

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

10 YEARS LAMORINDA

www.lamorindaweekly.com 925-377-0977

**FREE Admission**  
Bring this to get \$2 Book Buck for 1st purchase

**BAY AREA Kids BOOK FAIRS**  
Toys, Comics & Games Too!

**LAFAYETTE**  
Sunday, Oct. 15  
10am - 3pm  
Acalanes High School

Meet

www.BayAreaKidsBookFair.com

26,000 copies delivered biweekly to lamorinda homes & businesses

FREE



The dismantling of the Canyon Bridge continued after darkness fell on Sept. 26. Photo Andy Schreck

# Canyon Bridge dismantling and rebuilding begins

By Sophie Braccini

The old Canyon Bridge is gone. It had been closed to traffic for over five months, though it had been rumored that bicyclists and walkers had occasionally been trespassing. The declaration of instability and closing of the bridge following the landslide of the adjacent hill was the second major infrastructure incident within a year of each other that plagued the town of Moraga and stressed its financial status. The Moraga public works department explains that the demolition was a necessary step before the installation of a temporary one-lane bridge that will reopen access by the end of November to the Oakland hills and the community of Canyon. ... continued on page A5

**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

Letters to the Editor	A9
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	B9
Classified	C2
Shop Orinda	C4

Advertising

<b>JUST LISTED!</b>  403 Belfair Place, Moraga 4BR/2.5BA 2560SF \$1,550,000 View, Corner Lot, Pool, Updated! <a href="http://www.403Belfair.com">www.403Belfair.com</a>	<b>PENDING!</b>  5 Hilary Lane, Orinda 3BR/2BA 2854SF \$1,649,000 Newly Updated, Open Floor Plan. <a href="http://www.5Hilary.com">www.5Hilary.com</a>	<b>PENDING!</b>  15 Tia Place, Moraga 4BR/2.5BA 2121SF \$1,195,000 Great Cul-de-Sac Location with Huge Lot!	<p>More Great Listings Coming Soon! <a href="http://www.TheOlsenTeam.com">www.TheOlsenTeam.com</a></p> <p><b>The Olsen Team</b> Village REALTORS LIVE • LOVE • LAMORINDA</p> <p>Ben (925) 381-2151 Sue (925) 200-6000 mail@TheOlsenTeam.com <a href="http://www.TheOlsenTeam.com">www.TheOlsenTeam.com</a> CALBRE 01409268</p>
--	---	---	--

## Escalating rents prompt call for council action

By Pippa Fisher



The Second Street apartment property at the center of the rent controversy. Photo Pippa Fisher

Rent review programs are unusual in a small town such as Lafayette but following complaints in August from residents whose rents have been escalating by as much as 20 percent, the Lafayette City Council is examining the pros and cons of just such a program. In a packed room Sept. 25 the council heard from both renters and landlords with tensions running high as they attempted to determine whether or not to ... continued on page A11

## New Bell and Block Schedule receives passing grade, so far

By John T. Miller



Students make use of the new Academy period Sept. 29 at Acalanes High School to learn about the various clubs on campus. Photo John T. Miller

By all accounts, most stakeholders in the Acalanes Union High School District are finding the new bell and block schedule is accomplishing its purpose of more efficient use of academic time, reduction of stress and anxiety, and more time for collaboration between teachers and students. ... continued on page A11

<b>Civic News A1-A12</b> Salomon stays as Orinda city manager – page A6 <b>Fire Districts A8</b> Community input collected for new MOFD fire chief position – page A8	<b>Life in Lamorinda B1-B10</b> THT Season opens with musical fairy tale – page B1 	<b>Health B5-B8</b> Special Healthy Lifestyle Section – page B4 	<b>Sports C1-C4</b> Acalanes girls golf gets into swing – page C1 	<b>Our Homes D1-D16</b> Spruce up front entries with seasonal plants – page D1 
--	---	--	--	---





**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office Board Room  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

**City of Lafayette:**

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 284-1968

**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.lafayettechamber.org



**Lafayette Police Department**

**Incident Summary Report**

Sept. 10-23

Alarms	83	800 Block Mountain View Dr.
911 Calls (incl hang-ups)	10	1200 Block Warner Ct.
Noise Complaints	9	1300 Block El Curtola Blvd.
Traffic Stops	182	<b>Litter</b>
Suspicious Circumstances	16	3700 Block Mosswood Dr.
Suspicious Subjects	29	Sessions Rd./Sierra Vista Way (2)
Suspicious Vehicles	25	<b>Loitering</b>
Service to Citizen	34	3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
<b>Animal Cruelty</b>		900 Block Of Oakhill Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		<b>Lost Property</b>
<b>Auto Burglary</b>		900 Block Janet Ln.
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.		<b>Ordinance Violation</b>
<b>Battery</b>		3200 Block Driftwood Dr.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.		Oak View Cr./Hawthorn Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		1000 Block 2Nd St.
Lafayette Cir.		<b>Patrol Request</b>
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		Reliez Valley Rd./Silver Dell Rd.
<b>Civil Disturbance</b>		<b>Petty Theft</b>
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
<b>Civil Problem</b>		Police Department
1000 Block Via Roble		700 Block Glenside Cr.
<b>Commercial Burglary</b>		3200 Block Ortega Ave.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		900 Block Carol Ln.
<b>Disturbance-Fight</b>		900 Block Bell St.
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.		<b>Petty Theft Bicycle</b>
<b>Disturbing The Peace</b>		900 Block S Thompson Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		<b>Petty Theft From Vehicle</b>
1000 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.		1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		<b>Public Assembly Check</b>
900 Block Moraga Rd.		Art And Wine Festival
<b>Drunk In Public</b>		<b>Public Nuisance</b>
60 Block Lafayette Cr.		3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
<b>Dui Misdemeanor</b>		900 Block Moraga Rd. (2)
Deer Hill Rd./Brown Ave.		El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24
Moraga Rd./Old Mountain View Dr.		Rohrer Dr./Merriewood Dr.
<b>Fire/Ems Response Info</b>		3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Via Roble		500 Block Block Silverado Dr.
<b>Found Property</b>		3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Brook St./Moraga Rd.		3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Police Department		3200 Block Marlene Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		<b>Reckless Driving</b>
Pine Ln./El Nido Ranch Rd.		Hidden Valley Rd./Acalanes Rd.
<b>Fraud Credit Card</b>		St. Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
<b>Fraud False Pretenses</b>		St. Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
200 Block Lafayette Cr.		Deer Hill Rd./1St St.
4100 Block Los Arabis Dr.		1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
3300 Block Hermosa Way		Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
10 Block Beaumont Ct.		1000 Block Sierra Vista Way
<b>Grand Theft</b>		<b>Shoplift</b>
900 Block S Thompson Rd.		3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
700 Block Los Palos Dr.		3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
<b>H&amp;S Violation</b>		<b>Supplemental Report</b>
900 Block Village Center		Lafayette Park Hotel
<b>Hailed By Citizen</b>		<b>Threats</b>
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		70 Block Lafayette Cr.
200 Block Lafayette Cr.		1000 Block Creekwood Pl
<b>Harassment</b>		<b>Trespass</b>
Police Department		900 Block Moraga Rd. (2)
10 Block Shreve Ln.		1500 Block Rancho View Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		1000 Block Leland Dr.
900 Block Moon Ct.		3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
900 Block Moraga Rd.		<b>Unwanted Guest</b>
<b>Hit And Run Felony</b>		10 Block Wallabi Ct.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Risa Rd.		900 Block Diablo Dr.
<b>Hit And Run Misdemeanor</b>		3500 Block Plaza Way
10 Block Topper Ct.		3500 Block Brook St.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)		3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)		<b>Vandalism</b>
30 Block Lafayette Cr.		10 Block Moss Ln.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.		3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.		<b>Vehicle Theft</b>
<b>Identity Theft</b>		Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.		<b>Warrant Arrest</b>
		Police Department

**3654A HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE**  
JUST LISTED! | 3654AHAPPYVALLEYROAD.COM | OFFERED AT \$1,900,000

Build your dream home in the heart of Happy Valley! This rare, pancake-flat 1± acre parcel is tucked along one of Lafayette's most prestigious streets. This exceptional piece of land is located minutes from Hwy. 24, BART, town, & trails. In addition, it is ideally situated close to Happy Valley Elementary School and is in the top-rated Lafayette & Acalanes Unified School Districts!

**LAFAYETTE'S #1 REALTOR SINCE 2008**

**DAN GREEN**

925.339.1918 | LICENSE #: 01482454

DANAGREENTEAM.COM

**Lafayette decides against accepting "Crosses" land donation**

By Pippa Fisher



The Crosses Memorial on Deerhill Road

Photo Pippa Fisher

Lafayette city council members had mixed reactions to Charles Clark's recent offer to donate the well-known 2.7-acre property on Deerhill Road, known as "The Crosses of Lafayette" to the city. The thousands of white wooden crosses, visible from BART and from Highway 24 which sit opposite the BART station on Deerhill Road, represent a memorial to the

U.S. servicemen and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Born of Jeff Heaton's idea, the memorial was built by a small group of people from the area in 2006 on the hillside land donated by Johnson and Louise Clark. The Crosses Memorial, which started as a controversial anti-war statement, has now become world renown and is now a memorial, and a recog-

nized institution.

In a Sept. 7 letter to the council, Clark set out his offer to donate the land. He explained that he needs to adjust the lot lines on their land of about 5 acres to allow each of two existing, run down houses to sit on their own parcel of land in order to sell. In so doing he wishes to donate the remaining parcel containing the crosses by the end of this year in order to offset capital gains from a recent sale of an apartment property.

The council discussed the topic at the Sept. 25 city council meeting which appeared on the agenda only under "written communications" in order to determine whether or not to take it forward and place it on a future agenda.

Council Member Ivor Samson was concerned about future uses of the land and whether it was being offered "free and clear" given

the suggestions in Clark's letter of a Crosses of Lafayette Peace Memorial, city park and a city-owned metered BART parking lot. Clark explained this was his vision for the land.

Following Council Member Mark Mitchell's concern about the time constraints for getting this done before the end of the year, Samson said that the less information they have about conditions of the offer, the more it decreases the chances of meeting the required deadline – a point Vice Mayor Don Tatzin agreed with.

In answer to Council Member Cam Burks' question regarding whether religious symbols could stay on city land, Lafayette City Attorney Mala Subramanian said she would not recommend it.

... continued on page A11

**Another Moraga Road accident prompts further discussion of bicycle, pedestrian safety**

By Pippa Fisher



This busy intersection on Moraga Road was the scene of an accident between a car and cyclist on Sept. 27. The bicyclist on Moraga Road had a green light at the same time the light for the left turn lane onto St. Mary's Road was green.

For the second time in just over two months another person has been hit on Moraga Road.

The most recent incident happened on Wednesday, Sept. 27 and involved a cyclist and a Mercedes at the intersection of Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road. This follows the July 24 pedestrian fatality on the same road at the Moraga Boulevard traffic lights.

Lamorinda Weekly publishers Andy and Wendy Scheck drove past the scene shortly after the accident had taken place. They said that the front windshield of the Mercedes was shattered and looked as if it had borne the brunt of the impact from the cyclist hitting the windshield. ... continued on page A10

**JIM COLHOUN PRESENTS**

56 Merrill Circle N MORAGA      4467 Terra Granada Unit 3A ROSSMOOR

**REDUCED PRICE!**  
6BR/5BA SANDERS RANCH ESTATE  
OVER 6400 SF BRANAGH-BUILT QUALITY  
SWIMMING POOL  
1+ ACRE LOT  
OFFERED AT \$2,645,000

**NEW TO MARKET!**  
POPULAR FIRESTONE MODEL  
SINGLE-LEVEL 2 BR/2BA + DEN 1540 SF  
PANORAMIC VALLEY VIEWS  
ROSSMOOR LIFESTYLE AWAITS!  
OFFERED AT \$665,000

**JIM COLHOUN**  
CalBRE# 01029160  
925.200.2795  
jim@apr.com  
jimcolhoun.com

**ALAIN PINEL REALTORS**

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

**EXPERT KNOWLEDGE ... EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE**



# Buy or rent? Lafayette continues to look for options

By Pippa Fisher

The city of Lafayette has long entertained the idea of owning its own city offices with periodic discussions at the council level over many years. At a recent city council meeting however a unanimous vote brought that dream slightly closer.

The board members were discussing a recently prepared financial model with a view to directing staff on the next steps.

Vice Mayor Don Tatzin pre-

sented the comprehensive model, requested at the Aug. 14 council meeting, which showed buying a property for \$10 million or less to be profitable in the long term over 50 years or so, while costing more money out-the-door in the intermediate future of 20-30 years or so than renting. He pointed out it is a “trade off” but that there is more certainty in buying.

... continued on page A11

# Sustainable Lafayette’s next film night highlights ‘gangster gardeners’

By Pippa Fisher



Tomatoes are a staple for most urban community gardens, which is the focus of the next film being shown by Sustainable Lafayette on Oct. 5 at the Town Hall Theatre. Photo Pippa Fisher

Sustainable Lafayette’s third movie night of this year’s series is an inspirational story of the human spirit and how urban farming is transforming neighborhoods and lives.

To be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5 at Lafayette’s Town Hall Theatre, the documentary “Can You Dig This” by Delila Vallot looks at the urban gardening movement that is taking hold in South Los Angeles, an area once better known for gangs, drugs, abandoned buildings and vacant lots.

Now, however, neighborhoods are being transformed as “gangster gardeners” call for people to put down their guns and pick up their shovels to create an oasis in one of the previously most dangerous places in America.

... continued on page A12

# Lace up, Lafayette!

By Pippa Fisher



From left: Retired Acalanes High School Digital Design Instructor Susan Lane with Acalanes student Miles Wiesenthal, holding his winning poster, and Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson.

Photo provided

It’s October and fall is in the air, which means the Lafayette Reservoir Run is right around the corner.

The traditional “Res Run” – now in its 25th year – has something for everyone, with a 5k, a 10k and a 2-mile distance. The event is always popular and usually attracts close to 2,000 runners with an equal number of spectators cheering them on and enjoying the party. This year’s Res Run takes place on Sunday, Oct. 22, with staggered start times at 8 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 8:45 a.m.

All courses are an out-and-back format so all runners come back together and enjoy the Healthy Lifestyles Fair, live music and kid zone in the festive atmosphere. All participants receive a goody bag and T-shirt.

The annual race is put on by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and cosponsored by the City of Lafayette to benefit Lafayette schools and Chamber programs. Specifically the money raised for schools has helped provide instructional assistants, field trip funding and technology in classrooms.

The Res Run is family friendly with lots of children, grandparents, parents with strollers and dogs all entering to take part in the fun along with some serious runners. It is not unusual to see familiar faces

among the runners – in past years Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk and several other members of city staff have been spotted along with several city council members.

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson says he would love to run but will be a little busy with keeping the event running smoothly. “Fall is my favorite time of the year. The air is cold and crisp, the colors are spectacular and sense of community is best displayed at this annual event.”

The 5k and 10k races are chip-timed and certified, with the former being flat and fast. The 10k takes runners up and around the gorgeous Lafayette Reservoir for those who want a slightly hillier challenge (no dogs or strollers allowed). The 2-mile course is a run/walk for fun with no timing and is perfect for kids.

Each year the Chamber asks local high school students to create the poster for the run. This year’s winning poster was designed by Acalanes High School student Miles Wiesenthal.

To sign up runners or walkers should go to the Chamber website and follow the link <http://www.lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/>. Registration includes a T-shirt and runner packet.

## The Early Fall Market in Lamorinda!

Open Sunday 1-4



New Price!



Open Sunday 1-4



Just Sold!



1873 St. Andrews Drive, Moraga

Unbelievable views of golf course. Expanded Wimbledon, 3063 sqft, 4Br, 3Ba plus office. Great for entertaining.  
**\$1,650,000** [www.1873StAndrewsDr.com](http://www.1873StAndrewsDr.com)

503 Augusta Drive, Moraga

Wonderful MCC home with a lovely backyard. Expanded Sequoia, over 3700 sqft, 4Br, 2.5 Ba, light & bright. Special!  
**\$1,395,000** [www.503AugustaDr.com](http://www.503AugustaDr.com)

1161 Larch Avenue, Moraga

Former tennis and swim club site. 4 lot subdivision partially complete. 24.6 acres in private and serene location.  
**\$2,200,000** [www.1161LarchAve.com](http://www.1161LarchAve.com)

3 Julianna Court, Moraga

Gorgeous traditional home on a quiet court. 4809 sqft, 5 Br, 5 Ba, on 1.5ac lot, pool & a great guest house.  
**\$2,320,000** [www.Orinda.com](http://www.Orinda.com)





925 254-3030 [www.Orinda.com](http://www.Orinda.com)

Lafayette • Moraga • Orinda



Cal BRE 1221247

## Happy Valley Glen Jewel Box – Coming Soon!



3676 Hastings Court, Lafayette | Price Upon Request

This wonderful 3BD/2.5BA, 1886± sq. ft. home is meticulously updated with beautiful finishes. The gourmet kitchen, open floor plan, cathedral ceilings and floor to ceiling windows in the living spaces are fabulous. The great room and living room both overlook a sparkling pool, outdoor BBQ, covered patio and a large grass area. The property spans 1.10± acres with views of the surrounding hills and is ideally located near downtown Lafayette, BART and award-winning schools.

## Stunning Private Retreat



4144 Canyon Road, Lafayette | \$2,850,000

Nestled above Happy Valley on 3.98± acres of pure serenity, is Canyon Oaks Ranch. This is a unique opportunity to own an amazing property with endless possibilities. The four bedroom, four bathroom, single level home features floor to ceiling glass, views of the surrounding hills and Mt. Diablo. The estate includes a one bedroom, one bathroom guest house and barn with tack room, three stalls, hay loft, electricity and water. Close to downtown, Hwy 24 and BART.



PRICE GALLEGOS GROUP

Amy S. Price & Christine Gallegos


925 997 6808 | 415 606 2047

[pricegallegos.com](http://pricegallegos.com)

[amy.price@pacunion.com](mailto:amy.price@pacunion.com)

[christine.gallegos@pacunion.com](mailto:christine.gallegos@pacunion.com)

License # 01433269 | 01896511



License # 0186677





## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Moraga School District**  
Thursday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 888-7022

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

## Moraga Police Report

Summary covers Sept. 17 to 24

Alarms	16
Noise Complaints	12
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	2
Traffic stops	54
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subjects	3
Suspicious Vehicles	2

**Abandoned Vehicle**  
100 block Miramonte Dr

**Animal Cruelty**  
Safeway

**Brandishing a Weapon**  
Moraga Commons Park

**Burglary, Commercial**  
Safeway

**Burglary, Residential**  
200 block Corliss

**Civil**  
200 block Corliss

300 block Birchwood Dr

**Counterfeit**  
Safeway

**Credit Fraud**  
2000 block Donald Dr

**Disturbance, Juvenile**  
2100 block Ascot Dr

Sanders Ranch Rd/Camino Pablo

70 block Miramonte Dr

**Disturbing the Peace**  
reported to police

**Excessive Speed**  
80 block Rheem Blvd

Rheem Blvd/Fernwood Dr

Moraga Commons Park

100 block Draeger

Moraga/St Mary's

Moraga/Buckingham

Larch/Canyon Rd

**Health & Safety Violation**  
address n/a

**Hit & Run**  
1900 block Ascot Dr

Nations

**ID Theft**  
location n/a

**Mentally Ill Commitment**  
location n/a

**Missing Adult**  
300 block Rheem Blvd

**Panhandling**  
1500 block Canyon Rd

**Police/Fire/ EMS**  
Campolindo High School

300 block Fernwood

**Reckless Driving**  
Moraga Rd/Draeger

**Revoked License**  
Moraga Rd/Fire Station 42

300 block Rheem Blvd

**Shoplift**  
400 block Center St

**Theft, Petty**  
80 block Courter Ln

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:  
letters@lamorinda weekly.com

More than a Realtor... a whole team of Experts!

BRE#01407557  
ALAIN PINEL

KarenRichardsonGroup.com

**NEW LISTING**  
165 Arbor View Lane, Lafayette

**SOLD**  
Pre-Market Sale  
970 2nd Street, Lafayette

**COMING SOON**  
Broadmoor Court, Lafayette

Call the experts for a superior experience buying or selling your home today! **925.639.3904**

## Moraga's new unique park will need some TLC

By Sophie Braccini



Malcolm Sproul looks at interpretative signs in the new West Commons Park. Photo Sophie Braccini

Moraga Mayor Teresa Onoda has been a longtime advocate of the concept of a passive park that provides access to examples of what natural Moraga was like through different phases of its history. As of Sept. 23 residents of all ages can now visit West Commons Park, a passive park in the middle of town across from the Commons Park on Moraga Road, as an education and relaxation resource. While the park has many assets, both in terms of beauty and informational resources, tree maintenance and invasive weed removal could present challenges that town staff might not be equipped to face.

The entrance brings visitors over an aesthetically pleasing bridge, constructed by Summer-Hill Homes. In 2014 the developer signed a development agreement with the town to build the homes adjacent to the park along Camino Ricardo, provided that it would transform the undeveloped 2.5 acres into a passive park with two access bridges. Onoda was on the planning commission when the concept was discussed and she said that the passive park concept was always what she championed.

Onoda explains that a recreation space, in the middle of a town, that presents local natural

resources is a rare thing. As a parent she was surprised that when children in local schools were studying local habitats, animals and plants, much of the work was done in the classroom. Malcolm Sproul, a Moraga resident and principal at environmental consulting firm LSA, has been a strong supporter of the project and believes that anything that takes children outside and away from electronics is good.

This reporter has visited the park on several occasions with Sproul and Barbara Preston, another resident who has been working to save Moraga historical pear trees for many years.

The first impression one gets on the access bridge is a very nice view of the riparian corridor along Laguna Creek. Sproul points to native plants, trees and shrubs that grow there. A very well made interpretive sign details all the natural elements present in the corridor: California Buckeyes, Coast Live Oaks, Arroyo Willows, Coffee berry, to name a few.

Sproul explains that having portions of the riparian corridor thus protected is also allowing wildlife to thrive. Animal species that have been spotted along the creek include frogs and turtles, as well as rainbow trout. Sproul remembers spotting a 16-inch trout

in the creek just before the park begins. He explains that the fish live in the Upper San Leandro Reservoir and travel up the local creeks to spawn.

Wildlife were spotted in several areas on a recent early morning visit to the park: Hummingbirds were happily gleaning nectar from the California fuchsia that have been planted by SummerHill with other native plants in several patches throughout the park; a majestic pair of white tailed kites was perched in the trees, black phoebes flew by; of course jays and crows were present; Sproul identified the droppings of a grey fox next to the trail; he also noticed that a small tree had been somewhat abused by a buck polishing its antlers. The interpretative signs in the park offer a nice complement to the exploration.

Maintenance challenges were also obvious in the park. The large flat area that comprises the larger part of the 2.5 acres is mostly covered by what should be grassland, studded with very old pear trees, and surrounded by more native trees and bushes. Instead, the grassland is contaminated by bristly ox tongue, a highly invasive non-native weed that has been spreading throughout Moraga.

... continued on page A11

## Don't park on the street for more than three days

By Sophie Braccini

The public may not know that is not permitted to leave vehicles parked in the right of way continuously for more than 72 hours in Moraga. Cars and other vehicles have to be in garages or driveways, not sitting on the street. Until now, however, there were no ordinances in the municipal code allowing the police department to enforce the rule.

Chief of police Jon King says parking all types of vehicles in the public right of way has been a recurrent issue in Moraga, and can be a hazard when people leave large trailers or recreational vehicles on the street for days on end. Neighbors complain, and owners merely move the contentious vehicle a few inches when the police ask them to remove it.

The new proposal, which was introduced on Sept. 13 and approved at the Sept. 27 Moraga Town Council meeting, is to allow for 72-hour parking with the possibility of asking for an additional 72-hour permit from the police department; after that time, the vehicle will have to be moved on private grounds or at least 200 feet away. Commercial vehicles are prohibited from being parked in residential neighborhoods, but owners can also ask for a 72-hour permit.

Some of the council members were surprised to learn that they could have been unintentionally infringing on the law by parking their vehicles on the street for more than three days. King said that the practice is not for his officers to be on the lookout for these types of infractions. The normal procedure is when someone complains, the officers go on site, check the license plate to locate the owner, and go talk to that person before taking action.

King noted after the meeting that his department has had to tow vehicles, but it is usually an abandoned car not belonging to anyone in Moraga.

A Sanders Drive area resident came to the Sept. 13 meeting to express support of the new rule: in

that neighborhood a resident has consistently parked a large trailer that is both unsightly and a safety hazard. King confirmed he was aware of the situation and had been unable to intervene so far.

A majority of the council members agreed that 72 hours was

enough and that the rule should be to move vehicles at least 200 feet after that time has elapsed. The council approved a final version of the text including exception for ADA vehicles on Sept. 27.

### Local Knowledge | Extraordinary Results

Concierge Real Estate Services

- ✓ Combined 40+ years of unparalleled service
- ✓ Representing buyers & sellers in Lamorinda
- ✓ Trend setting marketing customized for each home
- ✓ Committed to helping you achieve your goals

**Bernie & Ryerson Team**

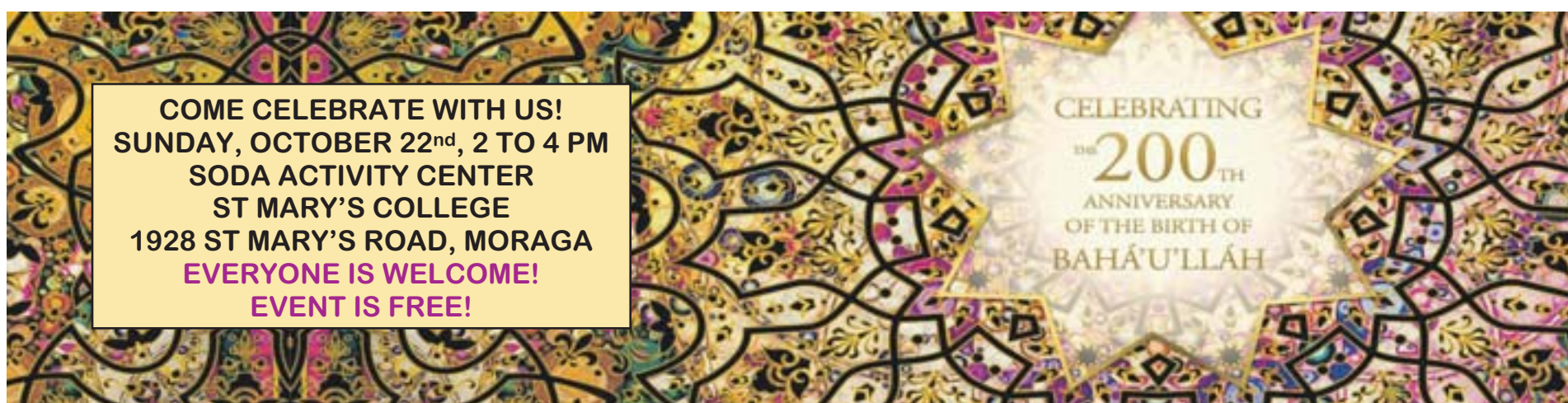
### Are you considering selling your home?

If so, please give us a call for assistance. We would be happy to provide you with a complimentary market analysis of your home's value, as well as a comprehensive marketing plan detailing how to get you the highest sale price in today's market!

**Bernie & Ryerson Team**  
925 200 2222 or 925 878 9685  
gabernie@pacunion.com  
ken.ryerson@pacunion.com  
License # 00686144 | 01418309

**PACIFIC UNION INTERNATIONAL**  
License # 01866771





**COME CELEBRATE WITH US!**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 TO 4 PM**  
**SODA ACTIVITY CENTER**  
**ST MARY'S COLLEGE**  
**1928 ST MARY'S ROAD, MORAGA**  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**  
**EVENT IS FREE!**

CELEBRATING  
**the 200<sup>th</sup>**  
 ANNIVERSARY  
 OF THE BIRTH OF  
**BAHÁ'U'LLÁH**

## Town attempts to combat negative press coverage at council meeting

By Jennifer Wake

The Moraga Town Council at its Sept. 27 meeting briefly discussed the necessity to respond officially to the Sept. 15 San Francisco Chronicle article, "Town tapped out: Moraga's fiscal crisis shocks, baffles residents." Staff felt that that the article text misrepresented the town and contained many errors, and it wrote a draft response to the article to be sent to the paper.

