

EFO President Launches First Orinda All Ages Read-A-Thon

By ELANA O'LOSKEY
Staff Writer

Kara Dille, president of the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO), and Nancy Ross Madnick, president of Friends of the Orinda Library, cordially invite the public to join their first ever community-wide Orinda All Ages Read-A-Thon which runs from Saturday, Oct. 6 through Friday,

Oct. 12. The interactive program is inspired by the national "Read for the Record" program designed to celebrate the power of reading and stimulate literacy in both children and adults.

EFO Event Vice-Chair Meggin Hollister explains that Read-A-Thon logs will be used to record how much time participants spend reading and sponsor forms will record donations given in support of the readers. Students at Orinda's elementary schools will receive Read-A-Thon logs in their Friday Folders on Oct. 5, and Hollister asks that interested student readers at Orinda Intermediate School and Miramonte High School pick up Read-A-Thon logs at their school libraries. Logs and sponsor forms will also be available at the Orinda Library, the Friends of the Orinda Library bookstore (26 Orinda Way) or online at www.99pledges.com/fund/readorinda for readers of all ages.

Participants can return their completed logs and sponsor forms to the school libraries, the Orinda Library or the Friends Bookstore. All logs and forms must be turned in by the October 15 deadline so volunteers can determine the prizewinners in time for the Awards Ceremony later

that week. Online sponsor donations will already have been recorded. Prizes will be awarded by age group for the greatest number of total minutes spent reading and the greatest number of total funds raised by sponsors. Check the event website, www.99pledges.com/fund/readorinda for all details, including a list of the exciting prizes.

The goal of the Orinda All Ages Read-a-thon is to encourage reading and to raise at least \$100 per reader. Donations will

help to close the funding gap in Orinda's award-winning public schools, support the Orinda Public Library through Friends of the Library (www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org) and maintain Orinda's school libraries. EFO is a volunteer-led, non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial support for quality educational and enrichment programs for every student in Orinda's public schools. Learn more about them at www.orindaefo.org or call 925-322-0336 to get in touch.

READ ORINDA!
ALL AGES
READ-A-THON
OCT 6-12th
2018

CELEBRATE LITERACY

EFO
Educational Foundation of Orinda

THE FRIENDS OF THE ORINDA LIBRARY

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!
<https://99pledges.com/fund/readorinda>

Between the Lines Back to School

Susan Reckers, Orinda Books



The start of the school year brings mixed emotions, often within the same person the same day. The transition from carefree summer to the new schedule causes much excitement and anxiety. Reading books about others dealing with these transitions can help children adapt more quickly and successfully. It's not too late to get the benefit of back-to-school themed books since teachers report that most children continue adjusting to this annual change all the way into October.

Young kids love the silliness of *Froggy Goes to School* by Jonathan London. For those who experience separation anxiety, *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn is an Orinda Books bestseller. Chester Raccoon holds mom's kiss in his hand to help him through the day. *Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney combines humor and sensitivity as it reassures little ones that missing someone is totally normal.

Kids starting early elementary school grades love the Judy Moody series. Many of these stories occur in the classroom. Boys and girls alike will delight in reading about Judy navigating the world of school and parents. Judy Moody fans are invited to meet the author, Megan McDonald, at a tea party at Orinda Books on Monday, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. She'll be reading from her newest book, *Judy Moody and the Right Royal Tea Party*. Call 254-7606 to save a spot.

For those in 4th-6th grade, my new absolute favorite is *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina. Merci is a feisty protagonist entering 6th grade. She is out of her comfort zone attending a private school many miles from her Cuban-American fam-

ily home in South Florida. Merci, endearing and authentic, owns her missteps with friendships in a refreshing way.

Two longstanding favorites that offer a different perspective on school anxiety are *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper, and *Because of Mr Terrupt* by Rob Buyea. Both fall in the sub-category of what I call "compassion building," which has become very popular since the wild success of *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. The narrator of *Out of Mind* is physically disabled due to cerebral palsy and is almost invisible to her mainstream classmates. Until she isn't. *Because of Mr Terrupt* offers multiple student perspectives on an accident involving a beloved teacher. Children and adults alike, be warned: you'll want tissues handy for both of these books.

