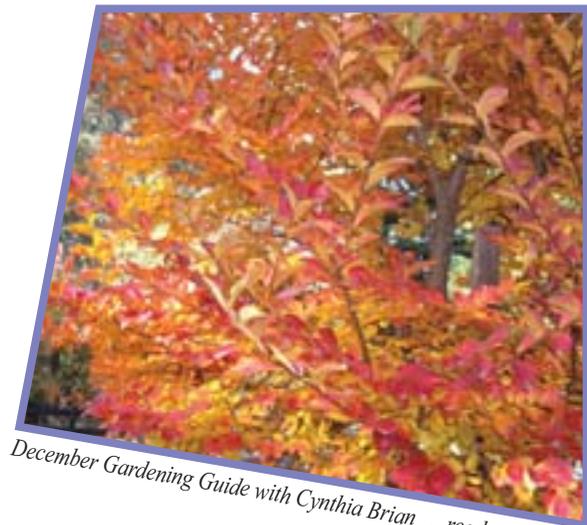


# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 20 Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2017



December Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D9

## Be fire evacuation ready, Lamorinda

By Cathy Dausman



These 'go-bags' include jackets, sturdy shoes, flashlights and other items. Photos Cathy Dausman

**S**poiler alert: this story lacks the usual focus on decorating, home improvement or remodeling. Instead, it is about leaving your home in a hurry – and perhaps never coming back.

Although Lamorindans have much to be thankful for this November they have also been alarmed by the number and ferocity of last month's North Bay fires and the effect it has had on friends, family and familiar locales a mere 50 miles to the north.

Conversations in person and on social media have ranged from "What can we do?" to "How do we do it?"

Even if your family never has to evacuate ahead of a disaster, having a plan in place can help you manage that possibility and insure a more positive outcome.

Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team program manager Duncan Seibert recently spent time in Napa working as a Medical Reserve Corps shelter volunteer at both Crosswalk Community Church and Napa Val-

ley College. He saw firsthand how difficult it was, especially for senior evacuees, who fled sometimes literally in their underwear. They hadn't time to collect their medicines or even medical necessities like oxygen tanks, "the stuff it takes to live," as Seibert describes it. In response, Seibert decided to put together a comprehensive checklist of fire evacuation tips, something he said took only a couple of hours to develop and a couple of days to vet through local police, fire and county medical agencies.

"It's gotten positive reviews," he says, noting that none of these tips are new but having them all in one place is helpful. And although the checklist is designed for a population leaving in advance of fire, it is thorough enough that the information can be useful for any type of evacuation.

The first thing to realize is that the advance "to do" list is twice as long as the actual evacuation checklist, and it covers a host of topics, from packing to document prep, communications, neighbor relations and providing help for what Seibert calls the "vulnerable population" – individuals with access or functional needs.

... continued on page D4



Be sure to have chargers accessible for laptops and smartphones.

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## Red Bows & Silver Bells Happy Holidays

We would like to say thank you to our clients and friends for their continued support and trust over the years. It is because of you that we continue to be leaders in the Lamorinda residential real estate market.

May your holiday season bring you good health, continued happiness, and prosperity in 2018!



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	16	\$580,000	\$2,425,000
MORAGA	10	\$477,500	\$2,150,000
ORINDA	12	\$799,000	\$1,935,000

