

Letters to the Editor



Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: **Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570**

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce I want to thank EBMUD for the terrific job they are doing regarding the replacement of water pipes on Moraga Road and the subsequent Moraga Road closure. Although there is inconvenience for Moraga residents due to the EBMUD project, traveling in and out of town is manageable. A big reason for this is the educational effort EBMUD put forth prior to beginning the project. Once the project started, the employment of flagmen on St. Mary's Road has helped tremendously with traffic flow. The Moraga Chamber also wants to thank the City of Orinda for their willingness to change their plans regarding their Moraga Way road improvement project. At first Orinda was going to close Moraga Way to one way traffic during the day at the same time that Moraga Road was to be closed all together. To have had both Moraga Way and Moraga Road closed during the day this summer would have made traveling in and out of Moraga very difficult. That Orinda changed their schedule and had their roadwork done from 9:00 PM to 6:30 AM has helped a great deal. Thank you, Orinda, for being such a good neighbor, and thanks EBMUD for managing a difficult project so well.

Edy Schwartz
President, Moraga Chamber of Commerce

Dear Editor,

I was bemused to learn, from the June 25th Lamorinda Weekly, what constitutes a non-patriot, according to Janet C. Bellotti-Kelley of Moraga: failure to display the American Flag on holidays. I served in the Army in two wars (enlisted man in WWII, medical officer in the Korean War), a significant portion in danger. In answer to that writer's question: "What do you do for July 4?" for the last 20+ years I have happily marched and played the French horn in the Orinda Volunteer Pick-up Band, proudly

wearing the ribbons representing the several medals awarded in those wars. I must confess: I do not display the flag on holidays; indeed (horrors!) I don't own a flag! I guess I am a non-patriot.

Burton Brody, MD
Orinda
P.S. I seem to be in good company. Certain arbiters have decided that Barack Obama is a non-patriot, since he doesn't always wear his flag-pin (Super-Patriots Bush and Cheney, staunch defenders of the Constitution, Pillars of Truth and Honesty, probably wear theirs on their pajamas.)

To the Editor:

I have been told by the Orinda City Manager that all potholes in Orinda streets will be repaired if these potholes are called to their attention. If you have potholes in your street you should e-mail the Orinda City Manager, Janet Keeter, at: jkeeter@ci.orinda.ca.us informing her that pothole(s) exist on your street and specifying the name of your street and the house address in front of which the pothole occurs. If the pothole has not been filled within two weeks you should e-mail Keeter asking when it will be fixed. If you get no action after that, let me know at clydevau@aol.com and I will add my push to the project. In the latest City of Orinda quarterly, The Orinda Way, it stated that only severe safety hazards in residential streets would be repaired. If your neighborhood has an appreciable safety hazard in its streets, you can get this fixed by 20 or more – preferably more – residents showing up at an Orinda City Council meeting (the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at 7 p.m. in the library auditorium) and ALL speaking in the public forum at the beginning of the meeting. Show that you are "mad as hell and aren't going to take it any more." Over the years I have repeatedly seen how highly effective this approach is. If you want action, this is the way you get it. Someone else is not going to do it for you.

Clyde Vaughn
Orinda

Moraga Loses a Friend

Submitted by Valerie Burgess



Barry Ashton Miller Photo provided

recently passed away suddenly from a heart attack, then veteran comic George Carlin succumbed to heart failure soon afterward, we held our breath for the third, like waiting for the other shoe to drop. It dropped as news spread of the death of Moraga's own Barry Ashton Miller, who had a massive heart attack on June 22.

Barry always referred to himself as "a trucker from Philly", but if you scratched the surface you would find a generous and open-minded supporter of the arts, community development, and his local church. He and his wife of 28 years, Mary

Leigh, subscribed to theater, ballet, opera and symphony in San Francisco as well as Walnut Creek, and together served on the board of Friends of Civic Arts Education Foundation, which strives to bring the arts into schools and provide scholarships for economically disadvantaged children. Locally, Barry was a founding member of Moraga Citizens Network and the initiatory chair of the Moraga Economic Development Advisory Council. He also was involved with the youth groups at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Additionally, he had served for several years on the board of Goodwill Industries of the East Bay.

Barry was an active member of the Moraga Country Club Senior Men's Golf Group and SIRS golf groups, as well as the Orinda Hiking Group where he and Mary Leigh both led and participated in hiking trips all over the world. He helped form the SIRS wine interest group and had recently planted 300 vines

on his Rheem Boulevard property. His many friends knew him as a gourmet cook and connoisseur of fine wines who was always a welcome addition to any gathering.