The draft letter listed 13 bulleted responses to portions of the article, including areas of discrepancy in how comparisons were made between Moraga and other cities that had declared fiscal emergencies, a more detailed explanation about the town's much needed storm drain repairs, and how comparisons to the City of Orinda's total operating budget were flawed due to how police contract positions are included in Orinda's salaries and benefits allocation.

The council members acknowledged that while they believed that the article contained factual errors, engaging in a battle with the media was a waste of time and energy. News of the agenda item and a copy of the draft response, however, reached the Chronicle editorial desk anyway.

In a Sept. 26 email response to council members and staff from the Chronicle's editor-in-chief about the alleged errors in coverage, Audrey Cooper wrote: "None of them are actual factual lapses as much as they are preferences that the article should have been

presented more from your point of view and not included the voices of people who disagree with current town policies. Respectfully, that is not how news coverage works. ... Our news decisions reflect topics we believe will better inform people in the Bay Area and Northern California. Our role is to inspire informed civic discourse, and we reject pressure to tilt coverage in any direction. We report hundreds of stories a week. As I often say, there has never been a story we couldn't have made better with more time and the benefit of hindsight, but there is a large void between that an (sic) actual factual errors that mislead voters. I hope you come to see the distinction."

The council members agreed that what mattered most was their constituency, the Moraga residents, and that the town should focus on publishing any clarifications or corrections to information stated in the article on its website. Mayor Teresa Onoda and Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus volunteered to work on this text, which will be brought back to council at a later time. Council Member Jeanette Fritzky, thinking that no action was necessary, voted against spending more time on the topic.

To view the draft letter and response submitted as part of the Sept. 27 Town of Moraga Staff Report, visit [http://www.moraga.ca.us/council/meetings/2017/092717/TC-092717\\_Agenda%20Regular%20Final%20-%20Corresp%20Added.pdf](http://www.moraga.ca.us/council/meetings/2017/092717/TC-092717_Agenda%20Regular%20Final%20-%20Corresp%20Added.pdf)

## Dismantling of the Canyon Bridge

... continued from page A1



The bridge is gone Photo Andy Scheck

The work started as scheduled the week of Sept. 18, with the main part of the bridge gone a week later. Public works director Edric Kwan says that the bridge will be completely cleared by Oct. 8. He further explains that the town is now signing the contract to have the preparation work for the installation of the temporary bridge to start right after the demolition is completed.

Brian Coyle, Canyon school board vice president, tried to have the demolition stopped. A significant difference of perception persists between the Canyon school board and the Town of Moraga. Coyle states that only inspectors with a federally approved bridge inspection certificate can assess the safety of a bridge and Moraga had not called such professionals. When the town, following its plan, decided to remove the bridge, Coyle filed a request to restrain the town from

demolishing the bridge. A judge denied the request.

Coyle made a further request that Moraga cease denying what he calls the 2016 CalTrans assessment, and that it permits Canyon school district representatives an opportunity to make a presentation at a Moraga Town Council meeting. That request was heard by a judge on Sept. 29 and denied.

Kwan explains that the installation of a replacement bridge was a complex project to plan. The contractor that will prepare the abutments and piers to retain the hillside and allow for a safe installation of the temporary bridge could not start the work before the bridge is demolished. Kwan says that the site is too narrow for two contractors to have their diverse equipment on site at the same time. He says that the bid documents for this work have been published and a contract would be signed in time for the work to start on the heels of the demolition.

The third company involved in the project is the one that will rent an appropriate bridge to the town. Kwan says he is in the process of selecting one. He continues to forecast the installation of the temporary bridge at the end of November.

### The termination of Sinky the Sinkhole

Sinky the Sinkhole, as one resident nicknamed the year and a half crater at the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road, is now nearing its end. Kwan reports that the repair is proceeding as planned. The new 96-inch reinforced concrete culvert for the creek was installed and encased in a slurry backfill. The utilities that were installed in the hole were secured in place last winter, a new traffic signal system needs to be placed on site, and the pavement rebuilt. Normal traffic is projected to be re-established by the end of October.

## Publicize Your Event on The Electronic Community Information Sign!



**MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION**  
 925-888-7045 • [www.moragarec.com](http://www.moragarec.com)

## Sharp Bicycle



**up to 40% OFF all Demo Bikes**  
**Friday Oct. 7 thru Sunday Oct. 15**

**Road Bikes\***  
 - Pinarello  
 Dogmas,  
 Gans & womens

- Trek Emonda,  
 Domane  
 Silques &  
 womens

**Shoes: 40-50% OFF\***  
 Sidi, Bontrager  
**Helmets: 40-50% OFF\***  
 Giro, Bontrager  
**Shorts; Jerseys;**  
**Gloves: 40-75% OFF\***

**Wheels:**  
 Mavic, Enve: 30% OFF\*  
**Saddles: 50% OFF\***  
 select, Bontrager

**Electric Bikes\***  
 Trek, mtb, Road,  
 Commuters,  
 Dual Sport  
 mens and womens

**Mountain Bikes\***  
 Trek & Santa Cruz  
 Full susp. & Hardtire

969 Moraga Rd., Lafayette in La Fiesta Square

**284-9616 • [www.sharpbicycle.com](http://www.sharpbicycle.com)**

M-W 10-6, Th-F 10-7, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-5

\* All sale limited to stock on hand

## IT'S OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR

BIG SAVINGS ON THE STYLES YOU'LL LOVE.



Custom Hardwood Shutters

### Incredible Savings, Promotions, and Upgrades On Shutters & More Going On Now!\*

Contact your local Style Consultant for amazing offers in your area!



Schedule your FREE Consultation today!  
 925-216-4857 // [BudgetBlinds.com](http://BudgetBlinds.com)



\*Applies to selected window treatments and Roman and Panel® shutters sold through Budget Blinds®. Ask for details. Not valid with any other offers, discounts, or coupons. Valid for a limited time only. Offer good at initial time of estimate only. All participating franchise only. ©2016 Budget Blinds, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Budget Blinds is a trademark of Budget Blinds, LLC and a Home Franchise Concepts Brand. Each franchise independently owned and operated. Franchise opportunities available.

<p><b>30 Lancaster Ct., Alamo</b></p>  <p>Stunning 3-bed, 2.5-bath single level home features an updated kitchen w/granite counters, Wolf 6-burner stove, cozy nook and more! Located in coveted Stonegate, it is part of a gated community with tennis courts, security, greenbelts. <b>Listed for \$1,385,000 by Rose Brudigan 925.765.6490.</b></p>	<p><b>1202 Thomas Dr., Martinez</b></p>  <p>Hillside custom home, almost 3300 sf, water views, private secluded lot. 5 bdr. 3 baths, hardwood flooring, a commercial kitchen, master suite retreat, spiral staircase to lower level, huge family room, and 2nd fireplace. <b>Offered at \$800,000 by Rose Brudigan 925.765.6490.</b></p>	<p><b>296 Tharp Dr., Moraga</b></p>  <p><b>FOR LEASE</b></p> <p>Great, remodeled house with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, eat-in kitchen with 1524 sq ft., large patio and a 2-car garage. Located near elementary and middle schools, as well as parks. <b>Offered at \$3800 a month by Sheri Wedlake 925.324.2091.</b></p>	<p><b>811 Shady Glen, Martinez</b></p>  <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>This nicely upgraded home with views has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, including a large Master Suite and 2065 sf. 1 bed &amp; bath are conveniently found downstairs at street level. Also featured are a large deck and usable up sloped lot. Beautiful Alhambra Heights location, close to everything. <b>Offered at \$724,000 by Regina Englehart, 925.876.9076.</b></p>	<p><b>3614 Shukla, Walnut Creek</b></p>  <p><b>Buyer Rep SOLD</b></p> <p>Beautiful single-story 4-bedroom, 3-bath home with custom features located on a private cul-de-sac in Northgate Meadows. Lovely French doors lead to a large, landscaped yard with hot tub and many seating areas. <b>Listed at \$1,375,000. Buyer represented by Sheri Wedlake 925.324.2091.</b></p>
---	---	--	--	---

### Meet our Featured Agents ...

 <p>Rose Brudigan 925.765.6490 CalBRE#00571094</p>	 <p>Lisa Shaffer 925.528.9278 CalBRE#00996886</p>	 <p>Sheri Wedlake 925-324-2091 CalBRE#00872175</p>	 <p>Julie Georgiou 925.200.8246 CalBRE#01043977</p>	 <p>Tania DeGroot 510.367.1422 CalBRE# 01094898</p>	 <p>Regina Englehart, Broker-Manager 925.876.9076 CalBRE# 01308462</p>
---	--	---	--	---	---



89 Davis Road Ste. 100, Orinda  
 925.254.0440  
[www.bhghome.com/Orinda](http://www.bhghome.com/Orinda)

Our Orinda office is uniquely positioned as a gateway for sellers and buyers around the Bay Area; a central hub for our 30 Better Homes and Gardens offices.





## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### School Board Meetings

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, Oct. 9, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org  
Phone (925) 253-4200

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

#### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 27 to Sept. 9

<b>Alarms</b>	58
<b>Noise Complaints</b>	7
<b>911 Calls (includes hang-ups)</b>	2
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	48
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	11
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	16
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	30
<b>Abandoned Vehicle</b>	
Tahos/Hidden Valley Rd	
<b>Barking Dog</b>	
40 block Hilldale Ct	
<b>Battery</b>	
100 block Sleepy Hollow Ln	
<b>Burglary, Commercial</b>	
200 block Village Square	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
Rheem Blvd/Moraga Via	
Orinda Intermediate School	
Donald Dr/Alice Ln	
<b>Dispute</b>	
Nation's	
Safeway, Lafayette	
100 block El Toyonal	
40 block Underhill Rd	
10 block Yosemite Rd	
30 block Oakwood Rd	
<b>Death, non-criminal</b>	
30 block Via Floreado	
<b>DUI</b>	
Hwy 24/St Stephen's Dr	
Casa Vieja/Moraga Way	
<b>Fraud</b>	
100 block El Toyonal	
10 block Bates Blvd	
<b>Health &amp; Safety Violation</b>	
Donald Dr/Hall Dr (2)	
Wilder	
<b>ID Theft</b>	
200 block Sundown Terr	
Reported to police	
<b>Injury Accident</b>	
500 block Moraga Way	
<b>Panhandling</b>	
60 block Moraga Way	
Safeway	
<b>Police/Fire/ EMS</b>	
10 block Via Callados	
<b>Prowler</b>	
10 block Frogs Leap Way	
500 block Miner Rd	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
40 block Oak Rd	
20 block Orinda Way	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Donald Dr/Hall Dr	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Bear Creek	
Miner Rd/Camino Sobrante	
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Wildcat Ct (2)	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Camino Pablo	
Glorietta Blvd/Overhill Rd	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd (2)	
Las Vegas Rd/El Verano	
Moraga Way/Whitehall Dr	
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd	
Moraga Way/Orchard Ct	
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd	
<b>Theft, Petty</b>	
30 block Overhill Rd (2)	
10 block Hilldale Ct	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
30 block Daryl Dr	
<b>Trespass</b>	
300 block Camino Sobrante (2)	
<b>Uncontrollable Juvenile</b>	
20 block Warford Terr	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
McDonnell Nursery	
<b>Warrant Arrest</b>	
Shell Gas	

## LIVING TRUST

**\$695**  
**COMPLETE**  
Valid until November 15, 2017

#### Plan Includes:

- Trust Agreement
- Pour Over Will
- Guardianship of Minor Children
- Power of Attorney for Finance
- Community Property Agreement
- Transfer of Real Property into Trust

Advanced Medical Directives, Including:

- Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Living Will
- HIPAA

**FREE** INITIAL CONSULTATION

Law Offices of  
**Lauren Smykowski**

#### Notary Services Included!

(925) 257-4277  
www.smykowskilaw.com  
laurensmy@gmail.com  
Office Located in Walnut Creek

## CAMP BOW WOW

**First Day is FREE!**  
(with this ad)

**DOGGY DAY CARE AND BOARDING**

**925-446-4724**

• Large Play Yards • 24-Hour Monitoring • Grooming  
• Pet CPR & First Aid Certified Camp Counselors  
Camp Bow Wow Diablo Valley | 1395 Galindo St., Ste C | Concord  
www.campbowwow.com/diablo-valley

## Salomon to continue as Orinda city manager

By Sora O'Doherty



The Orinda City Council welcomes Steve Salomon as new city manager, from left: Inga Miller, Amy Worth, Eve Phillips, Steve Salomon, Dean Orr and Darlene Gee. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Steve Salomon has had a successful career in local government over the past 40 years. He previously served 17 years as Visalia's city manager, was Albany's city administrator, and city manager for the cities of Watsonville and Hercules. He also worked for the city of Concord in a variety of positions and has served in numerous leadership positions within the California Redevelopment Association, Contra Costa City Manager's Group, and South San Joaquin Valley Division of the League of California Cities – City Managers' Department, and is a member of the International City/Council Management Association.

Now Salomon, who has been serving as interim city manager after taking over from Janet Keeter who retired in late February, is Orinda's new city manager.

Why did Salomon, who might be enjoying a comfortable retirement, agree to take the job? "It was a combination of things," he said. "I have really enjoyed working with the city council, staff and community, and we've accomplished a fair amount. It got to the point where things might get done faster than otherwise" if he accepted the job.

Salomon negotiated a relatively unusual agreement: he won't be working full time, but 90 percent, he receives no severance pay and no management leave. The city was flexible, Salomon noted, because they wanted him to stay.

"I've been working with Steve for over six months now," Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips said. "I know he will do well in this job. I look forward to him leaving his imprint on the city and taking it to the next level."

His contract will run to the end of June 2019, and his base pay will be \$224,640 per year, with a possible 3 percent increase in February or March 2018. Salomon will have 90 percent health benefits, \$800 a month for a car, and other benefits.

Explaining his philosophy, Salomon said, "Part of what I hope to do is give folks in the organization the opportunity to grow and work on things they might not have under other circumstances. You have to have a certain amount of faith in the folks who work for you," he added, noting that he has tried to only get involved where he thinks he is needed.

Praised by the city council for his financial acumen, Salomon commented, "Every city that I've worked in I've tried to leave it in better financial shape than when I arrived, even if it was already in good condition."

Orinda is in a relatively fragile financial status, and has projects such as Camino Sobrante stabilization and Ironbark Circle to complete. Salomon would like to reduce costs and bring in some revenue raising matters, such as a Transient Occupancy Tax on short-term rentals, for example. "Orinda contacted Airbnb because we knew that they had agreements with other cities, and adopted a Short Term Rental Ordinance requiring registration," he said.

"I would have never guessed that I would end up being a city manager. Would have never thought about it. When I graduated from high school good in math, people told me I should go into engineering. What I learned helped me over the years, but I didn't want to work on the design of the bridge or road, but

wanted to work with the people on deciding what kind of bridge or road they wanted." Salomon earned a master's in city and regional planning with a minor in public administration from Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with an emphasis on transportation and public works from the University of Cincinnati.

#### Downtown Development

When asked about the reports on downtown development by the Urban Land Institute and the National Main Street program, Salomon noted that while both had any number of recommendations in them, both reports were done by people who don't live or work in Orinda. "Some of what they recommended may not be appropriate for Orinda, and some of it may be," he said. "Some process will be required to identify what kinds of things they want to work on. For example, daylighting San Pablo Creek would be a long-term thing, very complicated. But other things might be able to be done relatively inexpensively, if people want to do it." One example would be to utilize Bryant Way more effectively for parking.

"People here," Salomon said, "they want it to stay Orinda; they don't want it to be someplace else." Salomon says he doesn't think there are going to be any dramatic changes right away, or perhaps even in the long term, but he does think that there are some areas where there could be consensus. "You have to work on things that are both short term and long term."

In the past, Salomon has worked in cities that have cared about their downtowns: in Watsonville right after the Loma Prieta Earthquake that pretty much destroyed downtown, and in Visalia, which Salomon says has the strongest downtown in the Central Valley, even though it isn't by the water and isn't a college town. Salomon said the residents cared a great deal about the downtown and it went from an A to an A-plus.

"They did lots of things, some of which I would have never believed when I started," he said. Visalia is near Sequoia National Park, so the city runs the transit system there. They developed a special shuttle bus from May to September as a tourism-related thing. Visalia has a trolley similar to Walnut Creek's that runs around downtown. When Visalia got a multiscreen movie theater and a grant for a children's museum, they very deliberately put them in downtown.

The number of restaurants doubled during the time Salomon was there. "It got to the point," Salomon said, "where people would come to the downtown, wander around, and then decide where to eat when. Orinda has lots of potential to work on, but you have to work on what works for the community."

## Orinda Town Hall with Baker, Andersen, and Phillips

By Sora O'Doherty



Assemblywoman Catharine Baker at the Sept. 25 Town Hall.

Photo Sora O'Doherty  
Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, County Supervisor Candace Andersen and Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips held a town hall to interact with their constituents on Sept. 25 at the Orinda Library

auditorium. The event was well attended, with most of the audience on the more mature side and very polite. There were no protests, and little contention.

Everyone was in agreement in opposing Senate Bill 35, which removes local control over housing in localities found not to have met state housing goals, signed into law Sept. 29 by Gov. Jerry Brown. Legislators and public at the town hall agreed the bill will take away local control.

One area where not everyone was in agreement was the proposed raising of the dam at Los Vaqueros Reservoir by 49 feet. Orinda resident Richard Coleman asked if any other alternatives had been considered and if the assemblywoman supported the proposal. Baker replied that the dam is existing infrastructure, and that raising it could provide additional storage that would allow other counties to bank water. If this happens, it will

increase revenues for Contra Costa County.

Cindy Swanson, a 12-year resident of Lafayette, spoke against a measure signed by the governor last year that prevents companies that boycott or discriminate against any sovereign state, including Israel, from doing business with the state. Baker stated that she supported the legislation. She said that she supported the measure that took a stand against anti-Semitism, especially during last year's election, which saw, as she called it, "a lot of backwards steps."

A big topic was BART parking and Highway 24 access. Transportation, Baker noted, can make your day miserable all day long. Baker has authored legislation to require transportation dollars to be spent only on transportation projects without diversion to any other areas. She mentioned that State Sen. Steve Glazier, who was present for

part of the Town Hall, managed to get an inspector general for BART, although the position is not independent: BART gets to select three names from which the position will be filled. Andersen advocates for local control and for creating jobs in communities rather than fighting for transit villages.

Safety was also of significant concern to all. Although crimes on individuals have decreased, property crime has risen by double digits in the area, according to Baker. Andersen praised Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen as the "poster child for crime prevention." Phillips said there is a broad consensus for police cameras in Orinda and that there has been a decrease in crime because of the cameras. She opposes automatic cameras because the data is available to federal authorities, but she said that the city is doing its best to keep residents private and safe.



# October ADAPT events focus on underage drinking, drug use

By Sora O'Doherty

Two upcoming events in Lamorinda will examine alcohol and drug use in the community, and especially among local youth. On Oct. 11 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Sarge Littlefield Community Room, Orinda City Hall, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team (ADAPT) will discuss what's going on in the schools and ideas for projects the coalition can collaborate on with local schools.

At that meeting participants will also learn about the new Wellness Center that is being launched at Las Lomas High School. The plan is eventually to have these wellness centers in all of the high schools in the Acalanes Union High School District. This is an exciting and innovative project that

the district has taken on to ensure the health and wellness and safety of all students.

A dinner discussion about alcohol and drug use in the community will be held from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Lafayette Library in the Homework Room. Residents of Lamorinda are invited to share their stories about underage drinking and drug use. Over dinner, participants can talk about major issues surrounding underage alcohol and marijuana use, unused and expired prescriptions and other drug use to influence future services in the community. The event is free and open to all residents, especially local youth. RSVP to Jaime Rich at Jaime@chd-prevention.org or by phone at (925) 349-7338.

# Young Orindan to be recognized for charity work

By Sora O'Doherty



Olive, 6, and Caden Morrow, 8, at their bake sale. Photo provided

Caden Morrow of Orinda is one of two children who will be given "Children Have the Power to Empower" awards by Yours Hu-

manly, a nonprofit group, at its annual Break a Sweat for Education 5K Run and Walk in Walnut Creek on Oct. 8. ... continued on page A9

# Now is a great time to sell a home!

The local market remains very strong due to very short supply and high demand. There's still time this year to take advantage of the extremely favorable seller's market.

Call me today for a free consult and personalized plan that will net you top \$ for your home!

Integrity ♦ Knowledge ♦ Results



Frank Woodward

Realtor®, Luxury Property Specialist  
T. 925.788.4963  
E. Frank@FrankWoodward.com



©2017 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

# Photographers capture beauty of their city in Adore Orinda contest

By Sora O'Doherty



Built Environment, Theatre Square Photo Kolton Tang

The city of Orinda recently announced the winners of the Adore Orinda photo contest launched last year. The contest was open to photographers of

all ages and skill levels; entrants were separated into two divisions, youth (17 years and younger) and adult (18 years and older). There were a total of four photo categories and each entrant was able to submit one entry in each of the four categories if desired. The four categories were: parks and open space; built environment; community life; and digitally altered. The judging panel included Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips, Clay Deanhardt, chair of the Orinda Parks and Recreation Commission, and Rich Thompson, chair of the Orinda Arts in Public Places Committee. The judges had the opportunity to review a total of 62 photos, which included six submitted in the youth category. The panel viewed the submitted photos without the names of the photographer and were asked to rank their top five in each category. The photos with the most points were determined to be the winner. Below are the winners:

Division	Photo Category	Entrant Name	Photo Title/Description
18+	Built Environment	Sue Clark Severson	Welcome to Orinda
18+	Community Life	Bruce Van Voorhis	Classic Car Show
18+	Digitally Altered	Jane Bordalo	Orinda Downtown at Dawn
18+	Parks and Open Space	Bruce Van Voorhis	Overlooking Orinda
17 & Under	Built Environment	Kolton Tang	Theater Square
17 & Under	Community Life	Cole Stieglitz	Peacock in Early Morning Light
17 & Under	Parks and Open Space	Kolton Tang	Orindawood's Woodhall

All the photos may be viewed on the city of Orinda's website: <http://www.cityoforinda.org/339/View-the-Adore-Orinda-Photos>

The Lamorinda Real Estate Firm People Trust

# Coldwell Banker Orinda



515 MINER ROAD | ORINDA  
\$3,450,000  
6 BR | 5 full + 2 half BA | 5818 Sq. Ft.  
Laura Abrams | CalBRE#01272382



55 DONNA MARIA WAY | ORINDA  
\$2,950,000  
5 BR | 4.5 BA | 3907 Sq. Ft.  
The Beaubelle Group | CalBRE#00678426



554 TAHOS RD | ORINDA  
\$2,795,000  
5 BR | 4.5 BA | 3652 Sq. Ft.  
The Beaubelle Group | CalBRE#00678426



319 TAPPAN TER | ORINDA  
\$2,275,000  
5 BR | 4.5 BA | 4200 Sq. Ft.  
Finola Fellner | CalBRE#01428834



3949 N PEARDALE DR | LAFAYETTE  
\$1,749,000  
5 BR | 3BA | 2924 Sq. Ft.  
Suzi O'Brien | CalBRE#01482496



1873 ST. ANDREWS DRIVE | MORAGA  
\$1,650,000  
4 BR | 3BA | 2883 Sq. Ft.  
Elena Hood | CalBRE#01221247



377 THARP DR | MORAGA  
\$1,399,000  
4 BR | 2.5 BA | 2394 Sq. Ft.  
Cathy Schultheis | CalBRE#01005765



3090 SWEETBRIER CIR | LAFAYETTE  
\$1,395,000  
3 BR | 2BA | 1649 Sq. Ft.  
Carol Russell | CalBRE#02001215



503 AUGUSTA DR | MORAGA  
\$1,395,000  
4 BR | 2.5 BA | 3713 Sq. Ft.  
Elena Hood | CalBRE#01221247

5 Moraga Way | Orinda | 925.253.4600 | 2 Theatre Square, Suite 117 | Orinda | 925.253.6300



californiahome.me

fb/cbcalifornia

tw/cb\_california

p/cbcalifornia

yt/coldwellbanker

©2017 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company and Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. This information was supplied by Seller and/or other sources. Broker has not and will not verify this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own satisfaction. Real Estate Licenses affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are Independent Contractor Sales Associates and are not employees of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC or Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. CalBRE License #01908304.





**Fire Districts**

**Public Meetings**

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District** Board of Directors  
 Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.  
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

**ConFire** Board of Directors  
 Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1:30 p.m.  
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez  
 For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.



Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: [letters@lamorinda-weekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorinda-weekly.com)

◆ HARDWOODS  
 ◆ CARPETS  
 ◆ RUGS  
 ◆ LINOLEUM  
 ◆ TILE  
 ◆ LAMINATE

FAMILY -OWNED  
 30 YEARS !

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd in Lafayette  
 925-284-4440  
[lamorinda floors.com](http://lamorinda floors.com)

LAMORINDA FLOORS  
*Karastan GALLERY*

**TREE SCULPTURE**

COMPLETE TREE CARE  
 Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!  
 Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977  
 (925) 254-7233 ❖ [www.treesculpture.com](http://www.treesculpture.com)

**Festive sendoff for MOFD Chief Healy**

By Nick Marnell



Paige Meyer, left, with MOFD Fire Chief Stephen Healy

Photo Nick Marnell

Family, friends and coworkers of Fire Chief Stephen Healy celebrated his 31-year fire service career and his 12 years with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District during a farewell party at the Hacienda de Las Flores in Moraga Sept. 20. County Supervisor Candace

Andersen recognized Healy with a resolution from the Board of Supervisors, and officials from Moraga and Orinda read proclamations from their municipalities. Current and former members of the district board and friends from other fire agencies honored the outgoing

chief, with the firefighters presenting him an axe, a tool put into service while Healy was fire chief and symbolizing the history and experience of all of the fire service members.

The banter between Healy and Paige Meyer, fire chief of the San

Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, stole the show. “Thanks for dressing up,” Healy zinged at Meyer, the only chief officer not in Class A dress blues. It was payback from a meeting years ago when Meyer looked in the audience for Healy and asked him to please stand. Except that Healy was standing.

Healy read a short, emotional speech, thanking his family, the firefighters, the district staff and board members. “This is the best place I have ever worked,” Healy said. “Nowhere else has even come close.”

The dozens in attendance applauded MOFD Director Steve Anderson’s concluding words. “The true test of someone’s character is if they do the right thing when no one is looking,” Anderson said.

“The chief did the right thing when no one was looking.”

Healy is succeeded by Interim Fire Chief Jerry Lee, who was sworn in earlier that evening at a district board meeting.

**ConFire donor meets his bone marrow recipient**

By Nick Marnell



From left: ConFire Batt. Chief Rob Lutzow, Richmond Fire Capt. Elizabeth de Dios, ConFire Safety Chief Pete Marshall, Daniel Andrade, Tom Darst, Sheila Darst, Be The Match Rep Jennifer Sawle

Photo courtesy ConFire

Firefighters rarely have the chance to enjoy the positive outcomes of their work let alone meet a person whose life they saved under such a dramatic, unique circumstance.

After a 2015 training session, Lafayette Station 15 firefighter Daniel Andrade and his comrades stopped at a booth sponsored by Be

The Match, a bone marrow transplant registry, and entered their names. A representative swabbed the inside of Andrade’s mouth, tested his tissue and once approved he became a nationally registered bone marrow donor.

As befitting the fire service, the call came quickly and with no notice. Incredibly, in two months, Andrade’s

DNA had met its match; typically, matches take two years or more. “We had just moved to South Carolina,” said Tom Darst, a retired Wisconsin PPG Industries factory worker. “I got sick about an hour and a half after we arrived. The doctors told me I had three months to live.” Darst, 57, who had leukemia, received Andrade’s stem cells and two years later, on

Sept. 15, Darst stood inside Fire Station 1 for a reunion - of sorts - with Andrade and his family.

“What started out as a night to educate firefighters turned out to save somebody’s life,” said Lon Goetsch, ConFire assistant chief.

Those who knew Andrade had no doubt that he would respond as he did. “He’s always been a team player,” said Andrade’s father, Alonso. “This doesn’t surprise us.”

“With Daniels’s stem cells, you’re smiling more, laughing more and pulling practical jokes,” said Battalion Chief Rob Lutzow, confirming what Darst was beginning to figure out the more time he and his donor spent together.