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

- 730 North Pond Court, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2483 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 10-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 03-29-12
- 3822 Palo Alto Drive, \$2,425,000, 6 Bdrms, 4984 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-20-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,850,000, 09-02-04
- 1729 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,833,000, 5 Bdrms, 4222 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 10-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$465,000, 11-19-93
- 3374 Sweet Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1725 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-10-17;  
Previous Sale: \$45,500, 04-06-73
- 24 Warwick Court, \$1,850,000, 8 Bdrms, 3637 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-10-17
- 3646 Baker Lane, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 3180 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 10-27-17
- 3606 Chestnut Street, \$1,070,000, 3 Bdrms, 1190 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 10-30-17;  
Previous Sale: \$242,000, 12-02-94
- 3266 Elvia Street, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3292 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 10-26-17
- 3420 Goyak Drive, \$1,780,000, 4 Bdrms, 2840 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 10-27-17;  
Previous Sale: \$527,500, 11-24-98
- 3746 Highland Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 4248 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 03-26-15
- 1087 Leland Drive, \$1,930,000, 4 Bdrms, 3779 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 10-27-17;  
Previous Sale: \$59,000, 06-04-15
- 641 St. Marys Road, \$580,000, 3 Bdrms, 1192 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-2-17;  
Previous Sale: \$225,000, 03-08-01
- 3407 Sweet Drive, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 1729 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 09-14-06
- 8 Valley High, \$2,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 4238 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 11-6-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,758,000, 12-09-04
- 2571 Pebble Beach Loop, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-24-17;  
Previous Sale: \$280,000, 07-25-97
- 1013 Via Roble, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 10-25-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 05-17-16

### MORAGA

- 47 San Pablo Court, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2376 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-11-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 03-29-16
- 439 Stonefield Place, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2557 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-16-17;  
Previous Sale: \$79,000, 11-28-75
- 146 Ascot Court #3, \$447,500, 2 Bdrms, 945 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$227,000, 11-01-01
- 826 Camino Ricardo, \$1,135,000, 4 Bdrms, 1776 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-1-17
- 297 Corliss Drive, \$1,390,000, 5 Bdrms, 3229 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 06-28-11
- 134 Danefield Place, \$1,395,000, 4 Bdrms, 2445 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-25-17
- 359 Fernwood Drive, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2327 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-3-17
- 15 Merrill Drive, \$2,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 4237 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 11-3-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,843,000, 12-01-04
- 724 Moraga Road, \$875,000, 4 Bdrms, 1947 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 10-24-17
- 1729 St. Andrews Drive, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-31-17;  
Previous Sale: \$677,000, 03-31-15

... continued on page D7



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# Be fire evacuation ready, Lamorinda

... continued from page D1

An access and functional needs designation describes, among others, those who have physical disabilities, as well as seniors, children and limited English speakers. The state's Office of Emergency Services website posts detailed information online.

The first step before a possible evacuation is to assemble a go-bag for each family member. This bag should include practical clothing like sturdy shoes, jacket and hat, a flashlight, toiletry kit and glasses. Pack a bag for your pets, too, being sure to include food, a leash, medication and even a picture of your pet. Both dogs and cats need to be microchipped. Bring a kennel if possible.

Scan personal documents to store in electronic form. Seibert says these should include title papers, mortgage information and insurance policies as well as personal identification like your driver's license, social security information and passport, and medical information. Transfer it to a zip drive, a CD or upload it to the cloud. Having this makes it easier to get help after the fact from government and private agencies at local assistance centers.

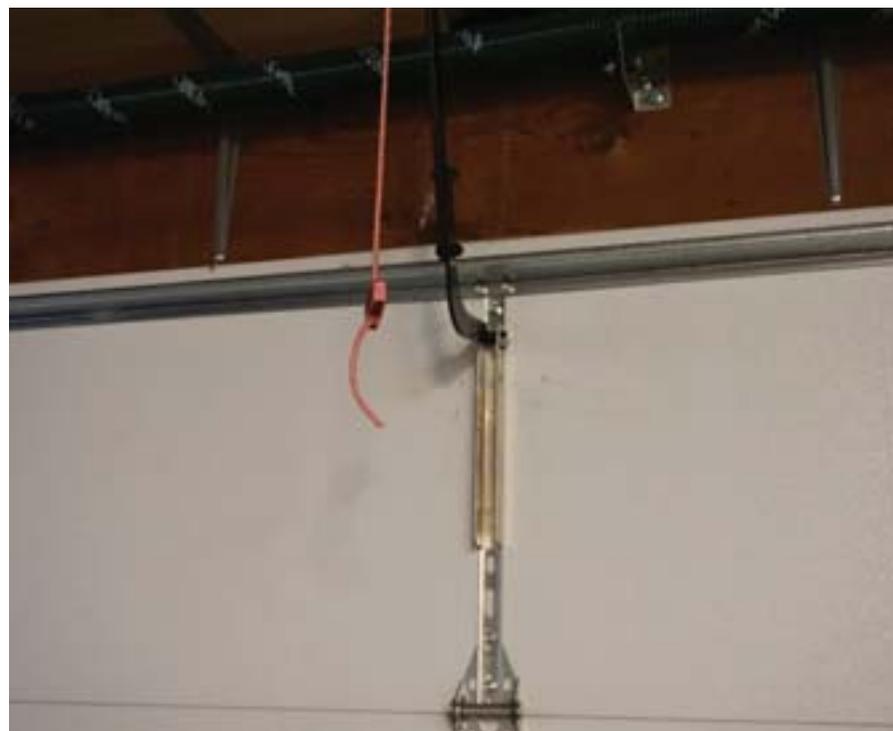
Evacuation plans are all about planning ahead. Know your neighbors, especially the vulnerable ones. Download apps like Nixle (text your zip code to 888777) and the county Community Warning System on your smartphone; designate an out-of-state telephone contact and program that person's number into each family member's cell phone.

