Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Grateful gobbler

The muted colors of the forest are reminiscent of an Impressionist painting.

By Cynthia Brian

“Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.” ~ Henry Ward Beecher

Are you feeling grateful? Although I feel thankful for every day that I walk on this earth, after such a tumultuous 20 months, this year my heart is overflowing with appreciation. Throughout these times, my garden has been my sanctuary, my refuge, and the place where I recharge. The abelia is blooming and that makes me cheerful.

Autumn is a splendid season with cooler weather and nature’s spectacular showcase of colorful leaves on shrubs and trees. Maple, Japanese maple, tallow, crape myrtle, pistache, liquid amber, beech, black gum, sumac, aspen, dogwood, ginkgo biloba, tupelo, red oak, and many more species are just a few of the magical specimens whose leaves metamorphose from green into vibrant red, yellow, orange, purple, crimson, brown, russet, tan, bronze and scarlet. During the growing season, the green in leaves is a product of the chlorophyll using sunlight to manufacture sugars to feed the tree. As the weather cools with shorter days and longer nights, biochemical changes occur allowing a painter’s palette of vibrant and muted hues. The most stunning displays happen after a succession of sunny, warm days followed by crisp and cool nights. Moisture in the soil is also a factor that can delay or speed up the color.

I have just returned from experiencing splendid fall colors on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. On some of the riverbanks, the tree colors were muted as if in an Impressionist masterpiece. In gardens and parks, singular specimens were neon bright as if painted by Frederick Church.

Before I left, my trees were only beginning to change colors. When I arrived home a few days later, the leaves had already fallen, carpeting lawn, patio, and driveway in a thick layer.

My husband was anxious to clean up the leaves and I had to beg him to not put the leaves in the green bin. Fallen leaves are great for the compost pile and as a natural fertilizer for other plants.

Here’s what you need to know about fallen leaves: Keep them in your garden!

We can reduce emissions from landfills by managing the leaves by leaving them around the root zones of plants, shrubs, and trees to suppress weeds, provide shelter for beneficial insects, maintain moisture, control temperature, and return nutrients to the soil which plants will reuse. Microorganisms help small leaves decompose quickly. Larger leaves may need to be mowed to break them up.

... continued on Page D14
Happy Thanksgiving
During this time of year we can’t help but think of how thankful we are for all of our clients, friends, and family. Lamorinda, a place we call home, is so special and unique, that we love introducing it to others and welcoming them as new neighbors to our community.

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Happy Thanksgiving!
Wishing you and your families the joy of pumpkin spice and everything nice!
And remember that I’m always here for good real estate advice!
- Cheers!

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soraya4homes.com
DRE #01771736
I have one word for
ALL MY BUYERS AND SELLERS IN 2021:
Thanks!

I want to thank all of my buyers and sellers for a wonderful year. I’m so lucky to have created a life that allows me to work with great people, explore fabulous properties and help find the right fit for all. Thinking of selling in 2022? Let’s talk.

Happy Thanksgiving from my home to yours!
I’M GRATEFUL FOR SO MANY HAPPY MOMENTS THIS YEAR

6 Valencia Dr, Orinda
30 Sea Pines, Moraga
53 Parklane Dr, Orinda
25 Dias Dorados, Orinda
3423 Freeman Rd, Lafayette
38 Muth Dr, Orinda
8 Estates Dr, Orinda
11 Dos Posos, Orinda
9 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda
8 Robert Road, Orinda
154 Camino Sobrante, Orinda
120 Ravenhill Rd, Orinda
63 Orchard Rd, Orinda
236 Ivy Dr, Orinda
2 Calvin Dr, Orinda
4 Crown Court, Orinda
1055 Via Roble, Lafayette
114 Merion Terrace, Moraga
10 Joaquin Patio, Stinson
107 Merion Terrace, Moraga
172 Lombardy Dr, Orinda
30 Owl Hill Rd, Orinda
78 Shuey Dr, Moraga
653 Augusta Dr, Moraga
26 Tappan Dr, Orinda
21 Scenic Dr, Orinda

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Grateful for this Community.
Proud to Give Back.

