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**Letters to the Editor**  
... continued from page A11

Editor:  
I ask the voters in Moraga/Orinda Fire District 4 to support John Wyro for re-election. During my time as an Orinda City Council Member, including as Mayor and now currently as Vice Mayor, I have had the pleasure of working collaboratively with John to address public safety issues. John and I worked alongside each other on two campaigns to find additional revenue to fix Orinda's roads, drains, and water pipes. John has been a strong advocate for keeping local control of fire and emergency service in our local community, when others have sought to dissolve the district, meaning that we would revert to having emergency services and fire provided by the County, without local ambulance or paramedic service in Orinda. In a time when our local revenues are under attack by the state, and when property tax revenues are either static or declining, it is very important that we retain a board member who is fiscally prudent and extremely experienced, so that effective and timely fire, paramedic and ambulance service are provided locally to our community. Please vote for John Wyro for the Moraga/Orinda Fire District Board on November 2.  
Victoria Smith  
Orinda

Editor:  
Tyson Krumholz, my stepson, is running for Orinda School Board. He is extremely bright, has his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Cal and is a licensed Professional Engineer. In his position as Senior Project Manager with Webcor Builders in San Francisco, he manages project budgets in the multi millions and has experience working with many governmental agencies with their inherent bureaucratic constraints. Tyson has successfully achieved positive outcomes for numerous Bay Area construction projects. Tyson has two young children in the Orinda Schools. His wife taught for several years in the Orinda School system. Tyson's mother, my wife, taught math and science for 30-years, the last 12 years she taught math and science at Orinda Intermediate School. Tyson has been involved with the Orinda Schools since his first child was enrolled in school at Wagner Ranch Elementary. He has attended School Board meetings for the past 3 years, done volunteer work at Wagner Ranch, and believes great education is essential for a vibrant and productive society. I am a very proud step father and I urge all to vote for Tyson Krumholz for the Orinda School Board.  
William E. Wilbur, DDS  
Orinda

Editor:  
Be Truly Informed Before Voting on November 2. We have just finished reading the Lamorinda Weekly's Letters to the Editors (dated October 13) and are concerned with the negative tone of some of the submissions regarding the OUSD Board candidates. Voters are best served by hearing what the candidates stand for, their thoughtful opinions regarding the issues, and their ability to ultimately make decisions as to which candidates will best serve our CHILDREN, not the adults. A member of our family attended the Candidate Forum on October 7th, and we just reviewed key points that were posted online by the League of Women Voters. We have

also read the Lamorinda Weekly's impartial review of the Candidate Forum (dated October 13, which stated that only 70 people attended) and it is clear that some candidates had 'done their homework', and others had not. It was obvious that some candidates clearly understood the complexity of the issues and cited concrete examples and solutions, had consistently attended OUSD Board meetings to observe the Board process, and had made intelligent, reality-based assessments in order to prepare thoughtful recommendations. Several candidates merely repeated or paraphrased questions, and agreed or disagreed with positions without presenting new perspectives or personal interpretation, which showed a lack of preparation and commitment to a critical position that simply cannot be given away. What the OUSD Board desperately needs is diversity of thought and opinion, and a willingness on the part of its members to challenge themselves, our administrators, teachers, parents and children to excel - to reach beyond even the Orinda standards - in innovative and new ways that give our kids the tools to be successful and valuable citizens. Extraordinary times require extraordinary leadership, and for the first time in many years we have a competitive race that allows for the issues and our children's futures to be openly and honestly discussed. We feel that OUSD board candidates Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz are both uniquely qualified to provide skillful leadership to navigate through these challenging times and position our schools for the future. Their presence on the Board will benefit all students, all schools and all perspectives.  
Charles and Doaa Vollmar  
Orinda

Dear Orinda Community,  
I would like to encourage you to consider voting for Bekki Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz for Orinda School Board. I believe that both will bring a positive, new perspective to the board. I was dismayed when I attended recent school board meetings and found that there was little transparency re: decisions and minimal communication with constituents. I had the impression, particularly re: the issue of whether to maintain the naturalist at the nature area or to fund the school librarians, that the decision had already been made prior to hearing from the public. I realize that no school board can please everyone, but I do feel that is important to listen and to have an open mind when addressing the important issues that our schools face. Finally, I believe that both Bekki Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz will work hard to have good communication and will be thoughtful, independent voices on the Orinda School Board.  
Wendi Leonard, Ph.D.  
Orinda