When red flag warnings are posted, the focus shifts from packing to taking action. Ensure your gas tank is full, and pack the car with go-bags, water and medications. Park in the driveway, not in the garage. When power is out, garage doors become heavy and difficult to open quickly or easily. Park cars facing the street and open any driveway gates.

Gather your electronic devices, keep them charged and take them with you as



Besides cloud storage, media selection to store scanned documents



Make sure your garage door opens manually

Photos Cathy Dausman

you leave the house. Notify your out of state contact when you leave, via text, and notify them and local authorities of any missing or located family members. If cell phone service is not available monitor a local NOAA weather radio (that's channel 162.425 in Contra Costa County) or a local commercial radio station like KCBS (740 AM) or KQED (88.5 FM) for up-to-date information. Turn your outside lights on; leave your water sprinklers off (their use reduces available water pressure for fire agencies). "Be ready to go," Seibert says "and don't think twice."

## Search for additional information and sign up

- For the full listing of evacuation tips from Lamorinda CERT, go online to <https://lamorindacert.org/documents/Evacuation%20Tips.pdf>
- For pet welfare emergency preparedness, see <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1117/print/Pet-emergency-preparedness.html>
- AFN info at State Office of Emergency Services: <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/for-individuals-families/access-functional-needs>).
- Ready, Set, Go! Wildland fire preparedness: <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/>
- Contra Costa County Community Warning System: <https://cwsalerts.com/>
- Nixle: [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)
- Weather radio information: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/coverage/ccov.php?State=CA>





**SELLERS**

- 918A DEWING AVE. LAF. \$790,000
- 42 MORELLO PLACE, ORINDA. \$1,385,000
- 189 URN RIPPER LANE, ORINDA. \$2,304,000
- 1883 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY, LAF. \$1,905,000
- 1253 PANORAMA DR. LAF. \$1,905,000
- 98 HILLCREST DR. ORINDA. \$1,525,000
- 29 VIA CALLADOS, ORINDA. \$1,270,000
- 245 SUNDOWN TER, ORINDA. \$2,700,000
- 28 SUNNYSIDE COURT, ORINDA. \$1,225,000

**BUYERS**

- 25 BYRON DRIVE, PLEASANT HILL. \$900,000
- 33 DIABLO CIRCLE, LAF. \$1,400,000
- 37 SOUTHWOOD COURT, ORINDA. \$1,565,000
- 36 EL PATIO, ORINDA. \$1,900,000
- 35 EL PATIO LOT, ORINDA. \$400,000
- 16 DIABLO CIRCLE, LAF. \$1,605,000
- 17 BROADVIEW TERRACE, ORINDA. \$1,607,500
- 50 WOODLAND DR. ALAMO. \$1,555,000
- 106 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY RD. LAF. \$2,195,000
- 38 VALLEY VIEW DRIVE, ORINDA. \$3,495,000
- 85 LA ENCINAL, ORINDA. \$1,005,000
- 11 LAS PALOMAS, ORINDA. \$1,365,000
- 24 LA CAMPANA RD. ORINDA. \$2,100,000
- 2510 LARKEY LN. WALNUT CREEK. \$1,100,000
- 141 BRODIA WAY, WALNUT CREEK. \$2,400,000
- 133 SLEEPY HOLLOW LANE, ORINDA. \$2,350,000

TOTAL 2017: \$42,039,500

THANK YOU!

