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Orinda Arts Council a beloved Muse for creative minds of all ages



OIS production of The Wiz.

been behind-the-scenes "constant (1973) and its amphitheater (1983), gardeners," seeding California's the Orinda Library (2001), its art artistic landscape by funding the gallery, and the auditorium where lobasics – providing art supplies cals engage with their elected officials and activities for kids in local at Orinda City Council meetings schools and fundraising for pro-twice each month. But, despite the ingrams deemed vital to the wellbe- tegral role played by the OAC since ing of San Francisco Bay Area its founding in 1950, one of the greatresidents. In Orinda, their contribu- est challenges faced by the group's

rinda Arts Council volun- ing to make possible openings of the teers have, historically, new Orinda Community Center tions are perhaps best known for help- leaders has, and continues to be, the

Photo Ohlen Alexander

organization's overall visibility, according to Susan Garell.

Garell would know. She has been volunteering since 2005 when she was first approached by OAC board member Petra Michel to help launch Orinda Idol, a performance program for youth in kindergarten through 12th grade which has become so popular that it was renamed Lamorinda Idol, and now offers "a multi-month collection of auditions," workshops and community performances in addition to its well-attended final competition.

Garell, who went on to assume vice president roles in communications and membership before taking the helm as OAC's president, is widely recognized by her fellow board members, city leaders, and the parents of children in Lamorinda for her good works, but is modest in assessing her Muse-like influence, preferring to praise those who came before her and those presently engaged in bringing the arts to life:

... continued on page A11





3/3.2. Lovely one story contemporary with great views. Lrg rear patio, great

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close to town. More pics/info at

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ORINDA

\$2,100,000

area! Great floor plan w/ hardwood floors. Walk to Bart and village.



\$995,000



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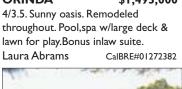
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views, close to town. More pics/info at OrindaOaks.com. CalBRE#01390784 The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426 Elena Hood



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bonus room upstairs.