Andrade and Darst said they hoped that by telling their story, others would sign up with Be The Match and donate their bone marrow. To join the bone marrow registry, go to [join.bethematch.org/swaboutcancer](http://join.bethematch.org/swaboutcancer).

“When somebody needs your help, you answer the call,” said Andrade, a response second nature to those in the fire service.

**Public expects next MOFD chief to thoroughly grasp the numbers**

By Nick Marnell

Above all else, the fire chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District must have a handle on finances, district residents told the board at a Sept. 27 community workshop designed to gather input on what qualities and experience the public wants in its new chief.

Financial problems have dominated district headlines for eight years, beginning with the fall-out from an incorrect pension the board approved for a retiring fire chief that the district pension manager later reduced by \$1 million. The district misapplied \$2 million earmarked to pay down its pension

obligation bond and its auditor incorrectly recorded a \$23 million prepaid item in its 2015 and 2016 financial reports. Since 2016 the board includes a majority of directors with private industry financial experience.

Dozens filled the Moraga Library conference room for the MOFD workshop, even with attendance likely suppressed by a high-profile Moraga Town Council meeting. Interim Fire Chief Jerry Lee and his board received plenty of advice from passionate district residents.

“We need somebody with the background to be able to manage the underfunded employee pension plan,” said Orinda resident Kathy Finch, referring to the more than \$60 million in net pension and retiree health care liabilities carried

by the district. Other Orinda residents talked about the tax allocation discrepancy between the two major district municipalities. “The new chief must take care of Orinda,” said Janet Maiorana.

Former MOFD director and Moraga resident Dick Olsen said it was essential that any required financial sacrifices be equitably shared while maintaining services and fairly compensating employees. Olsen also recommended that the new chief live within 10 miles of the heart of the district in order to respond timely to emergencies.

“It is important that the chief you hire have the prospect of remaining for at least five years,” said former director John Wyro, noting that without longevity it will be difficult for the chief to maintain credibility within the community.

Superlative political skills to deal with the board and the district factions were a fire chief must, added Canyon resident Jonathan Goodwin.

With a reminder that the job is more than just financially driven, Vince Wells, president of Local 1230 of the firefighters union, advised the board to be sure to hire a chief with a thorough knowledge of fire operations. “We put our lives on the line for that person,” Wells said.

Lee said he is considering applying for the permanent job but is weighing personal and family considerations. “I have not made my final decision,” Lee said.

The district has retained Roseville-based Bob Murray and Associates to conduct the search for the new fire chief.

**Police arrest two in elder abuse case**

By Cathy Dausman

On Sept. 28 Moraga and Orinda police, assisted by the U.S. Marshal’s Service Fugitive Task Force, announced a second arrest made in a Lamorinda elder abuse case affecting residents of Aegis Living in Moraga and Orinda Senior Village. Police charged Shawn Morris, 30, and Antoinique Bryant, 29, both of Richmond with elder abuse, burglary, fraud and identity theft. The pair has been identified as being involved in similar elder abuse cases in Concord, Berkeley and Marin County.

The investigation began in late August when Moraga Police received reports that checks, credit cards and debit cards had been stolen from Aegis residents’ private living spaces. Witnesses reported a female suspect dressed in a nursing uniform inside the Aegis facility during the thefts; the suspect was not employed there.

Checks were cashed and credit and debit cards were used at various locations throughout Contra Costa County, as well as in Southern California and Nevada. Officers working with Orinda Police discovered a similar theft had oc-

curred against one elderly Orinda Senior Village resident.

Morris was arrested after police found property and evidence during a search of his residence. Bryant was arrested Sept. 26 and booked into Contra Costa County Jail in Martinez on a \$655,000 warrant.

The Contra Costa County District Attorney’s office filed a total of 27 felony and misdemeanor charges against both Bryant and Morris. Anyone with information about these cases is asked to contact Moraga Police Detective Kevin Mooney at (925) 888-7056.



# Letters to the Editor

## On Orinda School Safety

Our highest priorities as Trustees of the Orinda School Board are to provide our students with an excellent education and to keep them safe. Recently, there have been reports of some very disturbing incidents of racial and anti-Semitic bullying on our campuses. We want to emphasize that our school district repudiates bullying of any kind, and we especially condemn racial taunting and teasing.

We have been working with the rest of the board to firmly address this issue. Highlights of our work include the following:

- Approving comprehensive student and staff training focused on diversity and inclusiveness at Orinda Intermediate School.
- Training our elementary students with the Think First program.
- Training elementary students, staff, and parents with the Kidpower program.
- Approving a resolution in 2017 condemning displays of hate.
- Adopting Strategic Directions in 2017, which include "Cultivate Ethical and Respectful Citizens who will develop and defend values and viewpoints that respect diversity and inclusion."

As co-chairs of our Student Safety Committee, we will be working this year with both parents and educators to find ways to continue to train teachers, students, and parents to stand up to racism and bullying. Every child deserves an excellent education on a campus where they feel welcomed and safe. Our goal is to provide them nothing less.

Carol Brown and Hillary Weiner Orinda

## In defense of Lafayette city manager

I am commenting on a letter to the editor published Sept. 20 in regard to the City Manager of Lafayette, Steve Falk. To blame and find fault with the City Manager for the actions of the City Council, with which one might disagree, is absurd. Mr. Falk and his staff work for the citizens of Lafayette through policy direction promulgated by the elected, unpaid members of the City Council, who are guided by our General Plan as well as other city, county and state ordinances. In addition, twenty-two citizen commissions and committees, all voluntary, advise the City Council. It is the City Council that directs the activities of the City Manager, and it is the City Council that allocates the funds for the projects and policies it approves. The City Manager does not act alone or in isolation.

Lafayette was one of the first cities to actively pursue an open and transparent city government, in part through the efforts of Mayor Richard Holmes and his brother, Mayor Dr. Gordon Holmes. Lafayette, historically, has been free of Fair Political Practices Commission investigations because its elected officials and salaried staff have sought to keep it that way. Lafayette has an active, open-government policy that covers, among other things, financial transparency forms, salary schedules, and conflict-of-interest disclosures. Documents relating to this policy are available at the City website.

Lafayette is fiscally strong by any measure and has used its tax monies wisely. An excellent example of this is the city-wide upgrade of its roads, drainage systems and public landscaping.

A more specific example is the emergency repair to Mountain View Drive during the winter of 2012. The City Council declared an emergency the day after the washout and authorized Mr. Falk to expend necessary dollars out of the reserve fund to make repairs ASAP. Mr. Falk, together with City Engineer Tony Coe and staff, put together a design and found an experienced general engineering contractor who would work 24/7 to complete the repair. The City Staff worked almost around the clock to supervise the installation of a concrete box culvert, proper headwalls, road and drain repairs, all of which were completed in three weeks. Moraga and Orinda have recently had similar washouts. Orinda's repairs took approximately one year, and Moraga is two years into their repair. Steve Falk must be commended for his skillful and quick response to Lafayette's emergency. In this light, I believe Mr. Falk's compensation is fair, reasonable and competitive with city managers in the East Bay.

Lafayette has not lost its moral character. Indeed, it continues on the path laid out by the Holmes brothers. It is transparent; it is inclusive; it is run by its citizens. Mr. Falk is a Lafayette citizen and a very important part of the community. I am grateful for his dedicated service. He is welcomed and highly respected by almost everyone.

Erling Horn Lafayette

## Another side of the city manager story

I write in response to a letter in the Sept. 20 issue, strongly criticizing the work performance of Lafayette's City Manager, Steve Falk. The author states he is offering "a few facts". However, in choosing to present only the negative side of the story, one wonders what is the other agenda? They tell me we live in a democracy, therefore, I write to tell the other side of the story.

Very recently the City of Lafayette received an award recognizing our City as 'A Great Place To Live', presented by the American Planning Association in Sacramento. Only three cities in CA received this award, the other two being in Southern Calif. The award highlighted good planning, revitalization of the downtown, and protection of natural resources.

Our City Council provides direction and makes decisions for our common good. The City Manager (CM) directs the organization that carries out their decisions. The CM also creates opportunities to advance the quality of our life. Examples include: development and implementation of Downtown Strategic Plan, coordinated the process that resulted in the highly popular, and revenue producing, La Fiesta Square and surrounding retail environment, and partnered with local business owners who have parking on their private property to also allow the public to park during specified times.

When the CM took office in 1996, the downtown corridor was not particularly inviting, offering limited appeal and shopping to residents. Today, our downtown is highly inviting to both residents and visitors, offering a wide variety of attractive retail shopping, restaurants, entertainment, educational and cultural opportunities, and special events.

Every community lives with change. The question is, 'How do you engage and manage change.

In our City change is planned with a long view, while observing consistency and historical awareness. And, 'Yes', there are tasks recognized as important, yet not accomplished. And, 'No', I am not a personal friend of our City Manager.

For 30 years, as a volunteer, I maintained our City hiking trails, and designed several trails. My experience says our small paid staff, along with hundreds of volunteers, together work to make Lafayette 'A Great Place To Live'. I have enjoyed the gift of living here for more than 50 years, and for that I am entirely grateful.

Papa John Kiefer Lafayette

## Taking BART riders on a ride

BART has surprised us again with the decision to give free rides as an answer to falling ridership at the weekends. Of all the obvious problems this system has such as overcrowding, dirty trains and stations and lack of security throughout the systems the last thing they need is increased passengers on a free ticket.

When will BART officials start to deal with the obvious inconveniences to existing riders who pay significant cost for a ticket but are often subjected to almost inhuman conditions at peak times?

BART's goal should be to provide the Bay Area with a transit system comparable to the systems in major cities throughout the world.

Ann Burns Lafayette

## Art in Moraga

Walking the King's Canyon Loop Trail on a clear, warm Saturday afternoon I was reminded of the elation that proximity to such remarkable natural surroundings can bring. The landscape surrounding my hometown of Moraga lifts me up, inspires me to think in fresh ways, and challenges me to look and listen closely. Art can do that too. It can lift up, inspire fresh thinking, encourage close looking and close listening. I'd like Moraga's Town Council to do more to support the arts and artists in our community, so that our town continues to be enriched by proximity to remarkable natural surroundings and becomes increasingly enlivened by the arts.

The town's Art in Public Spaces program is getting more art into our common areas: sculptures have been placed at the library and at town offices. Local arts supporters can seek out arts-related events at Saint Mary's College and Moraga's public schools and library. More could be done to encourage the arts in town, to further enliven Moraga in ways that support, and not distract from, the important work that needs to be done around issues challenging our civic life.

I like and support the case Mayor Teresa Onoda makes for having a poet laureate for Moraga. It's an idea and a position that speaks clearly to a resident like me who treasures our remarkable surroundings and believes that art can lift up, inspire thinking, and get us to look and listen closely.

Town Council: Can we make finding art in Moraga as unsurprising as finding hills in Moraga?

Layna White Moraga

# Young Orindan to be recognized for charity work

... continued from page A7

Caden, who is 8 years old, is being honored for raising money for orphaned children in Haiti, which was donated through the Center for Hope - Haiti.

Caden thinks it is really fun to bake, so he held a bake sale to raise money for the cause. He and his 6-year-old sister Olive baked, along with their mother, and held the sale in front of Glorietta Elementary School, where Caden is a second-grader. His little sister helped a lot, Caden said, and they raised several hundred dollars for the charity. Caden also solicited funds from visitors to his home, giving them copies of a letter that he had written about the plight of children in Haiti in exchange for \$1.

Morrow learned about the problems in Haiti from Mindful Littles, a nonprofit organization founded by Orinda women Tanuka Roy Gordon and Julie Atkinson, whose son, Trey, is one of Caden's friends. Mindful Littles, which nominated Caden for the Yours Humanly award, does monthly or quarterly events for young people, one of which benefited the Center of Hope Haiti last year.

At the event, Caden and others

saw a slide show about the problems faced by Haitian children, including the lack of running water and electricity. The presentation really showed what life is like in Haiti, according to Caden's mother, Kim Sobel Morrow. Afterward, the children created sanitation kits to send to the children in Haiti, including toiletries such as toothbrushes, and wash clothes.

Caden was very surprised to learn that he was getting the award, which includes a personalized certificate and medal, a profile on the Yours Humanly website, a YouTube channel, and through social media, but he feels happy and "super proud" about his work for these children. Glorietta Elementary School Principal Ron Langer praised Morrow during a recent school assembly.

The Children Have the Power to Empower Award is open to children 15 years and younger, across the United States. Nominations must be made by an adult and within one year of the act of goodness. For award rules and an application, visit <http://www.YoursHumanly.org>, and click on the Power to Empower tab.



## STOP CLEANING Get Gutter Guards!

- Fits all sizes of gutters
- 10 year No-Clog Warranty
- High quality aircraft alloy
- We will clean and repair your gutters before installation of your new guards

Licensed & Insured #939838

## Fall Special - 20% OFF

The Gutter Guard Company  
925-247-7044

[www.bayareagutterguards.com](http://www.bayareagutterguards.com)

Head Frog Mo Williams

**Your one-call plumber!**

# LeapFrog Plumbing

**Gas Water & Sewer**

**Does your plumbing give you a FRIGHT?**

**ZOT! Zap Out Trouble—before trouble zaps you.**

**50% OFF CRAWL UNDER** (It can be scary down under your house!)

Good Preventive Plumbing measures will protect you and your family from true life horror stories; Broken pipes, holes in venting, electrolysis, sneaky leaks, and more eeeek!

**50% OFF**

**Inspection crawl space plumbing,**

**Inspection \$189 Value!**

\*visible and accessible plumbing; Homeowners only; most houses Thru 11/15/2017

Family-owned & serving Lamorinda since 1993

**green solutions!**

**We Hop To It!**

**(925) 377-6600**

[www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com](http://www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com)

CA Lic 929641

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



# Barranco finds a niche in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Chef-Owner Carlos Altamirano is all smiles at his new restaurant.  
Photos Kristen Loken

Despite an abundance of dining choices available in Lafayette, the latest addition to “restaurant row” is generating quite a buzz. And it is not surprising. Named for the chef’s hometown in Lima, Peru, Barranco specializes in fresh seafood.

Michelin-recognized Chef-Owner Carlos Altamirano says that he is committed to cooking with only the finest and freshest ingredients and in preserving the integrity of Peru’s most treasured dishes, adding his own flair.

Altamirano opened Barranco, his seventh Peruvian restaurant in the Bay Area and his third in the East Bay, on Sept. 15 in the space that used to be Baja Fresh.

The extensive remodel, designed by Crome Architecture, is modern and simple with high ceilings and a concrete floor. The tables are packed in tightly and when entering on a Friday evening only a week after opening, the restaurant was bustling and full. The space is warm and lively – there are several custom murals by Bay Area artists Letty Samonte and Bridget Moser, and an open kitchen area. There is a spacious corner patio so diners can enjoy watching the world go by outside.

To the side of the main restaurant is a bar area under the supervision of bar manager Arthur Valderama. With an extensive cocktail list featuring pisco, the traditional spirit of Peru, many of the concoctions are made with produce found throughout South America such as mango, pineapple and passion fruit.

Inside it is undeniably loud but this adds to the energy and vibe of the restaurant.

“Barranco embodies the elegant bohemian, lively and cheerful spirit of my favorite city in Peru,” says Altamirano. “I could not be more excited to share the incredible cuisine and culture of Barranco with the people of Lafayette.”

We were seated promptly and received attentive and cheerful service for the duration of our meal from our knowledgeable server who was only too happy to answer any questions we had about the menu.

The impressive array of cocktails made it hard to decide which to try but having decided on “traditional,” the pisco sour was delicious. There is also a selection of Californian and South American wines and several microbrews on

tap.

The menu itself features Altamirano’s hallmark cebiche, grilled anticuchos (meat skewers), chicharrones, bocaditos (small bites) such as pulpo a la parilla (twice cooked Spanish octopus) and empanadas for starters.

Again, going for “traditional” we selected the cebiche tasting to share, which looked almost too pretty to eat. The flavors were piquant and had a kick but did not overwhelm the seafood. It was very fresh and clean-tasting, reflecting Altamirano’s reputation for creating dishes with high quality and responsibly sourced ingredients. All ingredients are fresh and are supplied from well-respected local farms or farmers’ markets.

The list of main courses such as seafood paella and langostinos crocantes (prawns) is varied but still with an emphasis on seafood and can be served with an assortment of delectable sides. Prices range from \$19 for a vegetable risotto to \$39 for steak.

For main courses we sampled both the paella negra – Peruvian style squid ink seafood paella and the salmon bandido. The paella came with traditional bomba rice and a saffron-paprika base in Peruvian beer. The dish was substantial

and hearty.

The salmon was grilled with loco-pumpkin stew and escabeche. The texture and flavor of the traditional Peruvian stew was smooth and close to perfection. Both main courses were generous in size without being overwhelming.

For those with room for dessert there is flan, chocolate flourless cake and alfajores, the popular Latin-American artisanal cookies as well as a selection of dessert wines.

Purely in the interest of this review, you understand, we managed to sample the chocolate cake and flan, which made an indulgent, if not strictly necessary, end to the evening.

Altamirano has managed to keep the flavors authentic, rather than to compromise by adapting them to American taste buds and this is perhaps what sets his restaurants apart.

This is a fun, lively addition to Lafayette. It is a great place to meet friends and enjoy fresh and authentic Peruvian food.

Barranco, located at 3596 Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette, is open Tuesday through Thursday and Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## Bay Area Drainage, Inc.

### Have You Checked Your Crawlspace Lately?

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls
- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways

**A General Engineering Contractor  
Locally owned and Operated  
Contractor LIC # 762208**

925•377•9209

visit our website  
[www.bayareadrainage.com](http://www.bayareadrainage.com)

## Another Moraga Road accident prompts further discussion of bicycle, pedestrian safety

... continued from page A2

The victim was no longer at the scene.

According to Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Christensen, the car was headed south toward Moraga

and turning left onto St. Mary’s Road, and the bike was headed north, from Moraga into Lafayette. The bicyclist suffered some significant injuries including some broken bones and some significant bleeding. He was transported by ambulance and as of last Wednesday night was going into surgery, Christensen said. The driver was cooperative and no drugs or alcohol were involved.

“The driver of the car was trying to beat the light and entered when the light was yellow, possibly trying to beat the bike through the intersection,” Christensen said. “The bike helmet saved the biker’s life without a doubt.”

At issue appears to be cars turning left from Moraga Road onto St. Mary’s Road on a green light against oncoming traffic as they are permitted to do, even when they don’t have the green arrow.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee Member Brad Crane said, “It was only a matter of time until someone got hurt. The signalization at that intersection allows for cars to turn left onto St. Mary’s Road while pedestrians have their signal to cross, putting the most vulnerable traveler directly in harm’s way. Because this is a high traffic area for students walking/biking to Lafayette Elementary and

Stanley Middle School, this design flaw puts many students in danger everyday.”

Crane says that the solution to the St. Mary’s Road and Moraga Road situation is simple. “When pedestrians have the right of way to cross, cars should not be allowed to make that left turn. It really is that simple. But that means making drivers wait at the light a bit longer. But in a car-first approach, wait time is to be reduced at the expense of safety.”

Residents are certainly vocal on this subject on social media reflecting the concern in the city with many suggesting that speeding or distracted drivers are to blame.

This accident comes a week before Walk/Bike to School Day at Lafayette Elementary School on Oct. 4.

“We should be encouraging our residents, including students, to bike or walk to their destination. Not only does it reduce car congestion and air pollution, it’s part of an overall healthy lifestyle,” Crane said. “There’s a growing body of evidence linking academic performance to exercise.”

“The unfortunate truth is that when cars and pedestrians/cyclists conflict with each other, the pedestrian or cyclist always loses.”

## MIKO PELED, *Israeli Peace Activist*

*speaks about*

### Trump & Prospects for Peace: What is Next for Palestine/Israel?

Miko Peled believes that the separation of Israel and Palestine should end and be replaced by a secular democracy where Israelis and Palestinians live as equals in their shared homeland.

Peled is an Israeli-born writer and activist born to a prominent Zionist family including a grandfather who was a signer of the Israeli Declaration of Independence and a father who was a general in the Israeli army.

After a 30-year career teaching martial arts, Peled found himself confronted with the Israeli Palestinian issue in all of its horror: His 13-year-old niece was killed by Palestinians in a suicide attack in Jerusalem. This brought about a major shift in thinking that he describes in his 2016 updated memoir, “The General’s Son, Journey of an Israeli in Palestine.” More at [www.mikopeled.com](http://www.mikopeled.com).

**Friday October 6th, 6 PM reception, 7 PM lecture**  
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Pre-register at: [www.ourpeacecenter.org](http://www.ourpeacecenter.org)

Cost: \$10 in advance, \$15 at door, Students FREE

Sponsored by: Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center







**Create a positive change in a foster child's life.**  
**BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER.**  
[www.cccocasa.org](http://www.cccocasa.org)



## Escalating rents prompt call for council action

... continued from page A1

direct city staff to draft a rent review ordinance similar to a program introduced in May of this year in the city of Concord.

Lafayette Planning and Building Services Director Niroop Srivatsa emphasized that this was rent review as opposed to rent control and described it as a non-binding conciliation and mediation process. Staff asked for direction determining the scope of such an ordinance covering complexes with 25 units or more.

Should it be mandatory? Who shoulders the cost of the program, estimated in Concord to be about \$150,000 annually? Should a 10 percent increase in rent be the trigger for mediation? Should such a program in fact apply to all rental properties or just larger complexes?

The council heard from residents who explained that additionally, rent increases are also being dressed up in other guises too and related stories of randomly increased pet fees, parking fees and changes in utility fees that also make living costs unaffordable.

Residents were visibly upset; many were from the same apartment complex on Second Street owned by Tilden Properties.

The council also heard from several landlords, some with just a

few units, who explained that since they currently rent at below market value, they would be unfairly penalized. One landlord suggested that ahead of a new ordinance being introduced, he might be forced to raise rent now to the maximum to get in before the ordinance takes effect since being restricted to a 10 percent increase on an already low rent would be punitive.

As several speakers pointed out, despite there being 1,700 rental units in Lafayette, all the complaints that evening were coming from residents of Second Street.

Tilden Properties Representative Ryan Crowley also spoke. He said that his firm is sensitive to Lafayette and pointed out that when the company purchased the 117-unit property on Second Street in December they implemented several long-overdue improvement projects that had been deferred but which, he acknowledged, came at a cost to residents.

The discussion came back to the council between Lafayette City Council Member Cam Burks, Vice Mayor Don Tatzin and Mayor Mike Anderson with Council Members Ivor Samson and Mark Mitchell recused.

Burks was definitive in his view – that while he has sympathy for tenants, he is firmly against

government intervention. He added that fiscally such a program presented a risk to the city and to the taxpayers.

Tatzin agreed that in general he doesn't like government interference but said that sometimes the circumstances are warranted to protect residents. He said he could support a program that recovers fees only from those landlords proposing an increase in rent of more than 10 percent. He said that by allowing unmitigated increases he worries they would be signaling residents to move out.

Anderson acknowledged the importance of the question of housing. He reflected that sometimes in intervening "we damage the people we were trying to help," by forcing out small owners with regulatory insertions in their process.

The council asked staff to come back at the first meeting in November with more information on how to structure and what the fiscal options might be for some sort of ordinance whereby a 10 percent increase would trigger mediation to be paid for at that time only by the landlord involved and only applying to units of 25 or more. Staff is also to have further discussions with Tilden Properties to see if an agreement can be reached.

## "Crosses" land donation

... continued from page A2

Mayor Mike Anderson pointed out the costs that would be incurred by the city in removing the crosses, land maintenance and the cost of possibly replacing the current installation with a new memorial.

The council heard from several speakers who were in favor of keeping the offer on the table, pointing to the value of the crosses to the community and to the country as a respected art installation. Several recognized that the crosses cannot remain there forever but said they would like to see a peace memorial in its place.

The council had also received a couple of letters from residents who disagreed and felt that the cost to the city would be too great.

Having heard from Clark, Samson was blunt in sharing his opinion and called it an "ill-conceived and cynical" idea. He accused Clark of "requesting expedited lot line adjustments in exchange for a gift to the city wrapped up in a patina of supporting an art and peace memorial."

Tatzin and Mitchell pointed to the need for more public input and were in favor of forming a subcommittee. With Samson and Burks adamantly against the idea, Anderson

weighed in.

Anderson said that he saw a huge liability. He said that he liked the crosses but recognized they would have to be removed and said that he would like to see a nonprofit take it on instead.

With only two votes from Mitchell and Tatzin to take this forward and the other three against it, the discussion appears over.

After the meeting Clark commented via email, "I was extremely disappointed in the demeanor of the city council members."

He continued, "I was accused of attempting to manipulate and make an end run around the city's process. I was attacked about my motivation for this donation and the deed restrictions that they incorrectly assumed that I would be requiring in order to establish my personal dictatorial control over the city's every use of this land that I have offered ... Not one question came up from council about the obvious option of embracing this opportunity to build the city a new 10,000 square foot office complex on this 2.66 acres of downtown land that I am still offering to donate to the city, free and clear."

## Buy or rent? Lafayette continues to look for options

... continued from page A3

Mayor Mike Anderson commented that they now have "a good model, but nothing to plug into the machine," referring to not having any specific location in mind.

And generally, that is what all agreed on – that it was necessary to direct staff to keep looking and take each potential location on a case-by-case basis, running the numbers and examining the pros and cons.

Council Member Cam Burks said that he leans toward owning and noted the risks of leasing beyond even the financial implications – the loss of continuity, the potential for rent increases. He noted too that Lafayette is the only city around here that doesn't own its own city hall. He said he would like to enable staff to aggressively look for a property within the recommended figures.

Council Member Ivor Samson was a little more cautious but agreed that they need to be aware of opportunities as they arise as did Tatzin who commented, "What you get with ownership is certainty."

Council Member Mark Mitchell made the point that they need and are starting to get public opinion.

A couple of business owners who rent their properties spoke out of concern for losing their sites should the council try to pursue locations that have been previously identified as possibilities.

One such spot is that of the party supply store Boswells, next door to the new police headquarters. Luke Boswell expressed his concern about being put out of business and urged the council to be aware of what they are doing.

Lafayette resident and local business owner Kiki Stack commented that she and other business owners on Golden Gate Way feel under fire since her building was mentioned as under consideration as a potential location last year. She said she would have nowhere to go and asked, "What about affordable businesses?" referring to a separate agenda item earlier in the evening on affordable housing.

A motion to adopt the conclusions of the report and to direct staff to actively identify opportunities, conduct further analysis and bring it back to the council at an appropriate time was supported unanimously.

## Moraga's new unique park will need some TLC

... continued from page A4

When Preston visited the site she said that these weeds were ready to go to seed now, and that they should be pulled and taken away. Sproul commented that turning the dirt over as the maintenance staff often does at the Moraga Commons Park would entrench the seeds even deeper, and that instead it should be mowed twice a year to ensure native grasses ever grow there again.

Some of the trees were also at issue, such as alders Sproul noted were planted in the middle of the park, which he says is the wrong placement for them, since these native trees grow in riparian corridors and need water. He recommended replacing them with valley oaks that already do very well there. And while the pear trees in the

park showcase Moraga's agricultural past, the very old trees are not in great shape. Preston noted that many are overgrown, overtaken with fire blight or poison oak – a native plant. She says that it would probably take a group of 12 dedicated volunteers working in teams to prune and salvage the trees.

The Moraga park maintenance staff did not return calls in time for this article. It is unlikely that the town would have the resources to maintain the park at the level required, since the budget for park maintenance was pared down during the recent budget cycle.

Preston said she hoped that a local service or Scout group would decide to take on maintaining the park as a community service project.

## New Bell and Block Schedule

... continued from page A1

While the interviews for this article consisted of only a handful of teachers and a few administrators, the mood at the four high schools indicate that the new academic year is running smoothly.

In fact, at the Back-to-School dance held earlier this month at Acalanes, students were asked what they liked about school. Their three top answers were: seeing their friends; they loved their teachers; and they're really liking the block schedule.

Julie Parks, in her fourth year as principal of Miramonte High School, stated that the preliminary feedback from students is that they are less stressed and have less homework. "While we are planning a more in-depth survey at the end of the quarter, we are excited that we seem to be making progress in these areas."

One of the biggest changes is the Academy period. The program is being implemented at all four high schools in the district during the second block on Wednesdays and Fridays. The students have a 55-minute session for test review sessions, quiet study time, make-up test time, skill building and one-on-one or small group sessions with their teachers. In addition, a student can choose from many other academic activities on any given day.

