you feel safe and secure in your decision to use it. Price alone shouldn't determine the choice because you are not buying the same thing from facility to facility.

Ray Kunz can be reached at service@orindamotors.com.



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◆ HOUSING from page 1

RHNA allocations sometime in late 2021. Planning Director, Drummond Buckley, spoke of a convergence between the city’s downtown revitalization and Housing Element plans at a Sept. 27 special city council subcommittee meeting held via Zoom. The revitalization, referred to by the City as the Downtown Precise Plan (DPP), is focused on the development regulations for private property and would stimulate housing production by increasing allowable residential densities in the downtown commercial zoning district. It allows multi-family residential developments within the downtown commercial zoning district. DPP would also update Orinda’s downtown development standards, according to the City’s website (www.cityoforinda.org) and create objective design standards for multi-family residential and mixed-use projects. “The goal is to do the environmental

review of both the Housing Element and the Precise Plan concurrently and adopt [both] at the same time,” Planning Director Buckley said during the Sept. 27 meeting. Buckley also spoke of the “interior objective standards” of the downtown plan, including a potential requirement of affordable housing units in the DPP area to be the same size as market-rate units, and possibly requiring a certain percentage of all units be two bedrooms. “These kinds of standards would potentially also apply outside of the Downtown Precise Plan area,” Buckley said. “That dovetails into [which] sites the City Council ultimately chooses to include for its Regional Housing Needs Allocation sites. That’s one of the reasons why I think it makes sense to look at that issue separately from the objective design standards, which would apply within... our core downtown areas.” City of Orinda Council Member Nick Kosla spoke of the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) possibilities within townhomes at the special meeting. ADUs, described by the California Department of Housing and Community Development as “an innovative, affordable, effective option for adding much-needed housing in California,” are secondary dwellings that share the building lot of a larger, primary home. “You can make that bottom floor an ADU,” Kosla said of three-story attached townhouses. If a townhouse is \$1 million, and the bottom floor is available to rent for \$1,500 a month, “you can do it at about 320 square feet,” Kosla noted. Then, “[you] really only need to be pay-



JEFF HEYMAN
With its striking architecture and commanding view of Orinda Village, Monteverde Senior Apartments exemplifies a development project that includes affordable housing.

ing the equivalent of a \$700,000 mortgage, because [you] can rent that [bottom unit] out for the equivalent of a \$300,000 mortgage,” Kosla added. He emphasized the resulting creation of two units in one spot and, concurrently, the creation of market rate, more affordable housing. Thinking of opportunities to have ADUs within multi-family buildings, specifically townhomes, is another way to address housing needs within Orinda, Kosla said. Orinda’s upcoming 6th Cycle Housing Element will plan for the period of 2023 to 2031. Buckley voiced his confidence in the City’s ability to accomplish its housing goals, stating “We’ll meet all our deadlines for RHNA and the Housing Element.”

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

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◆ COLLEGE from page 13

officers to gain a deeper understanding of you (ideally through your own newfound sense of self), you should feel free to do so. Remember, high school counselors will speak to the practical impact of the pandemic in their sections of the applications, and I encourage clients to ask to see a copy of this statement as early as possible. So, there is no need to simply regurgitate the “facts” of your schooling. If your imagined response feels strained, or foregrounds someone else’s story rather than your own, it is probably best to skip these questions. One bright spot in the pandemic is its acceleration of a broad shift in the world of college admissions, the move towards considering the “whole” applicant. This shift opens up increased possibilities for equity. Standardized tests, which historically tend to replicate the inequalities of our world, are now optional at many elite schools.

Also, the move towards a virtual mode of interviewing means students from remote areas or with limited resources now have a closer-to-equal chance of securing an interview. The essay component, with its previously stated freedoms, is more important than ever. Parenthetically, assisting with essays is among the most gratifying parts of my role as an admissions consultant. This is the place to foreground your intellectual curiosity and other “soft” factors imperceptible in the rest of your application. For example, you might stress with specific examples, your compassion for others, illuminating how you would contribute to the campus community even without a 4.3 GPA. Committing to a more inclusive model of admissions benefits us all. I applaud the class of 2022 and all who support them!

