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Orinda Historical Society hosts open house

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

From left: Kay Norman (Board Member), Teresa Long (Archivist), Cheryl Cechvala (Vice President), Wendy Harnett (Membership Secretary), Vivian Ricci (Recording Secretary) Reg Barrett (Board Member) Mayor Inga Miller, Alison Burns (President), and Kathy Barrett (Board Member). Behind, former mayor Amy Worth.

The Orinda Historical Society hosted their first annual open house on Nov. 30. In addition to an array of home-baked cookies and cakes and drinks, guests were treated to a musical performance by Patrick and Luke Burns, husband and son of Historical Society President Alison Burns.

Visitors were welcomed into the museum, newly refurbished in the past year. The walls and display cases are now full of Orinda memorabilia. In an adjoining room, hundreds of old photographs

were spread on a table, and guests were invited to try to identify the people and places depicted.

Included among the guests were board members of the Historical Society, Mayor Inga Miller and Orinda City Council Member and OHS liaison Janet Riley, City Manager David Biggs, City Clerk Sheri Smith, Former Mayor Amy Worth, Bobbie Landers, former chair of the Orinda Historical Landmark Committee, and many other members of the community.

Orinda kicks off the festive season



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Children enjoyed the large bouncy house and the fun slide at the Orinda Village Holiday Market on Dec. 2.

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Winning the 6- to 10-year-old category, brother and sister Anderson and Coraline Compton recreated Orinda's historic Joaquin Moraga Adobe in gingerbread, creating everything from scratch by hand.

There were also refreshments, a concert by the choir

of Orinda Intermediate School led by Choir Director Christina Holling, the Orinda PD "Stuff a Cruiser" Toy Drive, a craft for children led by the Orinda Teen Advisory Council, as well as a seasonal-themed photo opportunity for families who brought their own camera/phone.

2023 Gingerbread House Contest winners:



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Brother and sister Coraline Compton (10) and Anderson Compton (6) worked together to create a gingerbread model of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, including representations of crops raised on the rancho.

Age 3 years old:
Jackson Pollah – 1st place
Emory Geron – 2nd place

Age 4-5 years old:
Bennett Gagon – 1st place
Nico Pollah – 2nd place
Sophia Rogers – 3rd place

Ages 6-10 years old:
Anderson (6) & Coraline (10) Compton family – 1st place
Timmy Rogers (8) – 2nd place
Aria Soltani (6) & Aurora (6) – tied for 3rd place

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