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## Feng Shui

# Feng shui design for the dining room

By Michele Duffy



Change your holiday table up with fresh, sometimes nontraditional colors and let it guide your inspiration like with this lovely table in Lafayette, complete with soft candlelight. *Photos provided*

The dining room is most certainly reserved for the most special people and occasions of our lives, so this holiday season you can use sound feng shui design in this room to help create an intimate well-planned area that invites serenity, but also ignites abundance and good health.

Much like our kitchens, we spend so much more time in our dining rooms during the fall. You can breathe life into your dining room by first cleaning it thoroughly. Once this area is “space cleared” it’s much easier to have creative ideas flow. Discard things you no longer need, clear the dining room table of junk, and set about creating an intimate and warm area to host your family and friends this holiday season.

Make sure that the dining room is inviting, calm, well ventilated, comfortable, and appetizing. Be polite and gentle to family members while dining (this, in no

way, means that you can yell at them elsewhere); be gentle and polite always. Be relaxed, calm, happy and stress-free while dining; in fact, be this way always.

Nothing says chaos and creates uneasy meals more than piles of stuff all over the dining room table, so clear the clutter and tidy up.

Take an inventory of the color of the room and review the color palette of your textiles, everything from rugs to place settings. Is it time to invest in new linens? Have you wanted to paint the dining room? What colors will create warmth and comfort for your home? Yellow is one color that can stimulate your appetite and it may just require changing up the colors of the flowers you place to update the space. Maintain a balance of colors in the dining room so the space won’t be too bright or overly dull. One key indicator is the amount of natural light your dining room gets. If you have a lot



Nontraditional fall colors and place settings attract prosperity.

of sunlight, the hue you pick for the walls can be more dramatic but if not, lighten the space up with a hue that is pale and light.

Place a mirror on one wall of the dining room to reflect the abundance of the meals and company enjoyed there. This will also function like a window and reflect the greenery of the outdoors. If your dining room is on the small side, a large rectangular mirror will enhance and open up the space. If possible, keep the dining room near to the kitchen and both the dining room and kitchen should be on the same floor.

Choose an oval/circular or square/rectangular dining table. From a general Feng Shui perspective, a round or oval table is considered better than a square or a rectangular one – the flowing shape contributes to a more even distribution of energy. In simpler terms, sitting at a round or oval table will make everyone feel more welcome, at ease and equal in their relation to each other. The first criteria to consider, however, is your dining room size and shape. If your space is asking for a square or rectangular shape and you insist on having a round table, you will not be creating a good feng shui dining room. Each dining room is unique and requires some common sense. Make sure that the dining table is of high quality wood. Avoid glass dining tables.

... continued on page D8

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### ORINDA

5 Idyll Court, \$1,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 2426 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-17-17

42 Irving Lane, \$1,275,000, 2 Bdrms, 1807 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-16-17

50 Orchard Road, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2613 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 10-17-17;

Previous Sale: \$993,000, 11-06-09

26 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2362 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-16-17

7 Ardilla Road, \$1,195,000, 4 Bdrms, 1722 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 10-31-17

166 Camino Sobrante, \$799,000, 3 Bdrms, 1833 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 10-27-17

151 Canon Drive, \$1,805,000, 4 Bdrms, 2951 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 11-3-17;

Previous Sale: \$590,000, 10-27-86

6 Del Valle, \$1,180,000, 4 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-3-17;

Previous Sale: \$460,000, 05-18-99

51 Donna Maria Way, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 3157 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-2-17;