Emily Pérez can be reached at emily.perez@gmail.com.

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STUDENTS

Local Water Polo Boys Compete and Bring Home USA Wins from Prague

By CHARLEEN EARLEY
Editor-in-Chief

When Brock Zamanian's parents, Alison and Claude, found out the head coach of the Junior National Team asked their 18-year-old son to represent USA at the Junior World Championships in Prague in water polo, they were ecstatic.

"We were thrilled when Brock told us," said Alison Zamanian of Orinda. "We have always encouraged our boys to strive for their best and embrace the opportunities that life presents. Hard work pays off."

Brock was not alone at the championships. His friend Dashiell "Dash" McFarland, 19, also competed. McFarland lives in Berkeley and has trained in Orinda for years with swim teams and water polo clubs.

The two competed in the FINA Junior Water Polo World Championships in Prague, Aug. 28 through Sept. 5, with Zamanian (attacker) and McFarland (center) as CC (Contra Costa) United Water Polo Alumni teammates at UCSB.

Alison talked about their wins and losses. "The battles in the pool resulted in wins against Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Germany, and losses to Spain, Montenegro and Serbia. Team USA's final game on day nine was a nail-biter against Greece, winning by one goal at 12-11 to take 7th overall," she said.

Brock, who graduated from Campolindo High School in May, swam with the Orinda Aquatics from ages 10 to 15 while playing water polo, but stopped swimming his sophomore year due to schedule conflicts.

Currently a freshman at UCSB with an undeclared major and an interest in economics, Brock earned the Player of the Match award against the Czech Republic and was Team USA's second-highest goal scorer in the tournament with 11 goals.

"This was the most intense water polo I have ever played because of the level of skill and physicality that the players brought to the games," he said. "I learned a lot being in Prague, particularly on how to be physically and emotionally stable at the same time in a game, which is a skill that I will carry with me for the rest of my career."

He loves water polo because of its camaraderie and skill building.

"What I love about playing water polo is the brotherhood that it creates in a team to unite to win a game, as well as the physicality and anticipation that it demands to excel at this sport," said Brock.

Also at UCSB, studying environmental science, McFarland, as a center, drew 16 kick-outs – second place overall for Team USA – while defenders attempted to steal the ball from him.

"Winning games against the Czech Republic, Slovakia and especially Germany was a really special experience for me," he said. "Of course, any win in a sport feels great, but the fact that we were playing for our country and had the United States flag on our suits made me very proud. Getting the win against Germany definitely was the best feeling because it put us into the quarterfinals. It felt like the point in the tournament where we really started to click and play at a level we all knew we could."

Dash's parents, Sean McFarland and Lauren Smith, were able to travel with the boys.

"It was really thrilling," said Smith. "We were there for eight days, with a game every day. The international spirit of the event made every game feel very special. The quality of the competition was next level."

Competing in another country was also next level for them.

"It was really exciting to see Dash representing the USA," Smith added. "In the past, it's been a club or a high school or a college team. This felt obviously so much bigger, and kind of daunting."

While the wins were exhilarating, Dash found growth opportunities in their losses.

"The wins that we had at the tournament will certainly help me in my water polo career, but I think the most important thing was the losses," he said. "It showed me how much I still have to learn as a player and a teammate, and it made me see ways I can change and improve my game throughout the rest of my time playing water polo."

Brock's parents were not able to attend but watched the competitions from afar.

"Unfortunately, we did not go to Prague to see the games live, but we did see them all via livestream. Even with the nine-hour time difference, we could watch them as it happened, although that wasn't the same as being there," said Alison.

Representing the U.S. is something Brock will never forget.

"Being in Prague was an unreal experience," he said. "And it was an honor to travel internationally to represent my country."