The Millers moved with their three sons to Moraga when American President Lines transferred him to the Bay Area. He retired as a senior executive from the shipping industry in 1995 after returning from a five-year assignment in Hong Kong.

Friends are invited to a memorial service at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2008, at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga, CA. A reception will follow at the Moraga Country Club, 1600 Saint Andrews Drive. For those wishing to send a remembrance, the family would welcome a memorial donation to the charity of your choice or to The Barry Miller Music Scholarship Fund, Friends of Civic Arts Education Foundation, P.O. Box 8039, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8039

The Orinda Library Fireside Chat Series Welcomes Actors Reading Writers

By Moya Stone

Lamorinda residents are in for a treat come July 22nd at 7 PM when the Orinda Library hosts Actors Reading Writers and their dramatic reading of Somerset Maugham's short story, The Fat Women of Antibes. Written in 1933, this comic tale centers on three widowed and wealthy women visiting a spa on the French Riviera to lose weight. When a fourth woman joins the group to play bridge, conflict and tension ensues over diet, money, and friendship.

Actors Reading Writers is a Berkeley based group of actors who adapt short stories to perform at the Berkeley City Club the first Monday of every month. Founded in 2005 by local thespians Thomas Lynch and Rica Anderson, the group has performed short stories by Dorothy Parker, John Updike, Flannery O'Connor, Truman Capote, and Anton Chekhov, to name just a few.

The Monday readings are free and include two or three stories that fit pervasive themes, such as Unwise Decisions and The Intimacy of Strangers. "We do this because we're trying to share our love of short stories," says Lynch. Word among the Berkeley literati has quickly spread providing ARW with full houses. "We had to quit advertising," says Lynch, who chooses and directs the stories along with Rica Anderson. "We have devoted fans that come every month."

Lynch and Anderson rely on a stable of about eight local actors, most of who belong to the professional actors union, Actors Equity. Berkeley actress Carolyn Cox, who will be reading the character, Lena, in The Fat Women, says she enjoys this kind of performing because it allows actors to concentrate on one aspect of acting, rather than having to

juggle lines, props, and stage movement. "Readings are like acting made easy," says Cox. "Without memorization and blocking, it frees us up to put more weight on the language." Cox says ARW attracts audiences who listen very carefully to the text. "People do less of that kind of listening today," says Cox. "It's kind of like radio drama from the old days."

Orinda Library Adult/Teen Services Librarian Ian Richards is pleased to be able to offer this event to the Lamorinda community. "This is a unique opportunity," says Richards. ARW rarely perform outside the Berkeley City Club, but one of the Orinda library staff members is connected to the group and helped arrange for the reading. "We're hoping that this event will attract our regular patrons as well as community members who haven't yet experienced our Fireside Chat series," says Richards.

A regular monthly series, Fireside Chat highlights various local people of interest from actors, to authors, to business professionals. Always held on a Tuesday, Fireside Chat attracts audiences from all around the Lamorinda area. Recent presenters included docents from Berkeley Repertory Theater discussing upcoming shows and lawyer J. Gary Gwilliam who spoke about his memoir and the ethics of law.

Directed by Thomas Lynch and Rica Anderson, The Fat Women of Antibes features Carolyn Cox, Betty Grandis, Sandra Schlecter, and Allison Studdiford. The reading is free and starts at 7pm, on July 22, around the fireplace in the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way. For more information call the Orinda Library at 254-2184.

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, 254-3422

Summer Worship Schedule
 8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
 9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
 9:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA)
 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
 283-3722 www.oslc.net

SUMMER SCHEDULE
 One service in "blended" style
 9:30-10:30 am each Sunday

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
 A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
Active Youth Program, Childcare

682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

St. Giles Episcopal Church of Moraga

Worshipping at St. Mary's College Chapel. All are welcome at our services.
9 a.m. Sunday Service: Holy Communion - with St. Giles' Choir.
 Child care is available all year.
 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. 925-376-5770

Temple Isaiah welcomes you to worship with us on Shabbat.

Isaiah For specific questions, call the Temple office at 925-283-8575 or visit our website: temple-isaiah.org

1st and 4th Friday evening - 6:30 PM
 2nd and 3rd Friday evening - 8:00 PM
 Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM

If you would like your services listed, please email to info@lamorindaweekly.com or call 925-377-0977.
 A one inch listing will cost \$20.

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