Editor:  
I attended the October 7th Orinda School Board forum where five candidates fielded questions from the audience and discussed why they decided to run for the Board. Two candidates in particular stood out - Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz. Both were realistic, fair, spoke honestly and respectfully about issues regarding the OUSD Board and backed their claims with research and community survey data. Bekki and Tyson (the only two candidates NOT endorsed by the current OUSD Board) appeared to be the only ones willing to take a stand on tough issues. A few days after the debate, I received a community-

wide email, complaining that the "non-Board-approved" candidates were confrontational and negative during the debate - a criticism intending to discredit these two candidates who offered innovative solutions to legitimate problems. I encourage the community to watch the forum posted on YouTube (search under Orinda School Board) and decide which of the candidates will best support our schools.  
A word of caution about the current OUSD Board and their goal of gaining new Board members they can influence. I discovered that over the past 12 months, all five current OUSD board members voted exactly the same way 129 out of 131 times. I question any board that collectively votes alike 99% of the time. Will voting for the three OUSD-approved members - Julie Rossiter, Sarah Butler and Chris Severson - provide our community with a Board capable of identifying and addressing difficult challenges in a balanced way? You decide. You can view OUSD's voting record and meeting minutes on the OUSD web site at www.orindaschools.org (under District Info., Board of Trustees, Board Minutes).  
I'm voting for Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert and Tyson Krumholz because they are not afraid to stand up for what's right, they speak up when improvements are needed and advocate for our children's best interests.  
Lisa Copass  
Orinda

Editor:  
The disturbing opinion offered by Jim Landau in your last edition presents such a bitter characterization of School Board candidate Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert that I was prompted to view the video of the OUSD Candidates Forum firsthand.  
The YouTube video clearly contradicts Mr. Landau's misrepresentation of Bekki's intentions and behavior. Bekki stood out as a leader among the candidates attending this forum. During this event, she presented her thoughtful views in the context of her personal experience as a parent volunteer, her research on practical improvements to tighten OUSD's operational efficiencies and her execution of parent and community surveys. Bekki was informed, intelligent and forthright in her responses and, judging from her comments, I believe she was the most prepared and qualified candidate. In several instances, she touched upon key areas where OUSD might consider improvements. That's the kind of leadership I expect from our school board members!  
Mr. Landau will have you believe that Bekki arrived at the Candidate's Forum with an agenda, however, in reviewing details of this event, I'd say Mr. Landau is the real culprit sowing distrust, disunity and wasting time with his distasteful attempt at smearing an exceptional candidate who is highly qualified, well informed on current issues facing our schools and proactively advocating for the best interests of our children and their education. There's no basis for Landau's destructive comments. Remarkably, our current board members voted together on 129 out of 131 issues in 2010, including approval of administrative bonuses in the face of severe budget cuts and new parcel taxes. Considering these actions, it's hard to imagine how anyone would pay attention to the rubber stamp candidate endorsements offered by this group. We need new, responsible leadership possessing the courage and tenacity to challenge the status quo and act progressively in addressing the complex, difficult issues our schools face every year.

I've lived in Orinda for 45 years. My siblings and I all attended the Orinda schools as did my children. I understand from direct experience that our schools are far from perfect and stand to enjoy significant benefit from the leadership Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert will provide when elected. Please support Bekki's candidacy for OUSD School Board with your vote.  
John Gripp  
Orinda

Editor:  
Will our children get a 21st Century education to launch them towards maintaining the Orinda lifestyle? Towards their future happiness and success? I'm deeply invested in the answers as a science teacher at Orinda Intermediate School, and as a parent of a Miramonte senior. The OUSD school board sets policy, hires the superintendent and everything rains down from there to our class rooms. The board has tremendous potential to move Orinda's good schools towards great schools that could be leaders in the state, not just in test scores, but in student motivation and cutting edge use of technology in motivating student projects.  
We need some changes, at least in pace. The rather contentious board race is great - it gets us all thinking about what we want for our children's education. I'm all for debate but I'm dismayed to see the personal attacks against two candidates.  
Bekki VanVoorhis-Gilbert has made tremendous efforts to reach out to teachers and teachers. She's attended every board meeting. I find her deeply principled, compassionate and committed to the greater good of our community and our children. She listens well, she's smart and well-informed. Bekki has my endorsement!  
Sue Boudreau  
(Orinda teacher)  
El Sobrante

Editor:  
There is a reason that Julie Rossiter has been endorsed by all five members of the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. She is imminently qualified and will represent the diverse interests of all Orinda residents. Julie's three children span the age spectrum from pre-kindergarten to middle school so she has a vested interest ensuring all levels of Orinda schools are of the highest quality. She has the tenacity, determination and professional skills to tackle the complex funding and policy issues the district will confront over the next few years. Please join me in voting for Julie Rossiter on November 2nd.  
Sincerely,  
Valerie Lewis  
Orinda

Editor:  
We are writing in support of Sarah Butler for the Orinda Union School District Governing Board. We have known Sarah as an involved parent at both Glorietta and OIS. She is informed, involved and has the students' interests in mind. Sarah has a working knowledge of the broad range of issues that our schools face and how they affect the classroom. Her passion and sustained dedication to our students makes her uniquely qualified to be an excellent addition to the OUSD school board. Please join us in voting for Sarah Butler on Nov. 2nd.  
Thank you.  
Mark and Marcie Tuttle  
Orinda

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Kindly, Pamela

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