M ore than 20 well-known and upcoming East Bay mixologists will come together on Saturday, Oct. 7 to support the Lamorinda Arts Council – a nonprofit whose mission is to support and inspire eventful ar-
ing artists expression and appreciation in the visual, performing and literary arts. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lamorinda Arts Council at the Orinda Theatre Square.

Art of Mixology attendees will have the opportunity to sample unique cocktails from exceptional mixologists as well as vote on sites to help determine who will be named Mixologist of the Year, Top Amatuer and Audiance Favorite.

Ryan Wulffsen of Park Bistro at 1635 Orinda Way in Orinda nominated Mixologist of the Year last year and is returning again this year for another chance at the title. Wulffsen said, "I'd like to get slow down to low in my life with others and enjoy quality time with an individual who has a wealth of life experiences to share." 

Catching up

As the Social Club grows, it was encouraged to expand its group in the past year. "We are always looking for new members!" Djemilev said. "According to the social rules, I am free to choose the pieces that I play in the orchestra. My music piece is a piece of my life and my personal philosophy. It helps me to make music with the person that I am today." 

Djemilev said, "I try to find repertoire that will resonate with young artist’s hearts, that will reflect their youthful spirit, their energy, their view of the world. Also, I try to challenge them by sometimes introducing very complex and innovative works, unusual compositions, helping to stretch their horizons."

"I consider myself very privileged working with so many amazingly talented young musicians. I’ve learned the importance of dedication, developing creative, constructive, and critical thinking for growing young musicians, not just their technical skills. I believe in teamwork, where everyone’s voice is heard and everyone's opinion matters. A conductor’s role is to help channel all of that powerful, imaginative energy to build our own new, unique interpretation of the materials we are working on. We can’t succeed if a conductor can’t succeed alone!"

Long hair swings into his boyish face and a smile lights up as he talks and op-
timistic, always dressed in a diet, Djemilev is at ease in his element. "When I was in Youth Orchestra in 2001, it had only 14 players in it. Now, after 16 years, we have about 90-95 percent of our membership come from Lamorinda. "We have a terrific tradition in both programs – we have a group of older players volunteer to help and work with younger musicians. This creates an amazing experience for both – beginners and advanced, and I believe that participation, as part of the social structure of the Lamorinda Arts Council, is heavily supported by the local mixologists - who label the craft and its own reward. The social aspect of this event has been a natural fit for many. Just a few of the fun things that will happen during the Art of Mixology include..."

Tickets are $55 in advance and can be purchased online at www.lamorindaarts.org. Mixology Day tickets are purchased at the event for $55.

"Art of Mixology brings together community members in the most festive of ways while celebrating the arts,” explained Law-
ence Kohl, president of Lamorinda Arts Council. "It’s one of my favorite fundraising events and I look forward to it each and ev-
ery year."

Catcher in the Riddle Bike Benefit Ride" 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., starting at the Holden High School parking lot, 101 Bin
Way in Orinda (just one mile away from the Orinda BART station). There will be two scenic routes through Orinda, Maraga and Lafayette to choose from - a 11-mile mostly flat beginner-friendly ride and a 23-mile hilly and flat challenge ride. Perfect for beginners, families and cycle enthusiasts alike, the event will also include giveaways, food, a post-race celebra-
tion and to be able to win on my first cycle enthusiasts alike, the event will also include giveaways, food, a post-race celebra-
tion and to be able to win on my first 100 percent of the proceeds from this event will directly go to serve the students at Holden High School. To reg-
ister, visit: holdenhigh.org/holden-events/bike/