Previous Sale: \$1,384,000, 06-10-05

44 Honey Hill Road, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1625 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-24-17;

Previous Sale: \$287,000, 10-02-86

141 Lombardy Lane, \$1,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 2688 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-30-17;

Previous Sale: \$1,370,000, 04-22-05

2 Scenic Drive, \$1,935,000, 5 Bdrms, 3281 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 10-31-17;

Previous Sale: \$274,500, 07-10-87



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## Feng Shui

# Feng shui design for the dining room

... continued from page D6



Mirrors reflect natural light and attract amplification of abundance when placed correctly.

The dining table must be big enough to provide space for everyone and the dining chairs should be cushy, comfortable, and even in number.

Always keep something on the dining table. For example, you can place fruits like apples to help develop friendship, or pears attract positive abundant energy, peaches aid in good health and oranges symbolize protection and prosperity. Fresh flowers on the dining room table are always a wise choice. Make sure to discard the arrangement once the blooms wane (no stinky water). Avoid using dried flowers as they imply deterioration or “dead” chi.

Choose softer lighting to create a warm environment and deepen the emotional

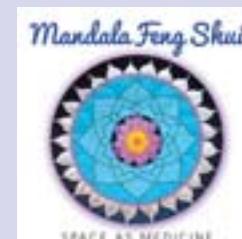
contact of the family. Add soy candles to your dining room table and buffet to create a soft glow and an intimate atmosphere that will attract a special occasion chi to the celebration.

Don't worry so much about making it “perfect” and just relax and trust your instincts. Move things around and then move them back if it doesn't feel right. Take the time to try different ideas and colors and remember to stand back and view your creations as a guest for a moment. If when you enter the room you feel drawn in, cozy, intimate and you have also ignited anticipation, you will be well on your way to accomplishing a holiday-worthy dining room for yourself as well as all of your guests to enjoy.

<b>WEALTH &amp; PROSPERITY</b> XUN Wood Southeast Purple	<b>FAME &amp; REPUTATION</b> Li Fire South Red Summer	<b>RELATIONSHIPS</b> Kun Earth Southwest Pink
<b>FAMILY</b> ZHEN Wood East Green Spring	<b>HEALTH</b> TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown	<b>JOY &amp; COMPLETION</b> DUI Metal West White Autumn
<b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; SELFCULTIVATION</b> GEN Earth Northeast Blue	<b>CAREER &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b> KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter	<b>HELPFUL PEOPLE &amp; TRAVEL</b> QIAN Metal Northeast Grey

The Bagua Map: Front Door

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2017 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com).



## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for December

# A holly jolly garden

By Cynthia Brian

*"As the rain falls equally on the just and the unjust, do not burden your heart with judgments but rain your kindness equally on all." – Gautama Buddha*



*Fuyu and Hachiya persimmons are ready to pick for Christmas puddings and cakes.*



*Photos Cynthia Brian Be a child again and play in the fallen leaves.*

The month of December ushers in a time of joyfulness and giving with gardeners being the most generous givers of all. Harvests of persimmons, walnuts and pomegranates make for baskets of nutritious and delicious gifts. Root cuttings, potted plants, and arrangements made from bark, branches and pinecones are natural reminders of the wonders of a pre-winter season. The final flush of rose blooms mixed with orchids create a lush yet simple table display when a few glittering candles are added. With the colder weather, trees are ablaze with their final cloak of autumn hues as an array of colorful leaves litters the ground. Chrysanthemums are thick with blossoms adding a brightness and lightness to the darkening sky.

We encourage the rain and the intermittent sunshine.

Soon our landscapes will boast sparkling lights and festive decorations to welcome family and friends to enjoy holiday treats. Children of all ages are excited for the surprises that await them for Hanukkah and Christmas.