"There are a lot of students making good use of the Academy period," says Ryan Boyd, a social studies teacher in his 17th year at Campolindo High School. "Of course, some aren't as conscientious and don't have a great attitude about it."

On the day this reporter observed Academy at Miramonte, the

library was filled with students, most of them on their computers. Many were busy with schoolwork, but it was impossible to tell if everyone had academic tasks going on.

The consensus of some of the teachers interviewed was that "vegg-ing out" could be an appropriate choice, considering the stress these students are under, while others may view it as a waste of time.

Steve Poling, a veteran of 30 years – 17 of them teaching English at Miramonte – says that the Academy period gives students the chance to make intelligent choices, which they can then learn from.

Accountability for the Academy period has taken some adjustments. Some schools rely on rosters for sign-in, while others use student IDs to take roll.

Natalie Moore, an English and social development teacher at Acalanes High School, is pleased with the new block schedule, and especially with the Academy period. "I can meet with students to go over a paper, make up a test, or give them tutoring help. We used to have to do this at lunch or after school. Now we can both eat our lunches without stress."

Poling agrees: "The 90-minute blocks grant teachers and students the opportunity to delve deeper into curriculum with essential questions and discussions, application of curricular concepts, and personal reflection on what and how students are learning. Though I've taught for a long time, I feel energized by the new schedule and I sense the students do too."

One science teacher said about teaching the new science curriculum Living Earth, "There's no way

I could do these labs without the block schedule."

Speaking on behalf of what he's heard from his colleagues at Campolindo, Boyd feels that the overall consensus has been positive. "There are definitely challenges in reshaping courses, pacing of curriculum, and student absences." He points out that when a student misses a block day, it is roughly equivalent to two instructional days.

Most of the teachers agree that the block schedule allows them to go deeper into their subject with more efficient use of time. Moore commented, "It's like my students can fully arrive and be here in my classroom." Another teacher said, "The longer periods shut out a lot of noise. It's like I can finish a thought before a bell rings."

One other benefit is the additional hour for teacher collaboration two mornings a week.

Some drawbacks were also mentioned, though. Most teachers are finding that going more into depth on their subject is causing them to get behind in the curriculum. Many also complain that lunch does not begin until almost 1 p.m. on all five days, causing some dizziness and the need for snack time. Another scheduling problem for some families is the late start three days a week.

Parks credits the teachers as having worked hard to adapt to the timing of the block schedule. "This change is really hard and the biggest complaint may be that it is tiring," she said. "The benefits have been huge, but that is a result of the tremendous work the teachers and staff have put in."

**Bridging the journey from  
Lamorinda to Rossmoor  
"One satisfied client at a time!"**




**Maria Eberle, REALTOR®**  
 (925) 478-7190  
[Maria@MariaEberle.com](mailto:Maria@MariaEberle.com)  
[www.MariaEberle.com](http://www.MariaEberle.com)  
 CalBRE #01798906



**Call today for a personalized tour of  
Rossmoor and a Market Analysis of your home.**

Rossmoor senior real estate specialist and  
Lamorinda resident for 20+ years!



Good to know:





*"A little bit of myself goes into every job."*  
 Michael Verbrugge,  
 President,  
 Moraga Resident

**925.631.1055**  
[www.MVCRemodeling.com](http://www.MVCRemodeling.com)

**Specializing in kitchens & bathrooms.  
 All forms residential remodel/repair.**

Lic# 681593



**MICHAEL VERBRUGGE  
 CONSTRUCTION INC.**  
 General Contractor



**Clean | Courteous | Conscientious  
 On-time | Trustworthy | Local References**  
 Full design team resources available

## IT'S APRIL IN LAMORINDA FOR REAL ESTATE



Consistently Representing Buyers and  
 Sellers in Successful Transactions

Buy • Sell • Live • Lamorinda

**925-253-2147**  
[aprilmat@comcast.net](mailto:aprilmat@comcast.net)

**April Matthews** [www.villageassociates.com](http://www.villageassociates.com) • [www.dreamhomelamorinda.com](http://www.dreamhomelamorinda.com)



Giving Dreams an Address

CalBRE#01221153 93 Moraga Way, #103, Orinda



**TG  
 HARDWOOD FLOORS**  
 Moraga California  
 DESIGN • REFINISHING • INSTALLATION  
**925-376-1118**  
 Lic # 974653

Since 1993!  
 Tom Gieryng, owner and operator

CALL TOM  
 FOR A FREE  
 ESTIMATE

## Rodent Proofing

Learn about Honest Rodent Proofing's  
 industry-leading 4-step process to get  
 rid of rats, mice and other rodents.

**GUARANTEED**

**FREE In-Home Inspection,  
 Mention Lamorinda Weekly for a 10% discount**

**Call 925-433-3988**

[www.honestrodentproofing.com](http://www.honestrodentproofing.com)

Servicing the Bay Area to Sacramento



## Sustainable Lafayette's next film night highlights gangster gardeners

... continued from page A3

The movie follows four unlikely gardeners and their personal journeys as their lives blossom along with their gardens.

Sustainable Lafayette board member Kim Overaa, herself a master gardener, coordinates the film series. She explained that for the past seven years the grassroots nonprofit has hosted a summer film series but says that this year they are spreading the films over the whole year. Previously this year they have shown "Before the Flood" about climate change and "A Plastic Ocean," which looks at the devastating effect of the huge amount of plastic that ends up in the oceans. Both screenings sold out.

Overaa points out the relevance of "Can You Dig This?" by saying, "This past year the Contra Costa Master Gardeners have really grown the Community Gardens Project Team. Currently they are working in 16 community gardens throughout Contra Costa County – clearly a need and interest."

Overaa says she has seen the movie three times. "Out of all the films I have seen this pulled

on my heart the most. It breaks down the angst some folks may have about starting to grow their own food.

"It is really so simple, as the film demonstrates. The interactions and connections made while tending the soil and delighting in seeing your crops grow is priceless and again so deeply fulfilling on a soul level. You experience hope and anticipation and then joy and it doesn't matter what your socioeconomic status is or is not. It invites all ages and stages to work side by side."

Sustainable Lafayette board member Melinda Krigel emphasizes the community aspect of these movie events. "We hope to make our community aware of many of the issues depicted in these films and provide inspiration for our residents to take action locally and personally. For example, our screening in April – "A Plastic Ocean" – was about the staggering amount of plastics in the world's oceans and the great damage plastics are doing to sea creatures and other wildlife. Here in Lafayette

we have been encouraging local businesses to find alternatives to single-use plastic straws and also suggesting that they might have customers 'opt-in' to use straws."

Krigel also points to the rain catcher that was created for the community garden and was decorated by kids at the Earth Day Festival with used plastic water bottles and straws. "It was a complementary way for us to bring attention to the issue with the film showing shortly after Earth Day."

Money from these screenings have enabled the Town Hall Theatre to go "deep green," using 100 percent renewable energy sources for its electricity needs over the next three years.






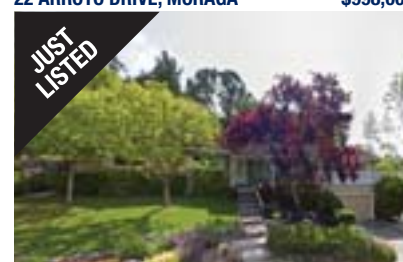






Following this movie, Sustainable Lafayette is planning on showing Anthony Bourdain's new food documentary "Wasted," although no date is set for that yet.

Tickets for "Can You Dig This?" are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youths and seniors. More information can be found at [www.sustainablelafayette.org](http://www.sustainablelafayette.org).

<p>JULIE DEL SANTO                  BROKER/OWNER</p>  <p>925.818.5500</p> <p>JANET POWELL</p>  <p>925.876.2399</p> <p>JON WOOD PROPERTIES</p>  <p>JON WOOD: 925.383.5384                  HOLLY SIBLEY: 925.451.3105</p> <p>LAURIE HIGGINS</p>  <p>925.876.7968</p> <p>MATT McLEOD</p>  <p>925.464.6500</p> <p>TERESA ZOCCHI</p>  <p>925.360.8662</p>	<p>THE CHURCHILL TEAM</p>  <p>SERETA: 925.998.4441                  RANDY: 925.787.4622</p> <p>JOHN FONDNAZIO</p>  <p>925.817.9053</p> <p>KAILEY GRAZIANO</p>  <p>925.404.4361</p> <p>LISA TICHENOR</p>  <p>925.285.1093</p> <p>SHERRY HUTCHENS</p>  <p>925.212.7617</p> <p>TINA FRECHMAN</p>  <p>925.915.0851</p>
---	--

## DUDUM REAL ESTATE GROUP

PROFESSIONALISM. INTEGRITY. RESULTS.

<p><b>1670 FOOTHILL PARK CIR., LAFAYETTE</b> CALL AGENT</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>JON WOOD PROPERTIES 925.383.5384</p>	<p><b>1030 DOLORES DRIVE, LAFAYETTE</b> \$1,295,000</p>  <p><b>JUST LISTED</b></p> <p>KAREN IVANKOVICH 925.788.7291</p>	<p><b>3374 SWEET DRIVE, LAFAYETTE</b> \$1,099,000</p>  <p><b>PENDING</b></p> <p>JANE SMITH 925.998.1914</p>
<p><b>255 THARP DRIVE, MORAGA</b> \$1,195,000</p>  <p><b>JUST LISTED</b></p> <p>MATT McLEOD 925.464.5500</p>	<p><b>284 SCOFIELD DRIVE</b> CALL FOR PRICE</p>  <p><b>COMING SOON</b></p> <p>MATT McLEOD 925.464.6500</p>	<p><b>22 ARROYO DRIVE, MORAGA</b> \$998,000</p>  <p><b>JUST LISTED</b></p> <p>JON WOOD PROPERTIES 925.383.5384</p>
<p><b>1143 SANDERS DRIVE, MORAGA</b> \$998,000</p>  <p><b>COMING SOON</b></p> <p>JON WOOD PROPERTIES 925.383.5384</p>	<p><b>42 IRVING LANE, ORINDA</b> \$1,198,000</p>  <p><b>PENDING REPRESENTED BY OTHERS</b></p> <p>TINA FRECHMAN 925.915.0851</p>	<p><b>11321 CANON VISTA AVE., SAN JOSE</b> \$2,699,000</p>  <p><b>VIEWES</b></p> <p>JOHN FONDNAZIO 925.817.9053</p>
<p><b>1054 SPRINGFIELD DRIVE, W.C.</b> CALL AGENT</p>  <p><b>JUST LISTED</b></p> <p>SHERRY HUTCHENS 925.212.7617</p>	<p><b>3658 CITRUS DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK</b> \$949,950</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>TERESA ZOCCHI TEAM 925.360.8662</p>	<p><b>1580 BRENTWOOD CT., WALNUT CREEK</b> \$899,000</p>  <p><b>PRICE REDUCED</b></p> <p>TERESA ZOCCHI TEAM 925.360.8662</p>

 <p>CALBRE #01882902</p>	<p><a href="http://WWW.DUDUM.COM">WWW.DUDUM.COM</a></p> <p><i>Distinctive Properties</i></p> 	<p><b>BRENTWOOD</b>                  60 EAGLE ROCK WAY, SUITE B                  BRENTWOOD, CA 94513                  O: 925.420.5717 F: 925.937.4001</p> <p><b>LAFAYETTE</b>                  999 OAK HILL RD., #100                  LAFAYETTE, CA 94549                  O: 925.284.1400 F: 925.284.1411</p>
		<p><b>DANVILLE</b>                  100 RAILROAD AVE., #A                  DANVILLE, CA 94523                  O: 925.937.4000 F: 925.937.4001</p> <p><b>WALNUT CREEK</b>                  1910 OLYMPIC BLVD., #100                  WALNUT CREEK, CA 94596                  O: 925.937.4000 F: 925.937.4001</p>



# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Profound issues raised in a seemingly simple fairy tale at Town Hall Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



From left: DC Scarpelli as the emperor and Isabel To as Mei Lin

Town Hall Theatre opens its 2017-18 season with "The Song of the Nightingale," a musical fairy tale that mixes acting, live music, songs and advanced choreography. A sweet and simple story, it also touches upon deeper themes such as the nature of art, real and artificial pleasures, life and death. The endearing new show is for all audiences, including children.

The emperor of ancient China is benevolent but a bit of the shallow leader. Upon hearing that the most unique treasure of this kingdom is the song of the nightingale, he wants the bird for himself. He loves the small and plain little bird at first, but when he is given a shinier mechanical bird, he abandons the real bird. Of course the mechanical bird breaks, and as the emperor approaches death, his last wish is to hear the real banished bird one last time. Will the song of the nightingale be strong enough the fight death itself? Along the way, the emperor learns that real happiness is found in simplicity and authenticity.

The plot by local playwright Min Kahng is based on Hans Christian Andersen's 1844 fairy tale "The Nightingale." The original story already contained inspiring themes. The nightingale is a bird that is known to the simple people of the kingdom, who are touched by the beauty of its song, which speaks directly to their hearts. The emperor also is touched, but he wants the bird for himself. The theme of mechanical/artificial versus natural is at the center of An-

dersen's story. The Danish writer already perceived how a glittering artificial novelty could be attractive when compared to more natural and simple pleasures.

Kahng wrote the scenario, music and lyrics of this original piece. It adds many contemporary thematic to Andersen's story. There is an element of feminism in the 21st century version, with women claiming their rightful place; the play addresses social change as the emperor makes unrealistic demands of his subjects; the author also touches on the problems of violence versus peaceful conflict resolution and gives the peace advocate role to women.

A lot has to be said about Michael Mohammed's staging and direction. One of the challenges was to create interesting visuals for the nightingale and the mechanical bird. Pauli Amornkhul is the dancer who plays the nightingale. She dances her way through the play as the flute sings her song. Her grace and spirit adds charm to the play and the demanding choreography creates a very nice visual of a bird. Christopher Juan is the mechanical bird. The character created here is very reminiscent of South Korean singer Psy ("Gangnam Style") and is positively hilarious.

The rest of the cast includes excellent actors and singers that often play multiple roles. Isabel To as Mei Lin, DC Scarpelli as the Emperor, Lisa Woo as Madame Wu, Matt Ono as Xiao Hai, and Ted V. Bigornia as Bing Wen are very well cast and hold the singing parts to a

high level. Special mention to 12-year-old Kenneth Greenwell who plays Tai Yun.

Musicians perform live on stage, behind the actors. It is wonderful to have the talented artists there, but it reduces the available space available to the actors and in several scenes the visuals would have benefited from more expansion.

THT is starting a new program this season called "Lit Up at Town Hall," a community literary series exploring the themes of each of the plays. The "The Song of the Nightingale" discussion will focus on how fairy tales explore the joys and limitations of that which is produced by human imagination from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students or youth, and free to Town Hall Theatre subscribers.

"The Song of the Nightingale" is playing at Town Hall Theatre through Oct. 21. For tickets and more information, visit at www.townhalltheatre.com.

**Wheel Day!**

**OCTOBER 21ST • 10AM-12PM**  
(Rain or Shine)

Bring the whole family for a day of horn-honking fun! Children can climb, explore, ask questions and have their photo taken with a variety of vehicles!

<b>Vehicles Include:</b>	<b>Event Also Features:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garbage Truck</li> <li>• Fire Truck</li> <li>• Motorcycles</li> <li>• Police Vehicles</li> <li>• School Bus</li> <li>• Construction Vehicles</li> <li>• Moving Truck</li> <li>• Mobile Dentist</li> <li>• And more!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encore On Tour Mobile Gym</li> <li>• Matchbox Car Play Area</li> <li>• Face Painting</li> <li>• Pizza, Snow Cones, Popcorn, &amp; Baked Goods Available For Purchase</li> </ul>

**Event is free and open to all!**

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
49 Knox Drive Lafayette CA 94549  
(925) 283-8722 • LOPC.org

**GET AHEAD IN MATH THIS FALL**

**WHEN MATH MAKES SENSE, YOU SUCCEED!**

**MATHNASIUM**  
The Math Learning Center

**GRADES K-12**  
Pre-Algebra • Algebra 1 & 2 • Geometry  
Pre-Calculus & Calculus  
SAT/ACT Preparatory  
Individualized Instruction

**HOMEWORK HELP FOR ALL LEVELS**  
**Flat Monthly Fee**  
Drop-in any time, no scheduling needed!

**1 WEEK FREE TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELP**  
Must present coupon. New students only.

3435 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette  
(Golden Gate Way at Mt. Diablo Blvd.)  
(925) 283-4200 www.mathnasium.com

## SMC jazzes it up at first of three concerts



SMC Jazz Band

Photo provided

Like jazz? The Lamorinda community is invited to attend the first in a series of three lively Saint Mary's College Jazz Band concerts, featuring "up-tempo numbers, dance tunes, and instrumental jazz soloists" under the direction of maestro John Maltester at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5 at the Soda Activity Center in Claeys Lounge.

"This first concert features the Campolindo High School Jazz Ensemble as the guest group, the SMC Jazz Combo, and the SMC Jazz Band," Maltester said. "The music ranges from traditional stan-

dards to contemporary jazz for big band including music from the Count Basie, Stan Kenton and other big band libraries." The concert is about 90 minutes in length and will feature several SMC scholarship recipients performing solos.

Tickets for the event are \$5 general and \$2 for students and seniors. An additional set of concerts is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 and at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, and will feature the SMC combo and big band performing a variety of standard jazz arrangements.

— J. Wake

**2017 LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR RUN**  
FOR EDUCATION

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 22**

REGISTRATION OPENS 6:30AM  
5K RACE 8:00AM  
10K RACE 8:15AM  
2 MILE FUN RUN 8:45AM

Live Music  
Pancake Breakfast  
Healthy Lifestyles Fair

**SUPPORTING LOCAL EDUCATION**

ONLINE REGISTRATION  
<http://bit.ly/resrun2017>

**A RUNNER'S MIND**  
PRE-RACE PICK UP LOCATION:  
A RUNNER'S MIND  
3541 PLAZA WAY, LAFAYETTE

#LafayetteEvents

**TRICK OR TREAT STREET**

**FREE SAFE FAMILY FUN**

Trick or Treat at Participating Local Businesses in Downtown Lafayette!

**Friday, October 27**  
**4pm - 6pm**

Recommended for children 9 & under.

#LafayetteEvents

Sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber www.lafayettechamber.org



## Ware Designs

*Fine Jewelry since 1977*

### Expanding our Services with

Two Goldsmiths

- Custom Designs
- Appraisals
- Expert Repairs
- Pearl Restringing

*All your jewelry is insured with Jeweler's Block Insurance.*

### \$5 off Watch Battery

Reg \$15, Now \$10

1 watch battery per person. Exp. 11/15/17. Usually installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette between Trader Joes & the Post Office  
283-2988 www.waredesigns.com Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

## 'Marina' – a story about music, love and prejudice

By Sophie Braccini



The Granata family settles in Belgium.

Photo provided

The movie from the Netherlands presented by the International Film Showcase this month at the Orinda Theatre is the biographical tale of Belgian singer of Italian origin, Rocco Granata, whose humble life began as the son of an immigrant miner, before rising to stardom with the release of his 1959 international hit "Marina." The charming movie focuses on the pursuit of dreams, about sacrifice and resilience and, of course, love.

Like many of today's "Dreamers," Granata was born to a poor, hard working family who immigrated to build a better life, and almost lost it all because of laws that were written to protect larger interests. The movie ends well, as it did for Granata almost 60 years ago; he still lives in Belgium.

The end of the 1940s and '50s were hard years in poor parts of Italy, while other European countries had big demands for manual labor as they rebuilt themselves. In Belgium, men were needed to work the coalmines. A Belgium-Italian treaty was signed in 1946 including the initial hiring of 50,000 Italian coalminers.

Young men left to build a better future for their families, and traded their blue sky for the dream of becoming rich. This was Salvatore Granata's desire: work in the mines for some years and come back to Calabria a rich man. He left alone, but soon his family immigrated to live with him. Rocco was 10, and his sister 5. They first lived in

makeshift facilities provided by the mine company, before moving to a company-owned home. Men spent their lives underground and their male offspring were, by contract, bound to the same fate.

Rocco Granata was a spirited youth, only passionate about music. He had to fight his father just to play an instrument. To Salvatore, music was a hobby, not a job, and the authorities would not give Rocco a musician permit because he was destined to be a miner.

The movie shows the difficulty Italian adults had acclimating in a Dutch speaking country – the scorn, the prejudices they felt every day. As Rocco explained to his mother one night: When he played on stage, people saw him, he existed while the rest of the time he was an invisible "eeyetie."

When Rocco's father was injured, the mine agreed to pay the medical cost for the broken leg, but decided to fire him because of tinnitus, a hearing loss that now afflicted the miner, a likely consequence of medical malpractice. The family had six months to leave. It was back to Italy for all, including the children who had lived most of their lives in Belgium – a place that had become their country.

But Rocco Granata managed to make his dream come true with the release and almost instant planetary success of his first single "Marina." The song that was created in 1959 was a major international success and Granata traveled all over the

world with it, including a performance at Carnegie Hall.

Granata is now 79 and still lives in Belgium with his family. He spent his life in the music business and became a music producer, then later wrote a book about his life, on which the movie was based. He has a small acting part in the film: he plays the older music merchant who sold his first accordion to Rocco. He also plays all that instrument's parts in the movie, while young actor Matteo Simoni plays and sings in the film.

The film is both poignant and joyful, and a beautiful love story adds to its charm. The relationship between Rocco and his father is expressed sensitively. The father is set in his righteous ways; he displays great courage but has little patience for his dreamer of a son. The young man wants a better life and to break free. The film approaches this universal theme with nuance and respect.

Efi Lubliner who co-directs the International Film Showcase said that the showing of this movie at the same time as the "Dreamers" crisis is completely fortuitous. He explains that it took him a long time to get the movie from the Netherlands. This is the first time "Marina" will be shown commercially in the United States.

"Marina" will run at the Orinda Theatre for one week starting Oct. 13. For information, visit lamorindatheatres.org.

## Classical music is alive and well, flourishing in youth

By B. B. Kaye



Rem Djemilev works with his orchestra.

Photo B.B. Kaye

If one accepts commercial broadcasts as exclusive representatives of culture, one could well miss the resurging interest in classical music.

Young musicians file into the performance space at the Center for Community Arts in Walnut Creek every Tuesday, unpack, rosin their bows or assemble their wind instruments, and settle into chairs.

Always first in the room, Rem Djemilev has been sorting scores. He beams, welcoming arriving players, checking that they have what they need, and showing younger ones how to adjust their bows or tune. He makes sure ev-

eryone has sheet music, and rushes to the office for copies if needed. His zest is infectious, and as players warm up their cheerful and frenetic energy turns expectant and focused.

Djemilev conducts the Intermediate and Advanced Community Arts Orchestras in Walnut Creek, helping children from surrounding towns to build collaborative and creative skills. Orchestra members may have any degree of the usual uncertainties of youth but, as session begins, there is a profound transformation in the whole.

Rem Djemilev treats them as equals, and they respond as such.

The result is a youth orchestra capable of passionately performing advanced works by composers such as Antonin Dvorak and Dmitri Shostakovich, as well as popular and film music, with a virtuosity that many adult orchestras find challenging. The full orchestras hold two or three concerts per season, winter and summer.

Lafayette middle school student Katrina Ortman has been an orchestra member for six years. "When I first joined, I was pretty nervous. What if I messed up? What if I wasn't good enough? On the other hand, I was really excited.

... continued on page B4



College Prep • Grades 8-12 • Small Classes

## Open House

Oct. 22 and Dec. 9 from 1-4 pm

Now Enrolling for Fall 2017

19 Altarinda Rd., Orinda, CA 94563

925.254.7553 • www.OrindaAcademy.org

## Theater View Veterinary Clinic



"Dr. Laurie" Langford

Theater View Veterinary Clinic, owned by Dr. Laurie Langford, is excited to announce a new addition. Dr. Amelia Ausman has joined our team. Come check us out.



Phone: (925) 317-3187

Fax: (925) 334-7017

Email: theatervieworinda@gmail.com

www.theaterviewvetclinic.com

1 Bates Blvd., Suite 200, Orinda



# Ongoing discoveries at Perlmutter gallery: 'Refuge' and 'Stranger Things' pop-up show

By Sophie Braccini



Jennifer Perlmutter in front of work by Susan Sharman and Susan Taira in her gallery. Photo Sophie Braccini

Jennifer Perlmutter is never afraid to take risks and venture into new art territory. She is a modern art painter who dared entering the gallery business three and a half years ago. Since then she has brought to Lafayette contemporary ambitious art that attracts curious local collectors and art lovers alike.

Two exhibits will follow each other this month and provide opportunities for very different types of discovery: the current show exploring connections to the natural world, "Refuge," and an Oct. 28 one night pop-up show tribute to the popular Netflix series "Stranger Things."

Entering the gallery next to Rancho Cantina is always a treat. The current exhibition, "Refuge," gathers work from Susan Sharman and Susan Taira who were students together at the California College of the Arts. Perlmutter says Sharman, who develops the graphics for the gallery's communications, proposed the idea of the joint show.

The idea behind "Refuge" is finding a grounding sanctuary in one's roots – both family roots as

well as the roots of nature. It is a very feminine show: some works are simply peaceful, others almost haunting.

For several years now Sharman has been working with needlepoint. Mixing craft work, paint, prints and family memorabilia she created a series of images deepening the exploration of her ancestry, from farmers and land explorers who preserved pressed flowers to pictures, journal entries, and ancient fabrics. She was particularly inspired by a beekeeper ancestor and created a bee's rendering with her needlepoint over family pictures printed on fabric.

Taira, a photographer and hiker who collects objects and natural ephemera she picks along the way, mixes her photos and objects, creating unique 3D displays that are evocative of the natural space around us, as well as a little mysterious and intriguing. The show ends Oct. 21.

At Halloween time, Martin Segovia will bring a very different vibe to the gallery. Perlmutter was immediately interested in the

idea of a pop-up show when the Lafayette artist proposed it to her. Perlmutter says that she loved the first season of the Netflix series "Stranger Things," which is available for viewing, with the second season starting at the end of this month, the day before the pop-up show.

Segovia, an illustrative artist, is curating the tribute show. He does portraiture, realistic portraits, marvel or icons like sport figures. He said he would find 11 artists for the Stanger Artists show, among them Jane Fisher who teaches art at Diablo Valley College and Jesus Anna Hernandez. Segovia's 11 artists commitment is to bring work to the gallery that night that is inspired by the "Stranger Things" characters or stories.

The exhibition's promotional card features one of Segovia's paintings of "Eleven," one of the series' characters and of the Upside Down, the show's other realm. Additionally that night the artists will create a live collaborative piece about "Stranger Things." Segovia's and Perlmutter's desire is to attract a younger crowd to the gallery.

Perlmutter knows it is a risk to offer something new like that in Lafayette. She is charging \$10 to enter that night, a ticket price that will include refreshments, a costume contest entry, and generous servings of Eggo waffles, the food the heroes of "Stranger Things" eat. The paintings will hang in the gallery until after Halloween.

Stay tuned for the November show that will also push boundaries, presenting Igor Caparibe, an augmented reality artist. "Refuge" runs through Oct. 21, and the one-night "Stranger Artists" show is on Oct. 28. For information, visit jenniferperlmuttergallery.com.

# Cancer-fighting superhero pens empowering book for children

By Kara Navolio

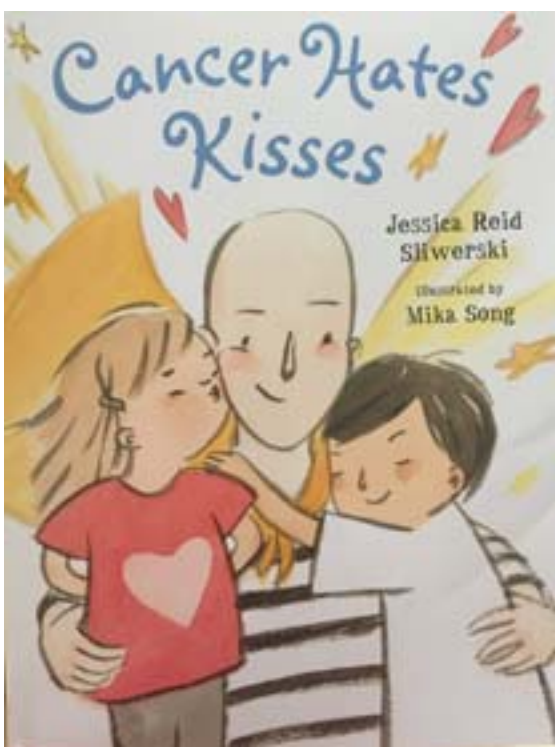


Photo provided

When Jessica Reid Sliwerski discovered the lump in her breast, her baby girl was only 3 months old. The 2000 Acalanes graduate was only 30.

