

Independent, locally owned and operated!

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Need to contact us? 925.377.0977

Delivered bi-weekly to all Lamorinda homes & businesses

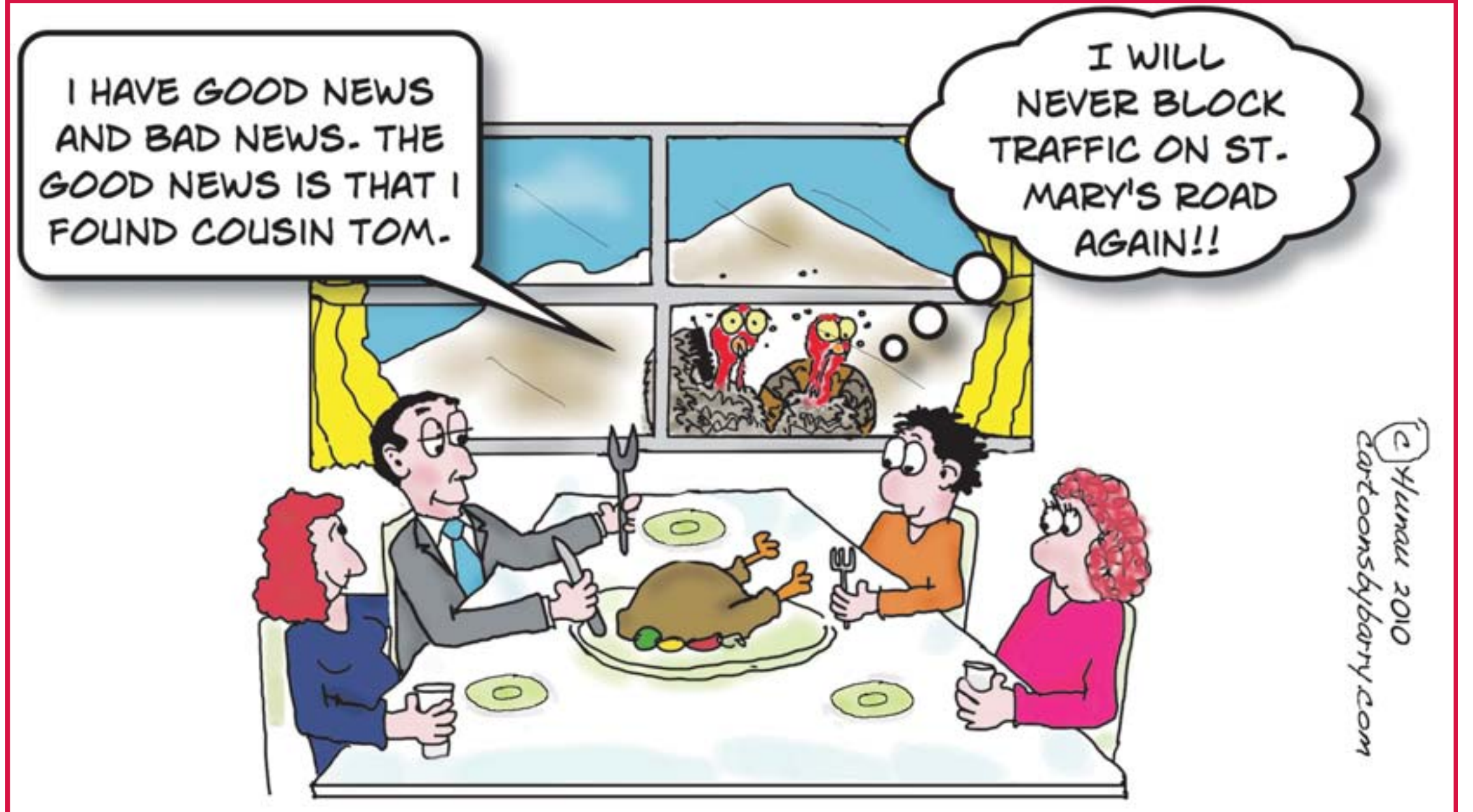
\$0.00

Volume 04 Issue 19

read it online: www.lamorindaweekly.com

925-377-0977

Wednesday, November 24, 2010



Happy Thanksgiving

Quote of the Week:
 "I DO love my Town and it is worth more than a dollar."
 Read Letters to the Editor, page A8.

Happy Thanksgiving, Lamorinda! In celebration of the 2010 holiday season, we've added a special holiday section that will run through December. This time, read Lou Fancher's Twisted Turkey Traditions on page H1 and find all sorts of fun and festive events in our holiday calendar on page H2.

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A7
Letters to the Editor	A8
Classified	A9
Business	A10
Not to be Missed	H2
Shop Moraga	H4
Life in Lamorinda	L1-L5
Service Directory	L2
Dining	L4
Sports	L6-L8
Schools	L8-L9
HOW TO CONTACT US	L9
Our Homes	OH1-8
This Week Read About:	
Lafayette Budget Battle	A2
Giving Thanks	A3
Here Comes \$Tree	A4
Election Final	A6
Letter from the Editor	H1
Doing Good in Cambodia	L2
New Directions for Grodin	L3
Squire Publisher Found!	L5
Girls' Hoops Preview	L6
Year-end Tax Planning	OH4

Advertising

THINKING OF SELLING IN 2011?
 Let us put your home in the spotlight!

The Olsen Team
 Sue, Ben & Lara (925) 253-2530
www.TheOlsenTeam.com

Village ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE

10 YEARS

It is never too early to begin planning. Call us today to set your course for success.

CA DRE# 00616156

Leaf Blower Ban Not Likely to Blow Over

By Andrea A. Firth

"This issue is not going away. The City Council has not heard the last of this," said Quiet Orinda organizer Jeff Segall a few days after the Council voted unanimously against banning leaf blower use in the City. "I was extremely disappointed by the outcome and process used by the Council," added Segall. Quiet Orinda founder Peter Kendall had a similar reaction. "A consummate disappointment, really a travesty. I sincerely hope the City isn't laboring under the misapprehension that we're 'going away,'" said Kendall.

At the November 16th City Council meeting, Quiet Orinda was given 15 minutes to present its rationale for a ban on leaf blower use in the city. Over 150 residents were on hand to listen as Segall and Kendall hurriedly flipped through dozens of slides outlining the noise nuisance and health risks they believe are posed by the widely used garden maintenance equipment.

Segall, whose wife and three-year old twins were also in the audience, explained that twice a week his family is forced to retreat indoors due to the noise and air pollution caused by the onslaught of mow and blow landscaping crews that move through his neighborhood. "We're here to restore calm and quiet in our neighborhoods," said Segall, citing Piedmont, Mill Valley, Carmel, Santa Monica, and Beverly Hill as cities that have already enacted leaf blower bans.

Kendall focused his comments on the health hazards associated with particulates—the microscopic particles of fecal matter, herbicides, and pesticides—made airborne by leaf blowers. "It used to be the noise that drove us to pursue leaf blower bans," said Kendall, "But it's the particulates that will kill us."

... continued on page A7

Campolindo Ladies Win NCS Volleyball Championship

Campolindo reclaims the prize for the first time since 2005; both Acalanes and Miramonte fall short

By Abby Klinkenberg



Photo Doug Kohen

The Campolindo girls' volleyball team won the NCS championship on Saturday, November 20 against Sir Francis Drake, 25-12, 25-13, 25-28; the first time since 2005. Miramonte and Acalanes reached the quarterfinals but fell to Moreau Catholic and Sir Francis Drake, respectively.

... continued on page L7

WomenSing in Lamorinda

By Lou Fancher



If there's magic in numbers, then 45 is the lucky draw for WomenSing, the 45 member Lafayette-based chorus celebrating its 45th anniversary season this year. In June, the choral ensemble received the 2010 national Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award for adventurous programming. The award is given to choruses that invigorate and...

... read on page L1

Miramonte Advances to Round Two



read on page L7

Mailed and delivered to 24,200 homes and businesses in Lamorinda.

return to: Lamorinda Weekly • P.O. Box 6133 • Moraga, CA 94570

PRRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID AD-VANTAGE

Civic News

Dana Green Lic. #01482454
Sarah E. Kellar Lic. #01805955

(925) 339-1918
DanaGreen@rockcliff.com
DanaGreenTeam.com

COMING SOON

Call for Details

2 Great Properties Coming in Early 2011!

#1 Lafayette Woodlands – Charming
2-story farmhouse never before on market!
4BD/3.5BA, 3125 sq. ft. on .92-acre lot

#2 Lafayette Woodlands – Private
split-level, oak-studded contemporary with pool!
4BD/3BA, 2937 sq. ft. on 1.03-acre lot

J. Rookoliff

Lafayette

- Public Meetings**
- City Council** Monday, December 13, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
 - Planning Commission** Monday, November 29, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
 - Design Review** Monday, December 13, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Lafayette: www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Chamber of Commerce: www.lafayettechamber.org

Police Report

Not Your Average Dog Sitter, 11/10/10
Lafayette Police responded to a burglar alarm on Sundale Road and discovered a 22-year-old El Sobrante woman inside the home. Although a 12" x 12" glass panel from a window was resting against the side wall of the home, the woman stated she was there to check on her aunt's sick dog. Police were not able to verify her intriguing story and discovered \$3,500 of stolen items nearby. The items were returned to the homeowner and the burglar was given a lift to the Martinez Detention Facility. Nice try.

How Badly Can One Need a Drink? 11/10/10
Lafayette Police arrested a Martinez woman for stealing \$102.65 worth of alcohol from Trader Joe's. The would-be thief quickly admitted to stealing the booze and a background check revealed she was already on probation. The police report didn't indicate what type of alcoholic beverage the woman was intent on enjoying but it's fun to envision the possibility that she had over two cases of "three buck

Stanley Teacher's Keys Found by Police 11/11/10
A group of kids gained access to Stanley during a school holiday using a missing set of teacher keys. The group was discovered and a 15-year-old Acalanes student ran from the scene and was later found at his home. The missing keys were discovered in the boy's backpack and he claimed responsibility for possessing them. The 15-year-old was taken to the Lafayette Police Department and released to his mother and the other kids were released to their parents at the school. The case was forwarded to Youth Diversion Services Officer Berch Parker for follow-up. Sounds like a little more parental supervision on days off could be in order...

Bar Fight at the Roundup 11/14/10
A Walnut Creek resident was arrested for battery when he caused serious bodily injury to an Oakley man during a fight at the Roundup. The victim lost consciousness after being punched and kicked by the Walnut Creek resident and another unidentified suspect. The victim was transported to John Muir Hospital for treatment and the thug was given a ride to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Budget Adjustments Weighed by City Council

By Cathy Tyson

Although for each of the last twenty years Lafayette proudly had a balanced budget, the second half of the current fiscal year and the trend for the next five years is not so rosy. Clearly not to the degree of the Federal and State budget woes – but Lafayette is projected to have a deficit of \$550,000. To maintain a balanced budget, cuts of this amount will need to be made from the General Fund.

"Tracy Robinson (Administrative Services Director) and I looked carefully at revenue and expenditures. Revenue is expected to grow at 2% and expenses to grow at 3% - this is just not sustainable," said City Manager Steven Falk. "We believe the City needs a course correction - with changes phased in between now and June of 2011."

With a reserve account balance of \$9.3 million dollars – the equivalent of 91% of the General Fund budget – the city is still in very good shape in case of earthquake, wildfire or flood. It seems like only yesterday, but in fiscal year 2009/2010 the budget had a surplus of \$219,000 that was added to the reserve fund.

The biggest piece of the annual budget pie, 44%, is spent on police services contracted from the County. It's no secret that there is a very large looming unfunded pension obligation for these officers; staff believes its "prudent" to assume that those costs will be passed through to Lafayette.

Although nothing has been decided, six opportunities for sav-

ings that would total \$550,000 were suggested to the City Council on November 8.

Two motorcycles are cheaper than one police dog and canine officer. It may sound harsh but, "the dog is at the end of its service life," according to a staff report. Because 73% of canine calls are outside the area, staff suggested two motorcycles could be purchased for existing police officers to better patrol the narrow, winding streets of Lafayette. This would produce ongoing annual savings of \$225,000.

No major new projects in town equal, potentially, no Community Development Director. This position could be replaced by a part time Special Projects Manager. This would save \$86,500.

Chamber proponents and business owners were not thrilled with the proposed elimination of city funded promotional expenses, for example banners and twinkle lights along with police and public works support of the Art & Wine Festival and the Reservoir Run. This could save the city \$80,000. "Nobody likes to see these gone, but it's hard to argue that twinkle lights are a core service of the city," said Falk. For the record, twinkle lights will be on this holiday season.

Changes to Planning staff could save \$60,000, stretching time between landscape trimming and clean up would save \$50,000. Higher use fees for ballfield users and recreation classes could save \$35,000 and miscellaneous administrative changes could save

\$11,000. These suggested changes equal \$547,500, very close to the target amount of \$550,000.

The final city budget will be presented at the December 13 City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the

Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Public input is always welcome. These staff suggestions could be accepted, rejected or adjusted at that time.

Chamber of Commerce Reacts to Proposed Budget Cuts

No sooner did city staff inform the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce of the proposed \$80,000 in reductions to city-funded promotional expenses, was the business community stung again by the announcement of a further decline in sales tax revenue. "Some of the city's support of the downtown climate and events is arguably not essential," says Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson, "but if sales are down, is it a good time to cut the funding? The city should respond to the sales tax downturn with more measures to stimulate the local economy, not fewer." Events such as the Art and Wine Festival and the Reservoir Run, which have received city support in the past, are good examples of the situation's complexity. According to Lifson, the amount of money contributed by the city is roughly equivalent to donations the Chamber makes each year to local schools and community groups from the event proceeds; funding cuts could mean an end to those donations. Lifson reported that the Chamber has received numerous letters opposing the reductions – the Lafayette Partners in Education voiced its concern, as did the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation; many small and large business owners, as well as residents, expressed worries not only about the loss of Chamber donations but also about compromising the city's dynamic image. Nevertheless, a solution must be found. Lifson said one of the city's suggestions is the creation of a Business Improvement District (BID), funded by a business tax, which would take charge of certain tasks currently managed by the Chamber. He does not support this idea, noting, "If we had a BID, for which businesses had to pay, it is likely that they would significantly reduce their support of the Chamber." The discussions between the city and the Chamber are ongoing. "There will be some trade-offs," said Lifson, "and we want to be part of the solution."
S.Braccini



Christmas CA\$H for your Holiday \$pending

Convert your unwanted and broken jewelry into CASH for the holidays!

Pleasant Hill Coin & Jewelry Exchange is your LOCAL and LEGAL option for turning gold into cash. We are buyers of gold, silver, and platinum in any form: broken chains, old rings, unfashionable earrings, coins, Rolex watches → turn it all into CASH TODAY! We also have a wide selection of jewelry ON SALE for the holidays.

Pleasant Hill Coin & Jewelry Exchange – a smart way to shop, a great way to sell!



Open:
Monday to Friday 10am - 6pm
Saturday 10am – 4pm



PLEASANT HILL
COIN & JEWELRY EXCHANGE

3264 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 - Off Hwy 680, next to BEST BUY

Tel: (925) 937 7877 www.coin-and-jewelry.com



Unlike fly-by-night operations that stop by in Bay Area hotels or gold parties or internet buyers or jewelry stores that have started buying gold, we are licensed and regulated by the State and Federal Governments with daily police oversight; we offer transparent transactions, weighing your gold on county-certified scales right in front of you; we pay local, state, and federal taxes and contribute to our local community, supporting community events and charities, employing locals, and spending our money in our local area. Pleasant Hill Coin & Jewelry Exchange has been family-owned and operated since 1997, with family experience in this business for more than 25 years.

License # 07090995



Ware Designs
Fine Jewelry since 1977

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

50% off
Watch Battery
Now \$5, Reg \$10
1 watch battery per person. Exp. 12/15/10. Usually installed while you wait. Wisconsin Residents apply.

Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

Please submit:
Letters and Opinions:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Dreaming About Golden Gate Way

By Cathy Tyson



A group of residents point out their suggestions for future development on large maps of the Golden Gate Way and Plaza Park area. Photo Cathy Tyson

A standing-room-only crowd of residents came together to chime in with their visions for the look and feel of the Golden Gate Way neighborhood twenty years in the future.

“Golden Gate Way could be like Rockridge or the Peal District of Portland, Oregon – it’s an amazing opportunity” opined one resident at the last workshop for the Revised Draft Downtown Specific Plan.

“This is your chance to dream about the future,” instructed Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Manager. She encouraged attendees to define the character of the area and make suggestions for improvement, giving attention to Lafayette Plaza and Plaza Way, The Park Theater, parking and natural features like the creek corridor. The area doesn’t seem like the thriving, pedestrian friendly, cultural and civic area on most residents wish lists at the moment. Containing a mish mash of apartments, the Library, auto body shop and convenience store and the usually empty Gazebo – a strategy to guide future growth could be a good thing.

Planning Commissioner Chair Tom Chastain defined the

Golden Gate Way area and the Shield block as real assets to the community. Both the Shield Block, named for its shape, bordered by Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Lafayette Circle and Golden Gate Way share a unique character and have potential for redevelopment that retains and enhances the spirit of Lafayette.

Four very large tables were set up in the Community Hall for business owners, property owners and concerned residents to add their two cents to often rambling conversations about the future plans for the area. Expanding the existing small Plaza Park at the corner of Mt. Diablo and Moraga Road to include what is now the 76 gas station, a recreation center and live-work lofts toward the gazebo were just some of the ideas discussed.

Lack of parking was a recurring theme of the evening that loomed large over most everyone’s “vision.” Complaints about parking in the area are real and justified. Srivatsa spelled it out: 1009 spaces should be available for parking, yet only 681 actual spaces exist.

While there was lots of neighborly brainstorming, not

everyone agreed on a preferred plan. One person commented that there was not a lot of character on Golden Gate Way right now; a tablemate said, “I totally disagree.” There was agreement however, regarding diversity of retail types and staying away from chain stores.

Greg Woehrl, one of a group of owners of the Park Theater, addressed the group, “Here we are again – parking, parking, parking. If the Theater reopened we would need 88 spaces – we have 10.” He has asked neighboring business if their parking lots were for sale – all said no. Inquiring at the 76-station, he learned that they just signed a 25-year lease. “We can’t do it alone,” he said.

According to Woehrl, “Until we solve the parking problem – there can be no development.” He urged the City to address the issue now. Looking for a way to make the Park Theater a vibrant hub of activity, Woehrl is open to suggestions; contact him at wirly3@aol.com.

Of the many suggestions bandied about only one table came up with something concrete. Table spokesperson Larry Blodgett reiterated that it’s all about parking, “Because this is a special district – it could have its own parking regulations. He described it as a carrot versus a stick approach that would include a multi-level parking structure between Mt. Diablo and Golden Gate Way.

For those interested in participating in the civic process, On December 1 there will be a workshop for the City’s Feasibility and Options Study of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway along the EBMUD Aqueduct right-of-way, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

“You are wonderful! I will definitely call you again. I will refer you friends, for sure.”
Megan-Moraga


Nerd4Rent has acquired DiaboloLink Communications and looks forward to serving Steve and Doug’s clients. Please call for your special introductory offer.

Nerd4Rent.com
990 Moraga Road, Ste B, Lafayette
(next door to Campana Music)

Offer applies to new Lamorinda clients only. Exp. December 15, 2010, w/ coupon only.

FREE ½ Hour Computer Service Call

schedule your appointment!
call (925) 283-5666



Computer Consulting & Training

Giving Thanks at Chamber Breakfast

By Cathy Tyson



Steve Falk received a standing ovation for his presentation on Lafayette Photo Andy Scheck

Although it was gray and drizzly outside, inside the cavernous meeting space at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, the at-

mosphere couldn’t have been more warm and inviting for the 31st Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast, sponsored by the

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

A bountiful crowd of dignitaries, Chamber members and friends enjoyed breakfast by Green Lantern Catering Co., words of wisdom by Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson and an impressive, heartfelt presentation accompanied by a clever slide show from City Manager Steven Falk, who should be Lafayette’s honorary poet laureate.

Reflecting on how Lafayette becomes a home, Falk asked at what moment was it clear that this is where you belong, “Was it perhaps when the hills go gold under azure skies in the summer?...Or enjoying the finest glazed donut in the land?” Adding personal experiences from prom paparazzi, watching his kids’ blossom at school and in the community, and making connections with neighbors, Falk clearly resonated with the audience. He encouraged all to, “Be conscious of the many treasures here.”

Lavande Gift Cards for the Holidays

Gift \$26
Signature Pedicure
Nail Care, Exfoliation, Massage, and Polish

Gift \$49
Massage Special
for 50min Swedish or Deep Tissue. Purchase of 2 required

Offers expires 2/28/2011

Voted “Best Of”
by Lamorinda Moms, San Jose Mercury News, Metro, San Francisco Magazine



3589 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette
925-299-8877
Open Daily 10am-7pm, except Thanksgiving, X’mas, and New Year Day

Manicure - Pedicure - Massage - Facial - Waxing

Christmas in November for Grant Recipients

By Cathy Tyson



From left, Nate Welcomer, Bob Athayde, Lucy Portnoff, Tom Carter (President of Generations in Jazz Foundation), and Lafayette Community Foundation Board Members Ann Denny, Teresa Gerringer, Anita Rama and Cheryl Noll. Photo Doug Kohen

The Lafayette Community Foundation recently awarded a generous grant to the Generations in Jazz Foundation that will be passed along to the Lafayette Summer Music Workshop (LSMW) for a shiny new keyboard, a drum set and amplification equipment.

“This gift makes us able to help other people. If you have it – share it – don’t hoard it. Students are motivated if they have good instruments to practice on,” said Bob Athayde, Stanley Middle School Music Director and LSMW Director. The items will be used for the week long Music Workshop in the summer, and then shared with schools in need during the off season.

This grant is just one of six awarded during the Lafayette Community Foundation’s (LCF) fall funding cycle. Other lucky recipients are: the Muir Heritage Land Trust, Town Hall Theater, the

Lafayette Art and Science Foundation, the Lamorinda Spirit Van and Las Trampas.

Supporting projects that promote and enhance the civic, cultural, educational and environmental health of Lafayette is what the Lafayette Community Foundation is all about. These recipients were chosen because they all, in different ways, do just that.

Grant requests are reviewed by the LCF’s Grants Committee, in the spring and fall. “We try to make the money work for the most people possible,” said Cheryl Noll, Grant Chair of the Lafayette Community Foundation.

“On behalf of everyone at Las Trampas, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lafayette Community Foundation for their generous grant in support of the AccessArt program for adults with developmental disabilities,” said Bonnie Peacock, De-

velopment Director. “AccessArt is an art program providing a supportive learning and work environment for people with developmental, physical and emotional disabilities.” Artwork ranges from the backdrop for a fashion show to watercolors to key chains and beyond.

Looking to encourage and sustain creative development and work skills so that clients are more fully able to function as active members of the community, this grant provides Las Trampas with materials and supplies for drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry photography and more. “This came in the nick of time,” said Ron Kilgore, Associate Director, adding that they are running low on almost everything.

For more information on the Foundation check their website at www.lafayettecommunityfoundation.org.

Lafayette Care Home

A Residential Care Home for the Elderly

Lafayette Care Home features six private rooms in a beautiful setting. We pride ourselves in giving personal and individual care. Currently, we have two rooms available. Please contact Linda at (925) 451-6456 to arrange a visit.

Testimonial from Marian M.
“Our mother has been with the Lafayette Care Home for over 3 years, and we are more than pleased with the loving care provided. We highly recommend this exceptional care home.”





Lafayette Care Home 3640 Baker Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549 (925) 451-6456 Lic # 075600841



INTRODUCING HUNTER DOUGLAS DESIGN STUDIO.™
CUSTOM. REDEFINED.™

ROMAN SHADES. CUSTOM STYLES, FABRICS AND COLORS. EASY TO SELECT, ORDER AND INSTALL.

HunterDouglas
DESIGN STUDIO™

©2010 Hunter Douglas.™ Trademark of Hunter Douglas.

BLINDMOBILE
a plum designs division

YOUR WINDOW COVERINGS SPECIALIST
DESIGNER QUALITY AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.

CALL US TODAY!
Free Home Consultations
925-935-2161
plumdesigns.hdspd.com

*Rebate offer valid for purchases made 9/25/10 – 12/15/10. Limitations and restrictions apply. Ask for details. ©2010 Hunter Douglas. ® and TM are trademarks of Hunter Douglas.


Civic News Moraga



Public Meetings	
Town Council	Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo
Planning Commission	Monday, December 6, 7:30 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Design Review	Monday, December 13, 7:00 pm Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd
Liaison	Friday, December 10, 8:00 am Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
 Town of Moraga online: www.moraga.ca.us
 Chamber of Commerce: www.moragachamber.org
 Moraga Citizens' Network: www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

• Police Report •



Very petty theft, 11/04/10 Sometime during the night, an unknown suspect entered an unlocked black BMW parked in a Camino Ricardo driveway and removed \$5.00 in change from the center console. No witnesses or leads at this time.

Bigger petty theft, 11/04/10 Also on Camino Ricardo, about a block down the street that very same night, an unknown suspect entered an unlocked Cadillac parked in the driveway and removed a set of keys, two garage door openers and the car registration card. Estimated loss \$80.

Yet another theft, 11/04/10 Same night, different street, same part of town. Someone broke into the unlocked trunk of a Miramonte Drive 1994 Mercedes Benz and removed several items – a subwoofer, a car stereo amplifier, a raincoat and sunglasses. Estimated loss \$390.

Fourth theft, is there a theme here? 11/04/10 Once again an unlocked car a few blocks away was broken into. A Courter Lane homeowner had her unlocked 2011 Mercedes Benz, parked in the driveway burgled – a garage door opener, leather binder and the car owner's manual (huh?) were taken. Estimated loss \$60.



MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION
 925-888-7045 • www.moraga.ca.us

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony 12/4, 6:30pm, Commons Park
Breakfast with Santa, 12/11, 8:30am and 10:00am, Hacienda
Santa Visits, 12/15-17, 6:30-8:30pm, in your home
Holiday Home Decorating Contest, sign up by 12/1



Is a Reverse Mortgage Right for You?

- Retirement Income | Government Insured | No payments
- Tax free proceeds | Pay off debt | Estate Planning
- Pay off existing mortgage | No income or credit documentation
- Limited time \$0 origination fee - \$6,000 savings
- Call for additional advantages and our free brochure!

Call today to see how much you can qualify for and additional details!

Sean Carroll
 Loan Officer
 925.275.3129
seanc@bankofcommercemortgage.com
 CA DRE # 01077654



Siggy's CARPET CLEANING
 (925) 283-8744

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
 We Pre-Spot, Scrub & Steam Clean Every Job

We Specialize In Carpet, Upholstery & Area Rug Cleaning
 Odor Control - Pet Urine Removal
 Oriental Rugs Flood Damage
 Tile & Stone Restoration
 Residential • Commercial

New High Powered Truck Mounted Equipment
 EPA Approved Method Licensed-Bonded-Insured

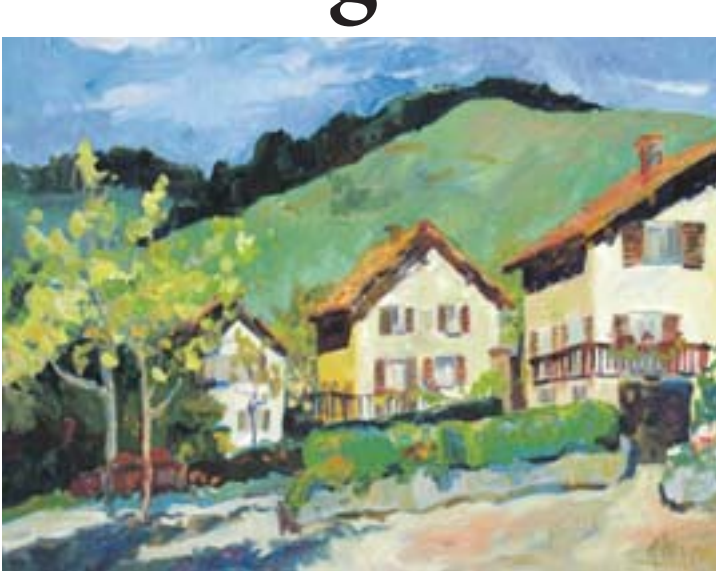
FALL SPECIAL 15% OFF



LAMORINDA'S FAVORITE FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS FOR OVER 36 YEARS
www.siggyscarpetcleaning.com
 3408 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette

[1924-2010]

Pam Glover Paintings




Swiss Cottage, Pam Glover

The Epperson Gallery
 1400 Pomona Street, Crockett
 Thursday - Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 510-787-2925
www.eppersongallery.com
 Gallery is 21 minutes from Lamorinda

During this time of Thanksgiving I would like to wish you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving Day, and a Holiday Season of Peace and Happiness. I am grateful to live and work in our beautiful community, and truly thankful for the opportunity to serve you.

www.JulieBarlier.com



Julie Barlier
 (925) 588-4300
jbarlier@rockcliff.com

J. Rockcliff REALTORS
 Extra Effort. Extraordinary Results.
 Bilingue anglais-français

The State of the Town

By Sophie Braccini



Ken Chew (on right) after his presentation Photo Andy Scheck

Moraga Mayor Ken Chew presented the customary State of the Town Address on November 17. Addressing a group of about 50 interested residents, he listed the highlights of 2010 – from the local government's perspective. In his usual relaxed, and sometimes even humorous, style he portrayed a town where all's well that ends

well, if not for unfunded infrastructure maintenance. Chew started with a series of slides listing the objectives, now accomplished, that he set when his term as mayor began a year ago. The most significant of these achievements are: a balanced budget; the completion of the Specific Plan; the transfer of the corporation yard out of the Hacienda de las Flores to the newly acquired building at 321 Rheem; the completion of the retrofit of the Town Hall at 329 Rheem; the agreement with the School District for the improvement of the sports field at Camino Pablo Elementary; the upgrading of the lighting assessment district through a popular vote; the completion of the Revenue Enhancement study and the subsequent appointment of a volunteer Economic Development Team, as well as the initiation of community outreach to determine whether or not residents would support additional taxes to fund infrastructure maintenance. The Mayor pointed out that the Town continues to be able to provide essential services to its residents in spite of the cuts that have been required in order to stay financially balanced. "The per capita spending for government in Moraga is \$376.09; it is \$444.55 in Lafayette and \$616.16 in Orinda." He attributed this result to the exceptional dedication of Town staff. Chew indicated that next year's priorities would be the implementation of the Specific Plan, community outreach to build a consensus regarding town finances, the budget, the conclusion of the Hetfield development project, and the support of local businesses. He concluded by naming all of the fun events that take place in Moraga every year, from Cinco de Mayo, to the 4th of July, the Pear Festival and the Oktoberfest (which is, the Mayor confided, his favorite). "Moraga continues to be a great place to play, learn, live and one day, grow old," said Chew.

