

Letters to the editor ... continued

Gabe Ledeen: A great candidate and even better person for AUHSD School Board

Gabe Ledeen, whom I've had the privilege of knowing 13 years, is an exceptional candidate for AUHSD School Board.

Gabe has an impressive life story filled with service and leadership. After growing up in a community similar to Lamorinda's, he felt a call to service after 9/11 and became one of the first in his family to enlist as a Marine. He proudly served 4 years, including two tours in Iraq.

Gabe then enrolled at Stanford Law, a campus filled with passionate and diverse viewpoints. Nevertheless, Gabe was universally respected, even more so by our colleagues who disagreed with him. Ask anyone and you'll hear the same descriptions of Gabe: independent, thoughtful, high-integrity.

Gabe decided to run for School Board because he felt could bring creativity and collaboration to help solve the difficult challenges our schools now face. He's spending time in the community and taking the hard questions, and even his critics leave those engagements respecting his thoughtfulness. He has crafted a detailed platform: greater parental engagement, high academic standards, fiscal planning, and genuine accountability for the Board.

I encourage our community to invest the time meeting Gabe, listening to his policy ideas. You will walk away from those interactions just like everyone else who knows him: impressed. Stewart Lynn Lafayette

AUHSD School Board race

There's no going back(wards).

Having served as a college-prep high school principal, I know what it takes for a high school to prepare students for college and life. Several of the candidates for the AUHSD Board of Education feel like we need to "get back to education". The district has spent the past several years moving forward in improving the educational experience for all students by augmenting, not supplanting, the stellar academics that continue to produce test scores and college admissions tops in the state.

This evolution is progress. Students are better supported with the expansion of the wellness centers and trained staff to access the rigorous instruction they are getting. Students are more challenged from a diversified curriculum to think critically about their viewpoints making them better prepared for college, career, and life.

Only by continuing to evolve will our schools stay at the forefront of the best schools in the nation. We need to keep the forward momentum by adding the expertise needed most - student stress and mental wellness. We need to add a person who knows our schools because she has children in them and has been volunteering for them. Elect Jen Chen for AUHSD. Robert Schwartz Moraga

Vote for Edda Collins Coleman

Your reporting on the candidates for Orinda Union School Board did not provide an accurate picture of the expertise, experiences and qualifications of Edda Collins Coleman. A quick look at each candidate's resume and it is easy to conclude Edda is by far one of the most qualified candidates for the school board

position. Edda is a Managing Director at Cogent Strategies, guiding Fortune companies as they communicate with Congress, the Executive Branch of government and navigate the regulatory landscape. Edda also leads in crisis management, stabilizing communications at corporations during pivotal moments.

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Orinda Resident and OUSD Mom has said, "Edda has already proven that she is devoted to ensuring our children receive the best education. She will be a valuable addition to the Orinda School Board, as she fosters unity around the issues that matter to Orinda's children, families, teachers, staff and administrators. I fully endorse her candidacy for this upcoming school board election and encourage everyone to vote for Edda as our next member of the Orinda School Board."

Your one line of reporting "20 years of experience in communications" did not accurately portray her extensive experience, degrees from Georgetown and Hampton University or many qualifications. OUSD needs candidates that are ready for the challenge of leading our district during multiple extensive renovations projects, supporting our academic excellence while being fiscally responsible. Edda has those qualifications, and more. OUSD would greatly benefit from her tenure. Elect Edda. Alicia Keenan OUSD parent

No on incumbent school board members

I'm a 22-year Lafayette resident who had four children attend Lafayette schools and I will not be voting for any incumbent school board member.

Our local school boards

failed our students during the COVID-19 pandemic. And to date, not a single incumbent seeking reelection has acknowledged mistakes or apologized for the damage done to students. They voted repeatedly to keep schools closed even as we met the criteria outlined by the state to reopen. We hear "hindsight is 20/20". That's not good enough. It's not good enough for the children who lost a year of in-person schooling, who lost opportunities and missed important life milestones that they can never get back. All while we watched private school students successfully attend full, in-person classes in the fall of 2020.

As parents, we were dis-

missed. Our concerns for our children's physical and mental well-being were met with platitudes instead of concrete plans to reopen schools. The learning loss and despair that my two students experienced was immense. The people who made these disastrous decisions do not deserve to be re-elected.