"Just two weeks before I discovered the lump I remember thinking, 'My life is perfect: My career is going great, I love being a mom, I can't believe how lucky I am,'" Sliwerski said.

Her life didn't take the path she had planned, but now she sees her path differently. "After my diagnosis and treatment I knew I would do something to help other cancer survivors, I just didn't know what yet." Her ideas began to take shape in the form of a book for children. "I wanted to write a book that would help women feel empowered, that would remind them that they are brave, beautiful warriors, a book that would remind those who love them that they are a part of the healing process. Love and joy are essential to healing."

"Cancer Hates Kisses" (Dial Books 2017) was released in September. The picture book, illustrated by Mika Song, is geared for children 5-8 but will appeal to children of all ages. It starts out: "Mama is a cancer-fighting superhero." It demystifies cancer and puts it in terms kids can understand. She doesn't shy away from terms like chemo, radiation, and surgery. The book helps kids feel empowered to help mom or dad fight. Sliwerski adds, "Children give us the courage to keep fighting; their kisses and hugs keep us going."

Her prior work as an elementary school teacher, a principal, and a literacy advocate all came together

with her joys of writing and motherhood to create this book for children, which also speaks to adults. Mitch Center, a reader of an advance copy stated, "Thanks to Jessica for writing this beautiful book and for continuing to share the power of her story. I am wiping away tears. I lost my dad to cancer at 15 – a cancer that would probably be treated now but that he could not overcome in 1989. So kids with parents fighting cancer is real and raw for me, as it is for so many. I love that she wrote this, and that she shared this, and most importantly, that she kicked cancer's butt and that her daughter has been her inspiration and fighting partner."

Laura Maestrelli, a cancer survivor from Piedmont, added, "The first time I read (this book), it had me in tears with its combination of empowerment and honesty – it somehow perfectly captures what my husband and I wanted to say to our 4-and-a-half-year-old son when we talked to him about my cancer. And on behalf of all of us with young children who are fighting this disease, we thank Jessica for writing this beautiful book."

Sliwerski was diagnosed in 2014 with stage 1A breast cancer that was still small but very aggressive, a rare form called pregnancy associated breast cancer and affecting women in their 30s during pregnancy or within one year post-partum. The pea-sized lump was almost dismissed by her obstetrician at her 3-month post-partum checkup. But Sliwerski remembered a video she had seen at Acalanes High School about breast self-examination. The message from the film nagged at her: If you feel anything unusual you should not ignore it. "That video may have saved my life," she reflected.

After her treatment, Sliwerski and her husband, who had been living in New York, made the decision to come back to the Bay Area to be closer to her family in the Lamorinda area and to have more organic food choices.

Parents have asked her for another book, one that can help children who are fighting cancer themselves. Since the market for such a book is small, she is planning to self-publish this second book. She is in the process of setting up a Kickstarter campaign to raise the money needed for illustrations, printing and marketing. For updates, visit her website: www.msreidreads.com.

"I want to write books that are going to help people, that will change the world," stated Sliwerski. That's what superheroes do. "Cancer Hates Kisses" can be ordered from local book stores or purchased on Amazon. Sliwerski will be reading her book at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 at Diesel Books in Rockridge.



## THE WRITING STUDIO

Where Words Come to Life

- Classroom instruction and individual sessions
- Writing Projects
- Tools to improve fluency and sentence structure
- Grades 3-12

**Classes Start soon Oct. 16- Dec. 22**

### The Writing Studio

(925)385-0211 www.lafayettewritingstudio.com

**MORAGA STAR SMOG**

**\$20 off\***

\*One coupon per service. Please bring this ad to receive your discount.

Call or Text: (925) 954 - 5291

Hours M-F 8:30-5:00 Saturday 9-4, Address: 1135 Moraga Way, Moraga  
Located in Moraga Auto Care gas station



**RISTORANTE VINO**  
TAPAS • SEAFOOD

*Vino is not your typical restaurant. Our food is made only with the freshest and finest ingredients. We do not use any commercial sauces, hydrogenated oils or trans-fats. What we serve you is delicious, healthy food made with passion.*

**A few selections:**

- Beet Salad:** fresh mint, tomato, golden raisins, goat cheese, herb vinaigrette....7
- Sardines Insalata:** calamata olives, green beans, potato, feta cheese, balsamic olive oil .....9
- Niman Flat Iron Steak:** potato gratin, green beans, chimichurri sauce .....18
- Fresh Seafood Cioppino:** in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast..19
- Roasted Scallops:** spinach, saliccia sugo .....19
- Roasted Wild Salmon:** white wine, capers, braised greens, and potato gratin..17
- Veal Scallopini:** mushrooms, garlic, marsala wine .....17

3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette, (925) 284-1330  
Open for dinner Wed. – Sat. 5 - 8:30 p.m.

**Walnut Creek's Active Senior-Living Community**

Enjoy the convenience of Living Downtown...  
**MINUTES FROM SHOPPING, DINING AND CITY PARKS!**



*Celebrate Independence, Community, New Experiences*

For those who say "Not Me!" to run-of-the-mill retirement living, our condo-style apartment community welcomes and reflects the varied tastes and lifestyles of individuals like you! Embrace your next stage in life alongside others who appreciate the superb amenities The Heritage Downtown offers: Savory Restaurant- Style Dining, Pool & Spa, 24-Hour Fitness Center & Classes, Social & Educational Events and more! In-Home Care assistance is also available as you age-in-place from 62 to 122!



**THE HERITAGE DOWNTOWN**  
SENIOR RESORT LIVING  
925.943.7427  
TheHeritageDowntown.com

1421



1785 Shuey Avenue  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**Call to learn more about our One-of-a-Kind, Wellness Certified, Retirement Living rental community!**



## Caring Hands volunteers make a difference in seniors' lives

Submitted by Stacy Appel



Lamorinda volunteer Kristen Headley, far left, took her longtime match and Navy veteran, Hilbert "Si" Seiwert (wearing cap), on an outing to the USS Hornet in Alameda. Headley's husband, Clayton, and son, Brett, came along to make it a real celebration. Photo provided

Life at any age involves challenges, but these intensify as we age. The first concern may be that it becomes too difficult to drive to the doctor or the grocery, or to just get a haircut. Support systems change, neighbors and friends may not help as expected, and loneliness may put a damper on daily routines.

The Caring Hands Volunteer Caregivers Program, which serves seniors throughout Central, East, and South Contra Costa County, including Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga, makes an extraordinary difference in the quality of life for many seniors.

About three years ago, Lafayette resident Kristen Headley started seeing a recurring paragraph in her church bulletin asking for volunteers for the Caring Hands organization. "Having been an occupational therapist," she said, "I thought this would be a perfect fit for me 'someday.' I didn't make any inquiries for several months, thinking I was too busy. But one Monday morning I decided it was time. It was meant to be, because a training was scheduled for the following week and the coordinator and I were able to make it work. I am so glad I made that call!"

Headley was matched with "Si" Seiwert – a 93-year-old living on his own and, fortunately for both of them, right down the street. Because of macular degeneration, Seiwert was unable to drive or read very well. "We started visiting on Wednesdays, reading mail and a great Life magazine on World War II," Headley said. "Si is a World War II veteran and a fountain of information." Headley or-

ganized a trip to the USS Hornet in Alameda and said Seiwert was like a rock star while touring the aircraft carrier. "The veteran volunteers providing the tour were thrilled to be with a World War II veteran."

Aside from visiting and reading with Seiwert, Headley also helps him get to doctors appointments, get haircuts and get to the grocery store. "Our time together always puts into perspective what truly matters in this life," she said. "I love that I get to slow down from my crazy life with three teenagers and enjoy quality time with an individual who has a wealth of life experiences to share."

Caring Hands is a collaborative community outreach program between John Muir Health, social service agencies, congregations of various faiths and the community-at-large. The goal of the 20-year old program is to create finely-tuned one-on-one matches to help aging adults in Contra Costa County remain independent as long as safely possible with the help of a volunteer. Isolation and loneliness shorten lives and may make health problems worse.

Because Caring Hands has an unusually long waiting list of isolated seniors right now, they are in dire need of more Lamorinda volunteers or those who might know a neighbor or friend who could volunteer. The program is offering two volunteer trainings on Oct. 13 and again on Nov. 10 in Walnut Creek. For information, call Caring Hands at (925) 952-2999, ext. 36063 or email Stacy Appel at Stacy.Appel@johnmuirhealth.com.

## Classical music is alive and well, flourishing in youth

... continued from page B2

Though I had been playing violin for a few years, I hadn't played in a group before, and knew that it would be a wonderful new experience. The orchestra welcomed me, and I felt at ease. I found that I simply loved my instrument, and that playing gave me much more satisfaction and enjoyment than listening to others, as nice as it can be.

"Though we play pieces that make us stretch our limits, nothing we do is ridiculously hard. I always improve slightly from a piece I play in this orchestra, and I think that has helped me become the musician, and the person, who 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 am trying to challenge them by sometimes introducing very complex and innovative works, unusual compositions, helping to stretch their musical horizons."

"I consider myself very privileged working with so many amazingly talented young musicians. I've learned the importance of de-

veloping 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 material we are working on. We are a team- a conductor can't succeed alone!"

Long hair swings into his boyish face and he smiles, flipping it aside. Cheerful and optimistic, always dressed in a suit, Djemilev is at ease in his element.

"When I took over our Youth Orchestra in 2001, it had only 14 players in it. Now, after 16 years, we have about 80-85 members in both intermediate and advanced orchestras. Consistently, 30-40 percent of our membership come from Lamorinda."

"We have a terrific tradition in both groups – we have a group of older players volunteer to help and work with our younger musicians. This creates an amazing experience for both – beginners and advanced,

## Lamorinda Arts Council hosts Art of Mixology fundraiser, Oct. 7

Submitted by Christy Mack



More than 20 well-known and upcoming East Bay mixologists will come together from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 to support the Lamorinda Arts Council – a nonprofit that has been igniting and sustaining artistic expression and appreciation in the visual, performing and literary arts for people of all ages in our community for over 65 years – at its 4th annual Art of Mixology Fundraiser at the Orinda Theatre Square.

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

Ryan Wehrenberg of Park Bistro at the Lafayette Park Hotel was named Mixologist of the Year last year and is returning again this year for another chance at the title. Vying for this year's title will also be David King of Oakland's Hutch Bar and Kitchen,

Jeremy Vadurro from Beer Baron Bar and Kitchen in Pleasanton, Portia Battistini of Lafayette's Cooperage American Grille, and more creative mixologists.

"I'm thrilled that my participation, as well as the participation of other local mixologists who love the craft of designing and innovating cocktails, will support local arts," said Wehrenberg. "Last year was my first competition and to be able to win on my first attempt was amazing for me. I loved constructing my cocktail and watching hundreds of fundraiser attendees enjoy it as well as share their thoughts. I can't wait to compete in this year's Art of Mixology and join in the fun again for a cause."

Tickets are \$45 in advance and can be purchased online at [www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology). Day of tickets can be purchased at the event for \$55.

"Art of Mixology brings together community members in the most festive of ways while celebrating the arts," explained Lawrence Kohl, president of Lamorinda Arts Council. "It's one of my favorite fundraising events and I look forward to it each and every year."

For more information on LAC, visit [www.lamorindaarts.org](http://www.lamorindaarts.org).

## Annual bike event benefits

### Holden High School students

Submitted by Mawiyah Johnson

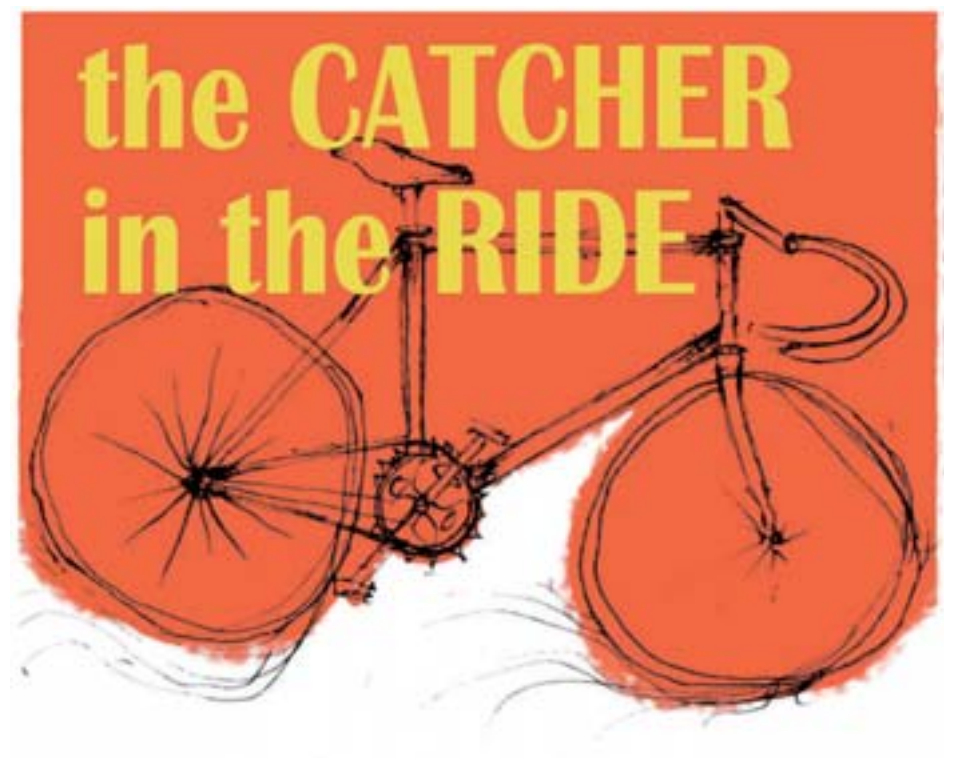


Image provided

For nearly 50 years, Holden High School in Orinda has been quietly referred to as "the miracle in the basement" by grateful parents and students.

Holden helps teens with learning challenges transform limiting self-beliefs into personal and academic confidence. Young people who have experienced traumatic life events and have struggles in mainstream school settings say Holden is a safe haven.

Since its inception in 1969, Holden has helped transform the lives of some of the Bay Area's finest citizens. Students who were labeled as deficient by traditional organizations are now working in cutting-edge technology jobs, running nonprofits, and attending some of the finest colleges.

On Saturday, Oct. 14 Holden High School will be hosting its third annual

"Catcher in the Ride Benefit Bike Ride" from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., starting at the Holden High School parking lot, 10 Irwin Way in Orinda (just one mile away from the Orinda BART station). There will be two scenic routes through Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette to choose from: an 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 celebration and bike inspections. Riders must be at least 14 years old or older.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from this event will go directly to serve the students at Holden High School. To register, visit: [Holdenhigh.org/holden-events/bike/](http://Holdenhigh.org/holden-events/bike/).

since it teaches how to become a teacher, how to become a mentor. Our beginners get help and nourishment for their talent, and our advanced mentors learn how to teach! This helps to build many bridges and close connections between the two groups. Our typical age is 7-13 years old for our Intermediate Orchestra, and 12-19 for our Advanced Orchestra."

Audrey Burns, an Acalanes High School student, is one of several virtuoso players in the Advanced Community Arts Orchestra. Audiences are electrified by her fiery intensity and technical mastery. "I started playing piano at age 6," she said, "but what grabbed me about playing violin at Community Arts was the social aspect; performing with our full orchestra is much different than performing with piano. Some of my own students now play at CAYO." Burns shares her seasoned experience with younger players, helping them hone their own skills and confidence.

Cellist Eilidh Kilpatrick, a Lafayette middle-schooler, said, "It's nice to be surrounded

by other people when you're playing. It's not boring to practice by yourself -some pieces sound really good- but the pieces that Rem chooses are super pretty."

"I was very lucky to witness many young musicians grow up and become bright, educated young adults. I remember how many of them developed from very shy, timid, inexperienced young kids into powerful, strong, confident, talented young people. We are always looking for new members!" Djemilev said. "I can't tell exact numbers – but I can safely say: more than 20 or 30 orchestra members over the years became teachers and performers, some work in the recording or publishing industry, some became composers. I hope to see orchestra numbers grow, reaching out to all social and economic brackets, making youth orchestra affordable and available for all. Joy and excitement of creating beautiful music together has to be accessible for everyone!"



# When you need a doctor and you need one now

By Nick Marnell



A medical industry trend has descended upon Lamorinda with the opening in August of a third urgent care facility over the past four years.

The urgent care industry developed out of the frustrations of medical patients who, with little time and patience for doctors and hospitals, demanded unscheduled appointments, an accessible location and lower costs, all with the presumption of superior service.

The business model appears to be delivering what customers expect, as according to the Urgent Care Association of America, at 90 percent of urgent care centers the wait time to see a provider is 30 minutes or less, and patients are in and out in one hour or less at 84 percent of all urgent care centers. There are more than 8,000 urgent care centers in the U.S., and some estimates project more than 12,000 centers within two years.

Urgent care facilities tend to be positioned in high-visibility, consumer-accessible locations, which may explain why two centers have opened in Orinda and one in Lafayette, but none in Moraga. "I'm not aware of any requests for these kinds of business uses in my five years here," said Ellen Clark, Moraga planning director.

The first Lamorinda urgent care center opened in Lafayette in 2013. "It's doing very well," said Rob O'Reilly, Moraga resident and one of the principals of Stat Med, an urgent care facility that specializes in staffing trained emergency room doctors. "Lafayette is not our model clinic, though, as it is in a medical building and not in a retail location."

O'Reilly said the ideal site for an urgent care center provides accessibility to 50,000 people within a seven minute drive, another reason why his home town may not be an ideal location for a clinic. His company has opened a second facility in Concord.

Often hospitals themselves will open an urgent care center to siphon off some of their own emergency room patients and to help reduce health care costs. The Sutter East Bay Medical Foundation opened an urgent care facility in Orinda in 2016 but temporarily closed it in May due to challenges with doctor staffing, according to company spokesman Clayton Warren. "Providing quality care to our patients is our highest priority and we won't compromise our promise to deliver the safest level of care until we have the necessary clinical staffing levels at this location," Warren said.

It did not take long for a competitor to step into the Orinda void. On Aug. 31, John Muir Health opened an urgent care center directly across the street from the closed Sutter Health location. The new Orinda center has seen more than 100 patients a week. "This exceeds our projections and the number of patients continues to grow," said Ben Drew of John Muir Health. "And there are no physician staffing issues despite the increased volume of patients."

Younger patients mentioned one of their specific reasons for using urgent care facilities. "All of my friends used them in Oregon," said 20-something Eden Gavce of Moraga. "That way parents don't have to know every time you go to the doctor."

For those who feel that even urgent care clinics are not convenient enough, a 2015 San Francisco-based startup may fill the bill. Plush, an online urgent care provider, will set up an online chat for \$99 with a physician who can provide a diagnosis and prescribe medications. Company representative Amanda Windsor said that Plush is taking health care to rural areas and will provide a way for the uninsured to enjoy health care, though she said that millennials would be more likely to try the company business model.

Though none appear in Lamorinda, free-standing emergency rooms are also gaining momentum. According to Hospital and Health Networks, there are more than 500 of these stand-alone facilities in the country and industry experts project there could soon be as many as 2,000. Unlike urgent care centers, these facilities are open 24/7, they typically charge standard ER rates and provide more sophisticated diagnostic equipment than urgent care centers, such as X-ray machines, CT scanners and labs.

All companies mentioned in this article stress that, while urgent care facilities provide outpatient care for acute or chronic illnesses or injuries, if you encounter a true medical emergency, call 911 for transport to a hospital emergency room. Emergency ambulance transport is provided in Lamorinda by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, which according to Patricia Frost, director of emergency medical services for Contra Costa Health Services, are not permitted to take patients to urgent care centers.

"We sometimes get calls from the urgent care center, and we will transport patients from the urgent care center to a hospital," said MOFD Interim Fire Chief Jerry Lee.

## SAGE STUDIO SPA

Lafayette



Luxurious Body Treatments  
Vichy Shower Hydrotherapy  
Massages  
Facials

By appointment only  
925-695-9772

www.sagestudiospa.com

## Diablo Acupuncture

Experience the Difference

Dr. Sophia Scheffel, L.Ac has received both her masters and doctorate in acupuncture and Chinese Medicine. Dr. Scheffel has expertise in treating chronic pain; allergies, asthma and immune disorders; sleep, anxiety, depression and other mental emotional imbalances as well as oncology support.

She's a Lamorinda native, having graduated from Miramonte in 1998 and wanted to bring her practice back to the area in which she grew up to help her community attain optimal health.

Consider acupuncture and working with Dr. Scheffel to bring yourself into optimal health.



Dr. Sophia Scheffel, LAc  
925.268.0117  
diabloacupuncture.com

# Prostate Relief With Rezum

By Judson Brandeis, MD



As a urologist, one of the most common urological conditions I treat is benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) or an enlarged prostate. This is a condition that happens to most all men as they get older. It is a problem because as the gland grows, it presses on the urethra and causes urination problems such as a weak stream, difficulty urinating, or the sensation of a frequent need to urinate.

In the past, the standard of care for BPH has included medication and/or surgery. Men are typically started on medications and given a chance to see if the medications improve their symptoms. Some men notice considerable improvement in symptoms with medication, while others do not. Unfortunately, medications come with side effects that some men do not tolerate well. Therefore, some men prefer minimally invasive procedures to relieve enlarged prostate symptoms.

One option that has been around for several years is minimally invasive heat therapies. Thermotherapy delivers targeted heat within the prostate with either radiofrequency or microwave therapy to reduce excess prostatic tissue. These procedures require only local anesthesia in the office setting. The patient is able to return home shortly after the procedure has been performed and can resume normal activities within a few days.

A more recent technological advancement with the most promising results is the Rezūm water vapor therapy. Rezūm water vapor therapy is a safe and effective in office or outpatient BPH therapy designed to transform your treatment experience. The Rezūm System uses the power of just a few drops of water to treat the symptoms of BPH with minimal discomfort and rapid symptom relief while preserving erectile function and

urinary continence. Patients will typically spend less than one hour in the office, return to regular activities within a few days, and see BPH symptom improvement in as soon as two weeks. We are the first urology group in the area to be trained to perform this treatment.

These minimally invasive therapies are ideal for patients who fail medications or do not want to take daily medications for the rest of their lives. If you have BPH, you should have a yearly exam to monitor your symptoms and to discuss changes in treatment.

Dr. Brandeis is a Board Certified Urologist with Pacific Urology and one of the first urologist in the area to be trained to perform the Rezūm treatment. He has extensive experience in treating all urologic conditions and specializes in minimally-invasive BPH treatments, prostate cancer and kidney stones. For more information call 925-937-7740 or visit [www.PacificUrology.com](http://www.PacificUrology.com)



~ Healthy Lifestyle ~



## OPEN WATER PILATES

### Functional Fitness for Everyday Life

Conditioning for all ages;  
youth athletes to active  
seniors

- Increase Flexibility
- Injury Prevention
- Ease Back Pain
- Strengthen Core



415 902 9607 | AC@openwaterpilates.com  
www.openwaterpilates.com

## 10 FREE DAYS

Offering Gentle Yoga  
Monday through Friday  
11AM - 12PM  
All levels welcome.  
Seniors especially welcome.



920 Country Club Drive, Moraga  
(925) 732-9114

**humble yoga**  
breathe. stretch. strengthen.

www.goHumbleYoga.com

## Rachel Moran

Marriage & Family Therapist



Addiction expert with 30 years of experience. I provide education, support, prevention and crisis management to adolescents, adults and families who are struggling with drug and alcohol issues, depression, anxiety and relationship issues. In addition I offer groups for adults navigating life in recovery and high school students who need support developing healthy coping strategies and effectively managing daily stressors.

23 Altarinda Rd., Suite 205A, Orinda  
925-330-5773 rachel@rachelmoranmft.com

## LET'S TALK ABOUT STRESS RELIEF

Stress relief is key to finding the balance of a healthy lifestyle. Even a single massage session has been shown to significantly reduce stress by lowering heart rate, cortisol and insulin levels. With a flexible savings account (FSA) or health savings account (HSA), you can save money- tax-free- from each paycheck and use the funds toward your therapeutic massages.

**ME** Massage Envy

558 Center St., Moraga (925) 376-3689

## Classical Homeopathy

**The Medical  
Office of**

**Richard N. Filinson,  
M.D., located at  
925 Village Center in  
Lafayette is limited  
to the practice of  
Homeopathy.**



Please visit the website at  
rfilinsonhomeopathy.com. Dr. Filinson  
is available to give talks on Homeopathy  
and answer general questions on the  
subject to groups of 7 or more adults.

**925-818-5008**



## Ways to Reduce Your Pain Without Medications

By **Richard C. Shinaman, M.D.**

In the face of an ongoing effort for state and federal governments to limit access to opioid containing pain relieving medications, a number of guidelines have been recently enacted that recommend that doctors prescribe less or even no pain medication. Many patients find that despite years of pain relief from pain medications, their doctors are suggesting that they stop their medication or even refuse to prescribe them anymore. Primary care doctors in particular have become very reluctant to prescribe any pain medication to even long-term patients.

Many patients want to know what to do and how they can treat the pain conditions that they have in light of these new recommendations and restrictions. All too often, we have found that a patient is asked to reduce or stop the amount of medication they are taking, but the doctor does not have enough time to review alternative treatments that may replace the use of the pain medications that the patient relied upon in the past. The following are two of several options to alleviate pain without medications. I'll highlight additional options in future Lamorinda Weekly issues. I hope that the information below can be helpful to patients looking for ways to reduce pain from any number of pain related conditions.

### Number One: Move Your Body

When we hurt, we tend to move less. Over time moving less leads to contracted muscle and more spasm. It is important to remember that we don't all have to be Arnold Schwarzenegger. Generally, we all try to do too much at one time. What counts most is moving the muscles consistently each day.

Our bodies have been designed to have muscles that contract and extend many times per day. There are lots of types of activity that can achieve the same goal so I recommend finding some type of movement that appeals to you personally. Activities such as dancing, yoga, tai chi, Pilates, and even swimming all have a lot of the same types of motion involved.

Several studies have shown that tai chi and swimming may be the best sorts of activity for people with painful conditions, and have also shown that doing these exercises outside is very good for physical and mental health. It seems that human beings do better in many ways when we are outside in the natural world, so starting a simple activity like going for a walk with some stretching

outside can do quite a bit in regard to relieving pain. Certain conditions may limit your ability to walk longer distances, but if this is the case it is important to still use parts of the body in ways that you can manage.

Several local community centers have classes on "chair yoga" or other low impact activities. If you are able to do more and want a bit more of a challenge, then high intensity training may be very good for your muscles, your heart, and your brain. Researchers have concluded that short periods of very intense exercise can ultimately result in better gains for people over the long term. There are several apps and books discussing this type of exercise further.

### Number Two: Mindfulness

#### Approaches

Most of us that grew up in a busy locale such as the Bay Area got used to hearing "Don't just sit there, do something!" Nevertheless, when I am trying to discuss alternative healing techniques with my patients I like to remind them "Don't just do something, sit there."

We all need time out from our frantic and hectic world that surrounds us. Mindfulness exercises are easily one of the easiest, least expensive, and effective techniques for almost all modern medical conditions including stress, insomnia, and chronic pain. Many people have preconceptions about meditation or mindfulness training, but it is important to know that the practice is not based on religion and there is no "perfect" way to do it.

My own research at Stanford University showed that what matters most is consistency of practice. Believe it or not, simply sitting and concentrating on the breath while not allowing oneself to be constantly distracted results in clear and long-lasting health benefits. Regular mindfulness practice results in less pain, better sleep, and fewer incidence of stress related events like heart attacks and strokes.

There are a large number of techniques to try and I have found that most people should try a few different types of techniques until they find one that appeals to them. There are a large number of books, audio recordings, and even smart phone apps that can be used to guide the way.

Breathwork is one technique that many people may find helpful if regular sitting "feels boring" or if someone feels that they need "something to do" rather than just sit. I often recommend

heart rate variability sensors as a tool to help people learn the right type of techniques for "active relaxation." Our clinical experience is that guided imagery, body scan meditations, and loving kindness-based meditations tend to work the best for pain-related conditions.