I'm excited to announce that my much anticipated garden book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," Book I in the Garden Shorts series is now available in both color and black and white. Buy directly from [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store) for the best price and autographed copies; 25 percent of your purchase is a donation to Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3 charity ([www.BetheStarYouAre.org](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org)). With every order placed directly at our store, you'll receive seeds and extra goodies. This book is a great gift for all the gardeners and nature lovers on your holiday list.

Have a holly jolly December and remember to give yourself the gift of rest and relaxation as there are only minimal gardening tasks while Nature takes her annual nap.

... continued on page D10



*The bark of the eucalyptus works well for holiday decorating.*



*Pomegranates are high in antioxidants.*

# Cynthia Brian's December Gardening Guide

... continued from page D9

**DISCOVER** a living conifer at your favorite nursery that can remain in a container for a few years of Christmas decorating.

**RAKE** fallen leaves to add to the compost pile. Leave a layer of leaves on the ground, however, too many leaves remaining in the garden encourage disease and block the sunshine.

**APPLY** dormant spray to deciduous fruit trees and roses to smother insects and eggs.

**REMOVE** dead or dying branches from trees, bushes and shrubs.

**APPLY** a layer of mulch (about three inches) to your landscape to keep the heat in and prevent soil erosion.

**CONTROL** peach blight and peach curl by spraying trees on a windless day with sulfur mixed with dormant oil. Two other applications will be necessary in January and February.

**WRAP** frost tender plants such as bougainvillea, banana, and bird of paradise in burlap to prevent damage.

**GATHER** an array of fresh vegetables as you design your holiday menus.

**GIVE** the gift of my new book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," 12 months of inspiration and gardening tips to sustain your inner gardener with a full year of kindness and happiness in nature. [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store)

**CONTINUE** planting spring blooming bulbs through the end of January. You'll enjoy a long lasting parade of flowers throughout the spring.

**HANG** a spray of magnolia leaves sprayed gold and silver on your front door or mailbox.

**ADD** merry pink berries to garlands of redwood branches to decorate a mantel or staircase.

**FILL** a bowl with grapes for nibbling.

**SLICE** orange Fuyu persimmons or seeds of bright red pomegranates into a salad for a delicious and nutritious treat drizzled with olive oil and homemade vinaigrette.

**TIE** a gossamer ribbon around a cyclamen, geranium, orchid, or rose to give as a festive hostess gift.

**USE** the bark of eucalyptus or a lichen covered branch in your holiday décor.

**RAIN** kindness and gentleness on everyone you encounter.

**VISIT** with Santa at SA Rent-A-Space from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. Be the Star You Are!® volunteers will be present to help kids write letters to Santa. Free event with refreshments and a photo with Santa, 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga. [www.bethestaryouare.org/events](http://www.bethestaryouare.org/events)

**REST**, relax, and enjoy this season of holly jolly!

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!

Cynthia Brian



Spider plant with colorful geraniums.



Deck the halls with a simple composition of roses and orchids on a table centered by a candle.



Get the jump on holiday cooking with fresh garden vegetables.



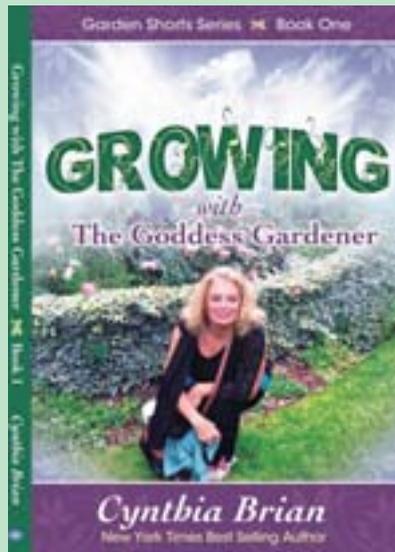
As winter nears a bright pink hibiscus offers tropical delight.



Growing tightly together, these colorful mums are happy bedmates.



The leaves of the crape myrtle turn a fiery pumpkin, saffron, and scarlet before falling.



Cynthia Brian's new book, *Growing with the Goddess Gardener*. Order at <http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store>

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 & fire 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*, is available at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Available for hire for any gardening project. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)

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