



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District

Monday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Discover & Go offers free BART rides to select venues through year's end

By Sora O'Doherty

The Contra Costa County Library is once again offering free BART access for use with Discover & Go reservations through December. County residents 18 or older can submit requests for BART tickets, which will be mailed to cardholders' homes within five business days of the request. The offer is limited to one request per household (for a \$15 BART ticket) and is available while supplies last.

The promotion, a partnership between 511 Contra Costa and the library, is intended to encourage the use of public transportation to visit museums.

"The Bay Area is full of amazing venues that include cultural learning experiences and fun," said County Librarian Melinda Cervantes. "This partnership with 511 Contra Costa is making travel easier and helping our environment."

Since its inception in 2011, Discover & Go has met Contra Costa County Library's goal of providing access to culture inside and outside the library by partnering with over 90 northern California museums, and has made over a million cultural visits possible for library cardholders; 511-Contra Costa's Trip Planner feature can be used to

plan Discover & Go trips.

The following venues are valid destinations for the BART ticket promotion: Asian Art Museum, California Academy of Sciences, California Historical Society, Children's Creativity Museum, Chinese Historical Society of America Museum, Contemporary Jewish Museum, de Young Museum, Exploratorium, Habitot Children's Museum, International Art Museum, Lawrence Hall of Science, McConaghy House (Hayward Area Historical Society), Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, Museum of the African Diaspora, Oakland Mu-

seum of California, UC Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

To sign up for BART tickets, view your October, November or December reservation on your Discover & Go account, click "Retrieve Pass" then click on the 511 banner on your Discover & Go pass to request your BART ticket.

For more information about the program, contact the Contra Costa County Library at ASK@ccclib.org or (800) 984-4636.

Visiting Czech student preparing for Orinda Czech celebration

By Sora O'Doherty



Tabor Meetings 2018. From left: 2017-18 Visiting Student Marek Vybiral, Former Visiting Student and Tabor President of the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Committee, Michal Vašek, Orinda Vice-Chair of the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Committee, Slavka Ruzicka, Orinda Union School District Board Trustee Cara Hoxie, Orinda Vice Mayor Inga Miller, 2016 Host Mother Eileen Fitz-Faulkner, Orinda Mayor Amy Worth, and 2016-17 Visiting Student Adam Kraus. Photo provided

little bit old fashioned and says her group prefers to do things a bit differently, pursuing some programs about current affairs and global issues.

Ružicková arrived in Orinda on Aug. 10, and will return to the Czech Republic in January. She is staying with a host family who has a sophomore student at Miramonte and another student at Orinda Intermediate School. When she returns home, Ružicková would like to change her school. She'd rather go to a high school in Prague. She is thinking of pursuing a career in teaching, or perhaps journalism, and may seek to study political science in college. The main difference between education in the Czech Republic and here is that in the Czech Republic, where there are many universities, third level education is completely free. Students usually enter university knowing what they want to major in. The level of difficulty in getting in to university depends on a student's preferred major. Acceptance is not based on high school grades,



Marie Ružicková, 2018-19 Visiting Czech Student

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Marie Ružicková is enjoying her time at Miramonte High School as a visiting student from Orinda sister city Tabor, even though she is homesick. Actually, Ružicková isn't exactly from Tabor, but a really small village about 20 kilometers from Tabor, where she goes to school. Her mother, an assistant at a school for autistic boys, brings her to Tabor each day by car and train where she attends a French high school. Her father makes puppets, and, as a hobby with a friend, performs puppet theater.

In addition to attending school, she is also helping children learn Czech dancing for the local celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Czech Republic, which will be hosted on Oct. 21 in the Founders Auditorium of the Orinda Community Center by the Orinda-Tabor

Sister City Committee. In addition to Czech dancing, there will be Czech food, beer and wine. Doors will open at 10:45 a.m., and from 3 to 4 p.m. there will be a screening in English of the documentary film, "Accidental Army."

At Miramonte, Ružicková says that she is one of the few students who is free to enjoy many electives, so her course work includes U.S. History, English, French, Art, Drama, Photography, and Public Speaking. "High school in the Czech Republic is not so competitive as here," Ružicková said. "I really see how people want to have all A's and take advanced placement classes."

Ružicková has been in Girl Scouts for 11 years, and now leads a small group of Scouts who meet every week for 2-3 hours. Ružicková finds Girl Scouts to be a

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