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Alexa (center) with Orinda's Xenophon support staff, leads her horse, George.

Advertising

# Horses are the best medicine at Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center

By Vera Kochan

The brainchild of founder Judy Lazarus, Xenophon began in 1993 at Black Point Farm in Martinez before moving in 1996 to its current location of 60 Don Gabriel Way in Orinda. The therapeutic riding center was named for Xenophon (430-354 B.C.E.), a Greek general who was the first to write a manual about how to train horses in a positive way.

Lazarus and her husband have an autistic son

and became very involved with the disabled community. Having ridden horses as a child she was aware of how beneficial the experience could be for anyone and decided to open her center with an eye to offering basic horsemanship skills interwoven with an individual's therapeutic needs.

The 3-acre property currently contains a covered arena, a viewing deck, a wooden horse shed, winter quarters for the horses, and a new office building. The facility's eight horses of varying breeds work with licensed physical therapists, therapeutic riding instructors and occupational therapists - registered through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH). There are also an army of volunteers that serve as side-walkers, horse-handlers, horse caretakers, and facility maintenance workers.

Xenophon is an accredited center under PATH, having received a 100% score during its last accreditation visit, and the only such center serving Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

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# Happy July 4th

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## Orinda keeps on truckin' with 2022 Fourth of July parade





#### By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda hosted its traditional Fourth of July parade this year, with many regularly scheduled activities returning after being in abeyance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The city was decorated with colorful banners on the light posts throughout downtown for weeks before the event. The day kicked off at 7:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast fundraiser by Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary on the Library Plaza. At 8 a.m. participants set off on the Run for A Reason, in support of The Sudden Unexplained Death in Children Foundation. The flag was ceremonially raised at the Community Center at 8:45 a.m. and city and local elected officials dedicated the new City in Nature library mural before the Friends of the Orinda Library's Book Sale. This was followed by a concert in the park by local band Three Day Weekend.

The parade this year was chaired by Sally Hoga-

rty and co-chaired by Marianne Moser.

Before the parade, the Lewiston Jazz Band provided entertainment on the Village side. During the parade, spectators were treated to passing musical entertainment from a number of bands, including Concord Blue Devils C Corp with tall flags, MJ Brass Boppers with stilt walkers, St. Gabriel's Celestial Marching Band, Peter Pan Foundation, Orinda Idol Singers, East Bay Banjo Band, Spirit of '29 Dixieland Jazz and the Lamorinda Volunteer Marching Band.

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