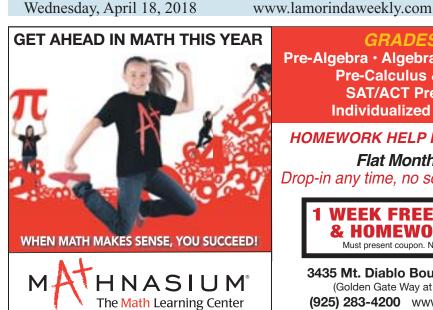
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## First poet laureate wants Lafayette and Orinda to resonate with this art form

By Sophie Braccini



Amy Glynn

of Amy Glynn as the first Lafay-

to the artistic vibrancy of the

fund and manage this program.

Photo provided The Lamorinda Arts Council far as she can remember. The poet laureate committee re- young mother of two daughters cently announced the selection always knew that writing would be what she would do. After ette/Orinda poet laureate. Glynn, studying at Mount Holyoke Colwho is a Lafayette resident and lege, Emily Dickenson's alma published poet, is full of ideas matter, she went to Lancaster to make poetry an accessible and University in England for her popular discipline in Lafayette master's degree in creative writand Orinda, and thus contribute ing. She has worked in all kinds of different jobs, from paralegal area. The cities of Lafayette and to teaching English as a Second Orinda have entrusted LAC to Language, while always finding time to advance her writing.

Glynn sees poetry as one of Measure Press Inc. published the art forms that can give sense her first book of poetry four years to the chaotic world where we ago, "A Modern Herbal," and live. "Whether it is in a formal will publish her second collecway or not, poets write poetry tion when it is completed. Glynn for the same reason scientists has been a James Merrill House ter classes in schools, in addition conduct experiments, to test hy- Fellow, a Bread Loaf Orion Enshe ventures. "You vironmental Writers' Conference is usually expected to perform to think that an idea might be true, Scholar, and a Mona van Duyn celebrate local events. She feels and writing a poem about it is a Scholar at the Sewanee Writ- ready to serve the diverse comway to figure out if it is." Read- ers' Conference. She and Robert munities' needs. ing or writing poetry is her way Pinsky co-curated the "Favorof observing and explaining the ite Poem Project" reading at the Orinda are also engaged in proworld. She believes that this art Robert Frost Library at Amherst moting poetry with the program form is accessible to all, and that College in 2015 and the Headthe poet laureate program is go- Royce School in Oakland in ing to be a way to develop it in 2017.

She is a staff journalist for Lafayette and Orinda. Words, written or told, in the Paste Magazine and is freelancform of stories or poems, have ing as a wine writer. been a part of Glynn's world as LAC president Lawrence

Kohl explains that a committee independent from the LAC board selected the poet laureate. He explains that it included several former poet laureates from other cities such as Connie Post, former Livermore poet laureate. LAC received six applications and Glynn was selected after several rounds of interviews. LAC has secured the funding for the poet laureate, a \$3,000 annual stipend.

LAC has formed a poet laureate committee that will manage the program, with Glynn at its center, but Kohl believes that there is more to do than one person can handle. He would like members of the community, including the schools, to join the committee. He notes that this program is somewhat unusual since Glynn is expected to support poetry activities in two cities rather than just one, as it is usually done in larger communities.

Glynn is already full of creative ideas. Besides writing poems, giving classes or organizing events, she has participated in the creation of ekphrastic poetry - often a vivid description of a piece of art – with her friend, painter, and gallery owner Jennifer Perlmutter, and now she imagines more. She thinks of multidisciplinary events, of poetry readings in different places, of open mics for new poets, of masto the official duty a poet laureate

The libraries in Lafayette and and the first events with Glynn will happen at the two libraries at noon on April 26 in Orinda and at 7 p.m. April 30 in Lafayette, including poetry readings and light refreshments.

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#### **BILLING BLUES** by Resident Don Maynard

My bill arrived by mail on time, It didn't show the right amount. We don't agree, I told my wife,

I'll phone them now and get it right. I dialed the store, I heard two rings, Recorded voice came on the line. Thanks for shopping at our store ---and

We are pleased to serve you. If you know your invoice number, Please Press 8, the voice went on. Otherwise Press 5 again If your bill is not correct. Unless this call is to complain Then Press 3 to follow 6, For Visa bills or Master Charge

---and We are pleased to serve you. Enough, enough, I cried aloud, Confused by all I heard. I closed my eyes, I took a chance And pressed at random number 4. Please hold the line, was all I heard, I did for twenty minutes. But just before the call cut off I thought I heard a faint voice say

Except for checks, Press 2

---and We are pleased to serve you. I dialed once more right from the start, Again I heard the message, You must first make a valid Press, I'll take a chance with 2. With toll call charges mounting It's hard to concentrate. Despite my frantic futile search They said, You are in Lingerie

---and We are pleased to serve you. They then connected my next call Right to the billing office. A real live human voice came on. I told them of the error. You should have called this morning The accounting clerk was here. She left at noon for parts unknown On her two week vacation ---and

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## OIS spring production opens April 26



The Jukebox cast and crew of "All Shook Up Young@Part Edition" during one of the rehearsals.

Bulldog Theater will present the musical, "All Shook Up Young@Part" April 26-28 at OIS.

"All Shook Up" tells the story of an unexpected small town romance through classic rock 'n' roll music. Tomboy Natalie, who all. runs the local mechanics shop, dreams of life beyond her dull little hometown. The whole town

rinda Intermediate School's is shaken up when a cool, motor- 15 OIS students serving on tech cycling, leather-jacket wearing Chad drives in and changes everything and everyone he meets in this musical fantasy. And to her own surprise, Natalie finds herself falling for Chad most of

There are two casts, comprised of approximately 80 OIS students along with an additional

Performances will run April 26-28 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, with one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.showtix4u. com. Tickets are also available at the OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.