The term metta refers to the concept of cultivating warm and compassionate interactions between all living things. I think that if each of us worked just a little to bring more metta into each of our daily interactions we would all suffer from less typically Western stress-based illnesses.



Dr. Richard C. Shinaman, of Pain Medicine Consultants, is board certified in anesthesiology and pain medicine. Dr. Shinaman trained in anesthesiology and critical care medicine at Stanford University. He completed an accredited pain medicine fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. He has been a very busy and valued member of the medical community in Northern California for over a decade. His overall goal is to try and help people to suffer less and live more. He has published book chapters and a number of scientific articles on the treatment of painful diseases and how to treat them. More information can be found out about his current medical clinic at [painmedicineconsultants.com](http://painmedicineconsultants.com). Most patients can request a consultation through the online web portal. His practice contact number is (925) 287-1256.

*Disclaimer: The opinions and statements above are the opinion of Richard Shinaman, MD and are not intended to diagnose or treat any patient or person with a medical condition. No person can determine what might be best for you as an individual without evaluating you and hearing your individual story. Everyone is different. Using any or all of the techniques described is done so at your own risk. You should discuss starting or stopping any treatment with your own medical provider. Only you are ultimately responsible for your own health.*

Look for the next  
Health Special in  
our January 24  
issue and call or  
email Wendy if you  
are interested in  
participating.

925-377-0977  
wendy@lamorinda  
weekly.com

LAMORINDA  
WEEKLY



Healthy Lifestyle



# Laughs, magic and scares hit the Lamorinda theaters this October

By Derek Zemrak



Andrew Norelli



Photos provided Jeff Richards



## Lynn's Top Five

### The traditional numbers behind growing non-traditional families

By Lynn Ballou, CFP®

Back-to-school time, Halloween trick-or-treaters, opening holiday presents with small children – all of these Norman Rockwell moments were heart-breaking for me and my husband for many years. After abandoning countless medical options with no results, we heard about open adoptions, a relatively new idea back then, and we were all in! Almost 29 years later and our family continues to grow with the addition of our beautiful granddaughter two years ago.

For those of you who may be struggling to grow a family as we were, and medical options aren't your solution either, let's explore other opportunities and their costs. If you are still reading this column please know that the matters of the heart and family are at the core of your decision. To be helpful, I'm going to focus just on the financial planning aspect and not the real reason we adopt – love and family.

**1) Open domestic adoptions:** Megan Cohen, an attorney with Family Formation Law Offices in Lafayette, told me that for these adoptions you and the birth mother will know each other's identities and how much contact you have is up to both you and the birth mother. The costs for these adoptions can vary quite a bit, but remembering you are in the Bay Area, you should be prepared to spend up to \$40,000. You might think this will mostly be for the birth mother's medical care, however, thankfully in California we have MediCal, so the actual medical costs are not likely to be the largest expense. According to Megan, most of the expenses are for agency and legal fees, home studies, and costs for the birth mother. You can read more about adoption on their website: [www.familyformation.com](http://www.familyformation.com).

com.

**2) Surrogacy:** Friend and colleague at EP Wealth, Tyler Robuck, CFP®, and his husband, determined several years ago that surrogacy offered them their best alternative at building a family. As with adoption, the array of choices and opportunities is stunning as are the potential costs. The good news is that you can choose to have an agency handle every detail for you or you can do some things yourself, such as identifying a surrogate candidate and coordinating medical procedures. Other good news revolves around technology which now means that you can screen for genetically viable eggs thus avoiding multiple or unsuccessful births. Your costs for this path to parenthood can range from \$50,000 at a minimum to well over \$125,000. For more information from one group that specializes in surrogacy go to [www.growinggenerations.com](http://www.growinggenerations.com).

**3) Foster Care Adoptions:** In my chat with Megan Cohen, she explained to me that because these children are wards of the state, the state pays for almost all the costs associated with foster care adoptions. Within these types of adoptions are choices that can include foster to adopt, kids with special needs and safe surrender (infants). You can learn more about these possibilities by going to [www.adoptuskids.org](http://www.adoptuskids.org) and click on the link to California.

**4) International Adoptions:** Within the context of this short column, I cannot begin to do this topic justice. It seems that costs for these vary wildly depending on the circumstances, the country involved and their fees and regulations, the travel costs (including yours to visit, maybe more than once) as well

as fees and legal costs back here. According to Adoptive Families Magazine as quoted on [www.americanadoptions.com](http://www.americanadoptions.com) International Adoption costs in 2012 – 2013 ranged from about \$30,000 to \$45,000. You can read more about international adoptions on the U.S. Department of State's Intercountry Adoption Website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/adoptionsabroad/en/country-information/learn-about-a-country.html>.

**5) Tax Breaks for Adoption:** Some adoption costs can be offset with the Federal Adoption Tax credit which rises to \$13,570 this year, but phases out for parents with more than \$203,540 modified adjusted gross income

and gone when that number is \$243,540 and above. Parents who adopt a child with special needs can claim the full amount. As a non-refundable credit, it can only be used in the year you adopt if you have a tax liability to offset. More information is available on the IRS website: [www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html](http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607.html).

As you can see there are many ways to build a family when giving birth to children yourself is not an option. I hope that no matter what path you choose, you will carefully research all the providers and experts you can, so that you find the team that is the best fit for you. It's worth the time, the calls, the meetings – it's a forever decision.



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, but we do not guarantee its accuracy and it should not be regarded as a complete analysis of the subject(s) discussed. All expressions of opinion reflect the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change. Content is not intended to be interpreted as tax or legal advice. Always consult a tax and/or legal professional regarding your specific circumstances.

## Got too much stuff? Store at huge discount savings!



**Get One Month FREE!**

If you're getting organized, NOW is the time to rent! Pay for your first month, and you get your

**2<sup>nd</sup> month FREE!!**

Select units, limited supply, 1st come, 1st served. Rent your unit NOW!

\*Select units limited, not available at all locations, call for details - rent today while this special is still on! Special discounts expire 10/31/17

Keep tuned into our Social Media Special units are 1st come, 1st served while supplies last.



Rent & we move you in FREE!



455 Moraga Rd. Ste. F (925) 643-2026 www.5Aspace.com

Give us a YELP review! We're happy to hear from you & appreciate your honesty!



Submit stories to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)







When I say "good,"  
you say "neighbor."

**Mike Rosa**  
Agent  
925-376-2244  
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583  
346 Rheem Blvd., Suite 106  
Moraga

Now that's teamwork.  
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7



P097314.1 State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL

## Lamorinda's Religious Services

**St. Anselm's Episcopal Church**  
A Loving Community

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

*In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare*  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

### LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Where all are welcome, nobody is perfect,  
and anything is possible with God.



- Sunday Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- Programs for all ages
- Guest Speakers & Workshops
- So much more! Connect with us today!

49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA • [925] 283-8722 • [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org) • #LOPC

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

**Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am**  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

*all are welcome*

Sunday mornings, 9:30 am  
new! » Sunday evenings, 5 pm



10 Moraga Valley Lane  
[www.mvpc.today.org](http://www.mvpc.today.org)  
925.376.4800



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)  
Sunday 8am, 10am

**Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



8:30 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. Education for all ages  
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service  
Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.  
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

**Sunday Sacrament Service**  
at 10AM

Scripture Study &  
Youth Programs

Everyone welcome!

3776 Via Granada, Moraga



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's  
journey, you are welcome here!"

Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m.



### Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages

Opportunities to Love God, Love Others,  
and Serve the World

## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**The Moraga Art Gallery announces its new show** entitled "East-West Portal," signifying a mix of contrasting cultures embodied in the collages of resident artist Pamela Murray and jewelry by guest artist Jyotsna Chawla. The show runs through Oct. 21. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com), call (925) 376-5407 or email [moragaartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:moragaartgallery@gmail.com).

**Ray Beldner will be coming to the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery** to answer questions about applying for the StArtup Fair from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11 at Jennifer Perlmutter gallery. The event is free but if you want to attend, you need to RSVP at <http://jenniferperlmuttergallery.com>.

**The award-winning Netflix series, "Stranger Things"** has sparked fan art and loyal followers around the globe. Join us for a fun night of art and atmosphere to celebrate our love of all things "Strange" from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28. Step inside the Sci-fi realm of "The Upside Down" at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, featuring 11 artists from around the Bay Area paying tribute to the characters, sets, and themes of "Stranger Things." The \$10 admission ticket includes entry to this experiential exhibit, plus refreshments, live painting, meet the artists, photo ops, costume contest, raffle prizes, "Strange Art" for sale and other surprises! Purchase at: <http://jenniferperlmuttergallery.com/product/strangerartist/>.

**The Lamorinda Arts Alliance presents its 3rd Annual Art Show and Sale** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Lafayette Christian Church at 584 Glenside Dr., Lafayette. Twenty-four artists will display and sell their artwork including ceramics, jewelry, printmaking, painting, photography, weaving and sculpture. Jacqueline Proulx will show her beautiful ceramics and George Ehrenhaft will display his exquisite watercolors. Maria Santostefano, a plein air painter, and K. de Groot with her unique jewelry will also display their work. There will be live music from a local jazz pianist, Michael Granat. The artists will all be on site to answer any questions you might have about technique or what inspires and motivates them. [www.laa4art.org](http://www.laa4art.org)

### MUSIC

**The Little Fall Music Fest from 3 to 6 p.m.** Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Library Community Hall, Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Enjoy an afternoon of great music and libations, starting with flamenco dancer Melissa Cruz, followed by the bluegrass and blues sounds of Dirty Cello, and finishing with the rousing music hall songs of Brass Farthing. Lafayette Rotary Club will be on hand with barbecue, beer and wine. \$10

**Crowden Music Center presents Community Music Day** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22, at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. Crowden's Community Music Day is a free musical carnival, with Instrument Petting Zoos, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, face painting, prizes and more. For more info see <http://www.crowden.org/concerts-and-events/community-music-day> or call (510) 559-6910 or email [concerts@crowden.org](mailto:concerts@crowden.org).

### THEATER

**Town Hall Theatre Company presents "The Song of the Nightingale: A Musical Fairy Tale,"** a new pop musical based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, with book, music and lyrics by Min Kahng; directed by Michael Mohammed with music direction by Margaret Halbig. The show runs through Oct. 21. For ticket information and showtimes, visit [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com).

**California Shakespeare Theater and Santa Cruz Shakespeare's** co-production of "Measure for Measure" by William Shakespeare, directed by Tyne Rafaeli runs through

Oct. 8 at Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Single tickets start at \$20, with discounts available for seniors, students, persons age 30 and under, and groups. All tickets are available through the California Shakespeare Theater Box Office, 701 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, (510) 548-9666, online at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org), or at the Bruns box office on the day of the performance.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust** at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Speaker and author Marty Brounstein shares a true story of tragedy and hope, detailing how a Christian couple in the Netherlands saved the lives of over two dozen Jews during World War II. Please register to attend the program: [www.tinyurl.com/LAFbrounstein](http://www.tinyurl.com/LAFbrounstein)

**Miko Peled, Israeli Peace Activist speaks about "Trump and Prospects for Peace: What is Next for Palestine/Israel?"** at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Cost: \$10 in advance; \$15 at door; students free. Pre-register at: [www.ourpeacecenter.org](http://www.ourpeacecenter.org). For more info visit [www.mikopeled.com](http://www.mikopeled.com).

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Lisa Bograd, MFT, will lead a workshop** from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11 at the Orinda Library where parents (of elementary and preschool-aged children) will learn how to respond to picky eaters, avoid power struggles about food and weight, and other ways to help understand the dynamics of food and nutrition and choices. Free, but please register online at [ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html](http://ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html).

**For the second year in a row, Lamorinda Moms** is proud to present Dr. Laura Markham, who will discuss how to facilitate a loving, connected relationship between siblings, based on her recent book, "Peaceful Parent, Happy Siblings: How to Stop the Fighting and Raise Friends for Life." This year's event will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11 at Orinda Intermediate School. The cost to attend is \$20 for non-members and \$10 members. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/>.

**Carr Ranch property dedication and public opening** of 604-acre Carr Ranch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 in Moraga. Guided hikes, a family square dance, food trucks, and other activities. Carr Ranch will serve the community as vital wildlife habitat, a source of clean drinking water, and beautiful public open space for recreation. Park at Rancho Laguna Park located at 2101 Camino Pablo in Moraga and follow the signs. More details available at [www.jmlt.org](http://www.jmlt.org).

**Kids Book Faire 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15** with free admission and free parking at Acalanes High School in Lafayette. Some all-time favorite characters from books and movies will be on hand to meet and greet attendees including Curious George, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Pete the Cat and Clifford the Big Red Dog. Bel and Bunna's Books of Lafayette will be on hand selling the books of these famous characters. There will be storytelling all day by authors and free arts and educational activities and photo booth for attendees. Attendees are encouraged to bring canned goods to donate to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. They will receive a free raffle ticket for each donated can.

**Wheel Day from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 21** at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive Lafayette (rain or shine.) Bring the whole family for a day of horn-honking fun. Children can climb, explore, ask questions and have their photo taken with a variety of vehicles! Popcorn and baked goods available for purchase.

**The annual Lafayette Res Run for Education** begins at 8 a.m. Sunday,

Oct. 22 in downtown Lafayette. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, this community fitness event features beautiful scenery, a fast 5-K race, a challenging 10-K course which includes a trip around the Lafayette Reservoir, and a 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk for dogs, walkers and runners of all ages (this one begins at 8:45am). All races start and end at the same location - corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Oak Hill Rd. in downtown Lafayette. Register online [www.lafayettechamber.org/resrun](http://www.lafayettechamber.org/resrun).

**Orinda Academy will be hosting an open house** event for fall 2018 enrollment from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 22 and Dec. 9. Come and see what makes OA a Best of Parents Press winner (independent high school/alternative learning high school). Our small class sizes, college prep curriculum, and full-time learning support coordinator help all students be successful!

**Teen Stress and Student Performance** from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25 at Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center. All are invited to a free informative talk sponsored by Acalanes Parents Club given by author and psychologist, Dr. Ben Bernstein, Ph.D., a psychologist and educator specializing in how stress affects performance, including test anxiety. For more information and to register, visit <https://benbernstein.eventbrite.com>. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Nolan at [HollyNolan@comcast.net](mailto:HollyNolan@comcast.net).

**For a fun, safe Halloween event, children** and their parents are invited to trick-or-treat on Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Oak Hill Road to Dewing Avenue and in La Fiesta Square from 4-6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27. All participating businesses will display a "Trick-or-Treat Poster" and balloons. Please come in costume to receive a special treat. Don't forget to bring a trick-or-treat bag.

### OTHER

**Orinda Garden Club invites the Community** to a documentary film presentation of "Toxic Puzzle: Hunt for the Hidden Killer" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4 at the Orinda Theatre, which follows the work of ethnobotanist, Paul Alan Cox Ph.D., and team in their investigation of the role environmental toxins play in neurodegenerative illnesses. The screening of the documentary will be followed by a Q&A session lead by Dr. Cox. Advance registration is required; for details go to [orindagc.org](http://orindagc.org), call (925) 257-0668 or email [program@orindagc.org](mailto:program@orindagc.org). Tickets are \$5.

**Restoring Creeks in Difficult Urban Sites** at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Dr. Ann Riley, author of Restoring Neighborhood Streams, will talk about creek restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay Area and share with us what projects like this entail.

**Join National Park Service rangers for a full moon walk** beginning at 5:45 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5 on Mt. Wanda, part of the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. This free, two-hour program is a one-mile, moderately strenuous hike to watch the full moon rise over nearby Mt. Diablo. Visitors should meet at the parking lot on the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, Martinez. Bring water, a flashlight, warm clothes, and binoculars, if you have them. No reservations needed. For more information, visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu).

**The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center** and members of Jewish Voice for Peace - East Bay, Norcal Friends of Sabeel and Rossmoor Voices for Justice in Palestine are hosting Israeli peace activist/author Miko Peled beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6. He will be welcomed at a reception at 6 and will speak at 7 p.m. on the issue of Trump and the Prospects for Peace: What is Next for Palestine/Israel? This event takes place in Lafayette at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, with the goal of inviting discussion on this complicated issue. The public is invited. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, free for students.

... continued on next page



◆ Not to be missed

◆ Not to be missed

OTHER

**Come celebrate diversity and promote our unity** at Soul Food Lamorinda (Fuel for the Mind and Soul) from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Intercultural Center at Saint Mary's College. Soul Food Lamorinda is a free Baha'i-inspired program that combines an audio-visual presentation with readings from various faiths, philosophers and leaders, allowing us to reflect on inspiring themes and reminding us of the oneness of humanity. This month's program, "The Light Within" will explore the expression of light from religions, cultures and authors, to illuminate our hearts and minds. Free and open to everyone. For more info: [www.meetup.com/Soul-Food-Lamorinda/](http://www.meetup.com/Soul-Food-Lamorinda/)

**4th annual Art of Mixology Fund-raiser** from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Orinda Theatre Square. Tickets are \$45 in advance and can be purchased online at [www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/mixology). Day of tickets can be purchased at the event for \$55. (see story on page B4)

**Serbian Food Festival from noon to 10 p.m.** Saturday, Oct. 7 at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church 1700 School Street, Moraga. Live Serbian Music, delicious homemade pastries, plus a bounce house for the kids!

**Maximize Your Executive Compensation** - If you receive stock options and/or restricted stock from your employer, or have access to a non-qualified deferred compensation plan, you will not want to miss this class where you will learn to maximize these benefits and minimize their tax impact. The class is being held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11 at the Lafayette Community Center. Cost is \$30. To learn more and register for this class, visit [bit.ly/execcomp1017](http://bit.ly/execcomp1017) or the Lafayette Recreation website (register early - space is limited).

**Superfest from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14**, in the Orinda Library Auditorium. For more than 30 years, Superfest has celebrated cutting-edge cinema that portrays disability through a diverse, complex, unabashed and engaging lens. Join Superfest and the Contra Costa County Library Accessibility Committee for an afternoon of films.

**4th Annual Tech Trek Paper Shredding Fundraiser** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Oct. 14 at 5A Rent-a-Space, 455 Moraga Rd, Moraga, rain or shine. AAUW Volunteers will un-

load boxes, dump papers into shred bins, then return file boxes to your car. Certificates of Destruction available on request. For more information about Tech Trek: <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/>

**Volunteers will remove Fire Blight - damaged** branches from the 104-year-old pear orchard adjacent to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21. The trees are doing better after several years of fire blight removal, treatment with an organic fertilizer last year, and our winter rains. Bring gloves, sunscreen, hats and sturdy shoes. If you have them bring (labeled with your name), loppers, hand pruners and (especially needed) pole pruners and orchard ladders. For more information, contact Bobbie Preston at (925) 376-8474 or [barbarampreston@comcast.net](mailto:barbarampreston@comcast.net).

**The big semi-annual book sale sponsored by** the Friends of the Moraga Library will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Moraga Library 1500 St. Mary's Road. Books, CD's, DVD's of every category will be sold at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$4. Beginning at 1 p.m. a bag can be purchased for \$5 and filled with all the books it can hold. Come to one of the biggest bargain sales in Lamorinda.

**Daughters of the Goddess Womyn's Temple** welcomes womyn and girls of all ages to the Annual Spiral Dance at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27 at the Orinda Masonic Temple, 9 Altarinda Rd. During this multi-cultural ritual, led by Kahuna Leilani, and accompanied by spiritual elders of different traditions, come together to honor and celebrate loved ones who have passed away. Ticket cost is \$23 advance by Oct. 23 or \$29 at the door. Student and Crone discounts are available in advance. Please bring pictures of your loved ones that have passed to be placed on the Ancestor Altar. Also bring along your drums and rattles for the ceremony.

SENIORS

**The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County** will hold its October meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9 in the Ball Auditorium at John Muir Medical Center - Walnut Creek Campus (1601 Ygnacio Valley Road). Susan O'Grady, Ph.D., psychologist, will discuss "Finding Emotional Balance When Dealing with Difficult Feelings." For further information about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna

at (925) 376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

**The Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch** 174 lunch at 11 a.m. on Oct. 11 at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School Street, Moraga will feature Dr. Michael Barrington, author of "The Bishop Wears No Drawers" (memoir of 20 years living in Nigeria as a missionary). For attendance and membership info, call Tyler at (925) 284-5561.

GARDEN

**The October program of the Walnut Creek Garden Club** is: Glorious Success with Bulbs Wm. "Bill the Bulb Man" Welch, Santa Cruz will talk about how to maximize the beauty of our gardens using bulb plants: 9:45 a.m. Business Meeting; 10:30 a.m. social; 11 a.m. program Monday, Oct. 9 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek.

**Lafayette Garden Club General Meeting** from 9:45 to noon on Oct. 12 at the Lafayette Veteran's Building located at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Program and Speakers: James Pettigrew and Shawn Stout. These gentlemen will speak about "Salvage Secrets," the creative ways to reuse materials in gardens. James has a keen artistic eye and Shawn has an extreme love of nature. Together, they make a dynamic duo, creating one of a kind habitat gardens.

**Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center's** 6th annual Fall Harvest Celebration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15 at 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Tours, games, crafts, snacks, and music.

**The Moraga Garden Club will hold their next meeting** at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Linus Eukel, executive director of the John Muir Land Trust. Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour, 10 a.m. meeting, and the presentation by Eukel immediately following the meeting.

**NOW ENROLLING**  
**Wed, October 11th, 7:00-8:30 PM**  
**Lafayette Community Center**

**Are You Maximizing Your Executive Compensation?**

*Don't leave money on the table!* Learn how to best utilize your executive deferred compensation plan, optimize your stock options, and manage the tax burden of restricted stock vestings. Taught by Financial Coach, Valerie Gospodarek, CFA.

**REGISTER TODAY AT**  
<http://bit.ly/execcomp1017>  
 or through the Lafayette Recreation web site.

**TAXI BLEU** All Airports Served 24/7

Dispatch: **925-849-2222**  
 Direct: **925-286-0064**  
[www.mytaxibleu.com](http://www.mytaxibleu.com)  
[mytaxibleu@gmail.com](mailto:mytaxibleu@gmail.com)



**Service Clubs Announcements**

**LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary**  
 Friends, Fun, Service Above Self

Meets Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Check us out at [www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com) or email us at [lamorindasunrise@gmail.com](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com).

<b>October 6</b>	<b>October 13</b>
<b>Discussion on our Community Involvement</b>	<b>Eve Phillips, Mayor of Orinda, on serving and being a part of the vision for the city.</b>
<i>Friendship, Fellowship, Service to Others and Fun</i>	

**Part-Time Senior Living Shuttle Van Driver**

Seeking an experienced part-time Class B shuttle van driver for our SENIOR independent-living apartment complex in Lafayette. The driver uses the site's 18-passenger van to transport residents for shopping and outings. This position is for 8-10 hours per week. The salary range is \$22 - \$25 per hour based on the candidate's experience. For further information about this position, please refer to our job listing on indeed.com under Shuttle Driver.

Candidate must have a current Class B California Driver's License, a clean driving record and a desire to work with the elderly. Please send a cover letter and resume to [employment@barcelon.com](mailto:employment@barcelon.com) or fax to (925) 627-7040. Please note that you are applying for our Lafayette community in your cover letter. We are an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

**Lamorinda Weekly**  
 is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA  
 26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

**Contact us:**  
 Letters to the editor (max 350 words): [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Delivery issues: [homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Event listings: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Business press releases: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 General interest stories/Community Service: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 School stories/events: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Sport events/stories/pictures: [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck; [andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Editor:** Jennifer Wake; [jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Copy Editor:** Nick Marnell; [nick@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nick@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Sports Editor:** [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Staff Writers:**  
 Sophie Braccini; [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Cathy Dausman; [cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Pippa Fisher; [pippa@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:pippa@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Nick Marnell; [nick@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nick@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 John T. Miller; [john@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:john@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Sora O'Doherty; [Sora@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:Sora@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Digging Deep:  
 Cynthia Brian; [cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 Thoughtful Food:  
 Susie Iventosch; [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com)  
**Contributing Writers:** Conrad Bassett, Amanda Kuehn Carroll, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Amanda Eck, Paula King, B.B. Kaye, Ariel Keys, Michael Lupacchino, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Alexandra Reineke, Victor Ryerson, Moya Stone, Jon Kingdon, Derek Zemrak, Gerardo F. Recinos  
**Calendar Editor:**  
 Jaya Griggs; [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Gint Federas  
**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.

Mailing address:  
 Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133,  
 Moraga, CA 94570-6133  
 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223  
 email: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)  
 website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

**Isaiah**

**Curious About Judaism?**

**Exploring Judaism Course at Temple Isaiah, Lafayette Starts this Sunday, October 8, 2017**

Exploring Judaism is a year-long exploration of the history, beliefs, traditions, and practices of the Jewish people with guest educator Rabbi Oren Postrel.

"Exploring Judaism" is interesting and meaningful whether you are becoming an adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you are just beginning to explore Jewish studies, you are considering choosing Judaism, you are in an interfaith relationship, or you are simply looking for a deeper and more mature understanding of Jewish history and tradition.

Year-long Course (22 sessions): Sundays, October 8, 2017 through May 20, 2018  
 Tuition: \$100/members; \$250/non-members

**Rabbi Oren Postrel** was ordained at HUC-JIR in 1993. In NYC for many years, he taught Introduction to Judaism at the URJ headquarters and co-founded an Italian Jewish learning institution called Centro Primo Levi. He's worked in synagogues in Paris, Toronto, Napa and San Rafael at Rodef Sholom, where he joyfully served as sabbatical rabbi teaching adults and leading services. Rabbi Postrel is part of the rabbinic staff at Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos.

[www.temple-isaiah.org/adulted](http://www.temple-isaiah.org/adulted)

945 Risa Road Lafayette, CA 94549 [www.temple-isaiah.org](http://www.temple-isaiah.org) (925) 283-8575






# Cut a slice of pure deliciousness from this caramel-glazed apple cake

By Susie Iventosch



Caramel-glazed apple cake

Photo Susie Iventosch

We had a wonderful family reunion in Michigan this past summer, and my cousin, Cindy, brought her famous caramel-glazed apple cake to one of the gatherings. There was a bit of a buildup to this cake, and everyone was absolutely raving about it at the party. I was having such a good time chatting with long lost cousins that it took me forever to get to the dessert table, and when I finally did, there was not a slice of apple cake to be found. In fact, the cake plate had been cleared too! Disappointment

set in, but since I cannot let a great recipe pass, Cindy kindly sent me the recipe for this perfect autumn dessert. Now that I've made it four times, I totally understand why everyone was raving about this cake. It is fabulously delicious.

I have two warnings about this cake, however. The first is that you might not be able to stop eating it once you start, so begin with a small slice so you can go for seconds. And, the second is to be sure to use Crisco to grease the pan, and then dust over the Crisco

with flour. The first time I made it, I used cooking spray and thought that would be just fine, but I ended up with a huge mess when I tried to turn the cake out onto a plate. It came out in crumbles and I had to piece it all back together. As you know, necessity is the mother of invention, and to make it look presentable, I caramelized apple slices to hide the holes, which turned out to be both a pretty and delicious addition to the cake. The next three times using Crisco, the cake turned out perfectly – no problem at all.

## Recipe

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 ½ cups canola oil
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- ½ tsp. cardamom (the recipe calls for mace, but I prefer cardamom)
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 cups diced apples, (peeled and cored) I used Fuji and Honey Crisp, but you can use any apple you like.
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

### Garnish

- 2 medium apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 3 Tbsp. brown sugar

### Caramel Glaze

- 4 ½ Tbsp. butter
- 4 ½ Tbsp. brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp. heavy cream
- ¾ tsp. vanilla

### DIRECTIONS

In large bowl of electric mixer, combine sugar and oil; beat until well combined. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift together dry ingredients; add to egg mixture gradually, beating constantly. Add vanilla and combine thoroughly. Sprinkle apples with lemon juice and fold into batter with walnuts. The batter will be very thick. Spoon into well-greased (Crisco) and floured Bundt pan or large tube pan. Bake at 325 F for 65-75 minutes or until cake tests done. Remove from oven and cool in pan on wire rack 15 minutes. Invert onto serving plate and cool completely on wire rack. When completely cooled, glaze with Caramel Glaze (direction follows). Garnish the top of the cake with caramelized apple slices (direction follows). Wrap leftover cake tightly in plastic wrap; keeps unrefrigerated up to two weeks. Makes 16 to 20 small servings.

