



ORINDA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

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Orinda Chamber of Commerce to become 'virtual'

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce board of directors announced Oct. 1 that the chamber will transition over a few months to a more virtual organization structure and will rely upon volunteers rather than paid staff. The changes came about as a result of the chamber's annual review and planning process.

The chamber will no longer be employing an executive director, the position currently filled by Cindy Powell, and will cease to lease office space in the Orinda Library building. According to a chamber press release, the vast majority of interactions with members, the business community, partners, and

local government are accomplished through internet-based services and electronic means. This will continue unchanged, and the chamber will continue to monitor inboxes for voicemail, email and social media.

Chamber functions such as newsletters, event announcements, website, advocacy communications and social media will continue to be powered by low-cost or no-cost digital services such as MailChimp, EventBrite, GMAIL, and WIX and carried out by volunteers. Occasional needs for specific technical assistance such as service problem resolution and graphic design will be handled through help

desks or on-demand task services available from numerous digital providers.

Board members and volunteers will provide in-person representation to the chamber's community partners, such as the city of Orinda, Chambers of Lamorinda, Lamorinda Presents, East Bay Leadership Council, elected representative forums, and nonprofit partners.

In making the announcement of the changes, the chamber board thanked all of the chamber's members, volunteers and past executive directors for their service.

-- S. O'Doherty

Orinda will watch the kids so you can go out!

By Sora O'Doherty

Once a month during the school year, Orinda Parks and Recreation hosts a Kids' Night Out where children ages 4-11 can play games, make arts and crafts, watch a movie, and have dinner treats with friends. The meal is prepared by trained Summer Camp staff. For parents, it's a very affordable childcare option if you need a date night, or just

some time off on your Friday night. Kids Night Out is \$30 for one child for three and a half hours of supervision from 6 to 9:30 p.m. There is also a sibling discount of \$15.

The next Kids' Night Out will be held at the new Art and Garden Center at Wilder Park on Friday, Oct. 18. This Kids' Night Out will be a Halloween celebration and will include trick-or-treating, crafts, and the movie, "Coco."

Kids are invited to dress up in their favorite costumes for a spooky and fun night with friends. The Art and Garden Center is located near the top of Wilder Park between Fields 4 and 5 (20 Orinda Fields Lane).

For any questions, please contact Daniel Buckingham at dbuckingham@cityoforinda.org.

There is limited availability, so parents are encouraged to sign up early. To register use this link:

<https://secure.recl.com/CA/orinda-ca/catalog>, click on "Youth/Teen Classes" near the top of the white box, then click on "Kids Night Out"

Orinda Library Gallery exhibitions and new gallery hours at Wilder Art and Garden Center



"Ghost Boats" 48"x 37" by Sydney Chaney-Thomas Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

The October exhibition in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library features artwork from five members of Three-Eight Art Studio: Doris and Wang Hai Chen, Celia Huddleston, Beichen Li, and Lucia Tsang during the month of October.

Doris and Wang Hai Chen are displaying paintings and Chinese ink drawings on rice paper. Doris' "Dahlia Flowers In a Vase" will appeal to gardeners everywhere and Wang Hai's "Yaya's First Astonishing" pulls the viewer into the world of a very young girl discovering something wonderful.

Celia Huddleston works as a Chinese brush painting teacher and is showing her watercolors and Chinese ink drawings on rice paper. Her "Dominica Republic" portrays a North American wilderness

scene seen through a traditional Chinese aesthetic.

Beichen Li is a prolific acrylic painter. Her portfolio includes a variety of series: musical instruments, abstract works, portraits, architectural and travel works. She often uses photographs from her travels as a source for her paintings and likes using vibrant colors. Check out her work at www.beichenlifineart.com.

Lucia Tsang creates both utilitarian and artistic ceramics. She states, "Art has nourished me at every stage of my life. I am inspired to make sculpture moments in life that move me including the birth of my grandchildren, the death of my father, and the internal life of trees." Tsang has "translated whimsy into art."

The Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda

Way, is open during normal library hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Featured artists will also display work at the Wilder Art and Garden Center. When the Art and Garden Center at Wilder opened, the new gallery space there was only open to the public for the opening art reception each month, by appointment or when other events happened to be going on at the center. However, beginning Nov. 5, the gallery will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8:15 p.m.

For the remainder of October, the gallery at Wilder will be available by appointment only or during scheduled events. Currently on view there is featured artist Sydney Chaney-Thomas' exhibit, "Natural Beauty."

Chaney's work has been described as "a lyrical representation of natural phenomena swirling about the land and sea, reflecting her background growing up on a horse ranch surrounded by fields of wheat, orchards, and rolling hills." The natural world is where Chaney is most comfortable and, according to the Lamorinda Arts Council, the style brings forth a sense of carefree serenity whether amidst the pine trees in Tahoe, or on a sailboat in the San Francisco Bay. Chaney's work is both Impressionistic and abstract, filled with emotion and color, allowing the "Natural Beauty" to rise to surface.

Appointments to visit the gallery at the Art and Garden Center can be made at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org.

Orinda library welcomes new interim manager



Michael Beller

Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Michael Beller, the new interim Orinda library manager, was warmly welcomed at the Mayor's Liaison Meeting on Oct. 8. Beller, who was resplendent in a colorful striped shirt and bow tie, was all smiles as he greeted the assembled representatives of Orinda's community groups. He announced that he loves cooperation, collaboration and programming, and is eager to work with the local community. He feels quite connected, he said, as his wife is a graduate of Glorietta Elementary School and Miramonte High School and his in-laws are Orinda residents.

Beller comes to Orinda from Walnut Creek's Ygnacio

Valley Library, where he held the top job for two years. Prior to that, he spent nearly 15 years at Mills College, where he directed library services with such superlative excellence and joy that colleagues nominated him for a New York Times "I Love My Librarian" Award, which he won. According to the Friends of Orinda Library, Beller brings vision and creative programming ideas to Orinda. Beller stepped in to fill the post vacated by Sierra Campagna, who left this summer for a job in Alameda, closer to her home. For the moment, Beller's new gig is an interim posting, but his plan is to stay, and the Friends of the Library say, "Consider our fingers crossed!"