

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Lamorinda Arts Council is more vibrant than ever – even online



“Those Left Behind” by Tyler Pavey

Photo provided – Lamorinda Super Shorts

### By Sophie Braccini

Denise Nomura, who has been presiding over the Lamorinda Arts Council for about a year, remembers the shock and the period of wonderment that struck her and the group’s board following the shelter-in-place order, which required a paradigm shift, since closing down was never an option. From Lamorinda Idol to art galleries, even the popular fundraiser Mixology will now be organized online this year.

Steve Harwood, who has been leading Lamorinda Idol for years, said that there was no question that the program should continue. This singing competition, open to individuals and groups ages 5 to 18, has been a popular training ground for so many budding Lamorinda artists – and a way to proceed had to be found.

Harwood said it was quite easy for the young talents to record videos of themselves and submit them to the jury. A phone was all that was needed

for the individuals, but the groups had to hone some editing skills to mix each separate performance. The jury received the same number of submissions as last year, and the finalists who will face off in August have been chosen.

One of the perks of this program is the professional training that the young finalists get from a professional singer. According to Harwood the finalists receive online lessons so they can be their best for their last virtual performance. The finalists’ videos will be posted online and the public will be able to vote, alongside the professionals, for their favorites. A Zoom party will celebrate the season of singing, with announcements of the winners and playing of all the finalists’ videos.

Getting the two art galleries that the LAC manages online has not been that easy. LAC runs the new Wilder gallery and the library gallery, but because the artists are

scheduled for displaying their work sometimes months if not years in advance, to reduce the backlog of exhibits LAC created a virtual display of what artists have been producing during the pandemic. One of Nomura’s paintings that she created during this time of reflection can be viewed and purchased online. LAC may continue the program depending on its popularity.

The Lamorinda Super-Shorts Two Minute Movie Challenge features very personal notes from confined people to reflections of what we can be grateful for. Don’t miss two excellent animes: “Cat and Banana” and “FYNYTE.” The winning movies can be seen at <https://lamorindaarts.org/lamorinda-supersshorts-winners-archive/>

And on July 19 LAC is calling writers, artists and art lovers to participate in the first Art Embraces Words webinar. Nomura explains that

emerging writers will read from their work in 10-minute intervals interspersed with visual artwork from local artists. Participating artists will be introduced and answer questions about their artwork. Portions of the event will be recorded and uploaded to social media. In this way art still ‘embraces’ the words. For more information or to sign up go to <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/>.

ones. Kits to make the cocktails will be assembled and sold online and picked up at Lamorinda liquor stores. The kits will have all the ingredients but the hard liquor that either people may already own or can purchase at the pickup location. The website for Mixology will have videos of the mixologists, and people will be able to vote for their favorite cocktails. Bartenders will be solicited from mid-July to mid-August, and the kits will be on sale at the end of August or September, so people will have plenty of time to taste and pick. Nomura hopes that the final event in October will be live, and if not possible, she promises a crazy festive, fun online party.

Information about all the programs is online at <https://lamorindaarts.org/>

Information about all the programs is online at <https://lamorindaarts.org/>

### SHOE THERAPY at ELMWOOD VILLAGE SHOES

- Stress Relief!
- Instant Satisfaction!
- Let us make you Smile!



We are open and ready to help you Safely! Our store is easy to get to. We are the second exit off the tunnel and five minutes off the freeway.



Elmwood Village Shoes

Est 1976

510-845-4054

2915 College Ave, Berkeley

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

## Dynamic senior Living coming Fall 2020 to Walnut Creek



# life is looking forward.



A gorgeous residence in an idyllic setting at the intersection of nature and culture, serenity and vitality, creative cuisine and cosmopolitan shopping. And that’s just where it all begins.

In an uncertain time, one thing is for sure. When Viamonte opens its doors this fall, there’ll be more to look forward to than you can even imagine.

925.231.0627 • [VIAMONTELIVING.ORG](http://VIAMONTELIVING.ORG)

## Viamonte

AT WALNUT CREEK

DYNAMIC SENIOR LIVING