Dollar Tree Approved – Shaping the Future of Rheem Center?

By Sophie Braccini

The members of the Moraga Town Council, regardless of their personal feelings about the coming of the Dollar Tree to the Rheem Center, all indicated that there is nothing in the Municipal Code that could be grounds to refuse the approval of the store's application. The decision made at the November 10 Council meeting will dedicate 9000 square feet of retail space to what is heralded as a discount variety store at the lowest end of the retail market. Dollar Tree will join other discounters in the Rheem Center such as Tuesday Morning, TJ Maxx and Home Goods. Details on the leasing contract were not revealed by the Center's owner, Kimco Realty, but it is likely that Rheem's image as a regional discount center will remain for a long period of time. A group of Moraga residents who appealed the decision of the Planning Commission to grant a permitted use application to the store put on a well-argued show for the Council on November 10. One of their arguments was that a store selling food items should be subject to the same permitting process ('conditional use' instead of 'permitted use') that must be followed by grocery stores and restaurants. Food items are a minimal percentage of the Dollar Tree's merchandise, no more than exists in a store such as CVS or the now-closed Blockbuster. "The classification of the Dollar Tree is general retail variety store, their sales of food items is incidental, representing 10% of the floor area" said Planning Director Lori Salamack, "They are not a food retailer or a restaurant. They do not require a conditional use permit." During the meeting, Council Member Dave Trotter asked that the 10% limit on food merchandise be further enforced by making that percentage a condition of approval. A majority of his colleagues agreed. The Council granted, in part, an appeal filed by Dollar Tree. Dollar Tree objected to a requirement limiting shelf height, which meant that it would be treated differently from other business in the shopping center. In addition to lifting that condition, staff recommended the elimination of the conditions of approval pertaining to signs as the applicant had already secured the necessary approvals from the Design Review Board (DRB). The DRB hearing was held on October 12, before the appeal process was complete. Trotter was the only one to declare that a Dollar Tree store has no place in Moraga, but added that "it is a permitted use; we regrettablely have to make the findings to approve it." He was unable to convince the Council that the store should be required to indemnify the Town with respect to any legal action associated with the approval. ... continued on next page

46 years of HVAC experience & serving the LaMorinda area for over 30 years

Save up to \$2,900 on a new Carrier System*

BILL INGRAHAM
 Air Conditioning - Heating
 3362 Dyer Drive • Lafayette, CA 94549
 925-283-1097
www.billingrahamairconditioningheating.com
 License# 472759

TUNE UP SPECIAL \$89
 (per system)
 Offer Expires 12/31/2010

CARRIER
 turn to the experts

* Federal tax credits of up to \$1,500 on qualifying Energy Star equipment. See your tax advisor for qualifications. Must be placed in service prior to 12/31/2010. WAC. ** Rebate savings range from \$50 to \$1,200 depending on equipment purchased. Expires 11/15/2010. See Bill Ingraham Air Conditioning - Heating for details.

Moraga Expands Recreation Programs

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Kim Burrowes, Jay Ingram and Kimberly Nelson at the Hacienda
Photo Sophie Braccini

When he presented his request to the Moraga Town Council for a second full-time employee, Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram argued that by increasing the currently half-time position to full-time, his department would be able to offer more interesting recreation opportunities to Moraga residents. As promised, the spring 2011 Activities Guide will offer many new opportunities for all ages, and supports a Town and Gown collaboration to further captivate and educate.

"Having Kim (Burrowes) work full-time has allowed us to im-

prove research and plan activities for our constituency," explains Ingram. The request for a full-time recreation assistant came first from the Moraga Movers, who had donated a Senior Van to the town, but needed to have someone available to plan the trips and drive the bus. This winter and spring there are a couple of trips planned each month; the Movers will go all over the Bay Area, from Filoli to San Francisco, Safari West, and Thunder Valley Casino. "If we had a volunteer driver, we could do even more," hints Ingram.

Children will also benefit from the expanded staffing. "For

the first time we are proposing winter and spring camps, and this summer we will have a new option – Summer Play for 8-12 years old, a new formula that's very affordable and flexible for parents." A full menu of birthday parties is also offered, and a children's Triathlon is in the planning phase.

Adults are not forgotten; classes include Supervised Bridge, which puts intermediate players in advanced strategy situations; dog obedience classes by Bonnie Brown-Cali, who was recommended by the Lamorinda Dogs group; Bringing Nutrition to the Table, an 8-week series on optimizing eating habits for the whole family; and more.

A new feature in the Activities Guide is the inclusion of Saint Mary's College's (SMC) Lifelong Learning classes. "Chris Sindt, Associate Dean for Graduate and Professional Programs, and I worked on expanding our program," said Grete Stenersen, Lifelong Learning Director, "we met with Rob Luchacher, who was on the School of Liberal Arts Advisory Board and Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission and he recommended we partner with Jay Ingram."

The program developed by the Saint Mary's team more than doubles the classes previously offered. "The ideas for the classes

came from many different angles," explains Stenersen, "for example, we created the Comparative Religions course after a resident called us and asked for it Stenersen said it was very easy to find professors and instructors who were willing to teach such classes as Cosmology, A Cosmic Voyage: A Sophisticate's Primer for the History of the World; Four Seasons Natural Gardening; The Philosophy of Wine; and Opera Appreciation.

Ingram included the SMC courses in the Parks and Rec publication at no cost to the college; the partnership makes it worthwhile. For example, "We needed a wood floor to teach our new spring Zumba class and the college has provided it for us, free of charge," said Ingram. The Town is working on a computer class that will take place at Saint Mary's; the college will also provide the instructor.

For now, Lifelong Learning is not turning a profit for SMC. "It is a window for the College," said Stenersen, "we want to open our doors wide to the surrounding communities. We believe that continuing education is part of the mission of the College, its Liberal Arts teaching and Lasallian Tradition."

The Activity Guide will be mailed 1st week of December.

Coming Soon: Film Festival – Help Needed!

By Sophie Braccini

And the winner is: Moraga. After months of speculation and discussion, the California Independent Film Festival has decided to take its show down the road and will move the event from Orinda to Moraga early next year.

The 13th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) will take place at the New Rheem Theatre, which is managed by the CAIFF Association, from January 28 - February 3, 2011. The week-

long event features 75 independent films from all over the world.

The Festival includes galas, showings, awards ceremonies and dinners; it always features celebrities who need to be attended to, and it is run by volunteers. On November 17, the CAIFF management team appealed to Moraga residents for help during its first local organizational meeting. They invited community groups to join in, contribute and share in the benefits that

they believe the town will derive from some two thousands visitors and increased visibility. Organizers say they hope to locate the Festival in Moraga for many years and turn it into the next Sundance.

CAIFF Vice President Joanne Foy is organizing the volunteers. "I have held almost all the positions on these committees," she said, "we know exactly what has to be done, all we need is more hands." Foy said that at this time CAIFF needs a

Transportation Chairperson and drivers, as well as a Hospitality Chairperson and volunteers to make gift baskets. "And there is always room for fundraisers, too," she adds.

Those interested in helping out may contact Foy at kaigogi@aol.com or (925) 200-0262. For learn more about the CAIFF go to www.caiff.org.; the organization is just beginning to post early information on the 2011 event, so check back for updates.

Dollar Tree Approved – Shaping the Future of Rheem Center?

... continued from page A4

Council Member Mike Metcalf said he 'groaned' when he heard about the store, because he did not anticipate a big spike in sales tax revenue with such a business. "The Dollar Tree store is pretty disgusting in Pleasant Hill, but really nice in other locations," he said, adding that whatever his opinion, he had to apply the Town's code.

Vice-Mayor Karen Mendonca said that she visited a Dollar Tree store in Healdsburg with her mother and found it to be "the Nordstrom of Dollar Tree stores." She reported her conversation with that store's manager and she presented it as "a story of hope," adding that every business must be

treated fairly and equitably.

Council Member Howard Harpham said that the arguments presented by the appellant were excellent, but that Dollar Tree could not be treated differently than the other stores in the Rheem Center. "We are tearing ourselves apart with these discussions," regretted Harpham, who pledged to work for what is the best for the town during the time he has left [on the Council].

Mayor Chew concluded that it was not the role of government to determine which business can come to a town or not. "We hope they will do well and be good for the town," said the Mayor.

Dollar Tree has one year from

the date of the approval to exercise the permit, otherwise it automatically expires. At press time Dollar Tree had not responded to questions regarding its appeal and plans for the Moraga store.

The large amount of vacant

retail space is a big thorn in the side of a town where 75% of each dollar spent by residents is spent out of town. Trotter concluded that the question of the future of the Rheem Center should be one of the Council's study areas next year.

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

It's no accident more people trust State Farm.

Mike Rosa, Agent
Insurance Lic. #: 0F45583
1042 Country Club Drive, Moraga
925-376-2244

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.®

P040036 02/04 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL

Is This Your Accounting System?

- How long would it take you to provide **financial statements** to your banker or potential landlord?
- Are your books **still** on Excel spreadsheet sheets?
- Do you only use **QuickBooks** for one side of your business: income or expenses?
- Are you **still** using a paper check register?
- Do you spend an **entire weekend** cleaning up last year's books to file your taxes?
- Do you always file an extension?
- Do you want to start 2011 **knowing your bookkeeping with be in order?**

A yes to any one of these questions means you need Optimum Accounting!

While Quickbooks can empower small businesses to become their own bookkeepers, they fail to mention that if **you need an accountant's mind to setup and manage it properly.**

You could be losing money in the form of uncollected accounts and tax breaks all because you think you are **saving money** by doing your own bookkeeping.

Fortunately, **Optimum Accounting** works with small busi- nesses that are ready to take their **bookkeeping seriously** and stop **losing** valuable time and money.

Optimum Accounting offers **bookkeeping clean-up services** that will get you on track for good. But, you need to hurry because once tax season begins you may need an extension filed to get caught up.

Mention this ad, and you will receive \$75 savings in your initial Bookkeeping Evaluation.

(925) 627-4260
21C Orinda Way, Suite 103, Orinda
www.OptimumAccounting.org

OPTIMUM ACCOUNTING

		Fall, Solid & Patterned Chenille Long Scarves By Axxents 75% NOW 8.99	Rosetti All Fall Handbags, Satchels & Totes NOW 19.99-34.99 40% SAVE NOW	Sag Harbor Handbags Entire Stock Of Fall 23.99 or Less! 50% NOW 23.99	
		Must Have! Fall, Mini Crossbody Organizers by Mundi 50% NOW 12.99		Rosetti Entire Stock Of Fall "Crossbody" Bags & Minis 50% NOW 19.99	
		Leggings Seamless, Stretch Knit By Contact Sizes S-XL 50% NOW 9.99		Ruby Rd. Entire Stock Of Fall Fashion Bags 40% SAVE NOW	
Mundi Fall Clutches, Wallets Indexers And More! 70% NOW 6.99	All Fleece Hat/Glove Scarf Sets 3 Pc. Sets Just 8.99! 75% NOW 8.99	Kenneth Cole 3 pc. Cosmetic Overnighter Gift Sets Reg. 38.00 50% NOW 18.99	Rich Floral & Patterned Long, Velvet Scarves by Tans Orig. 40.00 50% NOW 19.99	Cashmink Plaid & Print Fall Scarves By V. Fraas Reg. 40.00 50% NOW 19.99	All Chenille Gloves by Axxents 8 Fall Colors Reg. 16.00 75% NOW 3.99

9 Bay Area Stores to serve you!

LAFAYETTE Plaza Center (925) 283-3380	DANVILLE Town and Country (925) 837-0261	MONTCLAIR 6211 Medau Pl. Oakland (510) 339-2210
--	---	--

ORINDA Village Square (925) 254-3448	MORAGA Moraga Center (925) 376-7252	WALNUT CREEK Countrywood Center (925) 935-9300
CONCORD Vineyard Center (925) 827-0330	SONOMA Marketplace Center (707) 996-4465	NAPA Napa Town Center (707) 255-9375

Civic News

Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council Tuesday, December 7, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way
Special Meeting Monday, November 30, 7:00 pm

Planning Commission Tuesday, November 30, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Orinda: www.cityoforinda.org
Chamber of Commerce: www.orindachamber.org

• Police Report •



heard, however one neighbor had an encounter with a "suspicious subject" that day.

Thwarted car theft, 11/03/10 A Las Vega Road resident called police to report that a pick up truck had been stolen from in front of his house. Alert officers responding to the call ended up driving behind the vehicle and caught the two would-be thieves.

D.U.I., 11/17/10 A woman made an illegal u-turn at Camino Pablo near Santa Maria Way. She should have known she was just a few blocks from the police station. Flunking her field sobriety test sealed the deal; she had a whopping .29 blood alcohol content. That is very intoxicated – although it probably didn't take much for the 5' 2", 94- pound woman to become el blotto.

D.U.I. 11/09/10 Around midnight a driver near Camino Pablo and Highway 24 was pulled over for not staying in her lane. She was already on probation for, you guessed it, D.U.I. Her blood alcohol content was .11, slightly over the legal limit. But close only counts in horse shoes, and she was taken to jail.

Expensive burglary, 11/3/10 An unknown suspect entered through an unlocked window of a Via Florida home and took undisclosed valuables estimated to be worth \$22,000. Nothing was seen or



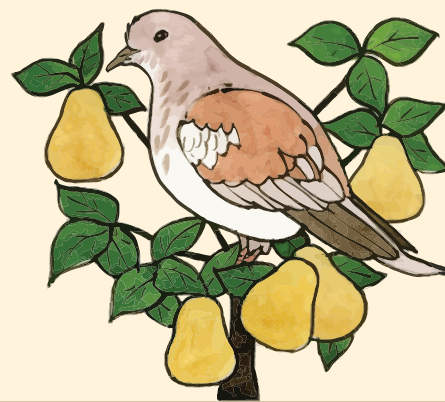
Peter & Darlene Hattersley



DRE# r00445794, DRE# 01181995

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah to our Friends, Neighbors and Clients.

We Thank You for your Referrals and Support.



925.360.9588 925.708.9515 WWW.THEHATTERSLEYS.COM

Orinda City Council and OUSD Board Elections Results Hold True

By Andrea A. Firth



Pictured on election night 2010 (from L to R) are the Seversons: Pam, Chris, Ralph, and Sue. Chris Severson was elected to his first term on the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees. Chris' mom, Sue Severson, was reelected to her second term on the City Council the same night. Photo Robyn Bowen

Election night results held true in both the Orinda City Council and Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Governing Board races. With over 20,000 votes now

over fourth and fifth place finishers Scott Zeller and current Mayor Tom McCormick.

Although the Contra Costa County Elections Department has until November 30th to tally any remaining uncounted ballots, it seems unlikely the overall results will change. However, any change to the order the candidates fall within the top three spots could impact who serves as Mayor during the four-year term. While the Council votes each year to appoint the Mayor and Vice Mayor, the posts are traditionally given to the Council members who garnered the most votes in the election. Thus the candidates placing first and second in the 2010 election would typically serve as Mayor in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

Currently, Worth leads the group with more than 1,000 votes over the other two candidates. Orr,

who is now in second place, maintains a narrow 10-vote margin over incumbent Severson. Worth, Orr, and Severson will be sworn in at the Council's December 7th meeting, and the Council will determine the Mayor for 2011 at that time. Victoria Smith currently serves as Vice Mayor.

The outcome of the race for three seats on the OUSD Board of Trustees has also remained unchanged. With over 18,000 now counted Julie Rossiter, Chris Severson, and Tyson Krumholz remain in the top three spots.

The election results reported in this article are current as of November 19th, 2010. Any change in the election outcome will be reported online, go to www.lamorindaweekly.com for updates.

No Left on Ivy—Unintended Consequences

TSAC proposes no-left at Southwaite and Leslee too

By Andrea A. Firth

It's a 30-minute headache for the multitude of drivers who make the trek south on Moraga Way each weekday morning throughout the school year. Between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., dozens of mothers in vans on the way to Del Rey Elementary School are co-mingled with hundreds of parents and teens driving to Miramonte High School. With so many cars traversing the same two-lane road at the same time, traffic is congested; not surprisingly, some drivers look for an alternate route—and that route is Ivy Drive.

Drivers heading south on weekdays can not legally turn left at Ivy Drive between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. which cuts off their access to taking the Ivy Drive loop to cross Moraga Way further south at the entrance of the high school. To circumvent the no-left turn restric-

tion, many drivers heading to Miramonte now turn right on Ivy Drive by making a U-turn, often illegally, across from Southwaite Court or Leslee Lane, or by turning onto these streets, making a T-turn in a nearby driveway, to then head north a short distance on Moraga Way in order to turn right onto Ivy Drive.

"The law of unintended consequences, that's what we have here," said Southwaite Court resident Chris Holton as he addressed the members of Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) about his concerns over the unsafe conditions posed by the traffic situation. "The problem has been around for about five years," said Holton of the ripple effect caused by the no-left turn sign at Ivy Drive.

According to City Engineer

Janice Carey, the no left turn on Ivy Drive was established in 2000 and renewed in 2002, which preceded both her tenure and the formation of the TSAC.

"We have as many as 150 cars turn around at our corner on school mornings," said Holton. Although he conceded that further restricting left turns off Moraga Way is not the ideal solution, he implored the TSAC members to add no-left turn signs at Southwaite Court and Leslee Lane to provide his neighborhood some immediate relief. "The real problem is too much traffic on Moraga Way at that time of day," said Holton, "It's unsafe."


While they acknowledged it is a band-aid fix versus a solution to a much bigger traffic issue, the members of the TSAC voted unanimously to support the additional

signage. As proposed, the no-left turn restriction will be confined to the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. on weekdays. TSAC member Gary Moore added that the committee needed to evaluate the bigger picture and explore alternatives, such as taking down the no left turn sign at Ivy Drive, adding a traffic signal at that spot, or staggering school start times.

According to Carey, the City will now poll the residents of Southwaite Court and Leslee Lane by mail to see if they support the signage. At least 60% of the neighborhood residents must be in support for request to move forward. Subsequently, TSAC will review the poll results and potentially make a recommendation to City Council early in 2010. It is unlikely that signs would be up before April, noted Carey.

Orinda Downtown Visioning Workshop #2 Set for December 9th

A public workshop to discuss ideas for development in Orinda's downtown commercial districts will be held on Thursday, December 9th starting at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. Residents' input from the initial workshop held in late October has been synthesized and analyzed and will be incorporated into this next phase of the process. Urban planning consultants from Berkeley-based MIG will facilitate the workshop. The focus of the town hall style meeting is to create an open and collaborative vision for downtown Orinda that can be embraced by residents, and business and property owners. All are encouraged to attend. A. Firth



CANETTI'S BOOKSHOP
USED & NEW BOOKS
ALWAYS DISCOUNTED!
OPEN EVERY DAY 10:00am - 7:00pm
925.258.9076
39 MORAGA WAY
ORINDA 94563
(DOWNTOWN AT THE CROSSROADS)
"ORINDA'S HIDDEN GEM"
--DIABLO MAGAZINE

Certified Green Builder



McCartt Construction Inc.
Custom Homes & Renovations
Building in Lamorinda Since 1999
(925) 376-5717
mccarttconstruction@msn.com
Orinda, CA
Lic. # 770687

"As seen on" HGTV HOME & GARDEN TELEVISION. Imagine what you can do!
"As heard on HG Radio" HGRadio
Build It GREEN

COLDWELL BANKER
californiamoves.com



Giving Thanks

Coldwell Banker thanks you for your continued loyalty, goodwill and support. We wish you a joyous holiday season.

Whether it is helping you with your real estate needs or building homes and hope in our community, you can depend on Coldwell Banker, Lamorinda and the Bay Area's real estate leader.

5 Moraga Way | Orinda | 925.253.4600 • 2 Theatre Square, Suite 211 | Orinda | 925.253.6300



Leaf Blower Ban Not Likely to Blow Over

... continued from page A1

The Council then listened for two hours as over 40 residents shared disparate views on the idea of banning leaf blowers. Eighteen residents and supporters echoed Quiet Orinda's call to restore tranquility and cleaner air to Orinda through a ban on leaf blowers, while 23 residents argued against the ban citing the impracticality of managing the maintenance of large lots populated with dozens of deciduous trees with rakes and brooms.

Some residents identified the ban on leaf blowers as a slippery slope. "What about barking dogs, wood chippers, cars, and

trucks," said Alan Prager. "I don't propose that we ban these things." Others challenged the validity of the anti-leaf blower data and what they consider to be inappropriate comparisons to other cities that have enacted bans.

"I think we have heard the gamut tonight from the public," said Vice Mayor Victoria Smith, noting that she believes the City's current noise ordinance adequately addresses that element of leaf blower use. Regarding the air quality issue raised, Smith suggested that one way to engage the public was through education and encouraged Quiet Orinda sup-

porters to pursue this through the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

"My sense is that there is not a clear community consensus here," said Council Member Steve Glazer. He did not see a need to revise the current noise ordinance, but Glazer indicated that he would be interested in looking at some alternatives to a complete ban on leaf blower use.

Ultimately the Council did not find sufficient consensus for an outright leaf blower ban, and Mayor Tom McCormick declared, "This matter is now closed."

Wishing all of my clients, friends and neighbors a bountiful Thanksgiving and joyful holidays!

Frank Woodward



Specializing in
Lamorinda Fine
Homes & Property



925.253.4603

Frank@FrankWoodward.com

Orinda • Lafayette • Moraga

OWC Festival of Trees a Success

By Andrea A. Firth



The Orinda Woman's Club 24th annual Festival Of Trees included lunch for 500 and a fashion show.

Photo Doug Kohen

Almost 500 women attended the Orinda Woman's Club (OWC) 24th annual Festival of Trees event held at the San Ramon Marriott on November 18th.

"We don't miss this event, it's so beautifully done," said Pat Stull of Lafayette. Stull has attended the charity event since it was started and invited three tables full of friends and associates to join her this year. "I have a real affection for the Orinda Woman's Club. I admire their work and am inspired by what they do."

Arlene Hegarty of Orinda has attended the OWC lunch for the past ten years and finds it a great event at which to reconnect with friends. Her longtime friend, Ronnie Devenish, comes down from Tahoe annually to join her.

After an hour of meeting, greeting, and perusing the trees, wreaths, gift baskets, and getaway packages that comprise the event raffle, guests enjoyed a lunch of chicken and tabouleh salad followed by a fashion show featuring the ladies clothing designs of Helen Lyall of Napa and men's fashions by Bartlett Baron of Walnut Creek. Strutting to the songs of Lady GaGa and Beyonce, Lyall's professional models were joined by six members of the Village Associates Real Estate team, a major benefactor of the event.

The charity event typically raises about \$30,000. The 2010 major beneficiaries are the Monument Crisis Center, which provides food and public services to families and individuals in need

throughout Contra Costa County, and Court Appointed Special Advocates, which advocates for abused and neglected youth. The Orinda Woman's Club will also

award a number of individual educational scholarships to improve the lives of women and families.



This vintage Orinda sign has found a new resting place in the community garden at the junction of Camino Sobrante and Orinda Way across from Orinda Motors—check it out. Photo A. Firth

LAFAYETTE PHYSICAL THERAPY

Welcomes Home



Lauren Masi, PT, OCS, ATC

Lauren was a graduate of Acalanes High School who went on to receive a Physiological Science degree from UCLA and her degree in Physical Therapy from CSUN. She also received additional certification in Athletic Training and the esteemed certification of Orthopedic Clinical Specialist in Physical Therapy. Lafayette Physical Therapy, Inc. is proud to welcome her back to our professional team and the Lamorinda community.



LAFAYETTE PHYSICAL THERAPY, INC.

3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite B110,
Lafayette, CA 94549
925-284-6150
www.LafayettePT.com

5A RENT-A-SPACE HAS:

- THE BEST PRICES IN TOWN,
- THE BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE,
- OVER 45 BENEFITS, PLUS
- **SOLUTIONS FOR STORAGE PROBLEMS!**

You've got problems; "Too Much Stuff!"

We've got a solution; "Storage!"



We've got "Benefits & Superior Service!"

You've got a "Happier, Organized Life!"

AT 5A, WE KNOW TIMES ARE TOUGH, AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO SAVE WHERE EVER POSSIBLE. TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR STORAGE DECISIONS, WE'VE LOWERED A LARGE NUMBER OF OUR STORAGE UNIT PRICES, MANY ARE PRICED LOWER THAN ANYBODY ELSE IN THE LAMORINDA AREA.

VISIT OUR FACILITY, OR OUR WEBSITE, AND FIND OUT ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT "5A'S SUPERIOR STORAGE EXPERIENCE" AND NEW LOWER PRICES! WHEN YOU VISIT US AT 5A, WE'LL GIVE YOU A FREE TERZETTO'S RESTAURANT CARD.



USE OUR FREE VAN TO MOVE IN!



925-631-7000
WWW.5ASPACE.COM

* A LARGE NUMBER OF UNITS IN MANY SIZE CATEGORIES NOW WITH LOWER PRICES, CALL FOR ALL DETAILS

Should your family follow you to Cal?



Of course. Every time they need an eye exam. The University of California Eye Center is an integral part of the top-rated UC School of Optometry, and we're here to offer you complete vision care for your kids, for you, and for your parents. We're also the ones to see for LASIK surgery and contact lenses. (Our Eyewear Center has all the big names in frames!) We take most insurance plans, and major credit cards. When it comes to your eyes, go Cal!



Open to the Public 7 Days a Week • www.caleyecare.com
510.642.2020 • Free Parking with Appointments

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

Lamorinda's Religious Services



St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephenorinda.org



Sunday 8am & 10am.
Music at both services. Choir at 10am.
Sunday School & childcare at 10am.

St. Stephen's Preschool
254-3770 x19

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

Active Youth Program, Sunday School, Nursery Childcare, 10 AM
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

Get connected.

Grow in your faith.
Serve others.



Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
Sunday Worship 9 & 11:00 a.m.
Programs for children & youth

49 Knox Drive | Lafayette | www.LOPC.org | 925-283-8722

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

Why Christmas Matters

Sundays at 9am & 10:30am

Make an Advent wreath with your family
on Nov. 28th between services.

10 Moraga Valley Ln., Moraga, CA • mvpctoday.org • 925.376.4800

St. Giles Episcopal Church of Moraga

Worshipping at St. Mary's College Chapel. All are welcome at our services.

9 a.m. Sunday Service: Holy Communion - with St. Giles' Choir.
Child care is available all year.

1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. 925-376-5770

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way, Orinda (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 am- 5 pm
(across from the Orinda Theater)

www.christianscienceorinda.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way Orinda



Regular Worship Schedule
8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

925-254-3422

Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA)

1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

283-3722 • www.oslc.net

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:30 Classic worship service
9:45 God's World Education Hour
10:45 Contemporary Service

**ADVENT
FESTIVAL
Crafts & Fun
for All Ages!**
**Sun Nov 28
11:45-2:00**

THE ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

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

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.