Despite having started many school years, high schoolers still can face trepidation in August/September. Reading *Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi may help. This memoir about an undocumented immigrant starting high school in the U.S. is funny and poignant and likely to put concerns in perspective. *Darius The Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram highlights the social anxiety many kids feel among so many high performing classmates. Darius feels as if he is constantly letting down his parents, and he struggles with meaningful friendships. While dealing with the serious topic of depression, the book is also very funny at times, particularly for Star Trek fans.

Kids aren't the only ones who alternate between shuddering with fear and jumping for joy at the start of another school year.

[SEE BOOKS page 17]

It's April in Lamorinda for Real Estate

Consistently Representing Buyers and Sellers in Successful Transactions

April Matthews
925.253.2147
aprilmat@comcast.net
CalBRE# 01221153

LUXURY REAL ESTATE
Village ASSOCIATES
Giving Dreams an Address

Celebrating 34 years!

No individual agent has SOLD more homes.

CLARK THOMPSON
REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

Office: 925.254.8585 Cell: 925.998.7898
ct@clarkthompson.com
www.clarkthompson.com

License# 00903367

LUXURY REAL ESTATE
Village ASSOCIATES

Join the September Lunch Bunch at Orinda Books!

CALL 925-254-7606 TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

Michelle Smith
The Whole Smiths Good Food Cookbook
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN \$30

This cookbook, the first ever fully endorsed and supported by Whole30, offers a collection of 150 recipes to keep Whole30 devotees going strong. Luncheon cost: \$20, includes \$5 off on purchase of cookbook. Menu will include recipes from book.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
11:30 am

R.O. Kwon
The Incendiaries
RIVERHEAD \$26

"Kwon is a writer of many talents, and *The Incendiaries* is a debut of dark, startling beauty." (San Francisco Chronicle) "Radiant... A dark, absorbing story of how first love can be as intoxicating and dangerous as religious fundamentalism." (New York Times Book Review) Luncheon cost: \$12.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
11:30 am

Love Your Local **Orinda Books**

276 Village Square • 925-254-7606 • orindabooks.com • Hours: M-F 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3

la Mediterranee
CAFE . RESTAURANT . CATERING

"For your next special occasion try our Party Platters and our Chicken Pomegranate!"

Free Delivery to Lamorinda
(within 10 miles, with \$300 min. order)

(510) 540-7773
www.cafelamed.com

2936 College Ave. at Ashby . Berkeley . CA 94705

BUSINESS BUZZ

Business Buzz Putting a Personal Face on Local Business

Elana O’Loskey



To send items for consideration, email O’Loskey at business.orinda@gmail.com.

Square Baby Opens in Orinda Theatre Square

On August 30, co-founders Katie Thomson, MS, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Chief Executive Officer; and Kendall Glynn, MS, Certified Genetic Counselor and Chief Operating Officer; plus Kirsten Forsberg, VP of Communications; and Kevin Thomson, Chief Creative Officer, launched Square Baby’s brick and mortar location in Theatre Square. All the principals in Square Baby are parents of young children.

Glynn says, “We are thrilled about the opening of our store and are grateful for the support we have received with the launch of Square Baby. We have loved participating in the Orinda community as moms and volunteers and are excited to add business owners to the list.” Since July 10 they’ve been fulfilling online orders as the only baby food that delivers 100 percent of a baby’s daily recommended servings of fruit, vegetables, proteins and grains. They deliver by mail to California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho and Utah.

When Thomson realized all she could find for her new baby was fruit-heavy, sugar-laden foods masquerading as balanced meals, she got fed up. A Registered Dietitian with a Masters in Nutrition Sci-

ence, she knew the first year of a baby’s life is critical for his or her health. Also, a balanced diet is intrinsically tied to how baby brains and bodies grow. She knew she could do better.

It’s taken Thomson eight years to develop Square Baby (SB); but she didn’t do it alone. The first step in creating her team occurred when she met Glynn through Lamorinda Moms. Both volunteered at Glorietta Elementary School and together they designed a number of programs involving nutritional food and wellness. When Glynn showed up with three spreadsheets for one program, Thomson thought, “This is my kind of gal.” She asked her to be her business partner. The other talented team members were drawn from personal connections because of their shared vision.

