

## Cool Cats at Lafayette Elementary Poetry Slam

Submitted by Rosylyn Stenzel



Photo Margaret Megumi Wolfe

Mrs. Corcoran's fourth-grade Lafayette Elementary class recently hosted a Beatnik Poetry Slam Coffeehouse. Cool cats and chicks alike

sipped on "coffee" (hot chocolate) and read their own Haikus complete with Bongo drumming in the background.

## Best Wishes to St. Perpetua School's 2012 Graduating Class!

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Photo Karen Goodshaw

Thirty one eighth-grade students graduated on Saturday, June 2 from St. Perpetua School's K-8 program after celebrating one last Mass together. Many of the students had

been classmates since kindergarten. Prior to graduation, the eighth-grade students shared an off-campus retreat and memories night, reflecting on their past nine years together at St. P's.

Graduates will go on to attend top-notch area high schools including Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte, Carondelet, De La Salle, Alhambra, College Park, and Monte Vista.

## TEEN SCENE

### The Orinda Library

Submitted by Rose Tuttle

I love Orinda. I have lived in Orinda since I was born. My family and I know a lot of people here and since Orinda is so small people care about each other. When we go out to dinner, we always run into people we know. Even though Orinda is a close-knit town, not everyone agrees on every issue. The Orinda Library has been a big part of my life. When I was little, the librarian had story time where she'd read books to children. There's a cozy kids' corner with huge stuffed animals and many pillows scattered on the floor. We used to go at least once a week. But it's not just a library. It's a community center where people gather.

On the left side of the library, there's a small art gallery where most of the year, pieces from local artists are displayed. One month each year, they put up children's artwork that they made in art class in the Orinda schools. When I was in fifth grade, one of my drawings was chosen for the exhibit. I loved being able to show off my work and felt honored that my effort was recognized. There are also small productions of Broadway plays that are put on by kids in the library's small theater.

There was a controversy about building the new library. There were multiple views in town. One side felt that the old library was too small and needed more space for books and for people to use computers. Another side felt money could be better used elsewhere and that we already had a library. Some felt that the libraries wouldn't be used much longer because of the Internet.

Another controversy was how to fund the daily operations of the new library. Many libraries have been underfunded because cities couldn't afford them. Why have a big beautiful library if we were going to have to shut it down?

This is where the library parcel tax came in. There was an argument over paying a parcel tax, which would

collect \$12 per year from each homeowner in Orinda to keep the library open seven days a week. Some people felt that \$12 a year was too much to pay to keep the library open every day. Others felt that it was unfair to burden Orinda homeowners who might not use the library with the fee. And some felt that since the library attracted people from outside the community, we shouldn't have to pay for their use.

But I think that \$12 a year is not too much to pay to keep the library open all week -- \$12 a year is only one dollar a month. It's less than it costs to go out to lunch! We get so much value out of the library. It's an important building in our community. When people have nothing to do, they can get into trouble. Our large library with "over 30,000 children's materials and an overall collection of over 70,000 books, recorded books, music and DVDs along with 29 public computers, Wi-Fi, comfy chairs, pillows, reading nooks and a tutoring room," according to the Library's website, is a gathering place to read and learn. It's comfortable and welcoming.

Thankfully, Orinda voted to pass the library parcel tax. After months of debate, the Orinda City Council decided to go through with the building of the new library and it was opened in October of 2001 when I was almost three.

I hope people years from now will still be visiting our library.

Rose Tuttle is a 13-year-old student at Julia Morgan School for Girls.

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The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

## Rock of Ages Hit Me With Your Best Shot?

By Derek Zembrak



Photo Warner Bros

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**R**ock of Ages, based on the Broadway play, tells the story of two young adults, small town girl Sherrie played by Julianne Hough (*Burlesque*, *Footloose*) and city boy Drew portrayed by Diego Boneta (*90210*) who move to Hollywood to pursue their dreams of stardom. Unlike most musicals, their tale is told through the rock 'n' roll '80s "hair" bands such as Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, Foreigner, Night Ranger, Poison, Twisted Sister, Journey, Whitesnake and so many more. If you grew up in the '80s you know these groups and their hit records. Not being a fan of musicals I really wanted to enjoy this film for nostalgic reasons.

*Rock of Ages* assembled an amazing cast that is like a fine-tuned guitar. It includes Tom Cruise, Alec Baldwin, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Russell Brand, and the talented Paul Giamatti. Just because a movie has a lot of talent attached doesn't mean the film will translate on to the big screen, and *Rock of Ages* is a little off tune. Yes, there are some enjoyable scenes like Catherine Zeta-Jones's rendition of Pat Benatar's "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" and Tom Cruise belting out Bon Jovi's hit "Wanted." However, the movie just does not come together like a good rock band. Alec Baldwin as the club owner of the Bourbon Room located on Sunset Strip and Russell Brand as his sidekick are very funny in the film and they help break up some of the awkward moments. *Rock of Ages* is directed by Alan Shankman, who also directed the 2007 remake of *Hairspray*, which also fell short of expectations.

If you are a fan of '80s rock music and can remove yourself from reality for two hours you will enjoy *Rock of Ages*. If you are thinking a quality musical like *Grease* or *West Side Story* you are expecting too much. Just sit back and enjoy the ride!

Derek Zembrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zembrak for the latest Hollywood news.

## Past Idol Performer No Idle Singer

By Cathy Dausman



Kate Marvin (right), stands with Orinda Intermediate School teacher Bobby Glasser after singing the national anthem at the Oakland A's game June 6.

Photo provided

**A**singing book report at school gave Kate Marvin the opportunity to perform the national anthem before a recent Oakland A's game. Kate, then an Orinda Intermediate School sixth-grader, completed the assignment in front of her classmates and their teacher Bobby Glasser. Glasser knew Kate sang; she has entered Orinda Idol competitions since 2008. As a former A's employee, Glasser knew how to proceed. The tough part, he says, was convincing his student to audition as a singer. "I tried to get her to sing," he says, "and she never would... and never would..." As a teacher, he encouraged her: "Put

yourself out there." Then one day, she presented him with an audition CD, and they sent it off. Now it also happens that for the past 10 years, Glasser has taken his students to see an A's game near the end of the school year. And so on June 6, Kate Marvin spent a minute and a half on the baseball field singing The Star Spangled Banner in front of a crowd of over 15,000, including family, friends and classmates. She recalls, "It was really nerve wracking" before, but felt she "did okay" when it was done. The Oakland A's played the Texas Rangers that day, and they did okay as well, beating the Rangers 2-0.