### Caramel Glaze

In small heavy saucepan, melt butter. Add brown sugar, cream, and vanilla. Bring to a rolling boil and boil rapidly about two minutes or until mixture thickens to coat a spoon. Cool slightly and spoon over cake so that glaze runs down the sides. Makes about ½ cup of glaze.

### Caramelized Apple Slices

Melt butter in a large skillet. Add brown sugar and stir until dissolved. Place apple slices on top of mixture and continue to cook over medium heat, turning halfway through. The sugar will begin to caramelize the apple slices and they will turn a nice golden brown color. Carefully lift each slice and place in a fan-shaped fashion on top of the cake.

## Cooking Term of the Week

### Poêlé

This term comes from the French verb “poêler” (pwah lay) which refers to a cooking method whereby poultry meats are cooked in their own juices, often with aromatic vegetables like carrots and onions, in a covered pot in the oven. Sometimes the meat is basted with butter, so the method is also referred to as “butter roasting.” Toward the end of the cooking, the lid is removed to give the food a nice browned color. The term can also simply refer to a sauté or frying pan.

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website.  
www.lamorindaweekly.com Click Food tab.

## Dear America

By Alexandra Reinecke

Last week, I stood on the front porch in the cold cleanness of an early autumn evening. The sky was light, and the air frigid, and in the surrounding trees—redwoods, oaks—a rustling of cool wind against foliage. The cloth of an American flag hangs from a pole tacked at an angle to the front of our house, and in the autumnal coolness, its cloth was shot with white sunlight that illuminated bright lapis and cranberry.

Standing on the porch, looking at the white sun shot through the cloth, I was proud to be an American. I have often felt so proud. This is a feeling, however, that I have had with less frequency since November than I have had these 17 years.

As a child, I was wide-eyed to stories of cornucopias and Plymouth Rock and how, after carving a country from a rocky shoreline, our ancestors sat to long tables of Massachusetts berries and roast corn. I liked Patrick Henry's fiery “Give me liberty or give me death!” I enjoyed the burnt goo of marshmallows on Fourth of July, and the equitable words of Thomas Jefferson in class.

I was proud to be an American, and to be one under our flag. But I have been proud to be one, recently, rather than always, intermittently. I have worn my patriotism not as a skin, but as a sweater, or as the jade necklace I reserve for special occasions.

For 17 years, the America I knew and the American I was aligned. Now, however, I often find those two concepts warring. I want to be proud of my country. I want to love America. I seek reasons to be for and not against the nation I call home. But like the first colony at Roanoke, so often fail my attempts to root myself in this native soil.

Recently, I told my boyfriend that I am ashamed of our country. He told me that I should be ashamed of my shame. He told me that by being loudly critical I am quietly unpatriotic. He told me that I can't together love America and reprimand it. But I argue otherwise. I argue that shame requires passion. I argue that criticism marks the patriot. I argue that reproof calls fidelity home.

I love America. This is something I realize as, from the iMac in the journalism room, I research journalism in Mexico, which is a dangerous job. This is something I realize as I watch a documentary on North Korea, where the government stocks grocery stores with movie-set food and allows such a dearth of infrastructure that the people eat what meals they do take by candlelight or in the dark.

We criticize journalists in

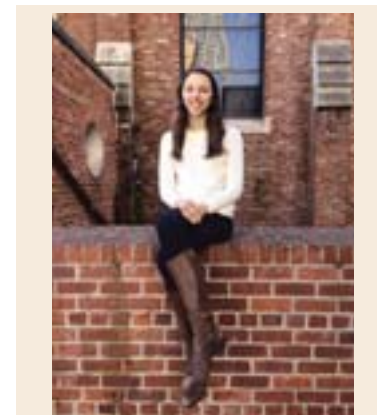
America today, but we do not kill them. We fail in the realm of free and accessible healthcare, but we do not fail to provide our citizens with the necessary sustenance to support their health.

Despite what the current administration or sentiment may espouse, America is great because we are good. We stand for individual freedom and the courage of self-reliance. We stand for a standard of equity and a spirit of competition with which to actionize it. We stand for honesty, and for hard work, and for the secular salvation of personal achievement we, at our best, offer any willing to work after it.

America is the first country mandated by, rather than mandated for the people. It is the unlikely experiment that succeeded. It is the fragile system of democracy that, after establishing itself, in a 17th century miracle, in New England's harsh climate, re-established itself every four years since then.

I'd like to tell my boyfriend that I am ashamed not of what America is, but what it is not. I'd like to tell him that the same mind which lampoons the Senate's attempted Obamacare repeal is the one pushed to a shaking tear at the thought that we are not what we worship ourselves for pretending to be. I'd like to tell anyone who will listen that only those of us impassioned enough to fight for what America might be are those who, when it fails our exalted expectations, fight against it.

It is easy to confuse dissent with dislike, but I don't hate America, and never will. Whenever I fail to love America the country, when I wear my patriotism only intermittently, like a jade necklace, it is not to express mistrust. Whenever I fail to love America the country it is because I love too strongly America the idea.



Alexandra Reinecke is from Westchester, New York. She currently resides in Lafayette, where she is junior at Campolindo High school. She writes every morning at 5 o'clock opposite a print of “View of the World from 9th Avenue” and consumes copious amounts of coffee. Her likes include maple-flavored anything and snow. Her favorite animal is a tiger.

## www.Lamorindaweekly.com Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- State deems Lafayette icon seismically unstable
- Lafayette determined to clean up commissions
- Spirited assistant chief takes over ConFire operations division
- Healy reflects on his years with MOFD
- Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian Lamorinda winegrowers join a long distinguished line of grape cultivation
- Longtime Lafayette resident gets Lifetime Award
- Rowing to Lithuania
- Country Club's new general manager Ron Haas
- Lamorinda girls volleyball preview
- Process launched to recruit new town manager

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link below the story.



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Range of talent on local high school girls golf teams

By Jon Kingdon



Avalon Schenone



Ashley Pan



Emah Dodd

Photos Gint Federas

Under the leadership of head coach Tim Scott and assistant coach Dan Weiner, the Acalanes High School Girls Golf Team comprises 18 girls.

Scott has a very young team: “We have a lot of new players that are developing. I do not know how many of the girls will want to continue to pursue the game after this season.”

The top player for the Dons is junior Avalon Schenone who is the team’s captain. Scott appreciates that “she has both power and accuracy in her game. She is a hard worker and wants to be good at the game.”

Scott also likes the potential he sees in sophomore Katlin Kirby: “She is working hard on her game. She practices hard and wants to be a good player.”

For many of the girls, it is their first exposure to competitive golf: “We have some very good athletes with great potential but many are starting from scratch. It is a chance for the girls to bond as a team. I am trying to make it fun and to make sure that the girls

don’t get frustrated and discouraged.”

The team plays their home matches at the Rossmoor Golf Course. It is a course that provides his team with some advantage as it has some unique holes that require knowledge of the distances that visitors generally don’t possess.

The Campolindo Girls Golf team also brings a lot of potential but has to take a long-term approach to see the young team’s development.

Coach Gary O’Neill understands that it is not easy for players newly exposed to golf: “Golf is a cruel game. We are still looking for players to step up and establish themselves as regulars for our matches.”

By far, O’Neill’s best player is junior Ashley Pan who he feels has the desire and ability to eventually play for a Division I college team. Alexa Pritchard has also shown the potential to be able to develop into a competitive player as well.

O’Neill’s goals for his team

are to improve their skills, bring enjoyment to the game so that they will continue to play golf after the season and return to the team next season, and improve the team’s overall competitiveness.

Though his players have shown their improvement on the driving range, his players are learning that “it is a huge step from the driving range to the golf course.”

The Cougars home course is the Moraga Country Club and provides his team with a real home course advantage: “It helps that our teams know the greens and the layout of the course. It is not a long course but is very technically challenging.”

Miramonte’s golf coach, Bob Riddell, is the one coach who is the beneficiary of a team with real depth. With 16 girls on his team, Riddell has many choices as to whom to play: “We are really deep in talent. There are 12-13 girls on the team who are match ready.”

Developing camaraderie and team spirit on a team is crucial and for this, Riddell has come to rely on senior captains and four-year players Reagan Tierney and Tiffany Shinn. Says Riddell: “With their leadership, this has been a great group to work with.”

Playing their home matches and practices at Orinda Country Club, Riddell speaks about how indebted the team is to be able to utilize this facility: “There are a few of our players whose parents are members at this club so they are able to practice their year-round.”

Boding well for the future, the top players on the Matadors team are all sophomores: Kaydee Tu who recently shot a 74 in the Poppy Ridge Classic finishing in fifth; Katie Ingrey, maybe the most consistent player on the team; and Ashley Abramson who is new to the team and has shown the potential to become a top player.

Riddell is optimistic about how the team is developing and is pointing to the Diablo Athletic League Tournament and the North Coast Section Championships.

## You Know Why LMYA is Fun Here is Why it is Educational



Back Row: (L-R) Jaime, Javier, Chris Nacho, Andres, Front Row (L-R) Sean, Kim Cameron, and Margaux



The Transatlantic Soccer coaches working with LMYA are from Scotland and Spain. They all coach and player soccer in their respective countries throughout their winter season. They are all professionally qualified by Spanish and Scottish Soccer Associations.

They have loved working with LMYA coaches and players and meeting many families. It’s a great cultural exchange for all.

There was a great number of LMYA players that took part in the Transatlantic Soccer Camps during the summer. In the fall season the Kindergarten and K-3 clinics were completely full and we put on additional clinics to cope with the demand. The Transatlantic coaches commented on how enthusiastic, approachable and willing to learn the LMYA coaches were both during the July and August coaching clinics and the team support sessions during August and September.

It has been an extremely positive season and partnership again between Transatlantic Soccer and LMYA. We will continue to work together to develop and improve what we offer to best meet the needs of our soccer community





# SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

OAKLAND (510) 428-3558

SAN FRANCISCO (415) 353-2808

SAN RAMON (925) 979-3450

WALNUT CREEK (925) 979-3430

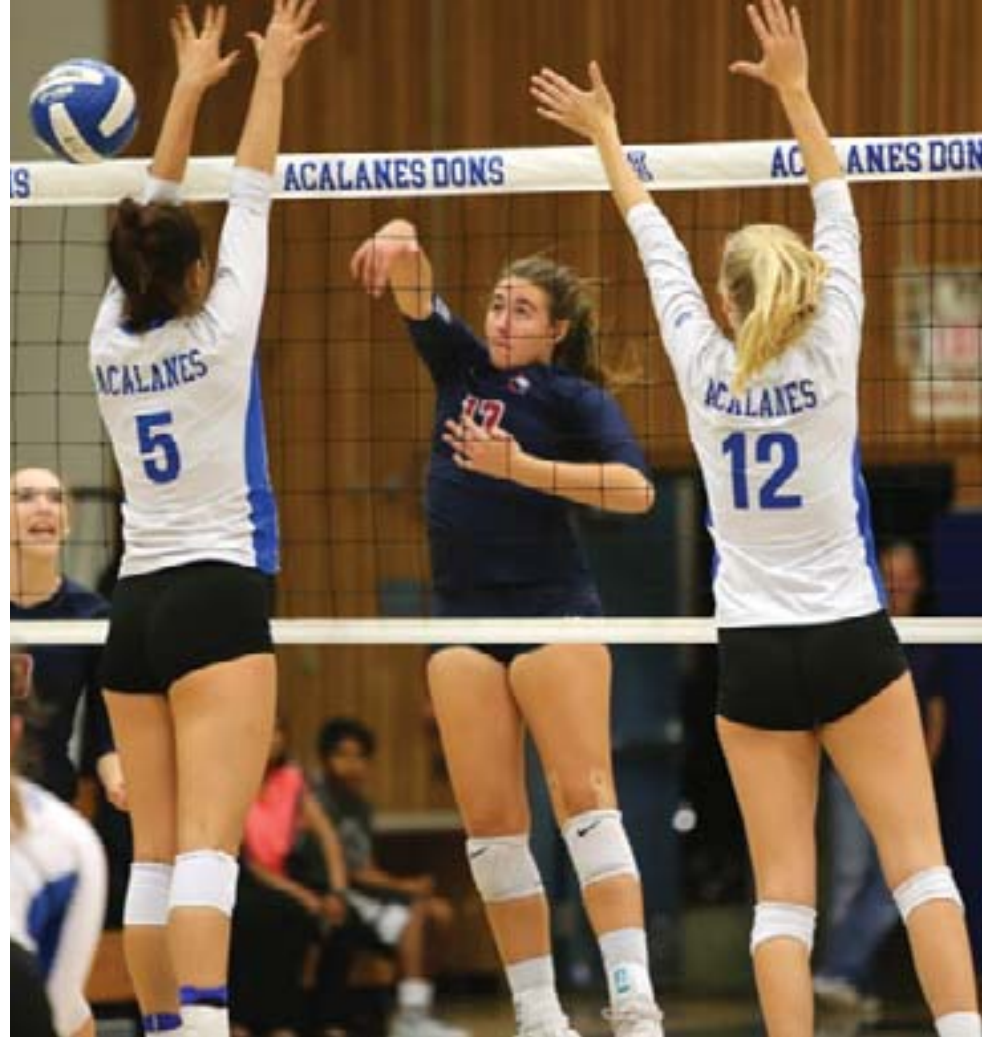


## Strong start for Lamorinda girls volleyball

By Jon Kingdon



Meaghan Hohman (9)



Photos Gint Federas Elizabeth Canon



Zoe Mcphail

Having lost a number of key offensive players from last season due to graduation, Miramonte coach Lisa Bachtold was approaching this season with cautious optimism having to rely on a number of unproven underclassmen. With seven new players on the varsity, there were several opportunities for people to step into starting positions.

With a 9-4 overall record, the Matadors volleyball team has shown that Bachtold's concern may have been overstated.

Junior Meaghan Hohman, a left hander, has become a genuine force on the front line, having several kills each game. Lauren Lim, having returned as the team's libero, has taken her game to the next level. According to Bachtold, "Lauren has shown constant improvement. She has taken on more responsibility on the team's defense and is relentless in the back row." Grace Guidotti, a junior but a first year member of the team has proven to be a very effective as the team's setter.

With a number of underclassmen playing a great deal, this cer-

tainly bodes well for the future of the team and Bachtold's optimism is far less cautious now: "We have a lot of work ahead of us and we are still improving. The girls work hard in practice and have shown a lot of dedication and commitment. We are coming together as a team."

Campolindo Coach John Vuong also had some concern after last season having lost six starters to graduation. With a 12-4 record, it's clear that the Cougars have effectively reloaded.

The players that have taken over the key roles on the team are Junior Elizabeth Canon who plays middle and Senior Paige Johnson, the team's outside hitter.

Like all coaches, Vuong still feels there is room for improvement: "We need to improve our defense. We are a little bit undersized and I would like to see more effort to read from our back row."

Still Vuong is most pleased with the play of sophomore setter, Audrey Pak: "She has taken control of the game. She displays a great deal of leadership and though only a sophomore, has the respect of all of her teammates."

Vuong simplifies the long-term prospects for his team: "We just have to prepare. We are facing a lot of competition but things are going according to plan and we're on the right path toward the post season and the championship."

Coming off their championship season, the Acalanes girls were well aware that the bullseye was going to be on their back. They knew that they were going to get the best effort from their opponents as everyone wants to beat the current champions.

The Dons have started off the season with a 3-5 record and 1-1 in league play.

Because of their success last season, the team was invited to play in the Nike Tournament of Champions Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona Sept. 28-30. They will be competing against 74 other teams who will be arriving from all over the country. The experience should prove to be beneficial and at the same time, telling as to where the Dons are headed as the season progresses.

### Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

#### Music Lessons

**Piano/guitar w/Robbie Dunbar**  
All levels welcome!  
I travel to your home.  
M. A. Music Composition  
Piano tuning as well!  
925-323-9706  
robbiednbr@gmail.com

#### Fun Piano Lessons

Learn your favorite song! I teach Certificate of Merit. BM & MM in Piano. Lessons in your home.  
925-984-8322. lynnf253@gmail.com

#### Insurance

**Totalintegrityinsurance.com**  
20+yr Lamorinda resident.  
My independent insurance brokerage is here to serve you.  
Over 100 top carriers = great pricing and coverage for Biz Gen Liability, W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. **Call Henry at (925) 247-4356** OE90108

#### Painting

Inside and outside. Father and Son, 40 years experience. Local references. Licensed, bonded, insured.  
(925-285-0370) Don

#### Rototilling

**Ken's Rototilling**  
• 4 W/D Tractors  
• Hillside Weed Cutting  
• Mowing • Discing • Rototilling  
**Free estimates! 925-938-9836**  
licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491  
www.kensrototilling.com

#### Rain gutter

#### Vickers Rain Gutter

Installation, repair, roof & gutter cleaning  
Serving Lamorinda since 1984. Many styles of gutters with soldered downspouts.....Senior discount....free est....lic 677426. I do the work myself & take pride in it.....Ken 925-687-8831

#### House Cleaning

#### www.totalclean.biz

Serving Lamorinda since 1985. Insured and bonded 376-1004.

#### Weed Cutting

**Tall Weed Cutting**  
Hillsides, Free Estimates  
**925-938-9836**

#### Handyman

**Rusty Nails Handyman Service**  
Repair • Restore • Revamp  
Call Rusty- (925) 890-1581

**HANDYMAN SERVICE**  
Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry, Etc., Etc. **(925) 934-0877 Jim**

#### Tree Service

**East Bay Tree Service.**  
377-8733. Fine pruning, large tree removal, stump grinding  
License #805794

#### Tree & brush removal.

Poison Oak removal. 376-1995, Licensed, insured & bonded

#### Drainage Systems

**Drainage Systems, Prevent Water Under Your Home**  
925-930-8123. CALic # 417323

#### Construction

**Concept Builders**  
Remodeling, Home Repair & New Construction  
Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563  
(925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

#### Plumbing

**WE HOP TO IT!**  
**(925) 377-6600**  
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

\$10 per 1/2" classified ad height  
Email to: classified@lamorindaweekly.com

reach 60,000+ with your ad



## LaMO United 07 Navy girls win South Lake Tahoe tournament

Submitted by J.D. Woods



Top row, from left: Evan Sassano, Noe Johnson, Katie Lakin, Maren Thorpe, Catherine Davis, Emma Knutson, Olivia Penney, Madyson Yu; bottom row: Mylie Jacquet, Sadie Hansell, Louisa Symkowick, Demi Woods, Nadia Young, Sophia Amanqua and Nicole Nguyen

The Lamorinda United 07 Navy girls soccer team defeated the Roseville Reign, Ajax East Bay, and Impact (twice) to win a 4-0 run at the CUFA (Come Up For Air) tournament in South Lake Tahoe on Sept. 16-17.

## Karate students win trophies at International Championship

Submitted by Cindy Atwood



From left: Sophia Hong (second place Kata/second place Kumite), Liam Funk (second place Kata/third place Kumite), Cameron Atwood (first place Kata), and Nathan Funk (third place Kata/third place Kumite) Photo provided

Four Lamorinda students from The Karate and Fitness Place, USA in Lafayette participated Sept. 17 in The Fiestas 44th Annual Invitational International Karate Championship held in Los Angeles. The students competed in Kata (forms) and Kumite (sparring), and returned with seven trophies (one first place, three second place, and three third-place trophies). Participants included competitors from Mexico, Honduras, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala and Japan.

## Sleepy Hollow hosts USTA Junior Open

Submitted by David Satterfield



Alex Gujarathi of Novato, left, beat Micah Elias of Orinda in 16U Boys Singles Sept. 10 at a USTA Junior Open tournament hosted by Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda. Photo provided

Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda hosted its first USTA Junior Open tournament in a decade Sept. 9-10, attracting 117 players, ages 7 to 18, from as far away as Capitola and Healdsburg.

Tournament director Jim Coyne, Sleepy Hollow's director of tennis, said the club's goal was to host one of the best tournaments in Northern California. "We wanted high-quality tennis and a lot of fun competition for the juniors. Our members pitched in to provide court monitors who insured fair play and quick changes between matches. The kids enjoyed snacks and everyone could see real time results on display. We were thrilled

to host the event."

### Local winners:

Jack Satterfield of Lafayette defeated San Francisco's Este Liu to win one of two 16-player brackets in 12U Boys Singles. David Iglesias of Fremont won the other bracket.

Liam Sullivan of Orinda and Aniketh Poruri of Pleasanton won 14U Boys Doubles.

Micah Elias of Orinda finished second in 16U Boys Singles, losing to Alexander Gujarathi of Novato in the finals.

Elena Sullivan and partner So-leil Skjorshammer, both of Orinda, finished second in 12U Girls Doubles.

**Submit stories to  
sportsdesk@  
lamorindaweekly.com**

(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

## Lamorinda Rugby Club's JV team NorCal Champs

Submitted by Lamo Rugby



Photo provided

The 2017 Lamo Rugby JV team was unstoppable; they went the entire season without a loss, won the NorCal Championship and contributed several players to an All-Stars team that represented the Bay Area in a national tournament in Oregon. Many of these players are now on the varsity squad and look forward to the challenge of competing at the next level. Each year the varsity team travels together to explore new cultures and play local teams. The tour destination for 2018 is Ireland.

## Campolindo men's water polo team wins San Diego Kap7 Invitational

Submitted by Kristin Miller



The Campolindo men's water polo team won all five games they played at the Seal Family Foundation-sponsored San Diego Kap7 Invitational over the weekend of Sept. 22-23. They had a quarterfinal victory over Carlsbad, which led to a semifinal clash with Redlands East Valley. The Cougars played the semifinal and final back-to-back due to the team's tight travel schedule, and prevailed over Oaks Christian 12-11 on a golden goal 18 seconds into the sudden death overtime period for the championship. Ben Miller was named Outstanding Goalie for the tournament.

From left: Matt Peterson, Michael Wheeler, Tom McGuire, Christian Meckfessel, Giorgio Alessandria, Jack Larsen, Ben Miller, Beck Jurasius, Marcus Longton, Soren Jensen, Garrett Dunn, Nick Schroeder, Leif Carlson, Tommy Hawkins, coach James Price, coach Anton Sapozhnikov, and coach J.D. Ratchford Photo provided



# SHOP ORINDA

**Mexican Restaurant**



**Open 7 Days a Week**  
We serve breakfast all day!  
(open at 10:30 a.m.)

**Authentic Mexican Specialties**  
Mixed Fajitas  
Shrimp and Salmon Tacos,  
Baja Cali Diablo New York Steak Burrito  
Margaritas, Wine & Beer  
Kids Menu

23 Orinda Way, Orinda (925) 258-9987



**Winter Painting Sale**  
10% Off Interior Painting\*

Exterior & Interior Painting  
Deck Refinishing Dry Rot Repair

Local Moraga Resident  
California Contractor License 456414  
Fully insured

**925-247-0092**  
MarkBellinghamPainting.com

See our reviews on Yelp, Nextdoor, Houzz

\*Schedule by December 1st. Work Must be Completed Dec. 1 - Feb. 28, 2018



65 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 925-258-4200  
659 Columbus Ave, SE, CA 415-397-7355



We offers both a relaxed atmosphere and a sports bar something for families, couples, students and seniors. On the menu you'll see many of Roman Italian specialties, from the classic bruschetta made with melted fontina cheese and sautéed mushrooms to risotto and arugula salads, an array of wood fired pizzas and paninis, and no shortage of primo and secondi. The restaurant has a full bar and a generous wine list.

Find Us On  

www.tavernapellegri.com - www.piazzapellegri.com

**McCaulou's**  
Save Gas  
Save Money  
Save Time  
Shop your local McCaulou's



**McDonnell Nursery**  
family owned since 1933

Trees • Shrubs • Vines • Annuals • Perennials  
Vegetables • Containers • Statuary & Fountains  
Indoor Plants • Decorative Items

www.mcdonnellnursery.com  
196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713

**SUPERCUTS®**

**TUESDAY SPECIAL**  
**SENIORS CUT**  
**\$11.99**


**WEDNESDAY SPECIAL**  
**JUNIOR CUT**  
**\$11.99**

**81 Moraga Way Orinda**  
**925-438-7018**  
Across street from Wells Fargo & Nations

**The Medicine Shoppe & PHARMACY**  
*Caring beyond prescriptions.*

**Alan Wong, R.Ph.**  
282 Village Square, Orinda (925) 254-1211  
The Pharmacy That's All About Your Health<sup>SM</sup>

We're more than a dependable health professional. We're also your personal health advisor.



**The Bookstore in village square!**  
276 Village Square, Orinda, CA 94563  
925-254-7606  
www.orindabooks.com  
YOUR COMPLETE COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE

**Park Place WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.**  
A Registered Investment Advisor

- Retirement & Income Planning
- Estate Planning
- Charitable Planning
- Educational Funding

401K Rollover Specialists  
18 Orinda Way, Orinda • 925-254-7766  
Registered Principals with and Securities offered through Securities America, Inc. Member FINRA, SIPC. Park Place Wealth Advisors Inc. and Securities America are separate entities



**ORINDA TAXI**

24/7 AIRPORTS & LOCAL  
(925) 482-7112  
(925) 253-TAXI (8294)  
orindataxi@gmail.com www.orindataxi.com

**The UPS Store**

**Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00  
Sat 9-5, Sun closed

**Our location:** 21 Orinda Way Ste C Orinda, CA 94563

- Shipping
- Copying, Finishing
- Printing Services
- Notary Services
- Postal Services
- Business Services

store2643@theupsstore.com  
www.theUpsStoreLocal.com/2643

**Orinda Village Antiques**  
Taking Tea in the English Manner  
by Susan Kerr  
Mon. - Sat. 11 to 6 or by appointment  
107 Orinda Way • Orinda • 925.254.2206

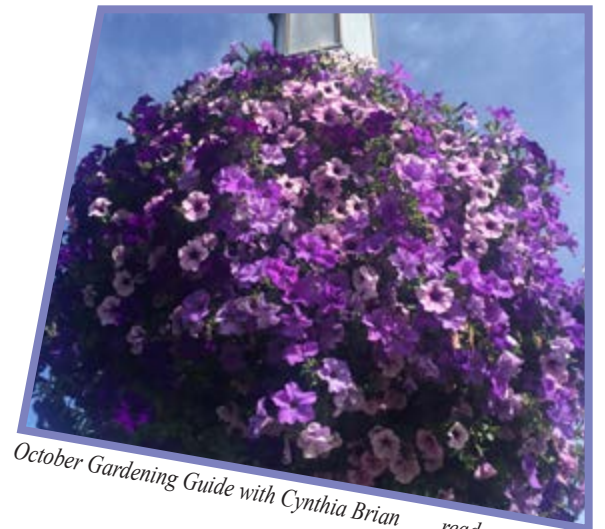


To advertise on Shop Orinda call 925.377.0977



# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 16 Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017



October Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D12

## Why D.I.Y.?

By Cathy Dausman



Seasonal plants and flowers by FrontDoor Treatment adorn this front entry area.

Photo courtesy Erica Bradley-Pacheco

When it comes to keeping up appearances outside their home, Lamorindans with limited free time and more discretionary income sometimes opt to employ someone else's elbow grease. Lawn services, window washing, gutter cleaning—these are the usual suspects when it comes to outsourcing exterior work, but here are two new companies to add to your “why D.I.Y.?” list.

Erica Bradley-Pacheco is betting that her “totally unique idea” of adding seasonal plants and décor to her customer's front doorstep will catch on. Her company, FrontDoor Treatment, launched in May, took in its first subscribers in June and already has an annual client base of 40 in the East Bay, the bulk of which (Bradley-Pacheco says “at least 30”) are in Lamorinda.

Obsessed with design, nature, plants and flowers, Bradley-Pacheco first consulted with a landscape architect, then used her marketing and public relations skills to bring her idea to life.

Joanne McKinlay of Orinda knew the entryway of her brand-new farm house needed a “not too shiny” planter box. Bradley-Pacheco found what McKinlay calls a “perfectly weathered” chest, which Bradley-Pacheco lined and planted with an olive tree and lavender plants. McKinlay, who admits to having spent “hundreds of dollars” on short-lived plants and decorations, is delighted to finally have a “thoughtful, well-picked” arrangement on her porch – especially one she only has to water to maintain.

FrontDoor Treatment refreshes its customers' front porch decorations quarterly, offering service sizes of small, medium, large and custom. Quarterly fees range from \$90 to \$200. Bradley-Pacheco offers her services to home stagers and realtors as well as individual residents.