Happy Holidays!

Barbara

A percentage of my commissions go to one of the following local organizations:
ONE - Orinda Network for Education • ASPCA • Seniors Around Town • LPIE • Lamorinda Adult Respite Center • Orinda Association
We wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season!

As we gather and celebrate this holiday season, we look back on the year with gratitude and deep appreciation for our clients, friends, neighbors & community.

We can’t thank you enough for your continued business and support. Succeeding expectations and helping our clients achieve their real estate goals is at the core of why we love what we do.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season!

Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives
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bi@brydonivesteam.com
DRE 01408025 | 01367466

BrydonIvesTeam.com
Lamorinda home sales recorded
... continued from Page D2

Moraga ... continued

48 La Salle Drive, $1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2187 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-05-21
59 Miramonte Drive, $885,000, 2 Bdrms, 927 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 09-29-21,
   Previous Sale: $565,000, 09-29-06
79 Sanders Ranch Road, $2,605,000, 4 Bdrms, 2839 SqFt,
   1988 YrBlt, 09-28-21, Previous Sale: $1,550,000, 08-25-08
104 Via Joaquin, $859,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 09-27-21,
   Previous Sale: $450,000, 11-01-02
116 Wallace Circle, $1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2317 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 10-05-21

ORINDA

165 Canon Drive, $2,135,000, 4 Bdrms, 2277 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 09-28-21,
   Previous Sale: $1,653,500, 07-31-18
82 Diablo View Drive, $2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 3137 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 09-30-21,
   Previous Sale: $715,000, 01-27-99
72 El Gavilan Road, $2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2213 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-08-21,
   Previous Sale: $1,425,000, 12-15-20
205 Glorieta Boulevard, $1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1524 SqFt,
   1951 YrBlt, 10-01-21, Previous Sale: $885,000, 08-14-17
127 Las Vegas Road, $2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2900 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 10-07-21
24 Loma Linda Court, $2,098,000, 3 Bdrms, 3394 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 09-28-21
172 Lombardy Lane, $1,710,000, 2 Bdrms, 1667 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 10-01-21,
   Previous Sale: $1,225,000, 10-18-19
10 Lucille Way, $1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 10-06-21,
   Previous Sale: $41,500, 09-01-90
50 Mira Loma Road #52, $1,525,000, 6 Bdrms, 3376 SqFt,
   1966 YrBlt, 10-06-21, Previous Sale: $1,819,500, 06-18-18
113 Overhill Road, $1,695,000, 3 Bdrms, 1348 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 10-05-21,
   Previous Sale: $800,000, 07-18-19
30 Owl Hill Road, $1,885,000, 3 Bdrms, 2217 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-06-21,
   Previous Sale: $895,000, 02-12-03
5 Valencia Road, $1,915,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-06-21,
   Previous Sale: $1,057,000, 07-13-04
300 Village View Court, $2,105,000, 2 Bdrms, 2465 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-08-21,
   Previous Sale: $2,020,000, 09-22-20
57 Windy Creek Way, $2,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 3643 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 09-29-21,
   Previous Sale: $2,282,000, 10-13-20
15 Woodland Road, $2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2177 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 10-07-21,
   Previous Sale: $1,175,000, 09-24-03

So Much to be Thankful For

Thanks to the support of my wonderful clients,
I have donated to the organizations below since
starting The Local Giving Project in 2020.

More info at: www.holcenberg.com/giving-back
Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Grateful gobbler

Hachiya and Fuyu persimmons are perfect holiday fruits.

... continued from Page D1

In 2018, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, over 10.5 million tons of yard trimmings were deposited in landfills, producing copious amounts of greenhouse gas.