Sundays at
10:30 am

A NEW, non-denominational Christian church
Veterans Memorial Building 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

www.refugecommunity.org
925-942-1000



Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



Editor,

I love my Town. I live in a Town where Eagle Scouts build fences, Girl Scouts develop safety programs and churches build houses in Mexico. I live in a Town where moms make dinners for other mom's after babies or surgeries or during difficult times. I live in a Town where the opposing soccer coach carries my injured daughter to the car and another stops by our house to check on her. I live in a community where my child's beloved "blankie" was found at a large sporting event and carefully set aside amid the thousands of people coming and going during the events of the day. I live in a Town that wants to protect its natural beauty and ridgelines.

Sadly, I also live in a Town that will allow a retailer like Dollar Tree to exist: a store that only contributes to the overflow of landfills with junk and diminishes the integrity of our community. The Dollar Tree is a contradiction to the culture of our Town. We show such care and respect for our neighbors and community, yet will support a business that willfully adds to the deterioration of our planet and contributes to chemically related health risks.

Aside from the potential environmental risks of Dollar Tree products, there is a danger to our children's sense of value. Our children should understand what a "value" is. It is not getting something for \$1.00 that they don't need. A value is getting the best possible quality at the best possible price. A retailer should have integrity when presenting a "value." The Dollar Tree sells merchandise of poor and often dangerous quality. Are we teaching our kids that if something is "only a \$1.00" you should buy it? Children should know that \$1.00 is not disposable. It has value, should be earned, saved and spent on something planned. The Dollar Tree is counting on our community to spend thousands of dollars on impulse buys because "hey, it's only a buck." Don't we have more pride? Let's get back to the core of what makes this Town great: honesty, integrity and authenticity.

I DO love my Town and it is worth more than a dollar.

Lucy Dendinger
Moraga

Editor:

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who immediately came forward to offer help last month after I tumbled from my bike on School Street while taking my granddaughter to Lafayette Elementary School. "Thank you!" to wonderful neighbors who made sure that Lydia got to school on time and who took her home after school that day. A special thanks to the good samaritan who secured my bike and who insisted on staying with me until the ambulance arrived. As I sit at home recovering from surgery to repair a fractured knee it is a good feeling to know that when a crisis occurs Lafayette residents can be counted on for meaningful assistance.

With appreciation,
Louise Morgan
Lafayette

Editor:

As the spokesperson for the Dollar Tree appeal group, I want to publicly thank our appellant team Lynn Davis, Kathy Macchi, Stephanie Kusinski, and Cavan McCarthy for their herculean efforts and sincere friendship. I also want to thank the hundreds of Moragans who spoke at Planning Commission and Town Council meetings, signed our petition, participated in our blog, wrote letters and emails to the Town and local newspapers, and called and emailed us personally to voice their concern and support for our appeal. I was so impressed and proud of my fellow Morgans who spoke so thoughtfully and eloquently about how much this town and our families mean to all of us, and our concerns for its future direction.

What started out as a troubling addition to the Rheem Center four months ago, turned into a full time job for a group of already busy supermoms. We frantically researched the business practices of a multi national, five billion dollar corporation, combed through countless product standards and consumer protection regulations, navigated local politics, actually studied the Moraga General Plan and the Municipal Code, and wrote and presented statements and briefs for Planning Commissioners and Town Council Members. The more we investigated Dollar Tree, the more egregious violations surfaced and that our Municipal Code left our Planning Commission powerless to stop them. Consistently ranked by Forbes Magazine in the top 10 of the "World's Most Least Desirable Retailers", we now understood why. Dollar Tree's current business model of warehouse merchandising, short cuts in quality, flagrant safety noncompliance and violating Federal and State regulations, separate them from all other retailers - and by the way, it's NOT a bargain, but a rip off and we have the numbers to prove it!

We gave the Town Council a hefty dose of evidence on product safety violations, and proof that the Dollar Tree is non-compliant with our General Plan and Municipal Codes - unfortunately it fell on deaf ears. And as disappointed as we now feel, we are encouraged that our new Town Manager, Jill Keimach has invited us to share what we have learned while fostering more community involvement in the process. Hopefully we can be a part of positive change that will ensure the quality of Moraga retailers to come; after all we are so very fortunate to live in this wonderful community.

Hollie Lucas-Alcalay
Moraga

Editor,

At the risk of repeating myself, I must write once again to explain why it is NOT TRUE that Orinda is subsidizing Moraga's fire services. It pains me to even discuss whether or not one city is subsidizing the other since we are all ONE district. But, if you want to analyze the tax revenue contributions of one area compared to another, it is necessary to begin with correct assumptions in order to reach an accurate conclusion.

Historically, the old Moraga Fire District included 700 Orinda homes. Our city boundaries are not the same as the old fire district boundaries and, in fact, both the Moraga and the Orinda Fire Districts pre-dated the incorporation of either city. MOFD operations today utilize the same "service areas" as the old fire districts - in other words, the service areas are the same as the old fire district boundaries. MOFD operates according to these service area boundaries because our five fire stations were located decades ago using response time guidelines which are still relevant today. Logically then, any analysis of tax revenues must use the service area boundaries, not the city limits to reach an accurate conclusion. While I admire Steve Cohn's detailed analysis of the number of responses from Orinda into Moraga and vice versa, and how much money the City of Orinda pays versus the Town of Moraga, the fact is that all of these numbers are meaningless and irrelevant because they are based on city boundaries. If you do the calculations based on service areas instead of city limits, it becomes clear that Orinda is NOT subsidizing Moraga.

Ellen Dale
Orinda

Editor:

An accident waiting to happen.

Everyone was thrilled when the new Veteran's Memorial Building on Lafayette Blvd was completed. It's a smartly designed community focal point and an asset to the area. However, it has inadequate parking facilities for its attendees, and it is not uncommon for cars to overflow onto the private driveways in the vicinity. When leaving the business at the Oak Hill Office complex on Oct. 26 there were cars parked on both sides of the steep, unlit, private drive to the complex and the narrow passage was filled with pedestrians navigating their way to their vehicles in the dark. The conditions were very unsafe and literally an 'accident waiting to happen'.

The veterans building should take responsibility for directing visitors where to park when lots are full, and shouldn't compromise its positive position in

the community by allowing unnecessary risks to occur.

Heidi Perryman, Ph.D.

Erika Goldstein, Ph.D.

Lafayette

Dear Editor,

With Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season upon us, it is a wonderful time to reflect upon all that is good within our community. The recent Women's Empowerment Forum held at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center was a perfect example of giving and sharing.

Leading business women in the area shared their experiences of transitions within their businesses, organizations and their personal lives. The panelists included: D.D. Felton, Susan Goldie, Susan Foord, Leila Douglass, Theresa Wellen, Kathy Bowles, Debbie Swiggert, Connie Collier, Sheila Taylor, Anne Grodin and Melody Howe Weintraub.

Kathy Merchant of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation welcomed everyone and invited all to upcoming programs provided by the Library and Learning Center. She then introduced the moderator, Heather Quarterman, news Director and Co-host of the Hometown Morning Show on 92.1 KKDV and 101.7 KKIQ. Heather did a superb job of creating a lively and upbeat atmosphere for the audience and panelists. The main themes that resonated within the panelists and audience were; to do what you love, work hard, and the importance of volunteering within your own community.

The over 160 guests were invited to visit the following resource tables: Brandman University, Pink Purse Ventures, LLC, East Bay Works One Stop Career Center and Successful Solutions Consulting.

A special thank you to the following who contributed to the success of the event: Tea Cakes, Willowstone Catering, La Boulange de Lafayette, Bookmark Café, Amarin Thai, Mangia, Lamorinda Weekly, Skin Care by Timberly, The Bistro at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa, Jamba Juice, iVideo Media Productions, Deborah Kwan, Susan Sohrakoff, Timberly Scott, The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, Serendipity Jewelry and Caryl Morrison of Successful Solutions Consulting.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who came and participated at our first Empowerment of Women's Forum.

Sincerely,
Barbara Gilmore
Lafayette

Editor:

Huge welcome, not, to the Dollar Tree. I was going to get creative and suggest a possible retail establishment for the remaining majority of empty spaces, but laziness got in the way. However, I can now see the Town Council's wisdom and how we and that wonderful realty company can fill the vacancies. We certainly need at least 2 more dry cleaners and additional fume-spewing manicure/pedicure establishments, but we are sorely lacking a massage parlor, pawn shop, and many more fast food establishments. By the way, has anyone visited our local BK lately? It had been a while for me, but it is filthier than ever. That play room has always been gross, but it has reached a new high.

Anyway, I still love Moraga, but who, exactly, is getting the word out about our lovely family community that might be better served by an IHOP (seriously), a clean, sit-down pizza restaurant (like Pennini's), etc? Anyway, nothing is allowed to survive here that comes close to a "nice place" because the goal is to vacate the premises for shootholes like Dollar Tree.

Jari Hazard
Moraga

Editor:

We Won! and It's Not Over.

Over the past few weeks, I have received hundreds of calls, letters and email from supporters who are both shocked and distraught over the outcome of the November 2 Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees election.

However, to my mind - we have won! The entire purpose of my candidacy was to shed light on the existing practices of the Board and the District - from the tradition of giving bonuses to the Superintendent while laying off teachers and taking money from classrooms, to the top-down style of management, unresponsive to parent, teacher and community opinion.

The wagon trains circled, and prominent "insiders" demonstrated their willingness to commit libel/slander, ad hominem attacks and more in order to maintain the status quo and continue the institution of a 'self-perpetuating', hand picked School Board. But the genie is out of the bottle - and it is now our responsibility to keep the momentum going and encourage the new Board to increase transparency, be responsive to parent, teacher and community opinion, promote fiscal integrity and advance 21st Century student skills and project-based learning. To read about last month's meeting (or to watch it in case you were not able to attend) visit my new blog "The Orinda Schools Report Card" - www.bekkgilbert.com. (One particularly hot agenda item was the "Revised OUSD Management Salary Schedule" - Central Management salaries increased by almost 50% from 2005-2010 from a 6 figure base).

The next OUSD Board meeting is on Monday, December 6, 2010, 4pm, 8 Altarinda Road.

See you there!

Thank you,
Bekki Van Voorhis-Gilbert
Orinda

Editor:

I was honored to receive the support of the community, and the confidence of the voters in being re-elected to the Orinda City Council. It is with sincere gratitude that I thank my many endorsers and supporters. I look forward to continuing to serve the community, and plan to work closely with you as citizens and with the new council to make Orinda an even better place to live.

Sue Severson
Orinda

Editor:

Wasting money has become the hallmark of the Orinda Union School District (OUSD).

OUSD's superintendent, Joe Jaconette, in commenting on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2010-2011 education budget, said on the district's Web site: "A preliminary analysis of our [OUSD's] budget for next year [2010-2011] projects a deficit of \$678,000." Jaconette's comments, while undated, can be found at www.ousd.schoolwires.com.

Despite a difficult economic environment, OUSD's current Schedule of Management Salaries shows, for 2010-2011, proposed salary increases for the district's Superintendent (Mr. Jaconette), the Business Director, and the Curriculum Director.

These three positions received salaries of \$513,000 in 2007-2008 school year. But, for the 2010-2011 school year, the projected salaries jump to \$562,000 - an increase of almost \$50,000. This increase could be used to hire new teachers or cut property taxes.

Increasing district salaries during bad economic times is intolerable. A Web search of local real estate shows that 48 Orinda properties, between May and November 2010, are in foreclosure. Moreover, California's current rate of unemployment of 12.4 percent has not been this high since 1940.

The Board of Trustees of OUSD should eliminate all salary increases. If the board fails to act responsibly with money, then the board should resign.

Richard S. Colman
Orinda

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Sandra Cooke
Director



Enrolling Now!

Building Bridges Preschool
A School Readiness Program

scooke@buildingbridgespreschool.com • www.buildingbridgespreschool.com
1035 Carol Lane • Lafayette, CA 94549 • Tel: 925.283.6792

Quality of Life
for your Loved One



Senior Helpers
Caring In-Home Companions

- Personal Hygiene Assistance
- Light Housekeeping
- Errands & Transportation
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
- Medication Reminders
- Up to 24-hour Care
- FREE In-Home Assessment

Call 800-000-0000 Today!

Licensed, Bonded & Insured. Senior Helpers locations are independently owned and operated.

• **Community Service** •

Moraga Kiwanis Donates Books to Lamorinda School Libraries

Submitted by Bob Reynolds

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley recently completed a donation of more than 330 books to the eleven elementary school libraries in the Lamorinda community. Funded by Kiwanis, the titles were selected by school librarians through the extensive selection of the Storyteller Bookstore in Lafayette that also provided administrative support for the donation.

"This is the third year we have done this donation" said Kiwanis President John Haffner. "It is one of our favorite ways to give back to the Lamorinda Communities that support our fundraising efforts."

Carol Helton, Librarian at Moraga's Los Perales School, said, "These books will be wonderful additions to the Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Holiday sections of our Library. To date, Kiwanis has placed 107 books in our Library. WOW!"

A thank you note signed by



Los Perales student Brigette J added, "Thanks for The Jellybeans and the Big Book Bonanza. Thanks for all of these wonderful books. We are full of them up to the neck."

Kiwanis of Moraga Valley is an active group of about 60 men and women who work to better the Lamorinda and surrounding communities. Its Foundation raises funds throughout the year to provide community support both in Lamorinda and in other communities. Kiwanis mission is to "serve the children of the world."

Kiwanis of Moraga Valley meets weekly, every Thursday at 7:15 AM at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. The club welcomes people interested in serving their community to come to a meeting and to learn more about Kiwanis and its program.



Holiday Sharing

St. Perpetua students support Monument Crisis Center
Submitted by Monica Chappell



Photo provided

Please submit:
Letters and Opinions:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com



Jumpstart Your Weight Loss

Lose 30 to 45 pounds in 12 weeks!

Physician-Supervised Weight Loss • Dietary Guidance
Safe and Effective Medication • Long Term Weight Management

jumpstart
MEDICINE

Walnut Creek & Pleasanton - (925) 287-8777
San Francisco (Financial District & Laurel Heights) & Marin - (415) 438-4999
Millbrae & Redwood City - (650) 701-1460
925-287-8777 • www.jumpstartmedicine.com

ADULT DAY PROGRAM

for those with Alzheimer's or other related dementias


- STIMULATING ACTIVITIES
- LIVE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
- GAMES
- CRAFTS
- EXERCISE
- FRIENDSHIP

LARG

LAMORINDA ADULT RESPITE CENTER

925-254-3465

433 Moraga Way Orinda www.holyshepherd.org



Ægis of Moraga invites you to join us for our open house

We are pleased to present the Dakim Brain Gym at our lovely community.

Sunday, November 28th
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Dakim is the leader in brain fitness for seniors. Come and experience this innovative computer system and see for yourself! Instruction will be provided. Refreshments will be served. Tours welcome anytime. Please RSVP to 925-235-0919.

ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

Ægis Living

We're the people who make life better.

Ægis of Moraga
950 Country Club Dr.
(925) 235-0919
AegisofMoraga.com

RCPE # 075601-424

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

Tutoring

K-12 Credentialed Tutor
Study skills, reading, basic math, writing, test prep. Exp in spec ed. Judy 925-482-4660

College Essay Help

Need Help with Your College Essay?
Low Cost Assistance
Motivation and Revisions!
PhD. Higher Education
jari94556@comcast.net

Service

Experienced Piano Tuning
By local music teacher
925-323-9706

Music lessons

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor MTAC member. Competition, CM exam Preparation. Rita Yegiazaryan 283-7601

Guitar Instruction in Orinda
Jazz Blues Rock Folk and Pop styles taught by professional. All ages and levels welcome. Serving Lamorinda since 1980. Call Jack Eskridge at 254-6317 Email eskridgejack@yahoo.com

Piano/guitar w/Robbie Dunbar

All levels welcome!
I travel to your home.
M. A. Music Composition
925-323-9706
robbiednrb@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 Liab, W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. (925) 247-4356 OE90108

House cleaning

www.totalclean.biz
Serving Lamorinda since 1985. Insured and bonded 376-1004.

Housecleaning
Reliable /References
(925) 640-6311

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

Construction

SWARTS CONSTRUCTION
Foundations, drainage, remodel small repairs. 35 yrs. Lamorinda
www.swartsco.com
Lic# 613717 INSURED BONDED
Free Estimates: 925.250.6610

SCALA CONSTRUCTION SINCE 1992
License # 642156 925-383-8046
Quality remodel, kitchen, bath Additions, Decks, Skylights Doors, Windows, Painting
scalaconstruction@comcast.net

Handyman

PROFESSIONAL QUALITY WORK

All types of repairs done. Woodworking, Electrical, Audio, Leak repair, Drywall, Painting and more. Clean neat & on time!
No job too small, Senior Discount.
☎ (925) 708-6053
www.mikeslamorindahandyman.com

Your project needs help? Paint, fix, build, pressure wash, decks, electrical, plumbing, concrete & more. Inside & outside jobs. Professional and Reliable. Call Terry: 925-788-1663

Handyman - experienced in all types of home repairs.
I am glad to discuss your repair or project and provide the best solution at a reasonable rate. Please call me, Carson at (925) 708-7059. I show up. I clean up.

Plumbing



WE HOP TO IT!

(925) 377-6600
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Windows & Gutters

Reliable Window Cleaning
Friendliness & remarkable results. Windows, Gutters, Pressure Washing. (925) 254-7622
ReliableWindowService.com

Painting

T & T PAINTING CO
27 Years Experience Int & Ext Our Workmanship & References Speak for Themselves
CA Lic # 616357 BONDED
Steve Thaw 376-3380 Moraga

\$3 per line in bold, \$2 per regular line, 3 lines minimum
(max 30 Characters per line)
Submit online: www.lamorindaweekly.com



925.631.1055 www.MVCRemodeling.com

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

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

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

ChameleonConsignment.com
Quality Consignment Furniture
& CUSTOM ORDER Sofas
inventory online

AMAZING PRICES!

www.ChameleonConsignment.com
Lafayette Blackwood Lane Tel: (925) 299 1994

DRIVEWAY NEED REPAIRING?
Call the Resurfacing Experts!



Driveways
Private Roads
Tennis & Sports Courts
Parking Lots
Seal Coating
ADA Ramps & Stalls

LUCAS PAVING, INC.
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
925-283-8027

QUALITY · INTEGRITY · EXPERT WORKMANSHIP


Cabinet Modifications

With over 25 years fulfilling custom needs, we can alter or modify most cabinetry, while still utilizing your existing cabinetry for:

- Large Screen, HD/Plasma TV's
- Oversized, built-in Refrigerators
- Redesigns/Alterations

Thinking about home, office, entertainment, custom cabinetry, shelving, crown mouldings, baseboards, new doors or mantels? We can help there, too!

925.827.1093 Paul Kephart Master Craftsman
www.TheCabinetMd.com



Where is your home value going? UP or DOWN?

Alex Gailas

Find out:
www.lafayettehouseprices.com

Experience and knowledge
call Alex Gailas
Broker, Owner, CRS, GRI, CFS
925-254-7600

Office: 925-254-7600
Cell: 925-788-0229
AG@AGRealty1.com
Search for properties in the
MLS at www.AGRealty1.com

Happy Thanksgiving!



~ HE'S ALL ABOUT LAMORINDA ~



CLARK THOMPSON
REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE
Office: 925-254-8585
Cell: 925-998-7898
Email: ct@clarkthompson.com

Search the MLS: www.clarkthompson.com



Support Lamorinda Weekly by shopping with our advertisers and telling them you saw their ad!
Your local free Newspaper for Lamorinda

Students' Discretionary Money Supports the Local Economy

By Sophie Braccini

Matt Carroll is a generous man. The General Manager of Sodexo Dining Services on the St. Mary's College campus, he is sharing the money students spend on food with local restaurants. He may lose some of his revenue, but he says that the program, called 'Off Campus Solution' is a way to give students more variety in their food choices. "It also strengthens ties with the community," adds Carroll, "it gives everybody a share of the pie."

How does it work? When they enroll at Saint Mary's College (SMC), students choose a meal plan. These plans include a certain amount of 'Flex-Dollars' that are recorded on their meal card. Students can now use their cards off-campus in the establishments that have signed an agreement with SMC. The program is managed by a branch of Sodexo called Off

Campus Solution (OCS).

"This is our first year for OCS at Saint Mary's," says Carroll, "so we started with five or six places to see how the program goes." OCS manages such plans in many college towns all over the country, and, according to Carroll, some 1500 establishments are participating.

To choose the first restaurants, Carroll met with student focus groups and made sure that the partners in the program were already supporters of the SMC athletic program.

As of today, five businesses are part of the program – Pennini's Ristorante Italiano, Terzetto Cuisine, Loard's Ice Cream and Mountain Mike's Pizza in Moraga; and Chipotle Mexican Grill in Walnut Creek. Subway in Moraga had been contacted but declined to participate.

"We pay a 10% fee to the program," explains Patrick Vahey, owner of Pennini's, "I usually give a 10% discount to SMC students, so for those who use the card we just transfer the 10%." Vahey reports about \$1000 in extra income from the program since it began two months ago.

Roos Pal, of Terzetto, says she has seen more students coming in and she hopes it will become more consistent. "It's not hard for my employees to manage," she adds, "Off Campus Solution gave us a credit card machine that's dedicated to that program, that costs us \$30 a month."

"It has been working for us," states Denise Manz, manager of the Loard's store that recently moved from Rheem to the Moraga Center, "we've had more students coming in and using their card since the beginning of the school year." Manz

was not able to confirm if the increased business was due solely to the card and/or to their new location.

SMC student Lindsay Verber thinks her fellow students are interested in the program. "Sometimes students like to off campus and get a different type of food," she says, "it's fun to go to Pennini's and order a calzone or treat yourself to ice cream at Loard's."

"This is a win-win operation, we're glad Saint Mary's could make it happen," says Moraga Chamber President Edy Schwartz. Carroll will wait a year to see the outcome of the program and then consider its extension. He was the one going door to door to recruit the first business participants; he expects to be contacted by others as the program grows.

business briefs

MEF Thanks Businesses Partners

The Moraga Education Foundation (MEF) recently sent an email blast to parents encouraging them to support the local businesses that have made a continuing effort to support the educational foundation. "We are a close knit community," says MEF President Diana Obrand, "we depend on each other and we have to work together. Businesses support our schools because they know that the quality of education attracts families that will make them successful. In turn parents need to shop locally to support the local business community." The effort did not stop with an email. "All our business partners are listed on our website," Obrand continues, "We are not an advertising firm, but if we can communicate with our parents, it helps, and when I walk into a store that has an MEF sticker in their windows, it makes me feel good to support that business."

Farmyard Darling's Holiday Champagne Reception

December 9th, 5-8p.m., Farmyard Darlings, a vintage collectibles company, will be unveiling many one-of-a-kind treasures including whimsical gifts of sterling silver once used on luxury cruise liners, steamer trunks from the late 1890's, Western ephemera, vintage signs, cherry picking ladders, stunning pieces of leather luggage, and unique kitchen china, and many, many other goodies. The inaugural reception will be held at Mt. Diablo Nursery's Harry's House (owners: Marcia & Garth Jacober), 3295 Mount Diablo Boulevard (adjacent to Lafayette Park Hotel). The sale will continue throughout the weekend, 12/10-12/12. Farmyard Darlings was founded in 2010 by Lafayette residents Kim Berry & Carole Sinclair.

Same Service, New Location for Smith's Shoe Repair

After 28 years in the Clocktower Building, Madison "Matt" Smith, proprietor of Smith's Shoe Repair, has moved to a new location between McCaulou's and the future Whole Foods Market on the rear walkway – directly behind Blue Ginko and the Yogurt Shack. Unfortunately, looking to keep up a "clean professional image," Craig Semmelmeier, Principal of Main Street Property Services, is unable to put a sign up at the old location directing customers to the new location. "We love the shoe repair business," said Semmelmeier, "we would like to see them do well."



Matt Smith at the new location of Smith's Shoe Repair Photo Cathy Tyson

Free Seminar – Lowering Small Business Taxes

Sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce
"The Small Business Jobs Act has many new provisions, some of which may reduce tax bills, but only if you act on them in the next few weeks,"

says Peggy Hall, EA in Moraga. Hall, along with colleague Mark Bole, proposes a free class to teach business owners how to keep more cash out of the government's hands. The seminar is scheduled on Tuesday November 30, 6:45-8pm, at Aegis of Moraga, 950 Country Club Drive. Please RSVP to Halloftaxes@gmail.com or call 388-1040.

A Sales Associate of a Different Stripe

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that Tran Turner has joined the company as a sales associate in its Orinda office. Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Turner worked as a curator of architecture and design in the art museum field, and as a writer and editor for magazine and book publishers. Turner completed an intensive training program through the Chamberlain Real Estate School, which emphasized the principles and techniques of real estate. Turner's expertise in the history of architecture and design can help clients who are interested in architecturally-designed properties and historic homes. He may be reached at the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Orinda, located at 5 Moraga Way, (925)253-4600 or (925)395-7588, or via e-mail at Tran.Turner@cbnrcal.com

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday from noon on November 24; will reopen on November 26.

Holiday Mixer on Wednesday December 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Join fellow Chamber members and friends for the traditional Holiday Mixer at Douglass Designs' new location at 3586 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 7, from 7:00 to 10 pm. This year the annual Chamber Holiday Party will be held at Moraga Royale, 1600 Canyon Road. Chamber members and their guests, RSVP by Thursday Dec. 3rd to kathenelson@gmail.com. The evening will see the conclusion of the "Festival of Trees", a silent auction of decorated Christmas trees, to support Rescue One Foundation, the organization that aids MOFD paramedics. Viewing and bidding hours are from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily starting on December 1st at Moraga Royale. The bidding will conclude at 9 p.m. on the 7th. Trees will be delivered the next day to winners residing in Lamorinda.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Holiday Mixer on Thursday, December 9, from 5:30 to 7:00pm. The Chamber invites its members and their guests to come for the traditional Holiday Mixer held this year at Citibank, 37 Orinda Way.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or call the office 925-377-0977

PACIFIC LANDSCAPING

Design • Installation • Remodeling

- DRAINAGE
- DECKING
- RETAINING
- PLANTING
- WALLS
- IRRIGATION
- MASONRY
- LIGHTING
- PATIOS

Free Estimate • Fully Insured

BBB Since 1986 Con Lic # 624298

"When promised, As promised"

(925) 938-1777
www.pacificscapes.com

The X5 is in!

Call Michael at 925-998-2150



Michael Heller
BMW Concord
mheller7@hotmail.com

BMW Concord | 1967 Market ST. | Concord

Life in LAMORINDA

WomenSing in Lamorinda

By Lou Fancher



From left, Kristan Torres (Moraga), Patti Sax (Lafayette), Amy Hiestand (Orinda); other Lamorinda singers not pictured are Barbara Beck, Teresa Caldwell, Jules Campbell, Kathy Eastman, Jane France, Diane Griffin, Midori Kang, Gloria Kubitschek, Jean Murray, Patty Murray, Nancy Schroth, and Mary Wallace.

If there's magic in numbers, then 45 is the lucky draw for WomenSing, the 45 member Lafayette-based chorus celebrating its 45th anniversary season this year.

In June, the choral ensemble received the 2010 national Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award for adventurous programming. The award is given to choruses that invigorate and educate audiences by presenting challenging, new music.

Patti Sax, a Lafayette resident, joined WomenSing in the fall of 1995. "My fourth child had just graduated from high school, and after spending many years as a spectator, I decided to become an active participant in something I love," she says. She recalls being nervous at the audition, which included vocalizing, sight reading and singing a prepared song. "Sight reading is always a bit scary for me because it's the one thing that is unpredictable," she says, adding that "our artistic director is very good at putting the singer at ease."

Martin Benvenuto has been the Artistic Director of WomenSing since 2002. With an exten-

sive list of degrees, accomplishments as both a singer and a conductor, and work with prominent Bay area choirs and composers, Benvenuto could be a solo star. But his dedication to collaboration, and to the art of ensemble as a collective voice, makes him, instead, the perfect embodiment of WomenSing's community activism.

And "community" is much more than just Lamorinda and the Bay Area; a fact made plain by the group's Youth Inspiring Youth project. The program, started three years ago, pairs the young winners of Berkeley's River of Words poetry competition with young composers. "[The poetry] is written by children from all over the globe, who have learned about the importance of their local watersheds and about how to express respect and appreciation for it through this art form," Sax says. "Then WomenSing creates an opportunity for young composers to create new music for treble voices using this material. The composers have the honor or being mentored by Libby Larsen, and we get the excitement of learning and sharing these pieces with our audience."

