

# New aquarium shop opens in Orinda Village



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Customers shop for fish at The Fish Barn, a new aquarium store in Orinda Village.

## By Sora O'Doherty

Owner A.J. Glassman cut the ribbon to open his new store in Orinda Village, The Fish Barn, on June 10, following a soft opening on June 3. The Fish Barn is located at 19 Orinda Way.

Glassman has spent six years working in the tech industry, but during the COVID-19 pandemic he found himself wondering what he would really like to be doing. Aquarium fish have been a lifelong hobby for Glassman, so he decided to try working in a fish store in Oakland. From there he went to work for the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and interacted with small business owners in Lamorinda.

He found the perfect spot in Orinda, and opened The Fish Barn, which he hopes will be a destination spot for people along the 24-680 corridor in Contra Costa County and even from across the hill to fulfill their aquarium needs. The only other aquarium store in the county is located in Concord, and when Glassman was working, he found it impossible to get there during opening hours.

The Fish Barn will be open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from noon to 6 p.m. on weekends. The store will be closed on Tuesdays.

Glassman's emphasis is on creating natural ecosystems with little plastic, although the fish he sells do require heaters to maintain the water temperature at between 72 to 78 degrees. He offers plants that are easy to grow and make the care of an aquarium easier. He likes to think of people having a little piece of nature in their homes.

The Fish Barn focuses on fresh water community fish, that is, fish that get along together. Glassman will not stock cichlids, for example, which are not generally peaceful in a community tank.

Generally, the store caters to people who want aquariums from 10 to 40 gallons in size. However, the shop is still being developed, and a nano area is coming soon, where very small varieties of fish, including fresh water shrimp, will be available for tanks as small as three gallons.

For more information, visit [www.thefishbarn.com](http://www.thefishbarn.com)



Owner A.J. Glassman outside his new store in Orinda Village.

# AUHSD board seeks to fill vacancy

## By Sora O'Doherty

The Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) governing board at its June 14 meeting decided to make a provisional appointment to fill a vacancy on the board created by the recent resignation of board member Kristin Connelly. Connelly resigned "due to the need to exclusively focus on [her] responsibilities as Contra Costa County's Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters." Connelly was elected to that position in November 2022. Her resignation was effective June 30.

AUHSD Superintendent John Nickerson said, "We are grateful for Ms. Connelly's commitment and service to the AUHSD students and greater community since her initial election in 2018."

The provisional appointment process must be completed by Aug. 9. The board will be accepting applications for the provisional appointment until 4 p.m. on July 21. The board will interview eligible applicants at a public special board meeting beginning at 6 p.m. on Aug. 3. According to the board's Bylaw 9223, the public will have the

opportunity to provide oral or written input.

The district will hold an orientation at the district office for eligible applicants at 6 p.m. on July 26, a week prior to the public interviews on Aug. 3. The Board will select the appointee by majority vote. The appointed seat will be up for election as part of the next general election, which will be in November 2024.

An application form can be obtained from the district office receptionist at 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette or online from the district website. To be considered, an applicant for the vacant seat, a letter of interest, current resume, and the completed application form must be submitted in person to the superintendent's office or via email ([superintendent@auhdschools.org](mailto:superintendent@auhdschools.org)) no later than 4 p.m. on July 21.

For further information about the Acalanes Union High School District go to [www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us) or contact John Nickerson at [jnickerson@auhdschools.org](mailto:jnickerson@auhdschools.org) or (925)280-3900 extension 6602.

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