The current school board members let our kids down and I won't forget it and neither should you. Stacy Schirmer Lafayette

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RE-ELECT

STEVEN DANZIGER

MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT
DIVISION 3

- 3+ Decades in Public Service
- 20 Yrs Oakland Fire Admin
- Masters Public Administration
- Chair Orinda Parks & Rec Comm.
- CERT Volunteer
- MOFD Ambassador
- 100% Attendance Record

- Increase Fire Prevention Programs
- Restore Dedicated Ambulance Staff in Orinda
- Provide Strategic Leadership & Fire Expertise
- Continue Efficient Budget Management
- Construct New Station 41 in Moraga

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

We all love this community and share a goal of making it as safe as possible. Over the past 4 years we have made excellent progress toward that goal, but there is more to do. I have the qualifications and experience to make the critical decisions ahead. My supporters include Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan, your Firefighters and residents throughout the District. I am ready to face the challenges ahead. I respectfully ask for your vote on November 8.

MOFD Director Steven Danziger, Division 3

EXPERIENCED 🔥 **LEADERSHIP** 🔥 **COMMUNITY** 🔥

Paid for by: International Association of Firefighters Local 55 Political Action Committee FPPC# 892160

Vote for Vince DELL'AQUILA MOFD Board

Endorsed by City Council Members Darlene Gee, Nick Kosla, Inga Miller and Amy Worth; plus Firewise Leaders, Local Leaders and hundreds of Community Members.



Darlene Gee, Vince Dell'Aquila and Amy Worth

"Vince Dell'Aquila has served our communities admirably as a professional and a volunteer for decades and he would be a superb Moraga-Orinda Fire District Director."

Amy Worth
Orinda City Council, Former Mayor

"Vince Dell'Aquila has been deeply connected to our community for many years. Vince will support fire prevention efforts by Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) to bring all of Orinda closer to wildfire mitigation sustainability and work collaboratively with our Firewise Neighborhoods. I enthusiastically endorse Coach Dell'Aquila for the MOFD Board."

Melanie Light
Orinda Firewise Council, Founder, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2021

"As former MOFD Directors, we endorse Vince Dell'Aquila as the best person to serve on the MOFD Board."

Dick Olsen
Former MOFD Board
Past President of County Fire Commissioners Association
Moraga Citizen of the Year 2013

Gordon Nathan
Former MOFD Board
Past President of the County Fire Commissioners Association
Moraga Citizen of the Year 2011

"I endorse Vince Dell'Aquila as the best person to serve on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board."

Karen Mendonca
Former Moraga Mayor

Vince DELL'AQUILA is endorsed by our Local Community Leaders

(Titles for identification only. Partial list of supporters.)

- Steve Glazer, California State Senator
- Don Perata, Former California State Senator
- Amy Worth, Orinda City Council
- Darlene Gee, Orinda City Council
- Inga Miller, Orinda City Council
- Nick Kosla, Orinda City Council
- Bobbie Landers, Former Orinda Mayor
- Joyce Hawkins, Former Orinda Mayor
- Tom McCormick, Former Orinda Mayor
- Sue Severson, Former Orinda Mayor, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2004
- Ken Chew, Former Moraga Mayor
- Karen Mendonca, Former Moraga Mayor
- John Jex, MOFD Board Director

- Craig Jorgens, MOFD Board
- Gordon Nathan, Former MOFD Board
- Dick Olsen, Former MOFD Board
- Brad Barber, Former MOFD Board
- Gene Gottfried, Former MOFD Board
- Linda Landau, Firewise Leader, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2010
- Steve Harwood, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2011
- Richard Westin, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2012
- Pete Hasselman, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2019
- Bill Cosden, Orinda Volunteer of the Year 2019
- Tom Trowbridge, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2020
- Melanie Light, Founder Orinda Firewise Council, Orinda Citizen of the Year 2021

- Ken Light, Founder Orinda Firewise Council
- Lucy Talbot, Firewise Council Leadership
- Chris Laszcz-Davis, Lamorinda Presents Chair
- Ian Baird, Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety Leader
- Dick Wilcox, Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety Leader
- Gary Yancey, Retired Contra Costa District Attorney
- Adam Clark, Former Principal, Miramonte High School
- Vanessa Crews, Acalanes High School District Board
- Chris Severson, Acalanes High School District Board
- Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety
- Cassandra Forth, former OUSD Board
- Riki Sorenson, former OUSD Board
- Pam West, former OUSD Board

