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Letters to the Editor

Anti-BDS legislation

Kudos to Cindy Swanson.

An article in the Oct 4th issue of the Lamorinda Weekly reports on an Orinda Town Hall meeting in which Cindy Swanson spoke out against the anti-BDS legislation supported by Rep. Catharine Baker.

In endorsing anti-BDS legislation, Catharine Baker has bowed to a foreign country's attempt to squelch our first amendment rights. This is as shameful as giving that same country more than 10 million dollars a day in military aid while it violates international law with impunity.

Despite multiple presidential pleas to cease building settlements, Israel continues to demolish Palestinian homes and rip up Palestinian orchards. The anti-BDS legislation supported by Catharine Baker would inhibit any business that criticizes this gross violation of human rights from doing business with the state of California.

This is but another example of the detrimental subjugation of American values to the interests of Israel. Freedom of speech is central and essential to our American democracy. Let's not encumber it at the behest of a foreign country.

Forrest J Cioppa, MD
 Moraga

Thanks to Garden Club for 'Toxic Puzzle' showing

We would like to publicly thank the Orinda Garden Club for arranging the special sold out showing of *"Toxic Puzzle: Hunt for the Hidden Killer"* and guest Dr. Paul Alan Cox. For anyone who missed the award winning documentary about the search for cures for Alzheimer's, ALS and Parkinson's, known as the brain tangle diseases, please checkout the website toxicpuzzle.com. Charitable donations to further this research may be directed to the 501 (c)(3) nonprofit Institute of Ethnomedicine at brainchemistrylabs.org.

We have known Dr. Cox for many years and are very excited about the wonderful progress he is making.

Sue and Ralph Severson
 Orinda

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Lafayette Walk/Bike to School Day

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School parent Jocelyn Birrell said that she and her children often walk down Moraga Road. She referred to the previous week's cyclist versus car accident at the intersection of Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road as "horrifying" and said that it is too dangerous to let even the older children walk or bike in alone. "You should be able to let fourth- and fifth-graders go on their own -- but you can't," Birrell said there are several "walking trains" with parents who take turns escorting groups of children to and from school.

Birrell commented too on the number of families who walk or bike from the Moraga Boulevard area but notes that the residential neighborhood is quickly becoming a "cut through" for speeding motorists trying to avoid traffic on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

A regular cyclist who gets her

children to school on bikes most days, Stefania Kapalanes, a trauma coordinator in a Bay Area hospital, was taking the opportunity to talk to some of the children about bike safety. She said she spotted one young girl with her helmet secured too loosely to be effective. The student had told her she didn't want to mess up her hair and that she lived very nearby. Kapalanes made the point that the child was saying "all the 'right' wrong things."

Kim says they are grateful to the PTA who sponsors the event and to Champion. "We continue to work with the city to educate our families (students and parents) about pedestrian safety and safe routes to and from school."

Says Champion, "I think we have an amazing community in Lafayette where families enjoy walking downtown on the weekends."

Correction

The Oct. 4 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Town Hall with Baker, Andersen and Phillips," incorrectly stated that Richard Colman brought up the subject of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir during the Sept. 25 town hall meeting in Orinda. Colman instead focused on an Aug. 18 letter that Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips wrote to members of the California state legislature and quoted from parts of that letter. In her letter, Phillips wrote: "The City of Orinda is opposed to SB 35 [Senate Bill 35] . . . which would pre-empt local discretionary land use authority . . ." Colman quoted most of that sentence. He said that SB 35, if signed into law, would make Orinda a "colony" of the state of California. His last name was also misspelled. The correct spelling is Colman.

Is this too young to go to Cal?



Actually, it's just the right age to get an eye exam at the University of California Eye Center. And again at three years. And regularly after that. (We developed ways to test kids' eyes while they play!) We're part of the UC School of Optometry, and offer you LASIK surgery, contact lenses, and an Eyewear Center with a vast collection of designer frames, too. We take most insurance plans, and major credit cards. It's time for your whole family to go Cal!



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