Layering leaves in your landscape is also critical for wildlife habitat that benefits the ecosystem of thousands of different species. From earthworms, caterpillars, and pill bugs to toads, lizards and salamanders, leaf litters are alive with promise. Squirrels, birds, and yes, turkeys depend on layers of leaves as a food source during the winter months.

If you have a garden service, deter them from blowing leaves into the street where drains can be clogged and water quality in waterways can be compromised. Encourage these providers to create a pile of this organic material which will naturally break down to be used as free compost in your garden.

Since the downpour of the recent bomb cyclone and atmospheric river, mushrooms of many sorts have sprouted. It's tempting to want to harvest fungi for a delectable holiday recipe but unless one is an expert mycologist, it is wise to purchase mushrooms from a trusted source as many of the 11,000 species that grow in North America are poisonous and deadly.

... continued on Page D14
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466 Woodminster, Moraga
73 Brookwood Rd #43, Orinda
29 Crescent Dr, Orinda
4290 El Nido Ranch Rd, Orinda
25 Los Cerros, Orinda
9 Via Corte, Orinda
35 Underhill Rd, Orinda
859 Grayson Rd, Pleasant Hill
1767 Ruth Dr, Pleasant Hill
257 Kingston Way, Walnut Creek
1673 Poplar Dr, Walnut Creek
2009 Stewart Ave, Walnut Creek
2827 Fernside Blvd, Alameda
1411 Ridgewood Dr, Martinez
5325 Stonehurst Dr, Martinez
4337 Clarinbridge, Dublin

Thank you,
buyers and sellers in 2021

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It's Village. Of Course.
Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian
Grateful gobbler

Don't eat the mushrooms sprouting unless you are knowledgeable.
Pumpkins and gourds for Thanksgiving.
Abelia blooms brighten the garden.

... continued from Page D12

Persimmons, pumpkins, and squash supply part of the cornucopia of colorful edible produce that is healthy and delicious for any autumn feast. Fuyu persimmons sliced thinly add panache to fall salads and make crunchy, tasty snacks. Hachiya persimmons must be very soft, almost mushy, before they’ll release their sweetness. They are delicious as a fresh dessert or made into puddings, cakes, and breads. Pumpkins and squash are superfoods that will boost your immunity and increase your intake of vitamins and minerals including vitamin C, magnesium, vitamin B6, potassium, vitamin E, folate, fatty acids, and other micronutrients. Along with gourds, they also create stunning displays on your Thanksgiving table.

Although many people may disagree, I am grateful for the gobblers that grace my grounds. The wild turkeys eat fallen rotten fruit, fertilize the orchard with their excrement, and respond to my attempts to talk turkey. In other words, turkeys amuse me.

As I look out upon my fall garden, I am comforted by the tranquility, the colors of the vegetation, and the changing of the seasons. Mostly I am thankful to be alive and healthy and this year, have the ability to celebrate together as a family, along with the wild turkeys, deer, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, and other critters in our rural arena.

With the shopping season in full swing, give the gifts that keep on giving by purchasing any of my award-winning books from www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store. Proceeds benefit the literacy charity, Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3 and you’ll receive a plethora of additional gifts with every purchase.

Mark your calendars: Join 5 A Rent-a-Space and Be the Star You Are!® on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for free family fun at Santa Day. Enjoy hot cocoa and treats while kids write letters to Santa, take a free photo with Jolly St. Nick, and receive a tree ornament kit. Thanks to Mark Hoogs Team (www.TeamHoogs.com) at State Farm Insurance for sponsoring Be the Star You Are!® For more info visit www.BetheStarYouAre.org.

Wishing you a bountiful, healthy, and love-filled Thanksgiving. Celebrate a Gobbler Gratitude Day!

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Cynthia Brian in the autumn garden.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your winter garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia 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. Tune into Cynthia’s StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com.
Buy copies of her books, including Chicken Soup for the Gardener’s Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardner, and Be the Star You Are! www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.
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Happy Thanksgiving!

If you’re not too stuffed, there are plenty of homes to see this weekend.

It’s Village. Of course.