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Remebering the gifts of May and looking forward to June

By Toris Jaeger, Naturalist

We celebrated Mother's Day, witnessed the explosion of the wildflowers, the presence of the pollinators and the nesting of the birds.

I celebrated my Mother and all of my women ancestors.

As we leave Spring behind and move into the Summer Solstice, let's not to forget to clean out nest boxes you have provided.

Make sure that the cavity nesting birds have fledged and then you can clean out boxes for next year's birds.

Usually just washing out the boxes with soap and water is enough.

May and June are prime months for removing the non-native invasive plants before they go to seed.

The list is : great reed, pampas grass, cotoneaster, scotch broom, blue gum, spurge, fennel, fresh broom, ivy, Monterey pine, blackberry, vinca, Chinese palsy ,non-native thistle.

Happy weeding by pulling by the root.



Photo Toris Jaeger

MKB Artists Exhibit at Orinda Books

Submitted by Carol Irwin



Photo Carol Irwin

Marianne K. Brown (1928-2020), teacher and mentor for local art group MKB Artists.

The art work of Marianne K. Brown (MKB) Artists will be exhibited at Orinda Books during the month of June. The public is invited to meet the artists at a reception at the bookstore (276 Village Square, Orinda) on Saturday, June 8, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Marianne K. Brown was a resident of Moraga and taught watercolor painting in the Lamorinda community for 48 years. MKB Artists are 12 of her students who have continued to collaborate since their mentor's death in 2020. They meet weekly to share and critique their own art in the spirit of Marianne. Her persona and techniques thread through their creative processes and bind them together in their love for art and for their mentor.

As an artist, Marianne exhibited her work and won awards locally and nationally. While most of her work is abstract or non-objective, and was created using watercolor, she taught her students many different art styles and media types, including wa-

tercolor, pastels, gouache, monotype, and collage. Her great gift was helping painters loosen up and find their own expression.

In Marianne's words, "In some ways, age opens doors. I have been teaching for over 40 years and have never repeated a lesson. Most of my ideas come from my imagination – I just keep getting new ideas of how to use watercolor and subject matter. The ideas arise day and night, and then I can't wait to see how they will look on paper. My message to my students is to have fun; we have to have fun or we won't do it. I'm also learning something new every time. We always teach what we need to learn."

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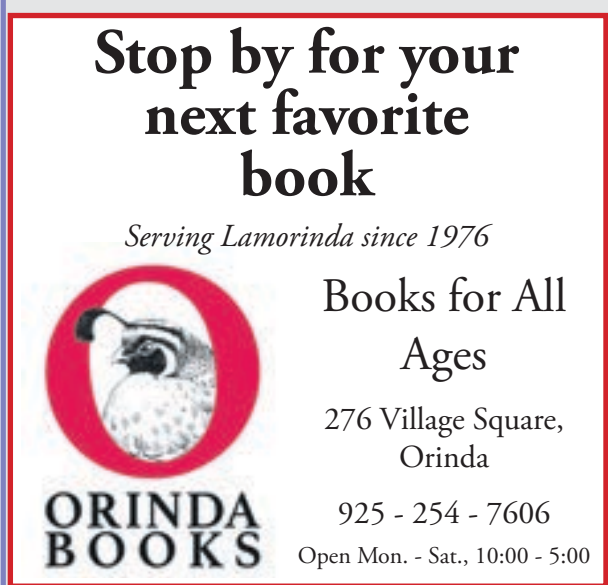
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