Grammy-award winning Larsen, a bundle of enthusiasm and a gifted contemporary music composer, whose work is in the repertoire of groups across the country, leads the young composers in a process Kristan Torres, a five year member of the chorus, calls "magical." Torres discovered WomenSing the week she moved to Orinda. "I was looking in a community center brochure and there was an advertisement. I called for information and auditioned that evening," she writes. Like Sax, she's busy, but makes room for WomenSing because "it not only fulfills the need for having music in my life, but it has introduced me to a diverse, talented group of women, who all have the same interest. We are all in different stages in our lives, and dealing with a variety of challenges...and we check all of this at the door and come together to make music."

Amy Hiestand, of Orinda, was drawn to the group's camaraderie as well. With a living room full of instruments, amplifiers, music stands and a piano, she admits, "music is a really, really important part of life in our family."

Hiestand likes the mix of contemporary and traditional music the chorus performs. "It is more interesting for me as a singer to perform a variety of genres," she says. "I think it's more interesting for audiences too."

Challenging music is not just for audiences, all three women are quick to point out. "Last December we performed Britten's Ceremony of Carols," Hiestand says, "It's a lovely work for the holidays, but it was tricky to learn initially. The language is a bit different from our English today and there were difficult pieces within it - unusual chord progressions, and keeping tone and pitch up was sometimes hard." Torres remembers Wendigo, a song accompanied by a prerecorded soundtrack of music and sounds, as particularly difficult. Sax shares her fellow member's memory, saying, "Singing it was a bit like jumping on a moving train and hanging on for our lives!"

WomenSing rehearses in central Lafayette for two-and-a-half hours weekly, with an additional, optional rehearsal held one

day each week in Orinda. In addition, Hiestand uses an on-line database, Musetta, spending an hour on her own to review and prepare for ensemble rehearsals. Sax says she puts in an average of 2 extra hours per week, and Torres, with young children and a packed schedule writes, "I do a lot of rehearsing in my car (if my kids can stand it) and listen to the music almost every day. I sit down to work on the music a few times a week. I often have a piece that I work on or hum throughout the day."

It's clear that all three women value the role music plays in their lives. Sax mentions having been born "with a song in my heart," and Torres is "honored to be a part of [the Youth Inspiring Youth] process." Singing with the chorus keeps Hiestand "motivated" and "artistic," even amidst her life's personal and professional demands.

With concerts in December and June, and a tour to Washington D.C. in 2011—including performances at the Library of Congress and the National Cathedral—they are proud of WomenSing's position in the national music community. Beyond that, they are grateful for the friendships with other women and eager for the musical opportunities ahead. Sax articulates the legacy of WomenSing's last 45 years in elegant fashion: "The traditional [music] provides an opportunity to learn about different classical styles and how they relate to the times in which they were written. It's a bit of a mini-history lesson. And the new [music] is so exciting because it explores new ways of putting sounds together to express emotions."

Upcoming performances:
Sunday, December 12, 4 pm
 First Congregational Church Berkeley
 2345 Channing Way Berkeley
 Reception to follow

Wednesday, December 15, 8 pm
 St. Mary's Chapel
 1928 Saint Mary's Road Moraga

Rosewood House.com
 FINE FURNITURE & ASIAN ANTIQUES SINCE 1969
 CONCORD 4700 CLAYTON RD. (925) 827-9588
 OAKLAND 2523 BROADWAY (510) 451-7373

Natural Nail Care
Just for You
"Adrian Jean" Paper Wraps
 I specialize in the **REMOVAL** & the **REPAIR** of the harmful effects of **Acrylic, Silk, Linen & Gel** nail treatments.
 Call today to **"Go-Green"** at (925) 577-9080 Kindly, Pamela
 3483 Golden Gate Way, Ste 204-B, Lafayette naturalnailcarejustforyou.com

Haddon
HEATING & COOLING
 Lic #855456
 The Haddon Family, Orinda Residents, Owners/Operators
Do business with a neighbor.
Your comfort is our #1 priority
Haddon Heating & Cooling specializes in
 • residential furnaces • heaters • air conditioners • ductwork
 • repairs • upgrades • maintenance and service.
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST SERVICE
925-521-1380
 Monday-Friday 7am - 5pm (closed for lunch)
 www.haddonheatingcooling.com

System Inspection \$79
Furnace/A/C Check up*
 *service includes a free standard sized 1" disposable filter.
 We do offer a variety of pleated and washable filters.
 Exp. December 31, 2010

CLOUD 9
 ORGANIC HAND & FOOT THERAPY
 1 ORINDA WAY, SUITE 3
 p: 925.258.9811
 www.cloud9organictherapy.com

Table 24 is now open at Theatre Square in Orinda



Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Open every day at 8 AM!!!

Special Grand Opening Offer: Free Coffee
 Monday thru Thursday w Breakfast 8-10:30 AM. Please bring this ad in to redeem the offer.

Theatre Square, Orinda
925-254-0124
www.table24orinda.com

TABLE 24
 NEIGHBORHOOD COMFORT FOOD

LeapFrog Plumbing says... Save up to \$1700 on energy-efficient water heaters
 Going, going, gone... up to \$1500 tax credit expires 12/31/10

Holiday times are a joy... but they can overload your plumbing! With the tax credit set to **expire next month (!)**, now may be the time to install a new hybrid or tankless water heater.

Head Frog Mo Williams, certified tankless water heater specialist, will help you choose the right solution for your household.

Mo's Holiday saving specials:

LeapFrog Loot \$200 off tankless/hybrid water heater installation	LeapFrog Loot \$89 off Any tank-type water heater installation	LeapFrog Loot \$59 off Any plumbing repair or installation
---	--	--

*1 coupon per service

We're local, family-owned & We Hop To It!
 gift certificates available

(925) 377-6600
 www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com

**DESIGN
INSTALLATION
IRRIGATION
DRAINAGE
STONERWORK
CONCRETE WORK
DECKS
FENCES
PATIOS
LAWNS
PONDS
CLEANUP &
HAULING**

BLUE RIDGE



**925-258-9233
CELL: 510-847-6160**

**LANDSCAPE Co.
BLUE JAY FELDMAN
OWNER/OPERATOR**

WWW.BLUERIDGELC.COM

**LICENSED
INSURED
Lic# 818633**

Become Healthy Once and for All

• Personal Plans • Weight Loss • Graceful Aging

Give a gift certificate to someone you love!

Lamorinda NUTRITION
Theresa Tsingis, DCMS
283-WELL (9355)

New Location! 251 Lafayette Circle #240, Lafayette



◆ New Owners
◆ New Attitude
◆ 30 Years in the Industry!

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd in Lafayette
925-284-4440
lamorindafloors.com

LAMORINDA FLOORS
Karastan GALLERY

Support Lamorinda Weekly by shopping with our advertisers and telling them you saw their ad! Your local free Newspaper for Lamorinda

Traveling and Contributing In Cambodia

By Sophie Braccini



Tum Mao's family

Photo provided

Jenni Lipa and Ksenija Olmer were destined to meet. The New York travel agent (Lipa) specializing in international luxury spa vacations and the Orinda mom (Olmer) on a mission to save the world may seem an unlikely pair, but they clicked last January in Cambodia, around a well. From this connection emerged Travel with a Purpose, which will take twenty interested adventurers to Cambodia in 2011.

The two planned excursions of ten travelers each, one departing in March and the second in October, will support the Friends of Cambodian Child's Dream Organization (Friends of CCDO). The first group will meet in Bangkok on March 27 and will depart for Siem Reap the next morning. For four days the group will visit the famed Angkor Wat Temples in the mornings; in the afternoons travelers will interact with schools and orphanages and visit a Silk Farm and Artisans D'Angkor, an organization dedicated to the survival of Khmer culture through its arts and crafts. The group will then visit Laos from April 1-4. Those wanting further adventures

can visit the city of Chiang Mai in the north of Thailand, or continue their journey in Myanmar (formerly Burma).

Lipa says she priced the trip at cost, "I'm a travel agent, specializing in high-end spa all over the world; this is my way to give back," she explains.

The story started three years ago when Lipa met Pandora Ou during a trip to Cambodia. He had been her guide during her vacation and as he drove her and a friend back to the airport she asked him about his next job. The young man, in his mid twenties, explained that he had been raising money to build wells for family farms. "The women and the children can spend hours every day transporting water to their homes and fields," explains Lipa, "the farms are scattered across the countryside and no centrally located water supply can suffice." Lipa inquired as to the price of a well - \$220 - she and her friend dug into their purses and gathered the money. "This is for another well," she told Ou.

"I was not expecting to hear from him again," remembers Lipa,

"but a few weeks later I received a report with pictures about 'my' well." This was the beginning of their collaboration. Since then, both the local and US organizations have incorporated as non-profits, about 300 wells have been dug, and Friends of CCDO also supports an orphanage and four schools.

Last January, Olmer and her family decided to go to Cambodia. A characteristic of the Olmers' vacations is that they go to places where they can make a difference. "We had heard about (Lipa's) organization in the Siem Reap region and were very impressed with the loving care, efficiency and transparency of the management," said Olmer.

She started to correspond with Lipa and decided to lend a hand. "When (Lipa) came for a visit to California I organized a presentation through the local American Association of University Women (AAUW) chapter's International Travel Club. Their response, enthusiasm and generosity always surprises me, but this time they outdid themselves."

AAUW members and their friends donated funds for four new wells, a new kitchen for the orphanage, and a scholarship fund for village children. They were also interested in traveling to Cambodia and asked Olmer and Lipa if they would organize a trip. "I've always been passionate about combining travel with grass roots philanthropy," said Olmer, "this time I am excited to create an opportunity for others." The tour will be guided by Ou.

For more information, contact Olmer at xenija@aol.com or Lipa at jenni@spatrek.com. For more information about CCDO go to www.friendsoffcdo.org.

Moraga Scout, Town, Thank Veterans in November

By Cathy Dausman



Tony Knox and Supervisor Gayle Uilkema at the new veterans memorial. Photo Cathy Dausman

"In recognition and memory of all men and women who have given their lives for the sake of our freedom, may we never forget."

A new veteran's memorial was dedicated in the Moraga Commons on November 11. The memorial was developed by Tony Knox, a Campolindo High School junior, in cooperation with local Kiwanis and the Moraga Parks and Recreation Commission.

Knox is a Life Scout in BSA Troop 246 this was his Eagle project.

More than sixty people attended the hour-long ceremony, which opened with bagpipe music, the posting of the colors and singing of the national anthem. Author and Vietnam vet-

eran Tim Haslam read from his memoir Stars & Stripes and Shadows. Dignitaries included Moraga Mayor Ken Chew Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe and Contra Costa District 2 Supervisor Gayle Uilkema.

The memorial rests alongside the Lamorinda Trail Loop adjacent St. Mary's Road. Its inscription includes an eagle, seven service insignias (Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, the US Merchant Marine and Army National Guard) and an excerpt from a World War I era poem.

Knox sees the memorial as an ongoing "work in progress" and expects to see the eagle painted, and landscaping and lighting in the future.

Business Service Directory

www.lamorindaservicedirectory.com

Pet sitting

LOVABLE PET-SITTING
Cats, Dogs, Birds, Fish

Play-Time - Walks - Feeding
Tender-Care - House-Sitting - References
15 Years Experience
Lamorinda

Linda Kucma (925) 746-4649

one FREE visit
*restrictions apply

Pet care

ALL FUR LOVE PET CARE
Book Your Holiday Visits Now!

- Daily Pet Visits while you're away
- Mid-Day Dog Walks
- Bonded & Insured

(925) 212-7422
Maureen Goldlist, Lafayette resident
www.AllFurLovePetCare.com

Underpinning

Bay Area UNDERPINNING
GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 80728

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS - LIFTING - LEVELING - STABILIZING
707 310-0602

Construction

GENERAL CONTRACTOR
Jacob Spilsbury - General Contractor
American owned and operated

**Renovation • Remodeling
Home Repair
Big & Small Jobs**

Bonded & Insured. Lic # 898775
925-825-5201

BBB MEMBER

Pilates

Pilates No Pain! Personal Attention Get Fit
925-708-3279

COREKINETICS-Pilates Studio Orinda

- Free fitness analysis with first lesson
- Rehab your Sports Injuries/ Back Problems
- Custom workouts-all bodies welcome
- Private and semi private classes
- Certified for 20 years/teacher for 36

Skin care

Med Esthetics
look great every day

Give your skin the attention it deserves!
Special Offer with this ad:

20% off Healthy Glow Treatment*
*Limit one per customer

Elizabeth Buddington
Certified Medical Esthetician
www.Med-EstheticsRx.com
Call for an appointment
925-258-0055

50 Yashell Way suite 230 Orinda, CA 94563

Yard/Clean up work

Call Tony at (925) 497-3741

Tree Service
Trimming-Pruning
Brush Clearance
Gutter cleaning
Hauling Debris

Free Estimate and Reasonable Prices

Lic#5001386
www.Housecleaninggardening.com

Construction

ADDITONS & RENOVATIONS
DESIGN / PERMIT & BUILD SERVICES

**FOUNDATION & FRAMING
RETAINING WALL
DECK, BALCONIE & SIDING
SOFT STORY EARTHQUAKE RETROFIT**

More than 20 Years of Experience
Civil Engineer Lic.#043437
General Contractor Lic.#564297

925-253-1000
SAFE ENGINEERING

FREE ESTIMATES

Heating & Airconditioning

NANI HEATING AND AIRCONDITIONING INC

- FURNACE INSTALLATION
- CUSTOM FLASHING,
- GUTTERS (COPPER, ALUMINUM, GALV.)
- SKYLIGHTS

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
925-726-7846
nanihvac@gmail.com
CA LIC # 861745

Gardening

J. Limon Gardening

Maintenance/Clean-up
Monthly Service
Sprinkler System Repair

Call Jose
(925) 787-5743
License #: 018287

25 yrs. experience in Lamorinda

	1x	6x	12x	26x
Blk&white:	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30
One color:	\$55	\$50	\$45	\$40
Full color:	\$60	\$55	\$50	\$45

Call 925-377-0977
design included, restrictions may apply
Offer your Services
Your ad will reach more than 23,000 homes and businesses in Lamorinda.

Vicki Nakamura, Broker
Better Homes Realty

Experience counts when considering home ownership or considering a move up or a move down

Experience counts when advising clients as the market recovers after the crash

Experience counts when closing all the hurdles. Negotiation. Financing. Appraisal. Inspections. Consumer Regulations

Happy Thanksgiving!

Call today for private consultation
925-708-1915 Visit www.VickiNakamura.com




Breedlove Insurance Services
Life, Health, Long Term Care

Even Superman needs help with Medicare!

It doesn't cost a penny more to work with your Medicare specialists in Lamorinda.

info@breedloveinsurance.com
925-254-6262

89 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563 • www.breedloveinsurance.com



Randy Bennett Talks to Moraga Movers

By Lou Fancher



From left: Randy Bennett, Phil and Gretchen Arth Photo Lou Fancher

Saint Mary's College basketball players aren't the only people with some hustle in the town of Moraga. The Moraga Movers, a 35-year-old club for residents age 55 and older, has picked up the ball and plans to run with it.

"At one point, there were 500 members," said Julie Fisher, a member and wife of former Moraga Mover's President George Fisher.

"In 2006, our members dropped below 200," George said, describing in dark tones the lowest point in the group's history.

On November 8th, 2010, at a sold-out luncheon held on the Saint Mary's College campus and featuring guest speaker Randy Bennett, the head men's basketball coach, it was hard to believe. The group stands at 423 members and has a full roster of events; from bocce to book clubs, and from Panama Canal cruises to day-excursions to Napa wineries.

In their spare time, Moraga Movers support the New Rheim Theatre, volunteer at local events, and hold monthly luncheons.

"It was the name change,"

George says, when asked what has caused the booming attendance. Formerly known as the Moraga Hacienda Seniors, the Fishers and other members realized the group needed a "marketing mindset."

During a meeting with a Moraga Parks and Recreation official, Julie came up with the name. "It was just alliteration: Moraga Mmm...Movers!" she said, recalling the moment. With a new moniker, and George's knack for making every person he meets feel like family, Moraga Movers was on its way.

Phil Arth, the outgoing president of the group, explained why he will step aside for incoming president Bob Foxall. "I'm going to be the Grand Poo-bah of SIR (Sons in Retirement)," Arth jokes, "so next year I'll only have to find speakers for one group, instead of two."

"We encourage term limits," George said. "We want an influx of new people with new ideas."

The speaker on November 8th was the perfect finale to Arth's term. "Randy (Bennett)

lives across the street from me," Arth said. "I left a message in his mailbox—didn't even put a stamp on it—asking if he'd speak to the group. He's an engaging speaker and everybody in Moraga's interested in the Gael's and what their prospects are for the next season."

Indeed, Bennett had a rapt audience as he reflected on his 10 years at the college and what he hopes to achieve going forward.

If numbers tell a story, then certainly, Bennett's numbers describe success as a college coach. Season ticket holders were at 180 when he arrived. Today, he said, they number a couple of thousand. The team is 46-4 in the home court. ESPN will broadcast 10-13 of the Gael's games this season: ten years ago, none of the games were televised.

And, there's the Sweet 16. The tournament has set the bar for Bennett and his players. "All our focus is to prepare ourselves to get in that tournament," he said. "Last time, we were the slowest team in the country, but this year we're quick—and grittier on defense. Every game matters."

In 2009, Bennett said he had a great group of guys, both players and assistants. He described them as "selfless," calling special attention to Omar Samhan and Ben Allen. "Allen was willing to sacrifice personal moments to do the right thing for the team," he said. "Omar, he never gave up. Any time a NBA person came to watch another player, he'd ask, 'What can I do to be an NBA player?'"

The Gael team is not about building stars, according to the coach. "I'm not into the star deal," he said, answering a ques-

tion from the audience. "We want our guys to be pros, but not over the good of the team. We teach them: appreciate what you have and give back. At the Special Olympics camp recently, when we talked away, we were thinking, *those kids gave something to us.*"

Bennett said the team trained hard over the summer and that 6 of the 8 players from last year have returned. "More than all that, we've had an experience you can't simulate: we've been to *The Tournament.*"

Recruiting is a job skill Bennett handles with finesse. He has found players in Australia, where the Australian Institute of Sport exposes the best young athletes to rigorous training. "They don't know the difference between Saint Mary's and UCLA, and we don't tell them," Bennett said, getting the biggest laugh of the day.

There's no joking when it comes to his answers about graduation rates and Gonzaga. He said he tells players not to come to Saint Mary's if they're not interested in getting a degree. The program boasts 30 graduates out of 35 during his tenure. And Gonzaga? "They'll be up for us this year. I don't think they like the way that one ended last year."

A year from now, if the Gael's get a sweet repeat of last season, and if the Moraga Movers' ambitious, energized membership continues its rapid expansion, they may need to hold the November luncheon in a larger venue. Perhaps the McKeeon Pavilion Gym?

- IN HOME HELP -
for you or your loved ones

- Medical Appointments - Medications - Transportation
- Shopping - Errands - Banking - Bill Paying - Forms
- Record Keeping - Insurance - Technology & Computers
- Meal Planning and Preparation - Pet Care - Referrals

Lamorinda Comforts of Home
925.285.6272
Local - Bonded - Insured
www.lamorindacomfortsofhome.com

You'll Like What You Hear

Orinda resident Al Koorji of Summit Hearing has been quietly helping Lamorinda hear better for the last 10 years.

Al is inviting you for a complementary:

- Consultation
- Hearing evaluation
- 30 day trial on a hearing aid - no obligation
- Hearing aid check & cleanings-all models

Prepare to hear better for the holidays.
Call Today!



Summit HEARING CENTER 355 Village Square, Orinda (925) 254-6960

Anne Grodin Takes a New Direction

By Andrea A. Firth



Anne Grodin Photo Andy Schreck

About every ten years, Lafayette resident Anne Grodin makes a shift. "I believe in moving on and trying new things," says Grodin—a familiar name and face in Lafayette where she has lived for 27 years with her husband Marshall.

Grodin spent the 1990's as an elected volunteer serving two terms on the Lafayette City Council and acting as Mayor in 1994 and 1998. Over the course of the next ten years, Grodin was a tireless fundraiser simultaneously working on three capital funds campaigns for the Lafayette Community Fund, Cal Shakes, and the John Muir Health Foundation.

And with the dawn of a new decade, Grodin has signed on as Assembly member Nancy Skinner's Field Representative for Lamorinda and Pleasant Hill helping the 14th District representative stay connected with her constituents on the east side of the tunnel. Skinner's District also extends west into Alameda County and includes Albany, Richmond, Berkeley, and Emeryville.

"The District is so diverse," notes Grodin, "The unifying thread

is Nancy's commitment to the environment," she says, adding, "I understand how residents in Lamorinda feel about open space, hills, and creeks. It's really important and they want to preserve this lifestyle."

Grodin joined Skinner's team in June and was immediately thrust into the nebulous world of the State budget process. "I quickly learned a lot about school finance which comprises a significant portion of the State budget," says Grodin. As part of Skinner's outreach efforts, Grodin attends many local meetings and events both with and without the Assembly member.

It's been an interesting transition for Grodin, who seems to have the Midas touch when it comes to raising funds for the community and the arts. "Raising funds is its own art. You have to ask people face to face," says Grodin, adding, "We are very fortunate here. We live in a community that really understands philanthropy."

Often attributed as the founder of the Lafayette Community Foundation, Grodin is quick to point out, "You never accomplish anything like this by yourself."

What she brought to the process, says Grodin, were connections to people that knew how to fundraise, which in turn helped the Foundation to raise over \$12 million for the construction of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The Foundation has grown to serve as a vehicle for philanthropy for the City of Lafayette.

Grodin was a quick study when it came to fundraising, and she soon found herself working on two other highly successful campaigns for Cal Shakes, which raised over \$8 million for upgrades to the Bruns Amphitheater, and the John Muir Health Foundation, which has raised \$50 million so far for new medical facilities and renovations at the Walnut Creek and Concord health care campuses.

Reflecting on these successful fundraising efforts that are now winding down, Grodin remains committed to these causes, "Every campaign that you do is so interesting." But she is also energized and enthusiastic about her new venture. "Working with Assembly member Skinner is a good way to try something very different," says Grodin. "The job is different everyday."

Grodin encourages Lamorinda residents to take advantage of Assembly member Skinner's mobile office hours Pleasant Hill where Grodin and other staff are available to meet with residents to answer questions about State issues, gather feedback, and assist with issues involving a State agency. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (510) 286-1400 or by walk-in. Mobile office hours are held at Pleasant Hill City Hall, 100 Gregory Lane in the small conference room, every fourth Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. starting in January.

DIABLO FLOORING, INC \$250 Off*
*Minimum 1,000 sq. ft. Exp. 12-31-10

CARPET • HARDWOOD • LAMINATE • TILE • VINYL

Diablo Flooring Inc. is here to bring the best possible pricing with the most beautiful and complete installation to the Bay Area. We are a small store which lets us give you the attention needed for a more professional experience. We cater to residential & commercial customers, designer, contractors, and developers.

FREE ESTIMATES

(925) 426-RUGS (7847) 5600-D Sunol Blvd, Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 988-WOOD (9663) 1813 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM OR Shop@Home WWW.DIABLOFLOORING.COM
License #898787 • Bonded • Insured up to \$2 Million

BEDELL Celebrating 35 Years in Business!
investment counseling
Achieve your financial goals with our help

A Relationship of Trust Since 1975

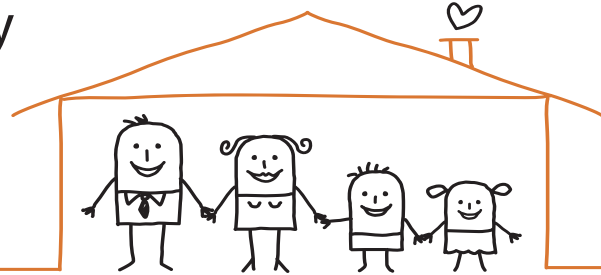
Portfolio Management
Individual Stocks and Bonds
Old Fashioned Customer Service

www.bedellinvest.com 800-783-0344



Michael Frazier
Vice-President, Portfolio Manager and Moraga Resident

House Sitting Services
\$25 a day



We'll love your home as much as you do!

First day FREE for new customers

925-235-0171
www.getagofer.com

Get a Gofer

DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR FURNACE DOWN!



\$35 FURNACE MAINTENANCE*
 *After \$50 Union Rebate
 Valid 10/15 - 11/30/2010

UP TO \$4,675 IN REBATES AND TAX CREDITS!
 ON SELECT CARRIER SYSTEMS
See dealer for complete details. Limited time only.

WE DO READY SOLAR SYSTEMS, TOO

FREE ESTIMATES ON INSTALLATIONS

ACS Air Conditioning Systems

www.ACSystemsInc.com • License# 632329
 SERVING LAMORINDA FOR 40 YEARS

(925) 676-2103



turn to the experts

It's all online!

WWW.

lamorinda weekly.com

• Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining •

A Twist on Tiramisu

By Susie Iventosch



Tiramisu

Photo Susie Iventosch

I was never really a huge tiramisu fan, until one day I saw the most darling tiramisu ever, sitting in the case of a bakery section. It was all wrapped up like a package with a ribbon ... just waiting to join someone's special festivity. It was so cute in fact, that I marched over, picked up four packages of lady fingers and vowed to myself that one day I would try making this quintessential Italian dessert. Tiramisu literally means "pick me up" or "pull me up" in Italian, and one can certainly see why, with the espresso, cocoa and eggs, it gives the body a spark!

My reason for not loving the dessert before has entirely to do with texture, and isn't that the funny thing about food? Texture plays such a huge role in whether or not we enjoy eating certain things. One person's "absolutely divine, darling" is on another's "won't touch it with a ten-foot

pole" list! Every time I'd had it, the cake or lady fingers seemed so heavily soaked with coffee that the texture became very grainy, which was not so pleasing to my palate. Now, for some of you, that may be exactly how you like your tiramisu, like my own mom. But for me, I needed to make it with a little less coffee soaking the lady fingers, so the cake stayed intact. If you prefer this dessert more soaked, then simply soak the lady fingers in the espresso mixture and voila, you will have your favorite texture. (Though you may need to make a little more espresso!)

I also thought it would be fun to use the cheese in both the custard and the whipped cream because Mascarpone is so delicious! And, what fun it might be to actually mix the cocoa powder in, rather than just the dusting on top. So, while this may be an uncon-

ventional tiramisu, give it a whirl, and see what you think. Remember, you can always use your imagination, and since there are about 10,000 different recipes for tiramisu, you cannot go wrong!



Susie Iventosch is the author of *Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels*, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com.

Chocolate-Toffee Tiramisu

Makes one 9x5x3 loaf size, which serves 6-8.

Ingredients

Cake

- 2 packages Lady Fingers (24 whole or 48 split halves)
- ½ cup espresso mixed with 2 tablespoons Torani caramel flavoring syrup (optional)

Custard

- 4 egg yolks
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons Amaretto or Brandy
- 1 cup Mascarpone cheese (buy one pound, because you'll split it between cream and custard)

Cream

- 1 cup whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 cup Mascarpone cheese

Topping

- ¾ cup crushed Almond Roca or your favorite
- English toffee
- 1-2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, optional

Directions

For custard, beat sugar and egg yolks until fluffy, and cook over medium heat in a double boiler, or a mixing bowl placed over a pot of boiling water, until mixture becomes thick and falls in ribbons from a spoon or whisk. Stir in Amaretto or brandy and remove from heat to cool. When cooled to room temperature, stir in 1 cup of the Mascarpone cheese. Set aside. Meanwhile, beat 1 cup whipping cream until stiff and sift in cocoa powder. Fold 1 cup Mascarpone cheese into whipped cream. Set aside.

Assembly

Line bottom and sides of a 9x5 inch loaf pan with plastic wrap, leaving wrap hanging over all edges. Spray with cooking spray. With a pastry brush, lightly coat espresso-caramel mixture over tops of lady fingers, and lay, round side up, on bottom of pan. Spread the custard mixture over the lady fingers. Repeat with another layer of lady fingers, (brushed with espresso) and spread chocolate-whipped cream mixture over this layer. Cover and chill for several hours, or overnight. When ready to serve, lift tiramisu from pan by holding onto plastic wrap, and lay on a platter. Gently remove the wrap from the bottom by lifting each end with a long spatula. If you desire the additional cocoa powder, which is customary, dust the top of the dessert evenly with the cocoa powder. Sprinkle chopped Almond Roca (or toffee) over top and arrange remaining lady fingers around the tiramisu, kind of like a little castle and wrap with a colorful ribbon. Cut into slices or squares to serve.



Tiramisu ready for the party

Photo Susie Iventosch

KIRIN SUSHI

Japanese Restaurant

Celebrating our **One Year Anniversary!**

356 Park Street, Moraga (next to Rheem Theatre)
376-2872
 Tuesday-Sunday Lunch & Dinner
www.kirinsushi.us
 Thank you for your support!

