

POLICE / VOLUNTEERS / COMPOSER

◆ POLICE from page 6

representative, who happened to be doing a "ride along" with one of the Orinda officers at the time of the attempted robberies. "I feel much safer after watching our police force in action."

A third incident involved Wells Fargo Bank. Three 20-year-olds and a juvenile robbed the bank on November 3. "As soon as the call came in, one of our officers immediately went to the Hwy 24 on-ramp leading to Oakland," Simpkins recalls. "We know suspects will be heading for one of two on-ramps. The officer chose well and ended up right behind the suspects' car." A chase into Oakland commenced with Simpkins and Orinda Police Chief Larry Gregg joining the pursuit. Simpkins

estimates that 20-30 Oakland police were also involved. Two suspects, Lyvell Stevenson and Larry Davis of Oakland, were apprehended that night. The other two suspects have since been captured. If convicted, the defendants face stiff punishments as bank robberies are considered a federal offense. "The FBI has jurisdiction over the case since bank funds are federally insured," explains Simpkins. However, the FBI does not prosecute juveniles so the Orinda police will process the under-age defendant.

"This is a wonderful town. Unfortunately, the bad guys know that, too. Luckily, we have good officers who are excited to be here," Simpkins says. "They are willing to put their life on the line to keep our residents safe. It is an honor to be working with them."

◆ VOLUNTEER from page 1

This all-volunteer nonprofit is highly efficient because it works collaboratively with the school district administration. "We have seen districts that do not work together, and they have poorer results and are overall less effective. We also have a close relationship with Moraga and Lafayette school districts, as well as Las Lomas and other high schools in the Acalanes Union High School District," says Holland.

In addition to the collaborative spirit that EFO has relied on over the years, many members come to the board of directors after serving on the board of their child's elementary school's Parents' Club. "They have a lot of knowledge and experience that they bring to EFO, further strengthening the organization," says Gilbert.

One of the original founders, Midge Zischke, says the organization has grown beyond her wildest dreams: "It is wonderful. I feel like a proud grandmother. They have been so effective over the years. One of the reasons we have such a wonderful community is because of the committed individuals like you find with EFO."

Former EFO President Steve Harwood (1986-1988) was impressed with the enthusiastic spirit that permeated the group

of parents who served on the board. "I was somewhat apprehensive when I attended my first EFO Board meeting. John Wilson was the president and every time a project came up, Midge Zischke volunteered. I found myself swept along with Midge's positive energy and pretty soon I found myself volunteering to undertake responsibilities. Midge was an inspiration to me. In those days, we did not have the home computer software that we have today. It was a much more cumbersome process to create a database, but it was accomplished by a lot of dedicated individuals," adds Harwood.

Volunteers have literally put in thousands of hours fundraising over the past 25 years, all of which directly benefit primary and secondary public education. "I think it is appropriate for the Orinda Association to present the Volunteer of the Year Award to EFO. The organization epitomizes what volunteerism is all about, in terms of the direct contributions to our schools and the very significant funding they raise every year. Their motto, 'Providing the Margin of Excellence' is very fitting. Without EFO, the school district would not be what it is today," says Frank Brunetti, superintendent of the Orinda Union School District.

There is still time to donate to EFO; go online at www.orindaefo.org. For more information, call 253-0885.

Orinda's Family Gift Store
CRYSTAL REALM



Discover exciting gifts for the whole family!
Shown: semi-precious gemstone earrings, custom platinum diamond wedding set, enamel & crystal peacock box, 6-looped porcelain vase. New products daily!

2 Theatre Square #114
Orinda, CA 94563
925-254-1123
6 days a week, closed Sundays
www.crystalrealm.com

20% OFF your first purchase with this ad!

◆ COMPOSER from page 17

purpose of worshipping one God. Prior to King Solomon, there were traveling tabernacles and of course, temples were erected to numerous gods, in the tradition of the Egyptians," he adds. Feinsmith points out that King Solomon's temple was a major turning point and this is commemorated in his musical score, *King Solomon*.

Creating a Score

One might wonder how a composer creates a score. "Everyone composes differently. I open myself to the will of the divine, and I become a receiving vessel. The sounds that I feel are from a divine source. I studied Zen for many, many years. In addition to meditating one hour every day, every Saturday I meditate all day long. A friend of mine built me a Zen hut on some property in Olema. It is beautiful. It is a one-room hut, built especially for the purpose of meditation. Over time I have learned if I don't meditate and pray, then the quality of my work suffers as a result," says Feinsmith.

The 400-year Feinsmith family musical tradition includes his father, who was a bassoonist with the New York Philharmonic and the Israel Philharmonic. "He, too, was a composer who composed biblical pieces," says Feinsmith. His mother played the oboe with the Israel Philharmonic. Feinsmith's paternal grandfather played bass clarinet in the New York Philharmonic with Arturo Toscanini.

State's Budget Crisis Affects The Arts

The continuing effects of the State of California's budget crisis have been sharply felt with significant cuts in funding for the arts. "Funding for the creation of original classical musical scores often comes from wealthy families who support the arts. Minnesota has enjoyed the benefits of such a strong tradition. In the Bay Area, the Fleischacker, Hewlett and Goldman families have contributed to various ensembles. The notion of private individuals sponsoring the commission of compositions is continuing," explains Feinsmith.

"I have organized the Feinsmith Ensemble to play modern, opera and multimedia works. The first thing we are doing is an opera," says Feinsmith. He has thoroughly enjoyed the poems of French poet Catherine Pozzi and has set her poems to opera. "I like her poetry so much that I am setting all of her poems to opera. Paul Dresher does great work in this area of avant-garde chamber opera, in small and intimate settings," he adds. The Feinsmith Ensemble plans to tour and record about 20 times a year.

To learn more about Feinsmith's work visit www.danielfeinsmith.com. Hear one of Feinsmith's works performed on January 15 when the Marin Civic Center hosts the premiere of Yahweh (An Encomium), which translates into "A Song of Praise." The Kronos Quartet commissioned this piece which is for a string quartet and 12 bell players. The Kronos Quartet will be joined for the evening by the 12-member Sonos Hand Bell Ensemble, playing over 100 bells.

SERVING LAMORINDA SINCE 1978

Specializing In:

- Spot removal
- Area rug cleaning
- Upholstery cleaning
- Berbers
- Water damage
- Odor removal



254-2866

John Kirby
Owner

We Clean for Health as well as Appearance

Help rid your home of dust mites, spores, molds, allergens and bacteria

RX-20

HYDROMASTER



campbell financial group

- ✍ Real Estate Loans
- ✍ Home Equity Lines
- ✍ Private Mortgages

61 Moraga Way, Suite 1
Orinda CA 94563
Website: www.campbellfinancialgrp.com
Email: bob@campbellfinancialgrp.com

Licensed by California Dept. Of Corporations



Bob Campbell

(925) 254-5500



**Caring
Concerned
Knowledgeable**

Diane MacDonald
Certified Residential Specialist

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate Services

Direct (925) 963-0269
dmacdonald@pacunion.com