Growing List of Community Endorsements

- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kristy Abrams | Laurence Berger | Bob Daoro | Marc Evans | Rosarie | Korey Keller | William Maimone | Phunmongkol | Kevin Ross | Gina Smith | Carol Sueoka | Woodward |
| David W | Debbie Berndt | Mike Darr | Brent Evans | Hartmeyer | Ricki Keller | Janet Maiorana | Jeffrey | Nicholas Rovetti | Steve Smith | Tom Sueoka | Rick Woodward |
| Anderson | Eric Brown | Cassandra | Bob Finch | Tish Harwood | Kevin Keller | Vince Maiorana | Phunmongkol | Dennis Rowland | Cathleen Sodos | Skip Tague | Vicky Yancey |
| Sandy Anderson | Floyd Burnsed | Dell'Aquila | Kathleen Finch | Helen | Joel Kelly | Will Marin | Nick | Maria Rowland | Kelly Sopak | Al Talbot | Gloria Yruel |
| James Anthony | Robert Burt | Kathleen | Michael Fleres | Hasselmann | John Kenney | Erika Marshall | Phanmongkhon | Matt Russell | Andy Sorenson | Jenn Tate | Alison Zamanian |
| Kris Anthony | Karl Buscheck | Dell'Aquila | Mark Fuhrman | Don Heidary | Jane Kotowski | Bill Martin | Betsy Ream | Kathryn | Rikki Sorenson | Jared Tate | Jane Zuercher |
| Matt Ayers | Caroline | Carmel Dewies | Yvonne Fuhrman | Frank Hernandez | John Kotowski | David Mayeri | Dana Ream | Sciannanna | Susan Spitz | Ted Tellian | Mark Zuercher |
| Elena Ayers | Calloway | Antonio Diaz | Glen Gagon | Julia Hernandez | Carolyn Krupp | Yoni Mayeri | Kevin Redford | Peter Sciamanna | Tom Spitz | Jeremy Tieman | Tina Zwahlen |
| Wes Ayers | Denney Calloway | Jeanne Dowell | Kellyn Gagon | Kevin Hodges | Sanjay Lal | Casey | Elizabeth Regan | Steve Sciamanna | Beth St Lezin | Laura Tieman | Brad Zwahlen |
| Penny Baird | Jan Carlsson | Bill Duby | Michael Gibson | Elijah Hodges | Jim Landau | McGonigle | Kevin Regan | Jack Schram | Mark St Lezin | Adrian Tinc | Tyler Zwahlen |
| Carlos Baltodano | Barbara Carrigg | Billy Duby | Mercedes | Melvin Huie | Bailey Lee | Alan Metheny | Michael | Tim Schultz | Clint Stefan | Kelly Tinc | Thanner Zwahlen |
| Josie Baltodano | Karen Cervantes | Marissa Duby | Godbeer Brown | Don Hurrell | Lorna Lee | T. Todd Morrill | Reuvekamp | Chris Shrieve | Pamela Stefan | Tristan Tool | Thomas Zwahlen |
| Cindy Barber | Eduardo | Rachelle Duby | M'Liss Greenlee | Drew Jackson | Susan Lee | Gail Nathan | Bill Ricks | Doug Senz | Francesca | Lynn Trowbridge | |
| Wade Barrett | Cervantes | Richard Dudley | Brent Goetzl | Marlene Jex | Joanne Levy- | Joyce Nelson | Nina Ricks | Pam Severson | Stensland | Ron Wecht | |
| Steve Behnke | George | Jim Eastman | Laurie Goetzl | Allison Jung | Prewitt | Pam Nikias | Marti Roach | Ralph Severson | Godbeer | Sue Wecht | |
| Allena Behnke | Cockerton | Kathy Eastman | Howard Guild | Joel Jung | Joel Love | Paddy O'Brien | Michael Roach | Shelby Shadwell | Karleen Stern | Robert West | |
| Bonnie Bell | Cheryl Collins | Jorge Escobar | Marilyn Guild | Ben Jungbluth | Ken Light | Tony O'Dell | Sandy Roadcap | Brittany Simmons | Todd Stern | Pamela Westin | |
| Nathan Bell | Tom Collins | Josh Erickson | Carrielyn | Emily Jorgens | Annette Linney | Norm Pease | Michael | Derek Simmons | Robert | Anne Willcoxon | |
| Melanie Bell | Jesse Crews | Rachel Erickson | Guymon | James Jorgens | Mike Linney | James Pease | Robertson | Sharon Simpson | Stoltenberg | Kimberly Wirtz | |
| Jocelyn Bennion | Ellen Dale | Veronica | Glenn Guymon | James Keefe | Doug Longero | Mark Penskar | Mike Roemer | Prince Smalls | Pai Pai | Edmond Woo | |
| Dave Bennion | Joan Daoro | Erickson | Bailey Hartmeyer | Agatha Keller | Dan Lynch | Jennifer | Joel Ross, MD | Red Smith | Stoltenberg | Margot | |

Dell'Aquila 100% funded by Community Members; Opponent 100% funded by Non-Resident Entities*.

(* per required official state filings as of 10/19/22)

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