LAMORINDA's Restaurants			
... updated October, 2010 ...			
American	Bistro, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-7108	Continental	La Cocina Mexicana, 23 Orinda Way, Ori, 258-9987
	Chow Restaurant, 53 Lafayette Cir, Laf, 962-2469		Mucho wraps, 1375-B Moraga Way, Mor, 377-1203
	Quiznos, 3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 962-0200		Baja Fresh Mexican Grill, 3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-8740
	Ranch House, 1012 School St, Mor, 376-5127		Celia's Restaurant, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-8288
	Terzetto Cuisine, 1419 Moraga Way, Mor, 376-3832		El Balazo, 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-8700
	The Cheese Steak Shop, 3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-1234		Maya Mexican Grill, 74 Moraga Way, Ori, 258-9049
	BBQ		Numero Uno Taqueria, 3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 299-1333
	Bo's Barbecue, 3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-7133		Pizza
	Burger Joint		Lamorinda Pizza, 382 Park St, Mor, 376-4040
	Flippers, 960 Moraga Rd, Laf, 284-1567		Mountain Mike's Pizza, 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-6363
	Nation's Giant Hamburgers, 400 Park, Mor, 376-8888		Mountain Mike's Pizza, 504 Center St, Mor, 377-6453
	Nation's Giant Hamburgers, 76 Moraga Way, Ori, 254-8888		Pennini's, 1375 Moraga Rd, Mor, 376-1515
	Café		Round Table Pizza, 361 Rheem Blvd, Mor, 376-1411
	Ferrari-Lucca Delicatessens, 23 Lafayette Cir, Laf, 299-8040		Round Table Pizza, 3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-0404
	Geppetto's caffè, 87 Orinda Way, Ori, 253-9894		Village Pizza, 19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori, 254-1200
	La Boulange, 3597 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-1001		Zamboni's Pizza, 1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori, 254-2800
	Mamounia Express Cafe, 3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd # 179, Laf, 299-1372		Sandwiches/Deli
	Rising Loafer, 3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd Ste B, Laf, 284-8816		Bianca's Deli, 1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor, 376-4400
	Susan Foord Catering & Cafe, 965 Mt. View Dr, Laf, 299-2469		Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub, 64 Moraga Way, Ori, 254-7202
	California Cuisine		Kasper's Hot Dogs, 103 Moraga Way, Ori, 253-0766
	Artisan Bistro, 1005 Brown St., Laf, 962-0882		Noah's Bagels, 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 299-0716
	Metro Lafayette, 3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-4422		Orinda Deli, 19 F Orinda Way, Ori, 254-1990
	Shelby's, 2 Theatre Sq, Ori, 254-9687		Subway, 396 Park St., Mor, 376-2959
	Table 24, Theatre Sq, Ori, 254-0124		Subway, 3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf, 284-2627
	Chinese		Subway, Theatre Square, Ori, 258-0470
	Asia Palace Restaurant, 1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor, 376-0809		Seafood
	Chef Chao Restaurant, 343 Rheem Blvd, Mor, 376-1740		Yankee Pier, 3593 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-4100
	China Moon Restaurant, 380 Park St, Mor, 376-1828		Steak
	The Great Wall Rest., 3500 Golden Gate Way, Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine, 1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori, 253-9852		Casa Orinda, 20 Bryant Way, Ori, 254-2981
	Lily's House, 3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf, 374-7569		Tea
	Mandarin Flower, 581 Moraga Rd, Mor, 376-7839		Patisserie Lafayette, 71 Lafayette Cir, Laf, 283-2226
	Panda Express, 3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 962-0288		Tea Party by Appointment, 107 Orinda Way, Ori, 254-2206
	Szechwan Chinese Restaurant, 79 Orinda Way, Ori, 254-2020		Thai
	Uncle Yu's Szechuan, 999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf, 283-1688		Amarin Thai Cuisine, 3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf, 283-8883
	Yan's Restaurant, 3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-2228		Baan Thai, 99 Orinda Way, Ori, 253-0989
	Coffee Shop		Royal Siam, 512 Center Street, Mor, 377-0420
	Millie's Kitchen, 1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf, 283-2397		Siam Orchid, 23 Orinda Way # F, Ori, 253-1975
	Squirrel's Coffee Shop, 998 Moraga Rd, Laf, 284-7830		Vietnamese
	Village Inn Café, 204 Village Square, Ori, 254-6080		Little Hearty Noodle, Pho & Pasta, 578 Center St., Mor, 376-7600

download our Restaurant Guide from our web site at www.lamorindaweekly.com

The Lamorinda Weekly (LW) Restaurant Guide is not paid advertising; our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. We hope that we have included all Lamorinda restaurants on this page, except those that told us they did not wish to be listed. LW is not liable for errors or omissions. In the event that we have inadvertently printed misinformation or excluded a restaurant please let us know (info@lamorindaweekly.com) so that we may correct our list for the next issue.

RISTORANTE VINO

TAPAS • SEAFOOD

Offering:

- Super Healthy Food
- No Trans Fats, No Heavy Sauces
- Only Naturally Delicious Food at Affordable Prices
- Piano Music, and Love

3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette (near the Lafayette theatre) *Reservations recommended*
(925) 284-1330 Since 1963
 Lic. Castro Ascarrunz, owner, chef, waiter, entertainer



Correction, issue date 10/27/10, page L3, 'Round the Clock We Go:
We incorrectly identified one of the owners of Clocks Etc. as George Hampton – actually he is Scott Hampton (we knew better – sorry, Scott).



Keith Katzman
Moraga Resident since 1966.
Successfully selling real estate for over 25 years.
Call Keith for your real estate needs!

925.376.7776 kkatzman@pacunion.com www.pacunion.com



A Member Of Real Living

SMC Dancers in Fragments

By Lou Fancher



Dancers rehearse Tali Stevens' *All There is, is in Your Mind*.

Photo Francesca Crebassa

Saint Mary's College Dance Company will present works of substance in *Fragments*, the annual fall concert running December 2nd through the 4th.

Traveling high on the prestige of last spring's performance as invited guests to the National College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, five senior students will premiere new work.

Program Director Catherine Davalos came to the department 14 years ago. There was one dance major," she says, "now, there are 40 dancers in the company, and the number of classes has gone from 2 to 40. Our next challenge is how to house all this growth!"

Participation in local and national showcases has "raised the bar of the technique of the dancers," according to Davalos. "Last year, we won our conference title," she says, borrowing from sports lingo, "that's how you get to the Kennedy Center."

With plans to attend the 2011 conference and a number of gigs in

the Bay Area, Davalos is committed to plugging her dancers into as many opportunities as possible. She is particularly proud of the work premiering at the LeFevre Theatre in December: "We attract—and keep—a higher caliber of dancer to our program now."

Zhe Jerry Lin's *A Time When the World was Silent* promises a personal statement about human devaluation. Drawing from the Nanjing Massacre of 1937, a brutal conflict between the Japanese and Chinese people and a story Lin was told countless times by his parents and grandparents, Lin says the solo has allowed him to explore human values and emotions.

Hailey Yaffee, will dive into matters of faith with *Pardon the Spiritual Minds*, a group piece with original music by E.J. Youngblood. "We had many phone conversations to listen to the sections of music he created and from there we would figure out what worked and what didn't," Yaffee explains. "He also attended some of my dance rehearsals. In the end, I described the

emotions I wanted my dancers to feel while dancing and he created a theme that fit that motif."

Lauren Rose O'Leary's *green, blue, brown, hazel*, is a dance focused on unleashing the deepest personal traits of each dancer.

Melissa Weik, a Communication major with a minor in dance, is combining the two disciplines in *infectious ripple (are you Happy now?)*. Reflecting Weik's global outlook, four dancers, searching for bliss, find it through a fifth, central character.

Tali Stevens is a Lafayette native who studied at the California Academy of Performing Arts in Moraga. Stevens dares to address fear in *All There is, is in Your Mind*, allowing the emotion to fill the stage, before the dancer at the center of the storm breaks free and conquers the dark shadows.

Lin and Yaffee, who had the opportunity to speak about SMC's dance program, praise the department's intellectual training, as much as the physical rigor. Per-

forming at the Kennedy center was a highlight for both dancers. "The Kennedy Center has such an incredible history of hosting talented performers and to be a part of that legacy was unreal. It will forever be one of my fondest memories," Yaffee says. Lin describes the opportunity as "breath-taking," and "a true honorary experience."

Saint Mary's College Dance Company's "Fragments"
LeFevre Theatre
December 2-4, 2010 at 8pm
A feedback discussion with the choreographers will follow the Friday performance on December 3rd.
Free Admission
Box Office:
(925) 631-4670

LGA DESIGN-BUILD License #777236

- Remodels
- Additions
- Custom Homes
- Kitchens
- Baths

FREE Professional Design Consultation
Client-focused quality, value engineering and responsive delivery.
Just ask our clients!

Call 925-323-6582
email: nlgionet@lga-db.com www.lga-db.com

The Best of Blasphemy!

"The Best of Blasphemy is irreverent soul food for skeptics and wise-asses." Joe Raiola, Senior Editor of Mad Magazine

14 great songs of pure unadulterated fun!
Available on CD or digital download

www.bestofblasphemy.com

Ballet Classes
FALL CLASSES
Master Instructor, Jami Fender-Cronin - 32 Years Exp.

SIGNUP NOW

1460 Moraga Road Suite F, Moraga
Moraga Shopping Center, behind McCaulous
www.starpilates.com 376-7500

sewnow! Super Saturday Sewing Sale! Sat 11/27 10am-5pm

fashion studio

The Best Day of the Year to Buy Sewing & Embroidery Equipment

Each year at Thanksgiving we kick off the Holidays and offer our best deals on new and used equipment and accessories.

Brother "Black Friday" promotions on some machines include FREE Dell Mini Netbooks and up to **\$400 in savings**.

Special one-day offers on demo and used equipment, notions and accessories, sewnow! Project Kits, fabrics, and other great Holiday gift ideas **in all price ranges**.

Open Studio Time - Fashion & Sewing Classes - Workshops - Custom Embroidery - Birthday Parties - Girl Scouts
sewnow! 960 Moraga Rd, Lafayette (925) 283-7396 **www.sewnow.com**

"The Squire" Publisher Found

By Cathy Tyson



John Mustard Photo provided

with \$500 and a vision, but unfortunately no business plan. The independent newspaper originally began in Moraga, according to Mustard; his two main advertisers, grocery stores in Moraga, encouraged him to branch out to Lafayette.

The first edition of the newly expanded paper was born the week of the election – when Lafayette first incorporated. "The entire five years – we careened from one financial crisis to another," said Mustard. He describes it as a "constant struggle," some of the employees had to wait for paychecks. In the end he declared bankruptcy, "Which has been weighing on me all these years."

"It was a fun job," said Dian Overly, former graphic artist for The Squire. "Even when we had to move several times, as I recall, from office to office (probably part of the financial problems); and from the Squire experience, I moved on to the Leshner organization.

Mustard explained that the final straw was the butcher strike against supermarkets. Overnight he lost one-third of his revenue when the grocery stores stopped advertising. He recalled that at the time local stores had their own butchers, but chain grocery stores wanted to consolidate butchering to a central location. In addition Dean Leshner, owner of the Con-

tra Costa Times, was buying up quite a few of the smaller local papers and allegedly putting pressure on advertisers.

After the paper shut down, Mustard worked for a while for the *Montclarion* selling advertising, "that didn't work out too well," he said.

Then he purchased, with the help of a partner, the *Claremont Press* where he did all the production work. He moved on to the *Tri-Valley News* where he was Editor and General Manager of the Danville office.

Following that, he heard of a new paper through an acquaintance that was opening in southern Oregon. Because he wanted to get out of the rat race and find good schools for his kids, it seemed like a good opportunity. When the recession came along the never stellar economy of southern Oregon dried up as did that paper. The local fire chief was a good friend; he suggested doing a newsletter for the fire district. "That was a huge hit, everyone loved it," Mustard commented.

In 1984 he moved to the Midwest and is retired now, although he enjoys his hobby - model trains. Prior to retirement, Mustard had a job as an Information Technology Recruiter.

As he looks back to the days of the newsroom on Golden Gate Way he's disappointed, "I was never able to deliver a quality product." In retrospect he calls it a "Wonderful experience. I still love Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda."

MARA CONSTRUCTION

LOCATED IN LAMORINDA AREA
20th YEAR IN BUSINESS

SPECIALIZING IN ALL PHASES OF HOME CONSTRUCTION

- NEW CUSTOM BUILDS
- ADDITIONS
- CUSTOM KITCHENS
- CUSTOM BATHS
- DOORS/WINDOWS
- TILE/PAVERS
- FOUNDATIONS:
 - RE-LEVELING
 - STRUCTURAL REPAIR
 - DRAINAGE SYSTEMS
- RETAINING WALL
- ELECTRICAL/CUSTOM WIRING

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE ANTHONY MARAMONTE

WWW.MARACONSTRUCTION.COM • 510-385-8251 • MaraConst@comcast.net

Advertising

Warning! Do Not Set Up A Living Trust Until You Read This FREE Report That Reveals The Biggest Mistakes People Make With Their Trusts!

Do You Have A Living Trust, Or Are You Thinking About Setting One Up? Either Way, You Must Read The FREE Report Called, "How To Avoid Making The 6 Biggest Mistakes When Setting Up A Living Trust!" This Report Reveals The Truth

About Living Trusts. Call Toll-Free 1-800-251-4298, 24 Hrs., For A Free Recorded Message To Get The Copy Of The Report That Could Save You Thousands in needless expenses! Call NOW, while this is fresh on your mind, and discover what you're missing!



2010-2011 Lamorinda Girls' Basketball Preview

By Conrad Bassett

A year ago, the Diablo-Foothill Athletic League girls' basketball league lived up to its reputation as one of the toughest in California, with four of the seven teams going on to the Northern California Championships: Miramonte, Campolindo, Dublin, and Dougherty Valley. This year the teams look poised for a repeat.

Kelly Sopak returns for his second year as the Miramonte coach, fresh after leading the Mats into the second road of the state tournament before falling to eventual champion and nationally ranked number one—St. Mary's (Stockton.) The Matadors finished 22-8 and although they lost Stephanie Golden to graduation and to Gonzaga, they return a strong nucleus from last year's team.

Senior Liza Katz returns following a junior season where she was selected to the DFAL all-league first team. Also back are junior Alyssa Johanson who was named second team All-DFAL and fellow juniors Taylor Kizziee and Janine Loutzenhiser who were named as honorable mention.

Sopak will also be counting on contributions from another jun-

ior, Devon McDonald, and sophomore Carly Gill as the Mats take on another ambitious pre-season. After last year's grueling season that featured 23 games away from Orinda, the schedule includes more games in the friendly confines of their home gym. Following a ride up Interstate 80 to the Truckee Invitational, they host the Mat Tip-Off Classic as well as the Emerald Division of the West Coast Classic which will feature several top teams and players.

Campolindo finished 20-10 a year ago and lost Meghan Ringer to graduation and Southern Utah University but coach Clay Kallam also does not have an empty cupboard from which to build this year's Cougar team.

Amanda Forshay returns for her senior season before heading out to Puget Sound for her college career. Also coming back are seniors Annie Ward and Chloe Hull, who established herself as a starter a year ago. Mallory Brown is healthy and is looking forward to a good junior season as is classmate Annelise Ito who moves into a starting role.

Other seniors who are back include Erin Nakahara, Ruthie

Shapiro, and Meggie Nelson. Sophomore Laura Hickey also returns.

Newcomers include sophomore Annie Shurtz, junior Melissa McCue, and freshman Ashley Ewing.

Kallam will be challenging his squad early and often as they will join host Miramonte in the Emerald Division of the West Coast Classic and taking what has recently been an annual trek to the Valley of the Sun as they travel to the Nike TOC in Phoenix, AZ.

In Lafayette, Mike Wilson will be taking over an Acalanes team that went 15-12 a year ago. Wilson comes to Acalanes after spending time most recently at Alhambra. He coached the Acalanes Junior Varsity from 2005 to 2007.

Last year's team had only three seniors, so Wilson will have a strong nucleus of returning players. Seniors Kiara Harewood, a second team All-DFAL last year selection, and Emani Harrison, a first team All-DFAL selection, return and both started and

played well last season. Harewood is a tremendous shot blocker and Harrison very strong on the boards. Samantha Cheng also returns for her senior year at point guard.

Two juniors are back—Sophie Taylor and Meredith Collett, as well as three sophomores—Jamie Jacobs, Molly Martin, and Marie Paladino.

The team travels will stay local for all of their tournaments—including hosting their own Acalanes Classic and traveling to one at Northgate in Walnut Creek and also playing in the West Coast Classic's Sapphire Division. They do travel to Sonoma Valley and San Marin as part of their non-league schedule.

The league again appears to be one for survival of the fittest. Most of the Dougherty Valley (26-4 last season) team returns and Dublin (21-8 a year ago) also will have several top scorers back. Alhambra has seen improvement and Las Lomas hopes to do the same as well.

DFAL Fall Sports All-League Awards

(as available online as of 11/22)

Sport	School	Award	Name	
Girls' Golf	Miramonte	First Team	Jessica Goldstein	
			Kelsey Williams	
		Second Team	Liza Katz	
			Tori Hoff	
	Campolindo	Most Valuable Player	Sammy Chan	
		Second Team	Nicky Bartak	
			Kara Young	
	Acalanes	First Team	Elizabeth Schultz	
		Second Team	Adrienne Lee	
	Girls' Tennis	Miramonte	First Team (Singles)	Anastasia Kaiser
			First Team (Doubles)	Evelyn Alper/Brittany Anderson
			Second Team (Singles)	Hanne Anderson
			Meg Anderson	
		Second Team (Doubles)	Kirby Schulz/Katie Straughn	
		Honorable Mention (Singles)	Tamar McCollom	
			Sarah Reed	
			Alyssa Wendt	
Campolindo		Honorable Mention (Doubles)	Logan Ehringer/Maria Gonzales	
		First Team (Singles)	Nicole Wedlake	
Acalanes		First Team (Doubles)	Natalie Korich/Miranda Hill	
		Second Team (Doubles)	Sydney Stone/Donna Nedft	
	Honorable Mention (Singles)	Claire Faulkner		
		Ruthie Shapiro		
Acalanes	First Team (Doubles)	Emily Lindsay/Nikki Lee		
	Second Team (Singles)	Valery Jorgensen		
		Tessa Karagocev		
	Honorable Mention (Singles)	Liz Landry		
Campolindo	Honorable Mention (Doubles)	Wendy Yang/Erin Grant		
	First Team	Kristen Rutledge		
Girls' Volleyball	Miramonte	First Team	Sarah Vaccaro	
		Second Team	Audrey Breitwieser	
			Jane Siri	
		Honorable Mention	Mollie Swan	
	Campolindo	Most Valuable Player	Mary Vaccaro	
		First Team	Chandler Moore	
			Abbie Nolan	
		Second Team	Sophie Seiberth	
			Sophia Smith	
	Acalanes	Honorable Mention	Kim Condie	
		First Team	Kendall Baker	
			Tyanna Roy	
	Second Team	Brooke Aeillo		
		Natalie Chan		
	Honorable Mention	Gaby Gaubert		
Girls' Water Polo	Miramonte	First Team	Erin Byrne	
		Second Team	Michelle Caron	
			Margot Attard	
		Honorable Mention	Sierra Robbins	
			Sara Furtado	
	Campolindo	First Team	Molly Schoenfeld	
		Second Team	Gracie Fowler	
			Kimi Klein	
		Second Team	Emily McPhee	
			Sam Flower	
			Dana Holt	
		Honorable Mention	Andie Nishimi	
		Annika Jensen		
Acalanes	First Team	Lindsay Raftis		
	Second Team	Natalie Seidemann		
		Barbara Lanier		
	Second Team	Casey Reid		
		Adrienne Burgin		
		Megan Dietrich		
	Honorable Mention	Molly Quinn		
Boys' Water Polo	Miramonte	First Team	Lizzie Newman	
		Second Team	Nick Deaver	
			Joey Fabian	
			Tennysen May	
		Second Team	Charlie Wisner	
			Jack Fellner	
			Aleck Byner	
		Honorable Mention	Robbie Fluegge	
			Kyle Weikert	
			Kevin Yee	
	Cross Country (Boys)	Miramonte	First Team	Jeffrey Strausser
			Second Team	Tor Jensen
			JD Ratchford	
Campolindo		First Team	Grant Sivesind	
		Honorable Mention	Devin Kennedy	
			Peter Price	
Acalanes		Most Valuable Player	Joe Detrich	
		First Team	Robert Clemens	
			Tanner Cullen	
			Jake Kisner	
			Andrew Schnugg	
		Second Team	Connor Reid	
		Michael Worthing		
	Honorable Mention	Tommy Bush		
		Connor Mattox		
		Nathaniel Whitmore		
Cross Country (Girls)	Miramonte	First Team	Tyler Hanson	
		Second Team	Jamie Fehrstrom	
			Matt Stewart	
	Campolindo	First Team	Thomas Joyce	
		Second Team	Vinson Compstine	
			Dylan Laucher	
	Acalanes	First Team	Greg Garcia	
		Second Team	Lelond Wong	
			Keith Geiger	
	Campolindo	First Team	Tyler Troxel	
		First Team	Carrie Verdon	
	Football	Miramonte	First Team	Gracie Orders
Second Team			Rachel Meadows	
			Haley Shipway	
			Sarah Orders	
			Juliet Farman	
			Sara Mostatabi	
Acalanes		First Team	Amy Hollshwandner	
		Second Team	Annie Marggraff	
			Kelly Collins	
			Kelli Berge	
			Nicolette Sorenson	
Campolindo		First Team	Ross Anderson	
	Second Team	Blake Swimmer		
		Ross Dolbec		
		Anthony Piganelli		
		Christ Tatcher		
	Second Team	John Coupin		
		Jack Pietrykowski		
		Luke Carrillo		
		Tyler Davis		
	Honorable Mention	Tyler Young		
		Miles Honens		
		Brian Friel		
		Kevin Booze		
Campolindo	First Team	Marco Tavecchio		
	Second Team	Vito Latu		
		Joey Bertrand		
		Brett Stephens		
		Arian Motamenzadeh		
		Charlie Zaharoff		
		Karl Thornton		
		Erik Baker		
		Jamie Vega		
	Honorable Mention	Dan Fadelli		
		Amir Hakimjavi		
Acalanes	First Team	Nick Zolintakis		
	Second Team	Trent Baker		
		Drew Gaylord		
		Trent Baker		
	Second Team	Aaron Edwards		
		Mike Leamy		
		Michael Brady		
		Spencer Henderson		
	Honorable Mention	Matt Rogstad		
		Harrison Bagdan		
		Lucas Levine		
		Carson Gardner		

NCS Results

Sport	School	Results
Volleyball	Miramonte	Second Round
		First Round: bye
		Second Round: Lost to Moreau Catholic (2-3)
Campolindo	Campolindo	NCS Champions
		First Round: bye
		Second Round: beat Terra Linda (3-0)
		Semifinals: beat Analy (3-2)
		Finals: beat Sir Francis Drake (3-0)
Acalanes	Acalanes	Second Round
		First Round: beat Petaluma (3-2)
		Second Round: lost to Sir Francis Drake (0-3)
Football	Miramonte	Still Playing
		First Round: beat Analy 17-3
Campolindo	Campolindo	First Round
		First Round: Lost to Cardinal Newman 35-7
Acalanes	Acalanes	First Round
		First Round: Lost to San Rafael 27-12
Girls' Tennis	Miramonte ANASTASIA KAISER/HANNE ANDERSEN	Finals
		First Round: Beat Mission San Jose
		Second Round: Beat Campolindo
		Semi-Finals: Beat Redwood
		Finals: Lost to California
Campolindo NATALIE KORICH/MIRANDA HILL	Campolindo	Second Round
		First Round: Beat Northgate
		Second Round: Lost to Miramonte
Girls' Waterpolo	Miramonte	Second Round
		First Round: Beat Bishop O'Dowd 13-2
		Second Round: Lost to Acalanes 6-8 (OT)
Campolindo	Campolindo	NCS Champions
		First Round: Beat Marin Academy 20-6
		Second Round: Beat Sir Francis Drake 12-3
		Semi-Finals: Beat Marin Catholic 8-6
		Finals: Beat Acalanes 8-5
Acalanes	Acalanes	Finals
		First Round: Beat Piedmont 16-3
		Second Round: Beat Miramonte 8-6 (OT)
		Semi-Finals: Beat Las Lomas 6-2
		Finals: Lost to Campolindo 5-8
Boys' Waterpolo	Campolindo	Semi-Finals
		First Round: Beat Justin Siena 20-5
		Second Round: Beat Terra Linda 10-4
		Semi-Finals: Lost to Alhambra 8-13
Cross Country	Miramonte—Boys	Seventh
	Miramonte—Girls	Eleventh
	Campolindo—Boys	Second
	Campolindo—Girls	NCS Champions
	Acalanes—Boys	Fifth
	Acalanes—Girls	Second

Campo Girls Water Polo NCS Division Champs

Submitted by Linda Lim



Front row: Andie Nishimi, Lindsay Raftis, Gracie Fowler, Assistant Coach Heather Stuart (holding plaque), Raena Sumiyoshi, Maddie Larson. Second row: Emily McPhee, Clarice Cho, Assistant Coach Jessie Cima (with sunglasses), Christy Faoro. Back row: Dana Holt, Sam Flower, Annika Jensen, Kimi Klein, Head Coach Kim Everist (holding banner), Allison Stevens, Chelsea Crawford, Natalie Seidemann, Sara Torchio, Cessie Nishimi.

The Campolindo varsity girls' water polo team won the NCS Division II championship last Saturday, 8-5 over Lamorinda rival Acalanes at the Soda Aquatic Center.

SMC Men's Basketball Undefeated in Opening Week



#22 Rob Jones

Photo Tod Fierner

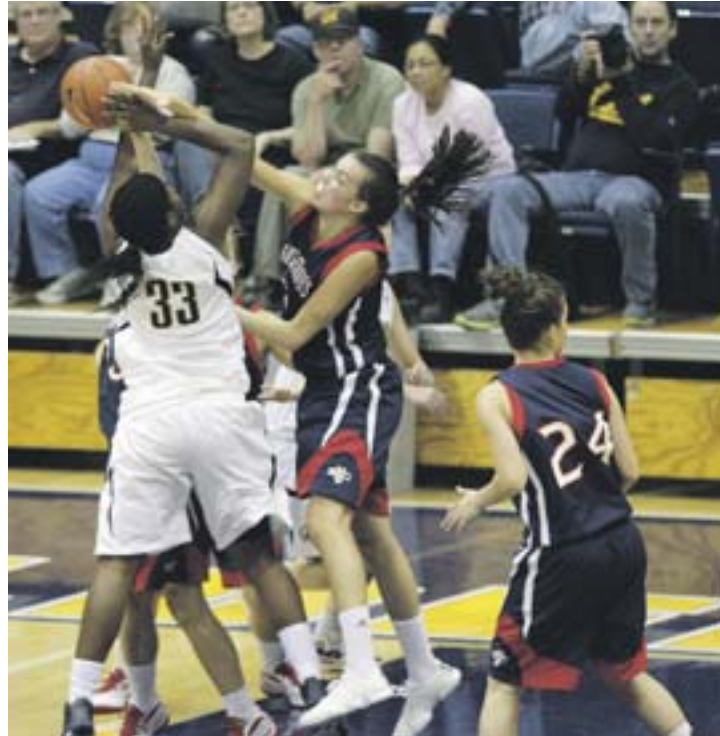
Saint Mary's men's basketball opened the season with a four game home-stand and a four game win streak. The Gaels 76-71 win over St. John's on ESPN's 24 College Basketball Kick-off Marathon proves the team means business this season. The Gaels have received a few votes in the ESPN/USA Top 25 poll.

On Sunday, the Gaels hosted a game against Mississippi Valley

State. Saint Mary's handily knocked off the Delta Devils 87-52. Redshirt junior forward Rob Jones (above) had his best scoring game on Sunday when he notched 13 points and four assists, going 5-for-5 from the line.

The Gaels took on Chicago State last night, Tuesday, November 23, after press time. The Gaels take on Texas Tech on Friday, November 26.

SMC Women's Basketball Off to a Great Start



#2 Louella Tomlinson and #24 Morgan Hatten

Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's basketball opened the season with a 3-2 record. The Gaels dropped their two games to top competition, Cal and #21 Nebraska. The Gaels traveled to play #21 Nebraska on Saturday, and lost 63-64.

SMC took on Drake on Thursday, November 18, defeating the Bulldogs 70-46. In the win, sen-

ior forward Louella Tomlinson (above) notched 13 points, six rebounds and seven blocks. The seven blocks was a single-game record for the Knapp Center.

Saint Mary's hosts the Saint Mary's Milton Tournament this weekend, taking on Northwestern on Friday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Lamorinda Football Finishes 1-2 in NCS Playoffs

Miramonte wins; Campolindo, Acalanes lose in first round on Nov. 19



Ross Anderson (9) runs up field for a Miramonte first down. Anderson notched 152 rushing yards in the 17-3 win.

