

# Stanley Middle School's annual One Book-One School program reaches its 12th year



Photo provided

This year's One Book-One School pick: "Full Cicada Moon."

Submitted by Betsy Balmat

Each year Stanley Middle School's 1,300 students and

staff come together to read a selected book for its One Book-One School program.

This year's book is "Full Cicada Moon" by Marilyn Hilton. As part of the OBOS, every day for three weeks a staff member and a cross grade-level student group meet to read together and discuss the book. Generous support by the parents, PTA and LPIE enables all students to participate.

Focused on developing literacy, the program is also designed to build community and to promote this year's character-building theme: "What You Do Matters." In "Full Cicada Moon" the main character, Mimi, is a 12-year-old mixed-race girl who moves from Berkeley to Vermont in the winter of 1969. Mimi's dream is to become an astronaut. Set against the backdrop of the Apollo 11 space walk and the turbulence

of the era, Mimi remembers her father's advice, "Be kind. Be respectful and persist."

The One Book-One School program will culminate in a ceremony on Nov. 4, when Stanley will host Leon Logothetis to speak to the student body. Logothetis is a global traveler and motivational speaker as well as host of "The Kindness Diaries" on Netflix. He has visited more than 90 countries with his powerful message that anything you dream is possible with kindness and the power of human connection. <https://leonlogothetis.com/about/>

For further information about Stanley's One Book-One School program, visit <https://sms-lafsd-ca.schoolloop.com/obos>.

## Halloween Parade - fun for Orinda's youngest residents



Photos Pippa Fisher



Pictures don't lie. Fulfilling secret fears of school-age children everywhere that their younger siblings are having more fun while they themselves are restricted to school, the youngest members of the community most certainly were having fun Oct. 24 at the Orinda Community Center at the Halloween Parade hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

With police officers and members of the fire department handing out candy, the youngest and cutest ghouls, dinosaurs, and witches were among those who turned out to pose for a photo and then took part in a parade around the park, before heading to the craft tables for some Halloween-themed activities.

For one youngster the highlight was meeting his hero, Orinda's new Police Chief David Cook, to whom he presented a banner he had made that read, "Courage is being a police officer." - P. Fisher

## As seen in Lamorinda



This giant Grim Reaper looms over Rheem Boulevard in Orinda, a treat for Halloween. The inflatable figure appears out of the darkness, flickers, then glows strongly before disappearing again.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

## Trick-or-Treating around town



Photos Pippa Fisher



Downtown Lafayette was thronging with trick-or-treaters Oct. 25, as costumed kids went about the serious business of building their candy reserves. - P. Fisher

## November in the gallery at Wilder Art & Garden Center



By Sora O'Doherty

The artist featured in the November gallery display at the Art and Garden Center at Wilder is familiar to many in Orinda for her activism in the Tabor/Orinda Sister City Foundation. But the talented cross-stitch artist will now be showing works from her collection of miniature oriental rugs. The opening reception will be held at the gallery on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to see a selection of the works and meet the artist, Slavka Ruzicka, who will be giving a demonstration of her technique. Light refreshments will be served. Beginning Nov. 5, the gallery will be open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8:15 p.m.

Slavka Ruzicka

Born in Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic, Bohuslava Ruzicka (also known as Slavka) was introduced to the art of cross-stitching when she was living in Singapore in 1987. She was asked to help with charity work to aid a local orphanage. She cross-stitched 100 small Christmas ornaments for their tree. After finishing the project, she began working on more challenging pieces. Since she accompanied her husband who traveled a great deal for work, Ruzicka was able to devote a significant amount of time to her artwork. She started the Miniature Oriental Carpets Project in 1996, completing it in 2005.

Her collection is inspired by Frank M. Cooper, who designed miniature needlepoint patterns of

authentic Persian, Caucasian, and Turkish carpets. He published a book of his patterns, which were derived from actual rugs that he has studied in his travels, and Ruzicka used his charts for the art in this collection. She will be showing 24 pieces. The largest is about 16 by 20 inches, while the smallest would be about 14 by 16 inches. Each piece has a two-inch border. The patterns are worked on Aida cotton 14-count cross stitch cloth with cotton embroidery floss. About half the pieces are professionally framed, the other half Ruzicka framed herself.