How does it work? Based on your baby’s age, dietary restrictions (if any) and preferences, SB customizes a 100 percent daily nutrition plan. Their Square Meal System™ allows a choice between the customized meal plan designed by their Registered Dietitian and Pediatrician or you can pick and choose each meal. They deliver freshly made purees directly to your doorstep every two weeks – or you can buy from their store. Just open, stir and serve - mashing, blending or chopping is not required.

Boring is not on the menu. You’ll find healthy fats like avocado oil, sprouted grains, lentils and Salba chia. Protein sources include salmon, egg and bone broth – rarely found in existing baby foods.



Kendall Glynn and Katie Thomson, co-founders of Square Baby, opened their brick and mortar store at 2 Theatre Square on Aug. 30.

Everything is made fresh in small batches in a local commercial certified organic kitchen. The company has certification for its baby food products from both the FDA and California Certified Organic Farmers of Santa Cruz.

Co-founders Thomson and Glynn live with their families in Orinda and love raising their young children in Orinda’s tight-knit, supportive community. They are excited to engage with and be a resource for local families. In closing, Thomson says, “We believe balanced meals go with a balanced life. We’ve made it easy to offer 100 percent daily nutrition for your baby.”

Square Baby is located at 2 Theatre Square #112, Orinda and is open Mon. - Sat. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment. Explore the options online at www.squarebaby.com or call 415-273-9756.

Kara Dille of Dille & Koo LLP and SCP Investment LP

Kara Dille and her partner Willis Koo recently founded Dille & Koo LLP Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), a multi-family office in Orinda. She and Koo met while auditing asset management firms at Ernst and Young more than 15 years ago in San Francisco. They loved working together and always wanted their own CPA firm. In 2016, they opened their concierge CPA office in Orinda where they represent a few ultra-high net worth families. To keep their client’s world organized they liaise



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CPA Kara Dille is the co-founder of Dille & Koo, LLP, as well as the new EFO president

with service providers so that work is done correctly. They simplify, structure and manage family offices by securing privacy, wealth and family lifestyle over multiple generations.

To accomplish this, Dill and Koo provide investment integrity, framework, transparency and reporting. They promote a philosophy of operational ease for day-to-day management and strive to inspire and educate the next generation. This is in addition to handling tax audits and complex estate transactions which need support and documentation, accounting and valuation.

Dille is also co-founder, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Compliance Officer of SCP Investment, LP, an SEC registered investment advisory firm, and the Chief Financial Officer of the Perkins Fund. Previously, she worked for 12 years as the CFO then CCO and COO for Apex Capital, a hedge fund, and CFO for Apex Capital’s family office. An active certified Public Accountant in California, she has a Masters of Accountancy.

Prior to joining Apex, Dille worked as a supervising senior auditor in Ernst & Young’s West Coast hedge fund practice where she was responsible for auditing a wide range of domestic and offshore alternative asset investment funds. Koo received a B.S. in Business Administration from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley and is also an active Certified Public Accountant in California. Koo is the Chief Financial Officer at SCP Investment, LP.

Dille and her husband have lived in Orinda for more than 10 years and between them have four children enrolled in Orinda schools in grades six through ten. “I remember volunteering to hang children’s drawings in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library when my children were very young; I’ll never forget how delighted all the kids were when they saw their art displayed,” says Dille.

Recently Dille became president of the Educational Foundation of Orinda; see article on page 8 about her plans for an Orinda All Ages Read-A-Thon coming [SEE BUZZ page 23]

TAVERNA PELLEGRINI

HAPPY HOUR
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Voted the best happy hour in
the Bay Area!
\$6 food and drink menu

DINNER
4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Early Bird Dinner
Take out available

65 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563
Tel: 925.258.4200
Fax: 925.258.4204
www.tavernapellegrini.com

PELLEGRINI

Wind down the summer
with some refreshing
cocktails at
Taverna Pellegrini.

PIAZZA PELLEGRINI

A trattoria setting for Italian standards including
antipasti, house-made pasta, pizzas & panini.

659 Columbus Ave
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: (415) 397-7355

Melanie Snow

SPECIALIZING IN ORINDA, MORAGA AND LAFAYETTE

#1 Agent - Coldwell Banker East Bay, 2018

Local. Experienced. Professional

**MELANIE
SNOW**

www.MelanieSnow.com

CAL BRE# 00878893 | 925.360.0344 | Melanie.Snow@camoves.com