Miramonte: Miramonte was the only Lamorinda team with a top seed. Their 10-1 overall record gave them a #3 seed in the NCS Division III bracket. The Mats hosted the Analy Tigers and managed to come out with a 17-3

win, despite the bad weather. The rain was a huge factor and Miramonte chose to take advantage of junior quarterback Ross Anderson's running ability. Anderson ran for 152 yards on 22 carries. Senior running back John Coupin

was also instrumental for the Miramonte offense, running for 51 yards on ten carries.

The offense did not truly come alive until the fourth quarter when both Coupin and Anderson finally reached the end zone to extend

the lead to 17-3.

Miramonte's defense held Analy to 66 rushing yards and 112 receiving.

Miramonte will take on San Marin on Saturday, November 27.

Campolindo
#15 Campolindo traveled to the North Bay to take on perennial powerhouse #2 Cardinal Newman. The Cougars came into the game with a three game losing streak and a losing record, 5-6. Cardinal Newman took full advantage of Campolindo, defeating them, 35-7.

The Cougars were down 0-21 at half time off of three touchdowns from the Cardinal's quarterback Stephen Tomasin.

Campolindo's sophomore quarterback Brett Stephens was 14 for 30, notching 183 yards but he also had four interceptions.

Acalanes
The #9 Dons took on #8 San Rafael in the first round of NCS Division III playoffs. Acalanes (5-6) looked like Lamorinda's best bet for an upset but San Rafael (10-1) proved an indomitable force. The Dons lost 12-27. The weather proved to be a significant factor. Acalanes did not complete a single pass in the game and

by the end of the first quarter were down 0-21. San Rafael scored in their first two possessions.

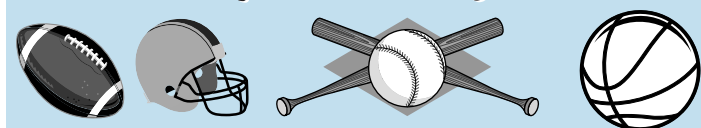
The Dons mustered some offense in the second half, notching two touchdowns but it was too little, too late.

Freshman Peter Mitchell,

called up from the Dons' JV team, led the Acalanes offense, recording 72 rushing yards.

Head coach Mike Ivankovich said: "Weather prevented us from being able to pass to get back into the game and both teams have limited playoff experience, they just beat us."

Youth Sports Registration



PLAY RUGBY! Grades 1-12

Registration for Lamorinda Rugby Club is now open for the 2011 season! No prior rugby experience necessary, just a love of fast-paced contact sports. Practices start after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29. Youth season runs through March; High School finishes regular season end of April. Come on out! Register online at www.LamoRugby.com. For more info contact Nancy Taylor 925-253-1435, or check the website for FAQ and schedule info.

Lamorinda Soccer Club 2011 Winter Weekend Clinics begin in January for kids ages 6-13 years old. If you have a player who loved fall soccer, wants to try a new sport, or wants to see if traveling soccer is a good fit, come out to Bentley school to learn new skills, meet the coaches and have fun! For more information and to sign up, go to the LMSC website at lamorindasc.com registrar@lamorindasc.com

If you would like to list the registration information for a youth sports club please email wendy@lamorindaweekly.com or call (925) 377-0977. B&W listing \$24 per inch, Color listing \$34 per inch.

Campolindo Ladies Win NCS Volleyball Championship

... continued from page A1



Mary Vaccaro, the DFAL Most Valuable Player, was instrumental in the Cougars NCS run. Photo Doug Kohen

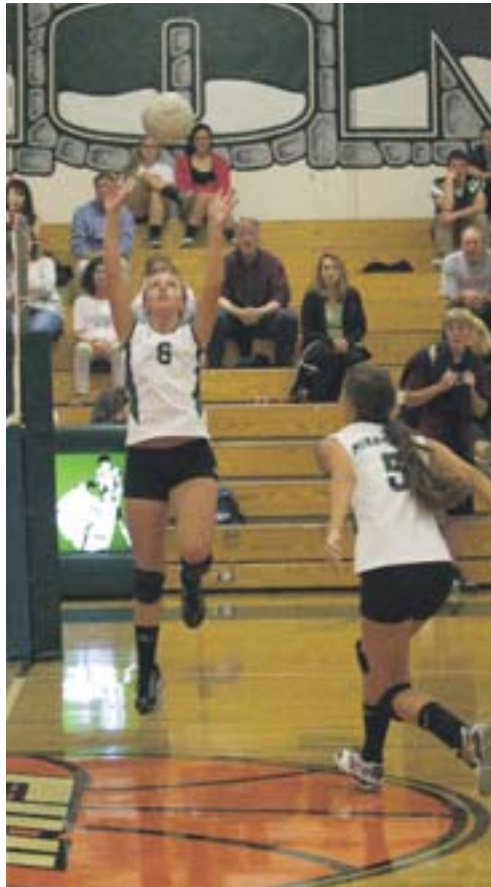


Photo Doug Kohen



Photo Doug Kohen

On their way to the championship, Campolindo won their quarterfinal match at home over Terra Linda handily, 25-15, 25-18, 25-15. Campolindo came out strong from the first point of the first set, a kill by senior outside hitter Mary Vaccaro, they won 25-15. In the second set the teams traded points. A forceful kill by Vaccaro gave Campolindo a 15-14 from which they never looked back. The Lady Cougars won the set 25-18. Campolindo made quick work of the third and final set, ending it 25-15.

Vaccaro, the DFAL Most Valuable Player and All-American, commented on the game's importance in their quest to win NCS: "I definitely feel a lot of momentum, we're all very pumped up, we've become really close as a team coming into playoffs, so hopefully that will allow us to hopefully get a good ride to the [finals]," she said. "We need to perform and work our hardest every single game and hopefully we'll come out on top."

The Cougars advanced to play Analy the following Wednesday, November 17 and played as

Vaccaro anticipated. They won a tightly contested match in five sets, 20-25, 25-16, 25-16, 24-26, 15-13. With that win they advanced to the final, in which they met Sir Francis Drake (34-5).

In the final, Campolindo dominated the first two sets, 25-12 and 25-13. In the third set, however, the Lady Cougars fell behind, a rare occurrence for them, prompting head coach Scott Bishop to call a time out. Out of the time out, Campolindo went on a 10-1 run to end the match and claim the trophy for the first time since 2005. Vaccaro had 13 kills and senior middle hitter Chandler Moore had six in Campolindo's rout of Sir Francis Drake.

Bishop had made a bold prediction about the team's chances: "if we perform at the level that we're capable of, I see us going all the way," he said, and that they did.

Despite being ranked third in NCS and one of the favorites to move on in the tournament, Miramonte lost a tightly contested game at home against Moreau Catholic in the quarterfinals, 25-17, 24-26, 25-14, 23-25, 16-14. In the fifth set,

Moreau Catholic took the lead from the start, but Miramonte wouldn't go down easily, they fought back and eventually took the lead 13-11. However, Moreau Catholic went on a 5-1 run to win the fifth set and the match.

Junior outside hitter Audrey Breitwieser and senior outside hitter Kirsten Rutledge had 22 and 19 kills, respectively. Junior setter Sarah Vaccaro had 48 assists and three aces.

Coach Shannon Ross commented on the game as a great example of her team's perseverance, despite the loss. "I thought we did a great job of fighting back during the match against Moreau," she said. "We lost the first and third games by quite large margins and came back in the second and fourth games with wins; the fifth game was a toss up and the girls fought until the very last point."

Acalanes' season ended after Sir Francis Drake defeated them on their way to the finals; they lost in three sets, 25-15, 25-12, 25-20, ending their NCS hopes at the quarterfinals on November 13.

Senior captain Natalie Chan commented on the loss and noted her team's improvement over the course of the season. "We played [Sir Francis Drake] before and lost really badly, but this time we played better as a team," she said. "For the most part, we were all happy with how we played; we knew this wasn't going to be an easy team, as they are seeded second overall."

MOL Champions

Submitted by Paul Griessel



From left: Top row: Coach Rob Combi, Cole Cronk, Derrick Carey, Paul Griessel, Nick Miller, Coach Mike Miller Middle row: Eli Olson, Enzo Sereno, Ethan Fischler, Nick Morgan, Daniel Seiler Bottom row: Henry Marken, Cole Combi, Ben Ross

The Edmonton Eskimos were the winners of the Superbowl for MOL (Moraga, Orinda, Lafayette) flag football 5th/6th grade NFC Division this year. They beat the Vikings in a close game on November 13th, that was decided by just two points. Twenty teams competed in this division.

Rebates Fading Winter Approaching

Fall Is the Time To Call

George C Tuck, founder of Atlas Heating Co. in 1908.

With a high efficiency furnace, you could be eligible for the Federal Tax Credit and three separate rebates. You might even catch the Cash For Appliances rebate if you act quickly. Even the Federal Tax Credit is down to its last few weeks of life. This opportunity is unparalleled. Call us now for a free estimate, days, evenings or weekends. It's time to get comfortable.™

ATLAS
Heating and Air Conditioning Company
Since 1908 • CA Lic #489501

YORK
Heating & Air Conditioning

925-944-1122
www.atlasheating.com

Celebrating our 8th Anniversary

Thank you Lamorinda

Offering Complete Systems, Upgrades & Universal Remote Solutions Proudly Serving The Lamorinda Community Since 2002

SOUNDWORKS

Free-In-Home Estimates
925-209-7001
P.O. Box 365
Moraga, CA 94556

	Up to \$1,000,000		Up to \$4,000,000	
	Interest Rate	APR	Interest Rate	APR
3 Year Fixed	2.650%	3.750%	3.750%	3.750%
5 Year Fixed	3.300%	3.750%	3.750%	3.750%
7 Year Fixed	3.950%	3.750%	4.375%	3.750%
10 Year Fixed	4.250%	3.750%	4.625%	3.750%
	Conforming to \$417,000		Conforming Jumbo to \$729,750	
30 Year Fixed	4.250%	4.375%	4.375%	4.415%
15 Year Fixed	3.625%	3.715%	3.875%	3.925%

For current rates call Kyle at 925-314-5299. "Providing Premier Loan products and service from the most experienced and solution-oriented professionals in your community."

Kyle Davis
Mortgage Consultant
Owner/Partner
DRE License #0111347
Lamorinda Resident Since 1995
Direct: 925-314-5299
Kyle@Stonecastle-LHF.com



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

LMYA Soccer Wraps Up Season

5th/6th Grade Girls

Submitted by Chris Blair



Photo provided

Team USA finished the fall season with an undefeated record and was crowned the cham-

pions of the Moraga Girls Grade 5/6 division. Team USA completed the season with a 1-0 victory over

Team Germany, and with the shutout finished the year without giving up a goal the entire season. Led by defenders Sarah Fass, Katie Ruiter, Danielle Rhoda, Jennifer Gregory and Kendall Schmidt, and outstanding goalie play by Audrey Moore and Morgan Langstaff, the opponents were kept off the board for eight straight games. Leading the offense was Grace Burnite, Kiera Crandall, Natalie Hayes, Julia Blair, Kim Baxter, Jessica Thomas and Elizabeth Garcia. Coaches Chris Blair and Denise Lambert noted this team had great intensity and teamwork throughout the season.

5th/6th Grade Boys

Submitted by Gint Federas



Team Italy won LMYA Soccer's 5/6 Grade Boys division with a 9-1 record, scoring 33 goals, while allowing only 11.

Front row: Nixon Murgia, Cam Stuart, Andrew Federas, Stefan Ramsey, John Mitchell, Aidan McNamara, and Carson Blocker. Back row: Assistant Coach Trevor Stuart, Head Coach Bill Stuart, Hayden Wells, Kage Groszewski, Clark Fromer, Kaelen Nunes, Noah Kim, Tyler Schenone, Ben Bequette, Zak Singh, Assistant Coach Gint Federas.

1st Grade Girls

Submitted by David Cervenka



Team Brazil's forward Analise Harhay (#6) charges down field in an attempt to score during the final game of the season against Team Argentina on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at Happy Valley Elementary School in Lafayette. Team Brazil fell to Team Argentina with a final score of 0 - 4.

Boys' Volleyball in Lamorinda

Submitted by Rich Jones



Back row: Peter Chao – coach, Robert Steiner, Jonathan Santos, Julian Egoian, Derek Lodge, Mitchell Brooks, Sean Vasima, Roger Worsley, coach Front Row: Michael Standing, Peter Jones, Gage Worsley, Joe Worsley

Pacific Rim Volleyball Academy Boys 14s (Pac Rim) are ranked number one in the Northern California Volleyball Association Power League #1 after successful tournament play. The team, based in Pleasant Hill, includes five Lamorinda students, four from Joaquin Moraga Middle School (JM), Peter Jones, Michael Standing, Joe and Gage Worsley; and Mitchell Brooks of Orinda Intermediate School. The four JM boys also formed the nucleus of a prior club team that ranked tenth in California in 2009-2010 and went on to place 19th (Open Division) at the Junior National Volleyball tournament in Austin, Texas, this past July. The team is coached by Roger Worsley, a member of the coaching staff of the Stanford men's volleyball team, the 2010 NCAA Champions.

Lamorinda United Take League Crown

Submitted by John Fuller and Larry Margerum



From left, front row: Claire Winter, Jessica Tuan, Kaitlin McGee, Sophie Leksan, Nina Gerson, Erin Bishop, Katie Tao Back row: Val Margerum, Megan Turner, Natalia Pedder, Coco Pearce, Jessica Jara, Sophie Fuller, Shannon Stabler, Samantha Zarling, Alison Turner

The LaMorinda Soccer Club's girls' United 94 team continued their winning ways. They grabbed first place in the Golden State Soccer League (G.S.S.L) gold

division. The league title was decided on a rainy Sunday afternoon, as Lamorinda hosted their east bay rival, Danville Mustang Blast at Bentley High School.

The match was a defensive struggle with few scoring attempts. Lamorinda goalkeeper Sophie Leksan made a key save in the first half, blocking a penalty kick attempt. Leksan finished with 11 saves on the day. The score remained tied, 0-0, at the half.

The second half proved to be a more physical 40 minutes of play, with increased infractions for the visitors. Danville was whistled for a costly penalty in the final moments of the match. This allowed Lamorinda midfielder Katie Tao a free kick from 22 yards on the top left of the box and she nailed it hard and high off the bottom of the cross bar for a 1-0 lead with only five minutes to play. Lamorinda held on for the 1-0 win. Lamorinda is in first place with an 8-1 record.

Lamorinda Schools

Acalanes Students Sweep Contest

Submitted by Susan Lane (Acalanes Digital Design)

This year the Contra Costa County Schools Insurance Group conducted its second annual Slip, Trip, and Fall poster contest. Last year an Acalanes High School student won first place; this year Acalanes

students swept the contest, taking 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in this county-wide competition. The winners are India Williams (1st place), Marisa Hummel (2nd) and Casey Lee (3rd)



1st place



2nd place



3rd place

The Orinda Landmarks Quilt



Photo by Les Hala

Orinda quilters (from L to R) Leasa Raya, Liz Piatt, Margaret Zucker, Ginny Ross, Jocelyn Marzan, Sandy Chan, Cheryl Hata, Terry Lowenthal, and Helen Calvert-Snook created this multi-paneled quilt depicting some of Orinda's most recognizable scenes. Terry Lowenthal, who is a photographer, created the design. The ladies have donated the quilt to the Educational Foundation of Orinda. A.Firth

Campo Presents Romeo and Juliet



Photo Andrea A. Firth

Seniors Piere Naton and Laura Zenoni star in Campolindo High School's upcoming performance of Romeo and Juliet. "We've added some grit, graffiti, and a few twists to Shakespeare's famous romantic tragedy," says drama teacher and director Jamie Donahoe. The play will be performed on Friday, December 3rd at 7 p.m., and Saturday December 4th at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door; \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. [The Director recommends that children under 13 years of age attend the matinee performance.] A.Firth

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Acalanes Union High School District
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
Wednesday, December 8, at 7:30pm

Orinda Union School District
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
Monday, December 6, at 4pm

Lafayette School District
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
Wednesday, December 8, at 7pm

Moraga School District
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
Tuesday, December 14, at 7:30pm

Submit stories to schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com

www.Lamorindaweekly.com

Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Lafayette Elects a New School Board
- Challenging Conditions for Lamorinda Grapes
- Wyro Reelected to MOFD Board of Directors
- Orinda Academy Teacher Wins Award
- LamorindaDogs.org
- Local Women Taking Charge of Their Lives
- Blazing a New Trail on the Burton Ridge Trail Connector
- And the Winners Are?
- Angels in America at SMC
- Lafayette Library's Successful First Year

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.

Send sports stories and ideas to: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Schools

LASF Unveils New Identity: Lafayette Partners in Education

By Jean Follmer



The LASF/LPIE booth at the Reservoir Run.

Photo Jean Follmer

After days of rain, an unexpectedly beautiful Halloween morning greeted thousands of smiling Lafayette Reservoir Run participants. Adding to the delicious annual Rotary Club pancake breakfast was a community carnival to celebrate the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation's name change. Now Lafayette Partners in Education, President Maureen Bagley

could not have been more pleased. "I would like to thank the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for letting us reveal our new name in front of a huge crowd on a beautiful day at the Reservoir Run. We had a terrific response to the unveiling of the new name, Lafayette Partners in Education," said Bagley.

Partners in Education (Partners) representatives greeted chil-

dren, parents and community members, handed out reusable shopping bags with the new name, and answered questions about the name change. Children had the opportunity to do scratch art, try their hand at a Warhol-inspired mural, use their math and judgment skills to make "estimates" and fly down the inflatable bouncy slide in the Plaza Center parking lot.

Thirty years ago, LASF was started to fill the state funding gaps in the arts and sciences. Over the years, LASF grew to meet the needs of the Lafayette School District, Acalanes High School and the Lafayette community. While staying true to the Arts and Sciences, LASF also provides extensive support in the areas of: Music and Drama, Health, Math, Humanities and Technology. "The name Lafayette Partners in Education more accurately reflects the current role of the education foundation. The financial needs of our schools have grown significantly and the

education foundation has had to reach out to a greater number of community partners to help us reach our fundraising goals. We work very closely with parent organizations, teachers and administrators, our own instructors and the local business community. We chose the name in recognition of these critical partnerships," explained Bagley.

Partners plans to continue to strengthen its working relationship with school site parent organizations. This month, Partners is forming an advisory committee that will review the way the education foundation is organized and to ensure all partner organizations have a strong voice in its operations.

"Although we have changed our name, we are still the same great organization with the mission of supporting and enriching the education of all public school students in Lafayette," finished Bagley.

Application Inflation in College Admissions

By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

Recently I overheard a conversation between two high school students at a local coffee shop. One student told his friend "My grades aren't great and my SAT scores are mediocre, so my plan is to take full advantage of the Common Application and apply to about 20 or 30 schools just to see what happens. My mom and dad can afford it, so it won't be a problem." Then he asked his friend, "What do you think of my strategy?"

He didn't ask for my opinion so I thought I would address his question in this article. Picking which schools to apply to is an important part of the college admission process. So while it may look appealing to "play the odds" and just try to get in somewhere, you may be robbing yourself of both a rewarding education and future opportunities. Even if your grades have suffered and your test scores are not the greatest, you can still assemble a list of colleges that would best meet your needs. In fact, finding a list of appropriate schools is even more important for students whose grades and boards are less than stellar. These students generally benefit greatly from a supportive educational environment that matches well with their interests and needs. If you haven't been able to do your best work in high school, your college years present an opportunity to start fresh and take advantage of new opportunities. You are cheating yourself out of this chance by making your No. 1 criterion the ease with which you can hit the send button.

Another factor that this student may not have considered is how important it is for colleges to know the applicant has given care-

ful consideration to their institution before applying. Demonstrated interest is important because when colleges accept an applicant they want that student to enroll. You actually reduce your chances of acceptance at a college if they have not heard from you until your application arrives or if your responses to their supplement show you have not researched their school with care. If a decision comes down to a number of applicants with similar academic and extracurricular profiles, the college will choose the applicant who has demonstrated interest. The Common Application requires one personal essay and one short response, but most colleges that use this application also add supplemental essays to distinguish applicants who have a sincere interest in their school from those who are applying "just to see what happens."

Today, both applicants to college and colleges themselves are engaged in a vicious cycle. As the number of applications soars, colleges struggle to accurately predict yield (that is the number of accepted students who actually enroll). Yield is critical to the college's bottom-line. As colleges struggle with yield, they resort to longer wait lists and other enrollment management tactics. On the other side, students hedge against increasing competition and declining admit rates by flooding the system with more applications than ever before. This phenomenon is occurring nationwide as more students cast a broader geographic net.

Since larger applicant pools do not necessarily improve the quality of incoming freshman

classes, many higher education experts are lamenting that colleges are simply rejecting more highly capable students because they have so many to choose from. The number of "all-stars" in the country has not changed—they are just jumping into more applicant pools. Undergraduate admission offices across the country are staggering under the increase in the numbers of applications, and their evaluation processes and staffing are not structured to handle the volume.

Despite this struggle, colleges continue to employ a variety of recruitment strategies to attract even more applicants. In the early 1990's colleges purchased 35 million student names and addresses from CollegeBoard. In 2009 that number rose to over 80 million. And Fast Track Applications are increasingly common (with fee waived and pre-filled to boot!). Why are colleges actively participating in application inflation? Some of the reasons include: increase in applications is linked to perceptions of popularity, selectivity and quality. Greater application volume also slightly improves *U.S. News and World Report's* ranking (but every little bit counts!), pleases alumni, aids in fund-raising and helps to attract top professors and researchers. Even bond rating agencies use the number of applications a college receives as one measure of demand, and thus as an indicator of the institution's financial health.

There are many voices that question the ethics of intense recruitment strategies by colleges that wind up rejecting the overwhelming majority of applicants. And some colleges simply refuse to take the bait. Charles Deacon,

the dean of undergraduate admissions at Georgetown University, says his university has no plans to join the Common Application. "...this is a personal relationship between a student and college. We know people are applying who (really) want to apply. No college should appeal to everyone."



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an educational consultant and certified college admissions advisor. Her goal is to help students and their families understand the admissions process, research college and career options, create a customized college list and submit a strong and cohesive application. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC, and HECA and earned a certification in College Admissions and Career Planning from University of California at Berkeley. Contact her at (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

techmommy[®]

"A High-tech Brain with the Patience of a Mother"

1/2 HOUR FREE
(\$47.50 value)*

*new clients only, exp. 1-15-2011

Fast Expert Computer Help from techmommy!

help

- Troubleshoot any PC computer problem.
- Help in plain English, not tech talk.
- Personal training in your home, at your pace.

925-377-7711
www.techmommy.com

Serving the Bay Area's Technology Needs Since 1985

"Over the years techmommy has been our computer savior and guru, untangling our hardware and software problems with remarkable ease. Thank goodness for techmommy. We would be lost without her!"

- Dan & Colleen, Moraga

SAT WRITING TUTORING

OCTOBER SAT SCORES ARE OUT AND PSAT SCORES ARE ALMOST HERE!

ARE YOU AIMING FOR A HIGHER WRITING SCORE ON YOUR NEXT TEST? THE WRITING SECTION IS VERY COACHABLE. I HAVE WRITING WORKSHOPS, SMALL GROUPS, CRAM SESSIONS AND INDIVIDUAL TUTORING TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS AND I CAN FIT SESSIONS AROUND YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE. SIGN UP WITH A FRIEND AND SAVE.

Writing

MAUREEN GREEN

MEMBER, NATIONAL TUTORING ASSOCIATION

925-299-8735

www.mypreptutor.com

MY PREP TUTOR

ORINDA ACADEMY

PARENTS, STUDENTS & TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER

College Prep • Grades 7-12 • Small Classes

OPEN HOUSE

FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS AND STUDENTS
1-4 OCT.30 & DEC. 11

19 Altarinda Rd., Orinda, CA 94563
925.254.7553 • www.OrindaAcademy.org

Limited Fall Openings

"Nothing makes me happier than to see you smile!"

- Comfortable, Convenient Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Certified in Full Mouth Reconstruction

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Providing Personalized Care through Quality Dentistry

Scott D. Lothamer, DDS

Moraga
925-376-4602
1030 Country Club Drive

\$40 off

mention this ad to receive \$40 off any dental treatment

Member:
ADA • CDA • CCDS • AACD

Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

We're a community newspaper, and we welcome your input:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Art, theater, community events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Business news or business press releases: business@lamorindaweekly.com
School stories/events: schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com
General interest stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Publishers/Owners: Andy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, phone 925-330-7916
Wendy Wuerth-Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Editor: Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com

Advertising: Wendy Wuerth-Scheck; 925-377-0977, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Staff Writers: Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com
Andrea A. Firth; andrea@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: Caitlin Graveson

Contributing Writers: Dean Okamura, Cynthia Brian, Linda U. Foley, Conrad Bassett, Susie Iventosch, Moya Stone, Roslynn Aragoness Stenzel, Lucy Amaral, Alex Crook, Justine Sgalio, Chuck Nan, Alex Kozela, Bryant West

Photos: Tod Fierner, Doug Kohen, Jordan Fong, Ohlen Alexander

Circulation: 24,200 printed copies; 23,200 mailed to homes & businesses in Lamorinda. 1,000 delivered to pick up locations.

Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck, Jonas Scheck, Amanda Griggs. Printed in CA.

Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com

MUSIC LIVES HERE

EST. 2005

RedHouse

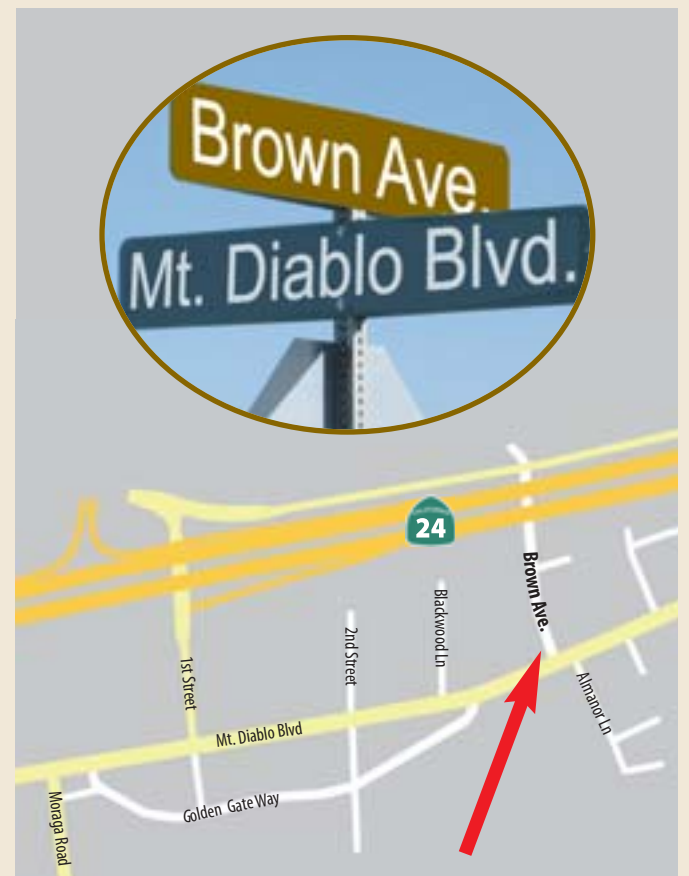
GET A HOBBY THAT ROCKS

MUSIC SCHOOL - JAM CLUB - ROCK VENUE

WWW.REDHOUSELIVE.COM | 925.465.5175 | WALNUT CREEK

ALL ROADS LEAD TO BROWN AVE.

You might think you know Brown Avenue, but have you been here lately? Come check out the vibrant businesses and eclectic shopping on Lafayette's east side -- it's just a short way down the Boulevard!



Holistic Veterinary Center



Dr. Karen Rettig with a happy patient

Alternatives for Animals is one of the few veterinary clinics in the Bay Area that is exclusively dedicated to Holistic Medicine. Our focus is on energetic healing and while we have some western medications available, we rarely need to use them. We refer out for diagnostic procedures to enable our wellness center to remain peaceful, calm and tranquil thus allowing our patients to relax and receive the full benefit of their treatments. Holistic medicine encompasses many modalities that bring the body into balance. Through balance comes wellness and healing. The modalities offered at Alternatives for Animals are: Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Chinese Herbal Medicine, Homeopathy, Reiki, Craniosacral, Bioresonance Therapy, Nutrition, Flower Essences and Pulsed Signal Therapy. We are passionate about what we do and every day we are excited to make a difference in animals' lives, whether it be offering non-invasive options for a terminal illness to advising owners on natural methods for rearing their new puppy.

Dr. Karen Rettig
 1042 Brown Ave., Lafayette
 Phone: (925) 283-6160
 alternatives4animals.com
 Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Please call for an appointment



Your furniture helps make your house a home – don't send it away!