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



LAUREN SMITH

Bringing home wins for the USA, (L-R) Brock Zamanian and Dashiell "Dash" McFarland competed in the FINA Junior Water Polo World Championships in Prague Aug. 28 through Sept. 5, with Zamanian (attacker) and McFarland (center) as CC United Water Polo Alumni teammates at UCSB.



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BUSINESS

FINANCIAL NEWS

WHY CALIFORNIANS MIGRATE

DAVID BORN, CFA, CFP



California's population growth stalled in 2020, primarily from an increase in Californians moving out of state. California's net domestic migration has been a net outflow for every year since 2001, and 2020 was one of the highest years on record.

Financial and economic concerns are the top explanations for this trend. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, the majority of adults who left California in the 2010, cited jobs (49%) or housing (23%) as the primary concern.

While there are employees following companies like Tesla out of state, the statistics on jobs belie the inability of many careers to comfortably support the high cost of living in California. This argument is supported by the concentration of net out migration in lower-earning households. There is net in-migration amongst those making more than five times the national poverty level (\$138,750) for a family of four.

Another explanation for the departure of lower income households lies in the relationship between homeownership rates and income. Higher earners are more likely to own homes. In turn, homeowners are more likely to stay put because they are sheltered from increasing housing costs, have low assessed values thanks to Prop 13 and have large embedded gains in their residence.

Large embedded gains make moving less attractive because of the tax consequences of selling a home. This has become an increasingly common problem for Cali-

fornians as the \$250,000 per person gain exclusion for primary residence has not been increased since 1997.

Surprisingly, it may be the avoidance of taxes that keeps some homeowners in California. But for those on the highest end of the income tax spectrum, moving out of California mostly means lower taxes.

There are several common areas for financial planning for those wanting to move out of state. Earned income is typically taxed by the state in which the worker is located when the money is earned. IRA withdrawals and Roth conversions are typically taxed by the domicile at the time of withdrawal or conversion. Most capital gains on stock are taxed based on domicile at the time of sale.

The lessons of municipal finance suggest high California income taxes are here to stay – or increase. This is not an observation of politics. Other solidly Democratic

states have much lower tax burdens than California. For instance, Washington has no income tax and Delaware has one of the lowest total tax burdens in the country.

California has a high ratio of income tax revenue to property tax revenue. Property tax revenues are stable and income tax revenues are volatile in any jurisdiction. California's income tax revenues are especially volatile because so much taxable income comes from economically sensitive stock prices via stock options and IPOs. State expenditures easily grow with revenues. When revenues fall, cutting expenses historically has been more painful than increasing taxes.

In other words, the legacy of Prop 13 ironically makes the outlook for California's total tax burden less likely to decrease.

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

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Art of Mixology

Theatre Square buzzed with activity Oct. 16 when Lamorinda Arts Council presented the 8th annual Art of Mixology. Votes were cast declaring winners: Mixologist of the Year – Antonio “Grande” Hall of Parlour; second place – Nicholas Valdez of Bounty Hunter; third place – Katie Gazay of Forge; Audience Award – Portia Battistini; Amateur Award – Shweta Srivastava; Art of Table Staging – Portia Battistini of The Coop.



JEFF HEYMAN
Tim Rita known as “Tiki Tom” turns up the heat on his flaming creation “Kawaiiani” at the 8th Annual Art of Mixology.

◆ REEL from page 12

with longing, but it's the direction from Jack Arnold, a seasoned pro with a wide and varied resume, which really elevates this movie.

The special effects are also noteworthy. Though our trained (and somewhat spoiled) eyes will clearly see the seams, when taken with the realization that absolutely *no* computers were used in the making of this film, the visuals are still impressive.

As usual, Orinda's very own horror royalty, Lord Blood-Rah, will host this film at the Orinda Theatre, Nov. 20 at 9 p.m. For more information, visit www.orindamovies.com.

So, until December, remember to always go towards those wonderful images made of sound and light – for that's where the reel magic lies.

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



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