

# Mayor proclaims March as American Red Cross month



Photo Vera Kochan

From left, Council Member Mike McCluer, Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus, American Red Cross' Briana Taylor, Mayor Roger Wykle, Council Member Renata Sos and Council Member Steve Woehleke.

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While touring the battlefield, Dunant saw more than 40,000 dead and wounded soldiers. He wrote a book, "Un Sou-

venir de Solferino," which described the suffering of the wounded and the lack of medical attention given to them. This book and Dunant's tireless advocacy was the in-

spiration behind the creation of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Red Cross emblem was designed as the inverse of the Swiss flag, an homage to Dunant's Swiss citizenship. The ICRC laid the groundwork in providing attention to the conditions of wounded soldiers. It also provided the protection of neutrality for medics, ambulances and field hospitals during wartime. For his efforts, Dunant was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901. To this day the Red Cross symbol is internationally respected and trusted for its humanitarian deeds.

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton. She had first heard of the ICRC while visiting Europe after the Civil War. Barton, a hospital nurse, led the American Red Cross for 23 years, not only providing relief

to military personnel, but also overseas disaster relief efforts. She campaigned successfully for the inclusion of peacetime relief work as part of the global Red Cross network. Part of the American Red Cross' charter restates "the traditional purposes of the organization which include giving relief to and serving as a medium of communication between members of the American armed forces and their families and providing national and international disaster relief and mitigation."

Taylor stated, "We want people to remember that we began as an organization to help members of the military and their families, and that function has not diminished even though we have a strong disaster relief presence." Blood collection (processing and distribution), health and

safety education and training along with international relief and development are all synonymous with Red Cross.

According to Wykle's proclamation, the American Red Cross is "the largest humanitarian organization in the world," responding "to an average of more than 62,000 disasters across the country." He added, American Red Cross Month is "a special time to recognize and thank the American Red Cross volunteers, partners and donors who give of their time and resources to deliver help and hope to members of the community." Additionally, "We encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission."

For more information or to donate visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

# Donation from Hacienda Foundation

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Having these purposes in mind, the Casita could become an additional source of revenue for the Hacienda.

During the Feb. 27 town council meeting, one of the foundation board's co-presidents, Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, said, "As the Hacienda Foundation, our biggest concern was that there was preservation for the community there. We felt that turning our efforts to the Casita would be a place that, if something did happen down the road, we would always have this as a community center. It would be a nice place." She added, "Right now it's a little rough around the edges there. With this money we're really thrilled that it can go a long way, and we can make it a really nice facility for all ages." The foundation's other co-president, Heather Spellman, was unable to attend the meeting.

Some envisioned uses for the refurbished venue include camps in the summer,

senior yoga classes or even Girl Scout or Boy Scout meetings.

The foundation's mission had always been to preserve and promote the Hacienda property. Prior to 2006, many residents never knew of the building's existence.

Throughout the years, it became broadly recognized that the Hacienda was a treasured asset, but had many financial challenges to overcome. Consequently, plans for improvements to the main building and pavilion were put in a holding pattern in order for the town to decide what route to take. According to Lucas-Alcalay, the foundation was instructed, "Don't spend a dime. We never had the chance to turn it into a registered historical site, and as such, it does not have historic protection in case a developer did come." She also pointed out that its layout would make it difficult to turn into a restaurant or Bed and Breakfast.

The \$120,000 donation will have its own separate account from which im-

provements would be paid and which could not be used for other town purposes or emergencies. Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt noted, "Our high priorities are the installation of an ADA restroom, and to replace the floor, lighting, doors and windows." If there is money left over it would go toward pavilion improvements.

Hacienda Foundation Co-Founder Judy Dinkle expressed her wishes by adding, "I just want to urge the council and the community at large to continue to keep the Hacienda as a gem, that most towns don't have the benefit of having, open to the residents to use. It's a very bittersweet thing to see the Hacienda Foundation dissolving, but I do urge you to continue to take care of it. Keeping the funds going that will continue to keep the building from deteriorating and fixing up the public spaces so that the community can continue to use them more is really important."

# EBMUD moves forward with photovoltaic energy project



Sun tracking

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Council Member Dennis Fay expressed concerns about fire safety, and Mayor Inga Miller agreed that wildfire is of paramount concern. Gonzales replied that the solar tracker technology now

allows EBMUD to use the smallest possible area to generate electricity. Nick Waranoff suggested that perhaps EBMUD would consider waiving the rent that Orinda pays the utility for use of the Orinda Sports Fields. One speaker asked where the di-

rect current from the panels will be converted to indirect current. Another suggested that inverters produce noise, which could be a concern.

EBMUD will need to file a permit to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. This will be followed by a public meeting, hosted by EBMUD, to receive community input. Following that meeting, EBMUD will incorporate the input received and then complete California Environmental Quality Act requirements with EBMUD as lead agency. Construction is expected to begin in 2020 and the site is expected to be operational in 2021.

# Committee members recognized



Photo Sora O'Doherty

New committee members recognized at a recent Orinda City Council meeting.

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Mayor Inga Miller recommended that the city council appoint Linda Landau as the

first chairperson from the designated members of the Library Parcel Tax Oversight Committee.

Hereafter, the Committee

shall annually select a chairperson and vice chairperson by majority vote. In order to allow the Oversight Committee to meet, it is necessary for the city council to make the appointment of a chairperson. The Committee has a total of eight members who are residents of the city. The eight members consist of the five members of the Financial Advisory Committee plus three members appointed by the Friends of the Library. In accordance with the bylaws, the Friends have confirmed that their members shall be: Nancy Ross-Madnick, Friends president; Fran Strykowski, Friends secretary; and Linda Landau, Friends treasurer. The current representatives of the Finance Advisory Committee are: Jeffrey Lyon, FAC chair; Reynold Samoranos FAC vice-chair; Yasaman Lee; Molly Schneider; and one seat is vacant.

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