- Family-owned and operated, Robert and Venera Avanesyan
- Repair and upholstery of sofas, ottomans, chairs, headboards, slipcovers, pillows; antiques and custom upholstery
- Pick-up and delivery of your furniture available
- Expert advice on the selection of fabric and trim; thousands of samples to choose from

Whether it's your grandmother's dining room set or a much-loved family sofa, when it's time to entrust your furniture to the hands of an upholsterer the artisans at M.R.S. Furniture Upholstery offer the finest in Old World craftsmanship and quality. And because your furniture stays right here at the Forge, you could even come visit it! Owners Robert and Venera Avanesyan are proud to continue the business that has been in their family for over 50 years. Robert, trained in his craft by his father and brothers, will accept nothing less than perfection in his finished work – and you will love his skilled attention to every detail.

M.R.S. Furniture Upholstery
 The Forge 3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd. (corner of Brown Ave.), Lafayette
 Phone: (925) 962-0579
 Open 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri., and 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sat.

Everything Sewing



Owner, sewing enthusiast, and quilting expert Carolite Hensley.

The Cotton Patch is a scene of sewing wonderment! Bright, brilliant, clear colors appear throughout the store. We carry a vast selection of fabrics including Cotton Prints and Solids, Batiks, Flannel, Minky, Corduroy, Rayon, Satin/Silk, and Vinyl. Hundreds of books, patterns, and gift items line the shelves. If you're in the market, Bernina and Janome sewing machines fill the store's center; or we can repair your machine on location. Classes and events are offered frequently throughout the year for those wanting to learn something new or improve an existing skill. If you've hit a snag in a project why not bring it in? Problem solving and helping customers realize their ideas are specialties of our staff – one of them usually has the answer. The Cotton Patch has been a one-stop shopping destination for sewers and quilters in Lafayette, and beyond, since 1978. **Come by and see us!**

1025 Brown Ave., Lafayette
 Phone: (925) 284-1177
 www.quiltusa.com
 Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5:30;
 Thurs 10-9; Sat. 10-5; Sun 12-4.



Classy Consignment Store



Rosie's Upscale Consignments has been offering high quality clothing for resale in our storybook cottage location on Brown Avenue since 1973. Savvy shoppers can find quality women's apparel and accessories at bargain prices. Looking for something exceptional? Discover one of our vintage treasures! Unique items for home décor are also available. All items are stocked for the current season. Ample parking makes your excursion easy and nearby restaurants make for a great girls' day out and a lot of fun!

Rosie's Upscale Consignments
 1020 Brown Ave., Lafayette
 Phone: (925) 283-6540
 Store hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tues. thru Sat.
 Consignments welcome 10:00-2:00



The History of Creative Alterations



Joseph Jankochian, owner, operator

I first picked up a needle and thread in 1972. It was in my father's sewing shop – he was the inspiration behind my success. Years later, in 1991, my family and I left Armenia seeking opportunity; our search led us to the United States. By 1992 I had the good fortune to take over a tailor shop that was barely making ends meet. We began offering many services to clients, such as dress-making, tailoring formal dresses, wedding dresses and business suits. After 38 successful years as a tailor in my shop at The Forge in Lafayette, I realized that having a larger location would lead to even greater opportunity, so I decided to relocate to a 1600 sq. ft location at 1048 Brown Avenue. Over the years, we have integrated additional services for our clients. We now offer everything from tailoring to dress-making, dry cleaning, wedding dress preservation and our newest service – monogramming and embroidery. Creative Alterations is a family-owned business full of passion and dedication to hard work, providing expert tailoring services.

Creative Alterations
 1048 Brown Ave., Lafayette
 Phone: (925) 284-5636



FASTFRAME® EXPERT PICTURE FRAMING



Anthony Ruiz

Fastframe has been a mainstay in Lafayette since it opened in 1991, and has an excellent reputation of producing a finely-crafted product with first-class customer service. Anthony Ruiz, a custom picture framer since 1987, purchased the business in 1999. For nearly 20 years Anthony and his staff have created one-of-a-kind masterpieces for Lamorinda families and businesses that have become heirlooms and wonderful additions to their décor.

Anthony, a hands-on owner, puts a great deal of effort into the community. One of his pet projects is "The Luck Of The Draw", where local school children enter their artwork in a drawing and the lucky winners receive complimentary custom framing from Fastframe. This popular show, now in its eighth year, travels to various locations in Lafayette throughout the school year.

Anthony is an active member of the "Try Lafayette First" program and feels strongly about giving back to the community that inspires him. Anthony says, "We are very fortunate to have such a supportive customer base who appreciates our craft. One of our finer moments was being commissioned to do the majority of the framing for the new Lafayette Library."

1020 Brown Ave., Lafayette
 Open Monday-Saturday 10-6 (925) 283-7620
 Follow "Fastframe of Lafayette" on Facebook

... come visit us ...

Happy Holidays

Twisted Turkey Traditions

By Lou Fancher

Thanksgiving amplifies the oddest quirks of the American family. Glorifying our love affair with bountiful buffets—consumed in preparation for watching televised sports to excess—the holiday is prime territory for peculiar, even perverse traditions.

My own fondest memories were formed early on. After gorging for hours, my three sisters and I would lie, like four Midwestern sardines, close together on the living room floor. Mom, or less often, dad, would shoot pictures to show our bellies, rising like miniature Mount Diablo's from underneath our shirts. Our stomachs' altitude was proof of the good meal they'd provided.

Although there are no photos to help me recall the process, making stuffing is stamped just as irrevocably on my Thanksgiving Day mind. Again, the four of us would join forces: wadding soft, fluffy Wonder White Bread into balls, stuffing our cheeks to bursting and laughing hysterically as we began to resemble chipmunks, more than girls.

I might have loved stuffing, for all the fun it generated, if it wasn't for the Family Recipe. My mother would take a perfectly delicious blend of bread, spices

and butter, and ruin the entire thing with just a few stalks of celery. I even *liked* celery—raw and filled with peanut butter. But cooked? The mushy, fibrous wedges, despite my filtering, would somehow find their way into my mouth. Spitting wasn't an option, so I resorted to a gagging sound, followed by a rapid infusion of milk, which usually earned me a stern "Louise!" from my otherwise easy-going father.

But one year, as dad delivered a portion of turkey onto my plate, the meat slipped and submerged itself in my glass of milk. Mysteriously mortified in front of visiting relatives, he shushed me. To my great delight, I was allowed to refuse the celery-laced stuffing a few minutes later: thus leaving my milk intact, the turkey hidden, and my father's slip, undiscovered.

Stuffing also prompted an embarrassing moment when I became a parent. My son, about 5 years old, entered the kitchen, just as my husband was exploring the inner cavities of our bird. "Mom! Mom!" he cried in dismay, "Dad has his hand stuck in the turkey's butt! Come help!" While that was a funny moment, his insistence on repeated retellings of the story, at full volume,

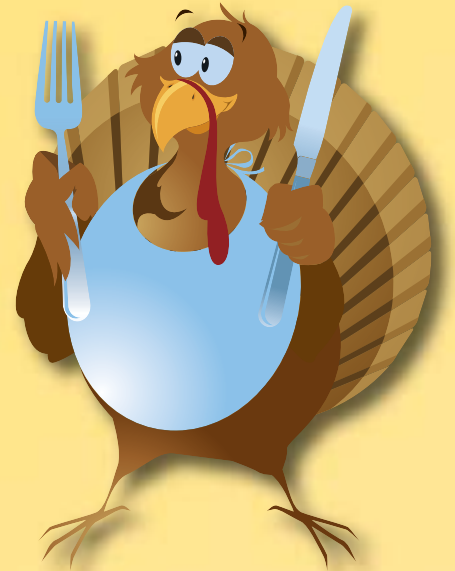
whenever and wherever the occasion suited him, was less amusing.

As Thanksgiving approached, I began to worry that my memories and family traditions placed me in an odd, freakish category. As usual, I turned to the internet for comfort. Here is what I found:

Most Frightening Turkey Recipe

Deep fried turkey*, which requires gallons of peanut oil, and a very, very large stockpot, is frightening on many levels. If you don't burn yourself on all that boiling oil, the saturated fat content may send your cholesterol levels to the moon (although there seems to be some disagreement on the actual fat content of a deep fried turkey.)

... continued on page H3



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I've been thinking this week not only about the things in my personal life for which I am thankful, but also about why I'm thankful for Lamorinda. I started to write about the many people who make our community work; how nice it is to chat easily with the people next in line at the grocery store, whether you know them or not; how wonderful it is that all of the parents at the park look out for all of the kids, not just their own; and the heart-warming culture of philanthropy. It sure wasn't like this where I grew up. Soon my ramblings began to resemble a holiday carol – people smiling in passing, wishing happy holidays to total strangers, offering help to those in need...

So there you have it. We live in a place where the holiday spirit thrives year 'round. Are we privileged? You bet. Though some of us are more privileged than others, the great thing about Lamorindans is that we all do what we can, and we do it all the time. Every issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, including this one, illustrates my point.

Since I can barely carry a tune, carol-writing is probably not my forte. So instead, begging your indulgence, I'd like to tell you a bit about some of the women for whom I am thankful. They write for you. With dedication to their craft and our community, and in their own unique voices, they raise this newspaper to a higher level. Three have been with us since our first, somewhat challenging, year.

French by birth, Sophie Braccini writes in her second language. She has the uncanny ability to be in three places at the same time, and her articles report details and nuances that many would miss. Her French sensibilities mystify me at times and I may never completely understand her, but she is a warm and loving friend, a charming hostess, a substitute teacher, an active volunteer, and the doting mother of three children.

Andrea Firth is also a local mom, with teenage twins, who grew up in the newspaper business. A medical writer by trade, it took a little while for her to find her voice. She can observe the most contentious situation and distill it down to a fair and factual report. When faced with an issue that seems unfathomably complex, Andrea is the woman for the job. She is also an avid runner and would do anything and everything for her kids or to help a friend.

Cathy Tyson and her husband not only raised their two boys (now in college) in Lamorinda, they grew up here themselves. Equally at home chatting across the garden fence or tennis court, Cathy's cut-to-the-chase style informs our pages and her signature wit shines through in almost everything she writes (she's also the genius behind our most memorable headlines and police blotters). She is a woman of grace, a friend in any weather, and is more comfortable in her skin than anyone else I know.

There are many others who make this newspaper what it is; Lucy Amaral, Lou Fancher, Jean Follmer, Caitlin Graveson, and our terrific photographers, columnists and sports writers. You'll get to know more about them in the future.

I usually refer to working for the Lamorinda Weekly as 'community service.' None of us makes a living doing this. Whether it's a hobby, a vocation or a calling, we love what we do and we do it because we believe in our mission – to inform and to celebrate life in Lamorinda, for which we are all very thankful.

From all of us at the Lamorinda Weekly – we wish you peace and joy this holiday season!

-Lee Borrowman, Editor

McDonnell Nursery

Christmas trees here Thanksgiving week.

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 • Open Daily

Lighting up your holiday spirit



Locally owned and operated

Christmas Light Decorating

- Sales
- Service
- Design
- Installation
- Take Down
- Storage
- Quality Products
- Prompt Service
- Trained Professionals

We also clean rain gutters

Ask about our energy efficient LED lights!

From basic to spectacular, we can make any size home look fantastic. Whether it's roofline, landscape, or tree lighting, we will work with you to come up with the perfect design.

Free Estimates 925-324-9059 or info@christmaslightspecialists.com



40% OFF
Example:
10" Frying Pan
Reg. 125.00 **NOW 74.99**
26 styles, shapes & sizes
to choose from

SALE!

All Spode "Christmas Tree"



Up To **50% OFF**
Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price

david M. brian

Signing Event!

Famous "Ulbricht" Nutcrackers
In Person Gunther Ulbricht
Saturday, November 27th
1:00 to 4:00



Gunther Ulbricht

Gunther Ulbricht from Germany will be at David M. Brian to sign any of his world famous Nutcrackers that you purchase during this event.



Join us Sat., Nov. 27th or make your selection now and we will be sure to have your purchase signed

Over 50 Collectible Pieces to choose from

Shown:
New Santa
With Tree.
165.00

FREE Gift Wrap Included

\$25 Off
Initial Services



DIGITAL LEGACIES

Give the gift of treasured moments.

Digital Legacies transforms your family videos & photos into unforgettable memories on DVD.

- Audio, Video & Photo Transfer
- Video Tributes • Family Documentaries

925-228-2209
www.digitallegacies.com

Town Hall Theatre Presents

SCROOGE!



A Holiday Musical for the Whole Family

December 2 - 19, 2010

Tickets 283 1557 • Town Hall Theatre .com

Mon-Sat 10-4pm, Sun 12pm-3pm



SUGI

FINE BEDDING & GIFTS
Japanese style & comfort.

- Gifts, Hand-Crafted Futons
- Solid Hardwood Frames
- Tatami Platforms & Mats
- Custom Comforter Covers
- Shoji Screens & Lanterns

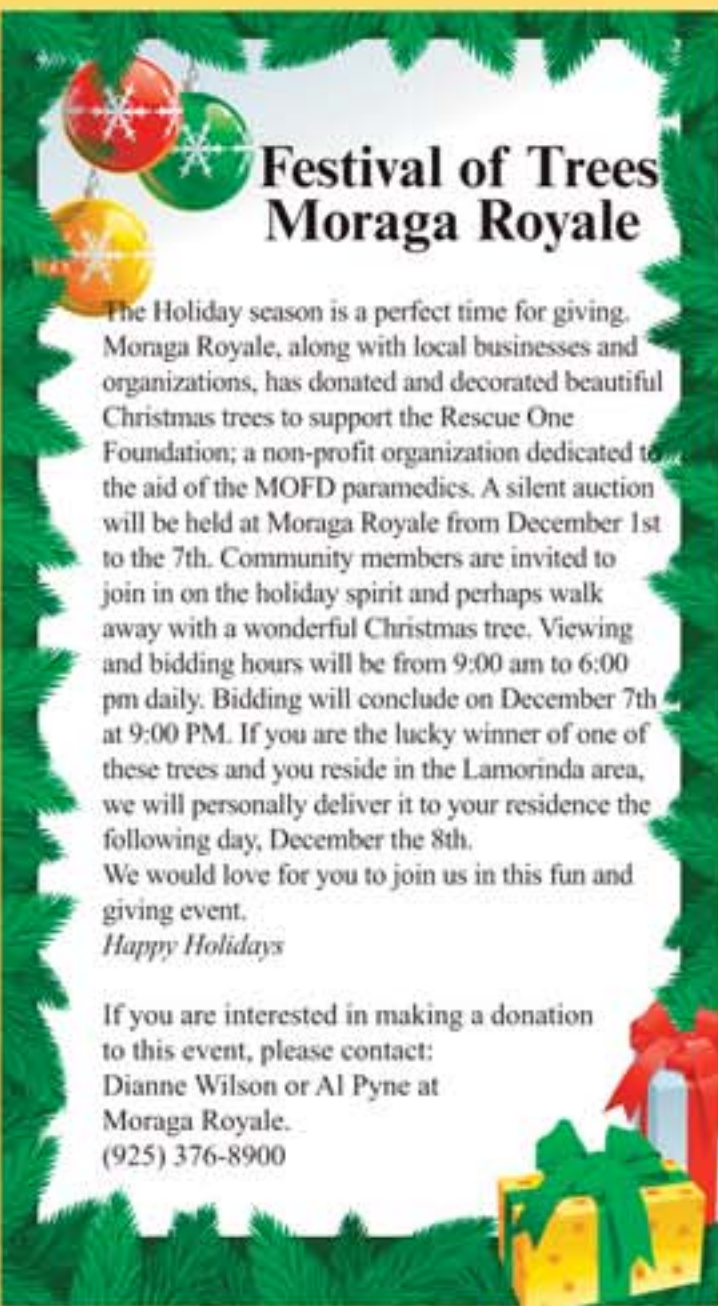
961-A MORAGA RD. LAFAYETTE • 925-299-0882 • sugi-store.com

Festival of Trees Moraga Royale

The Holiday season is a perfect time for giving. Moraga Royale, along with local businesses and organizations, has donated and decorated beautiful Christmas trees to support the Rescue One Foundation; a non-profit organization dedicated to the aid of the MOFD paramedics. A silent auction will be held at Moraga Royale from December 1st to the 7th. Community members are invited to join in on the holiday spirit and perhaps walk away with a wonderful Christmas tree. Viewing and bidding hours will be from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm daily. Bidding will conclude on December 7th at 9:00 PM. If you are the lucky winner of one of these trees and you reside in the Lamorinda area, we will personally deliver it to your residence the following day, December 8th. We would love for you to join us in this fun and giving event.

Happy Holidays

If you are interested in making a donation to this event, please contact:
Dianne Wilson or Al Pyne at Moraga Royale.
(925) 376-8900



You're Invited To Take a Photo with Santa
So Bring Your Camera!

When you're the photographer... you get the shot you want!!

Saturday, Dec 4th
11:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.

Holiday Clowns
Balloon Art

With your Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25.00 or more.
(See stores for details. While supplies last)

Or visit us online at www.rheemvalley.net



Rheem Valley Shopping Center
...a Moraga tradition

The Home Of

SUBWAY **TJ-MAXX** **MAGIC CUTS** **CVS** **Rheem Valley Pet Shops**

Not to be missed

MUSIC

Start the holiday season off with a song! Join us at the annual holiday concert performance by Saint Mary's College's student chorus; the NightinGaeles. The program includes selections from the great composers, contemporary artists and holiday favorites. Sunday, November 28, at 2pm, and Monday, November 29, at 8pm. Chapel, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Free and open to all.

The Saint Mary's College Student Chamber Musicians, directed by Lino Rivera, Dawn Foster-Dodson and Martin Rokeach will perform vocal and instrumental music from a variety of prestigious composers. Tuesday, November 30, at 8pm, and Wednesday, December 1, at 8pm. In the Chapel, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. All are welcome.

YPSO musician and Campolindo student, Inno Asuncion, will be playing with the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra. The next concert is coming up on Dec. 2nd. For tickets and information about the Berkeley Symphony concert on December 2nd, visit www.berkeleysymphony.org or call (510) 841-2800.

The Cantare Chorale and Chamber Ensemble, directed by David Morales presents its annual holiday concert, "Star of Wonder", featuring Shaw's Many Moods of Christmas, Suite 4, selections by Bach, Mendelssohn, Biebl and more. Saturday, December 4, 7:30pm at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie, Walnut Creek. Sunday, December 5th, 3:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, 27th & Broadway, Oakland. Tickets: \$10 - \$40. (510) 836-0789. For more info and tickets: www.cantareconvivo.org.

Winter Concert at the Moraga Library with Flutist Carol Alban and Friends on November 11, 7pm. Enjoy Carol Alban, Dylan Snodgrass, Marc Levine and George Cole perform classical, jazz, and holiday favorites. Limited seating, please call for reservations, (925) 376-6852.

THEATER

The family favorite, "Scrooge! The Musical" returns to Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette this December. The musical runs December 4 - 19. For tickets and ticket information contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

The Diablo Theatre Company kicks off the holiday season with the East Bay premiere of "Irving Berlin's White Christmas," the tune-filled musical about two showbiz buddies. Nov. 26, 27, 28 at 8pm, Dec 3, 4 at 7:30pm. \$20-\$42 admission. Located at the Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. For more information call (925) 943-7469.

Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre is celebrating the 15th Year Anniversary of the popular children's musical Whiskers! (an adaptation of Margery Williams' classic The Velveteen Rabbit) by Caroline Altman playing at the Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, Dec. 11-20. Tickets are \$10-\$15 and are available by calling (925) 943-7469.



The snow falls onstage and the Christmas tree magically grows in the California Academy of Performing Arts presentation of a full-length Nutcracker in Moraga. This is an energy-filled spectacle with a certain joy that reflects the studio's dedication to young dancers. This production is huge, with more than 100 performers and extra characters & surprises." Anna Juliet Brown is the voice and storyteller, guiding young viewers through the beautiful ballet as it unfolds. For more information and tickets, please contact: www.capadance.net or call (925) 376-2454.

East Bay Premiere of "Pink Smoke over the Vatican," an Award-winning documentary film about Roman Catholic women candidates for priesthood. Sponsored by the Women of Magdala. Jules Hart, the film's director, will speak before the film and answer questions afterward. Sunday, December 5, 3pm at the Orinda Theater. Admission is \$10. For more information call or go to (925) 930-0129 or email her at journeyon37@yahoo.com.

ART

The Hearst Art Gallery at Saint Mary's College presents Gifted Hands: the Fine Art of Craft, featuring 90 objects by 15 major contemporary Bay Area artist through December 12. These artists transform glass, textiles, fiber, metal, precious and semi-precious stones, clay, wood, fallen logs, and sea shells into extraordinary works of art. On view are both functional and decorative objects: furniture, wearable art, jewelry, pottery, quilts, turned wooden bowls, and fabric and metal sculpture. The Hearst Art Gallery is open to the public Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Suggested adult donation is \$4; free for K-12th grade students and Hearst Art Gallery members.

The next Science Café program, "Exploring the Science of Art Conservation of Sacred Art Treasures of Bhutan," It will be held on Monday, November 29 from 7-8pm at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. This science café program will be co-sponsored by the California Section of the American Chemical Society and the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation.

Not to be missed

Reception Honoring "The Luck of the Draw", Elementary School Artists at Lafayette's Town Hall Theater, December 11, 6:30-7:30 pm. Artwork will be displayed at the Town Hall Theater November 10th through December 31st.

The Lafayette Gallery's holiday show.



Candle Cupcakes II by Jude Coren

Winter Wonderland is now open. The public is invited to celebrate the season with a festive reception on Friday, December 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Browse our exclusive selection of wonderful gift items including shimmering hand-made jewelry, locally inspired ornaments, elegantly tooled ceramics and gallery walls brimming with paintings, pastels, monotypes, photographs and more. Lafayette Gallery is a 23-member cooperative at 50 Lafayette Circle in downtown Lafayette. Gallery Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11am-5pm.

Holiday Workshops at the Museum of Children's Art: 538 9th Street, Oakland, (510) 465-8770, www.mocha.org Cost: \$8/child, free for members. Saturday, December 4, 1-3pm, make the perfect candleholder for your winter celebrations, be it a menorah, candelabra or Kinara, using wood, tin and paints. Sunday, December 5, 1-3pm, build a candy cottage or cookie castle using sugary frosting paste, licorice, lollipops, gumdrops and more. Saturday, December 11 & Sunday December 12, 1-3pm, string up ornaments and decorations made using glittery goods, provocative papers and a multitude of materials.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUES



Glass pendant by Judith Feins

9th Annual Overhill Road Holiday Boutique, December 3, 12-8 p.m., Dec 4 & 5, 11am-6pm. Located, 214 Overhill Road, Orinda. Percentage of proceeds to benefit the Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Hand-crafted gifts and foods by over 30 local crafters. Free admission. For more information please call (925)-253-9065 or (925)-254-3944.

Dechen Designs' 5th Annual Holiday Boutique & Gift Show. An exclusive trunk-show event with local artists and vendors of high quality gift items, featuring fabulous Himalayan Cashmere Shawls, silk scarves, jewelry, hats, fused glass art, skin care, cosmetics and much more. Saturday, Dec. 11th, 12-4pm and Saturday, Dec. 18th, 1-5pm. Lafayette Library's Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Enjoy delicious holiday cider and gourmet treats.

On Saturday, December 11 from 11am-4pm The Lafayette Gallery and guest artists will offer a one day trunk show featuring unique gift items crafted by local artists.

Come browse the diverse selection that includes hand-painted silk coasters, whimsical cupcake candles, leather bags, holiday ornaments, shimmering jewelry and decorative functional ceramics. Additionally, the gallery walls will be full of paintings, pastels and photography that make wonderful gifts or an artful statement in your home. Free event. Lafayette Gallery is a 23 member co-op of local artists and is located at 50 Lafayette Circle in Lafayette. For more info call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayettegallery.net.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Jewish Gateways, Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, & Building Jewish Bridges present: Hanukkah for Adults. Join us for an adult evening celebration of Hanukkah. We'll gather for candle lighting. You are welcome to bring your own menorah and candles if you'd like. Located at the Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley. Thursday, December 2, 7-9pm. For more information please go to: <http://prod.jcceastbay.org/index.html>

The Bethlehem Experience: Performances 5:30-8pm, Dec. 10th, 11th, and 12th. This interactive performance takes participants back through time. Tour guides lead groups of about 10 people through the marketplace of Bethlehem on the night of the Messiah's birth. Tours begin every 15 minutes and take about one hour. The last tour leaves at 8pm. Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette. Questions: (925) 284-4765.

Live Nativity at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church on December 11, 5:30-8pm. See the Christmas story come to life! The courtyard will be transformed into a Bethlehem manger. Light refreshments will be served. MVPC is located at 10 Moraga Valley Lane in Moraga. Questions: (925) 376-4800.

Concert: Christmas on the Hill, on Sunday, December 12, 7pm. Experience a heart-warming evening of music celebrating a story that matters. The MVPC Choir and Worship Team, the Kurt Ribak Trio, the Kingdom Kids Choir, and soloists will lead us. MVPC is located at 10 Moraga Valley Lane in Moraga. Questions: (925) 376-4800.

Holidays After Losing A Loved One: Honor Their Memory at Remembrance Service. For those who have lost a loved one this year or a prior year, the holiday season can be sad, lonely and upsetting. At Unity of Walnut Creek's Remembrance Service, you can remember and honor your loved ones who have transitioned. The Remembrance Service will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, at 7 p.m. at Unity, 1871 Geary Rd., Walnut Creek. This annual event is open to all on a free-will donation basis.

HOLI



How to Help in the Giving Season

The economy's downward spiral has come with a significant human cost due to job losses, home foreclosures, and reductions in State and County public support services leaving many individuals and families in need throughout Contra Costa County. As a start to the "giving season" the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center is co-sponsoring a get-together on Saturday, December 4th to let people know about

ways they can reach out and help their neighbors in need through local organizations. Representatives from Shelter, Inc., the Food Bank of Contra Costa County and Solano, and Monument Crisis Center will be on-hand to let people how they can volunteer and donate. Details for the event are outlined below along with contact information for each of the provider groups.

Community Sharing Event

Saturday, December 4th, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Bortin Hall, Mt Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church
55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

*The event is free. Donations of nonperishable food items and/or large size children's disposable diapers and all sizes of warm socks are requested.

Shelter, Inc.

The mission of SHELTER, Inc. is to prevent homelessness and promote self-sufficiency among Contra Costa residents. SHELTER, Inc's main office is located at 1815 Arnold Drive in Martinez.
(925) 335-0698, www.shelterincofccc.org

Food Bank of Contra Costa County and Solano

The Food Bank works to end hunger and increase access to affordable, nutritious food for low-income individuals and families through a comprehensive group of programs that combat hunger and its causes.
(800) 870-FOOD www.foodbankccs.org

Monument Crisis Center

The Monument Crisis Center is open for food distribution five times a week and relies on monetary and food donations from the community. The Center is located at 2350 Monument Blvd. in Concord.
(925) 825-7751 www.monumentcrisiscenter.org
Since 2003 the Center has also sponsored the Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program for families who utilize the services of the Center throughout the year. To get more information on the program and how you can get involved, call (925) 825-7751 x 102 or email holidayprogrammcc@yahoo.com.
A.Firth

Clothing Drive



Troop 31143 conducted a successful towel and blanket drive for the Oakland Animal Shelter in 2009. Pictured from left to right are Claudia Evans, Lizzy Maroney, Olivia Sanchez, Iris Wu, Madison Alvarado, Jemma Baus, Charlotte Wu, Megan Lewis, Katie Whalen, Loryn Nieto and (rear) Martha Castro, (front) Jenna Englund.

On Saturday, December 11, 2010, Orinda Girl Scout troop 31143 will be collecting gently used winter clothing from 4-6pm near the fountain at Theater Square in Orinda. The girls will sort and distribute the clothing to Shelter, Inc, an organization that provides transitional housing and other services to homeless families in Contra Costa County.

Photo provided

Twisted Turkey Traditions

... continued from page H1

Most Frightening Turkey Substitute

This is a full category, with Tofurky Roast and Quorn, a substance made from mycoprotein and entirely free of meat or soy, both earning blue ribbons on the "that's just gross" scale.

Most Ridiculous Idea on Which to Build Your Thanksgiving Traditions

Plan the menu according to your guests' astrological sign. Apparently, Gemini's must have Orange-Pomegranate Relish, Virgos must have Corn Bread Stuffing, and forget even inviting a Taurus if you're not serving candied yams.

New Trends in Stuffing

Quinoa, brandy, pineapple, pitted Kalamata olives, cage-free eggs, and chopped chicken livers. (Not all in the same recipe, please.)