... continued on page D4





# THE *Beaubelle*

---

## GROUP



### MORAGA - CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION

Ideal location, more than a quarter acre level lot with pool, 4-bdrms, 3-baths, main level guest suite/office. Offered at \$1,449,000



### MORAGA - 1.92 ACRE ~ EXCLUSIVE SANDERS RANCH

Estate property, 4-bedrm, 4.5-bath, library, bonus room, gourmet kitchen, pool house, and two apartments. Offered at \$3,050,000



### GLENN & KELLIE BEAUBELLE

925.254.1212

TheBeaubelleGroup.com

CABRE# 00678426, 01165322



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	18	\$795,000	\$3,395,000
MORAGA	7	\$750,000	\$1,450,000
ORINDA	12	\$750,000	\$1,900,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

### LAFAYETTE

- 862 Birdhaven Court, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 1986 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-7-17;  
Previous Sale: \$935,000, 04-27-04
- 1821 Del Rey Street, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1654 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 8-25-17;  
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 12-03-92
- 2 Foothill Park Terrace, \$1,085,000, 4 Bdrms, 2000 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-25-17
- 3310 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,230,000, 2 Bdrms, 1329 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 8-28-17
- 1115 Oak Hill Road, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2086 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 8-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$769,000, 06-16-09
- 473 Peacock Boulevard, \$2,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-7-17;  
Previous Sale: \$829,000, 10-17-16
- 3144 Plymouth Road, \$1,200,000, 6 Bdrms, 1828 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-28-17
- 1608 Rancho View Road, \$1,840,000, 4 Bdrms, 4061 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 8-25-17
- 3211 Rohrer Drive, \$915,000, 3 Bdrms, 1184 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-29-17
- 3710 Rose Court, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2445 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,920,000, 05-03-16
- 20 Shreve Lane, \$965,000, 4 Bdrms, 2002 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 8-31-17
- 3 Shreve Lane, \$964,000, 4 Bdrms, 2031 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 9-7-17;  
Previous Sale: \$945,000, 11-18-15
- 3471 Sky Lane, \$3,395,000, 5 Bdrms, 6421 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 8-25-17;  
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 02-10-87
- 8 Spruce Lane, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2534 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-1-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,080,000, 09-14-11
- 3742 Sundale Road, \$795,000, 3 Bdrms, 933 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-24-17;  
Previous Sale: \$540,000, 06-05-14
- 760 Tanglewood Lane, \$995,000, 3 Bdrms, 2893 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 8-25-17;  
Previous Sale: \$210,000, 12-26-85
- 1045 Timothy Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2833 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-25-17
- 2 Wellesley Court, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 2136 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 8-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,327,500, 07-30-12

### MORAGA

- 217 Corliss Drive, \$1,357,500, 4 Bdrms, 2357 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 8-30-17
- 121 Cypress Point Way, \$775,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-1-17;  
Previous Sale: \$640,000, 08-31-12
- 152 Danefield Place, \$1,440,000, 4 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-28-17
- 100 David Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2449 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 9-1-17;  
Previous Sale: \$865,000, 11-01-01
- 125 Miramonte Drive, \$750,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 8-24-17;  
Previous Sale: \$381,000, 03-02-01
- 138 Selborne Way, \$1,425,000, 5 Bdrms, 2462 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 8-30-17
- 473 Tharp Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2759 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 8-29-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 07-09-14

... continued on page D6





KURT PIPER GROUP

## WE KNOW THE EAST BAY

### Lafayette



#### 3216 Los Palos Circle

3Bedroom/2Bathroom Main Home, 2362± sq. ft.  
2Bedroom/2Bathroom Guest Home, 600± sq. ft.

**Offered at \$1,995,000**

### Orinda



#### 28 Dos Encinas

5Bedroom/2.2Bathroom, 3042± sq. ft.

**Offered at \$1,539,000**

### Martinez



#### 2017 Cromart Court

3Bedroom/2Bathroom, 1316± sq. ft.

**Sold for \$597,500**

### Walnut Creek



#### 85 Norman Court

3Bedroom/2Bathroom, 1560± sq. ft.

**Sold for \$990,000**

### Concord



#### 4293 Cedarwood Court

3Bedroom/2Bathroom, 1698± sq. ft.

**Sold for \$646,000**

### Moraga



#### 141 Westchester Street

3Bedroom/2Bathroom, 1867± sq. ft.

**Sold for \$940,000**

\*KPG represented either the Buyer or Seller in the above properties



## Kurt Piper

925.818.8000

Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com

KurtPiperGroup.com

License # 01130308



KURT PIPER GROUP

PACIFIC  
UNION  
INTERNATIONAL  
License #: 01866771





## Why D.I.Y.?

... continued from page D1



Curbside cleaning of stinky garbage cans is offered through Canology.



Photos courtesy Jason Proctor

At the back end – literally – of home ownership and perhaps a mite lower on the “to do” list is cleaning out the garbage cans. Yard debris and excess food scrap sediments can brew a stew no one wants to investigate. And although your household garbage can contents may have shrunk thanks to a more comprehensive recycling program, the remainder of what goes into the rolling cans could easily be called “untouchable.”

Canology cleans, sanitizes and deodorizes black, blue and green waste containers, at both residential and business sites, and does it curbside.

Owner operator Jason Proctor says garbage can cleaning is a popular service in Europe; he first noticed it in the United Kingdom. Canology is the only company of its kind currently operating in the Bay Area, and is brand new to the streets of Lamorinda.

Canology trucks are giant dishwashers on wheels that can dig out and de-grease the contaminated “goo” residing at the bottom of a waste can. The truck machinery power washes cans using high-pressure heated water (200-degrees sprayed at 3800 psi) and finishes the job with an application of a lemon fragrance, in as little as 10 minutes. The truck collects and filters the

dirty water and sediments.

Proctor’s current Lamorinda customer base is modest – he estimates he currently has 20 to 30 customers, and he says working his trucks on Lamorinda’s hilly terrain might present a challenge. So why not tackle the job yourself?

“Why would you want to?” he retorts; then adds, “I fought giving up cutting my own grass for a long time,” he says. Yet Proctor realized how relieved he was coming home the first time someone else had done that chore. “It’s one less thing I have to do,” he said, adding he considers it money well spent to hire someone to do the work for him.

A one-time Canology cleaning is \$25 for two cans and \$10 for each additional can. Monthly maintenance fees are \$10 for the first can, and \$6.50 for each additional can.

Living decorations on your doorstep and sparkling clean waste containers – how’s that for curb appeal?

For more information on FrontDoor Treatment or Canology, visit [www.FrontDoorTreatment.com](http://www.FrontDoorTreatment.com) or [www.trycanology.com](http://www.trycanology.com).



A FrontDoor Treatment arrangement Photo courtesy Erica Bradley-Pacheco





## BRINGING LAMORINDA HOME

PENDING



502 Miner Road, Orinda  
Offered at \$2,995,000

PENDING



3646 Baker Lane, Lafayette  
Offered at \$1,085,000

SOLD



731 Miner Road, Orinda  
\$3,250,000

SOLD



34 Sanders Ranch Road, Moraga  
\$1,510,000

SOLD



3915 S. Peardale Drive, Lafayette  
\$1,410,000



### Terri Bates Walker

Broker, J.D.

510.282.4420 | [terri@terribateswalker.com](mailto:terri@terribateswalker.com)

[terribateswalker.com](http://terribateswalker.com) | Follow me on: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [i](#)

License# 01330081

**PACIFIC  
UNION**  
INTERNATIONAL







Knowledgeable | Professional | Reliable | Local  
Committed to exceeding your expectations!



**Paul & Virginia Ratto**

925 998 9501  
vvarni@pacunion.com  
rattoandratto.com  
License # 00900621 | 01361537



**Lamorinda Home Sales recorded**  
... continued from page D2

**ORINDA**

- 5 Altamount Drive, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1251 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-7-17
- 10 Bobolink Road, \$1,575,000, 5 Bdrms, 2530 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-28-17
- 62 Donna Maria Way, \$1,236,000, 4 Bdrms, 2917 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 8-25-17;  
Previous Sale: \$390,000, 12-28-93
- 15 Estabueno Drive, \$1,340,000, 3 Bdrms, 2162 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 8-31-17
- 5 Estates Drive, \$1,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 2630 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 8-24-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 11-06-14
- 173 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 1296 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 8-24-17;  
Previous Sale: \$912,000, 10-11-13
- 54 Heather Lane, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2082 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 8-29-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 09-30-14
- 19 Ivy Drive, \$1,439,000, 4 Bdrms, 2407 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-25-17;  
Previous Sale: \$790,000, 04-24-14
- 111 Lombardy Lane, \$1,671,000, 3 Bdrms, 2722 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-6-17;  
Previous Sale: \$335,000, 05-15-87
- 17 Richard Court, \$1,900,000, 7 Bdrms, 2988 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 9-1-17
- 26 Silverwood Court, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 3243 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 9-7-17
- 10 Vista Del Orinda, \$1,335,000, 3 Bdrms, 2596 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-1-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,335,000, 09-01-17

**Need Solutions in Obtaining a Mortgage?**

*As a Mortgage Broker Mark Has Access to Numerous Banks to Find You the Best Loan!!*



**Mark Zinman**

Mortgage Broker/Owner

MZ Financial Group

**415-203-6369**

Mark@mzfinancialgroup.com

35 Williams Drive, Moraga

**MZ FINANCIAL GROUP**

Mark and MZ Financial Group help borrowers qualify with all different types of situations. Some of the more common are:

- Investors looking to increase their holdings residential or commercial properties
- Self-Employed individuals with income qualifying issues
- Borrowers with large assets and low incomes

Mark has been a mortgage broker for over 15 years and would love to put that experience to work in handling your mortgage needs!

Loan Officer Mark Zinman | mark@mzfinancialgroup.com | CA Bureau of Real Estate License #01335252 | NMLS License #248181  
Supervising Broker Pacific Bay Lending Inc. CA Bureau of Real Estate #01874848 NMLS #318011

**Drainage Systems**

- Standing Water Problems Eliminated
- Sump Pump Service, Repairs & Replacement
- Drainage Inspections & Reports
- Retaining Walls
- Grading



**925-944-5263**  
**drainagepros.com**





OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM



NEW THIS WEEK!

Recently Renovated with Modern Elements of Style and Design In Appealing Country Club Neighborhood!!

150 LA ESPRIAL , ORINDA | 4 BEDS + OFFICE | 4.5 BATHS | 3100 SQ. FT. | .43 ACRE

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM



NEW THIS WEEK!

Super Convenient Location with Two Level Living Providing Options for In-Law Unit or Rental Possibilities!

49 SANBORN ROAD, ORINDA | 4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 2880 SQ. FT. | .35 ACRE



CLARK THOMPSON

REAL ESTATE BROKER  
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES

CALBRE# 00903367

Office: 925-254-8585 | ct@clarkthompson.com

www.clarkthompson.com





# Simple steps to usher in the season

By Amanda Eck



*Adorn your front door with a vintage mirror and fall foliage.*

*Photos Amanda Eck*

I must admit that autumn is hands-down one of my favorite times of the year. The crisp cool air, leaves changing colors and evenings with the family gathered around the fire with hot chocolate, telling stories. Oh, who am I kidding? That last part never happens in my crazy household of three kiddos. It's more like throwing together a pot of mac 'n' cheese and scrambling to get homework done before basketball practice. But regardless of the chaos that swirls through my house I always make an effort to add touches of fall to my home. And yes, I probably should also admit that I am one of "those" neigh-

bors who puts her fall wreath on the front door the first week that school starts. Today I thought I would share some of my DIY tips for adding some unique fall elements to your home.

## **The Front Door**

Instead of going with the traditional fall wreath, why not hang a mirror with ribbon and some faux autumn branches or leaves? You could use a mirror at a thrift shop, like I did years ago, or you could even use an ornate picture frame without the mirror. Add some silk ribbon, tuck in a few sprigs of leaves and voila!

Other front door ideas: Instead of a round wreath why not opt for a square wreath covered in moss and wrapped in ribbon, or try adding a vintage tea cup or plate with an autumnal pattern.

... continued on page D10



*Use pumpkins and moss as accents for interior decor.*







# PREMIER KITCHENS

While we specialize in **kitchens**, our team is able to **design** custom quality **cabinets** for any room meeting your **aesthetic** and **functional** needs all within your **budget**.

Schedule a meeting or just stop by!

**(925) 283-6500**

3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
info@premierkitchens.net

[www.premierkitchens.net](http://www.premierkitchens.net)

Just Listed! | 100 Fernwood Drive | Moraga

Exclusively Offered at \$1,295,000



4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2091± sq. ft. home situated on a 15210± sq. ft. corner lot with a three-car garage. The family room adjacent to the kitchen opens to an extra-large patio and pool. The gracious living room and dining room were recently renovated with newer paint, crown molding, and a marble faced gas fireplace. Plantation shutters are featured in the living room, dining room, master bedroom and office. Hardwood floors seamlessly flow through most of the home, except for two bedrooms. There are ceiling fans in the master bedroom and the guest bedroom. Ample storage exists, and includes an oversize storage closet in the laundry room and an additional closet in the hallway. The master suite has a built in double dresser and closets designed and configured by California Closets.



## Miles Manter

Realtor Associate  
925 788 0723  
miles.manter@pacunion.com  
License # 01896801

## Lisa Schoenhouse

Broker Associate  
925 788 4521  
lisa@liskaschoenhouse.com  
License # 01420876

**PACIFIC  
UNION**  
INTERNATIONAL  
License # 01866771





## Simple steps to usher in the season



I used shed deer antlers and faux succulents for a pop of color in this arrangement.

Photo Amanda Eck

### The Interior

If you have a chest or console table in your entrance bring in some store bought pumpkins in various colors and sizes. Trader Joe's always has some unique pumpkins and gourds this time of year. I used one of my garden urns and added a large moss ball

... continued from page D8

with faux bittersweet berries wrapped around the rim and a few grocery store pumpkins.

### The Fireplace Mantel

Another spot you can add some fall touches is your fireplace mantel. Sometimes I like to keep it simple and just line my mantel with candles and tuck in a few white baby boo pumpkins. One year I decided to add a little glam. I purchased some ceramic white pumpkins and dipped the bottoms in gold paint. You can also do this with real pumpkins.

### The Dining Table

My all time favorite place in the house to decorate is my dining room table. I enjoy entertaining and love coming up with creative table-scape ideas. Several years ago I was on a "paint all the things" kick, and decided to spray paint my pumpkins in the metallic colors of gold, and champagne. I took one of my plaid scarves and used it as a table runner. I then added a small tree limb I found in the back yard, scattered some leaves, and tucked in a few faux boxwood balls. You don't have to go out and buy things for your table. Just use what you have. Walk out to your backyard and cut down some twigs or branches.

One of my favorite table-scapes was when I lined up several shed deer antlers my brother had given me that he found in the woods on his acreage out in east Texas, and tucked in some Spanish moss and faux succulents I found at Hobby Lobby. I added some mini boo pumpkins and used my vintage glassware.

I hope these ideas inspired you to try and add a little touch of fall to your home. It does not need to be a lot, just a few touches here and there to usher in the season.

Until next time sweet friends!



## THREE NEW LUXURY HOMES CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN DANVILLE

### WHISPERING CREEK LANE

DANVILLE

WHISPERINGCREEKLANE.COM

ALL THREE HOMES COMPLETED

OPEN HOUSE  
SAT/SUN, 11-5PM

155 WILLOW DRIVE, DANVILLE

THE  
ADDRESS  
COMPANY

DAVE DACUS | CalBRE 01108669

STARTING FROM \$2.295M  
415.830.HOME

CLIMB  
REAL ESTATE

NICOLE ERVIN-FISH | CalBRE 01875956







Paint pumpkins white and dip them in gold for a bit of glam.

Photo Amanda Eck

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.



## //NEW LISTING



### 1908 Nero Court, Walnut Creek

Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhome with lovely updated kitchen, inviting back patio, and welcoming front entrance. Vaulted ceilings and skylights provide bright natural light and a spacious feel to the living and dining rooms. The spacious bedrooms all have new carpet and the master en-suite has a large walk-in closet.

The amenities at Bancroft Village are just out your door. Walk to the tennis courts, pools, clubhouse, private Heather Farms entrance, and lovely trails.

//PRICED AT \$725,000

Sue Layng  
REALTOR®

Sue Layng  
// BROKER

925.963.7189  
sue@suelayng.com  
www.suelayng.com  
BRE# 000970956





## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

# Just hanging around

By Cynthia Brian

*"Delicious autumn!" – George Eliot*



*A pole of pink and purple petunias shines brightly against the blue skyline.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

The harvest of grapes, pears, figs and apples is in full swing. My ribier grape vine has twined its way into my crabapple tree and I now have a "grape tree" with succulent bunches hanging from branches. If we can keep the squirrels, rats, raccoons, rabbits and birds away, we will be picking pumpkins, winter squash, walnuts, olives, persimmons and pomegranates soon. The season of delicious and nutritious has arrived.

Besides the delectable edibles on the trees, vines, and in the garden, I find myself falling for hanging baskets of spectacular beauty. From the vineyards of Temecula in Southern California to the coastline towns on the Oregon coast, everywhere I travel I've witnessed glorious displays of cascading flowers. Hanging from pergolas, lampposts, balconies, porches and patios, these bloom-filled tubs trump the fern and spider plant baskets of bygone days. The prolific blooms of petunias, fuchsias, impatiens and verbena

extend the flowering season with a myriad of bright colors in purple, pink, white, blue and yellow. As long as the flowers are dead-headed when they are spent, the masses of blooms will continue to be stunning show stoppers until the first frost. Contrasting colors, bright foliage and appealing textures highlight these artistic, fashionable forms.

Even edibles work well in hanging baskets. Peas, strawberries, cherry tomatoes, nasturtiums and any herbs are great contributors. You can even mix and match with vegetables, flowers and herbs. Butterflies and hummingbirds will be constant visitors. For a no-care container, fill it with succulents. Hanging baskets are especially perfect for brightening small areas.

Creating a hanging masterpiece is quite simple and you can enjoy the beauty from spring until winter.

... continued on next page



*Cascading pink petunias.*

### Suggested Bold Statements for Planting

- Verbena
- Calibrachoa
- Cascading petunia
- Fuchsia
- Impatiens
- Lobelia
- Cyclamen
- Geranium
- Ivy
- Marigold
- Asparagus fern
- Sweet potato vine
- Begonia
- Vinca
- Heliotrope
- Schizanthus
- Viola
- Dianthus
- Osteospermum
- Coleus
- Sweet alyssum
- Bacopa
- Snapdragon
- New Guinea impatiens



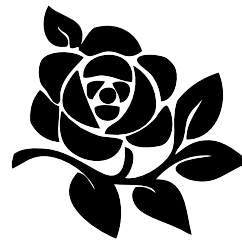


*Japanese anemone x hybrida looks like black current.*

#### How to Make a Hanging Basket

1. Any sturdy container that has a hole in the bottom can work including buckets, colanders, or old boots. Plastic planters are the least expensive, however they are also the least attractive. Once the plantings are mature, the container could be covered with greenery, but I prefer to use a wire basket. Line the wire basket with sphagnum moss, coco-fiber, burlap, or even discarded fabric and soak the liner overnight.
2. Add a lightweight potting soil to cover a few inches of the bottom. Don't use garden soil as it is too heavy. The goal is to have a lightweight soil that doesn't compact to promote proper drainage.
3. Plant the flowers, herbs or vegetables you wish and cover with soil.
4. Water thoroughly, making sure that the soil doesn't wash away.
5. Fill with more soil.
6. Water again.
7. Add a moss top layer to help with water retention.
8. If you are using a wire basket, poke holes in various places and plant your specimens to exhibit a full, rounded globe.
9. Anchor hooks securely to an area that receives ample sunlight. Keep in mind these baskets can become very heavy.
10. Water daily, or check if the basket needs water by inserting a stick into the soil. If it comes out dry, you need to water. Never let the soil get soggy or the roots will drown and the plants will die.
11. Feed monthly with a water-soluble fertilizer or use plant spikes or slow-release fertilizers.

Hanging baskets add the "wow" to any landscape and provide instant curb appeal. When edibles are included, you'll be able to have a meal from a wheel. Fill, spill and thrill. This is a delicious autumn!



# MORAGA GARDEN CENTER

## Annual Fall Sale Up to 50% off Through October 31<sup>st</sup>

*Free Plants with Purchase*

**Moraga Garden Center**  
located at the Moraga Shopping Center  
925-376-1810

9am-5pm  
7 days a week

## 20% OFF all boxes!

We also have all kinds of packing supplies



5A Managers have great advice and helpful tips on packing, storing and moving

***It's the perfect time to get boxes, so take advantage now!***

We've many sizes in boxes • Furniture Covers • Compartmentized boxes for fragile items • **New:** Quilted Furniture Pads • Electronics Boxes • Dish Packs • Furniture Wrap • Tape • Bubble Wrap • Marking Pens • File Boxes With Lids • **Plus storage space for it all**

*Special Discounts on Boxes expires October 31, 2017*

Connect with us on Social Media & let us know how we're doing:



AAAAA  
**RENT A SPACE**  
Store It Yourself & Save  
455 Moraga Road, Suite F  
(925) 643-2026  
saspace.com

Visit 5A  
& ask for  
your FREE  
Gift!





# Cynthia Brian's October Gardening Guide

- **CLEAR** brush, debris, wood and other flammables from around the perimeter of your house. Fire season is most dangerous in October as everything is so dry. For more information or assistance visit <http://www.fire.ca.gov/>.
- **PREPARE** soil for reseeded or sowing lawn or adding sod. Next issue I'll be discussing planting lawns in more detail.
- **DEADHEAD** annuals and perennials for continuous blooming until frost.
- **CUT** off spent rose blossoms to get another flush of blooms through Christmas.
- **TAKE** photos of your trees as they begin their autumn wardrobe change.
- **PLANT** garlic bulbs and cool season vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Swiss chard.
- **REFRIGERATE** spring blooming bulbs including crocus, hyacinth and tulip. Mark paper bags and keep cold until planting time in mid-November through January.
- **VISIT** your favorite nursery to find trees for fall planting. This next month is a prime time for planting trees and shrubs.
- **BEWARE** of the danger of creosote poisoning if railroad ties were used in your landscape. The EPA has stated that humans should not use creosote treated railroad ties where frequent or prolonged bare skin contact can occur.
- **EXPERIMENT** with designing hanging baskets for your landscape.
- **BE** vigilant deterring skunks, rats and other rodents from your property. As the weather turns inclement, they will be looking for shelter.
- **VISIT** a petting zoo of rescued and adopted animals. Zeus, the camel, became my buddy.
- **PLUNGE** into a swimming pool, then share a glass of local vino with a friend.
- **ENJOY** an Indian summer of warm days and cool nights. Get outside for a bit of forest bathing to savor the deliciousness of fall.



A gorgeous combination of multi-colored fuschias and white impatiens.

Photos Cynthia Breian

Just hang around! We are so blessed to live with four glorious seasons.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Cynthia's Ribier grapes hanging from her crabapple "grape tree."



A stunning basket of purple and red petunias.





A basket of beautiful begonias.



Cynthia and her friend, Zeus the camel.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Please make a donation to help with hurricane disaster relief at [www.BetheStarYouAre.org](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org). Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). My new book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," will be available by mid month. HURRAY! Thanks for your patience. Available for hire for any gardening project. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)

# McDonnell Nursery

## October Sale!

family owned since 1933

25% off all Perennials, Trees and Shrubs  
Also on sale...benches, bistro sets,  
canvas prints and more!



[www.mcdonnellnursery.com](http://www.mcdonnellnursery.com)

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily

## Get Out & Stay Out!

In Your New Outdoor Room

Let Garden Lights Landscape Development give you good reason to "Get Out and Stay Out" this summer.



Enlarge your living area with an outdoor kitchen or entertainment space complete with a built in barbecue and the warm glow of a stone or masonry fireplace.

Garden Lights Landscape Development, Inc. is a full service landscape & pool design build firm.

We design & install with just one call 925-254-4797 • [www.gardenlightslandscape.com](http://www.gardenlightslandscape.com)

Celebrating over 20 years of service in Lamorinda. Bonded – Licensed & Insured License# 702845 C27 & C53

DESIGN  
INSTALLATION  
IRRIGATION  
DRAINAGE  
STONEMWORK  
CONCRETE WORK  
DECKS  
FENCES  
PATIOS  
LAWNS  
PONDS  
CLEANUP &  
HAULING

# BLUE RIDGE



510-847-6160

LANDSCAPE COMPANY INC.

BLUE JAY FELDMAN  
OWNER/OPERATOR

[WWW.BLUERIDGE.LC.COM](http://WWW.BLUERIDGE.LC.COM)

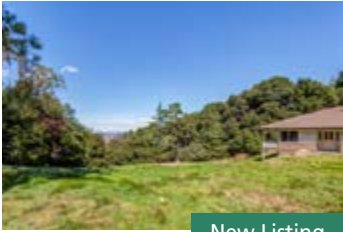


LICENSED  
INSURED  
Lic# 818633



# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 6 Del Valle

Big views and big potential in Orinda hills! 4 beds, 2 baths on 1.2 tranquil acres. 1,651 sqft on main level + versatile huge basement.

**\$980,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 110 Orchard Road

Mid-Century Contemporary diamond in the rough perched amongst the trees. Expansive decks, private and tranquil. Needs updating.

**\$995,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 151 Cañon Drive

A .67 acre estate knoll setting for a unique & classic home with architectural character & design. Bonus guest cottage.

**\$1,725,000**

## ORINDA



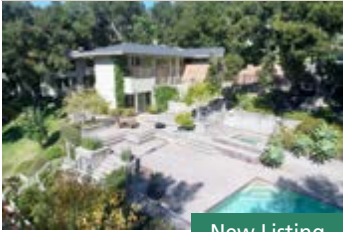
New Price

### 22 Van Tassel

A Grand Resort Lifestyle Home (pool, spa, sauna, putting range, outdoor kitchen +cabana). Ideally engaging inside & outside.

**\$2,479,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 40 Los Altos Road

This 4605sf handsome custom contemporary is the quintessential restorative retreat in OCC. Views/Pool/Tennis/Gardens – all on 2.27ac.

**\$2,495,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 18 Charles Hill Circle

Wonderfully Private, Enchanting Estate in a Great Orinda Location. Gated premium property with lovely views & setting.

**\$3,795,000**

## MORAGA



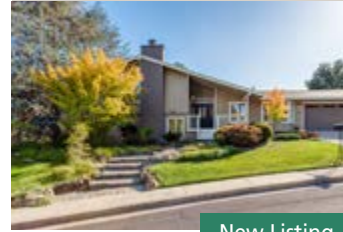
New Listing

### 359 Fernwood Drive

Well-loved 4bd/2.5ba, 2,327 sq.ft. rancher on 1.22acres-- and a backyard oasis which will make you think you're on vacation!

**\$1,350,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

### 403 Belfair Place

Spacious 2560sqft home, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, .44 acres, sparkling pool. Close to schools & park.

**\$1,550,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

### 17 Kelly Ann Court

Completely remodeled 4 bed / 2.5 bath, 2,212 square feet home with a flat yard on 0.67 acres at the end of a cul-de-sac.

**\$1,429,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

### 1601 Reliez Valley Road

Breathtaking new custom by SpringHill Homes boasts 5bd/4.5ba, 4323sf of incredible living spaces on scenic 1.23acres.

**\$3,650,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

### 4015 Happy Valley Road

Elegant French Country home in prestigious Happy Valley. Classic 2 story, apx. 6,011 sq.ft., 5 beds/5.5 baths, fabulous flat .97 acre lot.

**\$4,895,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

### 887 Amberwood Court

Beautiful New Construction (2016) Single Story Home in desirable cul-de-sac neighborhood. 4bd/3.5ba, den, chef's kitchen, great room, beautiful finishes & more.

**\$1,675,000**

## The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Shannon Conner  
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich

Joan Evans

Linda S. Friedman

Dexter Honens II

Anne Knight

Susan Zeh Layng

Charles Levine

Darrick Martin

Erin Martin

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy

John Nash

Ben Olsen

Sue Olsen

Tara Rochlin

Jaime Roder

Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Ann Ward

Jenny Lyons Wilhite

Margaret Zucker

facebook.com/VillageAssociates  
twitter.com/Villageassoc  
instagram.com/VillageAssociates

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

Visit [www.villageassociates.com](http://www.villageassociates.com) Click on **Sunday Open Homes**