Silliest Turkey Trivia to Share at Dinner

Turkeys have excellent hearing, but no ears, and, older male turkeys are the best: young turkeys are "stringy," and females are "tough." (We women always knew that was the case.)

The Highs and Lows of Leftovers

Turkey pot pies, Cranberry-Turkey Enchiladas, Turkey-Noodle Casserole with Potato Chip Crust, Turkey Cobb Salad, and the all-time classic, Turkey Sandwich.

Sign Indicating You Have No Life and Can Hardly Claim to be an American

You visit Martha Stewart's Turkey Trivia page, take the 9 question quiz, and fail. So, after all, I do fit in. I know that turkeys can fly, I know that if Benjamin Franklin had had his way, we'd all be eating bald eagles come November, and most importantly, I know where celery does, and does not, belong.

*Frying a turkey this holiday season? The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group would like to remind residents not to pour leftover grease and cooking oil down sinks and drains. Doing so causes sewer system backups. Check out BayWise.org for a list of free fat, oil and grease drop-off locations around the Bay Area. Now there's a Turkey tradition we've yet to explore: working the oil drop-off desk on Black Friday.

Holiday Message

To our neighbors in Lamorinda,

We know you have thousands of choices when you shop in the Bay Area. During this holiday shopping season, we hope you will remember to support your favorite local merchants and recommend them to your friends. The economy may be showing signs of improvement, but it will take all of us working together to help our local businesses survive.

We offer some of the most unique stores and specialty shops in the East Bay. Shopping in your home town can make a significant impact on the vitality of your city. Lamorinda counts on sales tax to provide you with this great quality of life through the essential services you have come to expect.

Here are some reasons why shopping local matters:

- Sustaining the cultural value of a vibrant downtown filled with a wide variety of unique businesses, boutiques and special events
- Saving on gas and parking by shopping in town
- Creating a strong tax-base by circulating money in town versus sending it elsewhere
- Supporting the businesses that generously donate to local schools and non-profits throughout the year

Quality of life is considered to be the most important element of decision making when considering where one wishes to live. Let's work together to keep our community pleasant, vibrant, and successful.

Happy Holidays!

Caesar Perales
President, Lafayette
Chamber of Commerce



Edy Schwartz
President, Moraga
Chamber of Commerce



Sue Breedlove
President, Orinda
Chamber of Commerce



Please support SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY on Saturday, November 27th

DAY TREE LIGHTINGS

On Saturday, Dec. 4, join the Youth Involvement Committee for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting at the Moraga Commons. Cookies and cocoa will be served at 6:30 pm and the tree will be lighted at 7pm.

Hospice of the East Bay Tree Lighting:

Hospice Foundation of the East Bay's annual Tree of Lights is a series of community events held to honor or remember beloved friends or family members. Each light on every tree is symbolic of the life, hopes and dreams of a loved one. Tree of Lights are attended by anyone touched by hospice, local dignitaries, and members of the hospice team.

Moraga: The lighting took place on Nov 21.

Lafayette: Sunday, Dec. 5, 5:30pm, corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd and Lafayette Circle.

Orinda: Saturday, Dec. 4 at 4:30pm, Orinda Village by Bank of America.



For Lamorinda merchants and holiday specials please visit:

www.lafayettechamber.org | www.trylafayettefirst.com | Facebook.com/trylafayettefirst
www.moragachamber.org | www.shopmoragafirst.com | www.orindachamber.org

CANYON CONSTRUCTION
 professional remodeling & custom homes

925 country club drive moraga ca
 t 925.376.3486 | f 925.376.3503
 www.canyonconstruction.com

Shop MORAGA

Moraga Retreat Care
LUXURIOUS RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY
 Our residents receive Assistance with activities of daily living, medication management, home made meals, housekeeping and laundry, entertainment and wellness programs.
Tel 925.376.CARE (2273) Fax 925.376.7137
 moragaretreat@comcast.net Lic# 075601205

MORAGA MOTORS
 since 1981 in Moraga
 Located on Moraga Road, Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Professional Automotive Service and Repair
 Foreign and Domestic

530 Moraga Rd. • 925-376-0692
 www.moragamotors.com

Look what I bought in Moraga!!

Wrapping paper - CVS
 Candles - across the way
 Tree stand - OSH
 Pajamas - McCaulous
 Bottle of local wine - Parkmon Vineyards
 LED Christmas Lights - Moraga Hardware
 Basketball Tickets - Saint Mary's College
 Dog toy - Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe
 Festive tablecloth - Home Goods
 Turkey & Ham - Safeway
 Floral Center piece - King Florist
 Wreath - Moraga Garden Center
 Tanning gift card - Lori's Swim & Sun
 Necklace - Moraga Art gallery
 Note cards - Ken Young Fine Art
 A family portrait - Fox Photography
 Dining Gift Certificate
 Yummy treats - Loard's Ice Cream

Providing the market edge for you

- Home Staging
- Color Consultation
- Redesign, giving a fresh look with your own items

Nikolene Isely, MA, CSPLGLS,IDS
Staging By Design
 cell (925) 360-0947
 www.stagerbydesign.com

Moraga Art Gallery Open Tue - Sun. 12-5 pm
 Presents a group show for the holidays- Fa La La La ! Stop by for fine art, photography, ceramics, jewelry, cards, and more...
Until January 8, 2011
 Rheem Shopping Center next to CVS **376-5407**

Look what I bought in Moraga!!

Wrapping paper - CVS
 Candles - across the way
 Tree stand - OSH
 Pajamas - McCaulous
 Bottle of local wine - Parkmon Vineyards
 LED Christmas Lights - Moraga Hardware
 Basketball Tickets - Saint Mary's College
 Dog toy - Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe
 Festive tablecloth - Home Goods
 Turkey & Ham - Safeway
 Floral Center piece - King Florist
 Wreath - Moraga Garden Center
 Tanning gift card - Lori's Swim & Sun
 Necklace - Moraga Art gallery
 Note cards - Ken Young Fine Art
 A family portrait - Fox Photography
 Dining Gift Certificate
 Yummy treats - Loard's Ice Cream

Karate Classes FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY

KARATE BENEFITS

- ✦ Focus ✦ Self Defense
- ✦ Fitness ✦ Discipline
- ✦ Art ✦ Better Grades
- ✦ Sport ✦ LIFE SKILLS

The Karate & Fitness Place USA
925-376-3667

www.KFPUSA.com
 1375 Moraga Way, Moraga

The UPS Store

New hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30
 Sat 9-4, Sun closed

Our location: 1480 Moraga Rd, Ste 1
 Moraga, CA 94556-2005

- ✓ Shipping
- ✓ Copying, Finishing
- ✓ Printing Services
- ✓ Notary Services
- ✓ Postal Services
- ✓ Business Services

www.theupsstore.com

What will you buy?

Sponsored by:

Reflexion SKIN CARE & HAIR SALON

40% off mineral makeup*

925.376.7222
 508 Center Street, Moraga (in Rheem Valley Shopping Center)
 Moraga's Premier Salon

jane iredale THE SKIN CARE MAKEUP™
 (* discontinued colors)

T & T PAINTING
 CA License: #616357 and Insured

FREE ESTIMATES IMPECCABLE REFERENCES

376-3380 MORAGA
 steven_thaw@yahoo.com

Ken C. Young - Fine Art Images

Senic Note Cards
 Moraga and St. Mary's

See many of my Note Cards at
www.Kynotecards.com

The Tick Tock Store

The Right Place For The Right Time
 Batteries • Bands • Repair
 FREE Estimates
 Rolex-Tag Heuer Repair Center
 Specialize in grandfather clock and watch repairs

\$1 OFF Watch Battery With This Coupon.

925-376-1888 www.TheTickTockStore.com
 354 Park Street Moraga (Next to Rheem Theater)
 1547-A Palos Verdes Mall Walnut Creek (In Lunardi's Center)

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Scott D. Lothamer, DDS
 Moraga - 925-376-4602
 1030 Country Club Drive

Providing Personalized Care through Quality Dentistry

Member: ADA • CDA • CCDS • AACD

Lafayette/Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe
 www.lafayettepet.com
 Carrying everything you need for your pets!

Now open SUNDAYS 11-3

Small Animal Grooming
 Small Animal Boarding
 Holistic Pet Food
 Huge Selection of Toys & Pet Accessories

FREE 2011 pet calendar w/purchase of \$20 or more

Rheem Valley Center • Moraga • (925) 376-8399

Jerry Wolff Stratton
HAIR STYLIST

Formerly of the Beauty Source
 Now at CC & CO HAIR DESIGNS
 910 Country Club Dr., Moraga, (925) 437-2076

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPUTERS 925 377.5257

MACs AND PCs
 REPAIRS-UPGRADES-CUSTOM MACHINES

NEIGHBORHOODCOMP.COM
 455 MORAGA ROAD STE. H (NEXT TO SA RENT A SPACE)

5A Rent-A-Space has the best prices in the area!

We've already shopped the competition, saving you time and money!
 Ask for your FREE Gaels Rally Towel when you visit

MORAGA 455 Moraga Rd. Suite F (925)631-7000
 www.5Aspace.com

MORAGA GARDEN CENTER

Trees & Shrubs
 Flowers & Vegetables
 Soil Products & Fertilizers
 Organic Products & Seeds

located at the Moraga Shopping Center
 925-376-1810

Dirty House?
www.totalclean.biz
 376.1004

PROFESSIONAL EYECARE OPTOMETRY

Dr. Wm. Schwertsch, O.D.

- Comprehensive Vision Testing
- Eye Disease Diagnosis
- Specialty Contact Lens Care
- Finest Quality Eyewear and Sunglasses

1030 Country Club Drive, Suite A
 Moraga • (925) 376-2020

SHARON
 Formerly from **SIXTO'S**
925-286-2023

508 Center Street next door to Mountain Mike Pizza now at **Reflexion Salon**

925-377-1908

Si Si Caffè

910 Country Club Dr. Moraga
Now FREE WiFi - Internet!

Camp Lisa
 Dogsitting in my home

Lisa Gillett
 1260 Bollinger Canyon Rd.
 Moraga, CA 94556
 (925)631-1063

RHEEM VALLEY AUTOMOTIVE
 (Rheem center-across from the Post Office)

Complete Auto Repair
 State of California Brake, Lamp & Smog Station

Approved Auto Repair
377-6020
WWW.RHEEMAUTO.COM

Watch for Love Lafayette
December 8th
 Call for Advertising
 925.377.0977

McCaulou's
 Save Gas
 Save Money
 Save Time
 Shop your local McCaulou's

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 04 Issue 19 Wednesday, November 24, 2010

2011
TAX Planning and Strategies
Lynn's Top Five page OH4



Decorative Recycling

*A Second Life for
Pumpkins and Gourds*

By Andrea A. Firth

“Not everything has to be new or custom,” says Nikolene Isely of Moraga who has managed her own real estate staging business for the past twelve years. “My job is to enhance the look of a home by working with the existing furniture and art and adding a few new pieces and interior accents along with some fresh colors,” explains the designer.

“I’m all about recycling, reusing, and repurposing,” says Isely, who often employs paint to bring a new look to a wall, piece of furniture, or even a brass candlestick.

“We call it upcycling,” says Erin Mason, who works as an assistant to Isely in the staging business. Isely laughs at her colleague’s new terminology but agrees it accurately describes the approach.

Isely explains that as Thanksgiving arrives, she often takes the pumpkins and gourds that have been sitting on the front steps and kitchen table through the Halloween season and with a little spray paint, greenery, and decorative accents the autumn vine veggies are reborn as a festive entranceway vignette or table display.

Nikolene Isely sits alongside the festive holiday display she created for the entranceway of her Moraga home by reusing some of her pumpkins. Photo Doug Kohen.

*... continued
on page OH6*

THE BEAUBELLE GROUP

Glenn and Kellie Beaubelle
present...

Lafayette ~ Burton Valley Court Location



Offering a single level floor plan, this approx. 2,549 sq. ft. rancher features 5 bdrms., 3 baths, eat-in country kitchen, vaulted family room, large picture windows, and a flat yard with breathtaking views of the surrounding hills.

Offered at \$998,000

Orinda ~ Desirable Orinda Downs Traditional



This traditional style home with single level floor plan features 4 bdrms, 3½ baths, approx. 3,509 sq. ft. of living space and is located on a park-like .61 acre lot with Hawkins pool/spa and expansive grounds.

Offered at \$1,498,000

Orinda ~ Walk to Town Beautifully Remodeled Throughout



Ideally located within minutes to Orinda's charming downtown, Bart, and highway 24, this beautifully updated Craftsman style home offers 4 bdrms, office, 3 baths, appx. 3,340 sq. ft. of living space, and a gorgeous half acre lot with mature gardens and expansive lawns.

Offered at \$1,498,000



925.254.1212

Glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com

www.TheBeaubelleGroup.com

Coldwell Banker's #1 Agent and Group in the East Bay



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:
LAFAYETTE	8
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$400,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,325,000
MORAGA	5
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$525,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,130,000
ORINDA	1
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$1,265,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,265,000

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

- 81075 Elizabeth Street, \$400,000, 1 Bdrms, 1056 SqFt, 1924 YrBl, 10-22-10;
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 06-23-05
- Amanda Lane, \$940,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 2006 YrBl, 10-26-10
- 985 Hawthorne Drive, \$799,000, 3 Bdrms, 1341 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 10-27-10;
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 04-15-04
- 1090 Oak Hill Road, \$770,500, 4 Bdrms, 2066 SqFt, 1939 YrBl, 10-28-10;
Previous Sale: \$30,000, 03-14-72
- 20 Olympic Oaks Drive, \$965,000, 3 Bdrms, 2330 SqFt, 1996 YrBl, 10-27-10;
Previous Sale: \$488,000, 11-05-96
- 1369 Reliez Valley Road, \$875,000, 2 Bdrms, 1483 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 10-26-10;
Previous Sale: \$108,455, 10-26-10
- 657 Sky Ranch Court, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 3262 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 10-20-10;
Previous Sale: \$559,000, 08-16-89
- 19 Springhill Lane, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2797 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 10-26-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,345,000, 11-30-07

MORAGA

- 611 Augusta Drive, \$695,000, 2 Bdrms, 1985 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 10-21-10;
Previous Sale: \$390,000, 03-03-99
- 809 Camino Ricardo, \$565,000, 4 Bdrms, 1899 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 10-21-10;
Previous Sale: \$52,500, 09-20-71
- 262 Rheem Boulevard, \$525,000, 3 Bdrms, 1644 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 10-18-10
- 92 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 2982 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 10-22-10
- 10 Sea Pines Street, \$1,090,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1980 YrBl, 10-20-10;
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 12-01-95

ORINDA

- 85 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,265,000, 3 Bdrms, 2916 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 10-19-10;
Previous Sale: \$568,000, 09-18-92

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

none

Peralta Construction

CUSTOM HOMES | ADDITIONS | REMODELING

owned and operated by Moraga resident

Pat Geoghegan



Lic #624045

BUILDING THE BAY AREA FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS

925.273.7692

www.peraltaconstruction.com



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

[New + improved website
at Caldecott.com

[Sales, Leasing + Property Management

[Single family homes, townhouses,
condos, multi-family homes, land

NEW MORAGA OFFICE
(by the Rheem Theater)

370B Park Street | Moraga, CA
925.376.4000

OAKLAND OFFICE

5251 Broadway | Oakland, CA
510.594.2400

Wishing Lamorinda a Happy + Safe Holiday Season

Caldecott
PROPERTIES

Lynn's Top Five

2010 Year-End Tax Planning – A Time for New Strategies

By Lynn Ballou, EA, CFP®

You know the old adage: what you don't know can hurt you? This year, as never before, words to heed as we enter into our final descent for year-end tax planning! Why? Here's the cautionary tale: we might be in the best tax rate environment of our lives in 2010. There's nothing solid and comfy to hold out for coming up. Tax rates everywhere we turn are poised to go up. Whether it's in the guise of a "fee" or a special assessment, loss of a deduction, credit phase outs, or just out and out rate increases, it's not a pretty picture.

So this year --- hang on to your hats --- you might want to accelerate income and defer expenses! First time you ever heard me say that! Here are five tips and thoughts that may be a bit off the beaten track, for you to muse on.

1) Roth IRA conversions: okay, MUST start here, because some of you are actually experiencing negative taxable income this year. Why? If you have retired, been laid off, your taxable investment income is most likely very low and you may still have a hefty mortgage, property taxes, medical expenses and the like. To the extent you have negative taxable income, you can convert some (maybe all) of your pre-tax IRA and not pay a penny in tax. Run the projections and check it out. Even those in a very low bracket might say to themselves, heck, I've got so little to lose, I'm going for it. The amount converted may be subject to tax, so discuss your situation with your financial and tax advisor before you convert.

2) Nightmare on AMT street: Alternative Minimum Tax --- aka AMT --- strikes horror and fear far and wide, and well it should. It defies guessing, and sneaks up in years that are seemingly innocent and worry free. Imagine my shock, when chatting with long-time friend and colleague, Linda LaHonta, CPA, (with her practice in Lafayette) as she clued me into the following "tidbit" that I'll share here with you: "A big concern of mine that isn't getting nearly as much press as the extension of the Bush tax cuts, is the alternative minimum tax "patch" that has not yet been approved for 2010. I read a statistic that said without this patch the AMT will affect 26 million people in 2010 vs. 4 million people in 2009. We live in an area where the AMT impacts many families. Without this patch they will see their federal taxes go up considerably in 2010. Congress has recently said that they are working on a bill immediately to put into place "temporary" relief this year. Great news! But this is still a concern. They need to come up with a permanent solution to the AMT because we can't be "patching" this thing at the 11th hour every year! People have a right

to know what to expect of their tax liability for the year at the beginning of the year, not at the end, and be able to plan accordingly." Hear, hear, Linda!!! And my fear? Although they said they are working on a patch, do we trust them to do it? This is a government scrambling for every penny they can find.

3) Go ahead --- lock in as much capital gains as you can! Yup, you heard me right. This is a great tip for the many of you who have large, sometimes very large, capital losses that you are carrying forward to future tax years. Unless you have something important to save them for (perhaps the sale of a home with gain over \$500K or a rental property you are not going to exchange into another), why not use them now? Personally, I'm worried about these huge losses being carried on so many taxpayers' books. I worry that Congress is going to limit the amount that can be carried forward either with respect to the amount or the number of years. If you can tidy up your portfolio or even sell and repurchase to reset basis higher (BE CAREFUL OF THE 30 DAY WASH SALE RULES!), why not? Be sure to figure in the costs of the transactions to make sure it's a financially beneficial approach. As Linda points out "given the potential increase to the long term capital gains tax rates I would suggest possibly taking gains in 2010 on investments held longer than one year rather than waiting."

4) Don't prepay your state income tax and other normally deductible expenses this year: The reason? It's back to the nasty AMT and also the thought that next year you'll probably be in a higher bracket. What you would normally prepay in December, such as your second property tax for the county's fiscal year, could actually net you 5% or more in tax savings by waiting until January. And, what's the flip side? Take in all the income you can this year! If you are self-employed, perhaps you bill early and book income in 2010. If they extend the FICA, aka social security tax (known as self-employment taxes for those who are self-employed) to be collectible on ALL earned income next year, as is currently being discussed, this MIGHT be a better taxable income year for you. Again, you need to do the math.

5) Tax laws that go "bump" in the night: Lions and tigers and VAT (Value Added Tax), oh my! We hear Congress increasingly revisiting the idea of a national flat sales tax. If they got rid of the income tax, many would applaud that move. However, lawmakers would

most likely not go that clean route, since they use income tax legislation to create social and economic change. Instead, they'd have a sales tax, too! And what about 2013, when, according to Linda, "there will be a new 3.8% tax on investment income for certain taxpayers (\$200,000 individual & \$250,000 married filing joint)," which is basically the new health care surtax. Again, more fuel for enjoying our current tax rates and making some hay now.

Because of the incredible amount of uncertainty and nuances associated with year-end tax planning this year, you really need to do the math and not make any assumptions. Either work with your trusted tax advisor (or find a great new one, such as Linda LaHonta) or on your own, run the different scenarios and execute the actions that make the most sense for you. You've got time to think it through, and I encourage you to do so.

Here's some great news: Linda has agreed to join me Wednesday, January 26th at noon, for a free webinar that will focus on Tax Planning for 2011. The current session of Congress --- the lame duck session --- may be very busy creating new tax policy. We hope you will tune in and join us live so you can hear what she has to say about what they end up creating, and pose questions of your own. You can check my website: www.ballouplum.com and then tab CLIENT EVENTS to keep up with instructions to join this free webinar. You don't need to be a client to join us! We'll post instructions after the holidays. Or feel free to send me an email at plan@ballouplum.com and we'll email instructions directly to you for this event.

Happy Tax Planning (oh, and Holidays, too!)

Lynn Ballou is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) and co-owner of Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, LLC, and a Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) firm in Lafayette. Lynn is also a Registered Principal and Branch Manager with LPL Financial (LPL). As such, she is required by securities regulations to add the following information to this column: The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendation for any individual. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC.



Thank-you for 25 years of clean.

www.totalclean.biz

Total Clean **376-1004**
For your home.

**Mortgage rates are at historical lows
Best time to buy or refinance a home
or investment property**



Kyle Davis

MORTGAGE BROKER

Lamorinda Resident Since 1995
80% Loans to \$2,000,000
75% Loans to \$3,000,000
We use experienced local Appraisers

*Providing Premier Loan products
and service.*

*For current rates call Kyle
at 925-314-5299.*

Fax: (925) 831-9161
kyle@Stonecastle-LHF.com

DRE License #01111347



Dexter Honens II

REAL ESTATE BROKER

Please call me for your Real Estate needs to experience the integrity, professionalism and results you expect.

*Serving clients, friends and family
in your neighborhood since 1989.*

Office: (925) 253-2148
Residence: (925) 254-8088
Cell: (510) 918-8911
honens@pacbell.net

DRE License #01327738



**Coming Soon in
Lafayette
4 bedroom, 2 bath
on .8 acre**



HOLLY HENKEL
SRES
925 360-2390
holly@hollyhenkel.com

*For our Friends
who have become Family and our
Family who are our dear friends,
We give Thanks!*

Be Home For The Holidays

3954 Quail Ridge Road, Lafayette
NOW \$1,678,000

59 Meadow View, Orinda
NOW \$1,295,000

**WE KNOW
THE MARKET!**

**Call us today for a
free market analysis
and staging tips!**



PATTY & GENE CRONIN
BROKER. CRS
925.872.3842
www.pattycroninproperties.com

October 2010

Days on Market
Average Sold Price
Number of detached homes sold

Lafayette	Moraga	Orinda
59	90	78
\$1,020,000	\$1,089,000	\$1,085,000
22	7	13

Decorative Recycling

... continued from page OH1



Throughout the harvest season, Isely used yellow and green gourds and orange pumpkins as her table centerpiece. Photo N. Isely



Isely transformed her collection of pumpkins and gourds with some spray paint and fun accents to create a new look for her Thanksgiving meal.

Photo Doug Kohen

To see how bright orange pumpkins and funky-shaped gourds can be transformed into a second holiday decor, Isely and Mason created the displays depicted on these pages.

Isely used bonzes, browns and golds on the pumpkins to create a warm autumn-colored table centerpiece for her Thanksgiving meal. She said that she would update the display by adding some bright red and silver elements for the December and New Year holiday meals.

"My style is eclectic and playful," says Mason with the charming southern draw she brought with her when she moved to Moraga from North Carolina this past summer. Mason's whimsical nature is evident in the bright purple and Kelly green paint she applied to the pumpkins in her entranceway to tie in with the peacock feathers in the door wreath.

"It's all about using something you already have and giving it a new look," says Isely.

Nikolene Isely, Staging by Design, contact information:
nikolenisely@gmail.com,
www.stagerbydesign.com,
 (925) 360-0947.



Holiday wreath with a fun twist, design by Erin Mason.

Photo Doug Kohen



Entranceway display repurposing pumpkins in purple and white with greenery, design by Erin Mason.

Photo Doug Kohen



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

Lamorinda Weekly

Please call for
 advertising

925-377-0977

Mailed to Lafayette,
 Moraga and Orinda.

24,200 printed copies and it's all
 online:

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm.



ORINDA 
25 Risa Court
 Panoramic views from .93 acre - attractive remodel w/hdwd flrs, new kitchen & open floorplan. Close to top Orinda schools.


Offered at \$829,000



ORINDA 
182 Ravenhill Road
 Beautiful & elegant 3bd Orindawoods home. Remodeled to the studs by designer. Sgl lvl living w/master & living spaces on entry lvl. Fabulous location.


Offered at \$949,000



ORINDA 
5 Kenmore Court
 Great price for this 2500 sq. ft. 4bd/3ba home with in-law suite on 1.19 acres. Updated kitchen and dual pane windows throughout!


Offered at \$1,039,000



ORINDA 
41 Vista Del Mar
 3500 sf custom 4 bd/3ba w/attached in-law on mostly level .58 acre in top area w/privacy, grassy lawns & total convenience. Warmly styled, architect designed.


Offered at \$1,130,000



ORINDA 
136 Manzanita Drive
 Quality newly blt custom 4bd/3.5ba on lovely 1.27 ac w/lvl grassy yd. Exquisitely crafted with Santa Barbara style, 4000 sf of comfortable living & incredible design.


Offered at \$2,150,000



ORINDA 
121 Lombardy Lane
 Highest quality remodel of unmatched style & appeal. Traditional fine resort-style living at its finest. Truly flawless in setting & design w/high-end amenities.


Offered at \$2,395,000



MORAGA 
1365B Camino Peral
 Comfortable 2bd/2ba, 1281 sf w/fireplace, washer/dryer, deck & 2 dedicated parking spaces. Near shopping, park, library and trails. Best schools!


Offered at \$299,000



MORAGA 
1412 Camino Peral
 Desirable sgl lvl townhouse. Sunny 2bd + den w/indoor lndry. Nice mstr w/ens uite bath. Dining area open to pvt patio, great indoor/outdoor living, oversized 2-car gar.


Offered at \$399,000



MORAGA 
1087 Sanders Drive
 Home Sweet Home. Updated throughout. Kit/fam rm combo. Granite counters, sparkling new baths. New windows & doors & recent roof. Kid friendly area nr top-rated schools.


Offered at \$729,000



MORAGA 
20 Greenfield Drive
 Large wonderful 5bd/3.5ba home, flexible spaces, 2 bonus rooms, lvl lawn, near school, trails, park. Updated kitchen.


Offered at \$899,000



MORAGA 
64 Sullivan Drive
 Enjoy panoramic views of MCC golf course and the hills from this 4bd/3ba 2618 sf ranch style hm on .44 ac. New carpet, lap pool w/spa. Top schools.

Offered at \$899,000



MORAGA 
98 Brookfield Drive
 Lovely 5bd/3ba on level desirable Moraga cul de sac. Updated kitchen & baths, hdwd floors, lawn, patio & pool. Very close to award winning K-8 schools.

Offered at \$999,000



LAFAYETTE 
1021 Walnut Avenue
 Delightful downtown charmer. Complete 2007 remodel. Fabulous, lovely 3bd/2ba home w/hdwd floors, crown moldings, gourmet kitchen & much more.


Offered at \$849,000



LAFAYETTE 
1176 Glen Road
 Happy Valley Glen. Charming 4bd home w/two office spaces, many new updates. Beaut hdwd flrs, French doors to yard & pool. Close to town, Bart, grt Laf schools.


Offered at \$1,195,000



LAFAYETTE 
3919 So. Peardale Drive
 Great neighborhood, easy fwy access, walk to Laf Reservoir, yet pvt, quiet yard. Three set of Andersen sliders, hdwd flrs, natural light, spacious LR, grt rm.

Offered at \$1,335,000



LAFAYETTE 
3819 Palo Alto Drive
 Price reduced on this wonderful Happy Valley home. Beaut maintained & appointed. Newer kitchen w/lg eating area & fam rm. Ideal in-law set up. Walk to school.

Offered at \$1,679,000

THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

- Ashley Battersby*
Patricia Battersby
Joan Cleveland
Joan Eggers
Linda Ehrlich
Joan Evans
Linda S Friedman
Pamela Halloran
Dexter Honens II
Debbie Johnston
Hal Kaufman
Margot Kaufman
Susan Zeh Layng
Art Lehman
Charles Levine
April Matthews
I. Bruce Maxon
Karen Murphy
Ben Olsen
Sue Olsen
Kurt Piper
Tara Rochlin
Judy Schoenrock
Ann Sharf
Steve Smith
Jeff Snell
Lynda Snell
Clark Thompson
Ignacio Vega
Terri Bates Walker
Ann Ward
Dan Weil
Margaret Zucker

Visit www.villageassociates.com
 to see our weekly online previews
 updated every Wednesday and Friday by noon.

Click on **Sunday Open House**
 Friday after 5 PM for Open House listings

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103
 Orinda, CA 94563
 (925) 254-0505 or 1-866-856-VARE

